

July 2022

Kiwanis[®]

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News



Natchitoches: Growing Our Future
with K-Kids

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



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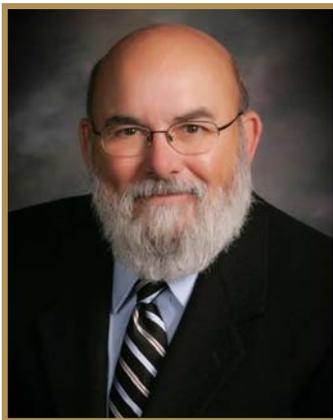
A Message from the Governor

By Rick Latiolais, Governor

Bonne Journée Mon Ami

Margaret and I have returned from the International Convention in Indianapolis several weeks ago. The weather was 55-60 degrees at night and 75° during the heat of the day. Don't you love living in the south during the summer months? Today we began the day in Lafayette at 81° and right now it is 98° with 99% humidity. I guess this is the price we pay for not having four feet of snow and slush along with frozen pipes all winter long. Well enough about my weather complaints.

The Convention was exceptionally great with interesting topics, good speakers and fabulous workshops. The trip to the Kiwanis International office was a real treat. Seeing all of the artifacts, pictures and memorabilia from 1914 to the present day was really a touching event for me. I've heard about it, seen pictures of it, but to experience it in person was very moving. The last part of the tour was to proceed out to the front of the building to take pictures in front of the Globe. *The frolicking children and glass panels do not completely encircle the globe. It's a reminder: As long as there are children in need, there will always be work for the volunteers of Kiwanis* – a tear came to my eye as I realized what this meant.



We saw all of my class of Governors, old friends, made new friends, friends from all over the world, and met people on the street that asked what was going on because everyone they saw on the streets was so upbeat, smiling and happy. My friend Yeka Raj Panta from Dhading, Nepal was there with his group of members and they presented a video of a member from his club that climbed Mt. Everest and planted the Kiwanis flag on the top of the mountain.

The Convention was great but so was attending the charter nights of the Tri-Parishes in March and Louisville and Carencro in June. If the statistics are accurate, that every Kiwanian touches the lives of 206 children every year, then these three clubs will touch the lives of 19,364 children this year.

During our Mid-Winter Regionals our district trainers shared instructions and tips on how to increase your club's

membership. Many of your clubs responded with their plan to do this. Kudos to those clubs that already had a plan in place. Over the next three months (July, August and September) your District needs you to put those plans into effect.

Brad Boyd Facebook quote

Are you surrounding yourself with "remember when" people -- or, "what if" people.?

I have friends that fit in both camps. One thing I realized after being with my "remember when" friends is that my energy is down. They cause me to live in the past. Now, I'm all for reminiscing, but a steady diet of "remember when" makes us sick.

Then, I have my "what if?" friends. These are the people who IMAGINE their future. They play around with thoughts and ideas. They create spaces where vision can happen. These are people you spend four hours with and you have more energy at the end than at the beginning. These are people you want to hang around. Yes, they're hard to find - you'll have to look...explore...seek out... Step out of your comfort zone and go ask a "What if?" person to join Kiwanis.

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

What Makes Us Distinguished? Our Members

By Patrice Cusimano, Immediate Past Governor

This is my last article for the newsletter. Bittersweet! What a ride this has been for the last six years. I served on the district board for three years and three years in varying degrees of governorship. This journey has been a tremendous learning experience. My journey hit its high point at International Convention when the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District was recognized as “distinguished” by now Past Governor Art Riley. I was also recognized as Distinguished Governor for the 2020-21 Kiwanis year. To say I was surprised would be a tremendous understatement. As a remembrance of this honor, President Art gave each recipient a ring (instead of a pin/plaque), which I now wear with pride. I was particularly happy to have Charlie Ford join me on the stage to represent our district as this was his last International Convention as Executive Director.

Of course, a district is only as “distinguished” as its individual



members. LaMissTenn has the best! I wish I could personally thank each and every one of you who helped with your time, talent and treasures during my year as governor. Specifically, I thank those who helped open new clubs (MUST give a shout out to Rogena Woods-Mitchell!), those who travelled to our areas hit by hurricanes and other natural disasters, those who helped organize and host Regional meetings, and those who on an every day basis make this district the greatest in all of Kiwanis International.

I am looking forward to our District Convention in August and I hope to see many of you there. We are growing in LaMissTenn and ask

each of you to invite two persons a month to join your club. You'll hear more about this program at District Convention from President-Elect Bert West. Of course, not everyone you ask will join, but we won't know unless you ask. We will have many Kiwanis folks join us from around the country at Convention as we retire Charlie. We have asked them to lead workshops and share their knowledge of Kiwanis. I'm sure most of them will have unique ideas on projects, programs, fundraising, etc. New, fresh ideas are always welcome.

Although I will no longer be on the district Executive Board, I will be around as Risk Manager – my dear friend, Chuck Morgan, is retiring from that position after many years. His are truly some big shoes to fill. As I ride off into the sunset as a past governor, I wish you all love, happiness and joy as we serve the children of the world. God bless!

What if Your Club had More Members?

By Bruce Hammatt, Governor-Elect



Wow, Joy and I had a great time in Indianapolis where the main office of Kiwanis International is located. It was the location of the 2022 Kiwanis International Convention. After two years of canceled, or totally modified versions of the normal education, business, and fun activities, it was fabulous to come together to celebrate another year with our friends we have grown to know from all over the world.

The International Convention and education sessions were packed full of valuable information from learning about young children's brain development to helping your club do a community assessment.

From improving your Service Leadership Programs to answering the question of what if you had more club members helping with your existing projects to make them more relevant and effective, we were enlightened.

What would happen to your club "if" you had more club members? No matter how much excitement you can generate about new fundraising ideas or about new service projects similar to those happening all around the world, everything boils down to membership numbers. No matter how much you want to improve your community, it takes manpower to make those improvements happen. It takes participating members.

What if each of our friends in our own club had the same likes and dislikes? What if everybody wanted to be club treasurer, but nobody wanted to be the club president or secretary. The club would not get much done. It takes a variety of in-

dividuals to actually make a club function, grow and prosper.

You may say that you already knew this bit of information, but just how, as an individual, can you help gain members for your club?

What you need to do is come to the District Convention being held this year in Baton Rouge starting the first Friday in August. This will be a very special meeting that will include a Who's Who of Kiwanis leadership coming to say bye to Charlie after 46 years+ of his dedicated service to the District. International president-designate Bert West and President-Elect designate Katrina Baranko along with Executive Director Stan Soderstrom will top a long list of local and international Kiwanians leading work and education sessions.

So you want to learn how to get new members into your club? Well come listen to Bert and Katrina talk about the new *Two Plus Two Program* . . . and have a little fun roasting Charlie as well! See you there!

Region III Trustee Runs for Governor-Elect

By Rogena Woods-Mitchell, Region III Trustee



From the moment that I received the Kiwanis scholarship from the Pascagoula Club as a high schooler, I knew that there was something special and amazing about that group of individuals.

Although I did not know any of the club members at the time, I realized that this was a group of men and women from my community that saw something in me and made an investment in my future. I have never forgotten that gift. Nor have I forgotten my pledge that day. My pledge was simple: if I moved back home after college, I would join that Kiwanis Club and invest in a child, just like me. Therefore, in June 2006, I joined the Kiwanis Club of Pascagoula and I have not looked back!

People have asked me why I am running for Governor-Elect. The answer is simple. I love my district! I really do! But love can't simply be said, it must be shown. And what better way to show that love than by serving each and every member, club and division to the best of my ability as your Governor for the 2023-24 administrative year.

Over the past 16 years, I have served in club leadership, as Lieutenant Governor and I currently serve as the District Trustee for the Magnolia Region. I am also very proud to represent our Great and Historic Louisiana Mississippi West Tennessee District as a member of the Kiwanis International staff. I bring this wealth of local and international experience to the position of Governor-Elect.

However, in order for our district to grow and thrive we must all work together. Although, we have all had some challenging experiences over the last couple of years in our clubs, our divisions and the district as a whole; sometimes we must say "Suck it up Buttercup" (even to

ourselves). We say this because in spite of the challenges, kids can't wait. They need us now. We can't as a district live in the past. Our clubs must stay strong and healthy and move forward in order for them to be able to make the investments in kids that they so desperately need. We have to look towards our future. That's why if elected my focus will be to:

- Promote Membership Growth & Retention
- Develop Healthy New & Established Clubs
- Encourage Leadership Development
- Support Increased Connections with Service Leadership Programs

We can do this together. I will be honored and humbled to serve this district that I love as your Governor-Elect. Please vote for me, Rogena "Buttercup" Mitchell for Governor-Elect on August 7th at our District Convention.



