Kiwanigram of Skidaway

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Kiwanis Club of Skidaway

Georgia District 4 — Savannah, GA — February/March 2017



Message from the President

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you back after the holidays and to see all your smiling faces again. I hope you spent some quality time with friends and loved ones.

Tom Stephens, Erv Hietbrink and I attended the District Governor's Rally hosted by our Lt. Governor, Kathy Harrell on January 19th. We had the privilege to meet our Governor, Carol Wisdom, and other District officers in addition to the officers of other clubs in our Division. Hopefully, we will be organizing an Interclub visitation in the near future and enjoy the hospitality of nearby clubs. Events like this really give you a picture of the importance of Kiwanis in our communities and the work that is done to help children in need.

As I look forward, we will be having our annual Pancake Breakfast on February 25th and can use everyone's help in making this event fun and worthwhile. Kevin O'Neil and Mike Pavlis have spent many hours organizing it. We need everyone to get friends and neighbors to join us on the 25th. (continued next page)

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President's Message (continued from page 1)

Our membership continues to grow with six new members since October. Please invite friends to join us for breakfast on Thursdays to explore the world of Kiwanis. We have a special group of members with a special mission of "serving the children of Savannah and the world, one child at a time."

- Ben Gustafson



Fundraising News

It's Time for Pancakes!

- Special to the Kiwanigram from Mike Pavlis and Kevin O'Neil

It's pancake time, and we're inviting everyone we know to come and enjoy our club's famous hot-off-the-grill pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee at our this year's Pancake Breakfast. This annual event has been an island favorite, and we look forward to welcoming everyone on Saturday, February 25 at the Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church. The first ceremonial pancake comes off the grill at 7:00 a.m. and, with your help, we'll keep them coming until breakfast ends at 11:00 a.m.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with this first fundraiser for 2017. We ask for your special support in helping to get the word out, selling your tickets and letting neighbors and friends know they can also go to our website to buy tickets. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and free for kids under 8. And don't forget to help everyone you know buy raffle tickets for a chance to win great prizes.



Kiwanis of Skidway Meets \$25,000 Goal for Project Eliminate

- Special to the Kiwanigram from Gene McDonald, Project Eliminate Chair

Thank you, fellow Kiwanians, for your generous financial support for Kiwanis International's second global health initiative, the Project to Eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus. Though significant progress has been made, maternal and neonatal tetanus is a disease that still steals the lives of 35,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. Project Eliminate's goal is to eradicate this disease from the face of the earth.

I'm happy to report that our club not only reached our goal to raise \$20,000 of voluntary contributions, but we have now surpassed the \$25,000 mark. Thanks to all for your donations great and small.



Your support has helped Kiwanis International to reach its goal of raising the \$110 million required to provide needed vaccines costing \$1.80 for each woman of child-bearing age in affected countries. Thank you.

Project Eliminate chair Gene McDonald presents a Walter Zeller award to Jan Wright, for her Project Eliminate donation in memory of her late father, Bob Osborn, our club's 10th president.



Service News

Special Olympics Track & Field Event is March 29

alling all Kiwanians to let Bob Reinhard know that you want to be part of our annual support to Special Olympics' spring track and field meet. This half-day event brings smiles to athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers. You can help provide a special day for these young people. Each smile is priceless. Contact Bob at 598-5445 or rareinhard@aol.com to learn more and volunteer.

Junior Achievement News

- Special to the Kiwanigram from JA's Morgan Sawicki

The Junior Achievement Coastal Region is an organization that will serve more than 15,000 students in grades K-12 in the Savannah area this year with classes and experiences that focus on personal financial literacy, workforce development, ethics and 21st Century skills.

This past fall, 18 volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Skidaway served over 530 students in grades 1 - 5 at Hesse Elementary School. The program implementation and volunteer recruitment were headed by Tom Stephens, Junior Achievement Coordinator from Kiwanis Club of Skidaway.

"With this being my third year volunteering with Junior Achievement, I find that my experience grows to be more rewarding each semester," said Tom Stephens. "We could not participate in the program if it were not for all of our volunteers who have made each semester with the students extremely meaningful and successful."

