



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

January 21, 2024



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 of this event; please see Larry if you have a speaker you would like to invite. An RSVP is needed for dinner so let Larry or Al know in advance if you will be coming to eat that night. This is a really fun and informative meeting, so please try to attend.

CALENDAR KICK OFF EVENT

Our third annual Calendar Kick Off event will be held Saturday, March 9, 2024 at the Civic Center from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. We will celebrate each of our major events that will take place in 2024. Those will include the Easter Egg Hunt, Pirates Day, Rose Day, and Christmas Eve Santa Delivery. Lot's of fun things for the kiddo's to do. Marcia and Anthony Ponikvar will chair this event. More details to follow.





This fundraiser is winding down and will end on February 15th. Community Cash Back is an easy, local fundraiser for non-profit organizations like ours! Simply save your Acme receipts and turn them in to Cathy at any meeting. We have already received enough receipts for the minimum filing, but keep them coming, the more receipts we get the more money we will earn, thank you.

KIWANIS MID-YEAR EDUCATION DAY

Kiwanis Mid-Year Education day is fast approaching. This will be a virtual event and will take place on 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.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

An Induction Ceremony was held for new member Lynda Farkas on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at the Civic Center. Larry Hunter is Lynda's sponsor and Dale Dietz led the ceremony. Welcome to the Kiwanis Family Lynda, we are happy you are here.





Please save the date for these upcoming events:

Saturday, March 30, 2024 will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This is a free family event and will be held at the Tudor House. The chair for this event is Connie Nagy.

Saturday, July 27, 2024 will be our annual Pirate Day on the Lake. This is a free family event and will be held at the State Park Beach area. The chair for this event is Dana Roderick.



We have a few 'thank you's' to shout out...

Thank you to the family of Mr. Rod Willis. Rod passed away on October 30, 2023 and his family requested that memorial contributions be made to the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Santa Delivery program. Rod was the Santa for Route 7 for many years and was very much missed this past Christmas. We have received several donations in his memory.

Thank you to the family of Kathleen Heidenreich who passed away on December 30, 2023. Her family has also requested that memorial contributions made to our club. Kathleen was a huge supporter of our Santa Delivery program for many years and we have received donations in her memory as well.

God Bless both of these families in their time of sadness and loss. It is nice to know that our club and the Christmas Eve Santa delivery meant so much to them.

Thank you to the many many Portage Lakes residents that have made monetary contributions to our Christmas Eve Santa delivery program. We have received several letters expressing how much this program means to their families with most of them honoring this tradition through generations. They are heartwarming to read and confirm how much our club means to the Portage Lakes community.

Thank you to Bob Fowler who has donated several handmade pieces from his wood-working hobby. They are beautiful candy dishes, decorative bowls, cutting boards, etc that we raffle off about once a month in our regular Wednesday meetings. Thank you Bob, you are appreciated.



On Wednesday, January 17th, we had Geoffrey Kansa come in and speak to us about his Coast Guard Career. Geoffrey is the son of member Bob Kansa. He has been serving for fifteen years now and is based out of Fairport Harbor. He brought in some of the gear he uses for rescue missions for both hot and cold weather. He had a really cool slide show of some of the Coast Guard vessels that are used. It was a very interesting and informative talk. Thank you for coming in, we learned a lot!





Congratulations and Best Wishes to Gene and Judi Cole who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on January 19, 2024. They were married at Hope Lutheran Church right down the street from the Civic Center. They have one daughter Adrienne and one grand-daughter Taylen. They are both Coventry High School graduates and have always lived at the Lakes. Gene retired from the Coventry Road Department and Judi is retired from the Domestic Relations Court. Gene has been a member of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis for almost 48 years, joining in 1976.



BIRTHDAYS:

01/07 Jim Welton

01/11 Melissa Millmier

01/22 Betty Seeley

01/26 Gene Cole

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Bob Goff - 34 years

Juanita Gehm - 22 years

Jon Freeman - 20 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

01/19 Gene & Judi Cole

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >January 24, Regular Meeting with Committee time
- >January 31, Regular Meeting and Board Meeting
- >February 7, Tiffany Wearstler, Parent Mentor at Coventry Schools, speaker
- >February 14, Marcia Ponikvar, guest speaker on insurance
- >February 21, President's Day Showcase
- >February 28, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >March 6, Elliott Clarkson, guest speaker from Ohio Key Club
- >March 9, Calendar Kick off event
- >March 16, Mid Year Education Day (Virtual event)
- >March 27, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >March 30, Easter Egg Hunt

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

Barry Terjesen
Nancy Terjesen
Frank Smith
Kay Lukac

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.