

East Memphis Kiwanis Club

No. 128 Year Ending September 30, 2006

March 2006 Newsletter



Club Meeting: Every Tuesday 12-1 pm
Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday at 1:05 pm
Location: Holiday Inn Select
5795 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38119

2005 – 2006 Officers & Directors

President – John Thompson
President Elect – Sandra Zehntner
Vice President – Sunny Ross
Secretary – Pat Murphy
Treasurer – Jerry Schwartz
Past President – Mickey Ison

Other Board of Director Members

<u>2004-2006</u>	<u>2005-2007</u>
Bob Blecken	Jim Denney
Bob Myrland	Kenny Harris
Randy Flatt	Jim McLaughlin
Elmer Follis	Ziad Ozrail



JOHN THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

Mickey Ison, Newsletter Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

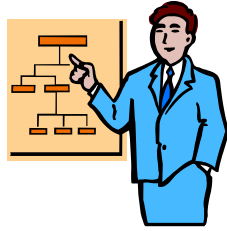
A couple of weeks ago I attended the LAMSWTN District Mid-Winter Conference. I got the privilege of meeting and hearing the President of Kiwanis International, Steve Siemens. He is an outstanding motivational speaker. He spoke several times during the conference and had me on the edge of my seat every time. I got the opportunity to attend Kiwanis University as part of the conference. The sessions I attended gave opportunities to hear and share ideas with people from other clubs in the District as well as with the instructors. I came away with a renewed energy about Kiwanis and what we are all about. I think I had fallen into the trap of "Kiwanis is a group of people with whom I eat lunch on Tuesdays!" When in fact "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time!!" I needed a reminder and that is what I intend to do for you every week!! In the coming weeks you will be hearing more from Sandra Zehntner and me about what we learned at the conference.

March is the month where we like to see how it comes and goes!! Lion or lamb!! Use the month of March as a beginning and let's all be lions and get involved in our community!!

See you on Tuesdays!!

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

**Thanks,
John Thompson**



MARCH PROGRAMS –

Kiwanis Guest Speakers – Chairman James DeRossitt

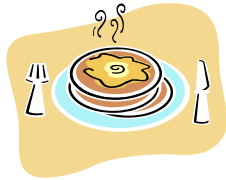
March 07 - Gib Vestal from Memphis Athletic Ministries

March 14 – Speaker from the Gandhi Institute for Peace Studies at CBU

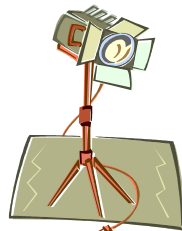
March 21 – Virginia McLean from Friends for Our Riverfront

March 28 – Cato Johnson, Senior Vice President for Methodist Health Care Systems

UPCOMING EVENTS –



April 21st – TERRIFIC Kids at Richland Elementary School



KIWANIAN SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH BOB BLECKEN



Bob was born in Yakima, Washington in 1926. His parents operated a fruit orchard for which apples were their biggest crop. Bob's first job was to trap gophers from the orchard for which he received \$.10 a tail! (Gophers would burrow and damage irrigation ditches.) As Bob says, "not a lot of dollars, but it kept me out of trouble." He did this work during grade school, and later worked the ranch fruit warehouses operating a hand truck.

When Bob turned 17 he joined the Navy for two years. He didn't want to wait until he was 18 and get drafted into the Army. He was on two ships, an aircraft carrier and a mine sweeper. He was discharged in June, 1946, as a Quartermaster Third Class, with a "right arm rate" – which was a seagoing rate. He used to stand watch and check men out on ship, raise and lower the flag, and check the ships clocks for accuracy, using the Greenwich Time, which was sent to him over the radio.

At age 19 he started at the University of Washington. He graduated in 1950 with a degree in Economics and Business with a minor in Banking, Real estate and Insurance. Bob was a skier in college and was a member of the Olympia Ski Club.

