# COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS SERVING NW PENNSYLVANIA First Programed in 1982

CUE Newsletter - April 2020 (Volume 37 Number 4)





# **April CUE Meeting**

The next CUE members' meeting is on Thursday April 16th at 7:00 PM. It will be attended on the web only. Hewie Poplock will speak on Google searching tips. Look for more details at the CUE website.





Visit the CUE Website at:

www.cuerie.com

CUE is a member of APCUG



## **CUE Calendar**



Calendar events are subject to change. SIG stands for Special Interest Group. (look for notices outside of the newsletter for delays or special news on meetings)

CUE Membership Meetings (typically 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month)

Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM

### Beginner's User Group (BUG) SIG Meetings

To Be Scheduled Upon Request

Digital Photo SIG Meetings (typically 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month except June/July/August)

Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 AM

### Genealogy SIG Meetings (typically 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month)

Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

MAC SIG Meetings (typically 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except June/July/August)

Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

# Smartphone & Tablet SIG Meetings (typically 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month) (RSVP John Fair)

Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

# Windows SIG Meetings (typically 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except June/July/August)

Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM

#### **CUE Picnic**

Thursday July 16th at 6 PM

### **CUE Christmas/Holiday Party**

Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

# Save That Date! Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

The Erie Runner's Club pavilion at beach #1 is reserved for the CUE Picnic!

Try to keep that date open for a time of food and fellowship!











### Watch Out for Caronavirus Scams

By Janice Castro at Computer Users of Erie

A note of caution for CUE members:

Beware of Corona Virus Scams and Misinformation

Colleagues, I wanted to share with you some information about the con artists and scammers cooking up all kinds of schemes to take advantage of coronavirus fears.

During this unusual time when we are being advised to use extreme caution against physical contacts with people or surfaces that might expose us to the COVID-19 virus – from wiping down armrests, keyboards, elevator buttons and door handles in public buildings, to avoiding crowded public places altogether – people may be a little more vulnerable to offers of helpful information that come to them in the seeming safety of their homes.

There are reports of fast-spreading COVID-19 misinformation online as well as off. There are also reports of a spike in cybercrime connected with the COVID-19 virus, including new varieties of "coronavirus baits" out there as well as scams. A website that looks like an interesting medical site with the latest news about COVID-19, for example, may be a trap that can capture a visitor's personal information or pass malware to the person's computer.

This week the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned seven companies to stop advertising fake cures for coronavirus. The false claims are all over social media, especially Facebook and Twitter. You may have heard the one

about how drinking colloidal silver can stop coronavirus in its tracks. The FTC warned Pastor Jim Bakker to stop claiming that the silver solutions he sells can kill the virus. There are all kinds of claims about the solutions having antiviral, antibacterial and antifungal properties - but no evidence that those claims are true. And that's just one type of fake cure being advertised. Fake herbal cures are also rampant. Herbal Amy was warned to stop claiming that its herbs "are strongly antiviral for corona viruses." Owner Amy Weidner admitted she had no evidence for those claims, but said that people have used herbs for thousands of years to promote health. The FTC has also warned companies making false claims about teas, essential oils and frankincense. FTC Chairman Joe Simons told Forbes Magazine, "There already is a high level of anxiety over the potential spread of coronavirus. What we don't need in this situation are companies preying on consumers by promoting products with fraudulent prevention and treatment claims."

Considering the financial blows the markets have taken over the past few weeks (including the rare triggering of circuit breakers to suspend trading and stop panic selling), many people may also be more vulnerable to coronavirus financial scams. The financial uncertainty in the markets, and the conflicting statements about it coming from the federal government, can be especially frightening to retired people counting on their life savings to support them, and can make them more vulnerable to false claims.

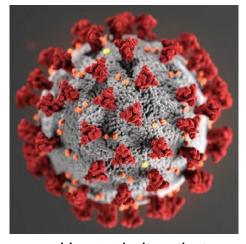
### Watch Out Continued

A new form of 'disaster fraud' reported by two Florida police departments involves people in white lab coats coming to your front door and claiming to be medical personnel from your state health department who can give you a free COVID-19 test. Don't let them in.

