

July 2021

# Kiwanis<sup>®</sup>

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News



**Dawn Busters Boost Early Literacy with Rocky the Rooster**

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



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### ON THE COVER:

Rocky the Rooster, the mascot for the Dawn Busters Kiwanis Rewards for Reading Program in Jefferson Parish, visited students at Mildred Harris Elementary in May. The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club's new Rocky the Rooster program provides coloring books to engage students and promote reading as well as certificates, t-shirts, cupcakes and other rewards. *See more on Page 25.*

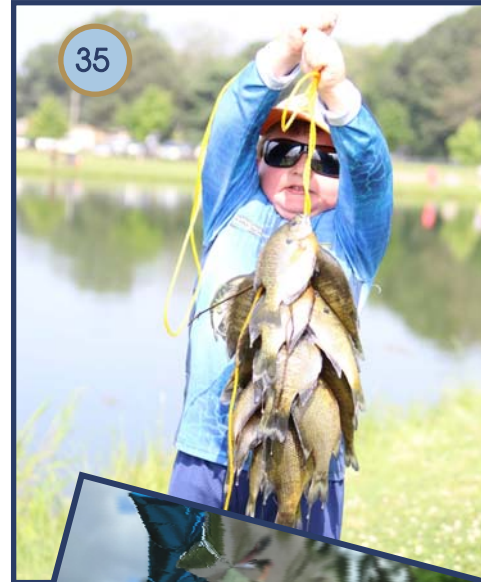
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## A Message from the Governor

*By Patrice Cusimano, Governor*

I don't know about you, but since the world has "re-opened," time is flying. Before we know it, we will be visiting with old friends, seeing each other smile and giving hugs at the District Convention. Oh, you didn't hear? Our District Convention will take place August 6-8 at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi, MS. For those who like to gamble, there is a full casino (and several others up and down the strip). For those who don't like to gamble (or just don't like the smoke), a unique feature of the IP is that you can get from your room to the convention space without having to go through the casino! We will have a few speeches, of course, but we have so much more than that lined up. Art Riley, our current Kiwanis International President will be in attendance – quite an honor! We have Clyde Ray Webber entertaining us on Friday afternoon – some may remember him from our last district convention in Natchez. Saturday morning, we will have educational sessions designed to



bring everyone up to date with new ideas for fundraising, service projects, membership drives and engagement, as well as updates on youth protection, Key Club and Circle K activity. The Saturday night soiree has a 1970's theme – bell bottoms and disco vibes. And as always, we will honor our members who have passed in the last two years on Sunday morning. Please make every effort to join us. I know I miss you and would love to see all of you there.

However, the District Convention does not end our Kiwanis year – we have until September 30. Our district has suffered this year. While all districts have endured the pandemic, no other district has endured 5 hurricanes, an unprecedented freeze, tornadoes and floods. We have Kiwanians who are struggling to get back in their homes, others have suffered economic loss from the pandemic. I ask you all to pray for those who are in need and to reach out when you can. I wish I could be in more places at one time! Please continue to engage your members, to look for new members, and to serve your communities. Our schools should be coming back online this fall, and the kiddos will need us more than ever. Start reinvigorating your K-Kids, Builders Clubs and Key Clubs!

I look forward to seeing you at the District Convention! As always, God bless America and God bless you!

## *Revive, Rejuvenate and Reinvigorate!*

*By Richard Latiolais, Governor-Elect*

It's June 20<sup>th</sup> as I write this article. Tomorrow is the summer solstice and the longest day of the year. It's HOT and HUMID. So humid the birds in the back yard are practicing the back stroke to compete in the Summer Olympics in Japan.

Last weekend I attended the Key Club Board meeting in Ponchatoula. I was shocked to see the damage the Covid Pandemic has had on their membership: (2017-2018) 8,481 members, (2018-2019) 7,576 members, (2019-2020) 7,352 members, and (2020-2021) 3,060 members.

I have asked Charlie to post on the District website ([lamisstenn.org](http://lamisstenn.org) in the

Governors Section) a spreadsheet which shows the Key Club Name, the Kiwanis Division that supports the club (note that our divisions mimic their divisions, but not exactly), the Faculty Advisor, the Kiwanis Advisor and the Sponsoring Club.

I ask that you be proactive and reach out to your Key Clubs by contacting the Faculty Advisor and/or the club President, have a meeting or invite them to a Kiwanis Club luncheon to see if there is anything you can do to help them with membership.

Let them know that their clubs will not be penalized for not paying dues last year. Key Club International will



not take away their charter as long as they pay their 2021-2022 dues by October 2021. If they do, they will retain their "Clubs Good Standing" status.

As we recover from the Pandemic, now is the time to ask your friends, relatives, co-workers and acquaintances to join your Kiwanis Club in supporting the CHILDREN OF THE WORLD. They want to belong to something; **YOU ONLY HAVE TO ASK!**

## We Can Improve a Situation for Someone in Need

*By R. Bruce Hammatt, Immediate Past Governor*

Without a little bit of help, I doubt that I can honestly recall any of my previous Father's Days. I am sure they were special at the time, but I just don't recall what all I did on any of them. However, I do hope my simple mind will allow me to recall for the rest of my life some of the events I experienced yesterday, Father's Day, 2021.

Father's Day this year was spent on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. My wife, Joy, and I flew up the day before along with one of our grandsons from Texas. We were there visiting our son, Blake, and his family while they were there so our only granddaughter, Caroline, could prepare to have another heart surgery at Boston's Children's Hospital. (You may not think this would be an especially happy time, but considering the alternative, it is for Kristi, her mother, and Edward, her older brother as well as the rest of our family.)

My paternal grandfather was born and raised on Cape Cod and we still have relatives living there. For Father's Day, one of my cousins offered to bring us all out to some of their family property adjacent to the Cape Cod National Seashore. They used to own a camp on the property; however, a "nor'easter" damaged the structure a few years back to a point where they were no longer authorized to rebuild.

We met my cousin at 10:00 that morning for the short drive to the boat yard where she was ferried out to her boat mooring location. Unlike where we go boating in Louisiana, many of the folks on Cape Cod keep their boats either stacked like firewood at the various boat yards or tied to mooring points allocated by the harbor master scattered in the adjacent bays. After several minutes watching other boats of all sizes being loaded for a day of boating in the adjacent waterways or in the Atlantic Ocean,



my cousin arrived back at the dock ready for us to load our beach chairs, ice chests, and shovels and buckets full of various oils and creams to protect our fair skin from the clearest of blue skies and bright sun.

The short boat ride was filled with views of grandiose homes in Chatham built on the side of cliffs and outcroppings of sand and rock held at bay with native vegetation and/or large boulders fitted together to protect the homeowners investments from the constant waves and storms. Together with the numerous boats of all description and sizes, alongside harbor seals and lobster pot markers, we made the short boat ride to the private land on the national seashore.

My cousin anchored her small, but adequate, boat in the waves just east of a type of boat I had never seen. Our friend, Scott, had recently purchased a Sealegs boat. This boat, with a 300 hp outboard engine, also has fitted hydraulic "legs" that can easily "lift" the boat so the boat can roll/walk out of the water onto the adjacent shoreline. After watching my cousin shift her boat and accompanying anchors on several occasions to adjust for the changing tidal conditions, I could see why this new amphibious contraption has emerged onto the boating scene. However, after checking out the associated prices on my trusty google

phone app, I am fairly confident one will not likely ever occupy a coveted spot on either of my two boat lifts!

It took only a matter of seconds for our three grandchildren to find their respective spots on the ocean sands to start digging and building their new castles. They immediately found and cataloged an assortment of various colored and shaped seashells that were piled up with instructions of how we could transport them all back to Blake and Kristi's rented home for the summer and ultimately back to Baton Rouge.

As a grandfather, it was not my desire to relay anything but encouragement. It was up to my son to provide a sense of reason to his children and nephew no matter what the subject matter was, at least while others were present. As usual, I thought he did a remarkable job.

While the others were walking across the sand dunes to go see the Atlantic waves, I enjoyed the peace and quiet thoughts regarding the joys of fatherhood. As I was in deep thought, I was awakened by a phone call from our other son, Scott. He was calling from his Ford Expedition as he and his 14-year old son were en route to Colorado for a week-long Scout camping trip. After several timely and well received father's day comments, our oldest grandson chimed in about some last minute questions and comments he had regarding his Eagle project that I was assisting him with. Shortly after our project discussion ended and as the phone coverage from southern Colorado was fading, I hung up on that call as I noticed a new text message on my Iphone.

The text message was a video of our youngest grandson, Henry. Contrary to Blake and Kristi, Joy and I decided that we concurred with Henry's mother, Emily, that her rambunctious four-year old

*Continued on Page 6 . . .*

## We Can Improve a Situation for Someone in Need Continued . . .

would be too much for me to haul around airports, beaches, put-put golf courses and the like as we spend a couple of weeks on the Cape.

However, the video sent to me by his mother on Father's Day certainly put a multitude of smiles on my face every time I watched it. He explained, in detail as only a "knee high to a grasshopper" could do, about how much he liked to go fishing with us and how he was going to teach me a new and better way to cook pancakes-the way he liked them.

Up until now I never fully understood why I had not been asked to cook the pancakes at our annual Kiwanis Pancake Festival that has been going on for over 75 years. Although I have assisted in this annual endeavor for over 30 years, and even though I am the "go to guy" when it comes to fixing one, I have never been offered a pancake plopper on those special Saturdays to place batter onto one of our many large electric griddles for cooking. I suspect I will not learn the "right way" at least for the next couple of weeks. That is, until we find the right amount of time for my four-year-old grandson and me to converse on this important matter when Joy and I travel the Interstate 10 nightmare to their Texas home in a few weeks to help out on his oldest brother's Eagle project!

The day on the beach was really rewarding for me. Watching Blake with his two children and their cousin doing what kids normally do on a beach was priceless. The whole day was rewarding. I don't know how it could have gone any better. It was just a perfect Father's Day.

Shortly after making it back to their summer home, Joy and I were relaxing and enjoying the cool breeze on their patio when Kristi came out to sit and relax with us. It didn't take long before our discussion ventured to her volunteer work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. This national program is such an

important avenue of support for children living in foster homes as a result of neglect or abuse.

