

MIDLAND KIWANES



Kiwaniis®

President: Cathy Devendorf
Secretary: Richard Kopple
President Elect: Ralph E. Wirtz
Treasurer: Cheryl Whitman

Location: Valley Plaza, The Great Hall
Time: Monday Nights, 6:00 PM

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Website: www.midlandkiwanis.org
www.mi.kiwanisone.org
www.kiwanis.org

President Cathy opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Program Next Week: March 12: Membership committee

Program Upcoming Meetings:

Committee Meetings this week: Foundation

Committee Meetings next week: Kiwanis board meeting

Secretary's Report: Dick Kopple

- The secretary noted that the MidMichigan Regional Medical Center is seeking volunteers for its various activities unrelated to providing medical care.
- Reports are due by the 9th.

Anniversaries: Dick Caldwell on the 3rd and Charlie Nielson on the 4th.

Birthdays: None, although Dick Heiny's wife Sue did have one.

Guests: None

Announcements:

- **Cathy:** Pink buckets are on the table ... Give 'til it HURTS!

Happy Dollars:

- **Cal:** In his annual report on riding his bike, he noted that he is contributing \$1 to the pig for every 100 miles he rode, which was 700 miles. But, he also noted, his goal was 1,300 miles, for which he will contribute \$2 for each 100 miles he was short. To make his gift an even \$20, he offered a quote from Mark Twain, "Eat a live frog first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day."
- **Randy:** \$5 for U of M, Big Ten tournament champions!!!
- **Gil:** Pleased his alma mater's last win was over Michigan.
- **Dick:** Thanked Tom Darger and John Anderson for helping him with his automobile during a rainstorm the previous week.
- **Ralph:** Thankful the predicted snowstorm Monday was delayed by a day so that his trip back from Virginia was enjoyable.

- **Roger:** Happy that OSU women's basketball team won the Big Ten tourney championship.
- **Cathy:** Dick Schochdopole called her and asked her to put on a presentation for sight impaired people at the Chippewa Nature Center without using the word "see" in the presentation. She could use all the other senses to describe what she is talking about, such as "smell the flowers."

Program: Carl Edmunds, John Anderson and Roger Briggs presented updated information on the Scholarship Committee.

John kicked off the presentation, telling fellow Kiwanians that Carl would include a brief history of the scholarship banquet and the changes in store for 2018. He would talk about the forensics scholarships and Roger then would address the mini-grants.

The honors banquet was started in 1957 by Dr. Orville McKay, the senior pastor at the First United Methodist Church. We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the banquet at the church on May 1, 2017.

Carl said about 2/3 of the student guests come from Midland and Dow high schools, but that the other eight county high schools also are invited – Bullock Creek, Calvary Baptist, Coleman, Meridian, Midland Academy and Midland Christian.

The acceptance rate on the invitations of the top 10 percent of the students in each graduating class is about 80%.

Administrators from all schools are usually in attendance and "on average" each student bring about 2 guests.

Carl talked about the impressive list of speakers we have had over the years, including Carol Williams, the highest female executive at The Dow Chemical Co.; Dr. Ernie Yoder, dean at the Central Michigan College of Medicine and James Brickley, chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He noted that John arranges the speakers.

He also noted that our 2018 speaker is Sarah Lincoln, formerly Sarah Soules, daughter of fellow Kiwanian Earl Soules. She is a circuit court judge in Calhoun County. John noted that Sarah and last year's speaker, Mallery Thurlow of the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty are both products of the Midland Public Schools.

The banquet in its 61st year will change. The First United Methodist Church will not be able to support the honors

banquet this year due to 4 banquets sponsored by the church in the same time frame as our banquet.

So, the Midland Kiwanis Club will hold it at The Great Hall. About 275 people are expected to attend the event that will use a set up similar to the Midland Chamber of Commerce WakeUp! Midland breakfasts.

The tables which seat 6 to 8 people will be grouped by schools, all food will be gluten free and will be similar to the food we eat each Monday at our meetings. There will be two buffet lines and there will be meatless food entrée.

There will be a head table that will seat 6 to 8 people.

There will also be a piano to support singing the National Anthem and the club will use the large banner.

Food costs have been going up and since the Scholarship Committee's budget was fixed in 2017, and since we pay for the student's meals, the club and requested and received supplemental funding from the Midland Kiwanis Foundation.

We do not have to do set up or take down, although there will be a registration table at the Great Hall entrance.

John noted that the Great Hall lends an aura of elegance to the event while at the same time the buffet lines work well for the large amount of people.

John noted the Forensics Scholarships are support by a specific request and gift from a former club member and there are one of two recipients from both Dow and Midland high schools. The current award is about \$300 per student and a plaque.

The mini-grants were implemented in 1993 for elementary school teachers in science, math and reading. Patterned after the Gerstacker teacher awards, submissions are made in the spring for the following school year. Recently the limit per award was raised from \$500 to \$600. Initially it was limited to MPS schools but subsequently opened to all county teachers, including the ESA.

Funding is provided by the Scholarship Committee and the Midland Kiwanis Foundation, and to date nearly \$90,000 has been distributed.

Interest in the submissions has declined, Roger noted, because teachers have their hands full. The number of requests has varied over the years from three to 16.

Four or five members of Kiwanis Club review and select which requests are granted.

It was suggested during the Q and A that we include samples of successful requests with our query letters to the schools each year to make the teachers' jobs easier.

Cathy noted that her parents kept her Scholarship Banquet award certificate that she received from her local Kiwanis Club when she was a senior, and returned it to her.

"They don't get thrown in the trash," she said.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.