



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter for February 24, 2019

2019 PRESIDENTS DAY COMMUNITY SHOWCASE WRAPUP

The 2019 Presidents Day Community Showcase held at the Civic Center on Wednesday February 20th. We had fantastic speakers from the following non-profit organizations in the Portage Lakes area:

Manchester Education Foundation
The Sea Scouts
Akron Astronomy Club
Portage Lakes Historical Society
Dragon Dream Team
Portage Lakes Kiwanis

Friends of the Portage Lakes Library
Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association
International Welcome Center
Gardners of the Portage Lakes State Park
Portage Lakes Advisory Council
Portage Lakes Kiwanis Senior Tower

It was nice to have so many guests in attendance as well as folks from other local Kiwanis clubs. Many thanks to all our speakers, attendees, and volunteers who make this event an annual success.



The Akron Boat Show at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron has graciously donated a booth for the show March 1st thru March 3rd, 2019. The PLK will be manning the booth with pirates, information on the Buccaneer Bash and the Children's Pirate Day. There will also be information on club membership and Rose Day. Anyone interested in dressing as a pirate and helping to run this booth please contact Bob Kansa; openings are still available.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK:

Just a reminder that our Blessings in a Backpack program is ongoing until the school year ends in June. Please continue to bring in backpacks and easy to open foods that can be heated quickly or can be opened and eaten directly out of the package or container.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

MARCH 13, 2019 Dennis O'Connell, Co-Producing Director from the Magical Theater in Barberton will be speaking.

MARCH 27, 2019 Denice Shaffer from the Jr. Achievement Program will be speaking.

Please come out and support our visiting speakers, they graciously volunteer their time to come visit and present their programs.

OHIO DISTRICT KIWANIS MID-YEAR EDUCATION DAY

Will be held in Lewis Center, Ohio on Saturday, March 23, 2019. The day is full of educational and fun seminars. If you are interested in attending, we have money set aside in the budget for Kiwanis members to attend. If you'd like to go, please let me know as soon as possible so we can get your registration sent in.

The Annual Portage Lakes Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 20, 2019 at the Tudor House. We will be stuffing eggs at our meeting on Wednesday April 3rd, so please plan to be there, as we will need all hands on deck. We fill several thousand! If need be, we will finish up on April 10th.



SURVEY RESULTS !

The results are in. We sent member satisfaction surveys out late last year to see what our members liked, what they disliked, and what they would like to see changed. The complete results are too lengthy to show here, but I will list some of the comments that were received. The results were handed out and discussed at the last meeting. If you would like a copy, please let me know and I will be happy to email or mail it to you.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING A MEMBER OF OUR CLUB?

- *Working with others to make a difference in the community
- *Social interactions
- *Positive impact on community
- *Making others happy and a way to give back to others by participating in enjoyable ways
- *Helping the Portage Lakes community with fun events
- *Being involved in helping the community
- *Giving back to the Portage Lakes Community
- *Fellowship
- *Helping in community projects and social events with our members
- *Friendships
- *Community services, new friendships, chance to try to make a change in our area
- *I enjoy helping people in the community
- *The club enables me to coordinate advertising for Rose Day, work to deliver, assist the Key Club on Rose Day, and assist the scholarship committee

WHAT IS OUR CLUB'S GREATEST STRENGTH?

- *It's history
- *Community outreach and support
- *Devoted Members
- *Connection to the community
- *Being a good part of Portage Lakes, and the families that live here
- *The members are all hard workers who care about our community
- *Our members and our community backing
- *Our ability to work on a large number of projects
- *Community projects that are loved by our community
- *The Civic Center building
- *The club provides the opportunity to serve the Portage Lakes community

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT OUR CLUB, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- *Relevance to members
- *Reduction in the number of meetings. Weekly meetings are not necessary
- *Recruiting more active member. The PLX Kiwanis is desperately needing a younger active membership. The elder Kiwanis are wonderful, but new energy is needed.
- *Focus on bigger fundraisers, and not so many small ones that only raise \$200-\$400
- *Increase the membership
- *To have more members participate
- *Cliques. When visitors come, they are ignored by most of the members, nobody should sit alone.
- *Have all members contribute in some way that is evident to other members.
- *Getting more members to meetings and involved in projects. Like to see more officers work on fundraising also.
- *I want to do more service, I don't see a reason to remain in the club if we rarely do service.



