



ALABAMA • KIWANIS

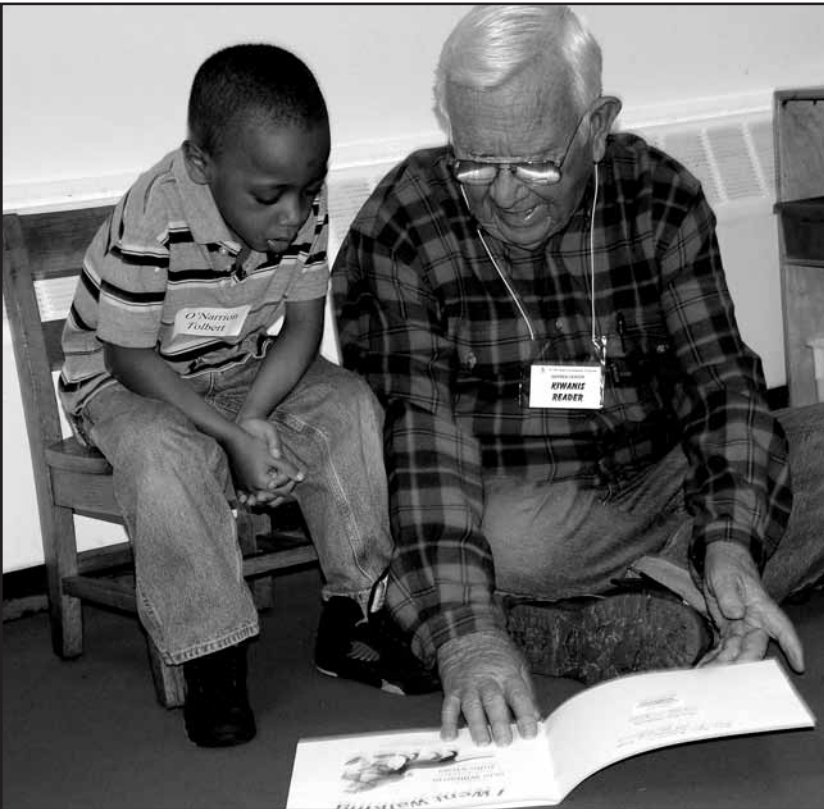
KOURIER

*Kiwanis:
Dedicated to
changing the
world, one
child and one
community
at a time*

SPRING 2008

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DECATUR



First in a million

Kiwanis' Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental Program gave out its millionth book this spring. In this 1991 photo, Joe Dean, Opelika Kiwanian and then governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis, reads the first book given to at-risk children through the Jean Dean RIF/Kiwanis program. Dean, now 85 and still an active Kiwanian and RIF volunteer, started this program 17 years ago and named it in memory of his wife. Named one of 25 RIF Programs of Excellence nationwide in 2007, Jean Dean RIF/Kiwanis is the largest RIF project in the nation serving pre-schoolers and consistently serves more sites than any other RIF project in the nation.

George Aiken announces

George Aiken, a member of the Pell City Kiwanis Club and current lieutenant governor of Division 8, has announced his candidacy for governor-elect for 2008-09.

No other Kiwanians have yet announced that they will be candidates for this office. The election will take place at the 2008 District Convention in Gadsden Aug. 1-3.

In addition to being an active

member of his own club and serving as lieutenant governor, Aiken has been very involved in Kiwanis TAG Team work in the Alabama District. He was a team leader in the establishment of our most recent new club in Moody and is working to revitalize another relatively new club in Trussville.

Aiken joined Kiwanis in 1985 and
(See AIKEN, Page 4)

Williams will run for International VP in Orlando

Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Shamu and Jaws will all be there.

Bob Newhart (superstar entertainer) and Joel Williams (Alabama's candidate for Kiwanis International vice president) will be there.

Will you?

Alabama Kiwanians — and especially voting delegates — need to register right away for the Kiwanis International Convention in Orlando, Fla., June 26-29. All the forms you need are on the Kiwanis International and Alabama District web sites and available through the KI office.

The Alabama delegation is assigned to the Courtyard by Marriott International Drive, and shuttle buses will run to the nearby Orange County Convention Center. Alabama will have a district luau dinner at SeaWorld with a show and park access on June 26, after the opening convention session. See the luau registration form, along with convention registration forms, at



ORLANDO
June 26-29

www.alabama.kiwanis.org.

Two business sessions will be held. A variety of leadership and legacy workshops are designed to help you market your club, start young professionals club, attract new members, serve as Kiwanis ambassadors, and much more. Tag Team meetings and Kiwanis University are scheduled, too.

And before or after the convention and after Joel Williams of Troy has been elected, you can take the family and check out the theme parks. Orlando has seven of the world's top 10 most visited theme parks, and there's a link on the convention registration web site (see www.kiwanisone.org) for ordering tickets.

The mouse that roared

District secretary Coke Clark says Alabamians have something to roar about at this convention, but they need to get

(See ORLANDO, Page 4)



Joel Williams

Joel Williams: Empower clubs

Joel L. Williams, a past governor of the Alabama District, served as a Kiwanis International trustee in 2003-06. Now he has decided to be a candidate for vice president of Kiwanis International, an office that leads to the presidency.

