



Kiwaniis[®]

CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

May 2024

Kelly Meckstroth (President), Joe Gephart (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer & Past President)
Board Members: Dennis Carity, Mark Greenwood, Katie Loehr, Marijo Poling, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

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President's Message

“May, the month of sunshine, blooming flowers, and endless possibilities.” - Unknown

May will definitely be the month of endless possibilities. We welcomed new member, Brent McKinney, to the club in April but have an exciting list of additional potential members whom we will be contacting this month. We are looking for a minimum of (2) members to collaborate in unison while coordinating potential new member visits. Gretchen sent out the list a few weeks ago so if you are interested in helping and/or know a potential member, please let us know.

We have our Bike Rodeo coming up in May as downtown celebrates another Taste of the Arts. More information about the Bike Rodeo can be found on page 3.

Our sponsored youth groups have had an amazing school year as they prepare for summer fun in a few weeks.

The summer feeding program will be ready to kick off at the end of the month. We are continuing to look for service projects in the upcoming months as well as looking for members to run for office.

So many victories, celebrations and acts of kindness our club has already accomplished this year as we have much more to do.

Thank you for being part of Kiwanis! It is truly a blessing to be surrounded by good souls and people.



House Cleaning

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Brian Sowers (May 4), Tony Lyons (May 6)

Wednesday Programs

May 1 St Vincent de Paul presentation by Joe Gebhart

May 15 TBD

May 22 Civil War presentation by John Proconia
Board Meeting immediately follows.

May 29 Piqua History Trivia Presentation by Mark Greenwood
Person with most correct answers will receive a free lunch at their next meeting.

Due to renovations at the YWCA, meetings this month will be held at the Piqua Chamber of Commerce.

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.

Lunch reservations must be made by noon on the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting.

Contact Dennis Carity at 937-418-8478 or denbev@twc.com to order a meal.

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 by the 25th of the month.

The Back Burner



Just a few things on the back burner that are worth noting:

Track Concession Stand - **Wed May 1, & Thur May 2**

This is a wonderful fundraiser and a lot of fun. Volunteers are always needed. Work as little or as much as you like.

Contact Mark Wion for more details or to volunteer.

Bike Rodeo - **Fri May 10**

Annual Kiwanis Bike Rodeo during Piqua's Taste of the Arts Festival. Come on out and help us and Key Clubbers check in participants. Volunteers are also needed for setup.

Contact Mark Wion for more details or to volunteer.

SECRETS

The Coca-Cola Company has managed to keep their formula a secret for nearly 133 years. The company made over 45 billion dollars in 2023 for a couple of reasons. First, they have a great product, and second, they know how to keep a secret. Like McDonald's secret sauce and KFC's secret 11 herbs and spices recipe, some secrets are meant to be kept.

On the other hand, consider a secret Santa or secret contents. They are necessary, but only for a short time. Their real impact comes when they are revealed.

Finally, there are secrets that should never be kept. Consider what happened at the Kennedy Space Center on January 27, 1986, the night before the Space Shuttle Challenger was scheduled to launch. Due to freezing temperatures Allan McDonald refused to sign an official form approving the launch. He was concerned that the booster rocket O-rings would fail because of the cold. NASA decided to keep Allan's concerns a secret and proceed with the launch. On January 28, 1986 the Challenger exploded after 73 seconds into its flight. Twelve days later Allan and his team presented data about the O-rings during a presidential commission investigation and the secret was out.

It has been said that our Kiwanis club is the "best kept secret" in town. Is that good or bad? Merriam-Webster defines "best kept secret" as something very good that not many people know about. So it is good and bad. As a club we do good things that have a positive impact on our community. That's good. It is also true that not enough people know who we are or what we do. That's bad. I've talked with folks who thought that our Halloween Parade was a Main Street function! We need to get the word out about our club and what we do. We need to get folks interested in Kiwanis.

I talk about my involvement in Kiwanis regularly. I have drummed up speakers and uncovered volunteer opportunities for our club, but sadly, I have yet to attract a new member. But I'll keep spreading the word. Who knows?

Mark Greenwood

Welcome New Member Brent McKinney!

On the previous page our club was described as the "best kept secret" in town, or put another way, "something very good that not many people know about." Apparently, Dennis Carity can't keep a secret and that turned out to be a good thing! He told his son-in-law, Brent McKinney, about our club and encouraged him to join.

Brent was inducted into our club during our April 17th meeting. Dennis introduced Brent, a Crown employee working at their New Bremen facility, while Kelly officially welcomed Brent to Kiwanis and presented him with a membership certificate and pin.



