

# KIWANIGRAM

The Kiwanis Club of Abilene



January 25th, 2017

Volume LXVII, Issue 17

## JOHN RIGGINS: ABILENE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU ABILENE COUNTRY CLUB, NOON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH



After 20+ years as the CEO of the Abilene Better Business Bureau, Steve Abel retired in December, and after a serious search for the right person to come in and lead us, the board introduced the community to John Riggins who began this leadership position on December 1, 2016.

Mr. Riggins was raised in the Memphis, TN area and received his degree at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, majoring in finance and marketing. He cut his experience teeth at the Memphis BBB, then in 1985 he sprouted wings over to start a BBB in Pensacola, Florida. They went from zero members to over 1,000 in the five years he headed that organization.

He then was hired to head the Ft. Worth BBB, and led that much larger market for over 22 years and more than doubled its membership during his tenure.

Three years ago he decided to chart another path, and became the owner and operator of a Home Care franchise, ComForcare in Hurst, Texas. He and Steve had a professional relationship, and when informed that Abilene was looking, he became interested in jumping back into a smaller BBB market. Now, with the experience of being a small businessman, he can certainly relate to the ups and downs and needs of his membership, while at the same time inform the public of the quality of businesses and customer service available in our great city and Big Country.

Mr. Riggins is getting settled in Abilene with his wife, Melanie, as well as get his office organized and staffed. They have two children who are gaining additional education at Texas A. & M.

Please consider bringing a business person to our club this week who also might be interested in becoming a member of our great club, and listen with interest as John Riggins shares his experience and dreams for our local Better Business Bureau.



Guinn Smith led the opening prayer.



George Newman presented the program.



Earl Williams gave a gumball report.



Tammie Ellison introduced our guests.



Andre Scott was a guest of Carl Lockett.



Carolyn Williams was a guest of the club.

# KIWANIS CLUB OF ABILENE

January 18th, 2017

Abilene Country Club

Led Meeting .....	Nancy Miller
Prayer .....	Guinn Smith
Music.....	Ken Poynor
Piano .....	Tim Adcock
Pledge.....	Al Morotini
Guests.....	Tammi Ellison
Cup Money .....	\$49.20
Brag Money .....	\$12.00 (Yelithza Morales)

## In our prayers

Royce Manning as he recuperates from double knee replacement surgery

Roy Cloud's wife Jeannette who was hospitalized due to an infection.

Remember Rodney and Sherry Weeks. Sherry's uncle passed away recently. This is especially difficult for Sherry's family as her sister also passed away just 6 weeks ago.

Marellie Robinson's husband Dick was recently diagnosed with lung/liver cancer. Remember them in prayer as they walk through this challenging time. Marellie is the Tx-Ok District Meeting Coordinator and working with us now as we plan for the District Convention to be held in Abilene this August.

Please keep Vicky McEwin, 39 year old daughter of our Trustee, Mark Crouch, in your prayers. Mark reported during the Big Country Governor's visit that Vicky is much improved and expressed appreciation for the continued prayers.

Remember Jarrell Young, Carl and Pat Lockett. Remember Keith Garner, Monroe Nevels, Kimberley Cole's mother, and James Shields' wife. Also remember Gordon Dowell and wife Dorothy, Others: Joan, wife of George Knight and Annette Collins, Jeff Goodin, and Kirby Leeson

## Guests

Guest.....	Member
Carolyn Newman.....	Club
Andre Scott.....	Carl Lockett

## Program

Don Scargall introduced George Newman as the speaker on January 18th, 2017. George, known by so many in the audience, shared that he was not a poet but he certainly appreciated poetry. Poems and stories shared by George were:

Could Be Worse - by Baxter Black

Cowboys Favorite - by Barney Nelson

Cowboy's Hat - by Baxter Black

## Early Morning

In closing George read a song written by his son, titled "Final Sunset" and closed with the Cattleman's Prayer. This was a wonderful program and certainly enjoyed by those present.

President Nancy Miller thanked George for the delightful program and encouraged attendees to thank him, but "don't mess with his hat".

Kiwanians - Let's get busy Inviting, Informing and Involving in 2016-2017!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Gumball News

King Earl Williams reported we have 964 Gumball machines in operation at this time. 245 were read in January. He presented a check in the amount of \$288.36 bringing the grand total to \$271,724.66!

### Club Directory

2016-2017 Kiwanis Directory is now available online. The directory is password protected. Contact Club Secretary, Faye Dodson or Charles Kirkpatrick to obtain log in details.

