



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

November 1, 2020

October 8 Meeting

C-SPAN



Doug Hemmig

At our October 8 Zoom meeting at 12 noon, we welcomed **Doug Hemmig**, Community Relations and Marketing for C-SPAN as our guest speaker. Doug began his presentation by mentioning that in his many travels across the country, the best hamburger he ever had was at the Copperhead Grille in Center Valley! C-SPAN prides itself in being a public access network with “unfiltered” content about government at all levels. Even though it is non-commercial, C-SPAN receives no government money. It is funded by cable companies from around the country. It was launched in 1979 as a non-profit corporation that is non-ratings driven. Unlike other news channels, they provide no commentary. They strive to provide viewers with direct access to leaders, and viewer participation. They cover Congressional committee meetings and hearings. Also, briefings by members of

those committees. They cover meetings at the White House. And audio only of Supreme Court arguments. They also cover state officials. Doug mentioned that Governor Wolfe of Pennsylvania has been on C-SPAN 38 times. They covered the SpaceX launch, the George Floyd protests, and 2020 election campaign events. They offer viewer call-in programs with authors, experts on public policy issues, and other news-makers. They strive to be factual, neutral and trusted. They produce three channels, C-SPAN 1, 2, and 3. They have an on-line presence on c-span.org. Every year C-SPAN offers 260,000 hours of programming. Our own Congresswoman Susan Wild has appeared on C-SPAN 77 times. Doug reported that C-SPAN has over 260 employees, mainly in the Washington, DC area. For schools, C-SPAN provides hundreds of hours of classroom programming including civics lessons, student cam projects, and electoral college maps. Doug has been with C-SPAN for 21 years, and is obviously enthusiastic about its mission, and its importance to our democracy. If you are not already a loyal C-SPAN viewer, check it out!



Following the C-SPAN presentation, Division 17-18 Lt. Governor **Enos Martin** officially installed our club's officers and Board of Directors for 2020-21. They included:

- **President - Todd Siegfried**
- **Vice-President - Tom Harp**
- **Treasurer - Enos Martin**
- **Secretary - Peg Harp**
- **Board Members - Bob Ashcraft, Terry Kennedy, Debra Lamb, Vic Mazziotti, Alison Norton**

We would like to thank all of these members for their service to our club.

Boxtops for Education



Back on October 2, **Enos Martin** sent this e-mail to our members encouraging their participation in the "Boxtops for Education" program:

"As many of you may know, the Box Tops for Education program has changed within the past year. In the past, certain products had a Box Tops coupon printed on the box which

had to be cut out and delivered to the school for their submittal for redemption. Each box top is worth 10 cents. We had initially decided to partner with Raub and the Builders Club to collect these coupons for submittal to raise money for field trips, etc, for the students at Raub. When the coupon clipping was eliminated, it eliminated this Builders Club project.

These coupons are no longer printed on the box to be cut out. The program has gone virtual with submittal of the coupons on line. There is a fairly easy process available to everyone to allow them to participate. If you go to the Box Tops for Education website, you can download an application onto your phone. You also need to designate a school for the donations. If you opt to participate in the program, please consider selecting Raub Middle School as the designated school.

Rather than clip coupons, you now scan the purchase receipt from the supermarket using your phone by taking pictures of your store receipt. Somehow it reviews your purchases and applies the credit for those items that have the coupon. It is very easy and fairly simple. I've been doing this for some time.

Please consider doing this to help out our students at Raub. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks for your consideration! Hope you decide to participate!"

Judith Chase Memorial Bench

There have been numerous delays in the installation of the Judith Chase Memorial Bench at LVCC's South Mountain Center. However, we now believe that it will be ready for installation by mid-November. We are planning a dedication ceremony on a Saturday morning after it is in place. Details to follow!

Holiday Hope Chests



Our major Service Project for November is to support the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley's "Holiday Hope Chest" program by donating shoe boxes filled with small gifts for needy children in our area. So far, 11 members of our club have agreed to donate a total of 21 boxes during the month of November. There is still time to volunteer for this project. Just call or e-mail **Tom Harp** with the number of boxes you would like to donate, and the age and gender group. Tom will provide you with additional details, including shopping list suggestions. This is a project you can do in the comfort and safety of your home. When you finish wrapping the boxes, just drop them off at Tom's house by December 1. He will drop off the boxes at the "Holiday Hope Chest" collection site that week. Bring some joy to the children of our community this holiday season by donating these gifts!

Foundation Announces Grant Awards!

