



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

March 1, 2024

Key Club Dinner



On February 8, we welcomed representatives of the William Allen, Brandywine Heights, Salisbury and Southern Lehigh High School Key Clubs to our annual Key Club Dinner at the Shanty on 19th. **Mary DiFebo** and **Steve Patterson**, faculty advisors to the Allen Key Club introduced two of their members. **Tom Beaupre**, long-time advisor to the Southern Lehigh Key Club was joined by two of their members. Due to a conflict in his schedule, Salisbury Key Club advisor **Barry Frick** was unable to attend. However two of their members were present. And, for the first time, we welcomed **Kirsten Paxson**, advisor to the Brandywine Heights Key Club to the dinner, along with two of their members. Regrettably, no one from the Allentown Central Catholic Key Club was able to attend. We were also honored with appearances by **Bob Orlando**, the Pennsylvania District Key Club Administrator, and **Morgan Coolbaugh**, Key Club Zone Administrator. Program

Chair **Enos Martin** provided everyone with a history of each of the five Key Clubs we sponsor. The oldest is the Allen Key Club, which was chartered in March, 1948. They were followed by the Allentown Central Catholic Key Club in December, 1949. The Southern Lehigh Key Club was chartered in December, 1985, followed shortly thereafter by the Salisbury Key Club in January, 1986. Just last year, we reached out and offered to sponsor the Brandywine Heights Key Club, which was chartered in 1996 by the former Kutztown Kiwanis Club.

Members of each of the Key Clubs provided a brief report on their activities. William Allen helped out at the “Back to School” event at the Raub Middle School, and the LVCC Christmas Party in December. Southern Lehigh has held both food and clothing drives, has ushered at school plays, and participated in last year’s Rose Sale. Salisbury donated 111 Holiday Hope Chests for Christmas, 2023, participated in the Homecoming Parade, and are volunteering for the Lehigh County Special Olympics competition this spring. Brandywine Heights helped out with a blood drive, a Halloween Town event, hosted a luncheon for senior citizens, donated gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree and held a “Ready Set Read” event. All of the Key Clubs are looking forward to volunteering for our annual LVCC Picnic in May.



Bob Orlando



Morgan Coolbaugh

Bob Orlando provided an inspiring talk about his personal history serving as the President of his Key Club at Wyoming Area High School. He credited that experience, along with his role as District Administrator, for promoting Key Clubs as builders of character and citizenship. He cited the many benefits of Key Clubs in developing leadership skills, teamwork, school pride, and community service. Morgan Coolbaugh shared her own journey as a struggling student who found a purpose in life through Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs. At the age of 14, she was a Key Club Lt. Governor. She was elected Governor of the Pennsylvania District Key Club at age 17. When she went on to college, she helped charter a Circle K Club. In 2002 she joined the Wyoming Area Kiwanis Club, serving as President when she was just 25 years old. Morgan provided information about this year’s Key Leader program, to be held April 12-14 at Camp Conrad Weiser. She has attended Key Leader for the past 3 years. It is for students, ages 14-18. Applicants do not have to be a member of a Key Club. During the weekend retreat, participants learn the five principals of leadership. There are classroom as well as outdoor activities. It is a camp-like environment where students stay in up-scale cabins. The cost is \$175. Our club’s Foundation has approved sponsoring one student from each of the five high schools to this year’s Key Leader program.

This was a fantastic dinner meeting! It ended with Enos Martin presenting both Bob and Morgan with a copy of our club's history book, and a gift card to Tom Beaupre, in recognition of his 25 years of service as faculty advisor to the Southern Lehigh Key Club. Thank you Key Club members and advisors for all that you do for your school, and community!

