

KIWASSEE
APRIL 6, 2010
CHAIR: R. Castellon
PIG: no PIG today

SMOKE SIGNALS
www.kiwassee.org
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KIWANIS
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MUSIC: Winegardner
EDITOR: Cronenberger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Renee reminded us the Spring Divisional is Friday, April 16, in Frankenmuth. Let her know if you want tickets
- Penny Ecarius is collecting personal hygiene items for a mission trip to Kentucky. Please deliver them to her house, 909 Crescent Drive, by Monday evening

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Diane Stevens presented a check for \$500 from Jr. Youth to Sgt Matt Berchert of the Midland Police Department. The funds will be used for the annual dinner recognizing the top ten DARE poster contest winners. The DARE program has been in Midland since 1985.

Millard Kent was inducted as our newest member. Millard is a native of the area and was previously a Kiwanian in another club. Mike Cronenberger was the sponsor.

PROGRAM, STATE POLICE DIGITAL FORENSICS

The speaker was Detective Sergeant Rich Cruz of the Michigan State Police. His unit was originally created as the computer crimes unit in 2000, and is now the digital evidence section, one of five such facilities in the state. He is actually based in the Midland Law Enforcement Center.

The mission of the unit is to forensically examine items such as computers, cell phones, MP3 players, digital cameras, iPods, surveillance tapes for digital evidence. Information can be extracted showing the item to have been used in the actual commission of a crime such as child pornography, or incidental to one such as establishing presence at a certain time and place.

Unfortunately, about 75% of such crimes involved children in one manner or another. The State Police forensics unit makes a great effort to warn children how to avoid such encounters.

Sergeant Cruz described the five most prevalent internet crimes:

1. "Phishing" is where you receive an e-mail purporting to be from a legitimate enterprise and asking you to supply information such as your account number or social security to "confirm" their records.
2. The well-known Nigeria/Canada scam where the sender says he has a great deal of money tied up in an account somewhere and needs your help to retrieve it. Supposedly, you will receive a large cut if you will only supply your bank account information so the funds can be sent you
3. The lottery-winner scam. The sender announces you won a foreign lottery, say in the UK, and you need to send some money to pay the fees or taxes or whatever.
4. The overpayment scam. You have an item for sale. The scammer agrees to buy it and sends you a check which is for way too much, supposedly by mistake. He then asks you to send your check to him for the amount he overpaid. By the time you learn his check was fraudulent, he has cashed yours and is gone.
5. "Reshipment business" You are engaged by someone to receive, repackage and ship merchandise which was obtained with stolen credit cards. (I saw a variation of this on TV where the reshipper had to pay the shipping charges out of his own pocket and was never reimbursed)

Sergeant Cruz's basic warning on how to avoid these problems was pretty fundamental: be careful, and use common sense. If you receive an e-mail from someone you don't know, just delete it. Have a good antivirus software installed on your computer. If in doubt, call the police.