

KIWASSEE
January 19, 2010

SMOKE SIGNALS
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KIWANIS
Volume XXI No. 15

CHAIR: Vicki Briggs **INVOCATION:** Vicki Briggs **MUSIC:** D. Winegardner/W. Meyer
PIG: Jim Rajewski **MAILER:** John McClellan **EDITOR:** John Mier

CALENDAR

January 19 Travel and Adventure program "Irish Stories and Glories", 7:30 p.m. at MCFTA.
January 21 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church.
January 26 Membership Development Committee meeting, 1 p.m.. LeeAnn Behmlander.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

***Jim Struthers thanked the 15 volunteers helping with the Travel and Adventure program tonight.

***LeeAnn Behmlander scheduled a meeting of the Membership Development committee for 1 p.m. on January 26.

***Carol Rumba circulated pledge sheets for the annual Walk for Warmth on February 27.

***Penny Ecarius is collecting stuffed animals for Midland's first responders. Penny also announced that the World's Greatest Dessert Party event, the annual fundraiser for the Literacy Council of Midland County, is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on February 16 at the Dow Diamond. Tickets are \$20 each or two for \$35.

***Paul Walker read a letter from the Salvation Army's Capt. O'Neil, thanking Kiwassee Kiwanis for our continued support of their programs. Paul announced that Kiwassee Kiwanis again earned first place among Midland service organizations for Bell Ringing proceeds. The Army locally collected \$112,813 this year from Bell Ringing, with our club contributing \$4,920. The two Midland high school Key Clubs were both in the top four.

***Roger Briggs circulated sign up sheets for Key Club meetings.

***Stu Bender introduced Mike Woody, Director of the Midland Community Tennis Center. Mike said that the 22nd Annual Dow Corning Tennis Classic will be held from February 7 through February 14 and will feature 64 women tennis professionals from 20 countries. The \$100,000 tournament is a favorite with the touring lady professionals, largely because of the enthusiastic support from the Midland community. The USTA actually runs the tournament, and a number of the tournament's past winners have gone on to do well in major tournaments and world rankings. Mike said there will be two dining areas this year. The atmosphere is informal, and people just have fun. The community also provides about 200 volunteers to help with the event.

***Diane Stevens reported that Don Petersen and Doug Lake are both ill, and she asked members to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

***President Elect Vicki reminded members that the Board of Directors meeting will be at noon this Thursday, January 21.

MID MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY AND ANNAL WALK FOR WARMTH

Roger Briggs, Chair of the Community Service Committee, introduced Marilyn Rease who is the Midland County Outreach Coordinator for the Mid Michigan Community Action Agency. The agency provides food, housing, childhood, and emergency services to seniors and families in Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Mecosta, Midland, and Osceola Counties. The annual budget is approximately \$12 million with funding primarily from state and federal grants. Childhood services are a significant part of the program, and include preschool services, dental and medical exams, and other features. Over 1,900 families in Midland County are enrolled in the WIC program (Women, Infant, and Children program) which emphasizes breast feeding. Housing services assist home owners with home energy improvements, home repair, and other counseling. Outreach services provide assistance with utility, food, shelter, medical, and dental issues. Marilyn said that the 19th Annual Walk for Warmth (an event that Kiwassee Kiwanis has directly supported for many years) is scheduled this year for February 27 at the Midland Mall Food Court. Registration will be at 8 a.m. with the Walk starting at 9 a.m.. She distributed registration forms for walkers to register and then enlist pledges from sponsors. MMCAA raised \$73,858 last year to help those in need of heating assistance, and 365 households were helped. The need is expected to be even greater this year.