

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

Message from the Governor

Welcome back to school Key Clubbers! I hope you had an AMAZING summer filled with so many fun experiences! As we get back into school, I'm so excited to see what your club is doing from recruitment photos, events, and much more! The District Board and I are hard at work preparing so much for you all and we can't wait to show what we have in store! One of our biggest focuses for the fall semester is Fall Rally! This is the perfect back to school pep-rally style Key Club event! Read later on to learn more and I hope to see you all there! Let's start the school year off strong!

Yours in Friendship and Service,
Sameen Enam



Message from the Bulletin Editor

Welcome back all Key Clubbers! I hope everyone had an amazing and eventful summer. As we get back into the school year I hope everyone remembers to spread the word about Key Club. You can read more about membership recruitment later on in this newsletter. Also make sure have some fun experiences this service year get out and get involved! And be sure to attend the upcoming Fall Rally's the fall rally chairs are working hard to make sure it'll be the best ones yet. Also make sure to follow the LaMissTenn District instagram @lamisstennkeyclub.

Yours in Friendship and Service,
Angel Cooper



Message from the Trustee

Hello LaMissTenn Key Club!

My name is Ethan Schmidt, and I serve as your primary International Trustee. As an International Trustee, I work on Key Club's International Board with International President, David Robaina, International Vice President, Carissa Andorf, and 10 other International Trustees to develop student programs, communicate with our international preferred partners and charities, accomplish liaison work between Districts, and develop Key Clubs around the world! All International Board (or, as we say, "I-Board") members serve on 2 of 5 committees: Executive, Global Relations, Programs and Partners, The 100th, and Communications. As a member of the Executive committee and co-chair of the Programs and Partners, I have been able to work extensively with our preferred partners and charities as well as with Kiwanis staff to better KCI programs such as the Global Leadership Certificate and Key Club Week. As an International Trustee, my work is primarily focused on behind the scenes matters that members interact with as a final product (I like to think of the role as a construction worker who lays the foundation and builds the framework of the final product of the "building," or in this case, a major Key Club event or program!) My journey with Key Club has been a whirlwind in the best possible way. Joining during my freshman year, I stayed in the dark about Key Club matters until my advisor suggested that I run for Lt. Governor at my District Convention. Uninformed, unprepared, and rather scared, I decided to take a leap of faith and go for it. To my utter surprise, I was elected, and I served at the Division 6 Lt. Governor on the 2022-2023 Alabama District Board. I found my experience thoroughly enjoyable, as I had never before been able to connect with so many different individuals in my community. However, I also very quickly set a new goal for myself: I wanted to serve internationally. At the conclusion of my term, I took an arguably even bigger leap of faith and decided to try my chances at International Convention. There, in Anaheim, California, I was elected International Trustee, and I was lucky enough to be reelected at this past ICON in Atlanta, Georgia. Looking back, I can definitely say that the hardest part of the journey is mustering up the courage to actually run for a position. I often found myself stewing over hypotheticals and worrying about what could happen. If you are thinking about accomplishing something, my biggest advice would be to at least try! It's always better to look back and pride yourself on what did happen instead of what would've been.

While I could certainly ramble about Key Club for hours and hours, I am more than an International Trustee! While I do Trustee work for Capital, LaMissTenn, and New York, I actually am born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. I am currently a senior in high school, and I've been in Key Club since the start of my freshman year! I have a deep affinity for community and global well-being, and I try to base my work around that interest. I know it is extremely geeky, but I am a big fan of philosophy, and I often try to tie those intricacies, often Rawlsian or Kritik-esque in nature, into the more simple, day-to-day flow of life. I find myself using a quote from Dalai Lama, "Love and passion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, we cannot survive," as a guiding principle. Outside of Key Club, I participate in Lincoln Douglas debate, math team, mock trial, and grantwork for nonprofits! One thing I do 24/7 is listen to music. Some of my favorite artists include Solange, Devonte Hynes (also known as Blood Orange), Erykah Badu, Jhene Aiko, and Lana Del Rey.

Yours in Friendship and Service,
Ethan Schmidt



Back-to-School Board Meeting

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

Earlier in August, the LaMissTenn District Board held our Back to School Board Meeting in Tupelo, MS! We had a long weekend of work and organization as we finalized preparations for our Fall Rallies and appointed new members to our Committees. Additionally, we reviewed and discussed our plans for the 2024-2025 service year. During the meeting, we also inducted Board Members who had not been inducted at the 2024 DCON. We can't wait for everyone to see what we have in store for the rest of the year. Stay tuned and follow our Instagram @lamisstennkeyclub to stay updated!



Kiwanis DCON

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

From July 26th to 28th, the LaMissTenn District Board had the honor of attending the 106th annual LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Convention! The Board had the pleasure of attending multiple events including the General Session, the Fellowship Luncheon, and some workshops. During the General Session, Governor Sameen gave a speech about her vision for the 2024-2025 service year, emphasizing the importance of expanding Key Club membership and working with Kiwanis while also promoting her Governor’s Project “Pour it Forward” in support of the Thirst Project.

During the events held at the Convention, our Lieutenant Governors took the opportunity to connect with their corresponding Kiwanis counterparts, facilitating collaborative efforts for the upcoming service year. Meanwhile, the rest of the Board members networked with other Kiwanians, fostering valuable connections. Being able to strengthen the connection between Key Club and Kiwanis ensures that we can go above and beyond in our goals, surpass our limits, charter new clubs, activate old clubs, reach the Governor’s Project goal, and so much more!