LaMissTenn Recognized as Distinguished Kiwanis District

The LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis International was recognized as Distinguished at the International Convention held in Indianapolis from June 9-11. Patrice Cusimano was recognized as a Distinguished Governor for the 2020-21 year.



Members of the LaMissTenn District attend the Distinguished Governor and District dinner where Immediate Past Governor Patrice Cusimano was honored.



2022-2023 Lieutenant Governor Training

Training for the 2022-2023 LaMissTenn Lieutenant Governors took place from May 13-14 in Baton Rouge at the Crowne Plaza. Our Lieutenant Governors are prepared to kick off the 2022-2023 Kiwanis Year!



Pictured from left to right on the back row are: Div. 13 Lt. Gov. Clay Drewes, Div. 10C Lt. Gov. Ralph Carter, Div. 8E Lt. Gov. Donna Leggett, Div. 8W Lt. Gov. MaLisa York, Div. 7 Lt. Gov. John Gherardi, Div. 1C Lt. Gov. Oscar Brown, and Div. 10B Lt. Gov. Albert White. Pictured from left to right on the front row are: Div. 17 Lt. Gov. Debbie Stevens, Div. 4A Lt. Gov. Kristine Koepf, Div. 15 Lt. Gov. Lorri Alles, Div. 4B Lt. Gov. Jillian Wohlgenuth, Div. 1A Lt. Gov. John Lowrance and Div. 12 Lt. Gov. Joel Davidson.

Official Call to LaMissTenn Kiwanis Annual Convention

By Charlie Ford, Executive Director

It is my pleasure to announce that the 2021-2022 Annual Convention of the Great and Historic Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International will be held the weekend of August 5-7, 2022, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge.

All Kiwanians are invited – and encouraged!! – to attend this District Convention – to see old friends and learn what’s new in Kiwanis. 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.

As many of you know by now, I will be retiring at the end of this Kiwanis Year – and special things are being planned to make sure that I will in fact

be retiring. A few of the Past Governors have let that word out – and have invited a number of the past, present, and future leaders of Kiwanis International to the convention, as I put it, to make sure that I am gone! They phrase it a bit differently, saying that these Kiwanis Leaders have appreciated the job that I have done for the La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District and they want to be a part of the retirement party.

In the 46+ years as your District Secretary, I have indeed made many friends in Kiwanis, not just in La.-Miss.-W.Tenn., but throughout the world. And I am indeed humbled by so many Kiwanis friends wanting to be here. I do hope that the clubs in the District have a similar appreciation for

what I have done and will also want to be here for the retirement party on Saturday night. Needless to say, it will be very interesting and humorous.

Because of the potential number of Kiwanis wanting to attend Saturday night only, we will offer a special ticket for that night only. The normal registration form/process covers the entire convention. The form for Saturday night only and the normal convention registration can be found on pages 11-13 and also on the LaMissTenn website at www.lamisstenn.org.

Please share this information with your fellow club members and encourage all members to attend.



LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention

Crowne Plaza Hotel

August 5 to 7, 2022 In Baton Rouge, La.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN Baton Rouge...

Friday - August 5th

- * District Organizations meetings
- * Presidents/Incoming Presidents meeting
- * Club Secretary Training
- * District Foundation Gift Basket Raffle
- * Opening Session of the Convention
- * Dinner on your own to explore Baton Rouge



Saturday - August 6th

- * Morning General Session
- * 3 Rounds of Workshops & Guest Outing
- * Fellowship Luncheon featuring Kiwanis International Executive Director Stan Soderstrom
- * House of Delegates & Annual Meeting of the District Foundation
- * Retirement of 2021-2022 District Officers
- * Charlie’s Retirement Party - Beach attire!

Sunday - August 7th

- * Annual Prayer Breakfast & Memorial Service
- * Closing Session with Installation of 2022-2023 District Officers
- * Brief meeting of the 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 District Boards.



A Letter from the District Convention Attendance Chair

By MiLisa York, Division 8W Lieutenant Governor



Greetings my fellow Kiwanians!

It is convention time! The 2021-2022 LaMissTenn District Convention is being held from August 5th - August 7th at the Crown Plaza Hotel located at 4728 Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

District Convention affords every attendee the opportunity to attend an array of workshops taught by knowledgeable instructors. From membership growth, to fundraising, to Youth Protection and so much more, you will not only learn how to strengthen your club, but you will learn how to strengthen yourself as a Kiwanian.

But District Convention is not

only about attending workshops, but it also gives you a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet some of the elite from Kiwanis International! This year we have the distinct honor of welcoming Bert West, the 2022-2023 Kiwanis International President as well as Katrina Barano, Kiwanis International President-Elect. You will rub elbows with 2021-2022 LaMissTenn District Governor Rick Latiolais, Past LaMissTenn District Governor Patricia Cusimano and the past and current officers of the LaMissTenn District. You will see old friends, but you will make new friends. District Convention provides each attendee great networking opportuni-

ties and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Lastly, you will have fun! This year in honor of the retirement of LaMissTenn District Executive Director, Charlie Ford, there will be a dinner party held in his honor on Saturday, August 6th. We will dress in island attire, sip Mai Tais and dance the night away! Maybe we can even get Charlie to karaoke! So, as you can see not only is District Convention full of educational opportunities, but we have a lot of fun too!

I encourage each of you to attend the 2021-2022 LaMissTenn District Convention. It is a small investment to make in the lives of the children and communities you serve.

For more information, please go to www.lamisstenn.org/dcon.

Yours in Service,

MiLisa C. York

Division 8W Lieutenant Governor

2021-2022 LaMissTenn District

Convention Attendance Chair





CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Annual Convention of the La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District of Kiwanis International
Crowne Plaza Hotel - Baton Rouge, La. - August 5-7, 2022

PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY - OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED!

Name _____
First (for name badge) Last

Kiwanis Club _____

Spouse/Guest (only if registering) _____

Youth Name(s) & Age(s) - (only if registering) _____

Daytime Phone _____ **Fax No.** _____

E-mail address _____

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM!

Check, payable to "Kiwanis District Convention"

Credit or Debit Card

Name as it appears on card _____ **Billing Zip Code** _____

Card No _____ **Exp. Date (xx/xxxx)** _____

Signature _____

Check if applicable: First Time LAMWT Convention Attendee
 2021-2022 Club President
 2022-2023 Club President

REGISTRATION FEES:		Fee if postmarked/faxed...				
NOTE: All Kiwanians, Spouses, & Guests must be registered to participate!	How Many	BY July 15th	AFTER July 15th	ON-SITE FEES	TOTAL FEES:	
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:	[]	160.00	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 for 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 5th						
Dinner on your own on after the Friday Night Opening Session						
SATURDAY, August 6th						
(1) Past District Officers Breakfast (open to all)	[]	26.00	27.50	[] 30.00	\$	
(2) Spouse/Guest Options: <i>Select ONE option only!</i>						
Option 1: Spouses' Program outside hotel-with lunch	[]	30.00	32.50	[] 35.00	\$	
Option 2: Fellowship Lunch at the hotel	[]	40.00	42.50	[] 45.00	\$	
(3) Saturday night "Charlie Ford's Retirement Party!!"	[]	60.00	62.50	[] 65.00	\$	
Optional: Appropriate beach or very casual attire						
SUNDAY, August 7th						
(4) Prayer Breakfast & Closing Session	[]	30.00	32.50	[] 35.00	\$	

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

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

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

TOTAL FEES PAID: \$ _____

3.31.2022

- ▶ 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 KIWANIAN 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 Baton Rouge, 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 Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge is **JULY 5th**. Other events at the hotel may limit room availability. Call (225) 925-2244 (ask for the reservation desk)!

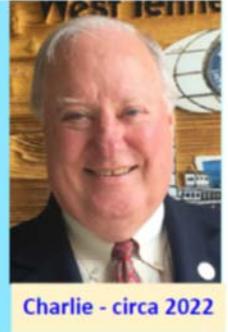
CONVENTION CANCELLATION POLICIES

- ▶ **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, 2022**.
- ▶ **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED IF REQUEST IS POSTMARKED OR FAXED AFTER JULY 29, 2022.**

8/6/2022 DINNER PARTY ONLY REGISTRATION



*46 years is long enough...
Time for some relaxation!
Happy Retirement, Charlie*



Come help Charlie Ford celebrate his retirement after 46 years of service as our District Secretary-Treasurer/Executive Director. Some of Charlie's "friends" will supply the entertainment at this Saturday night dinner party. "DJ Bob" will supply the music.

Even though Charlie does not plan to "retire to the beach," the suggested attire for the party is "casual beach attire" - or simply put - comfortable!

If you register to attend the La.-Miss.-W. Tenn. District Convention, please order your tickets for this Saturday night dinner party using the Official Convention Registration Form.

