

KIWASSEE

April 26, 2016
CHAIR: Bruce Rayce

SMOKE SIGNALS

www.kiwassee.org
INVOCATION: Doug Snoddy
MAILER: Roger Briggs

KIWANIS

VOLUME XXXXVIII NO 29
EDITOR: Martha Briggs
GREETER: Bruce Rayce

CALENDAR

April 27: Dow High Golden Keys Awards, 3:30, room 306 (Doug Snoddy)
April 27 and May 11: 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 4: RESCHEDULED Travel and Adventure Program, 7:30; this is a WEDNESDAY (Bruce Rayce)
May 4+: Kerestes Bridge construction, West Midland Family Center (Rudy Phillips)
May 10: Kiwassee Foundation Board meeting after regular meeting (Roger Briggs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Briggs: In her letter to the MDN regarding The ROCK's recent fundraiser, Executive Director Beverlee Wenzel thanked sponsor Kiwassee Club and Table Captains Jim Rajewski, Alex Rapanos, and Doug Snoddy, Kiwassee members all.
Roger Briggs: The Kiwassee Foundation Board will meet after the May 10 regular club meeting.
Mike Cronenberger: Consider forwarding the Smoke Signals to prospective club members—it's a great recruiting tool!
Eugene Moore: Eugene recently traveled with a group to Boston, MA, to present a paper on the promising results of radiation treatments to reverse Alzheimer's Disease and other neuro-degenerative conditions. Gene has a special interest in this subject because his wife Barbara was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2005.
Rudy Phillips: Members working on the Kerestes Bridge at WMFC will meet after today's meeting to plan the work sessions. Construction begins May 4 and the project will take 4-6 days to complete.
Doug Snoddy: Dow High Key Club will hold its "Golden Keys" Awards at its regular meeting tomorrow. Come celebrate a year of great accomplishments—3:30, room 306. See Doug if you plan to attend.
Jim Young: Flag assembly sessions are this Wednesday and Thursday from 1-4 at Jim's house: 3723 Wrenwood Ct (Village West Condos) off West Main just north of the Northwood University entrance off Main Street. Look for a flag in the yard; call Jim with questions (835-3183).
Bruce Rayce: Sign up to greet in May! The last Travel and Adventure program has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 4, at 7:30. Special thanks to Art Leadbetter, who let his customers know about the change! Kiwassee sponsored a table in Gary Kerestes' memory at last week's Children's Grief Center Luncheon. The Membership Committee is considering various strategies for recruiting new members; Bruce has suggested the following slogan: "Kiwasssee Kiwanis: the Service Club of Choice in Greater Midland." What do you think?

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Bill Marklewitz is back home now and receiving daily visits from a nurse who drains the fluid in his lungs.
Bill Kennett is back home after rehab and looking forward to returning to meetings soon.

GUESTS

Ed Hutchinson, a local horticulturist whose columns appear in the Midland Daily News, and **Scott Mitchell**, director of the Greater Midland Tennis Center, joined us today.

PROGRAM: "BIG PROJECT" Presentations

President Bruce Rayce reviewed the process for selecting a \$25,000 and \$5000 project. Given the club's sizable surplus in the Project Fund, Bruce charged each of the following committees to research, vet, and select one \$5,000 and one \$25,000 project for the club to award: Community Service, Human and Spiritual Values, Young Children Priority One, Junior Youth, and Senior Youth. After learning about all of the projects, the Board of Directors voted via secret ballot for two in each category, and today representatives of the four projects presented them to the general membership. When members check in at next week's meeting (May 3), they will vote via secret ballot for one project in each category and Bruce will announce the winners. **NOTE: According to the club's by-laws, members must be present at the May 3 meeting to vote.**

\$5000 Projects

H.E.A.L. (Health is Elemental to All Life) ACT Uganda Michigan (Roger Moll, presenter)

--ACT (Agape Community Transformation) is a collaborative effort between ACT Michigan and ACT Uganda in Muko County, Uganda. This ecumenical Christian organization seeks to enhance the spiritual, physical, economic and societal conditions in Uganda through a variety of community-based projects. Parallel Boards of Directors, one in Michigan and one

guidance as local community leaders articulate a need, develop an Action Plan, and execute that plan.

