

October 2020

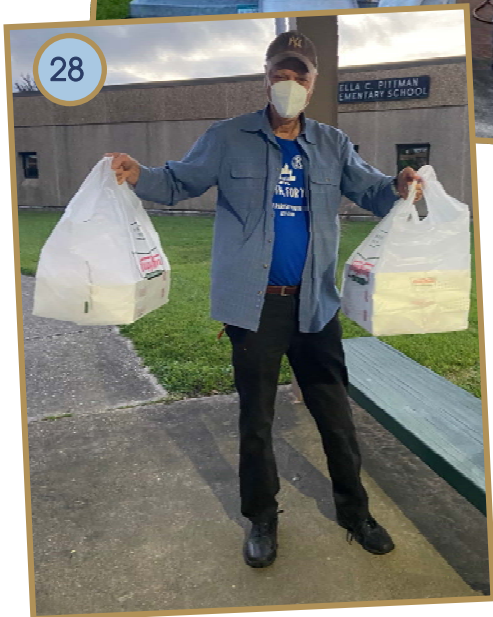
Kiwanis®

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News

Kiwanis Governors Help Cortana Club Cook for Hurricane Laura Victims



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



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A Message from the Governor

By Patrice Cusimano, Governor

I am constantly hearing about all that the pandemic has shut down or prevented from happening. Obviously, those folks do not know Kiwanis or Kiwanians. Our clubs have been meeting by Zoom or conference call, and those that have not, have received encouraging calls from our team of Lt. governors. A few clubs have had remote fundraisers, many are doing remote service projects, installation banquets – both virtual and in person – are in full swing, and two new clubs were opened in the Lafayette area. A fabulous team of dedicated Kiwanians worked tirelessly to make connections, interview potential members, secure meeting places and to get the job done. On September 17, 2020, I was honored to attend the opening session for the **Kiwanis Club of Scott** and the **Kiwanis Club of Broussard-Youngville**. The energy in those meetings was off the charts – so much energy to go out and serve their communities. I can't wait to attend the charter ceremonies!

In late August, my team of 19 Lt. governors attended either in person in Baton Rouge or via Zoom to be trained by the dynamic duo of Greg Beard and Nettles Brown. Many of them had already started contacting the clubs in their divisions to encourage clubs to meet, to hold elections, and to stay engaged. I have asked them to continue to contact our membership in person or by phone to ensure that our members know that we care and we want them to remain active members of Kiwanis. Many of the Lt. governors have been attending installation banquets, both virtually and in person, to get the 2020-21 year off to a great start.

At the same time the Lt. governors were being trained, I presided over my first executive board meeting. I've been in many of these meetings before, but



presiding was a little daunting. It finally hit me that I am leading the best district in all of Kiwanis International – the great and historic Louisiana, Mississippi, West Tennessee District. We worked on the budget – a tedious, but necessary function of the board. Once we receive the final membership numbers from KI, we will adjust accordingly. It sure does help that we have over 65 new members just from the two new clubs. My greatest wish is that our members will continue to do the fabulous and much-needed service in our communities. This pandemic has created new and different needs in our communities. Now is not the time to give up.

Speaking of service, my husband and I were honored to be able to join 3 members of the **Cortana Club** on September 5 in Lake Charles. Past Governor Eva Abate, a resident of Lake Charles, arranged for us to set up in a church parking lot, where the men from Cortana cooked 3 huge pots of jambalaya. My club donated cases of water and cash that I used to buy more water, Powerade, tarps, tape and tanks of propane. The Cortana Club also donated much needed supplies and hundreds of dollars in gift cards. Eva and her daughter, Alexis, Sal and I handed out containers of steaming hot, delicious jambalaya (and chips and

cookies) to car after car of people who were working to assess the damage on their homes and begin repairs. I can tell you that the damage was massive – I don't think many trees were still upright in Lake Charles. Unfortunately, these trees landed across electrical lines, blocked streets, and fell through many a roof. Many folks had not yet covered their rooves with tarps, and it had rained the day before and was raining as we left. As a Katrina survivor from St. Bernard Parish, my heart ached for them, knowing how hard it is to rebuild, but by the time we left, my heart was full. The people in those cars, many with their kids and pets in tow, were so thankful for these small acts of kindness – the Kiwanis trademark. I know that community will rebuild better and stronger than ever.

As the holidays approach, I hope we can all look back on this year and reflect not on what we could not do, but on what we have done. Despite the setbacks and the barrage of curve balls, our District has continued to serve our schools, our seniors, our communities impacted by natural disasters, and those effected economically and physically by the pandemic. We are Kiwanians and will not be deterred by temporary setbacks.

I wish each and every one of you a blessed holiday season, and I hope to see many of you IN PERSON at our Regional meetings in late winter-early spring (See the more information regarding Mid-Winter Regionals pages 7-8). Stay tuned for more information on the Regionals.

#kiwanisstrong

#kidsneedkiwanis

#lamisstennforever

WWW.LAMISSTENN.ORG

Kiwanis Moments with Bruce

By R. Bruce Hammatt, Immediate Past Governor

Early in the morning of September 3rd Joy and I headed out to Lake Charles to do our own little part to help out with the recovery after Hurricane Laura slammed into the south-western part of Louisiana. We all know now that Hurricane Laura did a remarkable job of showing us just how damaging winds from a Category 4 storm will do to trees, utility poles (wooden and concrete), and family homes.

I had communicated with Immediate Past-Governor Eva Abate on several occasions prior to and during the time the hurricane was slamming their home turf in Lake Charles. I knew she and her husband, VJ, were able to evacuate before Laura hit and that they were safe. Eva said that even though their property had experienced some damage, it was evident that most of her neighbors in the Lake Charles area experienced significantly more. I tried calling Lieutenant Governor Randy Furst, but received no answer.

The news reports from the National Weather Service and the local television stations did not tell me if my other friends that lived in the area were all right. About all that I could garner was that the damage was somewhere between “real” bad and “extremely” bad.

As a lifelong resident of South Louisiana, I had witnessed many really bad storms and hurricanes. I have



seen all too well the destruction and havoc they can create. I know from experience that many homes will be destroyed. Many will look like they were just in the path of a herd of elephants and be slammed to the ground. While others can just be “missing!” There may be empty slabs where a house once stood, or there may be no evidence a house had ever been built on the home site.

Regardless of the arbitrary names given to these major events, I doubt the residents and travelers that are caught in their serious paths of destruction ever recover. They can always use a little bit of help. The heartaches may fade from their memory, but the damages are probably still there - somewhere.

All of this was going through my mind when Joy announced she could see emergency lights up ahead and that I would have to stop our loaded-down truck because the traffic on Interstate 10 was at a standstill. We were delayed for almost an hour as

we were stopped, you guessed it, just a few minutes east of our exit. We had been on the interstate for almost two hours of heavy traffic and the anticipated slowdowns and had to stop with our exit almost in sight.

We found ourselves surrounded by an assortment of similarly loaded trucks and emergency crews. Many vehicles bore their company’s names. They were on the highway headed to Lake Charles because the residents and businesses in the community needed their assistance to recover from the storm known as Laura. The citizens needed their help to get their homes repaired, to replenish the gasoline from their local service stations once the electricity was on, or to replace their roofs.

The vehicle in the adjacent lane was different though. It had a somewhat familiar color, but just seemed out of place. The light bar on top and obvious lettering on the side indicated it was from a sheriff’s office from one of the coastal parishes east of Laura’s path of destruction. It was following several more similarly marked vehicles headed in our same direction. A similarly marked truck in front had a large trailer loaded with cooking grills headed to feed some of those working on the recovery effort.

The final leg of the trip to Eva’s house took twice as long as it would normally take. The four lane road

Continued on page 6 . . .

Kiwanis Moments with Bruce Continued . . .

By R. Bruce Hammatt, Immediate Past Governor

heading south of Interstate 10 toward Eva and VJ was restricted in most areas because of downed trees, electric lines and just miscellaneous storm debris. All of the street lights had evolved into four way stops as there was no available power to power them. The multitude of other vehicles around us were inching closer to their destination. Maybe they were going to view their home for the first time since their storm or maybe to find someone that could help them with their needs.

After giving the now familiar “Coronavirus hugs and kisses” without ever getting too close to each other, we spoke briefly with Eva before we headed back into the traffic as Eva directed us to deliver our load of bottled water and work gloves to one of their local churches. The entire inventory of my overloaded 3/4 ton truck full of bottled water was picked up by local residents as quickly as we could unload it. I delivered my generator to one of my other friends that happened to live just a short distance from Eva.

The remaining space hidden in the back of my truck under the tool chest was packed with chain saws and related fuel and replacement chains. My “job” after any storm since I was a child involved a heavy dose of chainsaw work. I was one of the first licensed arborist in the State of Louisiana and for quite a number of years



I performed my magic behind the sound of my saws. Joy, and our two children knew that a minimum of every weekend when our kids were growing up meant some time on a job site picking up the limbs and logs that were ever-present near me and my saws. To this day, the first thing I know to do after a storm is to drive my front end loader tractor with chain saws in the neighborhood behind our home to make sure the roads are clear.

We spent the rest of the day working in a single yard in Eva’s neighborhood. The home belonged to an 88 year-old couple on a fixed income. Eva was not positive, but thought the wife had been bed-ridden for about 2 years. They were not home and reportedly had escaped the storm to one of their children’s homes outside of Laura’s deadly path.

Of course I immediately started my chain saw and began cutting up

the damaged and downed trees so that VJ could work his magic with his front end loader tractor. I kept the chainsaw working, VJ pushed the largest of the debris out to the edge of the street, and Joy and Eva picked up the smaller limbs and hauled them to the street or placed in a larger pile for VJ to push. On and on we went till the yard was cleaned and we needed a breather. It was extremely hot and the gatorade and water were refreshing.

As Kiwanians, we all understand the idea and great feelings we get when we volunteer for service to our fellow man and in our communities. We understand what it means to see a child look up to us with their smile of appreciation. We have heard the very simple words “thank you” repeated to us thousands of times. We all know what “Kiwanis Moment” left the biggest impression in our mind.

But maybe the most special occasion is different from all of these. Maybe it’s when you give something of value to someone you don’t ever see. Someone you don’t know and never will. You will not get a “Thank You” from the person you help. You will never see their face. You will not be given a hug of thanks. All you get is a warm feeling in your heart. Maybe that is the best Kiwanis Moment one can ever have.

Governor-Elect Calls for Kiwanians to Serve

By Richard Latiolais, Governor-Elect

First, let me thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Governor-Elect for the 2020-21 year. I promise to work very hard and do the best job I can. It will be a pleasure this year to work along-side and learn from Patrice Cusimano, your 2020-21 Governor. We served as Trustees together and it is her dedication to Kiwanis and its mission that instilled in me the desire to serve.



Now for my first request, **I NEED TWENTY SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS**, to serve as Lieutenant Governors of your respective districts. I would like to have a commitment from you before we begin having our Regional Mid-Winter Conventions (see schedule below). The conventions will begin in the latter part of January 2021 and culminate at the beginning of March 2021. Should more than one person in the district seek the office we would have an election at that time.

The duties of Lieutenant Governor are set forth in section 305 of the LaMissTenn “Kiwanis Policies and Procedures Manual”. You can find the duties on the District’s website under Menu, then scroll down to La-Miss-W.Tenn, then look for “Governance”.

Let me tell you this is THE BEST job in Kiwanis:

- You get to meet all of the leaders of the clubs in your division.
- You get the inside scoop on their

fund raisers - what works and what doesn't.

- You learn about resources at the district level that are available to offer your clubs.
- You install club officers.
- You form a close working relationship with the other Lt. Governors.
- When you walk into a club meeting you may only know the club president but everyone in the room will know and respect you.

