

February 27, 2018    **KIWASSEE**    *SMOKE SIGNALS*    **KIWANIS**    [www.kiwassee.org](http://www.kiwassee.org)

Chair: Snoddy    Invocation: Ecarius    Editor: Stevens

### CALENDAR

**Tuesday, March 6:** Community Service Committee meeting, 1:00pm (Dick Jellum)

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

**Saturday, March 17:** Spring Divisional, Alma College, \$20 includes lunch (Bruce Rayce)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Doug Snoddy:** Midland Daily News published an article celebrating our 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Happy Birthday to us on February 22. Doug introduced Kylie Anderson, Operating Director for The Rock. Allison Maloney, on behalf of Senior Youth and also representing Human & Spiritual Values, presented a \$1,000 check to The Rock. Each committee contributed \$500 which will be used to support the after school programs. The popular program, available at 3 locations, provides a safe and welcoming environment for doing homework, grabbing a snack, and chatting with friends. This is provided at no cost to the youth, thanks to donations like ours.

**Dick Jellum:** Community Service will meet next week after the regular meeting. Committee members should watch for an email with talking points to consider.

**Bruce Rayce:** Consider attending Spring Divisional, Alma College, 3/17. Word is that Kiwassee will receive some of the awards presented. Contact Bruce Rayce for information.

**Betsy Sullivan:** Golf Committee meeting will be 3/13. This weekend at Northwood there will be a Golf Exhibition, with a booth by Snow Snake. They will have our Golf Outing paperwork available to exhibit attendees.

**MEMBER NEWS:** Jack Higgins is still in Florida enjoying a respite from chemo. Bill Cook replied to our card with thanks and an update. The card is available in the file folder on the check in table, as are sign-up sheets for Invocation, Greeter, and Key Club meeting times.

**GUESTS:** Rudy introduced Rich Shull and Gib Giblin of Royal Family Kids and Teen Reach of Mid-Michigan.

### ROYAL FAMILY KIDS AND TEEN REACH OF MID-MICHIGAN

Under the umbrella name of “Fostering Hope”, Royal Family Kids (RFK) and Teen Reach (TR) of Mid-Michigan work together to change the lives of foster children aged 6 to 18. Locally, RFK is sponsored through the Christian Celebration Center. Both are international and Christian based programs. Gib Giblin, Midland Evangelical Free Church, is Executive Director and Rich Shull is the Mentoring Club Director.

Over 400,000 children, aged birth to 17, are in the US foster care system. Unfortunately, a traumatic event initiated their journey in the system, and abuse or neglect are major factors. To avoid labeling the children with words that define them in a negative way, RFK and TR say they are “children from hard places”. The internalization of a negative label can have a lifelong impact: Research shows 74% of prison inmates and 80% of death row inmates were foster children in their youth.

Both Royal Family Kids and Teen Reach work to CONNECT with the referred children through the RFK camp experience, create a sense of BELONGING, and assist the children in DEVELOPING confidence, positive memories, a feeling of safety, and hope for their futures.

Foster children are referred to Fostering Hope by social service agencies and area churches. Royal Family Kids was the initial summer camp program offered for ages 6 to 12, but children aged out of the camping and mentoring experience at 12. This removed a support system just as they entered the teen years. Adding the Teen Reach component for ages 13 to 18 provided the continuation of mentoring and the same RFK-created feelings of connecting, belonging, and developing. This summer will be the first Teen Reach summer camp, with boys and girls in separate camps. Teen Reach is tailored to the teen years, encouraging talking and sharing after activities like a challenge course.

The mentoring component for all ages provides opportunities for more interaction with the children and teens. Both programs have proved successful. Foster children who have experienced Royal Family Kids camp or Teen Reach exhibit more confidence to try new things, improved school work, and staff get positive reviews from caregivers.

To get involved, Rich suggested volunteering, talking about and/or sponsoring the programs, and praying for the children and the staff. For more information, access RFK.org, TeenReach.org, the Annie E. Casey Foundation <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>, PDF 2017 Kids Count in Michigan, and Josh Shipp “Every Kid is One Caring Adult Away from Being a Success Story”.

NEXT WEEK: FLAG PROJECT KICKOFF BY FUNDRAISING  
INVOCATION:open GREETER: open