Take a look at Williams' qualifications, and be sure your club has

two delegates in Orlando to vote. He lost the election for this post by about 18 votes at the Montreal KI convention in 2006.

"If Kiwanis is to have a place in this world in the future, then we must start marketing to the future

(See WILLIAMS, Page 7)

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After Orlando, plan to be in

GADSDEN

Aug. 1-3, 2008,

for the District Convention

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Change? What are we talking about?

There's been a great deal of talk recently about change, and change for the sake of change can be dangerous.

So, what exactly are we talking about?

First, let's set the stage a little. In the last 10 years, the number of clubs in Alabama has declined, as has the number of members in each club. In total, the Alabama District membership has declined by just over 1,500 members.

That seems pretty significant to me, but does it pass the "So what?" test?

Well, in terms of service hours, that loss of membership is equivalent to the loss of over 180,000 hours of service, again pretty significant. Still, it's a little difficult to get our arms around, so let's look at it another way.

There are approximately 700 public and private high schools in Alabama,

From the Governor-elect

By Ernest Hulsey



yet we sponsor only about 170 Key Clubs in our district. That's a substantial unmet need, one that cannot be met with only 110 clubs.

The Jean Dean RIF Program, of which we are so rightly proud, receives only about a third of its funding and roughly 60 percent of its volunteer sup-

port from Kiwanis. That's another need that has to be satisfied some other way.

In fact, there are unmet needs in every community, including those communities already serviced by a Kiwanis club.

So, to begin to satisfy those unmet needs, we have to grow. We need more clubs and more members in the clubs we now have.

If we are to grow, clearly something has to be done to reverse the trend. We'll have to change.

Growth happens only at the club, so the most important changes must occur there.

Each club will have to take a good, hard, critical, open-minded look in the mirror to identify obstacles to growth. Whether it's the way meetings are

conducted, the time or location of meetings, the relevance of the service performed, or the attitude of the club in general, an analysis must be made by each club independently and changes enacted to make things better.

If we are to grow, and we must, it won't happen by itself. We have to make it happen.

Leaders have to lead. Now is the time to start the process, conduct the analysis, and form a plan to implement for the new administrative year beginning in October.

Next year's leaders, in coordination with current leadership, must start now and run, not walk, into next year with a plan to continue to grow.

We can do it. Let's do. It's time to grow. It's time to lead.

Officer progression, dues on the agenda in Gadsden Aug. 1-3

By Coke Clark

District Secretary

Two amendments to the Alabama District Kiwanis bylaws have been approved to be presented to the delegate assembly at the District Convention in Gadsden Aug. 1-3.

Both were proposed and considered by the board of trustees, who have endorsed them for consideration.

The first amendment is to establish a new elected position of secretary-treasurer on the board of trustees. This would be the first office in the progression to governor, allowing a two-year preparation period for the top elected office. The secretary-treasurer would become the only candidate for governor-elect, who is presently the only candidate for governor.

To seek the office, the Kiwanian must be a member in good standing of an Alabama District club in good standing and have served as a lieutenant governor prior to assuming the new office.

The first year in the progression will be one of observing and learning as the secretary-treasurer. The second year is for planning and preparation, making appointments, setting goals and training leadership.

The title of the present office of district secretary would be changed to executive director. This position would no longer be a voting member of the board of trustees as the paid staff position of the Alabama District. The duties of the position would remain as they are, including those related to financial management and operations.

The second amendment is a request by the board for the delegate assembly

to reconsider the dues increase exactly as it was presented in August 2007.

The 2007-08 district budget reflects a deficit in current operations of \$21,140, covered by a transfer from reserve funds. The board included two critical major objectives in this year's budget.

One allowed a stipend to encourage and assist lieutenant governors-elect to attend the 2008 Kiwanis International Convention in Orlando. This is a major training event for future officers, as well as an exposure to the scope and excitement of being part of an international organization.

The second item was funding to promote membership growth, including building new clubs and growth in existing clubs. Prior to this, the TAG Team had not had any funding available.

The board of trustees feels very strongly that if we continue to cut expenses, we will simply add to the decline of the work of the Alabama District. The proposal to increase dues by \$9 per year, from \$21 at present to \$30 effective Oct. 1, 2008, would bring Alabama dues up to the middle tier of districts in North America.

The Alabama District ranks in the lowest third of the 30 districts in North America in both membership and dues per member. This combination greatly limits the financial resources of the district to implement those goals aimed at growth in membership and service.

A workshop is tentatively planned at the District Convention in August to go into complete details of both proposed amendments prior to presentation to the delegate assembly. Contact the district office with any questions or observations you have.



80 years for Auburn Kiwanis

In honor of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Kiwanis Club of Auburn, the city declared February as Kiwanis Club of Auburn Month. Mayor Bill Ham, seated, signed the official proclamation in front of four club members: from left, Tom Corley, an active club member for 60 consecutive years; Elizabeth Ham, chairwoman of the committee that planned the 80th birthday banquet; Pat Padgett, club president; and Gene Stevenson, club historian. A crowd of 146 attended the Feb. 9 celebration in the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center ballroom.