In 1954 he went to work for the Washington State Apple Commission, the advertising arm of the apple industry. Washington was the largest producer of apples in the country. Bob did advertising and he says he had the best job ever. He covered a five state territory. The companies he called on often had advertising agencies, but he called on them to see where they could put up billboard ads – and wanted them close to the grocery stores. He would promote the apple industry by giving apples to the Food Editors of newspapers in order to get a story about the apple industry. He also called on radio stations and TV to get promos. Bob did this work for eight years.

Bob came to Memphis and met his wife, Ann on his very first trip – she worked for the Commercial Appeal in the Memphis Market News. This was in the early 50's when Memphis grocery stores were all independent. Ann read a story on apples and became interested. She and Bob had their first date at the Peabody in the fall of 1953. Bob says he was impressed with her...she had so many tickets to the Cotton Carnival events because of her work, and he never did so much partying in all of his life! They have been married for 53 years.

After working in the apple business, he attended a wedding in Louisville, KY and met a man who was in the Cancer Insurance business. Subsequently, in 1958, the man set Bob up in business in Memphis. Almost every prospective company Bob called on to sell cancer insurance bought it. He was very good at working with the employees, enrolling them, etc.

Bob's wife, Ann moved to Memphis as a young girl. She graduated from Rhodes College with a degree in English. Her mother was a garden writer and Ann continued doing that after her Mom died until about 6 or 7 years ago.

Both Bob and Ann have an interest in horticulture, and Ann likes writing about it. Bob was president of the Memphis Camellia Society. He was also founding member of the American Conifer Society, having an interest in dwarf conifers. At one time he had over 100 different ones.

Ann and Bob are founders of the Memphis Horticulture Society and Bob is a past president. The Society recently celebrated 25 years of existence and now has over 200 members.

Bob served as president of the March of Dimes and was president of the Memphis Botanic Garden Foundation. During his year as president they started a Fund Raiser for the Botanic Garden.

Bob and Ann are members of Holy Communion Episcopal Church and have been for 53 years. At the church, he served as president of The Kings Men (a men's group) and was a director of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Since he retired Bob enjoys gardening, but most of all he enjoys traveling to Europe. He says he is in great health, which he attributes to vitamins and martinis!!! He also says he and Ann have had a blessed life.

This summer he and Ann will go to Seattle to visit family and then cruise to Alaska to celebrate his 80th birthday!

And one further thing – Bob says what he likes about Kiwanis is helping to get good speakers. He has served as Chairman of Programs for our club and presently is on the Board of Directors.

This is Bob Blecken. 'Bet you didn't know all of this about him. Surprise Bob the next time you see him with a warm handshake, congratulations, and thanks for all he has done for Kiwanis!!!!



ACTIVITIES



Shelby County Sheriff Mark Luttrell



**Hawley Ingram's guest Shen Ouyang,
a senior systems analyst at Fed Ex**



Pat Murphy with guest.



**Sheriff Luttrell discussing the affairs of the
county after the meeting.**



John Thompson, Sheriff Luttrell and Sunny Ross.



Kiwanians enjoying the meeting



CBHS Key Clubbers



Crawford McDonald, Elmer Follis, our speaker, and John Thompson.



Richland Elementary's TERRIFIC Kids



John Thompson scratches his head at such a great group of TERRIFIC Kids!



Frank Davis hands out goodies to TERRIFIC Kids.



Marti Ash and guest Roger Elmer from Montana and NC.



More CBHS Key Clubbers.



Sunny Ross, John Thompson and Barbara McConville in bright red on Valentines Day!





Allan Bowden and Frank Braden yuck-it-up!



Robert Buckman speaks to Kiwanians on Valentine's Day



Speaker Bob Buckman, Charles Duff, Marti Ash and Howard Golwen



Barbara McConville and her boss, Robert Buckman (speaker), John Thompson and Sunny Ross.



Speaker Marvin Stockwell, Jr. from the Church Health Center.



Elmer Follis, Sunny Ross, Shelby Grayson and Marvin Stockwell, Jr.



More CBHS Key Clubbers!