

KIWANIGRAM

The monthly newsletter of the

KIWANIS CLUB *of* SKIDAWAY



APRIL 2007

President's Corner

Keith Glenn

April looks to be another busy month for our club. We will have the Driving Responsibilities for the Legends of Golf, not a big money maker for the club, but an important civic project. At the same time we will fill the Parking Duties for the Land Lovers Field Day. All this will be on top of a lot of family visitors and guests for the Men's Invitational. It looks like another wonderful month at the Landings.



One of our areas for improvement this year is; how we welcome and integrate new members into our Club. Erv Hietbrink

has worked hard on getting things started right with an outstanding New Member Orientation Program. Plus, he is working with Tom Rood to make that even better by providing written "take away" information on service opportunities for the new members. If you are the lead for some of these activities you can expect to hear from Tom, if you have not already. This is a very important project and will help get the new member involved and headed toward things that match their interests. On the social side you all are doing a wonderful job of helping our new members feel welcome to the club plus show how important they are to us and the kids we help.

In the next two months we will be going through the process to elect next year's officers. The process will have a few new wrinkles this

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Service Opportunities:

Why Mediate?

By Dana Taylor

Eight Skidaway Kiwanis members are state licensed mediators who participate regularly as volunteers in a dispute resolution process that helps people quickly and inexpensively untangle themselves from actual or potential litigation. This occurs with the blessings, even the full endorsement, of the Georgia state court system.



Hietbrink

But why do it? What pay-back do these volunteer mediators receive?

Erv Hietbrink, our President Elect for the year commencing October 1, has been a mediator for three years and claims to have a passion for the process. He thoroughly enjoys helping people resolve their problems or finding a way to handle their obligations, and generally comes away from a mediation with a real sense of having made a worthwhile contribution.

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President's Corner (from page 1)

year; first, the nomination committee will have greater representation from the membership-at-large; second, we will be asking all members to provide names of members you believe should be considered for the various open positions. All of us, to some degree, are captive of our environment and close associations. All this is about broadening those horizons and tapping into underutilized resources. Tom Rood will chair the nomination committee and you will be hearing more from him.

Welcome New Members

Stephen P. Downing, Steve, is well known to members who tried to beat the game at Oakridge, where Steve was Assistant Professional several years ago. Steve moved to Savannah in 1979, where he attended Savannah Christian Prep School. He was an excellent golfer, and next went to the San Diego Golf Academy for two years leading up to a PGA Professional Apprenticeship. Later he worked at the Landings, and married April. The Landings lost Steve to banking and Wachovia, but we're glad he decided to join our Club.



Downing

Harry Krogh is his sponsor.

Our Membership Chair, Mr. Morris, has brought a new member to the fold. **Anthony A. Martin**



Martin

came to the Landings in November of 2005, and lives at 5 Tupelo Lane. He lived in Savannah before moving to the Landings. Tony has a Bachelor of Arts from Rhodes College, and a MBA from the University of Georgia. He heads the Martin Group, and has been involved with the United Way, Savannah Estate Planning Council, and finds time to help The Telfair. Financial planning is one of his strengths.

Board of Directors Meeting

Taking part in the Board Meeting of March 12th, 2007, Dana Taylor made a recommendation that the Kiwanigram accept paid advertisements, with the proceeds being used to help with the club's deficit prone Administrative Account. (See separate article, below.)

Mr. Glenn said the District (State) Training Conference should be attended by newer Directors and members, but the three officers who went to the March 10th Conference all learned about other Club's activities, some of which will be tried here.

The Board approved membership applications by Stephen Downing and Anthony Martin

The Directors decided to discontinue naming Volunteers of the Year.

"Dollars for Doers" grants of \$300 each were approved for the Martin de Porres Society and the Landings Military Family Relief Fund. The Fund was explained at a recent meeting by Lou Mollala.

The Club continues to have problems with the Administration Account according to Treasurer Krogh. Income for this account comes from Member Dues and 50/50, and we will run a deficit in this account for the current year.

Mr. Tom Rood is nomination Chair for Officers and Directors for the new year, and will welcome input from the members.

Ads for Kiwanigram?

The money the club collects from its normal fund raising activities may be used solely for charitable donations. None of it may be used for the club's operating costs. Those are paid out of the "Administrative Account," the current sources of which are a small portion of member dues and the club's share of the 50-50 revenues.