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Send change of address to: Kiwanis International, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196

Address news, photos and other correspondence to:

Patrice W. Stewart, Editor

P.O. Box 1851, Decatur, AL 35602 (256) 584-7078 kkourier@charter.net

- Pam Fleming of Sheffield (pfleming@helenkeller.com) Governor
- Ernest Hulsey of Huntsville (ehulsey@yahoo.com) Governor-elect
- Gerald Waldrop of Helena (gwwaldrop@bellsouth.net) Immediate Past Governor
- Coke Clark of Helena (alkiwdistsec85@yahoo.com) Secretary

DISTRICT OFFICE: 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham, AL 35209

Phone (205) 945-1334 or (800) 745-1334, Fax (205) 942-5348

www.alabama.kiwanis.org

Florence giving away baby-care DVDs

New parents in the Shoals are getting some help with the care of their infants with the aid of the Florence Kiwanis Club.

The club received grants to help fund the purchase of a video program titled "Baby's First Months ... What Do We Do Now?"

The Kiwanis International Foundation and Alabama Kiwanis District Foundation helped with grants for the local civic club, which has financially supported many area children's programs.

The free video DVD is now available to all new parents who select The Women's Pavilion at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital for their delivery.

The staff of the Women's Pavilion began distributing the video March 27. The step-by-step video guides parents through the first few months of their baby's daily care. "Baby's First Months" covers more than 30 infant care topics and postpartum care for the new mother.

Sections in the video include sleep positioning, breastfeeding, bathing, diapering and car seat installation, just to name a few. The video DVD was created with the assistance of health care providers, nurses, educators and new parents.

"The DVD is very informative and easy to follow. Each section was broken down so that you only had



Florence Kiwanis Club president David Beasley, left, and Wendy Moore, registered nurse at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, present a DVD to Melodie and Will Bridges after the birth of their daughter, Callan.

to watch the topic you needed," said Aaron Irons, whose wife, Lori, recently gave birth at the Women's Pavilion.

"It also had information on everything that we

learned in our birthing class. It will be so easy for us to watch the DVD and refresh our memory," said Irons.

"At Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, we recognize the importance of continuing infant care education at home," said Beth Bevis, nurse manager of the Women's Pavilion at ECM. "During the mother's hospital stay, it is difficult for the family to remember the vast amount of information we provide, especially with the excitement of becoming a new parent."

New parents watch "Baby's First Months" in the hospital and then are provided a copy to take home, where they can refer to any section of the video as often as needed.

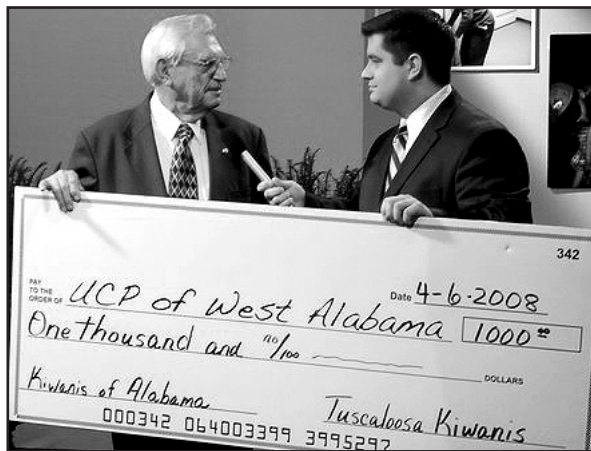
"Baby's First Months" is also a good resource for grandparents, baby sitters and other family members to review before caring for the newborn.

The video is also subtitled for the hearing impaired and is available in English and Spanish.

For more information about the "Baby's First Months" program, contact the Florence Kiwanis Club or ECM Marketing Department, (256) 768-8343.



Tuscaloosa raises money with store booths, telecast



For Kiwanis One Day, the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa volunteered and raised money April 3-6 for United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama. Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club members set up booths at two stores for three days, greeting patrons and asking for donations for a great cause and to support the completion of Nucor United Community Park. On April 6 the fundraising culminated with the four-hour UCPWA Starfest Telecast on WVUA-Tuscaloosa, with the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa and Golden K of Tuscaloosa joining forces to man the phones. Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa president Ed Harless presented a Kiwanis check for \$1,000 to UCPWA during the Starfest.

Who can serve as a delegate at KI's convention?

By Ernest Hulsey

Alabama District Governor-elect

With a pretty important vote for Kiwanis International vice president pending at the International Convention in Orlando, you may well ask, "Who are the delegates and where do they come from?"

To begin with, the delegates are the only ones allowed on the floor of the House of Delegates where the voting takes place.

According to the Kiwanis International bylaws, each Kiwanis club in good standing is entitled to two delegates and two alternates to each International convention. (The alternates are an insurance policy just in case something prevents the delegates from attending, so the club is still represented.)

These delegates are chosen by the club. The "Certificate of Election of Club Delegates and Alternates" is used to identify these delegates to Kiwanis International Member Services. The form can be downloaded from http://community.kiwanisone.org/files/folders/ki_2008/entry1803.aspx.

OK, so with an important vote in support of Alabama's Joel Williams coming up, what happens if your club can't send its delegates? According to the bylaws, in that case a past lieutenant governor or past district secretary may

represent any club as a delegate, provided their present home club is from the same division.

So, if your club can't send its two delegates to the International convention, it can use the same Certificate of Election of Club Delegates and Alternates to identify another representative by completing that portion of the form and sending it to the District Secretary to be verified and forwarded to International. This is an extra step, so don't delay.

