

Chair: Doug Snoddy

Invocation: Sam Choo

Editor: Martha Briggs

CALENDAR

February 8: West Midland Family Center Open House (**Susan Love**)

February 9: Stu Bender's recognition at 360—RSVP ASAP! (**Doug Snoddy**)

February 13: Valentine's Party (**Doug Snoddy**)

February 27: Serving pancakes at the Mount Pleasant IHOP (**Bruce Rayce**)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Snoddy: Please sign up at the food table TODAY to attend the Valentine's Party February 13.

See Doug if you're interested in serving on the CROP Planning Team.

Al Forster: Al will be gone mid-February through mid-March. He's sent emails to Dues Deadbeats, so if you haven't paid your dues and haven't seen Al's email, look in your SPAM folder and pay up!

Dick Jellum: Community Service meets after today's regular meeting.

Susan Love: Come to West Midland Family Center's Open House this Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m. to see the fabulous expansion and renovation Kiwassee helped make happen!

Bruce Rayce: Serve pancakes at IHOP on February 27 with Mt. Pleasant's Kiwanis club; see Bruce for details. Also, mark your calendars: the May 22 meeting program will be a panel discussion between MPS Superintendent Michael Sharrow, Probate Court Judge Dorene Allen, and Midland County Sheriff Scott Stephenson. The focus: local issues concerning youth. A good opportunity to invite a guest to the meeting!

Diane Stevens: The slide show prior to today's meeting featured photos of New Hope Village and the progress toward completion of the building renovations in preparation for families. Lots of progress!

Jim Young: This year's flag program will continue to include installation of the residential flags. No new residential customers, and the cost for the service is \$40. The emphasis is on sponsorships of public displays.

Doug Snoddy: The recognition and booth at last week's Dow Tennis Classic, along with the booth at Friday's Chamber of Commerce breakfast, gave the club effective exposure. Both booths featured materials for the flag project and the golf outing, and visitors showed interest in these fund raisers. Thanks to everyone who put the presentations together and participated in the events! See Doug if you'd like to serve on the CROP Planning Team. You'll be preparing registration materials, route signage, and water stations as well securing the volunteers for those jobs.

GUESTS: Doug introduced Dow High Key Club members Becca, Abby, and Alex, who thanked the club for our support of their attendance at this year's Michigan District Service Leadership Conference February 23-25. Ten students will attend, and we'll get a report of what they experienced and learned after they return.

Chuck Gartner introduced Elders Frau and Pancheri, LDS missionaries interested in serving the community. Mike Cronenberger introduced Rob Mortensen, and Al Klashak introduced Steve Powell.

PROGRAM: Michigan State University Extension

Community Service committee member Dee Howe introduced Mike Krauch, MSU Extension District 9 Coordinator, serving Midland, Bay, Saginaw, Shiawassee, and Genesee Counties. After careers in business and law, Mike moved to Michigan to work for the Extension in the area of Finance and Home Ownership. He also serves as District 5 Coordinator on the west side of the state.

The MSU Extension was founded in 1914 with a mission to help people "improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities." Eighty-one of eighty-three counties in Michigan have an Extension office, reflecting a commitment to work with people where they are. This visibility is essential to the trust the Extension has established with communities, especially during crises like the Flint water crisis, home foreclosures, and dairy farmer stress.

Over 600 faculty and staff provide expertise in many focus areas, including developing youth and communities, ensuring safe and secure food, keeping businesses strong, keeping people healthy, making the most of our natural assets, and supporting food and agriculture. Thirteen Extension research centers provide information to entities around the world, and the Extension is linked to programs, colleges, and departments at MSU. In addition, the Extension works with the USDA, the state legislature, and county commissions.

The Extension serves children and youth from birth to age 19 through initiatives that include 4-H (our own Dee Howe is the Midland County 4-H Program Coordinator!), early literacy programs, STEM Tech Wizard mentorships, and Exploration Days, which is a pre-college program that brings youth from around the state to the MSU campus—an experience that for many represents the first time they've ventured out of their county.

Funding for the MSU Extension comes from foundations, granting agencies, economic development corporations, Chambers of Commerce, and individual and philanthropic gifts.

For more information, visit <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/> or contact Mike at krauchmi@msu.edu.

NEXT WEEK: Valentine's Party – please arrive by 11:30 to enjoy the entertainment!