



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

March 1, 2023

Annual Key Club Dinner



Enos Provides Some History

There was an excellent turnout of guests at our annual Key Club Dinner on February 9. We welcomed 12 club members, 12 Key Club representatives and a new member prospect that evening. **Enos Martin** offered the invocation, and proceeded with a slide show presentation featuring a brief history of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown, followed by a history of Key Club International, and the four Key Clubs present for the dinner. Our Kiwanis Club was chartered in 1918 and is the 115th club to join Kiwanis, the 72nd surviving club in the nation, and the 10th oldest club in Pennsylvania. Key Clubs started in Sacramento, California in 1925. The Allen HS Key Club is now 75 years old! It was chartered in 1946. The Allentown Central Catholic Key Club is not far behind, being founded in 1949. Southern Lehigh HS's Key Club was chartered in 1985, followed by the Salisbury HS Key Club in 1986. Each Key Club offered a brief report on their activities.

Allentown Central Catholic HS: Faculty advisor **Rebecca Saylor** and officers **Montana** and **Bailee** reported that they have a “Dress Down Day” coming up where students at the school can donate money or canned goods for local shelters.

Allen HS: Their Key Club was represented by faculty advisors **Mary DiFebo** and **Steve Patterson**. They have been co-advisors since 1995! Officers **Allison** and **Oscar** reported that the club is designing Key Club t-shirts for sale. They have also participated in the “Light the Night” event as well as a fundraising walk for pediatric cancer.

Salisbury HS: Officers **Nolan** and **Olivia** mentioned that their Key Club donated 74 boxes to the Holiday Hope Chest drive last December. They plan to help out at our LVCC Picnic in May and with a Special Olympics event in the spring. They are selling Wawa gift cards as a fundraiser.

Southern Lehigh HS: Their Key Club faculty advisor **Tom Beaupre** has served in that capacity for the past 24 years! Officers **Kylie** and **Sungwon** reported on their annual Senior Citizens Dinner, collecting items for homeless shelter and toys for Good Shepherd Hospital.

Following their presentations, we encouraged the Key Clubs to volunteer for our annual LVCC Picnic, to be held on Thursday, May 18. All four clubs indicated that they would be volunteering for this event. We passed out flyers announcing the “Key Leader” program offered by Pennsylvania District Kiwanis. This leadership development retreat will be held April 21-23 at Camp Conrad Weiser in Reinholds, Pa., near Reading. The cost of the program is \$225. **President Tom Harp** announced that our Foundation has approved four scholarships, one for each Key Club to attend the program. We are hopeful that each Key Club will take advantage of this opportunity by registering at least one member in the Key Leader program.

We enjoyed dinner and fellowship, after which President Tom made a number of announcements. This was another very enjoyable evening with our sponsored Key Clubs. We are very proud of these young leaders and what they have accomplished to benefit their schools, and their communities.

Mid-Year Conference

On Saturday, February 25, President Tom attended the Pa. District Kiwanis Mid-Winter Conference on Zoom. **Governor Mike Coolbaugh** welcomed everyone. This was followed by greetings from the Pa. District Key Club Governor **Amsu Yallalacheruvu**, Kiwanis International Trustee **Jackie Sue McFarlin** and KI President **Bert West**. The Keynote Speaker was **Lavar Thomas**. His topic was “Leading from Within.” Lavar was a member of his high school Key Club in Brooklyn. He joined the Peace Corps after graduating from college, and spent years in African countries on a mission of overcoming food insecurity in rural communities. Leaders must recognize their “blind spots” – Ego, Fear and a Self-Limiting Belief System in order to succeed. A session on Membership emphasized recruiting from diverse groups and to energize your membership, and maximizing their talents.

Emily Reed, Young Children Priority One Administrator offered a very interesting session on building gardens as service projects. She showed examples of community gardens, butterfly gardens, “tire gardens”, rock gardens, container gardens and raised gardens. At elementary schools in Emily’s area, K-Kids members help build and maintain vegetable

gardens at the school, and donate the fresh produce to local food banks. She mentioned gardens at child care centers, something our club is familiar with since we constructed raised garden beds at the LVCC South Mountain Center during the pandemic. She suggested having young children fill small pots with flowers to give to their moms on Mother's Day. Our club has been doing that for many years! Young children especially like making "Seed Bombs" where they moisten paper, embed seeds in them and press into shapes that can be easily buried in a flower bed at home. With Earth Day coming up on April 23, our club will be considering a gardening project.



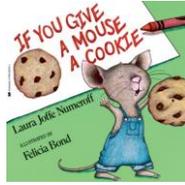
At the closing session, there was a presentation by the host committee of the **2023 District Convention**, to be held August 10-13 in Scranton. This was followed by an extensive presentation on the **Kiwanis Amplify** program. This is an on-line leadership program offered by Kiwanis involving 8 modules with 57 topics covered over a 10-week period beginning April 3. Since Kiwanis began offering this training, 1,200 people participated from 41 Districts and 15 countries, with a 75% completion rate. The cost of the program is \$200 and registration is open until March 24. For more information, visit www.kiwanis.org/amplify.

