



## 2010-2011 Governor Linda Ramsey's Farewell Speech

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International

District Convention, Tunica, Mississippi

It is difficult to realize that this year is practically over. It's been a wonderful experience for me, and I wish to thank you for allowing me to represent you and to work with you. The only way you can accomplish anything in this life is to surround yourself with good people, and that's exactly what happened this year...we had good officers leading the LAMISSTENN District.

At the time of the International Convention in Geneva, our district was the only district in the southern part of the North American Continent that was in the plus column in membership (+ 9). Since that time we have added a new club in Slidell, Louisiana, and at the chartering ceremony, they had 30 new members. President Sylvester Neal was extremely happy about our efforts in LAMISSTENN. We need to give an extra special thanks to Cynthia Bentley, Past Lt. Governor and Rick Danielson, current Lt. Governor, for their work in making this happen. Cynthia is currently working to establish another new club by September 30. Currently we have 78 more hands providing service in the LAMISSTENN District.

As of the Geneva Convention, Kiwanis International is up in membership by 238 members, (LAMISSTENN is up 41), and so if we continue to push hard and finish strong, we will be in the plus column on October 1, 2011. This is the first year in many years that we have shown an increase in membership, not new clubs, but membership. That means that we are making our current clubs stronger.

Please continue to support the AED Major Emphasis Project. We have placed 345 AEDs throughout LAMISSTENN. We have already saved at least 5 lives due to the placement of AEDs in schools by Kiwanis. No one should lose a life unnecessarily because an AED isn't available. There is still some grant money available through the District Foundation (about \$1,000). Please take advantage of this opportunity and apply for a grant.

Our new World Wide Service Project, the Eliminate Project, is a great opportunity for us to work with Unicef to eliminate maternal prenatal tetanus. No child should die needlessly from tetanus. For a \$1.80, we can provide the necessary shots for an expectant mother, and tetanus in all children can be prevented. If a child is born with tetanus, his eyes must be taped shut, and earplugs must go in his ears, and he can't be touched by his mother because it's too painful. Also, the child will die within a few days. All of this can be prevented by providing the necessary shots to the mother during her pregnancy. It is a very worthwhile project....one I'm proud to be a part of for the next few years.

I certainly enjoyed all the Regional visits and service projects that were planned during my visit. I celebrate your accomplishments this year with you. We have much to be proud about that has been accomplished in our district. I looked back at my goals and we have served communities and children.

- We increased the number of AEDs placed in schools.
- We've done service projects together to serve communities and children.
- We've recruited new Kiwanis members, tripled Circle K Clubs, increased key clubs, and Aktion Clubs.
- Our District Board is involved in SLPs, and we have a new Key Leader site which is co-sponsored by KY-TN and LAMISSTENN.
- We've put some WOW back in Kiwanis.....more fun and more meaningful meetings.
- We've improved communication....our new Newsletter, LAMISSTENN News, and we have a LAMISSTENN Facebook page.
- We instigated a Visibility Contest and awarded a winner.
- We've talked more about our District Foundation and what they do.
- We held month conference calls among the district leadership.

I had some personal challenges that came my way this year unexpectedly. One of those was the loss of my step-dad in April. One thing that I'm very grateful for, and that is that I called him when I was on the road traveling throughout the district, and we talked. His first job was selling shoes, and I would tell him about the places I was visiting, and he would tell me about places all over Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Tennessee that he had sold shoes, and I was unaware of it until this year. So it was also special to share those times with him as well.

I've made lots of new friends this year.....friends for a lifetime, and I'll be forever grateful for that. I want to thank Charlie Ford for always being there to provide whatever you need. There are so many things that Charlie does that make our district run so smoothly. You don't realize it until you are in this position. Thanks so much, Charlie, for all your help.

Thanks Beverly for your help this year....especially with the District Newsletter. I know you are involved in more behind the scenes that we all know about. You are much appreciated by all of us for the work that you do.

Pam, I want to thank you also for all your help with the AED project. We needed someone to coordinate the efforts with AEDs for the district, and you have done it with so much enthusiasm, and I am so proud of the progress that's been made thus far.

I have a little gift for all of you on the board of trustees and the Lt. Governors. I also have something for the district committee chairs. Please come by my suite for some hospitality and to pick up your gift after the meeting. Thanks so very much for all your hard work. Thanks to all of you. I've had the time of my life!