

Greeter: John Congleton Chair: Fred Honerkamp Invocation: John Congleton Editor: Diane Stevens

CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 12: AKtion Club Fourth Annual Talent Show and Fundraiser, 6-7:30pm (Martha Briggs)

Thursday, October 27: ROCK Fundraiser, Valley Plaza, 7-9 pm (Doug Snoddy/Jim Rajewski)

Wednesday, November 9: YWCA Women's Empowerment Symposium (Carolann Guillemette)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Briggs: Come to the AKtion Club Talent Show, see above. CROP Walk receipts are available.

Cal Hoerneman: The first T&A program is 2 weeks from today. We are \$4,000 below goal: Sell Tickets.

Doug Snoddy: The ROCK Fall Fundraiser tickets are available, see above.

Diane Stevens: Our preschool reading program starts this month. We read in 6 classrooms once a month, and it only takes about 10 minutes to read. Join the pool of readers. Contact Diane.

Guests: Max Bottomley introduced his daughter and Chauffeur for the Day, Anne, from South Bend. She asked Diane to include in the Smoke Signals that a chauffeur system for Max to attend meetings would be greatly appreciated. He recently has given up driving and lives out in Independence Village. His closest family is in South Bend (Anne) and Kalamazoo. Roger Moll introduced his wife, Ann, and ACT Uganda volunteers Lisa Corso, Sue and John Waechter, and Ellie and Larry Schroeder. Kathy Allen introduced Jennifer Finzel, Vice President of AKtion Club.

Fred Honerkamp: New President Fred encouraged members to get involved: be a Greeter, provide the Invocation, read at a preschool. This year's Pigmaster will be Dick Jellum. The new Executive Committee is working to understand where Kiwassee Kiwanis needs to be this year and going forward, and how to get there. New members are vital to our growth and success of our programs, so there will be more information about this subject in the President's Message. Committee chairs and co-chairs have been assigned and committee budgets are being determined. Cal Hoerneman would like to have a co-chair for Fundraising, a huge and important job.

PROGRAM: ACT UGANDA, ROGER MOLL & GUESTS

ACT Uganda, specifically the HEAL (Health is Elemental to All Life) Project was the recipient of last spring's \$5,000 "Big Project" award. HEAL is only one area of ACT's efforts in Muko Sub County, Uganda: HOPE, orphan sponsorship, HANDS, agricultural program, MEP, handcraft program, and MUSIC. Organizing in 2003, with a physical presence in Uganda starting in 2006, ACT is two organizations, one in the US, one in Uganda, with a Board of Directors for each. There are only eight paid staff, all in Uganda, with over 250 volunteers in mid-Michigan, many from area churches.

The focus of ACT is to provide resources and organizational support while teaching villagers (There are 40,000 residents within 72 separate villages in Muko Sub County.) to make their own decisions and take care of themselves. Having a local mentor/organizer/leader for HEAL is critical to the success of the program. Rauben, a nurse and Muko Sub County resident who is completing his studies in Community Health, was hired and has recruited and organized the volunteers from the villages. The villagers must cooperate to discuss, critique, organize, and implement, with ACT resources and support, the plans to improve the health of their villages. ACT Uganda's programs are unique because of these input and decision making powers given to the local people.

During Q&A, the question, among others, was asked about evaluations of the ACT Uganda programs. There are interviews conducted with the orphans, within the HOPE program, every year and as they age out. The HEAL program has not been in use long enough to warrant evaluation yet. HANDS, the agricultural program, has had great success in that red beet seeds introduced in 2010 are providing a cash crop for villagers. Mushroom growing has also become a cash crop, with 10 trained growers and over 150 workers. Money earned has already been distributed. While these results have not been evaluated by our traditional standards, with lists and percentages and graphs, a cash crop and community effort in a country where people live on less than \$1 per day and hunger is a constant concern, is a great success.

NEXT WEEK: Candy & Nuts Fundraiser (there will be samples!), Greeter: Bill Spaulding, Invocation: Jim Morgan