Junior Achievement's unique delivery system provides the training, materials, and support necessary to bolster the chances for student success. JA's elementary school programs are the foundation of its K-12 curricula. Six sequential themes, each with five hands-on activities work to change students' lives by helping them understand business and economic concepts.

SCCPSS Middle and High School Reading Bowl Competitions

Several years ago, Mrs. Helen Ruffin, a library media specialist in DeKalb County, wanted to find a way to use the nominee books from the Georgia Children's Book Awards to encourage her students to read. She therefore created a unique reading competition in game format, called the Reading Bowl, using the award nominees. Her vision was to have teams comprised of students from different schools compete to test their knowledge of the selected books. Today, the Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is open to students in grades four through twelve across the state. The winning teams from the Divisional Bowls meet at the Annual Conference on Children's

Literature in March for the State Championship of the Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. Source: http://gcba.coe.uga.edu/gcba-awards/helen-ruffin-reading-bowl

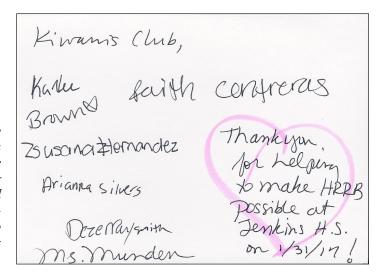
n January 30, twelve SSCPSS teams competed in the Middle School Reading Bowl Competition at The Whitney Complex. Students from Charles Ellis, Coastal, DeRenne, Garrison, Godley Station, Hesse, Mercer, Myers, Oglethorpe, Rice Creek and Southwest participated, along with their coaches. On January 31, seven teams competed in the High School Reading Bowl Competition at Jenkins High School: Beech, Islands, Jenkins, Johnson, New Hempstead, Windsor Forest and Woodville-Thompkins.

Reading bowls require a lot of volunteers, from team coaches, media-specialist moderators, console judges, round scorers, master scorers and runners, not to mention all the parents and other volunteers who provide transportation, snacks and encouragement each step of the way. They are conducted a lot like Jeopardy. All middle school competitors had a 10-book reading list, and high school competitors had a 20-book list. Then each team competed in six rounds of 10 questions each, each round against different school's team. Students buzzed in and, when recognized by the console judge, could answer. Correct answers scored 10 points, and incorrect answers allowed the competing team to answer. To see the competition rules, see http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/helen-ruffin-reading-bowl/format-rules.

It was an amazing experience seeing all the students, coaches and school administrator volunteers work together to make the Reading Bowl work so well and provide encouragement to all the students who participated.

Many thanks to these Kiwanians who volunteered as runners:

- Middle School: Allen Blount, Dick Glover, Jan Wright (and Jan's P.E.O. sisters Gayl Glover, Susan Kragelund and Sharlene Monahan)
- High School: Melissa Emery, Erv Hietbrink, Gene and Diane McDonald and Bob Norton.



Club Administration News

Getting "Orientated..."

- Special to the Kiwanigram from Dan Umbel

Whether you have been a member of Kiwanis for many years, just joined, or are thinking about joining, you need to get "Orientated..." Why? Because Kiwanis of Skidaway has so much to offer that you may not know or (more likely) not remember.

Bill Wright "orientated" me back in 2008 and it created an eagerness in me to use our club as a platform to serve the at-risk kids of Chatham County. After a few years, "life got in the way" and I wasn't able to break away from work to be at Special Olympics or Junior Achievement but I wanted to keep serving our club. Because of Bill's thorough orientation, I remembered that I could serve our club a different way—as a leader—and I asked to join the Board of Directors. This gave me the flexibility to serve before and after hours, helping provide insight that I thought could help direct the club in a positive way. Orientation helped me stay on course when I served as President. During orientation Bill told me that Kiwanis clubs focus on changing the world by serving children, one child and one community at a time; every decision I made was based on that principle.

But most importantly, you realize that you are not just another volunteer organization in town. You are actually a part of Kiwanis International, founded in 1915 and currently supporting 15,000 clubs worldwide in over 90 nations with well over 600,000 members. You are a part of something so much bigger than yourself and all of us move forward each day, to help in our special way, focusing on children who need us.

