

Noon every Wednesday First United Methodist Church 313 N. Center St Arlington, TX 76011

KIWANIGRAM

Welcome New Member!



Jerry Harris has transferred to KCA from the Kiwanis Club of Abilene where he was a member for 28 years! Currently lives in Cedar Hill, TX with his wife of 42 years, Monnie. He has two daughters and two grandchildren. He began his insurance career in November 1969 and has specialized in the area of life insurance, individual health insurance, employee benefits and retirement planning. In 1997 he changed the focus of his practice to long term care planning, devoting 95% of his time. Welcome Jerry Harris!

- JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**
- WAYNE CLARK.....JULY 2ND
 - INNOCENT UGOCHUKWU.....JULY 7TH
 - JERRY HARRIS.....JULY 11TH
 - TANISHA MADU.....JULY 29TH
 - AL ROLLINS.....JULY 31ST
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- DAVID DAMRON.....AUGUST 1ST
 - DAVE TURNEY.....AUGUST 3RD
 - MICHELLE BARLEN.....AUGUST 3RD
 - HERMAN VESELKA.....AUGUST 6TH
 - BILL ZEDLER.....AUGUST 19TH

94th Annual TX-OK District Convention—Killeen, TX—August 9-11, 2012
SIGN UP NOW @ www.kiwanisconvention.com

PASSING OF THE BANNER – "The New" Division 8 & 39—SAVE THE DATE— Evening of September

- UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS & PROGRAMS**
- Prayer, Pledge & Song:*
Bob Gardner for July & Jerry Harris for August
- Interclubs:* *Wayne Clark for July & David McElwee for August*
- Upcoming Programs:**
- July 11 – Janet Boyanton—Attorney-at-Law—"When Your Life Changes Forever."
 - July 18—Debbie J. Cunningham, Attorney-at-Law—"How to Make Sure Your Kids Get Your Stuff and Other Icky Legal Matters."
 - July 25 – Fred Funk—"Moonshine & Ministry"
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- August 1– TBA
 - August 8– TBA
 - August 15– Charean Williams, Sportswriter—Fort Worth Star Telegram.

97TH ANNUAL KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
By Innocent Ugochukwu

MY MAIDEN ATTENDANCE

The 97th Annual Kiwanis International Convention took place in New Orleans, Louisiana, from Wednesday, June 27 to Sunday, July 1, 2012. It was held at the Ernest N. Memorial Convention Center. This convention was also used to mark the 25th anniversary of Women in Kiwanis!

I have been a Kiwanian for over 20 years but this is my first time of attending the International Convention. I wish to use this medium to express my profound gratitude to the President and members of the Kiwanis club of Arlington for being so kind to nominate me as one of the Delegates to the Convention. It is a life-lasting experience. I cannot thank you enough. Appreciated!

We arrived in New Orleans on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 after about a 10-hour drive. The Arlington delegates lodged at the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center Hotel, which is only 2 1/2 blocks away from the Convention Center. The next day, Wednesday, we registered at the Convention Center. The Convention Center witnessed a lot of activities as delegates and Kiwanians from various countries around the globe arrived. There was a lot of excitement all over the place and people were exchanging pleasantries and felicitations! Lot's of hugging at the site of seeing each other. I was so excited as am witnessing this for the first time. Laura was kind enough to introduce me to a lot of Kiwanians from various places. It was great meeting people from various places and answering series of questions from them.

CONVENTION SERVICES

As we arrived at the Convention Center, it became evident that great pains, quality time and resources were put in to prepare the Center as everything seemed to be in order. There were various locations for Registration Desk, Delegate Certification, Kiwanis Family Store and Exhibit Hall. The Kiwanis Family Store offered Kiwanians a great opportunity to buy club items and materials they ordinarily would not be able to go to Indiana to procure. Various items and materials showcasing club activities were on display at the Exhibition Hall. Kudos to those who put together these facilities that ensured the success of the Convention.

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OPENING SESSION The Convention was declared open by Alan Penn, the Kiwanis International President. The opening ceremony was very colorful, beginning with the display of flags from various member countries by members of Circle K International and Aktion Club. A number of speakers spoke on the great achievements of Women in Kiwanis within the past 25 years. Exhibition was mounted to showcase the activities of women in Kiwanis. Some women whose outstanding contributions in Kiwanis over these 25 years were called out and recognized and some received awards for their good works. This was followed by a series of workshops and forums. Delegates took active part in these events. A number of personalities presented welcome addresses, these included: Joe L. Pratt, Convention Host Committee Chairman; D. Hugh Siggins, President, Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees; Paul Inge Paulsen, President, Kiwanis International European Federation; Sui Lee Adeline Chan, Chairwoman, Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Executive Board; Steven Springs, President, Circle K International (from the TX-OK District!).

BUSINESS SESSION The Business Session commenced on Thursday, June 28, 2012. The International President, Alan Penn presided. The Eliminate Project took the center stage. Lady Cynthia gave a report on the efforts Kiwanis Clubs and UNICEF are making to wipe out Maternal & Neonatal Tetanus from the face of the earth. The UNICEF Representative made a presentation too. The Kiwanis Family, Circle K International and Key Club alumni took a walk along Mississippi River in New Orleans to raise awareness of the Campaign to Eliminate this scourge from the world. This was followed by a luncheon, a ticketed event. This session featured Keynote Speakers, Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy (real-life couple from The Blind Side movie with Sandra Bullock & Tim McGraw) and musical entertainment by Smoking Time Jazz Club. Kiwanian leaders who have made a difference and have made great contributions to the cause of children of the world were celebrated and honored.