If you do not plan to register and attend the La.-Miss.-W. Tenn. Kiwanis District Convention, you can use this form to purchase tickets for this Saturday Night party

NAME: _____ SPOUSE/GUEST NAME, IF ATTENDING: _____

KIWANIS CLUB (if a member): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ Email: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ Phone Number: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____ @ \$60 EACH - AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ [] CASH/CHECK

[] CREDIT CARD: NAME ON CARD: _____ CARD NUMBER: _____

EXP. [] / [] ZIP CODE FOR CREDIT CARD, if different than mailing address: _____

DISTRICT CONVENTION SERVICE PROJECT - KIDS NEED FOOD



Together we can make a difference. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank serves eleven parishes. Feel free to bring any of the listed food items or checks. Each dollar donated can provide three meals for children in need. Food donation boxes will be located near the registration table at convention. Checks may be dropped off to a volunteer at the registration table. A representative from the Food Bank will be at our Fellowship Luncheon on Saturday.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? GET INVOLVED IN ONE OF 3 WAYS

\$ DONATE MONEY

DONATIONS ALLOW US TO FUND FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND SENIORS. JUST \$1 COULD PROVIDE FOOD EQUIVALENT TO 3 MEALS.*

• 🍏 DONATE FOOD

HOST A FOOD DRIVE, DONATE FOOD, OR COORDINATE A SPECIAL EVENT TO RAISE FOOD FOR THE FOOD BANK.

🕒 DONATE TIME

YOU CAN VOLUNTEER MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM WORKING IN THE WAREHOUSE TO HELPING IN THE OFFICE.

GET INVOLVED BY DONATING THESE FOOD ITEMS TO HELP FEED HUNGRY FAMILIES HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

- Canned Vegetables
- Breakfast Bars
- Dried Beans
- Pasta / Spaghetti
- Granola Bars
- Juice
- Canned Fruit
- Fruit Bars
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Raisins
- Cereal
- Granola
- Crackers
- Pasta Sauces
- Mixed Nuts
- Trail Mix
- Dried Fruits
- Canned Meats
- Hearty Canned Soups
- Applesauce

WHAT IS THE GREATER BATON ROUGE FOOD BANK

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that provides services across 11 different parishes. We solicit, inventory, and distribute donated products to nearly 100 member agencies that directly serve people facing hard times. In 2021, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank distributed 16.7 million meals to those in need.



- Ascension
- Assumption
- East Baton Rouge
- East Feliciana
- Iberville
- Livingston
- Point Coupee
- St. Helena
- St. James
- West Baton Rouge
- West Feliciana



Kiwaniis
LaMissTenn Foundation

LaMissTenn District Foundation
5253-B Dijon Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393
www.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. Your contribution and support are greatly appreciated.

RECEIVE

The District Foundation has awarded over \$600,000 in grants and \$400,000 in sponsored youth scholarships and leadership training.

INDULGE

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



- ❖ **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, toolbox, 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 those clubs not attending District Convention, encourage their participation by making a basket and sending it with a club that is attending.

Greetings from the Foundation

By Foundation President Jennifer Kelly-White



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.

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 or Annual Club Giving (ACG) of \$5/member; these funds assist in the form of community service grants, disaster relief grants, Key Club and Circle K scholarships and trainings, to name a few.

We are excited that the District Convention is nearing and we are

looking forward to seeing everyone again. In our Foundation room, attendees will have the opportunity to become a Friend of the Foundation and/or pay their club's ACG for the year. We would like to see more clubs get involved.

District Convention would not be complete without gift baskets! Attendees love to shop around and see what treats are available from around our district. 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! See page 15 for more information.

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. See pages 9-15 for more convention information and registration.



Start Dreaming . . . What can Your Club do with a \$10,000 SUPER GRANT?

By Cathy Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair



Announced at the start of this 2021-2022 Administrative year, one “**SUPER GRANT**” of up to \$10,000 will be available during the 2023-2024 admin year. This will require a 3 year look back for Annual Club Gifts from the clubs, in order to participate and apply. For the 61% of the clubs who have contributed this year . . . you are in the running! If you have *not yet* contributed, there is still time! Clubs will have until the end of September 2022, to be eligible for the 2023-2024 year!

So . . . start dreaming.....

Coats for all the kids in my school
 Back packs filled with healthy snacks
 Building a fishing pier at our local lake
 Creating a nature trail in our state park
 Renovate a city playground with new equipment
 Kick off a Bike for Books reading program
 Paint a Kiwanis wing at the local children's hospital
 Digital ID equipment for our schools
 Books for babies

Community Service Grants of \$2,000 and \$5,000 will still be available, until funds are depleted.



Kiwanis
LaMissTenn Foundation



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FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Help Strengthen The Foundation's Endowment Fund

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

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



Sample of lapel pin

Friend of the Foundation Donor Information Form

Name: _____

Kiwanis Club: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

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

I wish to make my donation by:

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

For Credit Card Payments:

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

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

- Monthly Quarterly Semiannually Annually

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

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





Kiwanis[®]

CHILDREN'S FUND

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

A New Way to Donate to the Kiwanis Children's Fund

My wife Cathy and I have recently returned from the Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis. After a three-year hiatus due to COVID, it was great to be able to see old friends and attend some outstanding educational workshops. One of the highlights of the convention, however, was to watch Cathy receive the newest award that was recently established by the Kiwanis Children's Fund – **The Dr. Wil Blechman Fellowship**. The fellowship commemorates the legacy of the 1990-91 Kiwanis International President who passed away in 2021.

Dr. Wil, as he was fondly known, embodied the Kiwanis motto of serving the children of the world and had a profound impact on the organization. More than any other member, he put Kiwanis on the world stage for early childhood health and development, leading the way in our successful efforts fighting iodine deficiency disorders and maternal and neonatal tetanus. A rheumatologist, Dr. Wil retired from his medical practice after serving as Kiwanis president to become a full-time advocate for children through Young Children: Priority One. Dr. Wil and his wife, Rachel, focused on pro-



Cathy Simmons receiving the Dr. Wil Blechman Fellowship award from Rachel Blechman at the Kiwanis International Convention along with Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair and Past Governor Lenny Simmons.

jects that provided families in need with essentials such as vaccinations, nutrition and reading skills.

A contribution of \$2,500 was made in Cathy's name to the Children's Fund by the **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** in recognition of her years of service as Ambassador for the Southeast Region of the Kiwanis Children's Fund and her many years as Secretary of the LAMISSTENN District Foundation. The award was presented to Cathy by Dr. Wil's wife, Rachel.

And Remember . . .

Don't forget it's not too late for your Club to make its Kiwanis Children's Fund **Annual Club Gift** for 2021-22. If you have not heard from me yet, you will receive an email in the next couple of weeks. Please stop at the Kiwanis Children's Fund Table at the LAMISSTENN District Convention in Baton Rouge (August 4-7, 2022). I look forward to talking to you about the great work that the Kiwanis Children's Fund is doing for the Children of the World and how you and your Club can help in this mission.

Exciting New Initiatives in the District

By Dorothy Kemp, Membership & Engagement Chair

Healthy Club Boot Camp

LaMissTenn is excited to launch the inaugural cohort of the LMT Healthy Club Boot Camp. Healthy Club Boot Camp is an extensive educational program designed for clubs to learn the skills needed to create and sustain healthy club membership.

Participating clubs will commit at least **2 members** to participate in the virtual sessions and complete associated assignments for each module. These members must commit to virtually attending all sessions and cannot have other members sub in their place.

The three modules are: Service, Finance and Membership. The Boot Camp will take place on the following schedule:

- October 3, 2022 @ 6 p.m. - Boot Camp Kick-off Meeting
- October 10, 2022 @ 6 p.m. - Service Module
- November 14th @ 6 p.m. - Finance Module [NOTE: This is a correction from the previous email]
- December 5th @ 6 p.m. - Membership Module
- December 12th @ 6 p.m. - Program Wrap-up

Clubs should have received invitations for registration information



as well as a club survey, but more information about sign-up will be discussed at this year's District Convention and subsequently disbursed to clubs.

For more information contact:

- Rogena Woods Mitchell,
Region III Trustee
magnoliatrusteelmt@gmail.com
228-249-9791
- Dorothy Kemp,
District Membership Chair
dorothykemp.kiwanis@gmail.com
504-343-7083



Kiwanis Two for Two

Kiwanis Two for Two provides a way for clubs to systematically approach recruitment efforts in their areas. Here's how it works:

Each club identifies two members to work in pairs to reach out to two prospects for each month. Those members identify and reach out to two prospects that month. Schedule a meeting with them to talk about the club structure, dues, and answer any questions. Then invite them to a club meeting, service project, or event!

The two members follow-up, send a reminder before the meeting and be a point of contact for any questions.

Clubs should work to identify and target a diverse group of potential members. The strongest Kiwanis clubs have a mix of skills, personalities and experiences. After all, you need different kinds of people to do everything well. Consider all the professions in your community, which are currently represented in you club, and what your club needs.

