

BUCKEYE BULLETIN

Ohio District of Kiwanis International

No.5

February 2013

District Governor's Report

03/05/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Craig Wallace

The month of **Love**-February, with Valentine's Day right in the middle of it, is a special time. Hopefully you feel loved at this time. Kiwanis is all about showing love and compassion in many different ways. It may be as simple as a hug to someone who needs it or may be in building a shelter over their head, providing food or clothing or having good conversation. As we Reach Out to help others, we are extending them love and compassion which is very much needed throughout the Ohio District. Spread the Love around-not just in February-but all year long!!

March is going to be a special emphasis **Membership** month in addition to May. I encourage you to hold a membership contest in your club. Invite guests and help them to become the newest Kiwanians in the Ohio District! We are surrounded by potential members-at work, at church, at home (a push for Family membership is needed), at your volunteer projects or anywhere you are with others.

We are circulating petitions for the possible addition of a new Kiwanis license plate to the Ohio selections. If you have not signed a petition, please consider doing so. We will have sign up opportunities at the Mid Year Education Day-at the District Foundation exhibit table. Thank you for your support of this exciting opportunity to **spread the "K"** throughout Ohio and wherever we drive.

It is a great time to be a member of Kiwanis. We have many exciting **service** projects including Kiwanis One Day on April 6, tremendous young people in people in our Service Leadership Programs, interesting club meeting programs and **warm friendship** whenever 2 or more Kiwanians are gathered.

You all are **healing** children all over the district and throughout the world!! Through your service projects, grants from the District Foundation, The Eliminate Project, the First Lady's Project and many other day-to-day interactions, many lives are being changed. Keep up the great work of reaching out to help others and to meet the many needs.

The District Mid Year Education Day will be held at Northpointe in Columbus on March 9.



This will be a great day full of **fellowship**, educational forums, good food, and a tremendous keynote speaker-our own A. Alan Penn! Chair Diana Keplinger has done a great job in organizing this event. I encourage you to attend and have a great time. See you at Northpointe!

REACH OUT IN FELLOWSHIP, IN SERVICE AND IN HEALING!

Governor Craig Wallace

District Secretary's Notes

02/20/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Dave Whiteman



Registration for the 2013 Ohio District Mid Year Education Day is ahead of schedule. As of February 16th, we have nearly 270 individuals registered to attend and capacity is approximately 375. If you have not registered yet, please do so immediately. You can register online by going to <http://www.ohiokiwanis.org/> and clicking on the link at the top of our home page. If you intend to register, I suggest you do it now to avoid being shut out. Other information, including the tentative workshop schedule and hard copies of the registration forms can be found on the Mid Year Education Day page accessed from the menu on the left side of our home page.

Club Secretaries

At our Mid Year Education Day on March 9, 2013, I will be presenting the CLE for Club Secretary Workshop that was presented at last August's District Convention in Boardman, Ohio. Attendance at this workshop will count for credit in 2012-13 for your portion of Certified Leadership Education. The CLE training that will be offered in May and June at various locations throughout the district will be geared mainly toward training your club President Elect. Over the next couple months an updated Club Secretary module will be released and I would anticipate that will be the session offered at our 2013 District Convention in Lima. Watch my article in upcoming months for additional details. We look forward to seeing most Club Secretaries in the Ohio District at either our Mid Year Education Day or District Convention. Please feel free to contact me if you have specific questions.

Dave Whiteman
District Secretary

On To Convention - Vancouver 2013

02/04/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Frank Walker

The Kiwanis International Convention June 27-30 is within five months. It is time to start making your plans to attend this wonderful experience in the exciting city of Vancouver BC, Canada.

It all starts by going to www.KiwanisOne.org/convention. Additional information will be available at the mid-year conference, where I will be giving a workshop and have a table for you to obtain information and answer any questions you may have about the convention, tours and transportation.

The following are few things to keep in mind in your convention planning:

1. The April 1 registration deadline is approaching. Register by April 1 to save \$50.
2. After registering, members, can still register to enter the Vancouver Prize Giveaway.
3. There are benefits and savings of bookings flights through our official travel agency, Gant Travel.
4. The elections page includes links to dedicated pages for candidates for office.
5. Proposed amendments will be available by February 15.
6. The convention website has information on how to register for ticketed events, speakers and tours (including the Kiwanis Alaska cruise).



Any question please contact me at 614 901-9935
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9935 end_of_the_skype_highlighting or by email frw1937@yahoo.com

Frank Walker
2012 On to International Convention Chair

Mark Your Calendars for the 2013 Mid Year Education Day!

