

from L to R: Fire Chief Mike Strowbridge, President Dess Smith III

The Swainsboro Kiwanis Club held its weekly meeting on Tuesday night, September 23, 2014 at Catered Creations at 7:00. With President Dess Smith III presiding, we had 23 members in attendance and 2 guests, Brenda Sutherland and Jennifer Weise.

The program for the evening was hosted by President Dess Smith. President Dess introduced Mike Strowbridge, Fire Chief for the Swainsboro Fire Department. Chief Strowbridge has presented at a Kiwanis meeting for the last 13 years to give us updates on what is happening at the Fire Department. Chief Strowbridge began with a quiz about smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. All of us need to check the batteries in smoke detectors and also vacuum to remove dust. We also should periodically; invert and shake our fire extinguishers to see if they are still active. Since most fires occur between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., it is important that our in-home devices work. The Chief indicated they would be in the new fire station in 270 days and it would expand their space to 20,000 sq. ft. He also noted that Swainsboro's ISO rating dropped to 03/3X, good news for local property owners because it should decrease our property insurance. In the news, the Swainsboro Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team was asked to assist in the evaluation and identification of the chemical and hazards at the insecticide incident at the Jefferson County Hospital. The first responders and emergency room staff, as well as the Emergency room, were isolated and decontaminated. The HazMat Team covers a six-county area around Swainsboro, He reminded us about the new ladder truck and the cost of outfitting and training a new fireman (around \$10,000). He also was proud of the training record of the local fire department. All local fire fighters must get at least 212 hours of training in a year, over twice what the state requires"

The Drop-in-the-Bucket 4 the Eliminate Project continues to raise funds for the UNICEF/Kiwanis International World Wide Project, to eliminate Neonatal and Maternal Tetanus from the face of the earth.

The Georgia District of Kiwanis Fall Training is scheduled for October 11th in Macon. See Tim Goodman by this Friday if you plan to attend.

Swainsboro Kiwanis Club's 2014-15 Installation night is coming on September 30th. Our first event of October will be the Fall Festival (Octoberfest) on October 23rd. We need to be at the Boneyard around 3:00 to start working. Deana Patrick is in charge, so let her know if you can help. Tricia Coleman is home and planning to come to the installation next week.

If you would like to join the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, please contact our membership Chair Jane Durden at 478-237-2635 or e-mail her at hsdurden@bellsouth.net. Also, if you would like to find out more information about our Club, organized on May 31, 1922, and the many community service projects that we do each year, go to our Swainsboro Kiwanis website at: www.swainsborokiwanis.org or go to our Swainsboro Kiwanis Facebook page.

