

# CRAWFISH TALES

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE DISTRICT

**Volume IX Issue VI**

*December 2023*

The official Newsletter of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Key Club International



**KEY CLUB**

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District



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# KEY CLUB



# Call to the 2024 District Convention

**Written by: The District Board**

Hello everyone!

On behalf of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Key Club International, we want to invite you to our biggest event of the year, our District Convention (DCON)! This year's 81st Annual District Convention will be held from April 5-7, 2024 in Natchez, Mississippi with the theme "Service Out of This World!"

At the District Convention, students will have the opportunity to meet Key Clubbers from all over Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Tennessee, as well as hear from engaging Keynote Speakers and attend various interactive, educational, and fun workshops!

This is one of the BIGGEST events of the year and your club does not want to miss it! We highly encourage clubs to start fundraising for DCON as soon as possible. If you're interested in your club taking part, make sure to talk to your Club Advisor and check out the informational flier on the next page.

Stay tuned for more information regarding registration and logistics! If you have any questions about the District Convention, please contact our District Administrator, Mrs. Judi Zimmermann, at [districtadmlmtkcjudi@gmail.com](mailto:districtadmlmtkcjudi@gmail.com). For more information, please visit our District Website: [lmtkc.org](http://lmtkc.org). Follow our District Instagram page (@lamisstenkeyclub) to keep up with all the latest updates!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE KEY CLUB PRESENTS



**SERVICE OUT OF  
THIS WORLD!**

**81ST ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION**

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**NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER  
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI**

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**APRIL 5-7, 2024**

**QUESTIONS?**

EMAIL [DISTRICTADMLMTKJUDI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DISTRICTADMLMTKJUDI@GMAIL.COM)



# College Scholarships

Written by: **Ben Hader, Governor**

With college application season in full swing, securing college scholarships can significantly alleviate the financial burden of higher education. Here are seven key steps to help students navigate the scholarship application process effectively:

1. **Create a Scholarship Calendar:** Develop a comprehensive calendar that includes deadlines for each scholarship you plan to apply for. This ensures you stay organized and submit applications on time.
2. **Tailor Your Applications:** Customize your scholarship applications to align with the specific criteria of each opportunity. Highlight experiences, achievements, and personal qualities that match the requirements.
3. **Build a Strong Resume:** Develop a detailed resume that showcases your academic achievements, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and relevant experiences. A well-rounded resume can make your application stand out.
4. **Secure Strong Letters of Recommendation:** Request letters of recommendation from teachers, mentors, or community leaders who can attest to your character, work ethic, and achievements. Ensure they are submitted well before the deadline.
5. **Highlight Financial Need:** If applicable, clearly communicate your financial need in a respectful and detailed manner. Some scholarships prioritize students facing economic challenges.
6. **Apply Strategically:** Prioritize scholarship opportunities based on eligibility, requirements, and the likelihood of success. Focus on quality rather than quantity to maximize your chances of securing meaningful awards.
7. **Follow Up and Express Gratitude:** After submitting your applications, follow up to ensure all materials are received. If you receive a scholarship, express gratitude promptly with a thoughtful thank-you note.

Applying for college scholarships requires a proactive and strategic approach. By starting early, staying organized, and presenting a compelling case for your candidacy, you can increase your chances of securing financial support for your higher education journey. Remember, each application is an opportunity to showcase your unique qualities and demonstrate why you are deserving of the scholarship!



# Youth Opportunities Fund

**Written by: Keya Chanda-Rastogi, Secretary-Treasurer**

The Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) is a grant which sponsors a Key Club's Service Project that addresses issues specific to a Club's home, school, community. Before applying, Clubs should conduct a "community needs assessment". Clubs should use the assessment results to plan a project to submit to YOF and create a balanced budget. YOF typically funds projects that work with other organizations to fund and complete the project. A Club's Dues must be paid before they apply. Along with Dues payment, the requirements for the project are:

1. Have Key Club Member engagement
2. Fill a need within your community. Determine that need by completing a community needs assessment.
3. Support activities within at least one Children's Fund Cause Areas: health, education or youth leadership development.
4. Spend the grant money within twelve months of when the grant was awarded.

While the October deadline has passed, there is a spring window for which you can apply! This application is due on March 1st. The decision date will be April 1st and the recipients must submit a final report on April 30th, a year later (2025). For more application information and useful resources, visit: <https://www.keyclub.org/youth-opportunities-fund/>.





