



Alabama

Kiwanis Kourier

Winter 2019

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25 pages

Celebrating state's 200 years

By Patrice Stewart

Kiwanis Kourier editor

The Alabama District of Kiwanis has been named a partner with the Alabama Bicentennial Commission for the state's 200th birthday celebration this year.

Some activities were held in 2017 and 2018, and 400 more are planned this year, all leading up to a celebration and Bicentennial Park dedication in front of the Capitol on Dec. 14. The 2019 "Alabama Day" will mark 200 years since Congress announced Alabama would be the 22nd state.

The Kiwanis logo and those of other partners and sponsors will be displayed on banners at events. They can be seen at www.ALABAMA200.org, along with information on festivals, parades, exhibits and other events.

How did this partnership start? Cathy Gafford approached the commission with an idea about her 2019 "Read to Succeed" calendar that she thought would benefit both groups.

The executive director of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, signature project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, sold the Bicentennial Commission a full-page ad for the RIF calendar.



Visiting Capitol Hill for the launch of the state of Alabama's 2019 Bicentennial activities are, from left, Kiwanis Governor Ben Taylor with daughter Zanie and wife, Hannah; Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange; and Reading Is Fundamental executive director Cathy Gafford.

It highlights a children's book full of heroes and history for the Bicentennial: "Alabama, My Home Sweet Home" by Charles Ghigna.

Gafford and Jay Lamar, executive director of the Bicentennial Commis-

sion, discussed ideas that led to the inclusion of Kiwanis in the Alabama 200 Anniversary Circle.

The 102-year history of Kiwanis in Alabama is impressive. The Kiwanis

(See BICENTENNIAL, Page 3)

Midwinter: dog talk, mystery, strategy

By Patrice Stewart

Kiwanis Kourier editor

A look at Service Dogs Alabama, a Kiwanis murder mystery, Distinguished Club awards and information on a District Strategic Plan and foundation activities are just a few of the items coming up at the Alabama District of Kiwanis Midwinter Conference.

It's time to register for the Feb. 22-23 conference, which will again be held at the Marriott Legends Hotel and Conference Center in Prattville.

You will find the complete agenda and registration form on Pages 8 and 9 of this Kourier, as well as on the district website at alabama.kiwanis.org (a link for online registra-

tion is there, too).

Friday activities include afternoon meetings of several boards, listed in the agenda, plus a dinner, presentation of Distinguished Club and leaders' awards for 2017-18 by Past Governor Armand St. Raymond. Then be entertained by a murder mystery, with board members as the cast and a script by Governor Ben Taylor.

On Saturday, a buffet breakfast will be served from 7 to 8:30 a.m., with several meetings over breakfast planned for Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental supporters and for past governors and past lieutenant governors.

(See MIDWINTER, Page 7)

Plan to attend Kiwanis International Convention June 27-30 at Walt Disney World in Florida

3 opportunities for your club

In a rut? Try something different to make 2019 your best year yet

Greetings from your Kiwanis Governor. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family.

Can you believe it is 2019? Seems like yesterday we were convinced the year 2000 would be the apocalypse. Has it been 20 years since we partied like it was 1999?



From the Governor

By Ben Taylor

Since it is a new year, we always challenge ourselves personally with new goals and resolutions.

How often do you hear the following statements? "Our club does the same stuff," "We have asked everyone in town to join," or "I wish we would try something different."

Well, 2019 may be the year for your club. Pay attention! We have three opportunities for your club to experience great times in the year 2019.

200 years for Alabama

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Great State of Alabama. In December, I had the pleasure of attending the launching of Alabama's 2019 bicentennial celebration.

While some parts of the multi-year celebration got under way in 2017 and 2018, the focus now will be on commemorating Alabama's 200 years in many ways in 2019. Alabama 200 will involve individuals, schools and communities in a variety of programs all over Alabama.

Look at alabama200.org on the web to see ways you can participate and learn. The mission of Alabama 200 is to support, create and execute events and activities that commemorate the stories of our people, place and path to statehood. Alabama 200 will engage residents and visitors in educational



When Zanie Taylor (left photo) accompanied her parents to the Alabama 200 event, she met the Coca-Cola polar bear icon and got one of Coke's Alabama Bicentennial commemorative bottles. At right, after the speeches, are Alabama Kiwanis Governor Ben Taylor, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, and Zanie and her mother, Hannah Taylor.



programs, community activities, and statewide initiatives that teach, inspire and entertain.

Wow — sounds similar to Kiwanis.

With that being said, I am announcing our partnership with Alabama 200. Over the year, you will have over 400 events statewide with a final celebration on Dec. 14, 2019, in Montgomery. Our Kiwanis logo will be displayed at events, along with those of other partners. Alabama 200 will need our help in volunteering at events and promoting events through our local clubs.

Celebrate our state and let people know I am in Kiwanis? Sign me up!

Key Leader coming right up

Key Leader is fast approaching this year. What is Key Leader?

Key Leader is a weekend leadership program for our future leaders. The cost is \$200. Could your club sponsor a youth from your town to attend March 8-10 at Lake Martin's Camp ASCCA? Or maybe sponsor two students with \$100 each.

Key Leader will also need drivers

and chaperones for the weekend. It will have a professional facilitator to motivate the youth.

Any other questions? Contact me or Jamie Brabston at jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com (see her article on Page 4), or go to the Alabama District website, alabama.kiwanis.org.

Three words: sign me up!

Honor law enforcement

Concerned Citizens Organized for Police Support is a program that is new to the District. Actually, it is new to everyone. CCOPS is a program that recognizes law enforcement officers in your area with quarterly awards.

Law enforcement officers serve in critical times for children in situations that we do not want to even discuss. They are hands-on serving the children of our community and risking their lives for it.

CCOPS kicked off in Montgomery in May 2018 and is spreading all over the state. For a small investment, it honors deserving officers while giving

(See TAYLOR, Page 3)



Alabama District Governor Ben Taylor (tallest in left photo) attended a January regional governors' meeting in Indianapolis with his counterparts from the eastern United States. Governor-elect Bob Brown, far right, also went to the Kiwanis headquarters city recently. During training sessions for the 2019-20 leaders, his photo was made with current Kiwanis International President Florencio "Poly" Lat of the Philippines.

Bicentennial (From Page 1)

Club of Birmingham, chartered in 1917, is the largest Kiwanis club in the world and has funded everything from the giraffe area at the zoo to a new pavilion and lighting at the Vulcan statue, which may be the site of the official Bicentennial fireworks July 4.

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery is world's third largest and will turn 100 this fall. Its big fundraiser, the Alabama National Fair, will host a bicentennial exhibit in the fall.

Several other Alabama Kiwanis clubs are nearing the 100-year mark.

"As we commemorate Alabama's bicentennial of statehood, we look to both the past and the future," Lamar said. "We want to know where we

come from and use that to help make a bright, strong future. For that reason, it is especially exciting to partner with Kiwanis, an organization that has played an important role in making the people and communities of our state strong, collaborative and successful."

