



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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

November 1, 2018

October 11 Meeting

Our speaker at the October 11 lunch meeting was **Gabriel Rendon**, Director of the Financial Literacy Center. Gabriel is a local success story, attending Dieruff High School before entering a career in banking. Two years ago, he left his bank job to start the Financial Literacy Center. It is a program that teaches students and adults sound financial management practices. The adult program involves six lessons over eight weeks. The high school student program is twice a week for twelve weeks. The lesson topics include budgeting, banking, savings, investing, credit options, employment and even estate planning. With high school students, Gabriel uses games like classroom economy scenarios and the selection of a stock. The motto of the program is “Empower/Advance/Transform.” FLC participants are empowered with knowledge and better financial judgement which allows them to advance in their personal lives, and to transform their financial portfolios. A pre/post test is administered to all participants, and a 30% improvement has been verified. FLC works with targeted adult groups such as veterans, immigrants, criminal offenders returning to society, and other disadvantaged groups. Regrettably, only 35 out of over 500 school districts in Pennsylvania require personal finance courses, and there are NO high schools in our area that offer this training. Young people are woefully prepared to manage their financial resources, and can easily be victims of debt and money scams. The FLC is an emerging resource to help our most vulnerable populations to learn financial skills that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

Following this presentation, Division 18 **Lt. Governor Young Chang** presided over the installation of new officers and our Board of Directors for 2018-19. Incoming **President Todd Siegfried** was unable to attend due to an obligation at work. But new **Vice-President Tracy Davis** was installed, and received her VP pin. Also installed were Peg Harp as Secretary, Enos Martin as Treasurer, and all elected Board of Directors, including

new board members **Deb Lamb** and **Alison Norton**. Congratulations to our new leadership team, and thank you for your service to our club!



Young and V.P. Tracy



Young, Alison and Deb

We were also happy to welcome new member prospect **Greg Kessler**, who is an Agency Supervisory Officer for PennWood Financial Group, Allentown. We are thrilled that Greg plans to join our club! He will be a wonderful new member.

Foundation Awards Grants

The Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that it has approved the following grants for 2018:

- **America on Wheels** – Funding for their 2019 Christmas Show
- **Boys and Girls Club of Allentown** – “Triple Play” Health and Wellness Program
- **Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV)** – Educational toys and books for children in their Sixth Street Shelter
- **Community Bike Works** – “Earn a Book” Program
- **Community Music School** – Tuition Fees for Music Lessons
- **Lehigh County Historical Society** – Museum History In-School Program and Tours
- **Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers** – Funding of “Mad Science” Program
- **Minsi Trails Boy Scouts Council** – Funding of Fees, Shirts, and Books for Inner-City Scouts
- **Salvation Army** – Backpacks and School Supplies for Annual “Back to School Carnival”
- **SATORI** – “Gift of Music” Instrument Donation Program
- **Visiting Nurses Association of St. Luke’s** – “Building Blocks for Babies” Activity Cards and Books for Child Abuse Awareness Month

We would like to congratulate these non-profit organizations on receiving grants from our Foundation. Total amount of grants awarded is \$9,000. Representatives of these organizations have been invited to attend our annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon on December 6. We hope that you will be able to join us in support of these fine programs.

October Service Project



Stormtroopers Arrest Young!

On Saturday, October 6, **Young Chang**, **Bob Ashcraft** and **Tom Harp** volunteered to help out at the annual Down Syndrome Center Buddy Walk at the Valley Preferred Cycling Center in Breinigsville. It was a cloudy, cool day and there were dozens of volunteers, walkers, and families with children who have Down Syndrome. Young was an escort for Star Wars characters that walked around entertaining the crowd. Tom helped set up the petting zoo and other assignments. "Big Bob" came later to help with cleanup. It was a very rewarding day for a great cause!



Fun Times at the Buddy Walk

"Bundles for Babies"

The "Bundles for Babies" knitting group, led by **Peg Harp**, continues to meet every Tuesday from 3-4 PM at Atria Assisted Living in Bethlehem. Peg reports that 8-12 residents show up each week, and new members of the group are added as the word spreads at the facility. We have invited other Kiwanis Clubs to join us, including Allentown Northeast, Emmaus, and Palmer Township. The group is working hard to produce blankets, hats, and other knit goods for babies enrolled in the Nurse-Family Partnership program.

November Service Project



This month, most of our volunteer hours will be spent organizing Service Leadership Programs at the elementary and middle schools. However this year, for the first time, our club will be participating in the “**Holiday Hope Chest**” program through the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. Volunteers from our club will be filling and wrapping shoeboxes with items recommended for disadvantaged children in our community. Members willing to participate will be provided with gift tags and age/gender of the child with suggestions on what to fill the box with. You will wrap the gift, and drop off at J.S. Burkholder Funeral home no later than November 28. We will transport the boxes to the Volunteer Center for distribution during the Christmas holiday. This is a fun service project that will bring joy to the faces of many children in our community. Tom will be sending an e-mail to members with more details.