--The \$5000 will cover start-up costs for the first year of a health promotion facility under the aegis of HEAL for several communities in Muko County, paying a \$2880 salary for a professional coordinator; \$1920 for the employment and training of eight part-time facilitators, and ~\$200 for training materials.

--Kiwasee will gain visibility among the 12 Michigan churches that serve as ACT partners, and media coverage in the Midland Daily News as well as Michigan District Kiwanis and Kiwanis International publications. In addition, HEAL presents an opportunity for Kiwasee to provide direct international service and expand our world view.

LONGVIEW PAVILION (Betsy Sullivan, presenter)

--Currently, the City of Midland operates a spray park on the Longview Early Childhood Center/Educational Services Agency (ESA) property, and Servinski maintains the landscaping. The spray park itself is fenced and surrounded by several benches and picnic tables, as well as a portable toilet. It enjoys heavy use in the summer, with children in ESA programs, participants in the Salvation Army's SHARE program, neighborhood kids, and children from nearby day-care centers and pre-schools using it daily. Parents and care-givers provide ample supervision of this popular attraction.

--Unfortunately, the minimal amount of shade on the property disappears by 10:30 a.m., leaving children and adults out in the bright sunshine for the better part of the day.

--The \$5000 will cover the cost of materials for a pavilion patterned after the one Kiwasee built on the playground at the West Midland Family Center, creating needed shelter from the sweltering sun, as well as space for towels and street clothing. Kiwasee members can provide the sweat equity for the construction of the pavilion, and a budding Eagle Scout can find a possible project in the addition of additional seating and storage for towels and street clothes.

\$25,000 Projects

WINDOW ON THE WORLD MEDIA CENTER AT NEW HOPE VILLAGE (John Congleton, presenter)

--New Hope Village is Midland County's only shelter for homeless families. The need is compelling: 41% of all homeless people the county are in family groups, and at least 230 are children. NHV's mission is to help struggling families get off support and achieve and maintain a stable living. For the past two years, NHV served seven families at a time at the Community of Christ Campground in Sanford.

--Meridian Public Schools' Hillside Elementary School is a potential year-round location that will provide housing for 20 to 22 families at a time. The \$25,000 will cover the cost to build and equip a media center that will be a central location for meetings and computer use for schoolwork, training, and job searches. As a result, this room will support meaningful relationships and education, the two major factors that influence a family's efforts to pull out of poverty.

--The Media Center will provide a safer environment than they are currently experiencing; help them catch up socially and academically; contribute to the effort to eliminate homelessness in Midland County; and promote awareness of Kiwasee, as the Center will be named for the club. NHV is collaborating with all of the county agencies addressing homelessness and has the support of 35 non-profits and 22 churches. The \$25,000 will not be released until NHV secures a permanent location.

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL S.T.E.M. OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACES (Mike Briggs, presenter)

--The new Central Elementary School will house the 650 students currently at Carpenter and Eastlawn Schools, the two most at-risk schools in the Midland district. A major goal of Central Elementary School is to help those students succeed via S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), an instructional approach that utilizes proven strategies that promote active engagement in the learning process.

--The Strategic Plan for the school, along with the S.T.E.M. curriculum descriptions of grades K-6, focuses on project-based learning, and the building design promotes hands-on, interactive, and collaborative learning between classes, with centrally located common spaces for multiple groups to use. Several outdoor learning spaces will reinforce and extend the learning that takes place in the classrooms and common areas.

--The \$25,000 will pay for the construction of one such outdoor space, most likely featuring the solar system, levers and pulleys, or a concrete river. Other outdoor learning spaces include sound and vibration; sand, mud, and dirt; a hill; plants; maps; and more. Midland Public Schools has invited organizations and individuals in the community to participate in the development of this outdoor area by providing the funding for one or more learning space.

REMINDERS

The Kerestes Bridge work crew meets today after the regular meeting.

Flag assembly takes place this Wednesday and Thursday at Jim Young's place (see Jim's announcement)

Plan to vote on a Big and Little project next week when you check in.

Young Children Priority One will provide the program.

Next week's Greeter is Betsy Sullivan & Invocation is by Jim Young.