In an interview, Lamar added: "At 100 years and counting in Alabama, Kiwanis continues to set the bar for service. Its support of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental provides children in our state with the tools and skills they need to succeed. What better way to positively impact individual lives and our collective future?"

This partnership will help involve more people and "showcase Kiwanis' accomplishments and contributions to our history and to our future," Lamar said.

At the State Capitol on Dec. 14, the state's 199th birthday, Alabama Gov-

ernor Kay Ivey launched a year of events designed to "celebrate and educate." A Bicentennial "PastPort" and other items are available.

As names of Kiwanis and other organizations and businesses in the Alabama 200 Anniversary Circle were read, the audience included Gafford; Kiwanis Governor Ben Taylor with his wife, Hannah, and daughter Zanie; Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange; and Jeff Samuel. Taylor, Strange and Samuel all are members of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery; Samuel is a past president.

"We recognize that our story of success is told by our people," Ivey said. And that is who we are celebrating."

Taylor (From Page 2)

your club media exposure with huge dividends.

The first official act of the 2018-19 Alabama Kiwanis board was to endorse this partnership. For more information, contact Jack Galassini at Jack@galassiniadv.com.

Did I forget? Sign me up!

Information on all three of these groups and events will be at our District Midwinter Conference, set for Feb. 22-23 in Prattville.

Registration has begun (see alabama.kiwanis.org and Pages 8 and 9 of this Kourier), and it promises to be a great time. We will have training sessions and opportunities to fellowship with Kiwanians from all over Alabama. Fellow Kiwanian Frances McGowin with Service Dogs Alabama will be our lunch speaker.

Sign me up! I will see you Feb. 22-23. Until then, have a great start to 2019.



Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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District website: **alabama.kiwanis.org**

Email news and photos of club projects to the Kiwanis Kourier, kiwaniskourier@gmail.com

Send teens to Key Leader March 8-10

By Jamie Brabston

Alabama District Key Leader Coordinator

It's that time of year again — time to recruit students and prepare for an awesome leadership weekend to be held at Camp ASCCA in Jackson's Gap, Alabama.

Every year, students from around our state proclaim the weekend as "awesome," "amazing," "inclusive" and "a great experience." This is a not-to-be-missed event!



Jamie Brabston

The 2019 Alabama District Key Leader weekend will be held March 8-10, 2019.

Note that this is much earlier than in past years, so it is imperative that we recruit students now!

Some of you may be asking yourself "What exactly is Key Leader?"

Key Leader is a Kiwanis International service leadership program (SLP) for students in eighth through 12th grades and is a fun-filled weekend event comprised of small and large group activities, interactive events, and presentations from a professional facilitator who focuses on servant leadership.

Find future leaders

It is an incredible opportunity for "emerging leaders" who need that extra push to become true leaders in their schools and communities.

Details for Key Leader 2019

When? March 8-10, 2019

Where? Camp ASCCA in Jackson's Gap, Alabama

Who? Open to all 8th-12th graders

How much? \$200 per student (\$175 for Key Club members); scholarships available

What's included? Two nights' lodging, all meals and snacks, program materials, a cool T-shirt and fun!

Description? An amazing weekend that provides the opportunity to explore new ideas, make friends and develop/improve leadership skills.

How do I register? Sign up at alabama.kiwanis.org/kl2019.

This is a wonderful program for new Key Clubbers who are interested in taking on future leadership in their clubs, divisions or district.

It is also a great way for non-Key Clubbers to sharpen their leadership potential so they may apply for positions in student government, or any other leadership roles in their schools or communities.

Please "follow" Alabama Key Leader on Instagram to see more photos of our past events! You'll see for yourself how much fun we all have at this annual weekend event.

Key Leader cannot be successful

without the dedication of the entire Alabama District leadership team.

Spread the word

We need all District Kiwanis clubs to spread the word about Key Leader, recruit students (Key Clubbers or non-Key Clubbers) to attend and also provide financial support for students who cannot afford to pay the full fee themselves.

We also appreciate and need the continued support of the Alabama District Key Club and the Foundation — their generous scholarships provide many students the opportunity to attend when they otherwise may not have been able to do so. Thank you all for your support!

Please consider joining the Key Leader team as a chaperone (I promise you a fun and memorable weekend!) and/or to help us market and recruit emerging leaders in your community to make plans to attend Key Leader next spring.

We must continue this program as it offers so many benefits to our youth, and we need the support of the entire Kiwanis family to make sure this opportunity is available to our kids.

For more information, or to find out how you can help, please visit www.key-leader.org or contact Jamie Brabston, Jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com (256-679-6341); or contact our Key Leader liaisons: JD Hudson at jdhudson@alabamakeyclub.org or Kaiden Kennedy at kkennedy@alabamakeyclub.org.

Feb. 14 deadline for Signature Project Contest

Kiwanis clubs planning to submit projects for consideration as the Alabama District's submission in the 2019 Kiwanis International Signature Project Contest must be sent to the district office by Feb. 14.

Submit projects to District Secretary Tammy Driskill, who asks that District Governor Ben Taylor be sent a copy of the information.

"If more than one project is submitted, the governor will decide which will best represent the district," Driskill said.

Each district takes submissions and

decides which project to submit to KI. Winners will be recognized at a luncheon during the Kiwanis International Convention in Orlando.

Kiwanis International asks questions about entries, such as:

■ Describe the project. Is it a service project, fundraiser or event?

■ Describe the community need being met through the project. Was a community assessment completed to determine the need? How was the need discovered?

■ Describe the population served by the project; be as specific as possible,

and define the age group served and number of people served or helped.

■ How does the project benefit children?

■ How many people attended the project? How many people were served or helped? How many Kiwanis members participated?

Additional comments can be included, and up to five supporting documents can be uploaded.

For a complete list of questions or more information, email Driskill at dist_sec@alkiwanis.org, or call 205-945-1334.

See you at Disney World!

Registration is now open for June convention in Florida

By Patrice Stewart

Kiwanis Kourier editor

Registration is now open for the 2019 Kiwanis International Convention, scheduled June 27-30 at Walt Disney World near Orlando, Florida.

Kiwanis rooms are being held at two Disney World Resorts: the Coronado Springs Resort and Port Orleans Resort Riverside.

Alabama District Secretary Tammy Driskill advises those planning to attend to reserve rooms early, in case space runs out near convention activities. All events will be held at the Coronado Springs Resort, unless otherwise specified.

She recently attended a meeting at Disney World where district secretaries got a preview of the hotel and meeting spaces, as well as a look at Disney theme parks.

Fee goes up April 5

Convention registration fees are \$300 until April 5 and then \$350 until May 17. After that, you must register at the convention site for \$400. There is also a \$150 single-day fee.

You can register online at kiwanis.org/convention/2019 or print out a registration form and mail it in.

Each club can have two voting delegates; others can be listed as alternates.

Delegates and alternates should fill out the certificate of election and send it to KI in Indianapolis before the convention.

