

CRAWFISH TALES

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE DISTRICT



Volume X Issue VI

December 2024

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



KEY CLUB

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District



Table of Contents

- Seasons Greetings from the Governor..... 3
- Seasons Greetings from the Bulletin Editor..... 4
- Seasons Greetings from the International Trustee..... 5
- Happy Holidays from the District Board..... 6
- DCON 2025..... 7
- DCON Flyer..... 8
- Governors Project..... 9
- Youth Opportunities Fund..... 9
- The Key Club and Circle K Scholarships..... 11
- Tips on how to manage scholarships..... 12
- Service project ideas..... 13
- School shoutouts..... 14
- ICON 2025/Centennial challenge..... 15
- Submitting Secretary reports..... 16
- Contact information..... 16



KEY CLUB

Seasons Greetings from the Governor

Written by: Sameen Enam, Governor

The holiday season is upon us—a time filled with joy, celebration, and giving. Across the world, people come together to honor traditions, exchange kindness, and reflect on the year that’s passes. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simply enjoy the festive spirit, this time of year reminds us of the importance of connection, gratitude, and compassion.

For us in Key Club, the holidays are an opportunity to live out our core values of caring and inclusiveness. It’s a time to bring joy to others, whether through service project, acts of kindness, or simply offering a warm smile to someone in need. The impact we can make during this season is profound—helping brighten someone’s day or bringing comfort to those who may feel alone. As we celebrate the holidays, let’s also take a moment to be thankful for the incredible year we’ve charted as a District. From service projects to club meeting, conventions, new friendships, we’ve accomplish so much together. Each of you has contributed to making our Key Club family stronger, and for that i am truly grateful.

This holiday season, I encourage you to embrace the spirit of giving—not just through gifts, but through your time, compassion, and service to others. Whether you’re helping organize a toy drive, volunteering at a local shelter, or simply sharing words of encouragement, your efforts make a difference and embody what this season is all about.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holiday season filled with peace, love, and joy. Let’s carry this spirit into the new year as we continue to serve and lead with purpose. Happy Holidays



Seasons Greetings from the Bulletin

Editor

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin Editor

Hello Key Clubbers,

As the year draws to a close, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible service, teamwork, and impact our Key Club has achieved. This holiday season, we reflect on the values that unite us—leadership, character, and commitment to caring for our community.

The District Board is working hard to make sure 2025 is filled with even more opportunities for growth, service, and meaningful connections. From our dedicated service projects to the unforgettable memories we’ve shared, your enthusiasm and dedication have been the heart of it all.

To our advisors, officers, and every single member, thank you for your passion, hard work, and heart. Together, we’ve shown how powerful it is to be united by a shared purpose. Let’s carry this energy and momentum into the year ahead, making it our most impactful yet.

As you enjoy this holiday season, may it be filled with joy, warmth, and love. Take time to relax, recharge, and cherish moments with loved ones. Here’s to celebrating what we’ve accomplished and looking forward to the amazing things yet to come in 2025. Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year!

Yours in service and friendship,
Angel Cooper



Seasons Greetings from the International Trustee

Written by: Ethan Schmidt, International Trustee

Hello! Happy December!

I hope this month has been manageable so far! With final exams, college decisions, and the chaos of the holidays, I hope you have found time for yourself to relax and celebrate. The Key Club International Board has been busy with many initiatives. Check out a few updates below!

Executive: The Executive Committee has continued to facilitate the Centennial Challenge campaign in concurrence with Key Club's upcoming centennial year of service. This challenge encourages districts to make strides in different aspects of membership, service, and communications. In addition, the committee has started on a new, secret project that will be shared in the coming months!

Global Relations: The Global Relations Committee has focused their efforts on supporting Key Club International's newest District-in-Formation, Italy-San Marino. Their efforts include a district structure guide, guidance on District Board formation, and other necessary materials. The committee has also started a project to connect clubs across the world in service!

Programs and Partners: The Programs and Partners Committee has started to gear up for an upcoming marathon of campaigns. January marks the Thirst Project's Walk for Water campaign, quickly followed by Schoolhouse's annual Tutor-a-Thon spanning February to April. May will bring Key Club to Mental Health Awareness Month, and Key Club members across the world will be encouraged to take the Positivity Pledge with Erika's Lighthouse. Finally, the Programs and Partners Committee has started a new resource for incoming '25-'26 term governors regarding governors' projects.

