



Kiwanis[®]

CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

November 2024

Kelly Meckstroth (President), Marijo Poling (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer)

Kelly Meckstroth (Immediate Past President), Mark Wion (President Elect)

Board Members: Mark Greenwood, Mikaili Hall, Brent McKinney, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

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President's Message

Happy fall y'all!

October was a bustling month with many sponsored youth groups in full swing, joint induction with Troy and Sidney, Fall Festival, Mall Trick or Treat and the Halloween Parade. Wow – the members have been busy to say the least!

With November upon us, the holiday season is here. The brisk temperatures and beautiful foliage allow us to enjoy the fall season while stores are in full preparation for Santa. As many of you plan your holiday season with family and friends, I ask that you find time to stop by a meeting over the next couple months before the New Year. Bring a friend, neighbor, family member or a complete stranger introducing them to Kiwanis. We are looking to grow by 5 new members this year if not more, and we are already on our way. We have some new faces but would love to see some old as we continue to come together to service our youth and the community.

Thank you Kiwanis members for continuing to excel in your service!

Halloween Parade Update:

On October 23rd, the Annual Halloween Parade occurred downtown bringing an amazing turnout and beautiful evening. We had 113 registered participants but well over 250 in attendance to celebrate. Costume winners are pictured on page 5.

Seven downtown businesses participated in Trick or Treat with Susie's Big Dipper taking the win for Best Decorated Table and Best Costume. Biker's Closet will take the win for Kid's Choice following online voting.

The Post Office reported success with their Trunk or Treat following the parade by having 5 times more kiddos than last year.

Overall, another great community tradition sponsored by the Piqua Kiwanis Club. Looking forward to next year to hopefully continue to grow community support.

Kelly



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Ralph Tracy (Nov 3), Kelly Meckstroth (Nov 5), Mikaila Hall (Nov 15), Kathy Graeser (Nov 19)

Anniversaries

Kathy Vogler (Nov 10)

Wednesday Programs

- Nov 6 Barclay's Clothing Store
Owner Bert Harrison will present the history of Barclay's.
- Nov 20 Small Nation
Wilson Reiser and Nick Davis will talk about what is happening to the old AAA site.
Board Meeting immediately follows.
- Nov 27 No Meeting
Have a Happy Thanksgiving the 28th!

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 KMeckstroth@trio-healthcare.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:

Head Start Reading - Third Tuesdays of each month at 9:45 am

If you would like to volunteer or get more information about the program, contact Mark Wion.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Thursdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas 3:30 to 7:30 pm

Key Club will be ringing bells at Kroger. Stop by and show your support. You can also give your donations to Mark Wion

who will place them in the kettle for you.

Christmas Parade - Saturday December 7 starting at 2 pm

Meet beside Readmore Hallmark and walk with our SLP kids!

YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR??

Isn't the phrase supposed to be "You get what you pay for"? Maybe once upon a time, but I'm not so sure today.

We are living in the age of shrinkflation, lesser quality, cheap imports, reduced quantity... in other words, "you don't get what you pay for".

Take something as simple as a can of tuna. When I was a kid it seemed like a can of tuna would make enough sandwiches for the whole family. By the time I was out on my own, a can of tuna didn't seem to go as far. Today I'm lucky to get two or three sandwiches out of a can. So what's going on? Over the past decade tuna cans have gone from 7 oz to 6 oz, and now 5 ounces. And the price per can is the same or more!

I've always worn Levi's. As a kid, I'd outgrow a pair before I could wear them out. As a young adult I'd run them through the wringer hauling hay and working on my car. It would take years to wear a pair out. These days I can burn through a pair in less than a year! The cost has gone up but the quality seems to have gone down. I checked, and sure enough Levi's are no longer made in the United States. Furthermore, the denim weight was reduced from 14.5 to 12.5 oz. per yard. Now I pay more for a lesser product.

Tuna and Levi's are not the only game in town. If paying more for less tuna is a problem, there are plenty of other sandwich options available. Ditto for Levi's. There are still a few quality jeans out there if you can find them and are willing to pay the price. But what about necessities? Is it just my imagination or is toilet paper getting thinner? If you buy Scotts, the answer is "yes". To look like good guys, Scotts held the line on price and number of sheets on a roll by using thinner paper. Their rolls now use 20 percent less paper and the sheets are so thin that you wind up using a lot more of them. Charmin, on the other hand, held the line on price and paper thickness but chose to reduce the roll size. Their "Mega" roll went from 264 to 242 sheets. That's 8.3 percent less product for the same price!

The above are not isolated examples. Shrinkflation, lesser quality, cheap imports, reduced quantity...it's all around us. Despite these trends, there are still many outfits that are holding the line on quality and quantity. Take our club for example. We have more quality offerings today than ever. We now have Student Leadership Programs (SLPs) in every school in Piqua. And if that isn't enough, check out page 5 of this newsletter to read about our second Builders Club that we just started at Piqua Catholic. For Pancake Day we continue to hold-the-line on the size and quality of our cakes. Many clubs don't. Our Halloween Parade last month was another success, in part because our Halloween committee works hard to continually improve the event.

I could go on and on, but the bottom line is that when it comes to improving, and not lowering standards, you need look no further than our club and its members.

Mark Greenwood

Getting into the Spirit of Autumn

Although the first day of Fall, the Autumn Equinox, occurred on September 22, it wasn't until the month of October that our club really kicked into high gear.