The convention registration desk will open from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, when the Kiwanis Showcase and reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. See schedule on the KI convention website for more



Enjoying the Mad Tea Cup Ride in the Magic Kingdom during a preview and meeting for district secretaries are, from left, Mary Vaughan of Missouri-Arkansas, Tammy Driskill of Alabama and Andrea Raycraft of Illinois-Eastern Iowa. They also explored the shops and restaurants at Disney Springs.

Events requiring advance purchase of \$60 tickets include the Signature Project Contest Luncheon on Thursday, Children's Fund Luncheon Friday, and Kiwanis Family Luncheon Saturday.

Entertaining events requiring advance tickets from \$100 to \$125 are Kiwanis Night at Disney's Spirit of Aloha Dinner Show at the Polynesian Resort Thursday evening, Kiwanis Night at Planet Hollywood at Disney Springs on Friday evening and the Kiwanis Gala: An Evening with Don Felder, former Eagles band guitarist, on Saturday evening at the Coronado Ballroom.

registration times and events.

The opening session is planned for 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, with the business session from 2 to 4 on Friday and the closing session from 2 to 4 on Saturday.

Speakers will include Jim Collins, author of "Good to Great, How the Mighty Fall," from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday. KI President Poly Lat is using "Good to Great" as a theme this year. "Poly's Patio" with entertainment will be held from 7 to 10 on three nights.

'Because I Said I Would'

The opening session will feature keynote speaker Alex Sheen, founder of "Because I Said I Would," who emphasizes making promises and keeping them. Many educational workshops are being planned, and elections will take place during the business session.

Free transportation

Convention attendees can take advantage of the Disney Magical Express, a free shuttle to and from the airport, as well as complimentary shuttles between properties during the convention.

When registering for hotel rooms online, Kiwanians can choose between Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and its Port Orleans Resort Riverside. Both are listed at \$175 per night, plus taxes and fees.

Disney hopes Kiwanians will "come for the meeting and then stay for the magic." They sell special Meeting/Convention Theme Park tickets that help make the most of free time with advance purchases.

Find many more convention details, with additions as planning is completed, at kiwanis.org/convention/2019.



Support your foundation as it supports your club in service to the community

We see each day, on the evening news or from online news sources, the hardships many of our neighbors suffer through, and the impact on children is chilling at times. Kiwanians can make a difference in each community, and your foundation can help.

Declining membership and resultant limited resources for some clubs present an ever-increasing service challenge.

This year's Alabama Kiwanis Foundation budget includes funding matching grants for club projects along with Key Club and Circle K scholarships. Your foundation will continue to help reduce the cost of attendance at Key Leader and will once again provide direct funding in support of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental (JDRIF). All of this reflects your foundation's unending commitment to furthering the ideals of Kiwanis in the Alabama District.

The Children of Alabama United Appeal's raffle of football tickets at the recent District Convention netted approximately \$4,400 in additional funding for JDRIF in addition to about \$11,000 in sales tax avoidance as a result of your foundation's alliance with the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden. Thanks to all who participated.

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Report

By Ernest Hulsey
President



has limited funds accrued, as most of the contributions it receives each year are spent in service around the state.

This fact makes your foundation largely dependent upon the generosity of the clubs and members within the Alabama District for its ability to provide meaningful service. We therefore encourage each club and Kiwanian to participate in one or more of the revenue programs available.

The Club Gift program continues to be our biggest fundraiser each year. During the last administrative year, 24 clubs participated, representing a slight increase over last year. Thanks so much to those clubs for their continuing support and generosity.

Greater participation among our clubs will allow your foundation to do

even more in support of the children of Alabama. We are encouraging each club in Alabama to participate at a level of \$10 per member and include it in their annual budget.

Some clubs mistakenly believe that this contribution must come from their administrative funds. In truth, while a contribution to your foundation may come from the administrative account, it certainly qualifies for expenditure from the service account.

The J. Mercer Barnett Fellowship recognizes the contribution of \$500 or more and has been a significant source of funding for the foundation. Individual donations are welcomed, and what better way for a club to recognize the significant accomplishments of a club member or the hard work and dedication of an outgoing club officer or committee chair?

This year, your foundation board has launched the Joe Dean Legacy, which recognizes planned estate giving or the outright gifting of \$5,000 or more to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. Further details are available on the foundation website.

While it remains a wonderful time to be in Kiwanis, I think we can all agree that we are faced with many

(See FOUNDATION, Page 7)

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Board

Following is a list of 2018-2021 Alabama Kiwanis Foundation officers and board members with divisions and terms. Members receive no compensation for serving on the board.

For foundation business, President Ernest Hulsey can be reached by email, ehulsey1@comcast.net, or phone, (256) 512-0029 or (256) 924-5420.

Officers:

President, Ernest Hulsey
President-elect, Roger Williams
Vice president, Armand St. Raymond
Treasurer, Mike Winstead
Secretary, Tammy Driskill

Terms ending in 2019:

Sidney Lanier, Wedowee, Division 8
Philip Selman, Gadsden, Division 7
Critt Snellgrove, Dothan, Division 11
Armand St. Raymond, Birmingham, Division 6

Keith Graham, Mobile, Division 14
Mike Roddy, Madison, Division 1

Terms ending in 2020:

Roger C. Williams, Tuscaloosa, Division 4
Gordon Ruggles, Sheffield, Division 2
Ernest Hulsey, Owens Cross Roads, Division 1
Phillip Allen, Monroeville, Division 12
Steve Thomas, Jasper, Division 3
Wayne Sisk, Alexandria, Division 7

Terms ending in 2021:

Mike Brumfield, Daphne, Division 13
Mike Winstead, Deatsville, Division 9
Mary Hoerlein, Auburn, Division 10
Tammy Driskill, Gadsden, Division 7
Russ Grimes, Huntsville, Division 1
Colean Black, Birmingham, Division 5

Board Member Emeritus:

Steve Cragon, Birmingham

Midwinter (From Page 1)

The general session will begin at 8:45 a.m. Then Kiwanians can choose from six topics in four 30-minute breakout sessions (most topics will be offered more than once). Topics include the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, District Strategic Plan, Young Children Priority One, Kiwanis Children's Fund, Growing Your Membership, and Interacting with Service Leadership Programs.

Aaron Ketzenberger, representing the Kiwanis International Children's Fund, will present information on foundation activities.

Club officer training is planned Saturday from 9:45 to 12:30.

The Interclub Luncheon from 12:45 to 2 p.m. Saturday will feature keynote speaker Frances McGowin, founder and executive director of Service Dogs Alabama and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery.

Taylor said Kiwanians and guests will find the presentation about service dogs interesting, noting that it can easily cost \$10,000 to \$20,000 to train a dog to detect a diabetic emergency or help in other situations.

Service Dogs Alabama addresses the needs of animal shelters, prisons and schools, as well as those of many children, adults, veterans and others with physical and mental challenges.

"She is a perfect fit for a speaker, and maybe she will bring some dogs," Taylor said.

The Midwinter Conference "is a good time to fellowship, get new ideas, and see what's on the horizon for the Alabama District and Kiwanis

International," the governor said.