One Hundredth: Our One Hundredth Committee recently held an informational webinar on the International Convention, and the recording will be made available soon for all members. Members have begun brainstorming ways for districts to represent and share their pride at the convention as well as posting promotional content for the upcoming 100th bash this July in Orlando, Florida!

Communications: The Communications Committee has been hard at work devising content across all Key Club platforms. Their efforts shine on the I-Board Instagram



Happy Holidays from the District Board

Written by: Sean Cummings, Division 12 Lieutenant Governor

The LaMissTenn Key Club District Board would like to extend our warmest wishes to you for a joyful, peaceful, and heartwarming holiday season! As we celebrate this special time of year, we are reminded of the values that unite us—giving, kindness, and serving others. These principles not only define the holiday spirit but also form the foundation of what it means to be part of the Key Club family.

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary, and we are so proud of the incredible work our Key Club members have accomplished. From organizing service projects to making meaningful impacts in your schools and communities, your efforts have truly embodied the spirit of selflessness and leadership. You have not only brightened the lives of those around you but have also set an inspiring example of what it means to care deeply for others and act with purpose.

Your hard work, passion, and dedication inspire us every day, and we are honored to support such a remarkable group of young leaders. As we reflect on all that has been achieved, we look forward with great anticipation to the new year. We can't wait to see the innovative ideas, service projects, and meaningful connections that will continue to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Thank you for everything you do to bring the Key Club values to life. Your commitment to caring and service makes a lasting impact and reminds us all of the power of unity and compassion. We hope this holiday season brings you and your loved ones warmth, joy, and cherished memories. May your holidays be filled with laughter and love, and may the new year bring endless opportunities, growth, and happiness.

Happy holidays and a very happy new year from all of us at the LaMissTenn Key Club District Board!



DCON 2025

Written by: Lexi Carpenter, Lieutenant Governor At-Large

DCON is just 4 months away! Get ready for one of the most exciting events of the year because the LaMissTenn District Convention (DCON) is coming soon! Mark your calendars from April 4-6 and prepare for an unforgettable experience. The registration cost \$130, so make sure you plan ahead to secure your spot! DCON is one of the biggest and best Key Club gatherings in our district, and this year, it's going to be more unforgettable.

We've got an incredible lineup of activities, events and surprises planned to make your DCON experience truly memorable. From interactive service projects like water walks to important moments like electing new officers, there's something for everyone at DCON.

But wait, there's more! This year, we're thrilled to announce that a very special guest will be joining us. Trust us—you don't want to miss the chance to meet them and hear what they have to share.

DCON is all about celebrating our Key Club journey together, making lifelong friends, and taking part in opportunities to grow as leaders and volunteers. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned attendee, there's no better place to be this spring than at DCON!

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and get ready for an incredible time. DCON is calling—are you ready to answer?

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE KEY CLUB INVITES YOU TO

Key Club's Birthday Party



82ND ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION

CADENCE BANK ARENA
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

APRIL 4-6, 2025

QUESTIONS?

EMAIL LMTKCDADANNY@GMAIL.COM



KEY CLUB
Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District

Governors Project

Written by: Lexie Sessums, Division 2 Lieutenant Governor

Happy Holidays Key Clubbers! In the spirit of the holiday season, read on about the generous Governor's Project. The Governor's Project is partnered with Thirst Project to bring clean water to underdeveloped countries. Make an effort to host a fundraiser before the service year ends to support this cause! Our goal of \$12,000 to fund an entire well in the kingdom of eSwatini can be met with your club's help! The club that donates the most to The Governor's Project will receive special recognition at our 2025 District Convention, where we'll be celebrating Key Club International's 100th year of service. To learn more about the Thirst Project, one of Key Club International's preferred partners, check out <https://thirstproject.org>. Will your club be the top supporter this year? Don't hesitate to reach out to your Lieutenant Governor with any questions!

Youth Opportunities Fund

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin Editor

The Youth Opportunities Fund grant is exclusively available to Key Clubs, these grants offer financial support ranging from \$250 to \$2,000 enabling clubs to bring their service projects to life.

