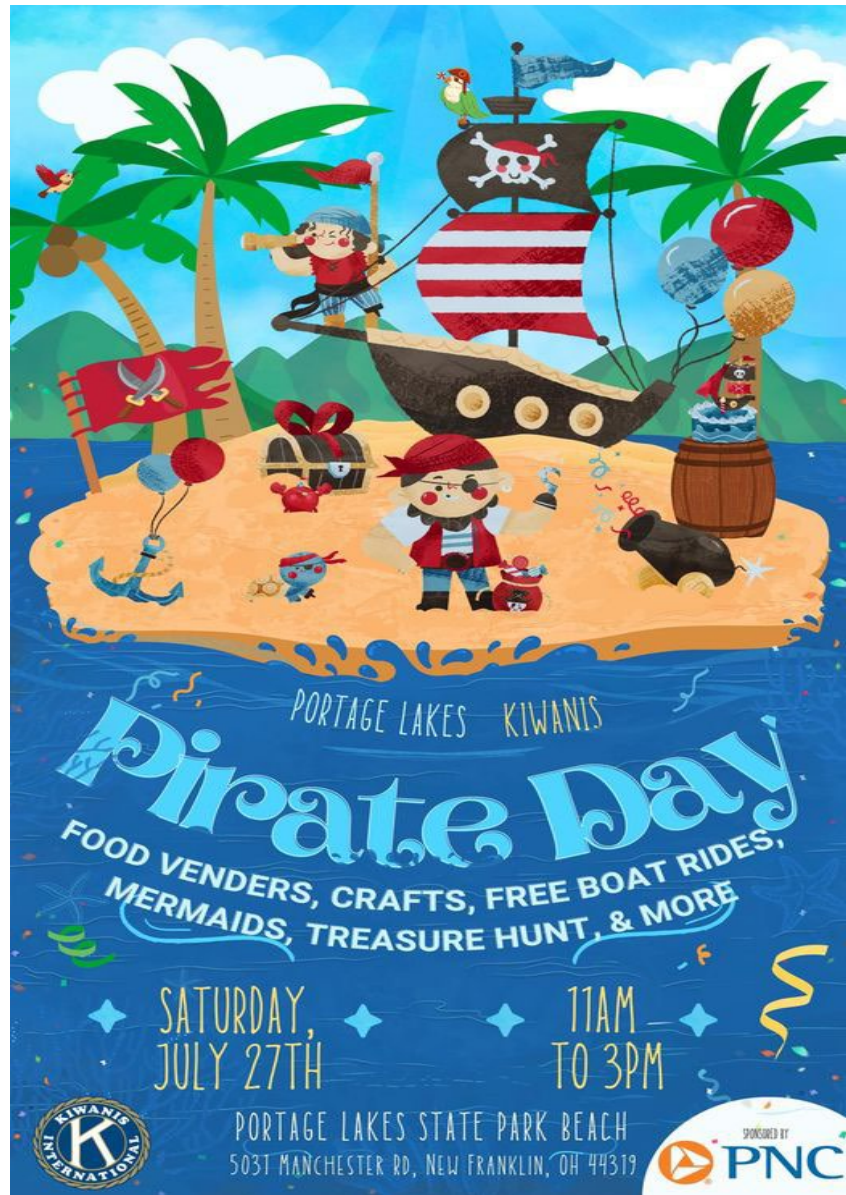




PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

July 21, 2024



The Pirates are coming! This Saturday, July 27th at the State Park Beach. Everything is ready. We are looking forward to hundreds of families to come out and enjoy the activities. Volunteers need arrive at 9:00 am and boat drivers at 10:00 am. If you have any questions or need any additional information about this event, please contact Dana Roderick, chair, at d1687@hotmail.com



The "Clean up Portage Lakes Drive" that was scheduled last month was postponed due to the extreme heat. It has been rescheduled for THIS coming **Wednesday, July 24th at 6:00 pm**. We will hope for cooler temperatures and no rain. Afterwards we will return to the Civic Center for Pizza and a short meeting.



The Dragon Boat Festival was held at the State Park Beach on Saturday July 20th. Our club has helped out at the event for several years now. We had many jobs to do; loading and transporting attendees and their 'stuff' from the parking lot to the beach and then from the beach to the parking lot, working on the dock, serving lunches, and helping out where needed. **THANK YOU** to all 24 members of PLK that volunteered at the festival, that is our best turn out yet.



Thank you to the Dream Team for the volunteer opportunity! We could not have asked for a more beautiful day.



