



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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

December 1, 2018

November 8 Meeting



Captain Johnson

The speaker at our November 8 dinner meeting was **Cpt. Cristin Johnson**, U.S. Army. With Veteran’s Day being celebrated on November 11, we felt it fitting to recognize and thank those in our military. Cpt. Johnson graduated from Stroudsburg H.S. and Morgan State University. Her older brother also serves in the Army reserves. She enlisted in the Army in 2007. She earned a 3-year college scholarship. She also participated in the ROTC. She was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. She and her husband were commissioned together! She was a logistics officer, where she learned transferrable skills for the private sector. She credits her military service for helping her develop time management, leadership skills, and teamwork. She and her husband have two daughters, ages 2 and 5. She is thankful that the Army has provided her family with

good benefits. Her husband is also a Captain and a logistics officer. Cpt. Johnson is now serving as the regional Army Recruiting Commander, responsible for the Lehigh Valley and Reading areas. "I love what I do" she said. It was refreshing to hear from a person whose entire family is serving in our military. We are grateful for their service. Thank you, Captain Johnson!



Greg, Todd and Tom

Earlier in the program, we had the great pleasure of inducting our club's newest member, **Greg Kessler**! President **Todd Siegfried**, and Greg's sponsor **Tom Harp** presented Greg with a Certificate of Membership and a club polo shirt. We owe him a Kiwanis pin since for some unknown reason, our order with Kiwanis International was fouled up. For those who were not at the meeting, here is Greg's brief bio:

- Greg was born and raised in South Philadelphia.
- He graduated from South Philadelphia High School- Class of '84.
- He lived in Clearwater, Florida for 23 years.
- Greg earned a BA in business management from Eckerd College.
- He has worked in financial services his entire career- 23 with Raymond James Financial and last 3 with Mass Mutual.
- He is a HS football official and HS baseball umpire.
- Greg was involved with the Big Brother/Big Sister program while in Florida
- His hobbies include: avid Eagles and Phillies fan – he has traveled to 23 baseball stadiums and 22 football stadiums around the country attending games.
- He attended the Eagles Super Bowl Victory in Minneapolis.
- Greg enjoys hiking; has completed Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and NJ sections of the Appalachian Trail and has completed the Disney Marathon twice.

Welcome, Greg, to our Allentown Kiwanis family!

November Service Project

On November 29, **Tom Harp** delivered 32 "Holiday Hope Chests" to the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. Ten members of our club helped fill and wrap shoe boxes with small gifts for area children. We would like to thank **Alison Norton, Tracy Davis, Deb Lamb, Ricki Stringfellow, Enos Martin, Deirdre Govan, Greg Kessler, Vic**

Mazziotti, Todd Siegfried and **Tom Harp** for participating in this project. Special thanks go to Tracy for recruiting several of her fellow graduate students at Lehigh University to fill **12 boxes!** These gifts will be greatly appreciated by children of need in our area. It was a fun project that we will try to participate in the years ahead.

LVCC Christmas Party!



HO-HO-HO!! It is that time of the year to bring joy to the faces of 170 pre-school children attending our annual Lehigh Valley Children's Centers Christmas Party on **Friday, December 14**. Children from three LVCC centers will converge on their South Mountain Center for a chicken nuggets lunch, a magic show, gift bags, toys and an appearance by SANTA! The party will be held from 10:30 AM to 1 PM, but volunteers should be there no later than 10 AM. The Allen HS Key Club will provide us with several elves to help serve the kids their lunches, and to hand out the toys. We have several volunteers from our club. If you would like to join us, just notify Tom Harp ahead of time. A fun time will be had by all!

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing



Our club has once again volunteered to participate in this year's Salvation Army Kettle Drive by ringing the bell at a kettle stationed inside the Lehigh Valley Mall on **Saturday, December 15**. So far, **Joyce Crosby, Enos Martin, Young Chang, Bob Ashcraft** and **Terry Kennedy** have signed up for two-hour shifts. We would like to thank these volunteers for helping to raise money for the Salvation Army, as they serve the most needy individuals and families during the Christmas holiday season.

"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. The knitting group there has produced another 14 blankets to be donated to the L.V. Nurse-Family Partnership. The residents of Atria look forward to this activity, and even the knitting novices are starting to catch on! Thanks go to Peg and her fellow knitters for creating these wonderful blankets for newborn babies and their moms.

Service Leadership Programs



The **South Mountain Middle School Builder's Club** continues to grow and plan service projects according to **Terry Kennedy**. Our Foundation is ordering Builders Club t-shirts for their members. **Enos Martin** reports that due to the November snowstorm and other issues, the **Raub Builder's Club** has not met for awhile, but will be meeting twice in December. They plan to assemble Christmas wreaths to donate to residents of the Phoebe Home. **Vic Mazziotti** reports that the next meeting of the **Ramos Elementary School K-Kids Club** will be held on December 3. The **Washington K-Kids Club** has been slow in developing, but their first meeting will be held sometime next week. We have 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.

Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon

We expect to host over 40 guests at our **Annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon**, to be held at the Shanty on 19th on **Thursday, December 6**. Our foundation will be handing out grant checks to 11 non-profit organizations that serve children and their families in our community. We will also be honoring **Jim Fronheiser** for 50 years of membership in our club! Jim actually achieved this milestone back in February. We are proud to offer Jim recognition on December 6 with a "Legion of Honor" certificate and 50 year Past-President's pin. Jim is a valued member of our Kiwanis family, so we hope you will join us for this ceremony. Also, we will be recognizing a member of our club with the **2018 "Distinguished Service Award."** All this, plus some comments from the Pennsylvania District Kiwanis **Governor Phil Weber**, a presentation by Allen HS Chorale Director **Brendan Remp**, and a video of the chorale's trip to Atlanta earlier this year. The program will begin at 12 noon. We will have a hot buffet lunch for \$15, which can be paid at the door. Hope to see you there!

Historical Moment

This Month in Our Club's History

100 years ago – December 1918

- Fifty club members traveled to Easton to help the new Easton Kiwanis Club celebrate the presentation of its charter to the club during its first meeting.

75 years ago – December 1943

- The Club held a special dedication for a large number of memorial trees on the Muhlenberg College campus. The trees, which were planted on "Memory Lane" on the campus were planted to honor members of the club who had passed away in the first quarter century of the club's existence. A recent effort to locate "Memory Lane" on the campus was not successful.
- Club membership was at 140.

50 years ago – December 1968

- Earl Weaver was presented with a life membership plaque and a new upholstered reclining chair upon his retirement after serving as club secretary for 16 consecutive years. He also was recognized for 34 consecutive years of perfect meeting attendance. Weaver has also served as club president in 1940.
- Club membership exceeded 200 with a total of 202 members.

25 years ago – December 1993

- The Club hosted over 200 Hispanic children and their parents for the annual Kiwanis Christmas Party at Alliance Hall. Dapper Dan the Clown entertained the children. Santa provided filled bags of fruit, cookies, coloring books and crayons for each youngster.
 - Club membership was at 92.
- ***Enos Martin***

Division 18 News

REGION 6 GOVERNOR VISIT – FALL MEETING SUCCESSFUL

The **Region 6 Governors Visit and Fall Meeting** was held on November 17th at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Emmaus. **Governor Phil Weber** conducted the meeting and started with the pledge and asked each to offer a self-prayer after announcing the passing of Trustee Michael Coolbaugh's mother-in-law on Friday.

A program on "Achieving Club Excellence – Tools for Success" was presented by **Matt Wise**, co-chair for Membership for Pa District. Discussions were held after each presentation by clubs. Governor Phil conducted the Region 6 Trustee election and Trustee Michael Coolbaugh was unanimously elected to serve another term.

In his Governors remarks, Phil spoke about the status of the district as to financial, membership and items that are being discussed as the Board looks to the future. He also asked that clubs buy into his +2 membership challenge for September 30, 2019 and to take on a new service project this year. Conventions coming in 2019 are Mid-Winter on March 16 at the Penn Stater, Inter-national in Orlando June 26-30 and PA District in Williamsport on August 8-11.

Jeff Rose, PA Kiwanis Foundation Board member spoke about the PA Foundation and various things they support and how to apply for grants for clubs to carry on projects that they need assistance with. Jeff also represents the KI Children's Fund through his Pa Foundation Board position. Thanks to the Emmaus Club for hosting the meeting and providing a continental breakfast and luncheon. Great job.

The **Kiwanis Club of Allentown Northeast** is holding a fundraiser at the Friendly's Restaurant on Catasauqua Road from 5-8 PM on Wednesday, December 5. Please stop and enjoy a snack, dinner or just some great Friendly's Ice Cream. You don't need any coupons, etc. for the club to get a % of what you spend.

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. There will be a buffet lunch at a cost of \$15, which can be paid at the door.

The **Kiwanis Club of Emmaus** will be hosting the Division 18 Inter-Club on Wednesday, February 27, 2018, in the evening. Save the date.

- **Chas Chase**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – Friday, December 14 from 10:30 AM to 1 PM - Annual LVCC Christmas Party, South Mountain Center. Volunteers should report to the South Mountain Center, no later than 10 AM.

SERVICE PROJECT – Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM – Salvation Army Kettle Drive – Our volunteers will be ringing bells at a kettle location inside the L.V. Mall.

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, December 6, 12:00 PM at the Shanty on 19th– Annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, December 19, 5-6 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



December Birthdays



- 20 - John Stoffa
- 25 - Deirdre Govan
- 29 - Joyce Crosby
- 31 - Enos Martin

Merry  
Christmas 

- **Tom Harp, Editor**