



NEWS

April 2025



**Ascension Kiwanis Helps St. Vincent DePaul Assemble
Easter Baskets for Thousands of Children**

Improving the world one child and one community at a time

LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis International:
10000 Celtic Drive, Suite 706, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

17



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ON THE COVER:

Ascension Kiwanis Club members Troy and Boni Pater help assemble Easter baskets with St. Vincent DePaul to be provided for thousands of children in the community.

[See more on page 35](#)

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Mission: MEMBERSHIP

By Claude Vinson, Governor



“Mission Command to Ground Control...come in ground control... anyone listening?... over...”

Who we are as Kiwanians resonates deeply in our core, defining the true spirit of who we are representing the greatest service organization in the world. We should strive to understand the pulse and the silence of our membership. It is not just what is spoken, but the unspoken truths and realities that guide our mission forward.

We get lost in transmission that the “front-end” loading of recruiting members, building clubs, and whatever it takes to bring in a new member is perceived as priority. Yes, that’s important, but what about the back-end, when members leave Kiwanis? Do we ask about the member’s experience when they leave? Negative. Do we call that member? Negative. Do we try to re-recruit that member? Negative.

Unfortunately, we have settled into a culture in which no one sees that member join and no one sees when that member leaves.

...time for that to change...

Kiwanians provide meaningful service to our kids and communities, but let’s face it, if there is no membership, there is no money, then there is no mission. For the past sev-

eral years, our district has averaged 3,600 members annually. This means that just as many members or more, leave Kiwanis than stay. And here are their reasons: cost/dues, lack of time/interest, attendance, moving, and other. We are the great and historic LaMissTenn district of Kiwanis International and truly, our membership should be averaging 5,000+ members annually.

Our mission IS the membership!

Members are needed to continue the great work of Kiwanis and money is needed to take care of salaries, supplies, conventions, and goodwill in support of its clubs. Here are some things we can do to help nurture and retain our members:

Get familiar with the Exit Survey. It’s a tool used in the district’s attempt to ask the member why they left Kiwanis. Read the survey, for it will help you formulate the type of conversation which might help uncover a lingering issue and/or lead to a successful reMembering of that former Kiwanian.

If dues are a factor, get creative in your fundraising to drive more money to your administrative account to help lower the cost of paying dues to your members.

If your clubs lack the interest of your membership, re-assess, re-invent your activities and publish/display a “living” calendar to keep members informed of upcoming events and activities.

If clubs are having issues with attendance, hold divisional meetings and if a member is moving, suggest membership with the LaMissTenn eClub.

But, the most important thing that we as Kiwanians can do is to be a Kiwanis Kompanion. Reach out to that member with a simple phone call and warm conversation; they’ll appreciate it because they know that you care!



So, place your ear to this article and listen. The membership is speaking out to us. Can you hear what they are saying? Can you hear what they’re not saying? Are we truly listening?

We all should take responsibility because we know what’s right, and I ask you Superheroes to unite! Our membership is at stake and now it’s time to fight!

So, our Mission (if you choose to accept it) is to call or visit five ex-Kiwanians and to just let them know how much they are missed. We can do this!

“This is Ground Control... transmission received loud and clear. God’s Speed Mission Command...over...”

Be Your Invincible You! ☺



A CALL TO ACTION

By Andrew Dozier, Vice Governor

It's is always my honor to serve and dedicate my time and efforts to all of our members of "This Great Historic District, LaMiss'Tenn."

Without a doubt your service and dedication don't go unnoticed. Thanks to all of you, your impact and engagement in your clubs and communities result in added value in the lives of children and adults.

As we move forward, club leaders you have been called to lead. Continue to steer your clubs, ensure that your clubs function effectively, and be an effective communicator.

Convey to our members club priorities such as: meeting attendance, strategic planning, online reporting (keeping the secretary's dashboard current), paying dues on time, Annual Club Giving, and utilizing and visiting the District Foundation site for all available resources at www.LaMiss'Tenn.org.

Members must be informed and have input in developing club strategies, membership plans, initiatives

and activities.

Team building and motivating others are qualities leaders must have to ensure team esprit de corps in our clubs. Let's recharge and finish strong.

Continue to look at SLP's - probably one of the single most important thing your club can do as a Kiwanian. One way to do this is to sponsor a Kiwanis Service Leadership Program.

Getting your club engaged with schools and community gives your members a chance to mentor and provide service and leadership opportunities.

Club leadership education (CLE) training must be a priority. CLEs focus on the roles and responsibilities of club leadership (club officers, membership chair, and board members). Understanding these roles and learning new skills promote effective leadership.

As a military veteran, and non-commissioned officer, my goal and mission were to always have our soldiers trained and be proficient in their duties and skill in their task. As a Kiwanian, you and I as leaders must lead from the front, giving our

members the best of us.

I'm challenging our club leaders to "Call to Actions." Make the following happen with your members:

- Get all members engaged
- Develop a club leadership pipeline
- Conduct a new member orientation
- Grow by a net of 25% or more and the district will return half of your club's district dues
- Attract younger professionals
- Apply for grants and get involved with the foundation
- Attend training and district events
- Reclaim your passion to serve

"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." Serving as your Vice-Governor, I'm determined to work with our clubs, members and leadership in order to reach our goals. Our goals are to retain and recruit new members to accomplish our mission of improving the quality of life for children and families.

I Salute You!

Andrew Dozier

Distinguished Awards Presented by 2023-2024 Governor Fry



Immediate Past Governor John Fry had the honor of presenting Distinguished Awards for the 2023-2024 Kiwanis Year at the Mid-Year Education Conference on Saturday, March 22, 2025. Awards were given to: Distinguished Clubs, Distinguished Kiwanians, Distinguished Club Secretaries, and Distinguished Lieutenant Governors. The Kiwanis Club of Cortana was also recognized for reporting the most inter-clubs in 2023-2024. Thank you to these dedicated Clubs and Kiwanians in the LaMissTenn District.

DISTINGUISHED CLUBS

- 1A The Twin Cities, Kenn-Tenn, TN
- 1C Germantown, TN
- 1C Millington, TN
- 4B Dawn Busters, Metairie, LA
- 7 Acadiana-Lafayette, LA
- 7 Carencro, LA
- 7 Lafayette, LA
- 8E Ascension, LA
- 8E Walker, LA
- 10C Louisville, MS
- 13 Northshore Mandeville, LA
- 13 Ponchatoula, LA
- 17 East St. Mary, LA

DISTINGUISHED

KIWANIANS

- 1A Cathy Fry, *Twin Cities*
- 1A John Fry, *Union City*
- 1A Kimberly Jackson, *Twin Cities*
- 4B Melvin Dussel, *Dawn Busters*
- 4B Michael Haffner, *Dawn Busters*
- 4B Marcel Lashover, *Dawn Busters*

- 7 Andrew Dozier, *Abbeville*

- 7 John Gherardi, *Lafayette*

- 8W Gary Graham, *Baton Rouge*

- 8W Jamie Graham, *Baton Rouge*

- 8W Bruce Hammatt, *Baton Rouge*

- 8W Joy Hammatt, *Baton Rouge*

- 14S Jen Robertson, *Pascagoula*

DISTINGUISHED

SECRETARIES

- 2 Angela Crooms, *Greenville*

- 4A Kathleen Huff, *St. Bernard-Arabi*

- 7 Carrie Richard, *Opelousas*

- 8W Gary Graham, *Baton Rouge*

- 15 Tom Osburn, *Vicksburg*

- 17 Debbie Stevens, *East St. Mary*

DISTINGUISHED

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

- 7 John Gherardi, *Lafayette*

- 11 Vicki Snowden, *Leesville*

- 12 Amanda Johnson, *North Lake Charles*

- 15 Lorri Alles, *The Natchez Trace*

TOM OSBURN AWARDED 2023-2024 OUTSTANDING DISTRICT SECRETARY



Congratulations to Tom Osburn, Secretary of Vicksburg Kiwanis, for earning the 2023-2024 Jay R. Broussard Outstanding Club Secretary Award.

Tom has been the secretary for the Kiwanis Club of Vicksburg since 2021 and was Assistant Secretary starting in 2020. Tom has also been serving a dual role as the Club's Treasurer since 2021. He plays a major role in the club's Chili Feast Signature Project that serves over 120 gallons of chili each year to help provide Key Club Scholarships and community service projects throughout the year.

Continued on page 6

Distinguished Awards Presented by 2023-2024 Governor Fry Continued . . .



2023-2024 Distinguished Kiwanians: Cathy Fry, Kimberly Jackson, Marcel Lashover, Andrew Dozier, John Gherardi, Gary Graham, Jen Robertson, Joy Hammatt and Bruce Hammatt. Not pictured are: John Fry, Melvin Dussel, Mike Haffner and Jamie Graham.



2023-2024 Distinguished Clubs: Kimberly Jackson, Twin Cities; Sue Olsson, Germantown; Randi Lowe, Millington; BJ Kruse, Dawn Busters; Tom Long, Lafayette; Judy Stracener, Ascension; Kay Landry, Walker; Cindy Dwyer, Northshore Mandeville; Martha Ray, Ponchatoula; Glendia Cooper, Louisville. Not pictured are: Acadiana-Lafayette, Carencro, and East St. Mary.



2023-2024 Distinguished Lieutenant Governors: Amanda Johnson, John Gherardi, and Lorri Alles. Not pictured: Vicki Snowden



2023-2024 Distinguished Secretaries: Gary Graham, Angela Crooms, accepting for Kathleen Huff is Carol Saling, Tom Osburn and Carrie Richard. Not pictured: Debbie Stevens.

2025 Mid-Year Education Conference Recap

More that 170 Kiwanians from over 50 clubs in the LaMissTenn District attended the 2025 Mid-Year Education Conference in Natchez, MS on Saturday, March 22nd. The energy level was high while participants enjoyed programs on membership and club networking.



Opelousas Kiwanis Secretary Carrie Richard grabs a photo with Region VI Trustee John Gherardi, Governor Claude Vinson and Vice-Governor Andrew Dozier.



Members of Governor Claude's superhero team, Region III Trustee Lorri Alles, Region VII Trustee Darren Green and Governor-Elect Marcel Lashover, were among those recognized.



Past International Trustee Greg Beard lead a panel discussion on how to be a District Spotlight Club by staying on top of club administrative duties.



