

THE Georgia Kiwanian

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Georgia Women Secure VP roles on 3 Kiwanis Governing Boards



Katrina Baranko



Leah Reiser



Melanie Kim

Georgia has the distinction of being home to three vice presidents in 2021. The three women are serving in vice presidential roles within Kiwanis International, a global volunteer service organization that works to help children and instill the values of servant leadership.

All in the Kiwanis family of clubs, this year's vice presidents include Katrina J. Baranko, who will serve a one-year term as vice president of Kiwanis International during the organization's administrative year beginning Oct. 1; Leah Reiser, a student at Georgia Southern University, who will serve as vice president of Circle K International and Melanie Kim, a student at Lambert High School, who will serve as

vice president of Key Club International. Reiser's term began in June and Kim's began in July; both will serve one year.

The Georgia District of Kiwanis is home to 150 Kiwanis clubs, 177 Key Clubs for high school students and 14 CKI clubs for college students.

Baranko, from Albany, Georgia, has served as a Kiwanis International trustee for the past three years. She is only the third woman to be elected vice president and will begin her one-year term in October. She'll be president of the global volunteer organization in 2023-24. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Albany and has been active in Kiwanis for 27 years.

"I am so proud of the Georgia District's strong youth leadership programs, and I am honored to be serving with these two outstanding student leaders," said Baranko. "Our future is definitely in good hands."

Reiser, from Warner Robbins, is an elementary education major at Georgia Southern University, where she has been active in Circle K International for five years. She was elected vice president in June during the CKI Education and Leadership Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, and online.

"This definitely is an honor," said Reiser, who got involved with Kiwanis when she joined Key Club as a freshman in high school. She attributes Key Club and Circle K International with developing her into the leader that she has become, noting that when she began, she had difficulty talking in front of people.

"It's a very big deal," Reiser said of the Georgia District being represented by three female vice presidents. "I've never been here when we had a female vice president."

The Key Club vice president, Melanie Kim, is a senior at Lambert High School, in Suwanee. She will graduate in 2022.

"Key Club is a forever-growing organization that has continuously offered stu-

dent leaders opportunities like no other. After joining this organization three years ago, I am still surprised by the immense power our members have to change the world," said Kim. "For this new year, I will do my best as Key Club International vice president to serve and represent our beloved organization."

This is the first time in Kiwanis history that all three vice presidential offices have been held by women from Georgia.

"It's certainly a sign of the strength of the Kiwanis family of clubs and programs in Georgia to have three vice presidents from that district," said Stan Soderstrom, executive director of Kiwanis International. "We're proud of all our Kiwanis family members, from the adult members of clubs to those in our youth programs. This is a wonderful reflection on the importance of service leadership at all age levels."

Baranko has also served on the boards of directors of the Albany Area Chamber

see 3 Kiwanis Women page 11

~NOTICES~

As per the provisions of Article IV, Section 6 of the Georgia District of Kiwanis International, the minutes of the 2020-21, and 2021-22 Board Meetings held on Friday, August 20, 2021 in Stone Mountain, Georgia, are available for review from your appropriate Lt. Governor or from the District Office.

The next scheduled meeting for the 2021-22 Board of Trustees of the Georgia District of Kiwanis International will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Springhill Suites located at 4630 Sheraton Drive, Macon, Georgia.

**Kids Need
Kiwanis**

Meet Our Officers For The 2021 - 2022 Year



Left to Right: George Elkins - Immediate Past Governor; Byron Mullcan - Governor; Darryl Gumz - Governor Elect; Brent Leslie - Vice Governor

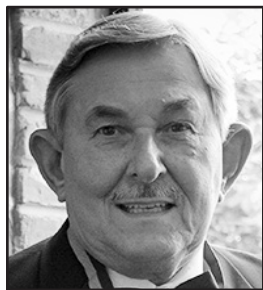
Inside this issue:

Governor's Messagep. 2
Membershipp. 3 - 4
Service Leadership.....p. 4 - 5
Community Service Projects.....p. 6 - 8

Funding Programsp. 8
Scoreboardp. 10
People in the News.....p. 10
Other Committee Reportsp. 11

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The Governor's Message

George Elkins

Governor Georgia Kiwanis District

Georgeelkins777@gmail.com

Georgia Kiwanians, THANK YOU!! for all you are doing for children, families and communities throughout Georgia and the world!!

September is the last month of our 2020-2021 Kiwanis year. There has been a tremendous effort by members and clubs to complete the year with high achievement in spite of the almost yearlong COVID. YOU have done amazing things in the year. And WE still have time to complete a successful and meaningful year. There are a lot of opportunities to serve, learn, and lead for all Georgia Kiwanians.

Now is a great time to evaluate your club to see how you stand to achieve Distinguished Club. Please continue to work on completing the Georgia District Projects, Interclub, culminating in the achievement of the Governor's Cup for Distinguished Club. It's never too late to achieve success! Let's not miss the chance to finish strong, in spite of the challenges that are, mostly, behind us now.

We have new clubs forming in Oconee

County, Cochran, and Rincon. If you have friends or family in those areas who would like to be a part of the new clubs, please let me know!

Our District now has the 2021-22 Vice President positions of our Kiwanis, Circle K and Key Club International organizations. Our very own, Katrina Baranko, Past Governor and current Kiwanis International Trustee, was elected as Kiwanis International Vice President for 2021-22 and now is in line to be the 3rd female International President in the history of Kiwanis. Our Circle K Immediate Past Governor, Leah Reiser, was elected to be Vice President of Circle K International and Melanie Kim, Past Georgia District Key Club Lt. Governor, has been elected as Vice President of Key Club International. Never in the history of Kiwanis International has one District held all three International VP positions and also by three wonderful ladies! Even more news, Immediate Past Key Club Governor, Kathy Ye, was elected as a Key Club International Trustee! Well-deserved

and congratulations for growing, learning and leading in the Georgia District! The Georgia District is proud of you all!! We look forward to your leadership at the highest level of our International organizations.

WE have now completed the Council of Delegates at Stone Mountain and have officially elected 2021-22 Governor, Byron Mullican, Governor-elect, Darryl Gumz, and the new Vice-Governor, Brent Leslie, as well as conduct the business of the district. Congratulations to the Officers and the newly installed BOT for 2021-22.

At the Council of Delegate we recognized many of our leaders in the Georgia District for their continued service and accomplishments, and had remembrances for many of our Kiwanis family that we have lost in the past year.

Over the months I have continued my thoughts on the strengths of the Georgia District ... Leadership, Friendship and Service through the Georgia Kiwanian and the Georgia District's online monthly newsletter. Now in this last letter from me to the Georgia District, I want tell you that this message is important to all Kiwanians, young and old, from K-Kids to Circle K and our Aktion Clubs. Through the year you have been guided by your Georgia District and KI leaders to listen, learn and lead; experience meeting new friends and reuniting with old friends you never would have met without Kiwanis; serve and perform acts of service that benefit kids and families you might not ever meet. You are

changing and improving their lives like no other organization can do... with our hearts leading first.

