



Kiwaniis[®]

CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

August 2024

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

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President's Message

Hello August!

“In August, let your dreams soar high and your spirit stay strong.” – Unknown

It continues to be a pleasure to lead such an amazing group of individuals who devote time and genuine care to our organization – thank you! As a club, we continue to be present and show up within our community as leaders.

With August upon us, we will soon be collaborating with our sponsored youth as our advisors look for another successful fulfilling year. Many of us volunteered at the Salvation Army in support of the Summer Feeding Program which will come to a close at the end of the month.

Our partnership with CORS Head Start will resume next month when yet again many members will volunteer their time to read.

And let's not forget about the upcoming Halloween Parade which is less than three months away. Wow – we are an ever evolving group of AWESOMENESS!

And speaking of awesomeness, our club has decided to sponsor a new Kiwanis club in Vandalia.

Kiwanians – keep up the great work! As you are planning ahead, please Save the Date for October 23rd – Halloween Parade. Although we are in the planning stages, I will need many hands to execute successfully. Our club continues to grow as we have new members in the pipeline, potential members being courted and current members continuing their outreach daily. Let's continue to feed our souls/hearts through our service to the community, youth and each other.

Kelly



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Bonnie Jackson (Aug 5), Spencer Peltier (Aug 9), Marijo Poling (Aug 18)

Anniversaries

Gretchen Roeth (Aug 12), Mark Reedy (Aug 28)

Wednesday Programs

Aug 7 YMCA Tour

Off-site tour of the new YMCA.

Aug 21 Legal Health Info

Nate Funderburg, attorney of McCulloch Felger Fite & Gutmann Co. LPA, will enlighten us on legal health issues, including DNR's. What's a DNR? It's a "Do Not Resuscitate" order.

Page 4 of this newsletter addresses the use of word short cuts. It might be worth reading.

Board Meeting immediately follows.

Aug 28 MainStreet Piqua

Staci Roth, the new director of MainStreet Piqua, will share upcoming events.

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.

For a lunch reservation notify Kelly Meckstroth by Monday.

Call/text (419) 348-4329 or email kelly.meckstroth@hcr-manorcare.com.

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 the end of the month.

The Back Burner



Just a few things on the back burner that are worth noting:

Salvation Army Summer Lunch Program - **Tue August 6 & 20.**

Every summer the Salvation prepares lunches for local children. Our club helps by distributing lunches from a mobile unit set up for food distribution.

Thanks to all of the club members and family who volunteered for these two weeks.
We are all filled up!

Kids Day at the County Fair - **Mon August 12.**

We will be serving hot dog lunches at the County Fair grounds once again with the Troy Kiwanis club. Set up begins at 10 am and lunches are served from 12 to 1pm. We have a full slate of volunteers, but feel free to come out, support Kiwanis, and enjoy a free hot dog lunch!

GOOD NEWS...BAD NEWS

It's the age-old question, "Do you want the good news first or the bad news?" Most people opt for the bad news first so they can end on a good note. Kiwanis International recently created a "good news/bad news" situation for our club. Let's start with the bad news.

Kiwanis International approved a \$25 increase in dues for all Kiwanis club members, starting this September. As a club, we have the lowest dues in the area. We only keep \$5 of our dues as most of the money goes to Kiwanis International and Ohio Kiwanis. These costs are out of our control and we are now at a point where we are forced to raise our dues.

The GOOD NEWS - Our 2024/25 budget is healthy enough to allow our club to absorb the dues increase for the following year. As noted in Gretchen's email late July, there will be NO CHANGE in dues owed this September. However, in September 2025 dues will have to increase by \$25.

SHORT CUTS

Acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations are short cuts to conveying information in an efficient manner. Consider the acronym SCUBA. Advertising that "Scuba gear will be available" on an event flyer takes up a lot less space than "Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus will be available". How about the initialism "FBI"? Everyone knows it stands for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, so why not just say or write "FBI". Ditto for abbreviations. If you live in Piqua, you know that the abbreviation, "Chamber" refers to the "Chamber of Commerce".

Based on the examples above, it seems like using short cuts is the way to go. So why not use them all the time. What could possibly go wrong? Plenty. Read on.

Scenario 1. A new employee receives the following message from his boss: "ICYMI I need the Johnston RFP ASAP". There is a lot going on here. First, the boss either had a sore typing finger or was too lazy to type things out. Second, the boss was making a huge assumption about a new employee's understanding of the short cuts used. Finally, not wanting to look dumb, the employee might interpret things the wrong way rather than ask the boss to explain. Except for the well-known short cut, ASAP, the others were probably not appropriate.