Just this past week, a Service Committee comprised of **Bob Ashcraft, Todd Seigfried, Terry Kennedy** and **Tom Harp** reviewed 13 applications for grants from our Foundation. Each year the Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown offers grants to non-profit organizations serving children in our area. As in recent years, our Foundation Board of Trustees approved a total of \$9,000 in grant funding. This year, that amount was supplemented by a generous donation from Bob Ashcraft. **Thank you, Bob!**

The Foundation Service Committee recommended funding for 12 applicants. The Foundation Board of Trustees approved the following grants:

- Boys and Girls Club of Allentown – “Make Your M.A.R.K.” Program
- Community Music School – Music Instruction Scholarships
- Greater Valley YMCA, Allentown – Allentown Area Meals Program
- HADC YouthBuild – Funding for iPad Laptops
- Lehigh Christian Academy – TouchMath Rtl Learning Assistance Program
- Lehigh County Historical Society – Funding for Student Field Trips, Museum Admissions and History Books
- Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers – STEM “Mad Science” Program
- Minsi Trails Boy Scouts Council – Funding for Virtual Scouting Programs
- Pratyush Sinha Foundation – Yoga and Mindfulness Classes for Allentown Youth
- Salvation Army, Allentown Corps – Backpacks with School Supplies
- SATORI – “Gift of Music” Instrument Donation Program
- St. Luke’s VNA – Books for Parents on Preventing Child Abuse

In the past, we have presented grant checks to successful applicants at a Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon at the Shanty on 19th. This year, due to the size of such an event and ongoing pandemic concerns, we will instead be mailing checks directly to these organizations, and hosting a Zoom meeting on **Friday, December 4 at 12 noon**. During the meeting, we will recognize these organizations, and a representative of each one will provide details on how the grant money will be used. So please plan to join us in celebration of our Foundation’s support of these worthwhile programs.

November 12 Club Meeting



Mayor O'Connell

It has been over 7 months since our club has held a monthly meeting in person. On November 12, we will be hosting a meeting at the Shanty on 19th with **Allentown Mayor Ray O'Connell** as our guest speaker. This will be a dinner meeting, beginning at 6:00 PM. We have invited members of the Kiwanis Clubs of Allentown Northeast and Emmaus

to join us. So far, we are expecting about 12 attendees. We will have use of the large private room at the restaurant, which will allow us to spread out in order to maintain proper social distancing. Face coverings are required. With the recent spike in COVID-19 infections, these plans may have to change. However, for now we feel safe in the arrangements that have been made to protect attendees. We are also trying to set up a Zoom broadcast for members who are uncomfortable attending in person. We are looking forward to an opportunity to hear from the Mayor about the city's budget, challenges, and hopes for the future. So, please join us for this important meeting!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – November 1920

On November 8, the Club held a Ladies Night with over 250 members and guests at the Hotel Allen. Between a dinner and dancing, the attendees were addressed by Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf. Dr. Krauskopf spoke on the "Woman's Power for Good and Evil." Born in Prussia in 1858, Krauskopf's parents arranged for him to come to the United States and live with a cousin in Massachusetts. Later he attended Hebrew Union College in Ohio to train to be a Rabbi. In 1897, he founded the National Farm School in Doylestown which later would become Delaware Valley College. He was nationally renowned as a powerful speaker and educator.

75 Years Ago – November 1945

On November 13, the Club sponsored a piano recital by a brilliant young pianist Margaret Baxstresser at the Lyric Theater. Ms. Baxstresser was a native of Detroit, but moved to Allentown at the age of 21 in 1943. All the proceeds (\$1,240) from the concert were donated to the Crippled Children's Society. At the age of 13, she was a soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. At the age of 20, she won the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg Foundation international piano competition. During her career, she performed with many major symphony orchestras around the world.

50 Years Ago – November 1970

During the month, club members participated in an astounding eight interclub meetings as follows: Whitehall Kiwanis – 10 attendees on the 3rd; Allentown Salisbury – 6 attendees on the 11th; also on the 11th, 8 attendees at Allentown Northeast; West Allentown – 5 attendees on the 16th; Whitehall a second time on the 17th – 5 attendees; Allentown Northeast a second time on the 18th – 4 attendees; Glenside to honor the International President – 5 attendees on the 20th; and finally a 3rd interclub at Whitehall on the 24th with 6 attendees.

25 Years Ago – November 1995

On November 4, seven Kiwanians and 36 Key Clubbers sorted 8 truckloads of clothing over a three-hour period at LARC (now known as VIA). They worked up an incredible hunger as the crew then devoured 126 pieces of pizza! The Club also announced that the Foundation distributed \$26,329 to over 25 various charities and community programs and included scholarships to the outstanding senior in Allen and Central Catholic Key Clubs.

- ***Enos Martin***

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – Installation of Judith Chase Memorial Bench at LVCC South Mountain Center. Date TBA. Dedication ceremony to follow.

SERVICE PROJECT – “Holiday Hope Chests” for the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, November 12, 6:00 PM at the Shanty on 19th. Guest speaker will be Allentown Mayor Ray O’Connell.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, October 28, 5 PM. Zoom Video Conference.



November Birthdays



- 9 - Cindy Ashcraft
- 13 - Ricki Stringfellow
- 16 - Deb Lamb
- 19 - Tom Harp
- 21 - Terry Kennedy
- 28 - Belinda Gray

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

- *Tom Harp, Editor*