



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

May 5, 2024



SCOTT SHOOKMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Every year our club offers four \$1500 scholarships; two for Manchester students and two for Coventry students. The recipients are chosen based on academics, extra-curricular activities, community service, service to their home school, and financial need. All of the applicants are highly qualified so it was a tough decision to choose just two winners from each school. President Steve Hess will present the scholarships at the Senior awards night at both schools. The recipients will be revealed once the awards have been presented to the recipients at their respective banquets. 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 Wednesday, April 24th our Board of Directors voted to accept the membership of Geoffrey Kansa son of member Bob Kansa. Geoffrey works for the US Coast Guard and resides in New Franklin. His sponsor is his dad Bob. We welcome him to our Kiwanis family. An induction ceremony date will be set soon.



On Friday, May 3, 2024 Nolley Elementary School in Manchester held their final annual 'FUN FAIR' before the school is torn down. The event offered carnival games, food, and fun for the community. The PTA had asked our club for assistance as they expected a lot of attendees...they were right, there was a LOT of people there. Many thanks to the Kiwanians that came to volunteer. Kelley Nagy, Connie Nagy, Rosanne Edwardson, John Hercules, Al Grzeschik, Cathy Dietz, and Dana Roderick were on kitchen duty and served hundreds and hundreds of plates of pizza, hot dogs, chips, and soda. It was a pretty awesome community event.

A FREE Community Event! 20th Annual
Buckeye MartinFest



DATE: June 30, 2024 ~ 1:00p- 4:00p

Learn all about what makes Purple Martins so special and why they are important to our Portage Lakes community!

- * Learn how to feed Purple Martins
- * Hold and see the birds being banded
- * See the babies in their nests
- * Get information on Nimisila Twilight Boat Rides (August)
- * Visit Purple Martin info booths, play games, make crafts & more!
- * **Food Vendors, Raffle, Prizes!**

LOCATION:
North Reservoir Boat Ramp
803 State Mill Road
Coventry, OH 44319

Contact: Kay Lukac, President
Info@portagelakespurplemartins.com
(330) 283.5771



Sunday, June 30th is the annual Martinfest and will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the State Mill Boat ramp. Please support the Purple Martin Association in this educational fundraising event.

Also, do you have any spare time in the morning and/or evening to help out feeding the birds? Many have arrived and they need fed until the weather becomes warmer and there are enough bugs and mosquitoes for them to survive on. If you can assist, 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.

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Derby

In honor of the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby, we had our own Portage Lakes Kiwanis Derby, complete with horses, jockeys, betting, and home-made Mint Juleps!

Horse #1, That's a Wrap, jockey Rosanne Edwardson, supporting Santa Delivery

Horse #2, Egg-cellent, jockey Kelley Nagy, supporting our Easter Egg Hunt

Horse #3, Smarty Pants, jockey Gene Cole, supporting our Scholarship Program

Horse #4, Kissed by a Rose, jockey Debbie Rubino, supporting Rose Day

Horse #5, Captain Crunch, jockey Dana Roderick, supporting Pirate Day

Horse #6, 'Sea' you Later, jockey Chuck Seeley, supporting our Fish Fry



Horse #1 and Horse #6 were neck and neck all the way around the track, but in the end it was Horse #6, with 'Sea' you Later and jockey Seeley for the win. Thank you to all that participated, this was a LOT of fun, see you next year.

GUEST SPEAKER

Gene Cole gave us a fun and informative talk on past Rose Days! Back in the day members had to assemble the boxes which took hours and hours as there were way more roses sold in the earlier days. The roses came in bundles that were packed on ice and started out at \$5.00 a dozen. At one time they used waxed boxes so they would repel water if they got wet, except that wasn't so good when they slid out of the back of someones station wagon and onto the street because the waxed boxes were so slippery. Gene had a lot of good and fun information. We have come a long way with social media for advertising, on-line ordering instead of writing out slips of paper, and GPS systems to aid in delivery. Thanks Gene!

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 Seeley and Larry Hunter arrange for us. They do an awesome job.



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.



Club Elections will be held this Wednesday, May 8th at the Civic Center. We will be voting for a slate of Officers & Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 year. Please attend this meeting to have your voice heard and your vote count!



