



“Building our community one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

May 1, 2017

April Lunch Meeting



The guest speaker at our April 13 lunch meeting was **Eleana Belletieri**, Director of the Salvation Army Women’s and Children’s Shelter in Allentown. The facility is located on the corner of 7th and Gordon Streets. When it was built in 2001, our Foundation donated \$40,000 towards its construction. The center officially opened in 2002. Eleana stressed that they want to provide homeless or abused women a “hands up, not a handout” at the center. Yet it is a nurturing environment for women and their children. Their goal is to coordinate services leading towards permanent housing for their clients. On the third floor they have beds for up to six individuals. This is compared to upwards of 90 beds available to homeless men in the community. Their staff consists of a caseworker, case aide and a cook who prepares healthy meals for the residents. They get food donations from Weiss Markets and Panera Bread to help with the meals. They also benefit from the Allentown Farmers Market, where many of the vendors donate unsold items after the weekend. They have removed the underutilized playground next to the shelter, and are replacing it with a community garden. Employees from Barry Isett & Associates have been volunteering to create and maintain the garden. Working with staff from the Penn State Agricultural Extension, they plan to grow fresh vegetables that will be used to feed clients at the shelter, and the immediate community. On Monday and Tuesday evenings, they provide “empowerment” training to the clients. They could use volunteers to help out with these training session on career planning and job seeking skills. Last year, the shelter housed 66 women, and served over 200 women and children. 87% of the women served became gainfully employed. This facility is a wonderful asset to our community!

Also at the April meeting meeting, we conducted the election of Officers and Board of Directors for the 2017-18 administrative year. Congratulations to **Tom Harp**, President; **Todd Siegfried**, Vice-President; **Enos Martin**, Treasurer; **Peg Harp**, Secretary; and elected Directors **Bob Ashcraft**, **Young Chang**, and **Vic Mazziotti** for their election, and thank you for your service! **We still have openings for 3 elected members of the Board of Directors!** Consider volunteering if you are not already involved.

Annual LVCC Picnic!



We are looking forward to our **8th Annual Picnic** for pre-school children from Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, to be held this year on **Thursday, May 18**. The picnic has grown in leaps and bounds over the years. This year we are expanding the picnic to include **four** LVCC centers – Walnut Street, South Mountain, Early Learning Center (ELC) and for the first time Union Boulevard! With three centers last year we had nearly 160 children. This year, we are anticipating over 200 kids. **Keith and Jessica Reynolds** spearhead this amazing service project every year. If you would like to volunteer, plan on being at the large pavilion at the Rose Garden Park in Allentown by 9:30 AM to help with setup. Busses from the centers will begin arriving by 10:30 AM. There will be at least six game and craft stations to set up. We hope that Ferrous, FeFe or another IronPigs mascot will make a special appearance! After the games we will be grilling hot dogs to serve a picnic lunch to the children. Key Clubs from William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Parkland, Emmaus, and Salisbury High Schools will be helping out. We have at least seven members of our club who have volunteered. But we could always use more. So let Tom Harp know ASAP if you can help out on May 18. Thanks!

Personalized Books

There is just one more opportunity for us to participate in the Personalized Books Given to Children project this school year. The final distribution of personalized books will be at the **Washington Elementary School** on **Thursday, May 4**. We have several volunteers from our K-Kids Club there who will help read to the younger, first grade students. **Tom Harp** plans to join them. If there is anyone else from the club interested in volunteering, please contact Tom. We meet in the school office at 9:15 AM.

Raub Family Fun Night

The Raub Middle School **Family Fun Night** will be held on **Thursday, May 4** from 6-7 PM. Volunteers should be at the school by 5:45 PM. So far, **Enos & Susan Martin**, **Young Chang**, **Deb Kolp** and students from the William Allen and Salisbury Key Clubs have volunteered to help out. Our volunteers will be running the bingo game in one of the gyms. We will also be donating a gift basket for the event. Thanks Enos for coordinating this service project!

2017-18 Membership Drive

We are pleased to add two new members into our club, **Deirdre Govan** and **Bob Krupka**. We have another new member prospect, **Eleana Belletieri** from the Salvation Army. Please reach out to your friends and coworkers about joining our club. They can attend any of our upcoming lunch meetings as our guest. We need to add new members to accomplish our goals of serving the community!

Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs

Please plan to join us at our annual “**Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs**” game on **Sunday, June 18**. This 1:35 PM game will pit the ‘Pigs against the Syracuse Chiefs. This game will be held on Father’s Day, and adult men will receive a complimentary “truckers cap.” We have reserved a Dugout Suite for the game. Cost is \$45, which includes a two hour lunch buffet. Reserve your tickets now by calling Bob Ashcraft at 484-241-7380 or e-mail him at bigbobashcraft@msn.com

100th Anniversary Committee



Our 100th Anniversary Committee will be meeting this coming Tuesday, May 2, beginning at 5:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home. We will be meeting twice this month. May 2 and May 31.

100th Anniversary Historic Moment

On September 17, 1955, a group of 32 Allentown Kiwanis Club members, including current member **Sam Saxton**, boarded a specially chartered school bus destined for Camp Mosey Wood, an Allentown Girl Scout Camp, near Lake Harmony. The goal of the group was to build a 30' by 30' cottage for the Girls Scouts. The cottage was to be used as a troop cottage and informal headquarters for arts and crafts work while the Girl Scouts were in camp. The floor slab for the cottage had been poured previously. The Club had purchased the materials for the cottage as a kit which then would be assembled on site. The Kiwanis Club purchased the full kit for less than \$5,000 and it was shipped to the site from Texas ready for complete assembly. The Kiwanis building crew was able to complete the full assembly, including the painting of the cottage, in a total of 12 working hours. By 3 pm on Sunday, the 18th, the cottage was completed by an exhausted but ecstatic crew of Kiwanians. This undoubtedly is the most labor intensive project (approximately 350 labor hours in two days) completed by the Club in its history. - **Enos Martin**

Division 18 News

Kiwanis Club of Allentown Northeast Semi-Annual Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's, Catasauqua Road, Saturday May 20, 8 – 10 AM. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and will offer a raffle and grab bags.

Kiwanis Club of Emmaus 44th Annual Pancake Festival, Sunday, June 4th, 2017, 8am to Noon, Emmaus Fire Company #1, 6th & Broad Streets, Emmaus, Tickets: \$7.00 per person. Children Under Age 10 Eat Free. All The Pancakes You Can Eat! For Tickets and Further Information: (610) 395-4818 or www.EmmausKiwanis.org

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

**** NOTE: NO CLUB LUNCH MEETING IN MAY! ****

Tuesday, May 2, 5:00 PM, Meeting of the 100th Anniversary Committee, followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors at 6:00 PM. J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.

Thursday, May 4, 9:15 AM SERVICE PROJECT – Personalized Books Given to Children, Washington Elementary School.

Thursday, May 4, 5:45 PM to 7:00 PM SERVICE PROJECT – Raub Middle School Family Fun Night.

Friday, May 5 SERVICE PROJECT – Mother's Day Plants – LVCC Walnut Street Center, 10:00 AM (Enos & Susan Martin); and Friday, May 12, LVCC Early Learning Center, 10:00 AM (Bob & Cindy Ashcraft and 2 additional volunteers, PLEASE!)

Thursday, May 18, 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM SERVICE PROJECT – LVCC Picnic, Rose Garden Park Pavilions, Allentown. Volunteers can arrive earlier to help with setup.

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday, May 31, 5:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, May 31, 6:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



May Birthdays



NONE! (Lots in June)

