



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

November 26, 2023



SANTA DELIVERY *News*

*Portage Lakes Kiwanis will continue the holiday tradition that started in 1951, delivering gifts on Christmas Eve to children in the Portage Lakes area. Santa Delivery started with one sleigh and a small group of volunteers. It has now grown to **16** sleighs and over 150 volunteers covering most of Coventry Township and the City of New Franklin.*

Please note this year the **package drop off** locations will be the Coventry Fire Department and the New Franklin Fire Department. These drop off locations open on Monday, December 11, 2023 from 8am to 8pm and will close at 5pm Friday, December 22, 2023. The Kiwanis Civic Center will be open beginning Sunday, December 17, 2023 from 10am to 8pm and will close at 5pm on Friday, December 22, 2023.

Gift packages are limited to NO LARGER THAN THE SIZE OF A SHOEBOX. There will be route books and delivery labels at the drop off locations.
PLEASE NOTE SOME ROUTE NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED.

Sleighs will leave at 5pm from the Kiwanis Civic Center on Sunday, December 24, 2023. Loudspeakers will announce Santa's arrival to streets along the routes. Please have the children dressed and ready to greet Santa and have outside lights on to make stops easier to find. Families outside the delivery area can see Santa at 5:30pm at Chase Bank, 5638 Manchester Road in New Franklin.

Participating parents with physically challenged children who are not able to meet Santa on his sleigh are asked to call 330-644-8967 to make arrangements so these kids won't be missed.

This long-standing Santa Delivery tradition is made possible through the continued support of Kiwanis Rose Remembrance Day.



Christmas Eve Santa delivery will be upon us before we know it. Route Captains please check in with Connie to make sure you have all the help you need. If you are new to volunteering on Christmas Eve, please talk to Connie and she can get you placed on a route. Her email is liberty644@aol.com. A sign-up sheet will be available soon to choose the times you can be at the Civic Center to accept gifts. The Civic Center will be open daily 10:00 am to 8:00 pm from Sunday December 17th until 5:00 pm on Friday December 22nd.



Community Cash Back is an easy, local fundraiser for non-profit organizations like ours! Simply save your receipts and turn them in to Cathy at any meeting. We did very well with this program last year, so hopefully we can do even better this year. We'll have some contests, drawings, and incentives over the next six months. The program runs from August 1, 2023 to February 15, 2024. Save those receipts, we've gotten off to a great start, and have already received enough receipts for the minimum filing. Keep them coming, thank you.

COVENTRY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at the Clock Tower from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Our club will have a table there! We'll hand out some club literature, some goodies, candy canes, as well as hats and gloves for those who need them. We will also have Cleveland Cavaliers raffle tickets to sell. We need members to volunteer to man the tent. Please see Al Grzeschik for more information.

Happy Holidays!

Our Girl's Night In holiday event was held at the Civic Center last Friday. We had 30 Kiwanis members and friends attend. We had dinner, crafts, games, an ornament exchange, and LOTS of girl gab. A few memorable phrases heard that night were, Dominick the Donkey, joint replacements, and car keys! A fun night was had by all, thank you for attending.





Friends in Tents (FIT) has asked us to please hold a sock collection for their clients that live in tents. With winter fast approaching many do not even have the basics for cold weather. They do have a need for some children but the majority of the socks needed are for adults. Next time you are out shopping pick up a few pair and bring them to the Civic Center. There is a bin available for the collection right inside the door, and will collect from now until the end of the year.



PLK has been given an amazing opportunity to raise funds for our club. Phantom Fireworks has donated two game tickets thru Lindsay Nagy, (there will be a choice of five dates) where you will sit in the scoring box and have access to the Lexus package; upscale five star restaurant food, beverages, and inside access to places not open to the public. This package cannot be purchased and will be a once in a lifetime evening for the lucky winner. Tickets are on sale now, the cost is \$10 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$25.00. Please see Connie or Kelley to obtain some tickets to sell. We have the potential to make this a wonderful fundraiser and get our treasury back to where it needs be. The drawing for the winning ticket will be held on December 13th at 7:00 pm. PLEASE HELP OUT AND SELL TICKETS!



