

90 Years of Service!



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF PIQUA

Chartered on 1/22/1936

**THE PIQUANIAN**

**May 2026**

6

Mark Wion (President), Mikaili Hall (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer)  
Kelly Meckstroth (Immediate Past President), Ralph Tracy (President Elect)  
Board Members: Mark Greenwood, Brent McKinney, Warren Parker, Marijo Poling, Shane Schneider

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### **President's Message**

Greetings to all of you!

We have several events coming up in May.

First, and most important, is our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration scheduled for Saturday May 2, 2026 at the Covington Eagles. So far we have 32 reservations and would love to have more of you join us. We have some very important guests coming, including our International Trustee, State governor and Lieutenant governor.

Second is our Bike Rodeo on Friday May 8, 2026. We will be part of the Piqua Taste of the Arts festival. The Bike Rodeo will run from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Third is the Head Start reading program on Tuesday, May 19th at 9:45 AM. We can always use readers. Please see page 3 for more details.

Good news about our track concession stand. So far, there is the possibility that it may gross more money than our Pancake Day event! The Girls' basketball program helps us run the concession stand during larger meets. All concession stand money goes back to the schools. It is used to fund our SLP's (Student Lead Programs), the Girls Basketball program, and the Piqua Golf Programs. Last year we were able to donate \$3,500.00 to the Girls' Basketball Program and \$2,500.00 to the Golf program.

Don't forget we will be needing volunteers for the Salvation Army Summer Feeding Program. The dates are Tuesday June 23, July 21, and August 18, 2026. Please turn to page 3 for details on the lunch program. Page 4 of our July 2026 newsletter will feature a very interesting article relating to the Summer Feeding program!

In His Name

Mark Wion



## House Cleaning

### Birthdays

Tony Lyons (5/4), Steve Wells (5/9), Ben Zimmerman (5/20)

### Anniversaries

Brian Sowers (5/4), Tony Lyons (5/6)

### Wednesday Programs

May 6 Pageantry and Aesthetics

Former Key Club member, Megan Booher, will talk about MB Aesthetics, her Piqua based business, as well as her experience in beauty pageants.

May 20 Kids Read Now

Casey Wentz, Outreach Specialist with Kids Read Now, will talk about the program's mission to get Pre-K thru 5th graders reading at home, and the program's success.

**Board Meeting** follows.

May 27 TBD

Once a speaker is scheduled an email will go out and our website will be updated.

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.

Text (preferred) 419-348-4329 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



Something on the back burner that are worth noting:

### Head Start Reading - **Tuesday, May 19 at 9:45 am**

The reading only lasts 15 minutes. It's a short commitment but a very rewarding one. This is the last reading for this school year. The program will resume on every third Tuesday of the next school year.

Contact Mark Wion for more information or to volunteer.

### Salvation Army Summer Feeding Program - **Tuesday June 23, July 21 and August 18**

Be at the Salvation Army building, 129 S Wayne St, at 10 am. The program involves putting together and distributing lunches at various stops in Piqua and ends by 1:30 pm.

Contact Mark Wion for more information or to volunteer.

OHIO Joins  the Union

Ohio was the first of five states carved out of the old Northwest Ordinance laid out in 1787. Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin were the other four. They came later. Ohio is well-known as the 17th state admitted into the United States in March of 1803. So why bring up a March event in our May newsletter? Because, due to a technicality, Ohio might well have been admitted to the US 150 years later as the 48th state! Read on.

President Jefferson signed the Enabling Act in 1802, establishing procedures under which territories organized under the Ordinance of 1787 could become a state. The law effectively authorized people of the Ohio territory to hold a convention and frame a constitution.

In November 1802 the Ohio State Convention, located in Chillicothe, approved the Ohio Constitution and petitioned for admittance in the United States. Thomas Worthington, a delegate of the convention, delivered the document to Washington, D.C. and presented it to Congress in December of that same year. Congress proceeded to approve the action in accordance with President Jefferson's newly signed Enabling Act but forgot one critical thing. They neglected to ratify the Ohio Constitution!

In 1953, some 150 years and 31 states later, Ohio was gearing up for its 150th birthday. To prepare for the event, some Ohio school teachers headed to Washington, D.C. to obtain copies of documents pertaining to Ohio becoming a state in 1803, but they ran into a problem. The Library of Congress did not have some of the documents, namely, the legislation that granted statehood to Ohio. It was quickly realized that Ohio technically hadn't been legally admitted into the United States in 1803. Enter Ohio Congressman George H. Bender from the Cleveland area.

Bender moved into international politics and was an Ohio Representative of the 83rd Congress in 1953 when the Ohio statehood issue resurfaced. On January 13, he introduced legislation to grant statehood to Ohio. On May 19, 1953, the House voted to grant statehood to Ohio, retroactive to March 1, 1803.