Public confidence in government and scientific information sources has been shaken during the past few years with political and ideological attacks on science as well as the news media. The New York Times reports that the World Health Organization sees signs of an "infodemic," a surge in incorrect information, outright lies, and spurious rumors about COVID-19 being spread by "idealogues who mistrust science and proven measures." Says the Times: "Misinformation spread on social media has included rumors that the coronavirus had been cooked up in a secret government lab in China, that Taiwan was covering up virus deaths and that Bill Gates, the Microsoft co-founder who now runs a philanthropic organization, was behind the spread of the virus."

The Dept of Homeland Security has issued a list of safety tips from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to help people avoid falling prey to scams on websites masquerading as objective news sources. While well-informed Web users like CUE members may be familiar with some of these tips, they may not realize that the danger level is higher right now. The DHS advisories are found at a useful CISA page: https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/current-activity/2020/03/06/defending-against-covid-19-cyber-scams.

Brief highlights:



- 1. <u>Use trusted sources</u>. Use websites that you know are reliable and trustworthy. For COVID-19 information, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is a good place to start (https://www.cdc.gov).
- 2. <u>Do not click on links in unsolicited</u> <u>emails, IMs or texts</u>. They are often a screen for cyber traps.
- 3. <u>Do not open attachments in unsolicited</u> <u>emails</u>. Employ more caution than you might normally feel necessary.
- 4. <u>Do not reveal personal or financial</u> information in email, IMs or texts. This might be an especially important reminder to people who bank online and pay bills directly via email links. No legitimate institution will ask for your social security number, bank account number of other personal financial information via email, text or IM.
- 5. Carefully verify a charity's or other non-profit's authenticity before making donations. This is another area of scam currently on the rise. A lot of us feel sympathy for those most impacted by the virus and its current financial consequences. Make sure you know where you are sending your charitable donation, and that you are sending it securely to protect your personal information.

### **Cord Cutters**

By Lou Cioccio at Computer Users of Erie

A while back my brother in law came back from Florida with an Android TV Box and was bragging how he could watch almost anything with it. He bought it at a Flea Market for a sum plus every so often he has to pay a subscription price and an update.

Now I am not sure of the legal implications but am glad he does not share my last name! We did hook it up on my TV and got it to work. It was similar to this item below.



So naturally I did a search on the internet and found several items like he had. Then I found this one on Amazon, the Pendoo Android 9.0 TV Box 4GB RAM 64GB ROM, X10 MAX Android TV Box with Wireless Mini Keyboard, RK3318 Quad-Core Dual-WiFi 2.4G/5GHz BT4.2 3D 4K Ultra HD. Now as some of you know I have hacked a 2nd generation Apple TV and side loaded an app called KODI. It worked but I had to reload KODI after 14

days as I refused to Pay Apple \$99 (US) a year as a developer so hence there was a 14 day limitation. I could keep doing it until several upgrades so I gave up.

I also have a couple of 1st generations of Amazon TV sticks which are east to side load KODI too but their limitation is available space. Also Kodi could freeze and needed to be restarted. Kodi is an app that you can access Movies, images and your music off an attached hard drive, USB stick, etcetera. It does offer other advantages, that are not in this article.

You can use an iPhone or Android phone to mirror what you have again, images, movies, you tube<sup>TM</sup> and so on. Which is pretty neat!

Screen Mirroring
Watch videos or play games on larger screen



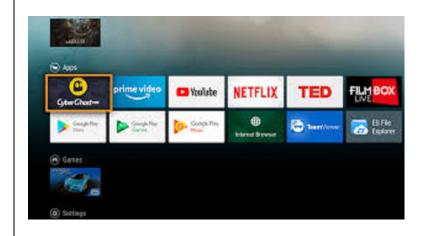
Setting up the box is fairly straight forward albeit the sparse directions that came with it. The down side is that the keyboard will scroll led colors, all different colors, that

## **Cord Cutters Continued**

will make your head spin. I cannot figure how to stop the scrolling but at least I can turn it off.

It's too small for me so I can use another keyboard, which is larger. You can change the screen tiles and put the most used in the front.