"Love Him or Kill Him," the Kiwanis murder mystery dinner planned for Friday evening, is "a work in progress, and we think people will enjoy it," Taylor said.

Lt. Governor Glenda Selman mentioned the idea after seeing something similar in Gadsden. Taylor is writing a Kiwanis-oriented version with roles assigned based on personalities.

"We will have real proper types and loudmouths and all kinds of folks, and there will be a lot of Kiwanis ties for people to listen for," Taylor said. And instead of bad language, you may hear lines like "What the Circle K is going on here?"

"When the lights go out, I think

everybody is a suspect and could be guilty of killing somebody," he said. "I'll supply the murder weapon, just so I'll know what it is, and will make sure we have fake weapons ... probably everybody in the cast will be packing heat or have a knife or sword or something." The audience will be trying to figure out who's killing.

Kiwanians can register to attend all Midwinter Conference events over two days for \$100, including Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch. The Saturday-only fee of \$70 includes lunch and workshops. Guest meals are \$30 for breakfast and \$35 for dinner and lunch. A \$15 late fee will be added for registrations postmarked after Feb. 15.



You never know whom you will run into at Kiwanis conventions! At the District Convention in Gadsden last August, Kim Hall Sharp, left, and Jamie Brabston saw each other for the first time since their sorority days at the University of Alabama; both now live in the Birmingham area. At the Auburn convention a year earlier, Critt Snellgrove of Dothan and John Saxon of Birmingham met for the first time since college Circle K days.

Foundation (From Page 6)

challenges as Kiwanians. Balancing keeping faith with our traditions and staying nimble enough to identify and deal with the changes before us will at times require us to make difficult choices.

With each generation, we see changing attitudes and priorities coupled with economic and political changes which inevitably create new and varied needs within our communities. To remain viable, we must be willing to change as well. Your foundation board tries to be vigilant in our efforts to anticipate changes and to ensure we are prepared to adequately address whatever those changes may be.

I think it's fair to say that the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental Program is the largest and most successful of its kind in the country, providing service to at-risk children throughout the state of Alabama. It is indeed a monumen-

tal task which has been managed expertly for many years by our Executive Director, Cathy Gafford.

I do not exaggerate when I say that, in many ways, JDRIF is Cathy Gafford and vice versa. Hers is a passion for the children served and a commitment to the Kiwanis International program initiative "Young Child: Priority One." The realization that, at some point, Cathy will want to retire has prompted your foundation board to examine the future of JDRIF. While there are many items for consideration, as of this writing, no decisions have been made.

As a 501(c)3 organization, all contributions to your foundation are tax deductible. Many of us make charitable contributions each year. As Kiwanians, a charitable contribution to our foundation seems natural.

Your continued support and generosity are so very much appreciated and will provide the means to continue providing support where needed and establish a secure financial footing for the future.

**Alabama District of Kiwanis Midwinter Conference Agenda
The Legends Montgomery Marriott Hotel, Prattville, Alabama
February 22-23, 2019**

Friday, February 22, 2019

10:00 -11:45 a.m. Reading is Fundamental Advisory Committee meeting
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. District Board luncheon and board meeting
2:15 – 4 p.m. Alabama Kiwanis Foundation board meeting
4:15 – 4:45 p.m. United Appeal board meeting

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Club Recognitions and Awards, and Murder Mystery Dinner
8:30 -10:30 p.m. Hospitality room open in President's Cottage

Saturday, February 23, 2019

7:00 - 8:30 a.m.
 Buffet Breakfast
 Reading is Fundamental breakfast meeting
 Past Governors breakfast meeting
 Past Lt. Governors breakfast meeting

8:45 – 9:30 a.m. General Session

9:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
 Club Officer Training (Mike Winstead)
 Past Governor's Committee meeting in the Presidential Cottage

Breakout Sessions:

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.
 Alabama Kiwanis Foundation (Ernest Hulsey)
 District Strategic Plan (District Leadership)

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
 Young Children Priority One (Keith McKendall/Brian Rodgers)
 Kiwanis Children's Fund (Aaron Katzenberger/Armand St. Raymond)
 District Strategic Plan (District Leadership)

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.
 Growing Your Membership (Keith McKendall/Brian Rodgers)
 Interacting with Service Leadership Programs (Williams Sims/Scott Sims)
 District Strategic Plan (District Leadership)

noon – 12:30 p.m.
 Interacting with Service Leadership Programs (Williams Sims/Scott Sims)
 District Strategic Plan (District Leadership)
 Kiwanis Children's Fund (Aaron Katzenberger/Armand St. Raymond)

12:45- 2:00 p.m. Interclub Luncheon-Keynote Speaker Frances McGowin, Exec Director, Service Dogs Alabama

2 p.m. Adjourn



Alabama District of Kiwanis International Midwinter Conference

*Prattville, AL • Marriott Legends Conference Center
Feb. 22-23, 2019*

OFFLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Mail check to: Alabama District of Kiwanis International
PO Box 8505 • Gadsden, AL 35902

Name	
Kiwanis Club	
Club officer?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If YES, list office:
Phone	
Email	
Will you be attending the Club Leader Education Session?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
First time at Midwinter?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGISTRATION	
Kiwanis member Friday and Saturday registration (includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and workshops)	\$100 per attendee Number of tickets needed: _____
Kiwanis member Saturday registration (includes workshops and lunch)	\$70 per attendee Number of tickets needed: _____
Non-Kiwanis member Friday Dinner	\$35 per attendee Number of tickets needed: _____
Non-Kiwanis member Saturday Breakfast	\$30 per attendee Number of tickets needed: _____
Non-Kiwanis member Saturday Interclub Lunch	\$35 per attendee Number of tickets needed: _____
Late registration fee	\$15 for registration postmarked on or after Feb. 15, 2019 Number of late registrations: _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

QUESTIONS? Contact District Secretary Tammy Driskill, (256) 504-9773, or Dist_Sec@alkiwanis.org.

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Contact the Marriott Legends Conference Center hotel directly at 800-228-9290. Mention the Kiwanis block rate of \$121, which will expire Jan. 22, 2019.



Reading in Gardendale

The Kiwanis Club of Gardendale, one of the Alabama District's newest clubs, read to young children in their classrooms for the first time on Dec. 6. The service project, affiliated with Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, took place at Fairmont Head Start. After reading books to small groups of children, the Kiwanians gave each child a book to take home.



Buy logo items from licensees

Clubs need to be aware of new Kiwanis International rules requiring vendors to be licensed to provide logo items.

The following information has been provided by Kiwanis International:

Any clubs, divisions, districts or individuals that purchase promotional merchandise containing the Kiwanis name, seal, wordmark or member pin will now need to use a licensed vendor.

This includes all promotional merchandise whether it is sold or given to members or the public at Kiwanis events.

An increased online presence, our e-commerce efforts and the ever-growing use of social media prompted Kiwanis to continue to further protect our brand. Therefore, any vendor using a trademark that is owned by Kiwanis will be required to be licensed by Affinity licensing.

