



New state officers take charge

Gadsden workshops help equip Kiwanians

Alabama Kiwanians installed leaders for 2008-09 and held workshops to equip members for growth during the 90th annual District Convention in Gadsden Aug. 1-3.

The convention included a cookout with music and tours of Noccalula Falls Park in Gadsden on Friday, meetings and lunch at Gadsden State Community College on Saturday, a Saturday evening Governor's Banquet and officer installation at Gadsden Country Club, and a memorial prayer breakfast and joint board meeting Sunday.

A special guest was Tadao Oda of the Kiwanis Club of Sendai, Japan, and his wife, Michiko. He was elected to a three-year term as a Kiwanis International Trustee at the Asia Pacific Convention in March and named the KI adviser to the Alabama District.

The leadership team installed for 2008-09 includes Governor Ernest Hulseley of Huntsville and Governor-Elect George Aiken, Pell City, who was elected at the convention. Pam Fleming of Sheffield was recognized for her service as 2007-08 governor.



During the District Convention in Gadsden, Noccalula Falls Park train engineer Larry Wood gives Kiwanis Governor Ernest Hulseley of Huntsville and International Trustee Tadao Oda of Japan some advice on keeping the Kiwanis train on track.

New lieutenant governors were installed, while outgoing ones were recognized for their service.

explaining some changes that are being made, such as no "official governor's visit" to each division.

Hulseley described some of his goals,

(See NEW YEAR, Page 10)



Some of the lieutenant governors installed during Governor's Banquet in Gadsden.

2008-09 Leadership Team

Ernest Hulseley, Huntsville, Governor
George Aiken, Pell City, Governor-elect
Pam Fleming, Sheffield, Past Governor
David Allison, Homewood-Mountain Brook, District Executive Director (non-voting)

Lieutenant governors (Divisions)

James Hines, Scottsboro (1)
Gordon Ruggles, Sheffield (2)
Joe Nichols, Jasper (3)

Donnie Grill, Tuscaloosa (4)
Colean Bailey, Homewood-Mountain Brook (5)
Armand St Raymond, Birmingham (6)
Wayne Sisk, Anniston (7)
Bill Phillips, Pell City (8)
John Robertson, Montgomery (9)
Ann Underwood, Valley (10)
Kaye Barbaree, Dothan (11)
Jeff Kirkland, Brewton (12)
Cathi Demers, Gulf Shores (13)
Jarrod White, Mobile (14)

What a great time to be in Kiwanis!

It is, without question, my favorite time of the Kiwanis year.

We've had the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and thank outgoing club leaders for their hard work. And now, it's time to look ahead and consider the possibilities as the club's next leadership team takes the reins.

My hope for the future is that club leaders not merely maintain the excellent accomplishments of the past, but rather continue to build upon and improve our Kiwanis experience.

All too often good organizations become complacent and tend to rest on their past efforts and accomplishments.

In the book "Good to Great," Jim Collins and his research team make the assertion that the biggest obstacle to greatness is goodness. This shouldn't be much of a surprise.

We hear much the same thing this time of year from football coaches

From the Governor

By Ernest Hulsey



around the country. No matter what they've accomplished in the last game, the coach speak always seems to be "we need to continue to improve to have the best chance to be successful in the future." Complacent teams tend to get beaten by the team that's hungry to improve.

That same logic certainly applies to Kiwanis. We have a great many really

good clubs in the Alabama District, doing some wonderful things in their community. We need more great clubs. Great clubs continually strive to be better in the things they do. These are not clubs that do the same thing year after year and wonder why their membership continues a downward trend.

We need to recognize where we've been and where we are but always look to the future. It will take some leadership to break out of the rut some clubs are in and do some things differently or perhaps better.

Oh, by the way, there's nothing wrong with having some fun in the process, so plan for it and make some time for it.

Club leaders, the ball is in your court. The year is just getting started; make the best of it.

What a wonderful time to be in Kiwanis.

It's time to grow. It's time to lead.

Tax-deductible Foundation giving helps Alabama

By Sidney Lanier

President-elect, Alabama District Foundation

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Inc. was founded in 1988 as the fund-raising arm of the Alabama District of Kiwanis. It provides a means for the Kiwanis Clubs of Alabama to combine their strength and resources.

Our flagship program is the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental Program, which is wholeheartedly supported by the Foundation. Additionally,

scholarships awarded by the Kiwanis International Foundation to Alabama Key Club and Circle K participants are matched by the Foundation, and matching grants are awarded when clubs are undertaking projects that are beyond their capability to complete without outside aid.