If you have a smart TV it will look similar. You can download some apps off the Google play store. I tried Pluto TV but it was incompatible to the Pendoo TV box. I will have more to update on this cord cutter box. Right now I have it hooked directly to my ether net connection. --30--





# Safe Meeting

By Don Grim at Computer Users of Erie

For the first time, that I know of, in the 37 year history of Computer Users of Erie (CUE), the group met with people attending totally, and only, in separate rooms (on the web). Some may not call it a "real" meeting for we were not in the same room and couldn't shake hands or hug each other. However, it still allowed people to meet and discuss technology! It also allowed people to meet safely due to the current Coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting was our regular monthly CUE meeting on 3/19/2020. Bob Gostischa was at the meeting to present Avast antivirus and security software as well as technology tips.

Special applause goes to John Fair who organized Zoom video conferencing so that the meeting was available to anyone, simply by clicking a web link!

The pandemic reminds me of the Bee Gee's "New York Mining Disaster 1941" song where we are trapped inside until it is safe to go out. I rewrote the lyrics below to resemble our current situation. We all look forward to freedom when we can go out again and hug again!

In the event of something happening to me There is something I would like you all to see It's just a photograph of some friends that I hugged

I can't see real life on the phone
When will real life return on the outside?
Don't go meeting in groups you'll cause a landslide, stay on the phone

I keep hoping for folks to be around

Just for all in the same room to be found

Oh how I want to talk and dine with them again

Or even sing and pray with them but who knows when?

I can't see real life on the phone
When will real life return on the outside?
Don't go meeting in groups you'll cause a landslide, stay on the phone





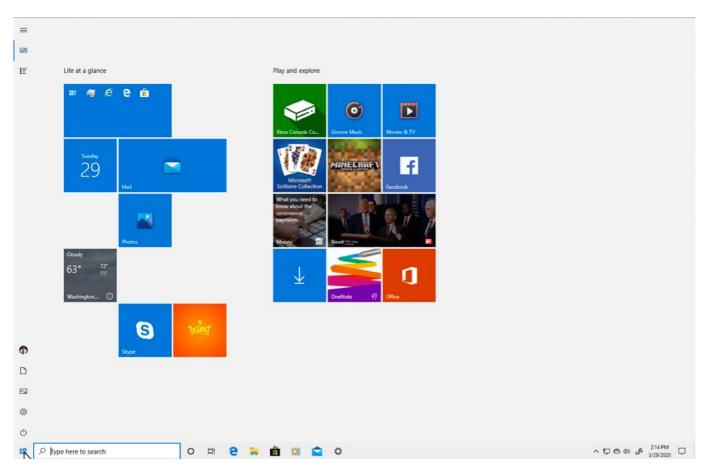




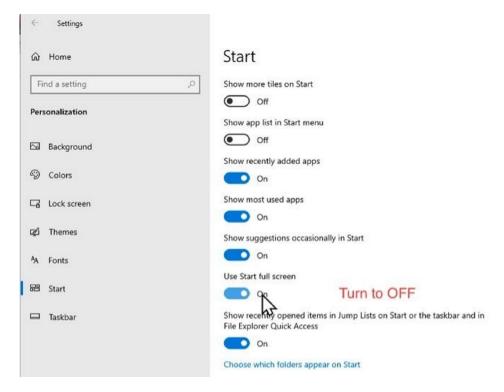
# Start Menu Windows 10 OMG Tiles!!!!

By Lou Cioccio at Computer Users of Erie

I just got an email about "Whole Lotta Titles, where is my Recycle Bin"?