Although not divulging specifics, she described her experiences with two brothers who were in dire need of loving support that appeared to be obviously hard to come by from their mother. The two young boys were 6 and 9 years old. Their mother, who was struggling just to stay alive after severe consequences resulting from her diabetes, was having extreme difficulties taking care of her children, both physically and financially. The foster parents were doing a remarkable job with them, but there was no obvious "light at the end of the tunnel" for their adoption into a loving family. At least not yet.

Wow, what a way to end a Father's Day! Thinking about my family; and then all those other families out there that could use a "little" help. I guess there are very few families that don't struggle at some point.

While I was trying to fall asleep that night I started to think about the moments when my granddaughter was heading into the operating room for her first heart operation. I remember so clearly how I left the waiting room to go downstairs to the first floor at Boston Children's Hospital. I wanted to go and be by myself. I could not control my eyes. I felt so sorry for my youngest son and especially his daughter. She was only 18 months old. As I got into the elevator there was a young patient in a wheelchair being pushed by, I assume, her mother. Another adult was clutching a somewhat older child in his arms. I was certain that child was not aware. I watched each of them even after the elevator door closed.

When I made it to the first floor I started looking at the other children, mostly patients. There was a pattern that I saw. I started realizing most everyone there had severe difficulties. Trying to

keep my eyes dry, I started to believe my family was strong enough to make it through. But what about the other children I saw. Would they have the resources, emotional support and otherwise.

So here I am sitting on our patio in Chatham enjoying the 60ish degree weather while writing this article half-heartedly listening to my granddaughter as she explains why each of the orange-breasted birds seen prancing around the grass was assigned their specific names. I was thinking about all the Kiwanis programs that are available to help individuals and families in need. How much more can we do as individuals or as a Kiwanis community? How can we help? Whether it is starting a Builder's Club at a local school or helping to feed a family in need at Christmas time, there are just so many opportunities. How about volunteering to help a child learn to read? How about turning an old concrete pad into a small basketball court for the neighborhood kids that don't have access to safe after-school activities? Or helping charter a new AKtion Club? There are just so many opportunities. What about being a father figure to some young man who has never even met his father. You, as a Kiwanian, can help. All you have to do is say "I can improve a situation for someone in need." Then do it.

I think I will call my friend Scott who had the new "go anywhere" boat and see if he would be willing to help me sponsor a teenager that would benefit greatly by participating in our Kiwanis sponsored Key Leader program. Or better yet, maybe he would be interested in joining an existing, or start a new club Club here on the Cape. Maybe he would like to help a fatherless young boy so that he would be able to enjoy a Father's Day someday. I will call and ask him.

Let's remember to keep the Fun in Kiwanis.

## Official Call to LaMissTenn Kiwanis Annual Convention

*By Charlie Ford, Executive Director*

It is my pleasure to announce that the 2020-2021 Annual Convention of the Great and Historic Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International will be held the weekend of August 6-8, 2021, at the IP Casino-Resort-Spa in Biloxi, Miss.

All Kiwanians are invited - and encouraged! - to attend the District Convention - a special event since Covid forced us to cancel our 2020 meeting. It's time that we gather together again, to see some old friends who we haven't seen in a couple of years, and to rekindle that Kiwanis Fire in all of us. Our communities need for us to make a strong rebound . . . so we hope to have a tremendous turnout to kick off our continued service efforts.



**LaMissTenn Kiwanis  
District Convention  
IP Resort Hotel & Casino  
August 6 to 8, 2021 In Biloxi, Miss.**



### WHAT TO EXPECT IN BILOXI...

#### **Friday - August 6th**

- \* District Organizations meetings
- \* Incoming Presidents meeting
- \* Club Secretary Training
- \* District Foundation Gift Basket Raffle
- \* Opening Session of the Convention
- \* Dinner on your own to explore the Mississippi Gulf Coast

#### **Saturday - August 7th**

- \* Morning Session
- \* 3 Rounds of Workshops
- \* Fellowship Luncheon featuring Kiwanis International President Art Riley
- \* House of Delegates & Annual Meeting of the District Foundation
- \* Retirement of 2020-2021 District Officers
- \* Celebration of the 2020-2021 Kiwanis Year - 70's style!

#### **Sunday - August 8th**

- \* Annual Prayer Breakfast & Memorial Service
- \* Closing Session with Installation of 2021-2022 District Officers
- \* Brief meeting of the 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 District Boards.



## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Annual Convention of the La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District of Kiwanis International  
 IP Casino & Resort Hotel - Biloxi, Miss. - August 6-8, 2021

PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY - OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED!

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM!**

Name *First (for name badge)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Last* \_\_\_\_\_

Check, payable to "Kiwanis District Convention"

Kiwanis Club \_\_\_\_\_

Credit or Debit Card

Spouse/Guest (only if registering) \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Name(s) & Age(s) - (only if registering) \_\_\_\_\_

Card No \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date (xx/xxxx) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Check if applicable:  First Time Convention Attendee  
 2020-2021 Club President  
 2021-2022 Club President

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEES:

*NOTE: All Kiwanians, Spouses, & Guests must be registered to participate!*

| How Many | Fee if postmarked/faxed... |                 | ON-SITE FEES | TOTAL FEES: |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
|          | BY July 15th               | AFTER July 15th |              |             |

### REQUIRED REGISTRATION: Basic Registration Fees

*For Kiwanis Members: Includes the Saturday Fellowship Lunch, coffee breaks, & the miscellaneous costs of staging the Convention*

Kiwanis Member -- Registration & Saturday Lunch:  165.00  180.00  200.00 \$

*For Spouses & Guests: Includes the coffee breaks, & the miscellaneous costs of staging the Convention*

Non-Member: Spouse & Guest -- Registration ONLY!:  25.00  30.00  40.00 \$

*(Required basic registration fee the Non-Members)*

### OPTIONAL PROGRAMS: Additional Fees Apply

**Note: Attendees must be registered for the convention (see above) to purchase any of the optional programs below!**

### FRIDAY, August 6th

Dinner on your own on after the Friday Night Opening Session

### SATURDAY, August 7th

|   |                                |                                |                                |    |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| (1) Past District Officers Breakfast (open to all)              | <input type="checkbox"/> 26.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30.00 | \$ |
| <b>(2) Spouse/Guest Options: <i>Select ONE option only!</i></b> |                                |                                |                                |    |
| Option 1: Visit to Ocean Springs with Lunch                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 32.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35.00 | \$ |
| Option 2: Fellowship Lunch @ the IP                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 32.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 37.00 | \$ |
| (3) Saturday night "Back to the Seventies!"                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 55.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 57.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60.00 | \$ |

### SUNDAY, August 8th

|  |                                |                                |                                |    |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| (4) Prayer Breakfast & Closing Session | <input type="checkbox"/> 28.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35.00 | \$ |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|

FAX (credit card charges only) TO: (225) 769-9215

E-MAIL (credit card charges only) TO: charlie@lamisstenn.org

**TOTAL FEES PAID:** \$

MAIL TO: Kiwanis District Convention Registration, 5253-B Dijon Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393

6.2.2021

- ▶ ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE PROPERLY REGISTERED FOR THE CONVENTION.
- ▶ Each Kiwanian must use a separate Registration Form
- ▶ No registration can be accepted unless the form is accompanied by payment.



## CONVENTION REGISTRATION POLICIES

- ▶ **ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE PROPERLY REGISTERED FOR THE CONVENTION.**
- ▶ **ALL KIWANIS MUST REGISTER AS “MEMBERS.”** Spouses and guests who are not members of a Kiwanis club may register as “Non-Members.”
- ▶ **Each Kiwanian must use a separate Registration Form.** “Non-Members” should be registered on the same form as the “Member” they are coming with. Additional copies may be made from an original or additional forms may be requested from the District Office.
- ▶ **Spouses & Guests (Non-Members) have options for Saturday programs and lunch: (1) to participate in a tour and lunch in Ocean Springs, Miss., or (2) to remain at the hotel and attend the Kiwanis Fellowship Luncheon.** Please check your preferred luncheon option.
- ▶ **All Convention Registrations postmarked, faxed, or hand-delivered after July 15th are subject to the increased registration rates as shown. On-site (walk-in) rates will be even higher. Register early to save money.**
- ▶ **All Convention Registration Forms & Fees must be received in the District Office NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, JULY 15th.** If registration is not sent by this date, you must hand carry your form to the Convention and register at the on-site registration desk. **DO NOT FAX/MAIL/DELIVER your registration after July 31st.**
- ▶ **No tickets can be sold separately without payment of the Basic Registration Fees.** Meal tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ▶ **No registration can be accepted unless the form is accompanied by payment.** Payment may be made by check or by charge card – Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.
- ▶ **Make checks payable and mail this completed form to:**  
**La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District of Kiwanis**  
**5253-B Dijon Drive**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393**

## HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE

- ▶ **The deadline to make room reservations at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi is JULY 15th. Other events at the hotel may limit room availability. Call 1-888-946-2847 (Press 1) for reservations!**

## CONVENTION CANCELLATION POLICIES

- ▶ **CANCELLATION REQUESTS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING -** phone or verbal requests can not be honored.
- ▶ **There will be a \$20.00 processing fee for any cancellation request postmarked or faxed until JULY 29, 2021.**
- ▶ **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED IF REQUEST IS POSTMARKED OR FAXED AFTER JULY 29, 2021.**



LaMissTenn District Foundation  
 5253-B Dijon Drive  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393  
 LaMissTenn.org/Foundation  
 W 225.769.9233 F 225.769.9215

## Convention Gift Basket Raffle

### EXPERIENCE

*YOUR* LaMissTenn District Foundation will again hold its very popular GIFT BASKET RAFFLE!

### GIVE

By purchasing \$1 tickets for your chance to win a gift basket. Tickets are on sale Friday afternoon and Saturday until noon.

### INDULGE

In the chance of being a lucky recipient of a gift basket. Winning baskets will be drawn and available for immediate pick up after Saturday luncheon.

### RECEIVE

The District Foundation has awarded \$600,00 in grants to clubs and \$382,000 in sponsored youth scholarships and leadership training.



- ❖ **Kiwanis Clubs and individual members are encouraged to donate a basket for the raffle.**
- ❖ Gifts inside the basket may consist of any theme from sports, hobbies, home items, food/beverages. The “basket” can be a bucket, tool box, ice chest, plant – be creative!
- ❖ PLEASE wrap your basket in cellophane or netting so items do not shift. Label basket with club name, items and approximate value.
- ❖ For clubs not attending Convention, encourage them to participate by making a basket and sending it with a club who is attending.



