

April 18, 2017 KIWASSEE *SMOKE SIGNALS* KIWANIS www.kiwassee.org
Chair: Fred Honerkamp Invocation: Brian Goodwill Editor: Diane Stevens

April 19: Children's Grief Center fundraiser, Great Hall, Valley Plaza (Brian Goodwill, Cal Hoerneman)

April 20: Board meeting, Memorial Presbyterian, 12 noon

April 22: Adopt-a-Highway pickup, 9am, Law Enforcement Center, need a few more volunteers (Bruce Rayce)

May 16: Invite your pastor to the meeting (Brian Goodwill)

June 27: Steak fry (Dave Winegardner)

July 17: Kiwassee Kiwanis For Kids Golf Outing, Snow Snake (Betsy Sullivan, Porter Brown)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Goodwill: He has invitations you can use to invite your Pastor to lunch on May 16. They will be available at the next meetings before the event. But ask early, as they are busy folks!

Cal Hoerneman: Don't forget the Children's Grief Center fundraising event Wednesday night!

Bruce Rayce: Adopt a Highway pickup 4/22, meet at Law Enforcement Center

50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Over 140 members, spouses, and invited guests gathered for lunch to celebrate our 50 years of service to families and children of Midland, our Michigan, and the world. Pat had decorated the tables with spring flowers and created a delicious lunch for us. During lunch, a slideshow of pictures, taken from past presidents' yearly scrapbooks, played on the screen, thanks to Ben Tierney. After lunch, Diane introduced the invited guests: Kathy Williams, widow of Larry Williams who was a Charter Member and Kiwassee President in 1980; Barbara Meyer, widow of Wendell Meyer, longtime member and President in 1981, also Lt. Governor; Linda Cline, President in 2004; Vicki Briggs, President in 2011; Renee Castellon, President in 2010; Dean Branson, President in 1991; Bill Lauderbach, President in 1988; Brian Jackson, President in 2007 who brought 2 members of the Saginaw Club, Dave Skolnik and Bob Hastings; Fred Gray, President in 1992, who brought 2 members of the Thomas Township Club, Steve Witt and Debbie Witt; Elizabeth Gisse, Aktion Club Vice President; Carly Witkop, Northwood Circle K Advisor and Kristy Godley, incoming Circle K President; Midland Kiwanis Club, Dick Koppel, Donna Jo Aiken, Ralph Wirtz, and Cathy Devendorf; Judith Unrath, Lt. Governor, Michigan Division 19; Marian O'Higgins, Governor Elect, Michigan District; Maureen Donker, Mayor, City of Midland. Marian O'Higgins, Governor Elect, Michigan District, praised our many accomplishments and long term commitment to children. She believes that, through our service to others, we offer a piece of ourselves to make the organization of Kiwanis and our world a better place. Max Bottomley, one of our Charter members in 1967, gave a presentation about the creation of Kiwassee Kiwanis. Twelve members of the Midland Kiwanis Club wanted to create noon club in 1966. Those twelve found more like-minded community members and, on February 22, 1967, Kiwassee Kiwanis' forty nine men received a charter for their new club, the 217th in Michigan. The name came from "Ki", Kiwanis and the "wassee" from Tittabawassee River. Ben Hines was the first President. Sam Choo spoke of the contributions women have made to the Club. Originally, the service club was for men only. He also stressed the importance of Aktion Club. Midland Mayor Maureen Donker thanked us for our service to the community and gave a personal testimony to the success of Aktion Club. Her son is a member of our Aktion Club and is thrilled to be a part of the group. Dick Skochdopole spoke of our many long-term projects. The original project, started in 1967, is the bell ringing done at holiday time for the Salvation Army. Other major projects are WMFC support, reading to preschoolers, CROP Walk support, Christmas party for second graders at Eastlawn (soon to be combined with Carpenter to become a STEM School), Eagle Village, Dow High Key Club, Tall in the Saddle, petunia planting on Eastman Road, our Big Projects of New Hope Village and ACT Uganda and support for the STEM School outdoor laboratory, and the Kiwanis International projects of eliminating iodine deficiency and neonatal tetanus. Fred brought the meeting to a close with a secret phrase that ushered in the White Pine Pipes and Drum Corp! They marched through the room while playing "Scotland the Brave". If you were not able to attend this event, there will be extra programs (of historical value, certainly) available at the next Club meeting.