



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

March 3, 2024

CALENDAR KICK-OFF event

PORTAGE LAKES



FREE FUN FOR THE FAMILY
Join us for activities including a PETTING ZOO, TAKE HOME CRAFTS, FOOD AND PHOTOS/MEET & GREET WITH:

- EASTER BUNNY
- PLX PIRATES
- ROSE QUEEN
- SANTA

Families will get a preview of our community activities throughout the year.



Contact us:
www.PLKiwani.org
@PLKiwani @PLKiwani

Calendar Kick-Off Extravaganza

Saturday, March 9th 1:00 – 4:00
at Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr.



Come on out, fun for the entire family!
Saturday, March 9th, 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Civic Center



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

The President's Day Showcase was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. We had the President from 14 Portage Lakes non-profits come in and speak about their organization. We had a good turnout and we learned a LOT! Thanks to Larry Hunter for chairing this event along with his crew of helpers, also many thanks to all the speakers that presented.





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. Everyone that turned in receipts had their name entered into a prize drawing which was held at the meeting on February 28th, the winners were:

Wine & Chocolate Basket - Jim Welton
\$25 Amazon Gift Card - Betty Seeley
\$10.00 Subway Card - Kelley Nagy



Our next guest 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 to support our 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!



At the Governor's Dinner held at the St. George Party Center on February 20, 2024, our own Al Grzeschik was presented with the Beacon of Hope Award. A much deserved award as Al does so much for both our Club and for Kiwanis in general. Shown in the photo is Lt. Governor for Division 16, Laura Miller, Al is in the center, and on the right is Ohio Governor Jason D. Miller. Congratulations Al!



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. An Induction date will be set up as soon as possible. Welcome to the Kiwanis Family Judy.



Many thanks to the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Club for donating a spiffy new coffee maker to our club. We are grateful for the donation and it will most certainly get plenty of use. The Purple Martins meet at our Civic Center the second Tuesday of every month. If you would like more information about their club you can contact President Kay Lukac at email kaylukac@yahoo.com



Our member spotlight this week will shine on club member Becky Shookman. Becky was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. She attended and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School. After that it was off to college. She attended the Ohio State University and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy. While in high school she played field hockey and in college she was a member of Phi Mu Sorority. Becky's husband was Scott Shookman, a long time member of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis and passed away in 2015. Becky has two daughters, Sara age 37 and Kimberly age 34. She has two grand children; Isla age 3 and Luca who is one. Becky met Scott at Ohio State where they were both life guards at the pool. Becky was an Occupational Therapist and retired in 2015 where she was working for Manchester and Coventry school districts. A fun fact not many people would know is that she goes scalloping every year in Florida. To get scallops, you snorkel and then dive down to the bottom and pick them up when you see one on or near the bottom. They go in 6 to 10 foot deep water. The last book she read was Coal River, she likes to read fictions. One of her favorite childhood memories is cruising with her family on their boat in the Georgian Bay. In her spare time Becky likes to read and knit; she also likes bike riding. Her favorite kind of music is Country and her favorite song is Somewhere Over the Rainbow. Becky loves to travel. Last summer she went to Singapore and Indonesia. Her favorite vacation

spot is the Bahama Out Islands. Australia and New Zealand are on her bucket list to travel to. If she had to eat the same meal every day for the rest of her life that would be anything made with grilled or blackened shrimp. The one thing she cannot live without is Diet Coke; she is an addict! The person that most inspires Becky is her mother. She was the best grandmother and was an important person in all her grand children's lives even though she lived in a different city.

Okay now on to Kiwanis...Becky was involved in Kiwanis a long time when her husband Scott was a member. She joined so she could continue to be involved. Larry Hunter was Becky's sponsor. What Becky enjoys most about Kiwanis is the comradery and being able to help the Portage Lakes Community. The advice she would give to someone considering joining Kiwanis is to get involved so you get more out of it. Next question is how would you describe how Kiwanis has changed over the years and her answer was; the format of the meetings has changed a lot over the years, but she feels Kiwanis still does good things for the children in our community, but unfortunately less members are involved. A memorable event was when Scott, Becky, and their family used to always do a Santa Delivery route on Christmas Eve. Her favorite deliveries were an engagement ring and a brand new puppy. Becky spends her winters in Florida but likes to be involved when she is home.

Editors note: Becky is sweet, kind, and generous. Once you meet her you have a new friend. Becky and her girls sponsor our Scott Shookman Memorial Scholarship held every spring. They also ride bikes 50+ miles every year in the Pelotonia Ride to raise funds for Cancer Research through the Ohio State University, and they have raised thousands upon thousands of dollars for this cause. The name of their team is 'Spreading Scott's Smile'. This young lady is beautiful inside and out.

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

Bob Kansa

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

>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, 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 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.