02/01/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Diana Keplinger



On Saturday, March 9th, Mid Year Education Day will take place at the Conference Center at NorthPointe. This center has been the location of the M-Y Day for the past three years. It is located near Polaris Fashion Place and is well known for the accommodations, comfortable meeting areas, and excellent food! In the warm and beautiful surroundings of NorthPointe, we will have a special day of Kiwanis learning, sharing, and fellowship, while enjoying the delicious food that appears morning, noon and afternoon. We are very fortunate to be able to have our mid-year conference there again.

This special day offers you many opportunities to learn more about Kiwanis and ways to serve. It will be a great time for you to get the tools that you can use to grow your club, enrich your service projects, use technology, support the First Lady's Project, strengthen your leadership skills, learn about Service Leadership, and much more. There will be twenty-five educational forums that will give you many new ideas that you can use in all areas of Kiwanis service.

Some highlights of the day include a keynote address by our International Counselor Alan Penn and his lovely wife, Jeri. Come and be entertained and moved by their global experiences while working with Kiwanis members around the world. Past International President Alan will host two workshops during the day that cover the topics of leadership and current trends at Kiwanis International. Dr. Robert Allen will share his KI Eliminate adventure while traveling in Guinea, West Africa.

Mid Year Education day is packed with educational workshops that will meet the needs of every member and club in the Ohio District. It is the most concentrated educational experience that the District offers during the year. Twenty-five forums will be presented throughout the day. We have planned several growth and club building sessions, networking for club or personal use, technology to improve your club meetings and communication, marketing ideas, new YCPO and service projects, SLP updates and information, and the value of risk management. If your club needs new fundraising ideas, we will provide them. This is only a sample of the choices you can make when you attend MY Education Day.

The day begins with registration at 8:00. The Kiwanis store will also open at that time in the new Reception Area. The general session is scheduled from 9:00 to 10:40 a.m. and the first forum will be offered before lunch. The afternoon begins at 1:30 with the first of 3 more forum choices and ends at 4:20 p.m. Exhibits will be open all day in the new North Pointe Ballroom and Reception Area. You are encouraged to visit the exhibits anytime during the day.

Above all, we want you to attend the 2013 "MY" Education Day at the Conference Center at NorthPointe. We promise that you will enjoy your day and return to your clubs with renewed enthusiasm, commitment, and passion for Kiwanis and service in the communities of the Great Ohio District and around the world! That is a M-Y Day guarantee!

Mark your calendars now. Go to www.ohiokiwans.org to register today!

Saturday, March 9, 2013 ~ The Conference Center at NorthPointe~100 Green Meadows Drive South, Lewis Center, Ohio

See you there!

Diana Keplinger
2013 Mid Year Education Day Chair

Mid Year Education Day Partners to Support Eliminate Project

02/10/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Cindy Champer, Dist. Coor.

Mid Year Education Day is normally seen as the middle of the Kiwanis year, a time for education and fellowship, and so this year, Mid Year is also partnering to support the Eliminate project in several ways. The opening session of Mid Year will feature a 690 presentation (the number of lives saved with a Zeller), followed by a Parade of Checks. Kiwanians who wish to honor a partner, spouse or member of their club can bring a check (with total award amounts paid) to the front of the stage at this time and Hixsons (\$1,000) and Zellers (\$1,250) will get their hardware and recognition. Or you can even bring forth a Model Club pledge!



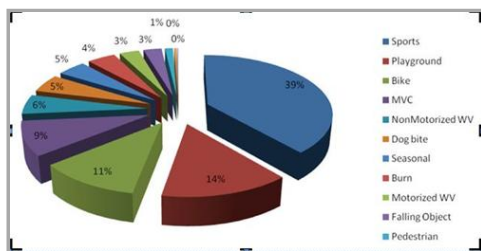
Additionally, there will be two presentations by Dr. Robert Allen of the Capital District, on his site visit to Guinea and the need for immunizations. Remember \$1.80 will save the live of a mother and her unborn children, covering the cost of 3 immunizations and education in clean birthing practices. First Lady Lee Ann Wallace will also be presenting on her First Lady's project, whereby half of all proceeds go to support the Eliminate project. To date, 2,946 lives have been saved through this effort. Thanks Lee Ann and thanks clubs for this support!