If you have any questions regarding these efforts, please feel free to reach out.

Aspire to Inspire: Damn the Torpedoes, Full Speed Ahead

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

Lots of people have heard “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead” without knowing who said it, when and why. On August 5, 1864, Admiral David Farragut was leading an attack by the Union fleet to capture Mobile and complete the naval blockade of the South. There was a minefield at the entrance to Mobile Bay. Floating barrels filled with explosives were called torpedoes at that time. As the Union fleet made its attack, one of Farragut’s ironclad ships hit a “torpedo” and sank. Other ships faltered. When told this news, Farragut said, **“Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead”** and then led the fleet through the minefield. History buffs might want to look up more complete details of the event and the quote is paraphrased.

What has this to do with Kiwanis in July 2022? More than you might imagine.

Admiral Farragut’s words and actions were not just foolish bravado. He was experienced, well-equipped and well-prepared. He possessed determination and courage. He knew the importance of



success in his mission. He knew the obstacles at hand and the difficulties they presented, but he pressed on to success.

Today in our LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis we are living with a daily, weekly, monthly and seemingly endless minefield of difficulties and stresses. You already know these “torpedoes” ... inflation with its rising costs of food, energy, etc., supply shortages, rising interest rates, increasing political discord, ongoing COVID health threats and disruptions, violence and lawlessness, an open southern border, breakdown of the rule of law and our traditional system of justice, war in Ukraine with its fear of nuclear escalation, unraveling of the econo-

my with worries about recession ... the list goes on and you can add other items.

If we are sincere in our Kiwanis mission to “improve the world one child and one community at a time,” we must somehow navigate through this minefield of disruptions and threats. As adults we have some ability to cope with all the stresses but think about the children in LaMissTenn. All these “torpedoes” causing worry, fear and stress must be incredibly ominous to many of the youngsters we serve. To be successful must we not have the conviction, courage and determination Admiral Farragut demonstrated? Must we not double our efforts to lead, guide and develop the youngsters in our communities?

As Kiwanians we have the knowledge, experience and means to identify needs and establish goals. We must remain steady at the helm, continue our efforts and press on to success.

“Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead.”

Key Leader North at Camp Lakeshore, Eva, Tenn.

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



From April 29th through May 1st, we had our 10th annual Key Leader Event at Lakeshore Camp and Retreats at Eva, TN which is located just alongside the Tennessee River. We had 13 chaperones and 37 students in attendance. These students were some of the best attendees we've ever had in that they were all so willing to open up and participate.

We also had some new chaperones who were great participants as well. We had student participants from 11 different middle and high schools and one homeschool represented. We are always complimented by our Lead Facilitator each year on the amount of diversity we have among our students. Our Lead Facilitator this year was Carol Gallagher, and she's been with us once before. She's a dynamic leader, and we enjoyed having her back again.

This year some new housing became available to us as it wasn't booked up ahead of time as it usually is. The kids and chaperones alike really enjoyed it. We stayed in two lodges which house

40 students each and 8 chaperones each. The lodges have a space in the middle for folks to congregate in a living room style setting, a one wall kitchen space and a table and chairs, and the chaperones had semi-private rooms with their own separate bath. We found out that they are available next spring on the same weekend, so our next Key Leader Event will be held on April 28-30, 2023. Mark your calendars!

Last year we began a new sponsorship program to recognize our sponsors based upon their level of giving to our Kiwanis Key Leader Program. Gold Sponsors gave \$1000 or more and received recognition by having their name placed on the back of the Key Leader tee-shirts, on the Key Leader Website and brochure, and on an individual sign placed at camp. Our Gold Sponsors include the following: LAMISSTENN District Foundation, Linda Ramsey, Bartlett Kiwanis Club, Tosh Farms, Memphis Kiwanis Club, Martin Kiwanis Club, Hilldale Kiwanis Club of Clarksville and the Clarksville

Kiwanis Club.

Our Blue Level Sponsors gave \$500 to \$1000, and they received recognition by their name being placed on the back of the Key Leader tee-shirts, on the Key Leader Website, and a sign placed at camp. Our Blue Sponsors include the following: Hope of Martin, We Care Ministries, Weakley County Reconciliation Program, Dover Kiwanis Club, Dyersburg Kiwanis Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Paducah Kiwanis Club and Jim and Dottie Mann.

Our Red Level Sponsors gave up to \$500, and they received recognition by having their name on the Key Leader Website and on a sign placed at camp. Our Red Level sponsors are the following: Germantown Kiwanis Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, Greenfield Kiwanis Club, Goolsby Real Estate, Twin Cities Kiwanis Club.

We appreciate all our sponsors, and wanted them to receive the recognition they deserved for making this leadership opportunity available to middle and high school students.

Natchitoches: Growing Our Future with K-Kids

By Kaitlyn Hamm, Natchitoches Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of Natchitoches recently engaged with K-Kids in a community project in honor of the Arbor Day holiday. The project was a partnership with the club's Service Leadership Program, the NSU Elementary Lab School K-Kids. The NSU Elementary Lab has the club's largest K-Kids club with almost 50 kids who love to give back to their community. The Kiwanis Club of Natchitoches purchased 3 rose bushes, 2 pear trees, and 1 peach tree that were planted in the Elementary Lab garden by members of both clubs. K-Kids and Kiwanians alike planted, watered, pulled weeds, and enjoyed a time of fellowship while giving back to the school. This garden grows tomatoes, kale, corn, and other food that the kids are allowed to pick and take home for their parents to cook for them. The Kiwanis Club of Natchitoches plans to continue this partnership by adding plants to their garden and helping water them while the kids are out for summer vacation.



Magnolia Trace K-Kids' Cereal Box Dominoes

By Clay Drewes, Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club

The K-Kids Club at Magnolia Trace Elementary School in Mandeville, Louisiana knows how to have fun while making a difference in their community. Club faculty advisors Laura Cangiamilla and Casey Fradella challenged their 2nd and 3rd grade students to stock the Northshore Food Bank with breakfast cereal. They understand that some students who rely on assistance for a nutritious breakfast during the school year may not be food secure during the summer break.

The K-Kids responded by collecting 163 boxes of breakfast cereal. To motivate their students, Mrs. Cangiamilla and Mrs. Fradella organized the DOMINO CHALLENGE. Students stood the cereal boxes as dominoes along the school's main corridor. The boxes stretched from the cafeteria, past the gymnasium, and through the administrative wing. Excitement peaked as the advisors counted down to trip the first cereal box. "3! 2! 1!" the K-Kids cheered as they watched one box topple the next until the last box fell.

Northshore Food Bank manager Ginger Kunkle thanked the K-Kids for accepting the Domino Challenge and stocking their cereal shelves for the summer. Magnolia Trace Elementary K-Kids are sponsored by the **Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club**.



Germantown AKtion Club Helps Local Food Kitchen

Germantown Kiwanis Club Member Tom Tompkins' Facebook Page

On April 7th, the **Germantown AKtion Club** assembled 200 bologna and cheese sandwiches to be distributed by St. Mary's Soup Kitchen in downtown Memphis. Germantown AKtion Club is affiliated with the **Germantown Kiwanis Club** and has 15 members who assembled the sandwiches in 35 minutes.



Hammond AKtion Club Keeps Aktive

By Judy Couvillion & Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

A Salute to Mother's Day

Mother's Day was observed by members of the **Hammond Kiwanis AKtion Club** by creating colorful cards with special messages to their own mothers. The AKtion Club members were enjoying the creativity of making cards so much that they made many other cards that were brought to local senior centers.



Honoring the 4th of July



Members of the **Hammond Kiwanis AKtion Club** recently enjoyed making cards honoring the nation's birthday. The brightly decorated cards will be delivered to residents of a local senior citizen center. The club meets every other week where they are joined by members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club, founders of the AKtion group.

Golden Medal Winner

Hammond Kiwanis AKtion Club member Brian Phillips proudly wears the gold medal he was awarded at the Louisiana Special Olympics USA Games. Brian is a member of the 2022 Special Olympics Louisiana Softball Team that won the gold medal at the Special Olympics USA Games held recently in Orlando, Fla.. Brian is a charter member of the Hammond Kiwanis Aktion Club which was chartered in June, 2012. Brian is a participant in programs offered through Options, a Hammond agency that supports people with disabilities. Brian is an active member in the various activities offered through the Aktion Club.