If you have any doubts call your current Lieutenant Governor and ask him/her how they liked their job. I am sure they will be glad to share their AHA Moments.

I can be reached on my cell phone at (337) 303-5962, or better by email, still at ratiolais1@gmail.com.

Let's get busy! Help if you can, donate if possible and pray for Laura victims!

2021 Mid-Winter Regionals Schedule

REGION V (Div. 8A, 8B & 13)

January 23, 2021
Kiwanis Log Cabin
Ponchatoula, La.

REGION I (Div. 1A & 1C)

January 30, 2021
t.b.d.
Dyersburg, Tenn.

REGION VII (Div. 6, 9 & 11)

February 6, 2021
Alexandria Kiwanis Camp
Tioga, La.

REGION II (Div 2, 10A, 10B & 10C)

February 13, 2021
St. Andrew's Methodist Church
Oxford, Miss.

REGION VI (Div. 7, 12 & 17)

February 27, 2021
Lafayette Fire Training Center
Lafayette, La.

REGION IV (Div. 4A & 4B)

March 6, 2021
Crescent City Christian School
Metairie, La.

REGION II (Div. 3, 5, 14 & 15)

March 13, 2021
SMEPA Convention Center
Hattiesburg, Miss.

Mid-Winter Regionals will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.





The 2020-2021 Mid-Year Regional Conferences: 2020! Talk About Being Blindsided!

2019-2020 offered our clubs (and communities) so many challenges from holding regular meetings to providing service to our communities to working with our SLP clubs. And as slowly emerged from the limitations imposed by the governing bodies, 2 horrible hurricanes destroyed communities in south-west and central Louisiana and then southeast Mississippi. And there may still be more to come.

The Mid-Year Conferences will attempt to provide ideas on how clubs can re-establish themselves as the leading service providers in their communities. Obviously there is plenty to be done. Come learn what your club can do to attract new service-minded member, develop meaningful service projects, and work closely with our Key Clubs, Circle K Clubs, and others, as they try to work through the limitations on their campuses to meet and develop service projects.

Who should attend the Mid-Year Regionals?

Any Kiwanis Club officer and/or member who is looking for ideas on how to...

- get their club back active in their communities
- Find new ideas on how to find new members

The 2020-2021 Mid-Year Regional Conference will be...

- **A working meeting**, to help each club plan to flourish as we recover from Covid-19 and hurricane.
- **A one-day event**, starting at 8:00 a.m., and ending before 3:00 p.m.
- **Centrally located**, at a convenient location within the Region.
- **Less expensive!** Registration is \$25 per member in advance; on-site are \$30 per member. This fee will include refreshment breaks during the day, and lunch.

TYPICAL 2020-2021 MID-YEAR REGIONAL AGENDA

NOTE: Times may vary slightly by Region

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION

Continental Breakfast (*recommended*)
District Foundation Gift Basket Raffle

8:30 a.m.

Governor Patrice meets with Club Presidents & Lt. Govs

9:00 a.m.

OPENING SESSION

9:15 a.m.

How to help your club recover from COVID and the hurricane disasters.

LUNCH

Governor Patrice Cusimano makes her "official visit" to the Divisions of the Region; presentation of the 2019-2020 Awards, and drawings for the Foundation Raffle

FOLLOWING, if needed...

DIVISION COUNCIL MEETING to share information and to elect Lt. Governors and Lt. Governors-Elect if necessary

2020-2021 MID-YEAR REGIONAL DATE & LOCATIONS

January 23rd

Region V - "*Florida Parishes Region*" - Divisions 8A, 8B & 13
Kiwaniis Log Cabin, 201 W. Magnolia St., Ponchatoula, La.

January 30th

Region I - "*WestTenn Region*" - Divisions 1A & 1C
Location t.b.d. in Dyersburg, Tenn.

February 6th

Region VII - "*Piney Hills Region*" - Divisions 6, 9 & 11
Alexandria Kiwanis Camp, Kiwanis Camp Road, Tioga, La.

February 13th

Region II - "*Natchez Trace North Region*" - Divisions 2, 10A, 10B, 10C
St. Andrew's Methodist Church, 431 No. 16th St., Oxford, Miss.

February 27th

Region VI - "*Southwest Region*" - Divisions 7, 12 & 17
Lafayette Fire Training Center, 300 Dugas Rd., Lafayette, La.

March 6th

Region IV - "*The Bayou Region*" - Divisions 4A & 4B
Crescent Christian School, 4828 Utica St., Metairie, La.

March 13th

Region III - "*Magnolia South Region*" - Divisions 3, 5, 14, & 15
SMEPA Convention Center, 7037 Hwy. 49 No., Hattiesburg, Miss.

New Member Fees Waived until December 31, 2020 for Existing Kiwanis Clubs

By Charlie Ford, Executive Director of LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on communities worldwide. More than ever, kids and communities need Kiwanis. To encourage existing Kiwanis clubs to continue to invite new members, the La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District Board and the Kiwanis International Board have both approved a new-member fee waiver to bolster membership and help Kiwanis clubs perform the service needed in the wake of this pandemic and beyond.

Both boards have voted to extend a waiver on new member fees until December 31, 2020. These waivers only apply to the new-member fees paid to Kiwanis International (\$50) and the La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District (\$10).

“We believe there should be no barriers for people to become Kiwanians. People who want to help kids succeed, and those who want to make a positive impact on the

community are invited to join Kiwanis,” says Art Riley, 2020-21 Kiwanis International president. “These new members are contributing to our organization with their passion, experience, know-how and commitment.”

Club secretaries should enter new members into the secretary dashboard as normal. The Kiwanis International staff will make the necessary adjustments to billings.



Graham Announces Candidacy for International Trustee



At the virtual Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis Convention held on July 18th, the District Council unanimously endorsed Gary Graham for International Trustee. Graham is the Past Governor for the 2015-2016 Kiwanis year and is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge.

He currently serves as the District Growth Chair and during his time in this position has seen 18 new clubs created in the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis. On October 1st, he announced officially that he was a candidate for the position of Kiwanis International Trustee.

The election will be held at the Kiwanis International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 24-27, 2021.

Thank you for Gary for your commitment to improving the world one child and one community at a time!

2020-2021 District Board & Lt. Governors Meet in Baton Rouge

By Charlie Ford, Executive Director of LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis

Without the normal protocol events at a District Convention, Governor Bruce Hammatt and Governor-Designate Patrice Cusimano took advantage of the first meeting of the 2020-2021 District Board and a make-up training conference for the 2020-2021 Lt. Governors to retire, install, and recognize the District's Leadership Teams.



Members of the Team of Lt. Governors attending the Training Conference and installed for the 2020-2021 Kiwanis Year were from left: Cathy Fry (Div. 1A); Leighton Miller (Div. 3); Renee Picheloup (Div. 4A); Marcel Lashover (Div. 4B); Thomas Long (Div. 7); Court Crow (Div. 9); Laura Gilliland (Div. 8W); Ed Gautier (Div. 13); Travis Moore (Div. 14); and Tom Osburn (Div. 15).



New District Trustees attending and installed were: John Fry (Region I) and Rogenia Woods-Mitchell (Region III).



Patrice Cusimano and "First Mate" Sal are all smiles as Patrice was installed as District Governor for 2020-2021.



Past International President Nettle Brown presents a bouquet of roses to First Lady Joy Hammatt and he retires Gov. Bruce.



District Executive Director Charlie Ford presents Lt. Governor Ed Gautier with a River of Life, which Ed earned through his generous donations as a "Friend of the Foundation."



Lt. Governor Cathy Fry presents retiring Governor Bruce Hammatt, "The Alligator Hunter," with an appropriate T-shirt for his favorite hobby!



Newly installed Governor Patrice Cusimano pins Rick Latiolais as Governor-Elect for 2020-2021.

Kiwanians from Near & Far Gather to Help Hurricane Laura Victims



Past Gov. Eva Abate gladly accepts Hurricane Disaster Relief backpacks from Kiwanians representing the Texas Oklahoma Kiwanis District.



Joy Hammatt and Gov. Bruce Hammatt (current Immediate Past Gov.) work with Past Gov. Eva Abate and V.J. Abate to help supply water.



Gov. Bruce Hammatt (currently Immediate Past Gov.) trims the damaged trees.



Gov. Bruce Hammatt (currently Immediate Past Gov.), Past Gov. Eva Abate and Past Gov. Gary Graham unload pancake mix.



Gov.-Elect Patrice Cusimano (current Gov.) helps the Cortana Kiwanis Club cook jambalaya.



Trinity Baptist Church Pastor Chad Gilbert blesses the jambalaya.



Cortana Kiwanis members Dana Vutera and Daryle Gauthier cook jambalaya. Not pictured is Cortana member Keith McDavid.



Grants Awarded during 2019-2020

By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair

- Scholarships: \$16,500
- AED Grants: \$2,000
- Community Service Grants: \$25,500
- Key Leader Program: \$2,000
- Leadership Training for SLPs: \$4,000

Total funding from YOUR District Foundation: \$50,000



Pontchartrain: \$1,500 for Virtual Summer Camp teaching Coding & Programming



New Orleans Club: \$2,000 for Masks for Angels – helping kids with medical diagnosis return to school with proper face masks



AED Grants to 3 clubs: \$2,000 for Northshore-Mandeville Kiwanis Club, East St. Mary Kiwanis Club & Starkville Kiwanis Club

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



Kiwanis
LaMissTenn Foundation

Foundation Disaster Relief

By Jennifer Kelly-White, District Foundation President



Greetings and Happy Kiwanis New Year from your District Foundation!

We are here to assist and help our clubs in numerous ways such as Community Service Grants, SLP scholarships and leadership trainings, AED grants and recently, Disaster Relief Grants. In the wake of recent hurricanes, the need to help affected communities remains. The District Foundation has **Disaster Relief Grants** available for up to \$1,500 to bring immediate relief into communities within our District, whenever a disaster strikes. Additional information for the disaster relief grant or how to donate is provided at

www.lamisstenn.org/disasterrelief.

With all of these ways the Foundation provides assistance, we need contributions from our clubs and members to help pay it forward. This can be done by way of Annual Club Giving, endowments and Friends of the Foundation. The **Annual Club Giving campaign** begins each year on October 1 and ends on September 30. The District Foundation invites all Kiwanis clubs in the District to become a “club in good standing” with the District Foundation by donating a minimum amount of \$5.00 per member as of October 1 roster. This is a requirement in applying for a Community Service Grant. Club secretaries will receive information in the mail from the District Office regarding Annual Club Giving campaign soon.

Individual members may become a **Friend of the Foundation** with an annual tax-deductible donation of \$120 or monthly payments of \$10. As an added convenience, your “Friends” pledge may be set up as a recurring monthly or yearly charge on your credit card to maintain your status as a Friend

of the Foundation for years to come! As a thank you for your contribution, you will receive a Friends of the Foundation lapel pin.

At our recent face-to-face District Foundation Board meeting, we are wanting to increase our communications with our clubs/members by having a greater presence on social media, emails and at Mid-Year Regional Conferences. Our focus is to reach out to our newest clubs and educate them on who we are and how we may assist. If you need a speaker for one of your programs, ask one of our Foundation Board members and we can present information to your club members. We want to encourage more club participation in the form of giving as well as applying for grants.

If you have questions or would like additional information, check out our website at:

www.lamisstenn.org/foundation

or contact me at:

jenniferwhite920@gmail.com.

We looking forward to working with you this upcoming year!

DISASTER RELIEF GRANT
LaMissTenn.org/DisasterRelief
 Brought to you by:
Kiwanis
 LaMissTenn Foundation

Grants available up to \$1,500
Serving our communities in Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee for over 100 years.

