

**KIWASSEE**  
April 20, 2010

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
kiwassee.org

**KIWANIS**  
Volume XXI No. 27

**CHAIR:** Renee Castellon  
**PIG:** No PIG today

**NVOCATION:** Diane Stevens  
**MAILER:** John McClellan

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

#### CALENDAR

May 21, 22 Eagle Village work project. Duane Townley.  
July 19 Annual Golf Outing at Midland Country Club's new course. Renee Castellon.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*\*\*Duane Townley reminded members that the work project (painting cabins) at Eagle Village is scheduled for May 21 and 22. Cars will leave the MCFTA at 8:30 and return about 5:30 each day. Duane will circulate sign up sheets next Tuesday.

\*\*\*Jack Higgins reported that the final Travel and Adventure results are in, and it is good news!! Our share of the profit is \$8,973, which is better than expected and a little better than last year. Jack said that Cal Hoerneman's idea of using placemats in local restaurants to advertise the events paid off, as box office sales were higher. Selling sponsorships for each show (also Cal's idea) continues to reap rewards.

\*\*\*Jack Higgins presented a "Distinguished Member Recognition" award from Kiwanis International to Ray Senesac. Congratulations Ray—well deserved.

\*\*\*Penny Ecarius read a letter of thanks from Big Brothers/Big Sisters for a recent gift from Kiwassee. Penny also thanked members for their contributions of personal hygiene items for her recent visit to the "Lend A Hand" Mission in Kentucky. Penny added that she can still accept stuffed animals (for Midland's First Responders) if delivered to her home in the next few days. Penny thanked the many members who have helped with this important project.

\*\*\*Diane Stevens presented a check for \$200 to Leah Ware. Leah thanked Kiwassee and said the gift will be used to purchase balloons for the Summer Art Fair.

\*\*\*Duane Townley presented a gift from the Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation to Betsy Evans, representing "Tall in the Saddle". Betsy thanked Kiwassee and said the donation will be used to purchase two new saddles for the program. (The presentation was filmed by Mike Briggs for a future MCTV Kiwanis show).

\*\*\*President Renee said the Spring Divisional last Friday was well attended by Kiwassee members. Congratulations to Sam Choo, who is our new Division 19 Lt. Governor!! Congratulations (and thanks) also to Wendell Meyer, who has served 12 years as a member of the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Board. Ray Senesac reported that Kiwassee won a number of awards at the meeting, including: 100% Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation support, Monthly Committee Reports (Jack Higgins), Scrap Book-2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Vicki Briggs), Distinguished Secretary Award (Jack Higgins), Distinguished President Award (Ray Senesac), and several others.

#### BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF MIDLAND COUNTY

Diane Stevens, representing Junior Youth, introduced Nathan Schroeder who is Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midland and Isabella Counties. Nathan started by pointing out that there are many children in crisis throughout the country—including Midland County. There are 2500 children in single parent households in Midland and one third are below the poverty level. One third of Midland high school students have used illegal drugs in the past year. On a national level, the problem is huge with 30% high school drop out rates, high levels of substance abuse, and many young people being incarcerated. The mentoring, support, friendship, and assistance that can be provided by Big Brothers and Big Sisters ("Bigs") can make a huge difference. The "Littles" are 6-12 years of age and "Bigs" must pass a rigorous screening process. Nathan said that, in addition to the traditional "one-on-one" programs, they also have "Couples for Kids" and "Families for Kids" programs, and programs that involve high school and college students mentoring children in school. There are currently 35 "Littles" in Midland waiting for a match with a "Big". Nathan said the need is great for volunteers and also for financial support. Our own Dick Jellum witnessed to his personal 5 ½ year experience as a "Big Brother". His "Little Brother" is now 16, but Dick still looks forward to spending quality time with him every week or two. It has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience for both of them.