

PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS *Communicator*

Newsletter for December 7, 2018

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

MEMBER SURVEYS...PLEASE SEND THEM BACK

All PLK members should have received a membership survey in the mail by now. Please complete the survey at your earliest convenience and return it in the envelope provided or leave it at the Civic Center. Your feedback is important to us. We want to know what we are doing well and the areas where we need improvement. We will make the findings known once the data is all gathered. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

COATS FOR KIDS ...

It's not too late !

One of our members, Chris Hofmann is a realtor with Howard Hanna, and they have partnered with Coats for Kids to collect new or like new coats for all ages, infants to adults. There is a donation box in the lobby of the Civic Center and you can drop your coats off any Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Your help is appreciated.



If you have not paid your annual dues, please do so as soon as possible. Please make your check payable to Portage Lakes Kiwanis, and send it in. If finances are a problem, please let Vicki Kepnes or myself know, we will be happy to work with you.

Birthdays

12/16 Jim Davis
12/24 Barry Terjesen

Wedding Anniversaries

12/03 Vicki & Charlie Kepnes
12/10 Bob & Jenny Fowler
12/19 Betty & Russ Friess
12/21 Jim & Carole Robinson

Club Anniversaries

Cass Freeman - 13 years
Frank Smith - 13 years
Tim Peterson - 12 years
Bob Fowler - 3 years

Kiwanis Family News

Please keep the following Kiwanians in special thought and prayer for health issues:

Charlie Kepnes
Debbie Rubino
Frank Smith
Phil Pinnow

We are still in need of a special someone to fill the position of Vice President. If you are interested please see Al Grzeschik, and he can fill you in on the qualifications and responsibilities of the opening.



SANTA DELIVERY INFORMATION

For the 67th year the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Club will man their sleighs on Christmas Eve, December 24th, for its Santa delivery of gifts to children in the Portage Lakes area.

It started in 1951 with a small group of men and only one sleigh, and has grown to a fleet of 15 sleighs and Santa's with more than 150 volunteers, covering nearly all of Coventry Township and the City of New Franklin.

To participate in the Santa Delivery, families can begin dropping off their wrapped gift packages on December 3rd at the following locations: Coventry Fire Department and New Franklin Fire Department between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, Huntington Bank (Coventry), Chase Bank (Manchester), PNC Bank (Coventry), Akron Coin & Jewelry, Ayers Insurance, Elias Insurance, and Innovative Auto Service during regular business hours. All drop off locations will close December 20th. The Kiwanis Civic Center will accept packages until 5:00 pm on December 21st.

Gift packages are limited to no bigger than the size of a shoe box. Each drop off location will have maps, labels, rules, and other information concerning delivery. Please double check your route number as some have changed.

Sleighs will start out from the Kiwanis Civic Center at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Loud speakers on the sleighs will announce their arrival to streets along the routes. Parents should have their children dressed and ready to greet Santa. Outside lights at the home should be on to make each stop easy to find.

Participating parents with physically challenged children who are not able to meet Santa on his sleigh outside their homes are asked to call 330 644-8967 to make arrangements so these kids will not miss out.

Families outside the delivery area can see Santa at 5:45 pm at the Chase Bank in Manchester.

The Santa Delivery tradition is made possible through the continued support of Kiwanis Rose Day.

MORE ON SANTA DELIVERY...

Gene Cole will be installing lights and speakers on auto's on Sunday December 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

All sleigh pullers need to be equipped with a 2" ball and 4 way plugs to be able to pull a sleigh for Santa delivery. You can stop by Friess/Summit Trailer and Russ and his gang will make sure your hitch and lights are good to go.

If anyone has a vehicle with a hitch they can leave at the Civic Center Christmas Eve, in case of an emergency please let Connie know.