Springcreek K-Kids Enjoy a Well Deserved Party

Springcreek K-Kids last meeting of the school year included some outdoor fun and a pizza party. The party was in appreciation for all their hard work during the year. Some recent examples include making placemats for nursing home residents, writing letters to their Ayden Nursing Home pen pals, and donating 191 boxes of cereal to the Bethany Center!

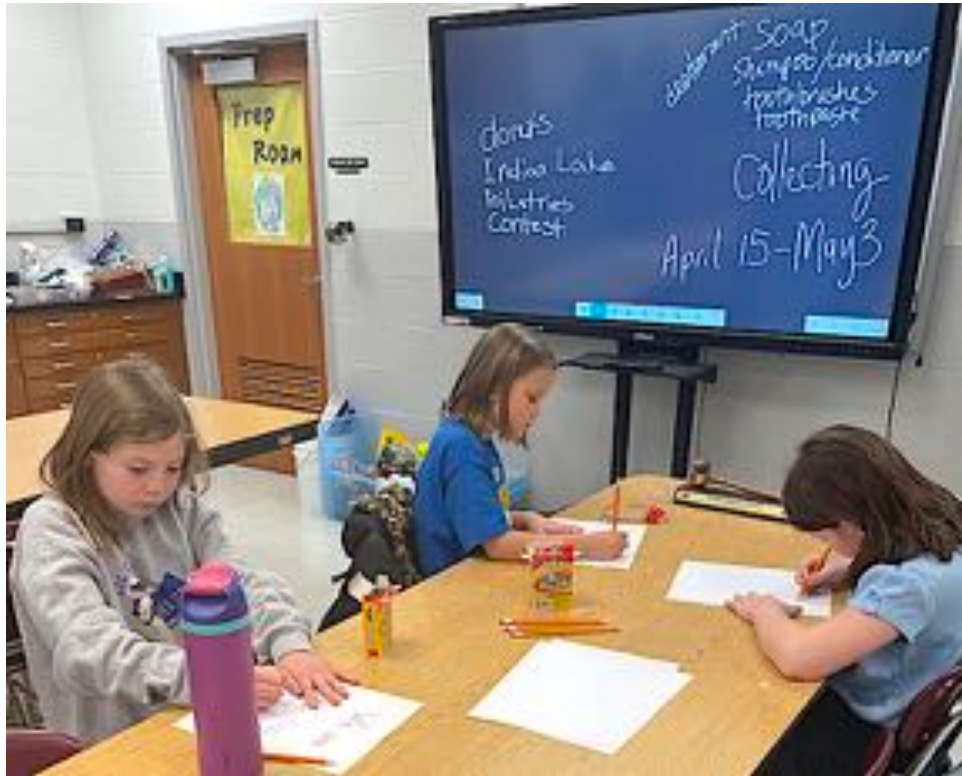
And speaking of hard work, our club extends a big thanks to club advisors April Presser and Megan Johnson for all that they do with the kids throughout the school year.



Piqua Catholic K-Kids Making a Difference

The Piqua Catholic K-Kids is our newest student club and they haven't wasted any time getting into the spirit of community service. Their first project involved collecting boxes of cereal which they donated to the Bethany Center. As noted in our April newsletter, they wound up collecting 281 boxes of cereal.

They are now focused on toiletry items for tornado victims living at Indian Lake. They are pictured below creating signs that will be posted at Piqua Catholic to generate interest in the project.



Items will be collected until May 3rd at which time the class collecting the most items will enjoy a donut and orange juice party!

Piqua Police Presence at Local Kiwanis Meeting



Mark Wion with Chief Rick Byron

No, the Piqua Police Chief did not come to haul Mark Wion away, but rather, to update the club on what's new at the police department.

Piqua Police Chief Rick Byron shared many things with our club during his April 24th presentation.

For those who couldn't attend the meeting, here are a few of the highlights:

- This fall the department will get a new canine unit
- School Resource Officers will be placed in each city school building
- Several new officers will be hired



Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(answers will appear in next month's newsletter)

1. What is always in front of you but can't be seen?
2. What kind of coat is best put on wet?
3. What goes up but never comes down?
4. If there are three apples and you take away two, how many apples do you have?
5. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answers to April riddles:

1. What month of the year has 28 days?

Answer: All of them

2. A little girl goes to the store and buys one dozen eggs. As she is going home, all but three break. How many eggs are left unbroken?

Answer: Three ("all but three" break, so those three are unbroken)

3. A man was standing outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat and didn't get a single hair on his head wet. How could that be?

Answer: He was bald.

4. What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right?

Answer: Your right elbow

5. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?

Answer: Seven (take away the "s" from seven and even is left)