

KIWASSEE
March 9, 2010

SMOKE SIGNALS
kiwassee.org

KIWANIS
Volume XXI No. 21

CHAIR: Renee Castellon **INVOCATION:** Ginny Morrison **MUSIC:** acappella
PIG: Renee Castellon **MAILER:** John McClellan **EDITOR:** John Mier

CALENDAR

March 18 Board of Directors meeting, noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

***Jim Struthers reported that 504 people attended the Travel and Adventure program last Tuesday!! Jim thanked the 12 members who helped with the show last week, and he thanked the membership for supporting this important fund raiser for the club.

***Ginny Morrison circulated a sign up sheet for meeting invocations.

***Dick Skochdopole announced that out of date prescription drugs can be disposed of taking them to the Walgreen Drug Store on South Saginaw this Wednesday, or to the Law Enforcement Center on Thursday or Friday of this week. Dick urged people to take advantage of this opportunity since availability of out of date drugs in homes is a major cause of drug abuse by young people and children in Midland.

***George Fromhold said The R.O.C.K. will have a fund raiser dinner at 6 p.m. on March 11 at the Valley Plaza. Please call George for details if you are interested in attending.

***Diane Stevens asked members to contact her if they are interested in helping with the Kiwanis Reading Program for preschoolers.

SAFE AND SOUND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Karen Adams, representing Young Children Priority One, said the Safe and Sound Child Advocacy Center was established in 1979 by the Midland County Child Protection Agency. It administers a number of programs, including Child Abuse Prevention Programs, Adopt-A-Child Smile (dental support), Child Passenger Safety (car seats), Educational Training programs, and Forensic Interviewing programs. Karen concentrated on discussing the Forensic Interviewing program, which was started about five years ago. She said there was a significant need to change the then existing process for interviewing children to determine if sexual or physical abuse was taking place, and to determine if legal prosecution was appropriate. There was little privacy, with victims and perpetrators in the same area. Children felt threatened causing many investigations to be inconclusive. To correct the problems, the Child Advocacy Center was established with specially designed interviewing rooms---one for very young children (age 2 to 6), and one for older children. A new Forensic Interview Process Team was developed and interviews are recorded and observed through a one way window. Children do not feel threatened and have a sense of safety and comfort during the interview. Results have been impressive, with an increase in the resolution of cases. There has also been a reduction in recurring cases and the healing process has been enhanced. Karen said about 150 child abuse cases have been investigated using the new system, with about 70% resulting in prosecution. Victims are often identified by teachers, clergy, doctors, and neighbors. Karen added that Judge Donna Morris deserves much of the credit for this very successful program. Financial support has come from foundations and the United Way.