Greenville Kiwanis members were pretty in pink!



Ponchatoula Kiwanis had the most members in attendance.

April 2025 Check-In



LUNCH & LEARN

With LaMissTenn

**15 minute education webinars
2nd Friday of the month | 12PM**

Apr 11, 2025:	<i>Kiwanis Kompanions</i>
May 9, 2025:	<i>How to Submit Club Officers</i>
Jun 13, 2025:	<i>Get Ready for DCON</i>
Jul 11, 2025:	<i>District Spotlight & Gold Star Clubs</i>
Aug 1, 2025:	<i>How to Invoice (1st week due to DCON)</i>
Sept 12, 2025:	<i>Foundation Grants</i>

Find zoom links on calendar at www.LaMissTenn.org

Mark Your Calendar!



2025 Club Leadership Education

Interactive Virtual Sessions on Tuesdays at 6PM

- 6/10/2025: *Board Member, Bylaws & Policies*
- 6/17/2025: *New Member Orientation & Youth Protection*
- 7/8/2025: *Membership Chair*
- 7/15/2025: *Treasurer 101*
- 7/22/2025: *Treasurer 102*
- 7/29/2025: *Secretary 101*
- 8/5/2025: *Secretary 102*
- 8/12/2025: *President*

Zoom links can be found at www.LaMissTenn.org



The Governor's Goals



The Kiwanis reMembering Program encourages clubs to reconnect with former members or members who have become inactive. Let's reMember 80 former Kiwanis members before District Convention.



Help new members transition to engaged long-term members! Check out Governor Claude's new tool [Kiwanis Kompanions](http://www.LaMissTenn.org).

April 2025 Check-In

New LaMissTenn District Programs!

Gold Star Clubs

Recognizing clubs that reach their monthly goal on the path to a 10% annual net membership increase

★ Gold Star Clubs on pages 10-11



District Spotlight

February 2025

Congratulations to the following clubs for being on top of their administrative duties:

- ★ St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis, Div. 4A
- ★ Kenner North Kiwanis, Div. 4B
- ★ Opelousas Kiwanis, Div. 7
- ★ Lafayette Kiwanis, Div. 7
- ★ Natchitoches Kiwanis, Div. 11



ANNUAL CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS



REMINDER: Reporting of Club Officers to Kiwanis International is due by June 1st!



Find District Spotlight criteria at www.LaMissTenn.org

District Convention Awards

Submission Deadline:

June 15, 2025

- ★ Lawperson of the Year
- ★ Layperson of the Year
- ★ Firefighter of the Year
- ★ Teacher of the Year



www.LaMissTenn.org

2024-2025 Award Programs

- ★ Distinguished Club
- ★ Distinguished Kiwanian
- ★ Distinguished Secretary
- ★ Distinguished Lieutenant Governor



Will your club be distinguished?
What about your secretary, LG, or you?
Check out the Awards and criteria!



1st Quarter

Gold Star Clubs

October 2024

- ★ Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis
- ★ Algiers Kiwanis
- ★ Amory Kiwanis
- ★ Bayou Teche Kiwanis
- ★ Big Easy Kiwanis
- ★ Carencro Kiwanis
- ★ DeRidder Kiwanis
- ★ East Livingston Kiwanis
- ★ Germantown Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Ouachita Kiwanis
- ★ Greenville Kiwanis
- ★ Gulfport Kiwanis
- ★ Houma Kiwanis
- ★ Kenner North Kiwanis
- ★ Laurel Kiwanis
- ★ Opelousas Kiwanis
- ★ Picayune Kiwanis
- ★ Pineville Kiwanis
- ★ Ponchatoula Kiwanis
- ★ Pontchartrain Kiwanis
- ★ Southwest Louisiana Kiwanis
- ★ St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis
- ★ Vicksburg Kiwanis
- ★ Walker Kiwanis
- ★ Winnfield Kiwanis

November 2024

- ★ Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis
- ★ Amory Kiwanis
- ★ Ascension Kiwanis
- ★ Bayou Teche Kiwanis
- ★ Big Easy Kiwanis
- ★ Biloxi Kiwanis
- ★ Carencro Kiwanis
- ★ Denham Springs Kiwanis
- ★ DeRidder Kiwanis
- ★ Dyersburg Kiwanis
- ★ East Livingston Kiwanis
- ★ Germantown Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Covington Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Ouachita Kiwanis
- ★ Greenville Kiwanis
- ★ Gulfport Kiwanis
- ★ Houma Kiwanis
- ★ Kenner North Kiwanis
- ★ Lake Charles Kiwanis
- ★ Opelousas Kiwanis
- ★ Picayune Kiwanis
- ★ Pineville Kiwanis
- ★ Ponchatoula Kiwanis
- ★ Pontchartrain Kiwanis
- ★ Rankin County Kiwanis
- ★ Sabine Kiwanis
- ★ Southwest Louisiana Kiwanis
- ★ St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis
- ★ Sulphur Kiwanis
- ★ Vicksburg Kiwanis
- ★ Walker Kiwanis
- ★ Winnfield Kiwanis

December 2024

- ★ Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis
- ★ Algiers Kiwanis
- ★ Amory Kiwanis
- ★ Ascension Kiwanis
- ★ Bayou Teche Kiwanis
- ★ Big Easy Kiwanis
- ★ Biloxi Kiwanis
- ★ Carencro Kiwanis
- ★ Denham Springs Kiwanis
- ★ DeRidder Kiwanis
- ★ Dyersburg Kiwanis
- ★ East Livingston Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Covington Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Ouachita Kiwanis
- ★ Greenville Kiwanis
- ★ Grenada Kiwanis
- ★ Gulfport Kiwanis
- ★ Houma Kiwanis
- ★ Kenner North Kiwanis
- ★ Lake Charles Kiwanis
- ★ Long Beach Kiwanis
- ★ Moisant Kiwanis
- ★ Opelousas Kiwanis
- ★ Pascagoula Kiwanis
- ★ Pearl Kiwanis
- ★ Picayune Kiwanis
- ★ Pineville Kiwanis
- ★ Ponchatoula Kiwanis
- ★ Pontchartrain Kiwanis
- ★ Rankin County Kiwanis
- ★ Sabine Kiwanis
- ★ Southwest Louisiana Kiwanis
- ★ St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis
- ★ Sulphur Kiwanis
- ★ Thibodaux Kiwanis
- ★ Vicksburg Kiwanis
- ★ Walker Kiwanis
- ★ Winnfield Kiwanis





2nd Quarter

Gold Star Clubs

January 2025

- ★ Algiers Kiwanis
- ★ Amory Kiwanis
- ★ Ascension Kiwanis
- ★ Bayou Teche Kiwanis
- ★ Big Easy Kiwanis
- ★ Biloxi Kiwanis
- ★ Denham Springs Kiwanis
- ★ DeRidder Kiwanis
- ★ Dyersburg Kiwanis
- ★ East Livingston Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Covington Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Ouachita Kiwanis
- ★ Greenville Kiwanis
- ★ Gulfport Kiwanis
- ★ Kenner North Kiwanis
- ★ Long Beach Kiwanis
- ★ Moisant Kiwanis
- ★ North Lake Charles Kiwanis
- ★ Opelousas Kiwanis
- ★ Pascagoula Kiwanis
- ★ Pearl Kiwanis
- ★ Picayune Kiwanis
- ★ Pineville Kiwanis
- ★ Pontchartrain Kiwanis
- ★ Rankin County Kiwanis
- ★ Sabine Kiwanis
- ★ Southwest Louisiana Kiwanis
- ★ St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis
- ★ Sulphur Kiwanis
- ★ Thibodaux Kiwanis
- ★ Vicksburg Kiwanis
- ★ Walker Kiwanis

February 2025

- ★ Algiers Kiwanis
- ★ Amory Kiwanis
- ★ Ascension Kiwanis
- ★ Big Easy Kiwanis
- ★ Biloxi Kiwanis
- ★ Carencro Kiwanis
- ★ Denham Springs Kiwanis
- ★ DeRidder Kiwanis
- ★ East Livingston Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Covington Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Ouachita Kiwanis
- ★ Greenville Kiwanis
- ★ Gulfport Kiwanis
- ★ Kenner North Kiwanis
- ★ Lake Charles
- ★ Long Beach Kiwanis
- ★ Natchitoches
- ★ NW St. Tammany Kiwanis
- ★ Opelousas Kiwanis
- ★ Pascagoula Kiwanis
- ★ Pearl Kiwanis
- ★ Pineville Kiwanis
- ★ Pontchartrain Kiwanis
- ★ Rankin County Kiwanis
- ★ Sabine Kiwanis
- ★ Southwest Louisiana Kiwanis
- ★ St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis
- ★ Sulphur Kiwanis
- ★ Thibodaux Kiwanis
- ★ Vicksburg Kiwanis
- ★ Walker Kiwanis

March 2025

- ★ Algiers Kiwanis
- ★ Amory Kiwanis
- ★ Ascension Kiwanis
- ★ Big Easy Kiwanis
- ★ Biloxi Kiwanis
- ★ Bluff City Kiwanis
- ★ Carencro Kiwanis
- ★ DeRidder Kiwanis
- ★ East Livingston Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Covington Kiwanis
- ★ Greater Ouachita Kiwanis
- ★ Greenville Kiwanis
- ★ Gulfport Kiwanis
- ★ Kenner North Kiwanis
- ★ Long Beach Kiwanis
- ★ Natchitoches
- ★ NW St. Tammany Kiwanis
- ★ Opelousas Kiwanis
- ★ Pascagoula Kiwanis
- ★ Pearl Kiwanis
- ★ Pineville Kiwanis
- ★ Pontchartrain Kiwanis
- ★ Rankin County Kiwanis
- ★ Sabine Kiwanis
- ★ Southwest Louisiana Kiwanis
- ★ St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis
- ★ Sulphur Kiwanis
- ★ Thibodaux Kiwanis
- ★ Vicksburg Kiwanis
- ★ Walker Kiwanis