On October 12th, during Piqua's Harvest Days festival, we got into the Fall spirit by setting up and running a pumpkin painting booth with the help of some of our SLP members. See page 6 for more on "SLP". The booth offered a safer and less messy alternative to carving jack-o-lanterns with sharp knives!



Builders Club member Jazzilyn lent a helping hand and is pictured standing in front of our booth.



On October 22nd both Key Club and Builders Club had tables at the Piqua Center with 11 members volunteering to hand out sweets to trick or treaters.

An estimated 650-700 kids and their families came through!

Piqua Jr High Builders Club's table is pictured left. Volunteers, from left to right were Nan Conard (advisor), and members Kynsey, Jazzilyn, Isabella and Lily.

Ben Zimmerman and family were also at the Piqua Center parading around in costumes representing a "Safari" theme.

The zebra and elephant costumes were recognizable, but the jury is still out on Ben...giraffe...leopard...??? The beard and black jacket offered no clues!



We wrapped up the month on the 23rd with our annual Halloween Parade. Kelly provided a nice summary of the event in her President's Message on page 1. Below, most creative costumes (left) and grand champion girl and boy (right).



Piqua Catholic Builders Club is off and Running

This year our club founded it's latest SLP, a Builders Club, at Piqua Catholic. "SLP" is an acronym for "Student Leadership Program" and you can **read more about that on page 6 in our August 2024 newsletter** (available under the Newsletter link on our website).

Piqua Catholic Builders Club is our second Builders Club. The Builders Club at Piqua Junior High was our first. Piqua Catholic Builders Club also makes our 8th SLP with Key Club at the high school, the two Builders Clubs mentioned above, and five K-Kids clubs (Piqua Central, Springcreek Elementary, Washington Elementary, and Piqua Catholic).



Pictured above from left to right are Piqua Catholic Builders Club officers Mia (Vic President), Nevaeh (President), Kenzie (Secretary), John (treasurer), and Kolson (Sergeant at Arms). Sergeant at Arms Jude was missing from the photo.

Piqua Jr High Builders Club Members get the Munchies

Builder's Club members from Piqua Jr. High are pictured below packing food with the "Munch" Bunch in Piqua. The food packages get distributed to K thru 6 Piqua students who are in need.

Builders Club members from Piqua Jr. High joined with other volunteers to pack over 700 bags of food! The Builders Clubbers regularly join the Munch Bunch to help out with this important activity.

No, your eyes are not deceiving you...the picture below is tilting to the left! It was sent from a phone and used "as is". Couldn't figure out how to straighten it but it does show the kids at work in a unique way!



Baggers from left to right: Kortney, Isabella, Katie and Kailey

Piqua Catholic K-Kids Start a New Year

Piqua Catholic K Kids started the 2024-2025 school year with their first meeting at 7:30 am. Despite the early hour, 25 students showed up. They are preparing for officer elections at next month's meeting.

Look for election results in next month's newsletter!



Pictured above are twenty-five "early birds" who turned out for the 7:30 meeting.

Springcreek K-Kids Taking Care of Business

First order of business - Elect club officers!

Pictured from left to right are new officers:

Rhett-President

Kensi-Vice President

Allison-Secretary

Katherine-Treasurer



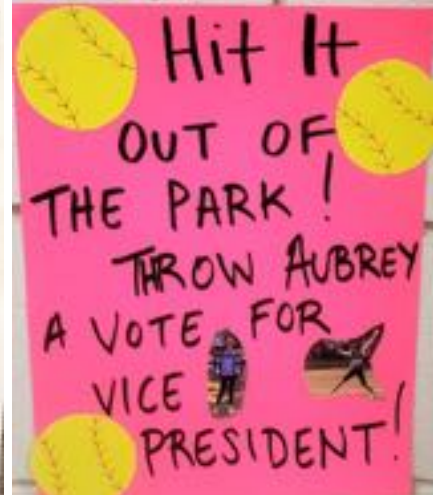
With the business of electing club officers behind them, the club turned their attention to their first project (pictured left).

They are busy putting Fall pictures on boxes that will be filled with games and other items. The boxes will then be given to children to help cheer them up during the holiday season.

What a great way to start their new club year!

Piqua Intermediate K-Kids Know how to Campaign!

It's that time of the year for Piqua Intermediate K-Kids when members campaign for office. Unlike the "battle royale" we are subject to in professional politics, these K-Kids know how to run a fun and civil campaign as the posters below attest to.



KEY CLUBBERS HIT THE RINK!

Key Club sponsored a skating party for kids with special needs and their families. Pizza, drinks, and game tokens were provided by Key Club and very much enjoyed by those in attendance.

The event was held at 36 Skate Club in Piqua and judging from the pictures below was the perfect venue for a great evening!



Above, special needs children "hit the skate floor". The one on the right literally hit the floor!

Below, Key Club member Kyler is pictured enjoying the event.





Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. Each time you ask this question you will probably get a different answer, yet all the answers will be correct. What is the question?
2. I have a head like a cat and feet like a cat, but I am not a cat. What am I?
3. Sam is six feet tall, works at a butcher shop, and wears a size 9 shoe. What does Sam weigh?
4. What is at the end of a rainbow?
5. SECRET ←
SECRET
SECRET

Answers: 1) "What time is it?" 2) a kitten 3) meat 4) the letter "w" 5) top secret