Please come get "Orientated." I promise it will help instill an eagerness in you to find a new exciting way to help, or give you that extra motivation to give a little more.

Kiwanis Orientation: Immediately following the last meeting of each month.



Why I Attended the Georgia District Mid-Winter Training Conference

- Special to the Kiwanigram from Erv Hietbrink

There are several reasons why I consider it important to attend Georgia District and Kiwanis International events like the Georgia District's Mid-Winter Training held in Macon on Saturday, February 11.

- **1. TO HEAR** about important upcoming events in Kiwanis International (KI) and the Georgia District like:
- July 13-16, 2017 Kiwanis International Convention in Paris, France
- August 25-27, 2017 Georgia District Convention in Atlanta
- 2. TO MEET current, past and future Kiwanis leaders and acquaintances whom I have made over my time as a Kiwanian. Call it maintaining friendships and catching up with what these fine folk are up to now. For example, Dewey Smith who was Governor of the Georgia District before my first tour as Lt. Governor has gone on to become

Menu Week #1

Scrambled Eggs
Breakfast Grits
Sausage Links or Patties
Fresh Seasonal Fruit
Fresh Buttermilk Biscuits,
served with White Gravy on the side
Coffee/Tea

Menu Week #2

Scrambled Eggs
Breakfast Grits
Applewood Smoked Bacon
Fresh Seasonal Fruit
Hash Browns
Low-Fat Greek Yogurt,
with Berries and Granola selection
Coffee/Tea

Menu Week #3

Scrambled Eggs Breakfast Grits Potatoes O'Brien Sausage Links or Patties Fresh Seasonal Fruit Coffee/Tea

Menu Week #4

Scrambled Eggs
Applewood Smoked Bacon
Fresh Seasonal Fruit
French Toast
Hash Browns
Coffee/Tea

Menu Week #5 (when applicable)

Chef's Selection Frittata Potatoes O'Brien Applewood Smoked Bacon Fresh Seasonal Fruit Coffee/Tea

"Coffee Only" Menu

Hot Coffee (Decaf & Regular) Hot Water and Tea Bags Creamers and Assorted Sweeteners

Menu Price

Breakfast: \$13.00 (\$10.12, plus 20% service fee and 7% tax) Coffee Only: \$2.50 (\$1.95, plus 20% service fee and 7% tax)

MINIMUM GUARANTEE: \$310.00

Equivalent to: 20 Hot Breakfasts and 20 Coffees Only

#ICYMI

(In Case You Missed It)

Editor's note: This column captures highlights from President Ben Gustafson's weekly updates since our last newsletter.

New Members

 Please join me in welcoming our newest members: Allen Blount, Elaine Gillham, Lydia Moore and Clayton Scott, as well as returning members Lee Carroll and Ken Mitchell.

Pancake Breakfast, Plantation Breakfast

- Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered for our Pancake Breakfast and to everyone who has bought or sold tickets. Looking forward to another successful event together next Saturday!
- Thanks also to everyone who has supported our new breakfast arrangements at the Plantation Club. So far, we have met our sales commitment. Thank you for having breakfast with your fellow Kiwanians.
- Last but not least, please RSVP for each Thursday's breakfast. We have to let Chef Sam know the number to prepare for. Please reserve your breakfast by Tuesday noon by emailing info@kiwanisofskidaway.com, or sign up a week ahead on Thursday morning. You can also sign up for the next month. Just let us know in your email or the sign-in sheet. Thank you.

a board member of Kiwanis International and is now preparing to run for the position of KI President. He will compete with other candidates from around the world in an election that will take place at this year's KI Convention in Paris. Meeting with our current District Governor Carol Wisdom, Governor-Elect Juanita Edwards and Vice Governor Debbie Brilling (who will become Governor-Elect next year) was important. Also, two members of my last Lt. Governor's class—Andy Pipkin and George Elkins—who distinguished themselves by opening new clubs in their Divisions. Both of these chaps have an interest in becoming Georgia District Governor in future years.