What the boss meant was, "Incase you missed it I need the Johnston request for proposal as soon as possible".

Scenario 2. How would you interpret the text, "My friend Sally was in the play ANIMAL FARM. She was fantastic! She's the GOAT!"? It sounds like Sally's role in the play was Muriel, the white goat. A reasonable interpretation, but in this case the person sending the text was using the short cut GOAT, which stands for "Greatest of all times". GOAT was a confusing short cut to use.

What the texter meant was, ""My friend Sally was in the play ANIMAL FARM. She was fantastic! She's the greatest of all times!"

Putting aside made believe scenarios, here's a real life one where a short cut made me late for one of our Wednesday meetings. It was a couple of years ago, back when we changed meeting locations. I wasn't sure where we were meeting, so I asked and was told it would be at the "Y". When I hear "Y" mind immediately goes to "YMCA". Unfortunately, so did my car. I spent the next five minutes or so wandering around the YMCA looking for our group. Thankfully someone suggested that I try the YWCA down the street. I took their advice and was able to join our meeting in progress. For me, "Y" was a misleading short cut.

DISCLAIMER: There is a large letter "Y" on the outside of the old YMCA building. I feel vindicated!

Using short cuts can be handy, but steer clear of acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations unless you are sure that your audience knows what you mean.

That being said, there is an initialism frequently used in our Kiwanis meetings that is still not understood by many of our members. Want to know what it is, and more about it? Turn to the next page and keep reading.

Mark Greenwood

SLP

I recently attended a Wednesday meeting where someone mentioned SLP. Immediately a longtime member asked, "what is an SLP?" If it were a year or so ago I might have asked the same question.

So what is SLP? An SLP is an initialism for "Student Leadership Program". Fair enough, but what does that actually mean?

Quoting from the Kiwanis International web site:

"SLPs are leadership and character-building programs hosted in a school or community agency and often sponsored by a Kiwanis club or another civic organization. Kiwanis International offers resources and support to help anyone open SLP clubs wherever there is a need and opportunity in their communities."

After reading the above quote I was even more confused about SLPs. Then I noticed a sentence in a separate paragraph on their website. It read:

"Our SLPs are Key Club International for high school students, Circle K International for college and university students, K-Kids for elementary school students, Builders Club for middle school students and Aktion Club for adults with disabilities".

Finally, the meaning of SLP was clear.

Our SLPs include K-Kids, Builders Club, and Key Club. Each of these clubs include student members plus one or more faculty and Kiwanis advisors.

- Student members hold offices within their club and lead a variety of service projects throughout the year.
- Faculty advisors work closely with school administration, student members and the sponsoring Kiwanis club.
- Kiwanis advisors provide coordination, counsel and assistance. They are the bridge between the SLP and our club.

Each SLP is designed for a specific age group and our club has established SLPs in every Piqua public school, plus Piqua Catholic.

K-Kids is for children ages 6 through 12. We have K-Kids programs at Piqua Central, Springcreek Elementary, Washington Elementary, and Piqua Catholic. Springcreek Elementary K-Kids was chartered in 2009 and is our oldest K-Kids club. Piqua Central and Washington Elementary both chartered their K-Kids clubs in 2011. The Piqua Catholic K-Kids was chartered in 2023 and is our newest club.

Builders Club is for middle school students. Our Builders Club was chartered at Piqua Junior High in March of 2000.

Key Club is for high school students. Our Key Club was chartered at Piqua High School in June of 1994.

Mark Reedy is responsible for the coordination of all our SLP programs and their advisors.

Each of our SLPs, including faculty and Kiwanis advisors, plus some service project highlights for the 2023/24 school year, are detailed on the next page.

Washington K-Kids

Faculty advisors: Jessica Reed and Holly Peeple

Kiwanis advisor: Kelly Meckstroth

Projects:

Decorated Christmas cookies to be given away.

Collected over 4000 books that were distributed during the Salvation Army Summer Feeding Program.

Collected 400 toys for the Ronald McDonald House.

Springcreek K Kids

Faculty advisors: April Presser, Megan Johnson

Kiwanis advisors: Kathy Graeser, Gretchen Roeth

Projects:

Made placemats for nursing home residents.

Valentine's Day letter writing to nursing home pen pals.

Collected 191 boxes of cereal, domino chain, donated to Bethany Center.

Piqua Central Intermediate K Kids

Faculty advisors: Robin Phipps, Beth Culpepper-Weaver, Jen Barga

Kiwanis advisors: Mark Wion, Gloria Smith

Projects:

Ran a kindness campaign where students nominate others for the acts of Kindness they see.

