



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

October 1, 2023

September 14 Meeting



Liz and Holly

The speakers at our September 14 dinner meeting were **Liz Martin** and **Holly Edinger** of the West End Alliance (WEA). Holly serves as Treasurer of that organization and Liz is their Neighborhood Manager. WEA is a non-profit neighborhood group that promotes businesses and events in the West End of Allentown. They organize spring and fall cleanups in the neighborhood, tree plantings, a 5K race around St. Patrick’s Day, and put up Christmas decorations in December. And, on the following Saturday, September 16, they hosted the annual “World of Food” festival. Streets were blocked off in the vicinity of the Civic Theatre, and there was musical entertainment, food, and beer sales. They do not charge businesses for their services. No membership is required. Their revenue is derived from fees and sales at special events, and advertisements in their quarterly magazine, West End Living. They are trying to improve sidewalks from Muhlenberg College to their business district to encourage students to walk to restaurants and events.

Holly is on the Board of Directors of WEA and Liz formerly worked for the Chamber of Commerce. They expressed appreciation for our help with the Earth Day tree planting project back in April. We hope to recruit a new club member from WEA. We will follow up with them to further develop a relationship that will benefit the neighborhood, and children who live in the West End of the city.

Day of Caring



Our Day of Caring Crew



Enos, Karen & Deb



Karen Painting

September 14 was a busy day for our club! Not only did we host our monthly dinner meeting at the Shanty on 19th, we participated in two other events. At 10 AM that morning, four volunteers from our club, **Deb Lamb, Karen Baker, Enos Martin** and **Tom Harp** reported to Camp Mountain House in Salisbury Township for a United Way “Day of Caring” Project. There, we were met by Girl Scouts staff, and volunteers from local businesses. Enos and Tom painted the floors of several tent platforms, while Karen and Deb painted railings around the main lodge. Weather was perfect for the event! Sunny and cool. We worked hard, but had a good time doing it. It is a beautiful camp in a bucolic setting. We were happy to add to the pristine quality of the facilities, to be enjoyed by local Girl Scouts year-round. This year’s “Day of Caring” was highly successful, mobilizing 1,500 volunteers and benefitting 53 non-profit organizations!

Raub "Back to School" Event



President Karelyn Amparo



Builders Club Display

Also on September 14, the Raub Middle School held its annual "Back to School" event in the evening for parents and students. **Enos Martin**, our advisor to the Raub Builders Club created a display for the event and was there to represent us. Here is his report:

"Our club participated in this annual event to welcome the parents and students back to school. We have used this as a recruiting event for the Raub Builders Club for several years. This year was by far the most successful with 18 students signing up as interested in joining the club. Despite the fact that attendance overall seemed less than in the past, many parents and students showed interested in the display which highlighted the club's past year's activities. With this interest, we hope to grow the club and provide opportunities for the students to serve the school and the local community while learning leadership skills."

Congratulations to the Raub Builders Club, and thank you Enos for your service!

Service Leadership Programs



It is that time of year when Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs begin to meet and re-organize. As noted above, the Raub Middle School Builders Club is recruiting new members. It is expected to flourish in the year ahead. Our five sponsored Key Clubs are becoming more active. Several members of the Salisbury HS Key Club are volunteering for the Down Syndrome "Buddy Walk" on October 7. At least one Key Club plans to order roses from us as a fundraiser for their club. We have notified the Allen HS Key Club of our plans to once again host a Christmas Party on December 15 for three LVCC centers. Their members are looking forward to helping out. Despite some successes, we continue to struggle activating other SLP's in the Allentown School District (ASD). **Vic Mazziotti** reports that the Ramos Elementary School K-Kids Club will form again next year. And **Deb Lamb** is working with the Union Terrace Elementary School to get their K-Kids Club up and running this school year. On September 19, **Tom Harp** and **Enos Martin** participated in a Zoom meeting with ASD administrator **Randy Buck**. Mr. Buck is the ASD

Executive Director of Middle Schools, and has been assigned to work with our club by Superintendent Birks. Mr. Buck expressed his support for Kiwanis SLP's in district schools, and was willing to set up a Zoom call with principals of schools that we prioritize. We provided him with a list of priorities to include:

1. Union Terrace K-Kids – We want to make sure that they are successful.
2. Washington K-Kids – There is a new, acting principal there. We hope to reorganize that club. It was originally chartered in 2016.
3. South Mountain Builders Club – We chartered that club in 2016. It became inactive during the pandemic. We would like to revive that club.
4. Muhlenberg K-Kids – We started a club there in 2003. We would like to see if we can renew its charter and activate the club.
5. Dodd K-Kids – We would like to explore chartering this club, which would be a “feeder” for the South Mountain Builders Club.
6. Lehigh Parkway K-Kids – Potentially, another new club. Would be a “feeder” for the Raub Builders Club.
7. Trexler Builders Club – We attempted to start a club there years ago. Would like to try again.