Flying That Kiwanis Spirit

By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair



Stand not included.

Flags sales have been going GREAT! We've sold just about half of them ... 350 remaining! Since the District Convention was cancelled (due to COVID-19) and we could not sponsor the traditional gift basket raffle, these flag sales have substituted the fundraising for the District Foundation. At only \$20 a piece, these beauties are going fast! Hurry before they are gone!

The flag is made of weather-resistant, heavy duty polyester. The double-sided design is DYED into the fabric in layers for a long lasting, fade resistant, vibrant work of art! Size: 12" across by 18" down. Cost: \$20

Talk it up with your club members, combine orders for savings on shipping! Let's spread Kiwanis Flags all over our District and beyond! So far, we are in 22 states!

They will be available at the 2021 Regionals in February & March, but if you just can't wait to get yours, send in the form below!

Let YOUR Kiwanis Spirit fly and order your flag today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Number of flags _____ x \$20 each = \$ _____

Shipping cost (See chart on the right) = \$ _____

No shipping if in New Orleans.

Total = \$ _____

Payment Options:

- Check - Mail form and check made out to: Kiwanis District Foundation, c/o Cathy Simmons, 1721 Generes Dr., New Orleans, LA 70123
- VISA/MC/AmEx - email a request for a PayPal invoice to: kiwanisgardenflags@gmail.com

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



Kiwanis
LaMissTenn Foundation



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 Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393
 (225) 769-9233 | 866-LAMSWTN
 foundation@lamisstenn.org
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 "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 Donna Osburn, District Chair • Email: donna@chezosburn.com • Ph: 601/831-7363

Top 5 Questions We are Frequently Asked

♥ WHAT CAN THE CHILDREN'S FUND DO FOR ME?

As a Kiwanian, the Kiwanis Children's Fund wants to be a resource for you. We can help you develop fundraising strategies, manage district and club foundations, apply for grants and more. We offer club and district grants that can benefit children in your communities.

We can also come to you! We're always interested in visiting club and district events to provide updates about the Children's Fund and The Eliminate Project. We can also host workshops on fundraising, applying for grants, and more.

♥ WHERE DO DONATIONS GO?

We rely on the generosity of Kiwanians like you to make a difference in the lives of children. We do so through five Kiwanis causes:

- **Service Leadership Programs.** You can help build a stronger generation of leaders and service volunteers.
- **Club and district service projects.** Your gift can help your district and other clubs fulfill the unmet needs of children in their communities.



- **Disaster relief:** When disaster strikes, your support ensures the Kiwanis family can respond.
- **The Eliminate Project:** Together, we are eliminating a painful, preventable disease that kills thousands of mothers and babies around the world.
- **Elimination of Iodine deficiency disorders:** Kiwanis saw a mental health problem that could be prevented, so we did it. Your support ensures we can sustain our efforts.

♥ WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ONLINE?

Our website has a plethora of valuable resources!

- Five causes: kiwanischildrensfund.org/impact
- Impact stories and news: kiwanischildrensfund.org/news
- Subscribe to our newsletter: kiwanis.org/subscribe
- Staff and volunteers for your district: kiwanischildrensfund.org/staffandvolunteers
- Guide to Club Grants: kiwanischildrensfund.org/clubgrants
- District grants: kiwanischildrensfund.org/districtgrants
- Club giving monthly report: kiwanischildrensfund.org/clubgivingreports
- The Eliminate Project monthly report: TheEliminateProject.org/districtfundraisingreport
- Link to give: kiwanischildrensfund.org/give

♥ HOW CAN I PROMOTE THE CHILDREN'S FUND IN MY DISTRICT?

We encourage you to work with your Children's Fund district chair (Donna Osburn) and your district advocate for The Eliminate Project (Dennis Oliver). Your leadership can help open doors for us and encourage clubs and members to support our causes. Simply spreading the word about what we do at the Children's Fund is incredibly helpful.

♥ HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S FUND WITH A GIFT?

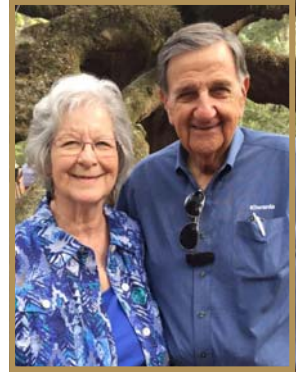
It's easy! Visit kiwanischildrensfund.org/give.

ELIMINATE

maternal/neonatal tetanus

By Dennis & Ame Oliver, Project Eliminate Chairs

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



Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus is Preventable!

MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TETANUS IS DEADLY AND IT IS PAINFUL - PREVENTING EVEN THE COMFORT OF A MOTHER'S TOUCH.

The vaccine has been safely used since the 1940's. Other preventive maternal health education has had a proven long-term impact. And yet millions have died from this terrible disease because of poverty and unsafe birthing practices. Even today millions of mothers and babies are at risk.

A decade ago Kiwanis and UNICEF partnered to protect them.

Our goal was for the Kiwanis Family to raise 110 million dollars, so that some of the world's poorest and harder-to-reach people could receive life-saving vaccines and education.

The good news: it is working. Since 2010, MNT has been eliminated in 27 countries! Of course, this fight extends beyond the Eliminate Project, and it started long before 2010. The World Health Assembly called for the Elimination of Neonatal tetanus in 1989 when the disease was killing 800,000 babies every year. In 2018 fewer than 31,000 died from it.

THAT IS A 96% REDUCTION!

Kiwanis International is proud of the part we've played. But, we've reached a crucial moment. That's why we are determined as ever to continue our success - and sustain it for all future generations, all over the world!

UPDATE: The three \$.60 shots we give the mom now prevents diphtheria also.

My friends, you and I have an obligation to "dig a little deeper!" How many babies can you save today?



Key Leader Canceled until 2021

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the delay of public schools resuming in Tennessee, we have decided to CANCEL Key Leader North which was planned for September 25-27, 2020. The new dates for next year's Key Leader North Event are April 30-May 2, 2021 at Camp Lakeshore in Eva, TN. Registration is temporarily closed, and it will reopen in January 2021. Anyone who is currently registered will stay on the registration list unless we hear that they are unable to attend on the new dates.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Linda Ramsey at 731-225-7729 or mramsey2@utm.edu.

The Value of a Kiwanian

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

I read the following on the internet and it got me thinking about Kiwanis. Big surprise because that is what I'm generally thinking about. The service, the kids, the friendships, and the impact we have on our communities.

A man pushed his wife to save himself from a sinking ship!? What kind of man would do that? Well, before you start shaking your fist and gritting your teeth, know that there's much more to this story than meets the eye. So, it's story time! This story is making the rounds all over the internet and while the headline might sound terrible, it's a story that will really make you reflect on the people in your lives. It's a long read but worth it!

A teacher was tutoring a class of students when she relayed a story about a cruise ship capsized while at sea, and on the ship was a couple that managed to make their way to a lifeboat but realized there was only space for one. You'll never guess what lesson they learned from the story.

A cruise ship met with an incident at sea. On the ship was a couple, after having made their way to the lifeboat, they realized that there was only space for one person left. At this moment, the man pushed the woman behind him and jumped onto the lifeboat himself. The lady stood on the sinking ship and shouted one sentence to her husband. The teacher stopped and asked, "What do you think she shouted?"

Most of the students excitedly answered, "I hate you! I was blind!" Now, the teacher noticed a boy who was silent throughout, she got him to answer and he replied, "Teacher, I believe she would have shouted – Take care of our child!" The teacher was surprised, asking "Have you heard this story before?" The boy shook his head, "Nope, but that was what my mom told my dad before she died from disease." The teacher lamented, "The answer is right."

The cruise ship sunk. The man went home and brought up their daughter single-handedly. Many years later after the death of the man, their daughter found his diary while tidying his belongings. It turns out that when parents went onto the cruise



ship, the mother was already diagnosed with a terminal illness. At the critical moment, the father rushed to the only chance of survival. He wrote in his diary, "How I wished to sink to the bottom of the ocean with you, but for the sake of our daughter, I can only let you lie forever below the sea alone." The story is finished, the class was silent.

The teacher knew that the student had understood the moral of the story, that of the good and the evil in the world, there are many complications behind them which are hard to understand. Which is why we should never only focus on the surface and judge others without understanding them first. Those who like to pay the bill, do so not because they are loaded but because they value friendship above money. Those who take the initiative at work, do so not because they are stupid but because they understand the concept of responsibility. Those who apologize first after a fight, do so not because they are wrong but because they value the people around them. Those who are willing to help you, do so not because they owe you anything but because they see you as a true friend. Those who often text you, do so not because they have nothing better to do but because you are in their heart.

One day, all of us will get separated from each other; we will miss our conversations of everything and nothing; the dreams that we had. Days will pass by, months, years, until this contact becomes rare... One day our children will see our pictures and ask, "Who are these people?" And we will smile with invisible tears because a heart is touched with a strong word and you will say: "It was with

them that I had the best days of my life."

We work to build and strengthen our clubs, not because we feel we have to but because we understand that there are children who need our help and there is more fun and service to share with others who want to help as we do. As we say in Kiwanis, we can do more together than we can do separately. That is why I have enjoyed the past two weeks as we built three new Kiwanis clubs with about 100 members. We did not let the pandemic stop us from sharing the joy of unserved communities having Kiwanians to better the lives of the kids. I receive daily notices of new members joining existing clubs too and in the past couple of weeks a few dozen new members have been added. All of this is happening while we cannot meet in person and service project opportunities are limited. But that has not dampened the spirit of Kiwanians throughout our District. I can't say yet whether we will end with growth this year, but we have made a major last-minute effort to accomplish it. It is with this attitude that we can start this new Kiwanis year on a great note. We can look back at this pandemic and the challenges and opportunities it has presented us with and tell those Kiwanians still to come who will ask as noted above "*Who are these people?*" And those of us still here will smile with invisible tears because a heart is touched with a strong word and we will say: "*It was with them that I had the best days of my life.*" And as with the wife in the story above, we are all terminal but if we want to leave a legacy of Kiwanis when the 200 years celebration rolls around, we must do as she said which I paraphrase, Save Our Children. And the way to do that is build new clubs, strengthen existing clubs, and continue our service with fun.

Aspire to Inspire: Percy

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



Percy was born in 2000 at the dawn of a new millennium. His name was not new. It had been prominent in his family for many years. Percy was two months premature and weighed only five pounds. Nonetheless he was a scrappy infant with a lusty cry, big appetite and huge smile. [Percy was the nephew of Needzum Elp, M.D. who was featured in this column several years ago.] By the time he was four, Percy had developed a lust for life with legs to match. He ran around the neighborhood getting into everything. However, Percy was small and was easy prey for the bullies in the neighborhood.

The first such to attack him was Ivan who left many bruises . . . but that didn't slow Percy. He just kept on keeping on as the saying goes. Then a year later when Percy was five some twin sisters assaulted him. First Katrina landed an underhanded blow and then sister Rita knocked him sideways. Percy just jumped up and kept going along his way.

Percy developed some admirable habits and passions. He liked to help children younger than himself, partly because he sympathized with them but also because he understood their needs. Uncle Needzum was living proof of how valuable that help could be. Percy developed many friends but was always at risk of being bullied in unexpected times and places. At age 12 Percy was assaulted by irritating Isaac, but that didn't deter Percy from his good deeds. So many attacks seemed to happen that Percy simply learned to adapt as if the disruptions were inevitable. He kept helping others as by now that was his driving motivation.