- **3. TO FELLOWSHIP** with a couple hundred Kiwanians from around the district; To Learn about successful service activities of other clubs; To feel the collective ENERGY and PASSION that we bring to our mission of changing the world, one child and one community at a time.
- **4. TO STUDY.** Like most conferences, there were a couple of dozen classes that one could attend everything from how to run a meeting, how to do fundraising, service projects, Kiwanis brand management and many others. I attended one on KI's Youth Protection Guidelines and another how to manage conflicts in volunteer organizations. Club Secretary Jan Wright attended Kiwanis 102 and a seminar on Service Leadership Projects.

Overall, I considered spending the day in Macon a very good use of my time and an investment in becoming a more effective Kiwanian. There is no question that we are all part of a fantastic service organization.

More Writers Needed!

Do you enjoy writing, people and community events? Our club needs 6-12 members who are willing to help by:

- Writing articles for TWATL about club activities, fund raisers and upcoming guest speakers
- Preparing Island Hopping pieces for The Skinnie
- Submitting events for the new Skidaway Scene
- Writing articles (or helping others to write articles) for our bi-monthly Kiwanigram
- Preparing programs for our special events

Many hands make light work! To learn more about what's involved and to find opportunities to volunteer that fit with your interests and availability, please contact: Marketing Chair Cecilia Russo (crusso72@gmail.com) or Kiwanigram Editor Jan Wright (vjanwright1@comcast.net).

More Photographers Needed!

Pictures speak a thousand words. They help to tell our club's story, capture memories and preserve our history. We need a few more volunteers to:

- Take pictures at our weekly breakfast meetings
- Take pictures at our fundraising, social and service leadership events
- Help with our new photo directory, planned as part of our 30th anniversary celebration
- Help create photo galleries for our website and Facebook page

Many hands make light work! To learn more about what's involved or to volunteer to join our photographer team, please contact Dick Glover (dgonstarsong@hotmail.com)or Mike Siegel (misiegel@comcast.net).

Club & Member News

New Members

Please join us in welcoming Allen Blount (sponsored by Michael Siegel), Elaine Gillham (sponsored by Jeff Heeder), Lydia Moore (sponsored by Ron Morris) and Clayton Scott (sponsored by Jeff Heeder and Gary Bocard); and join us in welcoming back returning members Lee Carroll and Ken Mitchell.

Our next new member orientation is scheduled for February 23. New and prospective members and their sponsors are encouraged to attend orientation together. For more about orientation, see Dan Umbel's article on page 4.

Guest Speakers for 2017

February

- 02/02—Mark Forssell, U.S. Nuclear Submarines
- 02/09—Dare Dukes, The Deep Program
- 02/16—**Rob Gibson**, Savannah Music Festival
- 02/23—LTC Mike Squires, Hunter Army Air Field Garrison Commander

March

- 03/02—Cdr Jerry McLaughlin, Mighty Eighth B17 Restoration
- 03/09—**Meg Heap**, Chatham County District Atty.
- 03/16—Catie Sykes, Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA)
- 03/23—**Tony O'Reilly**, Small Business Assistance Corporation (SBAC)
- 03/30—**Tom Sayers**, Estate Planning and Trusts

April

- 04/06—**Don Waters**, Brasseler U.S.A.
- 04/13—Anne Lindsey, UGA Marine Extension
- 04/20—No Meeting: Spring Break
- 04/27—Bill Hubbard, Chamber of Commerce

May

- 05/04—**Herb Windom**, Skidaway Island Anecdotes
- 05/11—LTC Jennifer Mykins, Army Combat Aviation Batallion Commander
- 05/18—Dr. Johnson, Medical Information
- 05/25— **Jerry Davis**, Reverse Logistics

June

- 6/01—Chris Butler, Bernard Williams Insurance
- 6/08—Andrew Wilford, Patent Attorney
- 6/15—Chris Roberts, Artist and Historian
- 6/22—Allison Newberry, Mars Theatre
- 6/29—Gary Sanchez, Regional Manager, AT&T

July

- 07/06—No Meeting: Happy 4th!
- 07/13—Insurance Panel Speakers
- 07/20—Sheriff John Wilcher
- 07/27—Bob Jepson, Telfair Museum

August

 08/03—Liz Lubriani, Program Director, Coastal Botanical Gardens

Kiwanis Club of Skidaway Plans to Celebrate its 30th Anniversary

Early plans are underway to organize a 30th Anniversary Celebration, to be held this October at the Plantation Club. We are also researching possible One Day of Service ideas to help commemorate our 30 years of service to the greater Savannah community.

