



# THE COMMUNICATOR

## Portage Lakes Kiwanis Year in Review

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Year in Review	1
a) Santa Delivery	
b) New Years Eve	
c) Monopoly Game	
d) New Members	
e) Celebration at Sr. Towers	
Euchre Tournament & Project Eliminate	2
Presidents Day Dinner	2
Acme Receipts	3
Birthday's, Anniversaries Club & Personal	3
Dates to Remember	3
Key Clubs	3
What can you do to help?	4

What a year the Kiwanis had in 2013! Everyone in the club joined together to make this a wonderfully productive year for all involved including the community.

We celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Kiwaniis Sr. Towers" with a wonderful dinner on the lawn provided by local area restaurant "-----" and were able to enjoy the company of many of the residents of the towers.

We inducted the following 3 new members into Portage Lakes Kiwanis

- 1) Kat Rebovich
- 2) Cheryl Luck
- 3) Kerri Gleisinger

There was also a monopoly game created which was based around the Portage Lakes Area. And with the help of Club members, Members of the Secret Sisters organization, Akron Coin & Jewelry, Turkeyfoot Lanes, Kieffer Marina sales of the 350 games has been terrific. We have approximately 23 games left to date.

We held the annual Pirate Days on the Lake festivities which started with the Reverse Raffle/ Silent Auction and was followed by the Treasure Hunt. Followed by the Hotdog Eating Contest and Dunk Tank Sponsored by The Upper Deck. And the Thank you

dinner on Sunday Sponsored by Akron Coin & Jewelry & Dusty's Landing.

There was a fish fry. All fish were caught by our own Larry Hunter, Chuck Seeley, Al Grzeschik and a few more individuals. The Pig Roast. We had several guest speakers.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at the Tudor House in New Franklin with a record number of children in attendance.

And let's not forget Rose Remembrance Day. With Tom Burge and all the people who helped run the office and deliver Roses. Yes they actually sold out of Roses a day early this year.

A Fund Raising Committee was started within the Portage Lakes Kiwanis which with the help of outside vendor Kerri's Confections this committee was able to do some pretty terrific things over the holiday's.

Santa Delivery this year was a sight to behold. *A total of 15 Santa's - their sleigh's, elf's, driver's and other helpers* ( including but not limited to the Summit County Sheriff's Department ) were able to deliver approximately 2,737 gifts and 120 extra gifts for children who just happened to pop up to see Santa.

There were a total of 749 stops made in the Portage Lakes on Christmas Eve.

After all the calculations were done it is estimated that there were approximately 1,000 man hours of volunteer time put into this time honored project. Thank you to all who took time from their own festivities and families over the holidays and in the weeks leading up to Santa Delivery. If you take a minute and review our Facebook page I think all will agree by the comments that were made. It was definitely worth all the hard work .

And after all of this many Kiwanis Members and their spouses and family rang in the new year with a Bang.

The New Year's Eve party was hosted by our own Chuck & Betty Seeley with help from Frank & Bonnie Smith, Phil & Judy Pinnow, Larry & Judy Hunter, Vickie Kepnes and her daughter Kimberly.

Other city's drop the Ball on New Year's Eve! Here in Portage Lakes we have started a new tradition

( see article below )

**Special points of interest:**

- WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR KEY CLUBS
- Upcoming events
- 

**Bluegill Drop Marks Arrival of 2014**

Portage Lakes Kiwanians and friends gathered at the Kiwanis Civic Center to ring in the new year with the first annual " **Portage Lakes Bluegill Drop** " at the stroke of midnight.

Larry Hunter officiated at the unique celebration which included food, fun and games.



First Annual Project Eliminate Euchre Tournament

Acme Receipts

We are still collect the Acme Receipts with Community Cash back Dollars listed on the bottom. To date we have collected \$ 2,333.16 in receipts. Everytime we turn these in the club gets .05% back of the total amount. Please turn all your receipts into:  
Vicki Kepnes

As we have mentioned in earlier editions of The Communicator - Several of the local area Kiwanis Clubs have joined together to hold a " Euchre Tournament " this tournament will be held at:  
Civic Center  
725 Portage Lakes Drive  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
Time: 6:30 pm  
The cost is \$ 30.00 per couple to play. Or \$ 15.00 per individual,

no partner, no worries we will find you a partner. This will be a fun, fast paced night of cards with refreshments, 50/50 and silent auction items.

All proceeds will be donated to the:  
**Kiwanis International Project Elimination Fund.**  
Think about it play card, enjoy good food, good comp-

any and be donating to a worth cause all at the same time.

