

KIWASSEE
September 1, 2009

SMOKE SIGNALS
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KIWANIS
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CALENDAR

September 5 Northwood vs. Northern Michigan football, noon. Fundraiser for “Midland Area Partnership for Drug Free Youth”. Tickets are \$5. Dick Skochdopole.
September 8 Membership Roundup. Officer Wenzel on Midland’s S.W.A.T Team.
September 19 Adopt-A-Highway pickup. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Community Center. Dick Jellum.
October 4 CROP WALK, Carol Rumba and Joe Downey.
October 13 Deadline for gifting Travel and Adventure tickets to charitable organizations.
October 27 Deadline for selling Travel and Adventure tickets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

***Mike Feider announced that the next Membership Roundup will be on September 8. Speaker will be Midland Police Officer Chris Wenzel will talk about Midland’s S.W.A.T. team.

***Vicki Briggs announced that the “Tall in the Saddle” program for this fall will be starting on Sept. 8. The eight sessions will be on Tuesday evenings 5:30 to 8:30, ending on October 27. “Tall in the Saddle” is sponsored by 4H, and is effective in building self esteem in developmentally challenged children and young people. An indoctrination is required (which is tonight), but Vicki can arrange a special session if you are interested. Please call Vicki if you would like to volunteer for this opportunity to help.

***Carol Rumba reminded members that the Annual CROP WALK this year will on Sunday, Oct. 4. A number of volunteers will be needed to help with registration, check points, and other jobs. Sign up sheets will be circulated.

***Joe Downey announced that he will be signing up walkers and as well as collecting donations for the CROP WALK. Donations can be made on line with a credit card, or by check at club meetings. Checks should be made out to “C.W.S./CROP”.

***Dick Skochdopole said he is still selling tickets for the Northwood vs. Northern Michigan football game at noon on Sept. 5. This is the traditional fundraiser for the old Circle of Health organization, now the Midland Area Partnership for Drug Free Youth. Tickets are \$5 each. Dick said that members can also donate tickets to charitable organizations. (You also get free hot dogs at the game).

***Jack Higgins urged folks to get out and sell tickets! He will have a progress report next week.

***Dick Jellum scheduled an “Adopt-A-Highway” pickup for Sept. 19. Volunteers will meet at the Community Center at 9 a.m.. Sign up sheet will be available next week.

***Terri Malek-Madani distributed questionnaires asking for member input for the “Senior Youth Sweat Equity” Task Force.

***President Ray said End of Year Committee Reports will be scheduled for September 22 and 29.

DICK DOLINSKI AND THE LEGACY CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Penny Ecarius introduced Dick Dolinski who is the founder and leader of the Legacy Center for Student Success. Dick is well known by nearly all Kiwassee members, either through association at Dow or with the Midland School Board, and he has spoken to us before about the Legacy Center. (Our own Penny, of course, is a Research Fellow with the Legacy Center). The LCSS is an independent, non profit 501(c)3 research organization. Its mission is to engage in research that identifies key non-school factors that impede learning and effect student success in grades K-12. The LCSS, in collaboration with other human service agencies and organizations, then develops and implements interventions that address these barriers. Current research is in three areas: (1) 0-5 years of age, (2)K thru 5th grade, and (3), 5th thru 12th grade. The “Jump Into Kindergarten” program has measured the effect of assessing and addressing behavior development, as well as the value of specific pre-school learning activities.

Other research has measured the relationship between character assets or attributes with risk taking behaviors. This ratio is most favorable in the 6th grade, and then can move in an unfavorable direction as the influence of peers becomes stronger. Research has shown that youth that are involved organized sports and that are active in church programs tend to have fewer risk taking characteristics. The LCSS receives funding from service organizations, foundations, and individuals. More information is available at the web site www.tlcss.org.