

January 2023

Kiwanis®

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News



**Governor and First Lady Promote
Pre-School Literacy Across the District**

Improving the world one child and one community at a time

**As of January 1, 2023 the District Office has relocated to:
10000 Celtic Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

20



24



25



ON THE COVER:

LAMSTN Governor Bruce Hammatt supports the First Lady's pre-K-literacy initiative by assisting a student with a "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" activity. *See more on Page 7.*

IN THIS ISSUE

3-9 District News

- 3 District Check-In 4Q 2022
- 4 A Message from the Governor
- 5 Article Pour la Nouvelle Annee
- 6 Teamwork Makes the Dream Work
- 7 Governor and First Lady Promote Pre-K Literacy
- 8 Past Governor's Challenge 2022-2023
- 8 Two for Two
- 8 LAMSTN District Convention
- 9 2023 Mid-Year Regional Education Conferences

10-11 The Foundation

- 10 How You Can Get Involved with Your District Foundation
- 11 Grants 101: The Basics

12-15 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 12 Kiwanis Children's Fund
- 13 Membership & Engagement: LAMSTN Welcomes Clubs
- 14-15 Key Leader: A Life Changing Experience
- 15 Aspire to Inspire: A Day or Two Ago

16 K-KIDS NEWS

- 16 Rebuilding K-Kids in Our District
- 16 Germantown K-Kids are Still in Business

17 KEY CLUB NEWS

- 17 80th Key Club District Convention

18 CIRCLE K CLUB NEWS

- 18 Circle K Convention

19-27 CLUB NEWS

28 BACK COVER

- 28 Share Your Club's News
- 28 Deadlines
- 28 District Leadership
- 28 District Office Information

DISTRICT CHECK IN 4Q 2022

GOALS & EVENTS

2022-2023 Mid-Year Regional Education Conference

starting Jan 21st
register on online

Key Club
DCON
April 14th-16th

Circle K
DCON
Feb 24th-25th

22-23 District Goals:

- Build 4 new clubs
- Strengthen 4 existing clubs above Charter strength
- Make clubs mirror their community
- Increase SLP membership, open 2 community based Key Clubs, 20 K-Kids, & 2 Aktion Clubs

Key Club & Circle K
Scholarships
due Jan 15th

STAY IN THE LOOP:
lamisstenn.org

KI
Signature
Projects
due mid-
Jan

A Message from the Governor

By Bruce Hammatt, Governor

Wow, I can't believe it is already 2023. I have been in office as your District Governor for just a little over three months and it seems like my year just started a few days ago. I wish I could say that I had met all of my goals, but as humans we tend to aspire to reach the sky when most of us can't really jump high enough to touch the basketball goal right above our heads no matter how hard we try.

There are really not many goals a District Governor can reach on his, or her, own. Invariably it is a team effort and a lot of things have to fall in place. The most rewarding thing I have found is that our new District Executive Director Jennifer Robertson is a gem to work with and is doing an outstanding job. It has been a delight to see how she and her Administrative Assistant Tiffany are working together to improve and update our district office operations.

I am also so proud of our District Board. It is clear that your Regional Trustees in combination with Past Governor Rick and Governor-Elect Rogena are a dedicated group of Kiwanians. I have also been so pleased with our group of Lieutenant Governors. They are indeed the glue that keeps me informed of activities going on within the clubs and relay any of the club wishes back to me.

There are two important goals that are very dear to me that will be set to

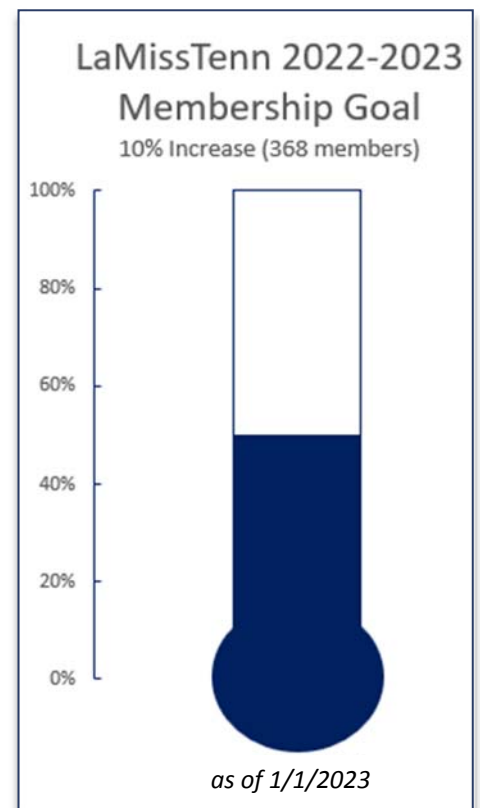


happen at the time you read this article. The first one is getting as many members as possible to the Mid-Year Regional Education Conferences, and the other is to get more of our clubs to enter the 2023 Kiwanis International Signature Service Project competition. The conferences will begin on January 21 with our first regional in Hammond. They will continue on a weekly basis until the final conference in Tupelo on March 4. I can't wait to meet and talk to each of the clubs while on these official Governor visits.

The KI Signature Project competition officially opens on January 10 and will be open for submittals until January 27. Information on these outstanding service or fundraising projects must go directly to the Kiwanis International website; however, the District will choose which two of these entries actually are submitted for the international competition. I would love to see one of our many outstanding projects win the award.

Heck, wouldn't it be phenomenal if we could win both the smaller and larger club categories!

Speaking of winning, I wanted to give a big "Thank You" to Governor-Elect Rogena Woods-Mitchell and Lieutenant Governors Craig Caskey and Milan Anderson as they were instrumental in the District's newest two Kiwanis Clubs of Red River Parish, located just south of Shreveport, LA, and Richland-Madison County, near Jackson, MS. As you can see below, our membership is growing. I can't wait to see representatives of these two new clubs, and you, when all are presented at the respective Regional Education Conferences.



Article Pour la Nouvelle Annee

By Rick Latiolais, Immediate Past Governor



Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays are over and I'm a little lighter in the pocket book, a little heavier on the scale, but oh, what a good time I had with family and friends. I started my New Year's resolution to lose a few pounds and today someone delivered a King Cake. Oh well! Mon Dieu! Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose, but it is all how you play the game of life that counts.