**CELEBRATING
SUPERHEROES OF SERVICE**

**LAMISSTENN DCON
AUGUST 8-10, 2025**

★ **HILTON MEMPHIS** ★
939 RIDGE LAKE BLVD.
MEMPHIS, TN 38120

WWW.LAMISSTENN.ORG

DCON 2025

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

	EARLY REG (Before 6/13/2025)	REGISTRATION (6/14/2025- 7/31/2025)	LATE REG* (After 7/31/2025)	DAY ON/ ONSITE REG*
Base Registration including 1 Fellowship Luncheon Ticket	\$160	\$175	\$200*	Will only be available for emergencies
Additional Fellowship Luncheon Tickets	\$50	\$60	\$75*	No guarantee of availability
PDO (Past District Officers) Breakfast	\$40	\$50	\$65*	
Governor's Party	\$65	\$75	\$85*	
Prayer Breakfast & Closing Session	\$40	\$50	\$65*	



***No guarantee of availability for Late Registration and Day of/Onsite Registration. After 7/31/2025, must call District Office at 225-769-9233 to purchase.**

District Convention 2025 | Sponsorship Opportunities

	No. Available	Free Base Registrations	Website Recognition	Facebook Posts	Registration Banner	Newsletter Recognition	Event Program*	Verbal Recognition
Platinum \$5,000	1	6	6 mos	10	XL Logo	XL Logo	Inside Front Cover	3 times
Diamond \$3,000	2	4	4 mos	7	L Logo	L Logo	Full pg	2 times
Gold \$1,000	5	3	3 mos	5	M Logo	M Logo	1/2 pg	1 time
Silver \$500	10	2	1 mo	3	S Logo	S Logo	1/4 pg	
Bronze \$250	unlimited	1		1	Name	Name		

- **Registration Sponsor (\$500):** Recognition at registration desk
- **Refreshment Sponsor (\$500):** Recognition at water and coffee stations
- **Merchandise Sponsor (\$500):** Recognition at merchandise table
- **Foundation Breakfast Sponsor (\$500):** Recognition outside meeting room & verbal recognition
- **Past District Officers Meeting Sponsor (\$250):** Recognition outside meeting room & verbal recognition
- **Past District Governors Meeting Sponsor (\$250):** Recognition outside meeting room & verbal recognition



**All Sponsors will be included on the DCON Sponsors page in the program.
Sponsorships are tax deductible as a business expense for business promotion
Submission deadline: July 10, 2025*

District Convention 2025 | Program Advertisements

This is your opportunity to showcase your club, your club officers, your Kiwanis mentor, and an organization or corporation to all of the Kiwanis members and guests assembled at the Annual LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention. Advertisements may also be used to congratulate your incoming or outgoing district officers or your lieutenant governor, or simply to highlight a successful project during the year.

Space is limited in the convention program so reserve your space early. If you require assistance designing your ad, provide us with the wording and some details of what you would like and the District will design the ad for you. Submit print-ready files to districtoffice@lamisstenn.org. Files may be in a PDF or JPEG format.



Advertisements of a religious or political nature, ads that are discriminatory or that are disrespectful of a person or group of persons are prohibited. All ads are subject to review and approval by the LaMissTenn Kiwanis Executive Director.

Submission deadline: July 15, 2025



Dr. Linda C. Ramsey Announces Candidacy for Kiwanis International Trustee

Dear Kiwanians and Friends,

It is my both my privilege and pleasure to announce my Candidacy for Kiwanis International Trustee in 2026. I have wanted to run for this position since I completed serving as Governor of our great and Historic District of Kiwanis, LaMissTenn! There has always been someone else who wanted to run, so I never said anything until now when our district began a search for a candidate. I have been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin since December of 1990. I was one of the first female members in the Kiwanis Club of Martin, Tennessee. I have served as Club President, Assistant Treasurer, Board Member and Committee Chair for the Kiwanis Club of Martin, Tennessee; Lieutenant Governor (twice), Region Trustee, Past Governor, Foundation Board Member, PDO Board Member, Key Club Advisor, Chartered and served as the Builder's Club Advisor, worked with our local Aktion Club and provided programs for them. I have served as Kiwa-

nis Key Leader District Committee Chair for 14 years. I have served on the District Scholarship Committee for about 10 years. As the first female District Governor, my Governor's Project was the AED Project.

I am a River of Life Fellow, John T. Roberts Fellow, Charlie Ford Fellow, and a Friend of the Foundation. I've done numerous presentations for the District Conventions over the years. I got to plan the first District Convention at Sea as Governor-Elect in 2010. I have written two Emergency Grants for Natural Disasters for the Kiwanis club of Martin and Greenfield, and they were both granted. We provided food for approximately 2000 tornado victims in our county, Weakley County, in Tennessee from the monies we received from those two grants.

I have received a Legion of Honor Fellow (given by the Martin Club), a George Hixon Fellow (given by the Martin Junior High Builder's Club), and I am a member of the Cornerstone Society for the Possibility Project. I have a Zeller, a Diamond Zeller (given to me by my Lieutenant Governors when I served as District Governor), a Mother's Day Zeller (in honor of my mother who passed away of Breast and Lung Cancer at 44 years of age). I have also given 10-15 Zellers to individuals in the Kiwanis Club of Martin who deserved special recognition. I awarded

two Zellers at the District Level. The first was given to Ame Oliver for serving as Co-Chair of the District Eliminate Project with her husband, Dennis Oliver. The second Zeller was awarded to Pam Morgan for her dedication serving as Chair of the AED Project. This past year, I was asked by Kiwanis International to edit the new curriculum for Kiwanis Key Leader, and I did submit some editorial suggestions.

When I was asked to join Kiwanis by Bettye Giles, the first female member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, I attended my first meeting. Before we got out the door, I told Bettye that I wanted to join, and I literally jumped in with both feet. Kiwanis has been a big part of my life for the last 34 years, and I'm always looking for another way that I can serve. To be your representative on the International Board of Trustees would truly be my honor and privilege. I am always looking on the horizon for another way to serve. Thank you very much for your consideration, and I would appreciate your support very much!

Sincerely,

*Linda C. Ramsey, Professor Emeritus
Health & Human Performance Dept.
Ed. D., University of Mississippi
M.S., University of Tennessee at Knoxville
B.S., University of Tennessee at Martin*



Registration is NOW open for Kiwanis International Convention!



The LaMissTenn District will be staying in the Drury Plaza Hotel. If you plan to attend, you are encouraged to secure your hotel reservations early before the room block is filled.

LaMissTenn Welcomes Bluff City Kiwanis Club!



The Kiwanis Club of Bluff City Organizational Meeting

The Kiwanis Club of Bluff City in Memphis, Tennessee held a meeting to formally organize on Thursday, January 16th. The newly formed club is sponsored by Germantown Kiwanis. Club members are excited to start serving their community and have already hit the ground running!

In early March, newly elected eager-to-learn club officers attended a training provided by District Leadership Development Coordinator Greg Beard.

On March 22, Club President Angelique Ivey, Club Secretary Laverne Echols, and members Elizabeth Fitzgerald & Pamela Lee attended the 2025 Mid-Year Education Conference in Natchez, Mississippi. Also, club members along with Germantown Kiwanis celebrated Key Club International's 100th birthday on March 23rd!

Welcome to the K Family Bluff City Kiwanis!



Club Officer Training



2025 Mid-Year Educational Conference



Key Club Centennial Celebration

WELCOME TO THE KIWANIS FAMILY!

Reflects new membership from 12/19/24 to 3/29/2025.

Kathleen Abels, *East Livingston*
 Joey Amadeo, *Walker*
 Chenise Anthony, *Bluff City*
 Connie Balee, *Gulfport*
 David Blackwell, *Gulfport*
 Molly Booth, *Lucedale*
 David Borel, *Calcasieu, Lake Charles*
 Chase Buteau, *New Iberia*
 Barbara Carlson, *Opelousas*
 Joseph Carolin, *Dyersburg*
 Elizabeth Cigali-Manshel, *Dawn Busters*
 Wendy Clark, *Bluff City*
 Lauren Coffey, *Bluff City*
 Mary Coleman, *Starkville*
 Cameron Collins, *Northeast Shelby County*
 Brandi Culpepper, *Lucedale*
 Angelle Davis, *Red Stick*
 Phillip Dearman, *Greenwood*
 Nathan Alexander Do, *Cortana*
 Olivier Doin, *Walker*
 Ben Donald, *Dawn Busters*
 Rex Dubose, *Pine Belt*
 Preston Durr, *Natchitoches*
 Laverne Echols, *Bluff City*
 Elizabeth Fitzgerald, *Bluff City*
 Carlo Gagliano, *East St. Mary*
 William Glass, *Bluff City*
 Artina Graves, *Gulfport*
 Joe Greco, *Dawn Busters*
 Roxane Gunser, *Gulfport*
 William Halpin, *Vicksburg*
 Brittany Hart, *Bluff City*
 Rebecca Hernandez, *Dawn Busters*
 Fredrick Hickmon, *Starkville*
 Raynell Holmes, *Dawn Busters*
 Gray Hurley, *Tupelo*
 Angelique Ivey, *Bluff City*
 Joseph Ivey, *Bluff City*
 Bethany Jackson, *Carencro*
 Navneet Kaur, *Starkville*
 Henry Kenworthy, *Bluff City*
 Catherine Knabb, *Northeast Shelby County*
 Andrew Kruchten, *Bluff City*

Bennett Kruchten, *Bluff City*
 Lashonda Lastrapes, *Opelousas*
 Pamela Lee, *Bluff City*
 Judy Lewis-Wallace, *Pontchartrain*
 Jessica McCartney, *Amory*
 Tonya McCrory, *Pearl*
 Petrina McMorris, *Pontchartrain*
 Timothy Messer, *Laurel*
 James Mills, *Laurel*
 Timothy Miquez, *Acadiana-Lafayette*
 Clara Neese, *Lucedale*
 Julie Odom, *Vicksburg*
 Heather Palmisano, *Dawn Busters*
 Paige Payne, *Vicksburg*
 Gwen Pete, *Jennings*
 Jim Pletcher, *Germantown*
 Michael Rahaim, *New Iberia*
 Sheila Renfro, *Bluff City*
 Keith Richardson, *Bluff City*
 Robert Robbins, *Leesville*
 Angelique Romero, *Dawn Busters*
 Jeffrey Rossi, *Dawn Busters*
 Thomas Ryder, *Pineville*
 Lekshmy Sankara Pillai, *Starkville*
 Elizabeth Schwenk-Yager, *Dawn Busters*
 Mary Scruggs, *Natchitoches*
 Rhonda Sigler, *Lucedale*
 Michael Staton, *Jennings*
 James Stull, *Dawn Busters*
 Daniel Talley, *Columbus*
 Ashley Talton, *Tupelo*
 Chris Tapia, *Pearl*
 Richard Terrell, *Natchitoches*
 Naflath Thenveetil, *Starkville*
 Bianca Thomas, *Lake Charles*
 Kathy Tolbert, *Bluff City*
 Danny Trahan, *Dawn Busters*
 Tom Velek, *Columbus*
 Pamela Vidrine, *Opelousas*
 Janet Wallace, *Walker*
 Jessica Webb, *Tupelo*
 Eric Williams, *Opelousas*
 Michelle Wren, *Amory*

LAMISSTENN SIGNATURE PROJECTS SELECTED FOR KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

The LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis is pleased to announce its selections for the 2025 Kiwanis International Signature Project Contest. The project chosen from Group 1 (clubs with 27 or fewer members) is “Ween Dream” submitted by the **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** in Region IV, Division 4A. The project chosen from Group 2 (clubs with 28 or greater members) is “Pavillion to Park Benches” submitted by the **Kiwanis Club of Germantown** in Region I, Division 1C. The LaMissTenn Kiwanis District received a total of 10 project submissions.

