



Kiwanis CONNECTION



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER

www.kiwaniscarefree.org

January 2022

DECEMBER 1 MEETING AT HAROLD'S

We had two guest speakers at the December Meeting. First was Carla O'Brien, the Kiwanis Governor of the Missouri-Arkansas District. Also present, Tony Gutowski, Governor of the SW District of Kiwanis. Governor O'Brien led our members with singing the Missouri-Arkansas District version of "We Are Family."

The Upscale Singers shared holiday music creating a festive lunch background. (Photo below)



- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 7 th | Betty Dessler | 27 th | Cort Monroe |
| 9 th | Daine Dunseath | 28 th | John Woods, |
| 20 th | Paul Shoonover | | Kevin Jack |
| 25 th | Robin Cochran | 31 st | Paul Axberg, |
| 26 th | Robert Zinser, | | Linda Wright |
| | Stacie Weiss | | |

Thank you to these members for agreeing to serve on committees:

- Funds Request Committee - **Sheryl Bell**
- Communications Committee Chairman - **KC Jack**
- Nominating Committee - **John Skarda**

CLUB and FOUNDATION UPDATES

- The Executive Committee has hired Rick Wiggall Consulting Service. They are scheduled to start the strategic planning assessment presentation in January.
- A general grant process of 50K or more was created and presented by Accountability and Budget/Finance Committee. This was in response to the major projects submitted to the board from the YMCA and the Scott Foundation. Additional information is needed for those projects prior to voting.
- An Ad-Hoc Web Development and Branding Committee has been created. Members presented from major committees were reviewed and approved along with general guidance for the committee.

CHRISTMAS CHEER SHARED

Alexis Sterling-Popovich led a group of volunteers decorating little Christmas Trees and baking delicious goodies to share with fellow Kiwanians that might have needed a bit of extra Christmas cheer this year! Then, a group of elves delivered these holiday gifts with wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
(Photo below)

MEMBERS in our THOUGHTS

Walter O. (Wally) Joachim passed away at age of 91 great years on November 15th. Wally served in the army during the Korean War. His career began with the Kroger Company and later another large international supermarket chain. He and his wife Emily (with whom they had 3 children) were members of the Pinnacle Presbyterian church. Wally had been an active participant and supporter of Kiwanis for over 20 years. He also enjoyed arts and was one of the originators of Arizona Musicfest.

Tom Pozarycki is having back surgery later this month. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Covid has been making the rounds. We are glad to report that Canon Steve Dart and Ava Frick have both come out the other side unscathed. Wes Cooper is currently under the curse of covid. We pray for his speedy recovery.



THE HOLIDAYS WRAPPED UP with ADOPT A FAMILY PROJECT

Linda Wright must have been working with Santa's elves as she gathered volunteers and gifts for over 200 families! Along with CCUSD, Foothills Caring Corp, Annunciation Catholic School, Foothills Food Bank, YMCA and Carefree Christian Academy, we had an extraordinary and totally successful Adopt a Family project. Well done everyone!



THE BELL RINGS DURING THE SEASON

Ron Bell and his amazing committee took our commitment to the Salvation Army's annual Christmas fund raising and placed members and volunteers, of all ages and "breeds," ringing the bells at locations in Carefree and Cave Creek the weekend of December 18th. Thank you to everyone who participated in organizing, time ringing, and monetary donations. All the money collected stays in this area to help those struggling with meeting their rent and utility bills.



CLUB HOLIDAY GATHERING

Leo Reardon and Joyce Jordan and their committee offered up a spectacularly festive and fully enjoyable Christmas Luncheon, held at the Desert Foothills Library. The catered food was delicious and the decorations, thanks to Jacque Perry-Brown, were beautiful.

The space was filled with happy Kiwanians entertained by Renaissance musicians singing Old English Christmas songs.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - DON AND ANGELA BALASCAK

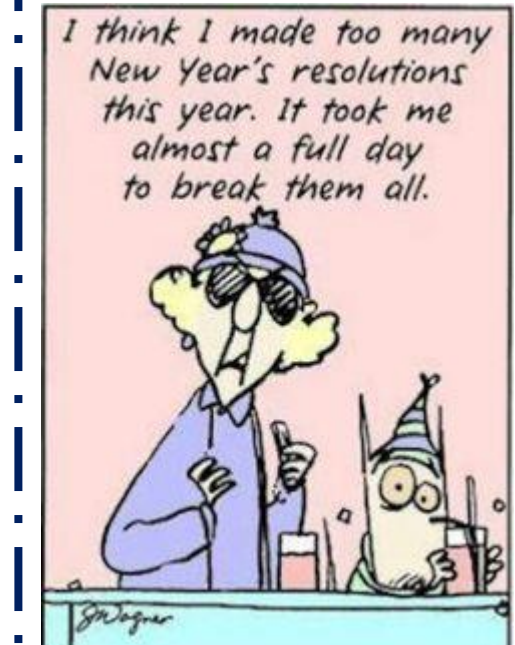
When asked what drew Don and Angela Balascak to the Kiwanis Club of Carefree, the answer came quickly and easily: the value the Club brings to kids and the opportunity to give back to the community. Specifically, they were excited to be part of a Club that through its grants, scholarships and programs helps young people be exposed to and identify future opportunities.

Don and Angela are looking forward to serving the community together and were impressed immediately with the many ways in which they can get involved in the Club. In fact, Don was recruited into his first committee when he attended his inaugural meeting. He said it was impossible not to get swept up into the excitement and energy of the Club members.

Angela is a pharmacist by training and is now in a role that allows her to be on the business side of the profession working for the largest Medicaid health insurance organization in the US.

Don has a business and marketing background and now owns his own business which specializes in healthcare insurance.

They lived in Canada, Minnesota, and Texas before making the north Scottsdale area their "forever home" three years ago. They have two grown children and when not working and volunteering enjoy hiking, traveling, and cooking.



How "New Year's Resolutions" can happen and succeed:

"Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives."

WILLIAM JAMES