Kiwanis

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News



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

INSIDE







ON THE COVER:

UNION CITY BLEEDS RED - Division 1A Lieutenant Governor Cathy Fry of the Union City Kiwanis Club volunteers at the American Red Cross blood drive on May 20th. The Union City Kiwanis Club partnered with the American Red Cross and Walmart to address the shortage of blood during the COVID-19 pandemic. *See more on Page 33.*

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Soderstrom: We Will Not Tolerate Racism

By Stan D. Soderstrom, Executive Director of Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Children's Fund

Watching the civil unrest in the United States in recent days, our organization's initial response was to encourage calm and patience — and to listen.

In recent days, we have heard from some members who have told us that is not enough.

We are listening. We are learning. And as we do, we also want to be clear on where we stand.

Kiwanis International does not tolerate racism. We know that black lives matter. We value inclusion from every community in every nation. We also know there's more work to be done.

We know that in the United States, citizens have a right to protest, to advocate and to petition their government for redress of grievances. We support both the responsible exercise of this right and the freedom to use it without the fear of physical violence.

We are saddened by the vandalism and violence but can understand how we've gotten here.

The Kiwanis family will continue to stand for bringing people together to make a difference in any and every community we can. Our solution is not to be the loudest voice on any specific issue, but to help everyone see that resolution can only come by listening and working together. That has been a successful strategy for Kiwanis for more than a century, and it can be the only path forward for our members in the United States and around the world.

~ STAN D. SODERSTROM

JUN 03, 2020

Stan D. Soderstrom is the executive director of Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Children's Fund. His background includes global and community-based work in the public and private sectors.





DISTRICT NEWS

Staying Focused on the Objects of Kiwanis

By R. Bruce Hammatt, Governor

Well, I guess none of us had anticipated that our spring and summer were going to be like this. I certainly know I did not. I had my year as Governor of our Great and Historic District pretty much planned out prior to last October. I had a personal goal of visiting each of our clubs at least once and I wanted to visit many of them a second or third time when they had their fundraisers and club projects that were of special interest to me or my wife, Joy.

In baseball, when you are expecting to be thrown a fast ball down the middle of the plate, and are instead thrown a curve ball, you have to make a quick adjustment if you want to get a hit. That is what many of us have had to do when it came to club meetings. We were so used to having our regular weekly meetings, that when the COVID-19 virus hit and we had to stay home for such a long period we did not know what to do about our regular meetings.

Now I know what a Zoom meeting looks like. Heck, even I can turn on my computer and easily participate in a GoToMeeting or Google with a club from another part of the state or country. I have met many new friends and reconnected to people I had met before, but never anticipated interacting with again. It has been fun. And I think it is how many of us will be meeting well into the future.

I will be glad when all of my club members are able to get back together, but I do not anticipate that will happen within the next few months.



However, I know of a number of clubs that have started to meet again. But what does that really mean?

I sent a note to our KI District Counselor (Gary (Coop) Cooper) the other day asking when his North Carolina club started meeting and he indicated about 4-5 weeks earlier. I later found out in our discussion that he meant that they started meeting virtually and not in-person. That was really not my question when I had asked him. I should have asked "Was his club was meeting in person?" and I would have gotten back an answer to my real question.

And that is the way it is now. When one asks about a meeting these days, we have to find out if that means virtually (via computer or phone) or in-person, or a combination of both. I think I would prefer the in-person type meeting. However, for the foreseeable future I do not know when that will be common.

I think significant changes will take place with all service organizations; and they are happening quickly. I believe many, if not most, club meetings will commonly have a "Zoom" component in the future. At this time I don't know how well it will work, or exactly how the clubs will handle a speaker that routinely walks away from the podium, like myself, but I am confident we will figure out all these details.

For now, I hope Club Presidents, Secretaries and other club leaders are working together to address any new issues. We must remain focused on the "Six Permanent Objects of Kiwanis" that were adopted at the 1924 International Convention and guide us still:

Object 1: To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.

Object 2: To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

Object 3: To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards.

Object 4: To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.

Object 5: To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.

Object 6: To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of right-eousness, justice, patriotism and good will.

I am confident if we follow these Objects, we will continue to serve our communities for generations to come.

LOVE IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT!

By Eva Abate, Immediate Past Governor

Let us not forget that we all have so much to be thankful for. The COVID-19 virus pandemic has required everyone to make changes in their lives that were totally unexpected. Keep a positive attitude and once again be thankful for your life.

The "stay at home" order has afforded many of you the time to reflect on the life changing service projects that you have accomplished. Always be proud of your service to others and remember *Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world on child and one community at a time.*

LOVE the opportunities that Kiwanis offers for you to become a leader. LOVE the difference that you have made in the life of a child. LOVE the fellowship that you have with your club members and other Kiwanians throughout the District. LOVE the prospect of a better community by the accomplishments



of your service projects. LOVE the recognition for your achievements. LOVE the education from community leaders and District Kiwanians. JUST LOVE KIWANIS!

LIVE your dreams to improve the lives of children in your community and worldwide. LIVE to expand your horizons of what could be for your club, District and Kiwanis International. LIVE to be a good friend to the educators in the schools that you serve. LIVE to support your District Foundation and International Children's Fund. LIVE to enhance your club's service projects. LIVE to have FUN

and enjoy your life. LIVE KIWA-NIS!

SHARE your Kiwanis story and invite others to join you in service. SHARE your passion for service. SHARE your ideas for service. SHARE your time and participate in more service. SHARE the news through social media and your website. SHARE your creativity during this pandemic and stay strong. SHARE that you care about your club members and plan for a robust comeback. SHARE KIWANIS!

It's been GREAT!

LOVE IT LIVE IT SHARE IT:

KIWANIS!

Yours in service,

- Eva B Abate



Kiwanis Will Survive 2020

By Patrice Cusimano, Governor-Elect

Who is tired of being quarantined? Don't get me wrong, I understand the necessity of it and I comply with the rules of social distancing and mask wearing. But does anyone really enjoy being stuck at home all the time? I am lucky to be going to my office, but it just doesn't add up to a vacation. Outside of going to work, Sal and I have only ventured out for church services, once those were allowed, and for an occasional meal. The Florida beaches are calling my name!

Putting aside my daydreams about a vacation, I wonder about our clubs here in LaMissTenn. Many clubs have reported that they have been meeting online, which is great! On the other hand, a number of clubs have reported they are not meeting, and some have not reported at all. I know we like to meet in person – fellowship is a hallmark of the Kiwanis experience. Hopefully, as Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee start to open up, our clubs will be able to meet in person again, and more importantly, we will begin to have service opportunities for our clubs. By the time you read this, my club will have had a fundraiser for our special needs projects. Our



club is lucky enough to partner with a large, smoke-free pool hall in our community that allows us to host a pool tournament, complete with a parade of prizes. I hope people will feel safe enough to come out and support our efforts.

District-wide, on June 17th I will have had my first online meeting with the 2020-21 lieutenant governors. The plan is to continue to meet online, brainstorming, asking and answering questions to determine the needs of our district. Our needs will be different – everything will be different. It will be the job of the executive board, the lieutenant governors, and me to figure out how to address fundraising, service, meetings and all the things that Ki-

wanians do in this new world. Your job will be to make sure your leaders know what problems you are encountering, what successes you have, and what resources you need. No one has the answers. We just need to experiment within the restrictions placed upon us to find what works.

I'm also terribly disappointed that we won't have a district convention this year, because I always look forward to seeing my fellow Kiwanians at our district-wide events. I do want you to know that we will have something provided in a virtual format. We are planning a program of workshops to share ideas for operating our clubs - fundraising, youth protection, using social media to promote clubs, growing multigenerational and diverse clubs, opening new clubs, retaining membership, and a few more. These will be interactive - so we can pretend we are on the ship to Cozumel sitting side-by-side with our fellow Kiwanians in a workshop. Everyone is encouraged to bring an adult beverage with an umbrella in it!

