

KIWASSEE

SMOKE SIGNALS

KIWANIS

April 19, 2016  
CHAIR: Bruce Rayce

[www.kiwassee.org](http://www.kiwassee.org)  
INVOCATION: Rudy Phillips  
MAILER: Roger Briggs

VOLUME XXXXVIII NO 28  
EDITOR: Martha Briggs  
GREETER: Al Burmester

### CALENDAR

**April 20: Children's Grief Center luncheon (Bruce Rayce)**  
**April 21: Board of Directors meeting, noon, Memorial Pres Church: voting on Big/Little Projects (Bruce Rayce)**  
**April 26: Top Big/Little Projects presented to General Membership (Bruce Rayce)**  
**April 27: AKtion Club meeting, MPS Administration Center, 5:30 p.m. (Martha Briggs)**  
**May 3: Secret ballot vote on Big/Little Projects, winners announced (Bruce Rayce)**  
**May 11: AKtion Club meeting, MPS Administration Center, 5:30 p.m. (Martha Briggs)**  
**May 4+: Kerestes Bridge construction, West Midland Family Center (Rudy Phillips)**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Vicki Briggs:** The Tall in the Saddles schedule is full, with Vicki on this week and Roger Briggs on next week. Also, MitchArt of Midland will work with the club to design a dedication for for the Gary Kerestes WMFC Bridge.

**Martha Briggs:** AKtion Club meets at 5:30 April 27, at the MPS Administration Center.

**Mike Briggs:** Three recent items in the Midland Daily News featured Kiwassee: Beverlee Wenzel's letter to the editor thanked Kiwassee among the many supporters of the recent ROCK fundraiser, and Martha Briggs' articles featured the Dow High Key Club's March 5 program and AKtion Club's collections.

**Mike Cronenberger:** Membership Committee meets after today's regular meeting.

**Millard Kent:** the recent sweat equity project at the House of Mercy was a great success, finishing early! Dow High Key Club members joined several Kiwassee members to install a new floor in a common area of this facility for homeless women and children.

**Larry McCoy:** Thanks to Doug Snoddy, Larry and Charlotte McCoy, Mike Cronenberger, and Mike Feider for working alongside several Dow High Key Club members to clean up the two-mile stretch of M-20 between Currie Parkway and Sandow Road. Also, magnetic car signs are available for your use during similar projects; they are stored in the Kiwassee cabinet—please return them to the cabinet! Pick up for your business cards if you signed up for them.

**Rudy Phillips:** Sign up to work on the Kerestes Bridge at the West Midland Family Center. Construction begins on May 4 and will take 4-6 days to complete. Shifts are 10-2:30 each day--bring your own lunch. The project will consist of two platforms, a connecting bridge, and steps on either side.

**Ray Senesac:** Check your email for two flag project attachments: the first includes a list of your 2015 customers, along with a customer form for each one; the second is a blank form for new customers. This year's form includes an option to purchase one or more flags for a large display along Jerome Street--an effort to improve the efficiency of installation by concentrating flags in specific locations.

**Jim Young:** Watch your email for information about an upcoming flag assembly session. Also, give customers' flag forms and checks to Fred Honerkamp (customers may also mail their forms and checks to Kiwassee Kiwanis, PO Box 1493, Midland MI 48641-1493).

**Bruce Rayce:** Kiwassee received many honors at the recent Spring Divisional, including Distinguished Club! Badges will find their way to one of the banners soon.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome back to **Joe Downey, Gerry Schwark, and John Mier!** Gerry Schwark reported that **Gene Woodward's** son passed away last week and that Gene will not be able to attend Kiwassee meetings for awhile. Max Bottomley reported that, after two weeks in the hospital and two-to-three weeks in rehab, **Bill Kennett** is feeling stronger and coming home today! Ray Senesac reported that **Ron Keller** is recovering and gaining strength after injuring himself twice on the stairs in his home. Alex Rapanos reported that long-time Midland Kiwanis Club member **Ron Beech** passed away; a memorial service is 4:00 p.m. this Sunday, April 24, at First United Methodist Church. Bruce Rayce reported that **Bill Marklewitz** hopes to return to meetings soon.

