



“Building our community one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

December 5, 2016

Newsletter Delay...

I apologize for not submitting the December, 2016 newsletter in a timely manner. I have been very busy over the past two weeks, planning the annual LVCC Christmas Party, the December 13 Holiday Interclub event, and in handling several critical personal matters. Your understanding is appreciated.

November 15 Meeting



Our monthly lunch meeting on November 15 was a special one. We were hosted by the Lehigh County Historical Society at their Heritage Museum in Allentown. LCHS Executive Director Joe Garrera welcomed us and was joined by his Chief Curator, Jill Youngken. Eight members of our club were in attendance. And, we were pleased to have Belinda Gray's sister join us as well! We enjoyed a nice box lunch and conducted some club business before Joe began his talk. He thanked our club and Foundation for its support of the Historical Society over the years. He went over the history of the organization and its museum. LCHS oversees many other historical sites in the county, including Trout Hall, the Troxell-Steckel Farm in Egypt, and Haines Mill, near Dorney Park. They have permanent exhibits and collections, and rotating exhibits and special events. At this time, there is an “American Presidency” exhibit on the second floor, which we toured after lunch. LCHS is one of our community's most treasured resources. They work with children in the Allentown School District by providing tours of the museum at

no charge, and off-site programming in the schools. These outreach efforts help students understand and appreciate our local history and culture. We are very appreciative of Joe, Jill and the entire staff of LCHS for preserving the rich history of our county and region.

Raub Builders Club



On December 1, we held a chartering ceremony for the new Kiwanis Builders Club at the Francis Raub Middle School in Allentown. Membership in the new club is up to 19 students! **Enos Martin** has been doing a terrific job as our club advisor to the Raub Builders Club. He and faculty advisor **Nicole Beltran** have organized the club, which recently elected officers. At the December 1 Charter Night, Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Governor **John Grab** helped install the club's officers. Raub Middle School Principal **Susan Elliott** joined Ms. Beltran in handing out membership certificates. And, Pa. Kiwanis Builders Club Administrator **Tiffany Callaio** provided a history of Builders Clubs and conducted a pledge ceremony with the new members. The Raub Builders Club President **Alyssa Rodriguez** did an outstanding job in expressing her goals for the club. It was a memorable evening, and just the start of what the new Builders Club can do to serve their school and community.



Gov. Grab and Alyssa Rodriguez



Enos (L) and Tiffany (R) Inducting the Members

Washington K-Kids Club



We continue the process of chartering a Kiwanis K-Kids Club at the Washington Elementary School in Allentown. 17 students have signed up for the club and will be electing officers at their meeting later today. Their meetings have been held after school on Mondays. With a grant from our Foundation, we have purchased a charter kit and t-shirts. We have ordered a banner for the club, which should be arriving in a week or two. We will then plan a charter ceremony, perhaps at a school assembly. **Laura Zaharakis**, Guidance Counselor, and **Julie Church**, Teacher are faculty co-advisors for the Washington K-Kids Club. Julie was a Key Club member at her high school, so her perspective and involvement with Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs will be invaluable. The kids are already brainstorming ideas for service projects!

Annual Holiday Interclub!



We will be hosting our Annual Foundation Grant Awards Breakfast and Holiday Interclub on **Tuesday, December 13** beginning at 7:30 AM at the Hamilton Family Restaurant. Once again this year, we will be entertained by the William Allen High School Chorale. Foundation President **Bob Ashcraft** and V.P. **Todd Siegfried** will be presenting grant checks totaling \$9,000 to 9 very worthwhile non-profit organizations that serve children in our community. They include:

- Allentown Symphony Association
- Boys and Girls Club of Allentown
- Community Bike Works
- Lehigh County Historical Society
- Lehigh Valley Children's Centers
- Parkland Aquatic Club
- Personalized Books Given to Children
- Pratyush Sinha Foundation
- SATORI

We have invited other clubs in Division 18 to join us. Cost of breakfast is \$9.00. **Deadline for reservations is December 12.** So if you have not already made your reservation, please do so ASAP. We hope to see you there!

Division 18 News

President Tom Harp represented our club at the Pa. Kiwanis Region 6 meeting on November 19. It was held at the Northampton Community College Monroe County Campus. It is a beautiful new campus in Tannersville, Pa. The Allentown Northeast and Emmaus Clubs joined me in representing Division 18. This was the official visit to our region by Pa. Kiwanis Governor **John Grab**. The Pa. District of Kiwanis International has an ambitious goal of recruiting 658 new members statewide in 2016-17. They hope to open 7 new clubs this year. The Division 18 goal is to recruit 21 new members. Our club's goal is to sign up 4 new members. That is certainly "doable" if each of our current 22 members asks at least one person to join!

At the Region 6 meeting we received training on Kiwanis International's strategic planning initiative, the "Kiwanis I-Plan." The "I" in "I-Plan" stands for the following areas:

- Inspiration – to build, retain and support growing Kiwanis membership network
- Impact – to perform meaningful service, with service to children as our priority
- Image – to enhance the Kiwanis image worldwide
- Investment – to ensure financial viability and responsible stewardship

Every Kiwanis club has been tasked with developing its own "I-Plan." We will begin the process at our next Board of Directors meeting. It will help us structure our planning for the year ahead to ensure that we have a vibrant, committed and active club.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 AM, Annual Foundation Grant Awards Breakfast and Holiday Interclub. Musical Performance by the William Allen High School Chorale. Invocation by Jeff Rose, Division 18 Lt. Governor.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, December 28, 5:15 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



December Birthdays



20- John Stoffa

29 - Joyce Crosby

31 - Enos Martin

