



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF PIQUA

THE PIQUANIAN

November 2025

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, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

Address: P.O. Box 738, Piqua, OH 45356

website: www.piquakiwanis.org

President's Message

Greetings.

There were many things happening in October. First our Key Club and Builders club gave out over 600 pieces of candy each at the trick or treat at the Piqua Center. During the Piqua Harvest Festival, we gave away over 200 pumpkins while the Key Club ran the pumpkin painting booth. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Halloween Parade this year due to the rain and cold temperatures. We read a book at the Head Start Learning Center to over 80 preschoolers. We also ran the Concessions during the Junior High Football game with Key Club.

Ralph Tracy had the chance to preside over our last meeting in October while I had a medical procedure. Thank you, Ralph. Good job!

November is shaping up to be a busy month. We will be attending the meet and greet for the new Ohio governors visit on the 6th. Then we have our next book reading at Head Start on the 18th. The new Vandalia Club would like to host a district get together in the evening on the 19th. Time and location to follow. There will be no meeting on the 26th due to Thanksgiving, so you can relax and enjoy your turkey or ham or Tofu. My wife and I will be traveling to Texas to share in Thanksgiving with her family. For those of you who are traveling, I wish you safe travels.

December will be upon us before you know it. We will again be ringing the bells at Kroger on the Thursdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas for the Salvation Army. This year there are only three Thursdays to schedule. Remember this is one of the ways we support this program along with our Key Club and Builders Club. And finally, we will also start planning our pancake day on March 14, 2026.

In His Name

Mark Wion



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Ralph Tracy (11/3), Kelly Meckstroth (11/5), Mikaila Hall (11/15), Kathy Graeser (11/19)

Anniversaries

Kathy Vogler (11/10)

Wednesday Programs

- Nov 5 Wilma's Place at Bethany Center
Shawn Rickert from Bethany Center will talk about their men's shelter, Wilma's Place.
- Nov 19 Piqua Arts Council (PAC)
Executive Director Sara Wilson will talk about what's happening at PAC.
Board Meeting follows.
- Nov 26 No Meeting
Happy Thanksgiving!

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.

*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 Tuesday 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 and Builders Club members will be ringing bells at Kroger. Stop by and show your support.

You can also sign up to ring. Contact Mark Wion for details.

CERTIFICATES

The word "certificate" has multiple meanings according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary. Here are a few:

- a document containing a certified statement especially as to the truth of something
- a document certifying that one has fulfilled the requirements of and may practice in a field
- a document evidencing ownership or debt

Our November 15th meeting, last month, got me thinking about certificates. I have received many certs over my lifetime. The first one I received I don't even remember getting. In fact, it required zero effort on my part. It was my Birth Certificate. Although I wasn't involved in acquiring it, I've had to produce it when applying for a SSN card, my first driver's license, and a passport, among other things.

I believe my next cert came along when I was nine. Unlike my Birth certificate I had to put a little effort into this one. It was my Certificate of Baptism and I had to memorize some things as part of the process. For anyone interested, the baptism took place at a Lutheran church and I was baptized along with my younger sister and even younger brother.

While in high school I racked up a number of academic certificates including Certificates of Membership in the National Honor Society and the California Scholarship Federation. I was a good student, thanks to my Mom cracking the whip, so these certificates came easy.

Going back to my Birth Certificate. In 1989, after working up the nerve to ask Bernadine to marry me, I needed it for a marriage license. That led to yet another certificate in my files. A Certificate of Marriage. When you consider the "customary fee" paid to a pastor when performing the ceremony, the Certificate of Marriage was my only certificate that cost money!

Bernadine was a dyed-in-the-wool Presbyterian, so I joined her church, Claremont Presbyterian Church, and we were married there. That led to my next certificate, a Certificate of Ordination as a Deacon. It allowed me to participate in activities in the church that interested me.

There have been other certificates, but now I can get back to our November 15th meeting. At that meeting I was surprised to learn that I was voted Kiwanian of the Year. Gretchen Roeth presented me with the certificate (see picture below) and I was honored and touched to receive it. Of all the certificates that I have received, this is the only one that didn't come about as a direct result of my efforts. It was a result of my peers (fellow Kiwanians) recognizing me as an asset to our club. And to me, that makes it very special.



Thank you for the honor.

Mark Greenwood

HOLLYWOOD SQUARES

The Hollywood Squares game show first aired in 1965. It features a large tic-tac-toe board with celebrities seated in each square. Peter Marshall was the original host. The Brady Bunch comedy arrived in 1969 and used a similar grid of nine squares with Alice the housekeeper occupying the center square.



Our November 15th meeting featured our Lt. Governor, Michael Benanzer (pictured left). Mark Wion and Michael performed officer installations and recognized others.

All in all, nine attendees were recognized, enough to makeup our own Hollywood Squares or Brady Bunch type tic-tac-toe board.

Kiwanian Squares or the Kiwanis Bunch (your choice)



Top row: left - Mark Wion, President; center - Ralph Tracy, Pres. Elect; right - Makaili Hall, V.P

Center row: left - Mark Greenwood, Board Member; center - ? ; right - Warren Parker, Board Member

Bottom row: left - Kelly Meckstroth, Immediate Past Pres.; center - Gretchen Roeth, Secretary; right - Mark Wion, Treasurer

Our tic-tac-toe board present two mysteries. First, how can Mark Wion occupy two squares at the same time? Easy, he will be holding down two offices, President and Treasurer. Second, who is the mystery person in the center square? More on that in a minute.