30th Anniversary planning team members are: Hazel Brown, Melissa Emery, Erv Hietbrink, Tom Stephens, Dan Umbel and Jan Wright. Stay tuned for more news as we get organized, and know that we welcome your ideas, suggestions and participation! If you would like to join the planning team, please let Ben Gustafson know.

Kiwanis New Member Introductions





Above (L-R): Ben Gustafson introduces new member Nick Faraklas; New member Allen Blount is introduced by Mike Siegel: Below (left): Chris Aiken introduces Bill Sickels.





Pancakes & Books

Middle (right): Pancake Breakfast co-chairs Kevin O'Neil and Mike Pavlis enjoy a light moment as they invite members to sign up for volunteer shifts.

Bottom (right): Kiwanians and P.E.O. chapter L sisters served as runners at the Middle School Reading Bowl Competition. (L-R: Dick Glover, Gayl Glover, Sharlene Monahan, Susan Kragelund, Jan Wright, Allen Blount).



Breakfast Meeting News & Fun...







(L-R above) Past-president Keith Glenn updated us on our successful Show the Colors flag program; Past-president Gary Bocard draws a card from 50/50 chairwoman, Susan Disney-Greenberg; and Weekly joke-teller extraordinaire Tony Biegler leaves us in stitches again.





From barbershop quartet serenades to inspired new lyrics to familiar tunes, our members have musical talent to share. (Above left: Board member Thom Greenlaw (far right) returned with his Four Tune Hunter mates; Weekly song leader Tony Lembeck consults with maestro Mark Forssell.)

Hands-On Service Leadership Project Updates





Kiwanis of Skidaway wants our members and guests to know about our Service Leadership Projects.

(L-R) President-elect Tom Stephens provided an update about Junior Achievement and our volunteerism at Hesse K-8; and Board member Tim Baldwin provided an update about the Backpack Buddy program and our support to kids at Butler Elementary.

Featured Speakers







L-R above: Rob Gibson (Savannah Music Festival), David Harris (Lucas Theatre for the Arts), Dare Dukes (The Deep Program); L-R below: Daniel Merritt (Nine Lines Success Story), Mark Forssell (U.S. Nuclear Submarine Program), Bill Izzard (Savannah Score); Bottom right: Landings Security Director Tim Cook visited to provide an update on the bar-code replacement project.









Our Valued Sponsors

Please join us in thanking our sponsors who have provided financial support in the last 18 months. Plan to visit their business, use their services, and thank them for supporting our club's fundraising efforts to help Savannah's kids.

- Diamond sponsors: Brad Durham, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
- Bronze sponsors: Bart, Meyer & Company, Bernard Williams Insurance, CertaPro Painters, Comfort Keepers, Critz Auto Group, Jalapeños Mexican Grill, Optimal Hearing, Savannah Toyota, Volvo of Savannah/ Mitsubishi Motors
- **In-kind support:** The Skinnie, TWATL

For more information, <u>see www.kiwanisofskidaway.com</u> or contact Dan Umbel, Jeff Heeder or Tim Baldwin.