Funds come almost entirely from donations, plus what we



Sidney Lanier

raise at silent auctions during the District Convention and similar activities.

The Foundation can only be as generous and supportive as clubs and individuals are to the Foundation. It all depends on you. Your donations will insure the future of the Foundation, its programs/projects, and its scholarships.

As individuals, you can contribute to the Foundation. If

you donate \$500 for yourself or another person, you will join a group called Barnett Fellows. For \$1,000 you can upgrade to a Diamond Barnett. This is a great way to honor club members.

As clubs you can insert a line item in your budget each year to show your support for the Foundation. If your club donates an amount equal to \$5 or more per member as of Sept. 30, your club will receive a banner patch and a great big thank-you.

Donations to the Foundation serve the purpose of Kiwanis, put the money to work here in Alabama, and are tax-deductible as charitable contributions.

We need your support. Help us to help you and your fellow Kiwanians.

ALABAMA KIWANIS KOURIER

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RIF's flag pole honors El Kidd

It's been a busy autumn for Cathy Dean Gafford and the Reading Is Fundamental program.

On National Make a Difference Day, Oct. 25, RIF dedicated a flag pole in memory of past Alabama District Governor El Kidd at the RIF warehouse and office in Opelika.

The day also included the first Run to Read fundraiser, headed by Rich Bailey of the Kiwanis Club of Opelika.

Past Governor El Kidd, a U.S. Air Force colonel, was also the founder of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

His widow, Marge Kidd, attended, along with her daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Gary Ragan, and several members of the Good Morning Montgomery Kiwanis Club.

Other Kiwanians also came to honor Kidd, "a Kiwanian who made a difference in children's lives and in Kiwanis in Alabama," Gafford said.

The morning included the presentation of the colors, the flag pole dedication, the mayor's proclamation of "Make a Difference Day" in Opelika, the Run to Read, a parenting fair, and volunteer day in the warehouse.



Marge Kidd, center, along with daughter Sue Ragan and son-in-law Gary Ragan, attended the Opelika ceremony dedicating a flag pole at the RIF building to El Kidd. Many others joined Cathy Gafford, Joe Dean and Clifford the Big Red Dog for the dedication, warehouse work and Run to Read.



Clifford the Big Red Dog paid a visit, along with other costumed mascots.

On Sept. 11, the 18th annual Rocket City Golf Classic was held at Huntsville's Robert Trent Jones Hampton Cove "Highlands" course. West Huntsville Kiwanis Club donated \$15,000 to RIF's capital campaign. Gafford thanked the club and tournament chairman Ray Tomlinson.

Aug. 23 was K-Family RIF Day. More

than 100 members of Kiwanis, Golden K, Circle K and Key Club from all over Alabama worked in the RIF warehouse to inventory and put bookplates in more than 17,000 books to be used in RIF distributions during 2008-09.

Planning is under way for the Truel Watts Ride to Read Motorcycle Poker Run on March 28, in memory of a past governor and motorcycle enthusiast.

—Patrice Stewart

District's goals for service and growth

By Ernest Hulsey

Alabama Kiwanis District Governor, 2008-09

Well, you can't really start the year off with out talking about goals. I've already discussed my hopes for the coming year, so I guess it's only fitting to discuss goals designed to turn hopes into reality.

Your district leadership team has identified several goals for the coming year. These goals are summarized as follows:

"To marshal district resources to assist clubs as they improve the Kiwanis experience and make the leap from good to great."

That sounds kind of like a job description, and I guess that's pretty much what it is. That's our job at the Alabama District, and we intend to do it as well as we can. That may seem a little broad, so perhaps we need to look a little closer.

We want to continue to train and fund division growth and club development

teams. With this in mind, your lieutenant governors have committed to building one new club and revitalizing at least one club in each division. Revitalization isn't limited to small clubs. Whether a club has 10 members or 110, if the membership trend over the last five to 10 years is down, it's a candidate for revitalization.

We are seeking more proactive district committees and better communications with the clubs in our district. We want committees to identify useful information and push it to the club. We'll also need to leverage technology. See improvements to the district website and our new electronic Kourier. We'll have more and more information made available there. We may even take advantage of some distance learning opportunities.

To improve club participation, we have made changes to some of our district events, making them a more effective use of time and money. We'll try to

have some fun, too.

The Mid-winter Conference will be a one-day event with a greater focus on training. The District Convention this year will be a cruise which will be great fun; we'll even do a little Kiwanis business. Club Leadership Training (CLE) has already been shortened and offered at more locations, and this year it will be free of charge.

