



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

---

## **The Downtowner**

***Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown***

**August 1, 2019**

---

### **July 11 Meeting**

Our dinner meeting on July 11 was one of the best of the year! We welcomed 32 guests, including 11 members of our club, 8 members of other Kiwanis clubs in the area, our 3 Key Club scholarship recipients and their families, and others. Some of us enjoyed the “social hour” before the meeting. All of us enjoyed dinner, with menu selections that included homemade spaghetti & meatballs, stuffed flounder, burgers and other delicious choices.

**President Todd** welcomed and introduced everyone, and then led a ceremony awarding \$1,000 college scholarship checks to three Key Club members. Each student was asked to come forward and reflect on their days as a member of his/her Key Club, and academic plans. First was **Sage Toth** of the William Allen HS Key Club. Sage was nominated by her faculty advisor **Mary DiFebo**. She will be attending Kings College later this summer. Next was **Jessica Davis** of Allentown Central Catholic HS. She was nominated by her advisor, **Joe DeAcetis**. Jessica will be a freshman at the University of Notre Dame. Finally, **Shane Donaldson** of Salisbury HS accepted his scholarship award. He was nominated by his faculty advisor **Katie Hutchinson**. Shane will be attending Temple University. All three scholarship recipients expressed how valuable their Key Club experiences were. And some indicated that they would like to join a Circle K Club in college, if one was available. Congratulations to these wonderful students!

Our speaker was **Joe Garrera**, Executive Director of the Lehigh County Historical Society. Joe has been a frequent speaker at our meetings, and never disappoints. His topic at this meeting was “The Statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln.” He shared stories about Lincoln’s demeanor and patience. He “never called anyone out”, unlike today’s political climate. He showed great restraint in criticizing anyone, including his generals.

One general kept Lincoln and a group of advisors waiting for hours until he came home late for a meeting, then abruptly went upstairs to go to bed, ignoring his President. Lincoln just got up and left without any fuss or outrage. His goal was to constantly bring people together, not to tear them apart. He tried not to offend anyone. He was a leading example of diplomacy, mutual cooperation and forgiveness. He never let his ego take over. He believed that the U.S. was the last great hope of the world. He was firm in his belief that the cause of the Civil War was slavery, not “state’s rights.” His most memorable speech, the Gettysburg Address was 3 minutes long. It was preceded by a 1 hour 57 minute speech by Edward Everett, considered to be one of the finest orators of the day. Everett’s speech was a bitter indictment of the South. In contrast, Lincoln’s address was conciliatory and respectful of the hallowed ground on which they stood. Joe lamented the lack of “statesmanship” in the country today. “Our planet is getting smaller and smaller” he observed. And with a new arms race and other hostilities in the world, it is harder to see the statesmanship of Lincoln being practiced anywhere. Joe handed out documents that included Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, and his Second Inaugural Address, best known for the “with malice towards none, with charity to all...” ending paragraph. He also provided some “words to live by” from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1958, Dr. King stated “hate begets hate; violence begets violence ... we must meet the forces of hate with the power of love...” Joe’s presentation was a sober reminder to us all about the importance of statesmanship in our everyday lives.



**Sage Toth**



**Jessica Davis**



**Shane Donaldson**



**Joe Garrera**

## Boys & Girls Club School Supplies Drive



At our July 11 meeting, **Alan Burke** of the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown announced a “Back to School Supplies Drive” benefitting children who participate at their local clubhouses. Alan was “pinch hitting” for **Alison Norton**, Development Director for the B&GCA who was out of town on business. Kiwanis Clubs in our division were encouraged to collect school supplies that would be distributed to needy children at their clubhouses. We ask that members of our club consider bringing school supplies to our next meeting on August 8. There is no doubt that the Boys and Girls Club is a terrific organization that provides educational and recreational opportunities to disadvantaged children in our community. School items that are needed include:

- Backpacks
- #2 Pencils
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Glue
- Pens
- Binders
- Erasers
- Notebooks (wide & college ruled)
- Filler Paper
- Folders
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencil Pouches

So let’s support the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown by purchasing some school supplies and bringing them to our next meeting!

## Box Tops for Education

We continue to collect “Box Tops for Education” to benefit the Raub Middle School. At the July 11 meeting, **Tom Harp** handed out a list of products that offer these coupons. **Enos Martin** has been the coordinator for this collection, which will run through mid-October. Members are encouraged to bring box tops to upcoming meetings, where Enos will be collecting them. Raub will earn 10 cents a box top. So consider purchasing products that support this initiative.

## July Service Project

**Terry and Penny Kennedy, Serena Ranney and Tom Harp** braved sweltering temperatures on July 20 and 21 as they volunteered at the Historic Bethlehem's annual Blueberry Festival at the Burnside Plantation in Bethlehem. Terry and Penny volunteered at the dessert tent on Saturday, and Tom was stationed at the kid's craft tent on Sunday morning. Serena had the good fortune of staffing the craft beer tent Sunday afternoon. Even in the shade it was a challenge tolerating the heat. But there was lots of entertainment, good food and fun for the entire family. The experience was rewarding, but it certainly made us yearn for cooler days ahead!



