



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

August 1, 2024

July 11 Meeting

At our July 11 meeting, we invited this year’s Key Club college scholarship winners and their families to join us. Our Foundation approved 4 scholarship applications for the following students:

- Allen HS Key Club – **Alfonso Rondon**, who will be majoring in supply chain operations at Drexel University.
- Allentown Central Catholic HS Key Club – **Madison Brophy**, who will be attending the University of Scranton, with plans to study English and Pre-Law.
- Brandywine Heights HS Key Club – **Reece Ferry**, who will be studying Business and Marketing at West Chester University.
- Salisbury HS Key Club – **Addison Paulik**, who will be majoring in Advertising and Public Relations at Penn State University

Attending on July 11 were Alfonso Rondon and his aunt; Madison Brophy and her parents; and **Kirsten Paxson**, mother of Reece Ferry, who was unable to attend. Addison Paulik was enrolled in a summer program at Penn State. We mailed the scholarship check to her home. Those students in attendance shared their Key Club experiences and college plans with the audience. They were then presented with scholarship checks by President **Tom Harp**. We are very proud of these young adults. They are the future of our country, and hopefully will be the future of Kiwanis as well. We encouraged them to join a Circle K club at their college, if one is active there. And also encouraged them to join a Kiwanis Club later in life. We wish them well as they pursue their higher education goals.



Alfonso Rondon



Madison Brophy



Kirsten Paxson

KI Convention

At the July 11 meeting, **Karen Baker** and **Tom Harp** reported on the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention which was held from July 4-6 at the Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver. Nearly 1,900 Kiwanians and their guests were in attendance with 1,284 registered delegates. On Wednesday, there was an all-day Kiwanis District Governor Class of 2024-2025 training that Tom was required to attend. The convention officially kicked off on Thursday, July 4 with the traditional parade of flags representing all 85 countries with Kiwanis Clubs. KI President **Katrina Baranko** welcomed everyone.



The Opening Session included an inspiring Keynote Address by former major-league baseball player **Chris Singleton**, whose mom died in the 2015 mass shooting at a Charleston, SC church. His message was “love over hate.” There were a number of educational forums that Karen and Tom attended, both Thursday and Friday. There was a Signature Project Breakfast, a Service Leadership Programs Luncheon, and a Kiwanis Children’s Fund Breakfast, at which the new “Possibility Project” initiative was launched.

The Keynote Session Friday afternoon featured **Diana Nyad** a 30-year sports journalist best known for her courageous 100 mile swim from Cuba to Florida when she was 64 years old. She was the subject of last year’s feature film “Nyad” on Netflix. She spoke on the “Power of Perseverance,” having failed three times to succeed in that open-water swim when she was younger. Tom got to meet Diana and had his photo taken with her and Pennsylvania District **Governor Conrad Schlesinger**.



The 2024 KI Annual Meeting and House of Delegates took place Saturday morning, July 6. Amendments and leadership election results were as follows:

AMENDMENTS

APPROVED

- KI Annual Dues increase of \$25.00 per member was approved with 80% of the vote.
- Reduction of KI Trustees from 15 to 12 over a 3 year period.
- Reduction of dues Tier levels from 3 to 2. Now there are only Tier 1 Clubs and Tier 2 Clubs.
- In Districts where there are Trustees (i.e. Pennsylvania), someone from outside a Region can serve in that Region if no one else from that Region is willing or able to serve.

NOT APPROVED

- Remote voting by delegates failed again, this time with 60% of the vote.

- Prohibition of alcohol purchases for KI Board members, staff, or spouses/companions.
- Prohibition of first-class or business-class airfare for KI Board members, staff, or spouses/companions.

LEADERSHIP ELECTION RESULTS

- PRESIDENT - Lee Kuan Yong of Malaysia
- PRESIDENT-ELECT - Michael Mulhaul of New Jersey
- VICE-PRESIDENT - Hope Markes of Jamaica
- TRUSTEES, UNITED STATES AND PACIFIC CANADA REGION

Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges, Carolinas District; Jo Schwartz, Kansas District;
Scott Sims, Alabama District

Karen and Tom volunteered to greet attendees in the Exhibition Hall at the booth promoting next year's KI Convention in Pittsburgh. There was a lot of interest in attending the Pittsburgh convention by Kiwanians from around the world. Our booth had a "Mr. Rogers" theme, with backdrops of the Pittsburgh skyline and a montage of photos depicting community service projects in the area. Aktion Clubs in both Pennsylvania and Ohio provided personalized bookmarks that were laminated and given out to visitors as souvenirs. And Tom joined **Shawn Smith** of the Sheraden Kiwanis Club in donning a Heinz catsup bottle costume to go with his pickle costume. For the first time in the history of KI, the Pennsylvania District will be hosting its convention 2025. We did our best to create a "buzz" for next year's big event!



The convention ended on Saturday night with a dinner-dance featuring "Your Generation in Concert," a very entertaining cover band. Several revelers wore outfits depicting their generation and music genre. Tom Harp dressed up as a 60's hippie, and Shawn Smith adorned a heavy metal outfit. It was a fun way to close out a very successful convention!



