



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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

August 1, 2017

July Lunch Meeting



The speaker at our July 13 lunch meeting was **Melissa Borland**, President and CEO of the Lehigh Valley Zoo. Melissa shared her background in the non-profit world, working for KidsPeace and the Lehigh Valley Miracle League before becoming the director of the Zoo. Under her leadership, the LV Zoo has increased revenues by \$2 million over the past three years. The LV Zoo is an accredited zoo, one of 236 in North America. Back in 2004 Lehigh County, which owns the zoo, was about to close it. Since then it has had a “rebirth.” Melissa described the many educational programs offered by the zoo. One program, “Nature Play” allows children the opportunity to get down on their hands and knees in a “nature pad” to build toad houses, bird houses, and to mingle with ladybugs and grasshoppers. The Zoo takes its role as a protector of endangered species very seriously. The Scimitar-Horned Oryx is a nearly extinct species. The LV Zoo cares for a number of them. Some are actually exported back to Africa to build on the dwindling population there. Everyone loves the African penguins, who actually enjoy

warmer weather! The giraffe exhibit has been a big hit since it opened. Melissa discussed the tragic loss of the younger giraffe, Ernie. But his father, Murphy is doing very well. He has acclimated well to his new home, and has been very friendly with visitors. Melissa revealed that their next addition to the Zoo may be a tortoise exhibit. The Zoo has a capacity of 450,000 visitors a year. Last year they welcomed 260,000 visitors. Melissa handed out brochures with a map of the Zoo and membership opportunities. President Tom mentioned grant opportunities through our Foundation. We would like to develop a partnership with the LV Zoo to offer educational programs for inner-city children. Perhaps even a picnic there in the future!

At the July meeting we officially inducted new member **Bob Krupka**. Bob joined our club back in April. He was presented with a membership certificate and pin. Bob is a former Kiwanian. Welcome, Bob!

PAAC Swim Meet

From July 7-9, the Parkland Aquatic Club (PAAC) hosted its 3rd Annual Firecracker Swim Meet at Mack Pool in Allentown. The meet attracted top youth swimmers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and other swim clubs in the Mid-Atlantic region. Dozens of swimmers and their families attended the event. The Kiwanis Club of Allentown benefitted with some publicity, as **Craig Walls** of PAAC hung our banner at the pool house all weekend. Our Foundation provided PAAC with a grant this year for their "Pool Proof" drowning awareness program. We thank PAAC for recognizing our club in this manner!



Pa. Kiwanis Convention



Newly-elected Division 18 **Lt. Governor Young Chang**, **President Tom and Peg Harp** will be attending the 100th Annual Pa. District Annual Convention to be held August 11-13 in Lancaster, Pa. We will be our club's delegates at the convention. **Phil Weber**, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Emmaus is running for Governor-elect. We plan to support his candidacy. We will provide you with a report on the convention in our September newsletter.

100th Anniversary Historic Moment

Through the years, the Allentown Kiwanis Club hosted many well-known guest speakers at club meetings. In March 27, 1919, at the Hotel Traylor, William Jennings Bryan spoke about the proposed "League of Nations" in a campaign to get it established following the end of World War I. Bryan unsuccessfully ran for president three different times (1896, 1900, 1908), served in the House of Representatives from Nebraska (1891-1895), and was Secretary of State (1913-1915) under President Woodrow Wilson. Despite this service to the country, he was more famously known for the Scopes Trial ("Monkey Trial") in 1925 in Tennessee, where he opposed Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. He won the case which temporarily banned the teaching the theory in Tennessee public schools. Later the Tennessee State Supreme Court over-turned the decision on a technicality. He died five days after the conclusion of the trial on July 26, 1925.

Bryan was the first of many famous individuals who frequented club meetings as speakers including: Bill Tilden, World # 1 tennis player for six years in the 1920s; Jack Dempsey; "Jersey Joe" Walcott and Larry Holmes, who all held world boxing championships; Lee Meriwether, 1955 Miss America; Chuck Bednarik (from Bethlehem) and Jim Ringo (from Phillipsburg NJ), NFL Hall of Fame players. Al Meltzer, Philadelphia sportscaster who addressed the Club each year for 20 years starting in 1973 and was an honorary Club member. Richie Ashburn, Phillies Hall of Fame baseball player and long-time beloved broadcaster; and numerous other business, entertainment, and sports VIPs all visited our club meetings

- *Enos Martin*

Division 18 News

The Kiwanis Club of Allentown - Downtown would like to invite members of Division 18 clubs to join us on **Thursday, September 14** when we welcome guest speaker **Thomas Parker**, the new **Superintendent of the Allentown School District**. The lunch meeting will be held at the Hamilton Family Restaurant, 2027 Hamilton St., Allentown beginning at 12 noon.

Mr. Parker was selected among several excellent candidates to run the state's third-largest urban school district. He was Superintendent of Ecorse Public Schools in Ecorse, Michigan since 2013. He has served as Harper Woods High School and Middle School Principal, and Founding Principal of Harper Academy for the Harper Woods School District, Michigan, Principal of Osborn College Preparatory Academy and Assistant Principal for Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School and Chadsey High School, Dean of Students, Interim Curriculum Leader and Teacher for Detroit Public Schools; and Program Coordinator of Cranbrook Schools – Horizons Upward Bound in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Mr. Parker is a Doctoral of Education – Educational Leadership candidate and holds an Education Specialist (ES) in Educational Leadership degree from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan. He has his Master of Arts in Education Foundation and Policy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and earned his Bachelor of Arts in History and Secondary Education from Howard University in Washington, D.C. His tenure as Superintendent of the ASD began

on July 1, 2017. Cost of lunch is \$10.00. If you would like to attend please contact Tom Harp at 610-428-1427 or grundsow67@hotmail.com no later than September 13.

Health Screening Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Emmaus

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2017, Time: 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.

Cost of Health Screen is \$60.00

Optional Testing, TSH (thyroid screening) \$25.00
PSA (male prostate test) \$25.00
Vitamin D test \$35.00

Payment only by check or cash

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, PA

Please Pre-Register by Calling - 1-800-776-6342, Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Thursday, August 10, 12 Noon – Monthly Lunch Meeting. Guest speaker will be Mark Wogenrich, sports reporter for the Morning Call. He will provide us with a preview of the Penn State football season. Invocation by Rich Peterson.

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday, August 23 5:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, August 23, 6:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



August Birthdays



9 – Jim Fronheiser

13 – “Big Bob” Ashcraft



- Tom Harp, Editor