We are also working with the Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Key Club Administrator in attempting to re-activate the Key Club at Whitehall Area High School. The club disbanded just prior to the pandemic, in some part due to being an “orphan” Key Club without a sponsoring Kiwanis Club. We want to help them get up and running again.

These are ambitious plans, and there are many obstacles to overcome. But we believe that Service Leadership Programs are the future for Kiwanis. They make us unique among service clubs. Our club will do our best to support this movement!

Rose Sale



Our final **Rose Sale** order is in! We are pleased to announce that we have nearly reached our goal of 60 dozen roses. We need to sell 7 dozen more. If you have not ordered any roses, or would like to add to your order, please contact **Peg Harp**, our Rose Sale Coordinator at 610-428-9878. Also, the Southern Lehigh HS Key Club is purchasing 30 dozen roses, that they intend to sell individually at school to earn money for their own club. This year's sale will likely net our club \$ 675. And, we are donating 10 dozen roses to the Raub Middle School Builders Club to sell individually at school. We would like to thank everyone who supported this annual fund-raiser. Roses will be delivered to Tom Harp's garage, 1024 N. Kearney Street, Allentown, in the wee early morning hours of **Thursday, October 26**. We will need volunteers to box roses, and to help deliver them. You can pick your roses order up any time after 8:00 AM, or make other arrangements with Tom for delivery.

Down Syndrome Buddy Walk

Our October service project will be to participate in the 24th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Center's "Buddy Walk" to be held on Saturday, October 7 at Cedar Crest College. Funds raised at the event will support programs and services provided to families of children with Down Syndrome. Opening Ceremonies are at 1:45 PM with the actual walk kicking off at 2:00 PM. There were several volunteer opportunities available, beginning as early as 9:00 AM. We would like to thank **Karen Baker, Young Chang** and **Tom Harp** for signing up. It is a fun day for a wonderful cause.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – October 1923

The Kiwanis Club celebrated Halloween at the Hotel Allen on October 25. Everyone came dressed for the occasion with prizes given out for the funniest couple, the best dancing couple, and the best-looking couple. A scientific palm reader sat in the corner of the large ballroom and was kept busy all night telling the past, present, and future according to the delineations of the palms. A buffet meal was served at 11 pm with dancing till the wee hours of the morning.

75 Years Ago – October 1948

One of the most colorful heroes of World War II, Captain Roy S. Benson also known as "Pig Boat Benson", spoke at the October 21 joint Club meeting with the Lions Club at the Americus Hotel. Captain Benson was known for his Pacific escapades with his submarine named Trigger. He took the submarine into Tokyo Harbor and sank a new Japanese aircraft carrier as it was being launched. Additionally, he gained fame for a successful surface duel with a Japanese destroyer

50 Years Ago – October 1973

Whitehall's Dave Schneck addressed the Club to provide his inside story of the 1973 World Series between the New York Mets and the Oakland Athletics. Although he could not play for the Mets in the World Series since he joined the team after September 1st, he helped get the Mets to the Fall Classic. He was still allowed to be with the team for the series. Despite winning three of the first five game, Oakland came back to win the last two games and claim the World Series title. Later, he was traded to the Phillies, but never played a game for the team. Schneck graduated from Whitehall High School in 1967.

25 Years Ago – October 1998

In October 1998, Club membership included 57 regular and 10 senior members. Carla Munsch served as Club president with Jody Millard as vice president, Frank Szabo as secretary, and Alan Siwy as treasurer. The Club treasury stood at \$6,200.80. John Stoffa served as president of the Foundation with current member and District Governor-Elect Tom Harp as vice president, Kathryn Blackburn-Nichols as secretary and current member Jim Fronheiser as treasurer.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, October 12, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Speaker will be Dr. Jake Troutman, Pediatric Oncologist representing ThinkBIG, an organization that provides services to families battling pediatric cancer. There will also be an official visit by Division 17/18 Lt. Governor Bob Moran, who will install our club's officers and Board of Directors for the 2023-24 administrative year.

SERVICE PROJECT – Saturday, October 7. The Eastern Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Center "Buddy Walk" at Cedar Crest College.

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



October Birthday



7 - Vic Mazziotti



- Tom Harp, Editor