If you have any questions about this procedure you can contact KI Member Services at 1-800-549-2647, then dial 411, or email memberservices@kiwanis.org.

So, are those all the delegates? Well, not quite, and it may surprise you who all the delegates-at-large are. For example, all past governors, the current governor, governor-elect, district secretary and current lieutenant governors are all delegates-at-large, as are the lieutenant governors-designate who are active, privileged or senior members.

If you fall into one of these categories, please ensure you attend this year's International convention in Orlando and cast your vote.

Big improvements at Jean Dean RIF thanks to Auburn SGA's 'Big Event'



Thanks to the Auburn University Student Government Association's "Big Event" this year, 36 students helped with improvements at the Reading Is Fundamental warehouse recently for about three hours. RIF coordinator Cathy Gafford and Claire Moore were there to lead various groups in special projects, along with Meg Gafford and Adam Pope, AU Circle K. Auburn students inventoried and put bookplates in more than 7,300 new children's books; raked up 45 bags of leaves; sanded, washed and painted 22 metal chairs; and sanded, washed and painted the small metal building behind the warehouse.

Alabama District news in brief

Reach out for members

It's time to put a push on to add new members to your club.

The mid-year figures don't look good, since they show a statewide loss of 130 members so far this year. That includes five clubs that have disbanded, with indications that another might.

Of the Alabama District's 14 divisions, only Division 8 shows an increase (three members) so far this year. The other 13 divisions reported losses of from 2 to 31 members, Kiwanis International records show.

Here are the total numbers for the Alabama District:

4,567 members March 31, 2008

4,697 members Sept. 30, 2007

4,896 members Sept. 30, 2006

Key Leader programs

High school youth have an opportunity to learn skills through Kiwanis-sponsored Key Leader programs.

The program is open to all high school youth, and is especially valuable for Key Club members. The most recent event was scheduled for April 25-27 at the 4-H Center in Columbiana.

Dates, details and registration information are available at www.alabamakiwanis.org and through Tammy Driskill, Key Leader administrator for the Alabama District. Contact her at tsdriskill@aol.com.

Leadership education

The CLE (Club Leadership Education) training program for new club officers for 2008-09 got off to a good start with 22 officers attending the session during the Mid-winter Growth Summit in Montgomery.

This year, Ernest Hulsey, CLE chairman and governor-elect, plans to offer sessions in every division. Watch for dates to be announced soon, and plan for your club's 2008-09 president and secretary to attend.

Circle K trains, celebrates

Circle K's newly elected Alabama District governor, Patrick Yelding, attended the Governor-Administrator Training Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., April 3-6 with assistant Circle K administrator Donnie Grill.

Alabama Circle K celebrated its 50th anniversary District Convention in Prattville on March 14-16.

Aiken

(From Page 1)

has been a member of the Pell City club since 1999. Kiwanis is a family affair for the Aikens, since his wife, Allyne, became a member of the Pell City club in 2001 and now serves as the club's secretary.

The Pell City Kiwanis Club has endorsed Aiken for the office of governor-elect.

Orlando

(From Page 1)

registered. Here's Clark's view:

"I remember a Peter Sellers movie from the late 1950s where a tiny little nation declared war on the international, rich super-power United States, knowing that in defeat it could become wealthy from the aid that would come from losing the war.

"Well, it is time for the Alabama District Kiwanis mouse to make a big roar at the Kiwanis International super-event in Orlando in June!

"Yes, compared to most of the Districts in Kiwanis, we are a mouse. But, we really have something to roar about in Orlando. That something is Joel Williams, our own past district governor and international trustee who is running for international vice president. We all know the wonderful talent and commitment Joel brings to Kiwanis, and much of the world knows also, from his previous candidacy for this office.

"But we can't roar if we are not there!

"Alabama Kiwanians are notorious for registering late for everything, and this is no exception. To date, we have one of the smallest delegations registered and are near the bottom of the list in the percentage of our goal for registrations. If we are to roar, we need our full delegation present, working for Joel, and voting. Registration forms are available everywhere ... easiest perhaps is on line at our own web site, www.alabama.kiwanis.org. Go there, download the forms and register today!

"Every club in good standing is entitled to two voting delegates, and we can even have more with those who qualify as delegates at large or past lieutenant governors who can represent any club in the division. You can also go to the international web site of www.kiwanis.org and register online.

—Patrice Stewart and Coke Clark



New K-Kids in Tuscaloosa

These future Kiwanis leaders are the officers of the K-Kids Club at Woodland Forrest Elementary School in Tuscaloosa. The Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa chartered its first K-Kids Club there on March 28 with 51 members, with the charter banquet April 29. The club jumped right into projects. The school had started an Outdoor Classroom supported by the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and the club purchased a dozen unassembled birdhouses from the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind program called Wild Paths (www.wild-paths.org). With Kiwanians by their sides, members built and placed the birdhouses. K-Kids members also sold \$900 worth of Kiwanis Pancake Day tickets and volunteered there. Now the K-Kids are planting blueberry bushes and creating an animal tracking sandbox for the outdoor classroom.

International recognizes 15 clubs, 3 lieutenant governors

Fifteen Alabama District Kiwanis Clubs and three lieutenant governors were recognized as "Distinguished" by Kiwanis International for the 2006-07 club year.

