

April 2022

Kiwanis[®]

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Promotes Literacy



Improving the world one child and one community at a time.



IN THIS ISSUE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

DISTRICT NEWS

- 4 Bonne Journee Mon Ami - from the Governor
- 4 2021-2022 District Convention
- 5 Reunited with the Coopers - from the Governor-Elect
- 6 What is a Kiwanian? - from the Immediate Past Governor
- 7-9 Snap Shots from Mid-Year Regionals 2022
- 10 Children's Fund Honors Div. 8E Lt. Governor
- 10 Kiwanis International Education & Leadership Conf.

THE FOUNDATION

- 11 Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! - from the President
- 12 So Far, This Year's Grants
- 13 Foundation Awards Scholarships
- 14 Friends of the Foundation

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 15 Kiwanis Children's Fund
- 16 Aspire to Inspire: YUTES, YU-TSZ-TSZ-TSZ & YOU
- 17 Key Leader North Weekend

K-KIDS CLUB NEWS

- 18 Germantown K-Kids Create Mural for School

AKTION CLUB NEWS

- 18 Hammond AKtion is Back in Action!

KEY CLUB NEWS

- 19 Key Club District Convention Recap
- 20 Ecole Classique Attends Virtual DCON Together
- 20 Vicksburg Handwrites Birthday Cards
- 20 South Fulton Key Club Honored with Foodbank Donation

CIRCLE-K CLUB NEWS

- 21 A Letter to the Dedicated Members of LaMissTenn CKI
- 22 Baton Rouge Kiwanis Presents at LMT CKI DCON

CLUB NEWS

- 23-24 At Cortana, It's All About the Kids!
- 24-25 Dawn Busters Make an Impact

ON THE COVER:

LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Growth Coordinator and Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Member Dorothy Kemp helps students at Buchanan Elementary participate in activities related to the *Three Little Pigs* as part of the club's pre-k reading project. *See more on Page 34.*

CLUB NEWS CONTINUED . . .

- 26 Gautier/Ocean Springs Gifts Toys to the City
- 26 eLaMissTenn Kiwanis Club Wants You!
- 27 Hammond Kiwanis Hosts Night of Friendly Trivia
- 28 Hammond and Southeastern Students Spruce up TADAC
- 29 Laurel Celebrates 100 Years of Service
- 29 Martin Brings Back Successful Pancake Breakfast
- 30 New Orleans Gets Back to the Future with Serving
- 30 St. Bernard Appreciates Teachers and Supports Literacy
- 31 Red Stick Kiwanis: Doing Great Things!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON FACEBOOK

- 32 Abbeville Hosts First Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball
- 32 Acadiana Celebrates New Years at Noon
- 33 Algiers Feeds 4th District NOPD
- 33 Ascension Takes Action in the Community
- 34 B.R. Kiwanis Reading Program is Back in Full Force!
- 35 Broussard-Youngsville: Keeping the City Klean
- 35 Camellia City, Slidell Spreads the Love
- 36 Corinth Hosts Biggest Ever Father Daughter Dance
- 37 Cortana Cares for the Kids
- 38 Denham Springs Hosts Successful 2nd Annual Clay Shoot
- 38 Germantown Annual Chili Cook Off
- 39 Gulfport Hosts First Community Baby Shower
- 39 Lake Charles' 5th Annual Chicken Run
- 39 Lucedale Donates Uniforms
- 40 Martin Kiwanian Receives Tablet of Honor Plaque
- 40 Northshore Mandeville Repairs Gazebo
- 40 Pointe Coupee Holds Annual Fishing Tournament
- 41 Krewe des Cheins des Opelousas!
- 41 St. Bernard-Arabi is Ready for Reading
- 41 Twin Cities Collects First Aid Items
- 42 LaMissTenn Welcomes New Clubs!

BACK COVER

- 43 Share Your Club's News!
- 43 Article Submission Deadlines
- 43 District Board of Directors
- 43 District Trustees
- 43 District Office Information



Bonne Journee Mon Ami

By Rick Latiolais, Governor

Spring is here and it is time for fundraising, festivals and service. We wrapped up our Mid-Winter Regionals on March 12th, and from reading the surveys, our members not only enjoyed the programs and comradery but also went home with a head full of ideas for fundraising and signature projects.

During the Regionals, I expressed the urgency of increasing the membership in your club. Without constantly and consistently adding to our numbers, our organization would eventually cease to exist. I relayed to the attendees that the goal for our District was to increase our membership by 620.

Our district trainers shared instructions and tips on how to increase your club's membership. Many of your clubs responded with their plan to do this. Cudos to those clubs that already had a plan in place!

Over the next two months (April & May) your District needs you to put those plans into effect. If you wait until the summer months people will be preoccupied with vacation plans and children at home on break. With the pandemic starting to wain and people looking to get out and serve their communities, this will obviously be the best



time to increase the size of your club.

Step out of your comfort zone and go **ASK SOMEONE** to join Kiwanis. The district's club opening team has added four new clubs this year (Louisville, Tri Parishes in Laplace, Carencro and Rayne) with a combined total of approximately 118 members. I say "approximately" because they are so excited about their new clubs, they are successfully adding new people to their numbers almost daily.

In March I attended the Key Club and CKI (virtual) conventions. I am excited to say that our district's Key Club paid membership is now up to 4,731. That is quite an improvement from the 1,616 during the pandemic but still short of the 7,400 prior to the

pandemic. It is imperative that we continue to support and encourage our Key Clubs. Congratulations to the incoming **Governor Emerson Morris** and **Special Thanks** go out to **JudithAnne Zimmermann** for accepting to be the new **Key Club Administrator**.

Summer is almost upon us and that means Convention Time. The Kiwanis International Convention is June 8-11, 2022 in Indianapolis, Indiana and registration is open until May 1st, there is no onsite registration. Our District Convention is August 5-7, 2022 in Baton Rouge.

I would like to leave with two challenges:

Read your Kiwanis Magazine (Beginning to End) - April/May edition - **"PASS THIS ON"**

Then watch a TEDxSanta Cruz: Lori Butterworth - Sustaining Compassion: A Nonprofit Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNrOfqrm-BE>

And

GET EXCITED ABOUT BEING A KIWANIAN, BECAUSE WE REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!



2021-2022 District Convention

August 5-7, 2022

Crown Plaza Hotel

4728 Constitution Ave.

Baton Rouge, La.

Join the LaMissTenn District in Celebrating Executive Director Charlie Ford's Retirement!

Reunited with the Coopers

By Bruce Hammatt, Governor-Elect



Well it finally happened. Joy and I were able to make it to North Carolina last week to visit our old friends Gary “Coop” Cooper and his wife Debbie. There are a myriad of reasons for the delays, but most of them start with the now often-heard excuse, “well, because of COVID...!”

All of you may not recall the names, but most Kiwanians that made it to the Memphis District Convention in 2019 that celebrated Past Governor Eva Abate’s year, or the Mid-Winter Convention in Memphis in the early part of my year as governor, do recall their many conversations with this friendly couple.

We first met International Trustee Coop and his lovely wife, Debbie, while we were enjoying the Kiwanis International Convention in Orlando, Florida. Coop had just been elected to the International Board the day before and was handed his first assignments a few minutes later. He was explaining to us that his first duty the following morning was to meet face-to-face with the Governor’s-elect of the three Districts that he would be counseling over his first year as Trustee. Luckily one of those districts included ours.

I remember that meeting as though it was yesterday, and that is saying a lot since I am first to say that my memory is not the best. (Now, what was I saying?) He indicated he felt really good when he

met us all in the small conference room in the convention area. It was there that we learned of his ideas and how he planned on meeting with us on at least a monthly basis to see how he could help each of the Governors as they “plowed” through the responsibilities in our respective districts.

I will say that I always looked forward to those phone calls. I would spend part of my day organizing my questions for Coop or the other Governors for the evening chat each month. It never failed that other issues came up and Coop always had the right answers to the dilemma or would get back to us as needed. I felt better after those calls because of what I had learned from Coop and/or our discussions with the other two governors.

On our trip to North Carolina I was also able to meet up with Governor-elect of the Carolinas District, Mary Winfree, and her home club of Robeson-Lumberton, North Carolina. Mary is a proud member of the Lumbee Tribe of Native American Indians. After talking to her Club, we drove around her community and found out that in 1956, the US Congress passed the Lumbee Act, which gave them the recognition as Indi-

ans but denied them any benefits afforded to other tribes. Apparently no other Native American Tribe has been given that same designation to date.

During that first meeting with Coop, Debbie asked Joy what her “First Lady Project” was going to be. Neither of us had ever heard of a first lady project, but I have to say that Joy certainly hit that project “Out of the Park” with her Pete The Cat - I Love My White Shoes” book reading project. Again, because of COVID, Joy plans on continuing that same project during my second time as governor.

Coop will be retiring off the Board at the end of this Kiwanis year. We won’t know who our next International Trustee Counselor will be until the International Convention in Indianapolis this coming June. However, if they are anything like Coop Cooper, I know my year will be enjoyable and full of new experiences. Joy and I will be looking forward to that first meeting. I know one thing. If Joy is asked about her “First Lady Project” we will now know how to answer! We hope to see Coop and Debbie at our District Convention here in Baton Rouge in August.