Of the many service projects my club participates in, the one I enjoy the most is the Children's Museum of Acadiana's *New Year at Noon Celebration*. This project has evolved over the years, strengthening the bond between the museum and our club while enhancing the playground with interesting activities. Hundreds of children accompanied by their parents, participate in games, play on the museum's "Harmony Park" slides, rock wall and musical instruments. At high noon they gather together, as balloons and confetti fill the air.

Our club members come out to sponsor the "Internationally" acclaimed Kiwanis fishing booth and go home with sore feet, aching backs, laden with confetti, but with hearts filled with joy for the kids they helped make New Year

something special. An added note, we are able to store all of our fishing gear, including tents, in the attic of the museum.

The end of January marks the beginning of the Mid-Winter Regional Conferences. The conferences are designed to convey education, promote comradery, and award exemplary service all while making the events economical, informative and brief. Our instructors, staff, and officers work hard and on their own nickel to bring these events to you so I hope your clubs appreciate them by sending as many members as possible to participate. These events offer the ability to share innovative ideas that will help your club increase fundraising, bring in more members and improve the club experience for all. I hope to see you at the regionals.



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

By Rogena Woods-Mitchell, Governor-Elect



By now many of your club members and club leaders as well as divisional and district leaders have had an opportunity to review your first quarter and have begun to assess where you are and have also hopefully begun to take steps to determine what our clubs, our divisions and our district will need to move forward to end the year with not only positive membership growth but also increased member engagement and service to our communities. Whether you know it or not, this is what preparation is—getting ready for the future. We do it every day in our personal, professional, and yes, our Kiwanis lives.

With this in mind I want to share with you how important preparation is in the life of a Governor-Elect. Some of you may not know this but once I was elected, my name was submitted to Kiwanis International as the first step in a long line of steps in preparation for my year



as Governor. This step is called Governor-Elect Training (GET). GET is a weeklong challenging and rewarding event that occurs every October. This is a time for the District Governors-Elect from all over the Kiwanisphere to meet, learn and connect. In Indianapolis, I had an opportunity to ask questions, meet my classmates (other Governors-Elect), and learn many of the important duties of a District Governor. Similarly, you as club officers and divisional leaders attended Club Leadership Education and Lt. Governor Training. I hope that like me you took the opportunity to not only learn about your roles but also connect with your fellow club and divisional leaders. For me, not a week has gone by since GET that I have not reached out to my classmates for advice and feedback. Why is this preparation so important? We all want to do the best that we can in the roles that have been entrusted to us, right? And at the end of the day, when we are good leaders, our clubs, our divisions, and our district will grow and thrive and the children of the Great and Historic LaMissTenn District will benefit.

This brings me to my next step in preparing to lead the District next year -

selecting a team. Part of the training mentioned earlier recommends that I seek out a team to help lead this amazing District. I ask you, the members of our District, to complete this simple 4 question survey (located on the LAMSTN District website at www.lamisstenn.org) to let me know what your skills, your interests and your experiences are. From this I will reach out to you individually to discuss what you have shared with me. This may be a little different approach, but I want to ensure that the best team is chosen and that each team member is truly in a role in which he or she can thrive. We can do this together!

Leadership Development Survey Link:

<https://forms.gle/h55bofJrz7cqxi68>

#TeamWorkMakesTheDreamWork

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#ButtercupNeedsYou



Governor and First Lady Promote Pre-K Literacy

By Tiffany LaPorte, LAMSTN Kiwanis District News Editor

Research has shown that children who have books in their homes perform better in school. Eighty percent of a child's intelligence is developed by age 3. As a former teacher, this is why LAMSTN's First Lady Joy Hammatt has chosen to focus on promoting pre-k literacy across the LAMSTN Kiwanis District.

Joy's pre-k literacy initiative began during Bruce Hammatt's (Joy's husband's) first term as Governor for the 2019-2020 Kiwanis year. Joy gave away 655 "Pete the Cat, I Love My White Shoes" books. Joy read the books at 7 schools across the district and for most of Joy's readings, Bruce was right there with her supporting her initiative and interacting with the students. Both Joy and Bruce welcomed other Kiwanis Club members to join the initiative. Several Kiwanians read to 33 classes within the LAMSTN Kiwanis District.

When asked about her plans for Bruce's second term as Governor for the 2022-2023 Kiwanis Year, Joy said "Because of Covid, I had some books left that I was not able to pass out so I've continued my First Lady Project again. I read books to 3 pre-k classes in Laurel, Mississippi on December 2nd and so far I have given away 168 books to 4 clubs so they could read to pre-k students in their communities."

Also last January, Bruce and Joy's Kiwanis Club in Baton Rouge adopted a pre-k class at Buchanan Elementary. Since then, club members have read to the class twice a month and have donated the book to the teacher's classroom library each time. The Kiwanis volunteers also provide a hands-on, cross-curricula activity after reading each book. In May, "Pete the Cat" books were given to all the children in the class.



Governor Bruce Hammatt assists with a "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" activity by helping pre-k children write how many buttons they put on their shirt.

The 2022-2023 Kiwanis Year is far from over so you can bet Joy and Bruce will be visiting many more pre-k classrooms and gifting many more books along the way.



Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Member Jude Bourque and Joy help pre-k students at Buchanan Elementary with an activity relating to the book "Duck On A Bike".



Joy helps a pre-k student at Buchanan Elementary School make a handprint Christmas tree.

PAST GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE 2022-2023

By Eva Abate, Past Governor



Your past Governors are busy spreading the mission of Kiwanis. Three Governors have participated in building new clubs in Leesville, LA, Ridgeland, MS and Red River Parish, LA. These new Clubs brought in 111 new members.

One new member application is on its way to Kiwanis International. Many prospective members have been approached, some are thinking about joining while others have declined. We may not succeed with a new member the first try but we will all try-try again.

Let us not forget how important partnerships are for our service projects. You may not get a new member but you may get a new partner or you may get a guest speaker or even funding to help in your service projects all you have to do is ask. I also think that education about Kiwanis is of ultimate importance. Many individuals have heard of Kiwanis but have no real information about what we do. Let's all get out there and educate the public about our service to communities.

(Fred Pitts challenged all past Governors to recruit 2 new members this coming year.)