## Ways to Get Involved with Your District Foundation

*By Jennifer Kelly-White, Foundation President*



Greetings from the Foundation! I hope that your summer is going well and you're able to relax a bit. Work of the Foundation continues on with awarding grants and much more. Among other things, we have been revising our strategic plan and improving ways to better serve our District and its members.

There is still time for you and your club to get involved with the Foundation for this year. Contributions are always welcomed – whether it is a “Friends of the Foundation” for as little as \$10/

month (see page 13) or Annual Club Giving (ACG) of \$5/ member; these funds assist in the form of community service grants, SLP scholarships and trainings, to name a few.

We are excited that District Convention is nearing and looking forward to seeing everyone again. In our Foundation room, attendees will have the opportunity to become a Friend of the Foundation and pay their club's ACG for the year. Currently, we have 60/125 or 48% of our clubs that have paid their ACG for this year and we would like to see more clubs get involved.

District Convention would not be complete without gift baskets (see page 10)! Attendees love to shop around and see what treats are available. Please consider bringing a basket of items and goodies to highlight some of your

local specialties or go with a theme of gardening, cooking, grilling, etc. Be creative! Here is a handy tip for when it comes time to filling out contact information on that gift basket ticket – use small labels with your name/contact info to save yourself some time!



The Foundation will do a workshop at convention and we invite you to come attend and learn more about who we are, what we do and how we can help your club. Who knows, you may enjoy it so much that you may want to become part of the Foundation Board in the future. We are here to help your club make a bigger impact in your community. Thanks!



## How Can the District Foundation Assist Your Club?

*By Cathy Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair*



Is your club thinking about a project to assist the local elementary school with reading? How about back packs for hungry kids, or school supplies for needy families? Does your club want to

build a walking trail for the city? How about a new piece of equipment for a city playground?

Some say these are only dreams for your club . . . YOUR District Foundation asks, “How can we help you achieve this dream”? All of the above mentioned ideas **HAVE BEEN GRANTED** to clubs, just like yours! Check out the website, [lamisstenn.org](http://lamisstenn.org), for more info about [club grants](#).

Not only Community Service Grants (reimbursed at 75% of your expenses – gotta have “skin in the

game”) of up to \$5,000; we offer NEW CLUB service grants of \$1,000, during their 1<sup>st</sup> year of charter, AED (Automated External Defibrillator) grants of \$750 (schools) or \$500 (facilities like camps, senior centers...) as well as \$1,500 Disaster Grants for *immediate* relief from a natural disaster.

Once your grant is approved, your club has 1 full calendar year (yep – 365 days) to complete your project! So, put those thinking caps on, start dreaming and let’s get back to those long-awaited projects!



← Lake Charles supplied portable radios to their local elementary school in support of kids’ safety.



→ Abbeville shows their appreciation to their teachers by starting the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Educator’s Award Program.



E-LaMissTenn Club distributes food and backpacks of essential items to kids .



**Kiwaniis District Office**  
 5253-B Dijon Dr.  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393  
 (225) 769-9233 | 866-LAMSWTN  
 foundation@lamisstenn.org  
[www.lamisstenn.org/foundation](http://www.lamisstenn.org/foundation)

# 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<sup>®</sup> CHILDREN'S FUND

By Donna Osburn, District Chair • Email: [donna@chezosburn.com](mailto:donna@chezosburn.com) • Ph: 601/831-7363

## Thank You to Individuals and Clubs

You are the Kiwanis Children's Fund! We can't survive without your individual gifts and your club gifts. I would like to thank the individual clubs and members that during the 2019-2020 club year gave at least \$10 per member to the Kiwanis Children's Fund. Many clubs would not have made the list without the individual contributions from their members to boost the totals.

We have only 37 clubs who have made a club gift so far this year. We hope to have many more before the end of the year.



| Members | Club                      | Per Member Donation |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 23      | New Orleans               | \$ 97.39            |
| 56      | Baton Rouge               | \$ 57.59            |
| 13      | Walker                    | \$ 25.00            |
| 75      | Saint Bernard-Arabi       | \$ 23.33            |
| 61      | Cortana, Baton Rouge      | \$ 22.70            |
| 101     | Lafayette                 | \$ 21.78            |
| 25      | Millington                | \$ 21.00            |
| 8       | Whitehaven                | \$ 18.75            |
| 12      | Pointe Coupee, New Roads  | \$ 16.67            |
| 32      | Acadiana-Lafayette        | \$ 15.63            |
| 12      | Baton Rouge Early Risers  | \$ 14.17            |
| 69      | Vicksburg                 | \$ 13.62            |
| 34      | Houma                     | \$ 12.65            |
| 32      | Red Stick, Baton Rouge    | \$ 11.56            |
| 24      | Shreveport                | \$ 11.46            |
| 58      | South Lake Charles        | \$ 10.78            |
| 20      | Pontchatrain, New Orleans | \$ 10.50            |
| 38      | Union City                | \$ 10.33            |
| 23      | eLaMissTenn, Baton Rouge  | \$ 10.00            |
| 32      | Kenner North              | \$ 10.00            |
| 12      | West Jefferson, Harvey    | \$ 10.00            |
| 10      | West-Cal, Westlake        | \$ 10.00            |

Make an individual gift today using our convenient, secure online donation form. Or download a gift/pledge form to give by mail at [kiwanis.org/childrensfund](http://kiwanis.org/childrensfund).

**Gifts of all sizes matter and make a difference in children's lives!**





## End of the Road

*By International Trustee Gary S. Graham, Membership & Engagement Chair*

We have entered our final quarter of our Kiwanis year. Now is the time to make that last push to add members so we can achieve growth and more service for the kids. I know you've heard the figure that every Kiwanian on average impacts the lives of 206 kids annually. Have you seen how many kids make up 206? The average classroom size in schools is 25-30 students. That translates to 7-8 classes of kids impacted by one Kiwanian. A few extra and you could impact a whole school. More reading, school supplies, tutoring, Terrific Kids, B.U.G.S programs, K-Kids, Builders Clubs, and Key Clubs are possible with more Kiwanians to step up to help. We do so much but there is so much more need. There is a long way

to go until every child is healthy, happy, safe, and loved. But the time to start is now and the one to bring in the new member is you. And there is time to add some new clubs, but we need to know now so we can plan the process. If you know of an area that needs a Kiwanis club to help their community and the kids, let us know. This expands our membership exponentially. A few days of recruiting and we can add 15-25 new members who are enthusiastically ready to help the kids.

I normally try to write more but there is another end of the road besides the last quarter. I was honored to have been elected International Trustee by the International Council in Salt Lake City. My new responsibilities preclude me continuing as District Membership Chair. After so many years at DMC with 20 new clubs and hundreds of new members, I am sad about giving up such as rewarding position that comes from having a new person step up and

say I want to be a part of the greatest service organization in the world. However, I believe my new position will afford me the opportunity to make a bigger impact on our clubs as we continue to improve the lives of children and communities around the globe. I will still be in the district most of the time and will continue to participate in building new clubs, recruiting new members, and coaching clubs because at heart I am a Kiwanian who honestly believes in our Six Objects of Kiwanis. As a child of the 1960's there was a saying that applies today. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. We see all the problems in the world today and while one person can't solve them all, like the starfish story you can make a difference in the life of one. Thank you for the opportunity to have served as the District Membership Chair and I hope to see you at one of the events we can now attend again in person.

# MORE DISTRICT NEWS

## Hammatt Announces Candidacy for District Governor Round 2

My wife, Joy, and I were not expecting this at all. Probably nobody was. But I have decided to put my name out there for District Governor-Elect. Again.

It all started several months back when two friends and I were at lunch talking about Kiwanis activities. One of them suggested I consider running. My reaction at first was shock. "Why me? I had already served as Governor and I had never heard of any time in our 100+ year history of someone serving two terms. Not no, but heck no!

I started thinking about it later on during our meal and then that night. I realized how thoroughly enjoyable I felt about my time as Governor-Elect and as Governor. Sure there are ups and downs, but meeting other Kiwanians, both inside and outside the District was amazing. Working with other clubs in the district at their fundraisers was rewarding and downright fun. I decided then that I might consider the thought.

As I contemplated more and more I decided to bring the subject up with Joy. We discussed the fact that we were caught short by the Covid 19 pandemic. Although we learned a lot



about alternative methods of having club meetings by way of Zoom and other virtual options over the pandemic, there was a considerable learning curve period that we felt was lost. Everything was new to us, and certainly new to all of our clubs throughout the Kiwanis world.

It was with that information, that feeling of lost time, and maybe more enjoyable times ahead that we made the decision that I should put my name into the hat again as your Governor-Elect of this Great and Historic LAMISSTENN district.

## Aspire to Inspire: I Think I Can, I Think I Can, I Think I Can!

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

You probably recognize the title above as the mantra of "The Little Engine That Could" which is a famous children's story of the last century and now. The phrase first appeared in print in 1902 in a Swedish journal article. The story has been re-published repeatedly ever since with the most famous version in 1930 by Platt & Munk. Disney and others made film versions in 1976, 1991, 2011 et al. The 2011 movie was a 3-D film "The Little Engine That Could" featuring the voices of Whoopi Goldberg, Jamie Lee Curtis and others. [Some of you will recall that Jamie Lee Curtis was featured at the Kiwanis International Convention in Geneva, Switzerland in 2011 and was so enthused by what Kiwanis does for children that she became a member.]

So, what is the big deal about "The Little Engine That Could?" **The story has been widely used to teach children the value of optimism and hard work.** As a refresher ... the large and powerful engines refused to pull the train for various reasons of arrogance, self-importance, fatigue, indifference et al. The little blue switch engine worried about its ability, strength, courage and inexperience ... but it



possessed motivation, determination and "can do" optimism ... and it was willing to stoke up its boilers and expend the effort to try and try to struggle over the mountain. As it pulled the long toy train over the top of the mountain it kept saying, "I think I Can, I think I Can, I think I Can." (Anyone remember the sounds of a steam engine?)

Is there anything more important we can teach children? ... including teens on into adulthood?

This positive attitude is even more important today because of all the negative energy being splashed around from every direction. Never mind the details. We all have opinions and biases about the current scene. One universal fact of agreement is that the COVID pandemic has stunted the normal progression

of children through the process of growing up and learning in the wider world of society and life.

