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**Special points of
interest:**

- What's happening in Your Community?
- Have you joined a committee yet
- Saying of the week.

EDITOR: Dana Roderick
E-MAIL:
d1687@hotmail.com

Club Membership

Last night was our " Membership Drive Meeting. "

What an exciting evening with some great guests.

Our sincere Thanks to **Barbara Freeman** who attended with **Jon** and **Cass Freeman**. Barbara was also a representative from **Memorials of Angels** who spoke at our Presidents Of Community Organizations Dinner several weeks ago. **Debbie O'connor** who attended with **Dana Roderick** and **Esther Cole** , **Lisa Giger** who attended with **Debbie Rubino**, **Harry Knotts** who attended with **Chuck Seeley**. And **Cheryl Luck** from the Friends of the Library attended.

As well as **Betty Seeley**, **Judy Hunter & Judy Pinnow**.

We hope everyone enjoyed being there .

Our speakers last night were **Scott Shookman**—Scott has been a member of the Kiwanis Family for the past 30 years. He is involved with the Manchester key Club as advisor, Kiwanis Senior Towers, Rose Day, Scholarship Committee and has held most positions within Kiwanis over the past 30 years. When he moved to this area he knew no one but quickly became a member of Kiwanis. Scott and his family have taken part in Santa Delivery since joining and his daughters both received Scholarships from Portage Lakes Kiwanis to continue their educations.

Cass Freeman also spoke on being a Kiwanian. Cass as well as her husband Jon were in Key Club in High School then moved on to Circle K and finally after returning to Ohio joined Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

As Cass stated she has been a member of the Kiwanis Family in one way or another for approximately 13 years. She feels that is provides you with many opportunities while still in High School, thru College and even after college into adulthood.

Frank Smith—Came to buy Roses one year and after being invited by **Charlie & Vicki Kepnes** to attend a meeting. He did attend and also joined the Kiwanis Family and became President. Due to an un foreseeable tragedy that happen in his life Frank he was feeling a void which the Kiwanis were able to fill . **Bonnie Smith**—Frank's wife is also a member at the club and on the Board of Directors.

Sue Harding was involved with Kiwanis most of her adult life on a volunteer basis as her husband John was a member. Sue attended meetings and volunteered at different projects over the years. She soon followed suit of her husband and joined . She is our current Secretary and also works on several Committee's. She has helped with Rose Day one of her favorite projects , Thanksgiving Dinner for the 1st graders at Nolley Elementary, Baby Fairs to educate parents. Is part of the Scholarship Committee and helped to provide books to Kindergarten-ers.

Larry Hunter was invited in 2001 to be a guest speaker about the local " Purple Martin Club " and soon followed example of our other guest speakers this evening and became a member. Larry is the

leader of the Pirate Days on the Lake Treasure Hunt for Kids as well as the fisherman who not only catches fish for our fish fry but encourages others to do the same. He has been a Santa for Santa Delivery for many years. This community based Family organization is a place he wishes he had joined 20 years ago.

Al Grzeschik - who is currently serving for the second time as our President. Also spoke about the Civic Center. We are the only club to have a Civic Center and it is open to any organization that needs it for meetings ect. It is currently used by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Baseball sign ups. AARP, Astronomy Club, Computer Club and more.

He also spoke on Santa Delivery where there were approximately 3,200 gifts handed out this past year. Which included a Solider returning for the Holidays, engagement rings and more. And it took 250—300 volunteers to accomplish this task.

Out of everything I heard during this meeting tonight only one thing keeps sticking in my head— Every speaker we had this evening made the same comment " When I joined the Kiwanis Family !" And they all came to the Civic Center for different reasons.

How many organizations can you join that are out to make the community a better place for everyone and be considered a part of a huge family at the same time?

If you never attended a meeting or it has been a while since you attended we encourage

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everyone to come one

Wednesday evening - Civic Center—
725 Portage Lakes Dr @ 6:30pm

see what you have been missing and meet some terrific people.

Join the family!

“ Purses are like Friends “

This special Luncheon is being held: Tuesday—April 16th @ Fairlawn Country Club.

Prior to that date collect those un used new or gently used purses and donate them. There is a list of donation **drop off locations on the attached flyer** of this newsletter.

All donated purses , totes, wallets or beach bags must be turned in by April 1st, 2013. They will be either Sold or Auctioned off at the luncheon. With the proceeds of this project being donated to benefit:

“ Children’s Hospital “

What a better way to give than to donate.

UPCOMING KIWANIS EVENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Location: Portage Lakes State Park—Tudor House

Date: March 30th, 2013

Time: 10:00 am

Rumor in the Portage Lakes area is that the Easter Bunny is already hard at work getting volunteers to stuff Easter Eggs. So get your baskets ready for the

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt

Set up for this event will begin at 9:00 am. We are expecting “ Gasp “ to attend and provide “ Kid Identity Kits “ for families, Camp Y-Noah will have their Bounce House available. Balloon Pop and Concession stand along with many other fun activities..