There is also a committee looking into opportunities for future improvements potentially involving regional mid-winter events, lower costs, and re-drawing division boundaries for improved support.

Your district leadership team recognizes that service is performed at the club level, not the district or the division. Our job is to help club leaders be successful, and we are committed to assisting each club as it makes the leap.

And don't forget what time it is. It's time to grow. It's time to lead.

Reserve now for '09 4-night cruise

Join your Alabama Kiwanis friends as convention-goers sail the Holiday from Mobile to Cozumel and back

By Kendall Clarke

District Cruise Convention Chairman

The Alabama District Convention for 2009 will set sail out of the Port of Mobile on Thursday, July 23, 2009, for Cozumel, Mexico. Many of you have been asking for a convention cruise, so here it is!

We will board the Holiday, a Carnival ship, between 1 and 3 p.m. on Thursday in Mobile and disembark on Monday morning. Access to the cruise terminal is very easy. From I-10 you take the downtown exit for the Cruise Terminal and follow the directions. There is protected parking at the terminal. You will be directed to drop off your bags and then park your car.

You will then check in, receive your cabin keys and, of course, get your photo made. Your bags will be delivered to your room within a couple of hours of departing. Guests with disabilities should have no problems.

This cruise spends Friday at sea, Saturday in Cozumel and is again at sea on Sunday. You will arrive back in Mobile on Monday morning and will disembark after the ship clears customs. You should be on your way home by noon on Monday.

A floating resort

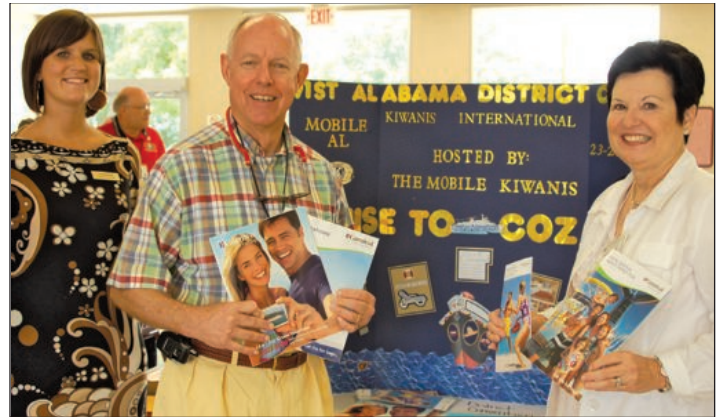
Convention meetings will be held on the ship during the two days we are at sea. Many activities also will be available, since the ship is a floating resort. These activities will include port talks, demonstrations, bingo, spa treatments, games, on-board shopping and, of course, sunbathing by the pool.

There are special activities for children ages 2-18 in their own special adult-free zones. These activities are well supervised, with age-appropriate activities. They will have the time of their lives! And you can relax with some down time, knowing they are enjoying themselves and being cared for.

In Cozumel, you will be free to explore on your own or sign up for shore excursions, which will include tours appropriate for all activity levels. From simple bus tours to more athletic activities like snorkeling and dolphin swims, it's your choice. These activities also vary greatly in cost and amount of time involved. Shore excursions are not included in your cruise fare.

Information and registration for this cruise convention can be found at www.springdaletravel.com/Kiwanis. You can find a list of shore excursions for this cruise by going to the Carnival website www.carnival.com/ShoreExcursions. The most popular ones may sell out early, so once you have made your final payment, you may wish to go ahead and book these before you leave. (They will be billed to your on-board account once you're on the ship.)

One hundred cabins have been reserved for the convention cruise at guaranteed rates of \$581.32 per person for



Springdale Travel representatives are helping District Cruise Convention Chairman Kendall Clarke and wife Carolyn, right, plan for the July 23-27, 2009, cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, from Mobile.

inside cabins and \$631.82 per person for outside cabins based on double occupancy. You can reserve a cabin for one person only, but there will be an up charge. Third and fourth passengers in the same cabin are substantially discounted. These costs include all meals on board, cruise cancellation insurance, medical evacuation insurance, convention fees, gratuities and a \$100 on-board credit. They DO NOT include alcohol, soft drinks, bottled water or shore excursions. (Your \$100 on-board credit will be applied to these items.)

Once our 100 rooms are booked, additional cabins will be available at market price, which will probably be higher since this cruise is already booking up. It is especially important for you to go ahead and book if you have children, as 3- and 4-passenger rooms are in short supply and high demand. If you have older children, you may want to consider two adjacent rooms, as all ship rooms and bathrooms are very small.