On March 12 it was suggested to the Board that the Kiwanigram accept paid advertising, the revenues from which, according to advice from Kiwanis International, may be used to help with the operating costs.

The Board seemed favorably inclined toward this suggestion, although several questions must be answered before a decision can be made. Several Directors expressed the view that club "Sponsor" donors, who already contribute most generously, should get free advertising in the K-gram.

MEMBERS MEET WORLD'S LARGEST OWL

(Statesboro, GA, March 22, 2007)

After a joint meeting with the Statesboro Kiwanis club at lunchtime today, a group of Skidaway Kiwanians visited the Georgia Raptor Center, where they got up close and personal with numerous scaly, feathery and furry wild things that you don't see just every day.

The highlight was an hour long air show by various birds of prey, including the world's largest owl — an eagle owl — this one a captive visitor whose species occupies almost the entire European-Asian land mass.

The size of a golden eagle, this beautiful bird thrilled the Kiwanians as it brushed them with its wing tips while flying from one handler's gloved hand to the food the other handler held out for him.

On this occasion the flight demonstration was a private viewing for the Skidaway Kiwanians, but public shows are conducted regularly at the Raptor Center, which is on the Georgia Southern Univer-



Photo by Keith Glenn

sity campus. The Skidaway audience included Jim Beurle, Dave Fox, Keith and Joyce Glenn, Robert and Bridgitte Haas, Jack Huber, Craig and Mary Hull, Ernie Ranft, Bob Reinhard, Dana Taylor, and Will Weeks.

Why Mediate? (from page 1)

Hietbrink points out that the mediation process calls for strict neutrality on the part of the mediator. Mediation is totally unlike arbitration, where the arbitrator listens to both sides then, like a judge or jury, makes a decision. For Erv, the key is to help both sides of the dispute come to realize that a settlement that both sides can be happy with is far, far better than a long, bitter and possibly very expensive trial.

To become a mediator it was necessary for Hietbrink to participate in thirty hours of a seminar with a focus on general legal and commercial disputes, then to spend another fifteen to twenty hours of observing actual mediations in process. All of this led to Hietbrink's registration with the state of Georgia as a licensed general mediator.

Dick Watters has been at it since 1988, which makes him the most experienced of the Skidaway Kiwanis mediators. Watters got into mediation only a year after it was started in Savannah.



Watters

However, the concept of using non-binding mediation as an alternative to conventional litigation was already well established elsewhere in the country, including in the Atlanta area.

Normal litigation tends to be slow, expensive and acrimonious. It frequently involves pitifully small amounts of money or unpaid bills. It also frequently exposes what should be private disputes to the glare of newspaper or television coverage. The idea of mediation is to give the parties one last chance to work out their disputes quickly, quietly and inexpensively. But only if they can come to an agreement among themselves. The role of the mediator is to help them come to such agreements.

The operative words in the process are "voluntary" and "non-binding." The mediator is

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not a judge. He or she is not an Army or Marine Corps top sergeant. He or she is not a "boss," who can issue orders and expect them to be obeyed. He or she is a consensus builder; a facilitator who can help people discover ways they can live with to escape the tar pit of litigation.

With all his experience, Dick Watters still gets great satisfaction out of walking out of a mediation, secure in the knowledge that he helped the people with whom he has worked save a lot of money and grief.



Kipp

Kiwanis of Skidaway Director Don Kipp surprised this reporter with what he enjoys about his service as a mediator. It provides him with intellectual challenge and a constant learning environment. Being a licensed general mediator, Kipp faces a wide variety of cases, fact situations, surprises and complications. As Don says, in general mediation *everything* comes at you out of left field.

Yet Kipp has to get his mind wrapped around all of this if he is to understand the dispute well enough to be able to help the litigants. Don feels his mind will stay young as long as he continues in mediation.

Don particularly likes the idea that, for the disputants, mediation is almost always voluntary and is always non-binding. Although in rare instances the court will order mediation, even then the parties are entirely within their rights to fail to agree to any settlement. However, if mediation does result in a written settlement agreement between the parties, such settlement is binding.

Dave Fox is a Skidaway Kiwanis member who has taken additional training that has qualified him to mediate domestic relations, domestic violence and juvenile situations. A mediator qualifies in these additional fields in much the same way as for general mediation, but the required specialized training is on top of training already taken.