And lets not forget the Easter Bunny will make an appearance. The individual age appropriate egg hunts will start at approximately “ **Noon** . “ So don’t be late, bring the children, grand children and neighbors for this time honored tradition Easter

ON GOING PROJECTS

Project Eliminate - DID YOU KNOW THAT: Every nine minutes, an infant dies from neonatal tetanus. That short lifetime is marked by pain, robbing a mother of the chance to provide even the comfort of her touch.

Portage Lakes Kiwanis joined the campaign several weeks ago by starting the “ **BABY BOTTLE** “ project . It’s simple and takes virtually no time. Obtain your baby bottle from either **Vicki Kepnes** or **Jeff Goodwin**. Clean out your cars and ladies how about the bottom of those purses?? Drop your spare change into the bottle. Once the bottle is full turn it in and get another bottle. Every \$1.60 of change that you drop into the bottle will save one Mother and her unborn child.

To date we have collected approximately \$ 400.00 which divided by \$ 1.60 is approximately 250 lives saved. What a great feeling it is to know you have saved a life by just cleaning out the bottom of your purse. So everyone join this cause, get that baby bottle and help us reach that goal of \$ 1,200.00.

Pirate Days

Are just around the corner. For the Third year Pirate days will be held the Third weekend in July. Arrggghh mark your calendars for the kick off to “ Pirate Days “ on July 19th, 2013 with the Silent Auction / Reverse Raffle. Tickets for this event are available now all you need to do is contact one of the **Keptes Pirates (Vicki & Charlie)** to obtain your tickets.

On Saturday July 20th, 2013 will hold the “ Kids Treasure Hunt @ Portage Lakes State Park Swim Beach. Dress the kids for the pirate contest, Walk the Plank, create a Pirate Hat, Dig for Buried Treasure and much more.

Follow the newsletter and website for more fun events through this fun filled weekend. It is definitely a weekend you won’t want to miss.

LOCAL NEWS

We all know that preventing Bullying and falling into the wrong crowd for teenagers is an on going tough project.

But several individuals in our area are stepping up to the plate and would like your help.

Several of the local teachers at Coventry Middle School are taking their own time to help sponsor a Promo event called “ Anti—virus .” This event is to help local children who may not necessarily be taking the right path make better choices.

Page 4 of this newsletter is a flyer on this event. The attached flyer will give you a brief description on what this program hopes to accomplish.

There is also information with date , time and location on where they will be holding an informal gathering to explain the program and what it entails.

If you are interest please view the flyer and try to attend the meeting.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, CLUB ANNIVERSARIES, KEY CLUB NOTES

&

Birthday's

Larry Hunter - March 1st
Glen Sheets - March 3rd
John Schermesser - March 7th
Jon Freeman - March 11th

Anniversaries

Club Anniversaries

CYNDI WEAVER 5 YEARS

KEY CLUB NEWS

ELLET

PLK Advisor Mr Jerry Schropp - This group of kids will be manning the Red buckets during the upcoming Holiday's at Acme, on Edgewood Dr. in Ellet.

COVENTRY

PLK Advisor's - Jon & Cass Freeman

MANCHESTER

PLK Advisor - Scott Shookman/
Sam Reynolds

President— Brooke Lowry

Secretary— Katie Adkins

Advisor— Brad Johnson

KIWANIS FAMILY

Continued Thoughts and Prayers for **Charlie & Vicki Kepnes**. That Charlie will continue to progress with the healing of his Knee surgery and that they will both "Get Well Soon" from the Cold and Flue symptoms they have/

Kids Corner

Everyday we should all take time out of our day to smile, wave or say an encouraging word to someone. You never know how a few cheerful words can brighten someone's day especially a child:

You make Life Exciting

It only takes a minute

KIWANIS BANNER

If you hadn't notice the banner that hung inside the club describing all the major activities Kiwanis sponsors within our community has been missing!!!!!! Well several weeks ago **Mr. Chuck Seeley** made a new banner for the club listing all the previous (continuing) activities and the new activities that we participate in. So make sure you take a look at it. We also had several members that wanted to know if they could get a smaller version of the banner to hang in the window or on a wall at their place of business. **Mr Seeley** has now made that available to us also. By using the link below which will be available on the website you will be able to print your own banners in any size you desire—8 x10, 10 x 13 or even an 11 x 14 if you choose. Our sincere thanks to Chuck for his work on this project and making it available to all of us.