In 2008 Gustave knocked him into a flood of water, but Percy just chugged onward. A huge and devastating Harvey was the problem in 2017 and it was no fun to take that beating. The smile and lust for life of years before certainly were needed to continue his good deeds. Percy was undaunted and simply continued helping others regardless of the obstacles.

Triple attacks happened when Percy was twenty. The injuries from arrogant Cristobal weren't so bad but the blows from Sally were worse and those from Laura whacked him severely.

Thank goodness Percy had the courage to continue his chosen path without changing direction. Had his last name been Veer, he might have changed direction. Fortunately Percy's last name was spelled "V-E-R-E" which was derived from the Latin word "*verus*" meaning truth and veracity. As time went on Percy provided so much help for so many children that his name became famous in a widespread three state area. Others joined Percy to expand his efforts. Obstacles and difficulties were overcome. Scholarships were sponsored, programs established or continued, support for children was provided in all sorts of ways . . . all made possible because of **PERCY VERE**.

per.se.vere /ˌpɜrsəˈvɪr/ [verb]: Continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success or with little or no prospect of success.

The verb **persevere** comes from the Latin **root** *perseverus* which means "continue steadfastly, **persist**" and that **word** comes from two others, *per-* for "very" and *severus* for "strict." So, today, the connotation of the **word** is to **persist** in a methodical way despite obstacles or distractions

District Recognition of Layperson of the Year

By Court Crow, Human & Spiritual Values District Chair



It has been my honor to serve as your District Chair of the Human and Spiritual Values Committee for the last ten years. It's time to pass the

baton. My goals during these years have been to promote the first two Objects of Kiwanis International, to encourage recognition of young people and other spiritual role models in our communities and to promote recognition of those men and women in our communities who reflect our faith-based community service (i.e.: reflect the values of the Objects of Kiwanis International)

As the final act as Chair, it is my pleasure to announce the 2019-2020

recipient of the LaMissTenn Layperson of the Year. We received a number of high-quality nominations. I hope each club will recognize their nominees and present the public recognitions so the individual clubs gain some level of promotion in the media. After all, we as Kiwanians should be known in our communities as living by the high standards of the Kiwanis International Objects.

2019-20 Lay Person of the Year: Dr. Joseph I. Orban of Shreveport, La. Nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Shreveport.

Dr. Orban is a Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Sciences and U.S. Fulbright Scholar, former Dean of Science, Technology and Liberal Arts at Southern University, Shreveport. Even before moving to Shreveport, Dr. Orban established a pattern of involvement in community activities while at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana by serving in the American Red Cross and the Federated Church of West Lafayette.

He and his family moved to Shreveport in 2000 and he became involved in both international development projects and community activities. He has served as a volunteer technical expert on Poultry and Livestock Projects sponsored by Winrock International in Bangladesh, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Dr. Orban received the 2015 Presidential Volunteer Bronze Award from President Obama for his service in Senegal West Africa.

He is a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Southern Hills, Shreveport where he has served as a Sunday School teacher, member of the Church Council, Chair of the Evangelism and Scholarship Committees and sings in the choir. Dr. Orban is a Certified Lay Speaker in the State of Louisiana for the United Methodist Church and has served as a board member on the United Methodist Church Conference Board on Higher Education.

To summarize the endorsement letter from his pastor, Rev. Mark J. Goins, Christ United Methodist Church, Shreveport he wrote: ***A key word that runs through Joseph's life is "serves". He serves passionately and humbly in everything. I have never seen Joseph without a smile on his face ... even when he was recovering from malaria that he caught while serving in Africa. In summary, I believe that Joseph exemplifies the ideals of loving God and loving your neighbor. He epitomizes the Biblical rule of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matt 7:12 and the 2nd Object of Kiwanis International) Joseph is an amazing teacher, community member and layperson.***



Dr. Joseph I. Orban

District Recognition of Fireman of the Year

By Fred Banks, District Committee Service Chair



The Martin Kiwanis Club nominated Josh Wilson for the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Kiwanis District Fireman of the Year. Josh has been a part of the Kiwanis family in

the past as he has served as President of the Builders Club at Martin Middle School and President of the Key Club at Westview High School. Josh has been with the Martin Fire Department since 2015. He responds to all fire and EMS calls in emergency and non-emergency situations. He also teaches classes within the community. In addition, Josh has served as a volunteer for the Sharon Fire Department since 2017.

Josh is an EMS Lieutenant and Lead Firefighter and his duties include the following: managing and developing CPR training programs, ordering sup-

plies for the Martin Fire Department and ambulance service, coordinating medical licensure renewals, scheduling CEU classes, and overseeing medical operations in emergency and non-emergency situations.

Since 2015, his educational background has taken him up through the ranks of Firefighter 1 & 2, Pump Driver Operator, Instructor 1, Fires & Life Safety Educator 1, Fire Officer 1 & 2, and Incident Safety Officer. In the State of Tennessee he is a PEARS Provider, BLS Instructor, SIDS Instructor, and an EMR Instructor.

Congratulations Josh Wilson!

District Recognition of Teacher of the Year

By Fred Banks, District Committee Service Chair

Natalie Vaughan Adkinson is the 2020 Teacher of the Year for the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Kiwanis District. What is relentless about Mrs. Adkinson is her support for the Kiwanis youth and the imagination she enlists to get the message to her Terrific Kids and their parents. Her efforts have put the Kiwanis Club of Germantown's service leadership programs in the forefront as an important resource for their distinguished schools.

During COVID 19, Mrs. Adkinson was concerned that the Terrific Kids could not participate and would not be honored. She secured permission from the school's principal to allow her to conduct virtual meetings with the stu-

dents and their parents. When the day came for each school to be recognized, there were 800/1500 media hits of people listening to her read off the names called out on the air.

Mrs. Adkinson's interactions with students, parents and colleagues embody the true family feeling according to her principal, Ashley Brasfield. She is highly recommended as a strong educator.

As an active participant in her church, school and community, Mrs. Adkinson is an outstanding teacher who is making a difference at Dogwood and Farmington Elementary Schools.

The Germantown Kiwanis Club



nominated Mrs. Natalie Vaughan Adkinson as the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Kiwanis District 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations Mrs. Adkinson! Keep improving the world one child and one community at a time!

Staying Positive

By Don Eye, Past District K-Kids Advisor & Tiffany Brown, K-Kids District Advisor

Well, I am tired of wearing a mini diaper around my face and having to scream so people can understand me. And my glasses fog up every time I breathe. I guess it beats the alternative. Hello Kiwanians. I have had a positive experience even with the virus going around. When this mess hit us, one of our school Terrific Kids advisors did not hesitate to get the Terrific Kids recognized and rewarded. She happens to be our entry for District Teacher of the Year.

Since our schools are in lockdown from any outside groups, our K-Kids and Terrific Kids programs are unable to continue as normal. The teachers or students select the Terrific Kids for the month and Kiwanis drops off the rewards (a goody bag of school supplies, certificate, stickers, and a factory wrapped cookie without peanut resi-

due) at the school. Since we cannot enter the school, we are not able to present our program. The advisor uses her virtual messaging system to announce the Terrific Kids names at a designated time or leaves the announcement up to the teachers. So, no Kiwanis, and no parents attend.

K-Kids will be on hold for the time being which is the sad part of this situation.

Please keep up with the changes at Kiwanis International. Your monthly reports have been halted for the time being and your dues may also be suspended. Give them a call at 225-769-9215.

Don Eye
Past District K-Kids Advisor



This will be Don Eye's last article. The new District K-Kids Advisor is Tiffany Brown.



Teacher of the Year is Extraordinary with K-Kids

The Germantown Kiwanis Club was pleased to present Natalie Adkinson with Teacher of the Year award to recognize her extraordinary efforts to keep K-Kids engaged during COVID-19. The club thrives by staying in touch via Zoom meetings. Thanks for a job well done!

Kids Need Kiwanis!

Hammond AKtion Club Receives Gifts

By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

The new reality for Kiwanis Clubs throughout the nation during the months of practicing safety measures due to the coronavirus is the challenge of finding ways to continue doing the good things that clubs do for others in their respective communities. For the **Hammond Kiwanis Club**, maintaining contacts with the **Hammond AKtion Club** was a serious concern for the past several months. Sponsorship of an AKtion Club has been one of the best, most appreciated things that Hammond Kiwanians have accomplished over the past several years and when holding meetings with the AKtion Club was no longer possible, club members sought a way to re-connect with AKtion Clubbers.

Hammond Kiwanian Judy Couvillion came up with the idea of providing “goodie bags” for AKtion Club members and her idea was quickly accepted by others in the club. Members quickly gathered such items as cans of Vienna Sausages, packs of cheese crackers, candy treats, packages

of tissues, pencils, small first aid kits and pens donated by the North Oaks Health System, Pop Tarts, packs of Ramen noodles, small note pads, a decorative plastic cup, fruit drink pouches, and other items. The “goodies” were bagged and a small gift card was attached to each bag. The cards read, “We miss you and we are thinking about you! We look forward to meeting again soon!”

Two members delivered the bags to Options, the organization that serves the needs of adults with disabilities in the Hammond area. Two AKtion Club members just happened to be at the Options Center when the bags were delivered and they joined Kiwanis Club members for a picture. Alexis Sterling, Community Outreach Manager for Options, related that an AKtion Club member, on receiving one of the bags, was quite overcome. “He had tears in his eyes and was very excited. He said, ‘tell them (Kiwanis Club members) that they are great and I miss them so much. This is awesome!’” she said.



Hammond Kiwanis Club members Stephanie Kropog and Judy Couvillion help prepare goodie bags for members of the Hammond AKtion Club.

Sylvia Bush, executive director of Options and Sterling sent a note to the club that read, “The AKtion Club members have loved receiving special goodie bags from the Kiwanis Club. These special bags have brought joy to their day and a smile to their faces. Thank you for your support and making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.”

Couvillion said of the experience, “it really doesn’t take much to enrich the lives of others. Just a little effort and a small demonstration of caring can make such a difference in the lives of others. Making the goodie bags was actually fun and the knowing of how much such a small gesture was appreciated made it all worthwhile. We were just doing our little bit to try and live up to the Kiwanis mission statement.”



Pictured from left, are Brian Phillips, AKtion Club member; Judy Couvillion, AKtion Club sponsor; Alexis Sterling, Community Outreach Manager for Options; Terry King, AKtion Club sponsor; and Chris Carr, AKtion Club member.

BRMHS Key Club Collects Supplies Worth \$10,000+ for Hurricane Relief

From the Facebook Pages of Division 8W Lt. Governor Laura Gilliland & The Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club



tor Ronnie Johns in Lake Charles. She and her parents delivered the first load of supplies the weekend before.

Past President Gary Graham of the Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club drove the U-Haul to Lake Charles and Board Member Don Wiseman of the Red Stick Kiwanis Club drove it back to Baton Rouge. The Red Stick Club furnished all the boxes, the tape, and rented the U-Haul. The Red Stick Kiwanis Club sponsors the Baton Rouge Magnet High School Key Club.



Baton Rouge Magnet High School Key Club made a difference for the Lake Charles community by gathering over \$10,000 worth of relief supplies for victims that suffered devastation from Hurricane Laura. **Baton Rouge Kiwanis** and **Red Stick Kiwa-**

nis members worked along with key clubbers on Saturday, September 26th, to load the supplies into a U-Haul bound for Lake Charles.

This effort was coordinated by Key Club Lieutenant Governor of Division 8A Abigail Peck by meeting with Sena-

Gulf Coast Key Clubbers Show Appreciation to Health Care Workers and First Responders

Travis B. Moore, Division 14 Lt. Gov., Facebook Page

Key Clubs of the Gulf Coast helped Kiwanians host a pancake breakfast and pizza lunch on September 19th at the Long Beach Senior Center for Harrison County healthcare workers and first responders.