And there are other ways to support the Eliminate project too! If you have not already donated or volunteered, get involved as a club coordinator; get educated and help your club do likewise. Or you can choose to join Circle K International in their project, "Show Your Love, Save a Life". See www.TheEliminateProject.org for more information. Thanks to the Mid Year committee and everyone who has helped so far to make our project great and save lives!

Cincy Champer
District Coordinator

First Lady's Project

02/20/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Lee Ann Wallace



"Unintentional trauma is the number one cause of death among children," Jonathon I. Groner, MD, medical director of the pediatric trauma program in Columbus, Ohio, told Congressional staffers during a Capitol Hill Briefing last year. "More children die from injury than the nine next leading causes of death combined.

Preventing pediatric trauma is important. Even though children account for just 25 percent of the U.S. population, they represent 100 percent of our future."

And that future is brighter and safer as a result of your work in our Ohio Children's Hospitals through the First Lady's Project. What noble work and what a legacy Kiwanis will have knowing they have impacted the outcomes of care for these precious children. Thank you! I am proud to be a part of an organization with such a bold and honorable mission. Each dollar raised is important and no donation too small! You are changing the world, one child and one community at a time. We also continue to make progress on our goal to ELIMINATE MNT from the face of the earth! Forever! What an amazing opportunity we have, what a responsibility we have! No mother should have to watch her child die that painful death, when a vaccination series that costs \$1.80 could have prevented it. For every dollar raised for the First Lady's Project, 50 cents will go towards Ohio's commitment to ELIMINATE and 50 cents will be given to our Ohio's Children's Hospitals for Pediatric Trauma education and training. You are literally being the Hands of Healing for Kiwanis here in Ohio and in the far places of the World! Thank you!

First Lady Lee Ann Wallace

Newsletter Contest Results to be Announced at Mid Year

02/15/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Faith Levine

Newsletter contest winners for Kiwanis Year 2011-2012 will be announced at the Mid-Year Education Day this March. Each newsletter was judged over 11 criteria with specific point values assigned to each. Criteria included, but was not limited to inclusion of photographs and Kiwanis vision statement, President's letter, past and future meetings, membership/officer information. Club categories were based on membership levels as of the beginning of the Kiwanis year.

Overall the competition was very close with no more than 5 points separating any two of the top three newsletters. I will be available at MY to answer any questions about the criteria and get you ready for this years newsletter contest. Please be sure to email copies of your Club Newsletter to be included in our annual newsletter contest.

Faith Levine
Public Relations/Marketing District Chair



Mid Year Education Day News

02/14/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Jamie Kaufman



Mark Your Calendars for March 9, 2013.

It's not too late to register for Mid Year Education Day. Registration can be done online by going to www.ohiokiwans.org or by calling the District Office at (888) 827-8196. Kiwanians from all over our great district will once again be gathering at the Northe Point Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio just north of Columbus.

The Mid Year team and all of our wonderful forum leaders have prepared a day filled with sessions geared towards the newest Kiwanians to those that have been members for years. Mid Year is a great opportunity to re-energize your Kiwanis experience by being exposed to great ideas from around Ohio and Kiwanis International. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from Immediate Past International President Alan Penn during his key note address

as well as in 2 different forums. Dr. Bob Allen will be discussing his "Trip of a Lifetime" as he shares the world journey he has taken as he has engaged the ELIMINATE project.

Kiwanians looking to sharpen their leadership skills or pick up fresh new ideas on how to revitalize their clubs will have great takeaways from Mid Year. There will be sessions on club leadership led by Alan Penn, sessions on new ideas and best practices for fund raising and service projects, numerous opportunities to gain new ideas on membership growth and new club building, best practices for engaging and supporting our Sponsored Programs , as well as many others.

For a full list of the Mid Year Education Day forum schedule, please visit www.ohiokiwans.org.

I hope you join us at Mid Year on March 9, 2013.

Jamie Kaufman
2012-13 Education Chair

Enjoyment of New Club Building

02/04/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Mike Sweeney

Having been involved in the recently organized Kiwanis Club in the West Chester Liberty Township area in Division Five I wanted to share some thoughts about the process.

Building this club has been very rewarding, as it has been a personal goal to reestablish Kiwanis in this area. Several things have come together to make it happen.



First a very strong desire to do so. Since the District appointed Kathleen Moylan as District New Club Building Chair, she has put together a very good group of Dedicated Kiwanians to help her. We (team) knew that the potential in this area for a club was outstanding. Our approach to the task was to identify solid, like-minded people to ask to join. We emphasized how big a deal it was to be a Charter Member of a New Club. Larry Warner a member of the Fairfield Club (next to West Chester} invited several new potential members. Dan Weber (Kathleen's Realtor) whom she asked to join Mason Club, but a resident of Liberty Township was very interested in this new club.

