



## PORTAGE LAKES KIWANIS COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter for August 21, 2022

### KIWANIS TOWER DINNER

The annual Kiwanis Tower Dinner will be held at the Civic Center on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. This dinner is held every year to continue to grow the bond between the Portage Lakes Kiwanis and the Kiwanis Tower residents. It is our opportunity to sit with, visit with, and support the Tower residents. Rose Villa will be catering the event. The dinner is free to everyone that attends. Please make your best effort to come to this dinner as the Tower residents are an extension of our club. Do you know the history of how the Kiwanis Towers came to be? The historical committee would like to share a piece of the story...

In 1978 one of the Past Presidents, Dr. Irv Kaplan 1961, felt that the Portage Lakes area was in need of some low income housing for our senior citizens. He had worked on one for the Akron Jewish Center and knew they could be financed by HUD, a division of the U.S. Government. Jim Bacher was President of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis in 1979 and they formed a committee to explore the possibility of building a Senior Housing facility in our area. The committee met on June 4, 1979. Committee members were Donald Hallauer, Ed Gaskill, Dennis Lambes, Wayne Breitenstine, Bob Longworth, Tom Longworth, Ted Cole, Ken Spahr, and Joe Egert. At that meeting they elected Ed Gaskill as President, Dennis Lambes as Vice President, Donald Hallauer as Treasurer, and Tom Longworth as Secretary. Joe Miller, a Past President in 1959 handled the incorporation for the Kiwanis Civic Center and would try to get this group incorporated. A site committee was appointed to find land in our area. They checked the property at 589 Portage Lakes Drive, which is now part of Harbor Inn parking lot. The property at 539 Portage Lakes Drive, which is behind the present Ameritech building and the property at 399 Portage Lakes Drive, which at that time was owned by the State of Ohio. It used to be the office of Portage Lakes Parks. Another parcel was at Killian Road and I-77. Ken Cox who graduated from Coventry High School and in 1979 was the State Senator from this area had a bill passed in the Ohio legislature for Kiwanis to buy approximately three acres of the State land. Herb Newman helped us through the HUD red tape. Several architects were contacted and Team 4 in Cuyahoga Falls was selected. Several contractors were interviewed and Transcon Builders was picked. The committee called or met with all local government elected officials. John Glenn and Howard Metzenbaum were our Senators from Ohio. John Seiberling and Ralph Regula were our local Congressmen. Every one that could help us obtain the building was asked to help. All non-profit groups had to put up \$10,000 with the government for three years and the Kiwanis loaned Lakes Senior Housing the money. It was paid back at the end of three years. The Lakes Senior Housing received approval to build 45 units at 399 Portage Lakes Drive through U.S. Government HUD section 202 with a loan of \$1,894,676 dollars. Ground breaking was set for October 1, 1982. It took three years and three months of work to get to ground breaking day. An open house and dedication for the Kiwanis Towers was held from 2 to 4pm on Sunday, September 25, 1983. Just about a year to build, paint, and furnish the building. The loan is for 40 years at 9 1/4% interest. The loan was re-negotiated on July 18, 2007 and the interest rate was reduced to 5.40% for 35 years. Monthly payments are \$12,237.00. It should be paid off on June 18, 2042. The loan was re-negotiated again on June 30, 2015 for 3.35% interest and it will be paid off on the original date of June 18, 2042. The interest savings will return to operating funds. The Board is made up of nine Kiwanis members, elected every three years.



### **'HELP, MY CAR IS GONE!!'**

On Tuesday, August 16th, our club hosted the Division 16 monthly meeting at our Civic Center. Past President Steve Hess went to the parking lot to get something out of his car, and lo-and-behold his car was gone. At first he thought it was stolen, but no, he found it had rolled backwards across the parking lot and into the canal. You can't make this up!! A friend showed up to pull the car out and fortunately there was just some minor damages to the back of his car and Steve has taken the 'ribbing' like a champ. The very next day at our regular Kiwanis meeting Steve decided he had better tie his car to a post, put blocks behind the wheels, and get his life jacket out...just in case. He didn't want a repeat incident!! Steve gave all of our guest visitors a good chuckle.



The Acme Cash Back Community Program has started again. It will run from August 4th to December 24th. Please save your receipts and bring them to any meeting. Our club will get 5% of the total of receipts we present. It is a very simple way to earn some extra money. Please give them to Dana or Cathy.