It has been my honor to be your Governor this year. COVID or not, it was a GREAT year. YOU came together and made life better for so many children. I have had a wonderful support group of officers and Lt. Governors. They listened to my challenging management-style of approaching clubs and members. They did their best to challenge the club leaders of their Divisions in reaching the goals for clubs we set in the Georgia District. I am grateful for the efforts of my Lt. Governors. They did a tremendous job in organizing their rallies, division council meetings and getting our message out to their clubs. Your Governor-elect, Byron and Vice-Governor, Darryl, have traveled many miles and sat in many Zoom meetings in support of clubs and their challenges. Clubs that I could not get to, they did. Our Executive Director, Alexia Lieber, remained central in the District and available to all needing her assistance and guidance. Immediate Past Governor, Andy, was relentless in opening a new club in Cochran and supporting clubs in need of help. I am thankful for each and every one of them. Job well done!

Your new officers are prepared and ready for the New Year. WE are ready for the "peaceful transition of power" on October 1. God Bless you all, the Georgia District and may God Bless America!



Alexia A. Lieber
Executive Director

alexia@kiwanis.mgacoxmail.com

I hope this finds everyone doing well. This has been another year of unknowing since the COVID 19 hit us last March a year ago, and as clubs now begin to meet again and some still meeting by Zoom, it has been a growing experience. As the 2020-21 Administrative year comes to an end, I would like to thank the leadership of Governor George Elkins and his Board for an outstanding job, but our job is not finished for we still have one month to go.

Membership

Clubs will have until October 10th to delete members for the 2020-21 year. Note all new members which come in after October 1st will go towards the 2021-22 membership totals.

I would like to thank George Elkins, Byron Mullican and Darryl Gumz for calling clubs to get Club Election reports in and posted. I am pleased to report that I have at least one officer listed for each club.

Annual Dues Billing

All clubs will receive a notice on their Dashboard to update their rosters. Kiwanis International will bill each club by the club rosters with the membership totals they show on October 10th. KI will send a billing to each club. This billing will go to the club secretary.

Please note that you may pay the Insurance portion of your dues from your Service Account. All dues are payable to Kiwanis International and are due by November 30th.

Georgia Kiwanian

Just a reminder, when sending in pictures for the Georgia Kiwanian, all pictures must be sent as a .jpg attachment to your email, with a caption naming the club and people in the picture.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2020-21 club officers for their work last year and to welcome the new club officers. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

tional and Georgia Districts dues.

Below is what Kiwanis International will

be invoicing the Club depending on the month you sign up the new member:

Georgia District and Kiwanis International Dues for New Members

Month	Amount for Georgia	Amount for KI	Total Amount Due
October	\$30.00	\$77.00	\$107.00
November	\$27.50	\$70.58	\$98.08
December	\$25.00	\$64.17	\$89.17
January	\$22.50	\$57.75	\$80.25
February	\$20.00	\$51.33	\$71.33
March	\$17.50	\$44.92	\$62.42
April	\$15.00	\$38.50	\$53.50
May	\$12.50	\$32.08	\$44.58
June	\$10.00	\$25.67	\$35.67
July	\$7.50	\$19.25	\$26.75
August	\$5.00	\$12.83	\$17.83
September	\$2.50	\$6.42	\$8.92

The dues for your club operating expenses are not the same as these new member dues but your monthly/quarterly dues should reflect 1/12th of the annual dues.

Kiwanis

Serving the Children of Georgia and the World

The Georgia Kiwanian



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Alexia Lieber - Editor

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Kiwanis
GEORGIA DISTRICT

Starting October 1, 2021 there will be a new dues structure for when the club gains a new members. Now, KI will have graduated dues like the Georgia has had, reducing the cost to the Club depending on which month you sign the new members. **REMEMBER**, come the following October you will be charged \$107 per member for all who are on your register.

The District is suggesting that each Club charge enough money for new members in the Club dues, in order to have the \$107 banked for the following year. Many Clubs do not budget properly during the year and when the new Kiwanis year comes, their Administration account doesn't have the funds to pay the Annual Kiwanis Interna-

Membership



Darryl Gumz
Existing Club Growth Committee
gumzes@gmail.com

As the Kiwanis year winds down, take a look at where you started and where you have gotten. Are you happy with the result? As of this writing, we have 63 clubs that have at least one new member. That's great! But we also have 51 clubs that are below where they started October 1st. Why might that be?

How are your meetings? Are they fun? Engaging? Is this how your members want to spend their hour? How do you know? Do you use Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) tools to know? [HYPERLINK "https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/division-leader/club-strengthening/achieving-club-excellence"](https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/division-leader/club-strengthening/achieving-club-excellence)https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/division-leader/club-strengthening/achieving-club-excellence has a host of tools to help you understand the temperature of your club meetings. Have you gone on any Interclub meetings to see what might be working somewhere else that you hadn't tried?

Did you know that we have a bunch of people ready to help you? We stand ready to come visit and bring help to your club. What we won't do is just show up, uninvited, and tell you how to run your club. If asked, we will come in and share some ideas and show you some resources that have worked with other clubs. You will decide what will work for you and what won't.

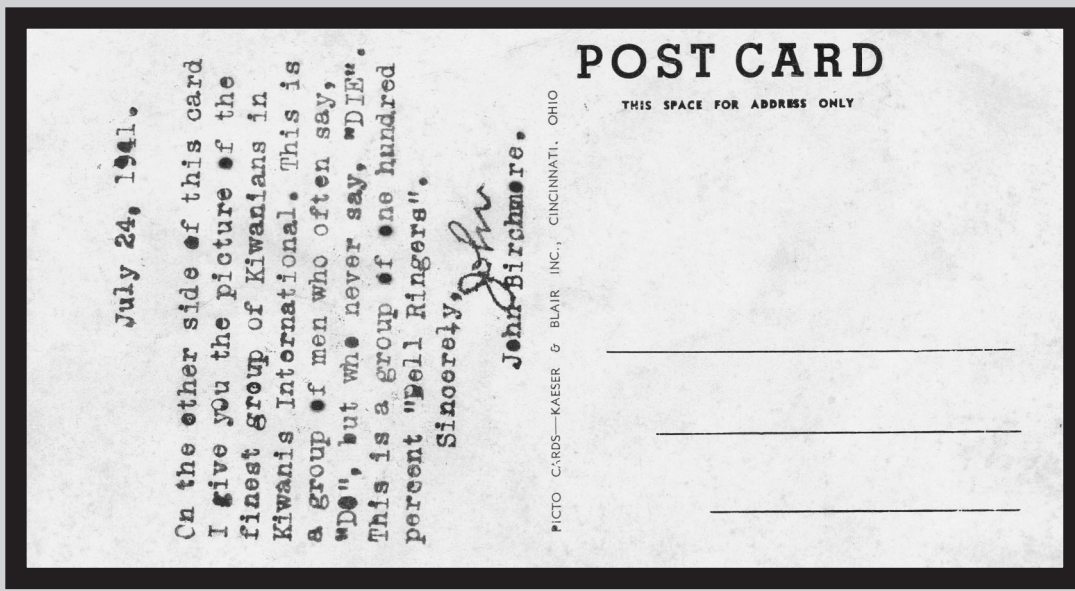
So, why do we care about number of members? Studies for Kiwanis show that each member affects the lives of 206 children each year. The impact of each new member is incredible. Most people join Kiwanis because they want to be involved in activities that help our children. Are your service projects attractive to new members and your community? Again, ACE tools can help you determine possible improvements.