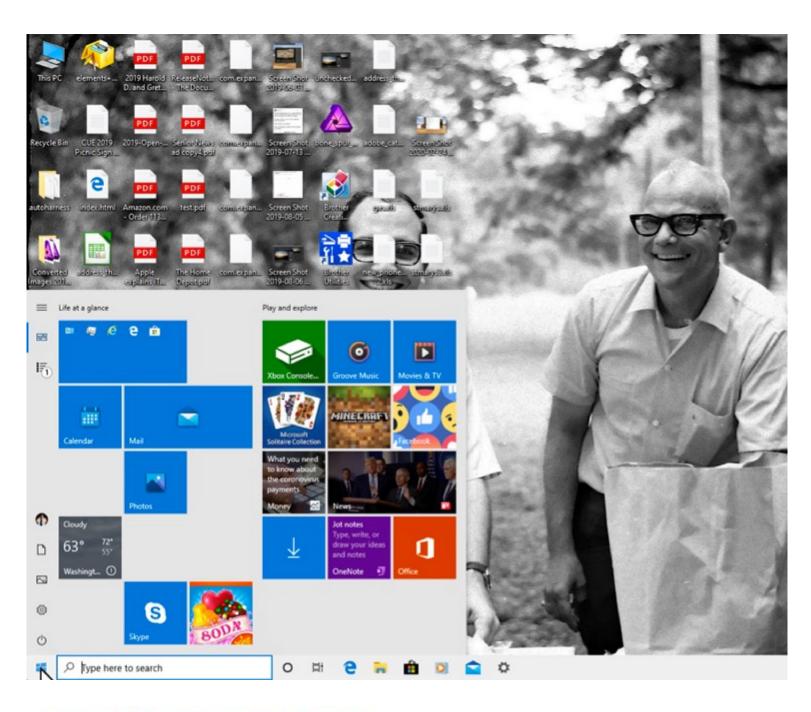


If this happens to you, head off to setting and personalization.



# Start Menu Continued

You need to toggle this off! Then you will be back to normal, something like my messy desktop!







# Genealogy Report for 3/3/20 SIG Meeting

The March meeting of the Genealogy SIG met on March 3, 2020 at their new location, the Millcreek branch of the Erie County Library. There were nineteen in attendance. Because of library hours, the group's meeting time has changed to 5:30-7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. The group does not meet in December or August.

Hal Kelley gave the welcome. Sue Mueller has agreed to act as our hostess for future meetings. Connie Edwards and Robin Boyd will submit meeting minutes to the CUE Newsletter.

Topics discussed:

- Dating old photos
- Blasco's large format printer in the Idea Lab will print family trees up to 36" x 72" per Hal Kelley.
- Sue's classes at the Lincoln Library are usually the 4th Tuesday of the month.
- There is a new genealogy series that airs Saturday mornings on NBC. It's called A

New Leaf hosted by Daisy Fuentes. It's part of *The More You Know Series*. The time seems to vary so check your TV schedule.

- Robin Boyd discussed the Blasco's system to transfer 8mm, VHS or other old technology to DVD. The system is currently located in the Heritage Room. There is no charge if you bring your own DVD. If you need a DVD, there is a small charge. Transfer is in real-time so you may want to plan on doing some research while it is transferring.
- Robin also said there were a number of good tutorials on youtube.com with tips and information about GEDmatch.

The Genealogy SIG's meetings are usually held the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:30 at the Millcreek branch of the Erie Co. Library. However, keep posted as we work our way through this pandemic, stay well and safe.

Submitted by Connie Edwards



# Smartphone & Tablet Report for 3/23/20 SIG Meeting

This Special Interest Group usually meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday of the month at my home. Because of the COVID-19 virus we did not have a face to face meeting this month. Instead, I set up a Zoom videoconference and informed members that they would be able to see my shared iPhone and iPad for any demonstrations.

You do remember Zoom, don't you? Well only one couple remembered it and we had an abbreviated session in which I showed material from iPhone Life Insider to which I subscribe and we found features of Mail, Phone and Reminders which none of us had known about.

I have done all I can to open up Zoom to the Computer Users of Erie, but few of you seem interested in reaching out to others in this time of "stay at home". We only had 14 members join the General Meeting program with Bob Gostischa. It can't be because you don't know how to use the platform since I have had two practice sessions and sent out a variety of material on how to use Zoom.

OK folks, since you don't appear interested in using technology to keep in touch, I am cancelling all future meetings of the Smartphone and Tablet SIG until the emergency is passed and we can meet face to face. I hope more of you have the courtesy of joining the meeting on Thursday, April 16 at 7 PM for the program by Hewie Poplock from his home in Florida.

John Fair



# Secretary's Report for 3/19/20 CUE Meeting

The members of Computer Users Of Erie (CUE) did not meet physically, so that everyone is more protected during the Coronavirus pandemic.