Group 1 Selection: Ween Dreams

*Submitted by
Kiwanis Club of New Orleans*

WEEN DREAM serves children across the U.S. who face significant challenges, including poverty, foster care, special needs, homelessness, serious medical conditions, and trauma. Many of these children miss out on the magic of Halloween due to financial hardship or circumstances beyond their control.

WEEN DREAM meets this need by providing free Halloween costumes to children who might otherwise go without. Over the past 10

years, **New Orleans Kiwanis** has donated nearly 20,000 costumes, ensuring that every child, regardless of their circumstances, gets to experience the excitement of dressing up and being part of a community.



Group 2 Selection: Pavillion to Park Benches

*Submitted by
Kiwanis Club of Germantown*

This has been a project that has evolved over 40 years in our Municipal Park, which is the center of the city. It started in 1983 with building the Kiwanis Pavillion. The additional project in 2024 was the revamping of the playground. Inclusive playgrounds have a positive impact on communities by providing a space where children of all abilities can play together. Breaking down barriers encourages friendships, which foster acceptance and under-

standing in the community.

Germantown Kiwanis took a step further in 2025 and will be installing twelve benches around the park with Kiwanis signage for families to sit.



LaMissTenn Signature Project Submissions Group I

Kiwanis Goat Days Kiddie Land

*Submitted by
Kiwanis Club of Millington*

Goat Days is a one-day festival for the City of Millington. The Kiwanis Kiddie Land is the major attraction for

children. This past year, **Millington Kiwanis** had 6 bouncy activities for children. The cost per child was \$10 for an all day pass. Children 3 and younger were admitted for free. Our goal is to see the joy and fun the children have during this one day event while raising a little funds for our Scholarship Projects.




Kiwanis Kids

*Submitted by
Kiwanis Club of Opelousas*

Each year the **Kiwanis Club of Opelousas** coordinates with area schools to honor most improved students in 3rd grade. Every 9 weeks, the club's *Kiwanis Kids* program motivates, inspires and recognizes students who put forth their best effort. Students who are chosen by their teachers as *Kiwanis Kids* receive a certificate and a gift card. At the end of the year, the students' names go into a drawing for a boy and a girl bike from each school represented.

Every 9 weeks when the Kiwanis Club of Opelousas hosts Kiwanis Kids programs, the club posts the children's group picture along with the Kiwanians represented on the club's Facebook page.







Kiwanis®

CLUB OF OPELOUSAS

KIWANIS KIDS

HOPE FOR OPELOUSAS 1ST 9 WEEKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

LOWER ELEMENTARY UPPER ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL	ARMANI RICHARDSON CONNOR RICHARD NYAH WOODSON KADON RIDEAU
--	---

LaMissTenn Signature Project Submissions Group 2

World's Largest Cajun Injected Turkey Fry

Submitted by

Kiwanis Club of Dawn Busters

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Annual Turkey Fry is held each November the day before Thanksgiving at the Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall in Metairie. After frying a record number of Cajun Injected Fried Turkeys (over 1,000 each year), Dawn Busters has a wonderful Thanksgiving Meal with family and friends as members give

God thanks for their many blessings. It is a Dawn Busters' show of service and cooperation with the Krewe of Carrollton, the Sheet Metal Union and local Key Clubs.

Dawn Busters Kiwanis has attempted to officially secure our Annual Cajun-Injected Turkey Fry as the World's Largest in the Guinness Book of World Records. Due to the prohibited expense of securing this designation, Dawn Busters Kiwanis designates our event, as the "Unofficial World's Largest Cajun-Injected Turkey Fry".



Spooktacular Coats for Kids

Submitted by

Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles

Spooktacular Coats For Kids serves the needy and homeless population of the greater Lake Charles, LA area as a fundraiser and collector of new and used coats. Coats are collected with assistance of Calcasieu Parish schools, Diocese of Lake Charles schools, Episcopal Day Schools, and local businesses, cleaned free of charge, and distributed to 13 different agencies that serve the poor and needy. Spooktacular is the fundraising aspect of Coats for Kids wherein all donated funds are distributed to 10 local agencies that serve the poor and homeless. In 2024, the **Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles** distributed \$42,500 to those 10 agencies in a special luncheon for that purpose.



LaMissTenn Signature Project Submissions Group 2

Krewe of Majestic Miracles

Submitted by

Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi

Mardi Gras is a big part of the culture of the New Orleans area. The Krewe of Majestic Miracles is a Mardi Gras Ball for individuals (children and



adults) with special needs and their families. The ball is all inclusive of anyone with any special diagnosis (ie Downs Syndrome, Autism etc.) and sensitive to those who need special accommodations. The guests are treated to a special meal, gifts, door prizes and live music with a Second Line. The highlight of the night is choosing the court and crowning the king and queen.

The Krewe of Majestic Miracles Ball is the highlight of the Mardi Gras Season for so many individuals who have special needs in our area. The entire ball is geared to cater to those who otherwise may not have the availability to participate in Carnival activities. The smile on our guests faces and their families says it all. **St. Bernard-Arabi**



Kiwanis has been sponsoring the ball for three years. Guest numbers have increased each year and 2025 will be our biggest year yet.

Rewards 4 Reading

Submitted by

Kiwanis Club of Lafayette

Rewards 4 Reading serves the elementary and middle school students within the Lafayette Parish School System to help them meet and hopefully exceed their Accelerated Reading goals. The program inspires students that are already great readers and also those students who have

historically not done well with meeting their goals. The program has had tremendous growth year over year, and the school system has directly linked the increase in reading and scores to the incentives/prizes provided.

Lafayette Kiwanis has given out more than \$80,000 in prizes to schools this past school year. Last year, our program was credited with

an 11% increase in words read Year Over Year and an increase of 4% in Million Word Readers. These numbers have increased each year since the inception of the program.



LaMissTenn Signature Project Submissions Group 2



Joey's Hope

Submitted by
Kiwanis Club of Algiers



Joey's Hope is a program that provides non-perishable food items to elementary students who are identified as "food insecure" by individual schools and social workers. **The Kiwanis Club of Algiers** collects donated or purchased food items once a month. At a regular Kiwanis meeting, Key Clubs assist with unloading, setting up stations, bagging the food and loading the boxes into delivery vehicles.

This program has quickly evolved into being able to bag the non-perishable items for an entire month, store the bags and deliver the bags to our designated schools on a 2 week rotation. It changed from a one time "helping hand" for Joey's Hope organization to a "School Year" project for our club because of the growing need in our community.



Zydeco

Pancake Breakfast

Submitted by

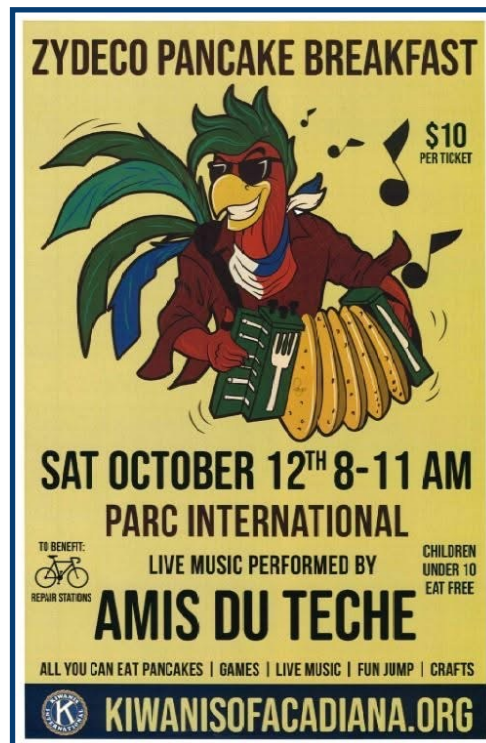
Kiwanis Club of Acadiana-Lafayette

Each year, the **Kiwanis Club of Acadiana-Lafayette** hosts a Zydeco Pancake Breakfast on the same week-end as the Festival Acadiens et Creoles - a Cajun and Creole heritage music festival in Lafayette that draws many people from out of town.

The Zydeco Pancake Festival has a Cajun or Zydeco band at the event every year. People burn off the pancake calories dancing while kids jump in fun jumps, get their faces painted and play games. People fuel up on pancakes before heading to Festival Acadiens et Creoles.

Our Key Club members from Carencro High School assist in the

drive thru area for people that want to pick up their pancakes on the go. They also supervise the games and fun jump area.



Your LaMissTenn Kiwanis Foundation Update

By Tom Long, District Foundation President



Your District Foundation is still hard at work supporting its mission of providing financial support to projects and programs within our District.

During the Mid-Year Education Conference, club participation in the Foundation gift basket raffle was again a rousing success! Gift Basket Chair Betty Carter and her committee members promoted and encouraged clubs to participate. Out of the 53 in attendance, 40 clubs donated gift baskets and the Foundation raised a total of \$3,748.