PLEASE. Don't struggle through the year. Make sure your members are engaged in MEANINGFUL service projects and that they are having FUN at your meetings. When these things are happening, you just can't help but attract new members while you keep the ones you have. If you want help, just ask us. We are here to help you!

Membership Growth as of August 1, 2021

Div. Club	Growth	9.....	Milledgeville	+1	
1.....	Northside Atlanta	+3	9.....	Perry	+4
2.....	Barnsville.....	+1	10...	Blairsville.....	+1
2.....	Columbus	+5	10...	Blue Ridge	+4
2.....	Griffin	+13	10...	Jasper/Pickens Co.....	+3
2.....	Haris County	+1	10...	Rabun Co.	+1
2.....	Pike County.....	+3	10...	Toccoa	+1
2.....	Thomaston.....	+2	11 ...	Dalton	+1
3.....	Fayetteville/Greater Atl+1		11 ...	Murray County	+3
4.....	Jesup	+4	12...	Carrollton	+2
4.....	Richmond Hill.....	+3	12 ..	Cedartown.....	+4
4.....	Saint Marys	+4	12...	Douglasville	+4
4.....	Skidaway	+26	12...	Fairfield - Villa Rica	+2
4.....	Waycross.....	+2	12...	Villa Rica-Temple	+2
5.....	Albany	+3	13...	Cordele	+1
5.....	Albany Golden K	+1	13...	Sylvester	+2
5.....	Bainbridge	+1	14...	Alpharetta-Milton	+1
5.....	Dougherty Co., Albany.+1		14...	Brookhaven-Chamblee +3	
5.....	Thomasville	+1	14...	Doraville-Tucker	+1
6.....	Thomson	+3	15...	Georgia Online.....	+6
7.....	Athens	+7	15...	Greater Cherokee	+4
7.....	Classic City, Athens	+1	15...	Greater South Cobb	+3
7.....	Jefferson	+3	15...	Jonquil City, Smyrna ...+1	
7.....	West Jackson	+1	16...	Lithonia-Stonecrest	+4
7.....	Winder	+4	16...	Rex-Ellenwood	+15
8.....	Duluth-Norcross	+7	17...	Brooklet	+4
8.....	Forsyth County	+22	17...	Statesboro	+8
8.....	North Gwinnett.....	+10	17...	Swainsboro	+5
9.....	Crawford Co.	+1	18...	Eatonton	+1
9.....	Forsyth-Monroe Co.+11		18...	Henry County	+7
9.....	Fort Valley	+4	18...	Monroe	+2
9.....	Jones Co.	+3	18...	Social Circle	+3

“Blast From The Past” Covington, GA 1941



*If you have an event
you would like to
share, please send a
picture and caption to
alexia@kiwanis.
mgacoxmail.com
for the next
publication.*



The Georgia District website!

Please check it out, and use it
as a
resource for information with
the
Georgia District
www.GeorgiaKiwanis.com
Note: New Website link too!

In Memoriam

Huie Bray
Metro Fayette, Fayetteville

Jimmie Buchanan
Americus

John Chaklos, Jr.
Milledgeville

John T. Conger, III
Waycross

Rosa W. Connally
Coweta County

Aaron Correll
Swainsboro

Tom Crankshaw
Brunswick

W. E. Johnson, III
Augusta

Leroy Lewis
Louisville

Dan Lyon
Northside Atlanta

John E. Miller
Newnan

William O. “Dusty” Miller
Peachtree Atlanta

William D. Millians, Jr.
Milledgeville

Linda L. Moore
Dawson County

Thomas J. Rogers
Marietta Golden K

Jimmy H. Sprayberry
White Oak Golden K

Gary M. Straight
Saint Marys

Ronald E. Szelist
Saint Marys

Michael W. Wager
Mitchell-Baker

Red Walker
Kennworth

MEMBERSHIP

Cedartown Kiwanis Club Celebrates 100th Year



Pictured are George Mundy and current club president, Jeff Truitt.

As the Cedartown Kiwanis Club prepares for their 100th year celebration in September, they took time out to recognize their distinguished member on his 40th year, George Mundy.

Mr. Mundy is a past president and 3rd generation Kiwanian. His grandfather, W.W Mundy Sr, was a founding member in 1920 and his father, W. W. Mundy Jr., became a member almost 20 years later.

All three are past presidents. The Mundy family has been instrumental in the success of our club for over 100 years!!

**Kids
Need
Kiwanis**

Swainsboro and Dougherty County Kiwanis get new members



L to R: Past Lt. Gov. Tim Goodman, Sondra Fortner, Sponsor Tammy Allen, President Dess Smith III

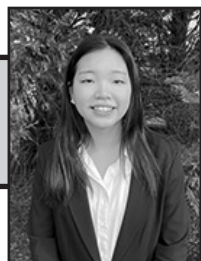
Our newest member of the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, Sondra Fortner, was inducted by Past Lt. Gov. Tim Goodman and Tim was assisted by Sondra's Kiwanis Sponsor, Vice President Tammy Allen.



Pictured are (from left) Mike Bertram, Dr. Gene Clark, Terri Clark, the Rev. Gary Brady, Larry Price, and our President Mel Almond.

The Kiwanis Club of Dougherty County recently welcomed and inducted two new members: Terri Clark and the Rev. Gary Brady. Terri, the wife of longtime Kiwanian Dr. Gene Clark, is a retired dialysis nurse and sponsored by Mike Bertram. Gary is head pastor at Christ United Methodist Church in Albany and was sponsored by Larry Price. Congratulations, Teri and Gary, and Kiwanis of Dougherty looks forward to your contributions to the club!

Service Leadership Programs



Monica Cho
Georgia Key Club District Governor
governor@gakeyclub.org

Governor's Address

Hello everyone!

My name is Monica Cho, and I am currently serving as the Georgia District Governor of Key Club International for the 2021-2022 year.

Looking back at the past 4 months, I strongly believe that my district board and I have been working hard towards meeting our goals set at the beginning of the year - including the ones for strengthening Key Club and Ki-

wanis relationships.

This summer, I also had the honor of attending Key Club International's SLC (Summer Leadership Conference) and LeadCon (Leadership Conference) in person, which further reminded me of why I love Key Club and the Kiwanis family.

Taking a tour of the Kiwanis International Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana and meeting Kiwanis "celebrities" (like Peter

Mancuso and Stan Soderstrom) truly felt like a dream come true!

With that being said, I look forward to working with more Kiwanians throughout the rest of my term - I am always one email away!

Yours in Service,

Monica Cho

Monica Cho

Kiwanis Club of Moultrie Honors 2021 CCHS Art Contest Winner



Kiwanis Club of Moultrie Honors 2021 CCHS Art Contest Winner Colquitt County High School Art Educator and Art Club Advisor Whitney Pitts proudly introduced Mimi La at a recent Kiwanis Club of Moultrie meeting as the 2021 art contest winner. Students competed in different categories for each grade and the winners were invited to the Kiwanis meeting for personal recognition.

Pictured to the left: Mimi La shows off her award-winning masterpieces.