Meet the New Key Club District Administrator and Governor



Meet our new District Administrator: Judi Zimmermann

I am a KIWANIAN, the Secretary of my KIWANIS Club of Algiers, a past President of the same club, a past Lieutenant Governor of my Division of KIWANIS, the Service Leadership Chairperson of my KIWANIS Club and the KIWANIS Advisor for the Academy of Our Lady Key Club. I am very excited to be the newly appointed District Administrator for the Louisiana-Mississippi-W Tennessee District of Key Club International. My goal for the LaMissTenn District of Key Club is to help the students bring us back to the great and historic district we were in the past. Key Clubbers are amazing young people with lots of ideas and pent up energy that needs to be let loose, which they can do in Key Club. Key Club will become a presence in our communities. The students will work together as a TEAM. They will put LaMissTenn Key Club back at the forefront of Key Club International!

Meet our new Governor: Emerson Morris

Hello LaMissTenn Kiwanians! My name is Emerson Morris, and I am a Junior at St. Patrick High School in Biloxi, Mississippi. I am so excited to serve as the LaMissTenn Governor for the 2022-2023 Service Year! I have served as the Division 14A Lieutenant Governor, and this position taught me how to embrace service and leadership. I have many goals for this Service Year, including establishing a time for you, the club members, to contact me and the District Administrator each week. I also want to promote the Governor's Project, "No One's Alone", and to leave a positive legacy based on improving the mental health of students across the District. Alongside Key Club, I am an active member of Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, Cotillion Club of Gulfport, and Science Olympiad. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns! I cannot wait to help each of you achieve your goals for this upcoming year.



Ben Franklin Key Clubber Named Louisiana Student of the Year



Anita Rose Zahiri, Key Club President and senior at Ben Franklin High School in New Orleans, was recently named Student of the Year for Louisiana. Each year, public and nonpublic schools submit candidates for the honor. From that pool, the state selects 21 semifinalists in elementary, middle and high school categories who submit portfolios, complete a timed writing assignment and are interviewed.

Zahiri is also the recipient of the 2022 Sharon & Charlie Ford Key Club Scholarship in the amount of \$3,500 awarded through the LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Foundation, Inc. and will be attending Harvard University in the fall of 2022. Zahiri is an aspiring transplant surgeon.

Millington Key Clubbers Spruce up Kiwanis Park

By Mike Caruthers, Millington Kiwanis Club



Surrounded by beautiful bushes, monuments, park benches and the American Flag lies what is known as the “Bridge Over the River Dry”. This is Millington’s Kiwanis Park. The bridge has been around since the early 1980s and was built by Millington Kiwanians and the Navy’s Seabee’s. In 1985, Kiwanian Howard Olson rebuilt the bridge, and, other than being painted and rotten wood replaced, it is original. On April 24, 2022, a group of **Senior Millington Central High School Key Clubbers** met with several **Millington Kiwanians** and a future Kiwanian and spent all afternoon painting it. Faculty Advisor, Billy Bryan, furnished pizza and the Key Clubbers went to work! The bridge made a transition from being an eye sore to something that the Key Clubbers (and the city) could be proud of.



Vancleave Charts New Key Club

Vancleave Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Vancleave Kiwanis Club is excited to announce the chartering of the **Key Club of Vancleave High School!**



Broussard-Youngsville Sends Teddy Bear Love

By Cindy Herpin, Broussard-Youngsville Kiwanis Club

The Broussard Youngsville Kiwanis Club had its 2nd Annual Teddy Bear Drive during the Month of April and collected over 350 stuffed animals for the Lourdes Foundation for the Pediatric Burn Unit.



The Natchez Trace: Bowling for Scholarships

By Lorri Alles, The Natchez Trace Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of the Natchez Trace held its Annual Fundraising Bowling Tournament on Thursday, April 28th, 2022. This fundraiser is the most successful, and also the most fun annual fundraiser for the club, but had been postponed for the prior two years because of COVID. This fundraiser raised \$3,000 for local scholarships.

The event was held at River City Bowl in Natchez, Mississippi. There were a total of fourteen teams that participated. Three trophies were awarded in the following categories: Overall Division, Other Division and Best Team.



Cortana Kiwanis Cares for Kids

By Donna Leggett, Cortana Kiwanis Club

Bikes for Bringing up Grades



Cortana Kiwanis sponsors a program at Broadmoor Elementary called Bring Up Grades (BUGs). Students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades who Bring Up their Grades are rewarded at the end of the year with a BUGs certificate, prizes, pictures from a photo booth and tasty treats. The names of six lucky students were drawn to win a bicycle and a helmet. On Saturday, June 4th, eleven Cortana Kiwanis members met the lucky winners to purchase the bikes and helmets at a local store. Cortana Kiwanis is proud to work with the faculty, staff and the Little Bucs at Broadmoor Elementary!



AED Donation to Twin Oaks Elementary School

Cortana Kiwanis donated an Automated External Defibrillator to Twin Oaks Elementary School in Baton Rouge, the latest of thirteen area schools that have received an AED from the club. LaMissTenn AED Coordinator Pam Morgan, Cortana President Tom Mackey and incoming Lt. Governor Donna Leggett presented the AED to Principal Terrie Junda and Assistant Principal Russell. LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis decided to take on a long-term project that could really make a difference. It is our goal to place an AED in every school in Louisiana, Mississippi and West Tennessee. So far, over 460 AED's have been provided by Kiwanis Clubs, and six lives have been saved by Kiwanis donated AED's.

Pictured at the presentation of an AED from the Cortana Kiwanis Club to Twin Oaks Elementary School are, from left, LaMissTenn AED Coordinator Pam Morgan, Incoming Lt. Governor Donna Leggett, Cortana President Tom Mackey, Principal Terrie Junda and Assistant Principal Russell.



The Dawn Busters: A Plethora of Community Service

By Cathy Burke & Mel Dussel, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club

Rewards for Reading Back in Action

This Spring semester, after a year and a half of COVID, the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club**, was "finally" able to meet and greet, boys and girls in 8 of our 26 schools on the East Bank of Jefferson Parish. The club has sponsored what is called now, the Dawn Busters Kiwanis Rewards for Reading Program, in all 56 Jefferson Parish Public Elementary Schools for grades K - 5. Basically, a child reads a book, takes a test on what he/she has read, and then they receive a ticket for a drawing held twice per year where the club rewards readers for their efforts. It started very small, 12 schools on the East Bank of the river, and now, we are in all of the 56 schools ... East Bank, West Bank, and even Grand Isle.

The excitement was unbelievable ... we did our presentations in front of the entire student body, and in many cases, this was the very first



time that these schools had all of their students together ... it was very special to all. Usually we give out new bikes, MP4 players, etc., but because of the lateness in securing the presentation times, we gave at each school: 8 Walmart gift cards (4 @ \$60.00 each and 4 @ \$20.00) to students that read at least one book, which was roughly 98% of all of the students. We have found over the last 16 years that these incentives work! At each school, we also gave away to the top boy and girl reader, coupons for various things, a backpack with the Dawn Buster logo sewn on, basketballs from the NCAA Women's Final 4, certificates for free kids meals at Raising Canes, free passes to Adventure Quest Laser Tag, and free buffets to CiCi's Pizza in all of the 8

schools. In all of the East Bank schools, we gave away, over \$2,000 of Walmart Gift Cards, 15,000 Ci-Ci's Pizza free buffets, 15,000 free passes to Adventure Quest Laser Tag, 5,000 gift booklets for Papa John's Pizza, and 25 MP4 Players.

Next year, we expect to be back in all 56 schools, and our "mascots" that usually come with us will be back, along with giving away over 150 new bikes, etc. In the last 16 years, it is estimated that we have given out, in value, well over \$20,000,000 (twenty million) to boys and girls in the Jefferson Parish Public School system, as an incentive to read. We will "never" stop doing this project ... it is the best thing that we have ever done!

Continued on Page 31 . . .



The Dawn Busters: A Plethora of Community Service Continued . . .

Dawn Busters Work with Youth in the Community to Host First Annual Bunny Fest

On Saturday, April 16th, the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club** hosted the First Annual Bunny Fest (Easter Egg Hunt) in Lafreniere Park. Lafreniere Park Management asked the Dawn Busters for help when another organization canceled two weeks before the event. Being Dawn Busters, our club came together, and due to the strenuous efforts of Sal La Rock, Mark Dominick, and Mike Haffner, the club was able to put together a fantastic event in 2 weeks. Over 1,000 kids were able to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. The Dawn Busters could not have pulled this event off without the help of the **Ecole Classique Builders Club and Key Club**. The Ecole Classique Students stepped up to assemble 6,000 Easter eggs. **The Jefferson Parish Youth Leadership Council/Key Club** stepped up to help the day of the event by wearing costumes, painting faces, working the games, and helping to distribute candy. This event was an excellent example of Kiwanians working together with the youth in the community to make a difference.



Key Club Scholarships Awarded

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis distributed \$10,000 in scholarships this spring to worthy Key Club Members. The club is very proud of the Key Club Members and Sponsors.

