



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

December 1, 2024

November 14 Meeting

Our speaker for the November 14 dinner meeting had to cancel her appearance at the last minute due to health issues. So, we enjoyed dinner and a “roundtable” discussion led by President **Karen Baker**. December is always a busy month not just for our club, but for most Kiwanis Clubs. With Christmas parties, coat drives, gifts for children in need, and special events. What follows in the newsletter will be reports on those activities.

Holiday Hope Chests



If you have volunteered to donate one or more Holiday Hope Chests, they need to be dropped off at the collection center, located at 968 Postal Road, Allentown this Thursday, December 5 between 1-7 PM. Our goal as a club is to donate at least 29 boxes this Holiday Season. We would like to thank all of you for donating to this wonderful cause! You will bring joy to a child in need.

Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon

On Thursday, December 12 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm we will be hosting our annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon at the Shanty on 19th. This is always a warm and festive event. The Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown will be awarding a total of \$9,150 in grants to the following organizations:

- Boys and Girls Club of Allentown
- Community Action Lehigh Valley
- Community Music School
- Lehigh County Historical Society
- Pratyush Sinha Foundation
- Salvation Army, Allentown Corps
- SATORI
- St. Luke's VNA Nurse-Family Partnership

We will enjoy a hot lunch buffet and the fellowship of fellow Kiwanians from other clubs in Division 17/18. Once again this year, the William Allen High School Chorale will be performing for us. And, we will have a very special presentation to one of our members. Cost of the luncheon is \$25, which can be paid at the door. Please RSVP by contacting Tom Harp no later than December 9.

LVCC Christmas Party!



Our 18th Annual LVCC Christmas Party is being held on Friday, December 13 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Judith Chase Early Learning Center (ELC), 540 Chew Street, Allentown. We are expecting 153 children enrolled in LVCC "Pre-K Counts" programs at the South Mountain, Walnut Street, William Allen HS, and ELC centers to attend. There will be several activity stations set up for the kids in the ELC gym, as well as musical entertainment. We will be treating the children to a lunch of chicken nuggets, baby carrots, cookies and juice boxes. **Toys for Tots** has approved our request for two toys per child. And each child will enjoy having a personal photo taken with Santa! We are pleased that once again this year, the **William Allen HS Key Club** will be helping out. As well as Early Childhood Education Students from Lehigh-Carbon Technical Institute (LCTI). We would like to thank members of our club who have volunteered for the event, including **Enos Martin, Bob Ashcraft, Deb Lamb, Young Chang** and **Tom Harp**. And **Todd Siegfried** has booked an appearance by his good friend **SANTA**. A great time will be had by all!

Service Leadership Programs



Enos Martin, our advisor to the Raub Middle School Builders Club reports that the club is once again making candy wreaths to donate to residents of the Phoebe Home. They meet every Thursday after school, and for the next two weeks they will be working on the wreaths with plans to take them to the Phoebe Home on December 19.

The Salisbury HS Key Club is participating in the Holiday Hope Chests program once again this year. And, at least 8 members of the Allen HS Key Club will be helping out at our annual LVCC Christmas Party on December 13.

We continue to work on getting a K-Kids Club started at the Washington Elementary School.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – December 1924

At the Club's December 19th meeting, the members in attendance demonstrated the spirit of Christmas with the collection of over \$400 to provide food, clothing, coal, or whatever was necessary for needy families in Allentown. Club members were told of a family of eight children whose mother had passed away and the father was a laborer. Another family of seven children lost their mother and the father disappeared. These families, along with 23 other families, were given shoes for every family member by Harvey Farr from his shoe store. Another member, Julius Lentz, who owned a flour mill, provided flour to each of the families.

75 Years Ago – December 1949

Continuing its annual Christmas project, the Club held a Christmas Party for 700 underprivileged children at the Earle Theater, located at 20 North 8th Street, on December 24th. After watching a movie, Santa Claus distributed candy, fruit and nuts to all the children. At the Club's Christmas meeting, a group of children from Harrison-Morton Junior High School presented the Christmas story to the attendees and sang Christmas carols.

50 Years Ago – December 1974

Directed by Mrs. Lois Bitler, the Allen High School choral group presented a special Christmas program "Songs for the Holiday Season" during the club's December 19th Christmas meeting.

25 Years Ago – December 1999

The Club sponsored ten inner city children for a Christmas outing at the Burnside Plantation in Bethlehem.

- ***Enos Martin***

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, December 12, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm, Annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon at the Shanty on 19th.

SERVICE PROJECT– Holiday Hope Chests. Volunteers have your gift boxes ready no later than December 5, to be delivered to the drop-off center located at 968 Postal Rd. Allentown.

SERVICE PROJECT– Friday, December 6, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Salvation Army coat distribution, 144 N. 8th Street, Allentown.

SERVICE PROJECT– Friday, December 13, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, annual LVCC Christmas Party, Judith Chase Early Learning Center, 540 W. Chew Street, Allentown.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, December 18, 5 PM on Zoom.



December Birthdays



25 - Deirdre Govan

29 - Joyce Crosby

30 - Karen Baker

31 - Enos Martin

December Anniversaries

Kathryn Best - 4 years

Enos Martin - 25 years!!



- Tom Harp, Editor