Kiwanis

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

**New Key Club
Chartered
Gwinnett-Tran
Law Firm**

Sponsored by Suwanee

GA Leadership Medallion

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

Author Unknown

For many years, Georgian Kiwanians look forward to their Division Rallies for comradery, to meet the Governor and spouse, and to hear about the goals of our District - where we have been and where we are going. This year gave me a special honor to see our Gov George present Leadership Medallions to Aktion Club members.

Six Aktion Club members and one advisor were honored with the coveted medallions. In the Georgia District, until this year, a member of an SLP has never received a medallion, and it is about time. "Not common in the past but in today's changing world having 'adults with disabilities' be recognized is monumental," said Danny Hoover, Tiftarea Aktion Club Kiwanis advisor.

The GA Leadership Medallion is a Georgia award given to those who have shared and expressed their leadership abilities in the name of "Kiwanis". KI recognizes Aktion Club as SLPs (Service Leadership Programs), however, the Georgia leadership has taken their Aktion Club members potential a step further.

- Michael HouselAktion Club Tiftarea
- Ratiel ShephardAktion Club Tiftarea
- Latasha NewkirkAktion Club Tiftarea
- Michelle TaborAktion Club Tiftarea
- Danny HooverAktion Club Tiftarea - Advisor
- Katie KludtChattooga Aktion Club
- Emily BelkChattooga Aktion Club

Katie Kludt, Chattooga Aktion Club Treasurer, has won many gymnastics awards in her life and was excited to add this special recognition to her collection of medals.

see GA. Leadership page 5

Service Leadership Programs

Kiwanis Honors 2021 Scholarship Recipients

The William B. Withers Memorial Scholarship is presented to a student who has proven to be an outstanding leader. Bobby Mitchell has a long resume of leadership and service primarily through his involvement in FFA and 4-H. He has served as an officer 5 of his 7 years in FFA and is currently serving as the President of one of the largest, most active FFA chapters in the nation. He has competed in many Career Development Events including Agricultural Electrification, Agricultural Mechanics, Meat Judging, Wildlife Management, and Forestry. Bobby found his love when he started electrical wiring in his 8th grade agriculture class. He said the



thrill of connecting the colorful wires and transferring electricity to a light or outlet was powerful for him. He continued to develop those skills in class and after school and ultimately won state competitions in electrical wiring and agricultural mechanics. He gained valuable skills that he has been able to use in the workplace and to teach friends and coworkers.

In 4-H, Bobby held officer positions and competed in public speaking competitions. He also served as a 4-H STEM Ambassador, teen leader, and competed at the state level in the Engineering and Mechanics Competition. Participation in Leadership Colquitt County helped Bobby to

learn more about his community and to develop as a leader. Bobby is a member of Lakeview Baptist Church where he has worked on service projects including hurricane relief and helping elderly church members. Bobby has volunteered at the Store House at Heritage Church and worked in the Expo Garden with Farmer Fredo to benefit the Colquitt County Food Bank. He even assisted with set up for the Spring Fling Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. Ag teacher, Will Burt, says that Bobby shows maturity and professionalism beyond his age. He describes Bobby as the student every teacher desires to

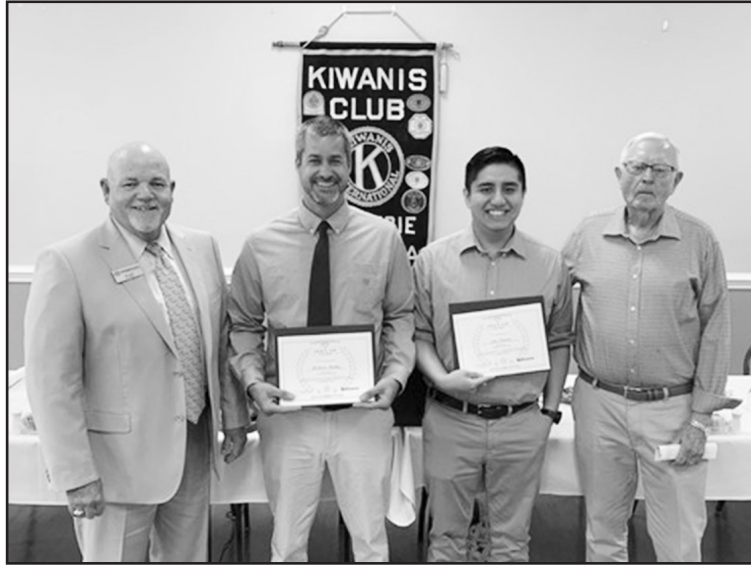
see *Scholarships* page 6

Kiwanis Honors Jack Gay Scholarship Recipients

The Jack Gay Scholarships are given to Colquitt County students enrolled at Southern Regional Technical College who have demonstrated success in their program of study and excellent career potential. The scholarships are given in honor of Mr. Jack Gay who served as President of Moultrie Technical College and is a long-time member and secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Moultrie.

Jose Huerta is currently employed as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Colquitt Regional Medical Center while completing the rigorous Associate of Science in Nursing program with the goal of becoming a registered nurse. Jose plans to use his degree to serve at our local hospital where he hopes to give patients the best possible experience and care. Jose will graduate in August, and he hopes his career path will include work on the medical surgical floor and higher-level care in the ICU. Jose says he never wants to stop learning. Jose's instructors classify him as a leader who participates heavily in discussions and always gives well-thought responses. In her letter of recommendation, Nursing Instructor, Melissia Bennett wrote, "Jose is already excelling in the nursing field as an LPN at Colquitt Regional. I feel that the ASN degree will be a steppingstone for him. I think he has the potential to pursue whatever specialty in nursing he wishes to pursue."

Nursing Instructor, Amy Brock, spoke of Jose's extraordinary work ethic and leadership potential as well as his strong academic and clinical skills. She stated, "In the clinical setting, Jose naturally steps into the leadership position when working



Pictured L to R: Jim Glass, SRTC President, Will Swilley, Jose Huerta, and Jack Gay

with his peers. His approach is to ensure that everyone on the team has what they need to perform their best. I have witnessed him reach out to other students to assist them when he recognized their need for help. Jose is very much a team player, and I can envision him in leadership."

William Swilley found himself in a dead-end job working 50 long, arduous hours a week and unhappy with the path his life was taking when his mother suggested he consider returning to school. Will continued to work for several months as he made preparations, determining what area of study he should pursue and a realistic path to accomplish his goals. He had enjoyed helping his Dad fix things when he was young and still enjoyed working with his hands, so a dual major of Automotive Technology and Air Conditioning Technology seemed like a good fit with great career potential. Once enrolled, Will earned a work study position in the Operations Department at the college. In that position, he

saw the great need for operations professionals with air conditioning experience and hopes to pursue a career in operations for a college or large institution.

Will has taken a full load each semester and is active in student clubs. He serves as President of Phi Beta Lambda. Will's professors describe him as hardworking, intelligent, and positive. In his recommendation, Jay Sizemore wrote, "I'm very confident that Will will be successful in his career. He is extremely intelligent and has a variety of practical skills that are hard to find in one person." Instructor, Mason Miller, says, "Will displays an exceptional work ethic, a positive attitude, and is constantly in learning mode." Will has earned the respect and admiration of his peers as well as the faculty and staff.

The Kiwanis Club of Moultrie is proud to play a role in Jose and Will's career development.



