



**“Building our community one child at a time”
For the past Century!**

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

July 1, 2017

June Lunch Meeting

At our June 8 meeting, we welcomed speakers **Tina Wida** and **Tiffany Grabinski**, Nurse Supervisors for the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) of the Lehigh Valley. NFP is a national organization that pairs RN's with low-income first time moms early in their pregnancies. The Lehigh Valley Chapter of NFP is affiliated with the St. Luke's University Health Network. The goals of NFP are to:

1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;
2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

At the present time, 240 families are enrolled in the LVNFP. 87% of babies born to NFP moms were of healthy weight. 100% of the children were immunized at 2 years of age. 77% of moms in the program complete HS or obtain their GED. There is a 48% reduction in child abuse and neglect in families enrolled in the program. Children are healthier and have less behavioral problems when moms are assisted by NFP staff. There is a benefit-cost ratio of \$5.70 to \$1.00 for the program. Federal, state and local funds support the NFP program in communities nationwide.

The NFP program has helped to break the cycle of poverty with young moms. 85% of new moms are postponing second pregnancies beyond two years. They are also linked up with job training and educational programs with an emphasis on economic self-sufficiency. One way that our club, and its Foundation, can assist the local NFP program

is through the purchase of books and guides for their new moms. We encouraged Tina and Tiffany to apply for a grant for that purpose. One Kiwanis motto is “Young Children Priority One.” And the Nurse-Family Partnership certainly fits well within our mission!

At the June 8 meeting we also inducted **Terry Kennedy** as a new member of our club. Congratulations, Terry and THANK YOU for choosing to join our club and to share our commitment to serve our local community!

Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs

The skies were sunny and the temperatures a little warm, but an occasional breeze and the refuge of an air-conditioned club lounge helped as we enjoyed our annual **Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs** game on June 18. We reserved a dugout suite for the game, and 30 Kiwanis members, family and friends were in attendance. We enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet of hot dogs, hamburgers, ziti, fried chicken, pork BBQ, salad, cookies fruit and more. The Father’s Day giveaway was a trucker cap for the men, which was pretty cool. We enjoyed each other’s company while watching the IronPigs take on the Syracuse Chiefs. We brought good luck to the Pigs, who won 4-3!

But the **REAL** highlight of the afternoon was our recognition of **Sam Saxton** for his 65 years of membership in the club! Sam joined our club in June, 1952. He is one of the longest-serving members of ANY Kiwanis Club in the nation. We surprised Sam by asking everyone to assemble in the suite for a special presentation. **President Tom** kicked things off, followed by a summary of Sam’s involvement in the club by our “historian” **Enos Martin**. Tom then presented Sam with a Certificate of Recognition, a giant Kiwanis mug, a Kiwanis tote bag (which was immediately claimed by his wife Missy) and a Past President’s pin with a 65 year tab. Sam was honored by this gesture and offered his perspective of the club’s achievements over the years. Sam was joined by **Missy**, his son **Sam Jr.**, and daughter **Gail Saxton Murray**, who were brimming with pride. Sam later e-mailed these (paraphrased) thoughts:

“Thank you for all that you do for Kiwanis. It has been my honor and many years of pleasure to have been a member of such an amazing group who do so much good in the community. I am wearing the Kiwanis pin today with pride.”



Sam and Tom



Sam’s Family

June Service Project



Tom, Deb and Enos with Bags of Weeds

Our service project for the month of June was weeding around commemorative trees in the Allentown Rose Garden. On June 10, **Deb Lamb**, **Enos Martin** and **Tom Harp** met around 10 AM with Friends of the Allentown Parks coordinator Karen El-Chaar at the Rose Garden. We took our buckets, bags, weeding tools and gloves and dispersed for two hours of weeding. To help raise money for the Allentown Parks, the Friends sell commemorative trees with plaques honoring loved ones. We went around to each of those trees to pull weeds and clean up around the mulch. The morning was warm but tolerable, especially in the shade. Unfortunately for Enos, he started up near the Parks office and the trees there had gnarly, deep-rooted weeds that took forever to pull! But we all felt proud to help beautify the Rose Garden with this project.