Pictured are International Trustee Gary Cooper, Joy Hammatt, Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt, Carolinas District Governor-Elect Mary Winfree, and Carolinas District Governor Joe Crostic.

What is a Kiwanian?

By Patrice Cusimano, Immediate Past Governor

We are all familiar with our defining statement that asks the question: “What is Kiwanis.” But have you ever thought about “what is a Kiwanian?” I have spent the last few weeks thinking about that very question as I and my fellow club members prayed for a dear and good friend who lost his battle with COVID. Sam Catalanotto, a thirty-plus year member of the St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club lost his fight and gained his angel’s wings on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. Sam became ill after receiving his booster shot, developed double pneumonia, and passed after 71 days in intensive care. He fought the good fight and will now receive his rewards in Heaven.

All of us have lost club members along the way – in 2020, our club lost three. Recently, Richard “Woody” Woods, a past governor passed. What do these people have in common? They loved God, their families, their communities, and especially loved children. Sam started working with children over thirty-five years ago as a baseball coach. Over the years, he coached hundreds of young boys, teaching them baseball fundamentals and good sportsmanship. Sam had no time for meddling parents (spoken by a former baseball mom). He coached his way and the kids were better for it. Sam took countless teams to championships over the years. He coached his daughter’s softball team a couple of years, but had no patience for the crying in the dugout over failed romances and typical teen-aged girl gossip. This



revelation brought a chuckle to those at his memorial service.

His love for coaching brought him to Kiwanis. Sam coached Robby Showalter’s son, Brad, and a lifelong friendship began. Robby was already a member of our club, and encouraged Sam to join. Our club benefited for over thirty years from Sam’s dedication to Kiwanis. He served as club president twice, but more importantly, he chaired numerous committees, always leading with that the same passion he had for baseball. Sam’s legacy will be a program he started to honor our parish (county) police and fire heroes. The Lifesaver Award was given out each quarter by our club to persons chosen by the local police and fire leadership. We will be officially naming the award the “Sam Catalanotto Lifesaver Award” in honor of Sam.

Sam also was heavily involved in our literacy programs – and our club has several. He volunteered monthly to visit one of our parish schools that had children struggling with reading. If a child completed reading and giving a

report on books chosen by their teacher, he or she would participate in a monthly pizza party. At the end of the school year, each student who completed all of the assignments, would be bussed to a nearby Barnes & Noble, be treated to lunch (courtesy of B&N), and be allowed to pick out two books of their own. Sam loved seeing those kids begin to enjoy reading.

As an owner of a printing shop, Sam designed, printed, and copied hundreds of documents, signs, invitations, etc., for our club, often at no charge. These selfless acts saved our club hundreds of dollars over the years. Sam was the recipient of our club’s Kiwanian of the Year Award, a Walter Zeller recipient, and a Kiwanis Life Member.

On a personal level, Sam was my friend. I could drop in at his shop and we could talk for hours. He was opinionated, as am I, and sometimes we bucked heads, but we always hugged and expressed our love for each other before parting.

Each of you has a club member (or several) who fit the above description. We have all experienced that lost feeling when you attend the first meeting after and look around for that special person. Let’s honor and recognize these folks while they are living. It doesn’t have to be a medal or a certificate – a hug or a heartfelt handshake will suffice – just don’t miss the opportunity.

I will miss my friend, Sam. His memory is my answer to “What is a Kiwanian?” Be well my friends.

Snap Shots from Mid-Year Regionals 2022: How to Make Your Club a Better Kiwanis Club

Past International Trustee Greg Beard and Past International President Nettles Brown presented club leadership strategies at this year's Mid-Year Regionals. Also, in attendance at each regional, Governor Richard Latiolais gave his goals for the year. Several clubs and Kiwanians were recognized by Intermediate Past Governor Patrice Cusimano for their outstanding efforts during the 2020-2021 Kiwanis Year. The conference was exciting and was a great opportunity for catching up on the latest programs and ideas for growing our local clubs. More than a few hundred Kiwanians attended the regionals in their club's Region.



Kiwanis Club of Germantown members are pictured with Governor Rick Latiolais at the Region I Conference in Millington, Tenn.



Governor Rick Latiolais thanks President-Elect Gloria Spence and President Claire White for representing the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club at the Region I Conference in Millington, Tenn.



Union City Kiwanis Club Member and Region I Trustee John Fry was honored by Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt as Distinguished Kiwanian and Distinguished Secretary at the Region I Conference in Millington, Tenn.



Union City Kiwanis Club President Kendrick Hardin along with members Cathy Crider Fry, John Fry and Lieutenant Governor Fred Hancock represented Union City Kiwanis at the Region I Conference in Millington, TN.



Pictured are: Region I Trustee John Fry, Division 1C Lt. Governor Oscar Brown, Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt, Region III Trustee Rogena Woods-Mitchell & Governor Rick Latiolais at the Region I Conference in Millington, Tenn.

The Kiwanis Club of New Orleans was represented by (from left to right) Rae Cote, President Steve Beale, Past Governor Lenny Simmons, John Parauka, and not pictured Foundation Secretary Cathy Simmons at the Region IV Conference in Metairie, La.

Continued on Page 8 . . .



Mid-Year Regionals Continued . . .



Immediate past Governor Patrice Cusimano was presented the Distinguished Kiwanis Award by Governor Rick Latiolais at the Region IV Conference in Metairie, La. Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt congratulated St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club President Kristine Koepf and Moisant Kiwanis Club Secretary Jillian Wohlgenuth for stepping into the roles of 4A and 4B Lieutenant Governors for the 2022-2023 Kiwanis Year. And the Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi had 8 members attend the Region IV Conference.



Members of the newly formed Kiwanis Club of Tri-Parishes in Region IV attended their first Mid-Year Regional. Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt keeping with the fun theme of the conference is seen photo bombing the Tri-Parishes Club. Also, Club President Dayna James shared the excitement of the club's recent "Koffee with Kiwanis" membership drive. What a great start for this new club!



Broussard-Youngville Kiwanis attended Region VI in Lafayette, La.



Congratulations to Red Stick Kiwanis Club for being honored as Distinguished at the Region V Mid-Year Conference in Hammond, La.



← Ascension Kiwanis Club members also attended the Region V Mid-Year Conference in Hammond, La.

Continued on Page 9 . . .
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Mid-Year Regionals Continued . . .



Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club President-Elect Bob Schmidt, International Trustee Gary Graham, Immediate Past President Joy Ham-matt, District Committee Chair Dorothy Kemp, Gary Haindel, Vice President Philip Qualls, and Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt attended the Region V Mid-Year Conference in Hammond, La.



The Kiwanis Club of St. Gabriel President-Elect Ronald Grace, Secretary and Division 8W Lieutenant Governor MiLisa York, Treasurer Joseph BoBo, President Jesse Thomas, and Member Randy Pistorius attended the Region V Mid-Year Conference in Hammond, La.



Zachary Kiwanis Club President Bruce Langley, Secretary Mike Alu, President-Elect Bridgette Johnson, and Past President Al Philips attended the Region V Mid-Year Conference in Hammond, La.



Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt hams it up at the Region III Mid-Year Conference in Ocean Springs, Miss. with Region III Trustee Rogena Woods-Mitchell, Natchez Trace Kiwanis Club President-Elect Sherry Gill, Club Secretary Lori Alles, and Club President Frances Cothren.



East St. Mary Kiwanis Club members have fun with Past International Trustee and Presenter Greg Beard at the Region VI Mid-Year Conference in Lafayette, La.

Congratulations to Laura Gilliland for being elected at the Region V Mid-Year Conference in Hammond, La. as the 2022-2023 Region V Trustee. Region V comprises of Divisions 8E, 8W, and 13.



Children's Fund Honors Div. 8E Lt. Governor

By Tiffany LaPorte, District Bulletin Editor

Donna Leggett, 2020-2021 Division 8E Lieutenant Governor, was excited to receive two beautiful crystal glasses as a President's award from the Children's Fund President Norm Velnes for her year serving as Lieutenant Governor. The gift was for the clubs in Division 8E increasing their giving to the Children's Fund.

Because of Donna's hard work of promoting the Children's Fund in Division 8E, the Kiwanis Children's Fund has helped Kiwanis clubs around the world reach more children. Gifts from clubs and individuals from Division 8E helped: provide nutritious meals to hungry children, create a safe living



environment for teens leaving foster care, build playgrounds that give children of all abilities access to fun and physical activity, spark children's love

of reading by providing books for home libraries, and support the education of Key Club and Circle K members.

These are just a few ways the Kiwanis Children's Fund makes a difference.

"I am so proud of the 8E clubs for making the children a priority and increasing their giving to the Children's Fund during the 2020-2021 Kiwanis Year! This was an especially challenging year with COVID and multiple hurricanes, which lead to the cancellations of fundraising opportunities and these clubs rose to the challenge," said Leggett.

Kiwanis International Education and Leadership Conference

From ideas for service to innovations in fundraising, you'll find it all at the 2022 Kiwanis International Convention. The best leaders are learners. Attend in person or virtually - so you can increase your club's impact in your community.