LOVE IT LIVE IT SHARE IT

2 MEMBERS INVITE 2 PROSPECTS. EVERY MONTH. TWO FOR TWO

For the best Kiwanis clubs, membership growth is not a one-time campaign or event. It's a continuous club operation. And every member should play a part. But how do you make it *fun* for them — and manageable for the club?

Two For Two helps you do both.

After all, new members are made by current members. They join because of face-to-face interaction: A Kiwanian shared their story, explained the club's service and fellowship and offered an invitation.

Two For Two provides a way to organize your efforts:

Identify two members to reach out to two prospects for each of the next several months.

This way, members will work in pairs. After all, teams are more successful. They support each other and reach more people more rapidly. And you never know who a prospective member will relate to better. It's a great way to work — from strategizing to honing how they explain the club, its impact and the benefits of fellowship

The members reach out to the prospects.

Use a couple of simple steps: Connect by thanking the prospects for the impact they've made (through service, donations or other activities). Then ask for a date and time to discuss the club, explain the dues structure and answer questions.

The members invite the prospects to a meeting or service project.

After the invitation, they should follow up! A reminder call before the meeting or event. A handwritten thank you, with details specific to the prospect. Inclusion in the club's newsletter distribution. A message with responses to questions the members couldn't answer face to face.

What if you add a new member each month?
More hands and more money for service.
More administrative dollars. More awareness in your community.

Remind members why recruiting matters.
For members, the message is simple: The larger the club, the more it can do. More members mean more connections, skill sets and ideas. Tasks become easier — and possibilities expand.

Focus on impact.
Potential members need to know what you do, how you do it, why the community needs them and where they can immediately fit in the process.

Save the Date!

105th Annual LA-MS-W TN Kiwanis District Convention

August 4-6, 2023

Lafayette
LOUISIANA

2023 MID-YEAR REGIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Mark Your Calendar!

REGION I: Div. 1A, 1C

February 18, 2023

*The University of Tennessee at Martin
554 University St., Room # 230
Martin, TN 38237*

REGION IV: Div. 4A, 4B

February 25, 2023

*Cabrini High School
1400 Moss St.
New Orleans, LA 70119*

REGION VII: Div. 6, 9, 11

February 11, 2023

*Alexandria Kiwanis Camp
105 Kiwanis Camp Road Extension
Pineville, LA 71360*

REGION II: Div. 2, 10A, 10B, 10C

March 4, 2023

*Community Development Foundation
300 W. Main St.
Tupelo, MS 38801*

REGION V: Div. 8E, 8W, 13

January 21, 2023

*The Mezzanine Event Hall
308 S. Cate St.
Hammond, LA 70403*

REGION III: Div. 3, 5, 14N, 14S, 15

January 28, 2023

*St. John's Episcopal Church
705 Rayburn Ave.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564*

REGION VI: Div. 7, 12, 17

February 4, 2023

*Lafayette Fire Training Center
300 Dugas Rd.
Lafayette, LA 70507*



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

HOW TO:

- **MEMBERSHIP**: discover new and proven ideas on how to find, recruit, and retain members
- **FOUNDATION GRANT PROCESS**: learn what grant opportunities the District Foundation offers and tips and tricks to writing a successful grant application
- **SIGNATURE PROJECTS**: plan meaningful projects that your community will automatically know it's your Kiwanis Club making an impact

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Any Kiwanis member interested in learning ways to improve and grow their club! All clubs are encouraged to send **four members or more** members to develop, as a team, plans for your club.



REGISTRATION

Register & pay online at lamisstenn.org. If unable to pay online, checks can be mailed to 10000 Celtic Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 with name, club, and Regional Conference.

Registration is **\$15** per member in advance. On-site are **\$25** per member. Fee includes refreshment breaks during the day and lunch.

How You Can Get Involved with Your District Foundation

By Michael Caruthers, District Foundation President

What a great year to be a Kiwanian! I hope you had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! Your Foundation is doing great and eager to assist you in your Community Service Projects. To receive a grant, your club must be in good standing by contributing an average of \$5.00 per member based on your club's roster on October 1, 2022, for your Annual Club Gift (ACG). This small contribution could result in a \$5,000 grant from the District Foundation and can now be completely done online. Hopefully, you will meet Governor Bruce's goal of \$6.00 per person. The ACG is normally around 30% of the Foundation's income. To date, only 10 out of 117 clubs have contributed, so please do your part.

For the upcoming Regionals, there will be an in-depth presentation from a Foundation Board member on the various grants and how to best complete the online application. There will also be lots of unique gift baskets for the Regionals donated by participating clubs and members, so please bring a gift basket and buy lots of tickets. You can also register for the Regionals online. There is a good discount for the first four attendees from your club- \$12.50 vs \$15.00.

One of the great things about being on the Foundation Board is knowing that what you are doing really makes a difference to the children of our communities. Our fundraising, support of various club projects and the camaraderie amongst fellow Kiwanians are



what being in Kiwanis is all about. Your Foundation Board is dedicated to serving you and our communities, so if you would like to be a member of the Board and contribute your talent and expertise, please complete the online application.

So, how else can you assist? You can become a **Friend of the Foundation** with an annual tax-deductible donation of \$120.00 or monthly payments of \$10.00. This can be charged to your credit card and automatically deducted monthly. You can purchase one of our other Endowment awards for yourself or as a gift to a fellow member or a friend. All our other Endowment Awards are \$1000 each and most can be paid over time, if needed. The **River of Life** is a beautiful, framed picture of a Mississippi River paddle boat and will enhance any office hanging on your wall. The **Henry W. Nash- Eugene J Mair Tablet of Honor** is the

highest award that can be bestowed to a Kiwanian and is dedicated to the Founders of our Kiwanis District. This is the only award that you cannot buy for yourself. We also have an award dedicated to the first International President from our District, **John T. Roberts**. Our most recent award is dedicated to Charlie Ford and recognizes his 40 years of service to Kiwanis as the District Executive Director. It is called the **Charles H. Ford Legacy Award** and is a beautiful medallion.

One of our best awards to recognize an individual of your club is the **Circle of Honor**. It is only \$100 and makes an excellent award to recognize individuals at banquets, etc. It can be for anything - "Best Pancake Flipper", "President", "Secretary of the Foundation Board", etc.

For more information and to purchase your awards, visit the Foundation tab at: www.lamisstenn.org. You can also email me at member7020@aol.com and I will be happy to either answer your questions or steer you in the right direction.