Cortana Feeds Hurricane Laura Survivors in Lake Charles

By Dana Vutera, Cortana Kiwanis Club



Governor Patrice Cusimano and Past Governor Eva Abate assist Daryle Gauthier, Cortana Kiwanis member, with cooking jambalaya for hundreds of storm survivors, law enforcement officers and volunteers.

Hurricane Laura barged into southwest Louisiana on Thursday, August 27th, displacing thousands of families, damaging homes and businesses, and carving a path of destruction deep into the state. The storm also created many opportunities for service, so the **Cortana Kiwanis Club** responded as we often do, cooking our world-famous jambalaya and feeding hundreds of storm survivors, law enforcement officers, and volunteers.

The Cortana crew of Daryle Gauthier, Keith McDavid, and Dana Vutera left Baton Rouge at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 5th, expecting that the drive down I-10 to Lake Charles would take longer than usual. Our incoming

LaMissTenn Governor Patrice Cusimano and her husband Sal joined us all the way from the St. Bernard-Arabi Club near New Orleans, and Immediate Past Governor Eva Abate and her daughter Alexis coordinated our site on the Trinity Baptist Church campus, since they live only two miles away. GPS technology guided us to the exact location, but the storm's debris field gave plenty of evidence that we were getting close. Broken branches and missing shingles became uprooted oaks and whole roofs ripped away. Arriving in Lake Charles, we witnessed hundreds of pine trees snapped ten feet from the ground and entire neighborhoods with blue tarp roofs. An exam-

ple of the ferocity of the winds was an auto parts store whose complete front wall had been torn away, exposing the interior shelves and inventory to the torrential rain.

Daryle used his logistics expertise as a construction superintendent to pack his truck and our Cortana cooking trailer with everything that we would need to cook that day, plus lots of other food and cleaning supplies that we could give to local residents. We were set up and cooking by 9:00 a.m., sampling by 10:15, and serving lots of haggard, hungry, yet happy people by 10:30. Asst. Pastor Chad Gilbert from Trinity Baptist prayed with us and for the many people whom we'd be serving that day, mentioning that a sudden, heavy shower the previous day had been disheartening for many. Chefs Daryle and Keith did the heavy lifting, ably assisted by Patrice, Eva, and Alexis, while Sal announced "*Free Jambalaya*" with his hand-lettered cardboard sign in the church driveway. Almost immediately, a caravan of vehicles appeared for curbside service.



The Cortana Kiwanis Cooking crew, Dana Vutera, Keith McDavid and Daryle Gauthier, travel to Lake Charles.

Continued on page 26 . . .

Cortana Feeds Survivors Continued . . .

The happy smiles within those cars and trucks told us all that we needed to know. For many of our guests, this meaty chicken and sausage jambalaya was the first hot meal that they had eaten in a few days. Here are some of the comments that we heard:

- "This is the best jambalaya I've ever eaten!" (Thank you, we hear that a lot.)
- "Can I get one more meal for my mother at home?" (Of course you can. Take another for yourself, too.)
- "God bless you for coming here!" (He already has!)

This was a very heart-warming and gratifying experience for all of our Kiwanis team, coming together from 3 different Clubs of the LaMissTenn District. The Corona virus pandemic has disrupted our lives and altered our



Cortana member Daryle Gauthier, Past Governor Eva Abate, Governor Patrice Cusimano and Cortana member Keith McDavid in front of the Cortana Club's trailer.

routines, but it's also reminding us how hungry we are for genuine and much needed Kiwanis service projects. This day fed us as well, and we're looking forward to another opportunity soon!

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

Cortana Volunteers at Back to School Bash

By Donna Leggett, Cortana Kiwanis Club



Cortana Kiwanis volunteered at the Back to School Bash, hosted by the Safety Place and Healthy Blue on September 5th. This was a drive-thru school supply and mask give-away for the children of the Baton Rouge area. Cortana gave away five hundred books. Healthy Blue had six hundred school supply kits for elementary, middle and high school students. The Safety Place donated a coloring book for each child. OLOL Regional Hospital donated an orange to everyone. CATS gave away face masks. On average each car had two to four children who received a bag of goodies, books and school supplies. Patricia Anderson, Mary Stockwell, Jim Frederick, Heather Givens, Wanda Magee, Pam Morgan and Abbas Momenzadeh served by stuffing goodie bags, organizing books, passing out water and distributing supply kits and books. Although the event did not begin until 10 a.m., fifty cars were already lined up at 8 a.m., showing the great need in this area. It was wonderful to see the smiling faces on the kids.

School Supply Drive is a Success for Cortana!

By Donna Leggett, Cortana Kiwanis Club



Cortana Kiwanis was able to have a successful school supply drive during the pandemic! To make this possible, while we were meeting on zoom, we hosted a drive-by drop off morning for our members. Over the last month we made three large deliveries to Broadmoor Elementary, who we have an ongoing relationship with by sponsoring the BUGs program. Our supply list looked much different this year with the addition of hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, Kleenex and paper towels. Our teachers were greeted with a supply room full of teaching aids, learning games, books,

classroom supplies and school supplies. During this particularly difficult time it is more important than ever to show support for our teachers and parents. Our Co-Community Service Chair Tammy McDavid and BUGs Program Chair Pam Morgan organized this year's school supply drive.

Camellia City Presents Zeller Award

By Wanda Farbe, Camellia City Slidell Kiwanis Club

Recently the **Kiwanis Club of Camellia City, Slidell** held its monthly meeting at a local restaurant, where members discussed their upcoming community projects. President Christina Vauthier also presented Wanda Farbe (a past president) with the Walter Zeller Fellowship Certificate of Appreciation, Medal, and Pin for her generous contribution gift helping "The Eliminate Project" whose goal is to rid the world of maternal and neonatal tetanus. The gift will save or protect mothers and all their future babies and will help Kiwanis change the world.

Pictured from left are: Cameron Clatterbuck, Miranda Parker, Shelley D'Antoni, Amber Andre, Wanda Farbe, Christina Vauthier (president), and Eddie Vauthier.



Dawn Busters Honor Teachers and Staff

By Mike Murphy, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club

While trying to determine a community project-of-value to connect with our club's Rewards-for-Reading program for student recognition during the ever present pandemic, the West-Bank Rewards-for-Reading team created Teacher Appreciation Week. This project was created to honor our teachers and staff for their steadfast work at the elementary schools during the current disruptive and uncertain times.

Our **Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club** is aware of the stress that teachers are under due to the disruptions and uncertainty of the pandemic. The teachers are concerned about their personal health and their students' health. Many are teaching classroom and virtually at the same time. As community stakeholders, we want our teachers to know that we are supporting them. We hope our show of support will let teachers know how much we appreciate their continued work of creating new learning experiences for our students and



helping them to cope within the pandemic.

During the week of September 21st - 25th the team, in partnership with ten other non-profit organizations, delivered 138 dozen donuts to 27 public elementary schools on the West-Bank area of Jefferson Parish that regularly participate in our Kiwanis Rewards-for-Reading student recognition programs.

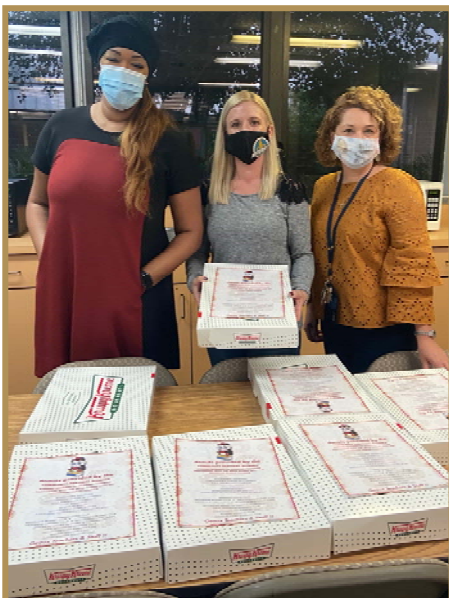
The Rewards-for-Reading team leaders of the Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club

have developed a Community Partnership with the Jefferson Parish Public School System in which we are currently active in 56 public elementary schools across the East Bank and West Bank districts. The program impacts in excess of 22,000 students each semester. Our Rewards-for-Reading program was recently honored as one of the Top-10 Signature Projects in Tier-2 by the Kiwanis International organization.

We want to thank Tiffany Kuhn, President of Jefferson Parish Public School Board, for her support and personal participation in this project.

West-Bank Community Partners Alliance

- Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club
- Algiers Kiwanis Club
- Pontchartrain Kiwanis
- West Jefferson Kiwanis
- Marrero Lions Club
- Optimist Club of West Bank
- Rotary Club of West Bank
- Rotary Club of Westwego
- Woodmere Civic Association
- Jefferson Values Family & Community



Denham Springs West Livingston Helps to Connect Patients with Families

By Jeff Perkins, President, Denham Springs West Livingston Kiwanis Club

The Denham Springs West Livingston Kiwanis Club donated two Facebook portals to Ochsner Medical Center located at 17000 Medical Center Dr. in Baton Rouge, La. This was done to benefit the patients in the hospital who have limited or no visitation with family or friends and provides them the opportunity to communicate with them. The portals were donated on Tuesday, August 11th at 1:30 p.m. at the hospital. This was accomplished by the club donating funds from their project account.

Pictured from left are: Sandra Dent, Exec. Assistant, Ochsner Medical Center; Doris Piper, Secretary-Elect, West Livingston Kiwanis; and Jeff Perkins, President, West Livingston Kiwanis.



Dawn Busters Devise Clever Marketing Method

By Sal LaRock, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club



drive in heavy traffic to get the maximum eye contact with other drivers. Since the signs are portable it looks like I am everywhere. The club is planning to follow up with phase two where different signs with KIWANIS messages will be placed at intersections and business locations. The result from this simple project is amazing.

I have been staying home since March and not able, due to the virus, to be present and participate in club projects. I was motivated when I read our last KIWANIS magazine and was encouraged to think about new approaches to get our Kiwanis name out. So I spoke to my club about a project that would get massive amounts of community branding, marketing and would put a smile on peoples faces and make a positive community impact. I want to introduce you to our Dawn Busters Happy Family Truck for Rewards for Reading with Teddie, Sunny and Katie the Duck. Daily I



Dyersburg Recognized as Non-Profit Organization of the Year

By John Lowrance, President, Dyersburg Kiwanis Club

On February 8, 2020, the **Dyersburg Kiwanis Club** was recognized as the 2019 Non-Profit Organization of the Year. This award was presented at the Annual Chairman's Awards Banquet that is conducted by the Dyersburg-Dyer County Chamber of Commerce. The selection committee chose the Dyersburg Club over several worthy non-profit organizations in the Dyersburg and Dyer County area.

In order to be selected for this prestigious honor, the Dyersburg Club had to be able to describe all aspects of its work within the local community. Areas that were included were: (1) a brief description of the club itself, (2) a history of the club's growth and development, (3) a mention and description of some of its major fundraising achievements, (4) its various community contributions and services, (5) an insight into the membership's participation in community and civic affiliations, (6) a context upon which it bases the club's ethics and integrity, and (7) any awards or recognition highlights that the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club had received during its existence.

