



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

February 23, 2025



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th at the Tudor House. The event will run from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm, with the egg hunt beginning at 12 noon. This is a free community event for children. We'll have games, prizes, the balloon pop, visits with the Easter Bunny and of course the egg hunt. The Little Roaming Railroad will join us again this year with free train rides for both children and adults. The Manchester Education Association will be selling lunch and raffle basket tickets with all proceeds supporting student scholarships. We are also excited to welcome GASP (Guardians Advocating Child Safety and Protection). They will be on site providing free take-home child fingerprint and ID kits for families. We will be stuffing eggs at the Civic Center on April 9th and finish on April 16th if needed. Please join us at 6:30 pm if you can help. We will also need volunteers on the day of the event. Connie Nagy is the chair of this event and can answer any questions you may have.



Our annual Presidents Day Showcase was held at the Civic Center on Wednesday, February 19th. It was a wonderful success with great speakers. We learned a lot about our community and the non-profits that are based in the Portage Lakes area.

***Many thanks to all of the speakers: The Tudor House at Mason's Cove represented by Tim Canter, The Portage Lakes Rowing Association represented by Seth Koellner, The Akron Yacht Club represented by Dan August, The Coventry Schools Foundation represented by Crystal Cianciola, The Portage Lakes Advisory Council represented by Melissa Millmier, Friends of the Library and the Orchid Association represented by Meghan Harper, The Green Good Neighbors represented by Pat Stiles, The International Welcome Center represented by Christina Hodgkinson, The Rotary Camp represented by Mela Castner, Wednesday's Child represented by Jamie Morris, the Dragon Dream Team represented by Judy Cole, The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association represented by Kay Lukac, and our club represented by Dale Dietz**

***Thank you to Larry Hunter and Chuck Seeley for lining up all of the speakers**

***Thank you to Cathy Dietz for decorating the Civic Center in red, white, and blue**

***Thank you to Al Grzeschik for preparing a delicious dinner for everyone that attended**





The Acme Community Cash Back program has ended and the report has been filed! Thank you to every person that brought in receipts for this easy way to earn money for our club, also thanks to Acme for offering this opportunity to non-profit's. While it is not a lot of money; every little bit helps. *Everyone that has turned in receipts has been entered to win a gift card at our meeting this coming Wednesday February 26th.*

A vibrant poster for a chili cook-off. The background is a mix of orange, green, and red with illustrations of chili peppers and bowls of chili. The text is arranged in a clear, eye-catching layout.

P.L. Kiwanis
**CHILI
COOK-OFF**
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS
@6:30

Details-

- \$15 dinner
- Sample the chilis and vote on your favorite!

Winner will receive a \$25 gift card!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?
LET CATHY OR ROSANNE KNOW BY THE 19TH IF YOU'RE PARTICIPATING

Chili cook-off will be held this Wednesday, February 26th at the Civic Center, dinner will be at 6:30 followed by our regular meeting at 7:00 pm. The winner will receive a \$25 gift card, so bring in your best pot of chili.



Many thanks to our own Lana Stryker and her crew for speaking to us about United Disability Services here in Akron. Lana is the Director there! They gave us a great presentation on the services they offer. It was both informative and fun. They did a wonderful job and also passed out information folders about their organization. Thanks girls.

Our next speaker will be on March 5th, Lissy's Legacy of Love will come in and present. They are a non profit that helps kids affected by addiction and have a home life that is not ideal. They help these kids who are helpless, and offer their services to children in Summit, Medina, Wayne, and Stark county.

On April 2nd, Buffie Labelle from REM Ohio will come in and speak with us. They have a branch right here in Portage Lakes. They offer a variety of services and programs for people with special needs and their families.

Please try to attend meetings when we have a speaker, to support our speaker program. Many thanks to Steve Hess and Chuck Seeley for arranging our guest speakers.



