

Southwest District Kiwanis Foundation Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 16, 2008

El Paso Marriott Hotel, 1600 Airway Drive, El Paso, TX

Buffet Breakfast

7:15 AM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Southwest District Kiwanis Foundation President Ralph Troeller at 7:45 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Division 7 Lt. Governor Wendy Miller

Southwest District Kiwanis Pledge

Division 17 Lt. Governor Paul Gonnerman

Thought for the Day

Division 9 Lt. Governor Susan Grantham

Introductions

SWDKF Pres. Ralph Troeller

Persons at the head table were introduced, which included Foundation President Troeller; Illene Harrison, Immediate Past-President of the Foundation; Carol Williams, wife of Ray Williams, current Foundation Board Member; Ray Williams; Burt Snipes, Foundation Secretary; Bob Kay, Foundation President-Elect; Sherry Jennings, and Jim Jennings, International Foundation Trustee.

President Troeller noted that Bob Kay will be President of the Foundation as of August 18, 2008 because President Troeller will resign his position because of changing health conditions.

Kiwanis International Foundation

International Foundation Trustee Jim Jennings

1. Report

Trustee Jim Jennings noted that it has been a pleasure for him to have served this past year as District Chair, representing Kiwanis International Foundation. The Southwest District has a long and proud heritage in serving the International Foundation. Once again we are the leader, number one per capita in North America, in giving to the International Foundation. Our giving per member is currently \$5.47 per member, but 17 clubs in the Southwest District have not yet sent their annual gift to the International Foundation. We know that some or all of those gifts are forthcoming. What this means is that we will be able to give five Key Club members and five Circle K members in the Southwest District a \$1,000.00 scholarship each. But this also means that we are also very close to being able to increase these numbers from five to six scholarships for Key Club and Circle K. To achieve this, we have to send the additional gifts to Indianapolis by September 30, 2008. Lt. Governors whose clubs have already sent their annual gifts to the International Foundation this year were awarded plaques.

2. Gifts to Kiwanis International Foundation

Several individuals came forward and presented checks for the Kiwanis International Foundation.

3. Presentation of Hixsons, International Foundation Awards

Trustee Jim Jennings asked all recipients of the Hixson Award to stand and be recognized. He next noted that the Hixson program has evolved over the years and now donors have the opportunity to

signify what their donations are to be used for. Examples of options are the general fund, and youth programs.

Bob and Dawn Bussing were presented with Hixsons by Nola Charles, who will be District Chair next year.

A new program was initiated this year, in time for the International Convention in Orlando, FL. Every District was challenged to have five Ambassadors. An Ambassador is a person who has a Hixson, which now makes the person eligible to obtain an Ambassador Medallion, who then purchases or is awarded the Ambassador Medallion. This moves the recipient one diamond level above where he or she before receiving the Ambassador Medallion. To date, only one District has reached the goal of getting five Ambassador Medallions. The Southwest District may have five Ambassadors in the near future.

Southwest District Kiwanis Foundation Annual Meeting SWDKF Pres. Ralph Troeller
Report of the President

1. State of the Foundation

The Southwest District Kiwanis Foundation is the charitable arm of Southwest District Kiwanis. The Foundation conducts several projects, one of which is Kamp Kiwanis. Ann Henderson, retiring Kamp Manager, was asked to come forward to be recognized and receive a gift from the Foundation. The new Manager of the Kamp is Andrea Robison, assisted by her husband Rhett (Robi), and a new Assistant Kamp Manager, Chris Knutson.

The fall Weekend of a Lifetime at Kamp Kiwanis will be November 7-9, 2008 and the winter Weekend of a Lifetime will be February 14-15, 2009. Debbie Des Chene will chair Weekend of a Lifetime activities for the Foundation for the next two years. Applications for participants will be in the mail shortly.

Builder's Club Retreat is another activity that has been conducted at Kamp Kiwanis in past years. There will not be a Builder's Club Retreat this fall, principally because of school policies in New Mexico and Arizona relative to transportation and chaperone requirements that make it difficult for Builder's Club youngsters to attend. Under the guidance of Jim Jennings, the Builder's Club Retreat program is being revamped and moved to a different concept. Rather than have a 3-day program at one site such as Kamp Kiwanis, there will be several sites in New Mexico and Arizona with 1-day programs. This will make transportation to and from the program much easier and attractive to Builder's Clubs and parents of the children. A curriculum and program will be developed and presented at the Mid-Winter Conference in Clovis, NM next January. This will start the process to organize and initiate training of individuals who will conduct the new Builder's Club Retreats for next year and the future. We anticipate a better program with more participation by taking the program to the Builders Clubs rather than conducting the program the way it was done in past years.

