

## Channel 10/36 Auction, may I help you?

Five members of the club cheerfully used this phrase while answering phones at an annual favorite project, the Channel 10/36 Auction. For several hours one night in April, the Kiwanians answered phones taking bids for a variety of auction items in support of Milwaukee Public Television.

Some of this year's most popular items included wolf paintings, golf packages, Harley-Davidson logo gear and autographed sports team apparel (*particularly hockey sticks*). Perhaps the most excitement is generated over the popular "steals." A steal occurs when there are multiple items of a particular product, such as a gift certificate for a homemade apple pie. These items are auctioned off at a fixed price to the first several callers. As soon as a steal is announced, the phones go crazy, and so does the call center. Volunteers on the phone scream "STEAL" and wave their hands frantically in the air until a "runner" provides a bright orange "steal sell sheet." It's sheer madness and excitement!

And, for those of you who have participated in the auction in the past, you may have been seated at a manual phone station where you were required to handwrite information for each caller. Well, now manual orders are a thing of the past! The call center now uses computers to reduce call time and allow for even more bids.

Only Kiwanians with skills can handle this job. You have to be fast on the phone, a good typist, and customer-service friendly. Those who were truly dedicated even stayed until the auction's midnight end for five hours of furious phone action!

This fun and worthwhile event is always preceded by dinner provided by volunteers at the station (*this year we even had rootbeer slushies, YUM!*) and a thorough training to prevent any confusion upon entering the call center. Given the continued success of this project, I think we would all agree this will be a favorite volunteer opportunity for years to come!

- Anne Merchich

## Upcoming Events:

**8/18** Betty Brinn Children's Museum. 5-8 pm  
Volunteers needed to staff SAFE KIDS safety information booth!

**8/20** Arthritis Foundation Run/Walk to Irish Fest  
Volunteers needed!

**11/4** 6th Annual BrewFest  
Tickets available in September

## Events and district news

On behalf of the membership recruitment and social committee, thank you to everyone who came to our Jackson Park clean-up and social! We had a great turnout and the park definitely looked cleaner when we were finished. And, a special thank you to those who brought a guest.

- Metro Milwaukee Knights Kiwanis Social Committee

**An election was held on May 28 to vote for the first regional trustee of the Gateway Region** -- primarily located in southeastern Wisconsin consisting of divisions 1, 2, 6, and 8. **Duane LaFrenz has been elected to represent our region and will serve a three-year term.**

The primary responsibility of the trustee is to take an active role in decision-making and determining the course of district plans and programs. The trustee has direct connection with the district office and the governor. The trustee will work with the Lt. Governors to keep them abreast of district on goings. This new position will allow the Lt. Governors to spend more time with the clubs in their division. And, yours truly will be one of the Lt. Governors. I went to training late June and am even more excited to be part of such a great global organization. I feel that our club has so much to offer, in particular, our activity and excitement. I hope to be able to spread some of our strengths to some of the other clubs in the area.

Finally, one of the big changes coming from Kiwanis International is a new Defining Statement:

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

Let's all keep this in mind as we finish this year and move into next year.

- Kristie Gillen

## Lions, tigers, and bears ... ha ha

I found myself re-acquainting to my long absent friend, the sun, on the afternoon of Saturday, April 30, 2005. It's not that I left my jacket in the car because I was quick to welcome the first signs of warm weather, it was just the kind of morning that you leave your jacket in the car. After all, it was a genuine nice sunny spring morning to spend with **Safe Kids at the Milwaukee County Zoo**.

After taking a quick tour of the animals, Liz Feyen, Kelli Powell, and I signed in and manned our posts. Later I found out that Dan Depies had been there too, somewhere by the antelopes I think. Having been assigned to the Wisconsin Poison Control Center Poison Prevention booth, I will tell you about my experiences there rather than to speculate on what was going on at the Home Safety, Motor Vehicle Safety, Burn Prevention, Water Safety, or Play Safety booths.

Cathy Smith of the Wisconsin Poison Control greeted me when I arrived at the booth. After a quick training session on how to present the information, I began greeting the families taking part in the day's events. We handed out literature, Mr. Yuck coloring pages, and Poison Help Line refrigerator magnets. In fact, my magnet reminds me of the phone number, (800) 222-1222 and I can call to get advice on any poison-related situation. For example, Cathy taught me there are parts of the Rhubarb plant (think pie) that are very poisonous -- or perhaps my dog drinks some automotive antifreeze -- I could call the helpline for advice on what to do.

By the end of the afternoon, the weather had gotten much cooler and started to drizzle. Activity was diminishing and I was finally beginning to wish I had brought my jacket. The monkeys across the path sensed this and were huddling closer together as if to conspire as we were packing up the booth.

You can find out more about Safe Kids, poison, or monkeys by contacting Darren Hamm.

**Ask Steve!** Your source for answers to all of life's greatest, and some not so great, questions ...

*Dear Steve: Why does an orange float in the water?*

*Signed, O. Julius*

Dear Mr. Julius: An orange floats on water because the peel is less dense than the water. For example, if you put a rock in a styrofoam cooler, the cooler will float.

On a related note, if you peel an orange, it will not float as the orange itself is denser than water.

*(Source: Argonne National Library (University of Chicago))*

*Dear Steve: What is the Maryvale complex used for once the Brewers are done with spring training? (They have 8 baseball fields)*

*Signed, Bernie B.*

Dear Bernie: For those who don't know, the Maryvale Baseball Park is located in Phoenix and home to the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team for spring training. The original plan for the baseball complex was to host both the Chicago White Sox and the Brewers, but the White Sox ended up in Tucson. The Brewers moved from Chandler to Maryvale when they made the move from the American League to the National League in '98. It was built and is operated by the City of Phoenix, so essentially, it's a public park.

When the Brewers aren't using the facility for spring training, the facility is open to the public for events and festivals. Some noteworthy events at the park include:

*Mid-June: Sunshine West Showcase - where many professional baseball prospects show off their skills with hopes of getting noticed by Major League scouts*

*Early July: Fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day*

*Fall: Baseball season winds down (October, November), complex is home to the Maryvale Saguaros, who play in the Arizona Fall League*

*(Sources: BaseballParks.com, City of Phoenix, Phoenix Chamber of Commerce)*

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