MidYear Conference

On February 24, The Pennsylvania District Kiwanis MidYear Conference was held on Zoom, with nearly 90 participants. **Governor Conrad Schlesinger** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He updated progress towards his goals as Governor. So far, no new clubs have opened in the district, but we are close to chartering clubs in Latrobe and Titusville. There have been 8 new Key Clubs started, as well as 2 new K-Kids Clubs. Kiwanis International Trustee **Cathy Tutty** joined us from Montana. She pointed out that there are 3 million children in Pennsylvania, and only 2,600 Kiwanians. Our task is huge. The Keynote Speaker was **Ben Hartranft**, an autism advocate. Ben himself is autistic, and he shared the challenges he faced growing up. 1 in 36 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder every year. It affects their behavior, social awareness, ability to learn, and communication skills. At North Penn HS, outside of Philadelphia, he was crowned Homecoming King in 2016. It was wonderful that he was regarded so highly by his classmates. Ben now serves as an ambassador for the Philadelphia Eagles Autism Foundation. The owner of the Eagles, Jeffrey Lurie has a brother with autism. Ben showed video clips of him appearing on the Ellen DeGeneres Show and The Price is Right, where he won \$16,000! His talk was very inspirational.

KI President **Katrina Baranko** shared the ingredients for club success – Passion, Relationships, Awareness, Leadership, and Focus. Members have to have a passion for our mission to serve the children of the world. We need to build relationships with our fellow members and the community. We must make the community aware of the good deeds we are doing. We must tell our Kiwanis story and use marketing and branding tools. Our leaders need to lead by example. And we need to develop a “pipeline” for leadership. We need to focus on what we want to be known for. We need to commit to our Service Leadership Programs. We need to use committee structures to get more members involved.

2005-06 KI President **Steve Siemens** followed Katrina. He cited 5 skills necessary to become a good leader:

1. Relationship Skills
2. Coaching Skills
3. Communications Skills
4. Problem-Solving Skills
5. Leadership Skills

Good leaders need to be persistent and to establish priorities. They must be enthusiastic and light a fire under their members. We need to be dreamers. And we need to pay attention to WIN – What's Important Now. Steve provided a distinction between coaching and mentoring. Coaching is task-specific and temporary. Mentoring is relationship building and long-term. Building relationships is the most important task of a leader.

One of the most impressive speakers at the conference was **Joshua Kim**, Pennsylvania District Key Club Governor. He is a student at Upper Dublin High School. He was very eloquent in speaking about the value of Key Clubs in developing leadership skills, and the amazing growth of Key Clubs in the District.

Lynsy Karrick of KI promoted the Kiwanis Amplify training program, which was launched in 2020. Over 1,400 Kiwanians have completed the training, which consists of several modules covering 57 topics. The cost of the self-paced, on-line training is just \$50.250 people, including your truly, have signed up for the training, which will begin in April and can be completed by September 15. Consider applying for this valuable training!

The conference ended with reports on the 2024 District Convention (DCON) in 2024, the KI Convention in Denver in July, 2023, the KI Convention in Pittsburgh in June, 2025, and Key Leader this April. The theme and logo for the 2024 DCON in Reading was revealed, as well as the “Cooler of Fun” fundraiser for the convention. Please support this fundraiser by purchasing \$10 raffle tickets for a cooler full of adult beverages! Raffle tickets will be available at our next dinner meeting, as well as our “Putting Contest Fundraiser” on March 10.



Steve Siemens



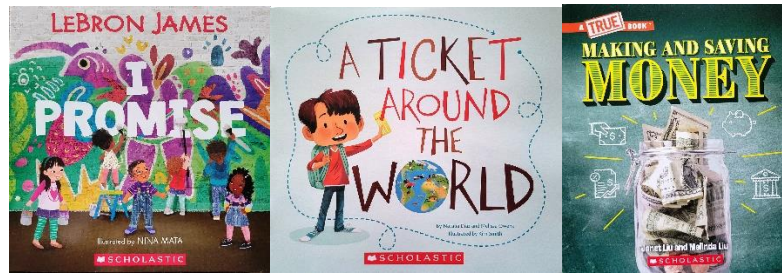
Josua Kim

Putting Fundraiser



We hope that all of you will join us on **Sunday, March 10** from **1-4 PM** for a fundraiser at the **HiJinx Brewing Company**, 6616 Ruppsville Road, Allentown. This will be a fun event! We will raise money with a putting contest. For a \$5.00 donation, you will get three putts. For each putt you get in the hole, you will win a raffle ticket. At the end of the afternoon there will be a drawing for a 50/50 prize, and gift basket donated by HiJinx. **Bob Ashcraft** has reserved a golf simulator in the building from 2-4 PM. Make a reservation with Bob and bring your golf clubs! A flyer was e-mailed to members on January 31, and will be sent out again next week. Funds raised will benefit our club's treasury. We also hope to recruit a few new members for the club. Invite your friends, family, and coworkers for an afternoon of fun, food and delicious craft beer!