FRIDAY, June 29, 2012 The Kiwanis International President presided. The day was really busy as there were many activities lined up for action. The President and members of the Kiwanis International Foundation Board were introduced to the audience by the International President. This was followed by the Board's Annual meeting. The Executive Director of KI, Stan Soderstrom submitted his report. The proposed Amendments and Resolutions were fully debated and votes taken to approve them. The Treasurer also gave his own report.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO DISTINGUISHED DISTRICTS The KI President met with the Governors and their Partners. He also met with Governors-elect and their partners. Attendance was by invitation only. There was a Foundation Honors luncheon, a ticketed event. This was followed by awards to Districts that demonstrated outstanding performance in club activities. **Fortunately, TX-OK District was among the awardees. Congratulations to the District!** Oscar E. Knight, who passed away April 1, 2012 served as a Kiwanian for 33 years was recognized.

ELECTIONS Elections always take a partisan shape either in political or social circles. At times it generates tension and acrimony. However the election of the Vice President attracted quite some attention as campaign materials were distributed by agents and supporters of the Candidates prior to the election. Three candidates presented themselves for the election. The elections were orderly and smooth, free and fair as electronic equipment was used to conduct it. The results of the elections are as follows:

President - Thomas E. "Tom" DeJulio (New York District)- current President-elect unopposed for President.
President- Elect- Gunter Gasser (Australia District)- current Vice President unopposed for President-elect.
Vice President- John R. Button (Eastern and the Caribbean District)-elected on the first ballot from three candidates.

The following people were also elected as Kiwanis International Trustees from the United States and Pacific Canada:

Kevin Dean (West Virginia District)- 1 year unexpired term.
Dennis M. Oliver (Louisiana, Mississippi, West Tennessee District)- 3 year term.
James M. "Jim" Rochford (Illinois- Eastern Iowa District)- 3 year term.
Elizabeth M. Tezza (Carolinas District)- 3 year term.

CLOSING SESSION Saturday, June 29, 2012 was another busy day. The International President, Alan Penn presided. There was a Leadership Luncheon hosted by Circle K International and it was a ticketed event. It was a grand occasion as members of Kiwanis, Circle K and Aktion Club came together to celebrate service and leadership in action. The keynote speaker was Lauren Potter (some may recognize this name if they watch Glee). The Kiwanis International Foundation's Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism was posthumously awarded to Mike Nerandzic of Australia. The departing board members were called out and recognized. The Board of Trustees-designate were presented to the audience. Entertainment was presented by Amanda Shaw. James Carville and Mary Matalin (famous political consultants) were the Keynote Speakers. The couple are great and powerful speakers. They made outstanding presentations.

CLOSING FORMALITIES This was carried out by Thomas E. DeJulio, the current Vice President. The Convention seemed to me, among other things, an annual reunion for Kiwanians, as members meet yearly not only to talk about the business of the club, but it offers them a golden opportunity for fellowship, exchange of pleasantries and comradeship. It is also a fertile ground for making new friends and renewing old ones. I made some new friends myself. I had the singular opportunity of meeting Sylvester Neal, the Immediate Past President. He established the Partnership Program and today the Kiwanis club of Owerri, Nigeria partners with clubs in Washington, Canada and the Kiwanis Club of Arlington! As a result of this partnership the four clubs have jointly carried out four laudable projects in Owerri. I also met the 2000-2001 International President, Brian Cunat, who came to Benin City, Nigeria and chartered two Kiwanis clubs. I did inquire of Prof Ray Lansford who came to Owerri in 1984 and chartered the Kiwanis Club of Owerri, Nigeria. I learned that he is sick and in a home. For me, the convention was a great outing with lasting memories. It is worth attending. Despite the fact that there is a lot to do at the convention, it serves as a period of vacation for participants, a time to get away from the daily routine, a time for some relaxation and fun. It is worth every time and resources put into it and more.

SITE SEEING We had opportunity to move around and see the sites and sounds of the city of New Orleans. The city is alive and bustling. People are moving about on the road reminiscent of what obtains in towns and cities in my country Nigeria. Public transportation is readily available and affordable. Shopping malls and stores are located at vantage points. The site of the Mississippi River is so overwhelming, it is indeed a site to behold. We took a very long bridge near Baton Rouge that spanned 18 miles across the Mississippi and outlying waters. What a solid and amazing construction carried out by man. Ships and other river craft are seen sailing back and forth on the river. We visited the French Quarter. Night life is quite active there, with musical concerts entertaining people. Some people who might have had a little too much of alcohol and spirits were seen sleeping on the way side helplessly.

CULTURE According to one of the Keynote Speakers, James Carville, a resident, they are not in a hurry to do away with their culture—New Orleans is the only part of the United States that can boast of having a culture! Their burial system is unconventional as they do not dig the ground to bury the dead, rather they construct structures that look like tombs or Egyptian pyramids and stack corpses in them. After some time they open the structure and remove the bones and tie them up in bags and put them back in the structure, pushing them to the back to make more room for others in their family who have died. I don't seem to get it.

JOURNEY BACK HOME We returned back to Arlington on Sunday, July 1, 2012. Laura is a dependable driver and we enjoyed our trip which was made comfortable with stops at rest areas. We thanked God for journey mercies.