All joking aside, Kiwanis will survive 2020. Let's do this together – stay strong, stay connected, stay involved, and as always, stay kind.

Governor Bruce & All the Great Kiwanians in the LaMissTenn District

By International Trustee Gary "Coop" Cooper, Fayetteville Kiwanis Club, NC

I want to start out by thanking the entire district for rolling out the red carpet/welcome mat, and the Diet Sundrop for my bride and I this Kiwanis year. We did not know what to expect as this was our first year on the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees. I use "we" because my bride and I are a team and where I travel she goes too.

Lisa and Greg Beard had always told us that the LaMissTenn District was one of the best in all of Kiwanis and was run very efficiently. We totally agree!! We knew we were going to love Governor Bruce and First Lady Joy when we met in Disney World last year. They are truly a special couple because of their heart and passion for the kids, not only in your district, but all over the world. We are blessed to call them friends. Immediate Past Gov-



ernor Eva and First Dude V.J. served your district with distinction and are still serving with that same passion. Your future is very bright because Governor-Elect Patrice and First Dude Sal will continue to carry the torch that has been lit and fueled for many years. And then there is Executive Director Charlie and his bride, Sharon, who are the

glue that keeps supporting great leaders and Kiwanians in your district. And of course, Tiffany is the only person besides Sharon that can keep Charlie under control. And Tiffany learned how to do that from Beverly. What is the old saying? "The fruit does not fall far from the tree." And there are not words for the introduction I received from Past International President Nettles Brown. Nettles' sweet wife Glenelle went on the riverboat cruise even though she gets motion sickness. What a trooper! Cathy and Lenny Simmons continue to serve with distinction. And another husband and wife team, Ame and Dennis Oliver continue to lead the Eliminate effort and doing a fantastic job. Oh by the way, Go Tarheels!

I am not going to try and list all the great Kiwanians we have met in the LaMissTenn district because Tiffany has only given me a certain number of words for this article. But please suffice it to say that our lives have been enriched tremendously because of the interaction with all of you in Memphis at your District Convention, then again in Natchez at Mid-Winter and during the many board meetings. Little did we know that all of our lives were about to change drastically soon after we met in Natchez. I have



Pictured from left to right at the LaMissTenn District Convention in Memphis, Tenn. are V.J. and Past Governor Eva Abate, Debbie Cooper, Joy and Governor Bruce Hammatt, International Trustee Gary "Coop" Cooper and Division 17 Lt. Governor Calvin Carrier.

Continued on page 9

Governor Bruce & All the Great Kiwanians in the LaMissTenn District continued . . .



Governor Bruce Hammatt and First Lady Joy Hammatt present International Trustee Gary "Coop" Cooper with his favorite, hard-to-find, beverage at the District Convention in Memphis, Tenn.

heard of several members in your district that fought that evil invisible COVID-19. Thank God they have lived to tell their story and will be able to continue to serve the children.

I know we agree that we are all "family" through Kiwanis. In these times we have had to be flexible, resilient, and find new ways to communicate with our club members and our other Kiwanis friends in the district. I admit I had heard of ZOOM prior to the "stay at home" orders imposed on us in March but I was not sure how to spell it, LOL. I admit the ZOOM meetings are not the same as face to face, but as they say in Shelby, NC (where I grew up), "they ain't bad." Being able to communicate while in

"captivity" has been a blessing. And I believe that we all as Kiwanians have a great deal of pent up desire to serve the children in our communities. I am also convinced that the children need us more today than ever before and it is so inspiring how creative Kiwanians have been able to serve the children while staying safe.

The beauty of Kiwanis is that we will have the opportunity to get together again at International Conventions, and now through ZOOM. We look at this year with y'all as a special time in our lives, and we will cherish the memories forever. Let me also let you know that you are going to love our replacement as your Board Counselor, Gunnsteinn Bjornsson and his bride Sigga.

In closing, thanks for all y'all do for Kiwanis and the youth we serve. In Kiwanis Service,

Coop & Debbie (Woman)



Past International President Nettles Brown welcomes Debbie and Gary "Coop" Cooper at the District Convention in Memphis, Tenn.

2020 Signature Projects

By Catherine Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club, & Sal LaRock, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club

Norman Vincent Peale once said, "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." Two Kiwanis Clubs from LaMissTenn District did just that!

The 2020 Signature Project Contest of Kiwanis International featured clubs all over the world submitting their best, showcase of service. They show the impact a Kiwanis Club can have on a community. From playgrounds and parks to festivals and fundraisers, signature projects are the hallmark of

what a Kiwanis Club does. This year, the contest was divided into two tiers. Tier 1 for clubs with 27 or less members; Tier 2 for clubs 28 plus.

Representing the LaMissTenn District for Tier 1 was the Kiwanis Club of New Orleans. Their Signature Project is "Painting with a Purpose: Ceiling Tiles for Children's Hospital." Since 2012, the club has sponsored different events wherein other Kiwanis Clubs, as well as the community, come together to paint over 1,000 whimsical tiles to

be placed in the ceilings of Children's Hospitals and Clinics throughout South Louisiana. These tiles bring comfort to patients as they await testing, surgery or recovery.

Representing the LaMissTenn District for Tier 2 was the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club**. Their Signature Project is the "Mel Dussel Chairman of the Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club, Rewards for Reading Program." This fantastic reading program is in 54 Jefferson Parish Schools. Twice a year at the end of each semester they give incentives to students for reading. During the first semester this school year, students in the program were rewarded for reading 394,401,152 words and 64,074 books!

Over 400 projects were submitted. The first progression was to narrow it down to about 70 in each tier, then the top 10 from each tier were chosen. Winners are typically announced during the International Convention, but with that being cancelled due to COVID, winners were announced via Facebook event of June 17, 2020.

Shooting for the moon, we eagerly waited for the announcements ... Tier 1 and 2 ... Bronze level ... Silver level ... GOLD level The announced winners had fabulous projects! Sadly, neither the New Orleans Club or Dawn Busters placed in the top 3; but what an AMAZING journey for us!!! To be considered in the Top 10, out of 400 projects ... yes, we certainly landed among the stars!!!



Members of the Kiwanis Club of New Orleans display painted ceiling tiles to be placed in the ceilings of Children's Hospitals and Clinics throughout South Louisiana.



The Dawn Busters reward students for reading with the Rewards for Reading Program.



Foundation Awards Grants for Community Projects

By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair

Tupelo Kiwanis Club: \$5,000
AUTISM CENTER SENSORY PLAYGROUND



Alexandria Kiwanis Club: \$5,000 INTERACTIVE WALKING TRAIL



Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club: \$1,988

PETE THE CAT LOVES PRE-K



Big Easy Kiwanis Club: \$2,000

UNIFORMS WITH A PURPOSE





Flying that Kiwanis Spirit

By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair



The LaMissTenn District Foundation began selling these flags as a FUNDRAISER at a cost of \$20 per flag during the Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez. Less than 550 flags remain! Stand NOT included.

The first known "Kiwanis Garden Flag" has been designed, and is now flying in gardens all over the USA and our District! Cathy Simmons, of the Kiwanis Club of New Orleans, has worked with her nephew over the last two years, to get the design approved by Kiwanis International. The vendor, MogoBox, LLC, is a licensed vendor of Kiwanis International and is also a member of the Gulfport Kiwanis Club.

The flag is made of weather-resistant, heavy duty polyester. The double-sided design is DYED into the fabric in layers for a long lasting, fade resistant, vibrant work of art! The flag size is 12"x 18". The cost per flag is \$20.

During the District Convention, gift baskets support the LaMissTenn District Foundation. However, since D-Con has been cancelled, due to COVID-19, the LaMissTenn District Foundation will be selling flags instead by mail.

Talk it up with your club members and combine orders for savings on shipping! Let's spread Kiwanis Flags all over our District and beyond!

If you want to fly your Kiwanis Spirit, you can place the order now through the order form below – *shipping charges are listed* ... groups of flags lower the shipping cost!

Let YOUR Kiwanis Spirit fly and order your flag today!

Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:
Number of flags x \$20 each = \$
Shipping cost (See chart on the right) = \$
No shipping if in New Orleans.

Payment Options:

Check - Mail form and check made out to: "Kiwanis District Foundation", c/o Cathy Simmons, 1721 Generes Dr., New Orleans, LA 70123

Total = \$

 VISA/MC/AmEx - email a request for a PayPal invoice to: kiwanisgardenflags@gmail.com

Shipping via USPS in padded envelopes or flat rate USPS box:			
1 Flag \$4.78	Bulk Orders:		
2-3 Flags \$5.78	6-10 Flags \$11.40		
4-5 Flags \$6.78	11-50 (med. flat rate box)- \$14.35		
(USA ONLY AT THIS TIME)	51+ (large flat rate box) \$19.95		





Kiwanis District Office

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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

Name:	
Kiwanis Club:	
Mailing Address:	
Day Phone: ()	ail:
My total gift/pledge is \$ Remember	your \$120 Friends of the Foundation donation is tax deductible
I wish to make my donation by:	For Credit Card Payments:
Check (payable to "Kiwanis District Foundation")	Card Number Exp. Date (MM/YY

Friend of the Foundation Donor Information Form

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

Credit Card



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 (ch	oose one):		
Monthly	Quarterly	Semiannually	Annuall

		<u> </u>	
Beginning	and ending		
	(MM/YY)		(MM/YY)

Keeping and Promoting a Sense of Community within Your Membership

By Jennifer Kelly-White, Public Relations District Chair

Is your club currently having meetings or remaining in contact with your membership? Thank you to those who have been and for our other clubs, it is not difficult to begin meeting virtually. In this article I will present some ideas to kick start member interactions within your club.

Virtual meetings. There are numerous platforms available these days and Zoom is a popular option that is a free download and userfriendly. Participants have the option to engage by video and/or audio. In addition to holding your own Zoom meeting, you can join another club's meeting. Quite a few of our clubs in the District are conducting virtual meetings and they would love to have you join them. Encourage other members from your club to join so it can be counted as an interclub. If the thought of conducting a Zoom meeting seems too technical, no worries, send an email or post to Facebook or other forms of social media on a weekly basis to foster communication and interaction among your members.

Member fellowship. With having fewer opportunities for service and outreach during this time, shift your focus internally to your membership and your club. Take this time to learn something new about your fellow members. Some ideas



include sharing photos of their pets, or favorite place to visit; sharing a family favorite recipe; doing at home workouts remotely but together; creating an e-book club or movie club to discuss content; or getting creative with a decorating contest. If your club is hosting Zoom meetings, have some fun with that, too. Have a themedmeeting where members dress up with a crazy hat, socks, or wear a favorite sports team shirt. Something a bit different is to conduct a virtual scavenger hunt. The meeting host could announce a particular object and the first member to find that object in the house and return to the computer with that said object wins bragging rights for the day or week. There are numerous examples online to spark creativity and continue fun fellowship. You could also take turns and have members share their stories. Extend invitations for your SLPs to introduce themselves and what is planned for their upcoming year. Think of it as virtual coffee talk time.

Club TLC. Consider using this time to review your club operations. You may not be able to do service as you know it, but this is a time when you can give back to your club to make it stronger for when the world returns to lessened social distancing measures. Here are some things to consider. Look at your club's purpose and is it still relevant to your community's needs? Are your service projects impactful? Can some be enhanced to yield a larger impact or are others not as relevant anymore? How do your members feel about your club? A survey can provide valuable insight. When was the last time a membership orientation was conducted with your membership? Might be a good time to review this content as a refresher. Don't forget to include information about your District Foundation.

This PowerPoint and script are available at www.lamisstenn.org/foundation. Kiwanis International has resources available to assist in reviewing your club operations and carrying out these tasks.

Best of luck to you and your club during these times. If you have questions or would like some ideas, feel free to contact me at jennifer-white920@gmail.com. Thanks!

The Current Situation for Key Leader North

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

Presently, Key Leader North is planned for September 25-27, 2020 at Camp Lakeshore in Eva, Tennessee. We will certainly abide by the CDC Guidelines as to social distancing and wear masks if that is still the case at that time. As we all know things change all the time, but rest assured that we will take every precaution necessary to protect everyone who decides to attend. Registration is now available online at www.wtnkeyleader.org and anyone who registered for the event in May is still registered for September and will not need to register again.

Schools begin typically in West Tennessee the first week of August. That will play a major factor in any decision that is made about Key Leader North. We recruit students through the schools, churches, families, etc. If these institutions do not open back up in sufficient time for us to recruit enough participants, then we may have to cancel Key Leader this year. Everything is so up in the air as I write that I'm giving you the information that I currently have about our area. I do know that Camp Lakeshore has summer camps scheduled beginning June 21st and continuing until August 1st, 2020, and registration is open for those camps. So by the time our weekend happens, they should have everything down to a science about how to protect the children.

I do know that I am not planning on our regular numbers for camp so that we can decrease the numbers of students staying in the lodges, and we can certainly practice social distancing in the meeting space that we have. Honestly, if things do open up, it could be an excellent opportunity for us to practice what the future may look like for events such as this. I do have every confidence that Jane Erickson can handle any situation with our students, and I am very confident that she will do everything in her power to insure the safety of the students.

Please feel free to contact me at lramsey@utm.edu for any updates at any time, and I will be more than happy to let you know how things stand currently about our plans. Everyone please stay safe, and stay well!

Key Leader North Camp Lakeshore, Eva, TN September 25-27, 2020



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Let's Come out Stronger

By Gary S. Graham, Membership & Engagement Chair and Past Governor

In my last column at the end of March, the country had just started the shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I expressed concerns that we needed to stay in contact with each other. In the intervening three months there has been some reopening and some clubs have started meeting again in person. Now just like the end of March, we are seeing a resurgence in the virus and there has been some delay in the phased reopening and some pull back. Key Club, Circle K, and Kiwanis International Conventions, as well as our District Convention, have been cancelled. Proms and graduations have been missed and teachers and students learned a new normal of online learning. This has led to people having bad cases of cabin fever. As I mentioned in my last column, we need to have the in-person interaction and this lack of it has caused many problems. Not unexpectantly, one result is a renewed growth in the number of COVID cases. Mostly this is among young people who sometimes feel they are invincible. So, the beach and bar get togethers have, according Dr. Fauci, resulted in much of this increase. While the younger generation may not experience the deadly effects of the virus, the concern in spreading to those such as their parents, grandparents etc. who are more likely to have more severe and even fatal cases. So, this is not over, and I pray we have a vaccine soon to effectively stop this pandemic. Add to this is the peaceful and some not so peaceful protests that have arisen around the country from the death of George Floyd. Although many needed discussions are occurring because of it, it has not been easy. This one-two punch



has the country reeling and it shows that Kiwanis is needed more than ever. The Six Objects of Kiwanis speak to what we as caring individuals so constantly strive for. I won't list them here, but reread them as they speak to what we should be striving for as Kiwanians

However, as the District Growth Chair and not a medical expert nor a sociologist, I can only encourage that Kiwanians be careful but to not forget what we are about. As I said above, we are needed more than ever. I receive the monthly membership reports and it is not surprising we have lost some members. But we have also seen some clubs add members even if they can't meet in person. The use of Zoom, Google Meet and GoToMeeting have facilitated maintaining contact with our members and provided a pleasant way of interclubbing all over the world. But not all clubs are doing this. If you haven't met this way, it is not hard to do. I or one of your tech savvy members can help you set it up. This is a wonderful opportunity to attract younger members who prefer this way of interacting. It is quite easy to ask them to attend as there is no cost but only a little time for them to sit in on a meeting and learn about your club and

Kiwanis. Add to this is the fact that Kiwanis International has waived the new member fee temporarily and it becomes a no brainer to ask a young person (or anyone who wants to serve children) to join. Some clubs have been highly successful at this and some are just getting their feet wet. But too many are doing nothing, and this is not the time to let the spirit of Kiwanis caring and service flag. It seems like we are going to be addressing this pandemic like a marathon and not a sprint. Schools will be restarting soon, and the kids need us. So, take the time to set up online meetings. Even if your club has already returned to in person meetings, keep the online option going for those members who either cannot attend or are concerned about going out because of the virus. Most of these online meeting computer programs also allow for a phone in option for those who may feel they cannot master the computer or phone apps. The main point is to keep your members involved in your club. If you haven't heard from them, give them a call. An email is not enough, they need to hear you care. Growth may be difficult during this period, but it can be done. But the larger problem we face is not the recruiting of new members but those who go out the back door. This is a time to recruit as there is no new member fee, but it is just as important to call and connect with your members. As I noted in my last column, Kiwanis started and became the service organization it is today during the Spanish Flu pandemic. We can do it too during COVID-19 and come out even stronger than before.