## **“BIG PROJECT” UPDATE**

President Bruce Rayce reminded members of the process for selecting a \$25,000 and \$5000 project to support:

April 21: elected members of the Board of Directors vote for two projects in each category

April 26: representatives of the four projects present them to club members

May 3: club members vote via secret ballot one project in each category and Bruce announces the result

**According to the club by-laws, members must be present at the May 3 meeting to vote.**

### **PROGRAM: presented by Senior Youth**

Senior Youth Committee Chair Doug Snoddy introduced Dow High Key Club officers Sarah Naumovitz, Anna Mylvaganam, JoAnna Danielsen, Dani Huey, Becca Haines and Samantha Damocles, who attended this year’s Michigan District of Key Club Service Leadership Conference in March. Both the club and individual members were recognized for a variety of accomplishments, including pop tabs (212.6 pounds!), many provided by our club and AKtion Club; scrapbook; monthly reports; and Outstanding President (Anna). In addition, Anna and Samantha were elected to serve the Michigan District as 2016-17 secretary and bulletin editor, respectively. The members spoke of the excitement and inspiration they felt as they gathered with over 400 other service-minded high school students from around the state, and they thanked Kiwassee for our encouragement and financial support to attend the event.

Doug then introduced Michelle Beeck and Jennifer Jarosiewicz from The Legacy Center for Community Success. Michelle is a prevention specialist who directs the Marijuana Work Group that addresses marijuana’s impact on adolescents, and Jennifer is an intern; together they presented information and shared concerns about Midland area adolescents’ use of and attitudes toward marijuana. They encouraged members to learn about the issue, as an initiative to legalize marijuana in Michigan for people age 21 and over is likely to be on the November ballot.

Marijuana is a Schedule 1 drug (most dangerous) because of its potential for psychological and physical dependence. In fact, marijuana use as a teen may harm the developing brain, lower IQ, and seriously impair the ability to drive safely, especially when combined with alcohol.

Today’s marijuana is much more potent than the pot of the 60’s. Old-school marijuana contained less than 10% of Tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the chemical responsible for most of marijuana’s psychological effects. Recent testing of legal marijuana in Colorado found it contained an average THC level of 18.7%, with some retail pot containing 30% or more. Marijuana products like oil, butter, vapor cartridges can contain 90% of THC, and edibles like brownies, cookies and candy contain 100 mg of THC, creating a greater risk for addiction. In Colorado, which legalized marijuana use for adults age 21 and over, advertising designed to appeal to children and youth features packaging that resembles popular candy and depicts cartoon characters and traditional icons like Santa using marijuana.

Marijuana use among Midland’s youth population (12-18 years) has declined sharply in the past five years. The Legacy Center’s recent Midland Youth Survey reported that 8% of our youth population used marijuana in the 30 days prior to the survey, compared to 16% in 2011. Not only has 30-day use declined, but it is well below the national average of 14%. At the same time, the survey indicates that just 68% of Midland County youth believe that regular marijuana use poses a moderate or great risk. Furthermore, this percentage decreases in older teens, which can indicate an increase in use. Also, teens’ perceived risk of marijuana is well below their perceived risk of alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs.

The impact of marijuana use is better understood today than it was in the past, but communication to parents is essential. The Legacy Center distributes the publication Youth Connections to all Midland County parents of children in grades 6-12 and provides extensive information on its website: [www.drugfreemidland.org](http://www.drugfreemidland.org).

## **REMINDERS**

Membership Committee meets today; Thursday’s Board is at noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Next week’s Greeter is Bruce Rayce and Invocation is by Doug Snoddy.