Register online no at www.kiwanis.org/convention/2022. Registration is open until May 1st.

**READY TO LEARN.
READY TO LEAD.**

JUNE 8-11, 2022

Kiwanis
CONVENTION 2022
INDIANAPOLIS



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

By Jennifer Kelly-White, Foundation President



Hello and greetings from your District Foundation! The past couple of months have been filled with Mid-Year Regional Conferences held around the District. This was a great opportunity to learn more about membership, fundraising, signature projects and networking with other clubs in your area. At each of these regionals, we had Foundation members on hand to answer questions and facilitate the ever-popular gift basket raffle.

I am excited to share that over \$5,500 was raised in total and will

go towards community service grants, disaster relief grants, AED grants, SLP scholarships and leadership trainings. There were 72 gift baskets raffled, 18 garden flags sold and 5 new Friends of the Foundation welcomed. The Foundation District Board is so grateful and appreciative of your generosity! We enjoyed spending time with fellow Kiwanians and sharing our stories of our purpose and how we help clubs achieve more in their communities.

If you are looking for a way to get more involved with Kiwanis and giving back to our communities, we



do have openings for Board members on the Foundation Board. For more information, please visit our website www.lamisstenn.org/foundation or email jennifer-white920@gmail.com.

Thanks again!

Jennifer Kelly-White



Kiwanis

LaMissTenn Foundation

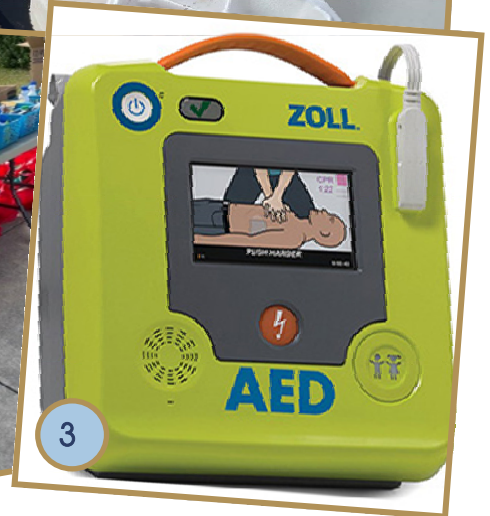


So Far, This Year's Grants . . .

By Cathy Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair

- 1. Disaster Relief Grants:** \$7,000+ in grants awarded to assist communities from Hurricane Ida and the Tornadoes in Tennessee
- 2. Community Service Grant:** \$5,000 grant awarded to the Alexandria club for jackets for kids
- 3. AEDs:** a \$750 AED grant awarded for an elementary school and a \$500 AED grant awarded for a Church camp

What's on YOUR project wish list? YOUR District Foundation can assist!



Foundation Awards Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2022 Circle K Leadership Scholarship Winners:



*Madison Liner
Nicholls State University
Thibodaux, La.
\$2,000*



*Madison Garay
Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, La.
\$1,000*

Congratulations to the 2022 Key Club Leadership Scholarship Winners:



*Anita Zahiri
Benjamin Franklin High, N.O., La.
Sharon & Charlie Ford
Scholarship: \$3,500*



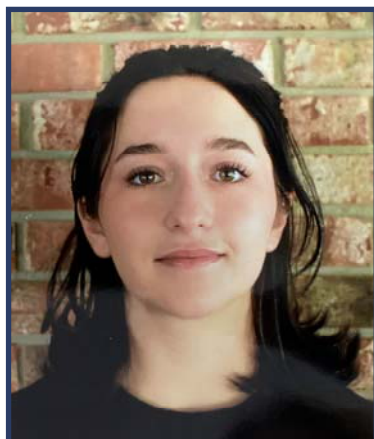
*Olivia DeGravelle
E.D. White Catholic School,
Thibodaux, La.
Jean Benoit Scholarship: \$2,000*



*Abigail LeSaicherre
Ponchatoula High, La.
Anthony Simmons
Scholarship: \$2,000*



*Olivia St. Germain
Academy of Our Lady, Marerro, La.
Jerome C. Hafter Memorial
Scholarship: \$2,000*



*Meridith Bayard
Acadiana Homeschool, Opelousas, La.
\$1,000*



*Gabrielle Carter
Mount Carmel Academy, N.O., La.
\$1,000*



*Abigail Peck
Baton Rouge Magnet High, La.
\$1,000*



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FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Help Strengthen The Foundation's Endowment Fund

We have had founders of the LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Foundation, followed by pioneers forging the dreams of those founders, build the endowment funds bigger and better each year. Your District Kiwanis Foundation has given more funds back to YOU and YOUR CLUBS through grants due to the Endowment Fund. Your continued support CAN and DOES make a difference!

- An annual tax-deductible donation of only \$120 - or make it as easy as a donation of only \$10 per month! Set your "Friends" pledge up on a recurring monthly credit card charge to maintain your status as a **Friend of the Foundation** every year!
- ANYONE, not just Kiwanians, may become a 'Friend of the Foundation.'
- Receive a distinctive **Friend of the Foundation** lapel pin.
- For every \$1,000 donated, you have the choice of River of Life Fellowship, John T. Roberts Fellowship plus other levels thereof.



Sample of lapel pin

Friend of the Foundation Donor Information Form

Name: _____

Kiwanis Club: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Day Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

My total gift/pledge is \$ _____ *Remember your \$120 Friends of the Foundation donation is tax deductible.*

I wish to make my donation by:

- Check (payable to "Kiwaniis District Foundation")
 Credit Card
 Cash

For Credit Card Payments:

Card Number _____ Exp. Date (MM/YY) _____

Name as it appears on credit card _____ Card billing zip code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I would like my credit card payment of \$ _____ scheduled (choose one):

- Monthly Quarterly Semiannually Annually

Beginning _____ and ending _____
 (MM/YY) (MM/YY)

Thank you for your generous support of the Kiwanis District Foundation!





Kiwanis[®]

CHILDREN'S FUND

By Lenny Simmons, District Chair • Email: leonarddsimmons@cox.net • Ph: 504/874-1279

The Children of the World Need Our Help Now!

Of all the positions that I have held in Kiwanis for the last 38 years, I am truly enjoying being your district chair for the Kiwanis Children's Fund (KCF). Over the past several months I have been communicating with the Clubs in our District telling the story of the Children's Fund and how your club's contribution can impact the lives of children in your community, as well as around the world. Many of our Clubs have stepped up and have already made a donation to the KCF. Other Clubs are waiting to do their first fundraiser in two years because of COVID-19 before they can make a donation. So where do your donations go? How can our District and your Club benefit from the Kiwanis Children's Fund?

The Annual Club Gift from clubs and/or individuals go to fund 3 main causes of the Kiwanis Children's Fund: **Health & Nutrition, Education & Literacy, and Youth Leadership Development.**

This year, the LaMissTenn District has received a District Grant of **\$5,360** to be used towards scholarships for Key Club and Circle K.

That amount was based on a percentage of Annual Gifts contributed ... so the more clubs participate, the more funds we raise; the more we get back in the form of a District Grant. It's a win-win for all!

Every Club in our District is eligible to apply for a KCF Club grant – no limit! So, DREAM BIG and call 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 225 or email them at grants@kiwanis.org. The

next round of grants will be awarded in October 2022. The first step starts with submitting a letter of inquiry any time before **June 1st** to the KCF and if approved, a full grant application must be submitted by **August 1st**. The staff at the Children's Fund will work with you every step of the way. Good Luck and remember the **Children of the World Need our Help Now!**

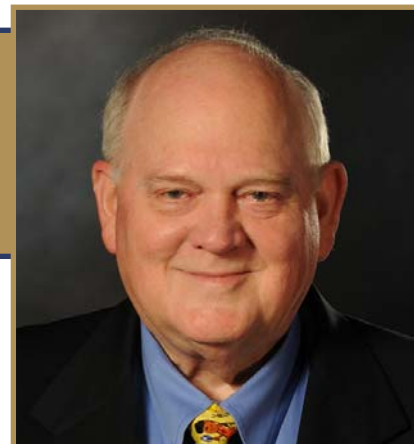
THEY
CAN'T
WAIT.



Kiwanis
CHILDREN'S FUND

Aspire to Inspire: YUTES, YU-TSZ-TSZ-TSZ & YOU

By James A. "Jeems" White, III, Past Governor



In the hilarious movie, "My Cousin, Vinny," there was a funny scene in which Vinny (Joe Pesci) was referring to his nephew and friend and called them "yutes" (his Brooklyn accent pronunciation of "youths.") The movie judge (Fred Gwynne) stopped him and asked, "What's a 'yute?'" Vinny explained and the judge said, "From now on, pronounce it 'youths.'" Thereafter in the movie Vinny referred to the two boys as "yu-tsz-tsz-tsz" for emphasis and as a bit of sarcastic humor..... and it was also a comedic play on the defense co-counsel who had an exaggerated stutter. So, with that we come to YOU.

If you are reading this, likely you are a Kiwanian who serves youth in your community in one way or another. Bravo! You are 'making a difference' and 'improving the world.' (Do those phrases sound familiar?) But let's take that "YOU" a little further.

