

Lawrence St. Patrick's Day Parade

Press Release 3-9-2009

Sunday night, at a traditional Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage, the Lawrence St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Crowned its 2009 Parade Queen. Each year the Parade Committee selects one queen candidate to be a special representative in the pageantry. Each of the other candidates also participates in the parade as the Queen's Court. "Choosing only one of these young ladies is a very difficult task and in no way diminishes the efforts and hard work of the others...or the pride that all we feel in their achievements," said Mike Lohmann, committee co-chair. "We were very lucky to find seven hard working young ladies to assist this year in the parade committee. We cannot thank them enough for their commitment to the committee, the community, and our charities." Committee members vote for the Queen based upon her efforts in obtaining charitable contributions, assisting with the parade activities, and overall personality. This is a very challenging volunteer position and it requires dedication.



This year's Queen Candidates (left to right) were Laura Wagner, Nicholina Chronister, Megan Glotzbach, Jenny Schwering, Taylor King, Jenny Kratz, and Hester Black



The 2009 St. Patrick's Day Queen is Taylor King. She is currently a Junior at the University of Kansas. She plans to study abroad next year in Ireland, where she will also play basketball.

Each of the four charities chosen by the committee this year provided a spokesperson to describe how they plan of to put the funds to work. Boys and Girls Club of New York Elementary will support their afterschool program. Lawrence Parents as teachers plans to purchase hearing screening equipment and provide teaching support for families with children from birth to age three. GaDuGi will furnish a child friendly, safe interview room at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The Lawrence High School Positive Support Team will use the money to provide incentives and school supplies for at risk students.

Announcements were also made about fund raising progress thus far at the various activities hosted by the St. Patrick's Day Committee. T-shirt sales have exceeded \$7,500. The Pub Quiz Trivia Night raised over \$3,000. The Charity Benefit Auction brought in a little over \$32,000. Totals for Saturday's events have not been finalized as yet but, the Dart Tournament and Chili contest at the Red Lyon along with the record breaking, 619 participants at the 5K Shamrock Shuffle on the river levee and at Johnny's should exceed \$12,000. This means the Committee's efforts this year will bring its 22 year total proceeds to an amount in excess of one-half million dollars. The Committee still has two events to go. Next Saturday the Luck-of-the-Irish Motorcycle Run will start at Slow Ride Roadhouse in Lawrence at 12 noon, registration begins at 10:30am. The rally will travel to Topeka, Oskaloosa, Tonganoxie, and back to Lawrence to end at the Jet Lag around 4:00pm. Then on Tuesday, March 17th at 1:00pm the Lawrence St. Patrick's Day Parade will begin at South Park travel through downtown and North Lawrence.

Information and pictures from this event and all other Parade Committee activities can be found at <http://lawrencestpatricksdaysparade.com>