



PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

April 21, 2025

EASTER EGG HUNT WRAP-UP

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 19th at the Tudor House. Thank you for joining us on this partly sunny partly rainy day. The rain did hold off until it was time for the noon egg hunt, then came a torrential downpour! We appreciate everyone that showed up to help or participate! Thank you to the City of New Franklin for hosting us at the beautiful Tudor House on the lake. Thank you to the New Franklin Fire Department for bringing one of their fire trucks and letting the kids explore. Thanks to the Little Roaming Railroad for providing train rides, to the Movement Church for bringing games and popcorn for the kids. Thanks to our local Key Clubs and the Green ROTC cadets for lending a helping hand throughout the event. Thank you to GASP and the Manchester Education Association for food, fun, and raffle baskets. If we have overlooked anyone it is not intentional, thank you for your help. Finally thank you to the *Portage Lakes Kiwanis* members who planned, organized, and executed a successful Easter Egg Hunt. Co-chairs of this event were Connie Nagy, Kelley Nagy, and Al Grzeschik. Great job team, see you next year.





We will again have a Kiwanis float in the New Franklin Memorial Day parade. The date will be Monday May 26th. The parade route runs from Grace Bible Church on Manchester Road to the Manchester Cemetery on Nimisila Road. 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. SAVE THE DATE, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VICKI !



SCOTT SHOOKMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Every year our club offers four \$1,500 scholarships; two for Manchester seniors and two for Coventry seniors. The recipients are chosen based on academics, extra-curricular activities, community service, service to their home school, and financial need. All of the applicants are highly qualified so it is always a tough decision to choose just two winners from each school. President Dietz will present the scholarships at the Senior Awards night at both schools and at that time the recipients will be revealed. Our annual Scholarship Banquet will be held at the Civic Center on Wednesday, May 28th. Please make plans to attend this dinner to support the scholarship program, the scholarship recipients, and the Shookman family. The scholarship committee consists of: Sam Reynolds, chair, Becky Shookman, Gene Cole, and Cathy Dietz.

CLUB ELECTIONS

Club elections will be held on Wednesday, May 14th this year. We are specifically in need of a Vice President. If you or someone you know would be interested in this position or if you would like more information, please contact Al Grzeschik. We will be voting for a slate of Officers & Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 year. Please attend this meeting to have your voice heard and your vote count!

Please keep the family of member Frank Smith, who passed away on April 14th in your thoughts and prayers. Frank is our only Past President that served three terms in office, 2010, 2011, and 2012. He also served on the Board of Directors for several years, served on many committees, and participated in dozens of club events. Frank joined the Portage Lakes Kiwanis in December of 2005. We offer our Christian sympathies and deepest condolences to the Smith family. Frank will be missed.

Frank Robert Smith, 82



Frank Robert Smith, 82, passed away at home on April 14th, 2025. He was born to the late Frank and Bertha Smith on October 14th, 1942. Frank moved to Norton in 1955, and graduated from Norton High School in 1961. After serving in the Army, Frank worked in retail management for Western Auto, Stambaugh's and Ace Hardware. He was a member of Tiretown Corvette Club, American Legion, VFW and Portage Lakes Kiwanis and Barberton Moose Clubs. Frank enjoyed spending the summers going to Corvette car shows, races and conventions.

In addition to his parents, Frank was preceded in death by his sister Gloria Jean, and son, Frank Robert. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Bonnie; nephew Michael Smith; sister-in-law Susie Long (Duane); and brothers-in-law Michael Hamilton (Rosemary), Dennis Hamilton (Mary Jo), and Wayne Gainer (Donna).

Visitation will be Monday, April 21, 2025 from 11am-1pm, with a Funeral Service to follow at 1pm, at Bacher-Moore Funeral Home, 3250 Greenwich Road, Norton, OH 44203. Frank's final resting place will be Greenlawn Memorial Park.



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.



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 could still use a few more! 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 'Clean up Portage Lakes Drive' event will be held **THIS COMING 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 us a scrumptious 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!



Do you have any spare time in the morning and/or evening to help out our friends at the Purple Martin Association to feed the birds? Many have arrived and they need fed until the weather becomes warmer and there are enough bugs and mosquitos for them to eat. If so, please contact President, Kay Lukac at (330) 283-5771 and she can get you up and running. There are multiple sites to choose from.

On April 10th our club was honored by the Great Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America in receiving the Lockmaster Award. We were nominated by Robert Belliveau the Skipper of Sea Scout Ship 5001. Pictured below is President Dietz with Robert who also received an award for Unit Leader of the Year. Our club is happy to be able to support the Sea Scout Program here in Portage Lakes. Congrats to all.



The Nolley Elementary School 'FUN FAIR' will be held on Friday, May 30th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event offers carnival games, food, and fun for the community. The PTA has asked our club for assistance. If you are available to volunteer that night please let Al Grzeschik or Kelley Nagy know. Volunteers will need to arrive at Nolley School by 4:45 pm. You can work an hour or the entire event!

Community Events coming up:

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. Time is 9:00 am to 11:00am.

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:

04/03 Connie Vaughan

04/20 Vicki Kepnes

04/30 Steve Hess

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

JohnSchermesser - 44 years

Glen Sheets (honorary) - 30 years

Anthony Ponikvar - 3 years

Helen Thigpen - 2 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

04/01 Don & Marie Reilly

04/03 Paul & Betty Schuckert

04/03 Anthony & Marcia Ponikvar

04/11 Bob & Rebecca Goff

04/15 Debbie & Mike Rubino

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

Bonnie Smith (Frank's wife)

UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

>April 23, Clean up Portage Lakes Drive, 6:00 pm

>April 30, Regular meeting & Board meeting

>May 7, The running of the Kentucky Derby, PLK version

>May 26, New Franklin Memorial Day Parade

>May 30, Nolley School Fun Fair, 5:00 to 8:00pm

>May 31, Norton Raceway Park 50/50 fundraiser

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD:

>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.