



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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

September 1, 2019

August 8 Meeting



At our August 8 lunch meeting, 12 members were in attendance, including our “Guest of Honor” **John Stoffa**. We welcomed additional guests including John’s wife **Barbara**, his friend **Don Shellhammer** and Pennsylvania Key Club Lt. Governor **GaYoung Lee**. In President Todd’s absence, Vice-President **Tom Harp** welcomed everyone and conducted club business. The first order of business was to induct John Stoffa into the Kiwanis International “Legion of Honor.” John joined our Kiwanis Club in August, 1994. He is one of only three of our current members to have reached 25 or more years of membership. Tom introduced John with a brief bio that included his upbringing in Nesquehoning, Pa., his years of public service including eight years as Northampton County Executive, and his achievements as a member of our club. Tom presented John with a framed “Legion

of Honor” certificate and 25 year Past President’s pin. John thanked everyone in attendance, and spoke proudly of his history as a member of our club. John has been battling Parkinson’s Disease, but he was able to walk into the restaurant with a cane and the assistance of his friend, Don. He looked great, and seemed to enjoy the company of his fellow Kiwanians. He also made a nice donation to our Foundation, in honor of his 25th Anniversary with the club. Congratulations, John on your 25 years of membership and service to the Kiwanis Club of Allentown! And thank you for all that you have done to help us serve the children of the world.

Our scheduled speaker, **Bob Ashcraft** was unable to attend due to an illness. We were looking forward to hearing about his Spartan Race experiences. **Enos Martin** provided a quick “fill in” presentation on the history of “Legion of Honor” recipients in our club. Around 130 members over the lifetime of our club!

At this meeting, we donated school supplies to the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown. Later in the meeting, **Alison Norton** stopped by to pick up the supplies, and to announce that the B&GC just received a new van donated by the Bridgestone Tire Company. At the ceremony, **Mario Andretti** drove the van into the B&GC parking lot. Quite a thrill for the kids! They were as much impressed with Mario’s Lamborghini as they were the van.

After the meeting, **Barb Miller, Tom Harp** and **Terry Kennedy** met with **GaYoung Lee** to discuss the process of starting a Key Club at the Building 21 high school in Allentown. GaYoung was very supportive and enthusiastic about this development. South Mountain Middle School will be one of the “feeder” schools to Building 21, and Terry saw the Builders Club there as an opportunity to prepare students for the new Key Club.

Pa. District Kiwanis Convention

The weather was perfect, as approximately 240 people attended the 102nd Annual Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Convention held August 8-11 in Williamsport, Pa. Our delegates to the convention were **Enos Martin, Young Chang** and **Tom Harp**. Tom drove up Friday morning to set up our award-winning LVCC Annual Picnic display in the exhibit room. He attended general sessions on “Identifying Our Purpose” as a Kiwanis Club, and an exercise on sharing our stories as Kiwanians. Later that evening was a “Meet the Candidates Night” featuring candidates for various positions in the Pa. Kiwanis District. Enos, Young and **Serena Ranney** carpooled to the convention Saturday morning. We enjoyed a nice buffet lunch where there were reports and awards from the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation. We proceeded to the Business General Session in the afternoon, where elections were held for Foundation Trustees, Governor and Governor-Elect for the 2019-20 Administrative Year. **Don Smith** of the New Holland and Palmyra Kiwanis Club was unanimously elected as Governor-Elect, and **Mike Haven** of the Williamsport Kiwanis Club was elected Governor for next year. There were no amendments, and the only resolution was in gratitude to the convention committee, the current **Governor Phil Weber** for his service, and other notable groups. Saturday evening, Young, Enos and Serena attended the Governor’s Banquet at the Farrington Center in Williamsport. They report that the food was excellent, as was the ambience and program. The “Kiwanis Kash” 50/50 raffle paid \$5,957 to the first-place winner. Regrettably, no one from our club was a winner!

Williamsport did a terrific job hosting this year's District Convention. Next year's convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Reading.



General Business Session



Foundation Luncheon



Our Display!



