



Kiwaniis
CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

December 2024

Kelly Meckstroth (President), Marijo Poling (V.P.), Gretchen Roeth (Secretary), Mark Wion (Treasurer)

Kelly Meckstroth (Immediate Past President), Mark Wion (President Elect)

Board Members: Mark Greenwood, Mikaili Hall, Brent McKinney, Warren Parker, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

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President's Message

Happy Holidays!

December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come.

– Fennel Hudson

Kiwanians! November came and went as quickly as our warm refreshing temperatures. Hello Winter! I would like to wish each and every member an amazing holiday season. I hope these past couple weeks many of you made new memories while sharing stories of the old, laughing, loving and blessing the food placed in front of us.

As we embrace December, we prepare and anticipate the New Year. Our sponsored youth will come together for the community parade on the 7th while continuing to focus on service projects before winter break.

As members, let's continue to focus on building membership and serving those around us. We will welcome two new members on the 18th of December and would love our current members to join us to celebrate.

I know time is of essence in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, but I challenge each of you to slow down. We have said farewell this year to many honorable Kiwanians as well as family, friends, neighbors. Tomorrow is not promised but today is what we make of it.



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Shane Schneider (Dec 5), Kathy Vogler (Dec 11), Brent McKinney (Dec 23), Paul Doak (Dec 28)

Anniversaries

No December anniversaries

Wednesday Programs

- Dec 4 Recycling
Emily Walker of the Miami County Sanitation Dept will discuss the Do's and Don'ts of recycling.
- Dec 18 Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Piqua resident Joe Wilson will talk about Neighbors Helping Neighbors, an organization he recently started in Piqua.
Board Meeting immediately follows.
- Dec 25 No Meeting
Have a Merry Christmas!

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.

OOPS! Apparently I can't count!

In last month's newsletter I wrote, "Piqua Catholic Builders Club also makes our **8th** SLP with Key Club at the high school, the two Builders Clubs mentioned above, and **five** K-Kids clubs (Piqua Central, Springcreek Elementary, Washington Elementary, and Piqua Catholic)". Upon further review I only count **4** not 5, K-Kids. That brings our SLP total to **7** not 8.

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 Tuesdays of each month at 9:45 am**

If you would like to volunteer or get more information about the program, contact Mark Wion.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - **Thursdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas 3:30 to 7:30 pm**

Key Club will be ringing bells at Kroger. Stop by and show your support. You can also give your donations to Mark Wion

who will place them in the kettle for you.

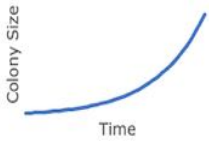
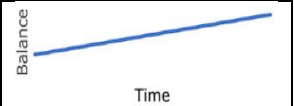
Christmas Parade - **Saturday, December 7 starting at 2 pm**

Meet beside Readmore Hallmark and walk with our SLP kids!

GROWTH

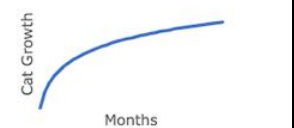
"Growth is the process of something increasing in size." Despite its simple definition, growth is a complex concept.

Consider a simple interest savings account. That's where the balance grows by the same amount each year. It's an example of **linear growth** and looks like the graph to the right.



A bacterial colony can start with just 2 bacteria which each split into 2 resulting in 4. Each of those 4 splits into 2 resulting in 8. Then those 8 split and the colony now contains 16 bacteria. 16 yields 32 and so on. A colony of just 2 bacteria grows faster and faster over time. This type of growth represents **exponential growth** and is pictured by the graph to the left.

Kittens can grow to 8 times their size in just 2 months, then continue growing for another 2 months before slowly reaching full maturity around 2 years of age. This type of growth, a fast start then slowing quickly over time, is an example of **logarithmic growth** and looks like the graph to the right.



Besides the three above, there are many other types of growth. So how does growth relate to our membership?

If you read the President's Message in last month's newsletter, Kelly stated that "We are looking to grow by 5 new members this year if not more". She was echoing a goal set forth by our Board. But what does a "goal" have to do with growth? Not a whole lot.

