

90 Years of Service!



Kiwanis
CLUB OF PIQUA

Chartered on 1/22/1936

THE PIQUANIAN

July 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!

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and finalizing plans to celebrate our marvelous country's 250th anniversary.

During the 2025/26 season we were forced to cancel two track concession stand events due to bad weather. In spite that, we were still able to make around \$4,500. That money, along with dedicated club funds, allowed us to make several donations in June.

The Piqua High School Golf program and the Girls Basketball Program each received \$2500, the Bethany Center received \$1000.00 for their Christmas Program, the Piqua Youth Football and Cheer Program along with the Piqua Youth Soccer Program each received \$500.

Our summer projects include the Salvation Army Summer Feeding Program. On June 23rd, we fed 201 children. We are all set for our July and August dates.

We have been asked by the Johnston Farm to rebuild an old hay wagon. The project involves combining parts from two different wagons and adding a new bed. It is a big project that we hope to start a little later in the season so that we can get the Upper Valley Career Center to build some parts for us.

Our first meeting of July was a special one. We recognized four of our members with Legion of Honor Awards. Turn to page 6 to meet these members and find out how many years they have served our club.

This will be the last newsletter until September due to vacations and the slowness of our projects.

Enjoy your summer!

In His Name

Mark Wion



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Mark Wion (7/4), Kim Bean (7/13), Nate Funderburg (7/15), Gloria Riley Smith (7/31)

Anniversaries

Mark Wion (7/9), Spencer Peltier (7/18), Shane Schneider (7/22), Jeff & Gloria Riley Smith (7/27),
Kathy Graeser (7/29), Jerry Sowers (7/29)

Wednesday Programs

- July 1 Piqua Compassion Network
Executive Director Rebecca Sousek will talk about the organization.
- July 15 Piqua City Schools
Scott Bloom, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, will be our presenter.
Board Meeting follows.
- July 22 Piqua Community Foundation
Executive Director Kalette Hittle will talk about the Foundation.
- July 22 Crayex
Crayex CEO and Chairman of the Board, Jon Alexander, will be our presenter.

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.

To order lunch:

Text your name and number of lunches requested to Kelly Meckstroth at 419-348-4329
no later than the Monday prior to the meeting.

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:

Kid's Day at the Fair - Monday, **August 17**

Once again, we will join Troy Kiwanis at the Miami County Fairgrounds to serve free hotdog lunches to fair goers. We will be serving dogs from 11am until 1pm. Stop by!

BON APPÉTIT!

Bon Appétit [baw na pet tee] - French meaning "good appetite"

People eat all kinds of crazy things. In Cambodia tarantulas are a delicacy. In the U.S. magician Todd Robbins eats light bulbs. Kazi sausage is popular in Kazakhstan. Kazi is horse rib meat stuffed in natural casing from the horse's rectum. They say it's great...I'll pass! But when it comes to the culinary arts, the French are connoisseurs of good food and wine.

Meet Michel Lotito, a French entertainer who went by the name of Monsieur Mangetout, which means "Mister Eats All". Thanks to Pica, an eating disorder where people have a compulsion to eat non-food items, very thick stomach and intestinal linings, and unusually powerful digestive juices, this "connoisseur" could put away 2 pounds of metal a day! That earned him a spot in the Guinness World Book of Records. Here is a list of things eaten by Lotito from the Guinness website: 18 bicycles; 15 supermarket carts; 7 TV sets; 6 chandeliers; 2 beds; a pair of skis; a computer; a coffin (handles and all); and a Cessna 150 aircraft pictured (right) with Michel. The plane was broken down into small pieces and eaten over a period of two years.



Monsieur Mangetout had no problems with metal, glass, rubber, and more, but he could not eat soft foods, such as bananas and hard-boiled eggs, which usually made him sick.

Starting at the age of 16 in 1966, Michel performed various shows publicly. Unfortunately, on June 25, 2007, just ten days after his 57th birthday, he passed away from natural causes.

In Piqua we prefer less "roughage" in our diet. No metal or glass, just good food, like the kind the Salvation Army offers during its Summer Lunch program in the months of June, July and August.



Every year our club helps with the Summer Lunch program. If you get a chance to volunteer DO IT, but you will have to wait until next year. This is such a rewarding volunteer opportunity that all of our available time slots were full before the lunch truck had a chance to hit the road.