In addition to optimism and hard work, **perseverance** is just as important in children's attitudes. Winston Churchill is widely quoted ... and misquoted. He did not actually say, "Never give up," but he embodied that attitude in 1941 and carried it and us through the World War and its darkest of times. "Optimism, hard work and perseverance" ... isn't that it?

As the world struggles back toward normalcy after COVID, children need a boost more than ever and so do we adults. We must rekindle that optimism, hard work and perseverance ... and instill it in the children we serve. *Aspire to Inspire* the children. Remember that the best way to teach children is by example, a.k.a. leading from the front.

Let's gird up our attitudes and return to that optimism, hard work and perseverance ... and pass it on to the children with the high-spirited mantra ... "I think I Can, I think I Can, I think I Can!"



## Key Leader North at Camp Lakeshore, Eva, Tenn.

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

Key Leader North at Camp Lakeshore on April 30-May 2, 2021 was the first Key Leader Event to be held in person since the pandemic. We set up a tent outside for registration. Parents and/or teachers had to bring the students because we couldn't use buses or vans this year because of the need to social distance. We also put tape on the ground to separate groups as they registered. We took temperatures upon arrival, and we took temperatures in the morning when first entering the building where we held our meetings, and we took temperatures when leaving at night. No one had a temperature the entire time. We did have arrangements made to utilize a cabin to put someone in for isolation if we should of have had to do that.

Normally we put different students in cabin assignments and change those groups up for neighborhoods, so that they can interact with as many people as possible. This year we had the students remain with the folks that were in their cabins so they didn't have to wear masks. They only needed to wear their masks when they were working in the



larger groups. We also did a lot of activities outside when we could.

Everything went really well. We had Brian Richie as our Lead Facilitator, and he was one of the original folks who wrote the curriculum for Key Leader. He was outstanding, and we have invited him to return again in the future. Normally, we might put as many as 11 or 12 in a cabin, and this time we only housed 6 to 7 students along with the two chaperones in each cabin. We had 26 students attend, and 8 chaperones, and we had four neighborhoods. Actually, I liked having a smaller group. At this event we had one student who was supposedly visually impaired, but she couldn't see much as she needed a cane wherever she went. She did participate in everything we did which was wonderful. She even participated in the spider web on the low ropes course. We also had a student on the autistic realm. She was high level functioning, and the last day she came up to me and said, "I really had a good time, I didn't expect to, but I wanted you to know that I really had a good time!" This was major for an autistic child to come up to someone that she didn't know very well and initiate the conversation.

I had 8 outstanding chaperones, 6 of whom have been with me for several years. One of them was a nurse, and two also served as photographers this

weekend as the person in charge of the slide show couldn't be with us all weekend. We put our snacks in zip lock bags, so they could choose from a few snacks without everyone handling all the snacks. We had hand sanitizing stations conveniently located through the meeting spaces. The kids were great to work with, and we had another successful event! Next year's event is scheduled for April 29-May 1, 2022.

I did ask Kiwanis International to please give us a discount this year since we were not able to recruit as many students as we normally would, and they did give us \$1000 off of our total cost. The District Foundation also gave us a \$2000 grant to provide financial assistance to those students who needed it. So with that assistance, we were able to break even with this year's event. So thank you LAMISSTENN District Foundation and Kiwanis International for recognizing this was a year that we would need financial assistance since we could only have about half of the number that we normally would have attend.

Please feel free to go to our West Tennessee Key Leader Facebook Page to see pictures posted by Jessica Hightower and Rachel Lovell on our page. The weather was good, and we were able to have a very successful event! Thanks to everyone who made this possible!



## Twin Cities Club Honors Key Club Graduates

*By John Fry, Region I Trustee, Twin Cities Kiwanis Club*

The Kiwanis Club of the Twin Cities Ken-Tenn honored graduating members of the newly chartered South Fulton High School Key Club by presenting each graduate with Key Club Cords as well as Key Club Graduate Certificates. They took it one step further and coordinated with the local school administration to secure photos of each graduate which were featured in individual posts on the Kiwanis club's Facebook page each day leading up to graduation.



## Dawn Busters Award \$10,000+ in Scholarships for Key Club Seniors

*By Lorilei Bozeman, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club*

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club's Foundation Board and Scholarship committee awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships to well-deserving Key Club Seniors. The recipients included 9 students from 4 different schools where the Dawn Busters sponsor a Key Club. Recipients of the scholarships include: Keegan Patrick McDonald from Ecole Classique; Michelle Vu, Nor Gory & Ashley Jackeline Posas from Grace King; Madison Elizabeth Tarifa, Danna Fay Masri & Claire Elizabeth Brunet from Mt. Carmel Academy; and Angela Malak Baldosse & Kaylee Elizabeth Caillouet from Ridge-wood Prep.



## Northshore Mandeville Awards Scholarships to Outstanding Key Clubbers

*By Lori Pausina, Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club*

The Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club awarded scholarships to the following outstanding Key Club seniors:

- Abby Sonnier, Fontainebleau High School Key Club - University of Alabama
- Madison Michot, Fontainebleau High School Key Club - University of Louisiana Lafayette
- Hannah West, Northlake Christian School Key Club - Mississippi College

Many thanks to Rick Danielson and the scholarship committee for making this happen.



# CIRCLE K CLUB NEWS

## McNeese Students Help on Kiwanis One Day

*By Carolyn Marcantell, Southwest Contraband*



For Kiwanis One Day, McNeese Circle K International members, along with 27 Kiwanians, helped distribute boxed food and fruit, milk, peanut butter, dog and cat food, diapers, wipes, and baked goods to more than 1000 families in need who occupied some 700 vehicles in Lake Charles, La. Kiwanis One Day in Division 12 took place on April 7th and was organized by the Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles. The Kiwanis Clubs of Southwest Contraband, South Lake Charles, and Sulphur accepted the invitation to help out. Hurricanes Laura and Delta ruined any chance for an October 2021 Kiwanis One Day event in Southwest Louisiana along with previous restrictions about meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Acadiana-Lafayette Contributes to School Library

*By John Claude Arceneaux, Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis Club*



On Monday, April 12, 2021, on the National Drop Everything and Read Day, the **Kiwanis Club of Acadiana-Lafayette** presented a check for \$500 to the Ridge Elementary Library for their successful Read-A-Thon. The National Drop Everything and Read Day is a national celebration designed to encourage everyone to make reading a priority activity with the children in your life.

The Ridge Elementary Read-A-Thon was designed to replace outdated books in the library. According to Ridge Elementary Librarian, Chastity Navarre, “Our children love to read books, but most of our collection is outdated, worn, and frayed. The funds from this Read-A-Thon will be used to purchase brand new high interest books our students will love.”

Considered a huge success, the Ridge Elementary Read-A-Thon had 555 student readers that read 50,964 minutes and raised over \$7,781.00 for new library books.

*Pictured from left to right: (Back Row) Librarian Chastity Navarre, Assistant Principal Russell Meyer, Kiwanis Club Secretary Kim Champagne, Kiwanis Club President John Claude Arceneaux, Kiwanis Club Incoming President Rhonda Lorio, and Principal Rhonda Dickerson; (Front Row) Ridge Elementary School Students Lucas Mowad and Hannah Stanonis.*

## Moisant Hosts a “Nacho Average Night”

*By Jillian Wohlgemuth, Moisant Kiwanis Club*

On Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the **Moisant Kiwanis Club** hosted a Fundraiser at 2 Amigos Mexican Restaurant in Kenner, Louisiana. The club members served the food, waited on tables, and washed the dishes. Club President, Gene Usner is the owner of 2 Amigos and graciously let the club use his restaurant on their off-day.

The club also held a 50-50 raffle and a door prize basket giveaway, stuffed with all of your Cinco de Mayo essentials! The club had a very successful turnout, raising over \$1,000 and hosting more than 100 friends and family members. Thank you to all who joined us!



*Moisant Kiwanis members learn the basics of serving from the line. Mask mandates had been lifted in the Parish where the event took place.*

## Acadiana Clubs Send Bears of Love to Pediatric Patients

*By Ellen Ponson, Broussard Youngsville Kiwanis Club*

The Kiwanis Club of Broussard, Youngsville teamed up with fellow Kiwanis clubs in the Acadiana area for a service project benefitting the pediatric burn unit at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Hospital. The project was a request for one thing ... stuffed animals! The Kiwanis Teddy Bear Drive

(though all animals were welcomed) was then created to help the hospital. The bears are given to each patient that enters the unit and, depending on their injury, the doctors or nurses “dress” the bear with the same bandages and in the same areas as each child’s burn. In the one month that



our Kiwanis Club and other area clubs collected and solicited bear donations, we were able to present the hospital with 522 bears and stuffed animals for their patients. Though Covid prevented us from meeting these little patients face to face, the nurses and support staff insured us that the stuffed animals make such a positive impact on their burn unit and brings a sense of comfort that only a cute, cuddly stuffed animal can.

## Dawn Busters Host Successful Crawfish Boil

*By Sal LaRock, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club*



During April, the Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club had a blast while raising funds for the club during the first Dawn Busters Crawfish Boil. Many thanks to the Sheet Metal Workers Union and all the members who volunteered and promoted sales for the event.

Proceeds go towards the Dawn Buster Kiwanis Club’s Community Projects such as the Rewards for Reading Program and the club’s new Rocky the Rooster early literacy program.

*Pictured from left to right are Dawn Busters Kiwanis Members Sal LaRock (wearing his Rocky the Rooster t-shirt) and Frank Sclafani.*

## Algiers Paints New Community Center with Help from Key Club

*By Judy Zimmermann, Algiers Kiwanis Club*

A nonprofit collaborating with another nonprofit is the best in the world. And that is what happens when the **Kiwanis Club of Algiers** along with its **Academy of Our Lady Key Club** volunteer at the Berean Community Project.

The Berean Community Project's goal is to provide as many opportunities for those in need as possible from clothing, food, and basic hygiene items. Because of COVID, the facility that volunteers were working under was lost this past winter. Determined to accomplish their mission, the heads of the project have acquired a newer facility which needed to be painted and



refurbished. That is where the Kiwanis Club of Algiers and Key Club comes in.