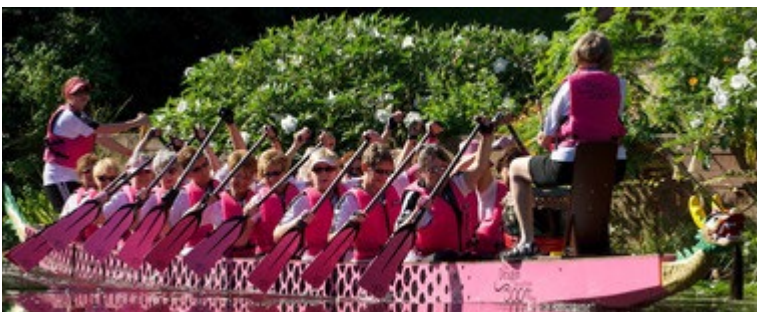
I told you we have had some wonderful speakers...



'Stephanie and Chris'

On November 28th, with 25 people in attendance we had the honor of this amazing young lady, Toby Bothel along with her husband Bob, visit us. Toby is the head of PR for the Dragon Dream Team here in the Portage Lakes. This is the rowing team of all women that have experienced breast cancer. She told us stories of her team-mates and their travels and competitions. This past summer they traveled to Florence Italy where they competed with over 100 other teams and placed 3rd in the WORLD ! These women are AMAZING ! The 2019 Dragon Boat Festival at State Park will be held on July 20th.

This past Wednesday, December 5th, PLK member Chris Hofmann brought in Stephanie Thompson from Quota International, the Massillon Division. Stephanie shared her personal story of her own daughter's struggle with hearing loss and how her family has coped and adapted to that since she was a baby. They mainly deal with deaf people, hearing loss, and speech difficulties, but they also branch into many other avenues. They are quite an organization, I know it touched my heart. Chris plans on undertaking a fund raising project for them in the near future, so we will be hearing more about them down the road. If you want to read more about what they do, please visit one of their websites. Their local one is massillonquota.org and the national one is quotainternational.org.



A MILLION THANKS

A mountain of gratitude is owed to Al Grzeschik and Dana who came over to the Civic Center last Sunday and cleaned up the grounds and the parking lot. They took care of the leaves, put the outside things away, and worked very hard, all day. Thank you, you are appreciated.

ACME RECEIPTS

Please please get your Acme receipts turned in. The program runs through December 29th and we are still short of the minimum amount of tapes to start submitting for payments. We have always done pretty well on this program before. Come on, we can do this !! Turn those receipts in !!

KIWANIS MISSION STATEMENT

KIWANIS IS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AND ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.

CONGRATULATIONS !!



Congratulations to Becky and Scott Shookman's daughter, Dr. Kimberly Shookman. Kim has passed her State Boards, no surprise there, and is working as a Pediatrician at Akron Childrens Hospital in Barberton. Both Kim and Sara grew up in the PLK Kiwanis family. We are all so proud of you Kim, and we know your papa is too. There is a wonderful article on Kim on one of the Childrens Hospital websites. It is adorable if you get a chance take a look; inside.akronchildrens.org or just google Dr. Kimberly Shookman. Congrats again to this beautiful family.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- >December 12 - Set up for Santa Delivery
- >December 19 - Wrap gifts for Santa Delivery
- >December 24 - Santa Delivery
- >December 26 - No meeting
- >December 31 - New Year's Eve Party
- >January 2 - No meeting
- >January 9 - Board Meeting
- >January 23 - Speaker /Club Coach
Member Recruitment
- >January 30 - Board Meeting
- >February 6 - Speaker / 4H Program
- >February 20 - Presidents Day Showcase

Guest Speakers - if there is a topic you would like to hear about please contact Jon Freeman. We have had many interesting speakers over the last few months with many more to come! Our attendance has been better too !!



Happy New Year

Join us for a New Year's Eve party at the Civic Center. Lot's of food, fun, games, and fellowship; leading up to Larry's Blue Gill drop at midnight! You don't want to miss this. Cost is \$20.00 per person plus a covered dish. The fun begins at 6:30 ish.