Dawn Busters Kiwanis Key Club Scholarship Recipients:

Ecole Classique

- Kaleb Nickel Schulman
- Ava Haskins Lynn
- Kaitlyn Elizabeth Schroeder

Kenner Discovery

- Claire Elizabeth Clement
- Corinne Katherine Folse

Mt. Carmel Academy

- Gabrielle M. Carter (*District Kiwanis Key Club Leadership Scholarship Recipient*)
- Laura Ann Grossimon
- Emma Elizabeth Lucas

East St. Mary Kiwanis: Doing Great Things!

By Tracey Scarbrough, East St. Mary Kiwanis Club

Hold on to Your Fishing Poles!

Kiwanis of East St Mary had a great turnout at its annual Kiwanis Fishing Rodeo held in May 2022. The event was held at Lake End Park in Morgan City. There were 272 little anglers who participated in the event for a chance at winning a trophy for the top 10 biggest catch in each 4 categories: Bass, Perch, Catfish and Mystery Fish (snakes were not allowed but there were a few freshwater eels!). Weigh Master Jerry Hartley carefully weighed each slippery capture brought in by the anglers.

The rodeo began at 9:30 a.m. Participants were supplied with bait and fishing poles. Kiwanians were kept busy with fishing pole line repair and removing fish from poles. Final weigh in at 11:15 was followed by raffle prizes and awards. Participants enjoyed hotdogs, cookies and snacks as well.

A 5th category was added this year for the Biggest Catch of the Day in honor of Kiwanian Susan K. Aucoin, who passed away in 2021. Susan and her husband, Blane, have organized the event from inception.



Trivia Night was out of Sight!



We're back! After a two year hiatus from our annual Trivia Night, **East St. Mary Kiwanis Club** held Trivia Night in March at the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium. Ninety-six teams with six people per team participated in this high-spirited event raising \$33,973 to be used for community service projects.

Only one team could win and the competition was fierce! Ten categories with ten questions to answer were carefully tallied by a secret handful of sharp Kiwanians and CPA's. Teams also picked themes for their tables and dressed the part for a chance of winning a free table at next year's Trivia

Night by receiving the most "likes" on Facebook.

Game Day Pizza supplied pizza, popcorn and snacks. Kiwanians sold soft drinks and adult beverages. Jell-o shots were a big hit and aided each team's ability to compete with enthusiasm. A silent auction was held and 50/50 tickets were sold. After the Trivia winners were announced, tables and chairs were moved for the DJ and dancing.

We owe the success of Trivia Night to our Kiwanis volunteers (it takes everyone), community sponsors and our head chairperson, Debbie Stevens.

Greenfield & Martin Clubs Provide Food for Tornado Victims

By Linda Ramsey, Greenfield & Martin Kiwanis Clubs

On Friday, April 22nd and Saturday, April 23, members of the **Greenfield and Martin Kiwanis Clubs** partnered with First Pentecostal Church and McConnell Baptist Church to provide mobile food pantries for the Dresden, Tenn. tornado victims and others in the surrounding Weakley County area who were affected by the storm. The food pantries supplied those in need until noon each day. Volunteers arrived early each day to unload food and prepare for distribution. On Saturday, a member from the **Union City Kiwanis Club** and the **Martin Westview**

Key Club Advisor along with two Key Clubbers helped as well.

The people served on Friday walked down a path of pallets of food pulling wagons, carts, shopping carts and carrying boxes to be filled with food items. They selected food items from pallets of bags of onions, potatoes, cartons of eggs, cottage cheese, milk, bags of produce, canned goods, etc. and put them into their containers as if they were shopping for food.

The entire time, there were folks lined up in a waiting line until the very last. We were able to serve everyone who came through the line.

On Saturday, the people served were asked to drive their vehicles down a set path lined by the pallets of food (containing the same variety of supplies as on Friday) on both sides of the line. Volunteers loaded bags of food into the backs of the vehicles as they drove down the lane.

The entire time, the car waiting line was as far as the eye could see until the very last. Everyone was served and each lady received a bouquet of flowers.

The food was funded by the Greenfield and Martin Kiwanis Clubs, Kroger, M & W Logistics, and a state grant.



Second Harvest Food Bank provided bagged onions, tomatoes, potatoes, eggs, cottage cheese, coffee, water, snacks and produce boxes.

Three hundred seven families consisting of 973 individuals received more than 25,000 pounds of food. Both events were very humbling to realize just how many folks are in need.



Hammond Kiwanis: Improving the World

By Judy Couvillion & Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

Happy Pack Program

The Hammond Kiwanis Club recently concluded another school year of its Kiwanis Happy Pack Program at Woodland Park School. During the past year the Happy Pack team loaded and delivered 3,864 bags of food items for the young pupils at the school who might not have otherwise had something to eat on the weekends. Each bag contained 10 food items resulting in 38,864 individual food items purchased and bagged during the year.

Judy Couvillion who spearheads the Happy Pack Program said of this effort, “this was just one way that our club did its part to, ‘improve the world one child and one community at a time.’”

For the second straight year, Kiwanians were not allowed to physically enter the school because of precautions brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Each week Kiwanis members would load the bags, place them in large plastic tubs labeled for each classroom, and the tubs would then be distributed by the school’s janitorial staff.

However, at the end of school, when Vic and Judy Couvillion were allowed to visit the school to bring a book to each child, they were allowed to once again visit the classrooms. The pupils were overjoyed to once again meet the “happy pack people” and they expressed their thanks through clapping, cheering and hugging the visitors.



Club member and chairman of the Happy Pack Program Judy Couvillion gets a huge “thank you!” from some of the children who were served during the year. Through the generosity of the Tangipahoa Parish Library System hundreds of children’s books were donated to the club. In every classroom, the teachers mentioned how excited the kids were to get their backpacks every week.

Kiwanians to the Rescue

The center that serves the senior citizens in Hammond was extensively damaged by Hurricane Ida. Repairs to the facility, the Hammond Senior Citizen Center, were recently completed and much of the furnishings and equipment inside the building had to be discarded because of mold and other problems. Members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** volunteered their time and “muscle power” to load dumpsters that carried off the debris.



Hammond Kiwanis Club members Mayson Foster, John Bergeron and Jay Johnson just finished loading the last set of tubs loaded with the Kiwanis Happy Packs. These three Kiwanians are part of a larger team that loads the bags every Thursday.



Hammond Kiwanis: Improving the World Continued . . .

Fun, Food and Fellowship

In late May, the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** held a social at the home of member Jon Yeager and his wife Mariana. 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 Jon Yeager, two amateur chefs who enjoy coking. The main entre was brisket, sausage and pulled pork cooked by Eric Dosch. In addition to the barbecue, Yeager boiled several sacks of crawfish that proved to be a crowd pleaser.

Complementing the main entrees were delicious dishes too numerous to enumerate. Drawing special attention was the charcuterie board beautifully prepared by Mariana Yeager. Members indulged on the many “goodies” that were available for sampling. The gathering was once again an opportunity for Kiwanians to get away from home for a few hours to enjoy fellowship with fellow Kiwanians and members of their families.



Natchitoches Helps Boy Scout Earn Eagle Badge

By Kaitlyn Hamm, Natchitoches Kiwanis Club

The **Kiwanis Club of Natchitoches** recently engaged in a recycling project to help a local Boy Scout, Koda Deblieux, receive his Eagle Scout badge. Koda needed to collect 500 pounds of plastic between the months of March and May. As a graduating senior at Natchitoches Central High School, Koda wanted to give back to his school by sending the plastic to a company that would turn the plastic into a bench that he would then donate to the school. The Kiwanis Club began helping him collect in mid-April and by mid-May, two weeks before his deadline, Koda had surpassed his goal! The bench will be sent to Koda in late July/early August when a dedication ceremony will be held at the high school.



Koda Deblieux in front of the collected plastic.



Laurel Kiwanis Pancake Day Equals Scholarships

By Rhonda Gilbert and Melita Wade Thorpe, Laurel Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Club of Laurel, Mississippi held its annual city-wide Pancake Day on Saturday, December 4, 2021. The Kiwanis Club members, Key Club volunteers and many other inspired helpers served in two locations in Laurel: The YWCO and First Baptist Church. Folks lined up for a filling breakfast and to contribute to the club's ongoing educational causes. Each Spring, local high school Seniors are awarded scholarships and, in the Fall, all Jones County 3rd Graders are given multiplication and division flashcards.

Pancake Day has been an annual Laurel Kiwanis Club fundraiser for many years. In 2020, the pandemic caused a one-year delay, which was the first time it had ever been cancelled. Even with the cancellation, the club was still able to fund its scholarships and flashcards in 2021. The club resumed the fundraiser in December 2021 with extra special

assistance from local citizens, out-of-town visitors and Kiwanis regional volunteers.

On May 18 and 25, 2022, Laurel Kiwanis Club held recognition luncheons for the 2022 scholarship recipients and their family members. Three seniors from each of the local five high schools in Laurel received \$500 each for a total of \$7,500. Students were honored for their achievements and their graduation from high school. Pictured below are the recipients.

