



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

April 16, 2023



SCOTT SHOOKMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This year we have 13 scholarship applicants from Manchester and 19 scholarship applicants from Coventry. Our club will provide four \$1500 scholarships; two for Manchester students and two for Coventry students. It was a difficult decision as there were many highly qualified students, but the scholarship committee has chosen the recipients and they will be announced soon. On May 4th President Larry Hunter will present the scholarships at the Senior Awards Night at Manchester High School, and on May 16th Larry will present the scholarships at the Coventry High School awards night. The scholarship committee consists of: Sam Reynolds, chair, Becky Shookman, Gene Cole, and Cathy Dietz. As you can see on the walls of the Civic Center, the scholarship program has been around for a very long time, and PLK has financially helped many many students in their undergraduate studies. Wednesday, May 31st our annual Scholarship Banquet will be held at the Civic Center for the recipients and their families. Please make plans to attend to support the winners and learn more about this amazing program that is supported by the Shookman family.



The shoe drive has begun! If you have shoes you no longer want, please donate to our cause of helping third world countries. You can drop off shoes any Wednesday evening from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. A container will be put out soon for drop off any time. Connie Vaughan is the chair of the shoe drive. Please contact her at dreamcricket@aol.com if you need any additional information or need a pick up.

EASTER EGG HUNT WRAP-UP

Our annual community Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at the Tudor House. The day started out a bit chilly but turned into a beautiful day. The festivities included games, balloon pop, fire truck visit, the Easter Bunny, the egg hunt, bubbles, train rides, and much more. Thank you to the New Franklin Fire Department for bringing in one of their trucks, the kids love that; also to the Police Officers that visited. Thanks to the Tudor House for hosting our event, thanks to the Little Roaming Railroad, the train went out full every time. Thanks to the Manchester Key Club, the Coventry Key Club, and the Green HS Junior ROTC kids for all of their help. GASP was on hand advocating child safety. Thank you to ALL Kiwanis members that helped out too; Juanita Gehm's group that manned the balloon pop, the ones who had games and activities for the kids, all that helped put out the Easter eggs, Vicki Kepnes for bringing donuts and beverages, Al Grzeschik and his crew for hauling all the supplies and setting up. It really does take a village and you are all very much appreciated. Many thanks to Connie Nagy for chairing this event.



HELLO
I am a

New Member



On Wednesday, April 12th our club welcomed new member Helen Thigpen. Helen is the mother of member Crystal Cianciola and Crystal is Helen's sponsor. Helen is a long time member of the Portage Lakes Community. Larry Hunter led the Induction Ceremony. Helen and Crystal will both be a tremendous asset to our club. We welcome them to our Kiwanis family.



On Wednesday, April 12th, Cheryl Luck the Branch Manager of the Portage Lakes Library came in and gave us a presentation. You would be amazed at the services the Library has to offer. Did you know...you can borrow a whole lot of 'things' at the Library ranging from cake pans to a nifty do-dad that connects to your laptop and gets you internet services at any hot spot. Very cool stuff! Thank you to Cheryl and to everyone that attended. Please visit their web site to see all of the services our local library offers at www.akronlibrary.org. Thank you also to Chuck Seeley for arranging our speakers.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

On Wednesday, April 26th, Mr. George Fisk, the Superintendent from the Coventry School District will be in to speak with us and get us up to speed on all the activities happening within the District.

On Wednesday, May 3rd, Mr. Shaun Morgan, Superintendent from the Manchester School District will come in and speak with us about everything going on within the Manchester Schools...which is a LOT. The District has many new and exciting things happening over the next few years.

Please attend these meetings to support our speakers and learn what is happening in our own backyards.



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The last few years our club has had a float in the New Franklin Memorial Day Parade. Vice President Steve Hess is the chair of this event, and will be having a meeting Wednesday, May 3rd following our regular meeting. If you can help with this project please plan to attend. This is a great way to show our presence in the community.



Our Club will be holding our annual elections in mid May. If you would like to serve as an officer or as a board member please see Al Grzeschik. You can also nominate a member to serve if you think they would be a good fit.



On Thursday, May 4th, 2023 the Norton Kiwanis Club will be holding their annual Prayer Breakfast at Grace Church located at 3970 Cleveland Massillon Road in Norton. The event begins at 7:00 am and the tickets to attend are \$20.00. The guest speaker is Jean Watson Roberts. Tickets can be purchased from any Norton Kiwanis member or via their Facebook page.

UP-COMING KIWANIS EVENTS

This Tuesday, April 18th is the Division 16 monthly meeting. It will be held at the Norton Community Center and begins at 6:30 pm. The West Akron Club will be the host for this meeting and the topic of conversation will be club social media platforms/technology, membership, and fundraising.

Thursday, May 18th will be the monthly Division 16 meeting. This will be hosted by the Bath-Richfield Club and the meeting will be at 7:00 pm following their regular club meeting. This will be at Fellowship Hall, 3909 Broadview Road, Richfield, OH 44286. Dinner will be available for \$11.00 at 6:00 pm, RSVP is required.

The Kiwanis International Convention will be held June 21-24, 2023 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Registration is now open to sign up for this event. It is always a good thing to have our Club represented at any of the conventions; local, Ohio, or International. Our Club will sponsor two members to attend this event. If you are interested please let Cathy know so we can get you registered. cathy.dietz61@gmail.com

The Ohio District Convention will be held August 11-13, 2023 in Springfield, Ohio. Registration will be opening up soon. Our club will sponsor two members to attend this event. If you are interested please let Cathy know. cathy.dietz61@gmail.com

If you have any questions, or need any additional information on any of these events, please ask!

BIRTHDAYS:

04/03 Connie Vaughan
04/20 Vicki Kepnes
04/30 Steve Hess

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

John Schermesser - 42 years
Glen Sheets - 28 years
Anthony Ponikvar - 1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

04/01 Don & Marie Reilly
04/03 Paul & Betty Schuckert
04/03 Anthony & Marcia Ponikvar
04/11 Robert & Rebecca Goff
04/15 Debbie & Mike Rubino

KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS:

Please keep the following Kiwanians in special thought and prayer:
Phil Pinnow
Frank Smith
Betty Friess

If you know of any members that are in need of prayer, please let me know. I will be happy to add them to our prayer list.

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

>April 18, Division 16 meeting at Norton Community Center
>April 19, Committee Meetings/Regular Meeting
>April 26, Regular Meeting and Board Meeting and speaker George Fisk
Superintendent of the Coventry Schools

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

>May 3, Speaker Shaun Morgan Superintendent of the Manchester Schools
>May 29, New Franklin Memorial Day Parade
>May 31, Scholarship Dinner at Civic Center
>June 25, Buckeye Martin Fest
>July 29, Pirate Day on the Lake
>August 12, Dragons on the Lake Festival



ALL ABOUT PLK...Our club is currently meeting every Wednesday. You can join us at 6:30 pm for dinner, which is catered by Lukity's Restaurant, a full meal for just \$14.00, or you can attend any meeting which begins at 7:00 pm. We'd love to have you.

**We meet at the Civic Center, located at 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, OH 44319.
Telephone number (330) 644-8967.**

Our website is: www.plkiwanis.org and please check out and like our Facebook page too, under Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

KIWANIS MISSION STATEMENT - Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Published on the first and third week of the month, Cathy Dietz, Editor.