More like "The Hottest Festival of the Summer!"



A Plump Blueberry

## John Stoffa Joins Legion of Honor



Barbara and John Stoffa

This month, we are proud to recognize **John Stoffa** as our latest **Legion of Honor** member! Kiwanis International recognizes individuals with 25 years or more of Kiwanis membership in their Legion of Honor. At our meeting on August 8, we hope to present John with a Legion of Honor Certificate, and a 25 year pin. John joined the Kiwanis Club of Allentown in August, 2014. He served as President of the Foundation from 1998-99 and President of the club from 2000-01. He served on our club's Board of Directors from 1995-99. He joins **Sam Saxton** (67 years) and **Jim Fronheiser** (51 years) as our club's only current Legion of Honor members. Congratulations John, and THANK YOU for your many years of service as a loyal Allentown Kiwanian!

## Pa. District Kiwanis Convention

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Convention will be held August 8-11 in Williamsport, Pa. Our delegates to the convention are **Enos Martin, Young Chang** and **Tom Harp**. Tom will be heading up to Williamsport Friday, August 9 to set up a display featuring our annual LVCC Picnic, which won a District award as the 2019 "Signature Project of the Year." Enos, Young and **Serena Ranney** will be joining Tom the next day for the business session, and will stay for the Governor's Banquet Saturday evening. During the business session, we will be electing **Mike Haven** of the Williamsport Kiwanis Club to serve as Governor of the Pa. District in 2019-20. We will also be voting for a Governor-Elect to succeed Mike. **Don Smith** of the New Holland and Palmyra Clubs is the sole candidate. There will be several workshops and general sessions that we plan to attend.

## Division 18 News

**Allentown Inter-Club on July 11** - Great job and nice attendance. Was nice to be able to witness the distribution of the scholarships and hear the students speak.

**DIVISION 18 TREASURY** - Information is being gathered on the dispersal of the Division 18 Treasury should the merger of Division 18 into Division 17 become final. The information will be sent to the Presidents of the existing Clubs for a final decision.

**KIWANIS – DIVISION 18 – FAMILY NEWS** - **Harold Thomas** of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown Northeast turned 103 on July 10. Thanks to the individuals and clubs who sent cards to Harold. His daughter advised that he was pleased to hear from so many.

- **Chas Chase**

## A Glance Into Our Past

### **100 Years Ago – August 1919**

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the first annual Kiwanis picnic was held at Sand Springs Park in the Schnecksville area which included a softball game pitting two Kiwanis teams against each other with the Bears winning 14-13 over the Lambs. Another highlight of the picnic was Stanley Lawfer smoking six stogies in 5 minutes and winning a box of 10 cigars.

### **75 Years Ago – August 1944**

The August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting featured Omar H. Keller, from the national magazine "Farm Journal", who praised the Kiwanis Club for its efforts in collecting scrap paper. He noted that Lehigh County, due to Kiwanis's efforts ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 67 Pennsylvania counties in the volume of paper collected. The effort which had begun in July continued in August. On August 24, 1944, an additional 160 tons of paper and cardboard were collected and loaded on rail cars to be shipped to Trenton. This collection netted the scouts over \$2,400 with the Kiwanis-supported Troop 30 earning about \$150. Parachutes, helmets for use in jungle regions, vests used in arctic zones, and packing for shells and blood plasma were some of the uses for this recycled paper.

### **50 Years Ago – August 1969**

Supported by our Foundation's grant of \$2,500, the Lehigh County Geology Garden was installed as a "pocket park" behind the old Lehigh County Courthouse at the northwest corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton Streets. The small park consisted of 20 different geology specimens recognizing their contributions to the County's industry, economics, art and education. The park was dedicated on August 28, 1969.

### **25 Years Ago – August 1994**

On August 18, 1994, John Stoffa was inducted as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown. In August 1994, the Kiwanis Foundation announced grants of \$12,780. Recipients of the awards included: Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation, Vitalistic Therapeutic Center, Lehigh Valley Food Bank, Sixth Street Shelter, Mercy Special Learning Center, School Works, Pinebrook Services for Children, LARC (now VIA) Foundation, and an outstanding member of both the Central Catholic and Allen High School Key Clubs.

- **Enos Martin**

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

**SERVICE PROJECT – Donation of School Supplies to the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown. Bring your donations to the August 8 meeting!**

**MONTHLY CLUB MEETING - Thursday, August 8, 12:00 PM Noon at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Speaker will be our own "Big Bob" Ashcraft! Bob will share his experiences as a top national participant in the Spartan Games. Invocation: Bob Ashcraft.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, August 28, 5 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.**



### **August Birthdays**



- 9 – Jim Fronheiser**
- 13 – Bob Ashcraft**



- **Tom Harp, Editor**