



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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

October 1, 2017

September Lunch Meeting

Our meeting on September 14 was a big one! We had 23 guests on hand. The meeting was an official Division 18 Interclub, and representatives of Allentown Northeast and Emmaus Kiwanis Clubs joined us. One of the first orders of business was the presentation of a “Kiwaniis Hero in Service” award to **Tom Harp** by Division 18 Lt. Governor **Young Chang**. The awards were presented at the recent Pa. District Kiwanis Convention in Lancaster, but Tom was unable to attend the ceremonies. Young very thoughtfully brought the award back to present to Tom in front of his home club, and others from our Division. Tom expressed his gratitude to Young for nominating him for the award, and thanked everyone from the division, and the Pa. District for this honor.



Tom Gets Award from Young

Our special guest speaker for the meeting was the new Superintendent of the Allentown School District, **Thomas Parker**. He was introduced by **Deb Lamb**, who is currently on the ASD School Board. Mr. Parker provided a brief personal history, of growing up in a small town in Mississippi. There, he learned community values and the responsibility of serving others. He attended the University of Michigan and first taught middle school social studies in Detroit. His belief has always been that every child has inherent skills to succeed in life, if given the necessary opportunities. Now, as superintendent of a large urban school district, he is developing a four year strategic plan, which will involve five community meetings to identify key issues and solutions for the educational system. He will be inviting community leaders, business leaders and non-profit leaders to these public forums. He once again reiterated that every child can learn, if we provide them with resources. Mr. Parker took questions from the floor, including one on integrating children from homeless shelters into local classrooms, and on ways to improve the ASD graduation rates. Mr. Parker was accompanied by **Ralph Lovelidge**, the Executive Director of Secondary Education for the ASD who spoke about initiatives at the high schools, and who later expressed interest in joining our club! We were very pleased to have hosted this important discussion, and to welcome Mr. Parker to our community.



Thomas Parker

September Service Project

On Saturday, September 23, **Joyce Crosby, Young Chang** and **Tom Harp** volunteered to help out with the annual Down Syndrome Buddy Walk at the LV Preferred Cycling Center in Breinigsville. It was an unseasonably hot day, but 1,000 volunteers and participants showed up for this event that benefits the local Down Syndrome Center. Joyce, Young and Tom helped out in the parking lot directing cars, then escorted Star Wars characters that roamed the crowd to the delight of children and parents alike. We met up with Aaron and his family, and assisted in taking photographs of him with his favorite characters. In the photo below, you will see Aaron waving to his family, surrounded by Stormtroopers and other Star Wars characters. The event raised over \$55,000 for the local Down Syndrome Center. It was our pleasure to help out with this very worthwhile cause!



Tom, Joyce and Young with Aaron and Star Wars Crew

Rose Sale



Alas, we were unable to reach **Enos Martin's** ambitious goal of selling 100 dozen roses in this year's Rose Sale. But we did manage to sell 70 dozen, which will net \$490 for our club's treasury. And the balance benefits the Pa. District Kiwanis Foundation, which provides grants and scholarships to needy non-profit organizations and individuals in Pennsylvania. Any member who sold at least **5 dozen roses** will be treated to a **free lunch** at a future Club meeting.

Roses will be delivered **Thursday, October 19th**. Enos will make arrangements with you to drop them off.

We would like to **THANK Enos** for chairing this year's Rose Sale. He did a great job promoting the sale and keeping everyone informed of developments. And thanks to everyone in the club who purchased or sold roses for this important fundraiser.

Dues are Due!

It is that time of the year when annual club membership dues are due. On September 11, Treasurer **Enos Martin** sent an e-mail out to our membership with 2017-18 dues statements. Our Board of Directors approved maintaining our annual renewal of membership dues at \$140 per year. The Board also approved new, reduced membership dues of \$100 per year for spouses of existing members. And, we approved a new member fee of \$75 for up to four new members in the upcoming year. We encourage your recruitment of new members at this special rate. Deadline for receipt of dues is **October 15**. Your continued membership and support of our club is appreciated!

Service Leadership Programs Report



On September 12, **Tom Harp** met with Guidance Counselor **Laura Zaharakis** and a Vice-Principal at the Luis A. Ramos Elementary School about the development of a K-Kids Club there. Laura was the faculty advisor of the Washington Elementary School K-Kids Club, and was very familiar about the process. They will seek two members from each 4th grade class to start with. They feel positive about forming a club there and it will have the support of their Principal, Marybeth Kornfeind-Ralston. We will be preparing a charter application for the Ramos K-Kids Club. We will also be renewing the charter of the Washington Elementary K-Kids Club. We have their membership kit for the upcoming year. And are waiting to hear from Principal Bob Wheeler about a new faculty advisor for their club. Meanwhile, the Builder's Club at Raub Middle School had its first meeting of the academic year. **Enos Martin** attended it and will continue to serve as our club advisor there. **Mary DiFebo** continues to serve as faculty co-advisor to the William Allen Key Club. She reports that the club will be meeting on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Their new President is Isaiah Albert-Stein.

100th Anniversary Historic Moment



On March 14, 1918, on the same date that the charter to establish a Kiwanis club in Allentown was approved with 100 members, former President William Howard Taft visited Allentown. President Taft was in Allentown to boost the morale of the US Army Ambulance Corps drivers at the Allentown Fairgrounds (named Camp Crane by the Army). The US Army leased the Fairgrounds from June 1, 1917, through April 10, 1919, with a total of over 20,000 volunteers trained at the Camp during the period. The Allentown Fair was cancelled in 1917 because of the camp's presence.

At the Kiwanis lunch meeting on March 14, the Rev. Simon Sipple, Kiwanis chaplain and pastor of Zion's Reformed Church, presented a motion inviting President Taft to become the Allentown Kiwanis first honorary member. It was immediately approved. According to the Morning Call, a messenger was dispatched to Mr. Taft at the Hotel Traylor and the following acceptance came back. "I accept the honor you have done me with grateful appreciation. William H. Taft".

- **Enos Martin**

Division 18 News

The Kiwanis Club of Allentown Northeast will host the October Inter-Club on **Wednesday, October 25** in the evening at Denny's Restaurant on Catasauqua Road, Allentown. The program will feature the new therapy/comfort dog, Ramona, of the Lehigh County District Attorney's office. We hope Kimberly Silvestri, who is the victim-witness coordinator, and handler for Ramona can attend. Arrive starting at 5:15 PM, order from the menu and pay own tip and tab and if you have an AARP card bring it. Meeting will start at 6 PM. President Tom and Peg plan to attend. We need at least one other member of our club to join them!

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Thursday, October 12, 12 Noon – Monthly Lunch Meeting. Installation of Officers for 2017-18. Invocation by Deb Kolp.

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday, October 18, 5:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, October 18, 6:00 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



October Birthdays



7 – Vic Mazziotti
10 – Bob Krupka



- Tom Harp, Editor