As we began to have meetings, it became obvious that this group has fantastic potential. This is the part that is hard to explain. I have been in Kiwanis Thirty Years and the demographics of this group is so special. The thing that makes it so special is the desire to get going with service and fundraising right away. The club has already had an inbound interclub from Fairfield and Mason Clubs, identified service projects and fund raising opportunities, has a complete slate of officers, etc.

I hope I have imparted just some of the reasons that I am so proud of being involved with this process. Please consider asking those that you know to join our wonderful organization. We have a great story to tell!!

Mike Sweeney
New Club Building Committee

Visitation is Powerful (V.I.P.)

02/20/2013 - District: Ohio - Submitted by: Kevin Whitlatch



I hope all of you are having a great year in Kiwanis Fellowship! The Ohio District is seeking clubs to become V.I.P. members. The district website has available a V.I.P. report form that I think will assist your club in recording interclub activities and events in order to earn various club banners or certificates. Last year we did not receive as many club V.I.P. reports as I expected and I do not think the amount of reports submitted accurately reflect the fellowship and interclub activities that occurs within our great Ohio District.

Because this is a relatively new program with some new awards, I would like to again mention that there are some special club awards in addition to the Blue, Silver, and Gold banner patch awards. I look forward to hearing and reading about your club visits and I would like to spread your clubs memorable V.I.P. visits to other Kiwanians! So, become a V.I.P. member this year.

V.I.P. Special Club Awards: (certificate/banner patch)

- Kiwanis Club that traveled the farthest within the Ohio district for an interclub (excluding District Convention/Installation/Mid-year).
- Kiwanis Club that traveled and inter-clubbed the farthest to another district (excluding International Convention).
- Kiwanis Club that has participated in the most inter-clubs within the year.
- Kiwanis Club that "hosted" the most inter-clubs.

If I can be of service to you and your club please contact me by phone or email. Become an Inter-clubber and a V.I.P. believer!

Kevin Whitlatch
Interclub and Fellowship Chairman
419-878-6632
kwhitlatch@buckeye-express.com

Club News

Project Backpack Completion

02/22/2013 - Club: Cincinnati - Submitted by: Cheryl Snellgrove

We are now delivering to the last three counties in Ohio. I want to thank all of you for your support for this project last year. The 11,000 children removed into foster care in counties all over Ohio each year have received the 28,000 items you donated plus 11,000 backpacks. The items included over 14,000 personal care items (toothpaste/toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc.), 2100 books, 2000+ toys, comfort blankets and stuffed animals, 2600 baby care items, 3500 school supply items, 1200 boxes of crayons and 400 coloring books, and much more. Several counties have sent very appreciative letters of thanks for what you have done for these kids. What a wonderful gift to children who are often removed from their home with little or nothing of their own.



If your club wishes to continue this project in your county, contact me at csnellgr@columbus.rr.com

THANK YOU - Immediate Past First Lady Cheryl Snellgrove

Pictured is the Hamilton County presentation - Another in the next article

Lexington Kiwanis Supports Kids in Schools

02/22/2013 - Club: Lexington - Submitted by: Keith Stoner



At halftime of the basketball game on February 1st, Lexington Kiwanis donated \$1,000 each to the Lexington Academic Boosters, Lexington Athletic Boosters and Lexington Music Boosters to further their work with the students, athletes and musicians in

Lexington Schools. Each group works to help the students of Lexington achieve excellence in their areas of interest -- in music, academics or athletics -- by providing the 'little extras' that make a big difference in their education.

Photo Tag (Left to right) At halftime of the basketball game on February 1st, Andy Medwid, President of Lexington Kiwanis presented checks to Rebecca Weilbacker, President, Lexington Music Boosters, Debbie Thomas, President, Lexington Academic Boosters and Jon Stierhoff, President, Lexington Athletic Boosters. Each group received \$1,000 from Lexington Kiwanis to further their work with the students, athletes and musicians in Lexington Schools.

