



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

August 6, 2023



Our annual Fish Fry will be held at the Civic Center on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Tickets are \$20.00 each and can be purchased from President Larry Hunter. Please bring a covered dish to share. Please make plans to attend and get your tickets soon, this is usually a sold out event.



A Celebration of Life for member Betty Friess will be held at the Civic Center on Saturday August 12, 2023 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Betty passed away on June 24th, please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. Betty's obituary can be viewed at newcomerakron.com



New member Debbie Doan was inducted into our club on Wednesday, July 26th. Debbie is the daughter of Tom Longworth one of our original founders, and Tom is her sponsor. Debbie has been around the Kiwanis family for many years and we are honored to have her officially join our club. Be sure to welcome her! The Induction ceremony was led by Dale Dietz.



Each year, the Dragons on the Lake Dragon Boat Festival brings together more than 1,500 paddlers and spectators to the beach at Portage Lakes State Park for a day of community, camaraderie and competition. Teams of 20 paddlers compete for top honors in three different divisions: Corporate, Community and Breast Cancer Survivor. The festival this year will be held on Saturday, August 12th. Many from our club will be there

to volunteer to help things run smoothly. It's not too late to sign up, please let Al know if you want to help. It is always a fun and inspiring event.



COVENTRY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

CORN ROAST &
LOW COUNTRY BOIL

AUG. 26 | 5 - 9 P.M.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

THIS EVENT ALWAYS SELLS OUT!

PRIME VINE
WINERY & EVENT CENTER

The Annual Corn Roast & Low Country Boil is a fundraising event for Coventry Local School teacher grants and student scholarships. This is one of their biggest fundraisers of the year! Join the Coventry School Foundation at this year's Corn Roast and a Low Country Boil! This elevated event is at Prime Vine Winery in Portage Lakes, OH. Great food, paired with great wine & spirits, live entertainment by our favorite PastTime Band, raffle baskets, a silent auction, 50/50, and so much more!

Presale tickets are available for \$40. After Aug. 1, ticket sales increase to \$45 per person and \$50 at the door. This event ALWAYS sells out! The Coventry Schools Foundation supports students and teachers by providing scholarships and teacher grants. Last year, we gave \$5,000 in scholarships and \$10,000 in teacher grants. We rely on donations and a few fundraisers each year to support our Coventry students and teachers financially.

Even though it is after August 1st, please see member Crystal Cianciola, who is on the Coventry Schools Foundation Board, and she will get you tickets for \$40.00. Thank you for your support.

Twilight Boat Ride Purple Martin Migration Tour

Every year from August through mid-September hundreds of Purple Martins flock to local Nimisila Reservoir in Green Ohio, to settle in the reeds overnight as they prepare for migration back to South America. The PLPMA offers Twilight Boat Rides from early August through Labor Day to experience this wonder of nature. Cost is \$35 per person and Reservations are REQUIRED. Our 2- 2.5-hour narrated tour will include the history of Nimisila with opportunities to see Eagles, Osprey, Herons, Cormorants, and many other birds and wildlife who call the area home. Nimisila offers spectacular sunsets to enjoy as you wait for the birds to gather. The aerial show is something you really need to see.

You can book your spot directly for the pontoon boatripe at portagelakespurplemartins.com. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Lukac, President of the Portage Lakes Purple Martins.



PIRATE DAY 2023...A RAINY SUCCESS

Our annual Pirate Day was held on Saturday July 29th at the Portage Lakes State Park swim beach. I have not heard the attendance count, but there was a LOT of people that attended. A million thanks to Dana Roderick, Pirate Day chair and all of her crew...it takes a village to run this event and we owe our thanks to sooo many, including Pirates of the Rusty Cutlass, those that volunteered their boats, the pirates that manned Pirate Island, the Jeep invaders, mermaids and pirates, the food trucks, local community vendors, the Little Roaming Railroad, those that ran the registration table and the craft tables, and of course each and every one of our Kiwanis members that were present. The rains came and went until we were hit with a pretty good monsoon. In spite of the weather everyone had a great time. Once again, thank you to **EVERYONE** that participated in any way, this event would not be possible without you!



OHIO STATE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Please turn in all money and tickets THIS Wednesday August 9th. The drawing will be held next week and one lucky winner will receive the grand prize which is two tickets to the seven home games the Ohio State Football team will play. The seats are located in

Section 22 , row 26 on the 45 yard line. Thanks to Steve Hess, Chair for handling the ticket sales and thanks to EVERYONE that sold tickets. You can still buy tickets at the meeting this week.



On Saturday November 4th our club will hold a Quarter Auction fundraiser at the Barberton Moose which is on 31st Street in Barberton. We will have local vendors like Color Street, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, etc to be present to sell their wares and each will be asked to donate a basket to be raffled off. How the auction works: You will bid on quality vendor raffle baskets with one to four quarters, depending on the retail value. Bids are then collected in the basket provided and you hold your paddle up. A randomly chosen number is called. If the person with that paddle number placed a bid, he or she wins the item. Numbers will continue to be drawn until there is a basket winner.

In addition we will have a ticket raffle with baskets donated by club members and businesses in the community. There will be a 50/50 raffle and food available for purchase. The auction will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 pm with doors opening at 3:00 pm for registration and vendor shopping. Tickets will be \$10.00 per paddle, and you can buy additional paddles for \$5.00 each at the door. Tickets will be available soon. Mark the date on your calendar!

