



“Building our community, one child at a time”

## The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

September 1, 2024

### August 8 Meeting



We spent time at our August 8 meeting discussing techniques on how to grow our club's membership. Vice-President **Karen Baker** presented information on the Kiwanis “Two for Two” initiative, where each month two members work together to recruit two new members. We would like to start this process next month. Our membership roster now stands at 23. We need to grow in order to provide needed services to children in our community. Karen emphasized the value of corporate memberships, where a company joins, and any number of employees can represent them at meetings and service projects. We need to set membership goals for the year ahead. Everyone can help out in this effort!



## “Back to School Bash”



The weather was perfect on August 13 for the Allentown School District’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Back to School Bash” at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown. **Enos Martin** and **Tom Harp** got there early to set up our display. We distributed all four versions of our Early Learning Guides, as well as information about Kiwanis and our Service Leadership Programs. There was excitement surrounding our raffle to win one of two gift baskets from Jenny’s Gift Baskets of Allentown. Over 6,000 families were expected to attend. We would like to thank volunteers from our club, including **Enos, Tom, Deb Lamb, Bob Ashcraft** and **Karen Baker**, as well as volunteers **Terry Kennedy, Janine Kish** and **Lisa Brinker** from the Allentown Northeast Club for covering our booth from 1-6 PM. It was a fun and meaningful event to help promote Kiwanis and our SLP’s!



## District Convention

The joint New Jersey and Pennsylvania Districts Convention was held August 15-18 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Reading, Pa. Over 260 Kiwanians and their guests were in attendance. Our club was represented by **Karen Baker, Enos Martin, Bob Ashcraft**, and **Tom and Peg Harp**. Tom went early to help with pre-convention activities, and to attend a group outing at the Reading Phils game Thursday evening. The convention kicked off Friday morning with a welcoming remarks by Reading **Mayor Eddie Moran**, and a Keynote Address by **Sharon Mast** of Spark Solutions & Support. This was followed by a general session on membership growth and several breakout forums. At

Friday's "Lunch and Learn" the topic was "Combating Youth and Family Homelessness." There were additional sessions Friday afternoon and a Wine Tour and Ghost Tour/Hex Talk at the Berks History Center to wind up the day.

On Saturday, there was a general session on the Nurse-Family Partnership involving a panel led by **Tina Wida** from St. Lukes VNA. The Kiwanis Passion Luncheon featured a dynamic speaker and former Kiwanis International President **Bert West**. After lunch, the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Districts separated to conduct Business Sessions in their own rooms. At our session, President Tom Harp was formally elected to serve as the Pennsylvania District Governor in 2024-25. Tom was given the opportunity to announce his goals, theme, and Governor's project for next year. At the Governor's Banquet that evening, both current governors offered their remarks, and KI Executive Director **Paul Palazollo** was the Keynote Speaker. This was followed by the selection of winning tickets for the Kiwanis Kash raffle. Unfortunately, no one from our club was a winner!



**Tina Wida**



**NFP Panel**



**Bert West**

There was a "Kickoff Breakfast" Sunday morning at which time the current Governors retired their Board of Directors, and KI Trustee **Mario Bruni** of Thunder Bay, Ontario formally installed Governor Tom, his Board of Trustees, Lt. Governors, and Committee Chairs. The Governor's Home Club banner was transferred from Governor **Conrad Schlesinger** to Tom, and will be on display at the next meeting of our club. Incoming KI President-Elect **Michael Mulhaul** of New Jersey wrapped things up with brief remarks.



**Mario Bruni**



**Tom & Peg**



**"Flower Power!"**

This was a highly-successful convention, unique in that it was held jointly by two Kiwanis Districts. Next year, the Pennsylvania District will NOT be holding its own convention, but will just have a Business Session at the KI Convention in Pittsburgh. We hope to have several of our club's members in attendance.

At this time, Tom would like to thank everyone who supported him in being only the second member in the history of our Kiwanis Club to serve as Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Governor. He looks forward to a year of new club openings, club membership growth, expansion of Service Leadership Programs, filling all Lt. Governor positions, and raising money for neonatal services. He is proud to represent the Kiwanis Club of Allentown in achieving those goals.

## Little Free Library!



Our club has received its first ever "Little Free Library", courtesy of the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation. It will be installed next to the Lehigh Valley Children's Centers South Mountain site in September. The Salisbury HS Key Club will be conducting a book drive at school to fill up and replenish books for the LFL, and will monitor its usage. We plan to have a dedication ceremony later in the month.

