



THE PIQUANIAN

January 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, Shane Schneider, Joe Shaffer

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

website: www.piquakiwanis.org

President's Report

Greetings, and Happy New Year to all of you. I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.

Our Key Club manned the Red Kettles, ringing the bells inside Kroger's the three Thursdays in December from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The money collected helped the Salvation Army provide gifts for over 520 children in the Piqua area. You can read more about the Red Kettle campaign, on page 7, and how it got its start back in 1981.

On Saturday, December 6th, we had over 80 participants walking in the cold, handing out candy during the downtown Christmas Parade. Thank you for all those that walked.

We have begun planning for our most important fundraiser of the year, our Pancake Day Event. It is scheduled for Saturday March 14th at the Upper Valley Career Center. The event will run from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please plan on working on this day. We will also need volunteers to help set up on Friday March 13th, at 2:30 p.m. We need to bolster our ticket sales as the proceeds help sponsor our events. Remember presale of tickets is what drives this event.

We have been looking into locations for our 90th anniversary party. Right now we have a tentative agreement at the Covington Eagles on May 2, 2026. A save the date has gone out to all members and division. More information to follow.

In His Name

Mark Wion
President



House Cleaning

Birthdays

Mark Greenwood (1/11), Bill McNeil (1/14), Gretchen Roeth (1/30)

Anniversaries

none

Wednesday Programs

- Jan 7 The Piqua Center
Facilities and Sales Manager of the Piqua Center, Helga Leap, will be our presenter.
- Jan 21 Tribal Garden in Piqua
Master gardener, Mary Lou Fierce, will talk about a Tribal Garden near Piqua Central that is planted and harvested by students.
Board Meeting follows.
- Jan 28 Piqua Steel
Jim Sever, 4th generation family member, will talk about Piqua Steel.

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.

Pancake Day - **Saturday, Mar 14**

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is coming soon and volunteers will be needed. and during the day Watch for volunteer signup information in your February email. You can also contact Gretchen Roeth.

Children's Traveling Opera - **Tuesday, March 17**

Once again the Dayton Children's Traveling Opera will perform 8:30 and 10am performances of The Pirates of Penzance at Piqua Central Intermediate. Feel free to drop in for either performance.

Piqua Kiwanis 90th Anniversary - **Saturday, May 2nd, time TBD**

Our Club will be celebrating its 90th anniversary on May 2. 2026. The location will be the Covington Eagles at 715 East Broadway, Covington. More info to follow.

BIRTHDAYS

Club members with January birthdays are listed on the previous page. There are three listed. One of them is mine. Born on Jan 11, I am the first Kiwanian birthday of the year, and as it turns out, mine is the first birthday of my family. Three days later (Jan 14) is Bill McNeil's birthday, followed by Gretchen Roeth's birthday which falls on Jan 30, just 19 days after mine. My younger brother Ron's birthday is also 19 days from mine, but in the opposite direction. His birthday is 19 days before mine, or Dec 21, which happens to be our family's last birthday of the year. It is also just 4 days from Christmas, which means Ron often gets stuck with the old birthday/Christmas "combo" gift. I know because I'm guilty of sending combo gifts, but they usually involve Winan's coffee and chocolate, so all is forgiven.

As mentioned above, Ron's birthday is only 4 days before Christmas, but that is just enough time to allow for a separate birthday observance. My Aunt, on the other hand, didn't fair so well. Her birthday falls on July 4. Consequently, her birthdays get lumped in with fourth of July celebrations. My Mom and younger sister, Deb, both have September birthdays, which sounds good. The problem is that they are only one day apart, Sept 9th and 10th. I can never remember which is which, but that's ok as long as I send cards and gifts a few days early and don't mention specific dates.

The last Kiwanian birthday of October can be found on page 2 of the October Newsletter (available on our website). It is Oct 28 and belongs to Piqua Kiwanian Jeni Greenwood (my daughter). This would be an easy date to remember except for one thing, my wife Bernadine's birthday is on Oct 21. They are just one week apart which means they are always on the same day of the week. I have to be careful not to get them mixed up. Any remaining family members not mentioned have easy to remember birthdays with no weird complications.

There is still one last birthday to mention. It is a January Kiwanian birthday, and it was not included in the list of birthdays on page 2. So, who is missing and what is the missing birthdate? The answers can be found on the first page of this newsletter. "Kiwanis Club of Piqua" appears at the top of the page along with "Chartered on 1/22/1936". So the missing January birthday is: *The Kiwanis Club of Piqua (1/22)*.

Lastly, we don't list a Kiwanians year of birth, so a person's age is not known. However, for our club the year (1936) is present so the age of our club can be calculated. But never fear. For all of you math-a-phobics out there the calculation has already been made and can be found at the top, left-hand side of page 1.

Happy 90th birthday, Piqua Kiwanis!

Mark Greenwood

Piqua Catholic Builders Club CLEANED HOUSE!

"Clean House" or "Cleared House" are slang terms often used to describe a big win, getting rid of undesirable things, and punishment. Some examples are, "He really cleaned house at the poker table", "The company needed to clean house after the big scandal", and "After suffering a defeat, the losing team vowed to clean house during their next match".

