



Kiwaniis[®]

CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

January 2024

Kelly Meckstroth (President), Joe Gephart (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer & Past President)
Board Members: Dennis Carity, Mark Greenwood, Katie Loehr, Marijo Poling, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

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President's Message

Happy New Year!

“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes.” - G.K. Chesterton

The interpretation of this quote may be many for some but as we embrace upon 2024, I challenge each of you to do things differently whether it be how we see, hear, feel, etc. of what is in front of us. Finding the balance between work and family while finding time for oneself continues to be a struggle for me as well as many of our members. I hope each of you continue to find that balance and join us at least 1x/month in the New Year for a meeting. Although I love to see familiar faces week after week, I would love to see more and hear all the excitement from the holidays. We will only have (3) meetings in January (1/3, 1/24 and 1/31) so I hope to see each of you at least at one even if it is a “pop in.” With that said, our sponsored youth groups continue to be successful as we are represented well at every school. Community integration will continue throughout 2024 as we hope to increase membership. Head Start Reading continues, looking at an upcoming Spring service project for the Johnston Farm and most importantly our Annual Pancake Breakfast is around the corner. I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year filled with love and laughter.



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Mark Greenwood (January 11), Bill McNeil (January 14), Katie Loehr (January 21), Gretchen Roeth (January 30)

Anniversaries

No January Anniversaries

Wednesday Programs

January 3 LCS/OSHP
Dan Mowen will be the presenter.

January 17 **No Meeting**

January 24 Teen Leadership Corps
Matt Old will be the presenter.

Board Meeting immediately follows.

January 31 Hartzell Propeller Tour
Off-site tour of the Hartzell Propeller facility at One Propeller Place in Piqua.
Lunch details will be forthcoming via an email, or check our website closer to the event.

Wednesday meetings are held from noon to 1pm at the Piqua YWCA, 418 N. Wayne St., unless stated otherwise.

Currently, we do not meet on the second Wednesday of the month.

In the event of a program change, emails will be sent out with updated information.

Lunch reservations must be made by noon on the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting.

Contact Dennis Carity at 937-418-8478 to order a meal.

DID YOU KNOW...current and back issues of the newsletter and up to the minute meeting info can be found on our website at www.piquakiwanis.org.

Newsletters are published at the first of the month. Please email news items to mark1greenwood@gmail.com.

Items must be received at least one week prior to publication.

The Back Burner



Something is brewing on the back burner worth noting:

Johnston Farm Spring Work Project - **Date TBD**

We have been in contact with Ben Richard, the new Director of the Johnston Farm and Indian Agency, following Andy Hite's retirement. Ben is very excited about working with our club. He is currently putting together a list of things that we could do as a club to benefit the Farm. More to come!

Time Travel

In the 1960 classic movie, *The Time Machine*, actor Rod Taylor plays an 18th century scientist who invents a time machine and travels into the future to the year 802,701. In the movie *Star Trek IV*, Captain Kirk and crew travel back in time from the 23rd century to 1968 in search of humpback whales. Both great movies, but don't get too excited about human time travel. According to the experts, it's not really feasible. No surprise there.

You can't hop into a machine or slingshot around the sun to travel through time but you can, in a sense, transport yourself back in time. If you observe a star many light years away explode, what you are seeing actually happened years earlier. You are seeing the past. For a less nerdy example, if you read a history book or an old newspaper you are suddenly transported back in time. But unlike the past, experiences of the future are limited to guesses, gut feelings, and predictions. You can't transport yourself into the future.

So, what does time travel have to do with Kiwanis and why should we care?

Let's start by traveling back to 1920. Kiwanis was still young. The weekly meeting with a meal and a speaker was the norm. This was the traditional setup. Members were plentiful and regular attendees. These were the early, traditional Kiwanians.

Moving forward 100 years, we can notice the effects of time on the traditional Kiwanis meeting and members. Although for the most part the traditional meeting format has survived, some clubs have gone to less frequent meetings, such as monthly. A few clubs have even dispensed with the in person meeting in favor of virtual meetings. Much of this has come about due to the rise in non-traditional members. For whatever reason, these members find it difficult to attend regular meetings, particularly during work hours. Many embrace the "service" aspect of Kiwanis and are very involved in the hands-on component of their club, though they are rarely seen at meetings.

So the affects of time have a lot to do with our meetings and members. But why should we care?

For one, we currently have 31 members yet weekly meeting attendance averages less than 10 members. The bulk of our membership are now non-traditional members. We need to attract more traditional members to represent our club at weekly meetings. At the same time, we need to find ways to make our non-traditional members feel connected and informed.

Unfortunately gazing into the future is not an option, but we can start by recognizing that time has indeed impacted our club. Why has there been such a shift in membership? It doesn't really matter. In fact, it is too complex a question to answer. What does matter is how we will react in the present. All our members are valuable.

Take a look at the Head Start reading program piece on page 5 to see how both traditional and non-traditional members benefit our club.

Mark Greenwood

Head Start Reading Program - It Takes All Kinds!

As observed on page 4, "Time Travel", we are faced with two types of members. Those who are regulars at weekly meetings and those who are not. A final observation was that all of our members are valuable regardless of type. Consider our Head Start Reading program. Readers are always in demand, and we have been able to meet that demand thanks to both types of members. It takes all kinds!



Pictured above is long time member and regular weekly meeting attendee, Bill McNeil, in action. reading to kids in a Head Start classroom. Bill is one of our regular readers.

Kathy Graeser may not be a fixture at weekly meetings, but she is busy lending her support where she can. Kathy is pictured below reading to a Head Start class.