You'll need a passport

Please make your reservations NOW to be certain you have the rooms you need at our Kiwanis price. All reservation deposits are fully refundable for any reason until 61 days prior to sailing. Since we have included cancellation insurance, you are covered for refunds up until sailing in the event of last minute unexpected events such as illness. Also remember that YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT! If you already have a passport, make sure it is current.

So come cruise with Kiwanis and let's share a great time with families, friends, fun, and fellowship. Since the cruise is open to everyone, invite your extended family and friends to join us. The more people we have in our group, the more fun we will have.

If you have questions or need reservation forms, call Leah Balczon at Springdale Travel/Cruise Quarters at 251 476-5095 or Kendall or Carolyn Clarke at 251-639-3433 or 251-661-9344.

We are looking forward to "sealing" you for convention fun in the sun!

Growth: Make your good club great

By Joel Williams

Growth Chairman, Alabama District

We have a lot of good clubs. But being a good club allows us to be satisfied with the way things are, and that prevents us from becoming a great club.

Each of us, individually, benefits from helping our club move from good to

great. There is something in it for you. What's in it for you? Being a member of a great club:

1. Provides more business networking opportunities.
2. Provides more social opportunities.
3. Is more fun and personally rewarding.

4. Helps the community become a better place for you and your family.

5. Offers you more chances to be more self-fulfilling by helping others.

There is something in it for you. How do we move from good to great? You need a plan. The plan needs to detail:

- What will be done.
- Who will do it.
- When it will be done.

Take this approach when trying to grow your membership. There is a

Give to foundations' Annual Gift drive by Dec. 1; win award

Start the year right by doing more to serve the children of the world. Make sure that your club participates in the 2008-09 Annual Club Gift (ACG) Campaign.

The Annual Club Gift is what makes it possible for your foundations to provide support for service leadership programs. It also provides thousands of dollars for Kiwanis Club grants and worthy projects, as well as matching scholarships in our Alabama District. Many of our clubs have received such grants over the years.

When you send your ACG to the Kiwanis International Founda-

tion, your club will receive a Banner Patch to proudly display on your awards banner and in addition, earn points toward Distinguished Club status, which every club deserves. Your ACG can be given from either the administrative or service accounts.

Remember, the goal for each club is \$5 per member to both the District and International Foundation.

Clubs which submit their ACG of at least \$5 per member before Dec. 1, 2008, will earn an Early Bird Award (see the Konstant Kourier on the District website).

Alabama clubs that grew during 2007-08

District Governor Ernest Hulsey congratulates these clubs for growth in 2007-08. The numbers represent gains in membership.

Birmingham	+28	Chelsea	+12
Childersburg	+10	Florence	+10
Eufaula	+8	Sylacauga	+7C
Anniston	+6	Daphne-Spanish Fort	+6
Millbrook-Coosada	+5	Winfield Mid-Day	+5
Hoover-Metro	+4	Lincoln Area	+4
Selma	+3	Cullman	+3
Ozark	+3	Auburn	+3
Monroeville	+3	Andalusia	+3
Wadley	+3	Foley	+3
Birmingham-East	+3	Good Morning, Montgomery	+3
Pell City	+3	Azalea City	+3
Alexander City	+2	Wedowee	+2
Fairhope and Eastern Shore	+2	Fort Payne	+2
Macon County, Tuskegee	+2	Tallassee	+2
Tuscumbia	+1	Chickasaw	+1
Bay Minette	+1	Valley	+1
Homewood-Mountain Brook	+1	Greater Tuscaloosa	+1
Luverne	+1	Fayette	+1
Wiregrass Golden K, Dothan	+1	Underwood-Petersville	+1

simple and straightforward plan called The 12-Step Program for Growth. You can find this at the Alabama Kiwanis website: alabama.kiwanis.org.

What will be done? Invite someone to Kiwanis.

Who will do it? You!

When will it be done? Start now! And remember that you will benefit. There is something in it for you!

If you need any information or help, feel free to contact me: Joel Lee Williams, Growth Chairman, jlwlaw@charter.net, (334) 566-8484.

Your ad could be below!

Promote your product or service to fellow Kiwanians statewide. Contact Patrice Stewart, 4519 Arrowhead Drive S.E., Decatur, AL 35603, kkourier@charter.net.

Pick a group to join!

