



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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

July 3, 2018

KI Convention Report



A report from President Tom Harp:



KI Convention Opening Session

I headed out to Las Vegas on June 27 to attend Kiwanis International's 103rd Annual Convention. The convention was held at the Paris and Bally Hotels, which are connected on a single, large property. As expected, it was HOT, HOT, HOT in Vegas that week! 104 degrees most days. But a dry heat, which was only comfortable if you like sticking your head in an oven. Our heat here locally has been just as bad with the humidity. Most of

my time was spent indoors. The sessions were spread out in three locations, the Convention Center at Bally's, workshops in their Jubilee Tower, and larger sessions in the Paris ballrooms. Quite a bit of walking was required. After registration, I visited the "World Showcase", filled with vendors and organizations associated with Kiwanis. Thursday night was the opening session and featured inspirational speaker Rudy Ruettiger from the 1993 movie "Rudy."



ELIMINATE Luncheon

On Friday, I attended workshops and the ELIMINATE luncheon, which reported on the status of Kiwanis' worldwide health project. With a goal of \$100 million, KI has raised over \$82 million with 2 years to go. Many underdeveloped countries are now designated as free of maternal and neonatal tetanus as a result of this initiative. Only 14 countries remain to reach this goal. That afternoon was the Business Session. It was reported that 1,391 Kiwanis clubs were represented in the House of Delegates, with 2,567 delegates registered, and 2,331 present during the voting. Candidates for next year's KI President and President-Elect are non-competitive and were elected by voice vote. Next year's KI President will be **Florencio "Poly" Lot** of the Philippines, and President-Elect will be **Daniel Vigneron** of Luxembourg. The next election was for the KI Board of Trustees. There were 5 candidates for 3 North America Trustee openings. We elected **Katrina Baranko** from Georgia, **George Delisle** from Massachusetts, and **Ron Smith** from Arizona. All three candidates were supported by our Pennsylvania District. The election for Vice-President was highly competitive. There were 4 excellent candidates. Each gave a brief campaign speech, and after the first electronic vote no one received over 50% of the vote. So, there was a runoff between **Gary Levine** from Ontario, Canada and **Arthur Riley** of Maryland. Art was endorsed by our District, and had impressive credentials. He is a pharmacist with 38 years as a Kiwanian, as club President, District Governor, and recent member of the KI Board of Trustees. Art won the runoff vote and will serve as KI VP next year. We next voted on Proposed Amendments and Resolutions. The one amendment that we were most interested in was the proposal for KI to offer a 50% discount on dues for spouses or other family members living in an existing member's household. Our club Board of Directors supported this amendment, but it was defeated. It garnered 55% of the vote, but required a 2/3 majority.

Saturday morning, I attending the Signature Project Contest and Recognition Breakfast. For the past three years, KI has encouraged Districts to submit the top "Signature" service project from their area. 40 Districts participated this year, and a jury selected the top 13 finalists. Criteria included that the project had to be a recurring event of substantial means, member participation, and scope of service. All of the finalists were very deserving. The Bronze medal went to a club from the Italy District for publishing a children's book that

was distributed to 20,000 children in 2,000 elementary schools. The book teaches children to appreciate differences by understanding the needs of an autistic child in the story. The Silver medal went to a California club that conducts a Special Olympics event every year that benefits over 900 athletes with disabilities with the assistance of over 500 volunteers. The Gold medal was awarded to a club in Malaysia that built and funds the operation of a school for children with Down Syndrome. Each year, over 500 children with this condition are born in Malaysia. The school provides year-round instruction for the students and parents. This was a very uplifting event! Maybe next year we should submit our annual LVCC picnic to the district as a potential candidate for the award!



“Young Professionals” Workshop

I attended several workshops Saturday afternoon, including one on how to attract Young Professionals to join Kiwanis clubs, another on fundraising, and one about the Penguin Project, which is a national Kiwanis-affiliated organization that develops theatre groups for individuals with developmental disabilities. This is a fascinating project that I believe we can replicate in partnership with local disability groups and the Civic Theatre or Muhlenberg College’s Theatre program.



Saturday evening was the big KI Gala that featured a Rod Stewart impersonator and the 70’s rock group, **Three Dog Night!** We had a lovely dinner and enjoyed two fabulous performances. We especially enjoyed the Three Dog Night’s hits “Joy to the World” and “Celebrate”, which added to the good vibes from our convention.

I returned Sunday and was pretty exhausted from convention activities and sightseeing. Plus, jet lag and the heat! I had a great time mingling with fellow Kiwanians from our district and from clubs around the country. I went on a “Vegas TV Show Reality Tour” and met Corey Harrison from “Pawn Stars.” I went to the Cirque du Soleil Beatles show “Love” at the Mirage. And on Saturday night, I joined about 50 Kiwanians from around the country

in riding the “High Roller”, which at 550 feet high is the tallest Ferris wheel in the world! This was my fourth KI convention. It is always invigorating to mingle with fellow Kiwanians and to share the passion they have for serving the children of the world. And in the process, I got some new ideas, and learned some new techniques that will benefit our club for years to come.



