



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

February 18, 2024



HIPPITY HOPPITY EASTER'S ON ITS WAY

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30th on the lawn at the Tudor House. This is a free community event for children. We will have games, prizes, the balloon pop, visits with the Easter Bunny and of course the egg hunt. The Little Roaming Railroad will join us again this year with free train rides for both children and adults. We will be stuffing eggs at the Civic Center on Wednesday March 13th and finish on March 20th if necessary. Please join us at 6:30 pm if you can help. Connie Nagy is the chair of this event; please contact her if you can help volunteer the day of the event; we need you!



PRESIDENTS DAY SHOWCASE

We will once again host our annual President's Day Showcase on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Our club invites the President of local Portage Lakes non-profits to come in and speak about their organization. We'll have a dozen or so speakers join us for dinner and the program. Larry Hunter is the chair for this event. It is too late to RSVP for dinner, but all are welcome at 7:00 pm for the showcase of speakers. This is a really fun and informative meeting, so please try to attend.



Save the date of September 14, 2024 for our Quarter Auction Fundraiser. This year the event will be held at the Masonic Temple over behind the Target in Green. At the event last year we raised over \$7,000 and we hope to exceed that number this year. In addition to the actual auction we will have raffle baskets, a 50/50 drawing, product vendors, and lots of door prize giveaways. If you know of any vendors that would be a good fit for our event, please let Cathy know at cathy.dietz61@gmail.com More information to follow; we just wanted to get the word out to save the date. We had many compliments on how much fun the event was!



Many thanks to Rosanne Edwardson and John Hercules for distributing these Valentines to the Kiwanis Tower residents. Their dedication to passing out sweet treats to the residents for several of the holidays is much appreciated; and this always puts a smile on their faces.



The Acme Community Cash Back program has ended. Thank you to EVERYONE that brought in their Acme receipts week after week, it was very much appreciated and earned the club some extra funds. The final day to turn in receipts will be this Wednesday February 21st. We will have a drawing to win a gift basket for everyone that turned in receipts; that will be on Wednesday February 28th.



At our meeting on Wednesday February 28th we will have a soup dinner. We still need volunteers to bring in a pot of soup, a salad, some cornbread and/or crackers, or a dessert. If you can help out, please let Al or Cathy know. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm. We have some GREAT Kiwanian cooks, so this will be a yummy dinner.

KIWANIS MID-YEAR EDUCATION DAY

Kiwanis Mid-Year Education day is fast approaching. This will be a virtual event and will take place on Saturday March 16, 2024. This will include keynote speakers, specific workshop tracks facilitated by top-notch presenters from around the country and all from the comfort of your own home. Our club will pay for two people to attend, first come first served. Please see Cathy Dietz if you are interested, and she will get you registered. cathy.dietz61@gmail.com



Wednesday February 7, 2024 Tiffany Wearstler a Parent Mentor for Coventry Schools came in to speak about this program at Coventry and what they do. Tiffany leads this group of volunteer parent mentors in helping out any student that is struggling. They provide training, hold fun events for the students and assist families with the help that is available.



Wednesday February 14, 2024 member Marcia Ponikvar who works at Progressive Insurance came in to speak about car insurance issues and problems and give us some tricks and tips to better understand what happens behind the scenes when there is an accident claim. Thank you for the information!

Our next speaker will be Wednesday March 6, 2024, Elliott Clarkson from the Ohio Key Clubs will speak about the teen division of Kiwanis which is for high school students. Our club sponsors two Key Clubs, one at Manchester High School and one at Coventry High School. Please try to attend as this will be an informative guest speaker.



On Wednesday, April 10th we will have 'dinner out' at Dano's Lakeside Pub. The Wednesday specials are a Prime Rib Dinner and a Meatball Sub Platter. Please arrive no later than 6:30 to join in the fun!

WELCOME



Welcome new member William 'Billy' Krills. Billy was voted in by the Board of Directors and his Induction ceremony was held on Wednesday February 14th. Billy is the Director of Camp Y-Noah out in Clinton which serves hundreds of children every year. Chuck Seeley is Billy's sponsor. In the photo above from left to right is Dale Dietz who led the ceremony, new member Billy, then Billy's sponsor Chuck. Billy will be a wonderful addition to our club. Please welcome him to our Kiwanis family!



Many thanks to members Al Grzeschik and Jon Vielhaber for their work in rebuilding our website. It is a slow process but they have made great strides. Check it out at www.plkiwanis.org.