The awards were announced at the Friday fellowship dinner that opened the mid-winter Growth Summit in Montgomery on Feb. 8, 2008.

Distinguished clubs were required to earn a minimum of 80 points in criteria established by Kiwanis International. Points were awarded in membership, service, sponsorship of Kiwanis service leadership programs, and participation in district and Kiwanis International events and training.

Recognized as Distinguished Clubs for 2006-07 were:

- Huntsville and Huntsville West from Division 1;
- Florence from Division 2;
- Columbiana and Hoover-Metro

from Division 5;

- Birmingham from Division 6;
- Anniston and Oxford Golden K from Division 7;
- Pell City and Wedowee from Division 8;
- Alexander City, Auburn and Tallassee from Division 10;
- Elba from Division 11;
- Monroeville from Division 12.

For 2006-07, the presidents and secretaries of each of those clubs were also recognized as Distinguished officers.

To be recognized as a Distinguished Lieutenant Governor for 2006-07, at least 25 percent of the clubs in their division had to achieve Distinguished Club status.

Receiving this award for 2006-07 were:

- Tab Basignani, lieutenant governor of Division 5;
- Tammy Driskill, lieutenant gover-

nor of Division 7;

- Earl Hutchinson, lieutenant governor of Division 10.

In addition to these awards, individual Kiwanis members could be recognized as Distinguished Kiwanians by Kiwanis International. Nominations for this distinction were made directly to Kiwanis International based on a member's participation in club growth, service projects and participation in Kiwanis programs and events. The member's qualifications had to be confirmed by the club president and secretary.

Clubs were notified of those members achieving Distinguished Member status for announcement and recognition at a meeting of their club.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding Kiwanis leaders!

Technology helps get work done

At every level from the local club to the International organization, Kiwanis is rapidly moving into using new technology, with major emphasis on the Internet.

Some clubs have their own web sites. Many publish their regular bulletins electronically, and e-mail has become the primary means of communication among individual and entire membership groups.

More of Kiwanis' official business is being conducted electronically. More information about Kiwanis is now accessible to every member, whether about the individual club or district or Kiwanis International, than ever before — and more will come.

In October 2007 the Alabama District joined the 29 other districts in North America to make online reporting available to all Alabama Kiwanis clubs.

That means no more paperwork in triplicate, and, if the club uses the system, no more annual reports. The online program collects all the information needed for the annual report and compiles that document automatically at year's end.

All the information required to achieve Distinguished Club recognition is also collected in these reports and compiled automatically at the end of the Kiwanis year.

In addition to filing monthly reports on line, club secretaries can also check their club's roster and membership total according to Kiwanis International records. They may also check and edit the club's meeting location.

Features still in the works will allow club secretaries to report new member adds, deletes and changes in personal information online, also.

If your club is not using the system yet, contact District Secretary Coke Clark for information and assistance on getting started. At present, 48 clubs are using the online reporting system, 28 are still filing manually, and 34 are not filing any reports at all.

"Let's aim for 100-percent filing online next year," Clarke said.

Kiwanis International has adopted the Microsoft Office Suite set of programs as its basic standard. Extensive use is made of Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

In addition, Kiwanis International also offers a club management program for club secretaries. It is an excellent tool for secretaries, but does not include a financial element for maintaining club and member financial records yet, Clark said.

Scott Smith, who heads the Kiwanis International technology department, will attend our District Convention in August to present a workshop on these programs and services. Plan to attend to get information to help your club with its technology growth.

Poker run nets \$2,500 for RIF

The 2008 Truel Watts Ride to Read Poker Run was a successful fundraiser for the Jean Dean RIF Capital Campaign again this year.

The Poker Run was started by RIF Advisory Board members Truel Watts (Millbrook-Cosada Kiwanis) and Larry Moon (Azalea City Kiwanis) and was held for its first three years in and around Elmore County.

To honor Past Kiwanis Governor Watts after his death, the run was renamed the Truel Watts Ride to Read Poker Run. Now it is held in Opelika in partnership with Big Swamp Harley-Davidson, and Advisory Board member Sylvia Watts



RIF director Cathy Gafford, left, and board member Sylvia Watts at Big Swamp Harley-Davidson for the Truel Watts Ride to Read Poker Run.

assists with the event each year.

Again this year, major or chrome sponsors were East Alabama Medical Center and the Opelika-Auburn News.

Gold sponsors included Auburn Bank of Auburn, Bolton-Letlow Funeral Home in Columbiana, JCCEO Head Start in Birmingham, M&M Trucking in Opelika, Kiwanis Club of Scottsboro, and Mr. and Mrs. Rich Bailey of Opelika. Xi Beta Iota chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was a bronze sponsor.

Riders came from various parts of the state and enjoyed the 60-mile poker run, bike games, Chuck's barbecue and a silent auction.

Volunteers helped from the Kiwanis Clubs of Opelika, Auburn, and Greater Auburn, Circle K groups from Auburn University and Southern Union Community College, Xi Beta Iota chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, the Opelika-Auburn News and other local organizations.

Participation is building for the ride, and plans are being made for next year's event.

Has your club given \$5 per member?

How is the Annual Club Giving Campaign going for 2008-09?

