

The Mecklenburg Missile

Comin' Atcha

Kiwanis Club of Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Inc.

P. O. Box 33573, Charlotte, NC 28233-3573

Organized August 5, 1952

Missile Launcher: Bob Swanson

Meeting Monday, April 7, 2014

Next Meeting: Monday, April 21, 2014

Today's Program

Past District Governor Todd Hildebran, speaking about the recent KI concern over child protection.



This might seem a mundane subject, but just think about the many - some very frivolous, to be sure - child-abuse lawsuits making their way through the

courts today. KI asks that each Club have some provision in its bylaws about a background check for any member having official contact with young children (under age 18). And Todd suggested means by which this could be accomplished with a minimum of time and cost.

Stop and think: Kiwanis is in the business of trying to make the lives of young children better. And in the process we are exposing ourselves in numerous legal ways. What Kiwanis Club could possibly weather the financial strain of having to fight such a lawsuit? Whether you agree or don't about admitting women to Kiwanis membership, that's exactly what happened there. There were so many lawsuits in the works that we'd have gone broke trying to fight them. So in order to survive we had to approve the "women's" amendment. That was in 1987. Most of us were not nearly as concerned about the basic question as we were about the means by which it was forced upon us.

Regional Meeting

Our District (Carolinas) is divided into nine Regions, each of which has one elected Trustee. These Trustees, plus the District Officers, comprise the District Board of Trustees. We are in Region 2 (Divisions 4, 6, & 7). Our annual meeting was held last Saturday (4/12) in Hickory. Sad to say, I was the only representative there from Division 6. Attendance was about 20 altogether, including Gov. Bill Clingenpeel, who addressed the meeting.

About US

Mecklenburg Club - Fund Raising (Cont'd)

5. Mecklenburg Kiwanis Club delights in having had a most interesting and successful project: the "Travel and Adventure Series," held at Ovens Auditorium for six performances each year, fall through spring. It attracted patrons from all parts of the Piedmont area, as well as many from out of state. This project was introduced to the Club by member Jim Rigdon, who had learned about it while attending a Kiwanis International Convention. Fellow Kiwanians quickly approved the idea, seeing it as a fine potential fund-raiser, as well as offering education and entertainment to the community. From its very beginning in 1961, this was a program enthusiastically accepted. During its 38-year run the Club raised many thousands of dollars for charitable purposes.

6. In the fall of 2003 we began a new form of fund-raising, dubbed our "Cow Chip Project." It was so successful in its first year that we staged it again in 2004. 2013 was the eleventh consecutive year for this highly successful project; and we plan to continue it in years to come.

All right. We've raised funds. Now what do we do with them?? Well, here are some of the charities projects we've funded in the past:

1. Our first was for The Alexander Home for disturbed children. The Club built a workshop and bought two small mini-buses, in addition to other contributions.

2. In the 1950's a miniature train for children was installed at Revolution Park at an overall cost of more than \$35,000. This project was intended to afford pleasure to youth in this area.

3. For the benefit of Girl Scouts, Mecklenburg Kiwanis contributed more than \$10,000 to Camp Occoneechee at Lake Lure, \$3,500 to a Girl Scout headquarters building, and annual contributions to various scouting needs, adding up to the tune of well in excess of \$20,000 over a 21-year period.

----- More to follow

Meets 12 Noon, 1st and 3rd Mondays: Villa Antonio Ristorante, 4707 South Boulevard

Web Site: <http://www.mecklenburgkiwanis.org>