This applies to Kiwanis International, Circle K International, Key Club International, Aktion Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, Terrific Kids and Bring Up Grades (BUG).

Affinity is managing this program for vendors only in the United States. See kiwanis.org/licensing for a vendor list and information on applying to be licensed.

Questions? Email licensing@kiwanis.org.



Holiday spirit

Kiwanis clubs around Alabama celebrated the Christmas season with service. Clockwise, from top left, in Florala, Tri-Cities Kiwanis sponsored "Cookies with Santa" with homemade goodies and falling snow; the Birmingham East Kiwanis Club held a Christmas party at St. Martin's in the Pines retirement community and invited Key Club members (three photos); Kiwanis Club of Decatur President Leissa Chittam celebrated with youths from the Neighborhood Christian Center, who received gifts at a club meeting; the Alexander City Kiwanis Club's parade float with singers took second place in the non-profit category of the city's Christmas parade; the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa tackled post-holiday cleanup for its decorated tree on the Tinsel Trail; and from Gulf Shores, left, to Florence, above, members rang bells and collected donations at Salvation Army kettles.





Martin's Family Clothing, which has several locations, donated bikes, and Kiwanis clubs in Anniston, Oxford, Gadsden and Pell City helped identify recipients and distribute bikes and helmets. This Martin's store was one of the pickup sites.

4 clubs' project to distribute 385 bicycles draws publicity

By Patrice Stewart

Kiwanis Kourier editor

Kiwanis clubs often make a bigger impact by working together than an individual club can alone — and they get more publicity, too.

This was evident in the 2018 Christmas season during the bicycles for kids giveaway undertaken by the Kiwanis clubs of Anniston, Oxford, Gadsden and Pell City.

Read the club's descriptions on adjacent pages to see how the project

worked.

In November, the joint project showing bicycle assembly and safety checks was featured on television by reporter Byron Khalil of ABC 33/40.

"Several East Alabama Kiwanis clubs are working to make this Christmas a special one for some deserving children," he said, noting that Martin's Family Clothing donated 385 bikes, and Kiwanians recruited help to assemble, assign and distribute them, with helmets included this

year.

In early December, the Kiwanis International news update emailed to members featured the multi-club project with story and photos headlined "Moving Gifts."

"It's at the top of most children's holiday lists. These Alabama Kiwanis clubs help Santa fulfill those wishes."

Writer Lydia Johnson then explained how Martin's Family Clothing owner Bill Wakefield's benevolence in pur-

(See BICYCLES, Page 14)



Volunteers keep up with lists of recipients' names and handle questions as family members find their bikes outside a Martin's Family Clothing store.

Email news and photos of club projects to the Kiwanis Kourier, kiwaniskourier@gmail.com

Clubs in Action

Send news to Kourier from your division or club

Lt. Governor Glenda Selman asked each of the clubs in her division to provide service project reports for publication. Several of these reports, as well as others, are on these Clubs in Action pages. The Kourier would like to publish similar information from other clubs and divisions; email your photos and activities to kiwaniskourier@gmail.com.

Anniston Kiwanians volunteered to ring bells and take donations for the Salvation Army kettles, top photo, while Cade Lavender was glad to see Santa at a December Gadsden Kiwanis meeting.

"I challenge you to be the leaders I know you are and rally your divisions and clubs to reach out to potential new members. Show them the role Kiwanis plays in making a difference for kids and your communities ..."

—Poly Lat,
Kiwanis
International
president



Anniston gives out bikes, rings Yule bells

Bill Wakefield, owner of Martin's Family Clothing, donated 380 bikes to Anniston Kiwanis. These bikes in turn were shared with other clubs around our area.

The Gadsden club received 75 bikes, Pell City Kiwanis received 50, Oxford received 50 and the Anniston Club distributed 205 bikes to children in our community.

These children were selected by the Department of Human Resources and came to pick up their bikes and helmets from the Anniston club on Dec. 22 at Martin's in Oxford.

Bryan Kahlil of ABC TV 33/40 did a news report on the project and talked to several Kiwanians.

Anniston members also rang the bell for the Salvation Army in December.

Our Pancake Day is March 23, so we hope everyone will come enjoy great pancakes and a great social event.

— Andrea Miller,
Anniston Kiwanis president

Gadsden: Christmas shopping, bicycle distribution, Salvation Army

November began with the Gadsden Kiwanis Club attending the Patriots Association's luncheon.

To round out the month, Kiwanis President Tammy Driskill welcomed speakers Gordon Stone, executive director of the Higher Education Partnership; and Captain Dennis Hayes with the Salvation Army.

Also during November, the club was blessed with the donation of 75 bicycles by Martin's Family Clothing. On Nov. 18, Kiwanians John Troncale and Lesa Osborn teamed up with five members of the local Stinger Bike Club and assembled all the bikes in one afternoon.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, the club, along with local Key Clubs, joined forces with the Salvation Army and helped 40 underprivileged children have a morning of Christmas shopping at our local Walmart. Parents were given vouchers for bicycles to be picked up later in the month so that they would have them by Christmas morning. During the shopping trip we told the volunteers that if a child asked to buy a bike, they were to say, "We've talked to Santa, and he is going to bring you a bike Christmas morning."

Another December project, the annual Kiwanis Christmas Parade, was rained out Dec. 8 and could not be rescheduled.

On Saturday, Dec. 15, Kiwanis Foundation's Gil Isbell and Past President Glen Williams organized the bike giveaway. Many Kiwanians help pair parents with the right bike for their child as a special Christmas gift. This would not have been possible without the generosity of Martin's Family Clothing and the Stinger Bike Club.

Kiwanian David Herrod organized a two-day Salvation Army bell-ringing event at the Gadsden Mall. Seventeen Kiwanians, as well as the Aktion Club, participated in the event, and several hundred dollars were raised to help the Salvation Army.

— Lesa Osborn,
Gadsden Kiwanis president-elect

Clubs in Action



Oxford Kiwanians present Christmas gifts to families served by East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy Center.

Oxford: Family sharing, bikes

December 2018 was a great time for our Oxford Kiwanis Club.

We were able to celebrate Christmas with two wonderful families that receive services from the East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy Center. This is a meeting our club looks forward to each year.

For the first time, Oxford Kiwanis partnered with Anniston Kiwanis and Bill Wakefield of Martin's for the Christmas bicycle giveaway.

Several members worked with Anniston Kiwanians in putting together the bikes and making sure they were in working order. This was captured on film by ABC TV 33/40 when they were interviewing Anniston and Oxford presidents.

It was special to see boys and girls experience the joy of receiving a bicycle during the Christmas season. Several of our club members were on site at Martin's in Oxford to help make sure all the bicycles went to the correct names and were ready to roll.

Our club also is continuing to sell our peanuts. We have made back what we spent, so all sales now go toward our scholarships for Oxford High School seniors.