On Wednesday July 10th we held an Induction Ceremony for three new members. Rick and Jeanette Bell are sponsored by Chuck Seeley. They reside in Green and have been helping our club for many years. They keep our Santa Delivery sleighs in top shape. Also inducted was Becky Walters and her sponsor is Debbie Rubino. All three will be a wonderful addition to our club and we welcome them to our Kiwanis family. Dale Dietz led the Induction Ceremony.



Rick and Jeanette Bell



Debbie Rubino and Becky Walters



Many thanks to Kay Lukac, President of the Purple Martin Association, for donating several serving spoons to our club. Thanks also to Betty Seeley for washing them up. They will get a lot of use in our many club feasts.



We are almost to the end of the Ohio State raffle ticket fundraiser. There are not many tickets left to sell. Please see Steve Hess if you need more to sell or if you have not purchased your own tickets yet. The tickets are sold for \$5.00 each and our club gets to keep \$3.00 of each ticket sold. The winner will receive two tickets to every home game the OSU Buckeye football team plays this fall. It's a relatively easy way for us to raise some extra funds. All monies and/or unsold tickets must be returned to Steve by August 14th and the drawing will be held live on Facebook August 19th.



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 are \$10.00 which includes one bidding paddle and admission. Additional paddles and 'all in' paddles will be available at the door the day of the event. **TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE, get yours and invite a friend or two. If you want a certain paddle number for good luck, purchase your ticket soon, it may not be available if you wait. See Cathy Dietz or Kelley Nagy for tickets. Also tickets are now available at plkiwanis.org. Spread the word, we still have a lot of tickets to sell.**

WHAT WE NEED...

We are asking all members to obtain a raffle basket from an establishment in the Portage Lakes area, donate a raffle basket yourself, or donate a bottle of liquor for a special 'Bushel of Booze' to be raffled off. We also need volunteers to help on the day of the event. You can bring in your donation to any Wednesday meeting.

Cathy Dietz is the chair of this event, and committee members are Connie Nagy, Kelley Nagy, Rosanne Edwardson, and Juanita Gehm. Anyone of these girls can answer questions you may have or provide additional information if needed.



On Wednesday, August 14th we will hold a Picnic for all club members and their families. It will be held at Boettler Park in Green and begin at 6:00pm. The club will supply hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks. Everyone that attends is asked to bring a dish to share. It will be a fun event, plan to attend!

PIRATE PANCAKE BREAKFAST WRAP-UP

The Pirate Pancake Breakfast was held on July 13th at the Civic Center. Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped out at the event, it would not have been possible without you! Thanks to Dana, Al, and Melissa for organizing the breakfast, and thanks to all that attended the event. The Pirates interacted with the kids, and they all got to wear eye patches and pirate hats. A fun time and full belly was had by all.



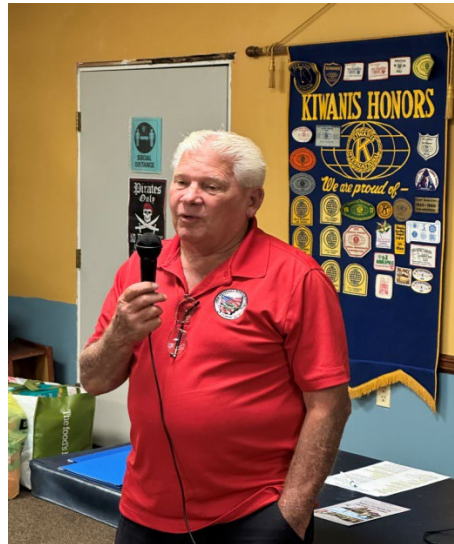
Pirate Humor...

Question - What are the ten letters of the Pirate alphabet?

Answer - I.I.R.C.C.C.C.C.C.C

Aye-Aye, Arrr, and the Seven Seas

On July 10th Mr. Gary Kindig from the Ohio Veterans Memorial Park in Clinton came in to speak with us. He gave us the history of the park and told us some great stories many of which were very sentimental in talking about times of war. The Park is dedicated to honoring Ohio's veterans from all wars, branches of service, and those serving during both peacetime and war. Their mission is to preserve the memories of those who have taken an oath to protect the American way of life.



- *August 7th, Tara Kerscher, Community Outreach for Judge Elinor Stormer Marsh
- *September 18th, member Billy Krills from Camp Y-Noah, he will speak about camp and a recent mission trip to Honduras
- *October 16th, member Jon Vielhaber speaking on computer/on line security issues
- *November 13th, Judy Hanna from Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to Chuck Seeley for arranging our speakers, he does a fantastic job. Above is the line-up of speakers for the next few months. Please try to attend these meetings to support our speakers that take their time to come in and talk to us. You will not leave a meeting without learning something!