Membership Growth Meeting



At our next dinner meeting on August 8, Vice-President and Club Membership Chair **Karen Baker** will lead a discussion about increasing our membership in the year ahead. Kiwanis International's theme under incoming President Lee Kuan Yong is "Build, Nurture and Retain." We must **build** new Kiwanis Clubs, **nurture** existing clubs, and **retain** our members. That is the only way that Kiwanis can not just survive, but thrive. Karen will share several proven methods for us to grow membership in the Kiwanis Club of Allentown. It is vital that as many of our members as possible attend this meeting. We want to brainstorm ideas, and plan some new member initiatives and events for the upcoming year. Please join us for this important meeting!

"Back to School Bash"

Our club has agreed to participate in the Allentown School District's 2nd Annual "Back to School Bash" on Tuesday, August 13, from 1-6 PM at the Cedar Beach Park in Allentown. Volunteers from our club, as well as the Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club, have signed up to staff a booth we will have at the event. Like last year, we will be handing out "Early Learning Guides" in both English and Spanish to families in attendance. We will also be handing out brochures promoting Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs. We want to build support for an expansion of SLP's in the school district. This will also be an opportunity to increase public awareness about Kiwanis in general, and may result in new members for our club as well as Allentown Northeast. The ASD is expecting over 6,000 students and families will attend the event. If you are interested in helping out contact President Tom ASAP.

District Convention



For the first time ever, the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Districts of Kiwanis International will be hosting a joint convention at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Reading, Pa., August 15-18, 2025. You can register on-line at the Pennsylvania Kiwanis website. Deadline for registration is August 9. So far, 235 people from both districts have signed up. Our club's delegates at the Business Session on August 17 are **Enos Martin, Karen Baker** and **Bob Ashcraft**. The convention schedule is very ambitious. It includes an Opening Session with **Sharon Mast** of Spark Solutions as the Keynote Speaker, and other sessions that will feature **Paul Palazzolo**, Kiwanis International Executive Director, past KI President **Bert West**, and current KI Vice-President **Michael Mulhaul** of New Jersey. There will be General Sessions on Membership Growth, Service Leadership Programs, and the Nurse-Family Partnership. A "Lunch and Learn" on Friday will feature a panel discussion on "Combating Youth Homelessness." The convention will offer 12 Breakout Forums. The Governor's Banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening. And at the Kickoff Breakfast on Sunday morning, **Tom Harp** will be officially installed as Pennsylvania District Governor for 2024-2025! If you have not already registered for this exciting event, do so now!

Little Free Library

We are very pleased to report that our application to the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation for a Little Free Library has been approved! We plan to install the LFL on the grounds of Lehigh Valley Children's Centers South Mountain Center. We reached out to **Barry Frick**, Faculty Advisor to the Salisbury HS Key Club about their members helping us to install the LFL as well as monitor it and restock it with books as needed. They are looking forward to this service opportunity! When we receive the equipment and initial stock of books, we will notify everyone and schedule installation. The LFL will benefit dozens of children attending the South Mountain Center, as well as neighborhood children, for many years to come.



A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – August 1924

On August 13th, over 200 Kiwanians and guests heard silver-tongued William Jennings Bryan discuss the philosophy of American politics. Bryan gave a promise of another stormy decade ahead for the Democratic and Republican parties. Unsuccessful as a presidential candidate in 1896, 1900, and 1908, Bryan served as Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson from 1913-1915. In July 1925, he defended John T Scopes in the infamous Tennessee Scopes Trial. Bryan passed away on July 25, 1925, five days after the completion of the trial.

75 Years Ago – August 1949

The Kiwanis Club announced it leased the Twin Ponds property near Breinigsville for the purpose of providing a summer recreation spot for the use of its sponsored organizations. The Club expected to develop a camp site for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, and YWCA activities. Kiwanis members could also use the site as a summer retreat. The 8 ½ acre site included a seven-room house with two ponds covering about 2 acres. Today, the location has become a housing development. It is located to the northeast of the end of the Route 222 bypass where Routes 100 and Hamilton Boulevard tie in to the end of the bypass.

50 Years Ago – August 1974

The Club provided three fun-filled outings for the children from Casa Guadalupe. Two bus loads of children, 130 in all, went to Nazareth to tour the Martin Guitar plant and 60 youngsters toured two Lehigh County farms. The club also sponsored 14 children at the Salvation Army camp at Wymart.

25 Years Ago – August 1999

The archives do not include any items on the activities of the Club in August 1999.

- *Enos Martin*

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, August 8, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM), Shanty on 19th. Club Membership Growth Program, Karen Baker.

SERVICE PROJECT– Tuesday, August 13, 1-6 PM, Allentown School District “Back to School Bash” Cedar Beach Park.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, August 31, 5 PM on Zoom.



August Birthdays



- 9 - Jim Fronheiser
- 13 - "Big Bob" Ashcraft



- Tom Harp, Editor