



# Kiwaniis®

## Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District

### MINUTES

#### Meeting of the 2024-2025 District Board of Trustees

March 31, 2025 | 2:00pm | The Natchez Grand Hotel, Natchez, MS

Claude Vinson, Governor, Presiding

#### Call to Order

The Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International Board of Trustees met on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 2:00pm at The Natchez Grand Hotel in Natchez, MS. Governor Claude Vinson called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm and established a quorum with the following present:

Governor, Claude Vinson  
Governor-Elect, Marcel Lashover  
Vice Governor, Andrew Dozier  
Immediate Past Governor, John A. Fry  
Region II Trustee, Ralph Carter  
Region III Trustee, Lorri Alles  
Region IV Trustee, Jennifer Kelly-White  
Region V Trustee, Laura Gilliland  
Region VI Trustee, John Gherardi  
Region VII Trustee, Darren Green  
Executive Director, Jen Robertson  
Kiwanis International Board Counselor, Jo Schwartz (via zoom)

Invocation by Trustee Darren Green. Defining Statement recited by all.

Governor Claude Vinson, Governor-Elect Marcel Lashover, and Vice Governor Andrew Dozier offered opening remarks.

#### Consent Agenda

Trustee Darren Green moved to approve the following consent agenda. Trustee John Gherardi seconded the motion. With no discussion, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

- A. March 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (exhibit A)
- B. District Key Position Reports (exhibit B)
- C. Circle K: 5 active clubs
- D. Key Club: 125 active clubs
- E. Aktion Club: 8 active clubs
- F. Builders Club: 24 active clubs
- G. K-Kids Clubs: 35 active clubs
- H. ICON Attendance: KI's Goal for the District: 46 Registered: 22

#### Ongoing Business

The Board discussed the District's initiative to establish specialty license plates in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

## **Board Committees**

The Board discussed the **Bylaws Committee**. Committee Chair John Gherardi presented the LaMissTenn Kiwanis Policies Sections 100 (exhibit C). With the recommendation of approval from the Committee, Trustee Ralph Carter seconded the motion to approve. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Chair John Gherardi presented the LaMissTenn Kiwanis Policies Sections 200 (exhibit D). With the recommendation of approval from the Committee, Trustee Ralph Carter seconded the motion to approve. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Chair John Gherardi presented the LaMissTenn Kiwanis Policies Sections 300 (exhibit E). With the recommendation of approval from the Committee, Trustee Darren Green seconded the motion to approve. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Chair John Gherardi presented the LaMissTenn Kiwanis Policies Sections 800 (exhibit F). With the recommendation of approval from the Committee, Trustee Darren Green seconded the motion to approve. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Next, the Board discussed the **Finance Committee**. Committee Chair Ralph Carter presented the LaMissTenn Kiwanis District, LaMissTenn Key Club District, and LaMissTenn Circle K District financials (exhibit G). The Committee recommended acceptance of the financials. After brief discussion, Governor-Elect Marcel Lashover seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the District's paid and unpaid club status which stands at 115 paid clubs and 2 unpaid clubs.

The Board considered a budget adjustment to add \$750 to the LG Training/May Board Meeting line item and offset this increase by decreasing the Retained Earnings line item from \$20,938 to \$20,188. With the recommendation of approval from the Committee, Governor-Elect Marcel Lashover seconded the motion approve. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the preliminary 2025-2026 District Budgets (exhibit H).

Next, the Board discussed the **Education Committee**. Education Committee Chair Jennifer Kelly-White presented District Convention (DCON) education topics developed to date.

Next, the Board discussed the **Membership Committee**. Membership Committee Chair Laura Gilliland presented the current membership status of the District:

- 10/1/2024 Membership: 3,516 members
- 5/1/2025 Membership: 3,599 members
- Added: 236 members
- Dropped: 153 members
- Net Members: 83 members

Membership Committee Chair Laura Gilliland discussed ongoing new club opening and strengthening efforts and provided the attached report (exhibit I).

Next, the Board discussed the **Service Committee**. Community Service Awards nominations are due July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Next, the Board discussed the **SLP Committee**. SLP Committee Chair Darren Green discussed the current efforts of the SLP Committee including Circle K strengthening efforts and the WTA? (Where they at?) Initiative.

Next, Vice Governor Andrew Dozier and Trustee Lorri Alles discussed current Lt. Governor efforts.