"Pool Proof" Event



On Saturday, June 24 the Parkland Aquatic Club, in collaboration with the City of Allentown and through a grant from our Foundation, held a drowning awareness program for city youth called "Pool Proof." Not only did it help children lose their fear of water, it taught them survival and rescue tips, and encouraged their further development of swimming skills. Two dozen children participated in the event, which was held at Mack Pool on the south side of Allentown. **Craig Walls**, Director of the Parkland Aquatic Club commented on a Facebook post:

"Special thanks to the City of Allentown and the Parks Department, The Kiwanis Club of Downtown Allentown, St. Luke's and the entire Parkland Aquatic Club family. This was a great event for the kids that participated in Pool Proof! One father approached me afterward and told me a story about his seven year old son. Today was this first time his son was in a pool since a near fatal experience four years ago. When I asked which child was his, he was so proud to point to the kid that was "having the time of his life!" Thanks to all that was involved and to the Morning Call and Channel 69 news for covering the event."

The Morning Call ran a full feature story about the event, and it was covered by WFMZ-Channel 69 news. This was good publicity for our club, and a wonderful program for our inner city youth!

100th Anniversary Historic Moment

At its January 11, 1954 meeting, the Board of Directors approved a project proposal for the staging of an annual horse show for the Three Oaks Riding Club. The Horse Show would be held at the Allentown Fairgrounds during the third weekend of June from Thursday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. Our Kiwanis Club would sponsor and help run the Three Oaks Riding Club Horse Show for three years. Approximately 200 horses of various breeds participated and competed annually in the show. The Show raised a net profit to Kiwanis of \$2,384 in 1954, \$3,075 in 1955, and \$603 in 1956. The funds raised from the three-year sponsorship of the Horse Show were used by the club to purchase and install a Girl Scout Cabin at Camp Mosey Wood in the Poconos. At its February 11, 1957, Board Meeting, the Club dropped its sponsorship of the Horse Show following the 1956 show due to the significantly reduced net proceeds from the Show. Current member **Sam Saxton** played a prominent role in running this show during our three year sponsorship of the event.

- *Enos Martin*

Division 18 News

JULY 15 IS THE DIVISION 18 & 17 CLUB EDUCATION DATE FOR ALL CLUB PRESIDENTS, PRESIDENT ELECTS, SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS INCLUDING THOSE STAYING IN THE SAME POSITION FROM 2016-17

Lt. Governor Young Chang has announced that Club Leader Education for the Clubs in Division 18 will be held in conjunction with clubs in Division 17 on Saturday July 15 at the Minsi Trails Council, BSA office on 991 Postal Road, Allentown 18109. Doors will open at 8:30 AM for a continental breakfast and the session will run from 9:00 AM to noon. A donation of \$5.00 is being asked for the continental breakfast of juice, coffee/tea and bagels. Enter through the door that faces the parking lot – front door will not be open. If you have a problem getting in please call Chas Chase cell phone at 610-360-6334.

The **Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club** will be hosting an Iron Pigs game against the Rochester Red Wings on Thursday, July 13 at a 7:05 game. Gates open at 5:45 PM. Seating will be in the new Berks Picnic Patio (Former PPL). The buffet is for two

hours. The cost of tickets with the buffet is \$28.00 and parking is \$5.00. Only 4 tickets remain!

District Convention – 2017 Information

**100th Pennsylvania District Convention
Doubletree Hotel and Resort
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
August 10-13, 2017**

Hotel Reservations

The hotel reservation deadline is **Monday, July 10, 2017** at 5:00 pm. After that time hotel rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed. Reservations may be made by calling (717) 464-2711 and identifying yourself with the Kiwanis Convention 2017. The room rate is \$129.00 single or double plus taxes, currently 11%. Reservations may also be made online.

Convention Registration Deadline

The convention registration deadline is **Friday, July 21, 2017**. After July 21st, space cannot be guaranteed. Reservations may also be made online.

Voting Delegates and Convention Registration

Every chartered club in good standing with the District and Kiwanis International is entitled to three voting delegates. You may also choose one alternate for each certified delegate. The three certified delegates from each club do not pay the registration fee as each club has already paid for those three delegates via its annual dues invoice.

To be a certified delegate, a member's name must appear on the club's election of delegates form. THE THREE DELEGATES LISTED ON THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED REGISTERED FOR THE CONVENTION. Non-certified delegates must pay the \$20.00 convention registration fee and register using the official convention registration form. If a certified delegate wishes to order tickets for any convention event, they must do so using the official convention registration form.

President Tom, Secretary Peg and Young Chang plan to attend to represent our club as delegates.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Thursday, July 13, 12 Noon – Monthly Lunch Meeting. Guest speaker will be Melissa Borland, Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Zoo. Invocation by Bob Ashcraft.

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday, July 26, 5:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, July 26, 6:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



July Birthday



15 - Peg Harp



- Tom Harp, Editor