



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

March 9, 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.



The chili cook-off held at the Civic Center on February 26th was a success, and we all had some good eats. When all of the votes were tallied, Al Grzeschik's pot of chili was the winner! Al got a \$25 gift card for being the chili champ, congrats Al. Many thanks to all that brought in chili and side dishes, we have some pretty darn good cooks.



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.



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.



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.



A Manchester Girl Scout troop will be joining us for our meeting on March 19th. They would like to let our club know what has been happening with their troop and what they have been up to. They will also be bringing along some Girl Scout cookies so anyone that would like to purchase some to help out their troop would be greatly appreciated...and yummy. Please bring a few extra bucks that night



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

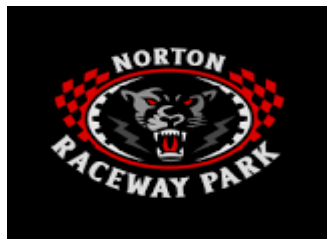
On Wednesday, March 12th we will meet at Dano's Lakeside Pub for dinner. You can arrive anytime between 6:00 and 6:30 pm. We always have a good time, good food, and good fellowship at our dinner out meeting. They have two Wednesday specials: a Meatball Sub with Fries and a Prime Rib Dinner. Dano's is always great about supporting our club so let's show them our thanks by attending! Please RSVP with Al if you plan on attending. There will be no meeting at the Civic Center on 03/12.

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. Our club will be represented by Al, Jon, and Dana.

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!

We will be eager to hear what they have learned.



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 races 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.

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 School 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 Martins are 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
Rosanne Edwardson

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 12, Dinner out at Dano's Lakeside Pub, 6:00pm
- >March 15, Mid-year Education Day
- >March 18, Division 16 meeting
- >March 19, Girl Scout Troop visit and committee meetings
- >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 17, New Division Meeting, 6pm at Civic Center
- >April 19, Easter Egg Hunt at the Tudor House
- >April 23, Clean up Portage Lakes Drive, 6:00 pm
- >May 26, New Franklin Memorial Day Parade
- >May 30, Nolley School Fun Fair
- >May 31, Norton Raceway Park 50/50 fundraiser
- >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.