Next on the agenda was the announcement of this year's "**Signature Service Project**" winners. In the Tier 1 category (Kiwanis Clubs with 25 or less members) our entry, the annual LVCC Christmas Party, came in 3rd Place. That was a bit disappointing, but still deserving of a Certificate that will be mailed to us. In the Tier 2 category, there was significant competition, and the joint entry of our local Easton and Palmer Township Kiwanis Clubs earned a 2nd Place finish for their video on heroine abuse.

The next speaker was the Pa. District Kiwanis Executive Director **Kevin Thomas**. He announced the Special Meeting on April 1 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, to approve amendments to the District By-Laws. This was precipitated by Kevin's announcement last year that he would be retiring the end of September, 2023. Rather than hire a new full-time director, the District Board proposed amendments providing for three PT positions- Secretary, Treasurer, and Meeting Manager. It is estimated that this change will save the District \$15-20,000 in the first year. The Special Meeting was necessary since if we waited until the District Convention in August, there would be insufficient time to hire and train new staff. For a vote to be valid, 1/3 of all Kiwanis Clubs in Pennsylvania would have to be present. That would be 49 clubs. So far, only 17 clubs have registered. Each club is allowed to have 3 delegates at the meeting. We hope to have at least one from our club.

Overall, the Midwinter Conference was informative and worthwhile attending.

Read Across Pennsylvania



Once again this year, our club is participating in the Kiwanis “Read Across Pennsylvania” initiative. On Thursday, March 16 at 3:45 PM, volunteers from our club will be handing out books and reading with a group of children enrolled in the Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers after-school program at the Muhlenberg Elementary School in Allentown. We are donating a book to each child based on three reading levels. So far, **Enos** and **Susan Martin, Joyce Crosby, Terry Kennedy** and **Deb Lamb** have volunteered to help out. Deb will be providing cookies to the kids for a snack. There is still time to volunteer if you are interested! Just e-mail or call President Tom.

2023 LVCC Picnic



MeLVin at 2022 Picnic

Although it is nearly three months away, it is never too early to plan for our annual LVCC Picnic! This year it will be held on **Thursday, May 18**. A Planning Committee, comprised of LVCC staff, **Keith** and **Jessica Reynolds** and **Tom Harp** met via Zoom on February 23. The picnic will be from 10:00 AM to approximately 1:00 PM at the Allentown Rose Garden Pavilions. Last year, 165 children from three LVCC centers participated. The Union Boulevard Center was unable to attend due to transportation issues. Since then, children from that location have been dispersed to other centers in Allentown until their new facility, at the old Western Electric building on Union Boulevard, is fitted out. **Jessika Nasatka** of LVCC feels that those children should be able to attend the picnic this year, and will provide us with a head count in the next few weeks. We expect over 230 children will be able to join us. Once again, there will be 7 activity stations that classrooms will rotate around every 11 minutes. The **Obstacle Course** will be simplified to make it easier for the children to follow directions. The **Bubble Station** and **Parachute Toss** are favorites, and will continue. There will be a **Sports Station** with soccer and t-ball. A **Science Station** will feature a bigger, more visual experiment that will hold the children’s attention. The **Craft Station** will provide an opportunity for children to personalize drawstring backpacks with “puffy paint” and fabric markers. And we will be contacting the Wildlands Conservancy or LV Zoo about setting up a **Nature Station** featuring small animals that the children can learn about. We will request that the Allentown Fire Department stop by with a fire truck again this year. We will arrange for a variety of

mascots, which the children love. Those include Ferrous or FeFe from the IronPigs, local HS and college mascots, the Red Robin, and possibly Dorney Park characters. We will count on dozens of volunteers from Key Clubs at William Allen, ACCHS, Parkland, Emmaus, Salisbury and Southern Lehigh HS's. And President Tom will be e-mailing a sign-up sheet for volunteers from our club membership. We have already confirmed that Allentown **Mayor Matt Tuerk** will be stopping by, along with other elected officials. This event is a highlight of our club's calendar. We hope that you can join us!

Fundraising Committee

On February 20, a committee comprised of **Enos Martin, Alex Hirschberg, Jeremy Kappes, Terry Kennedy** and **Jennifer Kramm** met on Zoom to "brainstorm" on new fundraising opportunities for our club. It was felt that to be successful, any fundraising effort must have a specific cause and a target goal for money to be raised. Our developing partnership with the West End Alliance will provide opportunities to participate in events like their Food Festival in September, a Cleanup Day in April, a Yard Sale in June, and the St. Patrick's Day 5K. We may be able to set up a table or booth at these events to sell items and to promote membership in the club. Fundraising ideas included a Carnation Corsage Sale for Mother's Day, a "Restaurant Night Out" where the club would receive a percentage of sales, having members provide 4 or 5 recipes for a Recipe Book that we could sell at events, asking businesses in the area donate an item for a Silent Auction, ask club members and businesses to donate items for the Yard Sale in June, and placing Change Jars at local businesses for a specific cause. It was also suggested that we explore crowdfunding sources on social media such as GoFundMe. Enos provided minutes from the meeting to our Board of Directors. We are now exploring a Mother's Day Carnation Corsage fundraiser with Rich Mar Florist. We have reached out to the DaVinci Science Center to see if there is a named sponsorship opportunity at their new facility, currently under construction in downtown Allentown. That may provide us with a fundraising cause that would stimulate donations. We will provide additional details on this initiative in the weeks ahead.