Also at Mid-Year the following Kiwanians were presented with the Endowments:

John T. Roberts: presented to Andrew Dozier (*pictured below*)

Charles H. Ford Legacy: presented to Karla O'Reilly

River of Life: presented to Oscar Brown

We congratulate these members and thank them for their contributions toward the District Foundation's mission. With each endowment, the District Foundation is provided with additional funds to assist clubs right here in LaMissTenn with their worthy projects.

As a reminder, the best way for your club to support the mission of the District Foundation is for you club to meet its Annual Club Gift (ACG). For a \$5 per member donation to the foundation, your club can access up to \$5,000 in grant assistance for your projects! That is a tremendous return on your investment.

At Mid-Year, seven more clubs met their ACG goal and we now have 58 clubs eligible for a District Foundation Grant. While this is good news, we encourage all clubs to meet their ACG goal.

While the deadline to earn a banner patch for your club expired on April 1st, any time of the administrative year is a good time to meet your club's commitment to the work of the District Foundation.

The best way for you as an individual member, is to become a Friend of the Foundation. We are grateful for our Friends and are always looking for new ways to thank you for being our friend. At Mid-Year, we welcomed eleven Friends who either renewed their commitment or just joined us as a Friend. We thank you again for your individual gift. Remember, anyone can become a Friend at any time during the administrative year.

Our Grants Committee has created a new grant to support the Governor's Project to install park benches in Kiwanis communities. This grant will only be available this year, and a number of clubs have already taken advantage of the opportunity to support the Governor's Project.

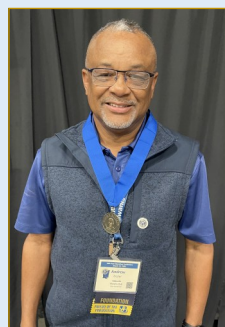
The Scholarship Committee reviewed more than forty applications for ten scholarships totaling \$15,500 to be awarded to the worthy applicants at Key Club DCON in Tupelo. The Foundation was also able to help 25 Key Club members in financial need for the Key Club DCON with financial assistance stipends (\$200/Key Clubber totaling \$5,000).

The Circle K Scholarship only had one applicant and was awarded the scholarship (\$2,000.00), which was presented at Circle K DCON.

Finally, our Development and Marketing Committees are continuing to develop meaningful service and ideas to educate clubs about the Foundation and expand the use of the District Foundation for service opportunities.

If you have a project in need of financial support, please apply on the Foundation page of the District's website.

If you have any questions about how the District Foundation can help, please contact your Foundation Board representative.



Vice Governor Andrew Dozier was presented a John T. Roberts Endowment at the Mid-Year Education Conference.



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

By Betty Carter, District Foundation Board



The District Foundation Board wants to THANK YOU for your generous donation of 40 AWESOME GIFT-BASKETS to support our District Foundation Mid-Year Conference Raffle. We can't thank you enough for your generosity & continued support. We couldn't do it without you! Forty AWESOME clubs/individuals donated to the District Foundation Mid-Year Gift-Basket Raffle!

Special THANKS to the Following Clubs & Individuals:

CLUBS:

Acadiana-Lafayette

Alexandria

Algiers

Ascension

Baton Rouge

Big Easy

Biloxi

Bluff City

Columbus

Cortana

Dawn Busters

Germantown

Greater Covington

Greater Ouachita

Greenville

Gulfport

Lafayette

Louisville

Martin

Memphis

Natchez Trace

New Orleans

Northshore Mandeville

Opelousas

Ponchatoula

Pontchartrain

Rankin County

Red Stick

Shreveport

Southern Hills

St. Bernard-Arabi

Thibodaux

Third District

Tupelo

Twin Cities

Union City

Vicksburg

Winnfield

Zachary

INDIVIDUALS:

John & Cathy Fry

Foundation Awards Scholarships

SHARON & CHARLIE FORD KEY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

\$3,500



*Lindsay Adams
River City Early College
Vicksburg, MS*

JEAN BENOIT KEY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,000



*Sameen Enam
Baton Rouge Magnet High
School, Baton Rouge*

JEROME C. HAFTER KEY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

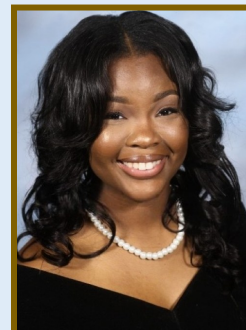
\$2,000



*Tatum Watts
River City Early College
Vicksburg, MS*

ANTHONY SIMMONS KEY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,000



*Alarryal Bradley
Baton Rouge Magnet High
School, Baton Rouge*



KIWANIS DISTRICT FOUNDATION KEY CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS \$1,000



*Asma Askar
Chalmette High School
Chalmette, LA*



*Marley Bufkin
Porters Chapel Academy
Vicksburg, MS*



*Adaria Crutcher
White Station High School
Memphis, TN*



*Virginia Feng
White Station High School
Memphis, TN*



*Ryleigh Johnson
South Fulton High School
South Fulton, TN*



*Tabitha Kadinger
Kenner Discovery
Kenner, LA*

KIWANIS DISTRICT FOUNDATION CIRCLE K SCHOLARSHIP \$2,000



*Carley Pinel
Nicholls State University
Thibodaux, LA*

CKI Circle K International



Kiwanis[®]

CHILDREN'S FUND

A MAN WITH A HEART FOR CHILDREN

By Lenny Simmons, Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair

On December 4, 2022, Kiwanis lost a great Kiwanian. Dr. Jackson Taylor, Jr. Jack was a 41-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Oxford, MS. He was a three-time Lt. Governor and a long-time club secretary. In his will, Jack left \$100,000 to the Kiwanis Children's Fund to be used for the next Worldwide Service Project. Jack did not know when he passed away what that would be, but he had faith that the Children's Fund would come up with another worthy program that would improve the lives of children worldwide. This is the only six-figure gift from a club or an individual for the Possibility Project that has been made to date in the Kiwanis World!

With Jack's very generous bequest along with the gifts and pledges made by the clubs or individuals in our Dis-

trict, we have donated \$210,879.28 to the Kiwanis Children's Fund as of March 1, 2025. It takes \$2.25 to take care of the needs of one child. So far, our clubs have taken care of the needs of 93,724 children! To date, the Kiwanis Children's Fund has received a little over \$7 million dollars in cash and pledges of the \$25 million dollar goal for the Possibility Project.

We currently have only 3 Kiwanis clubs in our District that have signed up to be an Impact Club: New Orleans, Pontchartrain, and Oxford. These clubs have made a commitment to donate a minimum of \$100 per year per member for 5 years. Over the next few months, I will be contacting our other clubs to further explain the importance of becoming an Impact Club.

If you have any questions about the Possibility Project or about your club becoming an Impact Club, please contact me at:

leonarddsimmons@cox.net

Don't forget to make your annual club gift to the Kiwanis Children's Fund. If your club donates \$1,000 or more, your club would be eligible to get a George F. Hixon Fellowship award for its gift.

When sending in your contribution, please make your Club's check payable to the **Kiwanis Children's Fund** and mail to:

Kiwanis Children's Fund
P.O. Box 6457 – Dept. # 286
Indianapolis, IN 46206



You can also pay online by going to [Kiwanis.org](https://www.kiwanis.org) and go to the Kiwanis Children's Fund tab. Consider the possibilities! Consider the children in our communities and the world!





LET'S BUILD OUR BRAND!

By Donna Leggett, LaMissTenn District Public Relations Chair

We are now more than halfway through our Kiwanis year. Has your club made an effort to elevate your club's branding? Have you made any improvements to your club newsletter and Facebook page this year? If your answer is no, start now. It's never too late. Here are a few tips to give your Facebook page a boost.

Call-to-Action Buttons: Using a call-to-action button can increase conversations and encourage your audience to engage with your page. Now you can create specific CTA buttons for your Facebook Page to prompt visitors to take a particular action. To add a CTA, click the 'edit' button below your cover photo and select which CTA button to add. The CTA will encourage people to take direct action once they are on your page.

Story: Start using Facebook stories to publish short-form, off-the-cuff content that puts your page front and center in your followers' newsfeeds. This essentially allows

you to bypass the Facebook algorithm and grab your follower's attention as soon as you publish a new story.

Use 3-Dimensional Images: Static images are out, and 3D graphics and videos are in. Facebook now allows users to publish immersive 3D photos that come to life. This feature works for any photos taken using the Portrait Mode feature on your phone's camera. When creating a Facebook post select "3D photos" from the upload menu and upload your portrait for a 3D surprise on your newsfeed. You can turn your device or use your fingers to get a 3D view of the image right in the Timeline. This will help your post to stand out and grab your follower's attention.

Improve the About Section: The "About" should be a snapshot of your club. Try to answer the questions: What is Kiwanis and what is your club about? Explain why your club is great. What makes your club stand out? Be sure to add your meeting time, location and contact information.

Customize your Cover Photo: Your cover photo is one of the first things a searcher sees when viewing your page. You want to draw them

in and make them want to learn more about your club. Make sure it's a relevant, eye-popping photo that entices them to read on.

Engage with Your Followers: When someone engages with your Facebook page, you must respond. This can be on comments, posts on your wall, direct messages, or any way they reach out. Be sure to reply in a professional and timely manner. If you are tagged or mentioned by outside organizations, be sure to respond.

Post Relevant Content Regularly: It is a good practice to post at least once a week to keep your followers engaged.

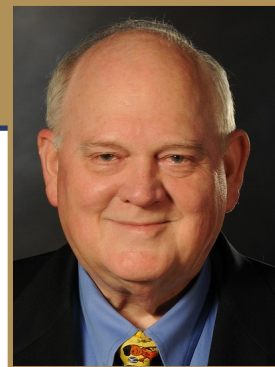
Does your club profile picture have the up-to-date Kiwanis logo? If your club does not have a custom Kiwanis logo, order yours today from Kiwanis International.

Feel free to contact me if I can assist you in starting a new Facebook page or newsletter or if you need help with your existing page. I am here as a resource for your club. Together we can Build Our Brand in LaMissTenn!

Donna Leggett
DonnaL100@yahoo.com
225-315-2818

Aspire to Inspire: What Does GOOGLE Say?

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



What does GOOGLE say about our famous question, "WHAT IS KIWANIS? You know, the one you have answered and recited hundreds of times.....

