

CRAWFISH TALES

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE DISTRICT



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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

ICON City Tour

Written by: Ben Hader, Governor

On July 5, the LaMissTenn Key Club District embarked on a bus tour around Los Angeles with ten other Districts. Our first stop was Hollywood Boulevard, where we saw the Stars of ICONS along the Walk of Fame. Then, we hopped back on our bus and drove to the Los Angeles Farmer’s Market and a cool shopping spot called The Grove for lunch! Afterwards, our tour continued with a drive to the stunning Griffith Observatory, with unparalleled views of the Hollywood Sign and Los Angeles. It was amazing! On our last stop, we walked along the famous Santa Monica Pier and Beach. It was cold, but some of us even swam in the Pacific Ocean! This bus tour was truly incredible, and we all loved being tourists for the day.



LaMissTenn at Griffith Observatory



The Executive Board



Gov. Ben with Governors from the Alabama, Nebraska-Iowa, and Michigan Districts



The Hollywood Sign



Caucusing at ICON

Written by: Keya Chanda-Rastogi, Secretary-Treasurer

Hello, Key Clubbers! I hope everyone is having a great summer. I know I – and the rest of your District Board – had an amazing time in Anaheim, California, this past week, as we attended the Key Club International Convention (ICON). Each of us gained invaluable experiences and knowledge from our time at Convention, and we can't wait to share it with all of you! For me, one of the most exciting parts of ICON was Caucusing. This year, 35 Candidates vied for an International Officer Position, with 4 running for International President, 2 for International Vice President, and 29 for International Trustee. Caucusing gave Key Clubbers the opportunity to ask these Candidates questions and narrow down the potential Officer Pool. LaMissTenn has, historically, had a significant presence in the Caucusing Room. Our District has always been known as the District that asks the hardest and most intensive questions. This year, we did just that. LaMissTenn, with ten Key Clubbers present, had an undeniable effect on the course of Caucusing. We made sure Candidates were asked only the most relevant and hard-pressing of questions, to ensure that Key Club International will rest in good hands over the next year. Not only did LaMissTenn have an impact on who the International Officers are, but our time in Caucusing was a great learning experience for every Key Clubber there, as we learned more about the election process and other Districts.

Summer Goals

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

As summer winds up we need to start planning for the start of the school year. We need to set goals that we can accomplish throughout the school year. Goals for membership, hours, and service are good ones to set and accomplish. Especially for membership we want to help start new clubs and have existing ones grow. Slowly we can bring Key Club back to how it was before COVID-19. As the clubs grow the amount of service we can do will grow along with it. Enjoy the rest of summer everyone, and be ready to jump right back into Key Club when the year begins.



Youth Opportunities Fund

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

The Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) is a grant that Key Clubs can apply for to help aid a service project. A Club can apply for a grant two times a year but can only receive one grant per year. Grant amounts range from \$250 to \$2,000 and must be spent within twelve months of receiving the grant. If a Key Club applies for a grant for the October 15th deadline and does not receive the grant, they are able to apply again for the March 1st Deadline. A Key Club is eligible to receive one grant per year. To receive the grant, the project must have member involvement and fill a need in the community. The previous year's dues must be paid before grant checks can be issued to a club. For more information or to apply for a grant from the Youth Opportunities Fund, visit <https://www.keyclub.org/youth-opportunities-fund/>.

Preventing Burnout

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

At ICON this past week, LaMissTenn had the opportunity to participate and observe multiple workshops. One workshop that was well attended was “How to Prevent Burnout”. This specific workshop discussed the different strategies on how to prevent being stressed out from various activities/extracurriculars, such as Key Club, other sports, school, and balancing them on top of each other. In this workshop, we were able to discuss effective time management skills, prioritization, and self-care tips. The extracurricular activities could be managed through simple tasks such as having a planner, giving yourself a thirty minute break between study time, and allowing yourself time to relax or journal to ease the pressure. These tips were taught to us and I hope that you will use them, especially since school is just around the corner.

ICON House of Delegates

Written by: Jacob Tatum, Division 5 Lt. Governor

The 2023 Key Club International Convention was a blast. However, after five long and grueling hours, we decided on the following amendments and election results: Kyle Hanson was voted as International President for Key Club. Ahmed Eldeeb was offered dual-nomination after losing the Presidential election, however, he turned down the offer. Also, Maria Wheeler was elected as the first non-US International Vice President. This was another step to making Key Club International truly international. Furthermore, the House of Delegates voted on amendments to the By-laws, including keeping international dues at \$7 and adding "To promote diversity, equity, and inclusion" to the Objects of Key Club. The amendment to allow schools and communities to have more than one Key Club was not passed, and the House of Delegates rejected the idea of recognizing delegates online and allowing virtual voting. Finally, gendered language like "he/she" will be amended to gender-neutral language like "they" in the Key Club International Bylaws.



2023-2024 Key Club International President
Kyle Hanson



2023-2024 Key Club International Vice
President Maria Eileen Wheeler



Governor's Project – Start Strong: Zambia

Written by: Kaitlyn Huff, Division 11 Lt. Governor

Every year, the International Convention consists of a plethora of workshops that Key Clubbers can attend, including learning new skills, officer training, and bonding experiences. Some of the most impactful workshops that were hosted at International Convention this year dealt with the Start Strong: Zambia Initiative. This initiative is also the Governor's Project for the 2023-2024 LAMISSTENN District Board, and our District is fortunate enough to have learned more about the work UNICEF is doing in Zambia.

