



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

February 1, 2021

January 14 Meeting



Our club's first meeting of the New Year took place on January 14 and was well-attended by 15 members of the club. **President Todd Siegfried** was recovering from a bout of COVID-19, so **VP Tom Harp** ran the meeting and greeted everyone. Our first order of business was to induct two new members, **Kathryn Best** of the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown and **John Moser** of the Lehigh Christian Academy. Kathryn was introduced by her sponsor, **Alison Norton** and John was introduced by his sponsor, Tom Harp. Both provided us with their backgrounds and interest in joining Kiwanis. We welcome Kathryn and John and believe that they will be valuable members of our club.

Following the induction ceremony, Tom provided updates on club activities, including the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) grant. We are interested in suggestions for speakers, programs and service projects in 2021. We realize that with the pandemic we will be restricted from personal gatherings for awhile. Our annual LVCC picnic, traditionally held in mid-May will likely be postponed until Fall at the earliest. We have reached out to our

four Key Clubs to see how they are doing, and to let them know that we are there to support them. Tom then introduced our speaker, **Vic Mazziotti**. Vic is a financial advisor with his company, GIR LLC of Allentown. He is manager of our Foundation account. He helped develop our Foundation's Investment Policy in 2015 that establishes the composition and balance of our portfolio. It is important to diversify an investment strategy, with the goal of matching, not beating the stock market. By diversifying, and being patient "through thick and thin" investors will enjoy substantial returns over time. Vic reported how much he enjoys working with young people to teach them investment strategies. Through the Community Action Committee Next Gen program, he worked with several students at Easton HS. He was proud that 100% of those mainly minority students went on to college.

Emmaus Interclub

On January 20, members **Diane Lariar** (from her RV in Florida), **Enos Martin** and **Tom Harp** joined an interclub hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Emmaus. **Ricki Stringfellow**, President of the Emmaus Club greeted everyone and introduced the speaker, Pa. District **Governor Don Smith**. Don's motto is that as Kiwanians, "together we can" do great things for children around the world. He mentioned that as of December 31, 2020 Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) is no longer a Kiwanis International Health Project. ELIMINATE has served its purpose in raising millions of dollars to combat MNT in underdeveloped countries. The IDD (Iodized Deficiency Disorder) initiative has been renewed to help rebuild salt plants around the world. Many of us remember this health project from the 1990's. Salt manufacturing plants built at the time have corroded and need to be replaced. Governor Don urged all clubs to support the Kiwanis Children's Fund to the maximum extent possible. KI is asking all clubs to donate \$365 per year to the fund. Don encouraged us to participate in "Boost" training to recruit new members. He has a goal of building 7 new clubs in Pennsylvania this administrative year. So far, there have been 4 new clubs chartered, despite the pandemic. He would also like to recognize 30% of all Kiwanis members in the state to be "Distinguished Members." There is a list of criteria required to earn this honor. Top of the list is to recruit at least one new member into the club. Don mentioned a variety of service projects clubs have been able to perform during the pandemic. Many are "virtual" like reading books to children via Zoom. He encouraged us to buy books for children as well. And in the spring, he suggested that we volunteer to help setup community gardens, teaching inner-city residents how to grow and maintain a vegetable garden. In just the past three months, KI has built 71 new clubs around the world. Even during a worldwide pandemic, there seems to be a bright future for Kiwanis!



We continue to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown in distributing up to 110 books to children at their clubhouses under a Reading is Fundamental (RIF) grant. A small committee from our club is collaborating with **Kathryn Jackson** of the B&GCA to

identify children who would benefit from the program. The children will be able to select their own books to read, and will be asked to provide a brief report on what they enjoyed about each book. We hope to schedule a Zoom event where participants will volunteer to read a favorite passage from their books. More to follow!

Key Club Updates

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected our ability to support local Service Leadership Programs (SLP's). K-Kids Clubs at Washington, Ramos, and Union Terrace Elementary Schools; and Builder's Clubs at Raub and South Mountain Middle Schools have been suspended for this academic year. We look forward to re-activating them in the fall. However, our local Key Clubs have been meeting and are quite active, despite pandemic restrictions. **Mary DiFebo**, faculty advisor for the William Allen HS Key Club reports that the club has been meeting twice a month on Zoom. She is pleased that there are several younger students who have joined the club. One recent service project was to participate in a virtual "story time" with students from the Union Terrace Elementary School. **Barry Frick**, the new faculty advisor for the Salisbury HS Key Club reports that they have been very active as well. The club has been meeting weekly on Zoom, and beginning this week will be meeting in person (and Zoom) every Monday at 1:30 PM. Their members did a terrific job donating gifts last November during the Holiday Hope Chest event. They are now planning a spring fundraiser and service project. At Southern Lehigh HS, Key Club advisor **Tom Beaupre** reported to our liaison, **Enos Martin**:

"Yes the club has been active. We have been doing all of our meetings through Zoom but the students have had several opportunities to volunteer in different ways. We did a social media campaign with an organization called Luv Michael to raise awareness and funds for autistic adults. We also took part in a food drive for the local food bank and the students made holiday cards to give to healthcare workers and patients at the local hospitals. We're trying to come up with opportunities that keep the students safe but still allow them to volunteer their time and energy in some way."

We plan to follow up with the Allentown Central Catholic Key Club as well. We are very proud of our Key Clubs efforts to continue to serve their communities regardless of hardships posed by the pandemic.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – February 1921

Meeting topics a hundred years ago during the month of February included:

- An address by member Bruce Traylor on the construction, operation, and care of gas engines,
- A talk on the making of flour by Kiwanian Harry Lerch. One lucky member at each table received a sack of Mauser's Flour at the end of the presentation,
- Member Harvey Ritter gave a talk on the manufacture of paper boxes,
- Members Percy Ruhe and Peter Leisenring, from the Morning Call, spoke about "The Newspaper and the Community."

75 Years Ago – February 1946

The February monthly activity report to the PA District and Kiwanis International noted the forming of the Allentown High School Key Club with 21 members. In addition, the club supported the YMCA and YWCA children, a Boy Scouts Troop, a Girls Scouts Troop, a Sea Scouts Troop, and an Air Scouts Troop.

50 Years Ago – February 1971

The Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown awarded grants to place 50 litter baskets throughout the downtown, \$900 to help fund the salary of the first executive director of Negro Cultural Center, \$1,200 to the Boys Club, and \$3,000 to help start up a Big Brothers organization in Allentown.

The Kiwanis Club basketball team lost to the Allen High School Key Club 52-46 at Allen High School's Little Palestra.

25 Years Ago – February 1996

In a very busy month, the Club had some prominent speakers including the new president of Penn State University, Graham Spanier and Lehigh County Executive Jane Baker. The Club sponsored the Phillies Caravan at the Days Inn on Route 309 which raised \$1,765 for the Youth and Community Services Fund, and held its annual club auction fund raiser which raised another \$2,089. Seven members attended an interclub meeting at Easton to honor their member Cy Fleck who celebrated his 75th year as a Kiwanian at the age of 97!

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, February 11. Speaker TBA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, February 24, 5 PM. Zoom Video Conference.



February Birthdays



7 – Todd Siegfried

28 – Keith Reynolds

