

KIWASSEE SMOKE SIGNALS KIWANIS

March 29, 2016

www.kiwassee.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII NO 25

CHAIR: Bruce Rayce **INVOCATION:** Millard Kent **MUSIC:** Dave Winegardner

HAPPY \$: Jim Rajewski **GREETER:** John Congleton **MAILER:** Roger Briggs **EDITOR:** Diane Stevens

CALENDAR

March 31: Moving day for NHV, 10am-noon, meet at campground (John Congleton)
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 9: Spring Divisional, Schwartz Creek United Methodist Church (Bruce Rayce)
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 23: Work session at Eagle Village with Key Club, 8:30 depart, 4:30return (Al Burmester)
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

Mike Briggs: Smoke Signals Scribe for April 5? Thanks to Ray Senesac for taking that duty.
Al Burmester: There will be Eagle Village painting done this summer. In addition, a work project crew is needed for 4/23, leaving at 8am and returning at 4:30pm. Key Club may help also. (But will there be ice cream?)
John Congleton: NHV (New Hope Village) is closed for the season. Help is needed moving items from the campground so the facility can be cleaned and returned to the church. Meet at NHV on this Thursday, 3/31, at 10am to help.
Brian Goodwill: Human & Spiritual Values meeting NEXT Tuesday BEFORE the general meeting, 11:30.
Cal Hoerneman: CGC (Children's Grief Center) fundraising lunch 4/20, 11:30, new Holiday Inn. \$15. Come join the Kiwassee table. See Bruce for tickets as Cal will be gone for a month.
Dick Jellum: Community Service meeting after today's meeting.
Millard Kent: Need volunteers on 4/14 for House of Mercy flooring project. 4/15 also, but that may not be needed if the worker bees from previous days finish the project.
Susan Love: Junior Youth meeting after today's meeting. Also, a volunteer appreciation dinner at WMFC, 4/14, 6-8pm. Susan has tickets available.
Larry McCoy: Business card signup will be at the check-in table. Adopt a Highway on 4/16. Details to follow. News & Publicity meeting after today's meeting.
Bruce Rayce: The Fun Committee is hard at work. Stay tuned! Officers will be attending the Spring Divisional on 4/9. Next week, 4/5, committees will be submitting their two project forms. On that day, there will be a BOD meeting after the general meeting.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Bill Kennett is still in the hospital with fluid in his lungs, but is improving. Keep Bill Marklewitz in your thoughts and prayers. Bruce will check on him. Several folks were back from trips!

PROGRAM: HUMAN & SPIRITUAL VALUES: ACT/UGANDA, LYNN POTTENGER

Roger Moll introduced Lynn Pottenger, Chair of ACT Uganda in Michigan. ACT stands for Agape Community Transformation. The organization was created in 2003 by Susan Waechter of Midland and a villager, Generous Turinawe of Muko Sub County, in response to a need for a vehicle to transport sick villagers 25 miles to medical care. The transport method at the time was to carry the sick to the clinic on makeshift stretchers, walking the 25 miles. Fundraising efforts in Midland provided a van in 2006. Fast forward to the present, and ACT Uganda is a successful NGO with 9 paid

staff in Uganda, many volunteer staff in Midland (including Susan and Lynn), two Board of Directors, a new health clinic, sponsorship of orphans, an empowerment program which creates handcrafts for sale, and an agricultural program. Twelve churches in mid-Michigan now support the effort in Muko, in addition to 4 in Uganda. There have been 7 visits between Midland and Muko Sub County, and another trip is scheduled for this year.

Muko is a region in southwest Uganda, a landlocked country in East Africa. Lynn showed slides of the land, very hilly, lush and green, where residents practice subsistence farming.

ACT Uganda uses the ABCD method, Asset Based Community Development, to assist the residents. ABCD was developed 30 years ago in Chile with great success. It allows villagers a say in identifying their community's strengths and needs, and then provides guidance to resources and the creation of a village-approved action plan.

Thanks to the combined efforts of villagers and Michigan volunteers, there are several major areas of development:

- Muko HOPE, Helping Orphans Prosper and Endure, which connects orphans with U.S. sponsors. Children are orphaned for many reasons, and a sponsor can provide schooling, daily living needs, and messages of support and encouragement, all of which help the child thrive.
- MEP, Muko Empowerment Program, enables women and men to earn a fair wage while showcasing their basketry, jewelry, and sewn crafts. Items are available on line at www.actuganda.org and at the Uniquely Uganda storefront, 503 S Saginaw Road, Midland. Hours are 10am-1pm Monday to Saturday.
- HANDS, Helping Agricultural New Development and Sustainability, has 2 teams, one in the U.S. and one in Uganda, who work together to improve farming efforts through education and support. This improves nutrition for residents and, with the development of cash crops, moves farmers above the bare subsistence level.
- Ikamiro Health Clinic, supported by a Midland church group, has running water, solar power, and a vaccine refrigerator.
- The Muko Martyrs Catholic Church construction was completed with the support of 2 Midland Catholic churches, whose financial contributions purchased a metal roof.

Another Midland resident who volunteers to improve life in Muko is Karen Viele, a music teacher and retired Midland Public School employee. She has raised funds for and provided musical instruments, held SKYPE music lessons, and traveled to Muko for hands-on support in the MUSIC program. Kiwassee's Roger Moll became involved in the agricultural program in Muko.

The latest program is HEAL, Health is Elemental to All Life, a health initiative. Muko residents with trained health facilitators, called Village Health Promoters, again using the ABCD method, will identify their greatest health needs/challenges, and create an action plan. Funds are needed to train and place facilitators in Muko Sub County.

How can we, Kiwassee, help? Volunteer to work in the Uniquely Uganda store, defray costs of rent and utilities for the storefront, sponsor an orphan, sew items with dyed cloth or pillowcase dresses for girls, join a support team, contribute financial support to a project. For more information, go to www.actuganda.org.

NEXT WEEK: NEWS & PUBLICITY, Greeter Bruce Rayce, Invocation Al Forster