Izah Tahir
Georgia Circle K Governor
governor@georgiacirclek.or

Hello Georgia Kiwanis!

First, I just wanted to say how thankful Circle K is for your support! Throughout the pandemic, we have not been able to make the face-to-face connections we are accustomed to, but we appreciate everyone that cheered us on as we continued to serve our communities socially distanced, with masks, and even virtually. As our clubs transition back to an in-person format, please feel free to invite us to your meetings and attend our events to whatever degree you feel safe doing. We look forward to working with all of you (no matter what format it is in)!

Last month, the Georgia Circle K District Board was able to meet in person for our summer board meeting. We made decorations to donate to residents at a local nursing home and also planned for our upcoming events. The first of these district events, District Day of Service, is coming up in early October, and you are all invited! This year, we are planning to hold

District Day of Service in Warner Robins, GA with an outdoor service project. All members of the Kiwanis family are welcome to attend, so be sure to sign up when registration opens up later this month! We would love to have you with us. If you have any questions about the event or Georgia Circle K in general, please do not hesitate to contact me or the District Administrator Brent Leslie.

As schools reopen and the stress of classes is back upon most of us, I could not be more grateful knowing that Kiwanis is here to support us in our strife to better our communities while juggling school, social life, and both physical and mental health. Once again, I look forward to having you all with us at District Day of Service, and please feel free to reach out if you ever need anything from the Georgia District of Circle K!

Yours in Service,
Izah Tahir

GA. Leadership from page 4

The Chattooga Aktion Club Secretary, Emily Belk, noted her surprise to being recognized. "This honor means a lot to me!" Thank you, Georgia District leadership for stepping outside the normal in these not so normal times and recognizing the members of our Aktion clubs and their abilities as future leaders.

Congratulations to all who received the 2020-21 Leadership Medallions, but an extra congratulations to Aktion Club members who made history this year! By presenting the Leadership Medallions to these special Kiwanians, our District has shown that we believe in the ABILITIES of people with disabilities.

The Georgia District of Kiwanis website:
www.georgiakiwans.com

Community Service Projects

The Baxley Kiwanis Club Serve Lunch

In the month of July, The Baxley Kiwanis Club had the pleasure of serving lunch and snacks to a wonderful group of young people and their leaders. Each year we look forward to helping Amy Rediger and the Camp Whatever staff by bringing a meal and serving the kids! Camp Whatever is short for "Whatever I endeavor" to overcome and climb to new levels! These Kids that we serve cannot be photographed and we are sorry you missed their big Smiles! Without the hard work of many volunteers who give of their time, money, and big hearts

these young boys and girls would not have the chance to experience a camp filled with water slides, great food and many trips into the community and beyond. We love being a partner with Amy and her staff each year to serve a meal for them. It is our pleasure to help our community and if you would like to join our club come visit and be our guest. Baxley Kiwanis meets at Sarah's in the City, Baxley Georgia in the room on the left the First and Third Thursday of each month at 12:00. Lunch is Dutch. Together we are changing lives one child at a time!



(L-R) Mike Wheeler, Linda Stone, Lou Ogden, Heather Mullis, Samantha Craven, Tom Hatchett, Alex Johnson, Steve Meguiar, Cary Long, Mallory Knowles, Janine Hunter and Amy Rediger.

Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo



The Kiwanis Club of Tifton, in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Paradies Public Fishing Area, sponsored the Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, June 12, 2021. More than 175 people participated with the Kiwanis Club providing a free lunch and prizes to children participating.



The Georgia District of Kiwanis website:
www.GeorgiaKiwanis.com

Service Leadership Programs

Chattooga Aktion Club

Because of Covid, it has been a long year of separation for the members of the Chattooga Aktion Club. But it has not been a year of inactivity! Collaborating with local Kiwanis clubs on service projects has always been a highlight for this Aktion Club. So, the young ladies were thrilled when the Georgia online Kiwanis club recently approached them to help out by making bookmarks for a local book drive.

According to club president Paulette Harrison, "The best thing is that the books are being given to veterans." The Aktion Club has always loved visiting military bases and performing for the ser-

vice members to say, "Thank you for our freedom!" This was a way of providing impact at another level."

"This project is the beginning of hope for future in-person meetings," said Cindy Bickman, gymnastics coach and club advisor. The several girls who are fully vaccinated were able to get together and create the bookmarks. They will be the first to tell you, "Everything is more fun when you share it with friends!"

The Club partnered with Stearns, Montgomery & Proctor, a law firm known for supporting our military. They collected gently used books to complement

Scholarships from page 5

have in his classroom.

The Elsie Creech Memorial Scholarship is given to a student who has demonstrated the ability to undertake college work and participate in extracurricular activities. Gabe Horne has been a member of FFA, FCCLA, and Partnership for Success since 9th grade. He served in officer positions in FCCLA and PFS. In addition, he has played on the Packer Baseball Team since 7th grade and has proven himself as a leader on and off the field. Gabe was recently named 2nd Team All-region Designated Hitter for his senior season performance. While many find it difficult to balance a varsity level sport, extracurricular activities, and academics, Gabe has figured out how to put all the pieces together. He has volunteered with the Humane Society and participates in service projects through Sha Missions with his church youth group. Some of those projects include delivering food, toy drives, and working at the soup kitchen.

Gabe is a graduate of Leadership Colquitt County and credits the program with helping to develop his leadership skills and knowledge of his community. Social Studies teacher, Amy

Dalton, shared that while Gabe's accomplishments are impressive, she is most impressed by his humility and kindness. She said he is especially kind to students with disabilities and students who come from difficult circumstances. Gabe is ranked in the top 10% of his class, and his teachers express confidence that he will be successful in whatever endeavor he chooses to pursue. Gabe is the son of Chad and Amanda Horne and the grandson of Kiwanian, Gene West. Gabe continues the family tradition of earning a Kiwanis scholarship – both his mother, Amanda (West) Horne, and uncle, Joey West, received Kiwanis scholarships in high school.

The Nita Belle Scarbrough Memorial Scholarship is presented to a student who has achieved exemplary grades and test scores while participating in extracurricular activities. Cady Suber's high school involvement includes HOSA, Partnership for Success, Key Club, and Y-Lead. In HOSA, Cady served as an officer and helped to plan, organize and lead meaningful club meetings that would be beneficial to students aspiring to careers in healthcare. Cady's service activ-

ities include volunteer work at the hospital, Trick or Treat for Unicef, and volunteering at the Expo in the information booths, but her greatest joy comes from service projects aimed at helping special needs students. In Y-Lead, Cady participated in sessions focused on team building, leadership development, and quality interactions with Special Olympics Athletes. In PFS, she enjoyed getting to read to and spend quality time with special needs students and then getting to participate with the students at the Special Olympics games.

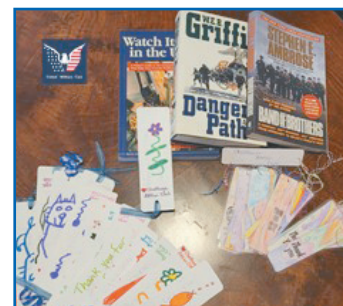
Cady has completed her service while taking a rigorous course load including many AP and Dual Enrollment college courses. Cady has maintained a GPA of 99.019, and she is ranked in the top 5% of her class. In addition to her school and volunteer activities, Cady enjoys working for Kiwanian, Darrell Griner at Griner's Jewelry. Cady has shown that she has developed the skills needed to balance many demands on her time and attention, and those skills will benefit her greatly as she transitions to college and career.

