



“Building our community one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

January 1, 2017

Happy New Year!

We all make resolutions for the New Year. They are personal and meant to improve our lives, and to nurture our loved ones. As a club, let's resolve to make 2017 our best year yet! It will be our 99th year in existence. Over that period of time, the Kiwanis Club of Allentown has invested thousands of hours of volunteer time in our community. Our club and Foundation has provided over \$1 million in grants to community service organizations that serve needy children and their families. We have developed numerous Service Leadership Programs over the years. Key Clubs at William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic and Salisbury High Schools. A Builders Club at Raub Middle School. And, most recently, a K-Kids Club at Washington Elementary School. When we were chartered in March, 1918 we were the only Kiwanis Club in the Lehigh Valley. Our club sponsored several new clubs over the years, including the Emmaus, Allentown Northeast and Salisbury Kiwanis Clubs. We supported Kiwanis International's World Health Projects, including the Iodine Deficiency Disorder campaign of the 1990's and currently the ELIMINATE Project. You should be very proud to be an Allentown Kiwanian! We have made a real, enduring contribution to our local community, and children around the world. In 2017 let's pledge to continue to "build our community, one child at a time."

New Lunch Meeting Day

At its December 28 meeting, our Board of Directors unanimously approved a change in day for our monthly club lunch meetings. Beginning this month, we will meet the **second Thursday of each month**. We will continue to meet at 12 noon for lunch at the Hamilton Family Restaurant. This change was made for a variety of reasons. It will enable more members to attend, and will not conflict with the meeting times of other clubs in our division. Our first meeting of 2017 is scheduled for **Thursday, January 12**.

Annual LVCC Christmas Party

Over 160 pre-school children joined us on December 2 at the LVCC South Mountain Center as we enjoyed our annual Christmas Party for the kids. This event only gets BIGGER and BETTER! Club members **Tom Harp, Enos Martin, Young Chang, Todd Siegfried, Vic Mazziotti** and **Belinda Gray** arrived early and met with several members of the William Allen Key Club and faculty advisor **Mary DiFebo** to plan the day's activities. As a bonus, former Allen Key Club advisor **Dan Manning** helped out. The Key Clubbers stuffed 170 goodie bags with candy, pencils, erasers and stickers. After that, we helped set up the serving table for lunch. We began preparation of over 30 pounds of chicken nuggets, along with carrot sticks, cookies and box drinks. Once all of the LVCC classes arrived, we began serving the children. They were happy and HUNGRY! After lunch, they filed into a large classroom for a magic show by **Magician Eddy Ray**. They had a blast laughing and shouting in amazement at his variety of tricks. The final "highlight" of the day was **Santa Claus** appearing out of nowhere to greet the children, and to have each of them join him on a couch to share their secret gift wishes. As Santa bid all of the children a very Merry Christmas, the children boarded busses or returned to their classrooms for the day. It was another amazing event that will be remembered fondly by both children and adults for many years to come.



Magician Eddy Ray



Santa Arrives!



Santa with Allen Key Club

Foundation Grant Awards Breakfast

On December 13, our Foundation hosted it's annual Grant Awards Breakfast at the Ham-Fam. The winter weather cooperated, and we were blessed with a sunny, snow-free morning. Over 30 members of our club and other guests enjoyed breakfast and a wonderful performance by the **William Allen High School Chorale**. This was our annual Division 18 Interclub meeting as well, and representatives of the Allentown Northeast and Emmaus Kiwanis Clubs were in attendance. Club President **Tom Harp** welcomed everyone, and Lt. Governor **Jeff Rose** provided the invocation. After breakfast, the Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown President **Bob Ashcraft** handed out

grant checks to nine non-profit organizations. Each recipient took a few minutes to explain how the grant money was to be used. After this ceremony, President Tom revealed the 2016 Distinguished Service Award winner – **Enos Martin!** We tried to keep this selection secret. Enos may have gotten a bit suspicious when his wife Susan and son Peter showed up. Enos is very deserving of this award. He has been our club's Treasurer for at least a decade, is always reliable in attending meetings and serving as our greeter/cashier, is always willing to help out with service projects, and in 2016 was instrumental in the founding of a Builders Club at the Raub Middle School. Congratulations, Enos!



William Allen High School Chorale



Enos and President Tom



Peter, Susan, Enos & Tom

New Monthly Feature

We are a year away from celebrating our club's 100th Anniversary! Our club was formed in March, 1918 with 100 charter members. We are planning a big Centennial Celebration in 2018 and **Enos Martin** has volunteered to research our club's rich history. Every month leading up to that event we will feature a "historical moment" in our newsletter, "The Downtowner." The following is the first installment from Enos:

"Kiwanis International was a men's organization for the first 71 plus years of its formation. Kiwanis adopted by-laws in 1924 stating that only the male gender could become members of Kiwanis. In 1974, the first proposal was put forth at the national convention to admit women as full members of the organization. However, the proposal for women membership was not until the national convention in 1987. Finally on July 7, 1987, a proposal was finally approved allowing women to become full members of Kiwanis. Within 3 months, the Kiwanis Club of Allentown admitted its first two women into its organization. The first two women members were Haunani Kekuna, a PPL employee, and Earlene White Neidert. They were inducted as members at the October 15, 1987, meeting. Six years later, Ellen Kern became the first women president of the Club." – **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Thursday, January 12, 12 PM, Program TBA. Invocation by Todd Siegfried

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, January 31, 5:15 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



January Birthday



30- Sam Saxton



- **Tom Harp, Editor**