

Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Missouri

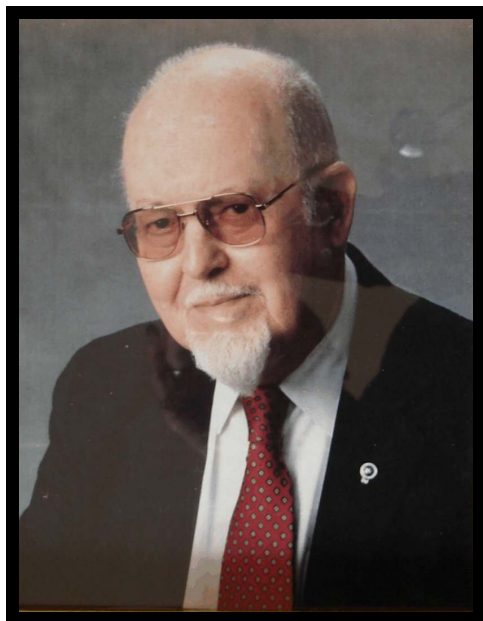


Newsletter

January 8, 2008

Vol. 35, No. 4

A Final Salute To Thursty Thurston



Marion F. Thurston, long-standing member and outstanding supporter of our club, passed away January 2 at his home. Known to everyone as “Thursty,” he was remembered in services Saturday, January 5, by Rev. John Yonker at First Christian Church.

Thursty was born and raised in Columbia. He attended Hickman High School and graduated with a law degree from the University of Missouri. He served his country for twenty-five years, first as an enlisted man in World War II and later in various assignments around the world in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. After reti from the military with the rank of Colonel, he joined the Columbia Kiwanis Club. He also continued in public service to the state of Missouri as commissioner of securities.

Thursty was a huge Kiwanis club supporter. He served as club president (1979-1980), as Mo-Ark Lieutenant Governor (1984-1985); and as our longest serving club secretary (1981-1992 & 1994-2001).

Thursty was a stickler for details and a warm, generous person who was passionate about Kiwanis and its ideals. His memory will live on here.

Pitts and Brumbach Join Club

Our club continues to grow. The December 11 meeting included the induction of Michael Pitts and Mark Brumbach. Michael is from Springfield, Missouri, and is currently engaged to be married. He is a broker with Ultra Mortgage Group (ahh, just more fodder for my broker jokes – Ye Editor). Mark is the second Brumbach to join our club. He has been a longtime Kiwanian in another club and now both he and his wife, Pat, are members. Welcome to Michael and Mark.



DECEMBER PROGRAMS

(Laura Deneke, Program Chair)

Jan. 8 – Cyndi Chapman, Development Director for The Salvation Army.

Jan. 15 – Jan Beckett, Assistance League of Mid-Missouri.

Jan. 22 – Dr. Janet Farmer, Director, MU Thompson Center for Autism.

Jan. 29 – Stephanie Browning, Director, Columbia Boone County Health Department.



Jim's Thoughts

Greetings fellow Kiwanians, and welcome to 2008.

I thought it a good time to review the "8 characteristics of Great Kiwanis Clubs" as I delight in seeing our club already exhibiting these characteristics:

1. The mission is so clear that everyone wants to give of their time, talent, or treasure. (I see our mission as serving children, and each and everyone of you, no matter what your involvement is with the Club, is making a difference!)

2. The meetings are so enjoyable that members only miss when it is unavoidable. (Ray Lansford, Ray McClure and the rest of the folks on the Agriculture Committee, and John Haralson, thank-you to each of you for the outstanding programs you brought to us this past quarter!)

3. The service projects are so inspiring that there is a waiting list to volunteer. (It seems like our pass-around sheets for bell-ringing, reading to kids at Nora Stewart, and working at concessions to raise service project \$s get filled in very quickly.)

4. The leaders empower and equip the members to become leaders themselves. (My understanding of empowering is just to "get out of the way." I do, however, on a weekly basis see our committee chairpersons encouraging member involvement everywhere. This is COOL!) And, if you are under-involved, and want to change, or are over-involved, and need a change as well... PLEASE let me know. I will work with you to make your involvement what you want it to be.

5. The members are proud of their club and invite friends to join. (Thank-you to those most recently who have brought in new members—Carolyn Young, Jason Simmons and Mary Moeller ... AWESOME!)

6. The value of the club to the community and to the members is obvious to everyone. (We don't have to be in the news every week to have this be true. Just ask Cheryl, the Nora Stewart Nursery director, or the teachers we honor each month, or any of our members who absolutely love the feeling of giving back to our community. It's easy to see this club's value.)

7. The fun and laughter is so contagious that members are still smiling on the way home. (It was great to hear the many humorous stories shared by our member speakers in December. And, of course, everyone knows that whenever Bill Taft talks, people laugh. Thank-you Bill!)

8) We have a very diverse club membership. (I am convinced diversity is one of our club's most valuable attributes. We certainly will be more diverse, though, when we add more women, and more members under age 40.)