Aktion's hand-crafted bookmarks, all of which were gifted through the local United Military Care (UMC) organization to veterans in assisted living facilities, in shelters, and also the homeless veterans.

UMC is a Georgia nonprofit <https://www.unitedmilitarycare.org> whose mission is to lend a helping hand to veterans of all ages, branches, and lifestyles. "The two packages of fabulous, handmade bookmarks donated by Aktion added a personal touch for area veterans," said Kim Scofi, CEO of UMC.

Mary Montgomery, SM&P's founding and managing partner,

expressed her thanks to the Aktion Club and the firm's employees, as well as appreciation for the veterans. "Like they often do, staff took time out of their very busy days to respond to community needs. They always come forward to do what they can for those who have done so much for all of us -- our veterans."



Community Service Projects

“Kiwanis Feeds Summer Reading Program Kids”

“The Swainsboro Kiwanis Club prepared a lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, and cookies at the Vann Community House for the Franklin Memorial Library Children’s Summer Reading program at 11:00 am, Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

The Emanuel County Farm Bureau presented a program “For the Love of Pets”. A police dog, service dog, therapy dog and their handlers entertained 54 children and their parents. Lunch was then served.

The Farm Bureau donated hotdog buns and Friends of the Library donated drinks.

This lunch is an annual event that the Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro provides to

the kids for the end of the Summer Reading program each year.”



L to R: Kiwanians Cheryl Goodman, Tammy Allen, Deana Patrick, Sondra Fortner and Petite Garrett.



L to R: Tim Goodman, Travis Garrett, Cheryl Goodman, Tammy Allen, Sondra Fortner, Windy Ward, Deana Patrick, Jim Daughtry, Frank Patrick, Petite Garrett, and Jim Clapham.

Statesboro Kiwanis Club Blood Drive

The Statesboro Kiwanis Club sponsored our second blood drive of 2021 on June 4 at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds. The drive was a big success!

We were able to assist the Red Cross in collecting 38 units of much-needed blood. Included in the 38 units collected, Kiwanians donated 8 units, and several Kiwanians were on hand to assist in registering donors, providing refreshments, and thanking donors for helping when the need for blood is so great.

This is a project that our club has held for many years, and one that we really look forward to.



Adopt a Mile

The Kiwanis Club Lost Mountain pick-

ing up trash along Dallas Highway in west Cobb County.



Flag Day!

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, three Northside Kiwanians (Wally, Rev Fahed and Mike) proudly celebrated the 2021 Flag Day at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Lawrenceville, GA.

The whole ceremony was planned and coordinated by Flag Day Committee headed by our own Northside Kiwanis Club member, Mike Sabbagh! The ceremony included several dignitaries from the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, City of Lawrenceville, City of Snellville, Veterans of Foreign Wars and also the three representatives from the Northside Kiwanis Club.

Our own Rev. Fahed AbuAkel delivered the Invocation and the Benediction at this successful and wonderful ceremony of honoring the Old Glory!

One life lost. One flag flown.

Sponsor a Flag or Volunteers for Kiwanis Club of Marietta’s 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Field of Flags

Since 1997, the Kiwanis Club of Marietta has been known throughout the community for its signature Flag Project. Club members deploy over 1,700 large American flags around the city Square, at Lockheed, around Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, and throughout Marietta on six patriotic holidays each year. In the years following the terrorist attack on September 11,



2001, the club expanded its flag-related activities to include the Field of Flags, one of the largest commemorations of 9/11 in the nation. This stunning visual tribute to 9/11 victims is held every five years at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield, where almost 3,000 large three-by-five foot flags are flown, one for every life lost on that fateful day.

This year, which marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attack, the Field of Flags memorial has become a District 15 Project. Kiwanis volunteers from the district and across the state are needed to help with the event scheduled for September 4th – 18th. There are a variety of ways to participate that include sponsoring a flag for \$30, carrying a flag in the procession to the battlefield on September 4th, and attending the memorial service on Saturday, September 11th. The featured speaker this year is Captain James D’Avolio from the New York Fire Department. More information, including opportunities to sponsor a flag and dates and

see Flags page 9

Camden House Woman’s Shelter Damaged by Tornado

Camden House woman’s shelter sustained significant damage when a tornado touched down in St Marys, GA.

Kiwanis Club of St Marys used the “Happy Bucks” campaign to raise \$324 to help out with Camden House repairs.



Pictured: (l-r) Greg Lockhart, Kiwanis member and Camden House Board of Directors and Keith Post, Kiwanis President.

Suwanee Kiwanis Club



Members of the Suwanee Kiwanis Club provided backpacks and school supplies to foster children in Gwinnett County.

Community Service Projects

Kiwanis Club of Statesboro Places American Flags in Front of Subscribers Homes

The Kiwanis Club of Statesboro has partnered with the local *Habitat for Humanity* group to place American flags in front of subscribers homes and businesses on all the patriotic holidays.

We have adopted a large residential subdivision in Statesboro, and will place the flags for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Patriot's Day, and Veterans Day.

This is an example of the kinds of things we can do as a club to promote patriotism in our community, and gain positive exposure for Kiwanis at the same time.



Kiwanis Club of Statesboro

Children's Backpack Buddies Book Drive



The Statesboro Kiwanis Club's Children's Book Drive was a great success. We had set our goal at 5 books per Kiwanis member, so we hoped to collect around 575 books from within our membership. When all was said and done, we had collected over 930 books for children in grades Pre-K through 5th grade!

Think of all the area children that will benefit from having access to books at home. Being able to read and learning to enjoy reading is a primary key to success in school and in life, and so many children don't have that opportunity. This is an example of things we can do in our community to help make a difference. This program cost very little money, but will have a huge impact on lots of children. We plan to make this an annual event.

Thanks to Marilyn Hale, who chaired this effort, together with the local chapter of Altrusa International, who will help distribute the books to children. This project was completed in May 2021.

AVID Achievement Program

The Kiwanis Club of Douglas County supports the AVID Achievement Program. Pictured are Melanie Manley, Asst. Superintendent and Melissa Joe, AVID Coordinator were introduced by Past President Edwin Jones.

The club has donated \$800.00 to support the program at four elementary schools. The AVID Program helps schools and teachers make learning more meaningful and engaging.

It provides students with critical skills to become confident, independent thinkers and become more organized, increase reading skills and manage their time both inside and outside the classroom. Douglas County will be the 12th AVID district in the state of Georgia. The main focus of the organization will be note-taking, organization, and creating a college-bound culture.



Saint Marys Independence Day Festival

St Marys Kiwanis Club successfully held an Independence Day Festival as a community event and fund raiser.

Festival included over 120 vendors, 129 5K & 10 Racers, a parade and of course Fireworks.

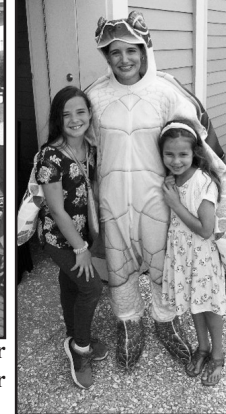
We also had free entertainment all day playing to a crowd of about 10,000 people. Festival Theme was recognizing our care givers and first responders.



