

# PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS *Communicator*

Newsletter for October 28, 2018

Published on the first and third week of the month,  
Cathy Dietz, Editor

## **FROM OUR PRESIDENT - JON FREEMAN**

As the gavel was passed at the Charter Party, our incoming President Jon Freeman shared his vision for reaching a higher level of success for our club, and how we might begin that process:

1. Evaluation – of our members and our community; what do our members want, what can we do for our members, what can our members do for us – what can we do to better help our community
2. Effective use of our resources – how do we better reach out to our community and how do we reach our full potential using the resources we have
3. Membership development – how do we engage our members, how do we grow our club, how can we get better attendance at our weekly meetings

We look forward to a successful year under the leadership of President Freeman for the Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

## **ROSE DAY OCTOBER 6, 2018**

3550 dozen roses were ordered, sold, and delivered. Many many people are needed to make rose day possible, so “thank you” to each and every one of you that helped out in any way; but it also takes a VERY SPECIAL someone to take the wheel and head up the whole project. Hats off to Mr. Tom Burge for being our Rose Day chair, we appreciate your dedication to the project.

**If you have not paid your annual dues, please do so as soon as possible. Please make your check payable to Portage Lakes Kiwanis, and send it in. If finances are a problem, please let Vicki Kepnes or myself know; we will be happy to work with you.**

## **Birthdays**

11/01 Jeff Goodwin  
11/11 Betty Friess  
11/14 Becky Shookman  
11/15 John Hercules

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

11/13 Jacob & Bobbi Grimm

## **Club Anniversaries**

Dr. James Robinson - 29 years  
Betty Friess - 6 years  
Denise Goodwin - 4 years

## **Kiwanis Family News**

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

Charlie Kepnes  
Betty Seeley  
Debbie Rubino  
Frank Smith  
Phil Pinnow



## **KIWANIS MISSION STATEMENT**

**KIWANIS IS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AND ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.**



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Congratulations to our 2018 Hixson award recipient Mr. Larry Hunter. Tom Burge presented Larry with the award for outstanding citizenship, community service, and dedication to the Portage Lakes Kiwanis. Larry has volunteered hundreds of hours with activities such as the Purple Martin Society, the Annual Fish Fry, Rose Day, Santa Delivery, Pirate Days, New Year's Eve Parties, and on and on and on. Way to go Larry, much deserved.**

## HO ! HO ! HO !

**Christmas Eve and Santa delivery is LESS than two months away!! Route Captains, do you have your team lined up; with a Santa, a sleigh puller, elves, and all the helpers you need? If not, please let Connie know as soon as possible.**

## ACME RECEIPTS

**Please save your Acme Fresh Market receipts. The Cash Back Program runs from August 9th to December 29th.**

**There is a box back by the coffee maker, or you can give the receipts to Vicki or Cathy. Thank you, your efforts are appreciated.**

**Guest Speakers - if there is a topic you would like to hear about please contact Jon Freeman. We have some interesting speakers coming up!**

**We received a letter from a woman who stated that her mother had received roses from a friend for many years and had moved into an assisted living facility in North Canton and was thrilled to get her roses again this year. She appreciates all the good that we at Kiwanis do and sent a \$100 donation to help with our Christmas outreach project!**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- >October 31 - Regular Meeting
- >November 7 - Board Meeting
- >November 14 - Speaker Joy Compton RN
- >November 17 - Quarter Auction at Civic Center
- >November 21 - No Meeting
- >November 28 - Board Meeting
- >December 24 - Santa Delivery

## **SAD NEWS...**

**It is with much sadness to report the passing of Mr. Bob Longworth. Bob was a Charter member (along with his brother Tom) in 1951. He was President of PLK in 1966 and was still active until recent health issues prevented him from attending meetings. He was a club member for 67+ years and dedicated a countless amount of time to our club and the Portage Lakes Community. Please keep the Longworth family in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. I've added the clip from Schermesser below so you can read a bit about this amazing man's life.**

# John Robert "Bob" Longworth

January 2, 1922 ~ October 24, 2018 (age 96)

Bob Longworth, 96, of Portage Lakes passed on to his next adventure on October 24, 2018. Bob was born January 2, 1922 in North Lawrence to the late John Longworth and Myrtle Pollock Longworth. They moved to the Portage Lakes in 1924 and always called it home.