Please contact me with any questions.
Keith Stoner
Cell: 419-544-2212

Bath-Richfield Inducts New Members

02/19/2013 - Club: Bath-Richfield - Submitted by: Mike Marks

The Bath-Richfield Kiwanis Club added several new members in February, with Past Kiwanis International President Alan Penn, current Ohio District Governor Craig Wallace, Lieutenant Governor Jerry Baley, and other Kiwanis dignitaries present. Forty nine year member Al Schumann recounted the club's past fundraising follies and successes, and Frank Stuchel was awarded a George F. Hixson Fellowship Award for Distinguished Service. The club welcomes Barb Baley, Bonnie Binns, Joel Mader, Anita Marks, Mallory Marks, Jared Robertson, and William Snow.



Several members of the Kiwanis Key Club at Revere High School volunteered to help run the Ohio State Special Olympics held at Brandywine Ski Resort on March 6. For more information: www.bathrichfieldkiwanis.org.

Photo: Marge & Leroy Martin, Lieutenant Governor Jerry Baley, Kiwanis Governor Elect Jennifer DeFrance, Governor Craig & Lee Ann Wallace, President Mike Marks, Jeri & Past International President Alan Penn, Division Membership Chair Bill Pierce

Respectfully,
Mike Marks, President
3562 Knollwood Lane
Akron, OH 44333
330 665-3562
3562@frontier.com

Aktion Club Plays Cupid

02/12/2013 - Club: Westlake - Submitted by: Victor Rutkoski

The Westlake Kiwanis Aktion Club delivered Valentines to local nursing homes and assisted living facilities on Sunday, February 10, 2013. The residents of the facilities enjoyed receiving the valentines almost as much as the Aktion Club enjoyed delivering them. The Club had previously made 140 valentines during a program at the Westlake Pat Catan's called "make it, not take it" where Pat Catan's supplied the materials and the Aktion Club made the valentines.



Wooster Kiwanis Club recognizes area Day Care Providers

02/08/2013 - Club: Wooster - Submitted by: Ashley Brillhart

Each year, the Wooster Kiwanis Club helps sponsor the Mose Hole Basketball Tournament at the College of Wooster to honor a great citizen and fellow Kiwanian E.M. (Mose) Hole. Mose was the Basketball Coach and then Athletic Director during his 32 years at the College of Wooster. His career at the college started in 1926, where he led his teams to an amazing record of 412 wins and 181 losses. The life of Mose was not all about basketball though. He valued community service and served as president of Wooster Kiwanis Club in 1928.



At the 2012 Mose Hole Basketball Tournament, Kiwanis invited local day care providers to a recognition ceremony during halftime. Six centers were represented, most of which offer low income families subsidized tuition. Wooster Kiwanis Club gave each center a bag full of new books and educational materials. Over 2,000 Wooster residents were in attendance and gave a standing ovation to thank the day care center providers for their dedication to children in the Wooster area.

Coming together to fill Empty Bowls

02/07/2013 - Club: Brecksville - Submitted by: Kevin Brusk



On the chilly evening of February 7, 2013, local artists, service organizations, businesses, and community members came together to enjoy a hot bowl of soup and raise money for two deserving food banks, the Brecksville Food Pantry and South Hills Lend a Hand. This event, known as Empty Bowls and created by The Imagine Render Group and "is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger" (www.emptybowls.net). A simple meal of bread, salad and soup which was donated by 10 local restaurants was served. The manager of the Zoup in Independence even offered extra help serving the meal. Attendees then took home ceramic or wooden bowls as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The bowls were created by artists from the Brecksville Broadview Heights High School, the Brecksville Center for the Arts, and the North Coast Woodturners Club. The Empty

Bowls event was led by the Brecksville Kiwanis and the Broadview Heights Lions Club. These two organizations also received support from the BBHHS Key Club, the Royalton Hills Lions, and the Independence Kiwanis. Approximately \$5000 was raised as a result of this event, which included a silent auction of 5 wooden bowls and a generous donation from the Girl Scouts who handed out desserts and collected donations. The money raised will truly help to benefit the hungry in these communities.

Newark Kiwanis Sponsors Citizen of the Month Luncheon

01/29/2013 - Club: Newark - Submitted by: Dave Whiteman

The Newark Kiwanis Club was honored to continue its sponsorship of the January Citizen of the Month Luncheon for the Newark City Schools. This luncheon honors students from throughout the Newark City School District and from all grade levels.



The Newark Kiwanis Club is proud to be a member club of Kiwanis International. *"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time."*

Left to right in the photo are Newark Kiwanis member and former Board of Education member Bob Handelman, Newark Kiwanis President Michael Harris, Newark City Schools Coordinator of Special Programs Gemma Zimmerman, and Newark City Schools Superintendent Doug Ute.