Please do not forget the Regionals and, if your club has not done so, make your Annual Club Gifts to the Foundation.



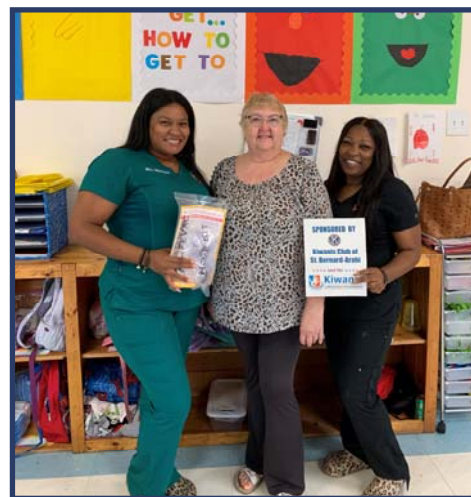


GRANTS 101: The Basics

By Cathy Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair

Congratulations to the **Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi**, who was awarded a \$434 grant from the District Foundation, in September, and has already completed their Project *Life Vac Devices!* Woohoo, way to go!

Club Secretary, Kathleen Huff said, “The Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi wanted to keep all of our youngest children and oldest residents safe from choking issues. We chose to present each childcare center and our Hannan Manor Assisted Living with Life Vac devices. We delivered to 12 childcare centers who were each ecstatic to receive their kit. We stated that it was like a fire extinguisher. Everyone needs one – BUT you hope you never need to use it. If used, however, the company issues a new mask. We also presented each with a sign on cardstock showing that it was presented to them from our Kiwanis Club and the LAMISSTENN Foundation. There are roughly 700 children in these centers in our parish. We also are presenting one to Hannan Manor who has some 90 residents.”



**How did this club get that grant award?
How did they complete it so fast?
Inquiring minds want to know!
Clubs have asked for a grant workshop,
and so they shall have it!**

Mid-Year Regionals will offer “GRANTS 101: The Basics” of setting up the scope of the project, the application process and the follow through needed for completion of the grant! YOUR District Foundation offers several types of grants with a variety of awards:

- Community Service Grants up to \$5,000 (coming in 2023 ... SuperGrant of \$10,000!!!)
- NEW CLUB service grants of \$1,000, during their 1st year of charter
- AED (Automated External Defibrillator) grants of \$750 (schools) or \$500 (facilities like camps, senior centers...)
- Disaster Grants up to \$1500 for *immediate/essential* relief from a natural disaster (complete within 30 days)

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

Check out www.lamisstenn.org for more info about [club grants](#) ...

DISTRICT FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide financial assistance for Kiwanis projects and programs within our District

Kiwanis[®]

CHILDREN'S FUND



Gifts and Grants

By Lenny Simmons, Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the Kiwanis year is already over. As we begin 2023, I am asking that your Club make its **Annual Club Gift** to the Kiwanis Children's Fund if you have not done so already. So far only **16** Clubs have made their donations. That is only **14%** of the Clubs in our District. I want to remind you that one of the criteria for being a Distinguished Club for 2022-23 is to contribute to the Children's Fund. So, remind your club treasurer to send in your Annual Club Gift to the Kiwanis Children's Fund as soon as possible.

For the August 1st Club Grant funding cycle, the letter of inquiry must be submitted any time before April 1st and the full application must be submitted by June 1st. The **Kiwanis Club of Dawn Buster's** in Division 4B was awarded a **\$1,500** club grant in May 2022 and part-

nered with their community to identify 30 children and their families in need of Thanksgiving meals last year. The Kiwanis members organized the preparation of turkeys and purchased food for holiday baskets that were then available for pickup or delivery. The grant was used to help the Club purchase turkeys for the holiday baskets. Dream big and see how your Club can make a greater impact in your community by applying for a club grant from the Children's Fund.

The new Microgrants Program is now underway. Twelve of these grants have been awarded so far. One of the grants awarded was a **\$1,000** grant to the **Kiwanis Club of Twin Cities, Ken-Ten** in Division 1A. The Club works with two elementary schools to assemble food bags for students that lack constant access to food on the weekends. The

grant will help the Club provide 25 bags for these students for the rest of the school year.

These grants are for Kiwanis Clubs with 35 or fewer members and are in good standing with Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Children's Fund. **Fifty-seven** Clubs in our District are eligible to apply for the Microgrants. This is half of all the clubs in the LAMSTN District. Clubs may apply for grants between \$250 and \$1,000. The project must be a service project enhancing the lives of young children and youth in their community; support a least one of the three Kiwanis causes: health and nutrition, education and literacy and youth leadership development; be upcoming or in process (not yet completed) when grant payment is received. Advantages of the Microgrants are: shorter application, less funding requirement required from other sources, a shorter decision period and faster distribution of funds.

Please go to the [kiwanis.org](https://www.kiwanis.org) and go to the **Kiwanis Children's Fund** tab for more information on the club grant program and the Microgrant program. And congratulations to the **Kiwanis Clubs of Twin Cities, Ken-Ten, and Dawn Busters** for their KCF grant awards!

Happy New Years! And thank you for continuing to **Serve the Children of the World!**



Membership and Engagement: LAMSTN Welcomes Two New Clubs

Kiwanis Club of Red River Parish

Let's hear it for the new **Kiwanis Club of Red River Parish**! So far 49 strong, ready willing and able to serve the children and families of the parish! Club leadership includes President Kristy Hoeflinger and Secretary Lillie McDonald. The newly formed Red River Parish Kiwanis Club jumped right into community service by providing *Cookies with Santa* for children this Christmas.



Kiwanis Club of Ridgeland-Madison County

We are thrilled to announce that the **Kiwanis Club of Ridgeland-Madison County** organized in December to help children and families in our community! Club leadership includes President Danett Dillon and Secretary Kristen Hillman. We are also so excited and grateful for Mayor Gene McGee and his attendance and support of the organization as well as for Kiwanis International President Elect Katrina Baranko and LAMSTN Governor-Elect Rogena Woods-Mitchell for their amazing support and rock star recruiting skills!



Key Leader: A Life Changing Experience

By Milisa York, Key Leader South Co-Coordinator



Today's high school students are a part of what researchers call the loneliest generation in recorded history. What difference could it make if students found their fit and committed themselves to their communities early in their high school experience?

