

February 20, 2018 **KIWASSEE** *SMOKE SIGNALS* **KIWANIS** www.kiwassee.org

Chair: Doug Snoddy

Invocation: Dick Skochdopole

Editor: Martha Briggs

CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 27: Young Children Priority One Committee meeting, 11:00. (**Penny Ecarius**)

Tuesday, February 27: Serving pancakes at IHOP in Mt. Pleasant (**Bruce Rayce**)

Tuesday, March 13: Golf Outing Committee meeting, 11:00 (**Betsy Sullivan**)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Snoddy: Thanks to members for continued thoughts and prayers in the wake of his sister-in-law's liver transplant; she is making good progress. To increase efficiency, the clipboards for routine sign-ups (invocations, Key Club meetings, etc.) will be on the check-in table. Gene Moore will be available after the meeting to discuss school safety. His proposal has received support from local school/government officials.

Penny Ecarius: Young Children Priority One will meet next week at 11:00, and the Golf Outing Committee will meet March 13 at 11. Penny's newfound interest in fitness and endurance has inspired her to invite members to contact her if they're interested in learning how to race walk. Bringing in a coach is a possibility.

Doug Snoddy: Stick around after the program is over for Roger Briggs's update on New Hope Village.

GUESTS: Fred Honerkamp introduced Larry Fieldler, whom long-time members will remember was active in the club several years ago. Stu Bender introduced Bob Stevens. Martha Briggs introduced Kathy McCreedy. There's a good chance that these folks will join our ranks!

MEMBER NEWS: Cal Hoerneman reported that after finishing a round of chemo treatments in Ann Arbor, Jack Higgins is enjoying a couple of weeks in Florida. Penny Ecarius reported that John and Peggy Mier are preparing to move to Wisconsin to be closer to family.

PROGRAM: Katherine Ellison, Program Director, SVSU's OLLI Program

Human and Spiritual Values committee member Fred Honerkamp introduced Katherine, who explained the many opportunities for folks over age 50 through the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute (OLLI) at Saginaw Valley State University. OLLI is currently in its 17th year and has more than 2000 members. The Institute operates on a three-season schedule: winter (Jan-Apr); summer (May-Aug); fall (Sept-Dec).

\$60 purchases an annual membership to OLLI and can be pro-rated for a partial year. Classes and day trips fill up fast, so the best way to register for something you'd like to do is to go on line as soon as the season's catalogue comes out. OLLI's meetings are held ten months a year, and feature a speaker, continental breakfast, and a chance to visit with other members. A monthly newsletter that appears on the website keeps members and participants up to date.

Members enjoy many advantages, including discounts on classes, trips, and the university's fitness center; free attendance at monthly meetings, which include a speaker, continental breakfast, and a chance to visit with other members; use of campus facilities like the library, Starbuck's, the Commons, and miles of well-lit, temperature-controlled, and even terrain via the many buildings' hallways.

Visit www.svsu.edu/olli for more information.

SPECIAL UPDATE: After the program ended, Roger Briggs, who serves as treasurer on New Hope Village's Board of Directors, updated members on NHV's status in light of John Congleton's recent resignation from his position as NHV Executive Director. Roger explained that John's greatest strength was his passion and vision of a program to shelter families and help them move out of poverty, but that his method of managing the expansion to a year-round facility for 20 families was not scalable.

While the Board neither expected nor wanted this development to occur, New Hope Village is moving forward. Former Board member Kaylie Stachowiak was named Interim Director, and the Board is working hard to address the many tasks that must be completed before the family shelter can open. A delay in installing the HVAC system has slowed progress on finishing the apartments and other rooms. The shelter's finances are in better shape than Roger thought they were a few weeks ago, and Kiwassee's \$25,000 is still earmarked for the Resource Room as planned. Fred suggested we finish early the apartment we've adopted so it can serve as a model for folks who want to see the renovation in progress. The Board hopes to open the shelter in June.

Roger and other members expressed concern about John; phone calls to him go to voice mail. He's currently in Florida and we hope he comes back to Kiwanis when he returns to Michigan. Roger said the Board wants to place a plaque in the building's entry that will honor John's mighty contributions to the shelter, and he thanked both the club and its members for generously supporting New HopeVillage.

NEXT WEEK: Program: Junior Youth Invocation: Fred Honerkamp Greeter: Bruce Rayce