



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

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## **The Downtowner**

*Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown*

**September 1, 2021**

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### **August 12 Meeting**



A small group of members attended our August 12 meeting, but they were treated to a delicious meal and an interesting presentation by **Diane Donaher**, Managing Director of the Civic Theatre of Allentown. Diane is originally from Boston, but moved to the Lehigh Valley in 1986. For 16 years, she worked for Skills USA, then for DCED in Bethlehem and following that for the Lehigh Valley Business Education Partnership. After that, she was Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development in Northampton County. That is where this editor first met her. She then was the Director of IronPigs Charities, where she facilitated thousands of dollars in grants, mainly to sports-related organizations. She was also responsible for the annual Phillies Winter Caravan fundraiser. She began serving as Managing Director for the Civic Theatre in June, 2020, right in the midst of the pandemic! For the past year she reorganized that position, and helped prepare for the theatre's re-opening. The Civic Theatre is a historic landmark in our city. It opened in 1927. It was incorporated as a non-profit in 1938 as the "Civic Little Theatre." Unlike the State Theater in Easton, The Civic Theatre does not bring in outside acts. They have a full-time staff that includes a managing director, development director, marketing director, box office manager, artistic director, associate artistic director and a technical director. Actors, stage crews, costumers, and musicians are all volunteers. There are three facilities under the umbrella of the Civic Theatre – the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre, the Black Box Theatre across the street, and the Children's Education Program. Each year, 45,000 people attend their shows and movies. They finally re-opened for movies

during the July 8, 2021 weekend. There are 480 seats in the movie theater. A few years ago they began a \$5.5 million theatre restoration program. The inside of the theatre is amazing! And they were able to preserve the vintage Allen Organ as well. The Children's Theatre School there was described as being "expensive." We as a club are interested in collaborating with them in offering scholarships for disadvantaged children to be able to attend the school. There are also many volunteer opportunities available on their website. It would be fun to volunteer as an usher, ticket-taker or other function there. Diane mentioned that their small theatre is available for special events. Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley had their "Light the Night" reception there. Diane also mentioned that they are applying for National Historic Landmark status. The Civic Theatre is truly a gem in our community. Some now-famous actors who performed there include **Christine Taylor**, **Amanda Seyfried**, **Dane DeHaan** and **Oaks Fegley**. Diane concluded her presentation by drawing a name to award two free theatre passes. They were won by **Tom Harp** (lucky me

## Pa. District Convention



The Two Amigos

**Enos Martin** and **Tom Harp** attended the annual Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Convention, August 19-22 at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg. They attended several general sessions and breakout forums. One general session featured a presentation by the Lehigh Valley Cops 'n Kids President **Beverly Bradley**. Some of you may recall her presentation to our club in February, 2018. Beverly was joined by a representative of the Emmaus High School Key Club, which has distributed over 47,000 books to inner-city Allentown children. She also applauded the Barnes and Noble store in our area that had a campaign that resulted in over 7,000 books being purchased and donated to Cops 'n Kids. She mentioned that her first book drive in Bethlehem resulted in 30,000 donated books! Books have a tremendous impact on children. "Each of us has a responsibility, and the children are waiting" she said. Pa. District Executive Director **Kevin Thomas** reported that Kiwanis Clubs in the state lost 169 members in the administrative year ending on 9/30/20. There were a total of 3,042 members at the end of that year. The good news is that so far in the current administrative year, there has been an increase of 142 members. Kevin announced that the District Office was moving from its current location in Harrisburg to Leona, Pa. in a smaller office that will save them \$5,500 a year in rent. Despite the pandemic, and challenges in retaining and growing membership, the District is in sound financial shape, due in part to stimulus loans that were forgiven.

At another general session the various Service Leadership Programs (SLP's) reported on their statuses. There are 170 Key Clubs in Pennsylvania with 9,000 members. 120 clubs are in active status while 50 are inactive. One of our local Key Clubs, Whitehall HS disbanded a few years ago. We are attempting to have it reestablished and serve as its sponsor club. Kiwanis is developing a Global Leadership Certificate program for Key Club members. And, the popular Key Leader retreat will resume after two years of absence on April 22-24, 2022 at Camp Conrad Weiser. Circle K has 27 clubs with 318 members in Pennsylvania colleges. Aktion Clubs, which are for members with developmental disabilities, have 23 clubs in the state with 410 members. There are 59 Builders Clubs in the state, and 52 K-Kids Clubs. Many SLP's were classified as "A-Covid" in 2020. They maintained their active status, but were not assessed dues since they could not meet. Kiwanis has initiated a "Homecoming Week" September 13-17 which targets inactive clubs and forgives past dues that were unpaid as a result of the pandemic. At a membership growth session it was mentioned that 41% of Kiwanis Clubs in Pennsylvania are below charter strength (15 members)! We were encouraged to increase our social media presence to recruit new members. It is more important that we invite new member prospects to join us at a service project than to attend a meeting.

At the Business General Session on Saturday afternoon, there were 132 certified delegates on record, but only 112 in-house. Regrettably, two of our delegates, **Belinda Gray** and **Joyce Crosby** were unable to attend due to illness. There was only one amendment to the District By-Laws that designated that District dues on a sliding scale would comply with Kiwanis International's. This was passed unanimously by voice vote, as were as the elections of Governor **Sarah Zulueta** and Governor-Elect **Michael Coolbaugh**. A highlight of the session was the presentation of a Robert Connelly Award for heroism to **Kevin Conklin**, a Liberty High School student who saved a young boy from drowning in a culvert in Bethlehem Township during a storm last year. Kevin was nominated for this award by the Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club. At the convention we set up a table to sell our club's history books. Thanks go to Enos for setting this up. Unfortunately, the location of the exhibition area was not conducive to many sales. However, it was nice to show off our club's history and to mingle with attendees. Next year's District Convention will be held in Erie, Pa.