K-Kids Help With Blood Drive

01/29/2013 - Club: Lima - Submitted by: Robert Day

The K-Kids Club of Independence Elementary School in Lima helped with a blood drive at their school by watching the young children of parents who donated blood. The children were provided crayons and papers

to color.



Veteran Keeps On Serving

01/27/2013 - Club: Coldwater - Submitted by: Barbara F. Kremer

Through Kiwanis World War II Veteran Keeps on Serving

Elmer Dorsten, a member of the Coldwater, Ohio, Kiwanis Club is a personification of the meaning of service. He is a life-long citizen of the village of Coldwater and owned and operated an auto repair business for many years. After his high school graduation he began what became a brief career in the defense industry in Detroit, where he read and proofed blue prints used to construct the B-24 bomber. He registered for the draft in Michigan in 1943. Though he believes he could have received a deferment, as he put it, "It was a deal where you feel like you have to do your part."

He was called to military service in September 1943. From Fort Hayes in Columbus he was sent to Fort Eustis in Virginia where he trained in infantry, automotive, and anti-

aircraft. He obtained additional training in California and New Jersey. By July 1, 1944 he was bound for Glasgow, Scotland, on the Queen Mary with 17,000 soldiers. "Cabins originally designed for four persons were outfitted to hold twelve soldiers," he said, for the Atlantic crossing.

As part of 80th Division of the 318th Infantry he moved toward Omaha Beach in France by the end of July to be part of the 1st Division under General George Patton. The 80th fought across France and captured the 7th German Army at Argentan-Falaise. Elmer said, "As I was coming into a small town, riding on the back of a Jeep, the German rear guard fired two rounds from an 88 at us. They missed. I injured my foot when I jumped from the Jeep into a ditch. X-rays at a hospital in Fountainebleau showed two broken bones. For this I received my first Purple Heart."



Elmer remembers losing radio contact with the 318th Regiment while behind enemy lines near St. Geveviere. The army feared the worst and sent home a telegram saying he and others in his outfit were missing in action. One week later they sent another telegram saying all were safe and accounted for.

While fighting in the Moselle Valley near the Maginot Line, Dorsten suffered trench foot and frostbite. "We spent 103 straight days outdoors," he noted. The 80th continued fighting near Fort Metz until the Germans there surrendered. The division then moved through the Maginot and Siegfried Lines. This was the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. The 80th had to move across ridges that were very dangerous. At one point they were in battle for 44 straight hours. Elmer received mortar shrapnel in the shoulder on December 24 (Purple Heart number 2).

As the 80th moved toward Bastogne, they wiped out the town of Tintage and captured 90 German soldiers. On Christmas Day Elmer's platoon sergeant was hit by machine gun fire. There was ten inches of snow on the ground. Elmer was able to carry the sergeant part way back to safety, but they were knocked down by mortar shells. Elmer was able to find a medic and a jeep to get himself and the sergeant back to an aide station. He said, "I had mortar fragments in my back, but they wiped me off with sulfa and sent me back to the line" (Purple Heart number 3). After that incident his captain promoted him to staff sergeant.

During January, 1945, the 80th spent most of its time in defensive positions overlooking the Our River. "At times we had two feet of snow and temperatures as low as ten below zero," he mentioned. The division was relieved in early February and moved across the Sauer River to Dilligen and fought across the Siegfried Line. In the slippery conditions, Sgt. Dorsten fell into a ravine and suffered a strangulated hernia (Purple Heart number 4). He was confined to bed for 17 days and then moved to hospitals in England for further recuperation.

Shortly thereafter he was sent back to the U.S. arriving on Staten Island and then moved to Camp Atterbury in Columbus, Indiana, and, later, Fort Belvedere, Virginia. He remembers celebrating his 21st birthday in Wakeman General Hospital at Camp Atterbury. During one of several 30-day furloughs he was awarded before his discharge, he was married. The date was August 4, 1945. All this and Elmer was only twenty-one years old.

In 2007 Elmer was invited by the Duke and Duchess of Luxemborg to a ceremony in Luxemborg where he was awarded Luxemborg's Medal of Honor for his service in World

War II. In 2011, he was awarded the French Medal of Honor.

Today Elmer is 88 years old. He is an active member of the Coldwater, Ohio, Kiwanis Club. He is a life member of the American Legion, the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Paralyzed Veterans. He is also a past Commander (2007-2008) of the 80th Division Veterans Association.

When asked why he keeps on serving, he said, "That's the 'after effects.'"