Ed Humphries, Alabama District chairman for Kiwanis International Foundation, gives this update:

Congratulation to Districts 5 and 10. You have exceeded our goal of \$5 per capita.

Districts 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 all are over

the \$4 per capita at the present time. With a little more encouragement, you can make the goal.

Those of you in the other districts need to ask what your club is planning to give and make sure it happens.

To summarize, the Alabama District is at \$3.77 per capita giving, which is only \$1.23 away from our goal of \$5 per capita.

The \$5 level will give us five scholarships for each of our sponsored youth programs (Circle K and Key Club).

We can do it with your help.

We are at the halfway mark of the Kiwanis year, so we need to move right along and secure our \$5 per capita goal. For clubs that have not given \$5 per member, please reconsider and make the \$5 goal.

Web site serving members and prospects

By Coke Clark

District Secretary

One of the many projects I have on my "to-do" list is to continue to strive toward making the Alabama District Kiwanis web site a source of information to all Kiwanis members in the state. It is an ongoing project with a little progress being made every month.

The first goal is to get all information current and accurate. There is much still to do in this area alone. A second objective is to reorganize the current appearance to make using the site a bit easier. Some work has been done here ... look at the menu on the left side of the home page ... and more will come.

A third objective is to take out some stuff that is of low interest and importance and to add some new information that can be useful to clubs and members. An example of the latter is a new

page where clubs can share special events/fundraisers that may be of interest to other clubs' members. Go to the site and click "Events/Fundraisers" under "Important Dates/Events" in the lefthand menu, and view a couple of examples.

A fourth, but much longer range, objective might be to change the total appearance to make it a bit more "flashy" in today's electronic era. But first things first.

Earlier this year, the Konstant Kourier was reborn. This is simply a page posting current information and announcements by date of publication. This allows information to flow to all Kiwanis members between issues of the published Kourier. The most recent posting will always be at the top of the



Coke Clark

page, so check it out regularly to stay informed.

The site will always serve a dual purpose ... to serve Kiwanis clubs and Kiwanis members, and to serve as a source of information for non-members seeking to learn about Kiwanis.

I have been surprised and pleased with the number of contacts I have had for more detailed information about clubs from people who are seeking to join Kiwanis and visited our site for help. However, I still believe service to our own clubs and members is of highest priority. At the same time, even that information can be a promotion piece to non-member visitors to the site.

For now, there are three things I would like to ask of all clubs and members:

If your club has special events, projects or fundraisers that may be of interest to other Kiwanians, please send me the information so it can be posted on the new page. Note: Don't include peanut sales, etc., but events you would like to have others attend and support.

If your club has a web site and we do not already have it linked to the Alabama District site, send me your club's web address and we can provide a direct link to you so prospects can find out about and contact you directly.

Give me your response to the changes we have already made, and offer any suggestions you would like to see included in or changed on our District web site. It is your tool, so help us make it what you would like it to be.

Send all of these things to me at the office address or via e-mail at alkidistsec85@yahoo.com and they will be considered and appreciated.



Park's grand opening

The Kiwanis Clubs of Division 4 participated in the March 20 grand opening for Nucor United Community Park in Tuscaloosa, which includes a Kiwanis Pavilion and an accessible playground. Volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa and Golden K of Tuscaloosa grilled hot dogs for 100-plus people. Kiwanian Jason McNeil spoke about how proud the clubs were to be involved in such a great project for children. This playground, located on Rice Mine Road in Northport, is the first in West Alabama specifically designed for children with and without disabilities, and the park has become a good place for all families to enjoy the outdoors. Many Kiwanians, Circle K and Key Club members participated in the initial building weekend last fall, when Lt. Gov. Donnie Grill served as volunteer coordinator.



RIF needs your help to retire \$80,000 debt remaining on building

By Cathy Gafford RIF director

While the Reading Is Fundamental program has been under way in Alabama since 1991, the 7,500-square-foot warehouse/office was purchased by the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation in 2004.

A five-year, \$190,000 capital campaign was started then, and now about \$80,000 is left to raise for this campaign. We need your help! Here are some ways you can help with tax-deductible donations to Jean Dean RIF.

1) Make a direct individual or club donation of any amount, and get your name on a RIF building plaque.

2) Fund a RIF Barnett to honor a club member or family member and make him or her an Alabama Kiwanis Foundation RIF Barnett Fellow. A RIF Barnett Fellow receives a plaque, pin and certificate when a \$500 donation is made in his/her name. An additional \$500 can be donated then or later, which will elevate the honoree to a Diamond RIF Barnett Fellow with a diamond pin. Clubs can use service or administrative funds for Barnetts, because the funds are being used for a service project: RIF.

3) If you are a state or federal employee, you can make tax-deductible donations to RIF through payroll deduction by signing up during the state and federal combined campaigns.

4) Encourage donations from businesses in your area to help Kiwanis in its early literacy efforts through RIF. They can sponsor the Ride To Read Poker Run, Trike Run or upcoming Run to Read or provide auction items

to help raise funds for RIF while they get a tax deduction.

5) Donate an auction item to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation auction at the August 2008 District Convention in Gadsden, and/or buy at the auction. Half of the proceeds of this year's auction will go to defray the Jean Dean RIF Capital Campaign.