On Saturday, September 14th we will hold a fundraiser Quarter Auction at the Tadmor Shrine Center in Green. The event will be held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We will have an emcee running the show which will include the auction, raffle baskets, a 50/50 drawing, and more. Food will be available for purchase, and we will have product and craft vendors selling their wares. Tickets will be \$10.00 which includes one bidding paddle and admission. Additional paddles will be available for \$5.00 each and 'all in' paddles will be available for \$25 at the door the day of the event. We are still in need of a few more vendors so if you know anyone that sells a product or any crafters please have them contact cathy.dietz61@gmail.com. We are also in need of raffle baskets from club members and establishments in the Portage Lakes Community. We are also looking for volunteers to help out the day of the event. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS:

05/01 Sam Reynolds

05/17 Chuck Seeley

05/31 Tom Burge

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Jim Davis - 33 years

Al Grzeschik - 28 years

Paul Schuckert - 21 years

Dale Dietz - 13 years

Dana Roderick - 13 years

Kevin Powell - 2 years

Carol Derry - 1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

05/08 Shelley & Craig Betz

05/23 Melissa & Tim Millmier

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

Nancy Terjesen

Helen Thigpen

Larry Hunter

Sam Reynolds mother



Our member spotlight this week will shine on club member Connie Vaughan. Connie was born on April 3, 1949 in Akron, Ohio, and was raised in Akron as well. She attended grade school at Spicer, from there went on to Seiberling then to Thomastown. She attended Roswell Kent Jr. High followed by Garfield High School. She took nurses aid classes at Akron University and attended Portage Lakes Career Center for more medical training. While in school she played the violin in the orchestra and sang in the choir. Connie met her spouse Stanley in Akron; he was the boyfriend of her best friend at the time. They married on July 22, 1967 and have five children, 12 grandchildren, and 7 great grand children. Connie worked as a tray girl at Akron Children's Hospital, was a car hop at a root beer stand, worked at Suburban Medical Lab for 13 years, did nursing homes and private duty nursing, worked at Kaiser for 11 years, and retired from Healthspan. A fun fact that not many people would know is that Connie had a majorette corp for ten years and taught marching and baton twirling. She was also a majorette for the Tire Town Twirlers and the Akron Cadet-ettes, an all girl group and also played in the drum corp. The last book she read was 50 Shades of Grey. Connie's favorite childhood memory was vacations with her grandparents and seeing Christmas lights on Christmas Eve with her family. Her hobbies are sewing, crafting, and Diamond Dots. In her spare time she helps the Green High AFROTC with whatever they need. Her favorite kind of music is country and she loves anything Elvis. Connie has been to Texas, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, West Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Maine. She has also travelled to Canada. Her

least favorite trip was driving through Texarkana when someone got a speeding ticket and she didn't get her Elvis jacket. Her bucket list trip would be a cruise somewhere warm. If she had to eat one meal every day for the rest of her life it would be chicken and jojo's. The one item she cannot live without is Christmas trees, lol. The one person that inspired her the most is her mom who has passed. Her advice was never quit, finish what you started, and someone is counting on you.

Now on to Kiwanis...Connie came to join Kiwanis because she saw a post on FaceBook that we needed pontoon boats for Pirate Days and she signed up, she told her husband after the fact. Her sponsor was Al Grzeschik. The roles that Connie has served on in our club are; hospitality, ran two shoe drives, helps out with Pirate Days, Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Delivery, and works in the Rose Day office. What Connie enjoys most about Kiwanis is different activities, making friends, and helping out. The advice she would give to someone considering joining Kiwanis would be; if you don't want to get involved and help others than don't join. Not much has changed in our club since she has joined. The thing most memorable to Connie in Kiwanis is watching the little kids at Christmas when Santa comes, and the kids on the boat rides. The thing that Connie said would make our club better is to lower the price of dues; they are too high and some people can't afford to pay them. She is thinking this will be her last year because Social Security is the only money she has coming in. She also thinks if they were a lot lower more people would join.

Thanks Connie for participating and sharing your story.

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >May 8, Club Elections
- >May 27, Memorial Day Parade
- >May 29, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >June 5, Scholarship Dinner
- >June 12, speaker Dr. Eva Szigethy, Children's Hospital
- >June 30, Martinfest, 1-4pm

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >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.