We all know the 80/20 rule and it's true in Kiwanis. Twenty percent of members do 80% of the good works for youth. The other 80% are well-intentioned, good-spirited folks who believe in the mission of Kiwanis, who pay their dues, maybe attend a meeting now and then, pitch in with programs sometimes, but just don't step up often to roll up their sleeves and be active participants in the various projects of their clubs. That's fine and dandy ... and we love those members ... but

imagine a world in which 80% (or more) of Kiwanis members would regularly step up to actively participate in all the projects and programs. Imagine what we could accomplish for the children in our communities.

"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated..." (Ever hear that before?) Let's select the latter two words for elaboration.

VOLUNTEER = "a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task." "Volunteering is an act of an individual or group freely giving time and labor for community service."

DEDICATED = "devoted to a task or purpose; having single-minded loyalty or integrity."

In Kiwanis nobody makes anybody do anything. We are all "volunteers" ... but the "dedication" part covers a wide variation of devotion. Can we do better? Can YOU do better?

There is a famous poem entitled "YOU" written in 1927 by Edgar Albert Guest:

YOU

You are the fellow who has to decide,

Whether you'll do it or toss it aside.

You are the fellow who makes up your mind,

Whether you'll lead or will linger behind

Whether you'll try for the goal that's afar,

Or just be contented to stay where you are.

Take it or leave it. Here's something to do!

Just think it over --- it's all up to you!

There are three more stanzas, but this first one says it all..... and the title

points directly at that person reflected in your mirror. Shall we all add a little more of the "volunteer" and the "dedication" to our Kiwanis participation?

At the 2013 Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver the Keynote Speaker was John O'Leary who told the inspiring story of having been badly burned as a nine-year-old youngster. He was an avid baseball fan and as his survival teetered in the balance, John's parents appealed to the famous baseball announcer, Jack Buck, who began making daily visits to the hospital to encourage and motivate young John. Jack became dedicated to the task of helping John survive and every day asked himself, "What more can I do? What more can I do?"

That would be a fitting mantra for us as Kiwanians ... as we volunteer and dedicate ourselves to the Yutes and Yu-tsz-tsz-tsz of the world and our communities.

P.S. If you are reading this, probably you are in the "20%" ... so maybe you could pass it along tactfully to some of those in the "80%" and encourage them to ask, "What more can I do?"

Key Leader North Weekend: April 29-May 1, 2022

Camp Lakeshore, Eva, Tenn.

By Linda Ramsey, Key Leader District Committee Chair of the North

Key Leader North is planned for April 29-May 1, 2022 at Lakeshore Camp and Retreats in Eva, Tennessee which is located just outside of Camden, Tennessee along the side of the Tennessee River.

Students can register online at www.wtnkeyleader.org, and on the website, they will find a packing list telling them what they will need to bring, a Medical Form and a Human Values Form, which need to be signed by them and their parents and brought with them to Key Leader.

There will be a health pre-screening done upon arrival, and a student may not be left if he/she doesn't pass the screening exam which consists of answering a few questions and having their temperature taken. Masks will be required for some of the activities, and they will be optional for anyone who wishes to wear them at all times.

We also have plenty of hand sanitizing stations throughout the camp and meeting spaces. We are offering



lodge housing for students and chaperones who register early. The chaperones in the lodge will have a semi-private room with their own bathroom and linens will be provided for those chaperones.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. and runs until 6 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2022. The program will officially begin after dinner at 7 p.m. It will run all day Saturday and until noon on Sunday. Parents, guardians, teachers, etc. will need to pick up the students at noon on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Online registration ends on April 24, 2022. Please help recruit both

students and chaperones for Key Leader North. On our website there is also a brochure with information about what takes place over the weekend, and you may print those off and share them.

Students do not have to be in Key Club to attend. This program is open to all 8th graders going into the 9th grade in the fall as well as 9th through 12th graders. If anyone needs a scholarship or a sponsor, please let me know, and I can assign one to him or her. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at mramsey2@utm.edu or 731-225-7729.



Germantown K-Kids Create Mural for School

Germantown Elementary School Facebook Page

In January, **Germantown Elementary School K-Kids** presented their principal, Ms. Johnson, and the school with a mural they created saying "Choose to be Kind!" K-Kids Rock!



AKTION CLUB NEWS

Hammond AKtion is Back in Action!

*By Judy & Vic Couvillion,
Hammond Kiwanis Club*



After a two-year absence without meetings due to concerns about the spread of COVID, the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** welcomed back **Hammond AKtion Club** members at a recent meeting. Pictured at that gathering, from left, were Hammond Kiwanis members Terry King, Judy Couvillion and Ed Gautier; AKtion Club members Brian Phillips and Chris Carr; Donald Pierce, OPTIONS staff, and Carmen Clines, AKtion Club member.

Hammond Kiwanis members who regularly attend meetings of the Hammond AKtion Club bring programs of interest and at a recent meeting of the group, Kiwanian Terry King showed AKtion Club members a special walking stick carved by his father about 40 years ago. Examining the unique messages carved in the stick with King, left, was Lance Foster, AKtion Club member.



Key Club District Convention Recap

By Key Club District Administrator Judi Zimmermann, Algiers Kiwanis Club

The Key Club District Convention was held in conjunction with the Circle K Convention the weekend of March 18th, 19th, and 20th. Key Club had forums on Officer Training, joining Circle K in college, ACT test taking, Diversity in our Clubs and even a Yoga session. While the Key Club part was hybrid, the Key Club District Board did meet. The hope is that they will get back to meeting together more frequently in the future, especially next Year's District Convention. Elections were held for the Governor and Secretary-Treasurer. The results of the elections were: Emerson Morris for Governor and Jennifer Huynh for Secretary-Treasurer. We congratulate them on their new positions.

As usual, there were Contests and Awards. Here is the list:

- **Outstanding President** - *Anita Zabiri, Benjamin Franklin High*
- **Outstanding Vice President** - *Phillip Dinh, Southeastern Louisiana Youth Council*
- **Outstanding Secretary** - *Amy Liu, Southeastern Louisiana Youth Council*
- **Outstanding Freshman** - *Allie Marcel, Academy of Our Lady High*
- **Outstanding Senior** - *Olivia St. Germain, Academy of Our Lady High*
- **Outstanding Kiwanian** - *Danny Williams, Ponchatoula High*

The following awards will be submitted to the Key Club International Convention from the LaMissTenn Key Club District:

- **Poster Contest** - *Academy of Our Lady High*
- **Video Contest** - *Academy of Our Lady High*
- **Scrapbook Contest** - *Academy of Our Lady High*
- **Single Service Contest** - *Benjamin Franklin High*
- **Talent Contest** - *Ecole Classique High*
- **Major Emphasis Contest** - *Academy of Our Lady High*
- **Annual Achievement Award** - *Ecole Classique High*



Special thanks to Judi Zimmermann for stepping up as the new Key Club Administrator.



Pictured at the 2022 Key Club District Convention are the LaMissTenn Key Club Board Members

Ecole Classique Attends Virtual DCON Together

Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club Facebook Page



Ecole Classique Key Club got together at school to attend the 2022 Key Cub District Convention virtually. The club was awarded the coveted Chris Holder Award for the most Outstanding Service Project in the district and member Joan Frilot won 1st place in the talent competition. Congratulations to the Ecole Classique Key Club for their outstanding achievements! Also, during downtime, club members wasted no time and got busy cleaning the classroom!

Vicksburg Handwrites Birthday Cards

Vicksburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Birthday Bash! In March, **Vicksburg Kiwanis Club** members donated \$400 to the Warren County Children’s Shelter and \$400 to Haven House Family Shelter for them to purchase birthday presents for the kids. The **Vicksburg High School Key Club** handwrote 250 birthday cards for these shelters and other local shelters to give to the kids.



South Fulton Key Club Honored with Foodbank Donation

Twin Cities Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

To honor the **South Fulton High School Key Club**, the **Twin Cities Kiwanis Club** recently made a donation to the KenTenn Foodbank. The donation was made in the South Fulton High School Key Club’s honor to appreciate the members for the good work they are doing in our community.



Pictured left to right are: Key Club Advisor Jessica Hightower, Mayce Glasgow, Stewart Conner, Secretary Addison Stubblefield, President Anna Robertson, Ken Tenn Foodbank Director Ginger Bard, Club Member Will Hester and Board Member John Holzner.

A Letter to the Dedicated Members of LaMissTenn CKI

By Madison Liner, LaMissTenn CKI District Governor 2020-2022

I want to begin by saying that this year has obviously not been our "redemption year" that we had hoped for after the hard year we had with COVID. In fact, some may say that the hardships this Circle K year brought were worse than the COVID year. We were still going through complications of a worldwide pandemic, trying to have some sense of normalcy within our lives. Louisiana and Mississippi were hit devastatingly by Hurricane Ida and caused many people to lose homes, loved ones, and a sense of life. Our members in Tennessee suffered similar damages from tornadoes that hit their hometowns. Our events were postponed, rescheduled, and cancelled due to multiple difficulties regarding masking/distancing policies, and no longer having places to meet. We have been through it ALL, but I could not be more proud of how much this District and your clubs have come together and still made this a successful year.