## United Way Day of Caring



For the past several years, members of our club have volunteered for a United Way Day of Caring project. Last year it was painting tent platforms and lodge railings at the Girl Scout South Mountain campsite. This year, we have volunteered to help clean up and organize things at the Family Promise of Lehigh Valley Day Center in Allentown. So far, **Tom Harp, Deb Lamb, Enos Martin, and Karen Baker** have signed up. The project will take place from 9:00 AM to approximately 3:30 PM on Thursday, September 19. If you would like to join us, contact Tom ASAP.

## Service Leadership Programs

It is that time of year again when schools open and we renew our involvement with Service Leadership Programs (SLP). Lehigh Christian Academy does not start school until September 4 but **Kim Van Aken**, their Key Club advisor, hopes to begin a “buzz” about the club in order to sign up new members. **Barry Frick**, advisor to the Salisbury HS Key Club has reported that the club plans to “adopt” the new Little Free Library at LVCC South Mountain Center and will be holding a book drive early in the semester, as well as “rolling” book drives throughout the year, to stock the library. **Karen Baker** has contacted the faculty advisor at Brandywine Heights HS offering to attend their Key Club meetings and to become more involved with their activities.

Once again this year, we will be participating in the Raub Middle School “Back to School Night” on Tuesday, September 17 from 6-8 PM. At the event, we will be promoting our Builders Club at the school. **Enos Martin** will continue to serve as our advisor to that club. We have big plans to open new K-Kids Clubs in the Allentown School District! On September 18, **Tom Harp** and **Cathy Kane**, incoming Pennsylvania District K-Kids Administrator, will be meeting with the principal at the Washington Elementary School in an attempt to re-open the K-Kids Club there. Tom will also be reaching out to the Muhlenberg and Union Terrace Elementary Schools to try and open K-Kids Clubs at those schools. Meanwhile, we are looking forward to the K-Kids Club at Ramos becoming active again, now that their school advisor has returned from a sabbatical. **Vic Mazziotti** will continue to be our advisor to their club. We will be reaching out to all of our SLP’s as soon as possible to offer our support.

## A Glance Into Our Past

As a tribute to Tom and his upcoming term as Governor for the Pennsylvania Kiwanis District, the month’s history article will be on the club’s only other District Governor, Henry Aulenbach, who served from January 1, 1939, through December 31, 1939.

Aulenbach had a very distinguished Kiwanis career with nearly 46 years of membership when he passed away on February 25, 1974. In addition to serving as Club President, he served as Vice President in 1938, as Foundation President during the 1969-70 administration year, Division 11 Lt. Governor in 1941 and 1949, Pennsylvania District Governor in 1943 (the Club’s only District Governor, prior to Tom), an official organizer of new clubs from 1945-53, and achieved perfect meeting attendance for 32 years.

At a one-day convention held at the Hotel Penn-Harris in Harrisburg on September 21, 1942, delegates from the then 11 Pennsylvania divisions and 122 clubs, elected Aulenbach as the next District Governor over Felix Bentzel of York. At the same session, Lloyd K. McKeever, also from the Allentown Kiwanis Club, was elected District Secretary. With their election, the Pennsylvania District headquarters were moved to Allentown. Because of World War II, the convention was cut from three days to one with no social events or non-delegates in attendance. The state-wide organization had 6,500 members during this time.

During Aulenbach’s term as District Governor, a new 12th division was formed due to the growth of the Kiwanis organization state-wide. The members of this new division included

Allentown, Reading, Bethlehem, Easton, Pottstown, Phoenixville, Stroudsburg, and Bangor.

Born in Schuylkill Haven, Aulenbach graduated from the Reading High School for Boys in 1917, from Franklin & Marshall College in 1921, and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1924. He was the pastor at St. Andrew's United Church of Christ in Allentown from 1931-53 and also served as pastor at churches in Campbelltown PA, Berwick PA and New Brunswick NJ. He was 75 years of age at his passing. His wife Mildred passed away at the age of 70 in January 1972.

= *Enos Martin*

## Upcoming Meetings and Activities

**MONTHLY MEETING** – Thursday, September 12, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM), Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Speaker will be Tyrone Fisher, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the LV.

**SERVICE PROJECT**– Thursday, September 19, United Way Day of Caring, 9 AM to 3:30 PM at the Family Promise of Lehigh Valley Day Center, 1346 W. Hamilton St., Allentown.

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



### *September Birthdays*



20 – Barry Frick

28 – Mary DiFebo

### *September Anniversary*

Keith Reynolds – 21 years!!

**HAPPY  
LABOR  
DAY**

- Tom Harp, Editor