This project offers the Kiwanis Club of Algiers and Key Club volunteers the unique opportunity for hands-on support to the poor in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans. Everyone helped to paint the newly acquired Community Center to make the house a beautiful and hospitable haven for the community. Community volun-

teers are in the process of collecting clothing and supplies to be able to open the new Center this summer. Once opened, there will be opportunities for the less fortunate to find clothing, household goods and meals. The Berean House Project plans on offering the empowering tool of computers to allow community members access to other possible resources to help them.



## Division 12 Comes Together for Kiwanis One Day

*By Steven Ek, Lake Charles Kiwanis Club*

Hurricanes Laura and Delta ruined any chance for an October, 2021 Kiwanis One Day event for Division 12 in Southwest Louisiana along with previous restrictions about meeting due to the covid-19 pandemic.

So now, we were wondering what to do as several clubs were just surviving. Ah, but help began and new ideas began. Mr. Joel Wallins, Regional Sales Manager, Hampton Farms, and President of Gates of Prayer, New Iberia, LA, called Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles Past President Joel Davidson, also President, Temple Sinai, Lake Charles, LA. Mr. Wallins wanted to show his company's support for the needs of our community and offered to donate a pallet of peanut butter for distribution to our area. This offer was graciously accepted and the pallet was delivered for storage to our local Calcasieu Association for Retarded Citizens (CARC) facility, courtesy of Ms. Libby Leone, Executive Director, and President, Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles.



Now, what could we do with a pallet of peanut butter containing some 960 jars of this universally loved product? Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles member Rabbi Barry Weinstein offered an idea that maybe we could include it in a much needed food distribution event. Aha, we contacted United Way of Southwest Louisiana which holds such events at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Barry quickly arranged a meeting with Ms. Denise Durel, President and CEO, United Way of Southwest Louisiana, and key members of the Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles. The meeting resulted in a definite plan to distribute food, including our peanut butter, in the near future.

Also, in this meeting, Steve Ek suggested that perhaps we could develop the food distribution into a Kiwanis One Day event and invite all clubs in Division 12 to participate. The suggestion was accepted for implementation and within a day Ms. Durel informed that we have a food distribution date of April 7, 2021.

Steve contacted Kiwanis clubs in Division 12 resulting in the **Southwest**



**Contraband Club, the South Lake Charles Club, and the Sulphur Club** signing in to participate in the April 7th, 2021 event with the **Lake Charles Club**. On that date, some 25 Kiwanians and three (3) Circle K Club members from our McNeese State University chapter participated. Additionally, with great welcome and surprise, LaMissTenn Governor-Elect Richard Latiolais and Bruce Sawvel, Acadiana – Lafayette Kiwanis Club arrived to participate in the food distribution.

Twenty-seven Kiwanians and three CKI members donated four hours each to our Kiwanis One Day - a total of 120 hours given to our community to

*Continued on Page 24 . . .*



## Dawn Busters Keep Community Spirit Alive

*By Sal LaRock, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club*



Once again, the Dawn Busters are thinking outside of the box during the COVID pandemic. The club has come up with “Community Spirit” projects and activities to keep the Kiwanis presence in the community. One of the latest ideas has been to create Kiwanis Chimes Gardens.

Dawn Buster Kiwanis Club member Mr. Leroy Ayo and his team are making beautiful professional chimes to be donated to our two largest local parks, Lafreniere and LaSalle, for the Kiwanis Chimes Gardens. These chimes sell on the internet and in local stores from \$400 to \$600, but Ayo and his team can make them for about \$100 dollars each.

Other projects the club has conjured up during the pandemic include: The Dawn Busters’ Happy Truck, library boxes, food boxes, Rocky the Rooster: A super hero coloring book for elementary students, and our new senior gardens.

*Leroy Ayo shows off several wind chimes which will soon be filling the oak trees in local community parks with beautiful music.*

## Division 12 Comes Together for Kiwanis One Day Continued . . .

persons in need who occupied some 700 vehicles while receiving boxed food and fruit, milk, peanut butter, dog and cat food, diapers, wipes, and baked goods! Those who participated included numerous past Lt. Governors, our current Lt. Governor Randy Fuerst, past District Governor Eva Abate, and, as set forth above, our District Governor-Elect Richard Latiolais.

It should be noted that Ms. Durel and several employees of United Way directed, supervised, and participated in this event along with volunteers from other organizations, individual volunteers, and Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office deputies who performed traffic control. The entire event ran from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Lake

Charles Civic Center parking lot.

Most importantly, we all had fun and fellowship while meeting new people who were also giving of their time. The greatest result was we all provided a needed service to over 1,000 families in our community. We are also immensely grateful to Ms. Denise Durel and United Way of SWLA employees for their superb organization and management of the grocery distribution.

Finally, special thanks is extended to members of the Southwest Contraband, South Lake Charles, Sulphur, Acadiana, and Lake Charles Kiwanis Clubs, with McNeese State University Circle K members, who all donated their time to serve at this worthwhile April Kiwanis One Day.





# Dawn Busters Boost Early Literacy with Rocky the Rooster

*By Lorlei Bozeman and Sal LaRock, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club*



The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club's Rocky the Rooster, the official Jefferson Parish Public School's Rewards for Reading mascot, is visiting elementary schools throughout the parish to help promote early literacy. Along with their Rocky the Rooster coloring books, students receive their Rocky t-shirts and mini basketballs courtesy of the Sun Belt Conference.

The Dawn Busters' West Bank Rewards for Reading Team including Sal LaRock, Mike Murphy, Barbara LaRock, Cathy Johnson, Debbie Manos, Dr. James Gray, Billie North, Ricky Johnson and Tiffany Kuhn made their rounds this May to promote the new Jefferson Parish Public School Rocky Mascot and coloring book pilot program. We had 14 participating Kindergarten classes in 8 Jefferson Parish elementary schools to take part in the 4-week program. The program is to en-

courage Kindergarten students to read more books. With the help of McIlhenny/Tabasco Red Cares we were also able to reward the teachers with Tabasco Swag bags. Each classroom received a cupcake and prize party, and each child received a Rocky coloring book.



# More Action from the Dawn Busters

*By Lorilei Bozeman and Sal LaRock, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club*

## Celebration of First Food Pantry House

Faculty and students from Washington Elementary along with Jefferson Parish Superintendent Dr. James Gray, American Culinary Federation of Chefs, and other fellow **Dawn Busters** were on hand for the dedication of the first Food Pantry House at a Jefferson Parish Public Elementary School. It was also a chance to roll out the Rocky the Rooster coloring books and introduce the Rewards for Reading Program to the Hispanic Community with the help of our newest corporate members, Telemundo.



## Food Tower Garden

American Culinary Federation of New Orleans Chefs Paula and Greyze along with Dave Massey delivered a Tower Garden in Washington Elementary STEM School. Receiving the tower was Principal Darlene Turnbull and STEM teachers.



## Suitcase Drive for Foster Children

**Dawn Busters** Megan Steinmetz of UNO Athletics and Steve Bozeman of Jefferson Parish Juvenile Services coordinated an effort to donate brand new duffle bags to foster children during a suitcase drive held by the club and Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services. Jefferson Parish Voluntary Services Supervisor Nancy Arceneaux is pictured here with members of the UNO baseball team. Traditionally, foster kids would get black garbage bags. Steve Bozeman (also pictured) led this project for the club, and they have collected nearly 300 new and like new bags for boys' and girls' homes and foster care children in Jefferson Parish.



*Continued on Page 27 . . .*

## Lake Charles Club Provides Portable Radios

*By Steve Ek, Lake Charles Kiwanis Club*

On April 30, 2021, members of the **Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles** met with the administrative staff of Henry Heights Elementary School, Lake Charles, La., in order to photograph and conclude a grant project with the LaMissTenn District Foundation in which seven portable radios with a value of \$1,645 were donated to the school in February 2021.

These radios replaced identical items that were purchased by contract restoration workers following Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020. The radios have a critical purpose of providing emergency, safety, and security services to staff and students. Currently, the radios will benefit some 374 students and 56 staff, although hundreds more will receive future benefit. The District Foundation poster in the photo was made by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in art class.

*Pictured from left to right are: Shonda Mhire, Henry Heights School Principal; Libby Leone, Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles President; Steve Ek, Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles Grant Facilitator; Kim Devillier, Henry Heights School Counselor; and Karen Andrews, Henry Heights School Assistant Principal.*



## More Action from the Dawn Busters Continued . . .

### MOVE for Acceptance

With every MOVEMENT someone makes, they could move the world in a more accepting direction. That was one of the reasons the **Dawn Busters** were so excited to be participating in the GiGiFIT Acceptance Challenge. We have formed a new relationship with GiGi's Playhouse, the first achievement

center for individuals with Down Syndrome in Louisiana. GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans provides free purposeful programs to individuals with Down Syndrome from birth through adulthood. We believe in GiGi's Playhouse and its mission of global acceptance for all. Therefore, we helped support GiGi's by having our own GiGiFIT challenge for acceptance by hosting a "Yoga for Fitness Challenge" to raise over \$700 for the fundraiser. In addition to holding a club event, GiGi's needed help with their own Field Day for the Acceptance Challenge. That is when the Dawn Busters and our friends at UNO were able to help. Not only did we help with the registration,



but we also helped out at various fitness stations. This acceptance challenge was a movement for change! It was a chance to drop all physical and social barriers to say, "I can and will accept you as you are!"



## Escondido Man Calls on His Kiwanis Family for a Kidney

*By Pam Kaegan, The San Diego Union-Tribune (Reprinted with permission of the San Diego Union-Tribune)*



*Ron Lonicki, 63, of Escondido is hoping to get a kidney transplant so he's seeking a living donor.*

Ron Lonicki needs a kidney, and like many of the patients on the national waiting list for donor organs, he knows it could be a five- to six-year wait.

But the 63-year-old Escondido man is hoping that his family will come through for him with a live donor organ sooner than that. With more than 500,000 family members to call on for help, he might just be in luck.

For the past 27 years, Lonicki has been a member of Kiwanis International, a service club where members call each other family. As Lonicki's career in the gaming industry took him to cit-

ies all over the country, he donated his time and money to clubs in Wisconsin, Delaware, Maryland, Louisiana and California, and picked up many family members along the way.

Dennis Mattioli of the Kiwanis Club of Western Kenosha in Wisconsin volunteered side by side with Lonicki from 1997 to 2011 and said Lonicki was tireless in his positive spirit, community service and fundraising work.