- ☞ Three Billy Goats Gruff
- ☞ Corduroy
- ☞ Clifford
- ☞ Very Hungry Caterpillar
- ☞ Little Red Hen
- ☞ The House That Jack Built

You may have read these books to children in the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program. Join the level of your choice (\$100-\$5,000 or more) and help the Jean Dean RIF program pay off its warehouse and office building.

Make your tax-deductible check payable to: Alabama Kiwanis Foundation/Jean Dean RIF (labeled "For Capital Campaign"). Mail it to P.O. Box 848, Opelika, AL 36803-0848.

Alabama setting pace for Builders

By Kevin Yates
District Builders Club
Administrator

The Alabama District is rewriting the record books when it comes to Builders Clubs. We are looking to add six new clubs in the next month or so. Once again, our great district is the flag bearer for sponsored programs nationwide.

District Governor Ernest Hulsey asked me to explain the new fee structure for Builders Clubs. It is a program similar to that adopted for K-Kids a few years ago. K-Kids has seen major growth in the last few years, showing the validity of the program. The fiscal reality is that Builders Club could not continue without a more consistent revenue stream.

Specifically, the new fee structure requires a one-time chartering fee for new clubs in the amount of \$460. That fee covers all expenses for the first year and includes the banner, gavel and engraved bell. All pins are included for officers and members, no matter how many members you have.

The annual dues after that are \$150 per club. For a small club, this may be a challenge; for a large club, there are obvious savings. Excess dues paid by the members in large clubs can now go into the treasury to fund projects.

We can assist with this if local Kiwanis Clubs will help to sponsor Builders Clubs in their area and even ask other sponsored programs (Key Club and Circle K) to help co-sponsor at-risk clubs. As part of the Kiwanis family, our youngest members need us to step up to continue to supply them an avenue of service. Please check with your local Builders Club to see how you can help.

Randolph County a winner

Congratulations to the Randolph County Builders Club for winning second place in the International Scrapbook Competition. This Builders Club, sponsored by the Wedowee Kiwanis Club, has giant bragging rights for the next year. Their faculty adviser is Karin Christopherson. Great job!

Other Builders Clubs should start compiling their scrapbook information now for next year's contest. The winning entries are seen by visiting dignitaries and every other visitor to Kiwanis International in Indianapolis before they are returned. What an honor for the Alabama District, Randolph County and the Wedowee Kiwanians.



Members of the Randolph County Builders Club won second place in the International Scrapbook Competition.



There are several contest categories for both Builders Clubs and individual members, and Alabama District clubs should start planning to enter now.

The essay theme is "How has Builders Club given me the opportunity to perform service, build my character, and develop my leadership potential?"

The speech theme is "How has my Builders Club made a difference in my community?"

There is also a leadership award for individual Builders Club members entering. The scrapbook

and adviser awards are for club group entries.

All contest and award entries should be submitted to me by April 1. All rules and criteria can be found on the website, www.buildersclub.org, or by contacting me.

Advisers important

To illustrate the importance of local Kiwanis Clubs sponsoring Builders Clubs in their areas, let me tell you about Hankins Middle School Builders Club. The faculty sponsor, Mike Wright, has kept this club active, vibrant and service-oriented for years

without a Kiwanis Club sponsor. They were able to pay the new fees this year by hard work and leftover funds from dues in years past. Now their treasury is low, but their enthusiasm and pledge to service is not dampened one bit.

Mike retires this year and is actively seeking a faculty adviser to take over for him. Area clubs have been contacted by your administrator to take on some of the fiscal responsibilities after this year. The reward? A ready-made sponsored program ready to be a force in your club. Please contact Mike at wrightmike@aol.com.

Yet another illustration of the force of an involved faculty adviser is Ellen Carroll from Talladega. Her students found a need for service, with the local Red Cross and Builders Club as co-sponsors. Ellen is a committed and enthusiastic example of what a faculty adviser should be.

Thanks to all of those teachers who take on an extra load for their students. Have you invited your faculty advisers to lunch? You should.

Good things are happening in the great Alabama District. There is growth and excitement, with opportunities for service in every division. Please include a Builders Club in your sponsored program budget.

Thanks to all of those schoolteachers who take on an extra load for their students with commitment and enthusiasm. Have you invited your Builders Club faculty advisers to lunch? You should.

Find club resources on Internet

By **Brian S. Rodgers**

Technology Chairman, Alabama District of Kiwanis International
brianrodgers@gmail.com

Edward R. Murrow once said, "The newest computer can merely compound, at speed, the oldest problem in the relations between human beings, and in the end the communicator will be confronted with the old problem, of what to say and how to say it."

