

KIWASSEE SMOKE SIGNALS KIWANIS

March 22, 2016

[www.kiwassee.org](http://www.kiwassee.org)

VOLUME XXXXVIII NO 24

CHAIR: Bruce Rayce INVOCATION: Fred Honerkamp MUSIC: Alex Rapanos

HAPPY \$: none GREETER: Diane Stevens 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 11: Begin tear out of House of Mercy flooring (Millard Kent/Doug Snoddy)

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:** AKtion Club tomorrow! Upcoming dates are listed above in the Calendar.

**Vicki Briggs:** Thanks to all who signed up for Tall in the Saddle. The schedule is full! Wednesday nights are covered.

**Mike Briggs:** Smoke Signals Scribes are needed for April. Call/email Mike.

**Brian Goodwill:** Please sign up to provide the Invocation! Bruce has a small book of Kiwanis blessings if you don't want to write your own. There will be a brief Human & Spiritual Values meeting today.

**Cal Hoerneman:** Children's Grief Center will have a fundraising luncheon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hearts of Hope, on Wednesday, 4/20, 11:30-1:00, Holiday Inn. Cal is selling tickets for \$15 each to join the Kiwanis table of 10. Contact him.

**Dick Jellum:** Community Service meeting next week after the ACT Uganda HEAL presentation. John Congleton will speak about the NHV Library Room project. Think about the projects, as we will be discussing, then voting.

**Millard Kent:** Hall of Mercy flooring project will begin Monday, 4/11, from 2-6pm. Doug Snoddy and Millard will be there for all shifts. Key Club will join us in this project.

**Dick Skochdopole:** Junior Youth will meet at 11:15 next week. A representative from Friends of Whispering Pines and one other project representative will be attending.

**Doug Snoddy:** Senior Youth meeting today to finalize the Big Project decisions.

**Bruce Rayce:** John Congleton will be taking over the flag scheduling duties. Thank you, John!! At the recent Board of Directors' meeting: Committee Chairs talked about their Committee's project ideas under consideration. Bruce clarified the decision-making process and asked Chairs to use a common form to provide information to the Board about the final choices. Only the seventeen elected BOD members (9 Directors and 8 Officers) will vote. In other business, the Fun Committee members are Heather McLaughlin, Jim Heffel, Allison Maloney, Aaron Oberlin, Ben Tierney, and Carol Guilemette. Two project account grant requests were approved: \$400 for Kids Against Hunger (held last weekend, 20,000 meals packaged), and up to \$450 for Dow High Key Club members to attend Key Leader training. Use business cards to spread the word about Kiwassee Kiwanis and all the good things we are involved in within the community! See Larry McCoy about getting an updated card.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Bill Kennett is in the hospital with fluid in his lungs. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

GUESTS

Rachel Rapanos, Alex Rapanos' daughter, joined us for the meeting. Welcome, Rachel!

## **PROGRAM: KIWASSEE FLAG PROJECT AND GREAT LAKES LOONS**

Kiwassee Kiwanis' **Flag Project** begins its fourth year with the Memorial Day flag plantings. The first 3 years, profits from the project went to Kiwanis International for ELIMINATE, an international effort to eradicate neonatal tetanus. This year, profits will be applied to our project accounts.

Flags are displayed in subscriber's lawns or out lawns on 5 holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans' Day. Teams of 2 Kiwassee volunteers begin before sunrise to place flags and then remove them before sunset. Our goal this year is to have 300 subscribers. However, more flags to plant means more volunteers are needed for the teams and more time is required. One way to alleviate the number of teams and their time required (about 1 hour) to complete the routes is to do a mass "planting". This year, flags will be placed as a group on City property along Jerome, in the City parking areas' out lawns on the left and right sides of the road just past the First United Methodist Church and Arbury Insurance. The flags will create an impressive entrance into town.

All who sold flag subscriptions last year will soon receive an email with their past customers' names, an order form for each customer, and a blank form for new customers. The flag subscription form also is available on the Kiwassee website. Cost is \$30 for the 5 days of display. A completed form and check are needed from each customer.

Northwood University's Marketing Class is working on a plan to help us improve our marketing of the Flag Project and other fundraisers. Jim Young is developing a faster and easier way to plant the flags, which will cut time required to install and remove them.

Larry McCoy began the **Great Lakes Loons** program segment with a reminder that Kiwanis Night at the Loons will be Saturday, 7/30, at 7pm. Cost is \$9.50 for the ticket, \$5 for a food voucher, and \$5 for a Loon's hat. Wear Kiwanis clothing and your field badge and join the other Division 19 Kiwanis Clubs of Gladwin, Midland, West Branch, Kiwassee and hopefully nearby Divisions for a game between our Loons and the South Bend Cubs. One hundred and fifty seats have been reserved and reservations are accepted through 7/16.

Next, Larry introduced Jen Dore, Loons Corporate Accounts Manager, Nick Knieling, Group Sales Manager, and Paul Barbeau, Executive Director of Momentum Midland and Vice President of Michigan Baseball Foundation (MBF). Paul spoke about the Great Lakes Loons and their impact on the community.

The Loons are starting their tenth season in the stadium complex that is a reality thanks to Dow Chemical Executive Bill Stavropolous, who wanted to create a venue for a minor league professional baseball team and encourage downtown investments and developments. Unlike other stadiums, ours is not owned by the City of Midland. The MBF owns the facility. A statement from the 2015 MBF Annual Report explains their mission: "The MBF core purpose is to improve the quality of life in the Great Lakes Bay Region through social entrepreneurship. As a social entrepreneur, MBF seeks to create sustainable business enterprises whose primary purpose is to create jobs, add vitality to the region, and generate charitable impact." Youth clinics, summer baseball camps, Swing with the Loons Golf Tournament, USA Softball, and Special Olympics are just a few of the events and organizations that benefit from Great Lakes Loons community involvement. Michigan Baseball Enterprises is the taxable portion of the baseball endeavor, which includes the Loons team, ESPN radio, and the State Street restaurant. These businesses have a vested interest in the success of downtown, the "front door" as Paul called it, of our community. A successful downtown creates community pride and promotes more business interests.

Opening Day for this tenth season is April 9. There will be a 5K run and walk, a parade, and a 2pm game. Remember, Dave, Thursday home games are dollar hot dog nights!

**NEXT WEEK: ACT UGANDA HEAL, Greeter John Congleton, Invocation Millard Kent**