

L to R: President Jane Durden, Chief Randy Ellison, Frank Patrick, City Councilman Johnny Ray Stafford.

#### "Stafford & Ellison Speak to Kiwanis"

The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting on Tuesday night, March 15, 2016 at Catered Creations at 7:00. With President Jane Durden presiding, we had 22 members in attendance and 5 guests. Our guests were an Interclub from the Statesboro Kiwanis Club, Daniel Foglio, Carl Sellers, John Karrh, and Huston Costlow. We sang Happy Birthday to Huston on his 90th birthday. Also, Lt. Governor Byron Mullican was our guest.

The program was hosted by Frank Patrick. Frank introduced 19-year Swainsboro City Councilman Johnny Ray Stafford. Johnny Ray talked about the Kiwanis Club from 1995, when he was Club President. He introduced Swainsboro Chief of Police Randy Ellison, who gave us an update on what is happening in the police department. Chief Ellison has been with the police department for 8 years. Although Chief Ellison believes that a large majority of the population doesn't want to hurt someone, he indicated the department had received over 14,000 calls last year to respond to. Although about 90% are through 911, some come through the office and some come from patrol cars. They responded to 378 motor vehicle accidents, made over 2,600 incident reports and over 1,300 arrests. The modern police department works closely with the local social service agencies and the court system and to be a policeman now requires more training than ever before. The training is focused not only with dealing with crime and criminals, but also includes being fit.

President Jane thanked everyone who helped with the ACE 5K Run timing on March 12th. The next run is the Weekend Blessings 5K at George L. Smith II State Park on March 26th. Chair Tim reminded us we have until March 29th to SELL, SELL, SELL the Tabloid. Pre-K Fun Day is scheduled for April 2nd. We will actually begin by making cotton Candy on March 31st. Please sign-up if you can help. The Smithsonian Exhibit will open on March 19th at East Georgia State College. The opening Ceremony is at 10:00 am on March 19th.

If you would like to become a member of the Swainsboro Kiwanis club, please contact our membership Chair Linda Lamb at 478-237-5188 or e-mail her at [hsdurden@bellsouth.net](mailto:hsdurden@bellsouth.net). Also, if you would like to find out more information about our Club and the many community service projects that we do each year, go to our website at <http://www.swainsborokiwanis.org/> or to our Swainsboro Kiwanis Club Facebook page

