

KIWASSEE SMOKE SIGNALS KIWANIS

March 15, 2016

www.kiwassee.org

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CHAIR: Bruce Rayce

INVOCATION: Gordon Rogers

MUSIC: Alex Rapanos

HAPPY \$: Bruce Rayce

GREETER: Al Klashak

MAILER: Roger Briggs

EDITOR: Diane Stevens

CALENDAR

March 23: AKtion Club meeting, 5:30, MPS Admin Center (Martha Briggs)

April 5: Big Project proposals due to BOD from Committees

April 5: Training for new Tall in the Saddle (TIS) volunteers (Vicki Briggs)

April 6: AKtion Club meeting, 5:30, MPS Admin Center (Martha Briggs)

April 13: TIS starts spring session (Vicki Briggs)

April 21: Top 2 Big Project proposals in each category chosen by BOD.

April 26: Top 2 in each category presented to General Membership, who then vote by ballot

April 27: AKtion Club meeting, 5:30, MPS Admin Center (Martha Briggs)

May 3: Winning Projects announced to General Membership

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Briggs: Gordon Rogers and Susan Love attended the last AKtion Club meeting and had a great time. Please sign up or just show up! Upcoming dates are listed above in the Calendar.

John Congleton: On 3/19, Saturday, 9am, at Memorial Presbyterian Church, there will be a presentation "Where We Are With the Homeless Population in Midland County". There will time for Q&A. This is an important topic!

Mike Cronenberger: Hannah Tiffin will be attending meetings for the next 2 weeks, but Mike will be absent. PLEASE greet her and make her feel welcome

Dick Jellum: Thanks to those who worked at the Walk for Warmth registration table on Saturday: Roger Briggs, Mike Briggs, Vicki Briggs, Millard Kent, Roger Moll, Al Burmester, Gordon Rogers, Ray Senesac. Kiwassee donated about \$1800 between individual donations and a Community Service contribution. There will be a Committee meeting today to discuss the Big and Small Projects.

Al Forster: Ten people still owe dues. Thanks to those who paid today.

Doug Snoddy: Senior Youth meeting today. In addition to the usual Eagle Village painting project and ice cream stop, there is a new opportunity to help the organization. There is currently a large and ongoing construction project at the Village, but we can help with some small parts of the whole. This would be a collaboration between Senior Youth, the Key Club, perhaps Young Leaders, and the Club at large. Al Burmester and Doug will have more information soon. Probably the work will be done on weekends in May. Will there be ice cream involved?

Bruce Rayce: A flag route chairman is NEEDED for the Flag Project. Rogers Briggs has enough on his plate with the Foundation and the upcoming Golf Outing. A job description is available from President Bruce and also was sent to Committee Chairs for distribution to Committee Members. John Congleton is willing to partner with someone. The Key Club members did a fantastic job last week! Invocation volunteers are needed; please sign up. Thursday is the BOD meeting at Memorial Presbyterian.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Back from Costa Rica, Bill Spaulding! Heard after the meeting: Ron Keller injured his knee. Hopefully, he will be back to meetings soon.

GUESTS

None

PROGRAM: MIDLAND TOMORROW AND SOLARIZE MICHIGAN

Taitia Shelow, Communications and Investor Relations Director for Midland Tomorrow (Midlandtomorrow.org), spoke briefly of Midland Tomorrow's focus: fostering the economic development of Midland and Midland County, by attracting and retaining jobs and a strong workforce.

Taitia introduced Stephen Wooden of IEI (Institute for Energy Innovation), a Michigan non-profit group acting as Project Managers for Solarize Michigan. IEI is working with 5 Lakes Energy (technical consultants), Saginaw Future, Midland Tomorrow, and Bay Future, and funding is provided by the C.S. Mott Foundation. The Solarize Michigan effort reaches out to homeowners to encourage installation and use of solar energy. Yes, even in Michigan in our river valley, the sun's energy can reportedly be harnessed to power a home, including major energy drains of refrigerator, furnace, and air conditioner.

Stephen outlined the top 3 barriers to residential solar usage: sticker shock for the potential purchaser (which bulk buying can counteract), procedural knowledge (the steps to acquisition are spelled out), and customer inertia/reluctance (community education creates a "bandwagon" effect). Solarize Michigan works to overcome those barriers through community education and support.

This is Michigan's first Solarize campaign (Solarize was started in 2010 in Portland, Oregon.) , and only the second in the Midwest. Although Michigan has solar industry, the amount of residential solar usage is small. Solarize Michigan points out installation costs are declining, a Federal tax credit has been extended, and presence of a solar energy system can be a plus for resale value, all of which benefit the homeowner. Our community benefits because residential installations would increase the area's visibility as a solar energy leader and attract more jobs and investments.

Important points to consider are the price per watt, your home's energy needs, understanding that the traditional electric grid will still be available, and that this is a home improvement project, which may necessitate financing considerations.

Three contractors have been approved and will offer discounted solar installations for a limited time. Enrollment begins in April, and installations will be done from May through October. To find out if your home site is appropriate for solar energy application and for more detailed information about Solarize and the process, contact Stephen at stephen@instituteforenergyinnovation.org, go to www.solarizemichigan.com, or call 616-304-5555. Also, Roger Moll is a resource as he uses solar energy in his home, and Gene Moore has some alternative ideas to consider. The entire Solarize Michigan presentation by Stephen is available for detailed reference at our website, Kiwasee.org.

NEXT WEEK: Program by News & Publicity, Greeter Diane Stevens, Invocation Fred Honerkamp