PL-Kiwanis-banner-f.pdf

OPEN OFFICER POSITIONS

As we have announced in previous meetings our current **President Elect Mr. Jeff Goodwin** will be stepping up to the position of " **President of Portage Lakes Kiwanis** " in October of 2013.

Congratulations Jeff

In May of 2013 we will be holding open nominations for **Jeff's** current position of **President Elect**.

Some of the duties for this position include but are not limited to— running weekly meetings when the President is unable to attend, getting to know the inter workings, rules and regulations of the Kiwanis Club. Communicating with club members and committee's on different projects as well as reaching out to the community.

There will be some off site meetings that need to be attend. As well as the personal growth you will retain from this position.

If you would like to know more information about this position or are interested in being nominated please contact one of the following members:

Frank Smith—Past President, Al Grzeschik—Current President or Jeff Goodwin—current President Elect.

Dates to Remember

- March 9th Mid year Education day— Columbus, Ohio
- March 13th Regular Meeting / Stuff Eggs
- March 20th Regular Meeting/ Committee Stuff Eggs
- March 27th Regular Meeting/ Board Meeting
- March 28th Pirates on the Lake Meeting 6:30pm
Civic Center
- March 30th EASTER EGG HUNT— **Tudor House**
PL State Park. Time: **Noon**
- March 31st HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE
- April 16th Div 20 meeting—Sponsored By PLK
Bellacino's—Stow, Ohio
- April 17th MAPS Air Museum 6 pm
Cost: \$ 10.00

Reminder:

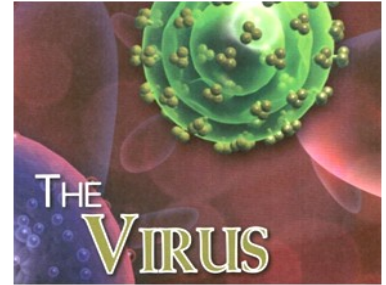
To all Board Members

All Board Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month. Please try to be in attendance as much as possible

Just as a reminder this please let us know if there is something you would like to see in this newsletter. We try to write it up with the most informative information like events, dates times of things happening in our area. We are always open to suggestions and would like to know exactly what you would like to read about. Please e-mail the address on the bottom of page one.

Memo to: All 4th-8th Grade Teachers who want to...

- » have a positive impact on your students.
- » prepare your students for more than just the Big Test!
- » help your students make wise decisions.



Bad behavior in our classrooms is like an insidious virus. We now have a viral epidemic of massive proportions that if left unchecked **WILL** destroy the remaining moral fabric of our schools and communities. Somehow we need to eliminate those negative, hurtful and even dangerous thoughts, actions and habits of our students that pervade every classroom these days. This virus has many names like:

- Wasting time
- Lying
- Cheating
- Addiction to Video Games
- Drugs
- iPhone Pornography
- Bullying: Physical, Verbal & **Social Media!!**

Unfortunately, there is not silver bullet to fix all these and many more.

But we just might have the next best thing!! It is called **Anti-Virus** and it

is designed to teach young people principles and values for living a successful life of influence. Through nine or ten 40 minute sessions once a week, we are seeing major changes in many stu-



dent's attitudes, even including some who were on the bullying side of the school. The atmosphere of entire schools is changing as more and more students are

"infected with & spread"
the **Anti-Virus**.

The "Anti-Virus" Program has helped to bridge peer and clique related gaps among poor students. They engaged in self-reflection regarding the values and principles. As a result, we have seen much personal growth and better decision-making from students who have habitually made poor decisions.

Tina Norris, Principal,
Coventry Middle School

Want to learn more?

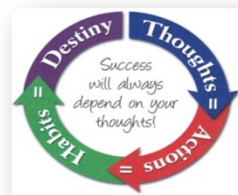
What: **Anti-Virus Promo Event** by author, Tanya Miller of Dover, OH

1. **Where:** Coventry Middle School, 3257 Cormany Rd., Akron, OH 44319

When: Thur., March 14 at 3:30pm **Cost:** FREE, includes dinner

Information: Call Bruce Lyman, 330-612-7775

Also check out the website, antivirusyouth.com



After 16 years in the classroom, it seemed like something was missing. I hadn't become a teacher so I could merely help kids pass a test. I wanted to have a meaningful impact on my students that goes beyond the textbook. When I was introduced to the Anti-Virus program, it seemed like just the tool I needed. The lunch period I spend with a group of students exploring principles and values that are important to all we do is the best part of my week. Better yet, my kids look forward to the time as well and are anxious to make their school a better place. Anti-Virus is now a permanent part of what I do and how I relate to others.

Richard Dudley, 8th Grade Science Teacher

Learning about the historical mentors each week was really neat. I really enjoyed making new friends and learning about being kind to each other. I also need to look for people that need help.

6th Grader, Coventry Middle School