

**KIWASSEE**  
May 25, 2010

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
kiwassee.org

**KIWANIS**  
Volume XXI No. 32

**CHAIR:** Vicki Briggs  
**PIG:** Joe Malan

**INVOCATION:** Paul Walker  
**MAILER:** John McClellan

**MUSIC:** Bill Burk/Wendell Meyer  
**EDITOR:** John Mier

#### CALENDAR

June 8 Annual Cookout at Emerson Park (Section D), 6 p.m..  
June 24, 25 Eagle Village work project. Duane Townley.  
July 19 Annual Golf Outing at Midland Country Club's new course. Renee Castellon.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*\*\*Duane Brooks reminded members that our Annual Cookout will be at 6 p.m. on June 8 at Emerson Park (Section D). Spouses are invited. No noon meeting on that day.

\*\*\*Mike Briggs will be bike riding 100 miles with his daughter on June 8 for the American Lung Association. See Mike if you would like to pledge a donation.

\*\*\*Duane Townley thanked the 13 Kiwassee members who helped with the Eagle Village work project on May 20 and 21. Duane has scheduled another one for June 24 and 25 to complete the cabin painting.

\*\*\*Diane Stevens thanked the 10 members and 6 Key Clubbers who helped with the petunia planting on Eastman last Saturday---and circulated a sign up sheet for volunteers to work in the Kiwassee booth at the Summer Art Fair. Diane also announced a project to develop a Kiwassee photo reference album with recent photographs of all members. More details later.

\*\*\*Diane Stevens, representing Junior Youth, presented a \$500 check to Linda Clark, Director of the North Midland Family Center. Linda thanked the club for our continuing support, and said the donation will be used to help fund the NMFC's summer camp. Diane also presented a check to the Salvation Army's Captain Matt O'Neill for the Summer SHARE program. Matt said they expect 400-450 children this year together with about 40 staffers to run the program.

\*\*\*Vicki Briggs announced that the Michigan District will offer Leadership training for new Kiwanis officers and directors on Saturday, July 10. More details later. Vicki also said that Ron Beech has again reserved 250 tickets (\$9 each) for Michigan District Kiwanians to see the Loon's game on July 24.

\*\*\*Ray Senesac finalized the club elections for the 2010-2011 Kiwanis year. Members unanimously elected Roger Briggs as Vice President. Congratulations to all our new officers.

#### KATHY ZAUN JOINS KIWASSEE KIWANIS

A very warm welcome to Kiwassee's newest member Kathy Zaun. Ray Senesac performed the induction ceremony with Cal Hoerneman as Kathy's sponsor. Kathy has two daughters and has lived in Midland for about 7 years. She is currently Marketing Director for Independence Village, and was with Chemical Bank prior to that. She's delighted to be a member of Kiwanis, and is looking forward to the fellowship and to contributing to the community.

#### MICHIGAN BASEBALL FOUNDATION AND THE GREAT LAKES LOONS

Jim Struthers, representing Community Service, introduced Paul Barbeau, who is Vice President and General Manager of the Great Lakes Loons. Paul came to Midland from Spokane, Washington when the Loons started in 2006. He was named Executive of the Year in 2008 by the Midwest League. Paul said, however, that he was here today to talk about the Michigan Baseball Foundation which owns and operates the Dow Diamond as a 501 (c) 3 public charity. Initial funding was received from six Midland based Foundations. The baseball franchise itself was purchased from Battle Creek, and is a separate organizational entity operating as a non-profit but taxable organization. The operation has made significant contributions to the Midland community, creating 27 full time and 220 part time jobs and contributing over \$2 million each year to the local economy. Radio station 100.9 FM (ESPN) was purchased in 2008 and also operates as a non-profit taxable organization. Over 30 charitable grants (totaling about \$100,00) are made each year by the Foundation to organizations in Midland, Saginaw, Bay, and six other surrounding counties. The Dow Diamond building is in use about 60% of the time during the year—mostly for non-baseball events. The baseball field itself is used about 1/3 of the time for non-Midwest League games. In addition, local non-profit organizations have raised over \$200,000 over the past three years by staffing concession stands. The Michigan Baseball Foundation is unique in baseball. It provides a solid contribution to the local economy, makes charitable grants to organizations in Midland and surrounding counties, and provides wholesome family entertainment to the Great Lakes Bay Region. We are blessed to have it.