Fall Rally

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

The LaMissTenn Fall Rallies are just around the corner! These events are an excellent opportunity to meet new people, discover ideas for service projects, and enhance your leadership skills. This year's theme is "Rock N' Roll with Service," so be sure to show your spirit by dressing in your best rock n' roll attire!

At the rallies, you'll attend workshops led by outstanding leaders and emerging talents, hear from inspiring keynote speakers, participate in engaging games, enjoy lunch, and take part in service projects. LaMissTenn will host five Rallies this year with the first two scheduled in Pearl, Mississippi on September 21st, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana on September 28th.

There are two ways to register online: individually or as a group. If you are registering as an individual, you need to make sure your advisor is also not registering you. If your advisor is registering you as a group, advisors are to submit the name of each person they are registering. There will be an option to register as a group in the registration form.

Pre-registration for each Rally ends a week before each Rally date. The pre-registration cost is \$10 per person while the pay-at-door price is \$15 per person. Registration covers lunch!

For both types of registrations, bring cash or check to pay on site. Once the pre-registration period for each Rally is over, we will turn off the registration and you will need to register and pay at the door. You can find the Rally registration links [HERE](#).

We can't wait to see you there!



LAMISSTENN KEY CLUB
PRESENTS

ROCK N ROLL WITH SERVICE

KEY CLUB
FALL RALLY

09.21.24
PEARL, MS

09.28.24
BATON ROUGE, LA

10.05.24
JENNINGS, LA

10.12.24
UNION CITY, TN

10.19.24
NEW ORLEANS, LA

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$10
PAY AT DOOR: \$15

PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS ONE
WEEK BEFORE EACH RALLY

QUESTIONS:
LMTKCDADANNY@GMAIL.COM



KEY CLUB®
Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District

Membership Recruitment Ideas

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

I hope you all had a fantastic summer! As the school year begins, it's the perfect time to focus on boosting your Key Club membership. With new students arriving and returning ones eager activities, now is the ideal moment to promote your club.

One effective way to attract attention is by creating eye-catching posters and signs. Place them in high-traffic areas like hallways, the lunchroom, office doors, and the school bulletin board. An engaging poster can make a significant impact.

Another strategy is to spread the word through conversation. Encourage club members to talk about the club with their peers and to invite new students to join. Personal recommendations can be a powerful tool for increasing membership.

If your school hosts a club fair or other promotional events, set up an appealing booth. Use posters, photos, and fun decorations to draw people in, and consider offering small incentives like candy to attract attention.

Get out there and promote your club with enthusiasm! Good luck, have fun, and here's to a fantastic service year ahead!



Erika's Lighthouse

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

Founded in 2004, Erika's Lighthouse, one of Key Club International's preferred charities, is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and raising awareness about adolescent depression, encouraging good mental health, and breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Their vision is to make sure no young person feels alone in their depression. To become the lead in provider of teen depression awareness programs and resources in school communities.

Many individuals facing mental health challenges often feel alone and fear judgment, making education essential for combating stigma. Erika's Lighthouse employs four key approaches: the Four Pillar Philosophy, Depression Education as Suicide Prevention, Upstream Programs, and Empowering Schools for Sustainability. These approaches are designed to eliminate the stigma around mental health.

Donations to Erika's Lighthouse support their efforts to spread the message that there is hope and help available. Visit <https://erikaslighthouse.org/donate-now/> to donate.



Key Leader

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

Key Leader is a weekend program packed with opportunities for growth. It empowers high school students and graduating 8th graders to become more caring and confident leader through team-building activities, personal reflection, and group discussions. This distinctive program offers unique benefits, including the development of social-emotional skills and service leadership.



This year, Key Leader will be held from November 1 - 3, 2024 at Camp Istrouma in Greenwell Springs, Louisiana. To find more information and to register, visit this [link](#).

Youth Opportunities Fund

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

Need funding for your club's service project? Apply for the Youth Opportunities Fund grant! This grant supports clubs in good standing by providing financial assistance for service projects, helping you amplify your community impact. Grants typically range from \$250 to \$2,000 and are available through two application cycles each year. The first cycle's application deadline is October 15th so be sure to apply soon! For more information about the Youth Opportunities Fund, visit this [link](#).



YOF YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES FUND

A grant from Key Club International to financially support your club's service project. Grants range from US\$100 to \$2000.

For more details and to apply online, visit keyclub.org/YOF
Applications due by October 15

Governors Project Fundrasing

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin editor

This year, the governor's project is "Pour it Forward," in support of The Thirst Project. This non-profit organization works with the support if young people to END the global water crisis by building freshwater wells in developing communities that need safe, clean drinking water. For Key Club, Fundrasing is a key way to support the important cause.

One way to fundraise for the thirst project is through outdoor activities. Walk for Water, Run for Water, or Bike for Water. Choose activities you enjoy and get other involved to raise funds for clean water.

Another way to fundraise is to party! Host a fun event like a dance or party with the theme or raising awareness and funds for The Thirst Project. Enjoy yourself while making a difference.

And lastly create your own fundraiser; rally your Key Club and come up with a unique and engaging Fundrasing idea. Let your creativity shine as you plan an event that will both be fun and help provide clean water.

Have fun and go all out for clean water!



Submitting Officer Information

Written by: Sameen Enam, Governor

As school is starting back up, clubs should be hosting elections for their new club officers as soon as possible. It's important for us to have all the necessary information about each club's officers. This will ensure that we can communicate effectively and provide the best support for your club's activities, ensuring Key Clubs to run smoothly. The District want to be able to have full communication with our clubs. Once you hold elections and confirm the officers for the club, please use this form to submit contact information for the District to use. The deadline to submit this information is **September 15**. You can access the form [HERE](#).



Contact Information:

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