The next Work Weekend at Kamp Kiwanis will be October 17-19, 2008. The CKI Retreat, a Foundation-sponsored activity, will be held at Kamp Kiwanis during this Work Weekend.

Our bunk bed replacement project at Kamp Kiwanis is progressing very well, in large part due to help from Governor Herb Hayde, who helped collect a large portion of the money needed to purchase new bunk beds. As of this fall, we will have about half of the new bunks beds needed to meet our goal of completely replacing the old wooden bunk beds with new, stronger, and more

comfortable ones. We will have additional new bunk beds to assemble during October 2008 Work Weekend.

Our Kamp Kiwanis Wish List activities have very successful and we have an updated list available. About half of the items on our previous list have been donated to the Kamp. A very notable item on the old list was sofas for the dormitories at the Kamp. The Kiwanis Club of Phoenix, encouraged by Bob Kay, donated 16 sofas to the Kamp.

A major project underway at the Kamp is fence moving. The way has been cleared for the proper location of the north fence. A work crew at the Kamp for three or four days will be the best way to expedite the actual moving of the fence. Once we start moving posts and wire, we want to finish the job in as short of a time period as reasonable. Burt Snipes hopes to complete this work next spring, so if your club has able-bodied individuals who can help with this project, please contact Burt Snipes and a period of perhaps four days will be agreed upon to accomplish this work.

We also want to continue the ongoing effort to reduce fire danger at the Kamp in terms of our forestry project, whereby we selectively cut and trim trees. This project considerably reduces the fire danger by reducing fuel available for potential fires at the Kamp. The major portion of our forestry project work is done by volunteers during scheduled work weekends. The current value of Kamp Kiwanis, for insurance purposes, is \$2.4 million. The Kamp is owned by Southwest District Kiwanians, and we need to protect our investment.

The Kamp has two water wells about 600 feet deep and both of them together deliver a marginal amount of water, less than 10 gallons per minute totally. We need a new water well capable of supplying adequate water for normal operations and for potential fire fighting. This includes perhaps doubling our water storage capacity to be able to fight a serious fire more adequately.

2. Scholarship Awards

The Foundation awards scholarships and matching funds grants. Stephanie Carrasco, Chairperson of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee, was asked to come forward and announce this year's scholarship recipients. Stephanie reported that we offered five scholarships this year. The scholarships and their recipients were as follows: (a) Dean Bartoo \$1,000.00 scholarship to Susan Eckman, Anthem, AZ, Boulder Creek High School; (b) Vocational/Technical \$500.00 scholarship to Kimberly Sietzinger, Cloudcroft, NM, Cloudcroft High School; (c) Vocational/Technical \$500.00 scholarship to Jaqueline Muniz, Bayard, NM, Cobre High School (d) Vocational/Technical \$500.00 scholarship to Matthew Hoyt, Alamogordo, NM, Cloudcroft High School; and (e) John Finley \$500.00 Vo/Tech Scholarship to Kimberly Sietzinger, Cloudcroft NM, Cloudcroft High School.

Please, when you receive application materials for these scholarships this fall, distribute them to your area schools.

3. Kiwanis Across Borders Grant Awards

This program was initially named "Hands Across the Border." Because another organization has legal use of this name, the Foundation renamed our program to Kiwanis Across Borders at its April 19, 2008 Board Meeting. This new name reflects the fact that we currently consider providing grants for any international projects that benefit children, not just Mexico, which the program was structured for in previous years.

These are “matching funds” awards, with a maximum of \$500.00, and in many cases we contribute only a portion of the total costs incurred by recipients of the award. This year we selected four recipients, as follows, each to receive a \$500.00 matching grant:

- a). Sun City West (K09791), for a program to improve the quality and tools of teachers in Honduras, Central America.
- b). Golden K Havasu (K10120) for a home building program for low income families in Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Sonora, Mexico.
- c). Phoenix Kiwanis Club (K00094) for purchase of school uniforms for 90 students in a village in Cambodia.
- d). Colo Gila Kiwanis, Yuma (K04575) to help sponsor and promote free veterinary clinics in two cities of Sonora, Mexico. This included Christmas parties, Christmas gifts, and food for 4000 children.