The following is a more comprehensive description of the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club for each of these areas: Our **core values** emphasize the importance to our club that each member and our members as a collective group work together as a service organization that strives in cooperation with our community to help children realize that they are of value as individuals. We further seek to encourage them to be contributing members of society as they endeavor to become successful adults. We see our efforts as a valuable contribution that betters our community in the present and into the future. **Our goal** is ultimately to seek out opportunities both large and



small that help other entities such as our schools, charitable organizations and their endeavors, service organizations, as well as private businesses to support the children of our immediate community, the larger regional area, and even the world. **Our mission:** Kiwanis is a global organization dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

While the Kiwanis International began in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan, the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club began in 1938. We originally chartered our club with 15 to 20 founding community businessmen and community leaders. The Memphis Kiwanis Club chartered our club only 23 years after Kiwanis International's inception. Once chartered, we began to grow numerically to a high of approximately 101 in 1997. In 2020, our membership is at 67 members. We further have helped to charter Kiwanis Clubs in Jackson, Union City, Trenton and Tiptonville. We have also worked closely with Dyersburg High School and Dyer County High School to begin and support the formation and service efforts of their Key Clubs. We have also reached out beyond our county into other nearby counties to help initiate Key Clubs and Kiwanis

Clubs. This number includes both men and women. Women began to be included in our local membership in 1987. They have helped our club to broaden our outreach to an even larger segment of our community. Through the years, we have worked to sponsor such organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Dyer County Spelling Bee. We have recognized the Outstanding Junior Boys and Girls at Dyersburg High School. We have helped to fund students from each high school to go to the Key Leader program since 2011. We have also sponsored students to attend the American Legion Boys and Girls State leadership program.

Our Kiwanis Club initiated the Duck Blast Project as a way to reach out in a greater and more focused way to help organizations like McIvers Grant Public Library, Life Choices, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, New Life Youth Camp of the Dyersburg Dyer County Union Mission, Special Olympics, and 4H Youth to name a few.

Our fundraising achievements have focused our efforts in three key Signature Projects. These projects are the **Kiwanis Duck Blast Project** held in mid-January,

Continued on Page 31 . . .

Dyersburg Recognized as Non-Profit Organization of the Year Continued . . .

By John Lowrance, President, Dyersburg Kiwanis Club

the **Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast** held in late February, and the **Kiwanis Goodfellows Project** held in mid- December. These projects provide sufficient funds to allow our club to allocate financial resources to a wide variety of organizations and causes that help the children in our community and to needs across the larger community area. Particularly focusing just on our most recent five years of fundraising, we have raised enough funds from our **Kiwanis Goodfellows Project** to provide needy families a large box of food. The number of recipient families has totaled over 2,304 in the Dyersburg and Dyer County area. The funds collected for Kiwanis Goodfellows for that period totaled in excess of 145 thousand dollars. Kiwanis has been a part of Goodfellows since 1945 as we have helped families across Dyersburg and Dyer County.

Our **Kiwanis Duck Blast** project has raised approximately 200,000 dollars since the time of its inception nine years ago. These funds have been distributed to support the McIvers Grant Public Library, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Life Choices, the New Life Union Mission, our own Kiwanis Park, and a number of other causes with our financial donations exceeding 10,000 dollars up to our highest donation amount of 50,000 dollars to McIvers Grant Library.

Our **Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast** project is a long-standing event that raises in most years of its existence around \$7,000 per year. These funds along with other financial resources help to address lesser but important financial needs in our community. **Examples of these are:** Terrific Kids, Key Clubs at Dyersburg and Dyer County High Schools, Dyersburg State Community College Scholarship to their general fund, one scholarship each to a senior at Dyersburg and

Dyer County High Schools, Imagination Library through community partnership as the flow through organization of funds for the Dyersburg and Dyer County School Systems, Dixie Youth Baseball, American Cancer Society, Kaleidoscope Summer Youth Program and Ross United Methodist Church, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Journey Bags in conjunction with Junior Auxiliary, and the YMCA. We also support other community needs as funds are available and come to our attention.

While directing financial resources is one aspect of what we do as the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club, we also reach out into the community as servants and leaders. Many of our members participate in worship in various religious denominations and advocate for morality and justice within our community. Our members are known for their willingness to step up and promote the Dyersburg and Dyer County area to promote growth in businesses. Our members actively recruit new business opportunities. We serve as ambassadors to businesses, professionals, and families. We serve not because we have to, but because we want to help our area to rise to the top as a leader for progress in the Mid-South Region, in West Tennessee, and in our state as a whole.

Members, whether men or women, young or old, spend a great deal of time supporting local sports teams as coaches, mentors, sponsors, spectators, and even as athletes. The focus in sports programs affirms our core mission of focusing on our community's children. We are down to earth, friendly, caring people that others know can be counted on. We serve on boards of other organizations that focus on planning and growth of our community. Many of our members serve in multiple capacities beyond their primary professions because of their pride in

community, dedication to progress and success, and the desire to make a lasting difference that leaves Dyersburg and Dyer County in a better place as we leave a legacy and example for those that will follow in our footsteps as productive citizens.

The Ethics and Integrity of our Dyersburg Kiwanis Club are exemplified in the Six Objects that are found to be a part of all Kiwanis Clubs. These Objects speak to the commitments made from the earliest beginnings of Kiwanis. As Kiwanians representing the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club, we are always striving to live up to each of these objects. We know that these objects are a code of morality and principles that guide our conduct, our interactions with others, and direct our efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of all humanity.

We have been recognized several times over the years as a Distinguished Kiwanis Club by our parent organization, Kiwanis International. We are well known in our community for our service and our charitable efforts such as our donations for addressing Maternal Neonatal Tetanus (The Eliminate Project is a world-wide Kiwanis International service project to eliminate neonatal tetanus) as we were recognized for our \$58,500 donation commitment that placed us at #5 of 130 clubs in our district of Louisiana, Mississippi and West Tennessee. The Eliminate Project is estimated to save 55 million lives worldwide while raising over 110 million dollars. We have had at least eight Lieutenant Governors from our club over the last fifty years. Every one of these factors included here help to explain the reasons why the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club is important to the children and to all members of our community.

Greenfield Helps Kids Despite COVID!

By Rachel Lovell, Greenfield Kiwanis Club

Over the last several months, the **Kiwanis Club of Greenfield** has been involved in several service projects. Before the pandemic hit, our group organized a stuffed animal drive to benefit the Weakley/Obion County Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Each child that visits the center receives a stuffed animal of their choice. We are so grateful for the services provided by the Carl Perkins Center and wanted to give back in a small way. Accepting the donation was Stacey Coleman, Victims Advocate for the Carl Perkins Center and Kiwanis member.

Kiwanis members pictured from left are: Lori Rash, Stacey Coleman, Rachel Lovell, and Robert Lovell.



Also, in partnership with the City of Greenfield, the Kiwanis Club of Greenfield collected school supplies for Greenfield Junior High School. In its 2nd annual year, the City of Greenfield organized a school supply drive to provide supplies to the local elementary and junior high school. Participating in the drive were local churches, organizations and businesses. Accepting the Kiwanis donation were Principal Jeff Cupples along with junior high teachers Lee Ann Ursery and Anna Bryant.

Pictured from left: Jeff Cupples, Principal; Rachel Lovell, Greenfield Kiwanis member; Annabelle Lovell, GJHS student; Lee Ann Ursery, teacher; and Anna Bryant, teacher.

Greenfield Member Receives Zeller

By Linda Ramsey, Martin Kiwanis Club

Recently, **Martin Kiwanis Club** Past President Danelle Fabianich presented a Zeller Award to **Greenfield Kiwanis Club** Board Member Tara Tansil-Gentry. The Zeller Award is a gift of \$1,250 to the Kiwanis International Children's Fund toward Project Eliminate. One Zeller will save the lives of approximately 700 unborn children and their mothers from ever getting Tetanus world-wide! This presentation was originally done via the regular Zoom Meeting of the Greenfield Kiwanis Club, and Linda Ramsey, Club Coach, presented the Zeller to Tara on behalf of Past Governor, Otha Britton, who is a member of the Martin Kiwanis Club. Otha wished to honor Tara for her dedication to the International Children's Fund through her efforts as the UTM Women's Basketball Coach when she asked her team to do a Free-Throw Basketball Fundraiser for the World-Wide Iodine Deficiency Project. Danelle also wanted to proudly display the District Foundation Garden Flag that she just purchased to keep Kiwanis soaring in our community. Danelle's donation will directly help our LaMiss'Tenn Kiwanis District Foundation with Key Club and Circle K Scholarships and provide grants for Community Projects.



Gulf Coast Kiwanis Clubs Honor Health Care Workers & First Responders

By Howard Lock, Long Beach Kiwanis Club

The Gulf Coast Kiwanis Clubs and Key Clubs honored Harrison County health care workers and first responders by hosting a pancake breakfast and a pizza lunch at the Long Beach Senior Center on September 19th. Sponsoring Kiwanis clubs were: Biloxi, Gulfport, Long Beach, and Orange Grove.



Howard Lock of the Long Beach Kiwanis Club instructs Key Clubbers.



Long Beach Police Chief tells Howard to leave those kids alone.



Tony DeLorenzo brings out more pancakes for Key Clubbers to serve.



Anna DeLorenzo & Ingrid Miscavage cooking pancakes.



← Pictures from the left: Div.14 Lt. Gov. Travis Moore with Long Beach Kiwanis members Howard Lock, Deb Kurts, Barbara Olson, Ingrid Miscavage, and Region 3 Trustee Rogena Mitchell

Hammond Kiwanis Accomplishes Mission of Mercy

By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club



Hammond Kiwanis Member Elliot Sanders cuts away tree limbs downed by Hurricane Laura at the First Christian Church of Sulphur.

Members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** accomplished a “mission of mercy” by bringing needed assistance to a church community in the Lake Charles area that was extensively damaged by Hurricane Laura, a huge storm that brought widespread destruction to Southwest Louisiana in August.

Club President George Anthon, accompanied by his wife Gina, and Kiwanis members Rev. Angie Kretzer and Elliott Sanders, along with Sanders’ two children, spent a long, hot day clearing branches and debris from the campus of the First Christian Church of Sulphur.

Rev. Kretzer, who is pastor of the First Christian Church of Hammond, said of the venture, “A year ago I visited the First Christian Church in Sulphur when the congregation celebrated its 100th anniversary. It was a lovely occasion and the memory of that time

was still on my mind when we went back to help the church recover from the storm. Trees were down around the church and the congregation’s lovely prayer garden was all a mess. We spent the day working to help clear debris from the church grounds. Their congregation features a number of older members who just were not able to do what needed to be done without help.”

She said that the Sulphur church’s pastor, Rev. Bobbie Yellott, and her husband, Randy, were most gracious for the help brought by the Hammond Kiwanis members. “Our club president, George Anthon, did an incredible job with his chain saw. He worked hard all day cutting up the trees and branches so that we could haul the wood to the roadside for eventual collection. At the end of the day we had cleared the church property of much of the debris.” Rev. Kretzer said of the day, “it was a very positive experience. This was a first step in helping others to regain a senses of normalcy in their lives. This is what we are asked to do, to assist our neighbors when we can. Helping others in situations such as storm recovery brings out the best in who we are as caring persons.”

Rev. Kretzer said that the experience helping the church in Sulphur is just one more way that members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club are reaching out to others in these uncertain times. Rev. Kretzer, along with Gina Anthon and a few others, have started making visits to various places in the Hammond community where residents have

been largely kept apart during the coronavirus pandemic. The group plays some musical instruments and sings for those who are basically shut ins.

“For instance, we recently visited a nursing home and we had a great time. We couldn’t go inside the building, but we sang to them through the windows and the residents really enjoyed hearing us sing to them. We visited Options, an agency that treats the needs of the disabled, and they asked us to sing Christmas carols so that is what we did. We sing, say a few prayers, and pass out some small treats. It’s a way of bringing joy to those who need to be uplifted during these trying times brought on by the coronavirus. It’s people showing their care for others, and that is part of the Kiwanis spirit. This is been a rewarding experience.”



