

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

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

January 1, 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin a new decade, let us reflect upon the last year of service by our club and its members. 2019 was another memorable year in our club's 101 year history. We started the year by sharing an evening of mutual accomplishments with our three area Key Clubs. We volunteered to serve lunch to those in need on Martin Luther King Day. In March, we helped raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at the IHOP National Pancake Day event. As the year progressed, we started a new K-Kids Club at the Union Terrace Elementary School, and continued to support and grow our other six Service Leadership Programs. We supported a food drive at the Raub Middle School, planted tree seedlings along the Little Lehigh, helped children create cards and potted plants for Mother's Day, and volunteered for the Historic Bethlehem Blueberry Festival on the hottest day of the year! We hosted over 230 pre-school children at our annual LVCC Picnic in May.

We enjoyed another fun day at the ballpark watching the IronPigs win on Father's Day. We volunteered for the annual Down Syndrome Buddy Walk in October. That month, we treated children at the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown to a Fall Fest party. We also hosted our first Family Fun Night at Friendly's in Trexlertown, raising over \$100 for our Foundation. In December, our members donated 33 Holiday Hope Chests to the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. We hosted an amazing Division 17-18 Interclub event at our annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon on December 5. On December 13 we treated 180 children from three LVCC centers to another wonderful Christmas Party. And we closed the year out by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign at the Lehigh Valley Mall.

AND, as a bonus, we published a book chronicling the rich, 100 plus year history of our club. Our Pulitzer Prize winning author **Enos Martin** deserves all the credit for

researching and writing this fascinating publication. 2019 was a great year for our club! We maintained our membership of 30, welcoming new members to replace those who left. We completed a survey of our membership in order to improve our club's growth and relevance in the community. We are forming committees to help with Membership, Fundraising, and Service goals. 2020 should be a banner year for our club. I would like to thank all of you for your dedication to our mission to "build our community, one child at a time."

May you and your loved ones have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

- **President Tom**

Holiday Hope Chests



On December 3, **Tom Harp** stopped by the JS Burkholder Funeral Home to pick up 33 Holiday Hope Chests donated by our members. He transported them to the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley's warehouse on Commerce Drive in Bethlehem. Last year the Volunteer Center collected over 7,500 boxes to distribute to needy children in the Lehigh Valley. This year, their goal was 10,000 boxes! In the end, to 2019 Holiday Hope Chest campaign was able to distribute over 9,000 boxes to children in our area.

Once again, we would like to thank and recognize all of our members who participated in this service project, including **Tom and Peg Harp, Enos and Susan Martin, Ricki Stringfellow, Todd Siegfried, Terry Kennedy, Young Chang, Vic Mazziotti, Deb Lamb, Bob Ashcraft, Serena Ranney, and Deirdre Govan.**

Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon

On December 5, we welcomed 40 guests to our annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon at the Shanty on 19th. We made a few changes in the proceedings last month, which worked out well. We held the event in the main dining room at the Shanty, which provided us more room for the program and dining. We started at 11:00 AM with the formal program, followed by musical entertainment and a buffet lunch. This arrangement worked out well, with time for social interaction at lunch time. **President Tom Harp** welcomed everyone, including representatives of the Allentown Northeast, Emmaus and Easton Kiwanis Clubs. **Foundation President Todd Siegfried** presented grant checks to 12 area non-profit organizations. A total of \$9,000 in grants were awarded. A representative of each organization described how the grant funding would be used to benefit children in our community. Following this presentation, **Enos Martin** unveiled a

freshly-printed book about the history of our club. Enos had been researching and authoring the book for over a year. The 242-page paperback book is his labor of love. It is being sold for \$20 with all proceeds benefitting our Foundation. We sold a dozen copies of the book at the December 5 luncheon, and several since then. We printed 200 copies, which we hope to sell in person and on-line in the year ahead.

The highlight of the luncheon came when we presented the **2019 Distinguished Service Award** to **Peg Harp**. Peg joined our club in October, 2007. She immediately agreed to serve as Secretary of the club, a position she has held for the past 12 years. For the past 5 years, she has also served as Treasurer of our Foundation. She also maintains our club's website, and if that is not enough, last year she initiated a new service project for our club – "Bundles for Babies." Peg and a group of knitters from Atria Senior Living in Bethlehem met every week to knit blankets and hats for newborn infants involved in St. Luke's VNA Nurse-Family Partnership program. Peg and her ladies have donated dozens of hand-made items to this worthwhile cause. Peg is certainly worthy of our recognition.

