



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

March 17, 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, a New Franklin fire truck to explore, 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. The Movement Church will be there with a bounce house and face painting. The Manchester Education Association will be selling hot dog lunches and have a basket raffle. Connie Nagy is the chair of this event; please contact her if you can help volunteer the day of the event; we need you!

Many thanks to all that came to the meeting Wednesday March 13th to stuff over 7,000 Easter eggs! So much fun and so much candy! Many hands make the work much quicker. We appreciate having the Key Club and JRROTC members that came to help. We finished up so we will not be stuffing eggs on 3/20.



OUR MEETING NEXT

At our next meeting which will be Wednesday March 20th, we will be reviewing Kiwanis International Youth Protection Guidelines. It is a short presentation, but it is important for all members to know the rules and regulations involving minor children. A lot of basic common sense! 95% of our club officers and board of directors have completed a background check and that is an excellent number.

We will also have committee breakout meetings. This is where our individual committees have a brief 15 minute meeting to discuss future plans their committee is responsible for. If you are not on any committees please let Cathy know and we will find a good match for you to serve on.

Please try to attend this meeting!

Calendar kick off event Wrap-up

On Saturday, March 9th we held our third annual Calendar Kick-off event. It was a fun time for the families that attended. They got to make event crafts, play some pirate games, have lunch, meet and greet costumed characters, and visit the dogs and bunnies in the petting zoo corner. A fun time was had by all. Many thanks to everyone that volunteered at the event including the fourteen club members and also to Marcia and Anthony Ponikvar who chaired the event.





Happy Anniversary and best wishes to club member Jim Welton and his wife Marge who will celebrate 55 years of marriage on March 23rd. They were married here in Akron in 1969. They have two daughters and nine grandchildren. Jim met his bride on a blind date that was set up by his sister. Congratulations with many more years to come.



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!



Our local Red Cross has been in touch with Al as they are in need of volunteers to drive to and from donation sites to transport blood from donors to the Red Cross facility. If you have some spare time, reliable transportation, and a valid driver's license please contact Al for details and he will get you in contact with the right people. The Red Cross will provide all the training you will need. This is an invaluable service to the community.



The 2024 version of our club Membership Roster is available. You can pick one up at any meeting. If you would like one mailed to you, please send me an email to cathy.dietz61@gmail.com and I will be happy to send you one.



Club Elections will be held on Wednesday May 8, 2024. We are in need of a Vice President for the 2024-2025 year. If you are interested or know any member that may be interested, please let Al or Cathy know as soon as possible. al@plkiwanis.org or cathy.dietz61@gmail.com. Thank you.



At the Board Meeting held on February 28th, the Board of Directors accepted the membership application of Judy Jones. Judy has met all qualifications for membership and her sponsor will be Kevin Powell. Judy is on the Council of New Franklin and has several volunteer interests. Her induction will be on Wednesday, March 27th with Dale Dietz presiding. Welcome to the Kiwanis family.



On Friday, May 3, 2024 Nolley Elementary School in Manchester will hold their final annual 'FUN FAIR' before the school is torn down. The event will be from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and offers carnival games, food, and fun for the community. The PTA has asked our club for assistance. If you are available to volunteer that night please let Al Grzeschik know.

guest
speaker

On March 6th, we welcomed guest speaker Elliott Clarkson who is the Lt. Governor for the Ohio Key Clubs, which is the high school division of Kiwanis. She spoke about the history of Key Clubs and gave us the rundown of what is happening in clubs today. An energetic young lady that was a wonderful speaker. Thanks for visiting us Elliott, keep up the good work!



UP NEXT...

Our next guest speaker will be on April 3, 2024. Josh Compton who serves as Chief of the Green Fire Department will join us. He is also a rescue paramedic who has been involved in some very high profile rescues. He will be interesting and informative. Please come and show your support. Thanks to Larry and Chuck for securing our guest speakers, they do an awesome job.



Our member spotlight this week will shine on club member John Hercules. John was born in Barberton but raised in Coventry. John is a 4th generation Coventry graduate and then attended one year of college at ATI. While at Coventry High School John participated in many school plays. John is single but has a large family including eight nieces and nephews. He started working at Hatties and Pegasus on the Farm and now works at the Hope Lutheran Church in Coventry. A fun fact that not many people would know is that John loves history, astronomy, and watching old movies; even the silent ones. The last book John read was Every Note by Lisa Genova. His favorite childhood memory is Christmas Eves with Grandpa Ted. In his spare time John still likes to do some farming and loves to build things with legos. His favorite kind of music is Country and his favorite song is Achy Breaky Heart by Billy Ray Cyrus. His favorite trips were going to Florida to visit Grandpa Ted, but he loves his annual trip to Frankenmuth Michigan with Grandma too. His least favorite trip was when they took an Airboat ride at the Kiwanis Convention and their boat broke down and they were stuck in the Everglades. John's bucket list trip would be to travel to Hawaii and the Eastern Caribbean. If he had to eat one meal every day for the rest of his life that would be liver & onions! The one thing John could not live without is Dr. Pepper; good stuff. The person that most inspires John is his Grandma Rosanne Edwardson.

Okay now on to Kiwanis...John joined the Portage Lakes Kiwanis because for him it was a family tradition dating back several generations. Grandma Rosanne was John's sponsor, and a memorable story was going to Miami for the Kiwanis International Convention and that is where they took the boat trip to the Everglades and got stuck! John has served several roles in our club. He is currently on the Board of Directors and is a member of the Historical Committee, the Key Club Committee, and the Pirate Day Committee. John assists with the sound systems for Santa Delivery, helps out at the Pancake Breakfast(s), Pirate Days, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Labor Day and Memorial Day parades. Helping out in the Portage Lakes Community is what John enjoys the most about being a PLK member. The advice he would give to someone considering joining our club would be to GET INVOLVED. A funny story he remembers is when he was younger Grandma had a Santa Route and she always took John along. He would stick his head out the window and yell 'Santa's coming, Santa's coming; those were good times. The one

thing that would make our club better is if there was more involvement by the members.

Editors note: John is a kind, sweet, and very smart young man. He is dedicated to our club and has an exceptional attendance record. His smile is contagious and he has a great sense of humor. He keeps the history alive in our club with so many wonderful stories. He is an idea person who is always trying to improve our club. He has strong family ties and makes a difference at PLK!

BIRTHDAYS:

03/01 Larry Hunter
03/03 Glen Sheets
03/07 John Schermesser
03/11 Jon Freeman
03/20 Judy Jones
03/21 Lynda Farkas
03/27 Cathy Dietz
03/27 Kay Lukac

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Lisa Geiger-Houck -11 years
Devin Allman - 2 years
Crystal Cianciola - 1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

03/23 Jim & Marge Welton

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

Barry Terjesen
Nancy Terjesen
Frank Smith
Helen Thigpen
Lynda Farkas

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >March 20, Youth Protection review, Committee breakout meetings
- >March 27, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting, Judy Jones Induction
- >March 30, Easter Egg Hunt, Tudor House

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 8, Club Elections
- >May 27, Memorial Day Parade
- >July 6, Portage Lakes Fireworks
- >July 13, Pancake Breakfast at Civic Center
- >July 20, Dragonboat Festival
- >July 27, Pirate Day on the Lake



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.