Key Leader by Kiwanis is a weekend leadership program for high school and graduating 8th Grade students. Our mission is to inspire young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership. This life-changing event focuses on service leadership as the first, most meaningful leadership-development experience. A Key Leader will learn the most important lesson of leadership - it comes from helping *others* succeed. Participants begin by attending a Key Leader conference, which is a weekend retreat. Large and small group workshops, discussions and team-building activities take place over the course of the weekend. Students have opportunities to learn lead-

ership skills that will help them to change their schools, communities, and world for the better. While exploring leadership in a whole new way, participants will make amazing new friends and have experiences they will never forget. Positive, ongoing interaction with other Key Leader graduates offers continuing reinforcement, encouragement and growth of leadership skills. Since April 2005, Key Leader has served more than 31,000 students at 630 Key Leader events in 40 U.S. states, 7 Canadian provinces, The Bahamas, Malaysia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, El Salvador and Singapore.

The benefits offered through Key Leader are unique in that they focus on service leadership, social-emotional skills, and can be cultivated through student participation in Kiwanis service

organizations such as Key Club. Key Leader empowers students to become more caring and confident leaders. Through team-building activities, group discussion, and personal reflection, participants discover the benefits of Service Leadership.

The program flows through large and small group sessions, time for personal reflection, interactive activities, "challenge course" activities, and is anchored by several videos, including a collection from "The Collector of Bedford Street," which follows the community leadership of Larry Selman, known as the "Shepherd of Greenwich Village."

Each Key Leader program is led by a qualified and certified Lead Facilitator, who oversees the implementation of the curriculum and leads all large group sessions. In 2022, Key Leader South had a phenomenal Lead Facilitator in Carol Clyde Gallagher. Older students, including previous Key Leader attendees, serve as small group facilitators for activities in small groups called "neighborhoods."



Continued on Page 15

WWW.LAMISSTENN.ORG



Aspire to Inspire: A Day or Two Ago Some Kiwanis Christmas and New Year's Musings

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

"A day or two ago" ... we were singing Christmas Carols at the Kiwanis Christmas Party, led masterfully by our club musical talent, Kerry LaBauve. One of the songs we sang was "God rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." The song was included in a compendium of 1,341 ballads from the 17th century that was published in 1847 as "A Book of Roxburghe Ballads." Several thoughts come to mind.

Why do we say "Merry Christmas" but Happy New Year, happy birthday, happy Easter, happy thanksgiving, happy anniversary, etc. for all other occasions? Does the difference go all the way back to the song when 'merry' was ingrained for the Christmas season.

What about "Jingle Bells?" The song was composed by James Lord Pierpont in 1850 and first published in 1857. The story is that he was in Medford, Massachusetts for the annual sleigh race and was inspired by the bells on the horses, so he went into the Simpson Tavern and composed the song on their piano. "Jingle Bells" is a wonderful onomatopoeia, that is, a word that conjures the sound it mimics. Since

each bell has a single sound and the first seven syllables of the song are the same note it makes you immediately think of the sound of bells jingling.

What is a Christmas Carol? The word *carol* is derived from the Old French word *carole*, which is a circle dance accompanied by singers. The French word was in turn derived from the Latin *choraula*, which is the same origin for chorus, choir and chorale. So, a Christmas carol is for group singing and shall we dance as well?

Were the children of the world dancing and singing at Christmas? Did Kiwanis do enough? Did you and your Kiwanis club contribute to the well-being, contentment, joy and peace of the season for the children in your community? Now it is a new year and that means **NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS**. Remember that "Kids Need Kiwanis" so let's get busy doing good things to help them grow into successful adults. Let's bring joy to their world and ensure that they have a happy new year. As Tiny Tim said in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, "I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. God bless us every one!"

Key Leader: A Life Changing Experience

continued . . .

Key Leader can be used to fit a variety of needs including freshman orientation, a retreat for student leaders or rising student leaders, or simply as a means to establish greater connections between students and their school community.

The registration fee for every student participant is \$250, student facilitator is \$150, and all adult chaperones are free. Adults attending Key Leader South must have a current Kiwanis approved background check on file with Kiwanis International.

There are District Scholarships available for Key Leader Weekend and you may seek sponsors from local Kiwanis Clubs, Corporations, Churches, other Civic Organizations, and Individuals.

At the recent 2022 Key Leader South event at Camp Istrouma, our goal was 60 students. We had 48 students register and 43 students attended along with 11 adult chaperones. Our goal for 2023 is 75 students with 20 adult chaperones. With a year to work and plan, this goal is attainable, but we need your help to make it happen. It is such a small investment in the life of a child.



Rebuilding K-Kids in Our District

By Don Eye, K-Kids District Chair

Hello LAMSTN Kiwanians,

I am back for another term after a short break as your District K-Kids Chairman. K-Kids is very much alive in Kiwanis International and many of our district clubs. However, we have lost a few clubs and we need to put on our aprons and get to work on adding and rebuilding K-Kids in our district.

At this point in time, K-Kids should have had their elections, trained and installed officers no later than October. Work hard on getting the K-Kids to run their own meetings. Remember it is learning leadership through service. In speaking with our district leadership,



we agree that our K-Kids clubs should concentrate on 5th and 6th graders for our clubs. That is not to say that Kiwanians are restricted to the recommendation. I am in my 30th year working with K-Kids and Terrific Kids pro-

grams in the Germantown schools. If you drive through our town you will see bumper stickers peeling on the edges from years of aging to shiny new stickers. We meet over a thousand K-Kids annually. By now, my early K-Kids have joined Kiwanis Clubs, are shaving, and having their own children.

I hope to bring back the K-Kids speakers at our annual convention in August. It is a good visual as to the value K-Kids has to offer. The Carlys, Emmas, and Rasils speakers from years back were essential to making K-Kids a successful program.

Germantown K-Kids are Still in Business!



The Germantown Kiwanis Pirate Ship with K-Kids and Captain Black at the Annual Christmas Parade



K-Kids preparing appreciation goodies for school support staff

The Mitten Tree: mittens for needy kids in North Memphis collected by K-Kids



Books collected by Forest Hill Irene Elementary School K-Kids for schools in East Tennessee that do not have libraries



K-Bear at the Madonna Learning Terrific Kids Program



Clothing for the homeless collected by K-Kids

Louisiana Mississippi and West-Tennessee

VIP PASS

PLEASE JOIN US ON THE RED CARPET FOR
**SERVICE WITH THE
STARS**

April 14th-16th 2023

80th Key Club District Convention

Natchez, Mississippi

Natchez Convention Center

Questions?