Fox

Fox feels he is making a more important social contribution by working with the divorce type cases. However those cases do tend to be more difficult, and significantly more time consuming. The mediator gets far more deeply into the lives of the divorce disputants than occurs with general mediation. With that closeness can come a higher level of emotional wear and tear on the mediator. Of course mediators are supposed to maintain, not just neutrality, but emotional distance, from the litigants. Lots of luck on this, my friend.

Dave Fox's emotional compensation for his services is the instant satisfaction he receives when he realizes he has helped people out of a very difficult situation. And after a drawn out, involved case he can treat himself to an extra few days off. In that way he can still stay more-or-less with the volunteer mediator's average of two mediation work-hours per week.

Skidaway Kiwanis Director Tom Sharp, who is also the Mediation Center's Treasurer, initially got into mediation because he was looking for community involvement that



Sharp

would make use of his prior work experience, particularly the part of it that involved extensive negotiation. He viewed mediation as an opportunity to do some real good for people who truly needed help.

Tom has qualified both in general mediation and with domestic relations, and today spends most of his time with domestic cases. A significant portion of those that he ends up handling involve attempts to obtain support and housing for illegitimate children. A frequent pattern with such cases is that the father admits paternity, but also has other illegitimate children that he is under court order to support. Even if the father is earning a decent wage, a limited number of

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dollars can stretch only so far. Dealing with such cases is painful for everyone concerned.



Farmer

If this is not sufficient community interest, Sharp is looking forward to qualifying for juvenile mediation, where the cases can be even more challenging.

Kiwanian Bill Farmer learned of mediation from friends who were involved. Bill was intrigued, and thought he would enjoy the sense of accomplishment of

doing something worthwhile as a volunteer. He saw a strong fit between the types of things he did during his working career and what would be required of a mediator, and has not been disappointed. He is interested in the further training that will lead him into more complex areas than he has been handling during the past year and a half.

One way in which Farmer stands out is that he, more than any of the other mediators I interviewed for this article, seems to conform to the ideal of having no emotional involvement with the cases he mediates. Lack of emotional involvement with the disputes almost always equates to a more intellectual, less emotional and more even

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Kiwanis Calendar of Coming Events

- April 5 - Membership Meeting - Speaker- Peter Shannon, Artistic Director of Savannah Choral Society**
- April 11 - Special Olympics "Chatham Games" - 9:45 a.m., Savannah State University Stadium**
- April 12 - Membership Meeting - Speaker - Sean Burgess, The Landings Association - the Lagoon systems and the important features of their maintenance**
- April 16-22 Legends of Golf, Hutchinson Island, Georgia**
- April 19 - Membership Meeting - Speaker - Eric Johnson, State Representative for the 1st District and President Pro-Tem of the Georgia Senate - What's Happening at the state level**
- Also, slate of proposed candidates for 2007-2008 Officers and Directors presented to membership**
- April 26 - Membership Meeting - Speaker information not available at press time**
- April 28 - District Talent and Art Show Finals - Carrollton, Georgia**
- May 3 - Membership Meeting - Election of 2007-2008 Officers and Directors**
- May 6 - Concert on the Green**
- May 7 - Mighty Eighth Golf Classic, Crosswinds Golf Club, 7:00 am, breakfast and registration, 8:00 am, shotgun start - phone 912-748-8888 x166 for reservations**
- May 9 - Special Olympics "Regional Games" - 9:45 a.m., Savannah Country Day athletic field**
- Officer Election - Due June 1, 2007**
- July 3 - 7 - Kiwanis International Convention, San Antonio, Texas. Register now, as this should be a great convention.**

Why Mediate? (from page 5)

handled search for the solution, whatever form it may take.



Nusloch

Jerry Nusloch is the surprise member of the team. He spent his earlier career years flying the line for American Airlines. Continuing with the airline, his responsibilities expanded to include labor negotiations, contract disputes and managerial affairs; good background for the dispute mediator.

While not the most senior of the Kiwanis mediators, Nusloch now serves as a Vice President and Director of the Mediation Center.

For Nusloch the ideal mediation occurs when mediator can advance settlement ideas in such a way that the disputants believe they thought of the ideas themselves without any help from the mediator.

Nusloch points out that Skidaway Kiwanians have added a great deal of strength to the Mediation Center, providing approximately a quarter of the currently active mediators and three of the Center's current Directors.

Nusloch also reminds us that mediations are conducted in the relatively neutral ground of the Mediation Centers headquarters, at Paulson and 67th, which is readily accessible to the Skidaway community. He adds that good listening skills and the ability to remain neutral are the attributes the potential mediator must have.