The next Pancake Day will be Saturday, December 3, 2022 at the above locations. All Kiwanis members from the District are invited to attend. For more information about the event, please contact Club Secretary, Rhonda Gilbert at rgilbert@jonescountymedical.com.



Laurel Kiwanis Club Scholarship recipients from left to right: Brody Beach, West Jones; Grant Carmichael, Laurel High; Ashlyn Albritton, Laurel Christian; Hailey Brown, Northeast Jones; Emilie Coats, Laurel Christian; Katie Fletcher, West Jones; Mary Rogers, South Jones; Alexis Lindsey, Laurel High; Kency Sanders, West Jones; and Alexander Booth, Laurel High.



Orange Grove Sponsors Bike Safety

By Rhett Hamiter, Orange Grove Kiwanis Club

The **Orange Grove Kiwanis Club** sponsored a bike Safety Helmet program at Bel-Aire Elementary School in Gulfport, Miss. on Friday, May 20th. The helmets were supplied through a grant to the MS Department of Rehabilitation Services with Allison Lowther and Deleslyn Robertson presenting the program "Use Your Brain." This event was at the start of the school's field day activities. The summer vacation begins soon and these multi-activity helmets will be an important safety resource.

Kiwanis Club of Long Beach Member Honored

By Don Fimiano, Long Beach Kiwanis Club

Article published in Long Beach Breeze Newspaper March 2022 issue, www.longbeachbreeze.com

Recently the Kiwanis Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International held the mid-year regional meeting on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with members from all three states participating. The meeting was an educational seminar for members, district officers and regional officers. Rogena Woods-Mitchell, Region III Trustee mentioned the Kiwanis motto “Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.” The seminar discussed ideas on club improvement and how to provide more effective community service.

Long Beach Kiwanis Club member Howard Lock was honored with two Distinguished Kiwanis awards. Howard Lock, a US Navy retiree with twenty-eight years of Kiwanis dedicated community service, received the Distinguished Kiwanian and Distinguished Secretary awards for 2021. Long Beach Kiwanis President, Ingrid Miscavage states, “Howard Lock, Secretary of Long Beach Kiwanis Club, is affectionately known by us and most clubs in the Louisiana-Mississippi and West Tennessee Kiwanis District as Mr. Kiwanis. His knowledge of the history and workings of Kiwanis is expansive, and he actively shares it.”

Howard states, “Receiving the awards is not an individual award; they are Long Beach Kiwanis Club awards.” He graciously thanks the Long Beach Kiwanis Club for their dedication to the City of Long Beach, the students,



Region III Trustee Rogena Woods-Mitchell and Howard Lock. Rogena proudly displays her tee shirt which was gifted to her by Howard.

and our active Long Beach High School Key Club. Howard’s service in Long Beach keeps him active in the community. He supports the High School Key Club and collaborates with the Key Club faculty sponsors Aimie Chambliss and Karen Ramsey. Howard has received many awards since joining the Kiwanis organization in 1994. He stated over the years, “I have been honored to receive several awards but the one I am most proud of being honored with is the Kiwanis District Secretary in 2016-2017. That year we had 129 club secretaries.”

Howard is appreciated by many people in the City of Long Beach and the Kiwanis organization. Long Beach Kiwanis Treasurer, Deb Kurts states,

“Howard eats, sleeps, and breathes Kiwanis. He is an exemplary secretary and takes his position very seriously. He is prompt and timely completes reports. He maintains contact with each member and enjoys collaborating with the schools and supporting the youth of Long Beach. For many years Howard coached and sponsored league sports. The Kiwanis Club of Long Beach is lucky to have Howard. The Long Beach Club is grateful to have him as an officer and takes immense pride in his accomplishments.”

If you would like to meet Howard or learn more about the Kiwanis Club, we meet every Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Grace Lutheran Church, 19221 Pineville Rd, Long Beach.

New Orleans Celebrates 103 Years with Getting Back to Service

By Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

In March of 1919, Kiwanis International chartered their 127th club Over the next 103 years, the **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** has served the Greater New Orleans community with thousands of projects. As we celebrated our recent anniversary, we kicked off Spring of 2022 with just a few more:

- Back to the 80's Dance at St. Michael Special School
- Spring Fling for families of Angels' Place
- Key Club Honor Night
- Tornado relief for St. Bernard/Arabi area
- Summer Hygiene Kits for homeless High School Students
- Mardi Gras in May Dance with clients of Magnolia Services



Northshore Mandeville Paints Playground Map

By Clay Drewes, Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club

When 2nd and 3rd grade students return to Lyon Elementary School in Covington, LA for the new school year, they will notice a bright new addition to their school. The **Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club** painted a colorful map of the United States on their recess playground. Kiwanis members completed the 35-foot wide map in four bright primary colors. Teachers will use it as a fun instructional aide as students learn about geography, history, art, and science.



The Kiwanis Club has donated similar maps to other schools and public sites around Mandeville, LA. Plans are to complete three more maps just like this one before school starts in the fall.



Pointe Coupee has Successful Jambalaya Fundraiser

By Division 8W Lieutenant Governor MiLisa York

In May, Lt. Governor MiLisa York traveled to New Roads, LA and spent time with the **Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee** at their Jambalaya Dinner Fundraiser. The fellowship was wonderful and the food was delicious. Thank you so much for the invitation President Kenneth St. Romain. This club may be small in member numbers but they do big work for this community.

Southwest Contraband: Just a Swinging

By Past Governor Eva Abate, Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club

While visiting our sponsored elementary school, M.J. Kaufman, Lake Charles, LA, **Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club** members asked for another project that would help the students at the school.

The Principal, Ms. Deason, said that she would let us know what was needed after speaking with a few of the teachers. They requested a swing for special needs students.

The Special Education teacher did some research with the Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist through the School Board and received

approval for a JennSwing Adaptive swing. The teacher connected me to the vendor that other schools in the parish had used.

I was able to order the swing with ease. When I received it I then delivered it to M J Kaufman Elementary. The maintenance department for the school board installed the swing on an existing swing set. The disabled student was now able to swing with his classmates.

The teacher did mention that the students would come and play with the disabled student but of course it wasn't nearly as powerful as swinging with him.



Pointe Coupee Maintains False River Buoy System

By Jeffrey Heaton, Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Club

Making weight is a term used in wrestling to mean what wrestlers do in order to make their weight class. It involves sweat and time. Wrestlers have been known to rest on steam pipes in order to sweat out the weight. **The Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee** spent an hour or so recently making weight(s). It takes a lot of sweat and a little time thanks to ample volunteers including Kenneth St. Romain, George LaMarche, Tom Robinson, Daryl Patin, Walter Morrison and Jeff Heaton. For the Kiwanis Club making weight(s) means pouring cement into large containers topped with a strong chain to create 350-pound anchors that attach to buoys in False River.

The Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee Parish maintains the buoy system on False River. This system requires continuous work of re-capturing "orphan" buoys and returning them to their designated spot on the river. An orphan buoy is one that has broken loose from its weight and washes up on the bank or is secured by homeowners along the river who contact Kiwanis to pick them up. The Kiwanis Club refurbishes orphan buoys and also purchases buoys to replace missing or damaged buoys in the system. As you may already know, the buoy system is set up with numbered orange buoys, even numbers on the New Roads side and odd numbers on the island side, so as to have designated numbers the entire length of the lake.

The numbered buoy system was set up to facilitate locating a boat or swimmer in trouble. The Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Office and the Louisiana De-



partment of Wildlife and Fisheries assisted in setting up the system. If someone reports a problem near a buoy number to the 911 system, the operator has the coordinates of that buoy and can expedite a response. White no wake buoys are located in-between orange buoys. There are approximately 220 buoys on False River. Each buoy and its associated hardware represent an investment of about \$200.

Making weight(s) is one of the more laborious tasks required to maintain the False River Buoy System. Positioning buoys on crisp clear wind-free mornings is one of the more glorious tasks.

The False River Buoy Program began in 1994 after a series of boating accidents. The Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury asked the Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee to develop the system with material funding from the Parish and other entities. Since the mission of the club is to improve the community (especially our youth), this challenge was accepted. The Kiwanis volunteers

researched and learned how best to establish the system and then built it. Funding came from the Police Jury, City of New Roads, Parish Fire Districts and the Sheriff's office. Kiwanis volunteers spend countless hours maintaining the system.

Many hours are required because storms, floods and drawdowns tend to damage the system requiring buoy replacements, repositions and other maintenance. For example, the flood of August 2016 took the lake over six feet above normal and an estimated one third of the buoys broke free and were lost or damaged beyond repair.

