



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

April 1, 2021



March 18 Meeting

OUR MISSION
Lehigh Valley Public Media acts as the catalyst to promote civic engagement and to fulfill the regional needs of the Greater Lehigh Valley through its dynamic communication platforms and resources.

OUR VISION
A community that is inspired, engaged and vibrant.

IMPACT

42	10,000+	100+
Nonprofit Organizations	Members	Volunteers
2,500+	185,000	1,500+
Part-time Members	Viewers	Partners
12	5,200	3.2 Million
Local Jurisdictions	Unique Downloads	Unique Page Views
	Unique Downloads	Unique Page Views

Channel 39 logo and social media icons (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube)

Community Outreach

PBS39's Education Explorer delivers Smart Sacks to engage families in playful learning. We partner with local school districts, community centers and various childcare centers to bring Smart Sacks, filled with books and educational activities in science, technology, engineering, art and math to children in the Lehigh Valley.

OVER 4,000 PBS39 SMART SACKS DELIVERED IN 2020!

Summer programming will be a hybrid model this year.

Channel 39 logo and social media icons (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube)

On March 18 we welcomed 13 members of the club and guest speaker **Julie Brinker** to our monthly Zoom meeting. Julie is the Director of Major Giving for Lehigh Valley Public Media. She grew up in Bethlehem, attending Freedom HS and graduating from Lehigh University. She left the area for work, but has returned and is thrilled to be working with the local PBS-39 station and NPR that make up Lehigh Valley Public Media. They enjoy partnerships with 42 local nonprofit organizations. PBS-39 has over 10,000 members and memberships cost as little as \$60 a year. They also have over 100 volunteers. Channel 39 has viewers in three states. There are 7 PBS stations in Pennsylvania. In response to COVID-19, the station has offered enhanced distance learning opportunities for the local community. PBS-39 provides coronavirus updates three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4 PM. The NPR station, 91.3 WLVR offers a mix of local,

regional and national news. PBS-39 has partnered with the United Way to provide a “Lehigh Valley Reads” program for children in our area. Pre-K families are the target group. So far, 5,000 books have been provided to 125 children under this program. PBS-39 recently earned 5 NETA National Public Media Awards. Some of their more popular programs are Counter Culture, Articulate with Jim Cotter, You Bet Your Garden, More Than Money, Es Tiempo Lehigh Valley and the long-running Scholastic Scrimmage. They also offer 10 educational programs to local schools. The station receives some public funding, but is largely membership-driven. Julie encouraged us to become a member by visiting their website, www.wlvt.org.

Ricki Stringfellow reported on the Emmaus Kiwanis Club’s annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year the club will be hosting a drive-through event at the Emmaus Community Park on April 3 from 1-3 PM. They have prepared 200 bags of goodies that will be handed out to children as they pass by in their family car. Children up to the age of 10 years are eligible. The club is also hosting a Basket Raffle fundraiser at the Emmaus Community Park on May 1 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Details can be found on their website, www.emmauskiwanis.org.

Daniel Tiger Service Project



On March 9, **Terry Kennedy** and **Tom Harp** delivered goody bags to 15 children from 6 families as part of the PBS Daniel Tiger children’s programming initiative. **Alison Norton** boxed up the bags for us to deliver. They included books relating to the Daniel Tiger character and other fun items. Most of the families that participated in the local PBS-39 initiative were able to pick up bags for their kids at local libraries. But others requested that they be delivered to their homes. We were happy to help out! Just a small gesture to support our belief that “Kids Need Kiwanis.”

RIF Grant



The Boys and Girls Club of Allentown has scheduled a RIF Reading Event for **Wednesday, April 7 at 3:30 PM**. We will be able to participate virtually. A Zoom invitation will be sent out to our members that week. Please plan to join us as the children report on the books provided to them by our club through a grant from RIF.

Artists at Heart Kits



Our Board of Directors approved the purchase of 15 art kits from Artists at Heart, to be donated to students enrolled in the Day Learning Center at the Salvation Army in Allentown. The kits will contain self-drying clay, paints and other items to make a butterfly pendant. Artists at Heart will also provide a tour of their studio and demonstration of pottery-making techniques via Zoom. This will be a welcomed enhancement of the children's educational day. They will create a piece of keepsake jewelry while learning about the pottery craft. We are happy to support such a fun and enlightening experience for these children.

Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs

Please plan to join us for the 10th Annual "Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs" game to be held on **Sunday, June 13** at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. This will be a 1:35 PM game as the 'Pigs take on the Rochester Red Wings, an affiliate of the Washington Nationals. The cost of \$50 per ticket includes the comfort and amenities of a dugout suite, a 2-hour all-you-can-eat buffet, access to private bathrooms and a bar, and access to the club lounge. A flyer was sent out to our members on March 16. As of this date, 12 tickets have been sold. Only 18 remain! So order your tickets now.

Return of Monthly Meetings in Person!

Our club's Board of Directors has approved the resumption of meetings in person beginning in July. By that time, most of us will be vaccinated, and anxious to enjoy an evening out with our fellow Kiwanians. We plan to return to the **Shanty on 19th** for a dinner meeting beginning at **6:00 PM on Thursday, July 8**. For those of you so inclined, please join us for a Social Hour from 5-6 PM. We will meet in the private room as before, although there are now some video games and a pool table back there. We will have privacy though, since there is a curtain that will be drawn during the meeting. The owner of the Shanty, **Joe Taschiere** will be working on a menu and will offer us a fixed price for dinner. The Shanty is no longer open for lunch, so we plan to meet regularly on the second Thursday of every month for dinner. We hope that you can join us for our first meeting of 2021 in person! HOORAY!!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – April 1921

The Morning Call regularly covered the Kiwanis weekly meetings in great detail usually with lengthy articles that would spill over into a second page in the newspaper. The following are headlines from the paper for the meetings a 100 years ago:

April 8 – “Mental Gymnastics for Kiwanis Members”: Members were asked to introduce other members through random number assignment. Often, members were not too familiar with those they had to introduce and it produced some hilarious moments.

April 15 – “Realtor Addresses Kiwanis Luncheon”: An address which indicated that a homeowner is an asset to the community.

April 22 – “City Engineer Gives Talk on Sewerage System”: The Allentown City engineer provided a complete history of the development of Allentown’s sewer system.

April 29 – “Dangerous Forces at Work in Nation”: Dr. John A. W. Hass, president of Muhlenberg College, provided an address on the dangerous forces at work in our nation that threatened our democracy.

75 Years Ago – April 1946

The official monthly membership report indicated that the club had 167 members at the end of April. Attendance at the four weekly meetings ranged from 98 at the April 11 meeting to 133 at the April 25th meeting with an average weekly attendance of 108 members.

50 Years Ago – April 1971

The Club awarded flight scholarships to two Civil Air Patrol cadets: Edward Peters of Allen High School and Mark Hahn of Emmaus High School. These scholarships enabled these two cadets to receive flight training. Although no information is available on the success of their training, Peters graduated from Lehigh University and Hahn earned a Masters Degree from the University of Illinois. He later competed in the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics as a member of the US “B” luge team.

25 Years Ago – April 1996

Approximately 200 first grade students at Central Elementary received tooth brushes donated by the Club at the annual Brush-In event at the school. Jim Chambers and Bill Sharkin represented the club to give the tooth fairy a hand.

Everett Welch, a 33-year club member and former Foundation President (1965) and secretary (1963 and 1964) died at the age of 96 on April 26th. He was a retired PPL employee for 42 years.

Club Anniversaries: Both Dierdre Govan and Bob Krupka celebrate their 4th anniversary with our Club this month.

Long-time and little-known member of the club: A member for over 53 years (9th longest), **Walter J. Flach** passed away on October 23, 1972. He joined the Club in February 1919. Despite his many years in the club, he only served as a director on the board for three years (1925, 1926, and 1927). Born in Cincinnati, Flach graduated from Cornell University and was employed by the United States Shipping Emergency Corporation in Philadelphia after graduation. Upon his marriage to Florence Yeager, daughter of William R. Yeager, he joined the management of the Yeager Furniture Store, located on the 400 block of Lehigh Street. William Yeager, store founder, had passed away earlier in 1917. Flach was the manager of the Yeager Furniture Store when he retired in 1957. The store closed in 1958.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – Wednesday, April 7, 3:30 PM. RIF Reading Event on Zoom at Boys and Girls Club.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, April 8, 12 Noon on Zoom. Mike Ventola, LV IronPigs.

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



April Birthdays



NONE!



- Tom Harp, Editor