



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

October 27, 2024

HOLIDAY 'HELPING' PROJECTS

Our club has taken on two projects to help those in need this holiday season. We will be gathering items to fill buckets for a nonprofit agency in New Franklin called Wednesday's Child. The buckets will be given to adults and children that are struggling in hopes of adding some happiness to their holidays. We are asking club members to bring in donations as you are out shopping. Our goal is to fill at least 15 buckets. We will need to turn in our donated buckets by December 10th so please start bringing in items as soon as possible. Some ideas are: water bottles, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, notebooks, pens, highlighters, band aids, decks of cards, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, hand sanitizer, flashlights, combs, chap stick, stuffed animals, small toys, word search puzzle books, deodorant, crayons, markers, handheld games, granola bars, gum/mints, play dough. These are just suggestions, be creative! We will have a box inside the Civic Center to put your items in.

The second project is one we have done off and on for several years; Blessings in a Backpack. We will collect non perishable food items for our local school districts to help children that rely on school breakfast and lunches. The food will be sent home with children over weekends and holiday breaks to make sure they have something to eat; many families are struggling. Some suggestions would be single serving macaroni and cheese, fruit cups, crackers, peanut butter, or any food item with an easy pop top. We are also collecting hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, etc. When you are out shopping please consider adding a few items to your cart and dropping them off at the Civic Center. There are receptacles outside the Civic Center so you can drop your donation off any time or you can bring them in any Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Both of these projects are in direct line with the Kiwanis mission statement...
Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.





CHRISTMAS EVE SANTA DELIVERY

Our next major event will be Santa Delivery. While it may seem like a long ways away it will be here before we know it. Connie Nagy will again chair this event. If you are a Route Captain please start to get your team in order. You will need a Santa, some elves, a sleigh puller, a lead car, and lots of Christmas Cheer. If you have any trouble assembling a team please let Connie know, she can help. Many thanks to Rick and Jeanette Bell at Summit Trailer as they have been working to re-furbish and repair sleighs as needed. If you have any questions or would like to be a first time volunteer please talk to Connie or email her at liberty644@aol.com.



GIRLS NIGHT IN HOLIDAY GATHERING

Our fifth annual Girls Night In Holiday Gathering will be held on Friday, November 22nd at 6:00 pm at the Civic Center. We will have a light dinner, make - n-take Christmas crafts (don't worry, super easy), play a game, have an ornament exchange, and lots of girl gab. There is no cost to attend this event, you will just need to bring your holiday smile and a Christmas ornament valued at \$10 or less. All Kiwanis female members are invited along with all male members spouses or significant other. You may also bring a friend if you'd like. This is a really fun and relaxing event. Please RSVP if you would like to attend.

Below is the 'save the date' for Ohio District Governor Kelly Brown's Governors Dinner to be held on November 21st at the Wayne County Schools Career Center in Smithville, Ohio. Any club member is welcome to attend this event as well. Tickets will be \$20.00 for each attendee. A buffet dinner will be prepared by the Culinary Arts students. Reservations must be received by November 11th.



It is that time of the year again! The Acme Cashback Program will run from August 1st through February 2025. This is another super easy way to earn money for our club. Please save your receipt every time you shop at Acme. At the bottom of the receipt it will show how much community cashback you earned. Our club will get 5% of all the receipts we file at the end of the program. You can bring your receipts to any meeting and give them to Secretary Cathy. Thank you



Vice President Jon Vielhaver spoke to the club on October 16th about cyber-security and gave us some really good indications when something is legitimate or a scam. It is really good stuff to know as everyone gets questionable emails and texts. When in doubt, 'DO NOT CLICK' !

This past Wednesday 10/23, Jamie Morris with Wednesday's Child, a non profit in New Franklin came in to speak with us about the programs and volunteer opportunities within their agency. They do some amazing work in our community. Please visit their Facebook page and their website for more information. Thank you Jamie.

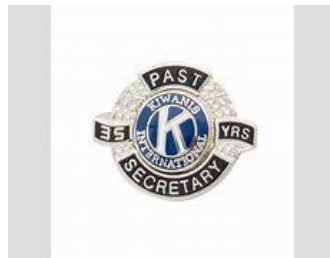


Our next speaker will be on November 13th. Judy Hanna from Meals on Wheels will come in and talk with us about their agency. Please try to attend!

Many thanks to Chuck Seeley for arranging our speakers, he does a fantastic job. 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!



At our meeting on October 16th, the Board of Directors accepted the membership application of Lana Stryker. Lana is a Director at United Disability Service in Akron and is a Portage Lakes resident. Debbie Rubino is Lana's sponsor. Her induction ceremony is set for November 6th. We welcome Lana into our Kiwanis Family and know that she will be a tremendous asset to our club.



Congratulations goes out to member Sue Fassoles who has received a Legion of Honor Award for being a 35 year member of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Club. Sue joined back in October of 1989. Sue does a LOT of behind the scenes work for our club. She is our financial/tax person, our annual Easter Bunny, is a Route Captain on Christmas Eve, runs the 'will call' desk on Rose Day, and a whole lot more. She was also Club Secretary for several years. Below is a photo of Al awarding our superstar! Thank you Sue for all you do for our club, you are appreciated.



MEMBER DIRECTORY

Secretary Cathy will be updating the membership roster in a few weeks. If your address, phone number, or email address has changed please let me know so we have current information. You can shoot me an email at cathy.dietz61@gmail.com
Thank you.



Our annual Cookies with Kiwanis event will be held at the Kiwanis Tower on Wednesday, December 11th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. We'll have a meal with cookies and desserts. A signup sheet will be passed around so we get a variety of foods. Please mark the date, more details to follow.



A very BIG congratulations to our friends over in Barberton. The Kiwanis Club of Barberton is celebrating their 100th year as a club. They had a wonderful banquet on October 18th attended by many local politicians, past and present club members and Board of Directors, and many Kiwanis guests. We congratulate them and wish them much success for the next 100 years.

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >October 30, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >November 13, Judy Hanna, speaker from Meals on Wheels
- >November 21, Ohio Governor Kelly Brown Dinner
- >November 22, Girls Night In holiday event, 6:00 pm
- >November 27, NO MEETING, Thanksgiving Holiday

LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >December 8, TENTATIVE, Coventry Christmas Tree Lighting
- >December 11, Cookies with Kiwanis at the Tower
- >December 13, New Franklin & Coventry Fire Departments open to take in Santa Delivery gifts
- >December 17, District 16 Meeting, Westfield Center
- >December 24, Christmas Eve Santa Delivery
- >December 25, NO MEETING, **Merry Christmas**
- >January 1, NO MEETING, **Happy New Year!**

BIRTHDAYS:

- 10/02 Denise Goodwin
- 10/05 Rosanne Edwardson
- 10/09 Connie Nagy
- 10/09 Don Reilly
- 10/14 Frank Smith
- 10/23 Al Grzeschik
- 10/27 Kevin Powell
- 10/29 Jill Flagg Lanzinger

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- 10/11 Frank & Bonnie Smith
- 10/14 Tom Burge & Polly Price
- 10/15 Dale & Cathy Dietz
- 10/31 John & Michelle Schermesser

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

- Tom Longworth - 73 years
- Don Reilly - 48 years
- Sue Fassoles - 30 years
- Sam Reynolds - 28 years
- Debbie Rubino - 14 years
- Chuck Seeley - 14 years
- Jeff Goodwin - 14 years
- Jill Flagg Lanzinger - 10 years

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

Vicki Kepnes

Nancy Terjesen

If you know of anyone that needs to be added to our family news/prayer chain, please let me know, cathy.dietz61@gmail.com



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.