

CALENDAR

January 24: Aktion Club's Jolly January Party (**Martha Briggs**)

January 25: Kiwassee Board of Directors meeting (January 9: after the regular meeting) (**Doug Snoddy**)

January 31: Kiwassee featured service club at the Dow Tennis Classic (Jan 27-Feb 4) (**Doug Snoddy/Diane Stevens**)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Al Forster: Pay your first quarter club dues soon!

Brian Goodwill: Please sign up to give the invocation at a meeting; a clipboard is circulating.

Dick Jellum: There are still a few nut and candy items available at the Fire Sale in the lobby. Please settle your bill if you haven't already done so: Dick knows who you are.

Bill Krueger: props to everyone who has submitted their payments for nuts and candy. For those of you who still need to submit your payment, Gordon Rogers will take your money (not Roger Gordon, who is also a good friend of Bill's).

Allison Maloney: Please sign up to attend a Dow High Key Club meeting; a sign-up sheet is circulating. Senior Youth committee will meet after next week's regular meeting.

Rudy Phillips: Junior Youth committee will meet after today's regular meeting.

Bruce Rayce: Consider attending the Spring Divisional March 17 in Alma; it will run from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Let Doug know if you're interested in joining your fellow Kiwanians at a Saginaw Spirit game in February—date TBD. FYI: Division leaders will meet this weekend to develop a Division-wide strategy. Bruce will share details next week!

Doug Snoddy: Thanks to Roger Moll, Phil Sarnacke, and Diane Stevens for their help with Paul Walker's funeral. There will be a quick Board meeting after today's regular meeting. Thanks to new member Scott Mitchell for inviting Kiwassee to be a featured service organization at this year's Dow Tennis Classic: a great opportunity to promote Kiwassee!

Diane Stevens: The NHV clipboard is circulating again; consider supporting our purchase of necessary items to set up the apartment we're preparing at this homeless shelter for families. Club News & Publicity will meet after today's meeting.

Duane Townley: Again, many thanks to all who helped to make the Central Park Elementary Holiday Party a success!

Dave Winegardner: the Fund Raising committee will meet after today's brief Board meeting after the regular meeting.

Jim Young: Raise your hand if you've attended three or more Travel and Adventure programs this year!

GUESTS: Doug introduced Greg Smith, Michigan District of Kiwanis Executive Director, who will share a few words after today's program. Dick Schochdopole introduced his neighbor, Nate Cody. Welcome, Greg and Nate! Allison Maloney introduced Bullock Creek High School's BlitzCreek Robotics Team, who will present today's program.

MEMBER NEWS: a card for Bob Cook is circulating; his wife passed away. Jack Higgins is struggling mightily with his lymphoma and will be in Ann Arbor Thursday to see if the UM doctors can help him. He'll be there for two weeks, hopefully to receive radiation and chemo for tumors in his neck and abdomen. Keep him and Nancy in your prayers.

PROGRAM I: BlitzCreek Robotics Team 3770 from Bullock Creek High School

Jamie Forbes, advisor of Bullock Creek High School's Blitz Creek Robotics Team, turned the program over to team members Gabby Adams, Emily Bennett, Max Herst, Hadlee Rinn, and Tucker Van Dyke, all multiple-year participants. BlitzCreek is one of 200+ teams in Michigan that participate in FIRST Robotics Competition (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The six-week build season begins in January when FIRST announces the task teams must focus on as they design and construct a large-scale robot. The competition season is next, with head-to-head matches against other teams at local events, where they earn points to qualify for state and international championships.

The team members emphasized the skills they develop in engineering, problem solving, teamwork, communication, and leadership. All said they return to BlitzCreek each year because there's always something new, they feel like it's a second home, and they appreciate the collaboration the task requires, not only within their own team but with other teams as well. Forbes said, "They'll make you better to try to beat you by being better."

Community service is an important element of the program, and BlitzCreek members volunteer at their major sponsors' events, including the Kepler family's Lazy Turtle Ranch and Delta's STEM Festival. They also help out at area events like the DOW Run/Walk and the Chippewa Nature Center Harvest Festival. In addition, the Bullock Creek elementary and middle school robotics programs benefit from BlitzCreek members' mentoring. BCHS students can earn recognition and an honor cord for their service to school and community throughout their high school years.

Many resources will give you more information about this exciting extra-curricular activity:

www.creekrobotics.net

<http://the-charge.com/index.html> (Dow High's team)

www.usfirst.org

<https://www.facebook.com/Chembots5509/> (Midland High's team)

Greg has been active in Kiwanis for since 2001, having served as Key Club Administrator for ten years before becoming Executive Director in 2014. His brief remarks focused on club building (8-12 new clubs planned for 2018), membership retention (commit to bringing in new members), and leadership (not just officers, but project and committee chairs too). A leadership conference at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy will be held February 17 from 9-1. Find out more by sending an email to districtoffice@mikiwanis.org .