

Minutes of the General Meeting December 6th, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Bill Wilson, President. There were 27 members, 2 guests, and three guest speakers present.

Bill Wilson led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Gwynn Rucker led the members in prayer.

Bill Wilson led the group in singing “Jingle Bells.”

Program: Bill Wilson introduced Toby Thomason, Principle, Fred Moore High School and Kelly Fiore-Watson, Special Ed and Arts Teacher at Fred Moore.

Toby provided a history of Fred Moore High School. Originally established in 1909, Fred Moore High School was first named Fred Douglas High School, serving the African-American community. In 1948, the building where the campus currently stands was built. Two years later in 1950, the school was renamed after Fred Moore, a former teacher and principal at Douglas High who remained connected to the community. It is the legacy of Fred Moore and his rise from poverty to attain an advanced degree that inspires the work of the staff and students at Fred Moore High School.

Kelly provided heartwarming examples of several students who overcame major life challenges to receive their High School diploma. She highlighted the school staffing and the uniqueness of how each student works to attain their diploma.

Fred Moore High School helps students to stay in school – especially those facing challenging circumstances. It is a great alternative for students who want a change from the traditional high school setting. To enhance that compassionate learning environment, Fred Moore offers small classes and flexible schedules within regular school hours, to assist students in accelerating their academic goals.

- Early graduation. There are two graduation ceremonies each year in the Fall and Spring.
- Recommended and distinguished diplomas. Fred Moore students receive the same high-school diplomas offered by the district’s traditional campuses that are accepted at all accredited colleges and universities.
- Rigorous curriculum. Coursework is provided online, and each FMHS student is provided a device on which to work. Lessons are completed independently with teacher tutoring and support. The course work is accelerated to require 10 semester credits versus the normal 8.
- Accelerated pacing. Students are enrolled in the next course on their graduation plan as soon as they are ready, rather than at the end of the semester.
- Field trips. They offer outings that promote STEM enrichment, cultural awareness, and college and career readiness.



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- Scholarship opportunities. The staff encourages and assists with scholarship opportunities and applications. The Kiwanis Club will provide two \$750 scholarships this year.

Program: Bill Wilson introduced Bobby Quinten, TX-OK Kiwanis District Governor.

The Governor highlighted a part of the mission of Kiwanis – “One Child at a Time” with the examples of the Comfort Dolls and the message from Fred Moore High School of focusing on one child at a time to make a difference in their lives.

The Governor covered his Kiwanis history and responsibilities for the upcoming year. He will travel extensively to cover the two large states of Texas and Oklahoma to visit clubs. He has an ambitious goal of increasing the number of clubs and members in the 2024-2025 year.

The Governor presented Bill Wilson with a Governors Pin in recognition of Bill’s role as the club President this year. He also presented Jim Galbraith with a Governors Pin in recognition of Jim’s role as a past Governor of the Southwest District and Jim’s unwavering support of Kiwanis.

Club Business Items

- Randy Blackburn updated the members on the Salvation Army volunteer bell-ringing. The first week went well with some weather issues on Wednesday. There are still a few openings for next week – December 9th thru the 12th. Thanks to all for helping.
- Randy Blackburn reported that the Wreaths Across America sales went very well. There were 190 wreaths purchased. This was a great first year success. Randy invited members to attend any of the local Ceremonies on December 14th and recommended some of the local, smaller cemeteries for being the most accessible.
- Ed Ahrens updated on Our Daily Bread volunteering for December 11th, 12th, and 13th and will publish the signup for January.
- Comfort Dolls will not meet in December.
- Roy Meyer reported on getting ready for the Christmas meal delivery to Cumberland Youth and Family. He is waiting for Cumberland to provide information about gifts.
- Linda and Timothy Munz will deliver the Rainbow Room Christmas gifts for the kids this Friday afternoon.

Announcements and Reminders

- Dave Riddle sent word that the coat drive was successful again with over 60 coats contributed by our members.
- The Club Holiday Social is scheduled for December 18th at the Grill from 5 to 8 pm.
- The first Bingo of 2025 will be on January 26th.
- There will be no general meeting on December 20th.



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Club Member Updates

- Birthdays – Greg Laffey (12-8), Marv Daniels (12-19), Jerry Waynant (12-25), Jeff Frick (12-27)
- Anniversaries – Bill and Dolores Wilson (12-6)

Happy Dollars followed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Submitted – Ed Ahrens



Bill, Toby Thomason, and Kelly Fiore-Watson



TX-OK Kiwanis Governor - Bobby Quinten



Thanks to Linda and Timothy Munz for collecting the toys for the Rainbow Room



It was windy and cold ringing the Salvation Army Bell Ringing!



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Governor Quinten with Bill Wilson



Jim Galbraith with Governor Quinten