



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

July 1, 2023

June 8 Meeting



Tony Iannelli

At our June 8 meeting, we had a great turnout of 30 guests, including members of the Allentown Northeast, Emmaus, and Easton Kiwanis Clubs, as well as Division 17/18 Lt. Governor **Bob Moran**. We also welcomed this year's Key Club Scholarship recipients and their families. Our guest speaker was **Tony Iannelli**, President and CEO of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. He was introduced by **Vic Mazziotti**. Tony reminisced about growing up in the West End of Allentown, not far from the Shanty on 19th, which was an A&P grocery store at the time. He was one of 7 children in his family. He admitted to being “the worst student on the planet” growing up. One of his teachers told him “Tony, you are going nowhere.” His father owned a meat and poultry business. As time went by, they lost the business as well as their house. Those difficult times taught him a lot. Mainly, to be frugal. He talked about his 26 year career with the Chamber. Under

his leadership, the GLVCC has grown to over 5,000 members and is now the 6th largest Chamber of Commerce in the United States. He feels the Chamber needs to be a “Chamber of Communities” not just commerce. Tony has been the host of the popular “Business Matters” program on WFMZ-TV for the past 20 years. He has also been a regular on the Bobby Gunther Walsh show on iHeart Radio. Tony was very humble in crediting the Lehigh Valley for his success. In his words, his current prominence in our region “was beyond my wildest dreams.” Lt. Governor Moran mentioned that in the very near future, a group of Kiwanis Clubs from the division, which includes our club, will be joining the Chamber. Tony concluded his talk by gifting a “bobblehead” figurine of himself to the group. It was later donated to one of our Key Club families. We thanked Tony by presenting him with a copy of our Kiwanis Club history book.

Following dinner, the Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown President **Bob Ashcraft** presented \$1,000 college scholarship checks to three local Key Club members. They included **Kendall Zuk** of Southern Lehigh HS, and **Katelyn Smith** and **Carlee Ziegenfuss** of Salisbury HS. Each of the scholarship recipients expressed their appreciation for this award, and shared their experiences in Key Clubs and their plans for the future. Kendall will be attending Kutztown University to study Elementary Education. Katelyn will be attending Alvernia University to major in Biology. And Carlee will be studying Nursing at DeSales University. A fourth scholarship winner, **Nevaeh Curry** of Allentown Central Catholic HS was unable to attend due to her work schedule. A scholarship check was mailed to her. She will be attending Penn State – Lehigh Valley Campus in their Criminal Justice program. Congratulations to these highly deserving scholarship winners!



Kendall Zuk



Carlee Ziegenfuss



Katelyn Smith

Finally, we held an induction ceremony for our newest member, **Karen Baker** of Topton, Pa. Karen grew up in Pittsburgh and graduated from Slippery Rock University. She moved to Asbury Park, NJ where she joined their Kiwanis Club and was elected Secretary. When she relocated to Topton she contacted us through our website, expressing interest in joining our club. Although she was just inducted as a member, she has already been active by assisting with our Earth Day tree planting project, and by volunteering to serve as our advisor to the Brandywine Heights HS Key Club. Karen works from home as a Quality Auditor for Horizon BC/BS of New Jersey. We welcome Karen to our Allentown Kiwanis family!



Karen & Tom

IronPigs Game!



Ashcraft Clan and Friends

A good time was had by all at our 11th Annual "Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs" game on Father's Day, June 18. It was a perfect day for baseball! Sunny and warm, but with a refreshing breeze. We welcomed members of our club, as well as guests from the Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club. Men received a "bucket hat" as a giveaway. **Bob Ashcraft** and **Gina Stano** treated a Lehigh Valley Children's Centers family of four to the game. The parents and two daughters had never been to an IronPigs game and were thrilled and thankful for the opportunity. We enjoyed a 2 ½ hour buffet with pork BBQ, chicken tenders, hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and cookies. At the end of the 3rd inning **Enos Martin** conducted the drawing of a lucky number for the 50/50 drawing. The guest who won kindly donated the money back to our club. To top off a perfect afternoon of baseball fun, the 'Pigs defeated the Toledo Mud Hens 4-2!