Email: districtadmlmtkejudi@gmail.com



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LAMISSTENN ANNUAL**

Circle K Convention

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Divisions 8E & 8W Host “Kids Need Kiwanis” Drive Thru Giveaway on Kiwanis One Day

*By Donna Leggett,
Division 8E Lieutenant Governor*

The Kiwanis Clubs in the Baton Rouge area helped local children and moms in the Baton Rouge Mom Network by hosting Kids Need Kiwanis Drive Thru Giveaway on October 15. The event took place from 9:00 am – 11:00 am in South Baton Rouge. Kiwanis donated needed supplies for children ages birth to five years old. Items donated were baby formula, diapers, wipes, socks, underwear, school supplies, unscented laundry detergent, hygiene items, snacks, books, coloring books, stuffed animals and cleaning supplies. Participating Kiwanis Clubs were Ascension, Baton Rouge, Cortana, Denham Springs, LSU, Red Stick, St. Gabriel, Walker and Zachary. The BRMHS Key Club also volunteered.

The activities were part of Kiwanis One Day, a Global Day of Service that unites the entire Kiwanis family, including Kiwanis, Aktion Club, Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club and K-Kids. More than 65 volunteers from and around the Baton Rouge area joined Kiwanians across the world as they all devoted time to hands-on service.

Kiwanis International estimates that the annual Kiwanis One Day event contributed nearly 1 million service hours to communities around the world in just 24 hours.

“Kids need Kiwanis, in Baton Rouge and around the world, and this is our way of making sure children here in

our community have what they need to thrive, prosper and grow,” said Donna Leggett, Division 8E Lt. Governor. “The energy, commitment and camaraderie surrounding this single day of worldwide hands-on service is so gratifying for our members as they make an immediate, measurable impact on our local community.”

Tiffany LaPorte said that Kiwanis One Day also provides an opportunity for community members to join in the fun. “We’ve found that inviting community members to our service projects is a great way to show who we are and what we do and to provide an opportunity for them to join us as a new member,” said LaPorte.



Broussard-Youngsville Hosts 1st Shrimp Boil

*By Cindy Comeaux,
Broussard-Youngsville Kiwanis Club*

On September 10th, Broussard Youngsville Kiwanis hosted its 1st Annual Shrimp Boil to raise funds for an all-inclusive playground in Broussard park in honor of fellow Kiwanian Rickey Romero.



Hammond Serves the Community with Multiple Projects

*By Judy Couvillion,
Hammond Kiwanis Club*



Members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club had an opportunity to visit the recipients of the club's Kiwanis Happy Bags program at the conclusion of the Fall Semester. Because of restrictions brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, the club had not been able to visit the classrooms at the club's adopted School, Woodland Park Elementary, for the past two years. The students were excited to once again be able to offer big smiles and big "Thanks You's" to club members who bring the children their "Happy Bags" each week. On Thursdays, Kiwanians fill bags with 10 food items that provide the children with something to eat on the weekends when they do not have access to meals provided at school. For the December visit to the school, Kiwanians also brought small Christmas gifts to the children. Judy Couvillion, the club's Community Services Chairperson, is greet by smiling children who enjoy their "Happy Bags".

Hammond Kiwanians and volunteers of all ages gathered for a picture at the completion of filling 100 boxes



overflowing with a wide variety of food items destined for needy families in the community. The annual food drive, an event sponsored by the club for many years, collects non-perishable food items from selected subdivisions in the city. Residents are asked in advance through requests placed at homes if they choose to leave a box or bag of food for the drive. The food is then gathered by the volunteers and brought to the collection site where it is sorted and then boxed for delivery.



Mayor Pete Panepinto and the City of Hammond, along with Judge Britain Sledge and the City Court cosponsored a "Back to School Bash" for the children of our community. In keeping with the mission of Kiwanis the Hammond Kiwanis Club made a donation to this project. Pictured with Mayor

Panepinto are Ty Silewicz, son of club member, Ricky Silewicz, and Judy Couvillion, Community Service Chair.



A large number of Hammond Kiwanians, along with a few volunteers, made quick work of filling 150 shoeboxes with a variety of "goodies" destined for children in developing nations who would otherwise not have a gift at Christmas. Through Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse delivered gifts to children in more than 100 countries this year.

The Hammond Kiwanis Club recognized those members who have held continuous membership in the club for at least 30 years at the group's recent Installation Banquet. Named Hammond Kiwanis Club Emeritus Members, from left, were Ed Gautier, Dr. Pat Settoon, Vic Couvillion, Dan Burchfield, Rusty Mayer, George Anthon, Wayne Allen, and Terry King. Also honored but not pictured were Buddy Balado, Dr. Louise Bostic, Andre Coudrain, Blake Daniels and Anthony Zuppardo. This gathering of veteran Kiwanians represents well more than 400 years of active involvement in the club. The honorees have held various club leadership roles.



Lafayette Delivers Bikes for Rewards for Reading

*By John Gherardi, Div. 7 Lt. Gov.,
Lafayette Kiwanis Club*

Lafayette Kiwanis Club distributed 100 bikes to students in every elementary school in Lafayette Parish for reaching their reading goals.



District Honors Howard Lock Twice with Outstanding Secretary Award

By Dom Fimiano, Long Beach Kiwanis Club

Division 14S Lieutenant Governor Brian Lake presents Secretary of the Long Beach Kiwanis Club Howard Lock with the District Jay R. Broussard Outstanding Club Secretary Award for the 2020-2021 Kiwa-

nis Year. When you win this award for the first time, it is great, but twice is an incredible accomplishment! Howard received his first District Secretary Award in 2016-2017.

New Orleans Sponsors Porch at Ronald McDonald House

By Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of New Orleans is proud to sponsor the FRONT PORCH of the NEW Ronald McDonald House, with a gift of \$50,000. We have also begun a speaker book campaign to donate new books for the House Library.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of South East Louisiana simply outgrew the “yellow house” on Canal Street, New Orleans, and is now doubled in size and sits on the back portion of Children’s Hospital of New Orleans Campus.