Therein lies the challenge of the wonderful new tool that clubs in the Alabama District have at their fingertips. With just a few simple keystrokes, one can access the Alabama District of Kiwanis International's newly redesigned website.

Just go to alabama.kiwanis.org and you will find a site that has a very familiar feel to it. This familiarity comes from aligning our web presence with that of the Kiwanis International sites. Kiwanis International has a dual presence: one for the general public at www.kiwanis.org, and one for members at www.kiwanisone.org.

Over the past couple of months, the Technology Committee, with the assistance of our web consultant, Harvey Watson Jr., has worked diligently to incorporate much of the content from Kiwanis International's site into our own District Website. This will give local clubs many resources for club administration, membership recruitment and retention, as well as sharing information between clubs that will facilitate connectedness.

I hope that you will go to the District Website and check out some of these great features:

- **Recent Posts** features regular updates from the District leadership team, local club news features, important announcements, and more. This information is found in a box labeled "Recent Posts" on the right side of every page.

- **Leadership Team** lists the current lieutenant governors for all Alabama Divisions with contact information. This is located as a link at the top of every page.

- **Resources** features a District calendar, a pictures page for you to share your club's exciting activities, leadership tools that will help strengthen your club by providing tools to make the job easier, and more.

Dates to remember

- **Feb. 27-28, 2009**, Alabama District Mid-winter Conference, Marriott Legends Hotel, Prattville

- **June 25-28, 2009**, Kiwanis International Convention, Nashville, with Alabama rooms at Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center and a District Dinner on the General Jackson Showboat

- **July 23-27, 2009**, Alabama District Convention cruise from Mobile to Mexico

- **Kiwanis Kourier**, the District newspaper, has been converted to an electronic version for ease of distribution and sharing with prospective Kiwanians. The new website has an archive of these versions for viewing, printing, and sharing. Members can choose to access online, and club presidents and secretaries will be emailed a PDF version for sharing with their members by printing, copying and distributing at meetings.

- **Donate Now** is another great feature allows individuals to donate online to the Alabama District of Kiwanis Foundation using a secure donation page supported by Network for Good. A small convenience fee is assessed for using this service, but it saves mailing and can even be set to make an ongoing donation and increase the impact of your gift.

- **Google Map** lists all of the meeting locations of clubs throughout Alabama. This presents, in a very visual way, the impact of Kiwanis on Alabama. It also provides a convenient way to invite neighboring clubs and prospective members to join you for a meeting. This is located on the Find a Club page.

While I am very excited about this powerful new tool that presents Kiwanis in a very vibrant way, the information is only as good as it is current, so please email me your Kiwanis News, updates, and pictures. Please also confirm any information (website, meeting location, etc.) and let me know if a change is needed. I will make the change and forward to Kiwanis International and the Alabama District Office.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts toward changing the world one child and one community at a time.



Elba installs officers

Elba Kiwanis Club installation The Elba Kiwanis Club was one of many around the state installing new officers for 2008-09 in late September and early October. On Oct. 9, the Elba club had Lt. Gov. Kaye Barbaree from Dothan install officers during the noon meeting in the community room of the Elba Public Library. From left are Barbaree, president Philip Box, treasurer Brandi Dean and vice president Scott Kelley. Not pictured is Nell Gilmer, secretary, who made the photo and sent it to the Kiwanis Kourier.

Want action? Try an Aktion Club

By **Glenda Selman**
District Aktion Club Chairwoman

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook, which wanted some real action. It has just sponsored the Aktion Club of Greater Birmingham with 18 charter members. That club joins the two Aktion clubs in Huntsville and one in Gadsden.

An Aktion Club is a community-service group composed of adults who live with disabilities. The first Aktion Club was organized in Florida in 1987, and Aktion Club was adopted as an official Service Leadership Program of Kiwanis International on Oct. 1, 2000. Since then Aktion Club has become an active member of the Kiwanis family along with Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club and K-Kids.

The Aktion Club vision is to develop competent, capable and caring leaders through the vehicle of service. The core values of Aktion Club are character building, inclusiveness, caring and leadership.

The club is comprised of adults who live with disabilities but who want to contribute to the community and enjoy being part of an organization that recognizes their talents. The club gives them the opportunity to develop their abilities, improve self-esteem, develop leadership skills, achieve personal goals, learn how to work in a group organization and enjoy the great camaraderie that Kiwanis Clubs and other sponsored organizations enjoy.

To be a member, the individual should be able to work within a group and be able to participate in various activities.