Boy Scout Troop 215 has invited us to attend their Spaghetti Dinner with Santa on Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm at St. Francis de Sales Church on Manchester Road. Cost at the door is \$12 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. The menu includes spaghetti with meatballs, salad, dessert, and beverage. Proceeds will go to the troops trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

BIRTHDAYS:

11/01 Jeff Goodwin
11/04 Shelly Betz
11/14 Becky Shookman
11/15 John Hercules
11/20 Ben Pearson
11/23 Al Bollas
11/30 Debbie Doan

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Denise Goodwin - 9 years
Jon Vielhaber - 1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

None

KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS:

>Barry Terjesen
>Frank Smith

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >November 29, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >December 3, Coventry Tree Lighting Event at 5:00 pm
- >December 10, Tudor House Holiday Event
- >December 17, Cookies with Kiwanis / Portage Lakes Towers
- >December 24, Christmas Eve Santa Delivery

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >January 10, Guest Speaker, Bob Kansa's son/his career in the Coast Guard





Member Spotlight

Our member spotlight this month will shine on Vicki Kepnes. Vicki was born in Texas then her family moved to Long Island NY where her father's job was. They moved again when she was 12 years old, landing in Akron, Ohio. Vicki attended school at Margaret Park, West Jr. High, and then Kenmore High School where she was a cheerleader all four years. After graduation she attended the University of Akron. Vicki met her honey at Kenmore High School; she was coming up the stairs and he was coming down the stairs. He asked her what her name was and she said Vicki then she asked what his name was and he said Chuck and that was it! From that day forward they were a couple. They married in 1965 and had three children; Chuck Jr, Kimberly, and Lori, as well as six grandchildren. Vicki worked at several places but spent many years at Bearing Distributors, first as a Secretary and then as Office Manager. She also worked with hubby Charlie opening Akron Coin & Jewelry which remains a family business today. A few fun facts: I asked what is something most people do not know about you and her response was that she loves being with her sisters, they laugh a lot and always have a good time together. She has lost two of them and misses them terribly. The last book she read was the Butterfly House by Katrine Enberg. One of her favorite childhood memories was riding her bicycle on the sidewalk when they lived in New York. In her spare time Vicki enjoys crafts and is currently working on a doll house. Her favorite music is easy listening and rock & roll. Her favorite place travelled to was going to Italy with her sisters and going to Oahu Hawaii with Charlie. Her bucket list trip is to return to Hawaii. I asked if she had to eat the same meal every day for the rest of her life what would that be, and her response was sausage with peppers and onions, with rice. The one item she cannot live without is her cell phone. I asked who she is inspired by and she said her children; they are all I could have ever dreamed of and help me to be a better person.

Now on to Kiwanis! Vicki joined the Portage Lakes Kiwanis because Charlie asked her to and of course he was her sponsor. Vicki has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Board member, and has chaired several committees. She has most enjoyed the friendships made in the club, along with Rose Day, Santa Delivery, and Pirate Days. I asked what advice she would give to someone considering joining our club and she said: get involved and see what project or committee works for you, attend the meetings and be an active part of the club. I asked how Kiwanis has changed over the years and her response was that we need to reach out to older members and involve them more, also to make sure we follow the procedures we have put in

place, especially where money is involved. The next question was what would make our club better? Her answer was to try to get more members to be active in committees and to involve new members in our projects. We need to work on meals and if we don't use Lukity's we need a 'meal committee' to make it work and see if members can help.

Vicki is a wonderful asset to our club, she volunteers at most events and activities, is knowledgeable about our club and its history, a hard worker, and is kind and very generous. A friend to everyone in the club.

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.