CUE did meet remotely on the web with a Zoom video conferencing link.

Bob Gostischa, a speaker for Avast antivirus and security software products, was in attendance. Bob gave a presentation on Avast options as well as various procedures, outside of Avast products, where we can be safer when working with technology.

There were 14 people in attendance, including Bob. Their names on screen

were names they chose as a login name. Their names on screen were Norbert Bob Gostischa, jrobert, Linda Williams, Connie, Pixel 3, jcerie@outlook.com, annecon, Donald Rhodes, Suzanne, John Fair, Hadley Jones, John\_Kathy, John Szympruch, and Don Grim With Chromebook.

There was no CUE business discussed. After the presentation, there was discussion with questions and answers. The meeting lasted just a little over an hour.

Respectfully Submitted, Don Grim, Secretary

### A Note from the Editor

As usual, feel free to contribute information for the CUE newsletter. Whether it is small, large, an article, a tip, information, or pictures, you can send it to me and I will plan to include it in the newsletter. You can reach me at grimcyber@yahoo.com.

Remember that you can find recent news at the CUE website (cuerie.com). At times,

the website will have more recent news than the CUE newsletter since the website is updated continuously and the newsletter is updated monthly.

Stay Safe!

Editorially Speaking, Don Grim











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#### COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE

#### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Last Name	First Name	
Address		
City, State	Zip	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	
Your Email		

The yearly dues are payable in August of each year. The dues are \$24 annual.

For NEW members only, when you join outside the annual cycle your initial dues are based upon the month you join. Follow the schedule below.

August \$24	September \$22	October \$20	November \$18
December \$16	January \$14	February \$12	March \$10
April \$8	May \$6	June \$4	July \$2

#### Information provided on this form will be placed into a CUE Membership Directory

What is your Computer or Device: (Circle)
Windows Mac Android iPhone iPad
Tablet Linux Other

What is you level of expertise? (Circle)

Novice I know some I want to learn more

Expert Geek

Send your completed application to:

Computer Users of Erie

PO BOX 8941

Erie, Pa 16505-0941

What do you wish to gain by joining Computer Users of Erie?

Student membership is just \$15 per year (provide proof of student status)

## **CUE Officer Information**

#### Officers

President	Paul Francis	pdfflyer@roadrunner.com	814-882-1175
Vice President	John Fair	johncfair@gmail.com	814-474-3055
Secretary	Don Grim	grimcyber@yahoo.com	814-461-8289
Treasurer	Janice Castro	jcastrocue@outlook.com	312-543-9128

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Suzanne Matthews	pdxmatthews@aol.com	814-790-4185
Susan Mueller	suepasta@roadrunner.com	814-622-1262
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### Alternate At-Large Board

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Allison McKinstry	alli25@yahoo.com	814-602-4863

#### **Special Interest Groups**

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Genealogy	Hal Kelley	hal_kelley@outlook.com	814-836-1803
MAC	Lou Cioccio	Icioccio@mac.com	814-868-1320
Smartphone & Tablet	John Fair	johncfair@gmail.com	814-474-3055
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#### Other Resources:

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Webmaster	Tom Kuklinski	tkuklinski@gmail.com	814-746-9165

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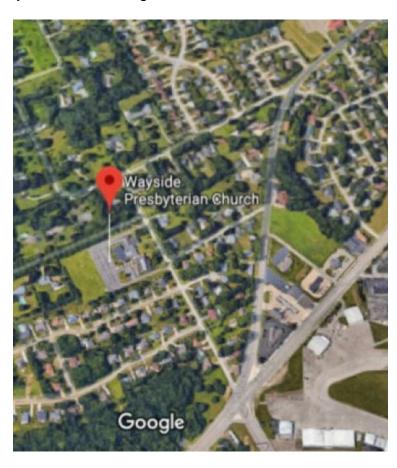
# Directions to Wayside Presbyterian Church for CUE Meetings

Wayside Presbyterian Church, at 1208 Asbury Road, is approximately three blocks north of the intersection of Asbury Road and Route 5. This intersection is at the northwest corner of the Erie International Airport property. Following Asbury, turn left at the first marked driveway for the church. During the afternoon winter schedule (10:00 AM for the months of November, January, February and March), entry is through the two sets of blue double doors. Use the buzzer to gain entry if the doors are locked. During the normal evening schedule (7:00 PM the remaining months) use the double doors on the south side of the Christian Education wing. Signs are posted in the building to direct you to the meeting room.