— Chris Fuller, Oxford Kiwanis Club

Bicycles (From Page 12)

chasing about 400 returned bikes from Walmart a year ago resulted in a service project partnership with four Kiwanis clubs from two Alabama divisions. In 2017, Kiwanians and helpers replaced flat tires, brake handles and training wheels to get the bikes ready for distribution.

Christmas 2018 was the second year for the project. This time, Wakefield bought 385 new bikes, with minor assembly needed. Bikes and helmets were picked up outside Martin's stores by parents and guardians of children identified by social service agencies.

Several agency leaders wrote letters thanking Kiwanis.

Laurie Sistrunk, director of operations for Boys & Girls Clubs of East Central Alabama, told how excited staff, parents and children were about the bicycles. "Thank you for thinking of our children and for helping us make a difference in their lives," she said.

"One of the members is 10 years old and has never had a bike, so

this was truly a blessing for him."

Pam Whitley, program specialist for Alabama Department of Human Resources, said she was humbled to be part of the project, and "to see others be blessed by our efforts is truly what I feel the Christmas season is all about."

When they ran into a few snags at the giveaway involving parents arriving to pick up bikes for children whose names were not on the list prepared in advance, Whitley was thrilled that Wakefield offered to purchase a few more bikes if necessary, so there would be no sad children.

One boy and parent returned a second time that day after a call to say a bike would be available for him after all. "The joy on his face said everything that he was feeling, and he walked away with the bike so proudly," Whitley said. "This still makes me tear up when I think of how happy the young man was to receive a new bike."

Whitley said others told her how happy the children were when they received their bikes. "I cannot think of a better time to impart happiness than at Christmas."

Fort Payne Chili Cookoff assists United Givers Fund

The Fort Payne Kiwanis Club recently participated in the second annual Chili Cookoff at Fort Payne High School.

The event was a huge success, and proceeds were donated to the United Givers Fund.

Fort Payne Kiwanians also participated in Christmas in the Park and have great plans for the coming year.

Remember these Kiwanis dates!

Feb. 22-23

Midwinter Conference, Prattville

March 8-10

Key Leader Weekend, Jackson's Gap

June 27-30

Kiwanis International Convention,
Disney World, Florida

Aug. 2-4

Alabama District Convention,
Huntsville

Clubs in Action



Indian Springs Village club raising money for student computers

The Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village has set a goal of raising funds to purchase 325 Chromebook computers to donate to Oak Mountain Schools. This check for \$11,000 was an early donation to the Shelby County Schools Education Foundation for Chromebooks, which cost about \$300 each. Now about \$28,000 has been collect-

ed, with the first 100 Chromebooks delivered to the school Jan. 31. The club has appealed to businesses, other organizations and the public to give money in this effort to be sure that every high school student has computer access. For donation information, see <https://shelbyed-foundation.org/chromebooks-for-eagles/>.



Calera's rejuvenated club receives another charter

The Kiwanis Club of Calera was rechartered Sept. 21, 2018, after a period of inactivity. At left, David Comer, club president, receives the charter from 2017-18 Governor Armand St. Raymond of Birmingham in Novem-

ber. Shown with Calera Kiwanians in the group photo is Division 5 Lt. Governor Scott Sims of Homewood, second from left. The club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at noon at Timberline Golf Club in Calera.

Want a 2019 **"Read to Succeed" calendar** benefiting Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental? Contact:

Cathy Gafford • jeandeanrif@gmail.com • 334-749-5631

Clubs in Action



Dramatic decor in Anniston

The Kiwanis Club of Anniston went all out with its theme at the fall officer installation banquet, when Andrea Miller began her year as president. Take a look at these decorations that show Armand St. Raymond of Birmingham, 2017-18 governor, with a cardboard cutout representing Anniston's outgoing president Tim Wilson



(an accountant) in the theme of A'count'ant Dracula. Don't miss the photo of Wilson and 2016-17 "Superman" president Brandon Freeman, or the caricature of Wilson, "The Count," on the table. Props for the Count Dracula event included fake blood (Hawaiian Punch).



Monroeville continues 6-decade Kiwanis Radio Day tradition

Kiwanis Radio Day has been a big annual fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville since 1957. Kiwanians sign up for on-air shifts when they come by local station WMFC (99.3 FM) to read news plus ads they sell and write. WMFC has hosted the event since 1957 under the guidance of the late owner Bill Stewart and current owner David Stewart, both past presidents of Monroeville Kiwanis. Last fall, 2017-18 District Governor

Armand St. Raymond visited the station on Kiwanis Radio Day. Standing (left photo) are Pete Black, Radio Day committee chair, and Kiwanian Bill Fleming; seated are Past Lt. Governor Paul England and St. Raymond. The photo at right shows Kevin Norris and Greg Norris, seated, and standing, Pete Black, Dianne Welch, Jason Boothe, Wes Nall, and WMFC office manager Pat Jones.



Mentone in the fall was the setting for Circle K members' indoor and outdoor exercises to learn leadership traits at the Alabama Leadership Academy. In one group

task, divided into teams, they completed engineering type building projects. In the large group photo, Circle K Administrator Kyle Pierce is at left.

75 college students take part in Circle K Leadership Academy

More than 75 Circle K students from a dozen chapters at colleges around Alabama gathered for the fall Alabama Leadership Academy, held in Mentone at the Ponderosa Bible Camp facilities.

New Alabama District Circle K Administrator Kyle Pierce said the weekend was emotional, since it was the first such event since the July death of David Womack, who served as Circle K administrator for more than 30 years.

Watching the students learn and grow makes it all worthwhile, Pierce said. "I get to watch and help these students grow and develop as leaders and servants through their Circle K experience.

"I see quiet students learn to speak up and fight for their beliefs; I see extroverts learn to take a step back and consider the full ramifications before taking action; but I mostly see people committed to making Alabama better through their more than 4,000 annual service hours," Pierce said.

"That's why I spend the hours I do, every week, as a Kiwanian to ensure these students have the tools and resources to succeed."



**Mark
your
calendar**



61st Circle K Alabama District Convention

March 8-10, 2019, The Admiral Hotel, Mobile, Alabama

Circle K International Convention

June 26-29, 2019, Disney's Contemporary Resort, Orlando, Florida

Have Kiwanis questions? Call Alabama District Secretary Tammy Driskill at 205-945-1334

BSC Circle K retires worn U.S. flags

Circle K officers and members at Birmingham-Southern College worked on a service project to properly retire several United States flags.

They carefully and respectfully carried out the official retirement ceremony for flags that are worn, torn or otherwise damaged.

The flags were collected by an area fire department that explained to the students the retirement ceremony they follow, which involves cutting up the flag in a specific way.

You start by cutting out the grommets that hold the flag to the line, but save those grommets as they are supposed to be "good luck." Next you cut out the field of stars.

Once the stars are cut out, the remainder is no longer considered a flag, and the parts are usually burned. Sometimes the individual stripes are cut away to further reduce the flag to simply material.



Birmingham-Southern College Circle K members working on the flag project are, from left: Treasurer Jillian, President Nicole, Membership Vice President Juan, members Emily and Chanel, and Service Vice President Laura.