The picture above depicts the Kiwanis barge headed out for buoy maintenance. You can see both the white no-wake buoys and the orange marker buoys. Not quite visible behind the buoys are the 350-pound weights used to anchor the buoys. The circular drum towards the front of the barge holds the stainless-steel cable used to attach the weight to the buoy. Variable

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Pointe Coupee Maintains False River Buoy System Continued . . .

lengths of cable are needed depending on the water depth at each buoy location. Orange marker buoys are placed on exact coordinates using GPS so that a boater in trouble can relay the number of the buoy to the 911 dispatcher who can then look up the coordinates and immediately know the exact location.



This picture shows damages typical from the August 2016 flood. The high water, wind and wave action are estimated to have damaged at least one third of the buoy system. The conditions caused the buoys to break free of the anchoring weights. In some cases, when the break point is under the buoy, it renders the buoy useless. Damages shown here like cracks and dismemberment occur when buoys are driven by wind and waves into hard structures after breaking loose from the anchor weights. The associated weights and cables are also not salvageable. Undamaged or salvageable orphan buoys are recovered, rehabilitated and returned to service by the Kiwanis volunteers.

We do not know how many accidents the buoy system has avoided, how many rescues it has enabled or how many lives have been saved. We do know that avoiding even one accident, facilitating one rescue or saving one life makes the system worthwhile. Thank you to the members of the Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee, both past and present, as well as the vision and dedication of Parish leaders to make this system possible.

And now, as the **great Paul Harvey** used to say, for **the rest of the story** - The Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee was formed in late 1977. The initial motivation of the club's founding fathers was to help improve False River, the approximately 14-mile oxbow lake known as one of the best fishing lakes in Louisiana. At one point the lake was known as a "trophy" lake because of the density of the bass population. It lost that status in 1998 according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries which conducts regular fish population surveys.

The City of New Roads, Louisiana, proud home of the Parish Courthouse, sits on the northern bank of the lake. New Roads is also home of the majestic St. Mary's Catholic Church located on the landside of False River Drive, and providing, along with the Courthouse, a beautiful landmark for boaters searching for the public landing. Many Kiwanis volunteers are members of the church and serve the community through Kiwanis as part of their personal ministry.

Unfortunately, on the lakeside of the church, between the church and the lake, a city dump was located in the

1950's, spoiling the view and contributing to water contamination. In 1978, the newly-formed Kiwanis Club decided to make this their first community project.

One member in particular, Daryl Patin, made it his passion to lead this project. Working with the City and Club volunteers, the junk automobiles were removed along with tires and other trash. Clean fill was brought in and the area graded to prepare a foundation for a new park. Daryl enlisted his architect brother, Fabian Patin, to design a large gazebo overlooking the public boat launch and False River. Daryl and several other members of the Club took out a \$40,000 loan to fund the construction. The gazebo was built in 1980 along with an official sign naming the area: St Mary's Kiwanis Park. An LSU student made a 3D model of the park and took it to the Kiwanis International meeting which happened to be in New Orleans that year. It won first prize. Over the years, the Club has used the Park for chicken and jambalaya dinner fundraisers. It is also a popular site for open air marriage ceremonies. Recently, one of the Kiwanis members was married there. St. Mary's Kiwanis Park is the only public park with access to False River. What was once an eyesore in the middle of the city, is now a beautiful spot.



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Pointe Coupee Maintains False River Buoy System Continued . . .

Of course, the \$40,000 loan had to be paid off. So, the young Kiwanis Club began a tradition of sponsoring boating events to raise money. In 1980 the Club began the current tradition of an annual fishing tournament on the third Sunday in March open to all fishermen. It started off with 20 boats or so and gradually worked up to a high of 140 in 2003. In 2022, the 42nd tournament, had 64 boats and a record catch of 234 bass weighing over 500 pounds. The Big Bass prize went to a 9.04 lb. fish and the best 5-fish string won at 19.6 lbs.

In 2002-3, the Club partnered with the New Roads Lion's Club to sponsor a speed boat race. It was a huge undertaking that brought boats and onlookers from across the country. The event overwhelmed the entire lake community and remains the subject of oft-told stories even today. The speed boat race enabled the Club to pay off the loan for the St. Mary's Kiwanis Park.

In the 1990's, tournament attendance waned as False River began to experience water quality problems and deteriorating fish habitat. After some study by the biologists at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries it



Cooking chicken dinners at St Mary's Kiwanis Park early one morning

was determined that years of abusive sedimentation from surrounding fields had ruined the shallow water bottoms and reduced the recreational value of the lake. The Kiwanis Club teamed with City Officials, Parish leaders and State officials to plan and implement corrective measures. The recent tournament catch is testimony to the success of this group of community-centered leaders over the last 20 years.

Boating safety became another community issue that the Kiwanis Club tackled in the 1990's. Boaters were inadvertently hitting piers or each other as they entered or exited the lake. After obtaining advice from the Sabine River Authority in northwestern Louisiana, the Club worked with the Parish Policy Jury to enact an ordinance to circle the

lake with buoys at a distance of 300 feet lakeside of land and piers. The Police Jury delegated the task of establishing and maintaining this no-wake buoy system to Kiwanis (the project described at the outset of this article). With support from the local Cottonport Bank, which houses the Kiwanis barge, the Club manages buoy maintenance to this day. The Parish changed from a Police Jury to a Parish Council system of government in 2018. The first elected Parish President, Major Thibaut, has proven to be passionate about improving False River along with the Kiwanis Club, a development that bodes well for the future. And that, dear reader, is the **rest of the story**.

Making Weight



Cement for weight making



Ready to pour



Molds with chains for later attachment of buoys



Pre-launch on False River at Kiwanis Tournament 2022

St. Gabriel Presents Scholarships to Students

By Division 8W Lieutenant Governor Milisa York, St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club



The Kiwanis Club of St. Gabriel presented a \$500 scholarship to the Valedictorian of East Iberville High School, TyQuencia Mosby. Pictured with Miss Mosby is Club President Jesse Thomas and Club Treasurer Joseph Bobo.



The Kiwanis Club of St. Gabriel presented a \$250 scholarship to the Salutatorian of MSA East, Ms. Madeline Connor. Presenting the scholarship to Ms. Connor is Club President Jesse Thomas and newly elected Club Treasurer, Angela Martin Banks.

St. Bernard-Arabi Stays Busy

By Kathleen Huff, St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club

Memorial Luncheon

On Tuesday, April 5th, the **Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi** held their annual memorial luncheon at Rocky and Carlos in honor of its deceased members in recognition for their service to the St. Bernard Community. The event had a spiritual message by Prayer Luncheon Chairperson Shirley Pechon, as well as spiritual songs by members Charles Jackson and Raymond Sweet. Member George Schlorff recognized each deceased member with their history and accomplishments with the club. At the conclusion of the luncheon, many members and family members gathered at the Kiwanis Memorial monument, in Arabi, for prayer and reflection.



Terrific Kid/Teen Pancake Breakfast

Kiwanis of St. Bernard-Arabi held their annual Terrific Kid/Teen Pancake Breakfast at Chalmette High School's 9th grade Academy Cafeteria on April 23rd. All students who received this honor during the year were invited to participate with their families.



Run da Parish Race

On Saturday, May 21st **Kiwanis of St. Bernard-Arabi** held their 2nd Annual Run da Parish Race at the 40 Arpent Observatory on the levee in Chalmette.



Tupelo Hosts Ice Cream Party for Terrific Kids

By Past Governor Fred Pitts, Tupelo Kiwanis Club

The Tupelo Kiwanis Club hosted an ice cream party for the end of the 2021-2022 school year for Joyner Elementary School's Terrific Kids. This was the first year the club treated students to ice cream and plans to add another school next year. Overall, there were 137 Terrific kids from Joyner Elementary School. The Tupelo Kiwanis Club Terrific Kids sponsors are Kim Dill and Fred Pitts.



Snapshots from the Zachary Kiwanis

By Division 8W Lieutenant Governor MILisa York, St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club

Zachary Early Learning Center recently had some very special visitors. Members of the Zachary Kiwanis Club read to their students and then sent each of their 260 Ponies home with a brand-new book. Zachary is a better community because of this Club and their willingness to serve and for modeling kindness and generosity.



The 2021-22 Zachary Kiwanis Club Scholarship recipients were honored on May 17th at the Zachary High School Honors Ceremony. President Bruce Langley and Kiwanian Superintendent Scott DeVillier did the honors of presenting



The Kiwanis Club of Zachary sponsors the BUG program for the students at Rollins Place Elementary School.

Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany LaPorte, District Bulletin Editor

Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: tiffany@lamisstenn.org

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

DEADLINES:

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

October 2022 Issue = Deadline: September 16, 2022

January 2023 Issue = Deadline: December 16, 2022

April 2023 Issue = Deadline: March 17, 2023

Include this information:

CLUB: Club, Division Number, and Author

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

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

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

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

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

We want photographs showing how your club impacts the community!



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

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