

## KIWASSEE

February 16, 2016  
CHAIR: Bruce Rayce  
HAPPY \$: Jim Rajewski  
Greeter: Mike Cronenberger

## SMOKE SIGNALS

[www.kiwassee.org](http://www.kiwassee.org)  
INVOCATION: Doug Snoddy  
MAILER: Roger Briggs

## KIWANIS

VOLUME XXXXVIII NO 19  
MUSIC: Alex Rapanos  
EDITOR: Martha Briggs  
Hugger: Bruce Rayce

### CALENDAR

February 23: Items for Whispering Pines due (Susan Love)  
February 24: AKtion Club meeting, 5:30, Midland Public Schools Administration Building (Martha Briggs)  
March 3: The Rock's spring fundraiser (Doug Snoddy)  
March 5: Walk for Warmth, Midland Center for the Arts (Millard Kent or Diane Stevens)  
April 5: Big Project proposals due to BOD from Committees  
April 21: Top 2 Big Project proposals chosen by BOD.  
April 26: Top 2 presented to General Membership, who then vote by ballot  
May 3: Winning Big Project announced to General Membership

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Martha Briggs:** Sign up to attend an AKtion Club meeting; also, enjoy AKtion Club's Valentine circulating!  
**Mike Briggs:** Check out the recent item about Kiwassee's donation of books to local preschools; Dick Schochdapole is featured in the photo!  
**John Congleton:** See John if you know of a current Dow Chemical Company employee interested in serving on New Hope Village's Board of Directors.  
**Al Forster:** Thanks to members who have paid dues: just fifteen more and he'll have 100% response!  
**Dick Jellum:** Several items: (1) The Walk for Warmth is March 5 at the Midland Center for the Arts. Please sign up to help with registration at 9:00 a.m. and/or to make a donation to the fundraiser. (2) Community Service and YCP1 committees meet after today's regular meeting to hear a proposal from Chippewa Nature Center regarding a potential "Big Project." (3) Community Service will prepare and serve a meal at New Hope Village on a March date to be determined. (4) Community Service committee meets after next week's regular meeting (2/23).  
**Gene Moore:** Sign up to serve as a Precinct Delegate at upcoming Michigan primary elections.  
**Doug Snoddy:** Thanks to Martha Briggs for driving eight Dow High Key Clubbers to/from Michigan Service Leadership Conference March 11-13 at Grand Traverse Resort, and to chaperoning them for the weekend. Also, thanks to Alex Rapanos for volunteering to drive.  
**Bruce Rayce:** The Board of Directors meets Thursday, February 18, at noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Watch for a meeting agenda in the mail; chairs should submit items to Bruce. Kiwassee's February 2 meeting got some publicity when the special Dow Corning Tennis Classic guests were featured on social media and at the tournament. The meeting of committee chairs regarding the Big/Little projects yielded many good ideas; Fred Honerkamp suggested this group sit together at lunch every few weeks to compare notes on all committee initiatives. Bruce suggested all members, in particular those less active in projects, sit in on committee meetings to find out about the club's current initiatives and weigh in with ideas and suggestions.

**GUESTS:** Doug Snoddy introduced Mark Fenske, whom he hopes will join our ranks!

### PROGRAM: The Rock

Senior Youth Committee chair Doug Snoddy introduced Beverlee Wenzel, Executive Director of The ROCK Center for Youth Development. He also presented a check to her for Kiwassee's contribution to The Rock's fundraiser, "Dandelion Dreams," March 3 at Valley Plaza. See Doug, Jim Rajewski, or Alex Rapanos for tickets to this event.

Beverlee is a frequent presenter at our meetings and, since The ROCK is always growing and changing, she always has news to share. Most recently, The ROCK relocated its offices to the Greater Midland Community Center, a move that allows the organization to redirect to programming the funds that were previously spent on building maintenance.

The ROCK Center for Youth Development operates three major programs: Grounded, Exposure, and Unplugged.

ROCK Grounded serves students after school at three locations in Midland: Jefferson and Northeast Middle Schools and The ROCK Underground in the basement of the Greater Midland Community Center. This drop-in program provides a safe setting in which mentors and tutors help students develop confidence and a sense of belonging. Teens can come in, get a snack, work on homework, socialize, and take part in planned games and activities. Participation in ROCK Grounded has grown 300% in the past five years; Midland Public Schools provides transportation within the district to the two middle schools, and The ROCK provides transportation from Bullock Creek to the Community Center and Northeast Middle School.

ROCK Exposure operates in Midland County's four schools districts' middle and high schools, along with The ROCK at the Community Center, the Juvenile Care Center, and the ACEA (Academic and Career Education Academy). There are also pilot projects in Bay and Saginaw Counties. The proven curriculum fosters character development by helping teens identify personal goals and consider the importance of courage, resilience, forgiveness, health, and happiness in their lives. They also build tangible life skills, learn about and use relevant tools for college and work, and create a vision and plan for their future. The program has grown from 32 classes with 695 students in 2014 to 46 classes and 896 students in 2015. When asked if ROCK Exposure "was a good investment of time," 94% of students surveyed responded, "Yes," and 90% said they would "recommend (ROCK Exposure) to a friend."

ROCK Unplugged's community-based events encourage healthy life choices and relationships, create a sense of community awareness, and allow teens to participate in safe and supportive social activities. Thirty-five events in 2015 included three pool parties, a Battle of the Bands, lock-in retreats, Zombie Nights, a trip to Cedar Point, a kayaking trip, volunteering at Creative 360, overnight trips, and The ROCK climbing wall. Thousands of teens participated in at least one Unplugged activity or event last summer.

An exciting two-year collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Positive Psychology has led to professional development for The ROCK staff, along with public school teachers. Positive Psychology emphasizes the development of attitudes and traits that allow an individual to thrive, with a focus on developing communication skills, a growth mind-set, character strengths, and the ability to leverage these assets. One-on-one coaching helps students identify their goals and determine how to achieve them, as well as build self-confidence and self-worth.

The ROCK Center for Student Development provides much for the youth in Midland County and beyond; Kiwassee is proud to support this successful and growing organization!

**REMINDERS:** February 23 is the last meeting to donate items for Whispering Pines' Learn and Earn program:

- **CLEANING PRODUCTS:** paper towels, window spray, disinfectant wipes, dish soap, all purpose cleaner, laundry soap, fabric sheets, trash cans/bags, brooms, dustpans, bleach/spray.
- **CHILDREN'S ITEMS:** board books, children's books, markers, games, art materials, puzzles, crayons, puppets, baby dolls
- **PERSONAL HYGIENE:** toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste toothbrushes, floss, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand soap, band aids, facial tissues, hair brushes, skin lotions
- **MISCELLANEOUS:** first aid kits, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, bath towels, wash cloths, dish towels, dish cloths, sheets, blankets, candles, coffee pot, pillows, plates, pots and pans, floor rugs, snow shovels, toasters, vacuums

Dick and Nan Schochdapole will be honored this Friday (February 19) at Creative 360's "Yes We Can" luncheon, an event that recognizes the contributions of Midland citizens aged 80 and older. Last week's honoree was Alice Ralston, wife of long-time Kiwassee member Bob Ralston.

The Board of Directors meets Thursday, 2/18, at noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church.  
Community Service Committee meets after next week's regular meeting.

**NEXT WEEK:** Program: Young Children Priority One Greeter: Al Klashak Invocation: Roger Briggs  
AND we hope to induct two new members!