



Week of December 14, 2008

**Kiwanis Club of Independence**  
**Newsletter**  
**Judy Luffman-editor**

**Dates to Remember**

- **Dec. 16**, Silent Auction during luncheon meeting; Boy Toys collection drive for Community Services League
- **Dec. 23**, Roundtable at Ophelia's
- **Dec. 30**, Regular Meeting at Ophelia's

**Preview of Next Meeting**

Next week we'll be treated to holiday music sung by a girls' ensemble from Van Horn H.S. We'll have fun bidding on silent auction items during lunch (remember to bring something). And we'll offer our donations of



boy toys to Sue Crumpton for the Community Services League. You won't want to miss a minute of the fun! If you plan to bring a family member or friend, email or phone Dan Jeffers by next Monday so that he can get a head count for Ophelia's.

**December 16 Assignments**

Set Up **Don Coffman**  
Pledge Leader **Tiffany Bumgardner**  
Song Leader **Scott Roberson**  
Prayer **Tawna Noftzger**

**Announcements**

- **Bring boy toys and at least one auction item each to the next meeting.**
- CAPA and the CSL still have families who need to be 'adopted' for

Christmas. Call them and find out how you can help.

**Behind-the-Scenes Election News**

Assistant director of the Eastern Jackson County Board of Elections, Jim McKinzie, told a fascinating tale of how the election board works diligently to ensure a fair and equitable opportunity for citizens to take part in the election process. McKinzie, a Republican, and the other assistant director, a Democrat, work closely on the bi-partisan board. McKinzie's responsibilities include training poll workers, supervising absentee voting, and mapping precincts and polling stations.

He shared that the election board is over 100 years old and while procedures are different now, the basic mission of the board hasn't changed over the years.



*McKinzie and Sue Ridings, an election supervisor*

Some interesting tidbits that he revealed included the following.

- There were 1724 election workers at the polls in E. Jackson Co. on Nov. 4
- Over 234,400 people were registered

- Over 16,000 absentee ballots were cast
- In the 2004 presidential election, there were over 175,500 votes cast in E. Jackson Co.; in 2008 votes increased to 186,440
- There are fewer polling places than four years ago due to lack of money to buy the mandated equipment that replaced the punch card system
- Missouri does NOT have straight party voting or early voting (determined by the state legislature)
- Absentee ballots are among the first ones counted

If you make errors on your ballot such as marking more than one person for a given office (called over-voting) you'll be given the option of marking a new ballot. If you choose not to, your ballot will be used but the over-voted categories will not be counted. If you need assistance, poll workers are charged with helping you, even bringing the ballot to you in your car if you are mobility impaired.

McKinzie also shared that a certain percentage of randomly chosen precincts in each election have their ballots manually recounted as a cross-check for machine accuracy.

Poll workers are a valuable part of the election process. McKinzie encouraged all interested volunteers to contact him about signing up. One caveat: you have to declare a party to ensure balanced party representative at the polls.

### Board Meeting Notes

- Progress is being made at re-establishing a Key Club at the Independence Academy.
- New membership recruitment continues to be an important goal.
- Organizing a new service project that benefits young children is an important priority for the club.
- A club evaluation will be scheduled for the near future.

### Member Minute

from President Michael Hahn

Is our Kiwanis club great? Are we friendly? Are we fun? Do we have really good fellowship? Do we care about each other? Do we have strong programs, engaging presentations, interesting guests to come and speak to us? Are enough of us involved in our club's service and fund raising projects? Do we share the load? Do we enhance networking opportunities? There's nothing wrong with making sure everyone knows what each of our members does for a living. Do we provide new-member orientation? Is every member involved in a committee? Are we doing the things that make you feel proud to be a member of the Independence Kiwanis club? If we can say yes to all these questions - we are a great club. But as someone once said, 'No matter how good you are, you can always be better.' Let's be great!