



Kiwaniis
CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

September 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

Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens the soul... but we must confess we only love you because you are a prelude to our beloved October.

Kiwanians,

It is hard to believe that in just a couple of months I will be passing the torch to Mark Wion - time flies anymore. September is an exciting month as our sponsored youth return for yet another exciting year. Our partnership with Head Start returns with our monthly reading outreach as well, which is always an exciting volunteer opportunity. Unfortunately, my work schedule gets heavier as well as my momma duties especially having a Senior this year - oh my heart.

Communication was sent out regarding our Annual Halloween Parade which will be October 29th. I will be working on notifying downtown businesses, but I did receive confirmation from the USPS that Trunk or Treat will follow again. I am really looking for member support to help with the day of the event as much of the work will be done prior. Please let me know if you are interested and/or your family as it is a great time to involve everyone.

I appreciate each of you and continue to value the relationships through our membership. As a club, I believe we are probably one of the strongest if not the strongest within our community. Share our story! Invite neighbors, friends, family to consider joining as our work serves a purpose as do each of you.

Look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Kelly



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Jeff Smith (9/19), Char Tracy (9/27)

Anniversaries

Kelly Meckstroth (9/9)

Wednesday Programs

- Sept 3 YWCA
Leesa Baker, executive director of the YWCA, will talk about the YW "then and now".
- Sept 10 Piqua Troy Football Rivalry
Athletic Directors Chip Hare (Piqua) and Brandon Wright (Troy) will present.
Please note: this meeting will be held at Grace Church, 9411 N County Rd 25A
- Sept 17 Hemm's Glass
Jeff Hemm and Trent Karn will present.
- Sept 24 Piqua Police
Police Chief Rick Byron will present.

Board Meeting follows.

Wednesday meetings are held from noon to 1pm at the Piqua YWCA, 418 N. Wayne St., unless stated otherwise.
We do not normally meet on the second Wednesday of the month. **However, we will meet on Sept 10.**
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.

Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat - **October 29**

Please contact Kelly Meckstroth for more information and volunteer opportunities.

Concession Stand - **September 10 & 24, October 15 & 22**

Volunteers are needed on any of the dates listed. The concession stand is open from 5pm to 8:30pm.

Volunteers can come anytime between 5 and 8:30 and work as long or as little as you like.

Contact Mark Wion for more info or to volunteer.

Hot Dog or Wiener?

Hot dog or wiener? In one sense it really doesn't matter because all wieners in the U.S. are considered hot dogs. But sometimes the choice of which word to use can make a difference. For example, the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile is not called the Hot Dog Mobile. Once a year we serve free Hot Dog Lunches, not Wiener Lunches, during Kid's Day at the Miami County Fair.

There are plenty of other names for hot dogs, including frankfurters, franks, weenies, dogs, and red hots. But let's move our focus from a name to the dogs themselves. And what better place to start than with the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.

The first Wienermobile was built in 1936. It was 13 feet long, made of metal, and was scrapped in the 1940's to support the war effort. A decade would pass before the next Wienermobile would be built.

In 1952 five 22-foot long Wienermobiles were built in Wooster, OH. One is currently on display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Over the years many Wienermobiles were designed and built. But in 2004, in Santa Barbara, CA, six 27-foot fiberglass models were built and are still on the road today.

In a nod to their 100% all beef franks, Oscar Mayer changed the name of their Wienermobile to the Frankmobile in 2023. The hot dog eating public didn't like the change and within 4 months the Wienermobile name was back. Apparently, the choice of which word to use can make a difference!



One of the six 2004 twenty-seven foot Wienermobile parked in front of Kroger in Troy.

Picture taken last February

Standing next to a 27-foot Wienermobile is impressive, but a 27-foot fiberglass wiener is no match for the world's record hot dog. And unlike a fiberglass dog, the world's record dog is eatable!