Our own member Abbie Cumming as one of our Grand Marshalls representing all those who have given so much.



President Keith Post and Vendor Coordinator Judy Thurner presenting at Best Overall Vendor award to Flower Child by Delaney



National Park Service Sea Turtle teaching about our coastal environment

Community Service Projects

Kiwanis Club St Marys recognized the City of St Marys

Kiwanis Club St Marys recognized the City of St Marys for the excellent support during the Independence Day Festival. Without the help of the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works Department, this festival could not take place. Kiwanis Club is very appreciative of their efforts.



Pictured: (l-r) Keith Post, President St Marys Kiwanis Club, Fire Chief Tom Lackner, Jacob Owens, Matthew Watson and Police Chief Mike Wilkey.

Not pictured, Mayor John Morrissey City Manager Robbie Horton and Bobby Marr, Public Works Department head.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K serves a BBQ lunch to city of Marietta 1st responders

For the past 18 years the Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K has served the city of Marietta 1st Responders a BBQ lunch on the "Fourth of July". Due to the Covid 19 epidemic, the event did not take place last year, however, the Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K resumed the tradition this year. First Responders of the City of Marietta enjoyed a delicious "4th of July" BBQ lunch, with all the trimmings, on the 3rd of July served at Atherton Square in front of the Marietta Welcome Center.

In addition to the 1st responders, a special guest was treated to a BBQ lunch. Miss Georgia's Teen, Megan Wright stopped by to have lunch with the First Responders.



**Miss Georgia's Teen
MEGAN HAYNES**



**1st responders:
Alvin Cummings,
Chase Robinson and
Vernon Jackson**



Marietta Police Officer Sgt. Foster is served by Kiwanis Club of Marietta Golden K members Aimee Mendel and Randy Pettit

Fundraising



John C. Holley

- District Coordinator, The Eliminate Project
- Kiwanis Children's Fund Chair

jholley40@comcast.net

By the time you read this article, our District Convention will have ended already, and we again did not have the opportunity to see each other in person. Yes, I understand that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our lives, including Kiwanis activities, but, as Kiwanians, we will continue to "Serve the Children of the World" and continue to be the most outstanding service organization in the World.

At the Convention, I had planned to have our standard display, to have an education session to update you on the Kiwanis Children's Fund, and to be available as a resource when needed. Since that was not possible, I thought it would be neat to have an education session, called RUMOR vs. REALITY, using my article as the vehicle,

Since we are not able to have a dialogue, I am going to provide the **RUMOR** and then give the **REALITY**.

RUMOR: At the end of 2020, Kiwanis stopped supporting the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT).

REALITY: While our formal fundraising campaign, The Eliminate Project, ended at the end of 2020, Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Children's Fund will support the elimination of MNT in perpetuity. About 25,000 babies still die each year from tetanus. We won't rest until the number is zero.

RUMOR: Once maternal and neonatal tetanus is eliminated, it can't come back.

REALITY: Because tetanus is caused by spores found in soil everywhere, the disease will never be eradicated. But with three doses of the vaccine, mothers

become protected and pass the immunity to their future babies. We strive for a world where every woman and child is protected against this deadly disease.

RUMOR: A club has to donate to the Children's Fund to receive a grant.

REALITY: All Kiwanis clubs in good standing are eligible to apply for a grant. The Grant Committee of the Kiwanis Children's Fund Board of Trustees approves grants solely on the merits of the project.

RUMOR: Giving to a district foundation is the same as giving to the Children's Fund.

REALITY: District foundations and the Kiwanis Children's Fund are separate entities. District foundations use donations to support the priorities of Kiwanians in their district. When you give to the Children's Fund, which is an international founda-

tion, you support the work and priorities of Kiwanians around the world.

RUMOR: Kiwanis doesn't care about iodine deficiency disorder (IDD) anymore.

REALITY: Kiwanis International started our first Global Campaign for Children in 1994, when we helped raise over \$100 million to eliminate IDD. We have heightened awareness about iodine deficiencies – the leading cause of preventable intellectual disabilities - and raised money to support salt iodization. Kiwanians continue to invest in the cause, and in recent years the Children's Fund has awarded more than \$800,000 to fight IDD in places like Cambodia, Sudan, Morocco, and Myanmar.

Hopefully, this short sample has answered some questions you may have had. In the meantime, I look forward to being your representative to the Kiwanis Children's Fund and to keep you informed about The Eliminate Project. **KEEP SUPPORTING YOUR KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND.**

Flags from page 7

times for all activities, is available at the event's website, www.911fieldofflags.com.

Marietta Kiwanis co-chairs Councilwoman Michelle Cooper-Kelly, Frank Mims, Jamie Vann and a large Field of Flags Committee are heading up this year's event. Corporate sponsors include Cobb EMC, C. W. Matthews Contracting, GeoSurvey, and Withers Tool, Die, & Manufacturing. Co-chair Jamie Vann is thankful for their expertise and donations of time and materials. But he was quick to point out that there is still much to do and volunteers from all Kiwanis clubs in District 15 are needed.

Potential volunteers should contact club executive director Pat Huey at pathuey@comcast.net. More information on the 20th anniversary Field of Flags is available at www.911fieldofflags.com.

**Kids
Need
Kiwanis**

<

People in the News

Kiwanian of Month

Kiwanis Club of St Marys has resumed their monthly meeting at the St Marys United Methodist Church Baily Hall. Members were very appreciative of Southern River Walk restaurant for hosting them while the church was closed due to covid restrictions.

At the first meet the Kiwanis Club of St Marys recognized Jack Hutchinson as the Kiwanian of Month for May, Allan Giese as Kiwanian of the Month for June, and Dale Law for Kiwanian of the Month for July.



Picture caption: (l-r) Allan Giese, Kiwanian of the Month for June; Jack Hutchinson, Kiwanian of the Month of May; Dale Law, Kiwanian of the Month for July and Keith Post, Kiwanis President

New Blake Bass Middle School

The Kiwanis Club of Newnan gathered at the county's new Blake Bass Middle School for their July 20 meeting. The middle school was named in honor of Bass, a former Coweta County School Superintendent and Newnan Kiwanian.

Bass grew up in Coweta County and graduated from Coweta County schools. While a member of the school system, Bass served as a coach, teacher, principal, personnel director, assistant and associate superintendent, and finally superintendent from 2004-2011.

During his tenure as superintendent, Coweta students' SAT scores rose above the national average for the first time. In 2010, Coweta was one of only two large



districts in the state in which every school achieved Adequate Yearly Progress as outlined by the No Child Left Behind Act and Coweta was recognized as achieving district-wide SACS accreditation in Georgia.

Bass is a past president of the Newnan Kiwanis Club and former Lieutenant Governor for Georgia's 3rd District. He is pictured in the middle of the front row.

3Kiwanis Women from page 1

of Commerce, Liberty House, March of Dimes and the Albany Technical College Foundation. She has served as past chair of Lee County Heart Association and past president of Lee County Association of Educators and Women in Network. She is past district director of Georgia Association of Educators. She was a finalist for Small Business of the Year and was named Junior Women's Club Family of the Year, Georgia Business Teacher of the Year and Future Business Leaders of America Advisor of the Year. She is the owner of Merle Norman Cosmetics and Gifts in Albany, Georgia. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in education from Georgia State University.

