



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

February 1, 2023

January 12 Meeting



Jennifer Keeble

At our first dinner meeting of 2023 we welcomed guest speaker **Jennifer Keeble**, Executive Director of Phantoms Charities. This non-profit is an affiliate of the Lehigh Valley Phantoms hockey team. Jennifer started by mentioning that she is a former member of the Emmaus HS Key Club. Phantoms Charities has several initiatives, including the “Tickets for Kids” program that provides free tickets to Phantoms hockey games for needy children and their families. At each game, they recognize a “Community Angel” – someone who has touched the lives of children in the community. They have begun a program to help renovate homes in downtown Allentown, in partnership with Alvin Butz. They have designed a “fitness loop” downtown to encourage exercise. But they are most proud of their “sled hockey” program. This is part of the Phantoms “Hockey is for Everyone” initiative. Young people, ages 5-16 with mobility challenges are provided with hockey equipment including sleds that enable them to skate, move a puck around, and even score goals in a supported environment. The program began operations in 2018. The sleds themselves cost over \$1,000 and are only manufactured by two

companies, one in the US and one in Canada. Volunteers assist the players in getting on and off the sleds, and in some cases act as “pushers” using a bar attached to the rear of the sled. Other volunteers act as referees during scrimmages, or to perform administrative tasks. Players come from the greater Lehigh Valley with some traveling nearly an hour to the PPL Center. The players have customized jerseys, and earn awards in various categories. The Phantoms hockey players often join them during practices and for photo shoots. The major source of revenue for Phantoms Charities is the 50/50 raffle at home games. They also rely on funding from local foundations, such as ours that awarded them a \$1,000 grant this year. Jennifer showed a brief video on her laptop, and later provided us with links to other videos featuring the sled hockey program. She also invited us to attend the Phantoms game on Saturday, February 11, “Hockey is for Everyone Night” at which time the sled hockey team will be recognized.



Enos and President Tom

After dinner, President **Tom Harp** presented our club’s 2022 “Distinguished Service Award” to **Enos Martin**. This is the second time that Enos has earned the award. Tom went over a list of reasons why Enos was selected for the award. They included:

1. Enos is the third longest serving member of our club. He joined in December, 1999 and recently celebrated his 23rd Anniversary as a member.
2. He has been our club’s Treasurer for the past 20 years, serving on our Board of Directors since 2003.
3. He was President of our Foundation from 2001-2003.
4. He has nearly a perfect attendance record at our monthly meetings and participates in nearly every Service Project.
5. He has recruited many new members over the years and last May was instrumental in us promoting our “Meet & Greet” event.
6. He often dips into his own pocket to purchase items for the club, most recently sound deadening curtains for our private meeting room.
7. He has been our club advisor to the Raub Middle School Builders Club since it was chartered in 2016, as well as serving as advisor to the Southern Lehigh Key Club. He should especially be recognized for his work in re-energizing the Raub Builders Club after the pandemic.

8. In 2018 Enos spent many hours researching and authoring our club's history book. In addition, he provides us with a history article every month for our newsletter.
9. For the past 3 years he honorably served as Lt. Governor of Division 17/18. Every year he visited every club in the division several times. He published a monthly electronic newsletter for the division.

And we could go on, and on. Enos is one of the finest examples of a Kiwanian. In receiving this award, Enos mentioned the challenges he had growing up, and that over time his life has been blessed, and that he felt it important to share those blessings with others through community service. Thanks Enos for all that you do for the Kiwanis Club of Allentown, and more importantly the children that we serve.

Business Outreach Initiatives



A goal of our club's Board of Directors is to promote Kiwanis, and the services we provide, with the business community. We have approved funding of a joint membership in the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. We will share the costs of a corporate membership with other Lehigh Valley Kiwanis Clubs under the leadership of Division 17/18. We have also reached out to the West End Alliance, an organization representing businesses located in the west end of Allentown. We have provided their director with our club's brochure and membership application form to share with their Board of Directors and members. We have offered volunteer support for some of their activities including neighborhood clean-up events. We hope to recruit new members from these groups. We continue to reach out to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to encourage their membership in our club.

Annual Key Club Dinner!



A major difference between Kiwanis and other service clubs is our Service Leadership Programs (SLP) in all levels of education. And the oldest SLP is high school Key Clubs. The very first Key Club was chartered in 1925 in Sacramento, California with 11 members. Over the past near-century, they have grown to 4,841 clubs in 38 countries, with over 229,000 members! Our Kiwanis Club currently sponsors Key Clubs at William Allen, Allentown Central Catholic, Salisbury and Southern Lehigh High Schools. Key Clubs help develop leadership and team-building skills while providing thousands of hours in service to their schools and communities each year. At our next monthly dinner meeting on February 9, faculty advisors and officers from our four Key Clubs will be joining us. They will share information about their club's activities, service projects and fundraisers. We

will discuss ways that we can collaborate with projects like our annual LVCC Picnic in May, and other initiatives. **Enos Martin** will chair the meeting, and offer a presentation on the history of Key Clubs, including those that we sponsor. So please show your support for these leaders of tomorrow by joining us on February 9.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – February 1923

At the February 8th meeting, Boy Scout Troops 5 and 9 attended the Kiwanis meeting to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts. The scouts presented a demonstration on wig-wagging, a form of communication using red and white flags. They also demonstrated how to build a fire by rubbing two sticks together. According to the newspaper, they fanned the fire into a vigorous flame, in the dining room of the Hotel Allen.

75 Years Ago – February 1948

At the February 4th meeting, two internationally famous table tennis players gave an exhibition to the luncheon attendees at the Americus Hotel. Henrietta Wright had toured Japan, Korea, and the Philippines to entertain American troops during World War II. Lou Pagliaro “Dynamite Louie” won the US national championship on four occasions in the 1940s. He was only 5 feet tall and weighed under 120 pounds.

50 Years Ago – February 1973

Twenty members attended the charter night for the Kiwanis Club of Carbon at the Mahoning Valley Club, Lehigh. The club was chartered by the Kiwanis Club of Allentown in December 1972. The new club was presented with a gong and gavel, club banner, speaker’s stand, outside meeting banner, table flag set, and a Kiwanis road sign.

25 Years Ago – February 1998

The Service Committee of the Club’s Foundation announced the awards of the following grants to local organizations: \$2,500 to the Salvation Army capital campaign for an expanded facility; \$1,000 to Valley Youth House for purchase of supplies needed to counsel sexually-abused children; \$2,000 to Lehigh Valley Child Care’s Early Learning Center to enable children to attend monthly activities rather than just the summer; \$2,500 to VIA of the Lehigh Valley to purchase a computer system to support programs and workshops; and \$250 to the PA Kiwanis Foundation in support of Key Clubbers.

- **Enos Martin**



Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, February 9, 6 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Annual Key Club Dinner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, February 23, 5 PM on Zoom.



February Birthdays



7 - Todd Siegfried

28 - Keith Reynolds



- Tom Harp, Editor