

**Kiwassee Regular Meeting
March 8, 2022**

Editor: Martha Briggs **Presider:** Crystalee Keahey **Greeter/Pledger/Invocator:** Roger Moll
Song Leader: Alex Rapanos chose “Puff the Magic Dragon” today – fun!

Calendar

March 15: Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation Board meeting, 11:00 (Bruce Rayce)

May 30: Memorial Day (flags)

July 25: 16th Annual Roger Briggs Memorial Golf Outing (Betsy Sullivan)

Club Announcements and Member News

Kathy Allen: The Michigan District of Kiwanis/Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation has sent out to local club members the tickets for its annual raffle in August. Sell them all or purchase them all—and return the completed stubs in the envelope provided (if you inadvertently recycled it, the address is Kiwanis Michigan Foundation, PO Box 231, Mason MI 48854-0231). In other news, Kathy shared some fascinating information about Stonehenge, including a photo showing the Druids carefully moving the stones ahead to mark the start of Daylight Savings Time, which this Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 AM.

Rudy Phillips shared his heartfelt thanks for all the thoughts, cards, and condolences we’ve shared with Sue and him in the wake of their daughter Kristie’s death.

Bruce Rayce: the Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation Board meets next Tuesday, March 15, at 11 am.

Program: Flag Program Launch

Flag Project leaders Dave Winegartner, Mike Cronenberger, and Jim Young provided a preview of the 2022 fundraiser. COVID forced the cancellation of the 2020 residential program and all but a few public displays on July 4, and 2021 proceeds, around \$7200, were half what they’ve been in the past. In addition, fewer members have participated in both the residential and public installations. Also, Dee Howe is no longer soliciting and scheduling the volunteers for each of the installing groups.

So things are changing: Dave explained that residential routes will be established by Memorial Day, and any club member who sells a residential subscription after that holiday must install that flag. Each installing group will have a manager who ensures there are sufficient volunteers to cover the route for all five holidays. The manager will also be responsible for fetching the flags from the storage unit, storing them through the season, and returning them to the storage unit after Veterans Day.

Mike talked about the updated brochures for the program—one for sponsorships of the public displays and one for residential flags. Each includes updated forms.

Jim stressed the need for more volunteers to keep this successful program going: while it has grown on the past eight years, our labor force has declined. Members can help in a variety of ways: selling residential subscriptions and sponsorships, purchasing a subscription for themselves and installing their own flag on each holiday, helping locate the sleeves for the public displays, serving on a residential or public installation group.

A spirited discussion followed the presentation. Members need to step up to sustain this project that generates funds the club uses to support children, youth, and adults in our community. A 25% drop in membership in the last five years means each of us has to do more. We also talked about the duration of each installation: traditionally, we have put up flags at dawn and taken them down at dusk of the same day, respecting flag etiquette that requires flags fly at night only if they’re illuminated. We’ll continue that discussion as the program approaches. Additional publicity will strengthen the project’s visibility.

Watch for a separate email with the group's slide show attached; it provides additional details.

Happy Dollars

Phil Sarnacke: Ohio State's sports are struggling: not only did the UM Wolverines basketball team beat the Buckeyes by 7 points last week, they also beat OSU in football last fall. What gives? Perhaps it's time for the Buckeyes to drop out of the Big 10 and join the MAC. *(Editor's note: when I told my father-in-law, Roger Briggs the Elder, what Phil suggested, he sat up in his chair and dismissed the idea with a snort.)*

Bruce Rayce: Many thanks to Dave, Mike, and Jim for an excellent presentation.

Penny Ecarius: Penny's thoughts about last week's program appear at the end of the newsletter.

Renee Castellon: The club's newest former member ROCKS! She completed her second Disney Princess 5K and not only does she plan to make it an annual event, she has visions of advancing to the 10K and beyond! She showed off an impressive medal that commemorates her participation as well as Disney's 50th anniversary.

Martha Briggs: A recent trip to Ohio to watch granddaughter Kendall (age 8) and grandson Bennett (age 10) was wildly successful, with Kendall's team taking 2nd place in their tournament and Bennett's team winning BOTH of their tournaments. Each grand performed admirably; Other Grandma was delighted and proud. *(Editor's note: the kids call Martha "Other Grandma." Roger was "Other Grandpa." Lauren's parents live nearby.)*

Cal Hoerneman: Now that Fred Honerkamp has expanded his repertoire to include performing marriage ceremonies, Cal's hoping he'll convert his living room into a Vegas-style wedding chapel and dress up like Elvis to marry happy couples.

Walt Rupprecht: Remember to take your empty water bottle with you so you can recycle it: DON'T THROW IT IN THE TRASH!

Reminders

Kim Clark is next week's Greeter/Pledger/Invoker. The Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation Board meets at 11 am next week (March 15).

Dear Kiwassee members,

I did a lot of thinking after last week's meeting. Here's what I came up with to answer the question, "Is there a way to encourage ourselves to be open to change?" Nothing new, just an ordering of prior knowledge.

In order to be open to change, each of us must have the desire to improve to reach a goal we've set. In order to set a goal, we have to be able to dream. In order to dream, we have to realize that life doesn't just happen TO us. Life happens due to the choices we make. There are no miracles or magic methods. It always comes back to intent and purposeful actions. As Dr. Spenser Johnson says in Out of the Maze, (using my words, not his), we all get to choose what and how we think.

That's my simple version of an answer to the question I asked at the beginning of this note.

What's yours?

Thanks for reading this,

Penny