



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

March 23, 2025



TODAY, March 23rd Key Club International is celebrating 100 years of service, leadership, and positive contributions to our communities. For this remarkable centennial milestone we have a heartfelt birthday wish: for Kiwanis family members and Key Club members to continue their service and to celebrate this historic anniversary. Together let's help pave the way for the next century of student leaders by continuing to support our two local Key Clubs, Coventry High School and Manchester High School.

We want to wish Key Club International a Happy 100th Birthday. You've shown the world the power of young people who are change-makers. From inspiring future leaders to creating a legacy of service, your impact is immeasurable. Keep up the incredible work, and here's to 100 more years. Your unwavering commitment to service and leadership has set an example for others to follow. We're proud to stand with you as you continue your mission to change lives around the world, starting with our very own Portage Lakes community.



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.



On March 12th we met up at Dano's for a dinner out! We had 29 members and 6 guests join in for fun, fellowship, and great food! Dano's is a wonderful community supporter of our club so it was a good way to show them our appreciation and thanks.



GUEST SPEAKER

On April 2nd, Buffie Labelle from REM Ohio will come in and speak with us. They have a branch office 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 have formed a committee to begin planning for this milestone event. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, April 16th after our regular meeting. This will be a brief introductory meeting to set up a vision of what we want this event(s) to look like and to get the ball rolling for this very special time in our club's history.



On Wednesday, March 19th Girl Scout Troop 90886 and their leaders joined us at our meeting. They led the Pledge of Allegiance, talked about what their troop does, and sang the legendary song 'Make New Friends. They brought in cookies to sell which no one can resist! They are an amazing bunch of kids and we will welcome them back to visit us again. Great job girls!





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.



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Our club has been offered the chance to sell 50/50 raffle tickets to the racing fans at the Norton Raceway Park (formerly Barberton Speedway) on Saturday, May 31st. Thanks to the members that have volunteered to sell the tickets. We will retain half of the money collected with the other half going to the ticket winner. We will hope for perfect weather and a big crowd that night. Anyone that wants to come hang out and watch the racing is welcome. Ticket prices are: Adults 16+ \$15, Seniors 62 and over \$10, Kids 6-15 are \$10, and kids 5 and under are free.



The Coventry Parks Advisory Committee will host 'Food Truck Mondays' one Monday each month this summer at the Coventry Clock Tower. There will be great food and fun on June 9th, July 14th, and August 11th from 5 to 8pm. There will be tables set up to sit down and eat. Our club will set up an 'information' table on these three dates to let the Portage Lakes community know what our club is up to. Save these dates if you will be able to come down and help out. More details to follow.



We will again have a Kiwanis float in the New Franklin Memorial Day parade. The date will be Monday May 26th. Please save this date! If you have any ideas on how to decorate the float or would like to volunteer to help out that day, please see Steve Hess who is the chair of this event.



The 'Clean up Portage Lakes Drive' event will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:00 pm. We will have teams take different parts of Portage Lakes Drive, from the Clock Tower to Manchester Road and pick up all the trash we can. Afterwards we will fire up the grill and Chef Al will fix burgers and dogs for dinner. Many hands will make the work easier, so please plan to help if you are able.



OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TICKET RAFFLE

Our club will again participate in the Buckeye Ticket Raffle fundraiser. We will sell raffle tickets for \$5.00 each, our club will keep \$3.00 for every ticket sold and the other \$2.00 will be sent back to the Columbus Kiwanis Foundation. The winner will receive 2 tickets to all seven OSU home football games. The seats are in Section 22C, Row 26 which is around the 45 yard-line. Steve Hess will be our Club Chair for this fundraiser. We can begin selling tickets in the middle of May. The drawing for the winner will be held on Monday, August 18, 2025. This is a simple way to earn a few extra dollars for our club. Last year our own Stanley Vaughan sold the winning ticket!

Community Events coming up:

The Dragon Dream Team will host their annual 'Breast of Friends' Gala fundraiser at Guy's Party Center on April 5, 2025 from 6 to 10pm. Please see their website for additional information.

The Portage Lakes Advisory Council will hold their annual 'Run to the Beach' on Saturday April 19th. This event will begin at 7:15am and end at approximately 10am. Please register at their website portagelakesadvisorycouncil.org if you would like to attend or participate.

The Coventry Schools Foundation will hold their annual fundraiser 'A Taste of Coventry' on April 22nd, from 6 to 9pm at Gather at the Lakes. Sample local cuisine, enter the basket raffle, and bid on silent auction items. Please see Crystal Cianciola for tickets.

Wednesday's Child will be hosting their annual Plant Sale at our Civic Center on Saturday, May 3rd. Plan on attending to get your spring plants and posies.

The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association will again hold their Education Days for Coventry and Manchester Middle School students. May 21st will be Manchester and May 22nd will be Coventry. If you are able to help, please contact Kay Lukac at kaylukac@yahoo.com, the Purple Martin Association is always looking for good helpers.

Friday, May 30th will be the Nolley Elementary School Fun Fair. This is a fun event for children, students, and families in New Franklin. Our club will be helping out with kitchen duty and serving food. Save the date if you can volunteer that night.

The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association will hold their annual Martinfest on Sunday, June 29th at the State Mill Boat ramp. Please let Kay know if you will be able to help.

The Dragon Dream Team will hold their annual Dragon's on the Lake Boat Festival at the Portage Lakes State Park on Saturday July 19th. This is an all day event that more than 1,500 people will attend and will be a day of community, camaraderie, and competition. Our club will help out transporting people from the parking area down to the beach area.

BIRTHDAYS:

03/01 Larry Hunter

03/03 Glen Sheets

03/07 John Schermesser

03/14 Gary Hinton

03/20 Judy Jones

03/21 Lynda Farkas

03/27 Cathy Dietz

03/27 Kay Lukac

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Lisa Geiger Houck - 12 years

Devin Allman - 3 years

Crystal Cianciola - 2 years

Judy Jones - 1 year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

03/23 Jim & Marge Welton

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

Nancy Terjesen

Frank Smith

Jim Welton

Member Sam Reynolds has lost his mother Irene Evelyn Reynolds. She passed away at 99 years old on March 6, 2025. We offer our Christian condolences to Sam and his family during this very difficult time. Sam is a Past President leading our club in 2001. Cox-McNulty will be handling the arrangements.

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- >March 26, Regular meeting & Board meeting
- >April 2, speaker, Buffie Labelle, REM Ohio
- >April 9, Easter Egg stuffing at the Civic Center
- >April 10, New Division meeting, 6:00 pm at Civic Center
- >April 16, Easter Egg stuffing at the Civic Center if needed, also PLK 75th anniversary meeting after the regular meeting
- >April 19, Easter Egg Hunt at the Tudor House
- >April 23, Clean up Portage Lakes Drive, 6:00 pm
- >April 30, Regular meeting & Board meeting

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

- >May 26, New Franklin Memorial Day Parade
- >May 30, Nolley School Fun Fair
- >May 31, Norton Raceway Park 50/50 fundraiser
- >June 29, Martinfest, State Mill Boat ramp
- >July 19, Dragons on the Lake Festival
- >July 26, Pirate Day on the Lake, Portage Lakes State Park



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.