ELIMINATE

maternal/neonatal tetanus

By Dennis & Ame Oliver, Project Eliminate Chairs

Email: dmokiwanis@aol.com • Phone: 228/343-5444

We Have Come so Far! Quitting is Not an Option!

We know COVID-19, storms, and floods have become diversions as we search for our place in a "new normal" world.

Meanwhile in the 12 countries where MNT has not been ELIMINATED, thousands of babies are dying from a lack of a vaccine for tetanus (30,000 a year).

You and I can take great pride in eliminating this horrible, unnecessary disease in 27 countries, but we know the last mile is the hardest. Children worldwide deserve to be healthy, happy and educated.

MILESTONES:

- 1924: A cure for Tetanus id discovered.
- 1989: The World Health reports 800,000 babies are dying every year in 59 countries.
- 2010: Kiwanis International pledges 110 million dollars to ELIMINATE TETANUS in 39 countries remaining. (three \$.60 shots to all women of child bearing age)
- 2019: All but 12 countries eliminated tetanus. Note: None have gone back to a dangerous level.

So what's next for 2020, 2021, and 2022? Wherever this ranks on my priority list, I am led to realize as a member of Kiwanis, WE PROMISED TO CROSS THE FINISH LINE!

"WILL YOU HELP THE BEST YOU CAN?"

UPDATE: The shots we are giving now prevent diphtheria, another major health issue!





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Aspire to Inspire: Batten the Hatches and Sail on

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

As the tropical storm Cristobal approaches the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts of our LA-MISS-TENN District of Kiwanis, a number of thoughts come to mind. First I remember 2005 when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf coast and flooded New Orleans. Then Hurricane Rita devastated southwest Louisiana. There have been multiple tornadoes affecting communities in our district, recently in Monroe, La. and some in Mississippi and Tennessee. Flooding in the Denham Springs area was dramatic a few years ago and other natural disasters have affected communities throughout our district.

Right now we are in shut-down mode from the coronavirus and its COVID-19 which has changed our way of life. Kiwanis International has cancelled the annual convention for the first time since World War II and our LMT District has cancelled first our Convention-at-Sea Cruise then the proposed substitute gathering in Natchez, Miss. Our local club has begun having meetings using ZOOM to avoid direct physical contact and possible spread of the coronavirus. Undoubtedly other clubs are adapting to the recommended social distancing.

What does all this tell you? It tells us that life is filled with hazards, disruptions, stresses and difficulties that we can't control..... and to succeed with families, friends, careers, hobbies, goals et al we must adapt to what is.

During World War II Winston

Churchill signed his letters to Franklin Roosevelt as "Former Naval Person" (he had been First Lord of the Admiralty). As a "former naval person" myself it occurred to me that an old navy term is appropriate for this coronavirus storm and other difficult times. When a storm approaches at sea the order of the day is "Batten the Hatches." Historically that meant to strap down hatch covers with battens (various ropes, straps, metal 'dogs', etc.) to keep storm waters out of the ship. Metaphorically now the term means to prepare to withstand some of the rough seas of life. Navy ships don't turn tail and go back to port when a storm is encountered. They plow on through rough seas and weather the storm. The ship has a mission and a destination, storm or no storm.

Kiwanis in coronavirus is like a ship in a storm. We have a mission, our mantra, "improving the world one child and one community at a time." We must find ways to do that coronavirus or no coronavirus. No one has all the answers or even some of the answers, but we are adaptable, flexible and imaginative enough that we will figure it out. The variety of things we do for children are testament to that. My guess is that the other parts of this newsletter will illustrate many ways Kiwanis has already adapted to continue with our mission.

A navy analogy was used In 1849 when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

wrote the following poem. Following it is a paraphrased version entitled "Batten the Hatches and Sail On."

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State! Sail on, O Union, strong and great! Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy fate! We know what Master laid thy keel, What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel, Who made each mast, and sail, and rope, What anvils rang, what hammers beat, In what a forge and what a heat Were shaped the anchors of thy hope! Fear not each sudden sound and shock, 'Tis of the wave and not the rock; 'Tis but the flapping of the sail, And not a rent made by the gale! In spite of rock and tempest's roar, In spite of false lights on the shore, Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea! Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee. Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, Our faith triumphant o'er our fears, Are all with thee, -are all with thee!

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of Kiwanis!
Sail on, O LaMissTenn, be not amiss!
Children with all their fears,
With all their hopes of future years.
Hanging breathless on thy start,
We know what Master laid thy heart,
Fear not the rocks of Life,
Nor deter from goal for any strife.
Ye may not see the battles gone,
But batten the hatches and sail on.



Kiwanis[®] CHILDREN'S FUND

By Donna Osburn, Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair

Email: donna@chezosburn.com • Phone: 601/831-7363

I want to let you know that the Children's Fund is offering a new meeting kit that clubs can use in-person or virtually. The kit includes multiple activities and resources for your club to use in place of a guest speaker at your meeting. The meeting will not include an ask to donate - we want to thank your members and share stories to see the global impact of Kiwanis. We hope your members will come away feeling inspired about the work Kiwanians do across the world. Is this something your club would be interested in receiving later this summer? If yes – please email me at dona@chezosburn.com so I can get you signed up for your free meeting kit!

My club isn't meeting right now.

 That's okay! You can sign up now and conduct the meeting any time you like.

What does the meeting kit include?

- Two videos
- Large photo/story cards about inspiring Kiwanis projects
- Rumor versus Reality game: a fun way to discuss misconceptions about the Children's Fund
- Ask an Expert cards: a series of handouts with tips from expert staff members about fundraising, grant applications, membership growth, and more
- Member takeaways: a special handout for each member

My club is only meeting by Zoom.

 That's great! The meeting kit can be adapted to online meetings also. You can play the videos online and share the other pieces through your computer's camera. Other resources can be shared digitally or distributed when you're meeting inperson again.

I'm not interested in donating.

• That's okay, we aren't asking you to make a gift.

But we're happy to send the materials if you'd like to host a meeting.

When can I expect to receive the materials?

 Mid-July, so I suggest holding your meeting in late July or August.

Who would make the presentation?

 We'd love your club president to lead the presentation! You don't have to know anything about the Children's Fund before-hand. We'll give you everything you need, including a How To sheet!



Look at Human and Spiritual Values with Fresh Eyes in Our Clubs

By Court Crow, Human & Spiritual Values District Chair



We know this year has been challenging but the final quarter of the Administrative Year is upon us and club leaders need to start looking ahead to the next Administrative Year. Include Human and Spiritual Values in your planning.

Kiwanians, take a fresh look at the first two of our six Objects. Let's find new ways to bring these ideals to our clubs' and communities' attention.

Be sure that each club meeting starts with an Invocation. May I suggest that we ask different Kiwanians to offer the Invocation each meeting, not the same person. I know change can shake things up, but having the same person

each week may make the whole opening ceremony "fall-in-a-rut" while a different person sharing that privilege can bring about new interests.