Service Leadership Programs

As mentioned above, our relationship with our four sponsored Key Clubs could never be better! And **Enos Martin** reports that the Builders Club at the Raub Middle School continues to have impact. Although the club has only 10 members who consistently attend meetings, they are an enthusiastic group! For Valentine's Day, they filled packages with cookies and candy to be placed in the faculty lounge, in recognition of their good work. This gesture was appreciated by the teachers and staff, to the point of tears. The Allen High School Key Club is reaching out to the Raub Builders Club faculty advisor, inviting them to a Pizza Party to become acquainted, and for the middle school students to consider joining the Key Club when they graduate from Raub.

We continue to work on reviving the K-Kids Club at the Ramos Elementary School. Our club advisor, **Vic Mazziotti** plans to stop by the school to see what is going on. Our Foundation sponsored that club this year and we would like to see them active again.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – March 1923

The following is an article from the March 6, 1923, edition of the Morning Call: Claude Himelwright, manager of the local Kiwanis baseball team last season, is looking forward to another big season for his Kiwanis nine during the 1923 campaign.

“I’ve had half a dozen telephone calls from “Doc” Kistler wanting to know when we are going to start practice”, said Himelwright last night. “They tell me that the doctor has been warming up in his garage for the past two weeks. We have our old reliable pitching staff, Hartz and Nothstein, already signed up for the coming season, and will start spring training in a few weeks.

“We are now arranging our schedule for the coming season that will include games at Scranton, Reading, Hazleton, Lebanon, and Wilkes-Barre, and then the big games with the Allentown Police. You know we beat the police twice last season and hope to repeat again this year.”

Notes: Claude Himelwright was a charter member of the Club, He owned and operated an Allentown landmark for 37 years “Smoker’s Paradise”, located in the 700 block of Hamilton Street. It included a pool hall and many world champion pool and billiard players frequented the pool hall. He passed away in 1967.

“Doc” Kistler was a longtime physician in Allentown and led the drive to raise funds to build the first building for Sacred Heart Hospital. He was the first physician on the staff when the hospital opened. He was a Club member for 36 years until his passing in 1955. Hartz and Nothstein were short time members of the Club.

75 Years Ago – March 1948

From the March 22, 1948, edition of the Morning Call: Seven hundred underprivileged children will be guests Saturday morning at the Allentown Kiwanis Club’s first annual Easter party at the Midway Theater. The program arranged consists of music by the Allentown High School Vocanovas and a movie ‘The Life of Christ.’ Joseph Rossheim, owner of the Midway Theater, who donated use of the theater’s facilities arranged for the showing of the movie which includes members of the European Passion Players. The Kiwanis Club will donate Easter baskets to each child.”

Note: The Midway Theater was located in the 600 block of Hamilton Street. It was one of the first Allentown theaters to be air conditioned. It closed after a fire in May 1955.

50 Years Ago – March 1973

From two articles in the March 22, 1973, Club newsletter:

TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS.....

Will continue to be the price of our Thursday luncheon. Rising food costs have forced the Lehigh Valley Club to raise the cost of the lunch 25 cents, which will be covered by the present “cushion” in our ticket, so that no increase is necessary.

YOUR FOUNDATION.....

Has made a \$1,000 contribution to support the Lehigh County Big Brothers. This will underwrite four big brother-boy hookups during 1973.

Note: Our Club met at the Lehigh Valley Club from October 1971 to December 1977 and August 1978 to July 1988. The Lehigh Valley Club is now the location of the Community Music School at 16th and Hamilton Streets.

25 Years Ago – March 1998

From the March 9 edition of the Morning Call:

“The Allentown Kiwanis Club will partner with Lehigh Carbon Community College and Just Born to offer a Center City Summer Computer Camp at LCCC’s Allentown site at 609 Hamilton Mall. The two-week camp will feature hands-on opportunities and instruction for students in second through seventh grades. The program is being offered tuition-free to students, because of financial hardship, might not otherwise be able to partake in the program.”

Note: The LCCC Allentown site happened to be the same location as the Midway Theater mentioned in the 1948 item above.

- *Enos Martin*

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, March 9, 6 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Speaker will be Matt Sommers, Director of IronPigs Charities.

SERVICE PROJECT – Thursday, March 16, 3:45 PM. “Read Across Pennsylvania” event at the LVCC After-School Program at Muhlenberg Elementary School.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, March 30, 5 PM on Zoom.



March Birthdays



17 – Gina Stano

23 – Young Chang

29 – Susan Martin



- *Tom Harp, Editor*