Many people have never heard of Zambia before. Zambia is a landlocked country in South Africa, and a majority of the population lives in poverty. A ton of the children living in Zambia are suffering from deprivations of necessities, including inadequate nutrition, an unstable water source, and improper hygiene. With only twenty-six percent of the children having experienced lower education before the first grade, many children do not undergo the proper development needed in the early childhood stage. This prevents children from living up to their fullest potential.

To combat this issue, UNICEF, a nonprofit organization, has teamed up with the Zambian Government to build "Insakas." These structures consist of a playground, vegetable garden, kitchen, water source, education rooms, and so much more. Parents will also be provided with counseling, and early childhood development providers will receive training to assist the parents.

Throughout the year, our District and Divisions will be hosting events to raise money for the Start Strong: Zambia Initiative. This project is extremely important, and we encourage your school to host your own projects to help raise money. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the District Board. Let's make an impact together!

Pin Trading at ICON

Written by: Maggie Mercke, Division 13A Lt. Governor

The Key Club International Convention was at the beginning of July and I had the best time there. I think my favorite part about it was probably all of the people I got to meet from all over the world. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I will remember it forever. I talked to so many people while I was there and made so many new friends. One of the ways I did this was through Pin Trading. Pin Trading was just a way that you could go up to people and talk to them. And a bonus to that is I now have a bunch of cool pins from all over. This experience was a way that I could learn from other people. The pens helped initiate this. I got to network and get great new ideas from new people. The whole convention was about 700 Key Clubbers and I talked to as many of them as I could, which was not many, there were a lot. Overall it was an amazing experience and if you ever get the chance to go I highly recommend it. I will be going back next year and I'm sure it will be even better.



Southwest District



Minnesota-Dakotas District



Jamaica District



Texas-Oklahoma District



Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District



Capital District



Florida District



Alabama District



Georgia District

Diversity at ICON

Written by: Sameen Enam, Bulletin Editor

Two weeks ago, the LaMissTenn Key Club District Board had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Key Club International Convention (ICON)! Key Clubbers from around the United States and the world were invited to participate in this grand event. With many different attendees of diverse backgrounds such as Jamaica and Canada, Key Clubbers had the opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals that provided a new and unique perspective on what Key Club means to them. On the second night of ICON, Key Clubbers were encouraged to wear clothes that represent their culture. A few of the LaMissTenn Key Clubbers did represent their culture in their outfits as shown in the pictures below. It was great seeing everyone representing their cultures and the diversity of Key Club International! Even though we may all come from different backgrounds, states, or countries, ICON reminded us that we all share the same goals and objectives. It's important to promote and retain Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Principles across our District and within our clubs to continue the unity of Key Club members across all levels.



LaMissTenn Key Clubbers on Cultural Night



Cultural Night with Key Clubbers from the Florida, Illinois-Eastern Iowa, Kentucky-Tennessee, and Pennsylvania Districts



Schoolhouse

**Written by: Nanga Kimbeng, Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Key Club President**

As students transitioned to online based learning due to COVID-19, Kal Khan (founder of Khan Academy), created Schoolhouse to help with access to personalized learning. Specifically, Schoolhouse.world connects more than 100 countries with free peer-to-peer tutoring over Zoom. In 2022, Key Club announced its partnership with Schoolhouse in which the International Board was able to continue the growth of tutors through a Tutor-a-Thon Event. Key Club Districts were able to compete for top spots on the tutoring leaderboard by gaining points through members who contributed by tutoring or even joining sessions to learn themselves. With monthly recognition of Districts and Members via Instagram from Key Club International, more and more support was gained for Schoolhouse. Additionally, then New York District was acknowledged at the International Convention for contributing the most hours towards Schoolhouse Tutoring.

As Key Club is often known for partnership with other non profit organizations, it is important for schools in different Districts to become aware of opportunities to get involved. In this case, Schoolhouse provides an easy way for volunteers to help around the world from the comfort of their own home. Specifically, through Schoolhouse, members are able to create an account in which they are able to demonstrate their knowledge in math/science subjects and complete tutor training to start hosting sessions. Sessions hosted are based on what best fits the Member's schedule as Schoolhouse ensures volunteers are matched with passionate educators who are able to support and guide them in effective teaching and overall growth. Additionally, Members have access to an organized dashboard that allows them to keep track of hours and planned sessions. Whether it's to build personal confidence, gain international connections, or even strengthening one's knowledge, support for Schoolhouse improves education for learners and student leaders around the world.



LaMissTenn Recognitions at ICON

Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

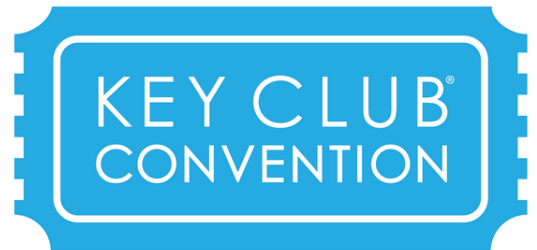
- Recognized for the most funds raised for UNICEF's Start Strong: Zambia Project by raising over \$6000
- Recognized as a Distinguished Club on the Diamond Level

Patrick F. Taylor High School, Westwego, Louisiana

- Received Honorable Mention for their Single Service Project Submission

Alarryal Bradley, Baton Rouge Magnet High School

- Third Place Winner for Oratorical Contest



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>