

THE SWAINSBORO KIWANIAN

December 19, 2023

With President Cheryl Goodman presiding, Austin Henry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Gary Howard gave the blessing. We had 18 members present. Our guests for the evening were Damien Scott, Greg Bennett, Austin Henry, Brenda Henry, Johnny Ray Stafford, Julian Sconyers, Calder Ward, Erin Ward, Melonie Ward, Betty Clapham, Holly Hattaway, Zane Scarboro, and Cliff Mason.

Petite Judge Mary Ellen Smith was in the Christmas spirit and suspended court for the evening.

A Good News \$1 was given by President Cheryl for all the people in attendance and her appreciation of what they had done this year. Dess Smith gave a \$1 in appreciation of the Mayor and the Swainsboro Fire Department for saving his home in his recent fire. He also voiced appreciation of City Council members Johnny Ray Stafford and Julian Sconyers for their assistance with moving the Kiwanis storage buildings back to Harmon Park.

President Cheryl announced we gave away 32 bikes at the Pre-K Christmas Bike Give-A-Way on December 12. She thanked Dianna Wedincamp and all those who helped. Windy Ward reported that we had fed over 50 children, along with their parents/family members at the "Lunch with Santa" on December 9 at the Franklin Library.



Dess Smith updated us on the shotgun fund raiser. A preliminary tally indicates we sold over \$5,000 in tickets which will be added to the \$350 donated to the project in Frank Patrick's name.

Tim Goodman reminded us that we will be doing the Resolution Run 5K on January 1 at EGSC beginning at 9:00 am. Be there at 8:00 to help. He also noted the Division 17 Governor's Rally is January 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Statesboro Kiwanis Fairgrounds. The cost of the meal is covered by the club. Contact President Cheryl if you plan to attend.

Scotty Hattaway noted the Emanuel County Schools were out and applauded the SHS football team for a 2nd place finish in the state. He noted that we continue to have a successful Ferst Readers program.

Mayor Bennett gave us an update on what is happening in the city of Swainsboro.

The program for the evening was hosted by Dess Smith. Dess turned the podium over to Damien Scott, CEO of Emanuel Medical Center (EMC). Damien gave us an update on what is happening at EMC. Damien has been the CEO at EMC for over 10 years, coming to this area of the country from New Mexico. He noted EMC had broken away from ERH and has gone out on their own to provide medical services. He noted the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has designated EMC as a 5-Star Hospital. EMS has 450 employees and a total of \$24 M in salaries. He noted updates in the ER, the ability to do infusions locally, and updated in screening of mammograms and colonoscopies. We continue to benefit from the Georgia Heart funding program.

President Cheryl presented Kiwanis cups to Damien Scott, Councilmen Stafford and Sconyers, and Mayor Bennett.



The cake, donated by David Gribbin, was won by Brenda Barber. Austin Henry won the Domino's pizza and Gary Couse and Tim Goodman won the Christmas bucket assortments.

Mayor Bennett drew the winning ticket for the Fall Gun Give-a-way. The winner was Jim Clapham.

KIWANIS REMINDERS

- January 1 - Resolution Run 5K – Run begins at 9:00 am at EGSC – Be there at 8:00 am to help
- January 2 - Regular Meeting – Program – Cheryl Goodman, Cake – Gary Couse
- January 16 - Regular Meeting – Program – Jeff Brewer, Cake – Cayla Scarboro
- January 19 - Division 17 Governor's Rally – 6:00 pm at Statesboro Kiwanis Fair Grounds

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