Following this presentation, we were treated to a couple of holiday musical selections by a small group of members from the **Allen High School Chorale**. Their director, **Brandon Remp** introduced the students and mentioned that the chorale will be performing in Toronto this year. Following the performance, President Tom presented Brandon with a donation from our Foundation for their upcoming trip.

Our guests then enjoyed a fabulous luncheon buffet prepared by the Shanty's **Chef Mike**. It consisted of Sliced Roast Beef with Mushroom Gravy, Monte Cristo Sandwich Sliders (Ham, Turkey, Swiss, French Toast), Butternut Squash Lasagna, Candied Yams w/ Brown Sugar and Walnuts, Scalloped Potatoes, Green bean Casserole and a Dinner Salad. Everyone raved about the food. And with that, we enjoyed some socialization and guest leaving with the spirit of Christmas heavy in the air.

Annual LVCC Christmas Party

On Friday, December 13 we hosted another highly-successful and FUN Christmas Party for about 180 pre-school children at the Lehigh Valley Children's Centers (LVCC) South Mountain site. Children from three LVCC centers, Walnut Street, Early Learning Center and South Mountain participated in the event. Two days prior to the party, **Tom Harp** dropped off food for the children's lunch. Tom also stopped at the Toys for Tots warehouse on Commerce Drive in Bethlehem to pick up four huge boxes of toys for the children. On the day of the party, volunteers began arriving around 9:30 AM. There were eight volunteers from the William Allen HS Key Club, along with their faculty advisors **Mary DeFibo** and **Steve Patterson**. They divided up to help with children's activities or to help prepare and serve the food. Our club volunteers included **Ricki Stringfellow**, **Young Chang**, **Terry Kennedy**, **Deb Lamb** and **Tom Harp**. This year, LVCC tried something new for the party. They created three activity stations consisting of arts and crafts, games, and musical entertainment. Instead of all of the kids being served lunch at the same time, they were divided into three, more manageable groups. The children were rotated among the activities and lunch before meeting with **Santa**. A real treat this year was that each child had his/her photo taken with Santa by **Dan's Camera City**. Dan's set up a professional studio background, with lighting and a photographer. They also have a table set up with two laptops and a printer that printed a framed photo of Santa and the children for them to take home to their parents. It was an amazing setup that was

cherished by the kids, and surely their families. We were very grateful to **Todd Siegfried's** colleague, **Matthew Brand** for arranging for Santa's special appearance! Each child received a toy from Toys for Tots and a book from Santa and his elves. The children cut out elf and Santa hats, and enjoyed book-reading and a sing-along. A wonderful time was had by all!



Our Team of Servers



Children Enjoying Their Lunches



Elves Everywhere!



Reading Time



Allen HS Key Club



Santa Matt



Ho-Ho-Ho!

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing



Big Bob Rings the Bell!

On Saturday, December 21, **Young Chang, Tom Harp, Bob Ashcraft** and **Terry Kennedy** rang the bell inside of the JC Penney entrance of the Lehigh Valley Mall to benefit the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. The mall was jammed with last-minute Christmas shoppers who were, for the most part, in a good mood. It was a very productive day, based on this report by Major Juan Mercado of the Salvation Army Allentown Corps:

“On behalf of The Salvation Army in Allentown, we want to express our most profound gratitude to you and your fellow Kiwanis for the ongoing support to us in serving those in need. Last Saturday your group was able to raised **\$538.89** that help us reach our goal for this season. So far we had a grand total of **\$66,330.89 of our goal of \$65K**. Please extend our gratitude to all who collaborated. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Blessings!”

It was our pleasure to spend a day during the Christmas shopping season supporting such a fine organization.

Service Leadership Programs



The **Raub Middle School Builders Club** created 12 Christmas wreaths and cards to donate to residents of the Phoebe Home in Allentown. Terry Kennedy is pleased to report that the **South Mountain Builders Club** now has a faculty advisor, **Stacie Boose**, a Special Education Instructor. They plan to meet every two weeks beginning on January 14 after school, with a limit of 20 students.

