

**KIWASSEE**  
November 17, 2009

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
kiwassee.org

**KIWANIS**  
Volume XXI No. 7

**CHAIR:** Renee Castellon    **INVOCATION:** Jim Young    **MUSIC:** D. Winegarden/ W. Meyer  
**PIG:** Diane Stevens    **MAILER:** John McClellan    **EDITOR:** John Mier

#### CALENDAR

Nov. 3-Dec. 19 NUT HUT is open! Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-5:30; Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m..  
Dec. 2, 10, 19 Bell Ringing (3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on 12/2 and 12/10; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 12/19).  
December 8 Annual Kids Holiday Party, 11:45 at Eastlawn School.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*\*\*Al Burmester circulated sign up sheets for volunteers to tend the NUT HUT. Final date will be December 19. The NUT HUT will close at 1 p.m. on Saturdays instead of 3 p.m..  
\*\*\*Penny Ecarius instituted the “Bag A Buck” program to help fund car seats for children.  
\*\*\*Lloyd Smith needed one more volunteer usher for the Travel and Adventure Program tonight.  
\*\*\*Dick Jellum introduced the new Candy and Nut mascot “Ray the Rodent”, who told the club that only 30 members have visited the NUT HUT so far this year. The other 70 members haven’t shown up yet. Ray the Rodent’s comment: What is the problem with you people? He also told us to buy the fudge early because it does have a shelf life.  
\*\*\*Wendell Meyer reminded members that he will be accepting personal contributions to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation for the next two weeks. Kiwassee will send the Foundation \$40/member from the club’s account, less personal contributions from members. Make tax deductible checks out to “Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation”.  
\*\*\*Penny Ecarius said we donated an additional \$107 to Judy Harris for the Haitian children.  
\*\*\*Duane Townley speaking for Don Petersen, urged members to bring their wrapped gifts for the Annual Kids Holiday Party no later than December 1.  
\*\*\*Roger Briggs said we still need volunteers to attend Key Club meetings this month.  
\*\*\*Ray Senesac reported that the Kiwassee Foundation recently elected new officers with Ray Senesac as President, Duane Townley as Vice President, Mike Feider as Secretary, and Bob Davidson as Treasurer. Ray also said they are working with the evening club to purchase an “Amigo” for the Grace Dow Memorial Library.  
\*\*\*Al Klashak asked for donations for the Coleman Christmas Party. Call him for details. Donations to the Coleman Party must be in by Dec. 9. Deadline for donations to the Midland Foundation is Nov. 27.  
\*\*\*Ginny Morrison, speaking for Paul Walker, asked members please sign up for Bell Ringing times on December 2, 10, and 19.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE IS SEVERE PROBLEM IN MIDLAND

Ray Senesac introduced Sergeant Rich Harnois from the Midland County Sheriff’s Dept. Sgt. Harnois is the supervisor of the County Road Patrol but is currently serving as the transition team leader for the move to the County’s new jail. He has been with the Sheriffs Dept. for 18 years and served 3 years as an undercover agent in the area drug enforcement group. Sgt. Harnois said that Midland, without question, has a very serious problem with drug abuse—mostly with prescription drug abuse by teenagers. The problem often begins (sometimes as early as age 11) with youngsters finding unused prescription drugs belonging to their parents and family members. They think that the “stuff” can’t really be too bad since a doctor prescribed it and their parents take it. However, they become addicted and often progress to other drugs and other sources. He said that Midland has 2-3 drug related deaths each month, and also that Midland County is the fifth highest in Michigan for drug abuse. Parents tend to be in denial of the seriousness and extent of the problem. Sgt. Harnois said this is a significant change from 10 years ago when marijuana, cocaine, etc. were the major problems. They are now being passed by prescription drug abuse. He urged parents to dispose of unused prescription drugs and to not fill prescriptions if they do not intend to use them. Most drug stores will accept unused drugs. Midland Police Dept. and the Sheriff’s office will both accept them. Sgt. Harnois also advised parents to always observe their kids and look for changes in behavior and personality, and for changes in their friends and areas of interest.