

**KIWASSEE**  
**June 23, 2009**

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
**kiwassee.org**

**KIWANIS**  
**Volume XX No. 35**

**CHAIR:** Ray Senesac  
**PIG:** Don Winger

**INVOCATION:** Al Forster  
**MAILER:** John McClellan

**MUSIC:** Mike Merrill, Dick Skochdopole  
**EDITOR:** John Mier

### CALENDAR

June 30 Regular noon meeting at Carriage House Hall (near Bradley House).  
July 7 Annual Pinecrest Picnic, 5:30 p.m..  
August 12 Kiwanis night at Loons game, 7 p.m..(tickets are \$9 each).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*\*\*Dick Jellum reported that our regular noon meeting next week will be at the Carriage House Hall, which is located near the Bradley House. Dick also reminded members that the Annual Pinecrest picnic will be at 5:30 p.m. on July 7 at Pinecrest. Volunteers will be needed to help serve (please come a little early if you can help).

\*\*\*Ron Beech announced that Kiwanis night at the Loons will be on Wednesday, August 12. Game time is 7 p.m. and tickets are \$9 each. Ron has reserved 244 tickets, so bring your family. Deadline for reservations is July 6.

\*\*\*Al Forster, representing Senior Youth, presented a check to Frank Champagne from Camp Fish Tales. Frank, who is a regular participant at the camp as well as a member of their Board of Directors for the past 15 years, thanked Kiwassee for our continuing support which is used to support scholarships. Camp Fish Tales is a recreational summer camp for people of all ages with any kind of disability. There will be eight session over the summer. About 100 campers attend each year. The camp offers a wide variety of recreational activities.

### LEEANN BEHMLANDER JOINS KIWASSEE KIWANIS

A very warm welcome to Kiwassee's newest member LeeAnn Behmlander. Dave Bender performed the induction ceremony with Rod Loomis serving as sponsor. LeeAnn has worked at Chemical Bank for the past 15 years. She and her husband have two very active teenage daughters. LeeAnn has been an involved volunteer in the community for a number of years, and she is looking forward to continuing that service with Kiwassee Kiwanis.

### CHIEF LEE GARCIA COMMENTS ON MIDLAND'S FIRST RESPONDERS

President Ray introduced Midland's Fire Chief Lee Garcia. Chief Garcia was a firefighter in Saginaw for over 20 years and has been Midland's Fire Chief since 2002. The Chief said that the department concentrated several years ago on identifying and executing ways to improve leadership, morale, training, and communication. More recently, they are working on six goals that were developed in strategic planning sessions. Goal #1 is to improve department efficiency. Current locations are based on a 1973 model of the city, and the geography of Midland has change significantly since then. A new station is needed, and two stations may need to be relocated. Current response times can vary between 1 and 8 minutes, with 6 minutes being the desired maximum. Goal #2 is to develop specific plans to meet different kinds of emergencies (which might vary with each location). Goal #3 is to improve individual performance with well defined training standards. Goal #4 is to improve operational performance by revising standard operational procedures. Goal #5 is to increase public safety through fire prevention programs and public education. (The Chief said that preventing fires from occurring in the first place is really the "name of the game"). Goal #6 is to improve the quality of emergency medical service. The majority of calls to the fire department are emergency medical calls rather than fires. The hospital ambulance service, of course, also responds but this is not really a duplication of effort. Both are needed and each serves a purpose. All Midland fire fighters are now qualified medical technicians. Midland currently has 45 firefighters.