



**“Building our community, one child at a time”**

---

## **The Downtowner**

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

**May 1, 2020**

---

### **Life Goes On...**

Our Kiwanis world, like life in general, has been placed on “hold.” We are doing our best to “shelter in place” at home, use masks in public, and maintain social distancing. This is the “new normal” until our nation, and the world, can beat this pandemic. This edition of the newsletter is thin on content. There is little to report. As far as we know, members of our Allenton Kiwanis “family” are doing well. Some have acquaintances and even extended family members who have been struck by the virus. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone afflicted by this horrible disease. And we greatly appreciate those serving on the “front lines” of this war – doctors, nurses and other medical personnel. First responders including EMT’s, firefighters and police. All those working in “essential businesses” including truckers, grocery store and pharmacy workers, those working in warehouses and gas stations. And we need to support restaurants that offer takeout food. They are struggling financially, and may go out of business without our help. Once we are in better control of the spread of the virus, we hope to see businesses open up, and return to a more normal life. We look forward to meeting again in person over a delicious meal. And to participate in a service project with groups of children, or a beautification project in our community. Keep the faith, fellow Kiwanians!

- ***President Tom***

### **April Service Projects**

“Social Distancing” in April greatly restricted our ability to provide service to our community. However, on April 2, we treated the staff of the Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers Union Boulevard site to a delicious lasagna and salad lunch to show our appreciation for their work. This site was one of only three still operated by LVCC during

the state-wide shutdown of businesses, and was restricted to the care of children whose parents worked in “essential” occupations. That included children of first responders, nurses, medical staff, grocery clerks, etc. The small staff enjoyed this gesture of gratitude from our club.



**Susan Martin** has sewn over 100 cloth face masks to aid with the COVID-19 virus. Some of the masks were sent to family members in other states, but the majority of them were donated to Mask Force 2020 and distributed to Lehigh Valley hospitals and nursing homes. Thank you Susan!



**Peg Harp** continues to knit blankets for the “Bundles for Babies” project. Her knitting friends at Atria Assisted Living in Bethlehem have been quarantined in their rooms for the past month, and have not been able to meet as a group. However, several continue to knit baby items in their rooms. These items are donated to the St.Luke’s VNA Nurse-Family Partnership for first-time moms.



## 2010 Club Election!

On April 27 we officially held our club election for officers and Board of Directors for the 2020-21 term of office, via e-mail vote. By unanimous consent the following members were elected:

- President – Todd Siegfried
- Vice-President – Tom Harp
- Treasurer – Enos Martin
- Secretary – Peg Harp
- Elected Board Members, 1-Year Term – Bob Ashcraft, Young Chang
- Elected Board Members, 2-Year Term – Alison Norton, Serena Ranney
- Elected Board Members, 3-Year Term – Terry Kennedy, Deb Lamb

We thank these individuals for agreeing to serve in leadership positions and on our Board of Directors. We look forward to another successful year as a club with the guidance and hard work of these members.

## LVCC Picnic Cancelled

It is with great regret that we must cancel this year's LVCC Picnic, scheduled for May 14, due to concerns about recovery from the coronavirus. Our club leadership agreed with LVCC staff that to be safe, we should cancel the event. **Keith** and **Jessica Reynolds**, the primary sponsors of the picnic concurred. This is our "signature service project" of the year. This is a disappointment for everyone involved. However, we all look forward to the best picnic EVER in 2021!

Our annual Mother's Day flower pot project, spearheaded by **Bob** and **Cindy Ashcraft** has also been cancelled for this year. Another victim of the virus.

## KI Convention Cancelled

On April 22, Kiwanis International issued the following statement:

"The 2020 Kiwanis International Convention is canceled. Today, the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees declared a condition of emergency exists because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The board concluded that conducting a convention for the 2019-20 administrative year would be inadvisable and impracticable because of the health threat to Kiwanis members, their families and all individuals traveling to and from the convention. 'It is with profound sadness we make this decision today,' said Daniel Vigneron, 2019-20 Kiwanis International president. 'All of us looked forward to gathering in Indianapolis to conduct the business of the organization, partake in great Kiwanis education and, of course, enjoy the fun and fellowship of our Kiwanis friends.' "

This is the fourth time in KI history that an annual convention was cancelled. The other times were during WW2, in 1943, 1944, and 1945.

The Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Convention is scheduled for August 13-16 in Reading. Even that event may be in jeopardy.

## Allentown Kiwanis History Book

The COVID-19 quarantine has limited our opportunities to promote and sell our club history book “The Kiwanis Club of Allentown – A Century of Fellowship and Service and Its Impact on Allentown”, authored by **Enos Martin**. People have time on their hands and are looking for ways to entertain themselves at home. Why not enjoy a good read? Please encourage friends and family to order one of our books. Send them an invitation to visit our club website where they can order a book. Cost is \$25 which includes shipping anywhere in the U.S. Let’s continue to support this fundraiser for our Foundation!

## Upcoming Meetings and Activities

**MONTHLY MEETING** – Thursday, May 14, 12 Noon, Zoom Meeting. Speaker will be **Vicki Kistler, Director, Allentown Health Bureau.**

**SERVICE PROJECTS** – Food Drive for Raub Middle School & Video Story-Telling for LVCC Children

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** – Wednesday, May 27, 5 PM. Zoom Video Conference.



*May Birthday*



**8 - Christian Averill**



*-Tom Harp, Editor*