Be sure to end each meeting with the Kiwanis prayer. May I suggest the following Kiwanis prayer as a benediction; it won't take more than a couple of weeks to learn:

"Dear Lord: In Thy infinite goodness and mercy, look down upon Thy children in this hour of need. Grant unto us the light and the wisdom to know Thee and to serve Thee. And give us the strength and the courage, with Thy help, to face whatever the morrow may bring. And grant us peace. Amen"

Start planning now to sponsor a Community Prayer Breakfast ... or a Prayer Breakfast for your K-Family ... or a Prayer Breakfast for the young athletes of your community (co-sponsored with FCA) in the spring. Plan one for the spring to get 2020 started on the right spiritual foot. Your civic leaders will always show up and invite two

or three different religious leaders to lead

Start your planning now to recognize a Lay Person of the Year (yes, Layman of the Year) and, maybe, a Young Leader of the Year (high school or college) recognized for the spiritual role models they are in the community. After you've recognized these community leaders, submit them to the District Chair for consideration for the District recognition.

Include short devotional or spiritual messages in your weekly or monthly newsletters. "Borrow" these from any source you may have: other Kiwanis newsletters, radio spots you hear on your local station.

There are so many ways that our clubs can emphasize the first and second objects of Kiwanis International. And many Kiwanians feel that their clubs broaden their personal ministries in our communities. Let's close out 2019-20 on a high note and make 2020-21 a year we can remember for our reigniting our love for Human and Spiritual Values.

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School is Out!

By Don Eye & Tiffany Brown, K-Kids District Chairmen

Well, what is new, everything is out. We gave it our best even though school was officially closed as the kids were enjoying Spring Break. We hope to return August 6th, but who knows. When the word came that we would not be going back to school I put away my Terrific Kids stuff and settled in for the next year.

However, we have a super star in our mist! The Terrific Kids Advisor/Student Counselor for two schools in our Germantown Municipal School District went straight to the school principals and asked to finish our Terrific Kids programs on virtual media. They said yes!

Natalie Adkinson has always filled every seat at every regular Terrific Kids program. I need to get there early to get a parking spot! She set the program in play and got an average of over 1,000 hits each meeting. The kids and parents loved it. The Terrific Kidss loved hearing their name called out on the air. The following day the parents brought the kids to the closed school and Natalie had their certifi-

cate, school supplies, and stickers in their lockers. She has caused the Kiwanis Club of Germantown SLP programs to be at the forefront of the Germantown Municipal School District resources.

Natalie is our nominee for Teacher of the Year!





Germantown K-Kids Projects





K-Kids in Germantown Tennessee have been quite busy! **Farmington Elementary K-Kids** made cat blankets while eating Chic-Fil-A. The cats probably went nuts at the shelter! And, **Forest Hill Elementary K-Kids** cleaned new school windows. They are for hire! K-Kids are great.



Now is the Time to Use Key Club Skills to Enact Change

Key Club International - keyclub.org

Our membership is made up of students from all walks of life, so it is important we understand their gifts and their struggles. In this spirit, we offer support to our black student members. Black lives matter. Key Club International stands in solidarity with the black community and urges our members to provide support, listen and learn. In a pivotal time like this, our organization encourages members to create a future in which we actively address the following Key Club objectives:

- Prepare for useful citizenship.
- Develop a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.
- Cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and goodwill.

We urge our members to use the empathy and leadership skills gained in Key Club to enact change during this time. Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

- Civic Engagement
- Understand community issues and play an active role in the voting process.
- Learn. Some suggested books are: "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo, "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander, and "You're More Powerful Than You Think" by Eric Li. We will be following up with additional reading pieces and resources.
- Listen.
- Invite a local leader to discuss diversity, equity and inequality.
- Empathize with your peers.

Central Catholic High School Key Club Treats Hospital Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

East St. Mary Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

In May, medical staff members at Ochsner St. Mary were treated by Central Catholic High School's Eagle Key Club to food trays in appreciation for being front line warriors during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Special thanks to Key club members John Charles Hebert and Sinclair Callais along with Key Club sponsor Mrs. Karen Solar for coordinating this sweet surprise.

The Kiwanis Club of East St. Mary is the proud sponsor of the Central Catholic High School Key Club.

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WWW.LAMISSTENN.ORG

Black Lives Matter

Circle K International - circlek.org

inception have been called to:

The service that CKI members provide to our communities each day does not exist in a vacuum. As integral actors in our respective communities, it is vital that all CKI members exercise our global citizenship, rooted in empathy and social consciousness, to improve all human relationships and to realize humanity's potential.

In the context of the killing of George Floyd and all those before him, this most readily means that CKI unequivocally condemns racism and its manifestations in both individual as well as systemic capacities. Black Lives Matter. CKI members since the organization's "Cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism, which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill."

- CKI Bylaws Article 2 Section 1

CKI members must never forget the mandate we possess to actively advance these aims through our platform. We are, after all, a global collegiate movement and the leaders of tomorrow. Members are asked to always support and empower traditionally marginalized segments of the global populace through solidary projects informed by the needs of these communities - in this context, that means black communities. There is no greater service than that which sustainably addresses the roots of injustice and contributes to systemic change.

Service and leadership are the heart of CKI. Today, and every day, we encourage CKI members to take action. Educate yourself. Attend community events. Host clean -ups. Fundraise for a cause. Spread awareness. And, as always, listen.

In solidarity,

Circle K International Board 2019-2020



Circle K Governor Runs/Walks 116+ Miles for WASH Project

Bv Madison Liner, LaMissTenn Circle K Governor

I have officially finished my CKI Calendar Challenge for the WASH Project!!!

First, let me just say my legs and feet are TIRED! I'm surprised they're still attached to my body right now! But this has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had. I have to admit, there were many days I considered skipping, but I pulled through and completed the 6k, even if it was almost midnight.

I have ran/walked over 116 miles in the past month (3.75 miles per day) in order to raise awareness for the WASH Project. However, that could not have been done without my amazing sponsors. I was able to raise \$500 in just 19 days because of such generous people. I can't thank each of you enough or JULY 2020

begin to express my appreciation for you.

If you were unable to donate, I highly encourage you to educate yourself about the WASH Project. Every day we use water for many purposes and never think twice about it. However, so many around the world don't have access to clean and sustainable water. The WASH Project aims to provide education, awareness, and funding to supply clean water and sanitation education to schools and children in undeveloped regions. Visit www.CircleK.org/WASH to find out more about how you can help.

Again, thank you so much to all of my sponsors and everyone who shared. I really could not have done this without you, and I'm proud to have com-



pleted this project during my first month as Governor!

I hope you're all staying safe and healthy.

Cortana Serves the Community during Pandemic

By Donna Leggett, Cortana Kiwanis Club President





Social distancing may be separating us, but it won't stop Cortana Kiwanis from serving our community in this tremendous time of need. During the COVID-19 crisis, we've made it our mission to give back to those risking their lives and working long hours to ensure public health and safety. Cortana Kiwanis worked hard to provide a special thank you to the brave men and women on the front lines in our local

Cortana Kiwanis members cooked pots of jambalaya and packed over 550

hospitals!

box lunches for local doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals. The meals were delivered to Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, North Baton Rouge OLOL ER and OLOL Livingston.

Also, in focusing on the growing need of feeding those who are hungry in the midst of COVID-19, Cortana Kiwanis donated \$5,000.00 to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. This funding was provided by our annual Christmas Parade and helped provide 15,000 meals for those impacted by the virus.

The Cortana Kiwanis board voted to donate \$500 to the Capital Area Law Enforcement Foundation for sanitizer and masks for First Responders and medical personnel. Through the donations of various groups, the Capital Area Law Enforcement Foundation has been able to cover every law enforcement agency in our area and give masks to every hospital for their nurses. Over 2,500 masks have been given to these heroes.

Throughout the quarantine, Cortana held its weekly meetings online, and every other week we met casually online for Happy Hour. We also enjoyed making many new friends through inter-clubbing locally, statewide and nationwide.