Kiwanis is a

Global *adjective* 1. relating to the whole world; worldwide.

Organization *noun* 1. an organized body of people with a particular purpose, especially a business, society, association, etc.

of

Volunteers *noun* people who voluntarily offer to perform a service or other undertaking. People who perform a service willingly and without pay.

Dedicated *adjective* devoted to a task or purpose; having single-minded loyalty or integrity

to

Improving *verb* to enhance in quality or value
the

World *noun* the earth, together with all its countries, peoples, and natural features.

One *noun* a single person or thing,

Child *noun* a young human being below the age of puberty or the legal age of majority.

and

One *noun* a single person or thing,

Community *noun* a social unit (a group of people) with a shared socially-significant characteristic, such as place, set of norms, culture, religion, values,

at a

Time. *noun* the measured or measurable period during which an action, process, or condition exists or continues.

IT'S NOT JUST A LIP-SERVICE express approval of or support for (something) without taking any significant action.

MANTRA a statement or slogan repeated frequently.

SO, LET'S GO DO IT!



Re-Membering the 80s

By Ralph Carter, Past District Officer Organization Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Past District Officer Organization Members,

Thank you for being part of the leadership of the great and historic LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis. The PDO Organization is a functioning group of **Past District Officers** (PDO) who help to establish pride and spirit for LaMissTenn District events, history, and leadership.

Two objectives of the PDO are to provide a vehicle to be used in helping clubs that are having difficulty and to assist in new club building. Governor Claude has requested our help with assisting the **Re-Membering the 80s** leadership team by contacting resigned Kiwanis members to gather information using the Exit Survey and to encourage these former Kiwanians to re-join by reminding them of the pride and spirit of Kiwanis.

The goal is to have added **80 former Kiwanis members** by District Convention in August. Please reach out to the PDO Organization Chairman Dr. Bill Gaddis at drbillgaddis@bellsouth.net or the PDO Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Carter at rcarter@bankfirstfs.com for more information on how you can help us Re-Member the 80s.



Get Ready for West Tennessee Key Leader!

By Linda Ramsey, Key Leader North Coordinator



Registration is wide-open for Kiwanis Key Leader North which happens on April 25-27, 2025 at Lakeshore Camp and Retreats in Eva, TN. We are looking for high school students in grades 9-12, and 8th graders who will be going into the 9th grade in the fall of 2025. Students do not have to be members of Key Club to attend.

Registration begins on Friday, April 25 at 4PM, and the curriculum will begin right after dinner which will be at 7PM. The program runs from Friday night until noon on Sunday, April 27. Students and Chaperones can register on line at www.wtnkeyleader.org. Chaperones must pass a Kiwanis Background check and take three online courses concerning Youth Protection in order to serve as a chaperone.

Background checks cost \$35 each, and they are good for 2 years. Chaperones must be 21 years or older. There is no additional expense for a chaperone to attend. We appreciate your volunteering for

this experience. The adult chaperones will also form a group and go through the program along with the students.

Past International Kiwanis President, Jane Erickson, will be our Lead Facilitator this year, and we are very excited about that. We have our 10 Student Facilitators in place for this year, so we need for anyone else to register as a regular participant. Students may attend more than one year without serving as a student facilitator. There are students who do that all the time.

We have 43 registered which includes student facilitators, chaperones, staff and regular students. Our goal for this year is to register 65 regular participants. If you know of someone that goes to your church, who is a boy scout, a 4-H club member, or a member of any youth group in this high school age

range, please recommend that they attend Kiwanis Key Leader. It would be wondered if every student in this age group could attend. Leadership skills will be enhanced for everyone who attends.

The cost to attend is \$250, and this covers 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, a textbook, course materials, T-shirt, and snacks for the weekend. We do have 8 LaMissTenn Foundation scholarships available as well as sponsorships for students who need financial assistance.

There is a packing list about what to bring as well as a brochure which outlines the events for the weekend at www.wtnkeyleader.org where students register. If anyone needs any additional information or has any questions, please feel free to contact me at mramsey2@utm.edu or 731-225-7729.

~ Linda Ramsey



K-Kids Get Down to Business!

By Don Eye, K-Kids District Chair



Finally, the weather has warmed and my Kiwanis jacket can hang in the corner. I like wearing my club clothes with the Kiwanis logos. People ask me, "What is Kiwanis?" The next thing you know, I have guests visiting our weekly meetings.

This month was a busy time for my K-Kids. After Christmas break the kids got down to business. Several collected new clothing items for the homeless, toiletries for day-care facilities, and they visited day-care centers making residents happy. Valentine cards were written and delivered to our first respond-

ers with some really heartfelt messages. The fun thing was to make hundreds of valentine grams which sold for \$2. Boo Grams on Halloween made over \$2,000.

The Aktion Club made enough grams to make some good money which they donated to the flood

and weather damaged North Carolina area victims. I have always been impressed with how the needy will deliver the most in time of others in need. Kids supporting the needs of others is the true spirit of service. K- Kids are great!



K-Kids made their speeches at a Germantown Kiwanis Club meeting in preparation for the District Convention in August. They are pictured with K-Kids Administrator Don Eye and Governor Claude Vinson.



K-Kids Flash Back!

It has been a tradition to have a K-Kids member present their award winning speech at the LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention. At the 2013 District Convention in Baton Rouge, LA, K-Kids member Carly Cantanzaro presented her speech on what being a member of K-Kids is all about. Pictured with Carly are her family, District Kiwanians & 2013 LaMissTenn Governor Robert Benoit at far right.

Ballin' 4 OPTIONS

*By Judy Couvillion,
Aktion Club Administrator*

Every year Options, an organization who's mission is to help people with disabilities live, work, and be active in our community, sponsors a fund raiser called, Ballin' 4 OPTIONS. The charity event is designed to: promote healthier lifestyles, build self-esteem, provide exercise, increase social interaction for independence and community involvement.

Two teams of individuals with disabilities, the Orange Rockets and the Purple Knights, had more than 15 practices leading up to the game. Proceeds from this event benefit the OPTIONS Enrichment – Wellness and Transportation programs which provides transportation to recreation and enrichment activities in the community for over 100 people with disabilities every week. Ballin' 4 OPTIONS was founded with the help of Spoga Fitness Center.

The game, held on Sept. 21, featured the talents of members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Aktion Club**. the Aktion Club has given its members multiple opportunities to meet in fellowship on a regular basis, enjoy trips to area attractions and learn how to conduct meetings and be of service to the community.



Hammond Aktion Club Makes Gift Bags

By Judy Couvillion, Aktion Club Administrator

Members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Aktion Club** dedicated one of their December meetings to decorating and filling bags with little gifts for clients at the local Hammond Senior citizens Center. The project was the Aktion Club's way of performing a community service during the Christmas season. Hammond's action Club meets twice monthly and these sessions feature entertaining, educational and service opportunities.



Aktion Club Supports Their Community

By Linda Fisher, Germantown Kiwanis Club

The Adult Aktion Club at the Madonna Learning Center has been busy serving their community.

Members of the Aktion Club selected the St. Jude Ronald McDonald House to support in December. The Aktion Club and **Kiwanis of Germantown** together filled the St. Jude Ronald McDonald House pantry with food and household wishes. Numerous boxes were filled and delivered.

Members next choose to thank the Germantown responders with Valentine's Day cards. They worked hard to decorate and write colorful and cheerful cards. They also made delicious cookies to thank them for protecting our community. Cards and cookies were hand delivered to the thankful first responders.

But that is not all they are doing to support their community. Easter bags with candy treats and a toy were put together for the foster children at the Memphis Family Connection Center. When children come in for therapy they will receive an Easter bag from the Kiwanis Adult Aktion Club.

The Madonna Learning Center Aktion Club loves supporting their community!



Baton Rouge Magnet High School Key Club 100th Birthday Celebration

By Gary Graham, Past International Trustee, Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club

It has been said that if Kiwanis did nothing else except work with our service leadership programs (SLP), especially Key Club, we could rest on our laurels, knowing we make a positive impact on young people. However, Kiwanis does so much more, and we take great pride in being the parent organization of Key Club. Over the years, I have attended dozens of Key Club rallies, DCONs, and international conventions. The leadership, enthusiasm, heart of service, and general fun of Key Club cannot be matched by any other part of the Kiwanis family. Our Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club members know that we could not put on our pancake festival without the energy and helpfulness of these young people. They have been a part of our event since its inception 75 years ago. A few years earlier, in 1947, our club sponsored the first Key Club at Baton Rouge High. The ties between our club



and theirs are strong. I served as the Kiwanis advisor to the club back in the early 2000s, and my son, who is now a member of our club, was president back then.

So, it was without hesitation that our board enthusiastically voted to support the request from their members that we help with a special celebration of the 100th birthday of Key Club International. This club is so important to many Kiwanis clubs that we were not alone in helping them celebrate. Members from the Ascension, Cortana, and Red Stick (the current sponsoring club of BRMHS Key Club) joined us to put on a celebration like no other.

This year, the Centennial anniversary of Key Club will be celebrated many times all over the world, including at this year's LaMissTenn Key Club DCON in Tupelo in April. But since so many great kids are members of this club, it was impossible to send everyone to Tupelo this year. So, the many kids who could not go also wanted to celebrate, and we Kiwanians stepped up to make it happen.

Cortana made their famous jambalaya, Ascension handled ice cream and registration, Red Stick provided the giant birthday cake, and we supplied nachos, candy, drinks, and Key Club swag for prizes. There were about 20 Kiwanians from the four clubs who helped chaperone, sell raffle tickets, supervise games, pour drinks, dip ice cream, and place 100 candles on the cake along with lighting them under the supervision of Pam Matassa. The kids had music (a requirement for any

Continued on page 33



Baton Rouge Magnet High School Key Club 100th Birthday Celebration Continued...

great party), dancing, games, opportunities to showcase their reasons for being in Key Club, and they were able to take pictures to remember this great event.

In addition to the Kiwanians from the other clubs, I would like to thank and recognize those from our club, the

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club, who stepped up to make it a memorable event for these kids who make it possible for us to put on our pancake festival. There to support and help were Patrick Cavanaugh and his wife Jess, Steve Jaeger, Rick Lipscomb, Gary

Haindel, Pam Matassa, Warren Byrd, Bob Schmidt, and Gary Graham. The final note of recognition goes out to Kim Denson, who is the BRMHS Key Club faculty advisor, and without whom this club would not be as great as it is.



