

SMOKE SIGNALS

KIWASSEE

April 17, 2007

KIWANIS

Volume XVIII No. 28

Chair: Duane Townley

Invocation: Gordon Rogers

Pig: Don Winger

Music: Ralston/Meyer

Editor: Stu Bender sub for John Mier

CALENDAR

April 19 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sam Choo: May 5th is Day of Caring. Sign up sheet next week.

Dick Jellum: April 28th is Adopt a Highway Day. Show up at the Community Center, room 59.

Dan Macek: Introduced Darlene Chivinsky, Divisional Director of the March of Dimes. She told us about the March of Dimes, Walk America event, Sat April 21 @ Plymouth Park, register 8 AM/walk 9 AM.

Ray Senesac: Introduced Karen Adams & Cynthia Reeves of the Safe & Sound Advocacy Center. The KK Foundation is supporting their work, which deals with sexually and physically abused children.

Jim Schroeder: Playground @ the North Midland Family Center needs a tent installed which was purchased by the evening club but needs to be installed by Kiwassee. Then Carol Thompson was introduced. She talked about the non-denominational Christian Camp run for the North Midland Family Center by the Presbyterians. This camp has been operating for 30 years. KK has donated \$500 to the camp.

Don Winger: The Pig Auction is May 8th at the Salvation Army Building

Duane Townley: May the 15th is the KK Prayer Breakfast. This will be held in the MCFTA Garden Room.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS DICK JELLUM

Dick introduced Susan Putnam who is the Executive Director of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Also recognized was Wally Mayton who is the President of the BBBS Board of Directors. The BBBS mission is the same as Kiwanis.....help children. The BBBS mission is "one to one" youth relationships. They have been in existence for over 100 years and BB in Midland since 1959 and BS in Midland since 1963 and BB and BS merged in 1986. The volunteers are professionally supported with proven results. There are 1,700 children in Midland County living in single parent households with 1/3rd of these in poverty. 1/3rd of these kids used illegal drugs this year and 18% of them are in trouble in school.

In addition to the "one on one" approach Susan discussed the Couples for Kids program and the High School Bigs where 16 year old and above kids can be BBBS. Also discussed was the Bigs for a day program. Susan emphasized the need for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. There are 50 children on the wait list. The enrollment process includes interviews, references, criminal history and home assessment. The work is easy to do and immensely rewarding. Dick Jellum gave an enthusiastic report on his work as a Big Brother. Dick has been a BB for 2 1/2 years.