Division 9 Clubs Reach out in Several Ways

By Court Crow, Shreveport Kiwanis Club President

Members and friends of the Kiwanis Club of Southeast Shreveport family made masks and gave them to Shrinerst Hospital for Children. The Development Officer, Jennifer Laurent, at the Hospital (who is also a Kiwanian) said, "We have received hundreds of masks (fabric and medical grade). Many masks came directly from Kiwanians and many others were contributed because of the Kiwanis project."



The club also worked with the Christus-Schumpert Hospital Volunteer Coordinator and a hospital volunteer to produce 99 masks for Christus Hospital of Shreveport using sterile material provided by the hospital. And the Kiwanis Club of Southeast Shreveport provided lunch to the Emergency Departments at Willis-Knighton South and Pierremont and to Christus Health Services (Highland). We made sure that the doctors and nurses knew who bought them lunch.







The Kiwanis Clubs in Shreve-port/Bossier created electronic Thank You notes and sent them to: Louisiana State Police Troop G and Region III CID (Special Unit), Shreveport Police, Bossier City Police, Bossier Parish Sheriff, Caddo Parish Sheriff, Bossier City Fire and Shreveport Fire departments. The notes were from all Kiwanis clubs in Shreveport/Bossier, Blanchard and Haughton. They were forwarded to every member of the various agencies.

Martin Awards Club Service Scholarship

By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club

Ivy Olivia Reynolds, has received the 2020 Martin Kiwanis Club Service Scholarship awarded to a Martin Westview High School or Greenfield High School senior who has exemplified to the highest degree the basic principles of caring and sharing in the home school, and community. Ivy received \$1,000 toward her education. An honor student, Ivy has been active in Key Club, Beta Club, Spanish Club, the Weakley County Youth Prevention Coalition, Art Club, and the Westview High School softball team. She will attend The University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall and plans to major in Business Administration.



CLUB NEWS

Covington Community Morning of Prayer

By Dan Johnson, Greater Covington Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Covington held it's 7th annual Morning of Prayer event for the City of Covington on Friday, June 12th. Many of you may be wondering and pondering as to why the Kiwanis Club of Greater Covington would entertain such an event. Great question! There are 6 Objects of Kiwanis. Six Objects that capture why anyone would want to be part of an International Organization that's purposed on impacting communities all over the world for the children that live there. The goal of Kiwanis is to improve the children of the world in communities that have a Kiwanis Club. We say as part of our hashtag mission: #KidsNeedKiwanis. In other words, every community that has children needs a Kiwanis Club.

The six Objects are:

- Object 1: To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.
- Object 2: To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- **Object 3:** To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards.
- **Object 4:** To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.
- Object 5: To provide, through

- Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.
- Object 6: To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.

Obviously, as amazing Kiwanians, this is something you don't already know. If you draw closer notice, the first two Objects are faith based. Normally our Kiwanis Club in Covington holds an annual "Prayer Breakfast" based on the premise of these first two Kiwanis Objects and pause to call attention to God's hand of favor and protection on our Community of Covington. This particular year the event turned into a "Morning of Prayer" because of COVID-19. Despite the culture to distance and dismiss the annual event, our Kiwanis Club still maintained a responsibility and felt compelled to continually meet the first two Objects.

The second reason that compelled our responsibility is that, as you, also, well know, Kiwanis Clubs all over the world are under a strategic growth action plan for the Kiwanis organization which we call the IPLAN. There are four I's in our Strategic Growth Action Plan. Every club should engage every project with as many I's as possi-

ble. The four I's are Inspiration, Image, Impact and Investment. We believe that our annual Prayer Event meets all four of our IPLAN.

We encourage all Kiwanis Clubs to, cheerfully, chose to accept participation in an annual event such as this. Anywhere you choose feet to tread under the first two Objects of Kiwanis, please know that those feet have been preordered to be blessed.

So, when you ask if there is a certain topic to address, it has to start with WHY. Why are you there to place your heart to the microphone for all the attendees to hear? Knowing the reason that I just presented sets the tone of what your Kiwanis Club is representing in your community. The hearers should take away something that is inspiring, impactful and know that the image of Kiwanis is not dishonored and lastly that there is an investment; a cost, attached to possibly next steps for your Club, your Community and, of course, for the children who live and thrive there.

People can access the recording by visiting the following web address below. We started the camera rolling early to allow people to sign in, but the actual Morning of Prayer starts about 25 minutes into the video: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/38NnBYvstW5OG9bLxR71
ZKMuEZbKeaa81XMfq temB5P
H4Oe3TgN2OUCuQ-n7ujV

CLUB NEWS

Gulfport Provides Meals for Healthcare Heroes

By Kathryn Moran, Gulfport Kiwanis Club

Gulfport Kiwanis Club members delivered 100 meals to Memorial Hospital's healthcare heroes on the nightshift on April 21st and 22nd. Handwritten thank you notes were also included with each meal. The nightshift was chosen because they are often overlooked, and we wanted to make sure they know they're appreciated. Our club decided to purchase the meals from locally owned restaurants to support our small businesses in the area.

Memorial Hospital at Gulfport is a not-for-profit medical complex in Gulfport, MS and is one of the most comprehensive healthcare systems in the state, licensed for 328 beds, including a state-designated Level II Trauma Center, three nursing centers, three outpatient surgery centers, satellite outpatient diagnostic and rehabilitation centers and more than 95 Memorial Physician Clinics.



Hammond Stays Involved during Pandemic

By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

For the past several months precautions taken to help stem the spread of the coronavirus have been a factor in curtailing many traditional community service projects pursued by the great clubs in the LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis International. While the Hammond Kiwanis Club is no exception, some members of the club have found ways to continue their positive involvement in the community.

"The spirit of giving and being involved in our community has not been dimmed by the terrible virus that has changed our lives. We were unable to continue some of our signature contributions such as our Kiwanis Happy Pack Program that helped feed little children on weekends at our adopted school. But some of our members have found ways to help others, and that is what Kiwanis is all about," said George Anthon, the club's president.



Vic and Judy Couvillion are delivering meals to the elderly homebound.

Among the contributions made by the club was a donation of \$1000 to Our Daily Bread, a local nonprofit group that has helped feed families during the pandemic. A member of the club was also instrumental in assisting Our Daily Bread in obtaining a substantial corporate gift that has helped to feed large numbers of hungry local citizens.



Vic Couvillion and Mayson Foster have been maintaining 93-year-old Margarite Maranto's lawn.

A group of members have been cutting the grass and maintaining the yard of a 93-year-old woman who has no one to assist with making her yard presentable.

Judy Couvillion has continued delivering meals to senior citizens who have no other way of staying properly fed.

President George, a volunteer with the Ainsley's Angels movement recently participated in the Hammond Rotary Club's Virtual Shamrock Run pushing a wheel-chair bound participant in the event.



Hammond Kiwanis Club President George Anthon and his family helped move desks from SLU to the Quad Area Vets Center.

George and his family helped move a large amount of donated furniture from the Southeastern Louisiana University campus to the Quad Area Veterans' Home and Training center.



Hammond Kiwanis Club President George Anthon volunteered to "push" Kyle Stewart in the virtual Shamrock Run held recently in Hammond. George's assistance in the event is part of his involvement in the Ainsley's Angels program. Running with George and Kyle, at left, is Lucas Coleman.

Continued on Page 29

Hammond Stays Involved during Pandemic Continued . . .

Members Gene and Arlene Anzalone have been acting as school teachers for their grandchildren. Member Jack Battaglia works several days a week at a local hospital.



School teacher Arlene Anzalone, under the direction of "Principal Gene Anzalone," is homeschooling their grandsons Jonas and Nolan.

Rev. Angie Kretzer and other members have been involved in helping churches to maintain contact with their members through electronic and other means. "The need for service never goes away. We just have to adjust with the times and try and find ways to continue to make Kiwanis relevant in our communities. Times change, but community needs don't... perhaps more than ever Kiwanians will be called upon to assist their communities in new and different ways as we move towards what is increasingly being called the 'new normal," commented Judy Couvillion.