Our member spotlight this week will shine on club member Dale Dietz. Dale was born in Akron, Ohio and attended Guinther Elementary School and Innes Junior High. His family moved to Manchester in 1973 where he attended and graduated from Manchester High School. After that he went on to the University of Akron where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Fine and Applied Arts with a minor in Photography. Dale met his wife to be, Cathy, in high school. They married in 1983 and have one daughter, Kelly, born in 1990. He has three grand-dogs, Bailey, Daisy, and Koda Bear. He worked at Metzger Photo until they closed in 1994. The rest of his career has been working in inventory control and/or shipping and receiving jobs. He currently works at the Metropolitan Animal Hospital as the receiving supervisor. Some fun facts...a fact that not many people would know is that at age three months his family boarded a ship and moved to Brazil for his dad's employer Seiberling Rubber Company. They lived there until he was four years old and the family returned to the United States because his brother acquired serious health problems and medical care was much more advanced in the US than Brazil. The last book he read was Jaws. His favorite childhood memory is going to the World Fair in 1964 and 1965, in New York City where his grandma lived. His favorite hobby is photography and he likes to play video games in his spare time. His favorite kind of music is 70's rock and roll. He has travelled to many countries and many states with his favorite vacation being a cruise with land exploration to Alaska. If he had to eat one meal every day for the rest of his life that would be tacos. The one item he cannot live without is his cell phone. The person that inspired him the most was his grandfather.

Okay, now on to Kiwanis. Dale came to join the Portage Lakes Kiwanis when a friend, then member Lou Ann Derry, invited him and Dana Roderick to an Easter Egg stuffing meeting. Dale's sponsor was Lou Ann as well. They got chewed out by a long time member for not matching the two colors of the eggs; they had to learn to do it correctly, haha. Some of the roles he has served in are; board member, Vice President, and President. He is a master pancake flipper too. Currently he is Vice President (again), and is serving on the Historical Committee and the Spiritual Values Committee. Making new friends and working on our signature events like Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Eve Santa Delivery, and Pirate Day is what he enjoys most about Kiwanis. The advice he would give to someone considering joining our club would be to get involved by joining a committee, volunteering at our events,

and helping out with and attending fundraisers. Next question, how has Kiwanis changed over the years; good or bad. He thinks a good thing is that the atmosphere is not as formal, like you don't have to be a business executive to be a member and there is no need to wear a suit and tie. A bad thing is there are fewer members which places most of the work on a small percentage of our club members. A good memory is our Christmas Eve Santa Delivery program; it's amazing how many people are involved and everything falls in to place perfectly, and it is so much fun to see everyone happy! What is something that would make our club better; his answer is that we need to improve on our communication, work together as a club, and stick to our by-laws.

Dale is a helpful and energetic member of our club. He misses very few meetings and volunteers at almost all events. He sets up some things for the weekly meetings, passes out the agendas, and leads the club in weekly prayer. He wants to be an active member of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis as long as he is able.



BIRTHDAYS:

02/03 Marcia Ponikvar
02/03 Shelly Somerville
02/11 Jonathan Zito
02/28 Bob Goff

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Jay Feldman - 41 years
Tom Burge - 38 years
Vicki Kepnes - 23 years
Becky Shookman - 8 years
Bob Kansa - 6 years
Melissa Millmier - 5 years
Kay Lukac - 4 years
Kelley Nagy - 1 year
Shelley Betz - 1 year
Ryan Vaughan 1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

02/05 Jay & Connie Feldman

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >February 20, Governor's Dinner at St. George Party Center
- >February 21, President's Day Showcase
- >February 28, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting, Soup Dinner
- >March 6, Elliott Clarkson, guest speaker from Ohio Key Club
- >March 9, Calendar Kickoff event, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- >March 13, Easter egg stuffing
- >March 16, Mid Year Education Day (Virtual event)
- >March 20, Easter egg stuffing if needed
- >March 27, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >March 30, Easter Egg Hunt

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >April 10, Dinner out at Dano's Lakeside Pub
- >April 16, Taste of Coventry at Gather at the Lakes, please get tickets from member Crystal Cianciola
- >May 27, Memorial Day Parade
- >July 13, Pancake Breakfast at Civic Center
- >July 20, Dragonboat Festival
- >July 27, Pirate Day on the Lake

KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS: Please keep our members and friends in special thought and prayers.

Barry Terjesen
Nancy Terjesen
Frank Smith
Helen Thigpen
Bob Kansa

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 \$15.00, 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.