

**KIWASSEE**  
January 26, 2010

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
kiwassee.org

**KIWANIS**  
Volume XXI No. 16

**CHAIR:** Renee Castellon  
**PIG:** Joe Malan

**INVOCATION:** Penny Ecarius  
**MAILER:** John McClellan

**MUSIC:** D. Winegardner/W. Meyer  
**EDITOR:** John Mier

**CALENDAR**

January 27 INTERCUB at Saginaw Northwest. Leave MCFTA at 11:30. Alex Rapanos.  
February 2 Orientation for new members, 1 p.m.. Dick Skochdopole and Wendell Meyer.  
February 9 Club Valentine's Day Party for spouses.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

\*\*\*Jim Struthers reported a successful Travel and Adventure program last week, and he thanked the 15 Kiwassee members who volunteered to help.  
\*\*\*LeeAnn Behmlander congratulated the nine members (accumulated service of 236 years) who joined Kiwassee Kiwanis in the month of January.  
\*\*\*Judy Bailey reminded members that the Annual Club Valentine's Day Party for spouses will be on February 9. Judy asked for a "head count" on today's attendance sheet.  
\*\*\*Penny Ecarius is collecting stuffed animals for Midland's first responders. She added that Kiwassee usually donated 60-70 stuffed animals each year.  
\*\*\*Dick Skochdopole announced that he and Wendell Meyer will conduct an orientation for new members at 1 p.m. next week (February 2). Old members are invited too.  
\*\*\*Vicki Briggs said the new Kiwassee caps will be in next week. Bring your money (\$13.25).  
\*\*\*Alex Rapanos announced an INTERCLUB with Saginaw Northwest (Horizon Conference Center at 12:15) tomorrow, January 27. Cars will leave MCFTA at 11:30. Call Alex if you'd like to go.  
\*\*\* Cal Hoerneman and Earl Soules, representing the Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation and the Midland Kiwanis Foundation respectively, each presented a check for \$1,000 to Melissa Barnhart, Director of the Grace Dow Memorial Library. Melissa thanked the two Kiwanis organizations, and said the donations will be use to purchase a new Amigo machine for patrons—which is very much needed.  
\*\*\*Karen Adams, representing Young Children Priority One, presented a check to Jenny Drevon and Michelle Waskevich from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Jenny and Michelle thanked Kiwassee and said the donation will be used for a special event for the 40 children that are waiting for a Big Brother or a Big Sister match.  
\*\*\*President Renee said that Kiwanis members can contribute to a matching grant program for Haitian relief through a Kiwanis web site: [www.kiwanisec.org](http://www.kiwanisec.org).

**RON BEACOM AND MIDLAND'S MCTV**

Mike Briggs, Chair of the Club News and Publicity Committee, reported that a new Kiwanis MCTV program was completed last Friday, featuring the two current club presidents and narrated by Ray Senesac. The plan is to complete the taping of three shows before scheduling them to be aired. Mike then introduced Ron Beacom, who has been Midland's MCTV Director for 12 years. Ron gave an excellent overview of the Midland Community Television (MCTV) program, but first thanked Kiwassee for the recent \$750 gift in memory of Ed Flagg. Midland's MCTV program began in 1984, and has now grown to four channels: Channel 96 (formerly channel 5) covers local government issues such as City Council meetings, Planning Commission meetings, etc.. Channel 97 (formerly channel 15) includes messages and community events. Channel 98 (formerly channel 17) covers school events including school sports and concerts. Channel 99 (formerly channel 3) provides a community and public voice. MCTV's office and studio are located in the Library. The organization has three full time employees including the Director, a Production Director, and a Production Assistant. There are seven part time employees including one office assistant and six production assistants. Volunteers are welcome and training is provided for studio work as well as for filming community events. Total revenue is \$560,000 which basically comes from the City. Annual expenses are currently about \$481,000. Challenges include budget issues which required a reduction in staff and technology changes. The AT&T cable system currently does not carry the MCTV channels. Additional information is available on the City web site, or call the office at 837-3474.