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION RENEWAL

It is time to renew Criminal Background checks for all members. The CBI form is included in this Kiwanigram issue. Please submit the completed form (see form included in this issue of the Kiwanigram) at any club meeting or mail to the Kiwanis office at 473 Cypress Street, Suite 107, Abilene TX 79601. There was some confusion regarding page 2 during the meeting on 1/4/2017. Since we do not mail the forms now that page is no longer necessary. Members may also file online at: <http://txokkiwanis.org/forms-and-reports/> and select Background Check Form. For those who file online, payment by credit/debit card at the time of filing is required. Thanks to each of you who submitted the completed form on the 4th! Contact Club Secretary, Faye Dodson if you have any questions.

## Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene

The 61st Annual Chili Day & Silent Auction is Saturday, February 25, 2017 11 am to 7 pm at the Abilene Civic Center. All you can eat! Tacos, cobbler and Ice cream are also available for an additional price. Admission is: \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door or 10 tickets for \$50. Carry out meals are also available.

Tickets are available from Bobbi Bieberly, Gail Jay,

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Nancy Baker or any Greater Abilene member. Call or text 325.669-8603.

## Opportunities To Serve

### WEST TEXAS REHAB PHONATHON:

A big thanks to Yelithza Morales for representing the Kiwanis Club of Abilene on the 18th and 19th!

### BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:

We continue to collect box tops for Reagan Elementary. This is something we all can do. Our box tops help Reagan provide physical education equipment.

## CLUB SATELLITE CORNER

Club Satellite continues to collect Walmart-like shopping bags as a service project that will be made into sleeping mats for homeless veterans. Gayla Gill communicated it takes 500 to 700 bags to make one 6ft by 3ft mat. These mats are placed on the ground to keep their bedding dry. Contact Gayla or any Club Satellite member for more information.

## Key Club Update



Key Club held their Lieutenant Governor elections after Gov. Sheridan's visit on Saturday. Rhiannon Mathis, AHS Key Club member (and current freshman), ran unopposed and was well supported for the position. In her speech she stated she has aspirations to run for a district board position in the future.

## Project ELIMINATE Challenge

When you give US \$1,250 to The Eliminate Project, you can become a Walter Zeller Fellow—and save or protect more than 690 women and their future babies. MNT is on the brink of elimination. With your gift you have the power to save lives and prevent a life-threatening disease.

Walter Zeller Fellows are recognized with a medallion, certificate and commemorative lapel pin—and, most importantly, the knowledge they helped fill more than 690 lives with unlimited possibilities.

As announced on November 9th, the Kiwanis Club of Abilene board approved matching \$250.00 toward the \$1,250.00 pledge to become a Walter Zeller Fellow. In addition an anonymous donor stepped up to match the \$250.00 board amount. Thus members contributing \$750.00 will be eligible for Zeller status.

This would remain valid until either:

1. The Kiwanis Club of Abilene meets the Model Club Goal of \$71,250.00

2. By July 31, 2017, whichever occurs first

Please make checks payable to the Abilene Kiwanis Club Foundation. In addition, let Faye Dodson know if you are interested in monthly automatic debit from your checking account or credit card and contact Mark Hoover if you have any questions. Together we can reach our goal by the 2017 TX-OK Kiwanis Convention!

Thank you for your support of this important effort and please consider joining in this effort.

## DIVISION 35 ANNOUNCEMENTS

TX/OK Governor John Sheridan's visit to the Big Country area took place on Saturday, January 21, 2017. A total of 66 Kiwanians and Key Clubbers from Divisions 12, 22 and 35 were in attendance for this special day. We were represented well with 26 from the Kiwanis Club of Abilene! A huge thanks to Lt. Governor Jamie Breed and her team for doing such a great job to organize this event! It was wonderful to hear from Governor John Sheridan, Governor Elect Patrick Schibi, Trustee Mark Crouch, Eliminate Chair Francine Eikner, and Formula Chair Frederick Case. Governor Sheridan shared the importance of Strengthening our Future and communicated the use of the Formula by Kiwanis Clubs, (Inspiration, Impact, Image and Investment) as important elements for success.

Francine Eikner shared her passion for the Eliminate Project and communicated the difference Kiwanians were making to help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. Today only 18 countries remain who need to eliminate MNT. In the year 2000 when UNICEF began this project there were 57 countries and in 2011 that number was 39. WE are making a difference! Donations were made during the lunch break that resulted in \$91.02 collected. That number represents 50 babies who can now receive the MNT vaccine.

Frederick Case shared ideas for strengthening clubs and engaged those in attendance to share what worked in their clubs as well as challenges faced. This

was a Great Day for Kiwanians! Thanks again to all involved in bringing this event to Abilene.

- 2017 Tx-Ok District Convention Strategic Planning Meetings are usually scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be January 31st, at 7:30am at the Flipping Egg, 4150 South Danville.