The Hammond Kiwanis Club's board continued to meet via electronic means during the pandemic and the club held a Zoom meeting on June 9 and met "in-person" for the first time on June 16. "It was great to be together once again and to enjoy the fellowship that has always been a hallmark of our club," said veteran Kiwanian Vic Couvillion who has been a member of



Jack Battaglia has been working at the hospital several days a week.

the club for 49 years. He added, "we look forward to a time when we can once again perform the traditional ways that we have served our community for the past 80 years."



New Orleans: Zooming Around the World & Helping out Locally too!

By Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of New Orleans has been Zooming around the world, by interclubbing with other clubs. We're also working with Ronald McDonald House of New Orleans to get them re-opened (after a thorough deep cleaning and reorganization of 5 family rooms), helped out Second Harvest Food Bank, and most importantly, we're touching base with our members on a weekly basis.

Martin Hosts Successful Virtual Decorated Egg Contest

By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club



Because of restrictions related to the global pandemic, the City of Martin Annual Easter Egg Hunt had to be cancelled. However, members of the **Martin Kiwanis Club** decided to go forward with their part of the Easter festivities - the first-ever virtual decorated egg contest in the more than 25 years the club has sponsored this activity. Children ages 1-10 entered 23 decorated eggs in the Kiwanis Decorated Egg Contest held in early April,

and happy winners were announced in four categories - most colorful, most unusual, best celebrity, and Facebook favorite. All children who entered received a prize and a colorful certificate.

Three Kiwanis judges evaluated the entries that were posted on Face-book and delivered certificates and prizes to the winners. This contest was indeed a happy success for all involved.



Martin Awards Club Leadership & Service Scholarship

By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club

The Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service is a \$1,000 scholarship given annually in recognition of Dr. S.K. Airee, a longtime faculty member at UT Martin and charter member of the Martin Kiwanis Club. The impact he has made on our community has been tremendous and this award honors a student who is following in his footsteps. The student who wins this award must show achievement in the areas of academics, leadership in co-curricular activities, and Citizenship and Service to School and Community. Specifically, the award recipient should have demonstrated leadership and service to youth and children. Additionally, the recipient must have



achieved an Eagle Scout or Gold Girl Scout level in the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts of America, been a member of the Key Club in high school, or have been involved in the collegiate Circle K Club.

This year's recipient is all of these things and more. She has been actively involved throughout the campus both in the classroom and through co-curricular activities. She volunteers and gives back to the children of not only the Martin community but also in her hometown. She has been involved in projects to provide school supplies and pantry items; she has taught STEM skills through science enrichment programs and granted wishes through Make-A-Wish. On top of all of this, she will be graduating from UT Martin next May, a full year early, with honors. This year's honoree, Sidney Church, originally from Santa Fe, Tennessee, truly embodies the spirit of the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service.

CLUB NEWS

New Iberia Kiwanians Give Bags of Hope

By Cindy Herring, New Iberia Kiwanis Club President



On April 14, 2020, the Kiwanis Club of New Iberia hosted "Bags of Hope", a Drive-Thru Food Distribution for the needy in Iberia Parish. It was held in conjunction with the Disch-DeClouet Social Service Center and partnered with various church organizations and City Government to achieve the

goal. Besides Kiwanians, there were Catholic High School students, and friends and neighbors of all who helped to fill the 1500 bags with plenty of food items including "kid friendly" food such as macaroni & cheese, Ravioli, assorted cheese crackers and cookie packages. The City Police was able to direct traffic

for the event. We were able to distribute 26 tons of food to approximately 600 vehicles. It was a muchneeded drive as the Social Service Center had not been able to open and service the needy since COVID -19 stay-at-home orders began in March. The Drive was open to all and there was no contact involved. The recipients were instructed to open their trunks and the bags were placed in the vehicles. Along with Second Harvest Food Bank, a few other local grocers helped to make it possible to acquire the quantity of food needed. The club also sent several cases of infant formula to the local Unexpected Pregnancy Center to help feed the babies. Although it did rain, it did not hinder the spirit nor the event from being very successful!

St. Gabriel Celebrates 2020 Graduates

By MiLisa York, St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club

On Saturday, June 6, 2020, the St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club co-sponsored a community parade for 2020 graduates. Participants in the parade were Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr., Police Chief Kevin Ambeau, the St. Gabriel Police Department, the Iberville Sheriff's Office, the East Iberville Volunteer Fire Department, Band Director Hosea Redditt and his wonderful band, and the Capital City Auto Club. Theresa Roy and the Iberville Parish School Board were the other co-sponsors. This event would not have been complete without the delicious

food cooked by Wayne Roy, Lindsey Roy and the Knights of Columbus 3796 from the St Gabriel Catholic Church. Other donations were given by Carondalette Wilson Stewart and fellow Kiwanis members, Angela Banks, Chris Daigle of Daigles Supermarket, Rise Green, Everline Mellieon, Jesse Thomas and MiLisa York. Kentwood Spring Water supplied the water. Our own Governor Bruce Hammett and his beautiful wife, Joy Hammett, took time out of their busy schedule to come to St. Gabriel and be a part of this community event.



CLUB NEWS

Pontchartrain Helps Hope Community Resource Center Respond to COVID-19

By Myra Lewis and Deidre Charlot, Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club

In these unprecedented times, the closure of schools in March revealed a glaring discrepancy in the availability of online learning opportunities for many disadvantaged students, particularly minorities. Many students did not have the equipment to participate in online activities. It was projected that 25% of students have not had any schooling since March.

Hope Community Resources Center (HCRC) under the directorship of Noreen Jacobs, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain, modified her summer enrichment camp to address the deficit of computer literacy and availability in her campers. This summer, the camp is virtual, using a zoom format to instruct students in coding, leading to the development of video games or apps. This camp is intended to bridge the gap between the current remote learning environ-



ment and next school year. The content focuses on critical thinking skills in line with the values of STEM. Students in grades 3-8 are applying their basic computer skills to refine and expand their knowledge. The camp also culminates each of the three weeks with a virtual field trip to a historical or cultural venue.

The Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain applied for and received a district foundation grant to obtain seven laptop computers that have been loaned out to camp participants. With the provision of these computers, the camp experience has been made available to additional students. Fifteen students are enrolled. The screenshot photo shows half of the campers.

South Lake Charles Does Work Detail During Phase 1

By David Self, South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Club of South Lake Charles members had a great day at Brentwood Elementary on a Saturday in May in both weather and productivity. They were able to clear the grounds and were done by 11 a.m. thanks in a large part to Henry Liles' vast array of equipment and Doug Gehrig's "toy." Thanks to the following who gave their time: Henry Liles, David Self, Danny Lewis, Jack McNeely, Doug Gehrig, Paul Bauer, Wayne Ball, Dave McCarty, Don Ash, John Hixon, Lenn Knapp, and Lucy Bauer (Paul Bauer's sister). The Club also supports the BUG program at Brentwood Elementary.



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Kiwanis Club of Union City Bleeds Red

By John Fry, Union City Kiwanis Club

The COVID-19 pandemic may have halted most traditional club meetings and service projects but it didn't keep members of the **Kiwanis Club of Union City** from answering a call to action. On May 20th, the club partnered with the American Red Cross and Walmart to help meet the need for blood donations during this unprecedented time. The club helped promote the event and club members assisted with welcoming and checking in prospective donors. Some club members were even brave enough to make a donation themselves. The Union City club hopes that this may inspire other clubs in the area to do the same.







Vicksburg Cares with United Way

By Donna Osburn, Vicksburg Kiwanis Club



The West Central Mississippi United Way located in Vicksburg, Miss. has an annual day of caring each April. This is usually a hands on day of cleaning, painting, pruning, weeding and assorted community service projects. This year, due to COVID-19, they had to come up

with a different plan. They put together kits that community members come and pick up, assemble at home, and then return to the United Way Office. One of the kits included books to be labeled as donated by the United Way for their reading project. Another kit involved building a back to school





supply bag with pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, scissors, and much more along with an inspirational note from the family assembling the kit. **Vicksburg Kiwanis** members picked up 21 kits, assembled them and returned them. It turned out to be a fun family project.