The grant is only awarded twice a year, the first application cycle closed on October 15 and the second cycle ends on March 1. If your club decides to fill out the second round of applications you will be notified by April 1st. Each grant requires a final report the first cycle reports are due by December 31st and the second cycle are due by April 30th. In order to ensure fairness each Key Club is only allowed to receive one YOF grant per year.

To find more information and tips on how to get the most from the Youth Opportunities Grant visit <https://www.keyclub.org/news/yof-tips/>

The Key Club and Circle K Scholarships

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin Editor

Attention all seniors! Paying for college can often feel like an overwhelming challenge, with expenses and stress piling up. However, scholarships are a fantastic way to alleviate some of that financial burden and help you focus on your academic and personal growth. If you are a member of Key Club or Circle K, we have great news! Both organizations offer a scholarship program specifically designed to reward and support dedicated members like you. The scholarship application period is officially open! Applications became available on November 1st and will remain open until January 31st, so don't wait until the last minute to submit yours.

For Key Club member, to apply you'll need to prepare and submit these following materials:

- A professional headshot (personal snapshots will not be accepted).

Your current official transcript

- A 500-750 word essay detailing your personal involvement and leadership experience within Key Club.
- Three letters of recommendation, each signed and dated

To ensure you don't miss any key information or guidelines, please visit the official scholarship program webpage at <https://k11.site.kiwanis.org/key-club-circle-k-scholarship-programs/>

This is a wonderful opportunity to gain financial assistance for college while being recognized for your hard work and dedication to serving others through Key Club or Circle K. Start gathering your materials today, and don't forget to put your best foot forward in your application.

Good luck seniors! Your future is bright, and we can't wait to see all that you will accomplish.

Tips on how to manage scholarships

Written by: Mai Nguyen, Division 4A Lieutenant Governor

Are you struggling to manage your scholarship applications? Or don't know where to start? Managing scholarships effectively can make the difference between graduating debt-free or with significant student loans. The key is to start early and research thoroughly. Begin searching for scholarships as early as your junior year of high school to give yourself a head start! Utilize online scholarship databases like Fastweb, Scholarships.com, and the College Board, which match you with opportunities based on your profile. Don't overlook local scholarships offered by community organizations, businesses, or even Key Club!

While it may be tempting to apply to as many scholarships as possible, focusing on quality over quantity can yield better results. Prioritize scholarships that align with your strengths, such as leadership, community service, and extracurricular activities! Tailor each application to highlight your most relevant experiences, making it clear why you are a strong candidate.

Essays are often a critical part of scholarship applications, so take the time to craft compelling narratives. Share personal stories that demonstrate your leadership, teamwork, and resilience—such as leading your sports team or organizing community service events through Key Club. Always proofread your essays and, if possible, have teachers or mentors review them for feedback.

Ensure that you meet all the requirements for each scholarship. Carefully follow instructions regarding formatting, word counts, and submission guidelines. Double-check that all necessary documents are included before submitting. It's also a good idea to apply to a mix of scholarships, including both national and local opportunities. Local scholarships often have fewer applicants, increasing your chances of winning.

Maintaining a record of your achievements throughout high school can make the application process smoother. Keep a portfolio of your volunteer hours, leadership roles, awards, and extracurricular activities. This will make it easier to complete applications and provide evidence of your accomplishments.

Finally, remember that persistence is key. Apply to as many scholarships as possible, and don't get discouraged by rejections. Each application is a learning experience, and the more you apply, the better your chances of securing financial aid. With careful planning and a strategic approach, you can manage scholarships effectively and reduce the financial burden of college.

