

TECUMSEH KIWANIS DISPATCH

October 2024 Ashli Salzano, President 785-250-5993
Volume 65 Number 1 Larry McCammon, Secretary 785-554-2558
Chartered April 12, 1961 Cindy Cooper, Treasurer 785-224-1711
Meeting Second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Tecumseh United Methodist Church



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

October Meeting

We welcomed Ashli Salzano as our new president for the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. Diana served as program chair and introduced Sheila Meggers who is the new Shawnee Heights USD 450 Superintendent. She was hired in February 2024 and started her new position on July 1. Mrs. Meggers was a lifelong resident of the Hutchinson area and graduated from Wichita State. She started her career in education by teaching high school math. Eventually she accepted administration positions and was the Assistant Superintendent for Finance in Hutchinson before coming to USD 450. Mrs. Meggers shared that some of the district's biggest challenges are bussing, full schools and security scares. There was a shortage of bus drivers at the beginning of the school year which caused some routes to not be run on some days and there is still a need for drivers. Over the years, education has required an increased number of support personnel for each building. These include reading specialists, social workers, psychologists, teaching assistants, paras, etc. and all of these additional employees need office space. This is causing a shortage of space in buildings and will need to be addressed soon. An architectural firm was hired to make plans to upgrade all buildings in the district which means that a bond issue is probably coming soon. The district also has several school resource officers who police the buildings and grounds. Social media has made it easier to send threats and they must be taken seriously. Some of the strengths in the district are that test scores are increasing after the decline due to the disruption that COVID caused in education. Also the graduation rates for Kansas in 2023 were 88% while they were 96% for Shawnee Heights. We welcome Superintendent Meggers to the district and wish her the best.

Condolences

The club would like to express its deep condolences to the family of Dan Krug who passed away on September 26. Dan and Pat were former members of our club and very active in preparing the Community Dinners that we used to put on. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers

Trunk or Treat

The club has agreed to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Trunk or Treat event on Wednesday evening October 30. The event starts at 5:30 PM at 2348 SW Topeka Blvd. Larry has agreed to provide the trunk. Word is that last year they had between 200 and 300 kids so we would need enough candy for at least that number. The organizers said that getting the big bags of candy seemed to work best. We may have a short work night in advance of the event to set up the trunk and gather the candy but notice of that will be coming later. It should be good to help support this worthwhile organization.

Other Upcoming Activities

Diana has us scheduled to work the gate at Winter Wonderland again this year on Sunday, December 1 from 7:15 PM until close. Ashli is the volunteer coordinator for the event again this year so it will be in good hands. Also Diana is working on finding a time for us to ring bells for the Salvation Army. This is usually done on a Saturday afternoon. Stay tuned.

Upcoming Programs

November 13 - Denise
Dessert - Regina

December 11 - Larry
Dessert - Larry

Kiwanis, serving the children of the world.

2023-2024 Statistics

For the 2023-2024 Kiwanis administrative year, the Tecumseh Kiwanis Club had a total of 1176 volunteer hours. This included Meals on Wheels, Topeka Rescue Mission, maintaining Tecumseh green spaces, reading to pre-K and kindergarten students, baby blankets, bell ringing, Winter Wonderland, free income tax, public television, Boy Scouts, Shawnee Heights schools and several more.

Below are the total number of volunteer hours in previous years. It is not difficult to see where COVID hit.

2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1289	1935	1778	1535	1459	875	646	1269	1141	1176