

THE PIQUANIAN October 2025

Kelly Meckstroth (President), Marijo Poling (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer)
Kelly Meckstroth (Immediate Past President), Mark Wion (President Elect)
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President's Message

Welcome all!

On January 22, 1936 we were incorporated. This will make 2026 our 90th anniversary. Along this same note this year is the 25th anniversary of K-Kids nationally.

We need to thank Kelly for all of her hard work as our club president the last three years. Although she had to travel to Virginia for work, she kept us on track and going forward. Job well done.

We have several important events coming up:

- 1. We have started reading at Head Start. We read on the third Tuesday at 9:45am every month. It takes about 10-15 minutes. We will need four volunteers each reading session. If interested, please let me know.
- 2. We are running the Concession stand at the Junior High football games. The next dates are October 15 and 22, 2025. We need volunteers to be there from 5:00pm to around 8:30pm. The money from these events helps fund all our SLP's. (Student Lead Programs) If interested please let me know.
- 3. On October 18 is the Piqua Downtown Harvest Festival. It runs from noon to 8:00pm. We will be running the Pumpkin Patch. Our Key Club and Builders Clubs will be running the Pumpkin Painting Booth. If interested in volunteering, please let me know.
- 4. Wednesday October 29 is our Annual Halloween Parade in downtown Piqua. Please see Kelly for further information.
- 5. The Annual Downtown Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday December 6, 2025. The parade starts at 2:00pm. It would be nice to have Kiwanis members walking in the parade to help celebrate our 90th anniversary. Our SLP's will already be marching in the parade handing out candy to all the people watching on the sidelines.
- 6. The Thursdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas our Key Club will be ringing bells at Kroger's in Piqua from 3:30 to 7:30pm.
- 7. We need volunteers to help plan our 90th anniversary celebration. Date to be announced.

All our SLP's have either met or have their first meetings planned.

All in all, a great start to another busy year!

In His Name

Mark Wion



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Bill Parke (10/16), Jeni Greenwood (10/28)

Anniversaries

Makaila Hall (10/14)

Wednesday Programs

Oct 1 Piqua Hardware & Rentals

Jeremy Moser will introduce us to Piqua Hardware & Rentals, a Do it Best store that opened last November at the The Piqua Center.

Oct 15 Miami County Parks District.

Amanda Smith, Marketing Manager, will talk about the Miami County Parks District.

Our Kiwanis Lt. Governor will install our new officers and Board members and we will also

induct new member Char Tracy (Ralph Tracy's wife).

Board Meeting follows.

Oct 22 Piqua City Schools

Executive Assistant Emily Shawler will be our presenter.

Oct 29 The Social at the Piqua Center

ON-SITE tour of The Social, a new food and entertainment hub opening this October

inside the Piqua Center.

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.

Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat - October 29

Please contact Kelly Meckstroth for more information and volunteer opportunities

Concession Stand - 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.

Member, Mark Greenwood, reflects on the CONCESSION STAND

As most of you know, members from our club and Key Club man the concession stand at the high school stadium. It is a great fundraiser and volunteer opportunity.

Last month Gretchen sent out an SOS. Help was desperately needed as all three of the previously scheduled volunteers were suddenly unavailable. Anyone willing to work at anytime between 5 and 8:30 pm on Sept. 24 was welcome. I'd volunteered a couple of times before, so I answered the call.

I arrived just before 5pm and planned to leave at 7. Four Key clubbers were on hand along with two older women who were running the show. I was the only one from our club but understood that others might arrive later that evening. By 5:30 we were open for business.

For food we had hotdogs, nachos, soft pretzels (cheese or no cheese), and popcorn. Everything was \$3 except for soft pretzels with no cheese (\$2.50) and popcorn (\$1 per bag). Popcorn was the big seller followed by dogs, nachos and pretzels in that order. Soft pretzels have been in the east for a long time but didn't become popular out west until the mid 1980's. I was born in CA in 1953, so my idea of a pretzel has always been those little, crispy snacks that come in bags.

Beverages were \$3 each, except for bottled water at \$2. I grew up drinking coke out of small, glass bottles, but everything we sold was in plastic. We had Powerade for customers needing to re-hydrate and build up their electrolytes after that long walk from the bleachers to the concession stand along with Coke, Fanta and a couple other sodas. I thought \$2 for water was a bit high, but that's coming from a guy who used to enjoy drinking water out of the garden hose. Apparently, everyone else liked the price because the bottled water was a strong seller.

For sweets, we offered a choice of candies, all priced at \$2. We had stuff like M&Ms, peanut butter cups, Twix bars, and the like. But "Swedish Fish", I'd never heard of them. Based on the picture on the package, I'm guessing they are a gummy fish-shaped candy. Regardless, these fish were jumping. They were one of our biggest selling candies.



Business was brisk. During half-time the line stretched from the concession stand to the bleachers! When the game ended, I checked the time. It was closing in on 7pm. No other volunteers had arrived, but the game was over and I was ready to go. The Key Clubbers left but two more arrived?? Then I was told that the second game was about to start. I decided to put in another half hour. As it turned out, business was so brisk that we wound up running out of food and closing at 7:30.