The Portage Lakes Kiwanis will be celebrating our 75th club anniversary next year, we were chartered in October 1951. We would like to form a committee to begin planning for this milestone event. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Secretary Cathy at cathy.dietz61@gmail.com. After we assemble a group together, a meeting will be set up to get the ball rolling for this very special time in our club's history.

Blessings in a Backpack

Please continue to bring in food for our Blessings in a Backpack program. We 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 kids 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. 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.



DINNER

On Wednesday, March 12th we will meet at Dano's Lakeside Pub for dinner. You can arrive anytime between 6:00 and 6:30 pm. We always have a good time, good food, and good fellowship at our dinner out meeting. They have two Wednesday specials: a Meatball Sub with Fries and a Prime Rib Dinner. Dano's is always great about supporting our club so let's show them our thanks by attending!



COMING SOON...with the sponsorship of local non-profit Wednesdays Child, we will soon have a 'Free Little Pantry' at our Civic Center. Al Grzeschik and Jon Vielhaber are building the food cupboard and it will be up and running soon. Stay tuned for further details on how YOU can help.

MID-YEAR EDUCATION DAY

Mid Year Education Day will be held on Saturday March 15th at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, Ohio. It's always a fun day of ideas and learning.

If you would rather attend from the comfort of your own home, there is a remote option. Three people from our club are attending! It's not too late to register.

March 15, 202
Quest Conference Center
9200 Worthington Road, Suite 400,
Westerville, OH 43082

Mid-Year Education Day is an opportunity for Kiwanians across the Ohio District to come together in the middle of the administrative year for leadership development, a bit of business, and member recognition. Building on Governor Kelly Brown's Pollinator Project, the theme for this year's event is Spread Your Wings and Take Flight!

This year's event will include an opening, business session, lunch keynote speaker, an awards program, and a total of 9 breakout sessions throughout the day. Three of these breakout sessions will be repeated for an online-only audience via Zoom. In person attendees will enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch, and ending celebration. Spread your wings and take flight at Kiwanis Mid-Year Education Day!

BIRTHDAYS:

02/03 Marcia Ponikvar
02/11 Jonathan Zito
02/19 Lana Stryker
02/28 Bob Goff

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Jay Feldman - 42 years
Tom Burge - 39 years
Vicki Kepnes - 24 years
Becky Shookman - 9 years
Bob Kansa - 7 years
Melissa Millmier - 6 years
Kay Lukac - 5 years
Kelley Nagy - 3 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

02/05 Jay & Connie Feldman

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

Nancy Terjesen
Frank Smith
Kay Lukac
Jim Welton
Rosanne Edwardson
Vicki Kepnes
Debbie Rubino (mother passed away)

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >February 26, Chili Cook-off, Regular meeting & Board meeting
- >March 5, speaker, Lissy's Legacy of Love
- >March 12, Dinner out at Dano's Lakeside Pub
- >March 15, Mid-year Education Day
- >March 18, Division 16 meeting
- >March 26, Regular meeting & Board meeting

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >April 2, speaker, Buffie Labelle, REM Ohio
- >April 9, Easter Egg stuffing at the Civic Center
- >April 16, Easter Egg stuffing at the Civic Center if needed
- >April 19, Easter Egg Hunt at the Tudor House

Some up-coming events in the Portage Lakes Community:

**April 5, Dragon Dream team 'Breast of Friends' Dinner & Auction Gala
to be held at Guy's Party Center**

April 19, Portage Lakes Advisory Council, Run/Walk to the Beach, held at the Portage Lakes State Park, registration is \$30, please see Melissa Millmier for more information

April 22, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Coventry Schools Foundation presents their 'Taste of Coventry' at Gather on the Lakes on Manchester Road, tickets are \$35, please see Crystal Cianciola

July 19th, Dragonboat Festival, all day event at the Portage Lakes State Park Beach, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

LOVE IT. SHARE IT. LIVE IT.



Kiwaniis®

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 Face book page, 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.