The Guinness World Record hot dog (pictured right) measures 668 feet in length. It was made in 2011 in Paraguay, weighed in at just over 264 and a half pounds, and included a bun that required around 220 pounds of flour! Dog and bun were entirely edible. Following the successful record attempt, the hot dog was cut into 2000 four-inch dogs and distributed to the public.



A 27-foot fiberglass hotdog is a pretty impressive sight, as is the 668-foot record dog. Impressive YES, practical NO!

Kiwanis took the practical route this year for Kid's Day at the Fair. We opted for 5 inch, all beef franks. Much easier to handle than a 668-foot dog and much tastier than a 27-foot fiberglass wiener!

In years past, dogs were boiled and delivered for serving. Last year, and again this year, the franks were grilled on site which made for a much tastier frank.

Our own Joe Shaffer, pictured left, manned the grill during the event.

So how did we do?

Turn to the next page to find out.

Typically, we serve dogs for an hour or more until we run out. In years past (the boiled hotdogs era), we have always had some leftover dogs when we closed. Last year was the first year of the grilled dog and we had to close early due to high demand. Ditto for this year. Maybe more folks are after a free hotdog lunch, but we suspect the grilled wieners have something to do with it. They look better, taste better, and smell great on the grill.

So, we had a very successful Kid's Day, and it begs the question, "How many Kiwanians does it take to serve 800 hotdog lunches in less than an hour?" The answer is pictured below.



L to R: 4 from Troy, 2 from Tipp, Mark Wion, 2 from Troy, Joe Shaffer, 1 from Troy, Mark Greenwood

If my count is correct, the answer is twelve!

Mark Greenwood

BENCH to FARM



Bench to Farm? Shouldn't it be Farm to Table? That's the term used when local produce is delivered directly to a restaurant for a fresher, healthier and more flavorful dinning experience. Ah, but that's not what the picture above suggests.

The picture shows eight hand-made benches that were delivered to the Johnston Farm, or Bench to Farm! The old benches at the Farm were very weathered and rickety. So our club decided to help out. Ben Richard, executive director of the Johnston Farm, purchased enough wood for 8 benches. Mark Wion designed new benches to mimic the old ones and pre-cut all the wood. Wion built and delivered four of the benches. Mark Greenwood and daughter Jeni Greenwood built and delivered the other four.

The new benches will be used by school children and other visitors during historical demonstrations and presentations outside Col. John Johnston's restored farmhouse.



Actually, the plan is to repair any of the old benches that are not too far gone.

BIG Check

Last month at our August 20th meeting, we welcomed Athletic Director Chip Hare and senior PHS golf team members Izzy, Blake and Brady.

During the meeting our treasurer, Mark Wion, presented Chip with a \$2,500 check on behalf of our club. The donation will be used to pay for the use of Echo Hills Golf Course for practice and games, along with golf towels for new members.



Left to right: Chip, Izzy, Blake, Brady, and Mark



Golf towel

Ohio Hospice

Jamie Brown of Ohio Hospice in Miami County was guest speaker at our August 27th meeting. She brought us up to speed on all the services and programs offered by Hospice of Miami County.

During the meeting our president, Kelly Meckstroth, presented Jamie with a \$500 check from our club to Ohio Hospice for their Camp Pathway which is a Hospice camp for children who have lost loved ones.



Our own Marijo Poling crocheted a lap robe and presented it to Jamie.

Marijo has crocheted many items for the Salvation Army, Piqua Manor, the Family Abuse Center, and Hospice!



Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. What do the numbers 11, 69 and 88 all have in common?
2. What is special about these words: job, polish, herb?
- 3 Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?
- 4 What can run but can never walk?
5. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?
6. TAILR
RIALT
AIRTL
TLRIA

----- answers -----

1) the same when upside down 2) pronounced different if first letter capitalized
3) incorrectly 3) a nose 5) an hourglass, it has thousands of grains of sand 6) tail mix