## CHARTER PARTY

The details for the annual Charter Party have been finalized. The Party will be held at the Canal Grille Restaurant in their private party room on Wednesday, October 5th. We will welcome our new Officers and Directors while celebrating another successful year! Guests are welcome to attend. Governor of the Ohio District, Mr. David Kuhn will be our guest speaker and Inductor. 6:00 pm will be social time, 6:30 pm will be the Pledge, Invocation, & Dinner, and the Passing of the Gavel program will begin at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$31.50 per person to attend and there will be a cash bar available. You will have a choice of four dinner entrees:

- \*10 oz New York strip steak with baked or mashed potatoes and green beans
- \*Seared salmon with baked or mashed potatoes and green beans
- \*Teriyaki chicken with baked or mashed potatoes and green beans
- \*Stuffed shells with home-made meat ball

All dinners are served with a garden salad, soft drinks, coffee, and tea.

The gratuity and tax are included in the price.

Please RSVP with your reservation and payment by September 28th, checks payable to Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

Al Grzeschik, text or call (330) 524-2979 or email [al@plkiwanis.org](mailto:al@plkiwanis.org) or

Cathy Dietz, text or call (330) 592-6471 or email at [cathy.dietz61@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.dietz61@gmail.com)

An invitation will be enclosed with your dues renewal invoice going out this week.



Please start saving shoes again! We will have another drive in the spring, but you can bring in shoes at any time and we can get a running start on this fundraiser. Our last drive brought in over \$1000 dollars and is a relatively easy way to raise money.





The drawing for the winning ticket will be on Monday, August 22, 2022 at noon. The link to watch the drawing was sent out via email on Friday 8/19. Thank you to everyone that sold tickets and participated in this fundraiser. Our club made \$546.00 profit on the ticket sales. Thank you to Steve Hess for chairing this money maker.



**We had ten members that had perfect attendance for the month of July. Each recipient got a Starbucks gift card that said "Thanks a latte" for attending every meeting in July, congratulations, you got perfect attendance!!**

**Gene Cole  
Dale Dietz  
Cathy Dietz  
Bob Fowler  
Juanita Gehm  
Al Grzeschik  
Kay Lukac  
Dana Roderick  
Barry Terjesen  
Stanley Vaughan**



A big 'thank you' to Rosanne Edwardson and John Hercules for representing our club at the District Convention held in Wooster August 12th to August 14th. Rosanne gave a presentation at our meeting last week of updates to legislation, elections, and changes to be made in the future. She also gave us information about the First Family Project which we hope to participate in. More about that later. Next year the International Convention will be held in Minneapolis, MN June 21st to June 24th. The District Convention will be held in Springfield, OH down near Dayton August 11th to August 13th.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS / CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- >Aug 1 thru Sept 4, Purple Martin Twilight Boat rides
- >August 27, Antique Boat Show / Picks
- >August 31, Regular Meeting & Board Meeting
- >September 14, Kiwanis Tower Dinner

#### **FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD**

- >October 1 - Rose Day
- >October 5, Charter Party at Canal Grille
- >November 18, Girls Night In/Ornament Exchange

#### **BIRTHDAYS:**

- 08/02 Cassie Freeman
- 08/02 Juanita Gehm
- 08/05 Phillip Pinnow
- 08/06 Paul Schuckert
- 08/12 Dale Dietz
- 08/16 Stanley Vaughan
- 08/30 Bricey Bayonnet
- 08/30 Sue Fassoles
- 08/30 Anthony Ponikvar

## **CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:**

Rosanne Edwardson - 34 years  
Barry Terjesen - 6 years  
Benjamin Pearson - 3 years  
Stanley Vaughan - 3 years  
James Welton - 3 years

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

08/02 - Sue & John Fassoles  
08/04 - Barry & Nancy Terjesen  
08/07 - Jeff & Denise Goodwin  
08/08 - Glen & Georgia Sheets  
08/10 - Phil & Judy Pinnow  
08/10 - Jill & William Lanzinger  
08/16 - Chuck & Betty Seeley  
08/23 - Rosanne & Terry Edwardson

## **KIWANIS FAMILY NEWS:**

Please keep the following Kiwanians in special thought and prayer:

Tom Longworth

Tom Burge

Stan Vaughan

Glen Sheets

Sam Reynolds mother fell and broke her hip, Sam is caring for her

If you know of any members that are in need of prayer, please let me know. I will be happy to add them to our prayer list.

**ALL ABOUT PLK...**Our club is currently meeting every Wednesday. You can join us at 6:30 pm for dinner, which is catered by Lukity's Restaurant, a full meal for just \$14.00, or you can attend any meeting which begins at 7:00 pm. We'd love to have you.

We meet at the Civic Center, located at 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, OH 44319.  
Telephone number (330) 644-8967.

Our website is: [www.plkiwanis.org](http://www.plkiwanis.org) and please check out our Facebook page too under Portage Lakes Kiwanis.

**KIWANIS MISSION STATEMENT - Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.**

Published on the first and third week of the month, Cathy Dietz, Editor.