The Three Amigos – Enos, Serena and Young

Pa. Kiwanis Foundation

Every active member of a Kiwanis Club in Pennsylvania is a member of the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation. It is a 501c3 non-profit organization that promotes Kiwanis interests and values in the state. The Annual Rose Sale not only benefits our club, but the Pa. Kiwanis Foundation as well. In 2018-19, over 274,000 Early Learning Guides were distributed to families across Pennsylvania. The guides were paid for by the Foundation. 11 scholarships were awarded to Key Club and Circle K members. Over \$26,000 in grants were awarded to 8 Kiwanis Clubs to start Service Leadership Programs. The Foundation also provided \$75 scholarships to all 80 registered attendees of Pennsylvania Key Leader at Camp Conrad Weiser last April. Last year, 5,570 dozen roses were sold during the Annual Rose Sale. Many individual Kiwanians have made donations to the Foundation. For more information about the Pa. Kiwanis Foundation, visit their website, pkfonline.org.

Annual Rose Sale!



It is that time of the year when we join other Kiwanis Clubs in our state in selling roses to benefit the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation, and our club. This has been our largest fund-raiser of the year. Once again this year, **Alison Norton** has agreed to coordinate the Rose Sale. The cost of the beautiful, multi-colored roses has gone up to \$20. The good news is that our “cut” of the profits has also been raised, to \$8 per dozen. **Orders must be received by Alison no later than Friday, September 27.** The roses will be **delivered on Thursday, October 24.** Alison has e-mailed ordering forms to our members for their use in selling roses to friends, family and coworkers. Please spread the word and help support this fundraiser. The roses are gorgeous, and the cause is good. As a club, let's sell at least 50 dozen roses this year!

Service Leadership Programs



Yes, reports of our Service Leadership Programs are back in the newsletter! September will be a busy month, as our 3 Key Clubs, 2 Builders Clubs and 3 K-Kids Clubs begin to organize for the new school year. There will be a change in faculty advisor for the Allentown Central Catholic Key Club as long-time advisor **Joe DeAcetis** has left the school. Our new K-Kids Club at the Union Terrace Elementary School will be recruiting students and planning a chartering event. As reported above, we are in the process of starting a Key Club at Building 21. Our Builders Clubs at Raub and South Mountain Middle Schools will be participating in “Back-to-School” nights in September. That will be an excellent opportunity to promote the Builders Clubs and to recruit new members. And already there has been interest shown in our K-Kids Clubs at Ramos and Washington Elementary Schools. This should be a banner year for our SLP's!

Upcoming Service Projects

Our focus for community service in September will be our SLP's. There will be hours spent organizing these clubs and participating in meetings and events. However, **October** is facing up as a very busy month for other service projects. We still welcome volunteers to join us at the annual **Down Syndrome Buddy Walk** on **Saturday, October 6** on the grounds of Cedar Crest College in Allentown. **Greg Kessler, Eleana Belletieri, Young Chang** and **Tom Harp** have already signed up for that event. If you are interested in joining us, contact Tom. We are also planning a special Halloween-themed service project on **Friday, October 18** at the Boys and Girls Club 6th Street Clubhouse. **Alison Norton**

is forming a committee to plan for this event. And, we are also looking at doing something with our Key Clubs for **Kiwanis One Day** on **October 26**. The heart and soul of our club is in serving our community. Now that summer is nearly over, we look forward to a very active fall season!

Box Tops for Education



Enos Martin, our advisor to the Raub Middle School Builders Club, continues to collect “Box Tops for Education” to benefit the school’s education fund. At each of our club meetings prior to November 1, Enos will collect box tops that you have cut out from a variety of products. The school receives 10 cents for every box top collected. That can really add up! For a list of products that offer these coupons, visit the BTFE website, www.boxtops4education.com.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – September 1919

On September 18, five hundred Kiwanians and their guests enjoyed a Ladies’ Night at the Hotel Traylor, 15th and Hamilton Streets. Douglass Malloch, known as the “Lumberman’s Poet”, entertained the crowd with his wit and humorous descriptions of optimism and pessimism. The women, and hopefully the men also, enjoyed a fashion show with the latest creations from Paris and New York. Frank Heinz, charter member #8, and his Heinz Store sponsored the show. The Heinz Store was a women’s clothing luxury department store which was in business from 1907-1932. It closed during the Great Depression.

