



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

September 1, 2022

August 11 Meeting



Larry Oberly

A small but inquisitive number of members attended our August 11 meeting, which featured guest speaker **Larry Oberly**, President of the **Northampton Historical Society**. His main topic was **Colonel John Siegfried**, a distant relative of our own **Todd Siegfried**, who fought in the Revolutionary War. John purchased a ferry business in 1770, in what is now the Borough of Northampton, approximately where the Rte. 329 bridge is. John married Mary Levan a year before. He owned 219 acres in what was Allen Township, including land on both sides of the Lehigh River where the ferry crossed. His ferry was the only one north of Allentown at the time. John became a Lt. Colonel in the Northampton Militia at age 18. They were called the “Frontier Rangers” who drove off attacks by Native American tribes during the French & Indian War. On December 22, 1776, General George Washington of the Continental Army called on John to mobilize the Northampton Militia

to fight in the war. He commanded a battalion of 50-60 men. His unit fought in many battles, including Germantown and Princeton. During the winter of 1777 there was no room for his battalion at Valley Forge, so they returned to Northampton but provided provisions to the troops there throughout the winter. After the war, John became high sheriff of Northampton County. He died in 1793 at the age of 48. In 1820, a wooden covered bridge replaced John Siegfried's ferry. That was replaced in 1933 by the current bridge. The Borough of Northampton was incorporated in 1909. The Northampton Historical Society is housed in a restored train station named after John Siegfried. And the bridge there is still referred to as the Siegfried Bridge.



Siegfried Covered Bridge

Todd Siegfried introduced Larry and presented him with our Kiwanis Club's history book as a gesture of our appreciation. It was a very interesting and informative meeting!

IronPigs Game



Our Group!

The weather was perfect on August 28 for our annual "Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs" game. We welcomed 32 members and their guests to Dugout Suite 4, including two guests each from the Emmaus, Allentown Northeast, and Palmer Township Kiwanis Clubs. We enjoyed a 2 ½ hour buffet and hours of good conversation. It was hot out, but occasionally we enjoyed cloud cover and a nice breeze. The highlight of the game was a towering home run to right center field by IronPigs power hitter **Darick Hall** in the 3rd inning. But things went downhill from there, and the Pigs lost to the Gwinnett Stripers 13-

2. We were treated to a visit by IronPigs mascot, **Ferrous**. And **Angella Carney**, a guest and coworker of **Joyce Crosby** was quite surprised and pleased by winning \$72.50 in our 50/50 drawing. Congratulations, Angella! We would like to thank **Bob Ashcraft** and **Enos Martin** for coordinating this event. I was a big success and a great way to enjoy the company of our fellow Kiwanians, family, and friends. See you next year!



Field-Level View of the Action



“Long Ball Hall”



Pork Race!

September Service Project

We will be busy in the month of September helping to reorganize the **Service Leadership Programs** (SLP) that we sponsor. The last two years caused a major disruption in the development of SLP's especially at the elementary and middle schools. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the elimination of many extracurricular activities in the schools, and prevented in-person gatherings, including club meetings. Most of the K-Kids and Builders Clubs were suspended during the pandemic. But now that schools are back in session, and meeting in public, we are doing our best to bring them back. Another challenge we are facing is teacher and principal turnover at the schools. Nearly all of the principals and faculty advisors in the Allentown School District are new. They will be very busy just getting things organized in their schools and classrooms. We have begun reaching out to them expressing our support of SLP's starting up again this school year. As the month progresses, we hope to be able to set up meetings with new principals and teachers to get the process of starting up the clubs there. One immediate activity that is planned is a "Back to School Resource Night" at the Raub Middle School on Wednesday, September 7, from 4-6 PM. We have reserved a table there to promote the Raub Builders Club. **Enos Martin** and **Terry Kennedy** plan to be there, hopefully with a couple of Allen High School

Key Club members. We will have promotional materials there, like Builders Club brochures, book marks and pencils, plus a gift basket drawing to entice families to stop by and learn more about Builders Clubs. Terry has stopped by the South Mountain Middle School, and plans to meet with their new principal to renew the Builders Club there. We will be reaching out to the Salisbury Middle School about starting a Builders Club there. Key Clubs are already in the process of meeting and electing officers. We have made initial contacts with all of their faculty advisors, and have invited them to participate in our Rose Sale. So, September will be a very active one for our members who are serving as advisors to those SLP's. This activity will be our only service project in September.

Rose Sale!



On August 26 we officially announced the beginning of this year's **ROSE SALE**. This annual fundraiser benefits the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation and our club. For several years the roses sold for \$20 a dozen. Due to inflation and other causes, the cost has increased to \$24 a dozen. With that increase comes a corresponding increase in the amount of money our club earns from each dozen sold. In the past, it was \$8 a dozen. Now, it will be \$9.50. Our goal is to sell 50 dozen roses, which will net the club \$450 for our administrative and youth & community services funds. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year! These are beautiful, fresh, multi-colored roses gift-boxed with baby's breath and tree fern. **The deadline for orders is September 23.** Roses will be delivered on Thursday, October 20. Order forms and a flyer were e-mailed to members on August 26. Submit your orders to **Peg Harp**, our **Rose Sale Coordinator** at 610-428-9878 or pegharp@live.com. Thank you for supporting our annual Rose Sale!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – September 1922

The Club has celebrated numerous occasions over the years. In one of the oddest celebrations, the Club celebrated the 108th anniversary of the writing of *The Star Spangled Banner* at its September 14th meeting. It must have been quite the celebration since the September 15, 1922, edition of *The Morning Call* noted it as “an event easily one of the best in many months in the annals of the local club.” Members sang “America”, “Columbia the Gem of the Ocean”, and “Yankee Doodle.” The festivities also included, as a guest of Kiwanis, the first winner of the “Miss Allentown” contest, Ellen Sherr, who would later compete in the national beauty contest in Atlantic City.

75 Years Ago – September 1947

The Club arranged for the heating of the large farmhouse at the Allentown Airport which was used by the Kiwanis-sponsored Air Scout Squadron. This enabled the Air Scouts to meet through the winter. At the same time, the Club sponsored the erection of a large Quonset hut along the Lehigh River for use by the Sea Scouts, also sponsored by the

Club. The Sea Scouts apparently still exist as part of the Boy Scouts. However, the Air Scouts no longer exist

50 Years Ago – September 1972

The Club heard an address from Dr. John Shuman at its September 14th meeting on “Big Brothers.” The Club provided a \$3,000 grant in 1971 to establish a Big Brothers organization in Allentown. In his address, he noted that 15 “big brother-little brother” matches had been made during the short time of its existence. And he lauded the Club for its support to start up the program.

25 Years Ago – September 1997

Current member Mark Hanichak, Bob Johnson, and Frank Szabo represented the Club at the Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Convention held in Valley Forge. At the convention, former Club member LeRoy Berg was elected as Pennsylvania District Governor for 1997-98. He was a member of our Club from 1985-1992. He served for three years as a Club director and as Division 18 Lieutenant Governor in 1990-91. During his Kiwanis career, he was a member of the Allentown, Emmaus, Southern Lehigh, and Harrisburg East Shore Kiwanis Clubs. He joined the Emmaus Club in 1971 served as club president in 1975-76.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, September 8, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Guest speaker will be Gloria Pugliese, Associate VP for Development, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network.

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



September Birthdays



20- Barry Frick

28 - Mary DiFebo



- **Tom Harp, Editor**