### **New Business**

Kiwanis International Board Counselor, Jo Schwartz presented a short description of the new Kiwanis Voices program aimed at attracting young adults to Kiwanis.

Next, the Board discussed making Operation Park Bench a District Major Emphasis Project. Vice Governor Andrew Dozier moved to approve. Trustee Lorri Alles seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Next, the Board reviewed Governor-Elect Marcel Lashover's 2025-2026 Key Position appointments (below). Trustee Laura Gilliland moved to accept the appointments as presented. Trustee Jennifer Kelly-White seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

- Aktion Club Administrator: **TBD**
- Builders Club Administrator: **TBD**
- Bylaws Committee Chair: John Gherardi
- Circle K Administrator: Jennifer Kelly-White
- Circle K Administrator Assistant: Sidney Guedry
- District Bulletin Editor: Tiffany LaPorte
- DCON Coordinator: Jen Robertson
- DCON Host Chair: Mike Haffner
- Education Committee Chair: Jennifer Kelly-White
- Finance Committee Chair: Ralph Carter
- Human & Spiritual Values Coordinator: Nettles Brown
- ICON Coordinator: Jen Robertson
- K-Kids Administrator: **TBD**
- Key Club Administrator: Danny Williams
- Key Club Administrator Assistants: Anna Kate Broussard & Jessica Hightower
- Key Leader, North Coordinator: Linda Ramsey
- Key Leader, South Coordinators: John Magness & Rebecca Huff
- Kiwanis Children's Fund Coordinator: Lenny Simmons
- Leadership Development Coordinators: Greg Beard & Nettles Brown
- Major Emphasis Project, AED: Pam Morgan
- Major Emphasis Project, Operation Park Bench: Claude Vinson
- Membership Coordinator (DMC): John Fry
- Membership Committee Chair: Rick Danielson
- Past Governors Chair: John Fry
- Resolutions Coordinator: John Gherardi
- Risk Manager: Patrice Cusimano
- Service Committee Chair: Oscar Brown
- SLP Committee Chair: Darren Green
- Webmaster: Jen Robertson
- Youth Protection Manager: Michele Crosby-O'Neal

Next the Board discussed that the 2026 Mid-Year Education Conference will be held in Natchez, MS on Saturday, March 21, 2026. Trustee John Gherardi moved to supplement the 2026 Mid-Year Education Conference with \$15/attendee to allow the registration fee to be as low as possible. Governor-Elect Marcel Lashover seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Next, the Board discussed revisions to the 2025-2026 Distinguished Club Program to better align District goals with the recently published Kiwanis International 2025-2026 goals and to improve clarity (exhibit J). Trustee Darren Green moved to approve the revisions. Trustee John Gherardi seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the remaining items on the 2024-2025 District calendar:

**June 2025**

- 10 CLE: Board Member, Bylaws & Policies
- 15 **Newsletter Articles Due (Gov, Gov-Elect, Vice Gov, Imm Past Gov)**
- 17 CLE: New Member Orientation & Youth Protection
- 25-28 110<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

**July 2025**

- 8 CLE: Membership Chair
- 15 CLE: Treasurer 101
- 22 CLE: Treasurer 102
- 29 CLE: Secretary 101

**August 2025**

- 5 CLE: Secretary 102
- 8-10 107<sup>th</sup> Annual LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention, Memphis, TN
- 10 **Board Meeting, Memphis, TN**
- 12 CLE: President

**September 2025**

- 15 **Newsletter Articles Due (Gov, Gov-Elect, Vice Gov, Imm Past Gov)**

**Future District Conventions**

- 2026** 108<sup>th</sup> Annual LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention, Kenner, LA, Jul 30-Aug 2
- 2027** 109<sup>th</sup> Annual LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention, Cruise, TBD
- 2028** 110<sup>th</sup> Annual LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention, Alexandria, LA, TBD

**Future Kiwanis International Conventions**

- 2026** 111<sup>th</sup> Annual KI Convention, Manila, Philippines, June 24-27
- 2027** 112<sup>th</sup> Annual KI Convention, Dallas, TX, June 17-19
- 2028** 113<sup>th</sup> Annual KI Convention, Las Vegas, NV, June 28-July 1

After brief remarks from the Trustees, Immediate Past Governor John Fry, Vice Governor Andrew Dozier, Governor-Elect Marcel Lashover, and Governor Claude Vinson, Trustee Ralph Carter moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:59pm. Trustee Jennifer Kelly-White seconded the motion. With no discussion, all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned.