



“Building our community one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

February 1, 2017

January 12 Meeting



President Tom and Craig Walls

Our first lunch meeting of 2017 was held on Thursday, January 12 at the Ham-Fam. We had seven members in attendance. Our guest speaker was Craig Walls, President of the Parkland Aquatic Club (PACC). PACC was founded as a feeder program for the Parkland High School swim team. It has since diversified to become an official USA Swim Club. They moved from the Parkland HS pool to the Allen HS pool. PACC offers scholarships to Allen HS swimmers to join their club. They currently have 175 members of the club. Their goal is to cultivate Olympic-class swimmers from the inner city. PACC has partnered with the City of Allentown in using Mack Pool for its meets. It is the only 50 meter Olympic-sized pool in the city. Last year 1,000 young swimmers from around the country participated in the “Firecracker Swim Meet” hosted by PACC at the Mack Pool. This brings tourists to the area and helps our local economy. Our Foundation recently awarded a grant to PACC to help fund a “Drowning Awareness Day” event this June. The goals are to help urban kids to learn basic flotation and swimming skills. This reduces their fear of water, and chances of drowning. It may also get them interested in

competitive swimming. PACC's mission is to "empower young kids to be champions in life through swimming." A very noble cause indeed!

K-Kids Chartering Ceremony

On Monday, January 30 a chartering ceremony was held during a 3rd to 5th grade assembly at the Washington Elementary School for their new K-Kids Club! **Tom Harp** and **Enos Martin** attended the morning ceremony. Guidance Counselor Laura Zaharakis welcomed the students, and provided some background on how and why the school contacted Kiwanis to develop a student service club. Tom provided information about Kiwanis and its Service Leadership Programs. Following some brief comments by the K-Kids Club President Arieliz Santos, the 17 charter members of the club received their membership certificates. Tom then unfurled the official club banner that will be displayed at the school. Laura mentioned their upcoming fundraiser for the month of February, "Pennies for Patients" which will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The children were very enthusiastic about this project, and their commitment to provide service to their community



February Service Project!



For over a decade, our Foundation has helped sponsor the **Personalized Books Given to Children** program. That non-profit organization provides a personalized storybook to every first grade student in the Allentown School District. This year, that will be approximately 1,455 students! Throughout the school year, the books are distributed to each elementary school in the district by Personalized Books President **Terry Kennedy**. He has encouraged our members to participate in this activity, by meeting at each school around 9:15 AM and joining him in reading the books to groups of children in each class. Our February Service Project will be to participate in book readings at the **Mosser Elementary School** on February **22 and 23**. Mosser is located at 129 S. Dauphin Street, in the east side of Allentown. Over the two days, books will be distributed to 100 first-grade students. The snow date for either day will be February 27. If you would like to volunteer for either or both days, please notify **Tom Harp** no later than February 21. Thanks!

2017-18 Membership Goal

“We are in the process of finalizing a strategic plan for our club for the 2017-18 administrative year. One goal will be to increase our membership by **4 new members!** Over the course of this year, we urge our current members to ask at least one friend, relative, or coworker to join our club. I will be e-mailing revised club brochures, and New Member Application Process forms to members for their use in recruiting a new member. We need to grow as a club in order to better serve our community. I challenge all of our members to help us fulfill our new member goal!”

- **President Tom**

Division 18 News

The **Wednesday, February 8th** Inter-Club will be hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Emmaus at Perkins on Lehigh Street, 6:15 PM. The speaker will be Paul Iannace, with the Lehigh County DA Office, formerly of the PA State Police. His subject will be cyber bullying/cybercrime. I don't believe it would hurt any of us to hear this message with what is going on in the “Valley” in today's society.” If you are interested in attending, please notify Tom Harp no Later than February 6.

The **Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Midwinter Conference** is scheduled for Saturday, **March 18, 2017**. It will be held at the Penn Stater Hotel in State College, Pa. with opening scheduled for 9:15 AM and closing at 4:30 PM. The cost to attend is \$75.00 which includes the conference fee, all conference materials, a three entrée lunch along with two coffee and snack breaks. Registration starts at 7:30 AM. President Tom will be attending unless there is another member of our club who would like to go.

The Husky A Cappella Festival - Friday February 24, 2017, 7:00 PM, Louis E. Dieruff High School Auditorium, 815 N. Irving St. Allentown, PA. Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$5 Students. Featuring: The Kutztones, The Acafellas, The Dynamics, The Girls Next Door, InAcchord, Noteworthy, The Vocal Vikings from Atlantic City High School, Palisades High School, ffourtissimo, The Lehigh Valley Harmonizers, The Lehigh Valley Chorus, Freedom High School and introducing Siberian Sound from Dieruff High School. Sponsored By: The Dieruff High School Key Club. Proceeds to Benefit: The Allentown Boys and Girls Club. For Tickets: Please call Jeffrey Dutt at 484-765-5500.

100th Anniversary Historic Moment

“On November 5, 1917, Zapher Howell III, a Kiwanis field representative from Seattle, Washington, began the effort to organize a Kiwanis Club in Allentown. Eight community leaders attended this first meeting. Thirteen additional meetings were held through March 14, 1918, in an effort to sign up a total of 100 men to join the new Kiwanis Club in Allentown. The membership fee to join was \$15.

On January 17, 1918, the first official meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown was held at 11:45 am at the Hotel Allen, located at the northeast corner of Center Square. Temporary officers were elected to lead the Club with Harvey E. Bohner as president and A.J. Saurman as secretary.

On March 8, 1918, the contract to establish a club in Allentown is considered complete since the required number of individuals who signed up to join the Club reached 100. On March 14, 1918 the first permanent Club officers were elected: Harvey E. Bohner, President; Ellwood S. Thomas, Vice-President; A.R. Saurman, Secretary; David J. Lewis, treasurer. The Board of Directors included William Erdell, Owen W. Metzger, Harvey Dengler, C.R. Stauffer, Dr. S. Clarence Swartz, Bruce W. Taylor, Ray Harned, and E.H. Odenheiser.”

– *Enos Martin*

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Thursday, February 9, 12 PM, Michelle Fagan, Phoebe Florist. Invocation by Jim Fronheiser.

Wednesday, February 22 and Thursday, February 23, 9:15 AM, SERVICE PROJECT – Personalized Books distribution and reading sessions at Mosser Elementary School.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, February 22, 5:15 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



February Birthdays



**7- Todd Siegfried
25 - Katie Hutchinson
28 - Keith Reynolds**



- *Tom Harp, Editor*