Then again, "Cleared House" could just literally mean mopping, sweeping, dusting, vacuuming... i.e., cleaning a house or facility. And that's what the Piqua Catholic Builders Club decided to do. They rolled up their sleeves and gave their facility a thorough cleaning!

Piqua Catholic looks great, and the janitorial staff is overjoyed!



PARTY TIME!

The Piqua Central Intermediate School K-Kids pose for a picture during their Christmas party. As you can see from the picture below, this is a very large club. I lost count around 40!

After a year of projects and meetings, the Christmas party was a welcome break and a great way to "re-charge" for 2026!



Piqua Central Intermediate School K-Kids

The Bells are Ringing!

Ring-A-Ding-Ding!

On May 7, 1961, Frank Sinatra released the studio album **ring-a-ding-ding!** Sinatra created his own record company, Reprise Records, and left Capital Record. Ring-a-ding-ding! was the first album produced under the Reprise label, and it was a good one. It reached no. 4 on the charts. FYI, you can pick up a vinyl copy on Amazon for \$33.52!

But this isn't the bell ringing I want to highlight.



One Ringy-Dingy, Two Ringy-Dingies



A few years later, in 1967, Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In aired. Lily Tomlin played "Ernestine the telephone operator" in a skit where she would say, "One ringy-dingy, two ringy-dingies". Sounds silly now, but it was funny at the time.

But like Frank's **ring-a-ding-ding!** above, "One ringy-dingy, two ringy-dingies" is not what I'm after. Neither one captures the Christmas spirit like the bell ringing below.

Key Club Members Ring Bells at the Kroger Salvation Army Red Kettle



In 1891 Captain Joseph McFee, a Salvation Army officer, started the red kettle campaign as a way to cover the cost of a community Christmas meal. Recalling his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England, he recreated the "Simpson's Pot", an iron pot where charitable donations were placed by passersby. Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing in San Francisco where it could be seen by all those going to and from the ferry boats.

By 1895 the 'kettle' was used by 30 locations along the west coast and by 1897 the campaign was making its mark in east. That year, the kettle effort provided 150,000 Christmas dinners nationwide.

Today "red kettle" donations allow the Salvation Army to provide a variety of services and assistance to homeless and needy families and **our Key Club members were a part of that effort!**

PEANUT BUTTER ALERT!

The Piqua Junior High Buildres Club collected over 500 jars of peanut butter for the Munch Bunch program. That's a lot of peanut butter!

Munch Bunch volunteers meet weekly and pack weekend food bags which are distributed to Piqua school kids. The Munch Bunch are pictured below preparing bags. They packed 530 bags for distribution!

Mark Reedy and Gretchen Roeth represented our club at the packing event.



HELP ME GROW

Help Me Grow is a Miami County Public Health program for pregnant women and new parents. Help Me Grow strives to cultivate and strengthen nurturing parent-child relationships as well as promote healthy growth and development for babies and young children. When you consider that a baby's early experiences are the building blocks that create the foundation for his or her future successes in life, it's no wonder that the program was recognized as the 2017-2018 Local Implementing Agency of the Year for Region 2 by the Ohio Department of Health.

Heidi Heuing and Taylor Von Duhn spoke at our December 3rd meeting about the various support Help Me Grow provides to pregnant women and families with youth up to 3 years old.

Pictured below with our Club banner is Outreach Specialist Heidi Heuing (left) and Developmental Specialist Manager Taylor Von Duhn (right).



YIKES! YOKES!

A yoke can be a wooden crossbar with two U-shaped pieces that is placed over the necks of two draft animals, typically oxen, to harness them together for work.

Johnston Farm was recently in need of a couple of yokes, but not the kind mentioned above which are used with animals. What they needed were "shoulder yokes". These yokes were, and still are, used by people to carry heavy loads. As the name suggests, these yokes are placed on a person's shoulders to allow them to carry heavy loads, such as two large buckets. The gentleman pictured to the right is demonstrating the use of a shoulder yoke.



The Farm has an older shoulder yoke (pictured left) that visiting children can try out. But to accommodate larger groups of children, more yokes were needed. Enter Piqua Kiwanis! Mark Wion made two shoulder yokes and presented them to the Farm on behalf of our club.

Wion enjoys woodworking but was especially excited about this project because it gave him an excuse to buy a new tool! The new tool allowed him to create the bowl-like indentations for the shoulders. Pictured right are the two new yokes stacked one upon the other.





Exercise Those "Gears" Between Your Ears

(see bottom of page for answers)

1. What is cut on the table but never eaten?
2. A man dressed in all black is walking down a country lane. Suddenly, a large black car with no lights on comes around the corner and screeches to a halt. How did the car's driver know he was there?
3. What can you make that no one, not even you, can see?
4. What is full of holes but can still hold liquid?
5. BUT
THOUGHT THOUGHT

----- answers -----

1) a deck of cards 2) it was daytime 3) noise 4) a sponge 5) BUT on second THOUGHT