6) Use some of your club's major fundraising dollars to help complete the capital campaign. When you are deciding what statewide "good cause" needs your club's help, think Kiwanis first! The Huntsville West Kiwanis Club is doing just that on Sept. 11, when the annual Rocket City Classic will benefit the Jean Dean RIF Capital Campaign and other Kiwanis projects. It will be held on the Robert Trent Jones Hampton Cove Highlands Course, and Kiwanians and others from around the state are encouraged to participate. Call Ray Tomlinson, (256) 536-4196, or email raytomlinson@comcast.net.

7) One more idea: If you have unused service dollars, the RIF capital campaign is a good place for them. If you have accrued an excess of service funds for whatever reason, consider making a \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$20,000 challenge grant to others to help.

The nation's oldest news boys?

You don't often see 80-plus-year-old gentlemen working as newspaper boys, but in Huntsville there is indeed such a group of hardworking seniors.

The Golden K Kiwanis Club of Huntsville has 40 members, with an average age of 83. Since 1992 the club has been in charge of distribution of a black-and-white monthly magazine called "Old Huntsville." This local 60-page publication deals in history and legends of the area, recipes, tips and old-fashioned remedies.

The members who are well enough to walk are assigned a "route", consisting of an average of eight machines and honor boxes. The magazines sell to the public for 50 cents each, and all of the quarters are collected by Golden K Kiwanians weekly, counted and reported to the club at their weekly meetings.

The responsible member loads the new issue into his machine at the beginning of each month, then replenishes them throughout the month as needed and makes repairs to the equipment when that becomes necessary.

Often jams are caused when readers try to buy a magazine with dimes and nickels, instead of two quarters. Sometimes gum is pushed into the coin slot, or a toothpick. All of this has to be taken care of by the senior responsible for the machine.

They have made over a quarter of a million dollars to date since 1992, all in quarters, and all of it going to children's charities.

Some of the beneficiaries of these thousands of quarters are Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Huntsville



Chuck Owens, 91, delivers copies of Old Huntsville magazine to a news rack for Huntsville's Golden K Kiwanis Club.

Public Library, Special Olympics, Reading is Fundamental, Meals on Wheels, Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity and the Veterans Museum.

Most of the members are very positive about this project. "Most weeks, it's the only exercise I get. Even though it's hard sometimes to get down to repair the coin slot, I feel that it's good I keep moving," said Jesse

Hopkins, head of distribution. "In the spring and fall it's great, but in the winter, it can be tough to get out. Summers are OK, even though it gets really humid. I think it helps to keep me going."

There are many people who spend hours in volunteer work, but probably not many who are 91 years old, like Chuck Owens. The oldest member of

the club, Owens was president of the club in 1994 and was an active force in the collaboration between "Old Huntsville" and the Golden K Kiwanis. He still drives to his assigned machines, and his current locations are about 30 miles outside of Huntsville.

Newspaper machines and honor boxes are distributed all over Huntsville and Madison, and in most cases the readers know when a new issue is to be delivered and are waiting for their copy. The copies sell out pretty quickly, and if you're not there to get them when they are issued, a lot of times you might miss out for that month. After that they're no longer available.

The members also have good relationships with the owners of the businesses where the machines/boxes are set up.

Each month, if there are any leftover issues, the Golden K removes the old copies and houses them in a warehouse. In September when Huntsville hosts the annual Trade Day around the square, the Golden K members set up a booth to give away the unsold copies and ask for donations that go into a big glass jug. Thousands of visitors attend this event and come to search for magazines they may have missed during the year.

And, sure enough, the money that's collected on Trade Day all goes to — you guessed it — children's charities.

—*Cathey Carney, publisher of Old Huntsville magazine*

Williams

(From Page 1)

rather than catering to the past," Williams said.

"We have made progress in recent years in positioning our organization to do business in more fundamentally sound ways. Now, I believe we must begin to deliver services and resources to the local club to empower our clubs and members, and begin to focus a marketing strategy on building new-style Kiwanis clubs by utilizing immediately and directly our former Key Club and Circle K members."

Williams believes that "We should use our God-given talents to help our fellow man. My talents have always been in the area of leadership. I have been given leadership roles in every organization with which I have been involved, from president of my senior class to president of Habitat for Humanity.

"I know of no better way to serve humanity than through Kiwanis. That is why I want to use my leadership skills through Kiwanis, and in furtherance of the Objects of Kiwanis, to do God's work in this

world," he said.

An attorney in private practice in Troy, Williams earned an economics degree from Troy University and a law degree from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He and his wife Teri have a daughter, son and baby grandson.

He joined the Kiwanis Club of Troy in 1982 and served as its president in 1984. He was a lieutenant governor in 1992-93 and district governor in 2000-01 and has been Alabama Kiwanis Foundation president, among other posts.

His honors include Hixson Fellow of Kiwanis International, J. Mercer Barnett Fellow in Alabama and Mel Osborne Fellow of the Kiwanis Foundation of Canada.

While on the KI board, he served as board counselor to the Key Club International Board and to the Kiwanis Districts of Western Canada, Montana, Iceland, Philippine Luzon, Illinois-Eastern Iowa, New York, Eastern Canada and Netherlands. He also served as chairman of the International Board Committee on Administration.