If we are only able to attract one new member, have we failed? Absolutely not. All growth is good growth. What if we acquire 5 new members. Do we consider the goal met and ease up in perusing new members? Of course not. Or worse, we meet our goal of 5 new members then promptly lose 6 members for one reason or another. We met our recruitment goal of 5 but would be down 1 in total membership. Negative growth!

As you can see, a goal is simply a target that has little to do with actual growth. What influences growth is more complicated. First and foremost, we must be welcoming. There is little point in bringing a potential member to a meeting if they feel unwelcome. It's unlikely they'll be back. Below are two real example of this.

I am here writing this newsletter, serving on the board, chairing our scholarship and grill committees for one reason. I felt welcomed. Years ago Fred Verceles invited me to a meeting. But that's not why I joined. I wasn't interested in joining a club but told Fred I'd go. To my surprise I met interesting folks and had some good conversations. I felt welcomed. That's why I joined.

On the other hand, we had a member who chose to leave a few years ago. I recently ran into him at the BMV and we struck up a conversation. We talked about our club, and I invited him to drop in and consider re-joining. He said he never really felt welcomed. He went on to say that members seemed to have little interest in prolonged conversation with him. In other words he never really felt welcomed and it led to his resignation.

Not all people are looking for strong social connections. Some folks, like some of our club advisors, join for civic engagement. They may not attend weekly meetings and "hob nob", but they enjoy working with our SLP kids. Goals are nice, but a couple of things need to happen if we are to grow. First, folks must be invited to a meeting. But second, and most important, they have to feel welcomed, or they are out-the door!

On the following page you will meet our newest member. A Covington resident who first looked at Troy Kiwanis before discovering our club. He received a warm welcome, and as a bonus, only has to drive as far as Piqua!

Mark Greenwood

New Member Ralph Tracy

Ralph Tracy was inducted into our club during our first meeting in November. He was sponsored by Gretchen Roeth and was officially inducted into our club by President Kelly Meckstroth.

Ralph comes to us from the "wild west". He lived in California where he worked for 30 years in law enforcement in Los Angeles followed by a 2-year stint as a prosecuting attorney.

From there he moved to Montana and was active in a local Kiwanis club. He recently moved to Covington and we are happy that he found our club.

Ralph is pictured below with Gretchen (left) and Kelly (right). Kelly officially inducted Ralph into our club and presented him with his certificate of membership.



As for our growth target of 5 new members, it's 1 down, 4 to go ... or is it???

As of the writing of this newsletter we have accepted new membership applications from Piqua residents Nate Funderburg and Paul Doak. They will be officially inducted into our club during our December 18th meeting. Pictures of their inductions and short bios will appear in next month's newsletter.

So, with respect to our goal of 5 new members, it looks more like 3 down and 2 to go!

OFFICER ALERT!

Piqua Catholic Builders Club was visited by Bob Davis, Ohio Kiwanis Builders Club Director, during one of their November meetings. He officially inducted club officers and presented Principal Erin Freisthler with the club's charter.

Pictured below from left to right: Kenzie (Secretary), Mia (VP), Nevaeh (President), Bob, Erin, John (treasurer), Jude (Sgt at Arms), Kolson (Sgt at Arms).



Washington K-Kids selected their slate of officers for the new year. Pictured below from left to right are officers Rosie (treasurer), Archer (Sgt at Arms), Izzy (VP), Hallie (Secretary), and Sophia (President).



★★★ Springcreek K-Kids Honor Veterans ★★★

During their November meeting Springcreek K-Kids honored family members who were veterans. They enjoyed doing an art project with their guests while consuming lots of cookies!





Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. What is always in front of you, but can't be seen?
2. I have no life, but I can die. What am I?
3. I make a loud sound when I'm changing. When I do change, I get bigger but weigh less. What am I?
4. What is black when it's clean and white when it's dirty?
5.
$$\frac{\text{TRAVEL}}{\text{CCCCC}}$$

answers: 1) the future 2) a battery 3) popcorn 4) a chalkboard 5) travel over seas