



Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of Robson Ranch

www.kcrobsonranch.org

Minutes of General Meeting April 19th, 2024

- The meeting was called to order by Barbara Leurig, President. There were 23 members, 2 guests who are becoming members, and 2 guest speakers present.
- Barbara Leurig led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Gene Heathcoat led the members in prayer.
- Barbara Leurig led the group in singing "God Bless America"
- Roy Meyer introduced the guests at the meeting.
- Program - Barbara introduced guest speaker, Christine Mann, Executive Director, from Refuge for Women.
 - The members welcomed Christine for her presentation about Refuge for Women.
 - Refuge for Women is the nation's largest non-profit, faith based organization that provides a continuum of care for women, age 18 and older, who have escaped human trafficking or sexual exploitation. The North Texas site is one of six locations across the US. Refuge offers up to 2 years of safe housing, at no charge to the resident, with 24 hour a day staffing. The program is designed with evidence-based curriculum, and staff is trained to help resident recognize their goals in life, assist them in reaching those goals, and facilitate healing.
 - Christine offered some alarming statistics about sex trafficking. A new victim is added every 30 seconds to this crime which is the most under reported crime in the US. She reviewed the most used locations where victims are solicited. Christine provided insight on how victims are initially groomed and the follow on steps of creating dependency, controlling the victim, and then the constant threat of violence if the victim attempts to leave the trafficker. This process leads to years of trauma that requires a program such as Refuge for Women to assist the victim to recover their lives.
 - Please see the Refuge for Women North Texas website at –
- Program - Barbara introduced Linda Smith representing the Community Clothes Closet in Justin.
 - Linda is a Robson resident who, with her husband, founded the Community Clothes Closet in Justin, TX about 12 years ago. The center has grown to supporting 91 counties in the area with free clothes for those needing help. Clients are asked to have appointments to come shop to help with coordinating the large number of people coming to the center. On a typical shopping day, 3,000 clothing items are provided to clients.
 - The Kiwanis Club donated \$1,500 to the center from the volunteering efforts at Trivia Night.

Please see the Community Clothes Closet website at -

<http://www.communityclothescloset.net/>



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➤ Club Business Items

- Barbara Leurig updated the members on the May 2nd Trivia Night. Ticket sales were held on Wednesday, April 17th with 293 tickets sold.
- Ed Ahrens updated the members on the next volunteer days of May 7th, 8th, and 9th at Our Daily Bread in Denton. We will staff the 11:00 to 1:30 Kitchen – Lunch Server time slot.
- Roy Meyer reported there are currently 22 vendors signed up for the Craft Bazaar. We are posting on the HOA announcements, Facebook pages, and NextDoor sites and submitted an article to the Pioneer Press. He asked for volunteers sign up to help on the April 27th event to assist vendors in set-up and takedown.
- Barbara announced to the members that nominations for Officers and two Board Members for the upcoming 2024-2025 year are still open. She encouraged everyone to consider serving in any of these capacities. Elections will be at the May 3rd meeting.
- Barbara reminded the members of the opportunity to recognize one of our members as the “Layperson of the Year”. Barbara asked for members to consider who might be considered for this recognition.
- Barbara reminded the members of the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention that will be held in Denver, CO on July 3rd to 5th and the 2024 TX-OK District Convention that will be in Tahlequah, OK on July 25th to 27th. Members were invited to express their interest in attending.
- Gwynn Rucker announced a Ladies Luncheon supporting Our Daily Bread on May 23rd and invited members to join in to attend the luncheon.

➤ Announcements/Reminders

- Bill Wilson continues to ask for members to recommend speakers for our meetings.
- Members were reminded to bring hygiene items for the Interfaith Ministries program.
- Comfort Dolls will meet April 24th at 10:00 am in the Bluebonnet Room at the CATA.
- The next meeting will be May 3rd in the Lounge at the Grill.

➤ Club Member Updates

- Birthdays – Jim Galbraith – April 21st and Chris Laffey on April 23rd

➤ Happy Dollars followed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.



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Christine Mann of Refuge for Women



Linda Smith of the Community Clothes Closet in Justin