# Key of Honor

**Written by: Sameen Enam, Bulletin Editor**

The Key of Honor is the highest recognition award presented by Key Club International that honors either an individual that has had a long-lasting, positive impact on young people overall and specifically to Key Club and an organization that has provided continuous support to youth and Key Club Initiatives. The Key of Honor will be presented at the 2024 Key Club International Convention this summer in Atlanta, Georgia!

To submit a nomination, it must contain all of the following:

1. **Letter of Nomination:** A letter written by the nominating Key Club Member or group of members that contains a nomination statement, basic candidate information, and reason for nomination
2. **Biographical Information:** This should include schools/colleges attended, community involvements, occupation/business interests, Kiwanis Family and other youth service affiliations, and other biographical information
3. **Letters of Recommendation:** A maximum of twenty letters may be submitted but only the first seven will be considered for judging; the letters may be categorized if desired; all letters must be signed by the writer and should include contact information such as a phone number and email address for reference
4. **Letter of Summation:** A letter written by the Key Club Member or group of members who made the nomination; it should include a summary of all of the recommendation letters, the candidate's personal history, and why the candidate should receive the award
5. **Additional Information:** In the nomination application, up to eight pages of additional information is allowed including photographs, newspaper clippings, etc.

All nominations must be in a portfolio or digitally shared folder. To be considered for judging, nominations must be received on or before January 5, 2024 at the Key Club International Office. The Key Club International Office address is Key Club International, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268. Use this link to submit a digital portfolio:

[https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/key\\_of\\_honor\\_submission](https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/key_of_honor_submission). Good luck to everyone who will be submitting a nomination!

# Having a Support System

**Written by: Aditi Arunprakash, Division 1A Lt. Governor**

Having a strong support system is important. Your support system can be your family, friends, classmates, colleagues, or anyone you know. Your support system is meant to help you through thick and thin. They will celebrate your victories with you and they will help you through your struggles and losses. Being able to openly communicate with your support system is crucial. Keeping emotions and thoughts bottled up is not healthy and it is good to have people to share them with. Having the people you trust and appreciate close is a way to surround yourself with a positive environment. It can make you happier, more focused, and less stressed. So remember, anytime you are feeling down or like you need someone to talk to, turn to your support system.

# Key Leader

**Written by: Ryleigh Johnson, Division 1B Lt. Governor**

Key Leader is a leadership program designed for students in 8th to 12th Grade to spend a weekend learning more about themselves and how to become better leaders. Key Leader focuses on five key principles throughout the weekend (delete this comma) which are integrity, growth, respect, community, and excellence. Key Leader is an amazing opportunity (word was misspelled) for any student, not just Key Club Members, to improve on their leadership skills. There will be two Key Leader Events held in our District this year. The West Tennessee Key Leader Program will be held in Eva, Tennessee on April 28th to 30th, 2024 and information about Key Leader South will be available soon. If you have any questions about Key Leader, please visit their website <https://k11.site.kiwanis.org/key-leader/>.





# New Year, New Service Ideas

Written by: Jacob Tatum, Division 5 Lt. Governor

As we step into the New Year, it's the perfect time to reflect on how we can make a positive impact in our communities. Engaging in community service not only benefits others but also brings a sense of fulfillment and connection. Let's explore some exciting service project ideas to kickstart the New Year with kindness and compassion.

- 1. Neighborhood Clean-up Day:** Gather your friends, family, and neighbors for a neighborhood clean-up day. Spend a few hours picking up litter, planting trees, and beautifying your community. It's a fantastic way to make a visible difference and create a cleaner, greener environment for everyone to enjoy.
- 2. Food Drive:** Organize a food drive to support local food banks or shelters. Encourage everyone to participate by collecting non-perishable food items. By providing essential nourishment to those in need, you'll be spreading warmth and hope during the winter months.
- 3. Volunteer at a Senior Center:** Reach out to local senior centers and offer your time and companionship. Engage in activities like reading, playing games, or simply having conversations with the elderly residents. Your presence and kindness can brighten their day and create lasting memories.
- 4. Fundraising for a Cause:** Identify a cause close to your heart and organize a fundraising event. It could be a bake sale, a charity run, or a virtual event. By raising funds, you'll be supporting organizations that work tirelessly to make a difference in areas such as education, healthcare, or environmental conservation.
- 5. Mentoring and Tutoring:** Share your knowledge and skills by becoming a mentor or tutor. Reach out to local schools or community centers and offer your assistance to students who may need extra support. Your guidance can empower them to achieve their goals and unlock their full potential.