From left are Monroeville Kiwanis President Sam Schjott, Kiwanian of the Year Alisha Linam and past Lt. Governor Margaret Murphy, who headed the Kiwanian of the Year selection committee.

Monroeville's Kiwanian of Year is Alisha Linam, Circle K chapter advisor

Alisha Linam was named Kiwanian of the Year at the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville's annual holiday banquet.

Committee chair Margaret Murphy, a former lieutenant governor, presented Linam with her Kiwanian of the Year plaque.

Murphy said Linam has shown outstanding leadership as faculty advisor to the Circle K chapter at Coastal Alabama Community College. She is director of library services for the college.

Linam has also headed the local Reading Is Fundamental project for Monroeville Kiwanis.

Linam is the club's current vice president, which means she will be president in two years.

At the same banquet, the club announced its annual choice for Citizen of the Year. Linda Andrews, a non-member who was retiring as longtime head of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, was the Citizen of the Year.

Plan to spend the weekend of

Aug. 2-4, 2019, in Huntsville, Alabama

Attend the Kiwanis District Convention at Embassy Suites downtown, and bring the family along to see all the attractions in the Rocket City!

Stay in contact with Key Clubs, Circle K and other K-Family clubs



Raking leaves, left, is just one part of the service offered by Pathways Key Club members. The "fantastic 7" won all kinds of lawncare equipment and mowers when they trimmed 51 yards in under two weeks. Numerous other projects included handing out rice and beans and assisting the Salvation Army.

Award-winning Key Club's projects include lawn care aid

For four years, Erica Stephens has been the Pathways Academy Key Club faculty advisor, as well as the Kiwanis sponsor through the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden. She also is co-advisor for Pathways' Builders and Terrific Kids clubs.

She says she was never a member of Key Club herself because "I wasn't aware of how awesome this club was when I was in school."

She tells about the big variety of service performed by her small club of home-schooled students — from mowing lawns to helping Kiwanians with their projects — and the honors and prizes they have received. They also attend some Kiwanis meetings.

By Erica Stephens

Kiwanis sponsor/faculty advisor
Pathways Academy Key Club, Gadsden
#KidsNeedKiwanis
#CaringOurWayOfLife

We have been a club for four years and have done some outstanding work in such a small amount of time with only 12 to 15 members each year.

In this time we have had two lieutenant governors elected to represent Division 5 on the Great Alabama District of Key Club Board. The first, JoBeth Watts, was awarded the Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lt. Governor Award, and now current Lt. Governor Jhordan Stephens is well on her way to winning that honor as well.

Our club's biggest service project was when we took part in the 50-Yard Challenge given by Rodney Smith Jr. of Raising Men Lawn Care Services based in Huntsville.

The challenge involved them mowing 50 yards for free for single parents, disabled, senior or veteran residents of Etowah County.

This was their first year for the year-round lawn program, which inspires both male and female teens to help those who do not have the time, resources and/or money to manicure their yards.

Seven of our members took part in the challenge and

(See PATHWAYS, Page 20)





Gadsden Kiwanis sponsors Pathways, and Past President Gil Isbell, center, left photo, presented achievement certificates to the Key Club members. Below, Pathways members hold a sign accepting the 50-yard challenge.

Pathways (From Page 19)

came to be known as the "Fantastic 7." They were able to complete 51 yards in less than two weeks — the fastest group to ever get that done since the start of the program.

For all their hard work, they were awarded new lawn mowers, weed trimmers and blowers, shirts, goggles, ear pieces, certificates and Gatorade to continue their service in the community.

Their sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Gadsden even awarded them certificates and \$150 in gift cards to assist them with continuing their service.

Since then they have challenged themselves to complete 400 yards by the end of the school year and have surpassed that total already by 77 yards — and still plan to do more before the school year ends.

During November and December, they participated in a large number of other service projects, in addition to the yards:

November:

- 3 — Handing out beans and rice to families
- 4 — Kiwanis Flag Program (putting flags out)
- 16 — Etowah Baptist Missions
- 17 — Gadsden Runners Half Marathon
- 19-21 — CommUNITY Thanksgiving
- 20 — Kiwanis Flag Program (picking up flags)



21 — Lawn and yard work

December:

- 1 — Kiwanis Christmas shopping
- 4 — Way of the Cross Soup Kitchen
- 7 — Kiwanis Reading Is Fundamental
- 12 — Salvation Army kettle bell ringing
- 13 — Salvation Army Angel Tree drop-off
- 18 — Salvation Army toy distribution
- 19 — Winter service project at senior citizens' home

Distinguished club

This club is small, but when it comes to service they can match any big club. They have won Diamond Level Distinguished Club awards two

years in a row on the district and international levels. Last year this was the only club in Alabama to receive these honors.

Maleah Stephens is this year's club president. She started this year with a mission to make sure her club gave it everything they had and held nothing back in serving the community. I believe she has indeed shown that with everything they have done thus far. She has been at the helm at every turn.

As previously mentioned, they have plans to clean up more lawns before the school year is over and have truly had a great time serving their community in this capacity.

Mark
your
calendar



67th Alabama District Key Club Convention

April 5-7, 2019, The Hyatt Regency (former Wynfrey), Birmingham, Alabama

Key Club International Convention

July 3-7, 2019, Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, Maryland



Gulf Shores K-Kids win awards from KI



Gulf Shores Elementary School K-Kids students have won two first-place awards from Kiwanis International. First, they took top honors in Best Essay Contest (Group) for identifying service needs. Next, Ana Bathrick (left) entered an individual speech for the Best Speech contest, "Developing a Passion for Service," and she also won first place. Each first-place award comes with a \$100 gift certificate to use in the Kiwanis store. This student club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores. Stacy Bathrick is its Kiwanis advisor. "There are more than 1,400 K-Kids Clubs internationally that were eligible to enter the contests, so we are very proud of our K-Kids for their accomplishments," said Karla Moons, District K-Kids administrator.



Builders Clubs help residents decorate picture frames at Mobile nursing center

Builders Club members from Dawes Middle School and Causey Middle School in Mobile just completed a project at Gulf Coast Rehab and Nursing Center where students worked with the residents to decorate picture frames (see photo of completed frames). Copies of the Kiwanis-sponsored clubs' group picture will be made and given to the center to put in the frames. One thing leaders have discovered is that these age groups are

more comfortable with their parents and grandparents being with them when they enter a new situation, such as meeting people who are in wheelchairs or can't talk or hear well, said District K-Kids Administrator Karla Moons, so family members and leaders are in the above photos, too. "We appreciate Gulf Coast Rehab allowing us to come to their center," she added. Both of these clubs are sponsored by Azalea City Kiwanis, Mobile.



Alabama's Aktion Clubs are where the action is

Florence Aktion Club

Members of the Aktion Club of Florence are not afraid of hard work. They are eager and often excited to plan and execute community projects.

