



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

April 21, 2024



SCOTT SHOOKMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This year we had 32 applicants apply for the four \$1500 scholarships our club offers; two for Manchester students and two for Coventry students. All of these applicants are highly qualified so it was a tough decision to pick just four winners. On May 1st President Steve Hess will present the scholarships at the Senior awards night at Manchester High School, and on May 14th President Hess will present the scholarships at the Coventry High School awards night. The recipients will be revealed once the winners have been notified. Our annual Scholarship Banquet will be held at the Civic Center on Wednesday June 5, 2024 to honor the scholarship winners and their families. This year there will be no charge for dinner for anyone that attends the banquet. Chef Al and his crew will be preparing dinner that night. Please make plans to attend this dinner to support the scholarship program, the scholarship recipients, and the Shookman family. The scholarship committee consists of: Sam Reynolds, chair, Becky Shookman, Gene Cole, and Cathy Dietz.



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. Volunteers will need to arrive at Nolley School by 4:45 pm.



NORTON KIWANIS 

Prayer Breakfast

Date: Thursday, May 4th, 2023
Time: 7:00 a.m. and will conclude by 8:30 a.m.
Location: Grace Church
3970 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Norton, OH 44203
Featured Speaker: Jean Watson Roberts
(Speaker Selected Charity: New Destiny Treatment Center)
Tickets: \$20.00 per person

Tickets: Available by April 1st through any Norton Kiwanian and Facebook at Kiwanis Club of Norton, Ohio

The Norton Kiwanis Club will be having their annual Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 4, 2024. This is open to any Norton and surrounding community residents. Come and help pray for community leaders, residents, and children.



In honor of the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby we will have our own special horse race at our Wednesday, May 1st meeting. We raced last year and it was really fun (and funny). Come out and bet on your favorite horse. Fancy hats are optional!

GUEST SPEAKERS



Due to a bit of a scheduling issue we actually had two speakers at our April 3rd meeting. Josh Compton from the Green Fire Department came in and spoke with us about his many travels involving search and rescue missions. He had a lot of amazing photos and interesting stories. Also, Holly and Donald from the Magical Theater in Barberton stopped in to let us know what is going on at the Theater. They put on several productions during the year that are geared for children. Thank you to all that came out to support them.

Gene Cole will be having a fun and informative talk on past Rose Days! With social media and the wonderful world of computers, Rose Day is very different than it was many years ago. Plan to come on Wednesday, May 1st for his talk. If you are a long time member I am sure you will have some great memories too and will know exactly what he is talking about.

On Wednesday, June 12th, Dr. Eve Szigethy, Director of Pediatric Psychiatry and Psychology at Akron Childrens Hospital will come in and speak with us about the programs they have going for kids in the area.

Please come support the speakers that Chuck Seelwy and Larry Hunter arrange for us. They do an awesome job.



Do you have any spare time in the morning and/or evening to help out our friends at the Purple Martin Association to feed the birds? Many have arrived and they need fed until the weather becomes warmer and there are enough bugs and mosquitos for them to eat. If so, please contact President, Kay Lukac at (330) 283-5771 and she can get you up and running. There are multiple sites to choose from. Thank you.



For the last several years our Club has entered a float in the Manchester Memorial Day Parade. Monday, May 27th will be the parade date this year. President Steve Hess is chair of this event. We usually highlight all of our major events on the float. If you can help or if you have ideas, please contact Steve at hess0910@aol.com. Thank you.

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

Nancy Terjesen

Helen Thigpen

Anthony Ponikvar

Sam Reynolds mother

BIRTHDAYS:

04/03 Connie Vaughan

04/20 Vicki Kepnes

04/30 Steve Hess

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

John Schermesser - 43 years

Glen Sheets - 29 years (Honorary Member)

