



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

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## **The Downtowner**

*Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown*

**May 1, 2022**

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### **April 21 Meeting**



**Dr. Stanford**



**Interclub Crowd**

We were honored on April 21 to welcome guest speaker and Allentown School District Superintendent **Dr. John Stanford**. This was an official Kiwanis Interclub, since we invited both the Allentown Northeast and Emmaus clubs to join us. In addition, we welcomed Allen HS Key Club President **Sally Ma**, member **Mahum Kamboh**, and faculty advisors **Mary DiFebo** and **Steve Patterson**. The Allen Key Club was unable to attend our Key Club Dinner in February, and it was very appropriate that they were able to attend this meeting with our speaker serving as their district superintendent.

Dr Stanford opened his remarks by reflecting on his days growing up in Muskegan, Michigan. He comes from working-class roots. His father grew up in the deep south and never graduated from high school. The values he developed were hard work, integrity and the belief that education can transform lives. “Education is the foundation for

everything” he said. Dr. Stanford earned his PhD from Ohio State University and was an adjunct professor for a year and a half. He championed diverse learning environments, especially for students with disabilities. When he was hired as Allentown SD Superintendent in October, 2021, he began by visiting all of the schools in the district. “I watch a lot of military movies” he confided, “and I know the value of boots on the ground.” He believes that “we need a laser-like focus on educational excellence.” The district must strive for equity and student engagement. “What drives individual students?” he asked. “What excites them?” He mentioned that Kutztown University now offers a degree in Social Media. There are now “E-Sports” college scholarships, and virtual NBA teams. Schools need to adapt to modern technology and its effects on students. Families of students must be engaged in the learning process. Many parents do not understand lesson plans and test results. Dr. Stanford announced the Allentown School District “Blueprint for Success” plan. There are 16,000 students in the district. His plan is to begin a renaissance in the district by building on its legacy. In keeping up with the times, the district will launch a cybersecurity program for students in the fall. Students should also learn about robotics and other emerging tech fields. His vision is to restore the legacy of excellence that was a hallmark of the Allentown School District decades ago.

Following Dr. Stanford’s talk, **Enos Martin** presented him with a copy of our club’s history book. Enos also distributed a document he put together that provided brief bios of past members of our club who were employed by the Allentown School District. The list included former Allen HS Principal and Allentown Mayor **Clifford “Chips” Bartholemew**; **Hiram Dodd**, for whom the Dodd Elementary School was named; and **Louis Dieruff**, for whom Dieruff HS was named.



**New Member Jeremy**

After dinner, President **Tom Harp** announced the results of our club elections, and thanked those members who volunteered to serve as officers and on our Board of Directors for the 2022-23 administrative year. He also formally inducted new member **Jeremy Kappes** into our club! Jeremy is replacing John Moser as representative of the Lehigh Christian Academy, a corporate member of our club. For those not present at the meeting, here is Jeremy’s background:

Jeremy grew up in South Allentown, the son of a 25 year Allentown firefighter who became a pastor after retiring. He attended Lehigh Christian Academy and graduated from the Lehigh Valley Christian High School. He went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Marketing from Liberty University.

Jeremy spent 8 years building an auto restoration business throughout Pa. and NJ. Following that, he became manager of a local fire protection company in the Lehigh Valley. Jeremy joined the Board of Directors of Lehigh Christian Academy before becoming its Director of Development, succeeding John Moser who retired last year. Jeremy and his wife Jennifer celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 22. They have four children, including twins who were born in 2020. In his free time, Jeremy enjoys drumming at his church, golfing, and keeping his cars clean.

Jeremy spent a few moments to share with us his deep Christian faith, and his passion about seeing young people learning excellence, safety and stability that will launch them into productive and service-based lives. Welcome to our Allentown Kiwanis family, Jeremy!