"In 2000, the club named Ron 'Kiwanian of the Year,' which is given to the standout members who went over and above, spending many hours totally dedicating themselves to fundraising and helping others," Mattioli said. "It was a pleasure to be around him. We loved the guy and were very sorry to see him go."

Lonicki said all Kiwanians share the same dedication to helping others. "It's very important to me to give back to the communities where I live," he said, adding that it's been hard to be on the receiving end for help this past year. "My whole life is to give to others, so now I'm finally having to reach out. It's tough for me to ask but it's something that's needed."

Since last summer, he's been out of work due to a pandemic-related layoff and he's now running low on personal

savings and time. In the past few months, his kidney function has dropped to just 8 percent. In a few weeks, he will have surgery to install a catheter as preparation for starting dialysis treatments this spring.

A Connecticut native, Lonicki has spent his career as a cage supervisor, the money-counting manager, at race tracks and casinos. He joined Kiwanis while working at the Dairyland Greyhound Park in Kenosha. When the track closed in 2009, he moved to other casino jobs around the country, joining Kiwanis clubs wherever he went. Single and with no children, Lonicki said welcoming Kiwanians in every city have always made every city his home away from home.

At the club in Western Kenosha, Mattioli said Lonicki earned perfect attendance awards six years in a row for never missing any of the club's weekly meetings. Together, they helped raise more than \$500,000 for the club's programs, which serve children in need.

Mattioli said Lonicki helped with club operations, worked the annual fishing tournament, delivered for Meals on Wheels, gave out Christmas baskets to families in need and ran bingo games

*Continued on Page 29 . . .*

## Escondido Man Calls on His Kiwanis Family for a Kidney Continued . . .

at nursing homes. In 2002, Lonicki became president of the club, and in 2004, he became lieutenant governor, overseeing a district with about 15 regional clubs.

“You have to be dedicated to do that kind of work, and that was Ron,” Mattioli said.

While working in Louisiana in 2013 and 2014, Lonicki joined the **Crescent City Eye-Openers Kiwanis Club** of New Orleans, La. Fellow member Lou Oshmann said she worked with Lonicki on multiple projects, including a reading program for grade-schoolchildren in Jefferson Parish, the annual Halloween carnival and handing out T-shirts at the local 10-kilometer race.

“He was always so sweet, gregarious and outgoing. He could talk to anybody,” Oshmann said of Lonicki. “He always had a smile on his face and just like a little Eveready bunny, he was always willing to work at whatever

needed to be done. We just love him dearly.”

Lonicki said he’s lived with diabetes-related kidney disease for many years, but after a bout with double pneumonia last year, his kidney function dramatically declined. In July, he lost his job at Rolling Hills Casino north of Sacramento and he moved to Escondido, where he joined the Los Rancheros Kiwanis Club in Rancho Bernardo and participated on March 27 in a charity clothing drive.

Lonicki said he hopes to find a job in one of the county’s many casinos, but health issues have kept him from being able to work. Last month, he had 17 doctor’s appointments at Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla.

To help raise money for Lonicki until he can get back to work, fellow Kiwanian and friend Lew Matusow of Miami has launched a GoFundMe.com campaign titled “[A Kiwanian in urgent need of help.](#)” Matusow said Lonicki

has done so much for others, it would be nice if the community returned the favor.

“Feeding the homeless, reading to children, stuffing and distributing backpacks to inner-city kids, taking kids on field trips ... and acting as an advisor and mentor to college students are just some of acts of kindness he has done to help make the world a better place,” Matusow said.



*Escondido resident Ron Lonicki, 63, carries a box of donated items at a clothing drive hosted on March 27th in Rancho Bernardo by the Los Rancheros Kiwanis Club.*

## One Good Turn Deserves Another

*By John Fry, Region I Trustee, Twin Cities Kiwanis Club*



Members of the **Kiwanis Club of the Twin Cities** learned about a need at their local Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center which provides health and wellness with integrity and honesty to the community. During a presentation to the club, Gigi Milner with Good Samaritan made members aware of some needs the facility has on a regular basis such as cleaning and office supplies. Club members decided to work on gathering supplies for the local non-profit facility over the months of June through August with the first round of products delivered on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

# Gulfport Installs Learning Trail at School

*By Travis Moore & Kathryn Moran, Gulfport Kiwanis Club*

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the **Gulfport Kiwanis Club** installed a United Way Born Learning Trail at Pass Road Elementary in Gulfport. The Learning Trail is a fun, physical learning activity that's designed for parents or caregivers to play with young children in an outdoor setting. Each sign is printed with a playful and engaging activity, such as, "talk, listen, sing, jump, clap, skip," and are designed to help young children learn together. The trails also include sidewalk artwork such as shapes and the alphabet that correspond to the sign activities. Our members worked hard to install the signs along the existing walking trail as well as paint the sidewalk art on the trail. The mission of the Gulfport School District is to inspire each student to become a problem solver, lifelong learner, and productive member of society and this learning trail will help do just that! Kiwanis members brought posthole diggers, shovels, power drills, paintbrushes, toolboxes, and bottled water. They dug holes, installed posts, attached signs, painted designs along the walking track, and finished the work, all in beautiful weather.



*Reece Roberts, Theresa Avina, and Travis Moore*



*Will Symmes, Ron Irby, Martin Jones, Travis Moore, Fred Hoff and Bill Knesal*



*Martin Jones and Bill Knesal*



*Bryan Caldwell*



*Travis Moore and Ron Irby*

## Hammond Stays Involved

*By Judy and Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club*

### Happy Pack Program Maintained throughout Pandemic

At the end of the current school year the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** completed the latest chapter in its long history of distributing Kiwanis Happy Packs to young pupils at Woodland Park, the club's adopted school. During the past school year, the club provided 3,312 bags of easy-to-eat food items so that the youngsters would have something on which to snack on weekends when school meals were not available.

For many years the club operated its Happy Pack program from the school itself. However, precautions from the coronavirus pandemic prohibited club members from visiting the school in person. At the same time, the club could no longer use the traditional back packs to deliver the food to the individual students. To meet this challenge, Kiwanians continued the packing part of the program in a room provided by TARC, a local agency that serves the needs of those with developmental challenges. Instead of the back packs, club members switched to individual plastic grocery bags for delivery of the food items to the pupils.

Every Thursday morning a group of Kiwanians gathered to fill the bags with the following items: Vienna sausages, Pop Tarts, Ramen noodles, a boxed fruit drink, a pouch drink, cheese crackers, a candy snack, apple sauce, and pudding. Each classroom was assigned a large plastic tub and the loaded bags were put into the tubs that



*Hammond Kiwanis Club members, from left, John Bergeron, Roy Blackwood, Andy Thomas, Sig Bonner and Vic Couvillion take a break from filling Kiwanis Happy Packs during one of the many packing sessions held during the past school year. In addition to the five Kiwanians pictured, a number of other club members participated in the weekly preparation of the bags of food that were delivered to young pupils at Woodland Park, the club's adopted school.*

were subsequently delivered to the school. School janitors then brought each tub to the appropriate classroom.

Judy Couvillion, who has directed the Kiwanis Happy Pack program for many years, said that while members of her club missed the opportunity to interact with the teachers and pupils, maintaining the program was a commitment that had to be continued. "Over the years we learned that these little children had come to cherish their 'happy packs,' food that helped them get through the weekend. We just had

to change the way we did things. In some ways, the use of the plastic bags made the work of providing food items easier since we did not have to collect the back packs each week and keep them clean and in good shape," she said.

The Kiwanis Happy Pack program is just one more way that members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club are helping to serve the needs of children in their community.

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## Hammond Stays Involved Continued . . .

### Feed the Team

The challenge, to fill 100 boxes with hot dogs and hamburgers, chips and cookies for the Southeastern Louisiana University Lions baseball team and their opponent on this night, the team from Houston Baptist University, was met by a seasoned group of **Hammond Kiwanis Club** members who were assisted by spouses and other family members. Hammond Kiwanians have participated in the university's "Feed The Team" program for a number of years and each season the club prepares a meal for the university's baseball and softball teams. Kiwanians report that the ball players were most grateful for the dogs and burgers served with cold sports drinks. From the looks of the smiles on the faces of this group, the Kiwanians enjoyed the evening as well.



### Trivia Night



In its search for a fund raiser that was "weather resistant," the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** decided to host Trivia Nights. The club has held three Trivia Night fund raisers and all have been a success. The events are held at The Mezzanine, the same venue where the club holds its weekly meetings. Teams of six pay \$250 to enter the night's trivia contest and each member of the winning team is awarded with a number of gift cards that were donated by local businesses. In addition to the income from the table entry fees, the club conducts a silent auction featuring items donated by club members. A meal is served to those entered in the contest.

### Club Social

On Tuesday, March 30th, the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** held a social at the Low Road Brewery, a local craft brewery. The social was a welcomed event that afforded club members an opportunity to gather for fun, food and fellowship. The event was organized by club members George Anthon and Eric Dosch, two amateur chefs who enjoy coking. The duo cooked brisket, sausage and pulled pork that served as the evening's main course and members brought their favorite dishes to add to the evening's meal.





## Kiwanis and Key Clubs Keep Long Beach Klean

*By Howard Lock, Long Beach Kiwanis Club*

Members of the **Long Beach Kiwanis Club** and members of the **Long Beach High School Key Club** picked up trash along Klondyke Road, the most traveled road in and out of Long Beach.



*Pictured from left to right are Howard Lock, Key Club Advisor Aimie Chambliss, Deb Kurts, and Ingrid Miscavage and their little helpers.*

## Pontchartrain Helps Celebrate Mother's Day

*By Myra Kewis, Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club*

Joining forces with High Voltage Youth Camp, Essence, and Dooky Chase's Restaurant, members of the **Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain** presented sleepwear, roses, puzzle books, gumbo, and cupcakes to senior mothers from the Central City area in New Orleans on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The event was staged in the parking lot of Dooky Chase's Restaurant. The honorees and the participating volunteers were masked and socially distanced as the ladies collected their take home treats. The beautiful Mother's Day weekend weather helped all to enjoy this outdoor event.



## Martin Awards Deserving Students

*By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club*



Two West Tennessee high school graduates, Bryce (right) and Blake Holloman will attend The University of Tennessee at Martin beginning this fall. Both outstanding students have been active in Key Club and Key Leader.