North East Shelby County Shares Anderson's Story

By Joe Keohane , North East Shelby County Kiwanis Club



Twelve-year-old Anderson Kreis, an eighth grader at Arlington Middle School in Arlington Tennessee, is following in his parents' footsteps creating "Anderson's Annual Little Free Pantry Collection" supporting the Arlington Little Free Pantry. The Pantry is where anyone experiencing a need can simply access the contents without any qualifications, restrictions, paperwork or embarrassment.

Beta Club opened his eyes to the fact that he can make a difference somewhere. Since his parents, Melinda and Michael Kreis were supporting the Pantry, Anderson decided to start an annual food drive. Three years ago, he held his first food drive and raised a little over \$300 in food and cash donations. The next year's drive raised

over \$500 and this year's drive exceeded \$2,500 in food and cash donations in just one week.

When asked why he decided on the Pantry for his project he said, "I wanted to help the community in Arlington by providing food for the less fortunate." When asked what he wanted people to see from this he said, "To help out other people over the summer because children need food when they are not in school."

Anderson's parents said, "Showing a simple act of caring for what people are going thru, Anderson has proven that one child can make a big difference in caring about others and not just himself." Anderson responded when asked about how this made him feel, "I had fun, it was very rewarding, and I am very happy by the community's response."

Living Word Lutheran Church hosts the Arlington Little Free Pantry by providing maintenance, management, installation site, and storage space. When asked about the Pantry, Pastor Gordon Myers stated, "There have been frequent occurrences of people coming by and having kids put something in the pantry." The Kiwanis Club of

North East Shelby County sponsors the program providing support for collecting food donations and raising funds. Since the opening of the Pantry in October 2017, various community organizations and clubs, schools and churches as well as countless individuals, like Anderson Kreis, have enthusiastically supported the Pantry out of concern for neighbors. Over time, the use of the Pantry has increased dramatically and, with tremendous community support, continues to meet the expanding needs.

Please join Anderson in providing food for the needy. For more information about the Arlington Little Free Pantry and the Kiwanis Club of North East Shelby County please visit us online at http://www.kiwanisnesc.com/



Baton Rouge Kiwanis Helps out in Time of Need

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page



Although COVID-19 has us social distancing and the schools were closed, there was still a need to feed the kids. During May, members of the Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge partnered with Volunteers in Public Schools to help distribute boxes of food meals at Capitol Middle, Crestworth Elementary, and Wildwood Elementary to make sure the kids had something healthy to eat. Helping were Gary Graham, Dorothy Kemp, Erin Fulbright, Joy Hammatt, Bruce Hammatt, and Casey Coughlin.



The Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge donated \$2000.00 to the Baton Rouge General Foundation on May 27th to purchase an IPad and stand for COVID-19 patients. With a restricted visitor policy, the iPad will provide a more personal way to keep families connected during extended hospital stays. The iPad will also allow hospital staff to share the patient's medical treatment details more personally with family members. Pictured are club President-Elect Joy Hammatt, club member and Director of Pastoral Care at the Baton Rouge General Pat Davis, club member and LaMissTenn District Governor Bruce Hammatt, club President Dorothy Kemp, President of the Baton Rouge General Foundation Erik Showalter, and Baton Rouge General Foundation Board member Rick Lipscomb.



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Dawn Busters Feed Night Shift Hospital Workers

Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis partnered with the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce and Zea's to feed the night shift at East Jefferson General Hospital the night of May 1st.





Pontchartrain Club President Delivers Easter Treats

Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain President Deborah Crosby delivered 130 bags of Easter candy to New Orleans East Hospital to be distributed among the hard-working staff. She included a card



thanking them for their work during the current crisis. The bags of candy were prepared for an Easter Egg Hunt at St. Mary's Academy that had been cancelled. Deborah generously conducted an Easter Egg Hunt for the children in her neighborhood with the remaining candy.





Columbia, Miss. Kiwanis Shows **Appreciation during National Police Week**

Columbia Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Miss. were happy to treat the Columbia, Mississippi Police Department to lunch on May 15th as part of National Police Week! Lunch was provided by the Magnolia Grille.

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Ponchatoula Stays Active during Crisis

Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Honoring Key Club Seniors from the Class of 2020

The Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club honored their Key Club seniors on May 6th with gift cards and cookies. Congratulations to all of you and best wishes for a successful future! Congratulations also to Max Hailey who received the Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club Memorial Scholarship! We are so proud of you for all you have done for the Ponchatoula Key Club and your community!





Donating Strawberries to Hospital Staff in Appreciation for being on the Frontline

The Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club donated 100 flats of strawberries on April 10th to the staff at North Oaks Hospital. It was a small token of our great appreciation for all they are doing and sacrificing during this most difficult and trying time. THANK YOU FROM EVERYONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY! We also want to thank the

local farmers who made this possible!







St. Bernard-Arabi Hosts Online Easter Contest

St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club Facebook Page



In April, members of the St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis were on the hunt for Easter art in St. Bernard and COVID 19 didn't stop them. The club requested kids and adults to post their best decorated Easter egg or other artwork on Facebook using special links. Categories were split into Little Kids (7 and younger), Big Kids (8 to 16 years), and Adults.

There were some really great eggs and art discovered around the parish! Congrats to Logan, Luke, and Nikolas in the Little Kid Egg division; Amelia and Jacob in the Little Kid Art division; Rowan and Tatiana in the Big Kid Egg group; Kayden in the Big Kid Art group; and Emily and Linda in the Adult category. All winners received a small prize.





















Vernon Awards Bikes for BUGs

Vernon Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Kiwanis of Vernon sponsored the Bringing Up Grades Program in all Vernon Parish Fourth grade classes during the 2019-2020 school year. Every student who maintained or improved a passing grade was recognized every 9 weeks and their name was put into a drawing for a bicycle. The club is glad to support fantastic educators and celebrate students who work hard! In May, the club was proud to celebrate and recognize two young students who received the bicycles! Rayan Kazoubo from Parkway Elementary and Adam Dotson from West Leesville Elementary!

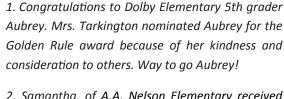
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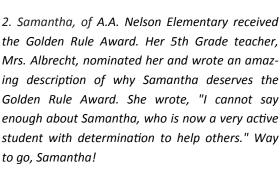
Southwest Contraband Presents Golden Rule Awards

Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Object 2 of Kiwanis is To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships. What better value to instill in our children. Through the Kiwanis Club of Southwest Contraband's Golden Rule Project, teachers have the ability to nominate a student they feel most embodies this rule. A committee of Kiwanians reads through each nominee and selects a student to receive The Golden Rule Award.









3. We are so proud of Kayden of John J. Johnson II Elementary School! He was awarded the Golden Rule Award. His teacher nominated him and wrote "Kayden exemplifies compassion. He always loves to help with something or help his peers when they are having a bad day. His kindness is felt throughout the school and has impacted all of us." Way to go Kayden!



Vancleave Provides Face Shields

Vancleave Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Vancleave Kiwanis Club provided face shields to local medical clinics in Vancleave! Thanks Fort Ramsey Corner Store, the Fab Lab and Theresa Hanna for making our first delivery very special.





South Lake Charles Delivers Meals

South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club was able to deliver about a hundred dinners to an emergency room and other clinics.



JULY 2020

Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany Domingue, 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 and should be approximately 250 words or less. 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. Include a description of the photograph.

DEADLINES:

The deadline for article submissions is always two weeks before the publication's date. Here are the deadlines for the 2020-2021:

October 2020 Issue = Deadline: September 15, 2020

January 2021 Issue = Deadline: December 17, 2020

April 2021 = March 17, 2021

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: Avoid poses such as check acceptances, podium speakers, and groups standing in line or stacked rows. 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 ACTION 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

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