

The Swainsboro Kiwanian

February 13, 2007

President John Black convened our Valentine Spouses' night promptly at 7:30. For a few minutes before he rang the bell, he conducted a little literary quiz to give away some of the table decorations. He read a quote and asked the group to identify the author. Petite Garrett and Cheryl Goodman were the winners in this contest. He also passed around a picture taken at an early Pine Tree Festival and offered a prize to anyone who could identify the four ladies on the float. Linda Lamb took that prize.

As the meeting began, Tobe Karrh led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Travis Garrett offered the invocation. We had a good crowd of 37 or 38 present despite some heavy storms that passed through Swainsboro late Tuesday afternoon. Fortunately, they seemed to have abated by our meeting time, and folks were able to come out for our Valentine banquet.

There was no sports report last night, and neither was there any court. That really makes it tough on the bulletin editor!

Our club received a very gracious thank-you note from Governor Dewey Smith and his wife Cookie for the hospitality and gift that was presented during the Division rally. President John asked his wife Dorothy to read the note to the club. In the note, Governor Dewey invited us to the State convention, which will be held in Albany, so that he can reciprocate.

Announcements

Secretary Edwin Canady will be submitting a revised roll to state headquarters on or about February 22. If you have had a change in address or telephone number, please let him know so that he can submit the most current information.

Also, please let the bulletin editor know of any address changes, so that your weekly bulletin can be properly delivered and we can avoid postal charges for returned bulletins.

President John reminded us of the Midwinter Conference to be held in Perry on March 10. If you can go, let him know. It would be great if we could get credit for a couple of interclubs that day. It will take eight (8) attendees for that.

Don't forget the Pine Tree Festival Tabloid ads that need to be sold. If you did not get an assignment, contact Tim Goodman, and he will be glad to remedy that situation. Sell those ads!!!

The Program

Our program chair for the evening was President John. He invited Jimmy Morgan to inaugurate a series of programs on Legends and Legacies, a series that will feature former Kiwanians and some history of our club.



It was a real treat to have Jimmy present the program. He took us back to October, 1922, when fifty men met at Vann's garage to form the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club. He said they met there because it was one of the few places in town that could accommodate a crowd of that size. He spoke of his father-in-law, Dr. R.C. Franklin, who was one of the first directors of the club. He reminded us that Swainsboro had no paved streets at that time, cars had to be cranked, and to get someone on the telephone, you called the operator and told her who you wanted, and often she would know where they were, even if they were not at home, and ring them up for you. He spoke of how the Kiwanis club played a role in the improvement of the city, pushing for paved streets, new courthouse, and even more recently Swainsboro Technical College and East Georgia College. He reminded us of the Objects of Kiwanis, which appear on the back of this bulletin and how important it is that we remain true to them. Thanks to John for arranging the program and to Jimmy for a very interesting presentation.

The program was videotaped and the Kiwanis Club will have a copy of it in their records.

Door Prizes

All the ladies were given tickets, and the centerpieces on each table were given away. Your editor did not get the names of all the winners but offers congratulations to each of them.

Kiwanis Kalendar

	Program	Cake
February 20	Raymond Hendrix	Danny Tapley
February 27	Paul Cerpovicz	Caroline Harless
March 6	Greg Barwick	James Smith
March 13	Joe Hoke	Travis Garrett
March 10	Mid-Winter Conference	Perry, GA
March 20	Dess Smith	Justin Peebles
July 3 – 7	International Convention	San Antonio, TX
August 17 – 19	Georgia District Convention	Albany

Program Chairs: Let me know your program as soon as you nail it down, and I'll put it in the bulletin ahead of time so our members will know what is coming up. You can phone me at home or email me at edbolton@ega.edu.

Next Tuesday our program chair will be Raymond Hendrix, and he has invited Fire Chief Mike Strobridge to speak to us. It sounds like another good program. Hope to see you then.

Just for Valentines

As early as the fourth century B.C., the Romans engaged in an annual young man's rite to passage to the God Lupercus. The names of the teenage women were placed in a box and drawn at random by adolescent men; thus, a man was assigned a woman companion for the duration of the year, after which another lottery was staged. After eight hundred years of this cruel practice, the early church fathers sought to end this practice... They found an answer in Valentine, a bishop who had been martyred some two hundred years earlier.

According to church tradition St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. At that time the Roman Emperor Claudius-II who had issued an edict forbidding marriage.

This was around when the heyday of Roman empire had almost come to an end. Lack of quality administrators led to frequent civil strife. Learning declined, taxation increased, and trade slumped to a low, precarious level. And the Gauls, Slavs, Huns, Turks and Mongolians from Northern Europe and Asian increased their pressure on the empire's boundaries. The empire was grown too large to be shielded from external aggression and internal chaos with existing forces. Thus more of capable men were required to be recruited as soldiers and officers. When Claudius became the emperor, he felt that married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and thus, will not make good soldiers. So to assure quality soldiers, he banned marriage.

Valentine, a bishop, seeing the trauma of young lovers, met them in a secret place, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Claudius learned of this "friend of lovers," and had him arrested. The emperor, impressed with the young priest's dignity and conviction, attempted to convert him to the roman gods, to save him from certain execution. Valentine refused to recognize Roman Gods and even attempted to convert the emperor, knowing the consequences fully. On February 24, 270, Valentine was executed.

While Valentine was in prison awaiting his fate, he came in contact with his jailor, Asterius. The jailor had a blind daughter. Asterius requested him to heal his daughter. Through his faith he miraculously restored the sight of Asterius' daughter. Just before his execution, he asked for a pen and paper from his jailor, and signed a farewell message to her "From Your Valentine," a phrase that lived ever after.

(Source: www.theholidayspot.com, passed to me by President John.)