See his campaign web site at www.joelleewilliams.com.

District, clubs team up

Working together to recruit new Kiwanians

By Ernest Hulsey

District Governor-elect

Since growth takes place at the club level, club participation at division and district events can help by sharing best practices and ideas.

With that in mind, our district leadership has a role to play as well.

Is there a better way to focus our information and share it with our clubs?

Committee chairs and facilitators must be more pro-active. We cannot wait for clubs to ask for help; we must push information to them. That will require leveraging technology and improving communications. Expect changes.

The way we do things at district and division

events can affect whether clubs participate. If these events are not "value added," where is the incentive to come?

We have to make events more affordable, more fun, and a more efficient use of members' time.

Formats and content may need revision. Some steps have already been taken, and more will be necessary. Suggestions are welcomed.

We won't grow significantly without building and sustaining new clubs. We have to rethink the notion that another club is in competition for members. One club's meeting time and location will never be convenient for everyone, and public visibility for one club is visi-

bility for all clubs.

Perhaps some communities will require more innovation in building new clubs there; that's no excuse for not trying. We have been unsuccessful in some communities. We'll have to learn from failures and try again. To that end, we are identifying and training club builders and growth team members in each division.

I believe our efforts will succeed, and we can't be discouraged if success seems slow. It will take leadership in every corner of our district. Each of us is one of those leaders, and if it's going to happen, it's up to us.

We can make it happen. Let's do. It's time to grow. It's time to lead.

2009 District Convention will sail to Mexico

By Kendall Clarke

Mobile District Convention Cruise Chairman

A four-night, three-day cruise to Mexico and an Alabama Kiwanis District Convention wrapped into one event are planned for 2009! People have asked for such a convention, and now it will be a reality.

Why have a convention on a cruise ship? Because it is time to have a convention that will be different — exciting and fun for the whole family. You can invite your friends and prospective members to attend.

Board the Carnival cruise ship Holiday in downtown Mobile before 3 p.m. Thursday afternoon, July 23, 2009, and sail to Cozumel, Mexico. Spend the day in Cozumel on Saturday and another day at sea on Sunday. Disembark Monday morning, July 27.

Meals will be served in the dining room at the same time all other passengers are served, so there will be no Kiwanis banquets. Kiwanis meetings will be held after breakfast and out of the way of ship activities.

During and after meeting times, there will be plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy — everything from fitness classes and entertainment to port talks



The Carnival cruise ship Holiday, where Alabama Kiwanians will hold the July 2009 District Convention.

and shore excursions. You can also just vegetate by the pool or on one of the decks. There will be age-appropriate activities for children ages 2-18, with special rooms and youth activities directors.

What will it cost?

A group of 100 cabins has been reserved at a cost of \$581.82 per person for inside cabins and \$631.82 per person for outside cabins (based on double occupancy). A limited number of family cabins are available, and third and fourth occupants will be charged a

lower rate. These rooms need to be booked soon in order to get them. A deposit of \$150 per person is required in order to secure your cabin at the advertised rates. (Full deposit of \$150 per person is due at time of booking for any triple, quad or quint cabins.)

The full fare must be paid by May 20, 2009. Once these rooms are reserved, additional cabins will be available at the going rate, which may be higher. Better grade cabins can be reserved at higher rates.

The per-person cost includes meals, cruise and medical insurance, gratuities, and an on-board credit of \$100. It does not include parking, shore excursions, alcohol or soft drinks. Parking is available at the cruise terminal in Mobile (currently at \$50).

Get passport ready

You should check your passport now to make sure it will be valid for the time of the trip. All indications are that valid passports will be required by this date.

Go to springdaletravel.com/Kiwanis for more details on accommodations and to pull up a form and make your reservation now!

Make plans now to visit the beautiful Coosa Valley for, **The "90th Annual Alabama District Convention" In Gadsden.**



Twin Bridges Golf Course

Friday August 1st
• Golf Tournament, at Noon

August 1st thru 3rd 2008



Kiwanis Pavilion, Noccalula Falls,

•Friday Evening August 1st
6:00 pm, Family Picknik Cookout,
Kiwanis Pavilion, Noccalula Falls.

Bring your family early to enjoy the park and rides.

Great food and entertainment by **THE FOGGY HOLLOW BAND**



Saturday August 2nd

- Convention Business and Training Sessions begin at 9:00 am at Gadsden State Community College, Interclub lunch at Noon. *Festivities for Spouses and Children are planned for the day.*
- Governor's Banquet, 7:00 pm Gadsden Country Club, Reservations required.



Please Register by July 1st,
www.gadsdenkiwanis.org
or Call Tammy Driskill
Office 256-546-5591
Cell 256-504-9773

Make your reservations TODAY !

HAMPTON INN
129 River Road
Gadsden, Alabama 35901
256-546-2337
1-800-HAMPTON (1-800-426-7866)
Reservation code for group rate -
KDC Room rates of \$89 per night.

GADSDEN INN & SUITES
200 Albert Rains Blvd.
Gadsden, Alabama 35901
256-543-7240
Reservation code for group rate -
KIWANIS
Room rates of \$59 - \$119 per night

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
106 Walker Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35901
256-691-0225
Reservation code for group rate -
KWC Kiwanis Block
Room rates of \$89 - \$99 per night