## Meet and Greet Event



Greeter Peg



Executive Armstrong and Others



Over 40 people attended our "Meet & Greet" event at the Civic's Theatre 514 on March 14. We began setting up and decorating the room after 4 PM. By 5 PM guests began to arrive. Greeter **Peg Harp** welcomed everyone and handed out name tags. We had three gift baskets for door prizes. Guests then treated themselves to wine tastings and full pours from **Sleepy Cat Urban Winery**. They enjoyed hot hors d'oeuvres of mini crab cakes, sweet and sour meatballs, and hot pretzels from the **Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>**. We also had cheese and crackers and a veggie tray with dip. Throughout the reception area were brochures about our club, and Kiwanis in general. **Enos Martin** set up a display with our club's history book. And Enos provide a PowerPoint slide show featuring our club's history and activities that was projected on a large screen in the theater room. Several elected officials

attended the event, including Lehigh County Commissioner **Phillips Armstrong** and State Representative **Michael Schlossburg**. Other guests included local business people and representatives of various non-profit organizations. We would like to thank **Diane Donaher** of the Civic Theatre for offering the facility for rent that evening. It was a wonderful venue for an event of this type. We may even look into utilizing it for our annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon in December! And we would like to particularly thank **Enos Martin, Peg Harp, Tom Harp, Deb Lamb, Bob Ashcraft** and others who helped us plan and execute this special event. We canvassed the neighborhood promoting the event, which greatly increased awareness of Kiwanis as an organization, and our club in particular.

As a result of the "Meet & Greet", we were able to sign up two new members of our club, **Mario "Qbah" Fernandez** of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and **Jennifer Framm** of Embassy Bank. We welcome Mario and Jennifer to our Allentown Kiwanis family! And we hope to recruit a few more new members in the weeks ahead. We still have three new member fees that are available at no cost thanks to a generous donation from **Bob Ashcraft**. So if you know anyone who may be interesting in joining our club, now is the time!

## Playground Cleanup



**Sixth Street Shelter Playground**

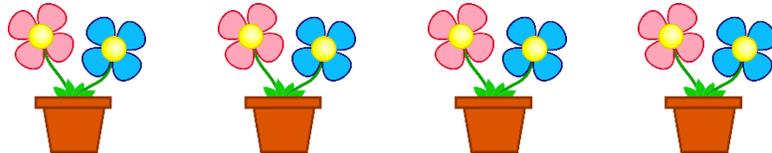


**Enos and Susan Digging Out Weeds!**

On Saturday, April 23 **Enos** and **Susan Martin, Terry Kennedy** and **Tom Harp** met at the Sixth Street Shelter in downtown Allentown to clean up their children's playground. We arrived at 10 AM and were met by their Director of Development **Julie Huber**. The playground is fenced in and was locked for several months. There was litter, piles of leaves and weeds growing everywhere. It was obvious that the playground had not been used or maintained for at least six months. Terry and Tom picked up litter and leaves while Enos and Susan dug out weeds. Eventually, a couple of interns from the shelter joined us by raking leaves and wiping down the playground equipment. After two hours we were exhausted, and their dumpster was filled to the brim. There was a large pile of donated mulch outside the fence that we could not get to. We provided feedback to Julie about our experiences and suggestions. We hope to follow up the director of the facility to restore the playground to the point where it is safe for the children to enjoy.

## Mother's Day Project

For the past several years, **Bob Ashcraft** has sponsored a project at two Lehigh Valley Children's Centers (LVCC) locations, where the children plant flowers in pots that they have decorated, and design cards for Mother's Day. This year, Bob and **Terry Kennedy** will be delivering the project materials to the LVCC Walnut Street and Early Learning Center (ELC) locations on Friday, May 6. They will sit down with the pre-school children and their instructors to decorate the pots, plant the flowers, and design the cards. It is always a fun and rewarding event. Thanks, Bob and Terry!