Read Across Pennsylvania



On Monday, March 11, volunteers from our club will be reading to 15 children enrolled in the after-school program operated by LVCC at the Muhlenberg Elementary School in Allentown. We would like to thank **Deb Lamb** for selecting this year's books, curated for three reading levels. So far, **Joyce Crosby**, **Deb Lamb**, and **Karen Baker** have signed up for the event. Please consider joining them! It is a fun and rewarding experience.

Other Club News

- At an election held on February 10, delegates from all 8 clubs in Division 17/18 selected **Janet Owen** of the Easton Kiwanis Club as Lt. Governor for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Congratulations, Janet! We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.
- We are already planning for our 14th Annual LVCC Picnic, to be held at the Allentown Rose Garden Pavilions on **Thursday, May 23**. Picnic sponsors **Keith and Jessica Reynolds** have already contacted Key Clubs in the area to make sure that the date does not conflict with Keystone Exams. So far several of the schools are committed to providing volunteers. We will be meeting with staff of LVCC later in the month to discuss details.
- In April, we plan to volunteer for an **Earth Day Project** in association with the West End Alliance.
- Once again this year, we have reserved a Dugout Suite for our annual "**Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs**" game on **Sunday, June 9, 1:35 PM** versus the Buffalo Bisons. There will be an early Father's Day Celebration at the ballpark, with a bucket hat giveaway for men. A flyer was just emailed to our members. Get your reservations in early!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – March 1924

During the early days of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown, club members engaged in competitive matches in baseball, golf, tennis and bowling with other Kiwanis Clubs and service clubs. The Club regularly took on other Allentown service clubs for the city bragging rights. The Club took on the Allentown Rotary Club in March 1924 at the bowling alleys located in the home of the Allentown Elks Club located at 31 S. Eighth Street. The

building, although vacated by the Elks in 1976, stood until it was demolished in 2014 because of extreme deterioration. Kiwanis held up its honor on the alleys by taking down the Rotary Club by six pins 2277 to 2271 in the first three-game match. Days later, Kiwanis followed that victory with a second humiliating defeat of the Rotary Club 2354 to 2226.

75 Years Ago – March 1949

The Kiwanis Club assisted the local Allentown and Central Catholic High School Key Clubs in hosting the District Key Club convention at the Americus Hotel. Key Club members from across the state began arriving on Friday, March 11, with the one-day convention being held on Saturday, March 12. The Kiwanis Club provided most of the arrangements for the convention. Allentown Kiwanian, Rev. Henry Aulenbach, also past District Kiwanis Governor, participated in the convention by swearing in the seventeen new Key Club lieutenant governors. The convention hosted about 300 Key Club members from across the state.

50 Years Ago – March 1974

The Club members participated in Daffodil Day by distributing daffodils, at a cost of \$250 and 60 man hours, to all patients at both the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals. The Club also contributed \$500 to aid the Trout Nursery, \$60 to the American Cancer Society, and \$300 to the Fire Fund to aid families of victims in a recent fire disaster. The Club membership stood at 150 during the month.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, March 14, 6 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Speaker will be from Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley.

SERVICE PROJECT – Monday, March 11, 3:45 PM, “Read Across Pennsylvania” event at the Muhlenberg Elementary School, 740 N. 21st Street, Allentown.

FUNDRAISER – Sunday, March 10, 1-4 PM, Putting Contest at HiJinx Brewing Company.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, March 28, 5 PM on Zoom.



March Birthdays



23 – Young Chang

29 – Susan Martin

February Club Anniversary

"Big Bob" Ashcraft - 22 years!



- *Tom Harp, Editor*