



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

June 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

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President's Message

As June tiptoes in, it whispers promises of sunshine, adventures, and dreams fulfilled. Welcome, June, and let's make the most of this enchanting journey. - Unknown

May was another great month of service as our sponsored youth concluded the school year and fellow members participated in community events. With summer upon us, members prepare for the Salvation Army Feeding Program. Thank you to all members who have kindly volunteered to help over the next three months.

We have a couple of our members who will be joining Sidney and Troy at the Dayton Dragons game on June 5th. Exciting news with members- Mikaila is expecting baby #2 in November while Brent is loving all over his new grand baby who was recently baptized.

We continue to pray for Jerry's speedy recovery and will keep Mark Wion in our prayers as his family lays to rest a loved one at the end of the month. Ralph has had many blessings with his family as well, which is a reminder of how great God is.

I am sure many members have much more to share so stay connected whether you can attend a meeting or not. We would love to hear from you via email, text or call. As a club, we are strong with great things on the horizon.

Thank you for being part of an amazing service club! We appreciate you!

Kelly



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Jerry Sowers (6/4)

Anniversaries

Joe Gebhart (6/20)

Wednesday Programs

- June 4 Piqua Education Foundation
Danielle Blevins, Education Foundation Manager, will present.
- June 18 Piqua Fire Department
Lee Adams, Piqua Fire Chief, will present at an off-site meeting to be held in the Training Room at the Fire Station. Enter through the side door of the fire station. Parking is available in the rear.
Board Meeting is postponed until July 2 after our regular meeting.
- June 25 Upper Valley Career Center (UVCC)
Jason Haak, UVCC Superintendent, will talk about what's going on at UVCC.

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 Tuesday of each month at 9:45 am**

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

SQUEEZE

In 1987 Michael Keaton starred in *The Squeeze*, an American action comedy about a man who retrieved a mysterious package for his ex-wife which led him into the middle of a murder investigation. Sounds exciting? Don't waste your time tracking it down...it was a DOG!. Panned by some critics, the most notable thing about the movie was an accident that took place during filming in which a stunt man was killed driving a car into the Hudson River. Not sure why *Squeeze* was chosen as a title, but it is certainly appropriate in the following situations.

When I was in high school my time was often subject to the "*homework squeeze*". It seemed like each of my teachers would pile on a bunch of homework. If I would complain it was always the same old reply, "it's only an hour or so of work". And they were right. Most assignments could be done in an hour or less. The problem was, I had three or four other teachers doing the same thing! Instead of an hour, I could be facing three or four hours of work! Each teacher assigned what they wanted with little or no thought to homework assigned by others. Since I couldn't add more hours to my day, I felt the *homework squeeze*.

Fast forward to adulthood, particularly retirement. Retirement is great. More time for personal endeavors, and yes, volunteering. Retirement, however, puts you in the "fixed income" category. Not a big problem until the "*financial squeeze*" begins. Like those teachers in high school, just about everything I deal with, be it city utilities, trash collection, phone and internet service, food, taxes, etc., wants a little more of my money. It's only \$5 more dollars a month...It's only a 10% increase...It's only fill in the blank. Seems everyone is jumping on the *financial squeeze* bandwagon by making a grab for more money with no regard for all the other folks doing the same.

Last year even Kiwanis International joined the *squeeze* movement. They upped all club dues for individuals by \$25!

On page 4 of our August 2024 newsletter (still available on our website) we addressed the situation. Here are the highlights from that newsletter:

- Kiwanis International approved a \$25 increase
- Costs are out of our control and are forcing us to raise our dues
- Our 2024/25 budget allowed the club to absorb the increase
- Dues in September 2024 stayed at \$120
- September 2025 dues would increase by \$25 to become \$145

Well, our \$25 increase this September turned out to be lie, or at least a bad prediction!

Due to a healthy budget outlook, the Board recently decided to limit the dues increase to \$10 and allow our budget to absorb the other \$15 per member. It's something that we can do to minimize the *financial squeeze*.

Bottom line, our dues this September will only be \$130, and that's a good thing given all the growing demands on our personal finances.

Mark Greenwood

SHOW ME THE MONEY!



left to right: Elizabeth, Braden, Jenna

Pictured left are our three \$1,500 scholarship winners, Elizabeth, Braden, and Jenna!

All three joined us at our May 28th meeting, along with their parents, and stayed on to enjoy a presentation about Eagle Wings Therapeutic Riding Center.

These were very strong applicants, which would have made selecting winners difficult since we had originally only planned on two scholarships. Thanks to a healthy budget, the Board approved a third scholarship, so we were able to award a scholarship to each of these well qualified applicants.

Elizabeth has her eye on Ohio State University-Lima, while Braden and Jenna are looking at Cedarville U.

The 2025 scholarships were named in memory of Bob Montgomery and Dennis Carity, long time Kiwanians, who passed away in 2024.

MUNCH BUNCH

What is "Munch Bunch"? I had no clue, until our own Gretchen provided me with the following:

The Munch Bunch program began in 2008 with the delivery of 37 bags of food to children who would benefit from the supplemental nutrition. The bags are filled with a weekend supply of shelf stable foods to bridge the gap for children who are food insecure. The program, now preparing over 200 bags weekly, is open to students whose families do not meet the requirements for other food programs. The organization is run by volunteers in the community and meet weekly to assemble the bags for delivery to the schools each Friday.

Piqua Catholic Builders Club spearheaded a school-wide collection of peanut butter jars to donate to the Munch Bunch organization for their weekly distribution of food to students in grades K-6. The group collected 199 jars which were delivered prior to the end of the school year. "We were so happy to be a part of this project," said Heather Smith, Builders Club advisor. "The students really embraced this and hope to help with the packing of food next year," she added.

The Builders Club chose to donate to this group because it is local and it helps children in our community to be able to sustain healthy eating over the weekends. As a result, our Builders Club is a recognized sponsor on the Munch Bunch website.

WAY TO GO BUILDERS CLUB!



left to right: Heather Smith (Advisor), Nevaeh (President), Kenzie (Secretary)

Bike Rodeo

On May 16th we hosted our 7th Annual Bike Rodeo at the Piqua Taste of the Arts event. Despite a different location, and the threat of stormy weather, we had children go through our course and even gave away 8 helmets.

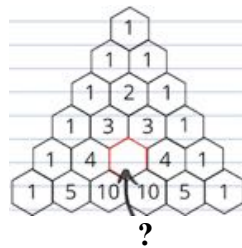




Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. What question can you ask all day long and get different answers, but they are all correct?
2. An assistant at a butcher's shop is 6 feet tall and wears a size 9 shoe. What does he weigh?
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?



4. Find the missing number in the figure.

5. Y
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answers

1) What time is it? 2) meat 3) they are 2 of a set of triplets 4) 6, sum of 2 numbers above 5) hurry up