Congratulations are in order to Kiwanis member Dale Dietz. Dale was chosen to receive the Shining Star award by Coventry/PLX Angel's in the Lakes for Community Service and Volunteerism. He was nominated by long time friend Lorraine Johnson.



Congratulations are also in order to Chris Hofmann, who is Howard Hanna's listing and sales leader for January!! This guy is like the Energizer Bunny, way to go Chris, keep up the good work.

And one more; congratulations to Dana Roderick's grandson Kaiden Cerny. Kaiden finished second place in the Coventry Youth Wrestling Program for his age and weight division. Way to go Kaiden, such a hard working and dedicated young man.

KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS:

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

**Charlie Kepnes
Frank Smith
Debbie Rubino**

Please keep Al Grzeschik in thought and prayer as his mother passed away a few weeks ago. Sympathy to the entire Grzeschik family.

KIWANIS MISSION STATEMENT

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

BIRTHDAYS:

02/08 Kerri Gleisinger

02/28 Bob Goff

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

02/05 Jay & Connie Feldman

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Jay Feldman - 36 years

Tom Burge - 33 years

Vicki Kepnes - 18 years

Jacob Grimm - 18 years

Becky Shookman - 3 years

Bob Kansa - 1 year



Friday, June 14, 2019 will be the date of our annual Kiwanis Rubber Ducks game. Tickets will be \$8.00 and this will be a fireworks display night. We will be defeating the Portland Sea Dogs that night. Al will be taking ticket orders as usual. This is always a fun family night out and is usually a sellout. Put the date on your calendar!

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

It is a pleasure to announce that the Officers and Board of Directors have voted to accept the membership of Melissa Millmier. Al Grzeschik will be her sponsor and her induction ceremony will be held on March 6, 2019. Please plan to attend and support our newest member.



The Kiwanis Car Show is planned for Saturday, June 22, 2019. Jeff Goodwin is the chair for this event and would like some new committee members. He is looking for some new ideas to make the event even bigger and better. If interested, please get in touch with Jeff .

The Kiwanis - Ohio Division 16 Governor's Visit will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at Guy's Party Center, here in Akron, Ohio. Faith Levine will be the keynote speaker. The cost to attend is \$25.00, and you can RSVP to Ron Hyre from the Cuyahoga Falls Kiwanis. His email is ronaldh@kiwaniscf.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS:

- >March 1st thru 3rd - Kiwanis participating in Akron Boat Show
- >March 6 - Board Meeting / New member induction
- >March 13 - Speaker Dennis O'Connell, Magical Theater
- >March 19 - Governors Dinner at Guy's Restaurant
- >March 23 - Kiwanis Mid Year Education Day
- >March 27 - Speaker Denice Shaffer, Jr. Achievement / Board Meeting
- >April 3 - Stuffing Easter Eggs
- >April 16 - Division 16 Meeting - PLK Host
- >April 20 - Easter Egg Hunt

AND A BIT LATER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >June 14 - Rubber Ducks Baseball Night
- >June 22 - PLK Kiwanis Car Show
- >June 22 - Buckeye Martinfest/Antique Boat Show
- >July 6 - Portage Lakes Fireworks & Boat Parade
- >July 20 - Dragons on the Lake Festival
- >July 26 - Buccaneer Bash - Pick's
- >July 27 - Pirate Day - Portage Lakes State Park
- >Aug 1 thru Aug 30 - Purple Martin Boat Rides

ALL ABOUT PLK...

Our club meets every Wednesday. You can join us at 6:30 pm for dinner, which is catered by Lukity's Restaurant, a full meal for just \$10.00, 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 our facebook page too under Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