Helped clean the school.

Made and put-up posters for teacher appreciation week.

Had over half of the 65-member club ran for an office. They created a congress and senate made up of those not elected to office, with each group having assigned duties at each meeting. An SLP first!

Piqua Catholic K-Kids

Faculty advisors: Theresa Davis, Emily Langenkamp, Reneé Hoelscher

Kiwanis advisors: Mark Reedy, Mark Wion, Gretchen Roeth (when available)

Projects:

Collected 281 boxes of cereal for the Bethany Center with the support of their fellow peers.

Gathered Toiletry items for Indian Lake area tornado victims.

Piqua Junior High School Builder's Club

Faculty advisor: Nan Conard

Kiwanis advisor: Kelly Meckstroth

Projects:

Volunteered during Pancake Day.

Helped with our Halloween parade.

Collected over 150 books for Isaiah's Place.

Collected 396 boxes of macaroni and cheese for the Bethany Center.

Worked at the High School concession stand.

Piqua High School Key Club

Faculty advisors: Kim Bean, Bonnie Jackson (Kim and Bonnie are also members of our club!)

Kiwanis advisors: Mark Wion, Gretchen Roeth

Projects:

Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing

Volunteered during Pancake Day.

Helped with our Halloween parade.

Ran the Bike rodeo.

Worked at the High School concession stand (managed by Kim Beam)

FACULTY ADVISOR APPRECIATION

Last month, during our July 17th meeting, we recognized our SLP faculty advisors. These folks are the backbone of our SLPs. It is clear from what they had to report, and things mentioned on pages 5 and 6 above, that these are busy people! Our SLPs wouldn't exist without their hard work and commitment.

Piqua Kiwanis is privileged to have a dedicated group of faculty advisors!

Below is a picture of our faculty advisors that were able to attend the meeting. You can refer to page 6, above, to match up advisors pictured with their respective SLP.



(L to R:) Bonnie Jackson, Kim Bean, Theresa Davis, Robin Phipps, Beth Culpepper-Weaver, Mark Wion

Were we "photobombed"? Photobombing is the act of purposely putting oneself into the view of a photograph not intended for them. The guy on the far right is not a faculty advisor, but he's not photobombing. Mark Wion was representing our club in acknowledging our faculty advisors. Though not a faculty advisor, Mark is a Kiwanis advisor for a couple of our SLPs (refer to page 6).

SWEET

On its own, the word "sweet" can mean many different things. It is only when the word is used in a sentence does its meaning become clear. Below are some examples.

"What a sweet young man". Sweet could be replaced with charming, delightful, loveable...

"That is one sweet car". Here sweet means the car is really nice.

"He found the sweet spot for his investments." Meaning that spot between too risky and too safe where reasonable returns can be effectively maintained.

For me, sweet refers to sugary things like candy. And that leads right into our new website addition.

We now have a new See's Candy storefront on our website. Every time a visitor to our site orders something from the storefront our club earns money. Our storefront features 14 sweet treats plus a 20 oz ceramic See's coffee mug. Orders can be shipped anywhere in the United States.

You can checkout the storefront on our website at:

www.poiquakiwanis.org

and clicking on the See's Candy icon (pictured right).

If you happen to know of someone with a sweet tooth tell them about our new storefront. The more visitors order, the more money our club makes and the more good things we can do for our community!





Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(answers will appear in next month's newsletter)

1. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
2. The 22nd and 24th presidents of the United States of America had the same parents but were not brothers. How can this be possible?
3. What word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?
4. What do you bury when it's alive and dig up when it's dead?
5. What do you throw out when you want to use it but take in when you don't want to use it?
6. What's lighter than a feather but impossible to hold for much more than a minute?
7. Get it
 Get it
 Get it
 Get it

Answers to last month's riddles:

1. It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?

Answer: Your name.

2. What 2 things can you never eat for breakfast?

Answer: Lunch and dinner.

3. Two girls were born to the same mother, on the same day, at the same time, in the same month and year, and yet they're not twins. How can this be?

Answer: The two babies are two of a set of triplets.

4. What has branches, but no fruit, trunk, or leaves?

Answer: A bank.

5. A bus driver goes the wrong way down a one-way street. He passes the cops, but they don't stop him. Why?

Answer: He was walking.

6. What has many teeth but cannot bite?

Answer: A comb.

7.

MUSICALLY

Answer: Musically inclined (musically is written on an angle, or incline)