Service Project Ideas

Written by: Payton Cooper, 8E Lieutenant Governor

The holiday season is upon us, and what better way to spread some joy and goodwill than through acts of service? As Key Club members, we have the unique opportunity to make a positive impact on our community, and Christmas is the perfect time to embrace this spirit of giving. There are endless ways we can make a difference this holiday season.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- **Adopt a Family for the Holidays:** Work together as a club to adopt a family in need. You can provide holiday gifts, food, and essentials to make their season a little brighter. This is a great way to directly support those in your community who may be struggling.
- **Holiday Care Packages for Seniors:** Many seniors spend the holidays alone or without family support. You can assemble care packages filled with warm blankets, toiletries, treats, and cards to bring some holiday cheer to nursing homes or senior living centers.
- **Toy and Clothing Drive:** Help children and families in need by collecting new or gently used toys and clothing. This is especially important as many families may struggle to afford gifts and warm clothing during the winter months.
- **Christmas Cards for Hospital Patients:** Spread holiday cheer to those who are spending the season in the hospital by creating and delivering Christmas cards. Many patients, especially children, would love to receive a personal, hand-written note of encouragement and holiday spirit.
- **Volunteering at a Local Soup Kitchen or Food Bank:** The holidays can be an especially tough time for those facing food insecurity. Volunteer at a local soup kitchen or food bank to help provide meals and resources to families in need.
- **Winter Clothing for the Homeless:** The winter months can be especially difficult for those who are homeless. Gather warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to donate to local shelters or outreach programs that support homeless individuals.
- **Secret Santa for Local Service Workers:** Show appreciation for the hardworking people in our community—like grocery store employees, mail carriers, and sanitation workers—by organizing a Secret Santa gift exchange. Small, thoughtful gifts can make a big difference in someone's day.

School Shoutouts

Written by: Lyndsey Griffith, Division 4B Lieutenant Governor

As we wrap up this incredible and memorable year, let’s take a moment to celebrate all the Key Clubs in the District—To take a moment to celebrate *you!* From organizing impactful service projects to spreading positivity in everything you do, you’ve truly embodied what it means to serve with heart, dedication, and enthusiasm that leave a lasting impact on the community and beyond. Especially during this holiday season you all have been getting to work let’s highlight it!

Inter-Club Service Event: Turkey Fry

At the end of November right before Thanksgiving, Key Clubbers from all around including the school: Ecole Classique, Mount Carmel, Brother Martin, Rummel, Kenner Discovery, and more, they joined to help the Kiwanis Club Dawn Busters with their annual World’s largest Turkey Fry. Members spent the day cooking, packing, and distributing over 1,000 fried turkeys.



Patrick Taylor Key Club

Members helped collect pure aluminum pop tabs for a local business.



White Station Key Club

They had a great turn out for their St. Jude Marathon Cheer Station event! Many Key Clubbers came out to cheer on the runners in the cold.



ICON 2025/The Centennial Challenge

Written by: Lexi Carpenter, Lieutenant Governor At-Large

From Louisiana to France, Key Club members from all over the world are invited to join the excitement at ICON! Mark your calendars for July 2-6, because this year's International Convention is extra special because we're celebrating Key Club's incredible milestone: 100 years of service, leadership, and impact!

To honor this momentous occasion, the Centennial Challenge has been launched as a unique initiative to inspire growth in membership, increase service hours, and boost participation in various Key Club programs. Together, we can make this 100th birthday celebration a testament to everything Key Club stands for.

ICONv 2025 will take place in sunny Orlando, Florida, a perfect destination to mix business with pleasure. Imagine days filled with inspiring workshops, unforgettable Keynote speakers, and opportunities to connect with fellow Key Clubbers, all while enjoying the magic and sunshine of Orlando.

So, what are you waiting for? A change to celebrate Key Club's centennial, soak up the sun, and make lifelong memories? That's a deal you don't want to miss!



Submitting Secretary Reports

Written by: Angel Cooper, Bulletin Editor

Calling all Key Club Secretaries!

Attention LaMissTenn District secretaries—your role is vital to your Key Club’s success! One of your key responsibilities is submitting monthly reports about your meetings and activities between the 1st and 5th of each month. These reports provide the district board with valuable insights into your club’s operations, achievements, and needs, ensuring strong communication and support across the district.

Make sure to complete the form on time, or remind your secretary to do so. Visit <https://h11.site.kiwanis.org> for more details and access to the form. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Contact Information:

Sameen Enam: Governor

governorlmtkcsameen@gmail.com

Ryleigh Johnson: Secretary-Treasurer

sectreaslmtkcryleigh@gmail.com

Ethan Schmidt: International Trustee

eschmidt@keyclub.org

Mr. Danny Williams: District Administrator

Lmtkcdadanny@gmail.com

Ms. Anna Kate Broussard: Assistant District Administrator

keyclubannakate@gmail.com

Ms. Jessica Hightower: Assistant District Administrator

lmtkcjessica@gmail.com