## Calendar

- January 31 – District Convention 2017 Planning Meeting – 7:30, The Flipping Egg, 4150 South Danville, Abilene (two meetings in January)
- February 2 – Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Bogie's

- Sandwich Shop, 241 Cypress St, Abilene
- February 7 – Club Satellite 6:00pm Martinez Boys and Girls Club, 1301 Clinton Street, Abilene. Contact Gayla Gill at [gaylalgill@yahoo.com](mailto:gaylalgill@yahoo.com) for information
- February 9 – Division 35 Council Meeting – 6:30 pm at Natural Food Center, 2534 S 7th St
- February 25 – Greater Abilene Chili Day – Abilene Civic Center 11:00am to 7:00pm
- April 29 – PANCAKE DAY!
- July 13-16th – 102nd Kiwanis International Convention, Paris, France
- August 3-5th Texas-Oklahoma 2017 District Convention, Abilene – Make Plans Now to Attend!

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## SPIRITUAL AIMS

A few days ago, the American people stood witness to the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States of America, a tradition of the peaceful transition of power since 1789, some 228 years. It is a tradition envied the world over and which sets a standard for self governance among civilized people. President Trump spoke for barely 15 minutes, considered among the shortest inaugural addresses in recent memory. His speech was heralded both as brilliant and fascist at the same time by different commentators and groups of citizens, an indication of the severe division which exists among our citizens in these days. Yet when we analyze the speech, it is difficult to find much which could be considered contentious, yet for millions who voted for a different candidate, his words set off alarms. It is not the purpose of this commentary to take sides but to underline one of the most important themes of the speech.

President Trump quoted Psalm 133 when he said, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." I doubt very many people are familiar with that verse unless they are practicing Christians or Jews. But it would be difficult to find a verse which is more appropriate to our time and our culture. Hundreds of thousands or more of President Trump's supporters attended this inauguration with only a few hundred demonstrators creating mayhem, far short of expectations. Yet the next day there was by some count over a million people in opposition to our new President, mostly women, with less mayhem but no shortage of profanity and defiance of President Trump. Is this what we have to look forward to over the next four years? Is it any surprise that our culture now finds public expressions of gross profanity and open threats against the well being of our new President as widely expressed and rebroadcast by the sympathetic media ad nasueum? Is this part of the new normal? If it is, then we have only to look at the rest of Psalm 133 to understand what we should not expect. "For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life evermore."

## "BLUE" BODENHAMER



# TX/OK GOVERNOR JOHN SHERIDAN'S VISIT TO THE BIG COUNTRY

Saturday, January 21, 2017



**Margaret Hoogstra and Nancy Miller visit before the meeting begins.**



**Randy Williams listens intently to Francine Eikner's presentation.**



**Cynthia Laster and Mary Ann Martin.**



**Janryn Bell was one of a great group from the Early Key Club.**



**Past TX-OK Governor, Nancy Miller, was introduced.**



**Frederick Case gave a presentation on how to grow our club.**



**Governor-Elect Patrick Schriber and Governor John Sheridan presented a hilarious "A Kiwanis Theft" skit.**



**Francine Eikner gave a Project Eliminate presentation.**



**TX-OK Governor John Sheridan welcomed the attendees.**



**Div. 35 Lt. Governor Jamie Breed.**

# ELIMINATE

maternal/neonatal tetanus



Model Club Goal: \$71,250  
 Percent of Goal Met: 77.7%  
 Contributions: \$55,386.00  
 Zeller Fellows: 32  
 Pledged Zellers: 1  
 Model Club Members: 2  
 Number of lives saved: 30,770 @ \$1.80 per shot series

## Eliminate News!

**Texas-Oklahoma - US\$2,687,318**

T-O Goal ..... \$5,000,000

Percent Paid..... 53.75%

### KIWANIS CLUB OF ABILENE

Chartered: May 25, 1921  
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Kiwaniis is a global organization of volunteers, dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.

### 2016-2017 OFFICERS

- Nancy Miller – President
- Christine Curtis-Carr – Immediate Past President
- Dennis Laster – President Elect
- Gayla Gill – Vice President
- Robert Pritz – Vice President
- Tim Adcock – Treasurer
- Faye Dodson – Secretary
- Brice West – Foundation Advisor

### 2016-2017 DIRECTORS

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Two Year:</b> | <b>One Year:</b> |
| Larry Kentz      | Joe Kimble       |
| Al Morotini      | Carl Lockett     |
| Gary Poynor      | Julie Wagner     |
| Randy Roewe      | Amanda Wiskow    |



# Kiwaniis



**Nancy Miller**  
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**Dennis Laster**  
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**Robert Pritz**  
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