So, if asked when Ohio was admitted into the United States, would your answer still be 1803? Thanks to the teachers' search for statehood documents and Bender's legislation, it will!

FYI: Last month our club celebrated its 90th anniversary. Our club charter was officially dated March 12, 1936.

Unlike the State of Ohio, our paperwork went through without any technicalities. So, there is no question that we are a 90-year-old club! If that's not enough, check out page 5 and find out what the city of Piqua had to say about our 90th.

*Mark Greenwood*

The information above was taken from the Ohio History website:  
<https://www.ohiohistory.org/ohio-the-48th-state/>

*The Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio's stories. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens focused on preserving and sharing the state's history. This includes housing the State Historic Preservation Office, the official state archives and the Community Engagement Department and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio. [www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org)*

# City of Piqua Proclaims PIQUA KIWANIS 90TH ANNIVERSARY DAY!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

*The City of Piqua proclaims May 2, 2026 as the 90th anniversary of the Piqua Kiwanis organization.*

Commissioner and Vice Mayor of Piqua Frank DeBrosse, wearing a red tie, is pictured below presenting Kiwanis president elect Ralph Tracy with the proclamation. The proclamation celebrates our clubs 90 years of service to the Piqua community and its youth. You can read the actual proclamation below.



## **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, May 2, 2026 marks the 90th Anniversary of the Piqua Kiwanis organization; and  
WHEREAS, the Piqua Kiwanis Club received their Charter from the Kiwanis International on January 22, 1936; and  
WHEREAS, Kiwanis is local organization of community-minded individuals dedicated in supporting children and young adults in the Piqua area; and  
WHEREAS, Kiwanis is dedicated to helping the youth of our community through service projects such as: Key Club at Piqua High School, Builders Club at Piqua Junior High and Piqua Catholic, K-Kids at Springcreek Washington and Piqua Central Intermediate as well as holding the annual Kiwanis Pancake Day, the Annual Halloween Parade, the Salvation Army Summer Lunch Program, Miami County Hospice Annual “Camp Pathways”, youth sports in Piqua and awards College Scholarships to Piqua High School Seniors and much more.  
WHEREAS, the City of Piqua benefits from the efforts of a proficient group of caring and involved volunteers; and  
WHEREAS, the City of Piqua would like to recognize and thank the Piqua Kiwanis Organization for everything they do for our Community.  
NOW, THEREFORE, I, James D. Vetter, Mayor of the City of Piqua, Ohio,

do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 2, 2026 as  
**PIQUA KIWANIS 90TH ANNIVERSARY DAY**  
in the City of Piqua and urge my fellow citizens to thank the Kiwanis Organization for being an important part of our community.

## Key Club: Out with the Old...and In with the New

Last month on April 8th we met with our Key Club members for a joint meeting at Piqua High School. The meeting took place in the PHS Student Union, a very nice facility, complete with a cafe!

During the meeting outgoing senior officers were recognized for all their hard work while new club officers were officially inducted.

### Out with the old



Outgoing senior officers (L to R): Emery (President), Gianna (V.P.)

### In with the new



New officers (L to R): Halie (President), Kylie (V.P.), Lilly (Secretary), Dylan (Treasurer), Holden (Webmaster)

## Springcreek K-Kids are Rock'n!

Springcreek K-Kids gathered rocks and art supplies to spend time on a special project. They selected rocks which they decorated with bright colors and special messages. Then what?

The decorated rocks were then placed in Springcreek's "new" rock garden. For what purpose?

The purpose of the rock garden is to help kids through a rough day. A student can pick a rock from the garden and take it home with them. The decoration and message on the rock is meant to have a positive affect on the student who selected it.

K-Kids will continue to decorate rocks each year to keep the garden stocked with rocks.



K-Kids club member, left, busy crafting a message for the rock she will place in the rock garden.

Pictured to the right are twenty brightly colored rocks ready for the garden and to cheer up a student.



## **Aktion Club Members in Action!**

Aktion Club is the only service club for adults with disabilities. There are over 7,200 members worldwide. Pictured below are 30 of our Aktion Club members in action writing letters to veterans in hospice!





## Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. What can be found outside on the ground but will never get dirty?
2. Inside a one-story house everything is white. The walls are white, the ceilings are white. What color are the stairs?
3. What has a thumb and four fingers but is not a hand?
4. A word begins with the letter i. If you add an "a" to it, the meaning changes but it sounds exactly the same. What is the word?



----- answers -----

1) a shadow 2) there are no stairs, it's a one story house! 3) a glove  
4) Isle, add an "a" and it becomes aisle 5) tip around the world