



# PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter for January 2, 2022



Happy New Year fellow Kiwanians! While 2021 was another challenging year, our Club managed to hold our own. We were able to meet in person almost all year and we were able to aid our Portage Lakes Community with most of our annual events. We had a successful Easter event, held our annual Scholarship dinner, hosted a fun Pirate Day for the kids which included a Pancake Breakfast at the Civic Center, ate well at the annual Fish Fry in September, hosted a food drive for our Blessings in a Backpack program, held a Women's Holiday social event, participated in the Coventry Christmas Tree lighting event, and finished off with Santa Delivery which was more than welcomed by our community. We did have to for-go a few of our activities, but hopefully can bring them back in the New Year. Thank you to all that volunteered in any way in 2021, your commitment and dedication is appreciated. As we look forward to 2022, we can only hope that the Covid Pandemic will come to an end. We have much work to do in the New Year to continue to support the Portage Lakes Community and we are eager to do so. Wishing all members and their families a safe, healthy, and blessed New Year.



**The Acme Fresh Market Community Cash Back program ended on December 25th. Please bring in all your saved up receipts so Dana can get our report filed. Our club gets a nice check from Acme just for purchasing Acme brands and turning in the receipts, that's all we have to do! Thank you for participating, every little bit helps.**

## SANTA DELIVERY 2021...wrap up

TO THE PORTAGE LAKES COMMUNITY:

I would like to give a huge thank you to the New Franklin Police Department and the Summit County Sheriff Department for their support of Portage Lakes Kiwanis Santa Delivery for the past 70 years. Thank you to the Coventry Fire Department and New Franklin Fire Department for allowing Portage Lakes Kiwanis to use their facilities as gift drop-off locations. A big thank you goes out to Friess Welding as they keep our sleighs road-ready and safe. Thank you to Gardner Pie Company for their donations every year. As 2021 continues to be a challenging year, I can't say, "thank you" enough to the many volunteers who spend Christmas Eve and the many hours leading up to it; sorting their routes, making several dry runs, and delivering each gift to eager local children. Also, "thank you" to the volunteers that help at the Civic Center in the days leading up to Christmas Eve. Finally, a big shout out to Al Grzeschik (PLK Santa Delivery Co-Chair) for the countless hours he spends making sure we are ready to roll when the clock hits 5 pm on Christmas Eve and the magic begins.

Happy Holidays,  
Connie Nagy  
PLK Santa Delivery Chairperson

We did it! Santa Delivery 2021 was a success. Connie issued the perfect statement above to the PLK Community. Several routes were down a bit in numbers but that was to be expected with Covid still knocking on our door. An extra big thanks goes to our Chair Connie Nagy, this event would not have been possible without your awesome leadership and guidance. You are appreciated.



We need your input...all Kiwanis members are welcome to contribute to our Newsletter. We are in need of family news, Kiwanis news, community news, or any information you would like our club members to know. You can email me at [cathy.dietz61@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.dietz61@gmail.com) with your news.

## **KIWANIS OHIO DISTRICT MID-YEAR EDUCATION DAY**

The annual Kiwanis Mid-Year Education day will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at the Crown Plaza Columbus in Worthington Ohio. The Keynote speaker will be Shawn 'Spike' Smith who will be speaking about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the opening ceremony with an additional afternoon session about special interest clubs. Other topics that will be covered are parliamentary procedures, how to conduct effective meetings, open houses, grant writing, benefits of using social media, and how to find officers for your club. It would be wonderful to have someone from our club to represent at mid-year. We do offer a scholarship for two members if you would like to attend. Please see Cathy or Al to assist with registration.

The new **MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS** are available. You can obtain one at the Civic Center any Wednesday or if you would like to receive one in the mail just shoot me a message. My email address is [cathy.dietz61@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.dietz61@gmail.com).

### **KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS:**

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

**Charlie Kepnes**

**Joyce Longworth**

**Betty Seeley**

**Al Grzeschik**

**Kay Lukac**

**Dana Roderick**

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



## **SHOE DRIVE SHOE DRIVE SHOE DRIVE SHOE DRIVE**

Stan and Connie Vaughan's granddaughter Haley is a member of the Green High School Air Force ROTC. As a service project and fund-raiser they are collecting outdated, outgrown, and gently worn shoes to clean and repair, then those shoes will be sent to impoverished countries. They will take any shoe...flip flops, tennis shoes, baby shoes, boots, and even sports cleats. The monies earned will be used for drill competitions and training. You can drop your donation off at Green High School any school day, or you can bring them to the Civic Center any Wednesday from 6 to 8pm. You can also contact Connie Vaughan at [dreamcricket@aol.com](mailto:dreamcricket@aol.com) to arrange a pick up. Thank you.

The first Division 16 meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at the Wolf Creek Winery. Socializing is from 6:30 to 7:00 and the meeting will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Wine and wine tasting will be available as well as some craft beers. You are welcome to bring in your own food as the Winery only has snack type food for purchase. Zoom will also be available if you cannot attend in person. It is always nice to have our club represented at the Division meetings.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- >January 5, resume weekly meetings
- >January 18, District 16 monthly meeting at Wolf Creek Winery
- >January 26, regular meeting and board meeting
- >March 19, Kiwanis Mid-Year Education day

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

01/07 Jim Welton  
01/11 Melissa Millmier  
01/26 Gene Cole  
01/29 Charlie Kepnes

## **CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:**

Bob Goff - 32 years  
Juanita Gehm - 20 years  
Jon Freeman - 18 years

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

01/01 Tom & Joyce Longworth  
01/19 Gene & Judi Cole



**The following Kiwanians have achieved perfect attendance for the month of December. Awards will be passed out at the January 5th meeting. Congratulations!**

**Gene Cole  
Cathy Dietz  
Dale Dietz  
Rosanne Edwardson  
John Hercules  
Connie Nagy  
Dana Roderick  
Chuck Seeley  
Connie Vaughan  
Stanley Vaughan**

## **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 \$12.00, 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](http://www.plkiwanis.org) and please check out 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.**

