

CRAWFISH TALES

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE DISTRICT



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KEY CLUB
Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District



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KEY CLUB



Membership Experience Taskforce

Written by: Ben Hader, Governor

This year, our District Board will be launching our first ever Taskforce! The goal of our Taskforce is to amplify the voices across the LaMissTenn District and ensure that member input is both heard and valued. This year, we will form the Membership Experience Taskforce, which will focus on emphasizing Club Member feedback on District Events and developing a unique, spirited culture within our District. Any Key Clubber who is in good standing will be eligible to fill out the application, which should be released in early October. We encourage you to push leaders in your Club to apply for the Taskforce, as we are seeking input from as many clubs as possible! Joining our Taskforce not only allows you to work alongside District and International Officers, but fosters your own leadership skills and allows you to make a District-wide impact. If you are interested, stay tuned for more information coming soon!

School Service Ideas

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

Since school has started, Key Clubs will be able to start meeting more frequently and doing more service projects. For the month of September, giving back to your school is a good way to start the year. Helping teachers organize their classrooms, giving teachers cards, and helping clean up schools are all ways to give back to your school. These service projects give you a chance to spend some time with your favorite teachers and help them out. Aside from those activities, another way to give back to our school communities is through fundraising for new school supplies. Organizing school supply drives and raising money for new school supplies are two more amazing ways to help out during the school year. These school service activities can go towards helping many students. All of these are fun service projects for Key Clubs to do at their schools. Helping out at other schools will also be a good chance to get to know other Key Clubs in the area. We can also work to grow our clubs by bringing friends to Key Club meetings and encouraging them to join. The more people there are in Key Club, the bigger the impact we have on the world. Every bit of service counts and together we can make a massive impact.



Promoting Your Club

Written by: Keya Chanda-Rastogi, Secretary-Treasurer

Hello, Key Clubbers! I hope you all had an amazing summer and had an amazing start to the school year! As the year continues, it is important to keep Key Club in mind. The first quarter of the school year is one of the best times to promote Key Club. With new students joining the school, and with old students feeling rejuvenated, you have a great opportunity to increase your Club's Membership!

One of the simplest ways to do this is by word of mouth. Make sure to talk about Key Club, and make sure the rest of your Members are spreading the word, too!

Another promotional tactic you can use is to create flyers or banners and post them on your school's bulletin board or kiosk.

This is also an important time to make sure your Club's Social Media Accounts are as active as ever! You should be consistently posting as you lead up to your first meeting and deadline to pay dues. You can reach the most people through social media, especially if your Club Officers and Members are reposting.

Finally, if your school has a Club Fair, or an opportunity for Clubs to set up a booth during the school day for students to check out, make sure to do so! Your booth should have banners so that it is easily identifiable, and also something small to hand out (such as candy) to people who stop by. If your school doesn't have a Club Fair, consider asking your Administration if Key Club can set up a small booth during lunch one day.

I hope everyone is able to promote their Clubs to the best of their ability. Good luck, and have a great Service Year!

Global Leadership Certificate Completer

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

On July 26th, South Fulton High School Key Club member Stewart Conner received his certificate for completing the Global Leadership Certificate program! By completing all 39 courses in this program, Stewart learned many different skills that will help him become a more effective leader. Some of these skills include how to build relationships, how to communicate effectively with people, and public speaking. The Global Leadership Program can be completed through the Key Club website and all members are encouraged to complete it, especially if they are officers! Congratulations to Stewart for completing the course!



Stewart Conner (pictured above) finished all 39 courses of the Global Leadership Certificate!



Snag those Scholarships!

Written by: Jacob Tatum, Division 5 Lt. Governor

If you're a senior in high school looking to go to college next year, you probably keep hearing about scholarships. So much goes into finding, writing, applying and being awarded scholarships that it can easily seem overwhelming. These tips will help you manage the scholarship process:

1. **Get organized.** If you plan to apply for as many scholarships as possible, you'll get very busy quickly. Manage your time by scheduling the deadline for each application and knocking them out one by one as the due dates approach. Start early: Some deadlines will be here before you know it, and you don't want to miss out on money. You'll also need time to look for people to write your letters of recommendation.
2. **Don't be afraid to ask for advice.** For most students, applying for scholarships is a new experience, so don't hesitate to reach out for advice. Ask teachers, guidance counselors, college prep advisors and anyone else you trust to share their insight.
3. **Obtaining letters of recommendation.** A great letter of recommendation can take your application to the next level. These letters give the person reviewing applications a better picture of you beyond your academics. Find an instructor or counselor with whom you have a good relationship and who could best describe both your academic and personal achievements. Give that person advance notice so they have plenty of time to put together a solid letter.
4. **Write about your leadership experience.** Key Club offers members amazing opportunities for leadership and community involvement. Writing about these experiences is a great way to stand out from the crowd of applicants. The people awarding scholarships look for well-rounded individuals.
5. **Expand your search.** You might be surprised by the scholarship sources you find. Look online and around your community. Talk to anyone in your guidance office who can help you network. If you have an after-school job, check there. Some large companies offer college scholarships to their employees. You'll also find unique scholarships like ones for left-handed or tall people. You never know what's out there, and you just might get it.
6. **Don't overlook small awards.** Anything and everything can help, and small scholarships quickly add up. Take time to apply for all scholarships available to you.
7. **Check out the Kiwanis Children's Fund Scholarship.** The Children's Fund offers scholarships exclusively for dues-paying Key Club members. Check out kiwanis.org for details on how to apply. Also reach out to your sponsoring Kiwanis club to see if it offers any for your Key Club's members.