Viva Las Vegas!!

- **President Tom**

June Club Meeting

Our club met for lunch on June 14 at the Shanty on 19th. We had another good turnout with 12 members and 3 guests. The meeting started with the induction of our newest member, **Jeff Burnatowski**. **President Tom** conducted the induction ceremony, thanking **Todd Siegfried** for sponsoring Jeff. Jeff attended our 100th Anniversary Gala on March 10, and was so impressed with our club’s history and the work we do for children, that he decided to join us! He has already become involved by volunteering for our LVCC Annual Picnic, and by attending our annual “Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs” game. We presented Jeff with a Certificate of Membership, a Kiwanis pin, and our club polo shirt. Welcome to our Allentown Kiwanis family, Jeff!

Next, we welcomed **Joe DeAcetis**, faculty advisor for the Allentown Central Catholic Key Club, who accepted a college scholarship check from our Foundation on behalf of recipient **Olivia Luchetti**. Olivia was a four year member of the ACCHS Key Club, and served as President in her senior year. She was Senior Class President, a “Viking Ambassador”, a Day Maurin Service Society member, captain of the girl’s tennis team, member of the National Honors Society, and much more. She was the leader of several service projects and fundraisers at the school, including one that raised \$1,200 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She intends to study science or business at the University of Notre Dame in the fall. AND, she plans to join the Notre Dame Circle K Club there! She is a most deserving student to receive a Key Club scholarship from our Foundation.

Our guest speaker at the meeting was **Jess Bien**, General Manager for the Department of Theatre & Dance at Muhlenberg College. In introducing her, it was noted that she is a former President of the William Allen Key Club! In fact, she received a Key Club scholarship herself from our Foundation her senior year. Jess handed out a pamphlet

with information about Muhlenberg's Summer Music Theatre schedule. Their production of "Beauty and the Beast" opened that evening. That amazing production will feature Broadway actors and technicians and runs from June 14 – July 1. This will be followed by "How to Succeed in Business" (*without really trying) from July 11 – 29. In between the two major productions, from June 27 - 30 will be a circus-themed show "Tal – Beyond Imagination" for kids and adults. Jess reported on the theatre's efforts to accommodate guests with special needs. All shows are "open captioned" for the deaf and hard of hearing. A video screen near the stage scrolls through dialogue during the play. Working with the Center for Vision Loss, they accommodate blind and low vision guests by first of all allowing them to walk on the stage before the play begins to touch the sets and costumes. Then, during the play, dialogue is augmented by comments over a closed-circuit audio system. It is obvious that Muhlenberg has gone above and beyond in accommodating the needs of individuals with disabilities. Jess also mentioned the work they are doing with students of the Allentown School District. They run workshops and offer free tickets to productions throughout the year. The Muhlenberg College Theatre program is a wonderful asset to our community.

IronPigs Game



The Ashcrafts



Vic and Friends

On Father's Day, June 17 our club enjoyed another fabulous day at the ballpark for our annual "Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs" game. **Bob Ashcraft**, his friends and family were in attendance, as well as **Enos and Susan Martin**, their sons and friends; **Sam and Missy Saxton**; **Young and Ann Chang**; **Tom and Peg Harp**; **Todd and Sonya Siegfried**; **Jeff and Rosie Burnatowski**; and **Vic Mazziotti**. This is one of our club's big social outings of the year. The buffet was delicious, with hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, pork BBQ, ziti, chips, fruit, salad and cookies served for over two hours. It was another sunny and warm day for the game. **Big Bob Ashcraft** threw out one of the ceremonial first pitches, and lucky for him it reached the catcher! He did us proud. For Father's Day, men received a tube-shaped 6-pack cooler. The game itself was a nail-biter. The Pigs won 3-2 but Pawtucket had a ninth-inning rally by loading the bases against the Pigs top closer, Pedro Beato. Reliever Tom Windle came and shut down the Red Sox preserving our team's win. For those who hung around to the finish, it was a heck of a game. Overall, a good time was had by all!



“Bundles for Babies”

Our year-round “Bundles for Babies” community service project keeps growing! Organizer **Peg Harp** reports that her group of knitters includes herself, **Tracy Davis** from our club, **Cathy Kane** and **Cathy Campbell** from the Allentown Northeast club, and **12 residents** of Atria Senior Living in Bethlehem. They have met three times already, and will be meeting twice a month for instruction on knitting and crocheting as they produce baby blankets for the Nurse Family Partnership program. This month, the group will be meeting at 3:00 PM on July 12 and 26 at Atria. If you are interested in helping out, please feel free to join them! It’s a great cause.