Service Leadership Programs



The **South Mountain Middle School Builder's Club** is up and running! Our club adviser **Terry Kennedy** reports that their 14 members have elected officers, and are planning a Charter Celebration in the near future. They are also recruiting new members at various school events. The **Raub Builder's Club** has had several meetings, and just completed a highly successful Rose Sale. Adviser **Enos Martin** reports that their members sold 90 roses at \$2 apiece in the school. That money will be used to fund service project materials in the year ahead, including Christmas wreaths to donate to residents of the Phoebe Home. The **Ramos Elementary School K-Kids Club** has scheduled its first meeting for November 5, according to **Vic Mazziotti**. And club adviser **Tom Harp** was at a meeting earlier this week with two new faculty advisers for the **Washington K-Kids Club**, which will be scheduling its first meeting in the near future. Next month, we will add reports from our Key Clubs at William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, and Salisbury Key Clubs. We have also designated our January 10, 2019 dinner meeting as “Key Club Night.” We have invited Key Club faculty advisors, officers and Lt. Governors to join us that evening.

November 8 Meeting

We are very pleased to welcome **U.S. Army Captain Christi Johnson** as our speaker at the November 8 dinner meeting. She is the commander of the local Army recruiting office. She will talk about today's military, the challenges of recruiting good personnel, and the benefits of military service. We want to honor all of our men and women in uniform with Veteran's Day just around the corner. Please plan to join us for this important program.

Historical Moment

This Month in Our Club's History

100 years ago – November 1918

- Club members made two donations each totaling \$500 to the Allentown Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital.
- A total of 17 children, the youngest only a week old and whose mother had died when the baby was only four days old, were being treated at the temporary home established for children afflicted with the Spanish flu outbreak. The Club received \$3,388 in donations to assist with the operation of the hospital.

75 years ago – November 1943

- J Birney Crum and his Allentown High School football team along with the high school band, majorettes, and cheerleaders attended the November 18th meeting. The meeting served as a “pep rally” for the upcoming game against Bethlehem with a huge banner “AHS Beat Bethlehem” on display.

50 years ago – November 1968

- Earl Weaver and Charles Brown were both honored for having completed 34 consecutive years of perfect attendance at the weekly Kiwanis meetings (over 1700 meetings!). Weaver had attended every meeting since he joined the club in 1934. Brown was a 57-year member of the club when he passed away in 1984.

25 years ago – November 1993

- The Club had a total membership of 91. Twenty-four Kiwanis members participated in the delivery of meals for Meals on wheels. The Kiwanis Foundation presented a \$1000 grant to the VOA Children's Center at 8th and Walnut Streets.

- ***Enos Martin***

Division 18 News

The **Kiwanis Club of Allentown (Downtown)** will be hosting a Division 18 Inter-Club on Thursday, December 6 from 12 noon to 1 PM at the Shanty on 19th, 613 N. 19th St., Allentown. This will also be our annual Foundation Grant Awards event, where our foundation provides grants to local non-profit organizations that work with children and their families. Our guest speaker will be Brandon Remp, Director of the William Allen HS Chorale. During lunch, we will show a video of the Chorale's trip to Atlanta last year. We will enjoy a hot buffet of homemade meatloaf and lasagna, vegetables, mashed potatoes, salad and beverages at a cost of \$15, which can be paid at the door. For more information, or to make a reservation, contact Tom Harp at 610-428-1427 or grundsow67@hotmail.com. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, December 4.

The **Region 6 Governors Visit and Fall meeting** will be **November 17th** at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 3461 Cedar Crest Boulevard in Emmaus. Parking is available in the lower lot of the church hall. A notice was sent last week along with a registration form and agenda. Registration starts at 8:30 and program will start at 9:00 AM. A continental breakfast and a light lunch will be served.

RSVP to Trustee Mike Coolbaugh, via e-mail or you may write to him to reserve your spot. If using snail mail to register please send your check for \$20.00, made payable to WA Kiwanis to 1030 Exeter Ave, Exeter, PA 18643. You must make reservations with Trustee Mike. You may pay at the door, but if you make a reservation and do not show up, you must still pay the registration fee.

- **Chas Chase**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – “Bundles for Babies” knitting project at Atria Senior Assisted Living in Bethlehem. Tuesdays at 3:00 PM in the Atria Activity Room.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING - Thursday, November 8, 6:00 PM at the Shanty on 19th– Veteran’s Day Program - Captain Christi Johnson, U.S. Army Recruiting Commander.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, November 28, 5-6 PM at Vic Mazziotti’s Office Conference Room, 1620 Hamilton Street, Allentown



November Birthdays (LOTS!)



- 9 - Cindy Ashcraft
- 13 - Ricki Stringfellow
- 16 - Deb Lamb
- 18- Eleana Belletieri
- 19 - Tom Harp
- 22 - Tracy Davis
- 26 - Rich Peterson
- 28 - Belinda Gray

Happy
Thanksgiving

- **Tom Harp, Editor**