Hammond Kiwanis Club President George Anthon and his wife Gina, armed with their rakes, take time from a busy day clearing debris from the campus of the First Christian Church of Sulphur to pose for a picture.

Snapshots from Hammond

By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS: After receiving a telephone call from a Rotarian friend, a group of **Hammond Kiwanis Club** members made a trip to LaPlace to pickup free books that the Kiwanians will use with their Kiwanis Happy Pack Program. The District Rotarians received 45 pallets of educational materials designed for use by pre-K to secondary students. The books were offered to several Rotary Districts and other non-profit organizations. Pictured loading a trailer with some of the books, from left, were Kiwanis members, Mayson Foster, Judy Couvillion, Roy Blackwood, Vic Couvillion and David Anthon, son of club president George Anthon. For several years the Hammond Kiwanis Club has been conducting the Happy Pack program that provides snacks for students to take home over the weekend when they do not have access to school-prepared meals. Included in each backpack is a book for use by the young student.

HELP FOR STORM VICTIMS: Forrest Guedry, left, a member of the **Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club**, and his father, Sid Guedry, a member of the **Hammond Kiwanis Club**, load water and other needed supplies destined for victims of Hurricane Laura that struck Southwest Louisiana in August. The Guedrys assisted family members and others who live in the Lake Charles area. Other members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club have made missions of mercy to the storm ravaged area bringing needed supplies to those who lost so much in the massive storm.



Hammond: Meeting Via Hybrid

Members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** were most happy to once again meet in person after months of Zoom meetings. The club has now enjoyed three successful “hybrid” meetings at the Mezzanine, the club’s meeting place every Tuesday at noon.

When the threat of the coronavirus changed the lives of practically everyone in the world, many Kiwanis Clubs regretfully decided to cease meeting at their regular times and venues. To maintain contacts among the members, various “virtual” meetings were arranged by the clubs. The Hammond Kiwanis Club was no exception and while the Zoom meetings maintained the “ties that bind,” it was just not the same as gathering in fellowship for

what has become known as a “regular” meeting. The club met once in June but after only one meeting, the restaurant had to close ending that attempt at in-person meetings.

In August the club’s directors decided to try again on Sept. 1. That meeting was successful as was the next on Sept. 8. Then came the threat of a hurricane so the meeting planned for the next Tuesday was cancelled. On Sept. 22 the club once again heard the sound of the president’s gavel signaling that a regular meeting was a reality.

For the first two meetings, between 25 and 30 members were in attendance at the “in-person” meetings as well as nearly 10 joining via Zoom. For the meeting on Sept. 22, almost 40 were in

attendance. Before the virus threat, the club could usually count between 50-55 members present so the latest numbers are steadily growing.

Those attending the meetings are required to wear a mask until they begin their meal and are encouraged to put the mask back on when they finish eating. The Mezzanine has done an outstanding job of taking every possible precaution to assure that safety measures are practiced. Because The Mezzanine is a large facility members can be seated at least six feet from each other. A sanitizer station awaits members as they enter the facility and the staff serves the meals so that as few hands as possible are touching plates.

Martin Kiwanis Club President Remembered with District Garden Flag

By Linda Ramsey, Martin Kiwanis Club

The Martin Kiwanis Club lost their Club President, Christie Ricketts, to cancer this past month. Our Past President, Danelle Fabianich, decided that she wanted to purchase a Kiwanis Garden Flag to place at Christie's gravesite. Christie was one of the finest Christian women I have ever had the privilege to know in my lifetime. She will always be remembered by our club for her service and her caring heart. The Martin Kiwanis Club Board decided at our last Board Meeting to honor Christie by renaming our annual high school scholarship, the Christie Ricketts Memorial Kiwanis Scholarship.



I know that recently we have lost some other very fine individuals who served in Kiwanis Clubs across the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District. I thought I would share Danelle's idea with you, because some of you might wish to honor others as well with a District Garden Flag. You can check with any member of the District Foundation to purchase one of these flags, and let the world know that the individual was a faithful and appreciated member of Kiwanis in our district.

Stone County Holds Successful Care Bag Drive

By Danyell Wietbrock, Stone County Kiwanis Club

Stone County Kiwanis Club and members of the community came together and collected over 50 "Care Bags" for the children of Stone County in Foster Care.



Kids Need New Orleans Kiwanis!



Kiwanis Kares Activity Packs

By Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

On August 26th, Hurricane Laura slammed Southwestern Louisiana as a category 4 storm, causing devastation with flooding, high winds and massive power outages. Thousands of people were evacuated. In New Orleans, there were more than 6,000 people seeking shelter. Due to COVID-19, large conventional shelters were not advised, so hotels began offering shelter. Many families now began their waiting process, while the State determined if they

could return to their homes in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes.

Lady Walker, also known as “Flossin’ Possum”, a unique popular icon in the City of New Orleans, and some friends were trying to figure out how to provide comfort to the children who had been displaced. Debi Ryan, member of **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans**, called on the club to see if we wanted to undertake such a project.

Absolutely! Having gone through Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, we knew how important it was to get some sort of comfort to the kids, who were sitting in New Orleans hotels, with very little personal possessions. Within 5 days, all sorts of items had been bought through Dollar Tree, Amazon (thanks to super fast shipping), Beads by the

Dozen Carnival Supplies and Office Depot.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of New Orleans and their families gathered on Sunday to put together these “Kiwanis Kares Activity Packs.” Within an hour, 100 packs were made, consisting of 2 coloring activity books, crayons, colored pencils/sharpeners, card games packs, mini flashlights and a cuddly, stuffed animal. The packs were then delivered to the New Orleans Convention Center, where they were given to families, as they picked up other necessities and food/water. We intend on making another 2 or possibly 3 sets of Kiwanis Kares Activity Packs, as we assess the needs and the number of families still sheltered in the New Orleans area.

Masks for Angels

By Mark Firmin, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

The **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the District Foundation to work with Angels’ Place to provide cloth reusable masks to help with protection during the COVID 19 pandemic. Angels’ Place is a non-profit organization that provides ongoing support services to children with life threatening diseases and their families. Funding from the grant was used to purchase masks for adults and teens as well as masks for children. The adult/teen masks had the KCNO logo on them as well as the Angels’ Place logo to spotlight this continuing community partnership.

Masks were distributed to most of

the families in conjunction with a school supply drive. As the child received their school supplies, masks were given for everyone in the family. The kids loved that they had masks to start the school year feeling protected and wanting to return to see their friends at school. The parents and caregivers were relieved that they could get masks at no cost to them. They had a new level of insurance that their children would be protected. Since some of the families could not travel easily to receive school supplies and masks, the remaining funding from the grant paid for several families to have masks mailed to them via the USPS.



Thank you, LaMissTenn District Foundation for giving us the opportunity to help the wonderful children and families of Angels’ Place to give them this additional level of protection during this time of uncertainty.

Ponchatoula Thanks Teachers

By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

For many years the **Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club** has helped usher in the new school year with a gala breakfast to which all the principals, teachers and staff from the schools in the Ponchatoula area were invited. The breakfast was enlivened with door prize drawings, addresses from Kiwanians and school officials, and a sharing of fellowship and camaraderie among the teachers who were preparing for a new school year.

With the threat of the coronavirus that has halted many such gatherings, members of the Kiwanis Club explored ways to keep alive the support for the area's teachers, said Darrell Rousseau, president of the club. "We missed our Annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast which was something that all of our members looked forward to each year. The breakfast afforded our club the opportunity to meet with the teachers and principals to show our support for the important role that they play in the lives of our children," he said. To replace the breakfast, the members decided to prepare "goody bags" for the teachers and then set about gathering items to fill the bags. In each bag the members placed various items that might help the teachers as they embarked on a new school year.

The club then proceeded to gather items for the 320 teachers who fill the classrooms of area schools. Members sought out donations of some of the items and used funds raised by the club to purchase other things. A number of



Members of the Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club recently presented "goodie bags" to staff and faculty at the Perrin Early Learning Center. Pictured at the presentation, from left, were Sarah LaCroix, kindergarten teacher; Lorinda Elzy, principal, Rose Ann Husser, Ponchatoula Kiwanian, Amanda McDaniel, assistant principal, and Tristen Robinson, kindergarten teacher.

members gathered to fill the bags and they were recently brought to each school where they were presented to the teachers.

"Sadly, due to the pandemic, we were not able to have our annual Teacher's Prayer Breakfast for all the wonderful teachers and staff of our Ponchatoula schools. But, we wanted to make sure they knew we were praying for them and supporting them. Presenting the 'goody bags' to all the teachers in our area was our way of saying 'thank you' for the wonderful work that our teachers do. Hopefully it's a small token of our appreciation for everything they do for our children," said Rose Ann Husser, a member of the Kiwanis Club.

Added Lisa LaCour, another member of the Kiwanis Club, "please keep our teachers and all their students in your prayers during these difficult and uncertain times. The Tangipahoa Parish School Board and the administrative staff are under tremendous pressure as they are making every attempt to maintain a learning environment in a safe way. They need all the support they can get."

Rousseau observed, "part of the mission statement for Kiwanis International is a dedication to improving our world one child and one community at a time. Our giving the teachers and staff these 'goody bags' was just one more way that our club is working to fulfill that commitment."

Twin Cities Conduct School Supply Drive

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

Members of the **Kiwanis Club of the Twin Cities, Ken-Tenn.** recently conducted a school supply drive for students at Fulton Elementary School and South Fulton Middle School. Items were collected by club members as well as dropped off at local businesses: P & R Tire and The Citizens Bank.



Vicksburg Helps Library with Summer Reading

By Donna Osburn, Vicksburg Kiwanis Club

Every year the Warren County – Vicksburg Public Library starts planning its annual Summer Reading program as early as October or November of the previous year. Many months of planning and compiling projects culminate in a 7-week program that runs from June 1st through Mid to late July. We kick off with a big party with a magician and end with a celebration meal to hand out all the awards earned by the children. In between are weekly crafts, stories, and learning experiences at the library. Well this year that all had to change due to COVID-19.

The theme for 2020 was *Imagine your World*. The magician taped his performance and the library was able to put in on a website so that anyone who registered could see the performance virtually. **The Vicksburg Kiwanis Club** put together 100 packets to be given out for each child. The packets included many crafts such as: build a dragon, the Princess and the Pea, The Frog Prince, a Knights Shields, a fire torch, and Jack and the Beanstalk. After a child registered online, they could run by the library and pick up their packet of crafts.

We missed having the opening and closing ceremonies and all the craft days in between but we still helped to foster a spirit of reading throughout the summer by children.

This year's program ran from July 1st through July 28th. We had a total registration of 115 children and 44 of them completed the program. Those 44 read a whopping 54,009 minutes or over 20 hours each! I call that success!



Three New Club Openings in the District!

Division 7: Broussard Youngsville and Scott



On September 17th, two new clubs were opened in Division 7: the **Kiwanis Club of Broussard Youngsville** and the **Kiwanis Club of Scott**. Twenty-three members were welcomed to the Louisiana Mississippi West Tennessee District in the Kiwanis Club of Broussard Youngsville and 33 joined the Kiwanis Club of Scott! A fun bunch people are eager to serve the children in their community.

Pictured above are the new members of this Kiwanis Club of Scott and to the right are the new members of the Kiwanis Club of Broussard Youngsville.



Division 8E: Ascension Parish



The 3rd club to be built in the LaMissTenn District for the 2019-2020 Kiwanis year had its opening night on September 30th. Just two weeks in under the wire for Governor R. Bruce Hammatt on the last day of the Kiwanis year, the **Kiwanis Club of Ascension Parish** opened with 24 members in spite of COVID. Now on to build more clubs for Governor Patrice Downing Cusimano!