We are asking for raffle basket donations from every member and also ask that you sell at least two tickets for the event. We will need several members to volunteer at the event. If you have any questions or need any additional information please email cathy.dietz61@gmail.com



Community Cash Back is an easy, local fundraiser for non-profit organizations like ours! Simply save your receipts and turn them in to Cathy at any meeting. We did very well with this program last year, so hopefully we can do even better this year. We'll have some contests, drawings, and incentives over the next six months. The program runs from August 1, 2023 – February 15, 2024. Save those receipts!

UPCOMING EVENTS



***Wednesday, August 9th, Cindy Bach from the Closet will come in and speak with us about their organization.**

***Wednesday, September 20th, Bethany McKenney along with the Executive Director of BACM (Barberton Area Community Ministries) Dorothy Somerville, will come in and speak with us about their amazing community support agency.**

BIRTHDAYS:

08/02 Cassie Freeman
08/02 Juanita Gehm
08/02 Kelley Nagy
08/06 Paul Schuckert
08/12 Dale Dietz
08/15 Ryan Vaughan
08/16 Stanley Vaughan
08/17 Helen Thigpen
08/23 Jon Veilhaber
08/30 Bricey Bayonnet
08/30 Sue Fassoles
08/30 Anthony Ponikvar

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Rosanne Edwardson - 35 years
Barry Terjesen - 7 years
Benjamin Pearson - 4 years
Stanley Vaughan - 4 years
Jim Welton - 4 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

08/02 Sue & John Fassoles
08/04 Barry & Nancy Terjesen

08/07 Jeff & Denise Goodwin
08/08 Glen & Georgia Sheets
08/10 Jill & William Lanzinger
08/16 Chuck & Betty Seeley
08/23 Rosanne & Terry Edwardson

KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS:

Please keep Marcia and Anthony Ponikvar in your thoughts and prayers with Christian sympathies. Marcia's son has passed away.

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >August 9, Cindy Bach from the Closet, speaker
- >August 12, Dragons on the Lake Festival
- >August 12, Betty Friess' Celebration of Life, at Civic Center

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >September 6, Annual Fish Fry at Civic Center
- >September 13, Kiwanis Tower Dinner at Civic Center, **6:00 pm**
- >September 20, Bethany McKenney & Dorothy Somerville with BACM, speaker
- >October 7, Rose Day 2023
- >October 11, Charter Party at Canal Grille
- >November 4, Quarter Auction fundraiser at Barberton Moose
- >November 17, Girls Night In, Holiday Event



This week our member spotlight will shine on Thurman E. Cole III, known to us as Gene. Gene was born and raised in Coventry, attended Coventry schools, and graduated from Coventry High School. Upon his high school graduation he spent two years at Kent State University. Gene has been married to his bride, Judith Ann for 49 years. They have one daughter, Adrienne, and one grand-daughter, Jaylen. Gene spent 36 years with the Coventry Township Maintenance Department with 12 of those years as a maintenance

supervisor. He also spent six years at Wellington Construction as an equipment operator. Some fun facts; the last book he read was Akron's Infamous Escort Case. His favorite hobbies are golf and construction, and his favorite kind of music is classic rock. Their travels include many trips to Florida where his parents spent their senior years, the Outer Banks, and Myrtle Beach. He attended two Kiwanis Conventions; one in Phoenix and one in Toronto. If he had to eat the same meal every day for the rest of his life that would be chicken noodle soup! The one item he could not live without is his cell phone. The one person that inspires him the most is his dad who he was named after, Thurman Cole, better known to everyone as Ted. His dad who was a member of Kiwanis over 60 years, passed away in 2012. A fun fact that many people don't know is that he liked to ride motorcycles and that he coached girls fast pitch for 12 years.

Gene joined the Portage Lakes Kiwanis in September of 1976 with his dad Ted sponsoring him. At that time the club met at Chaboudy's. Gene served as Club President in 1985, served as a board member for many years, and served as President of the Portage Lakes Towers for several years. He has served as Rose Day Chair, Santa Delivery Chair in 1985, which was the coldest Santa delivery on record at -20 below zero, brrrr, and we thought this past year Christmas Eve 2022 was the coldest. Gene is currently Chair of the Historical Committee and continues to serve on the PL Towers Board of Directors. He handles all of the electrical equipment for the cars and sleighs on Christmas Eve. Gene is also a great pancake flipper at breakfast benefits and helps to clean up the kitchen every week after dinner. Gene has received five Legion of Honor awards and is currently our second longest active member of PLK at 47 years, right behind Tom Longworth. Gene received the Kiwanis Hixon Award in 2001. Christmas Eve Santa delivery is his favorite Kiwanis event. When asked what advice he would give to someone considering joining Kiwanis he said, "make a commitment to attend the meeting every Wednesday". Gene very much lives his own advice as he receives the perfect attendance award most every month! When asked how Kiwanis has changed over the years he said, "new people bring new ideas". Gene has two sisters that most of us know; sister Rosanne Edwardson who is a current member and sister Becki who is a past member of PLK. Gene himself, his dad, and both sisters have all served as Past Presidents of our club; that is an amazing legacy of dedication and commitment! Gene is an enormous asset to the Portage Lakes Kiwanis and has great knowledge of our club's history. He is supportive, kind, and ALWAYS willing to help.



Thurman E. Cole III (Gene)

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.