For pre registration please contact:

Al Grzeschik @ 330-644-8967

And secure your postion now.

## Presidents Dinner

Have you ever lived somewhere that you really don't know the people around you. Or where people aren't very outgoing? Well **Portage Lakes** is not one of those communities. Portage Lakes is a place where not only the individuals who live here but the local area business's and organizations reach out a helping hand and make this community a place that people are proud to live in.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row Portage Lakes Kiwanis will host the:

President's Day Dinner  
February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
6:30 pm  
Civic Center  
725 Portage Lakes Dr.

The evening will consist of Dinner – cost \$ 10.00 each. Fellowship and a time to hear a brief summary of some of the local organizations and what they do. After the meeting should you have any questions or just want more information on a specific organization there will be a time where you can talk to the President's and find out more about them. Possibly commit to an organization that may be searching for volunteer's.

It's a terrific way to learn more about your community and the things going on within that community. Bring a friend, a cousin or other family member and join us for a few hours.

If interested please contact the Civic Center to place your reservation for the evening.

2014  
Upcoming Tours by  
Glen

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Jersey  
boys Musical @  
Cleveland Playhouse

May 16-17<sup>th</sup>  
Moses Lancaster, PA

July Taste of  
Chicago  
3 nite – 4 day

If interested contact  
Glen @  
330-644-6124

**BIRTHDAY'S – ANNIVERSARIES – CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**  
**JANUARY**

BIRTHDAY'S

ANNIVERSARIES

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Longworth January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Tom & Joyce Longworth - January 1<sup>st</sup> – 65 years  
 Cynthia & Don Weaver - January 11th

Tom Fry - 4 years

**KIWANIS FAMILY**

Please keep the following members and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go through some trying times over the next several months:

Robert Dengler – was last reported to be on oxygen full time now. Please keep Robert and his wife Helga in your thoughts and daily prayers.

Judy Hunter – Port was installed and the chemo administered. They have since removed the port and Judy appears to be doing well since receiving treatment.

Scott Shookman – has completed his chemo treatments and will be seeing the surgeon in Chicago this week. For further updates on Scott please visit his wall at caringbridge.com.

Tom Varley's son in law Jeff – is receiving chemo twice a week at Cleveland Clinic and appears well.

**KEY CLUB NEWS**

**ELLET:** Collected \$ 70.00 for UNICEF /Project Eliminate. They are also making crafts to raise money for Wounded Warriors. Last weekend they participated in a Craft Show. And the week of November 4th through 8th they dedicated to doing small but AWESOME things around the school such as collecting gifts for the “ Holiday Toy Room Program “

**MANCHESTER:** Participated in Rose Day Delivery—with the money that they earned helping deliver Roses they bought supplies and made up 75 lunches for “ Spring Time of Hope . “ The are currently searching “ dosomething.org “ for other service projects for the remainder of the year.

**COVENTRY:**

Please continue to watch this section for updated news about our Key Clubs.

**CIVIC CENTER**

Is proud to announce that due to the fundraising and donations received in the 2013 year there was enough money in the budget to be able to:

- 1) Replace the linoleum floors
- 2) Replace the carpet

In the Civic Center. It has been several years or more since either of these projects have been done. The floors are being re placed by our own Gene Cole & Al Grzeschik.

New Carpeting will be installed shortly after the floors are completed.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

We are trying to schedule having a Guest Speaker the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. And we would like to have it be someone you are interested in hearing from. SO.....  
 If there is someone in particular you would like to hear speak at one of our regular Wednesday Night Meetings please contact Jeff Goodwin and Let him know.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

January 15<sup>th</sup> -- Regular Meeting / Guest Speaker  
 James Geary – Western reserve Trout Unlimited

January 16<sup>th</sup> -- Pirate Days Treasure Hunt Meeting  
 Portage Lakes Library 6:30pm

January 22<sup>nd</sup> -- Regular Meeting

January 29<sup>th</sup> -- Regular Meeting / Board Meeting

February 1<sup>st</sup> -- Euchre Tournament – Project Eliminate Fundraiser

February 5<sup>th</sup> -- Regular Meeting

February 12<sup>th</sup>-- Regular Meeting

February 19<sup>th</sup> -- Presidents Day Dinner

February 26<sup>th</sup>-- Regular Meeting / Board Meeting

**REMINDER TO ALL BOARD MEETINGS:**

All Board Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted.  
 Please try to be in attendance as much as possible as the board needs your vote.



**Kiwanis**  
International



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