There are so many exciting and grand things happening - Including their Operations manager, Bob Van Den Akker, joining our club! Looking forward to many future projects with the families of RMHC!



Millington Stays Busy During the Holiday Season

By Randi Lowe, President, Millington Kiwanis Club

November and December have been busy months with donations, gifting and volunteering in Millington, TN. As a club we have revisited some of our existing organizations, community relationships and schools to understand their current needs. We have partnered with the Hope House in Memphis for many years to assist with their school, daycare and food pantry. The Hope House's preschool opened in 1995 as a three day a week program to prepare the children for kindergarten providing a safe environment for children who are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and has grown to a full week program serving 20 children.

Our President Randi Lowe participated in our First Lady's Project on December 1st, 2022 – World AIDS Day and read "Pete the Cat" by Eric Litwin. Thanks to our First Lady and her project, we were able to provide 15 books to the students and left one for the classroom. Each child was so excited to receive their own copy of the book with their name inside! They sang along as Randi read to them and were



Millington Kiwanis Club members present Millington Hope House with \$500.

happy to share all about their favorite shoes. Our club members purchased toys and brought them to our November dinner meeting, and we donated them to the Hope House preschool and daycare.

Pictured is our club providing the Hope House with \$500 to assist with purchasing fresh foods for their food pantry.

We have also partnered with First United Methodist Church of Millington where we hold our weekly meetings to support their Backpack Ministry and Food Pantry. The donations we bring into our morning meetings assist the project for 91 children living in food insecure homes to receive breakfast, snack, ready to eat lunch and a juice for Saturday and Sunday. Items collected

for the Backpack Ministry include - Breakfast bars, Juice drinks, Cup-O-noodles, single serving heat and eat items. In November we presented them with a \$500 check to assist with procuring needed food items for the food pantry.

As a club we adopted four children in our community for Christmas gifting this season and it brought joy to all our club members. We are hopeful it will bring joy to the children of Millington Municipal Schools and First United Methodist Church. As we close out the year, we are grateful to all our members, and partners for their support, time and desire to continue to make the world better, one child at time.



Scholarship Recipient Returns to Kiwanis

By Myra Lewis, Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club

Nicole Coleman Hutchison is the newest member of Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain, but she is hardly new to Kiwanis. When she was a senior at Skyline High School in Oakland, California, Nicole's counselor made her aware of a scholarship being offered by the school's key club. Nicole was awarded that scholarship and was able to use the funds each semester toward her books and meal plan at Howard University



(HU) in Washington D. C., from which she graduated in 2003 with a degree in Journalism. While at HU, Nicole joined and participated in the Circle K Club. She remembers her favorite project having been helping to paint an elementary school in NE WDC.

Nicole moved to New Orleans in 2007 and married a local, husband Randy Hutchison. She was introduced to Kiwanis Pontchartrain by sisters, Deidre Charlot and Myra Lewis, also members of a book club they all enjoy. In recent years, Nicole and Randy have been a frequent volunteers in KCP's Jazz Fest beverage tent.

Nicole is pictured with her daughter, Sophia, a sophomore at Benjamin Franklin High School as they participated in the Kiwanis One Day with members of divisions 4A and 4B at the new Ronald McDonald on the campus of Children's Hospital.

'Tis the Season

*By Clay Drewes, Div. 13 Lt. Gov.
Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club*

The Northshore Mandeville Club looks forward to spreading Joy during the Christmas season. The Club filled the December calendar with back-to-back-to-back signature projects. In the span of eight days, Kiwanians hosted three popular service projects.

Pancake Breakfast - Santa made a special trip to Mandeville, LA to be with over fifty Kiwanians, Key Clubbers, and Builders Clubbers who celebrated the post-COVID return of the traditional Pancake Breakfast. All were treated to the Kiwanis special recipe for pancakes, sausage, and beverages.

U.S. Playground Map - Northshore Kiwanians demonstrated



their artistic talents by painting a 35-foot U.S. map on the campus of Mandeville Middle School. The team of volunteers included Kiwanis members, Builder Clubbers, PTA parents and faculty. Students will enjoy using the brightly colored map to study geography, history, and art. The Kiwanis Club makes learning fun for these lucky students.

Coats for Kids - A grand fete of organization was necessary to make the coat distribution a resounding success. Kiwanians collected gently-used coats from area schools. They solicited the generous participation of local dry cleaners who cleaned every coat. Volunteers then partnered with the local Police Foundation as an extension of their Toys for Tots distribution. In all, over 1,000 coats went to needy families.



Baton Rouge Early Risers Hold Annual Christmas Social

By MiLisa York, Div. 8W Lt. Gov.

The Baton Rouge Early Risers Kiwanis Club held their Annual Christmas Social at the Chaneyville Community Center of December 17th. Good food, Christian fellowship and Christmas caroling made for a wonderful afternoon.

The Early Risers also celebrated the Holidays by serving the senior citizens at the Chaneyville Community Center.



Clubs Collaborate to Provide Coats for Students

*By Greg Beard,
Alexandria Kiwanis Club*

In December, the Pineville Kiwanis Club, with the assistance of the Alexandria Kiwanis Club and Pineville High School Key Club, hosted the club's first coat drive for Pre-K through third-grade students at Lessie Moore Elementary School in Pineville, Louisiana. The clubs distributed 400 coats to the students.



Members of the Pineville Kiwanis Club



Pontchartrain Dedicates Little Library

By Deidre Charlot, Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club

On October 8, 2022, the Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain formally dedicated the Little Free Library located in front of Bethany United Methodist Church in historic Pontchartrain Park. Pictured in the photo of the ribbon-cutting ceremony are New Orleans City Councilman Eugene Green, Club Treasurer Deidre Charlot, Club President Thomas Rhodes, Louisiana State Representative Matthew Willard, Bethany UMC Pastor Joey Connelly, and Club President-Elect Willie Williams.

The mission of Little Free Library is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led book repositories. Pontchartrain Kiwanis stocked the LFL with books for all ages including fiction and non-fiction classics and popular fiction. Pontchartrain Park residents also stocked the LFL with favorites. Responding to demand, Kiwanis Pontchartrain ordered an add-on repository to be installed below the LFL. This will expand the number of books offered at the LFL.