After the installation of officers, Michael shared some updates on Kiwanis and mentioned three goals for the coming year: membership, membership, membership! That brings us back to the mystery person in the center square.



Pictured left is the mystery person in the center square, and newest member of our club, Charlene (Char) Tracy.

She is surrounded by Lt. Governor Michael Benanzer and her husband Ralph Tracy who was also her sponsor and our new President Elect.

If all of that wasn't enough, we had a wonderful presentation on the Miami County Parks. It was a very busy meeting!

HALLOWEEN

Our Halloween Parade was scheduled for the Oct. 29th but mother nature had other plans which led to the event being cancelled. If you visit our website (www.piquakiwanis.org) and click on **About**, you will discover that our annual Halloween parade first started back in 1956. That's sixty-nine years ago!

1956 seems like a long time ago. I was only three back then. But in relation to the history Halloween, sixty-nine years is nothing. Halloween is the night before, or the "eve" of, All Saints Day. According to the Oxford University Press, All Saints Day was referred to as All Hallows Day as early as 1225, making the night before "All Hallows Eve". All Hallows Eve became Allhallowe'en around 1550 then changed to Hallowe'en in 1745. In 1786 the apostrophe was dropped, resulting in Halloween.

Why Halloween falls on October 31 goes back even further. Ancient civilizations had been honoring their dead through pagan festivals for thousands of years. Then along came Christianity, and in the 8th century Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory in the original St. Peter's Basilica in honor of all the saints on November 1 (according to most accounts). Thus, the official date for the feast of All Saints (now All Saints Day) became November 1, making October 31 the eve of All Saints Day, or Halloween.

Most sources agree that Halloween's roots go back over 2000 years to an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain, which fell on November 1. Samhain celebrated the end of summer and the harvest, and the beginning of winter. They believed that spirits could move in and out of the living world during that time, so the Celts would light bonfires and set out food hoping to win the favor of the spirits. They also disguised themselves to avoid being recognized by ghosts of those who had died the previous year. By the 7th century, the Church began to replace pagan festivals with religious observances. Samhain was eventually absorbed into All Saints Day, but Samhain is still celebrated today by modern pagans on October 31.

European immigrants brought Halloween to the United States in the 1800s, but trick-or-treating didn't become widespread until after WWII. That's when rationing ended, candy was readily available, and suburban neighborhoods developed which made it easier for kids to travel from house to house for a treat.

What about candy? Americans spent over \$3 billion on Halloween candy in 2024. According to the Cincinnati Inquirer (and other sources) blow pops and M&Ms are the most popular Halloween candies in OH, with blow pops leading the way. FYI: OH was the only state to report blow pops as their most popular Halloween candy!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

The official date for Halloween is October 31. Page 6 lays out the history of holiday and why it falls on the 31st. But what's a number? Page 6 also mentions that we attempted to have our Halloween parade the 29th and not the 31st. Then the city of Piqua declared Oct 30 as trick or treat night for this year. So there you go. Apparently selecting a date for Halloween is like playing horseshoes; close is good enough!

This year the Piqua Center really got an early start. They hosted a "trick or treat" night at the mall on October 20th! That's what you call an early bird special. The early date didn't hold anyone back. Over 700 trick or treaters attended, included a few Piqua Kiwanians and their families. Builders Club and the Key Club were also on hand manning their own tables and handing out candy.



Ben Zimmermann dressed as a snowman with wife Julia and children Althea and Ezra



Shane Schneider and daughter Brielle



Trick or Treaters enjoying the evening



Builders Clubbers Lincoln and Jazzilyn accompanied by advisor Nan Conard



Key Clubbers K Dence (red head) and Abby (handing candy to visitor)

OFFICERS ON DECK!

Piqua Catholic Builders Club took care of their first order of business last month by electing a new slate of officers to run their club.

The new officers are pictured below, and it looks like the ladies outnumber the gents this year by 2 to 1!



Seated L-R: Aniya (secretary), Dana (VP), Aubree (president), Eli (treasurer)
Standing L-R: Delaney (sergeant at arms), Joey (sergeant at arms)

Washington K-Kids also selected their officers for 2025-2026. Meet their new officers below!



Gabriel (Treasurer), Leilani (Secretary), Zoey (Sgt at Arms), Madison (VP), Emery (President)

Springcreek K-Kids have been Busy!

Springcreek K-Kids "hit the ground running" last month by getting their club officers in place and doing their first club project. That's an energetic start!

In physics, kinetic energy is defined as energy created by movement. Maybe the "K" in K-Kids stands for "kinetic" in their case!



Four new club officers were elected and are pictured to the left.

From left to right they are:

Harper (president)

Brantlee (VP)

Rilynn (secretary)

Rachel (treasurer)

Looks like K-Kids will be in good hands!

Pictured right are two K-Kids members creating placemats for Meals on Wheels clients.

The placemats were created during their first meeting.

These K-Kids don't waste time getting started on community projects!





Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. "The attorney is my brother," testified the accountant. But the attorney testified he did not have a brother. Who is lying?
2. What goes up and down but always remains in the same place?
3. How many animals did Moses take into the ark?
4. What travels to different locations but is stuck in one spot?
5. Put a coin into an empty bottle and insert a cork into the neck. How can you remove the coin without removing the cork or breaking the bottle?
6. million

----- answers -----

1) neither, the account is the attorney's sister 2) stairs 3) none, Noah loaded the ark 4) a stamp
5) push the cork inside the bottle and shake the coin out 6) one in a million