Even in the midst of a hurricane and its aftermath, we chartered two new clubs in two different states (Fletcher Technical Community College in Schriever, LA and University of Memphis in Memphis, TN), adding over 30 new members to our mighty district. We have completed over 1000 service hours and always made time to serve those in need through projects like grocery and supply distributions, animal shelter adoption awareness events, and bringing light to children into foster care centers by having a fun day with them. You beautified your campuses and your communities from all the debris and trash left behind from countless storms and major events like Mardi Gras. You all did the MOST, and I could not be more proud to have served as your leader for these past two



Madison at DCON 2022

years. I so wish I could stay for one more term to really try and get a normal year, but like many of you are as well, I am graduating and moving on to my career and next step in life.

Whether or not you think you had a great year, I am here to tell you that you have all blown me out of the water with your passion and dedication to service, leadership, and fellowship. I can say something about each and every one of your clubs, whether it was about your recruitment, your passionate interest in rechartering, your numerous projects, your increase in membership count, and so much more. But what I'll always remember most are the members. Even though you might not think so, I can assure you I know each and every one of your names and your specific impact on this District, and that is something I will never forget.

That being said, I want to thank everyone who made this past District Convention possible. Even with 8 in attendance in person and 1 on zoom, I still believe it was a very successful celebration to the year we just had. I hope everyone who came had a great time, and I hope those who weren't able to are already planning to come next year! I wanted to take the time to recognize

our District Award winners from our convention this past weekend:

James A Smith II Kiwanis Family Award - *Nicholls State University*

Best Web Presence Award - *Nicholls State University and Fletcher Technical Community College*

Robert E. Huges Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award - *Jennifer White*
Outstanding Kiwanis Advisor Award - *Jennifer White*

John T. Roberts Outstanding Kiwanian Award - *Charlie Ford and Sid Guedry*

Joe L. Pratt Outstanding Kiwanis Club Award - *Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge, with special recognition to members Bruce Hammatt, Joy Hammatt, Gary Graham, and Dorothy Kemp*

Jay R. Broussard Outstanding Secretary Award - *Mark Hue*

Outstanding Club Vice President award - *Hayden Rice*

J. B. Guillory Outstanding President Award - *Ashlyn Sutton*

New Member of the Year Award - *Gabrielle D'Antoni*

Continuing Member of the Year Award - *Briana Stewart*

Outstanding District Board Member of the Year Award - *Jacob Sanders*

LaMissTenn District Foundation Scholarship Winners - *Madison Garay and Madison Liner*

Again, I cannot thank you all enough for making these past few years some of the most memorable of my life. I will never forget the impact that each one of you and Circle K International had on my life. Whether a District Board member, International Board member, Club Officer, General Member, Kiwanian, or Faculty Advisor, I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and it has been an absolute honor working with you.

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Presents at LMT CKI DCON

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

That's a long acronym but it stands for Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Circle K International District Convention. The Convention was held the weekend of March 18th in Baton Rouge as a joint virtual effort with the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Key Club International District Convention. **Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club** Members Bruce (Governor-Elect) & Joy Hammatt and Gary Graham made presentations to the college students. Joy discussed her Pete the Cat First Lady Project, Bruce gave his alligator talk, and Bruce & Gary gave a talk on why Circle K International members should continue on with Kiwanis once they graduate. CKI District Governor Madison Liner from Nichols State University and CKI International Trustee Jon Verano were present.



At Cortana, It's All About the Kids!

By Donna Leggett, Cortana Kiwanis Club

Every Child Deserves a Birthday Party!

New year, new project! **Cortana Kiwanis** members were excited to hear about the good work that recent speaker, Kristina Dezen-dorf, founder of The Baton Rouge Mom Network is doing to support our community. BR Mom Network is a community support group with over 3000 members created to connect families with the resources they need to be happy and healthy. Kristina mentioned that she would like to give a birthday party each month for a local child who would not normally have a party. Knowing that every child deserves to have their own birthday party Cortana stepped up to partner with BR Mom Network. Parties are held monthly at a BREC Park. Cortana is supplying a cake, drinks, paper products, and party favors.



Birthday cake from the February birthday party with BR Mom Network



Special Delivery

Cortana Kiwanis showed some Valentine's love to the faculty and administrators of Broadmoor Elementary this year for Valentine's Day by sending personalized Valentines cards. Notes of appreciation and gratitude were included in the cards. Patricia Anderson, Kristie Daspit, Donna Leggett, Tammy McDavid and Brent Phillips sent cards. We look forward to our end of the year BUGs Program with the students.

Donna Leggett delivering Valentine's Day Cards to the Broadmoor Elementary Faculty with Joyce Turner, Office Clerk.

We Have Big Hearts for Brave Heart

In addition to collecting items for Brave Heart of Louisiana, Children in Need, **Cortana Kiwanis** also volunteers our time. On February 23rd, we assembled school kits for children of all ages. Brave Heart is a nonprofit organization that focuses on improving the quality of life for children who are experiencing trauma of being removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect. Brave Heart serves children in the foster care system throughout the state of Louisiana. Serving are: Patricia Anderson, Jim and JoEllen Frederick, Donna Leggett, Keith and Tammy McDavid, Wanda Magee and Debbie Salvant.



Continued on Page 24 . . .

Dawn Busters Make an Impact

By Cathy Burke, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club

Sponsoring the New Kiwanis Club of the Tri Parishes in LaPlace, La.

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis (DBK) is the proud sponsor of the new Kiwanis Club of the Tri Parishes. Region IV Trustee Marcel Lashover and Dawn Busters member Mike Haffner are working closely with the board members listed below to make the new club a success.

- Dayna James – President
- Sandi Lambert – President-Elect
- Melynie Wright – Vice President
- Trina Brown – Treasurer
- Marchelle Washington – Secretary
- Lynett Hookfin – Membership Chair
- Semi Wadhwa – Board member
- Robert Tamplain – Board member
- Ronnie Fiest – Board member
- Monique McGee-Duronslet – Board member
- Katie Long – Board member



Clubs in attendance at the organizational meeting other than the DBK were: 3rd District of New Orleans, St. Gabriel, Thibodaux, Red Stick, Cortana, Acadiana, Gautier/Ocean Springs, Pascagoula and Vancleave. [Continued on Page 25 . . .](#)

At Cortana, It's All About the Kids Continued . . .

Cooking Jambalaya

On March 5th, Cortana cooked jambalaya for 300 people at the One Book One Community Kickoff Party at the Main Library on Goodwood. There was fun for the entire family with food, live music from RJ & Kreole Smoove, crafts, and community organizations celebrating Louisiana landscapes, nature cultural heritage and more. Jeff Wittenbrink served as our head cook with assistance from Mike Baldwin, Jim Frederick and Abbas Momenzadeh. Helping serve were Jo-Ellen Frederick, Donna and Richard Leggett, and Wanda Magee.



Dawn Busters Make an Impact Continued . . .

Feeding the Homeless at Lantern of Light

For the first time since the Pandemic started, the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis** is back serving meals to the underprivileged at Lantern of Light.



Pictured from left to right: Sal LaRock, Lt. Dan McCormick, and Mike Haffner.

University of New Orleans Mardi Gras

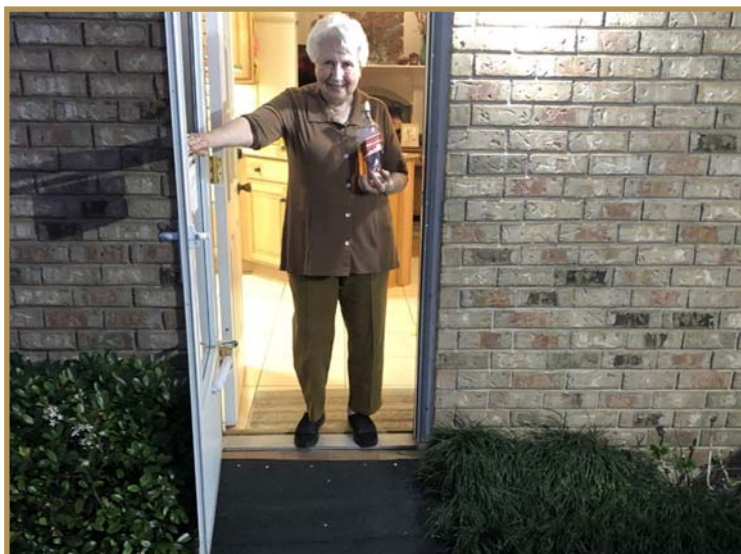
The **Dawn Busters Kiwanis** supported the University of New Orleans (UNO) Privateers at the Annual Krewe of UNO Mardi Gras Parade.



Pictured from left to right: Tim Riley, Ann Riley, Cathy Burke, Megan Steinmetz, and President Mark Dominick.

Flowerbeds and Fairgrounds

In appreciation for allowing the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis** (DBK) to use the Foundation Room at Lafreniere Park, Sal and Barbara LaRock did a fantastic job updating the flower beds in Lafreniere Park. And, the New Orleans Fairgrounds requested assistance from the DBK to help at two fun events, the Exotic Animal Races and The Weiner Dog Races. The DBK assisted guests with seating and admission. The New Orleans Fairgrounds has been a partner of the DBK's projects, and we are grateful for the support.