Cortana Kiwanis Serves jambalaya.



Baton Rouge Kiwanis members



Ascension Kiwanis members



BRMHS Key Clubbers



Red Stick Kiwanis members Matt Robinson and Phil DiVincenti help Pam Matassa light the candles on the cake while Gary Graham supervises.



Algiers Celebrates Mardi Gras

*By Linda Leger,
Algiers Kiwanis Club*

MARDI GRAS BALL

On February 20, Algiers Kiwanis partnered with Woldenberg Senior Living Facility and put on a Mardi Gras Ball for the residents. The Mardi Gras Court entered doing the



Second Line led by the Zulu Indians. It was a packed house with lots of food, (finger sandwiches, meatballs, and king cake) drinks (sodas, wine and daquiris) and dancing to music provided by a live band. Pictures were taken in front of a New Orleans Mardi Gras style backdrop. Pictures were printed and given to all residents.

MARDI GRAS BREAKFAST

On March 4, Mardi Gras morning, bright and early at 3 AM, Algiers Kiwanis showed their support

to NOLA 4th Polie Department by serving them breakfast at the 4th District Police Station. Officers were able to enjoy a buffet style breakfast before going out on their shift.



Division 12 Multi-Club Meeting

*By Division 12 Lieutenant Governor Amanda Johnson,
North Lake Charles Kiwanis Club*

Special thanks to District 12 Trustee John Gherardi and Vice Governor Andrew Dozier for attending Division 12 Lieutenant Governor Amanda Fontenot Johnson's Multi-Club Meeting in January. The Division was well represented and clubs were congratulated on successful signature projects.

Ascension Kiwanis: Always Doing Great Things!

By Donna Leggett & Tiffany LaPorte, Ascension Kiwanis Club

TRASH AND TREASURE SALE

Six members and two guests from the **Kiwanis Club of Ascension** volunteered at the Attic Trash and Treasure Sale in support of Brave Heart Louisiana, Children in Need. The annual sale will benefit five area nonprofit organizations on April 11, 12 and 13.

EASTER BASKETS

Ascension Kiwanians hopped over to serve as bunny helpers to assemble Easter Baskets with St. Vincent De-Paul! Thousands of baskets will be provided for children in the community.



DISTINGUISHED CLUB

The Kiwanis Club of Ascension was recognized as a Distinguished Club for the 2023-2024 Kiwanis year at the 2025 Mid-Year Education Conference in Natchez, MS. The club met the criteria under the leadership of President Judy Stracener and Secretary Kristin Rosendale. Club members cheered at their special reserved table as the award was announced.

Continued on page 36



Ascension Kiwanis: Always Doing Great Things! Continued . . .

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Members had an incredibly uplifting experience volunteering at the registration table for the Bluff Ridge Primary Father/Daughter Dance. This year's theme was "Winter Wonderland." The little girls looked like princesses with all out glam and beautiful dresses.



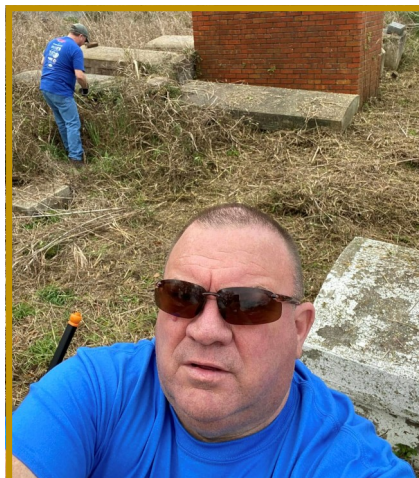
BRAVE HEART

Ascension Kiwanians always enjoy our monthly day of service at Brave Heart Children in Need, Louisiana. We sort clothing and books, inventory toiletries and assemble life books. Brave Heart serves over 1,500 children in the foster care system throughout Louisiana which is a perfect fit for Kiwanis.



MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Patrick Carpenter of the Kiwanis Club of Ascension participated in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project, collaborating with Baton Rouge General Hospital, the Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club, and the BRMHS Key Club to clean Sweet Olive Cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in Baton Rouge.



CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Christmas is about caring and sharing and the Kiwanis Club of Ascension found several ways to spread some Christmas magic this season. Members delivered holiday food boxes for eight families, Christmas shopped for Ascension Kiwanis' adopted students from Bluff Ridge Primary, and volunteered at Santa's Secret Shop to help Bluff Ridge Primary students shop for family members.



COMING SOON: ASCENSION KIWANIS MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU BOWLING TOURNAMANT

Cortana Cares!

By Wanda Magee,
Cortana Kiwanis Club

CHRISTMAS PARADE



The Cortana Kiwanis Christmas parade is a family-friendly event that brings festive cheer to the heart of Baton Rouge. The annual event features an array of colorful floats, marching bands and lively performers. The Parade not only serves as a joyful celebration of the season, but it also highlights Cortana Kiwanis' commitment to service. Proceeds from the 2024 Christmas parade will primarily benefit the Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center and the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition. The remaining one-third will be allocated to providing grants to other charities in service to children. Thank you to all the many members of our club who worked throughout the year and on parade day to make it successful. Special thanks to Baton Rouge Magnet High Key Club for volunteering on parade day.

BUGS PARTY

Cortana Kiwanis honored 80 Broadmoor Elementary 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students who worked hard and at Mid-Term had brought up their grades. They had cookies and juice and were presented with a BUG certificate and lapel pin. We will celebrate again at the end of the school year.

JAMBALAYA DINNERS

Thursday, March 13, 2025, Cortana members prepared 150 meals for the 2nd place winner of the 2024 Cortana Kiwanis Christmas Parade Battle of the Bands. In lieu of the cash prize of \$300 the Band Director Mrs. Doretha Williams chose to have a jambalaya fundraiser. The band raised approximately \$1,500. Mrs. Williams said that the funds raised would enable her to take the band members to Texas in May for a concert. The band members who sold tickets would receive \$10 credit for each ticket sold against the \$200 trip cost for each member.

BUILDERS CLUB

Cortana Kiwanis Club members joined Faculty Advisor Rene Randolph for another great inter-club meeting with Mayfair Elementary Lab School Builders Club students. Everybody got into the act of making tug-a-war and chew dog toys from discarded tee shirts for rescue kennels. Kids Need Kiwanis!



SOCIAL EVENTS

In addition to enjoying comradery at Cortana's service projects, we also enjoy socializing elsewhere. Cortana Kiwanians took a trip to the PMAC for LSU Gymnastics and the Woman's LSU vs Oklahoma Basketball Game.



Dyersburg Pancake Day Helps the Children

By Sandy Tarkington, Dyersburg Kiwanis Club

Pancake Day is a community tradition for **Kiwanis Club of Dyersburg**. Since the large griddle was purchased in 1969 with funds secured by long-time member Albert Fowlkes, members have been flipping pancakes for large crowds at this event. Appropriately so, the club voted to name the annual event in his honor in 2024. Fowlkes and his family proudly attended the event that he had so greatly impacted. All were grateful to celebrate the 2024 event honoring him prior to his passing in September.

This year was bittersweet, but we were happy to continue the tradition, serving over 450 people on March 8th. As a Key Club sponsor, Kiwanis Club of Dyersburg proudly included several Dyersburg High School student volunteers.

Money raised from the Pancake Day event goes toward projects that benefit children in the community. "Our big project over the past few years has been Kiwanis Park," event coordinator Travis Miles explained.



Pancake Day namesake Albert Fowlkes flips pancakes on the griddle for which he secured funds in 1969. →



Hammond Kiwanis Reaches Out

*By Judy Couvillion,
Hammond Kiwanis Club*

FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS



Continuing a tradition that started many years ago, the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** once again successfully held a Holiday Food Drive that provided 115 boxes of food items for needy families in the community. This year's drive was held on Saturday, Dec. 14. The day was marked by mild temperatures and clear skies, a change from some past drives.

The club utilizes a plan that results in a huge collection of non-perishable food items that starts with passing out requests for participation in the food drive at selected subdivisions in the

area. The notices invite potential donors to leave a bag or box of food items on their front steps for eventual pickup by Kiwanians and the volunteers who join in the event.

The notices remind homeowners that they will not be disturbed and that their donation will be picked up after 9 a.m. The Hammond community responds with an exemplary display of generosity. The crews assigned to pick up the food begin their roundups and within the hour food items are being brought to the residence of Kiwanians Vic and Judy Couvillion where it is sorted and then loaded into boxes.

This year's "crew" included 26 members of the Kiwanis Club and about 20 more volunteers. The group sorting and boxing included workers aged 3 to 83. Trafton Academy, and elementary school, sent its young basketball team to help with the sorting and boxing. Also assisting in the process were Key Club members from Hammond High Magnet School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School.

The loaded boxes are stored until Monday morning when distribution starts with crews provided by the City of Hammond. The majority of the boxes are sent to two local community service agencies and a number are re-



served for families in need who are known by the Kiwanis members.

Community Services chairman Judy Couvillion said of this year's effort, "this is one of the best things that our club does every year. The remarkable thing about our food drive is that we are finished before noon. With all the help that we had we were able to collect, sort and fill 115 boxes in a little more than an hour. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the food drive is the realization that we live in a very, very generous community. The amount of food donated is always inspiring. In addition to the food, we also receive cash donations which help us purchase chickens and loaves of bread for each recipient. The Hammond Garden Club helps us with gifts of cash and food. This is our club's way of making the Christmas season a little bit brighter for those families with limited resources. This project is really a winner."

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Flipping Pancakes to Further Education

*By Angela Crooms,
Greenville Kiwanis Club*

The Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is one of our most highly anticipated events! It was a beautiful day to enjoy a delicious breakfast and the building was filled with the aroma of fresh pancakes and syrup. On Saturday, February 22nd from 6:30 am to 10:30 am, the **Kiwanis Club of Greenville** held their annual Pancake Breakfast at the Buster Brown Community Center in Greenville, MS. A total of 367 tickets were sold with each person receiving an ample breakfast of all-you-could-eat pancakes, sausage, and bacon. We enjoyed seeing the awe on the faces of the children as the Mickey & Minnie pancakes were being made. We had great community support with us receiving a total of 20 sponsors. This annual event is the club's biggest fundraiser to support service projects

throughout the year and we give four \$500 college scholarship awards to deserving high school students each year at the local high schools in Washington County. We had one high school senior and one college student volunteer to serve at this event. It's an amazing way to teach our students the value of giving back to the community.