Reiser was a member of Walnut Grove High School Key Club for four years and served as club secretary for one year. She's a Key Club advisor for the Georgia District. Her hobbies include writing,

playing the piano, baking, reading and volunteering. Her favorite CKI service project is working with therapy dogs.

She hopes to be a kindergarten or second grade teacher when she finishes college.

Kim has been involved with Kiwanis International for five years, joining Builders Club in the seventh grade. She joined Key Club when she entered high school and served as chair of the Georgia District's Contests and Policies Committee. She has also served as district lieutenant governor and has been honored as a district outstanding committee chair. She has worked with Key Clubs in the Jamaica, Utah-Idaho and Kansas districts and served on a Global Relations Committee to expand the reach of Key Club. Outside of Key Club she is involved in STEM, working in synthetic biology to engineer organisms with different preferred traits and characteristics. Her hobbies include baking, crocheting and painting.

Kiwanian of the Year Award



Turns out, Kiwanians can keep a secret: Jenny Ingram has served as secretary of the Carrollton Kiwanis Club from January 2007 and keeps on ticking!

The Kiwanis Club surprised Jenny with a special program, cake, a watch from Kiwanis International, and the Kiwanian of the Year Award. Thank you Jenny for your years of dedicated service.

Angela Wigger, St Marys Tourism Director

Kiwanis Club of St Marys recognized Angela Wigger, St Marys Tourism Director for outstanding support of the Kiwanis Club Independence Day Festival.

Mrs. Wigger worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make everything work smoothly on the day of the festival.

Her publicity initiatives brought a large family crowd to downtown St Marys to enjoy the day's events.



Picture caption: (l-r) Angela Wigger, St Marys Tourism and Keith Post, Kiwanis President

Audrey Clark recognized with the Legion of Honor



Picture caption: (l-r) Keith Post, Kiwanis President; Audrey Clark, Life Member; Herb Rowland, Kiwanis Secretary; Jimmy Clark

Kiwanis Club of St Marys recognized Audrey Clark with the Legion of Honor for 35 years of community service in the Kiwanis Club.

Mrs. Clark was the first woman to join Kiwanis back in 1986, she was later a two term President and three term Lt Governor for the Georgia District of Kiwanis.

She was also instrumental in starting the Kiwanis Rock Shrimp festival, Thanksgiving food distribution, Christmas for Camden Kids and the Terrific Kids program in Camden County schools.

In recognition of Mrs. Clark's service to our community, she was also awarded a Life Membership in Kiwanis.

Other Committee Reports



Robert D. Pinckney
Youth Protection
drbob21@msn.com

Youth Protection

As we close the 2020- 2021 Kiwanis year and prepare to begin another I ask that we give thought to how can we better ensure the welfare of children and youth who rely on our protection while under our supervision? I believe we can do this when we adhere to goals of the Youth Protection Program(YP): Pro-

see *Youth Protection* page 11



Jim Perry,
District Chair, Human and Spiritual Values
jimkiwanian@gmail.com

As we anticipate Installation Ceremonies across the Georgia District, we are grateful for those who have stepped forward to lead in Kiwanis Year 2021-2022. We approach this year with great enthusiasm that COVID-19 will not stand in

the way, as it did last year. School programs are beginning, with some of our schools starting way back on August 2.

The opportunities are endless because the needs are endless. Yet, we hear hesitancy from school leaders and others. The conflict in decision making is real. "Masks

see *Jim Perry* page 11

Memories from The Council of Delegates



Youth Protection from page 11

protecting the youth members from predators and empowering and educating the adult members with the best practices to use in our clubs and group gatherings. When we do this, then we will be able to give voice to these goals.

Kiwanis International has established guidelines for the Youth Protection program that it expects to be followed annually. Two of these are the Policies and Procedures and Background Check requirements. These two steps will get us to the basics. The third expectation is to gain an understanding of how Predators work as they gain the trust of those around them.

This is where the Praesidium Academy training which consists of six modules covering various topics of child abuse comes into play at no cost to members. It will train you to differentiate normal interactions between adults and children or peer to peer and those that are not normal. The training will help you to better appreciate our responsibilities of protecting the youth in our charge or in other settings we may find ourselves.

As the YP Manager my charge is to oversee that our clubs conduct the review and discuss the aforementioned policies and background check requirements at the beginning of each Kiwanis year.

As of now I have had the pleasure of meeting with fifteen out of our 151 clubs via zoom, mostly, and a couple in person. Not a good batting average. To improve my average for the upcoming year I would like to propose that each club designate a YP Coordinator whose role would be to present the Policies and Procedures to their clubs and review the Background check requirements for all members at the start of each year. I will ensure the necessary materials are made available in a timely manner. I am available to respond to any questions or concerns by telephone or email.

The third guideline is the Praesidium Academy training a requirement for all Kiwanis SLP Advisors and District Officers which I will also assist with the enrollment piece.

I am asking all Georgia Kiwanis members to be a part of the annual delivery of these very important policy initiatives developed to not only protect the children we serve but to also protect your clubs and its members from possible liability.

Finally, your input to this suggestion is welcomed. I have come to realize the YP Manager can not reach out and touch every club in our District in the manner he would like but working jointly we can get the job done.

Every chance you get, love on the kids, and let them know you care what they have been enduring. Support school staff members and urge them to stop allowing our kids to be used as pawns in political power struggles and social experiments.

Finally, let's urge one another to act like adults; to be kind; to show some real maturity; and use our Kiwanian ingenuity to develop and continue programs that will help our kids and make our communities proud again. We are all children of God, and it is about time we act like we are related, no matter what your faith tradition.

Jim Perry from page 11

will be worn in school." "There will be no masks in schools." "Volunteers are always welcome here." "We would love to have volunteers after school." "No volunteers this year as long as we are in substantial or high transmission areas."

I'm sure you have conversations of your own you could add, and I'm sure the school leaders are doing what they think is right. But please understand that the majority of the victims of COVID-19 are those who spent last school year in front of computer screens and those who may spend this school year behind masks.

It took us about 9 months last year to develop three effective COVID-19 vaccinations. It's time for the FDA to change the emergency authorization to approved, so that these vaccinations can be given to more people. People are hesitant because the vaccines available are approved for experimental use only.

We all should recognize that polio, small

pox, and typhoid were not eradicated by herd immunity but by vaccines. While we fight about COVID, government spending, Critical Race Theory, what pronouns are acceptable for who, and so on, ad nauseum; the real victims are the children. Scripture says, "...a little child will lead them."

That gives me hope, because the adults aren't doing so well right now. In our quests for power, money, status, recognition, and getting elected, we are running over the most innocent and indefensible among us. They do not normally go to the hospital nor are they in the ICU, but the mental and emotional damage to our children is almost incalculable.

Society is in a tug of war, and the children are the rope. Society acts as if we don't care what happens to the rope as long as we win. There is no vaccine for the damage our kids are sustaining through masks, Zoom, lost learning, and anxiety over the circumstances thrust upon them.