View From Dugout Suite

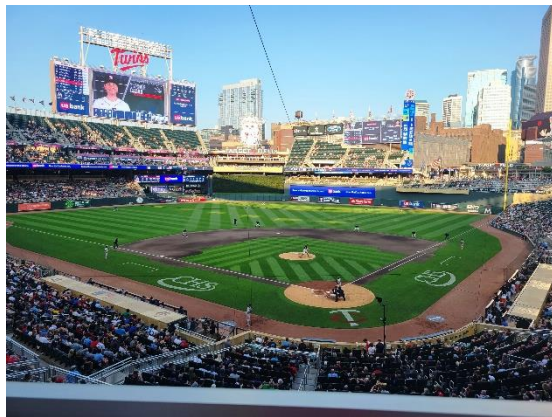


Sellout Crowd!

2023 Kiwanis International Convention

President **Tom Harp** was our sole delegate to the 2023 KI Convention in Minneapolis, MN. He has already provided our members with a convention report. Now, he will share some personal observations, anecdotes and photos from the event.

“Overall, I thought that Minneapolis was a nice venue for the convention. The downtown is very ‘walkable’, clean, and safe. The Pennsylvania delegation was housed in the Embassy Suites on 6th and Hennepin. Although a mile from the Convention Center, it was conveniently located a few blocks from the baseball stadium, Target Field; the arena, Target Center, and a block from the rapid-transit rail station. On Tuesday night I attended the Twins-Red Sox game at Target Field, which is nestled in the urban core of the city. It was a nice stadium, although only half-full. Twins lost. The next day I walked downtown for some sightseeing and ended up at the Convention Center, which is unique. I have been to many convention centers. Most of them look like warehouses. This one had some architectural flair, with brick facing all around. The exhibit hall was HUGE with a domed roof. I visited all the vendors to pick up ideas about fundraisers and to meet candidates for KI offices. The convention itself was well-run. The auditorium was also HUGE with a vaulted ceiling and theater seating. Food was very good, and the service excellent. Staff there were very helpful and friendly.



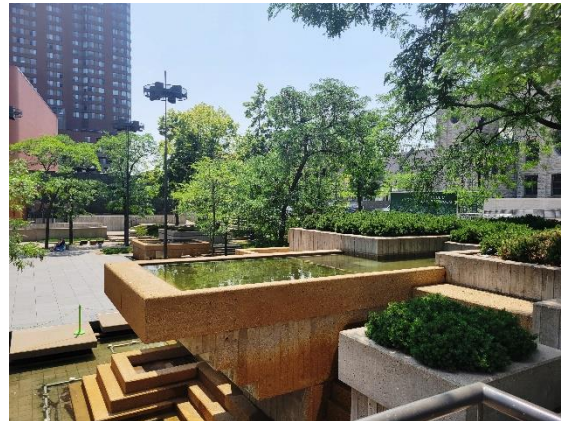
Twins Game



Mary Tyler Moore Statue



Flagship Target Store



One of Several Beautiful Parks



Convention Center



Exhibition Hall



Auditorium



KI President Bert West

After the Thursday sessions, I took the train to the Mall of America in Bloomington to meet up with my daughter and three grandsons, who were visiting from South Dakota. On the way, we passed One Bank Stadium, home of the Minnesota Vikings. It is a beautiful stadium wrapped in huge glass panels. Looking down, I saw long lines of Taylor Swift fans buying her tour merchandise out of trailers. Taylor performed at two sold-out concerts there Friday and Saturday nights. There were “Swifties” everywhere! The train also passed by the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Seeing hundreds of rows of identical white tombstones was a sobering sight. Over 70,000 veterans are buried there. The Mall of America was as advertised. Too much for the senses! I treated my daughter and family to dinner at the Rainforest Café, and the boys to a ride on the indoor roller coaster. The next day, THEY took the train to the city to hang out in my hotel and do some sight-seeing. My granddaughter, a sophomore at the Milwaukee School of Engineering drove up from Milwaukee to join us. So my Kiwanis trip turned into a mini family reunion! Saturday evening, I enjoyed an upscale dinner, sitting with Kiwanians from Ohio, followed by a

concert featuring the Oak Ridge Boys. Sunday's flight home was NOT a highlight of my trip, since thunderstorms grounded planes in Philly, and we were re-routed to Pittsburgh. I missed my connection to Allentown, but got home via a long and pricey Uber ride. It was an exhausting trip, but I had a great time at the convention."