Pictured at right: Kenneth L. Gines and Britt Virden mix the pancake batter.



Hammond Kiwanis Reaches Out Continued . . .

HOLIDAY FEAST

As part of its Christmas season service programs for the community the Hammond Kiwanis Club treated clients at the Hammond Center of the Tangipahoa Volunteer Council on Aging to a holiday feast. This year's gala noon meal featured turkey, dressing with gravy, sweet potato casserole and banana pudding. Each senior citizen was also given a gift from the club. The program started with the singing of Christmas carols and full participation from the seniors.

Pictured at top: Senior citizens receiving a plate full of traditional holiday fare.

Pictured at bottom: Kiwanian Mayson Foster entertaining the guests.



Krewe of Kiwanis!

*By Cathy Simmons,
New Orleans Kiwanis Club*

Mardi Gras is a BIG deal in the New Orleans area ... and anywhere WE can make a difference, WE try! The **Kiwanis Clubs of New Orleans** and **Pontchartrain** (Div 4A), together with Region IV Trustee Jenn White and LaMissTenn Executive Director, Jen Robinson all joined forces to package sustainable throws into jute bags and recycled cardboard boxes for a variety of Mardi Gras parade krewes... think popcorn, shampoo bars, bamboo pencils, bars of soap, even blue corn grits



that turn purple when cooked! (Just add some grated cheese and chives and VOILA! Mardi Gras grits that are DEEEElicious!)

Mardi Gras has always been great, even before the era of “too many” imported, disposable, plastic beads and trinkets. Www.GroundsKrewe.org hopes to reverse the quantity over qual-

ity trend and reinforce that special connection between thrower and catcher with items that are functional, well designed, made from sustainable materials and promote Louisiana products and people. All sales support a 501(c)(3) non-profit which reinvests proceeds towards waste reduction and parade recycling efforts for the New Orleans community.



Kiwanis Club of Memphis Serves the Community

By Melanie Blakeny, Memphis Kiwanis Club



Springtime is the perfect time for outdoor projects! The **Kiwanis Club of Memphis** took advantage of great March weather to build a handicap ramp for a child in need. The ramp was desperately needed to replace a worn out ramp. Club members had a few sore muscles the next day but it was all for a good cause.



Also, Memphis Kiwanis recently presented a \$5,000 check to PURE Academy, a Memphis non-profit boarding school, which focuses on the development and support of young men to help them develop to their full potential. The donation will be used to sponsor the Academy's water garden. The water garden will give the young men a quiet place for reflection.

It's Mardi Gras Time!

*By Carrie Richard,
Opelousas Kiwanis Club*

MARDI GRAS RAFFLE

The Opelousas Kiwanis Club held its 3rd Mardi Gras Raffle on February 27, 2025 to raise money to help the children in our community.

In 2023, we raised a little over \$375. Last year we raised \$536. This year we raised \$1,287. Kiwanians worked tirelessly selling tickets for \$5 apiece.

Items were donated by Kiwanians and various continuous local supporters in our community.

The 3rd place raffle item was a cake by Tout De Bakery, owned by Kiwanian Katrina Daigle Brown.

The 2nd place raffle items consisted of a Keurig, Community Mardi Gras King Cake Coffee, \$10.00 Java Square gift card, a banner, beads, a mask, a crawfish hand towel, \$50 gift card donated by State Representative Dustin Miller and the other items were donated by Kiwanian Dr. Desiree Alexander.

Last but not least, our 1st place raffle item consisted of a purple wagon, liquor and Mardi Gras cups donated by the Opelousas Kiwanis Club, a Mardi Gras Hat donated by Custom Designs Studio, a King Cake donated by Benny's Grocery Store Opelousas, 2 fold up chairs donated by Kiwanian BJ Carlson, an ice chest and an umbrella donated by Kiwanian Rachael Fruge Jones of Senior Village Nursing Home, LSU cups and stuffed tiger donated by Kiwanian Connie Shakesnider with Med Express, Kiwanian Valerie Arceneaux with American Bank and Trust Co. donated Zapps Chips, Beer, and Mardi Gras floor mat. And last but not least, Kiwanian Pam Vidrine donated



Mardi Gras signage, beads and Mardi Gras Masks.

We had 2 guests that pulled the winning tickets. Jamie Cormier with Guns Down Power Up and Kristen Thibodeaux with Mother Daughter Maven.

The 3rd prize winner was Sklyer Richard. The 2nd prize winner was Jamie Arvie and our grand prize winner was Monica Landry.

Thank you for the continued support in our community to allow up to make a difference in a child's life.

DAD & KIDS PARADE

The Opelousas Kiwanis Club joined with non-profit Dads and Kids for it's 2nd Annual Dads and Kids Special Needs Mardi Gras Parade which took place on February 28th.

Elliot Mitchell, founder of Dads and Kids, partners with the Opelousas Police Department and the Opelousas Kiwanis Club to visit 4 of our Kiwanis Kids Schools to give out throws to our special needs children. We had a special guest The Cat In the Hat, Pastor Clarence Lazard.

The schools visited were Grolee Elementary School, Creswell Elementary, Opelousas Middle and Northeast Elementary.

The Kiwanians who participated were Valerie Arceneaux, Carrie Richard, Evangeline Landry, Jeremy Richard, Lashonda Lastrapes, Latasha Aggison, Marlena Cane, Tawasha Thomas, Joey Richard, Pam Vidrine and a special thanks to her husband Gary Vidrine for pulling the trailer and always supporting our mission.

It's one of the most heartwarming events to see the children's faces when we pull up to their schools. To me, this is what Kiwanis is all about!



Reading Around the World

By Carol Saling,
St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club

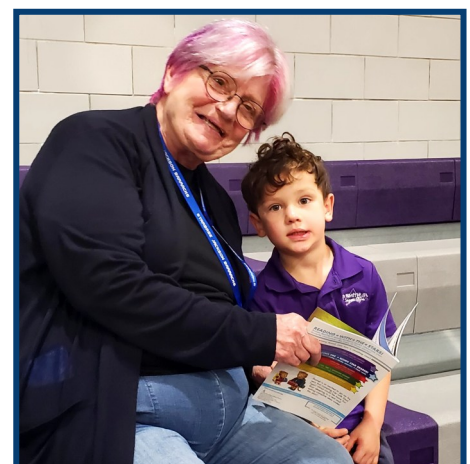
The Kiwanis Club of St Bernard-Arabi sponsors Reading Around the World (RAW) for all the Pre-K (students 3 and 4 years old) in the public and private schools of St Bernard Parish. Each student in Pre-K is allowed to pick a book of their choosing from a selection of books. The book is then read to each student by an enthusiastic Aktion Club Member or Kiwanian. The readers have just as much fun



as the students during their time together.

The team of Kiwanians, Suzy Andry and Mike Chutz, along with Angie Ostendorf of the St Bernard Parish Schools organize the Spring and Fall RAW days. Each school has their own

day where the kids get their books. Angie, in her 9th year of coordinating the program, said that 487 preschoolers received books during the March event. Mike rounds up the volunteers to do the reading. When Mike was asked why RAW he said "I love to see the joy of the kids having a book read to them. Some who have never had a book of their own." The Aktion Club looks forward to reading to the kids. It is one of their favorite events. It's a win-win for all!



Scrapbooking Krop for Kids: A Growing Tradition in the Twin Cities

By Lawanda Alfred, Twin Cities Kiwanis Club



As the fourth year of the **Twin Cities Kiwanis** Scrapbooking Krop for Kids approaches, July 18-19, 2025 we are filled with excitement and pride for the growth and impact this event has had on our community. What started as a small gathering with just 16 participants has blossomed into an event that now draws 40-50 scrapbooking enthusiasts from across the region, including Memphis, Nashville, Henderson, Smithland, KY, Vienna, IL, and Gideon, MO.

The Scrapbooking Krop for Kids is not only for families to gather, get creative, and make beautiful memories, but it also serves as a fundraiser for scholarships that help local kids of the Twin Cities, Ken-Tenn to pursue their dreams. Through the power of art, teamwork, and giving, participants are helping to raise the funds that will provide educational opportunities for children in need.

Over the past three years, the event has become a beloved tradition, and its impact on the community has only grown. The first year, we had 16 participants. Fast forward to the third year, and we're now welcoming 40-50 registered participants - a testament to the dedication of everyone involved and the power of word-of-mouth in spreading the joy of scrapbooking for a cause.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to see the creativity of women from different cities and backgrounds come together. Whether they're cutting, pasting, stamping, or designing their own scrapbook pages, each participant is

leaving with not only a memorable project but also the knowledge that they've contributed to something bigger. All proceeds raised during the event go directly into a scholarship fund that helps young people from our region afford higher education, extracurricular activities, and other enrichment programs.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, and, of course, the participants who make this event possible. Every year, the love and support from our community continue to grow, and we look forward to seeing even more faces in the years to come.

If you're interested in participating in the upcoming Scrapbooking Krop for Kids or want to learn more about how you can contribute to the scholarship fund, please reach out to us. Together, we are creating lasting memories and brighter futures!

Stay tuned for more updates, and thank you for supporting this heartwarming initiative. Let's keep crafting, giving, and growing!



Zachary Kiwanis Encourages Kids to Bring up Grades!

By MiLisa York, Zachary Kiwanis Club

On January 31st, the **Zachary Kiwanis Club** presented 316 BUG awards at Coppermill Elementary School to the 5th and 6th grade students! Congratulations for a job well done!



On March 3rd, the Zachary Kiwanis Club had the honor of presenting 153 BUG awards at Rollins Place Elementary School. Way to go Zachary! What a way to end the week!



Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany LaPorte, District Bulletin Editor

Submit your article and 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 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 submissions is always two weeks before the publication's date. The deadlines for the remaining 2024-2025 Kiwanis Year are:

July 2025 Issue = Deadline June 13, 2025

Include this information:

CLUB: Club Name and Author **TITLE:** Article Title

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 and the display of impactful service.

We want photographs showing how your club impacts the community!



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

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