75 Years Ago – September 1944

At the September 20 joint meeting of the Allentown Kiwanis and Lions Clubs at the Americus Hotel, the Allentown Fair spilled into the hotel’s ballroom with the “Victory Revue of 1944”. The 150 attendees enjoyed entertainers from the Fair including the “The Montana Kid”, the “Skating Earls”, the Campbell Sisters, and the “English Juggling Jewels”. It was declared that The Allentown Fair offered the finest possible entertainment one could find.

50 Years Ago – September 1969

The Vocational Guidance Committee of our Club launched an experimental project to expose students at the Lehigh County Community College to employment opportunities. Students enrolled in the “Introduction to Business” course at the college. The Committee hoped to set up in-depth tours of a large department store, a public utility, a manufacturing firm, and a financial institution. The two-day tours were proposed for October 15-16 with 25 students participating at each location for a total participation of 100 students.

25 Years Ago – September 1994

Club meetings for the month included a tour of the Stroh Brewery and speakers Chris Martin from Martin Guitar, Kostas Klogeropoulos from Dream Come True, and sportscaster Al Meltzer from Channel 10. The Club cleaned up the American Parkway. And the board of directors approved the purchase of software to keep electronic records of the Club's activities. (Note: It looks like it didn't work as well as the manual filing system.)

- **Enos Martin**

Division 18 News

Congratulations to **Michael Haven** on his election as our District Governor for 2019/20. Governor Mike is from the Williamsport Kiwanis Club. Congratulations also to **Don Smith** of the New Holland and Palmyra Clubs on his election as District Governor-Elect. We also recognize **Robert Smith** from the Emmaus Club - Division 18 on his election to a three-year term on the board for the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation. The convention planning committee did a great job and also broke the mold to come up with new formats and ideas to make the convention meaningful and interesting. Among the changes were "All-Attendee General Sessions" led by a member of the KI staff. The picnic and tour at the home of the Little League World Series Park was great. Watching the games had a little more meaning this year.

Our own Governor Phil was at the top of his game in meetings that he conducted and in his remarks. The Governor's Banquet and Recognitions included introductions of the 2019-20 officers, Lt. Governors and Past Governors along with presentations of the Kiwanis Hero in Service Awards, Ruby K Awards and the announcement of the Kiwanians elected to serve on the Foundation Board for the next three years.

Winners of the District raffle were announced and the Stroudsburg Club got 3rd place with the tickets for 1st and 2nd winners being non-Kiwanians who supported us. The basket raffle raised over \$10,000.00 this year. The Sunday closing breakfast featured the installation of officers and motivational speaker Jeff Nischwitz.

To My Friends and Fellow Kiwanians in Division 18: I thank you for the advertisement in the 2019 District Convention program book, and the kind thoughts it expressed. Your support over the past year was very much appreciated, and I know that I could not have done the job as your Governor without it. I look forward to continued service and participation in club and division activities. -- **Governor Phil Weber**

I'm sure you have heard by now that come October 1, 2019 Division 18 will be merged with Division 17, Region 6. The clubs moving will be Allentown, Allentown NE and Emmaus with Upper Perkiomen Club moving to a new Division and into Region 5. For the time being, do the officers/members of the 3 clubs moving to Division 17 want to continue to have this newsletter promoting what you are doing to those that are close by? Please let me know and I will go by the replies as to the future of the newsletter. It will further be decided after we find out what the new Division will be doing for all of us. In the next issue or so, will hopefully be able to announce the Lt. Governor (will be a different title).

PLEASE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW KIWANIAN: We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Wes Wales, retired and formerly of the Kiwanis Club of Stroudsburg has joined the Kiwanis Club of Allentown NE. Cathy Kane is his sponsor. Wes has a long history in Kiwanis including Lt. Governor and many offices in his former club. Welcome friend.

- **Chas Chase**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – Service Leadership Programs Organizational Meetings.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING - Thursday, September 12, 6:00 PM at the Shanty on 19th (Social Hour from 5-6 PM). Speaker will be Linda Vega of the Rilyc Community and Arts Center.

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



September Birthday



28 - Mary DiFebo



- **Tom Harp, Editor**