Bob was a 1939 graduate of Washington High School in Massillon and attended the University of Akron until he joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. Bob attended the University of Southern Cal while in the Navy and served in the Atlantic and Mediterranean during WWII. He married his wife, Phyllis Wybel, in June 1947 and they built their home on the North Reservoir. Bob was recalled by the Navy during the Korean conflict and served on a US Navy tanker, circling the globe several times before being honorably discharged as a Lt. Commander. Bob retired with 40+ years of service at Western Electric in management from Miami, Florida to the Arctic Circle in Alaska.

Bob was a charter member of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis in 1951 with a membership of 67 years. He was the site chairman for the purchase of the Kiwanis Civic Center and the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Tower property. He was a 50-year plus member in the Coventry-Akron Masonic Lodge and Tadmor Shrine. Bob spent summer vacations fishing in Canada and winter vacations in Florida.

Upon his retirement, Bob and Phyllis purchased a cruiser and lived on it in Florida for 25 years in Ft. Myers with many trips back home to Ohio and boating during the summer months. During the summers they traveled the U.S. in their motor home, and in between traveled to Europe and Australia.

Phyllis passed away in 2006. In 2008 he met Mary Lawrence Berens, who he went to high school with and they had a few happy years together before Mary passed away in July 2012. Bob sold his home in 2013 and moved into assisted living at St. Luke's – still at the Lakes. Bob is survived by his brother, Tom (Joyce); nieces, Debbie (Ray) Doan and Renee (Steve) Banner; great-niece, Kristina Banner; and great-nephew, Shawn (Emily Jucikas) Banner.

## **QUARTER AUCTION**

**The annual Quarter Auction will be held here at the Civic Center on Saturday, November 17, 2018. Doors will open at 6:00 pm. The proceeds from this event will be used to purchase food, toys, and clothing for families in need for Christmas here in the Portage Lakes area. There will be vendors present selling goods as well as the actual auction itself. More details to come.**

**The Charter Party, held at Pick's Banquet Hall on October 24<sup>th</sup>, was a wonderful evening. It was nice to have Diana Stevenson, Lieutenant Governor for Division 16 present for the induction of the new officers and board members. A delicious dinner was served, many awards were given out, much fellowship was enjoyed, and the gavel was passed on to our new President Jon Freeman.**

**Once again, many thanks to Tim Peterson and his crew for arranging the celebration and for leading the PLK through a very successful 2017-2018 year. A job well done sir.**

## **Kiwanis Annual Blessings in a BackPack**

Every year nation wide many children rely on the "FREE" breakfast and lunches at school as their main supply of food, so when school lets out for the weekend, Thanksgiving Holiday, or even winter break, 3 out of every 5 children wonder where their next meal is coming from. Yes, those numbers are hard to believe, but is happening right here in our own Portage Lakes Community.

With the help of many of our local Non-Profit Organizations, local residents and local business' through our "Blessings in a BackPack Program" we have helped many of these children have weekends and holidays where their bellies are full.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

We are reaching out again asking that the next time you are out shopping; grab a few extra things and drop them off at any of the locations listed below:

\*A-1 Mower, Turkeyfoot Lake Drive, weekdays 9am - 4pm

\*Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Wednesday nights, 5:30-8:00 pm

\*Front Porch Drop Off: 551 Kruger Ave

All donations will be delivered to the local schools where the counselors are prepared to hand out the food to children in need without the rest of the school being aware.

In an effort to eliminate the children using a stove or stove top we are asking for easy to prepare, pop top food items. Below are some examples:

Single serve pop top soups, single serve microwavable mac & cheese, applesauce, fruit snacks, raisins, snack bars, single serve puddings, microwavable oatmeal, ramen noodles, single serve vegetables, peanut butter (jars or single serve) crackers, juice boxes, pop tarts, cereals.