An Aktion Club is sponsored by an individual Kiwanis Club, a group of clubs, or a division. It can also be co-sponsored by a Kiwanis Club and a Key Club or Circle K Club. A local agency supporting citizens who live with disabilities may assist the Kiwanis Club.

The sponsoring Kiwanis Club and agency provide advisers who help the Aktion Club with various aspects of club meetings, board meetings and conducting projects. But the purpose of the Aktion Club is to provide an organization where the members of Aktion Club take responsibility and leadership roles in their development as productive citizens in providing service to the community.

The club is structured similar to other K Family Clubs with a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. They have meetings, conduct business, provide quality service to the community and have great social events.

In service, they are becoming known as a true leader through various projects.

These projects include providing bed kits to children around the world through SCAW (an international organization working with Kiwanis International and Aktion Club), adopting local military units and nursing homes, providing essential help to March of Dime and Cancer Walks, elementary school water festi-

Aktion clubs give adults who live with disabilities the opportunity to develop their abilities, improve self-esteem, develop leadership skills, achieve personal goals, learn how to work in a group organization, and enjoy the camaraderie of Kiwanis Clubs and other sponsored organizations.



Glenda Selman, right, District Aktion Club chairwoman, introduces members of the Gadsden Aktion Club during the District Convention Interclub Luncheon in Gadsden.

vals, and many other projects.

Potential members can be located through county agencies, ARC, churches and other groups that work with adults who live with disabilities. Also, every county in Alabama has a MR-310 Board. Some of these boards serve multiple counties, and some serve only one county. Every "region" also has a state regional agency that oversees activities for the MR population. These Regional Agencies can be found by calling the Alabama State Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The State of Alabama also has Therapeutic and Recreation Departments in several major locations.

There is a PowerPoint presentation on the Alabama District website with information concerning how to get an Aktion Club started. You can also go to the Aktion Club website at Aktionclub@kiwanis.org or call Kiwanis International at 1-800-kiwanis, etc. 390. This will give you the step-by-step chartering process.

The Kiwanis Club pays a \$460 charter fee to establish an Aktion Club. This includes the club charter certificate, Aktion Club banner, member cards, pins, handbooks, gong and gavel, and resource CD, which includes an Aktion Club guidebook and liability insurance. There is an annual membership fee of \$5 per member.

Fees provide an annual membership card, lapel pin, member handbook, club and member benefit programs, and liability insurance coverage. A club level membership fee is an option open to Aktion Clubs.

There are benefits for both Aktion Club and Kiwanis Club members, because if you have an Aktion Club in your community, you know where the action is!



Circle K Capital Division Lt. Gov. T.J. Martin and District Bulletin Editor Dana Lackey present a workshop at the Capital Training Conference. At the Circle K summer board meeting, standing on the spillover wall of the infinity pool at the Warner Estate in Tuscaloosa are,

from left, T.J. Martin, Capital Division lieutenant governor; Ben Stillwell, Vulcan Division lieutenant governor; Marcus Blankenship, treasurer; Tom Beard, webmaster; and Sara Morrow, Valley Division lieutenant governor.

Circle K focuses on growth, goals

Circle K members in the Alabama District have been busy with activities in state and out.

Dana Lackey, Circle K Alabama District bulletin editor, gives this report:

Summer 2008

Summer, though few clubs were meeting, was a time of refocusing toward some of our lofty expectations for the Alabama District Circle K for the next 12 months, ultimately including hosting an International Convention!

The summer consisted of recruitment drives at several campuses, including UAB and Troy, during the summer terms, and at those and other schools in late August once the fall semester officially began.

Meanwhile, the District Board had a great setting at the Warner House in Tuscaloosa for its July 18-20 board meeting. Important administrative issues were discussed, and down time

included swimming in an infinity pool and a twilight speedboat trip on Lake Tuscaloosa.

On Aug. 1-3, several members of the Circle K board came together in Gadsden for the 90th annual Kiwanis District Convention, which included a cookout and tour of Noccalula Falls on Friday night and a visit to the Circle K office when the convention came to Gadsden State Community College on Saturday.

Finally, there was the International Convention in Denver, Colo., where delegates voted on issues that will affect Circle K for years to come. The motivation that came from summer activities set the tone for a great academic year of service, leadership, fellowship, and, most importantly, growth.

September 2008

The defining event for Circle K during the month of September was the Capital Training Conference, the Capital Division's first fall rally, which

was held Sept. 27 at Grace Pointe Church in Montgomery. Twenty-three Circle K members attended.