Georgia District Lt. Gov. - Kathy Harrell

2016-2017 Officers & Directors

- **President** Ben Gustafson (912-335-2770)
- **President-Elect** Tom Stephens
- VP/Secretary Jan Wright
- **VP/Treasurer** Bruce Schneidewind
- Past President Joyce Glenn
- Directors, with terms expiring:

2017 - Charles Arraiz, Tim Baldwin, Cecilia Russo

2018 - Dave Fox, Kevin O'Neil, Jim Smart

2019 - Thom Greenlaw, Peter Pickerill, Jen Singeisen

• **Board Advisor** – Dan Umbel

Club Administration

- Attendance Reception Chris Butler
- Attendance Records Gary Brewer
- Auditor Roger Nord
- Awards Dan Umbel
- Club Historian Vacant
- District/Division Reports Jan Wright
- Dollars for Doers Dan Umbel
- Fundraising Jim Smart
- Grant Allocation Bob Norton
- Human/Spiritual Service Rev. Jim Giddens
- Inter-Club Sam McLaughlin
- Kiwanigram Jan Wright
- Legal Counsel Bob Schivera
- Marketing/Public Relations Cecilia Russo
- Membership Joyce Glenn
- Member Education/Orientation Dan Umbel
- Photography Dick Glover, Keith Glenn
- Programs/Speakers Jim Overton
- Safety Jack Sherrill
- Social & Trips Dave Fox
- Sunshine Gwen Leathley
- Website Jan Wright
- Youth Protection Guidelines Vacant

2016-2017 Fundraising Committees

- Chili Cook-Off (November 5) Al Stiles
- Pancake Breakfast (February 25) Kevin O'Neil, Mike Pavlis
- Concert on the Harbor (May 21) Thom & Kimberly Greenlaw
- Show the Colors (Flags) Keith Glenn, Phil van Ess
- Corporate Sponsors Jeff Heeder, Tim Baldwin
- Take a Chance for Kids Tom Sharp, Chris Butler
- The Eliminate Project Gene McDonald
- 50/50 Drawing Susan Disney-Greenberg

Volunteer Service to Community Agencies

- America's Second Harvest/Kids Cafe Gary Bocard
- Backpack Buddies of Skidaway Tim Baldwin
- Bethesda Academy Gary Hughes
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) Charlie O'Brien
- Childhood Cancer Family Support Fund Jim Beurle
- Coastal Children's Advocacy Skip Salus
- Corporate Academy Jack Sherrill
- Family Promise Mark Forssell
- Habitat for Humanity Howard Gandelot
- Horizons Greg Stinson
- Junior Achievement –Tom Stephens
- Kids Fishing Program Tom Rood
- Landings Military Family Relief Fund Lou Molella
- L.O.V.E. (Local Outreach Volunteer Educators) Tom Rood
- Mediation Center Jerry Nusloch
- Nat'l. Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Tom McMullin
- Park Place Outreach Jack Hart, Jim Overton
- Performance Initiatives Jeff Heeder
- Red Cross Blood Drive Chris Britten
- Richmond Hill Key Club Bob Norton
- Savannah Early Childhood Foundation Tom Sharp, Chris Butler, Ron Weber
- Savannah Friends of Music Melissa Emery
- Savannah Philharmonic Melissa Emery, Julie Gerbsch
- Social Apostolate Bob Egan
- Special Olympics Bob Reinhard, Ed Coulson
- The Salvation Army Mike Brown, Thom Greenlaw
- Wesley Community Centers of Savannah Jan Wright
- Youth Challenge Academy Keith Glenn

Kiwanis Club of Skidaway is dedicated to helping the disadvantaged and at-risk children of the greater Savannah community. Since our club was established in 1987, our members have volunteered over 350,000 service hours and raised and distributed over \$1.5 million to agencies that provide services to these children and their families.

Contact us: info@kiwanisofskidaway.com www.kiwanisofskidaway.com By mail: Kiwanis Club of Skidaway

600 Landings Way South, Savannah, GA 31411

orporate Sponsors are very important partners for our club and 100% of their donations are used to help children. Annual donation levels are \$3,000 for Diamond sponsors, \$2,000 for Gold sponsors, \$1,500 for Silver sponsors, and \$750 for Bronze sponsors. Kiwanis Club of Skidaway recognizes our sponsors through publicity at fundraising events, at membership meetings, on our website, and in our Kiwanigram; and our club provides complimentary admission tickets to our fundraising events as a gesture of appreciation for their support. For more info, contact Dan Umbel (dan_umbel@yahoo.com) or see www.kiwanisofskidaway.com/sponsors.