Salus

Retired Pennsylvania judge Skip Salus is also one of the Kiwanis Skidaway mediators. Salus became a mediator at the same time as Bill Farmer and Erv Heitbrink. He enjoys mediation work because it is similar to settlement

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<http://www.kiwanisofskidaway.com> - Contact Richard Watters or Melissa Emery for ID and Password

OFFICERS

President - Keith Glenn
 President-Elect - Ervin Hietbrink
 VP-Services - Gary Bocard
 VP-Fund Raising - Bill Wright
 VP/Recording Secretary - Richard Shomaker
 VP/Administrative Secretary - Richard Watters
 Treasurer - Harry Krogh
 Past President - Thomas Rood

DIRECTORS - all officers plus the following:

terms expiring 2007
 Melissa Emery
 Thomas Sharp
 terms expiring 2008
 Don. Kipp
 Robert Caswell
 terms expiring 2009
 Gary Brewer
 Frank Zugel

COMMITTEE CHAIRS or CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATION

Attendance Reception - Jack Hart
 Attendance Records - Gary Brewer
 Awards - Pat Cumiskey
 District/Division Reports - Frank Zugel
 Inter-Club - Jim Chapman
 Kiwanigram - Dana Taylor
 Kiwanis Education/ Orientation - Ervin Hietbrink
 Membership - Ron Morris
 Programs/Speakers - Will Weeks
 Legends of Golf - Dave Smith

FUND RAISING EVENTS

Chile Cook-Off - Gene McDonald, Terry Overton
 Concert on the Green - Chris Williams
 Pancake Breakfast - Skip Salus, Chris Alken
 Corporate Fund Raising - Emerson Ham

SERVICES - COMMUNITY

Community in Schools - Joyce Glenn

Dollars for Doers - Bruce Powley
 Habitat for Humanity - Frank Guy, Bob Yeomans
 Interfaith Hospitality Network - Mark Forsell
 Juvenile Court - Chuck Ortmann
 Kids Café - Gary Bocard
 Library for the Blind - Dave Wyland
 Med Bank - Emmet Casey
 Mediation Center - Dick Watters
 Outstanding Citizen - Sid Carr
 Pediatric Oncology Support - Pete Liprot
 Red Cross Blood Drive - Chris Britten
 Salvation Army - Ron Morris
 Social Apostolate - Bob Egan
 Telfair Museum - Jack Neises
 Village Library - Jim Chapman

SERVICES - YOUNG CHILDREN

Fishing Program - Tom Rood
 Greenbriar - Melissa Emery
 Early Childhood Education - Tom Clark

SERVICES - YOUTH

Bethesda Home - Bob Caswell
 Children's Advocacy Center - Skip Salus
 Hesse Bears - Emmet Casey
 Junior Achievement - Jamie DeLoach
 Mighty 8th AF Museum - Jim Keller
 Notre Dame Academy - Gary Bocard
 Park Place Outreach - Jack Hart
 Special Olympics - Robert Haas
 St. Paul's Academy - Bill Trice
 Youth Challenge Academy - Jack Huber

SPONSORED YOUTH PROGRAMS

Bethesda Key Club - Chuck Owen
 SCAD Circle K - Dianne Franz

HUMAN & SPIRITUAL SERVICE

Human & Spiritual Service Programs - Jim Giddens

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

Auditor - Roger Nord
 Board Advisor - Hazel Brown
 Club Historian - Martin Otto
 Legal Counsel - Bob Schivera
 Marketing and Web Page - Melissa Emery
 Publicity - Tom Rood
 Photography - Martin Otto
 Safety Coordinator - Jack Sherrill
 Social and Trips - Dave Fox
 Song Leader - Dave Wyland
 Sunshine - Gwen Leathley
 50/50 Drawing - Sid Carr

conferences in the Court system and relates to his former career.

The neutrality factor is important to the mediation process and the mediator's summary of the parties' positions often brings them to a settlement. Skip says it's important for the Mediator to take emotion out of the situation and to give insight to the parties on different avenues of solution. All in all, mediation generates respect for the process and dulls the intimidation factor of court proceedings. Salus enjoys the twists and turns of more complicated cases and participating in mediation.

Anyone interested in becoming a mediator may contact anyone mentioned in this article. Dick Watters (598-1347) remains the liaison between Kiwanis Skidaway and the Mediation Center, so he would be the most logical point of contact.