Finally, at this writing we sadly report the passing of long-time member "Thursty" Thurston, an active member of our Club since 1968. Ernie Lee reports that 21 members

attended his memorial service. We have also just learned of the passing of member Bob Treese. Details of services for Bob are not available at the time of this report.

In closing, it's my privilege to be a member of this Club—where "we are all about serving children"! Jim B.



Summary of Minutes of Board Meeting December 18, 2007

Treasurer Metcalf presented the report for the period ending 11-30-2007. Club net worth is \$11,811.04 but we have not yet paid the 2007-2008 dues to KI.

We will be billed for 83 members @ \$81.90 per member and will pay this in March 2008 (\$6,797.70). The net worth of the foundation is \$164,625.78.

Memorial Trust Fund donations totaled \$1,226.00 for the period. Total assets of the MTF are \$157,549.58. This represents a slight down turn due to market fluctuations.

Secretary Ernie Lee reviewed our insurance programs on D&O Liability and Crime Insurance. We have no coverage for these exposures. Motion approved that we explore other options for D&O exposure other than the officers through KI. Jason Simmons volunteered to shop the market and report back. The board elected not to purchase crime insurance offered by Kiwanis International. The club does not have any form of crime insurance.

We apparently have a Liquor Liability exposure connected with our sponsorship of the Columbia golf tournament. The board will have to determine how to deal with that risk. Our policy does not cover this exposure. Jim Bowman will ask Betsy Happel to get the golf committee involved to explore how we deal with this exposure. Ernie Lee offered to be involved. This item will be on our agenda until a solution is achieved.

Applications were passed out to those interested in the Mid-Winter MO-ARK conference in Branson February 22-24.

It was noted that Jim Smith, Pat Stidham and the Young Children Priority One Committee has gathered many books, mittens, etc., for the children at Nora Stewart Nursery, to be presented to the kids on Thursday, December 20, at their Christmas party which starts at 11:00 AM. Our own Gary Smith will play Santa Clause.

President Jim passed out a memorandum from Leigh Nutter, MO-ARK District Service Chair, about Kiwanis One Day. Jim will take this item to the Presidents Council. This project will involve all Kiwanis organizations in Columbia, from the youngest to oldest among us. Can be a great day for Kiwanis in Columbia. Stay tuned. Kiwanis One Day is April 5, 2008!

(Cont'd on page 4)

A Kiwanis Christmas Album

The Nora Stewart Day Care Center held its Christmas program on Thursday, December 20, and there couldn't have been a better way to get in the spirit of Christmas. Santa, aka Gary Smith, came and enthralled the kids with gifts purchased by the Young Children Priority One Committee. The youngsters then put on skits for their parents and the Kiwanians who attended. And David Melegrito contributed his beautiful voice to the festivities. It was all about the children.



Celebrations of Love & Life

January Birthdays:

- Jan. 3** – Eric Cunningham
- Jan. 4** – Francis Pike
- Jan. 4** – Jed Smock
- Jan. 4** – David Melegrito
- Jan. 19** – Valerie Shaw
- Jan. 27** – Ernie Lee



January Anniversaries:

- Jan. 2** – Jack & Ann Bozarth
- Jan. 15** – Paul & Francena Miller
- Jan. 18** – Bill & Myrtle Taft

Board Meeting Minutes (Cont'd from p. 2)

President Jim presented a letter of resignation from the board by member Bob Parks for health reasons. Resignation accepted. We wish Bob well. The Secretary will ask the board to place him on a leave of absence (medical) at the January board meeting. Jason Simmons, will search for a replacement for his unexpired term which ends September 30, 2008.

Summarized by Ye Editor from the Official Minutes submitted by Ernie Lee, Secretary

Two women were walking through the woods when a frog called out to them and said: "Help me, ladies! I am a stockbroker who, through an evil witch's curse, has been transformed into a frog. If one of you will kiss me, I'll be returned to my former state!"

One woman took out her purse, grabbed the frog, and stuffed it inside her handbag. The other woman, aghast, screamed, "Didn't you hear him? If you kiss him, he'll turn into a stockbroker!"

The second woman replied, "Sure, but these days a talking frog is worth more than a stockbroker!"

The Gift Of Hair

John Haralson, program chair for December, arranged for six of our members to tell some of their most memorable Christmas experiences. We were treated to remembrances by Jim Powell, Carolyn Young, Leigh Nutter, Charlie Lee, Betsy Happel, and Elliott Bentley. Carolyn told movingly of simple Christmases during the Depression years. Leigh picked up the holiday baking tradition from her aunt. Charlie thought all Christmas trees were scrub cedars for the first twenty years of his life. Betsy, minister at Red Top Christian Church, told of her family's celebration of Christmas without Christ. And Elliott Bentley told of traveling all over for hurried visits to family. But none was stranger than Jim Powell's tale of the special gift he crafted for his future wife.



Columbia Kiwanis Club

Jim Bowman, President
(573) 886-8600 (Office)

Jason Simmons, Immediate Past-President

James "Ernie" Lee, Secretary
(573) 445-2369 (H)

Meets Tuesdays at noon
Stephens College Stamper Commons, Broadway
& College.

Visit our website @

<http://columbia.kiwanis.missouri.org>