

TECUMSEH KIWANIS DISPATCH

December 2024

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Meeting Second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Ashli Salzano, President

Larry McCammon, Secretary

Cindy Cooper, Treasurer

785-250-5993

785-554-2558

785-224-1711



KIWANIS is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.
www.tecumsehkiwanis.com

December Meeting

Program Chair Larry introduced Amy Pinger who is the Community Engagement Manager for Harvesters. Harvesters provides food and household products to more than 900 partner non-profit agencies in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas from a location in Kansas City and a new location in Lawrence, both of which serve 13 counties. Originally northeast Kansas was served from a location in Topeka beginning in 2010 but it has been acquired as part of the new I-70 bridge in downtown Topeka. Although they searched for suitable space in Topeka for relocation, none was found. Finally the former Reuter Organ building was purchased in Lawrence and remodeling was begun, which included adding new space for freezers and docks. It took three days to move from Topeka to the Lawrence location and they opened the first week in June of this year. The new location is much bigger and more modern than the previous building. The partner agencies who receive food from Harvesters can have it delivered if they order over 600 pounds per delivery. Agencies with smaller orders must either pick up the supplies in Lawrence or they can meet the truck at a hub location in Topeka. Amy indicated that other than the huge task of moving and low water pressure, another problem that the relocation brought was with volunteers. Many of the Topeka volunteers did not want to travel to Lawrence, but local volunteers are coming forth and Harvesters will be starting weekend volunteer shifts in February. She invited us to come and take a tour of their new facilities.

Upcoming Programs

January 8	- Ashli
Dessert	- Denise
February 12	- Debbie
Dessert	- Larry

Winter Wonderland

Denise, Regina, Debbie, Diana, Cindy, Mary, Ken, and Larry joined Ashli on Sunday evening, December 1, from 7:15 until 9:00 to take tickets and direct traffic at TARC's annual fund-raising activity at Lake Shawnee, Winter Wonderland. It was a cool evening but fresh baked cookies and hot chocolate always help. Since it was early in the season, it was not as busy as it gets later on but we had a respectable number of visitors and it is always good to help with this worth-while project.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

On Saturday, December 7, eight members of the club paired up to ring bells at Dillon's at 29th and California for the annual Salvation Army fund-raising effort. Debbie and Diana, Cindy and Larry, Regina and Denise, and Ken and Mary were on hand for a fairly warm day of bell ringing. Some Boy Scouts also pitched in to help. See the next page for some pictures.

School Winter Wants

Club members purchased items to distribute to Tecumseh North and South elementary schools to help make winter a little more palatable for the students. We ended up collecting 47 boxes of tissue, 74 gloves, 45 hats, 4 scarves, 18 hand sanitizers, 31 boxes of wipes, 6 hoodies and 2 magic erasers. Thanks to everyone for their generous help with this project.

Cuddle Blankets

We continue to work on cutting and tying yards and yards of felt for the Cuddle Blanket project. A couple of our over-achievers have already finished theirs and the rest of us have them to look forward to. It is time to limber up the fingers.