Some of their projects in their first club year included cleaning cigarette butts from Wilson Park twice, cleaning windows at the Senior Center, working at the animal shelter, hanging bird houses at the Boy Scout Camp (bird houses built and donated by a Kiwanis member), helping at Kiwanis Pancake Day, and decorating a Christmas tree for an event at the Tennessee Valley Art Center in Tuscumbia.

Members also were able to conduct a monthly meeting while eating lunch at Logan's Roadhouse, compliments of one of our good friends.

Several members enjoyed attending the Alabama Aktion Clubs District Fall Conference in Huntsville in October.

The Aktion Club of Florence was chartered in May 2017. The driving force for establishing the club was Jim McGee, then president of the Florence Kiwanis Club. He planned to be an Aktion Club advisor, but unfortunately, he passed away Feb. 3, 2017, before the club was formally chartered.

The Aktion Club of Florence has been associated with SCOPE 310 (a non-profit organization serving



These members of the Aktion Club in Florence just completed cleaning the windows of the Senior Center.

individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities) since the inception of the club. All 17 of the current members are clients of SCOPE 310. SCOPE also provides advisors, a meeting place, and transportation for members to service project locations and other activities.

— Ron Hubbard, Kiwanis advisor

Gadsden Aktion Club

The Gadsden Aktion Club voted to focus its projects on military and veterans.

They have cards to deliver to Veterans Association groups for various occasions and will work with the groups as requested.

They were asked to help set up for the annual Etowah Patriots Association Veterans Celebration again this year. They enjoyed setting up the stage and tables. The Etowah Patriots Association has asked that for the next celebration, the Aktion Club members set up and help take down everything and clean up after the luncheon.

The Gadsden Aktion group also had planned to help at the annual Memorial Day tribute, which was unfortunately canceled due to weather.

In December they worked with the Gadsden Kiwanis Club ringing the

(See AKTION, Page 23)

Service club for disabled adults

Aktion Club is the only service club for adults with disabilities, with more than 12,000 members in 500 clubs serving their communities worldwide.

Aktion Clubs draw members from various organizations that support individuals with disabilities, as well as other community programs.

Aktion clubs can also be established at churches, libraries, YMCAs, lodges or similar facilities. A Kiwanis club, composed of service-oriented people from the community, serves as each club's sponsor.

Aktion Club is supported at the district level and by Kiwanis International in Indianapolis, Indiana, which provides programs, literature and opportunities to relate to individuals with disabilities from countries worldwide.



Gadsden Aktion Club participants help with setup for a ceremony honoring veterans and then in December ring bells and collect donations for the Salvation Army (shown with the Gadsden mall manager).

Aktion (From Page 22)

bell for Salvation Army. They enjoyed their two-hour shifts, talking to people and wishing them a very merry Christmas. They had a photo made with the mall manager. According to Dennis Hayes of the local Salvation Army, the \$88 the Aktion Club raised in two hours was the most that had been raised in a two-hour time slot.

— Glenda Selman, Kiwanis advisor

Vaughn-Blumberg Aktion Club, Dothan

The Vaughn-Blumberg Services Aktion Club in Dothan finished out 2018 with smiles on our faces.

Throughout the year, we participated in various projects that better the community for children. A few of the projects included a food drive, Toys for Tots collection, clean-up projects and a fundraiser.

We collected non-perishable food for the Wiregrass Area Food Bank last summer. The summer is a time the food bank runs low in our area; community residents typically donate food around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Our club members are always excited about this project and our parents, care providers and community partners are always supportive.

Toys for Tots is another favorite project. Some years we held fundraisers and went shopping for toys to donate to Toys for Tots, while other

years we ask for toys to be donated. This year we asked for toy donations, and we also received cash donations for toys to be purchased.

Another project is going to the local Kiwanis Park to pick up litter. We like the park to be clean for children and their families to play and picnic there. Participants at our center enjoy walking the trail at this park as well, and this is an ongoing project throughout the year.

Our fundraiser this year was a raffle. We had many items donated by local businesses (television, gift cards, comforter set, etc.) that we raffled off at \$5 per ticket. This is always a good fundraiser, as we do not have money tied

up in the prizes. Our profit margin is 100 percent, and I would suggest this as a fundraiser for all Aktion Clubs.

We have been able to pay club dues and purchase new shirts for all club members with money earned from this fundraiser. Any leftover money will go to future projects or the purchase of toys for next year's Toys for Tots drive.

— Sheri Maupin, faculty advisor

For more information on Aktion clubs, email Glenda Selman, Alabama District of Kiwanis Aktion Club administrator and Division 7 lieutenant governor, at glenda.selman@gmail.com.



Members of the Vaughn-Blumberg Aktion Club in Dothan clean up litter in Kiwanis Park and then take a break.



Dancing for health at the conference in Huntsville are Aktion Club members from six clubs, plus Kiwanis Governor-elect Bob Brown (front, in green shirt and light slacks).

113 attend Aktion North Conference

The 2018 Alabama Aktion Club Northern Conference was held in Huntsville on Oct. 13.

There were 113 registrations from Metro Huntsville, Florence, Jasper, Gadsden, Moody and Birmingham clubs.

They were joined by Alabama Kiwanis Governor-elect Bob Brown of Hoover and Lt. Governor Mike Roddy of Huntsville.

The clubs met at the Early Works Museum and enjoyed learning about the history of Alabama. They began with a presentation and then broke into small groups with a guide who took them through the museum.

Members walked through replicas of a house, boat and store. They also learned about the old-fashioned bean game, where kids would put a dot on one side of several beans and toss them to see who got the most beans with dots.

It was a great experience with many questions asked, and everyone learned new information

about early Alabama and its great musicians, writers, athletes, other celebrities, and politicians.

The group then traveled to the Downtown Rescue Mission, where they donated food items and clothes.

After lunch, there was a discussion about reports, international contests and other information.

After Governor-elect Brown and an Aktion Club member shared several jokes, the members voted to have a joke contest at the next conference.

Then the daughter of Aktion Club Assistant Administrator Ted Buckner led the group in dancing for health, a great cardio exercise session to various pieces of music.

Aktion members then enjoyed more dancing and spending time with friends from around North Alabama. They are looking forward to the next conference.

— Glenda Selman, Alabama Aktion Club Administrator



At the Early Works Museum, Aktion members took a tour of exhibits and learned about an old-fashioned bean game played in the days before cell phones and video games.



About 113 members from six Aktion Clubs in northern Alabama attended the conference in Huntsville, which included a service project. Clubs brought clothing and food items to donate when they went to the Downtown Rescue Mission after the Early Works Museum.

LET'S MEET WHERE IT'S MAGIC.

As to Disney properties/artwork: © Disney

At Walt Disney World® Resort in Florida, wonders await — from fun and fellowship to a legendary *Magic Kingdom*® Park. Register today! Then join Kiwanians from around the world in the Happiest Place on Earth.

Learn more at kiwanis.org/convention.

Kiwanis® 2019
convention
Walt Disney World® Resort, Florida

JUNE 27-30

Clubs, plan now to sponsor teens from your area for Key Leader Weekend March 8-10, 2019