Kiwanis Across Borders Presentation

Division 14 Director Ray Williams

In early 2002 Ray Williams and other Kiwanians saw first hand the excess of dogs roaming uncontrolled in one of the border villages in Mexico. Ray learned from a village Director of Animal Control who was showing him around the village that there were about 10,000 uncontrolled dogs roaming the streets of the village. Over 5,000 strays had been euthanized in 2001. There was no policy to appropriately dispose of the euthanized dogs, so they were sent to the village dump, creating a health concern. There were also many children bitten by these uncontrolled dogs.

Ray worked with others to organize a program to help with this problem. Volunteer veterinarians involved in this program were mainly from California, Arizona, Texas, Kansas, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Ohio, and New York. Every year there have been about 20 volunteer veterinarians actually doing this volunteer work in Mexico. Last year there were also 12 veterinary students from Auburn University. Last year’s volunteer work was done in two Mexican cities in the State of Sonora, Mexico, which involved conducting a large number of spaying clinics.

The program last year resulted in 85 volunteer veterinary surgical procedures. This was a very good international effort with mutually beneficial interactions among the volunteers, government officials in Mexico, and individuals in Mexico who were helped by this project. Hundreds of children were involved in functions that included Christmas parties, dinners, and gift distributions. Last year the mayor of one of the cities served by this program invited all of the volunteers to a very nice local restaurant and paid for their dinner to show his gratitude.

This volunteer effort saved the Mexican city governments hundreds of thousands of dollars or more and helped solve a significant problem. Mexican officials warmly expressed their gratitude to Kiwanis Across Borders and the veterinarians who were involved in this program.

Kamp Kiwanis Redevelopment

SWDKF President Elect Bob Kay

President Troeller started this section off with general comments about Kamp Kiwanis. The Kamp facilities are aging and we have continuous need for maintenance and upgrading. Water is a major issue. We are marginal on ability to provide adequate fresh water for routine use and we know that we have a growing problem relative to needs for water for fire fighting.

We still have a plan to upgrade the Kamp, starting with an educational facility. We quickly realized that some infrastructure upgrades need to be completed before we can construct any new buildings.

Thanks to Ann Henderson, we now annually book several large groups of Kamp users. We also envision more of these groups in the future, but we have concerns about our ability to serve the groups properly unless we do some significant upgrades to the Kamp Infrastructure.

Bob Kay noted that because of the need for President Troeller to resign, Bob must take on the job of being President a year early. Bob thanked Ralph for his hard work and leadership during the past year, which makes it easier for Bob to assume the position of President.

Bob emphasized the fact that we need a new water well at the Kamp. We know that a major source of water resides in a sandstone layer about 1,200 to 1,300 feet deep under the Kamp property and a large portion of western New Mexico. Tapping this source can more than fulfill the Kamp needs and possibly be a new source of revenue, i.e. selling some of the Kamp's water to local people who cannot afford to drill water wells that will serve their needs. The cost of drilling a new well is projected to be \$80,000.00 to \$90,000.00; this would provide the Kamp with an engineered and cased well, and the well proven in terms of how much water can be pumped per minute. An appropriate pump, distribution plumbing, and expanded water storage facilities would be additional costs, but relatively small compared with the cost for the new well. Bob encouraged Kiwanians present to return to their clubs with a request help to provide money to drill this new water well and volunteers to help with the forestry project and other projects at the Kamp.

Gifts to the Southwest District Kiwanis Foundation

With the help of Eastburn Bennett, President Troeller supervised the presentation of gifts to the Foundation. Several gifts were presented, including money for the proposed Kamp Educational Building, new water well, Kamp Kiwanis, and operating fund for the Foundation. The Foundation Secretary will send appropriate "thank you" letters to each contributor.

Bob Bussing issued a challenge to Southwest District Kiwanians. Bob said he and his wife would match, up to \$1,000.00, contributions for the new water well at Kamp Kiwanis. Several Kiwanians responded to the challenge, getting the new water well project off to a healthy start.

Presentation of Kachinas, Blazers

Eastburn Bennett coordinated awarding of several Kachinas. Several individuals and expressed their interest in making donations to the Foundation during this presentation process. Thank you letters have been sent, or will be sent, to individuals and Kiwanis clubs who contribute to these programs and made it possible to make these presentations.

Adjournment

SWDKF Pres. Ralph Troeller

There being no further business to come before the members, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 AM.

Burt Snipes, Secretary