A Small Step in the Right Direction

Mark Dominick, President of the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club**, built Mrs. DiGeorge, widow of long time Dawn Buster Member Tony Di George, a small ramp to help her safely enter and exit her home. A small step in the right direction. The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club hopes to get back to serving people in the community more since the pandemic is dwindling down.

Mrs. DiGeorge is very appreciative of her new ramp.

Gautier/Ocean Springs Gifts Toys to the City

By Dave Meisburger, Gautier/Ocean Springs Kiwanis Club

During the 2021 holiday season, the City of Gautier and the local Toys for Tots organization partnered together. Santa, on behalf of the George & Jackson County Toys for Tots Organization, in conjunction with the **Gautier/Ocean Springs Kiwanis Club**, made a gift presentation of over 100 toys, stuffed animals, and more, to the City of Gautier to be utilized by members of their police and fire departments as free gifts for children of all ages. All too often children end up becoming innocent victims during such moments as when they're passengers in vehicle

accidents, or when caught in the middle of domestic disputes, and even when being unwillingly displaced from their home due to a fire or natural disaster. In moments of crisis such as those, and more, a first-responder being able to gift a child a toy or stuffed animal can create a comforting bond of friendship, which is a win-win for all concerned, especially for the traumatized child.

Toys for Tots and the City of Gautier believe the value of the lives, mental health, and well-being of the children in our community should always

be given the highest priority, and we all look forward to both organizations maintaining an ever-strengthening partnership during 2022 and beyond.



eLaMissTenn Kiwanis Club Wants You!

By Laura Gilliland, eLaMissTenn Kiwanis Club

The eLaMissTenn Kiwanis Club, Baton Rouge, La., chartered October 2, 2017, is in its fifth year under the leadership of Past International Trustee Dennis Oliver. During the 2021-2022 year amazing speakers have included: Immediate Past International President of CKI Tana Early, Current International President of CKI Kyle Lank, LaMissTenn Governor of CKI Madison Liner, Indiana Governor Taka Ogata, Louisiana's Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Key Club International President Salma Eldeeb, and Kiwanis International Vice President Bert West. In addition, the club has learned a lot about its members through member profiles.

For the past couple of years our fundraiser has been Double Good Popcorn. Having raised \$1,650 last year, we've been successful with this project and are selling it again.

Our club has sponsored SLPs at the following schools:

- K-Kids at Pickering Elementary and at Vernon Middle
- Builders Club at Leesville Junior High

Two of our members, Past Kiwanis International President and Treasurer of eLaMissTenn Nettles Brown and Past Kiwanis International Trustee Judge Greg Beard have done countless Mid-Year Regional Conference presentations. Their 2022 presentation focused on: discovering new and proven ideas on how to find and retain new club members, looking for ways to improve your club's current fundraising projects or finding new ways to raise funds, and planning meaningful projects - ones that your community automatically knows it's your Kiwanis Club that is making an impact for the community.



Service projects have been centered around helping those victims of Hurricanes Laura and Ida. Food, clothing, and miscellaneous supplies have been delivered by members with the help of two grants from Kiwanis International. Even though we do not meet face to face, we still find ways to do service for one child and one community at a time.

Come join us the first Monday of each month at 5 p.m. central and enjoy speakers from around the world!

Hammond Kiwanis Hosts a Night of Friendly Trivia

By Judy & Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

Trivia Night has proven to be a profitable fundraiser for the **Hammond Kiwanis Club**. At the most recent trivia night, held in February, the club raised approximately \$5,000 for its project account that funds community enhancing programs. The idea for Trivia Night was first brought to the club after some members learned about staging such a fundraiser at one of the LaMissTenn District Conventions. Upon returning to Hammond, Kiwanian Patrick Coudrain proposed holding a Trivia Night and the club's directors agreed to make his idea a reality.



HEAVY CONCENTRATION—Members of a team discuss an answer to a trivia question posed during the Hammond Kiwanis Club's Annual Trivia Night. Contestants are asked to correctly answer some frequently "far out" questions posed by the trivia master who directs the event.

The benefit of projects such as Trivia Night is that it is, "weatherproof." For many years, the Hammond Kiwanis Club had manned a booth selling non-alcoholic daiquiris at the Ponchartroula Strawberry festival. While that source of funds did contribute to the club's project account, the profit margin derived from the effort was all too frequently dependent on the weather. The effort put forth erecting and manning the booth stretched over five days while hosting a Trivia Night is pretty

much a one-day effort.

Prior to Trivia Night, club members do participate in various ways. Some members help recruit the six-member teams that pay a fee to play. Others donate items for the silent auction that accompanies the trivia games. The prize for the winning trivia team is a collection of gift cards and these are obtained by club members.



TRIVIA WINNERS REWARDED—Members of the winning team at the Hammond Kiwanis Club's Trivia Night are rewarded with gift cards that are donated by owners of local businesses. Perhaps more important to the winners are "bragging rights" for the remainder of the year. The club recently decided to award a "travelling" trophy to the team that wins the annual event.

Not only is Trivia Night profitable for the Kiwanis Club, it has proved to be a fun and entertaining evening. As the trivia games progress, the comple-

tion becomes more and more heated and friendly competition begins to grow between the teams. The answers to many of the questions are greeted with surprise and, frequently, laughter.

The Trivia Nights have been so successful that the club's directors recently voted to end participation in the Strawberry Festival. The club's major fundraiser remains its annual Tour de Tangipahoa Bicycle Ride but that activity had to be cancelled for the past two years because of the threat of spreading the coronavirus. The club will resume the Tour de Tangipahoa this year on September 17th.



Hammond Kiwanian Sid Guedry and his wife Anne, at left, try to answer questions about Disney memorabilia (during the same time) affording members and guests the opportunity to join in a night of fun spiced with friendly competition.



WE GOT THAT ONE RIGHT!—Competition gets fierce between the teams participating in the Hammond Kiwanis Club's Trivia Night.

Hammond and Southeastern Students Spruce up TADAC

By Judy & Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

Members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** teamed with students from Southeastern Louisiana University recently to spruce up the grounds and make some improvements to the headquarters of the Tangipahoa Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council, commonly referred to as TADAC. The Southeastern students were participating in a special day of community service known as The Big Event. Students volunteer to assist various community agencies and non-profits during this special day.

The Kiwanis Club shares a special bond with TADAC. The club holds its monthly board meetings at the facility and a number of Kiwanians serve on the TADAC Board of Directors. The TADAC Building, also known as the Miller Memorial Library Building, was designed by renowned architect John

Desmond and is on the National Register of Historic Places. For the past several years, the Hammond Kiwanis Club has set aside the day that The Big Event is scheduled to assist with maintenance of the building and its grounds.

Becca Abel, a Kiwanis Club member and executive director of TADAC said of the day's activity, "assistance from the Southeastern students and my fellow Kiwanians means so much to the mission we serve through TADAC. The educational programs that are promoted by TADAC are designed to bring awareness of the dangers that abuse of drugs, tobacco products and alcohol to the youth and others in our community. The assistance we receive from volunteers help us to better serve those entrusted to our care."



Hammond Kiwanis Honored

Judy Couvillion and Terry King, members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** who are active in directing the activities of the Hammond Kiwanis Aktion Club, were recently recognized by OPTIONS, an organization that offers premier service for people with disabilities, at the group's 24th Annual Legislative, Business and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. The two were presented with OPTIONS's Volunteer Special Recognition Awards.

Pictured at the ceremony from left to right are: Alexis Sterling, Community Outreach Director for OPTIONS; Judy Couvillion, Terry King, and Carrie Mercke, president and CEO of OPTIONS. Also honored, but not pictured, was Kiwanian Ed Gautier.

Laurel Celebrates 100 Years of Service

By Lance Chancellor, Laurel Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of Laurel celebrated the organization's 100 Year Anniversary on Thursday, February 24th, with a gala at The Gables in Laurel. COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, prevented the club from celebrating on the actual anniversary date, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm over surpassing the 100 year milestone at the gala on Thursday night. The iconic civic club was founded in 1921 and has operated continuously since that time. Over the past 100 years, the club has endeavored to live up to its motto "We Build" by giving back to the local and even international community.

Possibly best known for the annual Kiwanis Pancake Day fundraiser which began in 1955, club members participate in a number of philanthropic activities each year. The club provides fifteen \$500 college scholarship awards to deserving high school students each year at the five high schools in Laurel and Jones County. In addition, Kiwanis club members annually provide every third grade student and their teachers in public, private, and home school settings with multiplication and division flash cards. Kiwanis Club of Laurel members also have donated \$35,000 since 2010 to the Kiwanis International and UNICEF "Project Eliminate" effort to end maternal and neonatal tetanus among the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations.



Kiwanis Club of Laurel President Randy Smith summed up the 100 years of the club's history by saying, "Over the past 100 years, Kiwanis Club of Laurel members have committed themselves to literally hundreds of service projects benefitting not only local residents, but also individuals around the world. We greatly look forward to this continued service to mankind and what the next 100 years of service by the Kiwanis Club of Laurel will bring."