The program is well organized, a lot of fun, and a real eye-opener. Volunteers arrive at the Salvation Army's Piqua facility and help load the lunch truck (left). Once everything is loaded and the volunteers are onboard, the food truck starts its route. At each stop the volunteers assemble lunches for waiting children. After multiple stops the truck heads back to the Salvation Army facility to re-load for the remaining stops on the route. With less than 10 minutes planned per stop the time really flies by. Before you know it you are back at the Salvation Army facility where the truck is unloaded and you are free to go.

I've volunteered for this program multiple times and was lucky enough to get an August time slot. I'll be onboard with Mark and Gay Reedy this year. There is always plenty of time between stops to visit and get to know a fellow Kiwanian a little better. Maybe I'll see you in the food truck next year!

FYI: If "Mister Eats All" were still alive, he might have his eye on the food truck, provided there were no bananas or hard-boiled eggs onboard. After consuming all that metal, he wouldn't want a great meal to be ruined by some fruit or an egg!

Mark Greenwood

Speaking of the Summer Lunch Program ...

On June 23rd the Salvation Army Food truck made its rounds with the Brent McKinney, Brent's wife, Tracy, and Bonnie Jackson on board serving lunches. When it was all said and done, they had served 201 lunches!



L to R: Brent McKinney and wife, Tracy; Bonnie Jackson; Mark Wion

FYI: Mark Wion was not on board the food truck but was working hard in the Salvation Army's kitchen preparing food for the lunches served.

***"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."* - Winston Churchill**

Four members of our club were recognized with Legion of Honor Awards during our July 1st meeting. The Legion of Honor is given after 25 years of service and every 5 years afterwards.

Together our four recipients have a total of 162 years of membership and service in our club. If Churchill was half right, our Legion of Honor recipients have made quite a life for themselves!

Meet our Legion of Honor recipients:

Brian Sowers was recognized for 30 years of service. He was President in 2003 and has been a part of Pancake Day for many years.

Warren Parker was recognized for 35 years of service. He was President in 2005 and was responsible for weekly programming for multiple years as our Vice President.

Jerry Sowers received a certificate for 40 years of service but actually started his 41st year year with our club in February of this year. He was President in 1992 and 2000 and has been a part of Pancake Day for many years. He also chaired our Spiritual Development Committee.

Bill McNeil received a certificate for 55 years of service but actually started his 56th year with our club in April of this year. He was President in 1977 and has been a part of our Pancake and Hospitality Committees. He is also a reader for CORS Head Start.



Left to right: Bill McNeil; Jerry Sowers; Brian Sowers; Warren Parker



Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

Before presenting this month's riddles, I need to "set the record straight" regarding the second riddle in the June newsletter (see below).

2. Which weighs more, 16 ounces of styrofoam or a pound of solid gold?

The answer to the above riddle was listed as "the same" in the June newsletter.

While we all know that a pound equals 16 ounces, a pound of gold does not weigh the same as 16 ounces of styrofoam because precious metals are weighed using a different weight system than general merchandise. This was pointed out by a friend and fellow Ohio Key Club Zone Administrator acquaintance of Mark Reedy.

Although there is nothing stopping someone from placing precious metal on a standard scale, that is not how precious metals are weighed. Strictly speaking, the troy weight system is used for precious metals while the US customary (or standard) units of weights are used for general merchandise, including styrofoam.

Mark Reedy's friend emailed a document that pointed out the following facts:

Fact #1: one troy ounce equals 31.1034768 grams while a standard ounce weighs 28.35 grams.

Now we can compare apples-to-apples and it appears that the gold would weigh more since a troy ounce is more grams than a standard ounce. But there's more...

Fact #2: While a standard pound equals 16 standard ounces, a troy pound equals 12 troy ounces.

Now that we have all the facts, we can compare apples-to-apples and answer the riddle.

Styrofoam (standard system): 16 ounces x 28.35 grams/ounce = **453.6 grams**

Solid gold (troy system): 1 troy pound = 12 troy ounces x 31.1034768/ounce = **373.2417216 grams**

Comparing grams to grams, **16 ounces of styrofoam weighs more than a pound of solid gold!**

Now that the record has been set straight, let your brain cool off and then try your hand at this month's riddles and rebus (#5) on the following page.

This month's riddles and rebus (number 5).

Answers appear at the bottom of the page.

1. What is big on Saturday and Sunday, small on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and not on Monday or Friday?
2. What does the letter T and an island have in common?
3. What living thing has a head with no brain?
4. What has no life but can die?
5. yourinface

1) the letter S 2) both are in the middle of water 3) lettuce 4) a battery 5) "in" your face