United Way Day of Caring



Enos Martin joined members of the Allentown Northeast club in performing some spring cleaning at the Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers Union Boulevard site on June 21 as part of this year’s United Way Day of Caring. Thanks for your time and efforts, Enos! Next year, we hope to have our own crew helping out with a project. .

Historical Moment

The Club recently began activities to reactivate the gum ball fundraiser. This month’s historical feature focuses on the Club’s history of gum ball fundraising.



Our Club began its association with the sale of gum balls as a fundraiser in 1949. Contracts were established with the Ford Gum Ball Company, located in Akron, New York in late 1948. By March 1949, amazingly 283 machines had been placed at various locations throughout the Allentown area. By 1980, over 400 machines were in operation, but the number of machines has steadily decreased over the years from this peak number. After losing touch with the program for over 10 years, we still were able to find machines in operation at 14 locations. We have located a new supplier to service the

machines and the program has had a rebirth. We will again begin receiving revenue to help fund our Youth and Community Services treasury.

The fundraiser was incredibly successful over the years from 1949 through 2002. Over \$64,400 was raised during that period!! How did we let this slip away from our oversight? In 1989-90, we raised over \$3,400 and over \$2,400 in 1991-92. We last received a payment of approximately \$280 in 2002.

The Club is seeking business locations with waiting rooms with extensive client traffic. Please provide suggestions of such locations and the Club will make an effort to obtain agreement from the business to install machines. This is an easy and very resource limited opportunity to raise money to support our youth programs.

- *Enos Martin*

Division 18 News

Thanks to Cathy Kane of Allentown NE for serving as the Kiwanis Chair for the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley's **Day of Caring** in June 21 at the Lehigh Valley Children's Centers Union Boulevard site. Windows were washed inside and out, parking lots and grounds were cleaned, inventory was stored, the gym mats were washed (on both sides) and student storage boxes were washed. Thanks to Enos Martin of Allentown, Jeff Rose, Charles and Jane Chase, Janine Kish, Cathy Kane, Annette Filler of LVCC – a member of the club along with 5 personnel from Mack Trucks.

Allentown Northeast hosted an Interclub on June 14 in celebration of completing their pledge to the ELIMINATE Project and becoming a "Model Club" with a total club donation of \$20,250. The Walter Zeller Charter Award was received by Charles Chase. Walter Zeller Fellowship Awards were received by Rocky Andreacs, Justin Bartholomew, Cathy Campbell, Jane Chase, Marilyn Leaver, and Harold Thomas. The Presidential Walter Zeller Awards were received by Deborah Carey and Cathy Kane. The Diamond Walter Zeller Award was received by Harold Thomas who requested that in lieu of gifts for his 100th birthday that donations be made to Eliminate. Awards were presented to Wayne Wood and Diane Farleigh at the celebration by Doris McBeth, widow of Ethan McBeth who was the PA District Eliminate Chair. Executive Director Kevin Thomas advised that the Kiwanis family has reached its \$100,000 million fundraising goal of both pledges and paid gifts. Upon completion of all pledges 55 million women worldwide will be immunized, protecting them and their future children from Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT). The work of Kiwanis will eliminate a deadly, preventable disease from the world. In other remarks he recognized Deb Carey of the ANE club for being the Chair for Eliminate in Division 18. Governor-Elect Phil Weber recognized the ANE members above and the guest members present who had Zeller Awards and that included Doris McBeth who has a Zeller and a Mother's Day Zeller, Governor Judy Raub, Kevin Thomas, Tom Harp of the Allentown Club, The Kiwanis Club of Emmaus who bought two Zellers, The Kiwanis Club of Allentown who participated as a Silver Club, former member of the LVIP Club Frank Marino whose daughter Jenine Kish is a member of ANE and himself.

Harold Thomas of the Allentown NE Club will be celebrating his 102nd Birthday on July 10. Many members of Division 18 clubs joined Harold on his 100th and were part of the donation for the Eliminate Project, as per above article, that gave him his "Diamond

Zeller.” The ANE Club is asking that you join them in sending cards to Harold to let him know he is still thought and cared about. Send them to: Harold Thomas, 7380 Grant Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036. Thank you.

The Kiwanis Club of Allentown is proud to announce that **Jeff Burnatowski**, a broker with RE/MAX of 3120 Hamilton Blvd, has joined the club. He attended the 100th Celebration, like what he heard and now will be part of the legacy. He was brought to the club by Todd Siegfried.

- **Chas Chase**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – “Bundles for Babies” knitting project at Atria Senior Assisted Living in Bethlehem. July 12 and 26 at 3:00 PM.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING - Thursday, June 14, 6:00 PM at the Shanty on 19th (“Happy Hour” drinks and fellowship from 5-6 PM) – Speaker will be our own Tracy Davis! She will be informing us about a new initiative she is working on, “Youth Civic Education and Leadership.” Invocation by Ricki Stringfellow.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, July 25, 5-6 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



July Birthdays



15 - Peg Harp

23 - Jeff Burnatowski



- **Tom Harp, Editor**