Even during the height of COVID-19 and the pandemic, the **Martin Kiwanis Club** went forward with awarding scholarships and offering support in various ways in the community. Two major scholarships were awarded in the spring of 2020, and three have now been given in 2021.

Two high school students from Greenfield, TN, Bryce and Blake Holliman, recent graduates of Greenfield High School, have each received a Christie Ricketts Memorial Kiwanis Scholarship to help with expenses during their first year of undergraduate studies at The University of Tennessee at Martin. The \$1,000 scholarship, formerly named the Martin Kiwanis Club Service Scholarship, is awarded annually to a Martin Westview 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. In addition to having outstanding academic records and numerous hours of com-

munity service, both Bryce and Blake have been active in Kiwanis events at the local and district levels and have served as lieutenant governor of Key Clubs in the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Kiwanis District. Both Martin and Greenfield have Kiwanis clubs, and both high schools have active Key Clubs. Bryce plans to study nursing at UT Martin, and Blake plans to major in veterinary science.

Another \$1,000 award has been given to Joseph Pelren, a UT Martin junior from Martin, who has received the 2021 Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service.

Joseph is majoring in geosciences and has maintained an outstanding grade point average while taking many honors and natural sciences courses. The selection committee members were impressed with Joseph's commitment to service and his leadership at UT Martin and in the community.

An Eagle Scout who has worked with Weakley County youth through his efforts at C.E. Weldon Library, with the St. Jude Toy Drive, and with the West Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl, Joseph is currently developing an elementary education curriculum in geology for the Martin Enrichment Academy. He also works with students at UT Martin in his role as a laboratory instructor for general chemistry classes and serves the community by working with Habitat for Humanity and the LUNgevity Foundation. He serves the university through both his leadership roles in student organizations and volunteering his time and labor to help construct the new courtyard for the

Holland McCombs Center.

The \$1,000 Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service was begun with an initial contribution to establish the endowment by S. K. Airee, longtime professor of chemistry at UT Martin, and his wife Shashi. On February 15, 2017, officers and charter members of the Martin Kiwanis Club joined University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver to celebrate the establishment of an endowment for the annual Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service. Dr. Airee was a charter member of the Martin Kiwanis Club.

This award honors students whose leadership and volunteer activities reflect the Kiwanis motto of "improving the world, one child and one community at a time."



Joseph Pelren (center) has been honored with the 2021 Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service. On hand to congratulate him and give him a plaque were Dr. Andy Lewter (left), vice chancellor for student affairs at UT Martin, and Steve Lemond, treasurer of the Martin Kiwanis Club.

## Martin Fishing Derby is a Success

*By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club*



Every child who registered and fished won a prize at the 2021 City of Martin Parks and Recreation, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, and **Martin Kiwanis Club** Fishing Derby.

Kiwanis members also believe that they may have recorded a first for all fishing derby events held in the La-Miss-West Tenn Kiwanis District: 20 “pretend” fish were counted in the under-5 category and that young fisherperson received a trophy!

How does one count pretend fish? When the young man, age 4, came up to the counting/judging table with his real bucket, he explained that he had fish in that bucket. The assistants looked in, “saw” the pretend fish, and asked - without skipping a beat, “How many?” The answer was 20, and the judges were told that these fish had been scooped up from the lake in the fisherman’s own boot and added to the bucket!

Now imagine, if you will, the look on that child’s face when he was called forward later to receive the first trophy he had ever in all his life received. Imagine, too, the happy tears in the mother’s eyes as she saw her child clutching that trophy.

We can report also that many real fish were indeed caught at this annual event, which had to be cancelled in June 2020 because of COVID 19 restrictions. In fact, this year one young man caught 21 brim and bluegill.

More than 40 children and many parents, friends, and relatives braved the hot June 12th Tennessee sunshine to enjoy a happy morning at the well-stocked lake at Martin Recreation Complex in Martin, TN.

## New Orleans Provides Hygiene Kits for High Schoolers

*By Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club*

The **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** is so very proud to work with our two Key Clubs of **Ben Franklin High School** and **Patrick F. Taylor Academy!** In working with these Key Clubs, sometimes we also assist within the school, when needed. It recently was shared with us about the schools' homeless population, or "couch kids" (move from house to house; friends or family). Throughout the school year, some of their hygiene needs are met by the school; but what about the summer months when they are away from school? As we began doing service projects (yes, socially distancing and outside!), we decided to create some hygiene kits for the students to get them through these tough summer months, by filling the zippered



travel kits with "standard size" bottles of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrush, soap/holder, hand sanitizer, dental floss, razors and pocket tissues. We also supplied the males with shaving lotion and the females with sanitary products for these 3 months. We worked with Dollar Days, a Kiwanis Partner, for bulk pricing, as well as members donating to the cause. Gathering together in late April, we packed these kits and delivered 106 to the schools for distribution before school broke for the summer in May. We plan to do another set of hygiene kits, to assist with the 2021 Fall/Winter break.



## St. Gabriel Hosts Annual Prayer Breakfast

*By MiLisa York, St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club*

The **St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club** held its Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 15th, 2021. Due to the challenges of COVID 19, the Prayer Breakfast was for members and spouses only but the Club sold tickets for to go breakfast plates to raise funds for their scholarship program. In addition, the Club co-hosted a blood drive with The Blood Center.

*Pictured is future Kiwanian, Christopher C. Williams, the grandson of Club Secretary and Lt. Governor-Elect, MiLisa York, who helped his grandmother serve breakfast to the members and their spouses.*



## St. Bernard Kiwanis Co-Hosts 5K with Relay for Life

*By Kristine Koepp, St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club*

On May 23rd, 2021, the **Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi** co-hosted the inaugural Run da Parish 5k with the St. Bernard Chapter of Relay for Life. The event was held at the Los Islenos Museum Complex located in Eastern St. Bernard, La. The day began with the presentation of colors and prayer by the local Chalmette Scouts, Troop 11, and the singing of the National Anthem by a student of the Chalmette High School Voices group, Breana Enos. Other community involvement included the Liberty Belles Softball Team who prepped and served food and cheered runners on throughout the race. With over 100 participants signed up, the first sponsored race was certainly a club success! The winner of the race came in at 21:49. Our club raised over \$3,000.00 to go towards local club programs this year and approximately \$3,000.00 to go towards the American Cancer Society. A huge thank you goes out to all of our sponsors who made this event possible. Event coordinator and club President-Elect, Kristine Koepp, is “looking forward to making this an annual event for our club and community.”



## Twin Cities Kiwanis Members Reach for the Stars

*By John Fry, Region I Trustee, Twin Cities Kiwanis Club*

A handful of very dedicated members of the **Kiwanis Club of the Twin Cities Ken-Tenn** converged just after sunrise on a Saturday in mid-May at Lions Club Park in Fulton, KY to take on the third leg of a project they began last fall. The Kiwanis Club has adopted a star-shaped flower bed in the local park and met to keep the area looking fresh. Members worked to eradicate weeds from the area as well as plant an additional thirty plus plants to help balance out the current landscaping. Phase four is already in the planning stages.



## Back to Normalcy (and Burgers) in Union City

*By John Fry, Region I Trustee, Union City Kiwanis Club*

On what felt like the perfect Thursday in May, members of the **Kiwanis Club of Union City** set out to feed a few of their closest friends and supporters during the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Burger in the Park at Kiwanis Park located in downtown Union City, Tenn. After missing last year due to COVID-19, the club and its members were ready to get back to business as usual with a slight bit of apprehension related to how well received the event might be.



Once ticket sales began, it was obvious that the event might actually do better than in years past. Plans were made, products and supplies were ordered and deliveries and carry outs were being scheduled. Then, plans were adjusted and even more products and supplies were ordered.

Members met two nights prior to the scheduled event in order to pack over 1,000 bags with chips, desserts and condiments in preparation of the event on Thursday. Thursday morning came and the grill was fired up, drinks were iced down and deliveries were coordinated. The next few hours were a blur as club members worked feverishly preparing over 1,200 meals for the event patrons. The day was a huge success thanks largely to the club members, community partners and just some good folks that were hungry (no pun intended) for life as usual in northwest Tennessee.

# Greenfield Appreciates Educators

*Greenfield Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Greenfield Kiwanis Club** members, Key Club members and future Key Clubbers met in May during Teacher Appreciation Week to assemble flowers to be given to all teachers, administration, and staff at Greenfield School.



# Martin and Greenfield Provide Helping Hands

*Martin Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Members of the **Martin and Greenfield Kiwanis Clubs** helped on Monday, April 12th, with the packing of food boxes for those in need in Weakley County. Pictured (left to right) are Robert Lovell, Greenfield Kiwanis Club; Frank Black, Martin Kiwanis Club; Annabelle Lovell, daughter of Robert and Rachel Lovell; and Rachel Lovell, member of the Greenfield Kiwanis Club. Linda Ramsey, Martin Kiwanis Club, took the picture and also helped others in the Northwest Tennessee Development District pack boxes for approximately 800 families in Weakley County.



# Memphis Helps with Nature Playground

*Memphis Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



*Memphis Kiwanis Club members volunteer at the Treadwell nature playground in partnership with the Heights CDC.*

For decades, slabs of asphalt and a grassy field were the only outdoor recess options for most Treadwell Elementary and Middle School students in Memphis, Tenn. Its small, plastic playground is fenced off and reserved for pre-school students. Now, after more than two years of work from parents and supporters, students have a unique new playground that they helped design.

On Saturday April 24th, the Heights Community Development Corporation or Heights CDC gathered students, families, and neighbors together to celebrate the opening of the new Treadwell Nature Playground. The playground gives both the surrounding community and Treadwell students a new outlet for play and exploration. **The Kiwanis Club of Memphis**, which was already partnered with the school, donated \$5,000 toward landscaping surrounding the new playground.

The playground includes a hollowed log tunnel, a faux-forest made of locust poles, wooden benches that double as balance beams, and a rope ladder. The play features are covered by shade sails held up by repurposed telephone poles.





# Pontchartrain Partners for Easter Grocery Giveaway

*Ponchartrain Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain partnered with New Orleans Bible Fellowship Baptist Church (Reverend Leonard Parker, Pastor) for an Easter Grocery Giveaway on Saturday, April 3rd. The event provided 200 bags of healthy food items to supplement Easter dinners and healthy snacks for kids in virtual or hybrid learning environments. KCP members and family volunteers provided the food and bagged the items before loading the bags into cars that drove thru.