BIRTHDAYS:

07/04 Jeanette Bell

07/25 Bob Kansa

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Connie Nagy - 26 years

Joe Reinmann - 25 years

John Hercules - 10 years

Steve Hess - 6 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

07/11 Sam & Cynthia Reynolds

07/22 Stan & Connie Vaughan

07/24 Jon & Cassie Freeman

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

Gene Cole

Nancy Terjesen

Helen Thigpen

Sam Reynolds mother



Our member spotlight this week will shine on 34 year club member John Schermesser. John was born and raised in Firestone Park and Coventry Township. He graduated from Coventry High School in 1975, attended Kent State Stark for three years, then graduated from the Pittsburg Institute of Mortuary Science in 1979. While in school John played football, ran track, was on the wrestling team, and was in the Key Club (yay). John met his spouse when the hair dresser Jackie Carris, where he got his hair cut at Creative Designs told him she had a nice girl for him and she only has 3 kids! His wife Michele attended Green High School, went to Walsh College, and is a registered nurse. They have one daughter, three sons, and three grandchildren. John has been a funeral director and embalmer since 1980. He has worked at Schermesser Funeral Home for 55 years, becoming the

President in 1981. He was a Summit County Deputy for 40 1/2 years, retiring last year. His career with the Summit County Sheriff's office began in October 1982 until April 2023, serving under five sheriffs. He worked the first 25 years heavily in the Patrol Division, working for over 15,000 hours without compensation. He was a defensive driving instructor with the Summit County Sheriffs Academy for six years, and worked in many other divisions of the department over the years. He has also worked many Secret Service details since 1984 starting with Jesse Jackson then George H.W. Bush, Barbara Bush, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, George W. Bush, Sarah Palin, and John McCain, wow, what a career! A fun fact that not many people would know is that he is a private pilot (single engine land and seaplane) getting his license in 1982 with 200 hours of flight time. While on a Goodyear Blimp ride the pilot let him fly for about 30 minutes. He has also gone skydiving three times. He was a member of the Akron Crime Clinic since 1985 serving as President in 1994. The last book he read was Green Eggs & Ham. His favorite hobby is golf and being outdoors in Southern Ohio hunting and camping. John likes all kinds of music! He has been to four continents, 19 countries, and 47 states. He has yet to visit Maine, Rhode Island, and Mississippi. His least favorite trip was to New York City. His bucket list trip would be to go back to Alaska. If he had to eat one meal every day for the rest of his life that would be Rocky Mountain Oysters with cocktail sauce or Spam Lite cooked in grape jelly and butter served on wheat toast. The one item he cannot live without is oxygen or H₂O. The one person in Kiwanis that inspires him the most is Tom Longworth.

Now on to Kiwanis...John's father was in the Portage Lakes Kiwanis in the 50's for five years. He was persuaded to join Kiwanis by his neighbor Don Hallauer. Bob Longworth was his sponsor. The roles that John has served in our Club upon joining in 1981 include serving on the Board in the late 1980's, was the youngest Vice President in 1990, and the youngest to become a senior member in 1991 at 34 years of age. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the past 15 plus years with the Kiwanis Towers. Community involvement is what John has enjoyed most about being in the Portage Lakes Kiwanis. The advice he would give to someone considering joining our club is to participate! A memorable story...prior to the late 1980's Kiwanis was a Student Loan Program and got no community recognition so John sent anonymous letters to every Kiwanian to persuade them to change it to a flat scholarship that was transparent to everyone. Thus the recipients photos and names on our wall for all the community to see and Kiwanis to be recognized. From 1979 to 2015 John owned the swamp at Route 619 and South Main Street, which was called John & Michele's SWAMP. He proposed to his wife Michele there on February 29, 1992; she had to borrow her dad's waders.

They had to pick a place and date they could not forget. They then got married on Halloween that same year.

Thank you for participating John, that is a pretty amazing bio. Thank you for the photos, those are pretty amazing too.



UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >July 24, Clean Up Portage Lakes Drive, 6:00 pm
- >July 27, Pirate Day on the Lake
- >July 31, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >Aug 7th, Speaker Tara Kerscher, Community Outreach for Judge Elinor Stormer Marsh
- >August 14, Family picnic @ Boettler Park
- >August 22, Coventry Schools Foundation Corn Roast at Prime Vine Winery

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >September 4, Fish Fry dinner
- >September 11, Kiwanis Tower Dinner
- >September 14, Quarter Auction fundraiser
- >September 18, Speaker Billy Krills, Camp Y-Noah
- >October 5, Rose Day
- >October 9, Charter Party at Canal Grille

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: 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.