



# Kiwaniis®

## CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

April 2025

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, Warren Parker, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

Address: P.O. Box 738, Piqua, OH 45356

website: [www.piquakiwanis.org](http://www.piquakiwanis.org)

### President's Message

*Don't approach a goat from the front, a horse from the back, or a fool from any side.*

Fellow Kiwanians,

March was an eventful month as we hosted our Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Career Center which was a success yet again. Thank you to every member who either volunteered and/or supported by sending a family member or friend. Save the date for next year which will be Saturday, March 14th. Thank you to those who attended the round table discussion specific to the Pancake Breakfast as well. Your feedback was relevant and appreciated. As a member, if you would like to be part of the Pancake Committee please let Ben Zimmerman and/or myself know.

The Salvation Army Feeding Program is gearing up for yet another season. Mark sent several dates out requesting volunteers. Please let Gretchen know if you can help. We are also looking for volunteers to help with concessions in April for track which is always a good time. Lastly, we do have some additional service projects on the bubble so stay tuned for yet another opportunity to get involved!

Our sponsored youth groups are working hard across the city developing leadership skills while giving back to the community. Many are finishing up end of year projects as summer break nears around the corner. Washington K-Kids have been working on the Governor's project and are making super cute Bee Appreciation Cards for the teachers.

Would love to coordinate an opportunity to gather with all members and their families which I had sent an email out inquiring on couple months ago. We did have a member mention Tecumseh Woods as an option to reserve for family fun which was a great idea. Please let me know if you have any suggestions or would be interested. Thanks again for your commitment!

Kelly



## House Cleaning

### Birthdays

Brian Sowers (4/7), Warren Parker (4/8), Mark Reedy (4/8), Joe Shaffer (4/21)

### Anniversaries

Bill McNeil (4/2), Brent McKinney (4/7), Marijo Poling (4/17), Mark Greenwood (4/29)

### Wednesday Programs

- Apr 2            Piqua Police K-9 Unit  
Officer Lotz and his dog Pako from the Piqua Police K-9 Unit will join us.
- Apr 16            AM Leonard Product Development  
Our speaker will be Brian Stephens, Director of Product Development, at AM Leonard.
- Apr 23            Websites 101  
Mark Greenwood presents, ending with a tour of our club website  
**Board Meeting** immediately follows.
- Apr 30            TBD  
TBD

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 (**preferred**) or email [KMeckstroth@trio-healthcare.com](mailto: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](http://www.piquakiwanis.org).

Newsletters are published at the first of the month. Please email news items to [mark1greenwood@gmail.com](mailto: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 Tuesday 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 Summer Feeding Program - **June and July. See info below:**

Salvation Army Facility at 129 S Wayne St.

Arrive at 10:15 am. Program ends at approximately 1:30 pm.

Available dates:

**Tuesday, June 24** (2 volunteers needed)

**Tuesday, July 1** (3 volunteers needed)

**Tuesday, July 22** (3 volunteers needed)

**Tuesday, August 19** (2 volunteers needed)

Contact Mark Wion to volunteer.

### Track Meet Concession Stand - **April 9, 16, 21 and 23.**

Volunteers needed on any of the dates listed.

Arrive at 5pm and leave by 8:30pm. Partial shifts may also be available.

Contact Mark Wion for more info or to volunteer.

## PANCAKES in March?

Last month marked our 71st Pancake Day. As usual, it was held near the beginning of the month. March 8th to be exact. A quick survey of other Kiwanis clubs in Ohio revealed that most hold their Pancake Days during February or March, with a few clubs flipping their cakes in April or November. As mentioned above, we use March. So what's so special about February and March? It turns out that Easter may have something to do with it.

47 days before Easter is when Shrove Tuesday (aka Fat Tuesday) and Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) occur. Since Easter varies from year to year, these days fall sometime between February 3rd and March 9th, and always on a Tuesday. But how do pancakes fit in? The answer lies in the season of Lent.

During the season of Lent, observers have historically abstained from rich foods such as fats, eggs and dairy products, a centuries old practice that continues to this day. Shrove Tuesday provides observers of Lent with an opportunity to use up these foods prior to the start of the 40-day Lenten journey to Easter. Pancakes, as it turns out, are a popular way to use up fats, eggs and milk before Lent begins. So popular, in fact, that Fat Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day. So does any of this have to do with our choice of early March? Probably not.

Since our first Pancake Day in 1955 to our last one on March 8, 2025 there have been 71 Shrove Tuesdays. 54 fell in February and only 17 in March. Shrove Tuesday 2025 happened to fall on March 4th, just 4 days before our Pancake Day. Close, but as far as I can tell, it has no bearing on why we choose early March to flip our cakes.

So how'd we do this year?

### Breakfasts served

• Adults	364
• Kids	44
• Workers	<u>17</u>
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>425</b>

### Income

• Tickets Pre-sale	\$4320 (23 members)
• Tickets att the door	2010
• Second helpings	85
• Leftover sausage sold	126
• Donation Jar	60
• 50/50	285
• 22 Placemat ads	<u>2450</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$9336</b>

### Expenses

• Supplies	\$1527.19
• Tickets	97.00
• Placemats	109.00
• Insurance	100.00
• Storage Unit	180.00
• 50/50 payout	<u>142.50</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2155.69</b>

**Profit \$7180.31.** Not bad for a few hours work!

A big thanks to the Pancake Committee, our volunteers, and sponsors for making this Pancake Day a success!

