

Chair: Fred Honerkamp

Invocation: Fred Honerkamp

Editor: Martha Briggs

CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 22 (today): Community Service committee meets after today's regular meeting. (Dick Jellum)

Monday, August 28 & Wednesday, August 30: Central Park Elementary School Open House, 4-5:30 (Fred Honerkamp)**

Tuesday, August 29: Tall in the Saddle new volunteer orientation, Gypsy Hollow, 7-9 pm (Susan Love)

Thursday, September 14: Thomas Township Kiwanis Club's golf outing, Apple Mountain (Roger Briggs)

Sunday, October 1: CROP Walk (Martha Briggs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dick Jellum: The Community Service committee will meet after next week's regular meeting.

Susan Love: Sign up for Tall in the Saddle on the schedule circulating. New volunteer orientation is next Tuesday (8/29) from 7-9 pm at Gypsy Hollow Ranch, 4353 N. Sturgeon.

Ray Senesac: Turn in your Travel and Adventure sales to Mike Feider; see Ray or Jack Higgins for T&A materials.

Roger Briggs: There are two openings on the Kiwassee Foundation Board; see Roger if you're interested in serving.

Fred Honerkamp: **Central Park Elementary School invites donors (Kiwassee and Kiwassee Foundation supported the STEM playground) to a special Open House Monday, August 28 or Wednesday August 30, from 4-5:30 pm. You must RSVP by Friday, August 25—call 989-839-9661. A public open house will be held Monday, September 25, from 6-7:30 pm.

GUESTS

Dick Schochdopole introduced Kristy Godley, Northwood Circle K 2017-18 president.

MEMBER NEWS

George Fromhold passed away unexpectedly on Sunday at age 76. Funeral services are Saturday, August 19, at 11 am at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Duane Brooks's son Ron, age 65, passed away in Iowa as a result of cardiac complications. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Stu Bender reported that Bob Nankee is still at MidMichigan Hospital after surgery on his legs. He is on the Third Floor and would appreciate prayers and visitors. Mike Feider returned today after back surgery.

Roger Moll provided an update on the Uganda initiative. The group has hired a new manager and is making good progress in their work with several communities. Some Kiwassee members are sponsoring orphans, and additional orphans need sponsors. See Roger for details about this opportunity to support the Uganda program.

PROGRAM: Vicki Ruttledge, Head Start

Young Children Priority One chair Karen Adams introduced Vicki, who provided an update on this program, along with the Scholastic Book Program, which Kiwassee supports. She thanked us for our purchase of books for pre-schoolers and for the many volunteer readers we provide. Kim shared excerpts from letters teachers wrote praising our readers' efforts.

Decades of research have documented Head Start's positive impact on school readiness, attendance, cognitive and social-emotional development, high school and college completion, earning power, overall health, and contributions to society.

The Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMSCA) oversees the Head Start/Early Head Start /Great Start to Readiness Program, which in Midland County serves 180-195 low-income 3-5 year olds each year at Longview, 2828 Isabella St., Sanford Elementary School, and Railway Family Center in Coleman. These programs provide education, social services, health and dental care, nutrition, and mental health and disability services. Funding comes from Health & Human Services (federal) and GSRP (state).

Vicki explained that families are huge partners in promoting children's future success at school and life: family community coordinators make home visits, teachers encourage attendance at Parent/Teacher Conferences, and a Parent Council meets monthly to address relevant issues. In addition, Head Start has collaborated with area agencies to develop a Parent Curriculum.