# Division 7A Service Project

**Written by: Madison Pitre, Division 7A Lt. Governor**

On December 2nd, Division 7A got together at a local Kiwanis Event called “Christmas in Carencro” to raise money for the Governor’s Project, UNICEF Start Strong: Zambia. We sold hot cocoa throughout the event and raised over \$200 in the span of two hours. I would like to give a huge thanks to the Carencro Kiwanis Club who donated all of the materials to make the hot cocoa and to CC’s Coffee in Carencro for letting us borrow hot beverage dispensers for the event. Along with working the Hot Cocoa Booth, Key Clubbers helped work the games and photo booth. The event was a fun experience where Key Club Members could not only connect with their community, but their Kiwanians as well.



Group photo from the Division 7A Service Project

# Academy of Our Lady Key Club Pancake Breakfast

**Written by: Megan Smith, Academy of Our Lady Key Club Secretary**

On December 9th, Academy of Our Lady's Key Club attended the KIWANIS of Algiers Pancake Breakfast Event at Aurora Methodist Church to hold a bake sale to help raise money for the club. While we were selling our baked goods, we helped many families with children and Senior Citizens get their breakfast, throw away their trash, and hand out candy canes to the younger kids who took pictures with Santa Claus.

During the event, invited Celebrity Chefs flipped pancakes. We met Billy Nungesser, Louisiana State Lieutenant Governor, who took pictures with the Key Club. He told us he was in Key Club and the Vice President of the club which helped him to develop the need to serve others.

The KIWANIS of Algiers Club hosts this event every year and for the past three years has asked the Academy of Our Lady Key Club to hold a bake sale. While all the profits go to the Academy of Our Lady Key Club, the KIWANIS Club really appreciates our help.



Group photo from the Academy of Our Lady Pancake Breakfast



# Key Club Can Build Your Future

**Written by: Kaitlyn Huff, Division 11 Lt. Governor**

If you are a Key Club Senior, there is a great opportunity to apply for scholarships. The LaMissTenn District Foundation is offering scholarships that will be awarded to Key Clubbers and Circle K Members. These scholarships range from 1,000 to 3,500 dollars. The Key Clubbers must exemplify the basic Key Club principles that make up Key Club International.

There are a few requirements in order to apply for the scholarships. You must include a headshot from the shoulders up that isn't a personal snapshot.

You almost must include a current transcript, as well as three recommendation letters. You must have a recommendation from your Guidance Counselor or Principal, a person you find inspiring, and a Kiwanian. The recommendation letter from a Kiwanian must be from your Key Club's Kiwanis Club Sponsor. If you do not have one, the recommendation has to be from an adult mentor. The letter from your Guidance Counselor or Principal must be on your school's official letterhead. All three recommendation letters must be signed and dated by the writer of the recommendation letter. Please consider how busy the person you are asking to do a recommendation is to give them as much notice as possible with the date that you need the letter.

The final requirement is that you have to write a 500 to 750 word essay on your personal involvement and leadership experience in Key Club. Before you submit your application, you need to check for any spelling and grammar mistakes. This is crucial as the minute there is a grammar or spelling error, your application will be disqualified. Be sure to follow ALL the instructions on the application. To find the entire application, visit [www.lamisstenn.org](http://www.lamisstenn.org). The application is due January 31st 2024, at 11:59 P.M., so make sure you start working on it now! everyone to feel included at the same time.

# Social Ideas

**Written by: Gracie Reounodji, Division 8A Lt. Governor**

While service is the main focus of Key Club, it can also be beneficial to add in some other aspects to your Club. Many clubs across the District partake in fun events such as movie nights, hot cocoa afternoons, or even ice cream socials! Some might even organize a day dedicated to different stations filled with numerous activities to do outside such as having a paint station, food station, arts and crafts, and maybe even a slushie station. While some might say it's taking away from Key Club, it is actually doing the opposite. Balancing in some jollification can be very beneficial to your Club for a number of reasons. It will build lots of energy for the Service Year as well as provide a great bonding experience for the Key Clubbers. Some members will feel like they have not been as involved as they could be with the Club, so having fun events is a great way to provide an opportunity to allow everyone to feel included at the same time.



## Merry Christmas

## Do you want to be a part of Crawfish Tales?

Have you recently participated in an amazing service project? Do you want to contribute to our Newsletter and Local Submissions section? If so, you can submit an article too! Simply fill in the questions about the service project you have completed in the form below:

<https://forms.gle/dLULgLYqPZmNCqEr7>