Martin Brings Back Successful Pancake Breakfast

By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club

Here is a number for you: 1,875. That is the number of pancakes Fire Chief and Kiwanian Jamie Summers cooked at the **Martin Kiwanis Club** Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 26th, at Martin Elementary School. Many Kiwanis members have cooked pancakes at the annual event, but Chief Summers may be the first to stand at the grill for the entire time of the breakfast--from before 6 a.m. when he began until just before 11 a.m. when the serving lines closed.

A total of 508 persons were served an ample breakfast of all-you-could-eat pancakes, sausage, and eggs. The

breakfast was not held in 2021, but in 2020 the headcount was 539, so this was indeed a successful event. Nineteen Kiwanis members participated in cooking and serving. They were joined by one member of the Key Club, and three members of the pleasant and efficient kitchen staff at Martin Elementary School. Steve Lemond, Kiwanis treasurer, noted that all proceeds from this fundraising event will be used to support community activities.

Members of the Martin Fire Department were present to sample their chief's cooking. More than 130 UT Martin athletes (including the football

team) were also served a pancake breakfast before they volunteered in clean-up efforts from the December 10 tornado that ripped through Dresden, Tennessee, and the surrounding area.



David Sudberry presents Chief Jamie Summers with a spatula for setting the record in cooking the most pancakes.

New Orleans Gets Back to the Future with Serving

By Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, St. Michael Special School was opened for visitors! The **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** hosted the 8th annual dance for the high school students and the adults of the Joy Center, in a special “80’s / Back to the Future” themed dance.



Specialty themed bags were filled with shutter glasses, gangsta fedoras, ring pops, candy, chips, moon pies and bottled water. Favorite songs blasted over the mic and dancing commenced! Photo ops captured the moment for all

students and participants!

A grand time was had by all! It feels great to get back to the Future and continue serving the children of our world!

St. Bernard Appreciates Teachers and Supports Literacy Programs

By Kathleen Huff, St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi held a Teacher of the Year Appreciation Dinner for public school teachers in St. Bernard Parish on March 8th, 2022 at Rocky and Carlos Restaurant to acknowledge their efforts and outstanding work as Terrific Teachers. So many of these teachers have acknowledged that they were inspired by their own previous teachers and today they are inspiring generations of future educators and leaders. This Terrific Teacher Program will now join our signature project of Terrific Kids (elementary schools) and our recent project of Terrific Teens (middle and high schools).

Local businesses generously gave gift cards to show their appreciation for these Terrific Teachers and to support our first time introducing this program in our chapter.

Also at our March 8th meeting, Kids to the Rescue, a local non-profit organization, presented us with over 1,000 books to support Kiwanis literacy programs in our community. Other projects that they have completed this year include: donating 550 pairs of shoes to the Battered Woman's Shelter, passing out bag lunches after Hurricane IDA, and giving out goody bags to children in Children's Hospital. They definitely have that Kiwanis spirit!



Kiwanians Kevin Hoffman, chairperson and Kristine Koepp, President are pictured with our Terrific Teachers.



Red Stick Kiwanis: Doing Great Things!

By Cheryl Matthews, Red Stick Kiwanis Club

Red Stick Tells the Truth

On Friday, February 11, 2022 five members of the **Kiwanis Club of Red Stick** *told the truth* to over one hundred twenty Kindergarten students at Cedarcrest-Southmoor Elementary in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The five Red Stick members read The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka to five Kindergarten classes. The students were excited to learn the story from the wolf's perspective. The wolf has gotten a bad reputation. We have heard for years that he huffed and puffed and blew down the houses of three little pigs. But, he really only sneezed!

Each student received a copy of the book to take home and read to their parents. There were smiles all around from the students and the volunteers. There were hugs too!



Red Stick Makes a Clean Sweep



Jennifer Richardson, a board member of **Kiwanis Club of Red Stick**, is the director of a group known as *Keep Tigertown Beautiful*. The mission of this group is to clean areas of Baton Rouge where litter has collected and taken away the beauty of our city. Members of Red Stick have been privileged to join with Jennifer in this cleaning mission. They are recognized by their yellow vests and the black garbage bags. Keep up the good work!



Abbeville Hosts First Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball

Abbeville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Kiwanis Club of Abbeville hosted its First Annual Abbeville’s “Krewe of Kiwanis Special Needs” Mardi Gras Ball on March 5th, 2022. The participants dressed in their Mardi Gras best and danced the night away. A Mardi Gras King and Queen were randomly selected and food and soft drinks were provided.



Acadiana Celebrates New Years at Noon

Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis Club members had such a great time at New Year’s at Noon this year on December 31, 2021! The kids all had fun catching fish and getting prizes. Thank you to The Children's Museum of Acadiana for letting Kiwanis of Acadiana-Lafayette participate in this event.



Algiers Feeds 4th District NOPD

Algiers Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On Tuesday, March 1st, members of **Kiwanis Club of Algiers**, Evans Thibodeaux, Scott & Lourdes Moran, Debbie Frederickson, Stephen Mosgrove & his father Bill, and Paulette Purser took time out of their Mardi Gras to help serve the 4th District Police Department. The meal was sponsored by club member Irene Burrus and cooked by club member Ed Moise. Not only did members help serve but several also made monetary donations.



Ascension Takes Action in the Community

Ascension Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Cooking for First Responders and Homeless

In March, the **Ascension Parish Kiwanis Club** began cooking for the first responders and homeless in Ascension Parish. In one week they fed the 3 APSO Districts, the 911 Center, Gonzales Police and a provided meals for Haven's Care group.



Volunteering at Braveheart

Saturday, Feb. 20th was a busy day for some of our members volunteering with Braveheart.



Loving Our Community's Children

On February 12th **Ascension Kiwanis** helped sort clothing donations for Loving Our Community's Children (LOCC) "foster closet" in Ascension Parish.



B.R. Kiwanis Reading Program is Back in Full Force!

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge members returned to Buchanan Elementary School in full force! Dorothy Kemp, Gary Graham, and Joy Hammatt began the club's VIPS (Volunteers In Public Schools) Pre-K reading project at Buchanan Elementary on January 26th. They read "The Bernstein Bears and the Spooky Old Tree" to Mrs. Davis' Kindergarten class. The students had a chance to act out the story in a roll-play exercise and even had props! Afterwards, they were given an activity worksheet to draw "what gives them shivers", and the book was gifted to the class.

On February 9th, Baton Rouge Kiwanis members were back to read "Are You My Mother?". The book was donated to the class library. The class retold the story using pictures on the magnetic board. They then learned about their "school mother" (aka teacher). Each student illustrated their own individual book, "Are You My School Mother?". Magnetic letters along with boxes of crayons were donated to the class.

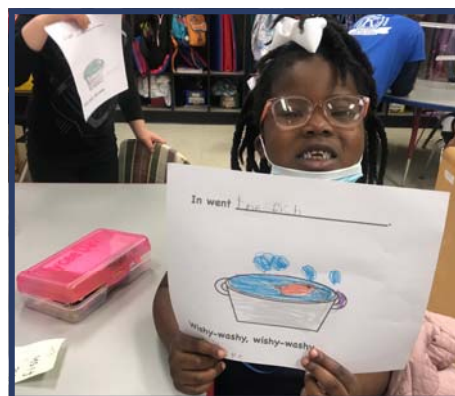
On February 24th, Baton Rouge Kiwanis members were back again to help the Pre-K children at Buchanan learn some geometry while working on fine motor skills by building houses for



the three little pigs. The children then tried to blow down their houses. They also learned to sequence while retelling the story of the "Three Little Pigs."

library. And, they also did a great job making a class book to follow up the "Mrs. Wishy-Washy" story.

The Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club is looking forward to visiting Buchanan Elementary many more times throughout the rest of the school year and plans to keep their reading program alive in the future for plenty of school years to come.



Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt read "Mrs. Wishy-Washy" to Ms. Davis' Pre-K class at Buchanan Elementary on March 9th. The students had so much fun acting out the "Mrs. Wishy-Washy" story. They were excited to have the book added to their classroom



Broussard-Youngsville: Keeping the City Klean

Broussard-Youngsville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On the morning of March 5th, **Broussard-Youngsville Kiwanis Club** members got out bright and early to help keep Broussard looking good. Big thanks to our members, Parish Proud and City of Broussard, Louisiana!



Camellia City, Slidell Spreads the Love

Camellia City, Slidell Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On Saturday, February 12th, the **Kiwanis Club of Camellia City Slidell** held its Annual Spread the Love food drive to collect non-perishable items for the Christian Community Concern food pantry with the help of Winn-Dixie. All the monetary donations were used to buy more groceries. Thank you Winn Dixie for always supporting the efforts of Camellia City, Slidell Kiwanis to help Community Christian Concern stock their food pantry after the holiday season.



Corinth Hosts Biggest Ever Father Daughter Ball

Corinth Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Saturday, February 5th was a wonderful night full of fun and memories! This year's Father Daughter Ball, *Belle of the Bayou*, was one of the **Corinth Kiwanis Club's** biggest ever and it's all thanks to the amazing sponsors and the many fathers, grandfathers and father-figures who carried their princesses to the ball.



Cortana Cares for the Kids

Cortana Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Easter Baskets for Children

Cortana Kiwanis Club members generously donated books, candy and toys for the St. Vincent De Paul Easter baskets project. On Thursday, March 24th, several members volunteered to fill baskets. With the goal of over 3000 Easter baskets for children in our community many hands are needed each day leading up to Easter Sunday. Cortana has made this a tradition each year. Special thanks to Mike Baldwin, Kristie Daspit, Donna Leggett, Keith & Tammy McDavid, Peter Mackey, Tom Mackey and Wanda Magee for donating items.



Touch a Truck



Cortana Kiwanis members had a truck-load of fun serving jambalaya at Touch a Truck on Saturday, March 26th at BREC State Fairgrounds! Many thanks to all of our volunteers: Patricia Anderson, Michael Doyle, Jim & JoEllen Frederick, Jim Kaiser, Glenn Kidder, Donna Leggett, Don MacGregor, Keith McDavid, Tom Mackey, Brent & Paula Phillips, Greg Scott and Tooley Towns.

Denham Springs Hosts Successful 2nd Annual Clay Shoot

Denham Springs Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Denham Springs Kiwanis Club had a wonderful turnout for its 2nd Annual Kiwanis Clay Shoot on March 11th! It was such a fun morning thanks to all of the great teams that came out to play! It could not have been such great success without amazing sponsors: First Guaranty Bank, Quality Engineering, Five Star Printing, Le Chien Brewery, 71 District Representative Buddy Mincey, Livingston Parish Assessor Jeff Taylor, Hood Dental Care, Parish President Layton Ricks, First Southern Title, and Premier Credit Corp.



Danny Hart, First Guaranty Bank, Starcon, First In Counters, Sheriff Jason Ard, Forte & Tablada Inc., Premier Geotech & Testing, United Community Bank, Quality Engineering & Survey, LLC, Five Star Printing, Westaff, and Marshall Joe Shumate. And last but not least, thank you to Riverside Sporting Clays for allowing the club to host this event there, all of their help in organizing it, and their amazing hospitality!

Thank you to the following who fed the teams delicious food and kept them hydrated all day long: donuts sponsored by 5 Star Printing, lunch sponsored by Quality Engineering & made by Marshall Joe Shumate & Darryl Averett, tasty beer provided by Le Chien, refreshment stand provided by Forte & Tablada, and ice provided by Jeffrey's Collision Center.

The teams did a fantastic job and had the best time! Thank you to the following for participating: Dukes,



Germantown Annual Chili Cook Off

Germantown Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Germantown Kiwanis Club held its Annual Chili Cook Off on March 15th. Chili, salads, cornbread and desserts were \$10 per person. Police, firefighters and first responders ate for free. Judging was done by the Germantown Fire Department. Congratulations to Judge Mary Wagner for winning 1st place. Abby Cook (Tompkins) and husband Carson took 2nd place and Allyson Smothers' placed 3rd in the chili category as well as winning a prize for the best decorations.



Gulfport Hosts First Community Baby Shower

Gulfport Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Saturday's rain on March 12th put the shower power behind the **Kiwanis Club of Gulfport's** Community Baby Shower and Resource Fair! Members served nearly 40 families with stuffed baby bags, valuable birth to 3 resources, diapers, car seats, snacks, music and brought the sunshine to a cloudy day for the attendees! Thank you to agency vendors and generous donors: the Kind Mouse Productions, Inc., Home Visitors for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY), Healthy Start, Healthy Families Pinellas, John Hopkins All Childrens Hospital, the Breakfast Optimist Club of St. Petersburg and Father Bill who brought ponchos.



Lake Charles' 5th Annual Chicken Run

Lake Charles Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On March 5th, **Lake Charles Kiwanis** members had a fun day at the club's 5th Annual Chicken Run.



Lucedale Donates Uniforms

Lucedale Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

In February, **Lucedale Kiwanis** members presented \$1,000 of new school uniforms for the George County High School clothes closet thanks to a matching donation from Kiwanis member Kelly Dixon, Alfa Insurance. Pictured are GCHS teacher Ms. Cotten, Sonja Foshee, Courtney Weatherford, Raymond Hanser, Brandy Havard, Stephanie Chisholm, Ms. Tillman, GCHS Homeless Liaison, and Annette Riley.



Martin Kiwanian Receives Tablet of Honor Plaque

St. Martin Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Steve Lemond, member of the **Martin Kiwanis Club**, holds an engraved plaque stating that his name has been added to the Kiwanis LaMissTenn District Tablet of Honor, the highest honor the District Foundation can bestow. The plaque was presented to Lemond on behalf of local members and officers by fellow Kiwanis member Linda Ramsey at the February 2nd meeting of the club. Lemond received this honor in recognition of his leadership in the Kiwanis Club of Martin and for his dedication to youth and various community and club service projects. The Henry W. Nash and Eugene J. Maier Tablet of Honor, located in the district office in Baton Rouge, LA, has individual plates bearing the names of those honored.



Northshore Mandeville Repairs Gazebo

Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On Saturday, March 12th, several **Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis** volunteers took time out to repair the gazebo at Margny Elementary School. Great work team!



Pointe Coupee Holds Annual Fishing Tournament

Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Facebook Page

Sixty-four boats lined up for takeoff at False River for the 42nd annual **Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Club** Fishing Tournament, presented by Maggio Buick/GMC in New Roads on Sunday, March 20th.

Krewe des Cheins des Opelousas!

Opelousas Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On Saturday February 12th, dozens of happy pooches “paw-aded” in the **Opelousas Kiwanis Club’s** Krewe des Cheins Mardi Gras parade. Families and kids dressed their pups up in costumes for a chance to be crowned king and queen. Entry fees for the dogs were \$15 before the event and \$20 onsite and attendance to the parade was free. Arts and crafts vendors were welcomed for \$20. The parade helped to support the club’s mission of improving the lives of children in the community. Congratulations to King Tank & Queen Daisy!



St. Bernard-Arabi is Ready for Reading

St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club Facebook Page



As a part of a Kiwanis Literacy and Academics Program, the **Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi** has a Ready for Reading Fund to assist children who may not be able to purchase books at school book fairs. To help these children buy books, on March 21st, the club donated \$150.00 to Chalmette, Meraux, Lacoste and Gauthier Elementary Schools. The Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi’s Literacy and Academics Programs are dedicated to reading projects such as Read around the World, Summer Read to Ride, School Book Fairs, Reading Incentive Programs and other projects in their Ready for Reading fund.

Twin Cities Collects First Aid Items

Twin Cities Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On March 26th, the **Twin Cities Kiwanis Club** collected items for emergency and first aid kits for the South Fulton Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Club. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated!



LaMissTenn Welcomes New Clubs!



Welcome to the new Kiwanis Club of Carencro, La. in Southwest Region VI, Division 7.



Welcome to the new Kiwanis Club of Rayne, La. in Southwest Region VI, Division 7.



Welcome to the new Kiwanis Club of the Tri Parishes, LaPlace, La. in Bayou Region IV, Division 4B .

Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany LaPorte, District Bulletin Editor

Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: tiffany@lamisstenn.org

ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS: All article submissions must be attached in an email as a Word document along with picture captions. *Please submit original articles written by your club's members. We cannot use pre-published articles due to copyright laws.* Do not include photos within text documents; send as separate attachments in the highest resolution TIFF or JPEG file if possible. *Please send one Word document along with pictures attached together in one email. Multiple stories per club should be sent in one Word Document, preferably an overview of each story in one article.*

DEADLINES:

The deadline for article submissions is always two weeks before the publication's date. Here are the deadlines for the remainder of the 2021-2022 Kiwanis Year:

July 2022 Issue = Deadline: June 17, 2022

October 2022 Issue = Deadline: September 16, 2022

Include this information:

CLUB: Club, Division Number, and Author

EVENT: Make sure to answer: **what** was done, **why** it was done, **who** benefited, **when** and **where** it occurred, **how** it was accomplished, etc.

ACCURACY: Please double check all dates, locations, etc., and be sure that all names are spelled correctly. While we do our best to correct issues if we notice them, we do not have the resources to confirm this type of information.

PHOTOGRAPHS: If you're shooting a service project, look for an action photo of the volunteers in progress or interacting with children. Shoot from the front – we are not likely to use a shot with mostly backs. Use as high a resolution as possible. Captions may not always be published, but it is helpful if you can identify subjects.

AND REMEMBER . . . THE BEST SHOT WINS THE COVER!

Keep in mind, the cover photograph for the District News Magazine will be selected based on clarity, action and emotion.

We want photographs showing how your club impacts the community!



"The Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News" is the official publication of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International

2020-2021 LA.-MISS.-W. TENN. DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Governor - Elect R. Bruce Hammatt

Immediate Past Governor Patrice Cusimano

Executive Director Charles H. Ford

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Region II

James Lytle, *Starkville, Miss.*

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Rogena Woods-Mitchell, *Vancleave, Miss.*

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Marcel Lashover, *Dawn Busters, Metairie, La.*

Region V

Michele Crosby, *Denham Springs, La.*

Region VI

Kimberly Champagne, *Acadiana-Lafayette, La.*

Region VII

Malissa Sweeney, *Natchitoches, La.*

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