*Mark Greenwood*

Pancake flippers hard at work!



Key Club and Builders Club members also helped out!



Above, Builders Club members and Advisor Nan Conard are caught on camera working "table care".

## Return of the PIRATES

If you recall, the April 2024 newsletter featured a story about the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance (DPAA) Children's Traveling Opera visiting Piqua Central Intermediate school and performing the Pirates of Penzance.

Well, the Pirates were back! Last month, on March 13th, Piqua Central 4th graders participated in two performances of the Pirates of Penzance, accompanied by four Artists in Residence and four DPAA volunteers.

This year's performances marked the fourth year of the Piqua Kiwanis and Piqua Arts Council (PAC) collaboration and we hope to keep it going for many years to come. Piqua's Indian Nation Station was on hand once again to record a performance. To see the video you can go to <https://youtu.be/cDbeaSgK2bA> or click the picture below or visit our website at [www.piquakiwanis.org](http://www.piquakiwanis.org).



After the performances, which our club sponsored, Mark Wion (Piqua Kiwanis) and Sara Wilson (PAC Executive Director) joined the Artists in Residence and volunteers for a gourmet lunch sponsored by PAC. Kathleen Clawson, Artistic Director of the Dayton Opera, also joined the group.

After the meal, Wion, Wilson, Clawson, and the volunteers stayed on for conversation and networking while the Artists in Residence rushed off for their next performance at a Troy school - but we'll overlook that!

## Meeting on their Turf

Last month we had a joint meeting with Key Club members on their turf, the PHS Student Union. The turnout was great and new Key Club officers were inducted during the meeting.

Below is a picture of Key Clubbers attending the joint meeting.



Newly inducted officers display their officer positions on red "head" signs!



Pictured above from left to right are Haylie Schulz (Secretary), Gianna James (VP), Holden Hildebrand (Webmaster), Emery Kuhlman (President), and Kaylee Hittle (Treasurer)

## Springcreek K-Kids Hard at Work

Below are some pictures of the Springcreek K-Kids hard at work. But what are they working on? It turns out that they are busy making bracelets for hope boxes for children who are ill or need a bit of cheer in their lives.

A worthwhile project indeed, and worthy of all the hard work that these K-Kids put into it.



## Piqua Catholic K-Kids Baby Drive Collection

First, a little background. Brigid's Path is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2014 with a mission to care for babies and mothers in crisis with grace, love, and hope.

Piqua Catholic K-Kids went out and collected 227 baby care items to be donated to Brigid's Path in support of their mission.





## Piqua Catholic Builders Club is "In the Bag"

Pictured below are Piqua Catholic Builders Club members decorating "Christmas bags" for the Bethany Center's Christmas give away program.

If you look closely at the picture on the left you will notice a gentleman sporting a beard. NO, that is not a Builders Club member, it is none other than Fr. Callan who dropped in to decorate a bag. A real kid at heart!



## Meet the New Executive Director of the Piqua Arts Council (PAC)

“The game’s afoot” is one of Sherlock Holmes most well-known quotes and is a declaration of his excitement and anticipation at the start of a new challenge.

Unlike Sherlock Holmes, Sara Wilson, PAC's new Executive Director, does not smoke a pipe or wear a Deerstalker cap, but as far as PAC is concerned, "the game's afoot!"

Sara presented her vision for PAC at our March 26th meeting - the excitement of enhancing successful PAC programs, the anticipation of creating new programs, and the challenge of preparing for a new Arts Center and all the activities it will house.

Sara also stressed more involvement with the schools and enhancing some PAC programs to make them accessible to a wider variety of folks.

Below is our "Where's Waldo" challenge with a twist. Can you find Sara?



left to right: Mark Greenwood, Sara Wilson, Mark Wion

If you guessed the person in the middle, congratulate yourself!

Check out <https://piquaartscouncil.org/what-we-do> to see what Sara and PAC are planning!

## FIREPLUG, JOHNNY PUMP, STANDPIPE, HYDRANT...

A hydrant by any other name is still just a fire hydrant. But a shabby fire hydrant is a hydrant in need of a little TLC.

Johnston Farm is long on shabby hydrants but short on labor. Last summer our club built picnic tables for the Farm. This year we are helping out with hydrant cleanup and painting.

Ben Richard, Director of Johnston Farm, provided the paint, Mark and Mark, a.k.a. Wion and Greenwood, provided the labor. The project involved weed whacking growth around the hydrants, followed by wire brushing, followed by an application of three different colors of paint (per Piqua fire dept. specs).

Four hydrants in all were cleaned and painted. Below are "before" and "after" pictures. I'll leave it up to you to determine which is which!





## Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. They come out at night without being called, and are lost in the day without being stolen. What are they?
2. What can you catch but never throw?
3. What thrives when you feed it but dies when you water it?
4. What do you buy to eat but never consume?
5. What can you add to a full barrel of water to make it lighter?
6. EGSG ESGG GEGS GGSE

answers: 1) stars 2) a cold 3) a fire 4) cutlery 5) a hole 6) scrambled eggs