

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

**CHAIR:** Dick Jellum

**INVOCATION:** Major McPherson

**MUSIC:** Bill Burk/Bob Ralston

**PIG:** Don Winger

**MAILER:** John McClellan

**EDITOR:** John Mier

### CALENDAR

November 15 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church.  
November 15 Nut House open (1:30 to 5:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays).  
November 29 Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Please sign up. Paul Walker.  
December 4 Kiwassee Kids Holiday Party at Eastlawn School, 11:45 a.m..  
December 5, 15 Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Please sign up. Paul Walker.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*\*\*Dick Skochdopole explained our mutual arrangement with Zonta: They buy our candy and nuts, and we buy tickets for their annual Zonta Home Walk fundraiser. Dick introduced Pam Kastl from Zonta, who said the annual event raises money for scholarships for women. The Walk this year will be on Dec. 1 and 2. Tickets are \$20, including a rest stop at the Dow Diamond with refreshments. Tickets include discounts (new this year).  
 \*\*\*Don Petersen said 26 of the 99 gifts for the Kid’s Holiday Party have been received. Deadline is Nov. 27.  
 \*\*\*Diane Stevens, representing Young Children Priority One, presented a check for \$200 to Karen Adams and Tonya Coty from Midland County ESA. Karen and Tonya thanked Kiwassee and said the donation will be used to support their Parenting Program for parents of pre school children.  
 \*\*\*Jim Rajewski needs volunteers to help tend the Nut Store. Jim said we are off to a good start. The Nut Store (located at the Salvation Army) will be open from 1:30 to 5:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays (except Thanksgiving), and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Also, call Jim if you have any old 32 oz. jars.  
 \*\*\*Paul Walker urged members to sign up for Bell Ringing assignments (see above Calendar for dates).  
 \*\*\*Pigmaster Winger asked for “Happy Dollars” from each member for the Marine Corp “Toys for Tots” drive.  
 \*\*\*President Jellum reported that 810 Kiwanians helped with the food packaging drive in Okemos last Saturday. Dick reminded members that the The Board of Directors meeting will be on Nov. 15.

### KIWASSEE HONORS OUR VETERANS

Max Bottomley introduced our special Veterans Day Program by saying our purpose is to remember and honor the men and women who served our country not only in WWII but also in Korea and Vietnam.  
Lloyd Smith served in the Navy in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres from ’42 to ’46. Lloyd said his parents taught him that it was his obligation and duty to enlist, and he is still proud that he had the opportunity to serve.  
Bill Kennett was in the Army Signal Corps and participated in the invasion of Saipan. His unit was scheduled for the invasion of the Japanese mainland in March, 1946. He recommended we read “At Dawn We Slept”.  
Roy Komachi’s family was interred in Idaho after the start of WWII. He joined the Army and was assigned to a Regimental Combat Team of Japanese Americans which saw close combat in Italy and France. They were involved in the rescue of the Texas 36<sup>th</sup> Division, and were later all made “Honorary Texans”.  
Mike Merrill volunteered for PT Boat service in the Pacific and saw close combat with the Japanese. His boat, PT155, received special recognition from Gen. MacArthur. The PT Boats were all burned at the end of the war.  
Stu Bender joined the Merchant Marine (which suffered heavy casualties early in the war) and served the North Atlantic between the U.S. and France. He later joined the Army and served in the Army of Occupation in Japan.  
Bob Ralston enlisted in the Navy in ’44 at age 17. He played in Navy Band 75 at the Naval Air Station in Oahu. Bob believes he played “Anchors Away” 613 times—maybe more.  
Bob Wise joined the Navy in ’44. Bob focused his comments on how very bad things looked for the Allies early in the war, and that 45 million people (civilians and military) died defending our freedom.  
Don Beckwith joined the Army in May of ’43 and served as a radio operator on Oahu and Saipan. He was involved in a plane crash in Jan. ’46 (in which 12 people died). Don then met his future wife Nickie, who was an Army Nurse in a hospital in Oahu.  
Bill Marklewitz enlisted in the Navy in ’44 at age 17. He served on a Destroyer in the Pacific, which was involved in a capture of a Japanese ship with 1,633 troops—the largest capture of Japanese soldiers in the war.  
Al Klashak enlisted in the Marines in 1948 and was assigned to Marine Aviation. He served in various Naval Air Stations during the Korean War.  
Jack Colton joined the Army Air Corp in ’44 and later the Navy. He reenlisted in the Air Corps during the Korean war and flew combat missions in Korea. He later flew F-105’s in Vietnam. Jack served almost 14 years.  
Max Bottomley led an infantry platoon in the 65<sup>th</sup> Division, part of Patton’s Third Army. They fought in France, Germany, and Austria. They finally met the Russians and enjoyed a spontaneous, enjoyable celebration.

We apologize to the 12 speakers for not doing justice in this newsletter to their comments. We thank them all, and we thank Max for organizing this unforgettable program. Most of all, we all honor and respect the men and women who served our country in the cause of freedom.