**Personal Note:** At the Governor's Dinner Saturday night, I was honored by receiving a Pa. District Kiwanis "**Hero in Service Award.**" One of just nine Kiwanians in the state so honored. I am very grateful for this award. I would like to thank **John Stoffa** for nominating me, with the support of Division 17/18 Lt. Governor **Enos Martin**. It should be noted that another Kiwanian from our division, **Doug Hohe** of the Emmaus Club was also recognized with this award. -**Tom**



## Annual Rose Sale!



Our largest fundraiser of the year is underway – the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation Annual Rose Sale. We are taking orders for a dozen high-quality multicolored roses, with baby’s breath and fern, nicely presented in a gift box for just \$20! Our club keeps \$8 for every dozen sold, and the Pennsylvania Foundation benefits as well. So, you are supporting two good causes by ordering these beautiful roses. Deadline for orders is **Thursday, September 23**. Roses will be delivered on **Thursday, October 21**. Our goal as a club is to sell 50 dozen roses, which will net \$400 for our club’s treasury. Order your roses now! They make a great gift for your family and friends. We would like to thank **Peg Harp** for serving as our club’s Rose Sale Coordinator this year!

## United Way Day of Caring

It has been several months since we have scheduled a Service Project. With summer vacations and some lingering effects of COVID-19, we cut back on club activities. However, it is good to know that we are planning to volunteer for a community service project on **Thursday, September 30**, the United Way “Day of Caring.” In the past, a small group of volunteers from our club has helped clean up the Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers (LVCC) Union Boulevard facility. There are several new opportunities that our Board of Directors will review and choose a project. You will be notified of the project, and we hope you will consider volunteering. Kiwanis is all about SERVICE! And it is a fun way to do some good in the comradery of your fellow Kiwanians.

## Service Leadership Programs



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a substantial effect on Service Leadership Programs across the globe. Kiwanis International is doing everything it can to “jump start” these programs from nearly two academic years of inactivity. As noted above, they are promoting a “Homecoming Week” in mid-September where Key Club and other SLP clubs outstanding dues will be forgiven. At the local level, our club’s SLP advisors have been asked to reach out to the clubs they serve to determine if they will be active this year, and to provide whatever assistance we can to get them up and running. We would like to recognize and THANK the following members who volunteered to serve as our club’s liaison with SLP clubs:

- Ramos K-Kids Club – Vic Mazziotti
- Union Terrace K-Kids Club – Deb Lamb
- Washington K-Kids Club – Tom Harp
- Raub Builders Club – Enos Martin
- South Mountain Builders Club – Terry Kennedy
- Allen Key Club – Tom Harp
- Allentown Central Catholic Key Club – Mark Hanichak
- Salisbury Key Club – Tom Harp
- Southern Lehigh Key Club – Enos Martin

We hope that these clubs restore their activities and that we can help them in that process!

## **A Glance Into Our Past**

### ***100 Years Ago – September 1921***

The Club held a Ladies' Day at the Perkiomen Inn in Schwenksville. The outing included activities such as a nail driving contest for the ladies, a running race for ladies, a men's 70-yard dash, a fat man's race, and a pipe smoking contest. A mixed tennis match was also held with the team of member George Erich and his daughter Lillian besting the team of Ernest Ashley and Miss Mae Romberger 3 sets to 2.

### ***75 Years Ago – September 1946***

The members were treated to presentations by the following speakers during the month:

- J Edgar Swain, head of Muhlenberg's History Department, "The Russians are Amateurs in Polotics."
- Paul Coleman, Chairman of the Board of Arbitration of the National Transportation Authority, "How to Assure Peaceful Relations with Your Employees."
- George Hamid, Allentown Fair addressed a joint meeting of Kiwanis, Optimists, and Lions Clubs.
- Nathan H. Gist, Editor of the Williamsport Grit, "Wise and Unwise."

### ***50 Years Ago – September 1971***

At the Pennsylvania District Convention in Philadelphia, the Club took first prize for the best newsletter in the Gold Division. The Gold Division included the largest Kiwanis Clubs throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Four club members were on hand to accept the award for the Club. The Club finished the month with a total of 179 members. Many of these members assisted in staffing a booth for 9 days at the Allentown Fair to provide information on drug awareness.

### ***25 Years Ago – September 1996***

Speakers during the month included the following:

- Former Mayor Joseph Dadonna, "Allentown from the Catbird Seat."
- Bob Bennett, "Drum Corps in Allentown."
- Ross Marcus, "Good Things are Happening Downtown."
- Past President's Day.

- ***Enos Martin***

## Upcoming Meetings and Activities

**SERVICE PROJECT** – Thursday, September 30 – United Way “Day of Caring.”  
Details TBA.

**MONTHLY MEETING** – Thursday, September 9, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM)  
at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Speaker will be Kenneth Adkins of the LV Phantoms.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** – Wednesday, September 29, 5 PM on Zoom.



### *September Birthdays*



20 – Barry Frick

28 – Mary DiFebo



- Tom Harp, Editor