Erika's Lighthouse

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

Erika's Lighthouse is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 dedicated to raising awareness of adolescent depression and mental health. By educating others about adolescent depression Erika's Lighthouse is helping to provide a more empathetic environment and making sure children do not feel alone. Many people who struggle with mental health issues feel as if no one else understands how they feel and that they are completely alone, so it is key to destigmatize receiving help for and talking about mental health. The goal of Erika's Lighthouse is to provide free mental health care programs to every school. The pillars of this organization are classroom education, empowerment clubs, family engagement, and policy and staff training. These pillars help to change the way mental health is addressed in school by educating students, empowering students to make change, educating and engaging families, and training staff to create conditions more conducive to better mental health. Donations can be made to Erika's Lighthouse to help spread the message that there is hope and help at <https://www.erikaslighthouse.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate-now/>.



The Thirst Project

Written by: Kaitlyn Huff, Division 11 Lt. Governor

Key Club International has a few Service Partners for this year. While all of these organizations are impactful in their own way, I want to take the time to highlight one of them: The Thirst Project. The mission of The Thirst Project is to work to stop the global water crisis, especially in developing communities.

The cleanliness of water affects our health and sanitation. Oftentimes, the lack of clean water causes people to catch diseases like Malaria and H.I.V. Besides the increased likelihood of catching these illnesses, fifty percent of children's malnutrition is due to poor hygiene and water sources. People use the water for more than just drinking. A majority of the developing countries use agriculture as a way to make a living. The unhygienic water pollutes their crops, so both the water and food sources are doing harm to these people. Even though developing communities have such poor water sources, these sources are not easy to get to. On an average, people have to walk about 3.75 miles to even find the water.

So, how is The Thirst Project trying to combat this issue? They use the development of freshwater wells to do this. Since the beginning of The Thirst Project's history, over 3,000 water projects have been built in thirteen different countries. Currently, the organization is active in four countries: Eswatini, Kenya, Uganda, and El Salvador. To learn more about the work being done in these countries, visit thirstproject.org.



Kiwanis District Convention 2023 & Back to School Board Meeting

Written by: Sameen Enam, Bulletin Editor

From August 4th to 6th, the LaMissTenn Key Club District Board had the great privilege of attending the 105th Annual LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention! At Kiwanis District Convention, the District Board had the opportunity to attend various events including the General Session, Fellowship Luncheon, and House of Delegates. At the General Session, Governor Ben Hader gave a speech talking about his goals for the year and the importance of the bonds between Kiwanis and Key Club. Attending these events opened the opportunity for the District Board to network and connect with Kiwanians from all around LaMissTenn! Our Lieutenant Governors also had the chance to meet their corresponding Kiwanis Lieutenant Governors to talk and coordinate plans for the upcoming service year. By strengthening and retaining our bonds with Kiwanis, we can achieve greater goals and surpass greater limits through chartering new Key Clubs, rechartering inactive clubs, and much more!

The LaMissTenn Key Club District Board also held their Back to School Board Meeting the same weekend. It was a very successful and productive weekend as we finalized Fall Rally plans, discussed launching our brand new Membership Experience Taskforce, and discussed plans for the 2023-2024 service year. Be on the lookout for more information to learn more about the four Fall Rallies that will be held!



LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Governor John Fry (pictured above) holding Jean Claude!



Governor Ben Hader giving a speech at the General Session



Fall Rally 2023

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

Fall Rally is the perfect opportunity to learn more about Key Club. It also allows you to regenerate new ideas for your service project, develop leadership skills and make new friends. This year the theme is Service Out of This World. So don't forget to dress up in your best Space Outfit. At Fall Rally you will be able to attend different workshops, go to different booths, and listen to multiple speakers with lunch provided. Attendees will be able to play fun games, attend exciting workshops led by this generation's leaders, as well as get to see different Keynote Speakers and hear what kind of an impact they have on the world. This year LaMissTenn will have four different rallies. The upcoming Fall Rallies include one in Alexandria on October 14th and one in Tennessee on October 21st. We hope to see you all there! Feel free to attend the Rally that is most convenient for you. Early Registration is \$10.00 per person and Early Registration is two weeks before each rally.

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>