## LVCC Picnic!



It is hard to believe, but our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual LVCC Picnic is less than two weeks away! It will be held on **Thursday, May 12** (rain date May 19) at the Rose Garden Pavilions, Honochick & College Drives, Allentown (behind Cedar Crest College). Our thanks go to **Keith** and **Jessica Reynolds**, who are sponsors of the event. At this year's picnic, we will host over 160 pre-school children from three LVCC locations in Allentown – the South Mountain, Walnut Street and ELC Centers. So far, 11 members of our club have volunteered to help out. And over 70 Key Club volunteers have signed up from the William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Salisbury, Southern Lehigh, Emmaus and Parkland High Schools. We will be setting up as early as 8:00 AM. The children will arrive between 10-10:30 AM and activities will be from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, followed by a picnic lunch. There will be seven activity stations that the children will rotate to, including an obstacle course, parachute game, bubble-making station, musical activity, science experiments and arts and crafts. Following activities we will be serving the children a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, fruit snacks, box drinks and cookies. We have invited all of the school mascots to join us. And **MeLVin** from the LV Phantoms will be there! We have also arranged for a fire truck from the Allentown Fire Department to be on display for the children after lunch. And, Allentown **Mayor Matt Tuerk** plans to stop by. We have lucked out with gorgeous weather in the past, and hope to continue that tradition this year. We have survived two years of a worldwide pandemic. Lockdowns, masks and misery. The resumption of our annual picnic for these young children will be a joyous occasion. See you there!

# **A Glance Into Our Past**

## **100 Years Ago – May 1922**

More than 400 members and their wives and sweethearts of the Easton, Reading and Allentown Kiwanis Clubs met in Allentown on May 25 for a first ever inter-city meeting. The visitors arrived between 2:30 and 3:00 pm at the Centre Square in Allentown. From there, the motorcade headed to General Harry C. Trexler's 2,000 acre preserve west of Schnecksville to observe a herd of 60 bison and numerous deer and elk. At the same time, the Reading and Allentown Kiwanis Clubs engaged in a baseball game on Muhlenberg's baseball field with Allentown victorious 12-2. At 6:30 pm, the entire entourage met at the Odd Fellow's Temple for dinner and to be entertained by Moll's Orchestra and some snappy Kiwanis songs. The presidents of each of the Kiwanis Clubs addressed the group as well as Allentown Mayor Malcolm Gross and guest speaker O. W. Hill of the Roger Babson Statistical Bureau, Madsen, Massachusetts. The event closed with an evening of dancing.

## **75 Years Ago – May 1947**

At the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the club celebrated its 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary with recognition of all the past presidents of the club. Each received a special birthday cake recognizing the anniversary. The Quio & Rumsey Dance Team from Allentown's Arthur Murray School of Dancing located at 7 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street provided the entertainment. The Kiwanis Ladies were invited to the event and one lucky lady was awarded a series of six dancing lessons provided the Arthur Murray Dance Studio.

## **50 Years Ago – May 1972**

During the month of May, various club members attended 13 different inter-club meetings (members attending in parentheses) including:

May 2 at Whitehall (4)	May 23 at Whitehall (7)
May 9 at Harrisburg (4) and Whitehall (4)	May 24 at Easton (5) and at Emmaus (6)
May 15 at West Allentown (5)	May 25 at Bethlehem (7)
May 16 at Whitehall (4)	May 30 at Whitehall (10)
May 17 at Allentown-Salisbury (8), at Stroudsburg (7), and Allentown NE (7)	

## **25 Years Ago – May 1997**

Members Jim Chambers and Frank Szabo read to children at the Lehigh Valley Children's Center in one of earliest activities with the organization. For the second month in a row, the club escorted children to an outing at the Smart Museum. Members Mike Milligan, Bill and Cathy Campbell, and Frank Szabo chaperoned a large group of students to the Museum.

- **Enos Martin**

## Upcoming Meetings and Activities

**MONTHLY MEETING – NO MONTHLY DINNER MEETING IN MAY!** We will be at the LVCC Picnic.

**SERVICE PROJECT – Friday, May 6 - Mother's Day Flower Pot Project** at LVCC Walnut Street and Early Learning Center.

**SERVICE PROJECT – Thursday, May 12 - 12<sup>th</sup> Annual LVCC Picnic. 9 AM – 1 PM,** Rose Garden Pavilions, Honochick Drive, Allentown.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, May 26, 5 PM on Zoom.**



***May Birthdays***



**5 - Diane Lariar**

***Club Anniversaries***

**Young Chang - 17 Years**

**Terry Kennedy - 5 Years**



- ***Tom Harp, Editor***