## Brighten Up Broussard

*Broussard-Youngville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Thank you Parish Proud and **Kiwanis Club of Broussard-Youngville** for co-hosting Brighten Up Broussard. Thank you Hampton Inn Broussard for allowing use of your parking area, and thank you to everyone who came out early on a Saturday morning to volunteer for beautifying our great city. In just two hours, volunteers picked up more than 1,000 pounds of litter!

## Rewards for Reading in Lafayette

*Lafayette Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Lafayette** in conjunction with Lafayette Parish School System handed out prizes in each of the 25 elementary schools in Lafayette Parish, and all of the more than 14,000 students were eligible to participate in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. A huge thanks goes to Lafayette Kiwanis members, Offering Solutions, PLLC and Home Bank for donating prizes for the Accelerated Reader Raffle! Each kid that made their reading goal, received entries in a raffle.



*Avelin, lucky grand prize winner, won a bicycle, for reading! This child has read somewhere between 19-20 million words, from 1st grade through 5th grade and now has a great reward to show for it!*



## Ascension Loves Our Community's Children

*Ascension Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Ascension** volunteered at Loving Our Community's Children (LOCC) on Saturday, June 12th, 2021. LOCC is a local non-profit organization offering assistance to foster children, foster families, and families in need in Ascension Parish. President Kristen Nolen joined Kiwanians: Edy Arnold, Kathleen Levingston, Courtney Olivia, and Sgt. Kenneth Payne. The volunteers sorted donated clothing for gifting to foster families and children in need in Ascension Parish.

Also, on April 10th, members volunteered at the LOCC Spring Fling, an event for families in need to shop for summer clothes.

## Opelousas Hits it out of the Park

*Opelousas Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The Opelousas Kiwanis Club hosted its First Annual Kiwanis Softball Tournament on Saturday, June 12th at South City Park in Opelousas. Four community teams participated: Team Louisiana, St. Landry Bank, Hope for Opelousas and OGHS. Opelousas Kiwanis Club provided hamburgers, hot dogs, kettle corn, snacks, and drinks. All proceeds went towards the club's mission of improving the lives of children in the community. The club sincerely thanks Jody White and Perry Galloway for their guidance and assistance in organizing its First Annual Kiwanis Softball Tournament, the teams who participated, and all the Kiwanians who stepped up to make it a success! Congratulations to Team Louisiana for taking home the first place trophy and Team OGHS for taking second.



## Cortana Cooks it up!

*Cortana Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Cortana Kiwanis loves to share its world famous jambalaya! On June 5th, Cortana Kiwanis members cooked and served jambalaya for the Welcome Back Community Event for the Knock Knock Children's Museum Grand Reopening and also for the Braveheart Spring Fling on May 15th.



## Denham Springs Hosts Successful First Annual Clay Shoot

*Denham Springs Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

On My 7th, **The Kiwanis Club of Denham Springs** hosted its First Annual Clay Shoot and Silent Auction at Riverside Sporting Clays in Denham Springs, La. Breakfast and lunch were provided along with door prizes.



## Baton Rouge Kiwanis Camps out with Cub Scouts

*Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

After two years, of no camping, thanks to the restrictions from Covid, the **Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club's** sponsored Cub Scout Pack 428 boys and girls were chomping at the bit to head up to Camp Avondale. We didn't get everyone, but 29 people did make the trek north outside of Clinton. The area was well-drained, and we had no lingering effects from previous rain except the dust was kept down. We set up our tents and camp kitchen, gathered firewood and got our buckets of water ready for the campfire. The weather could not have been more perfect for a Spring day. The kids were excited to do any number of things. So, after their reminder meeting about not going anywhere without a buddy and not going to the lake without an adult, as well as campfire safety, they were off and literally running. Some fished, some flew kites, some explored and some threw frisbees or kicked soccer balls. But none of them sat. The parents joined in on some of the activities as lunch was prepared. Everyone



cooked their hotdogs over the fire for a quick easy lunch that did not take away from the fun too long. The after was filled laughter and screams of fun as they found many things to release two years of pent-up energy. The evening fast approached, and it was time to start dinner. A couple of cobbles (one peach and one blackberry) were put in the Dutch ovens and covered with hot coals to cook while the pasta with meat sauce and abundant meatballs was prepared. Soon, it along with bread and salad were ready to refuel the young engines that had been running at full speed for several hours. Night fell and they were ready for the campfire favor-

ite of S'mores and the cobbler. After an hour or so of running and playing flashlight tag, they quickly crashed for the evening. A couple of the dads stayed by the campfire softly strumming their guitars under the clear stars with a nearly full moon for a while to cap off the perfect day for the kids. Everyone turned in but were up the next morning for some hot coffee being put out by the four pots on the stove while a breakfast of eggs, grits, our Manda breakfast sausage, and hot biscuits were served. A little more fishing was done before everyone started breaking down their tents and doing a police patrol to be sure we left nothing behind but our footprints.



## Lake Charles Provides for the Community

*Lake Charles Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

What a joy for the **Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** members to help United Way complete Literacy Kits that will be distributed throughout the 5 parish area. The Literacy Kits provide books and activities that make stories more meaningful and memorable. Also in May, the club delivered a gumbo lunch to their partner in education, Henry Heights Elementary School as part of Teacher Appreciation Week.



## Southern Hills Hands out Books

*Southern Hills Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In May, **Southern Hills Kiwanis Club** members enjoyed giving away books to their little friends at the Duck Pond.



## Red Stick Gives to the Children

*Red Stick Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In June, Club President Matt Robinson presented a check on behalf of **Red Stick Kiwanis** to the McMains Children Developmental Center.



## St. Gabriel Awards Scholarship to Valedictorian

*St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club** President, Jessie Thomas, presented to Jillian Carter Dotson, Principal of MSA East, the Scholarship Award Letter for the Valedictorian of the 2020-2021 class of MSA East, Treasure Wells. Congratulations!



# South Lake Charles Gives Back to the Community

*South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

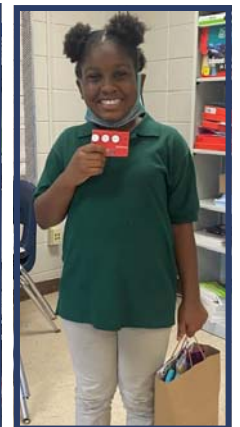
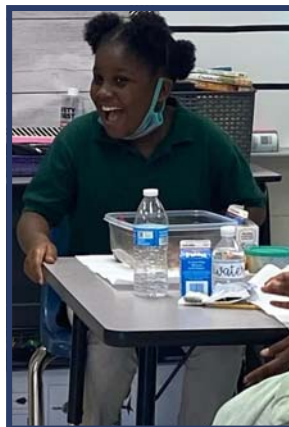
## Giveaway Groceries

Members of the **South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** have been volunteering with Water's Edge Church to bag and give away groceries for community members in need.



## BUG Program

On June 1st, the **South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** announced their Bringing up Grades program winner, Zamirah Lasalle, for the year at Brentwood Elementary.



## Teacher Appreciation

On June 2nd, **South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** members Jacob, Louis and Lenn served a breakfast for the faculty at Brentwood Elementary for Teacher Appreciation.

## Boys & Girls Club Check Presentation

On June 25th, **Kiwanis Club of South Lake Charles** member Louis Haxthausen presented a check to the Boys & Girls Club represented by Nedra Green & Rhyan Wheeler.



## Southwest Contraband: Doing Great Things!

*Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

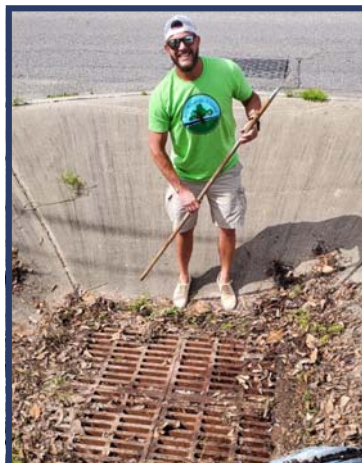
The Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club members love their teachers at MJ Kaufman Elementary School. For Teacher Appreciation Week, the club partnered with Southside Machine Works to provide Jason's Deli for lunch to show appreciation for everything the teachers and staff do for the students.



On April 26th, members of the Southwest **Contraband Kiwanis Club** donated much needed diapers to ABC Pregnancy Resource Center.

## Northshore Mandeville Keeps Mandeville Beautiful

*Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



In May, the **Kiwanis Club of Northshore Mandeville** participated in the Keep Mandeville Beautiful Cleanup! Thanks to everyone in our club, Cristy with Keep Mandeville Beautiful, and Mayor Clay Madden for a great day of beautification.

### Vicksburg Helps United Way

*Vicksburg Kiwanis Club Facebook*



**Vicksburg Kiwanis Club** members prepared 500 waterproof bags for storing valuable documents in case of an emergency for United Way's Day of Caring.



# East St. Mary Parish Sets Fishing Rodeo Record

*East St. Mary Parish Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

May 15th was a great day for a fishing rodeo! Not only was the weather perfect, but the **Kiwanis of East St. Mary Parish** also set a new record with 325 kids participating in the club's Annual Kiwanis Kids Fishing Rodeo.





# Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany Domingue, District Bulletin Editor

## Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: [tiffany@lamisstenn.org](mailto: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 2020-2021 Kiwanis Year:

**October 2021 Issue = Deadline: September 17, 2021**

**January 2022 Issue = Deadline: December 17, 2021**

**April 2022 Issue = Deadline: March 18, 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:** 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*

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

**Governor . . . . .** Patrice Cusimano

**Governor - Elect . . . . .** Richard Latiolais

**Immediate Past Governor . . . . .** R. Bruce Hammatt

**Executive Director . . . . .** Charles H. Ford

## **DISTRICT TRUSTEES:**

### **Region I**

John A. Fry, *Union City, Tenn.*

### **Region II**

Dr. Waseem Gul, *Oxford, Miss.*

### **Region III**

Rogena Woods-Mitchell, *Vancleave, Miss.*

### **Region IV**

Alfred G. Lotz, Jr., *Third District, New Orleans, La.*

### **Region V**

Michele Crosby, *Denham Springs, La.*

### **Region VI**

Kimberly Champagne, *Acadiana-Lafayette, La.*

### **Region VII**

James Leggett, III, *Alexandria, La.*

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