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Keeps on Giving

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Providing Hurricane Disaster Relief

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club members Gary Graham and Bruce Hammatt delivered pancake batter and syrup donated by the Kiwanis Club of Paris, Texas to the Catholic Charities in Lake Charles on September 14th. Past Governor Eva Abate met them there and helped. A big thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Paris, Texas for helping out the communities devastated by hurricane Laura.



Contributing to the Community



1. President-Elect Joy Hammatt, presented a check for \$2,000 for the Disaster Relief Fund of the LaMissTenn District Foundation. Accepting the check is LaMissTenn Executive Director Charlie Ford.

2. Joy also delivered a \$500 check to Peter Claffey, Executive Director of the Knock Knock Children's Museum.

3. And being the Youth Services Chairman, Joy Hammatt also presented the YMCA with a check for \$1,000 in July. The Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club has been supporting sending children to summer camps for many years. The YMCA is still having summer camp classes in much smaller group settings. Pictured are Joy Hammatt, Program Director of Childcare Monica Brown, and Executive Director Matt Falcon.

Camellia City Paints Bathroom Inspirations

Camellia City, Slidell Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Kiwanis Club of Camellia City, Slidell repainted and designed inspirational scenes on the gym bathroom stalls at St. Tammany Junior High School (STJH) during the summer. Their goal was to make the STJH gym bathrooms positive for the 2020-2021 school year. Members had a great time and learned a lot and are ready for their next service project!



Cortana Spreads the Love

Cortana Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Cook Team Travels to Sulphur

Cortana Kiwanis sent a jambalaya cook team to serve the community in Sulphur, LA. This area was devastated by Hurricane Laura and is still struggling to rebuild. We worked jointly with Henning Memorial United Methodist Church, which is serving as a distribution station for much needed supplies. The recipients were extremely grateful to have a hot meal making us so happy to have the opportunity to cook for them.



Special Delivery of Trauma Dolls

Special Delivery! Cortana Kiwanis delivered fifty trauma dolls to St. George Fire Department Station 62. Eight members stuffed and packaged these dolls for area fire stations to assist in helping children cope in difficult situations. The dolls provide the children with a huggable method of comfort. Young Children Priority One is an ongoing community program of Kiwanis International that addresses the needs of children ages 5 and under. This program helps Kiwanis meet the objective of "Serving the children of the world." Thank you to the YCPO committee members Ericka Garcia, Margaret Hodges, Keith and Tammy McDavid, Pam Morgan, Debbie Salvant, Wanda Magee, Brenda Bordelon and Brenda Robbins for making the trauma dolls.



Pictured are Captain William Gaspard, Firefighter David Hebert, Lt. Sam Williams, YCPO Chair Wanda Magee, Cortana President Donna Leggett, Firefighter Aly Arn, and Captain Jesse Wingate.



Dawn Busters Receive Proclamation for Project

Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club members Marcel Lashover and Mel Dussel accepted a proclamation from the Jefferson Parish Council for *The Dawn Busters Rewards for Reading Program* read and presented by Councilwoman Jennifer VanVranckin. The project won Top 10 of all Kiwanis Clubs in the World in Tier-II which are clubs of 28 members or more. We are smiling under our masks!

DeRidder & Denham Springs Clubs Work Together

DeRidder Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The **Kiwanis Club of DeRidder** worked along side the **Kiwanis Club of Denham Springs** passing out free meals at City Hall in DeRidder to hurricane Laura victims in late September.



Dyersburg Finds Ways to Serve

Dyersburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Dyersburg Kiwanis Club members are finding ways to serve our community! On September 15th, Joe Enoch, Kristol Sentell, and Dr. Karen Bowyer volunteered with United Way of West Tennessee to pack care packages as part of the Caring Project in Dyer County. These bags will be distributed to those in need across the county. Also, there is a sign of new things to come in Dyersburg!

#KidsNeedKiwans



East St. Mary Supports Boy Scouts of America

East St. Mary Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On July 10th the **Kiwanis Club of East St. Mary** made a donation to Boys Scouts of America Troop 49! Each year Troop 49 helps the club with the Fishing Rodeo. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the club was not able to host the Fishing Rodeo this year but hopes to have it next year!



Greater Ouachita Gives Bikes for Books

Greater Ouachita Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

One of the fantastic programs that the **Greater Ouachita Kiwanis Club** is involved in is the Bikes for Books Summer Reading Program. This year, the club's third year, club members awarded 10 awesome bikes to 10 awesome kids who were selected out of all the children who participated across Ouachita Parish. Thank you very much to the Ouachita Parish Public Library for their hard-working support of this initiative.



Lafayette Partners with Backpack Project

Lafayette Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Lafayette Kiwanis Club partnered with the Backpack Project this summer to help out foster children in Acadiana with the school supplies they need!

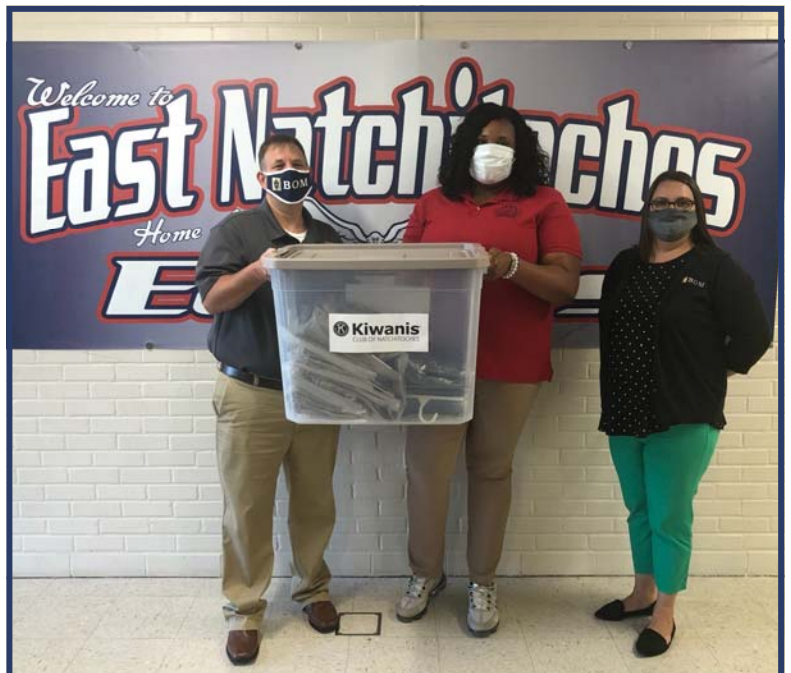


Natchitoches Sponsors Annual Uniform Drive for Elementary Schools

Natchitoches Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Kiwanis Club of Natchitoches is proud to have sponsored the annual uniform drive for the Elementary schools in Natchitoches Parish. These uniforms will be used as surplus for the schools in the event that students have to change uniforms while at school.

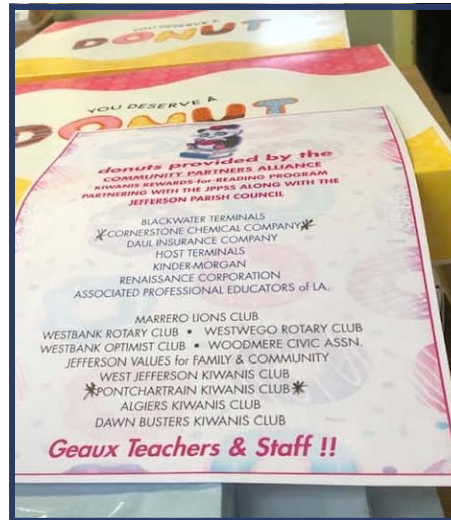
Pictured from left are: Kiwanian Craig George, East Natchitoches Elementary Principal Chrystal A. Davis and Kiwanian Emily Settle.



Pontchartrain Delivers Surprise Donuts

Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain members Deidre Charlot and Myra Lewis delivered four dozen donuts to Cherbonnier School on Friday to help celebrate the completion of the first full week of their safe return to in-house classes. School Principal, Mrs. Cristin Menyweather, is shown accepting the donuts provided under an alliance that joins Jefferson Parish Schools with a partnership between Cornerstone Chemical and Kiwanis Pontchartrain.



Southwest-Lafayette Hosts Successful Shrimp Boil

Southwest-Lafayette Kiwanis Club Facebook Page



Thank you to everyone who supported the Southwest-Lafayette Kiwanis Club's Annual Shrimp Boil Fundraiser! Your participation allows us to continue to support our community! Thank you to Keisha Taylor for creating our face masks to keep us and others safe during this time! Thank you to Teurlings Catholic High School for allowing us to utilize your facility!



Starkville Supports Emergency Response Volunteers

Starkville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Kiwanis Club of Starkville was proud to provide funding support to Oktibbeha Starkville Emergency Response Volunteer Services (OSERVS). Picking up the check for OSERVS is Kayla Gilmore, the new OSERVS Executive Director. She is pictured receiving the check from 2019-2020 Kiwanis Club of Starkville President Jim Henson.

St. Bernard-Arabi Appreciates Life Savers

Saint Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On September 22nd, the **Kiwanis Club of Saint Bernard-Arabi** recognized a Life Saver from the Sheriff's Office. Our recipient this quarter is very deserving, Deputy Richard Scheuermann, a seven year veteran of the Sheriff's Office. It's because of individuals like Deputy Scheuermann that our community is a safe place to live and we are so grateful for the dedication and service of our Sheriff's Office and first responders.

Dep. Scheuermann, a seven-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office who works in the Field Operations Bureau Patrol Division, was honored for his efforts to save a woman who attempted to end her life in June, 2020.



Pictured from left are: Maj. Walter Dornan; Dep. Randy Scheuermann, the recipient's father; Sam Catalanotto, Kiwanis Life Saver Committee Chairman; Sheriff James Pohlmann; and Col. Adolph Kreger.

Twin Cities Club Adopts a Project

The Twin Cities Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

Members of the **Twin Cities Kiwanis Club** started Phase 1 of the renovation of "The Star in the Park." This project was one of the Twin Cities Community's "Adopt a Project" locations and our club was excited to take in the challenge!



Tupelo Donates Lunch Money to Charities

Tupelo Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

During the Covid-19 quarantine time of not meeting for their lunch meal, the **Tupelo Kiwanis Club** donated its weekly meal cost of \$1,350.00 to local charities to help feed the kids totaling over \$7,000. The Club was happy to donate some of its “lunch money” to help feed kids through the Guntown Middle School Food Pantry!



Thrilled to receive the donation for middle school students are pictured from left: Gena Nolan, Kiwanis Club President; Karen Letson, Principal, Guntown Middle School; Vanessa Washington, Science Teacher, Guntown Middle School and Food Pantry Director; and Kim Dill, Kiwanis Club Board Member.

Vicksburg Recognizes Healthcare Workers

Vicksburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The **Vicksburg Kiwanis Club** recognized the healthcare workers at Mission Primary Care Clinic by providing them lunch! Thanks to the workers for all they do for our community.



Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany Domingue, District Bulletin Editor

Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: tiffany@lamisstenn.org

ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS: All article submissions must be attached in an email as a Word document and should be approximately 250 words or less. **Please submit original articles written by your club's members. We cannot use pre-published articles due to copyright laws.** Do not include photos within text documents; send as separate attachments in the highest resolution TIFF or JPEG file if possible. Include a description of the photograph.

DEADLINES:

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

January 2021 Issue = Deadline: December 17, 2020

April 2021 = Deadline: March 17, 2021

July 2021 Issue = Deadline: June 17, 2021

Include this information:

CLUB: Club, Division Number, and Author

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

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

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

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

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

We want photographs showing how your club impacts the community!



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

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

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