This was my third time as a volunteer at the concession stand and as usual, I had a great time working with the Key Clubbers (who by the way do most of the work) and serving patrons. If you get the chance to volunteer at the stand, even for just an hour or so, take it. You won't regret it. Like I mentioned at the start of this reflection, it's a great volunteer opportunity.

Test your concession stand product knowledge:

- 1. The first commercial pretzel bakery in America was founded in what year?
 - a) 1861 b) 1897 c) 1900 d) 1909
- 2. Fanta was first created in what country?
 - a) America b) Mexico c) Germany d) France
- 3. Are Swedish Fish really from Sweden?
 - a) Yes b) No
- 4. Which of the candies we were selling was the "Official Snack Foods of the Olympic Games" in 1984?
 - a) Swedish Fish b) Twix c) M&Ms d) Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

please see page 10 for the answers

Work 'in on the Farm

Last month our club undertook a community service project out at the Johnston Farm. Two doors on the Springhouse were in need of new paint. Kiwanians Mark and Mark (Wion & Greenwood) spent about 4 hours scraping, sanding and removing latches, followed by applying a primer coat and two finish coats of paint. It was such a dry, sunny day that the paint was drying as fast as it could be brushed on.

The job might have gone a little quicker without the two little helpers (pictured below) that appeared. The one with the black fur decided to "help out" by rubbing against one of the freshly painted doors. When the Kiwanians left, there were two glistening white doors and a black cat with a big white patch on its side!

Mark and daughter, Jeni Greenwood, arrived the next day to reinstall latches, caulk around one of the doors, and do cleanup. Once again, the two cats arrived to lend a paw, with the black one still sporting a big white patch!

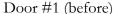


Two "helpers"

What's behind door #1? An empty room with a spring running at 10 gallons per minute of crystal-clear water! What's behind door #2? A room where historical presentations are done by interpreters.

The spring running through the door #1 room continues under the door #2 room but is not visible because it runs under a wooden floor. These rooms are the ground floor of the Springhouse. The second-floor room above includes a large loom and other items that are demonstrated.







Door #1 (after)



Door #2 (after)

Work'in on the Farm "the Sequel"

sequel (see-kuhl): an event that follows or comes afterward

So what is the sequel to painting the doors (see page 5) at the Farm? In other words, what are we doing next? Inside the large barn behind the Johnston Farmhouse are three large wooden bins (pictured below) that were once used to store feed, and later equipment. They have to go and this a perfect project for our club.



The work is indoors and requires little to no special skills. What is needed are many hands to help dismantle the bins and haul the wooden pieces out of the area. Ben Richard, executive director at the Farm, plans on transforming that area of the barn into a space where early tools and implements can be displayed and talked about, and our efforts will help make that vision a reality.

Anyone interested in being a part of this project is encouraged to contact Mark or Mark (Wion or Greenwood). Once we have an interested group of volunteers we can decided on days and times to tackle this project.



Rivalry? Understatement! These two high school football teams first faced off in 1899 and the rivalry began. They have continuously played one another since 1911 and kept the rivalry going!

Our annual Kiwanis "Piqua/Troy rivalry" meeting was held in Piqua on September 10th of this year. Piqua Athletic Director, Chip Hare, was joined by four of his football players and three senior cheerleaders. Four cheerleaders and two football players from Troy accompanied Troy's Athletic Director, Brandon Wright.

As usual it was a very "Spirited" get together!!! Students in attendance at the meeting are pictured below.



From left to big guy in red shirt: Troy students. From Number 3 and right: Piqua students.

I'll leave it to the reader to separate the cheerleaders from the football players!

Hemm's Glass

Though not as old as the Piqua Troy football rival, Hemm's Glass has a long history in Piqua. The company goes back 77 years and spans 3 generations. In July 1948, R.C. Hemm began Hemm's Glass Shops, Inc. at its present Piqua, Ohio location.

Trent Karn, VP of Hemm's Glass, shared the history of the company, its mission and current focus which still honors their original goal of "serving the local community".

Over the years they have expanded to serve the entire Greater Miami Valley.



Trent Karn at our September 17th meeting



Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

- 1. A man left home running. He ran for a while, turned left, ran some more and turned left again, ran some more and made a final left turn. When he got home, two masked men were waiting. Who were they?
- 2. Is the capital of Kentucky pronounced Louisville or Luee-ville?
- 3. Which tire doesn't move when a car turns right?
- 4. What kind of running means walking?
- 5. A girl fell off a 50-foot ladder but didn't get hurt. How come?
- 6. COrporate

----- answers -----

4) running out of gas 5) she fell off the bottom step 6) corporate downsizing 1) the catcher and the umpire 2) Neither, the capital is Frankfort 3) the spare tire

Answers to the Concession Stand Product Quiz

- 1. Answer a The first commercial pretzel bakery in America was founded in Lititz, PA by Julius Sturgis in 1861.
- 2. Answer c Max Keith invented Fanta during WWII in Nazi Germany when he was head of Coca-Cola GmbH, a German Coca-Cola subsidiary.
- 3. Answer a Swedish Fish were introduced to the U.S. in 1950 by Malaco, a Swdish confectionary company. Mondelēz Intl. now produces Swedish Fish in the U.S..
- 4. Answer c M&Ms were the "Official Snack Foods of the Olympic Games" in 1984. They were also the first candy in space when chosen by the first space shuttle astronauts to be included in their food supply.