From West of Erie International Airport: Follow Route 5 to the intersection of Asbury and Route 5. Turn hard left onto Asbury Road. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.

From South of Erie: Take Interstate 79 north to the 26th Street (Route 20) Exit. Bear left onto 26th Street (Route 20) west. Follow Route 20 about 3.4 miles west to Asbury Road. Turn right (at the Sheetz Gas Station) onto Asbury and follow it straight across Route 5. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.

From East of Erie International Airport: Follow 26th Street (Route 20) west to Asbury Road. Turn right onto Asbury and follow it straight across Route 5. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection. OR, follow 12th Street (Route 5) west past the airport to Asbury Road. Turn right onto Asbury Road. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.



### About the Newsletter

The CUE Newsletter is published monthly by the Computer Users of Erie (CUE), an independent nonprofit computer user group, dedicated to the education and support of our members. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors or the editor, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CUE. This publication is Copyright © 2018 by the Computer Users of Erie. All rights reserved. Permission to reprint is hereby granted to any Nonprofit Organization, as long as proper credit is given, or not restricted by the original author or source. Advertising: Advertising is welcome from both our members and commercial sources. For current advertising rates, please send an email to the Editor requesting a copy of the Ad Rates file. Address Changes: Any recipient of the newsletter is urged to submit a change of address notification to the Editor, either via US Mail to the address shown below, or (preferably) via email, so we may keep our records accurate. Newsletter Exchange: CUE welcomes newsletters from other user groups. If you would like to exchange newsletters, either by US Mail or via electronic (Internet) delivery, please send your newsletter to the address listed below. We will add your name to our mailing list and send you our newsletter in return. **Submissions:** Submissions are always welcome from our members or outside sources. Submissions may be articles, images, cartoons, etc. For first time authors, please request a copy of our Submissions Guidelines from the Editor, prior to submitting any items. This will help to eliminate publication delays. Submissions are due by the 5th of each month. Correspondence: General correspondence to CUE may be sent via US Mail to: Computer Users of Erie, PO Box 8941, Erie, PA 16505-0941 USA. Email to: cuerie@gmail.com. Editor Email to: grimcyber@yahoo.com.

# **CUE Membership Benefits**







As the largest computer users group in northwest Pennsylvania, CUE has served Erie and surrounding communities since 1982. CUE provides a forum for people to learn about computers and have fun doing so. The group meets the third Thursday each month, with the exception of the months of July and December. In July the group gathers for a picnic and December is the annual holiday party (dates vary). CUE meetings are at Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1205 Asbury Road, Erie. Meetings from April through October are at 7:00 p.m. From November through March, the meetings are at 10:00 AM in the morning.

Our monthly meetings are open to the public regardless of age or ability. Many of our members are senior citizens who span a wide range of capabilities and interests but share a desire to know more about how to use computer related technology. Our role is to provide a forum for continuous learning from each other. CUE has a closed Google gmail group that is used to communicate with members and to post questions/problems to seek answers from the membership. Members pay an annual membership fee of \$24 to receive a membership directory, monthly newsletter, availability to monthly general meetings, and any of the Special Interest Group (SIGs) meetings, usually held in a member's home. Locations and times vary, so check the online EVENTS Calendar on the website for the latest information. SIG topics include:

- Digital photography [and photo safari]
- Genealogy
- Macintosh computers

- Computer troubleshooting
- Beginners users group (BUG)
- Handheld smartphones and tablets

CUE is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG). APCUG is an International, platform-independent, volunteer-run, non-profit organization devoted to helping member User Groups offer enhanced services to their members. Some of the membership benefits include:

- Speakers bureau
- Free virtual technology conferences
- Regional conference

- Push newsletter articles
- Discounts and special offers from vendors
- User group newsletters online

Find us online at http://www.cuerie.com/. And Facebook @curerie

Computer Users of Erie PO Box 8941 Erie. PA 16505-0941

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