The selection of Pontchartrain Park as the location for the Club's first LFL recognizes its significance in American history. Pontchartrain Park was built between 1955 and



1961 as the first suburban-style subdivision developed for Black Americans in the segregated South. Located in the Gentilly neighborhood, Pontchartrain Park attracted middle- and upper-class Black residents and became a symbol that the American Dream could be a reality for all Americans. Pontchartrain Park features winding residential streets surrounding a golf course and sports fields. When the Pontchartrain Park golf course opened in 1956, it was the only public golf course open to Black Americans in New Orleans. In 2019, the Preservation Resource Center partnered with the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association to nominate the neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. Pontchartrain Park was officially added to the National Register in 2020.

St. Bernard Takes Novel Approach to Key Leader Experience

*By Karen Boudrie,
St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club*

They were not the kids you'd expect to be picked for leadership training. They weren't all straight A students or captains of the debate team. Many of those picked to take part in the recent Key Leader South program were kids just trying to figure out who they are. One was so painfully shy that he preferred to eat lunch by himself. But these were just the type of kids the St. Bernard team was looking for!



During the quest for participants, long-time St. Bernard Kiwanian Don Duplantier and Charles Cassar, St. Bernard Parish Schools Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, worked together to select kids least likely to find themselves in leadership roles. "I asked the schools to recommend children who might benefit from Key Leader, not just the 'A' kids, but even some at-risk kids," he explained.

They ended up with 29 kids of the total 41 who attended the November 4-6 weekend at Camp Istrouma outside of Baton Rouge. The St. Bernard contingent came from Chalmette High School, Phoenix High School in Plaquemines Parish and St. Bernard



Christian Academy. Their participation was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi, the Spirit of St. Bernard Foundation and other private donors.

From the outdoor activities and team building exercises to the lessons on community and respect, the St. Bernard Parish group soaked it all in and seemingly grew in confidence by the hour. For some it was their first time ever experiencing things like campfires and smores. For others it was a rare chance to get to know kids from different backgrounds and different parts of the state. For all of them, it was an opportunity to hone leadership skills they didn't know they had.

In the beginning, the weekend away from parents might have been a draw for the students, but in the end, the take-away was much more. One student remarked after the event that it helped him open up a lot more. Another said she left with memories that will last a lifetime. One appreciated the connection with others. Another student talked about having the courage to be a 'progressive action-taker' since taking part in Key Leader. And yet another said, "I would have never thought I would have been picked for this, I am so grateful."

Kiwanian Nick Koepp, who helped chaperone, said he too was amazed at the progress the kids made in just one

weekend. "I really do have hope for the next generation," he exclaimed!

As for that kid who ate alone when he first arrived? Well, when the weekend ended, he couldn't get enough pictures of himself with his new friends!



Pointe Coupee Awards Scholarship to Science Teacher

By Milisa York, Div. 8W Lt. Governor

The Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Club awarded 4th grade Science teacher, Hillary, at STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee. She was awarded one of the six scholarships from the Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Club for her class. She plans to buy scholastic super science books with her scholarship funds. Congratulations Hillary!



St. Gabriel: Changing the World One Child at a Time

By MiLisa York, Div. 8W Lt. Gov. St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of St. Gabriel handed out toys at the City of St. Gabriel's Annual City Council Toy Giveaway. It is such a joy to be putting smiles on children's faces.



St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club members participated in Together Tuesday greeting the students at East Iberville School as they exited the buses.



On December 3rd, the St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club was one of the sponsors for the 4th Annual Christmas Giveaway event at Municipal Park in Gonzales, LA presented by Tankproof. They cooked and served over 300 plates of Jambalaya and white beans. Pictured is Treasurer Joseph Bobo and President Ronald Grace.



The Kiwanis Club of Saint Gabriel participated in the City of St. Gabriel's trunk or treat. Pictured is Past President Jesse Thomas with his wife, Maxine. Also pictured is Princess Elsa also known as Chrisley Williams, the granddaughter of Division 8W Lieutenant Governor MiLisa York.



Teachers Receive Gift from Kiwanis Club of the Twin Cities

By Kimberly Jackson, The Twin Cities Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of the Twin Cities used funds raised during our Annual Kiwanis Kornhole Tournament to provide teachers at Carr Elementary in Fulton Independent Schools and South Fulton Elementary teachers in Obion County Schools with chart paper to use in their classrooms.

Teachers expressed thanks and gratitude for the club's thoughtfulness in meeting their needs. Almost \$1,500 in donated chart paper was delivered by President Kimberly Jackson and Board Member Cathy Burrow to excited teachers in each school. The Kiwanis Club of the Twin Cities members continue their dedication to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.



Zachary Kiwanis Doing Good in the Community

By Milisa York, Div. 8W Lt. Gov.

Members of the Zachary Kiwanis Club spent the day before Thanksgiving handing out baskets to families in Zachary. Present were Past President Bruce Langley, Secretary Debbie Marshaw, President Bridgette Johnson and Past Secretary Michael Alu.



Here at Kiwanis we know how important it is to be a part of the Zachary community giving help where needed. Zachary Kiwanis had the pleasure of assisting the Zachary Food Bank with a check presented to Mr. Mark Antoine. Pictured also above are club members Bruce Langley and Mike Alu.

In November, the Zachary Kiwanis Club sponsored 3 students to attend

Key Leader South at Camp Istrouma. The sponsored students were: McKenzie Selmon (freshman), Zachary High School; London Sanford (sophomore), Northeast High School; and Madysyn London (sophomore), Northeast High School.



The Kiwanis Club of Zachary held their Annual Mayor's Fish Fry on Friday, October 14th. The food was delicious and the fellowship was awesome!

The Kiwanis Club of Zachary held their Annual Christmas social with the residents & staff of The Lobdell House. Good food with warm fellowship made for the soul. The club also gave away gift cards.



Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany LaPorte, District Bulletin Editor

Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: tiffany@lamisstenn.org

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

DEADLINES:

The deadline for article submissions is always two weeks before the publication's date. Here are the deadlines for the 2022-2023 Kiwanis Year:

April 2023 Issue = Deadline: March 17, 2023

July 2023 Issue = Deadline: June 16, 2023

October 2023 Issue = Deadline: September 15, 2023

Include this information:

CLUB: Club, Division Number, and Author

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

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

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

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

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

We want photographs showing how your club impacts the community!



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

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