A Tree Grows in Kiwanis Park

In late November 2023 our club purchased a tree from Brown's nursery. It was a large Autumn Blaze Maple. The tree was planted in Kiwanis Park by Piqua Parks and Recreation employees. Not only will it beautify the park, but it will stand as a memorial to all our past Kiwanian friends.



Washington K Kids Get into The Christmas Spirit

Washington K Kids are pictured below decorating holiday cookies in preparation for Christmas. They really seem to be getting into the swing of of this project!



Ring-a-Ding-Ding

Pictured below are a couple of our Key Clubbers helping with the Salvation Army bell ringing program. Another example of "it takes all kinds". These kids are part of our Kiwanian family and here they are helping us to meet our commitment to the bell ringing program. Thanks Key Clubbers, we appreciate your hard work!



K-Kids On the Move

Washington K-Kids did it again! With the support of club advisors Jessica Reed, Holly Peebles and Katie Sarver these young leaders not only collected 400 toys in less than two but beat prior year toy drives by more than 100 toys!

The toys will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Dayton, OH.



School Bus Safety

Take it from me, Mark Greenwood, school bus safety is no laughing matter. On my way to elementary school, back in the carefree fifties, I was standing at the back of a crowded school bus, leaning against the rear emergency door. The door flung open, and I learned two things that morning: One, it is possible to fall out of a moving school bus and not get hurt (though I wouldn't recommend it), and two, an alarm goes off when the door opens. Other than a broken glass thermos liner, I survived the ordeal. TRUE STORY.

Thank God for school bus safety today!

Pictured below are Trooper Murray and Piqua Transportation Supervisor Lougena Hodges at our December 6th meeting on school bus safety.



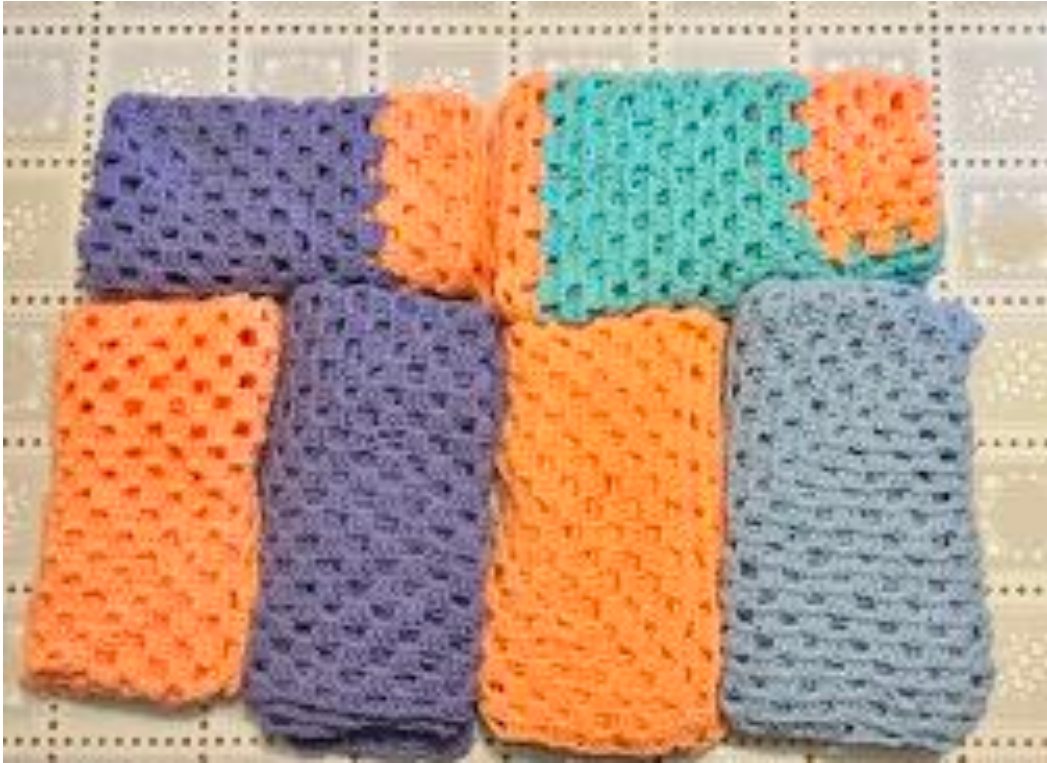
Kiwanians, pictured below, are invited to board a school bus during the presentation, provided they kept away from the emergency exit!



Holiday Cheer

Marijo Poling donated her time and talent this year to crochet blankets for area shut ins. Her blankets will be distributed by the Salvation Army this Christmas season bringing a little holiday cheer to their recipients.

Pictured below are the fruits of Marijo's labor: six colorful crocheted blankets. What a wonderful way to help our community while adding to our club's service hours. Thank you, Marijo!





Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(answers will appear in next month's newsletter)

1. Kevin's mother has three children. The first was called Alpha, the second was called Beta. What was the name of the third?
2. Rearrange the letters in the words "new door" to make one word? There is only one correct answer.
3. A family has two parents and six sons. Each of the sons has one sister. How many people are in the family?
4. How can a man who shaves several times a day still sport a long beard?
5. A man dies of old age on his 25th birthday. How is this possible?
6. In my hand I have two coins that are newly minted. Together, they total 30 cents. One isn't a nickel. What are the coins?

answers to December's crossword puzzle

Across

3. pancakes
6. Springcreek
9. iguanas
10. three
11. Piqua

Down

1. YWCA
2. underwear
4. hotdogs
5. Detroit
7. Coffield
8. banquet