Anthony Ponikvar - 2 years

Helen Thigpen -1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

04/01 Don & Marie Reilly

04/03 Paul & Betty Schuckert

04/03 Anthony & Marcia Ponikvar

04/11 Robert & Rebecca Goff

04/15 Debbie & Mike Rubino



Our member spotlight this week will shine on club member Robert Kansa. Bob was born at St. Elizabeth in Youngstown, Ohio. His parents Geraldine and Michael had an apartment in Youngstown until he was about five years old. Their family then moved to the Portage Lakes and lived on Sturgeon Drive in Manchester where Bob lived until he was 23. His grade school education was at St. Francis de Sales on Manchester Road, then he attended Manchester High School where he took college prep classes and participated in band as a trumpet player. A short year at Akron University majoring in chemistry didn't work out, so he attended Stark Technical College and excelled in a mechanical modeling degree. His father, Michael Kansa died at 40 of heart failure. He had a pilots license and was a top chemist at Goodyear and started the industrial hygiene division. His mother Gerry Kansa is now residing at Chapel Hill in Canal Fulton. She worked various jobs including customer service for Sterling Jewelers. Mary Kansa, Bob's beloved wife, is a dental hygienist of 40 years in

Ohio. She is amongst other things, an accomplished seamstress, sailor, mechanic, craft fabricator, and much more. Bob and Mary have two children, both raised in the Akron/Copley school system. Geoffrey Kansa, a mechanic in the USCG, is the father of their two grandchildren, Elanor and Stephan that reside separated from them under constraint of visitation by his ex-wife, who's name is not spoken in their household. Geoffrey remarried Ashleigh Gauthier and now has a stepchild James. They are buying Bob's parents house in the Portage Lakes. Alexander Kansa resides in Wadsworth Ohio and is married to Kerrie Parker. They have no children. Alex is a delivery driver for Little Debbie snacks. Both of Bob's sons share his passion for mechanics, cars, and mechanical fabrication. Bob met Mary on a blind date! One of his classmates in college worked with Mary in the state mental hospital in Massillon Ohio. Their date was in February for the Cleveland car show. Bob currently works for Graco, Inc. Fluid Division as a technical writer. A fun fact that not many people know is that Bob has a pilots license, a racing car license, and a helmsman certificate for sailing tall ships. The last book Bob read was *The Night Before Christmas as Santa*. His favorite childhood memories are vacationing around Chesapeake Bay, going to sports car races at Mid-Ohio, and flying with his father. His hobbies and passions include Vintage Sports car racing, sailing, pirate re-enactments, volunteering for Kiwanis, spending time at Put-In-Bay, and time sharing these with family. Bob does NOT like Millennial Pop music, Death metal, and Rap. Otherwise, he likes smooth jazz, Bossa Nova, Movie theme music, new-grass, bluegrass, ragtime, new age, new wave, sea shanties, big band, punk, and a little rock-n-roll. His favorite travels have been visiting Canada, Mosport, most of the east coast Maine to Florida, and he flew an airplane to the Bahamas and Jamaica. His least favorite travels were to China, ewww. His bucket list trips would be to visit the entire UK, Lemans and Le-Bourget France, the Carpathia Mountain range, Transylvania (Romania), Monaco, and Brazil. If he had to eat one meal every day for the rest of his life that would be pizza. The one thing Bob cannot live without is Old Bay Seasoning! The one person that inspires Bob is his wife Mary.

Okay now on to Kiwanis. Bob came to join the Portage Lakes Kiwanis when asked by Larry Hunter to help with Santa delivery, and then shortly after to help establish the Pirate Day event. Larry Hunter was Bob's sponsor. His roles in our club include a current Board Member and member of the Pirate Day Committee. Bob has been a club member since February of 2018. Bob most enjoys the ability to have fun with the passions he enjoys while serving the community we love. The advise he would give someone considering joining Kiwanis would be; Just do it! No, it's not hard, yes if we can make time for it, you can make time for it. He knows of nobody as busy as he is, but it is worth every second. Bob feels that our club has improved since he has become a

member, but unfortunately other area clubs have seemed to become inactive. A funny story; driving as Santa's chauffer and listening to Santa Larry ask a little girl why she wanted "just a beaver" but she was actually asking for Justin Beiber music! Funny times are every moment on the island dressed like pirates. Bob feels that our club could improve by having a yearly membership drive. Thank you for the interview Bob, we are glad that you are a part of our club.



Bob and his wife Mary

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >April 24, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >May 1, Second annual Kiwanis Kentucky Derby Race
- >May 3, Nolley School Fun Fair, 5-8pm
- >May 8, Club Elections
- >May 27, Memorial Day Parade
- >May 29, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >June 5, Scholarship Dinner
- >June 12, speaker Dr. Eva Szigethy, Children's Hospital
- >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.