Capital Lt. Gov. T.J. Martin was the planner, emcee and all-around overseer of this event. The rally got under way with a fun icebreaker involving tossing a number of wacky objects from person to person while thanking the person who threw something to you and seeing how fast the chain could go. Next were officer roundtables, in which club officers and general members could receive information tailored to their specific club roles and a general information session.

Following lunch, attendees were split into four groups to focus on one of four hot-button issues within Circle K: recruitment, fellowship, service and leadership. The four groups rotated among them, and then each group presented a cheer aimed to fire people up about Circle K. Martin closed with information about upcoming events and said "farewell" until the next month.

You can place an ad like the one on the right!

Promote your product or service to fellow Kiwanians statewide. Contact Patrice Stewart, 4519 Arrowhead Drive S.E., Decatur, AL 35603, kkourier@charter.net.

Honor a Kiwanian in your club ... Give a Barnett Fellow award!

A club, spouse or friend can make a \$500 contribution to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, honoring a leader and helping the Foundation pay for service.

The recipient is recognized at a statewide meeting and presented with a patch, a lapel pin and a Barnett Fellow wall plaque.

Contact the Birmingham office, 800-745-1334, or Foundation President Mike Winstead of Montgomery, secretary Gene Maier of Helena or treasurer Lovinia Koch of Mobile.

Subirats' courage wins Dean Award

The 2008 Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Jean Dean Courage Award honors the life of Mobile Kiwanis Club past president Jorge Subirats.

Subirats, 59, lost his battle with a brain tumor the day before Cathy Dean Gafford presented the award to his club members Aug. 2 in Gadsden during the District Convention. She told Subirats about the honor earlier that week.



Jorge Subirats

Gafford talked about his laughter and enthusiasm for life, as well as the help he provided for RIF auctions at conventions and other Kiwanis projects. A member of the Mobile club for more than 20 years, he was its president in 1998-99.

Subirats learned courage in the early 1960s when he and his five siblings boarded a plane in Cuba to come to the United States without their parents and live with families they had never met. Two years later, the parents made it to the U.S., too.

Subirats was an Auburn University cheerleader in the 1970s and then a high school teacher and a coach for football, track and diving. He graduated from the Real Estate Institute and worked as a residential and commercial real estate agent for Roberts Brothers for 30 years in Mobile.

Subirats is survived by wife Valerie and four children.

"It takes courage to face life every day," said Gafford, whether you are a cheerleader, a teacher or a Realtor with a



Cathy Dean Gafford shows a photo of Jean Dean Courage Award recipient Jorge Subirats; with her are Mobile Kiwanis Club members Julius Powell and Brad Brightman.

debilitating brain tumor.

The Jean Dean Award is named for her mother, the wife of Past Governor Joe Dean, who served despite health challenges.

—Patrice Stewart

New year

(From Page 1)

"I have spent some time learning all I could from some knowledgeable people," said Hulsey. "We have talked about the decline in membership long enough, and we have to turn it around."

David Allison, Homewood-Mountain Brook, was named District Executive Director by the new board and is working in the District Office in Birmingham on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. He has taken over the duties of the job formerly called District Secretary after the retirement of Coke Clark.

Clark was recognized with a Diamond Barnett Fellow Award and an orange vest for pin collecting.

Other awards included a Diamond Barnett for the "First Dude," as ex-Governor Fleming's husband David was sometimes called.

Jordan Fleming told



George Aiken



David Allison

how her school collected more than 3,000 books in a week as part of the Flemings' K-Family project. Overall, the District collected more than 10,000 books for the Philippines.

More than \$2,500 was raised for Reading Is Fundamental with live and silent auctions.

Division 5 Lt. Governor Colean Bailey, saddened by the death of 13-year-old Omaha Boy Scout Sam Thomsen and three others when tornados roared through a Scout camp in Nebraska, announced a project to collect at least \$2,000 to help rebuild.

"This tragedy took away the best of the best," said Bailey, who also wants a memorial plaque for Sam, grandson of John Burch of the Good Morning Montgomery Club. Kiwanis International gave



Governor Ernest Hulsey thanks outgoing Governor Pam Fleming; retiring Coke Clark with his vest for pin collecting.



\$1,000. Checks payable to Boy Scouts of America, Mid America Council, can be sent to the Kiwanis District office.

Information on the Twelve-Step Program for Growth, websites, service leadership, online reporting, publicity, foundations and other convention topics is available at www.alabama.kiwanis.org.

—Patrice Stewart