LVCC Reading Events



Our Service Projects for the next two months involve reading to young children at two Lehigh Valley Children's Centers Locations. On **Tuesday, July 18** at 9:00 AM we will be reading to a class of 20 children at the Hays Elementary School in Allentown. Then, on **Wednesday, August 2** we will be reading to two classes of 20 children at the Fairmont Center in Whitehall (near Dan's Camera City), one at 9:00 AM and the other at 9:30 AM. **Deb Lamb** selected the books from the Scholastic Literacy Partnership on-line catalog. One is titled "The Foolish Turtle" and the other "Chicken in Space." We will read these books with the children, and they will keep a copy for their own. So far our volunteers include **Deb, Tom and Peg Harp, Enos and Susan Martin** and **Terry Kennedy**. We could use more volunteers! Contact Tom or Deb if you can help out. Reading events are always a rewarding experience!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – July 1923

Highlights from the club's weekly luncheon meetings at the Hotel Allen:

- At the July 5th meeting, Dr. C. J. Hollister from the Pennsylvania Department of Health gave a presentation on the "Care of Teeth" on July 5th. Every attendee also received a bottle (?) of dental floss from the speaker of the day, Dr. C. J. Hollister from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and six attendees receive a free tooth brush.
- At the July 12th meeting, A. J. Merton from the Merton Institute of New York addressed the audience with the topic "Facial Features Have Business Significance". Over 40 years, the institute charted over one hundred thousand faces. Supposedly, the research could be used by people to obtain guidance on how to achieve their proper niche in life
- The July 19th meeting consisted of a roundtable discussion. The main topic of discussion was the report that club member Charles Kline was being touted as a

very serious candidate for mayor of the city. Malcolm W. Gross, grandfather of the current Allentown attorney with the same name, was elected mayor in 1923.

- The club traveled to Sand Spring Park in Orefield on July 26th for their annual summer picnic. Activities included a quoit contest, standing broad jump, a running race, a fat man's race, and a pipe smoker's race.

75 Years Ago – July 1948

The July membership report to Kiwanis International noted that the club's membership total stood at 165 members. Attendance at the five meetings totaled 118, 115, 85, 114, and 113. The Club met at the Americus Hotel as its regular meeting place. However, the last three club meetings were held at Brookside for a golf outing with the Lion's Club, a picnic at Hunsicker's Farm in Alburdis, and at the Allentown airport to greet to the two meeting speakers who had flown around the world in two Piper Club planes.

50 Years Ago – July 1973

The Pennsylvania Kiwanis spearheaded an effort to have the various clubs make interclub meetings during the month of July. Allentown responded by making visits to eleven clubs throughout the month as follows including the number of attendees in parentheses: July 3 – Whitehall (6); July 10 – Whitehall (6); July 17 – Whitehall (4) and Pottsville (11); July 23 – West Allentown (6); July 24 – Whitehall (9), Hellertown (6), and Hazleton (5); July 25 – Reading (4) and Allentown NE (7), and July 26 – Quakertown (4) and Bethlehem (4).

25 Years Ago – July 1997

From the Club newsletter, Kathleen Brosky, treasurer of the Lehigh County Special Olympics:

“Thanks to your generous gift of \$2500, more than 500 Special Olympics athletes can repeat the following words with pride: ‘Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.’

Again, thank you for insuring that Special Olympics continues in its mission.”

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, July 13, 6:00 PM (5-6 PM Social Hour) at the Shanty on 19th. Speaker will be Shawn Bariana, Community Relations Manager, Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley.

SERVICE PROJECT – Tuesday, July 18, 9:00 AM. Reading event at LVCC classroom, Hays Elementary School, 1227-1243 W. Gordon St., Allentown. Enter in northwest corner of building.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, July 27, 5 PM on Zoom.



July Birthdays



15 - Peg Harp

23 - Jeff Burnatowski



- *Tom Harp, Editor*