The **Ramos Elementary School K-Kids Club** continues to meet first thing every Monday morning. They just elected a club President, and are finishing up a canned food drive. Nothing new to report on the **Washington K-Kids Club**. They have been meeting every two weeks in the morning before school. The **Union Terrace K-Kids Club** has 18 members representing 14 4th and 5th grade classrooms. They will be meeting before school on January 8 and 22. **Deb Lamb** and **Enos Martin** plan to attend their first meeting of the New Year.

We have invited representatives from our three sponsored Key Clubs to our annual Key Club Dinner on January 9, 2020.

Martin Luther King Day Luncheon

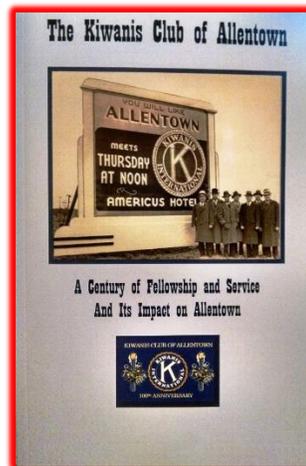


Our club has volunteered to serve lunch to needy families on January 20, Martin Luther King Day, at the St. James UCC church on the corner of 15th and Walnut Streets, Allentown. There is a service in the chapel at 1:00 PM, followed by the serving of lunch at 1:30 PM. We volunteered for this event last year, and it was fun and highly rewarding. If you are interested in joining us, contact **Todd Siegfried**.

Allentown Kiwanis History Book

We are beginning to sell our new book, "The Kiwanis Club of Allentown – A Century of Fellowship and Service and Its Impact on Allentown", authored by **Enos Martin**. If you buy the book directly from us at an upcoming meeting or event, the cost is \$20. We will be offering the book for purchase online, at our website, www.allentownkiwanis.org for \$25, which includes shipping and handling costs (using PayPal.) Proceeds from the book's sale will benefit our Foundation. We will have books available at our monthly

meetings for direct purchase. Once again, we would like to thank **Sam Saxton** for being our primary sponsor of the book's printing costs.



A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – January 1920

In the New Year's Day edition of the Allentown Morning Call, the Kiwanis Club had the following printed:

GREETINGS OF KIWANIS A PLEDGE FOR ALL CIVIC ADVANCEMENT

By Lawrence H. Rupp, President of the Kiwanis Club

I extend to the people of our city the greetings of the Kiwanis Club. We are interested in every project of civic advancement and improvement. We are interested in the welfare of our people. We wish for all in our community twelve months of increased prosperity and happiness.

75 Years Ago – January 1945

At the January 3 installation meeting, new Kiwanis president I. Edwyn George endorsed the construction of a new outdoor stadium in Allentown adequate for a multitude of events. This probably provided the impetus which would lead to the construction of a new Allentown High School Stadium, which was completed in 1948 and later became known as J Birney Crum Stadium. J Birney Crum, legendary football and basketball coach at Allentown High School, died on Christmas Day 1981 and the stadium was renamed in his honor in March 1982.

50 Years Ago – January 1970

On January 21, Henry Aulenbach, club president, announced the awarding of \$10,000 of grants by its foundation. The largest grant was given to Confront, a therapy organization for people who want to kick drugs. This was 10% of the groups operating budget for the year. This grant supported Kiwanis International's Operation Drug Alert program

25 Years Ago – January 1995

At the January 5th meeting, Allentown Mayor William Heydt provided a "State of the City" address. The meeting was covered by RCN TV-2, The Morning Call, and WAEB radio.

The following week, January 12th, Jane Ervin, Lehigh County Executive, provided her "State of the County" address. The Foundation also provided a \$3,000 grant to Geisinger Hospital, Danville, to allow the hospital to achieve its goal of raising \$1 million to build its Children's Heart wing. The pledge put the drive over the top.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – Serving Lunch at the Martin Luther King Day Community Luncheon, St. James UCC Church, Allentown, 1:30 PM (Service from 1-1:30 PM)

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING - Thursday, January 9, 6 PM (Social Hour 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Annual Key Club Dinner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, January 29, 5 PM at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home.



January Birthdays



3 – Alison Norton

30 – Sam Saxton



-Tom Harp, Editor