

“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

July 4, 2025



Greetings, fellow members of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown! I hope you are enjoying your Independence Day holiday. We have a lot to be thankful for on this day, as we celebrate the founding of our great nation. It is a day for family cookouts and fireworks. And to reflect on the freedoms we have as Americans. Happy July 4th everyone!

May and June Happenings...

I would like to apologize for my negligence over the past two months in publishing a club newsletter. I have been overwhelmed with my duties as District Governor. If you read my bi-weekly blog on the district website, you will get a sense of how busy I have been. Particularly in preparing for the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh last week, as well as our District Business Meeting and House of Delegates Saturday afternoon. And, in opening a new Kiwanis Club in Northampton! So I will now attempt to gather up all of the club news and events during my absence.

LVCC Picnic

I was unable to attend our 15th Annual Lehigh Valley Children's Centers Picnic back on May 8. I was recruiting new members for the Northampton Kiwanis Club. But reports that I received were very positive. VP **Enos Martin** provided the following report via email:

"On a beautiful day on Thursday, approximately 230 preschool children and 150 volunteers enjoyed the Annual LVCC Picnic at Lone Lane Park in Upper Macungie Township. As always, the picnic was well-organized by member **Keith Reynolds**, his family, and employees of his company Reynolds Business Systems. We are extremely grateful to Keith, his family, and employees for the outstanding service they provide to our club for this two-time award-winning Pennsylvania District Signature Project of the Year. Without their efforts, our club would not be able to conduct this project and receive the accolades we have been given.

We also greatly appreciate the contributions of the various Key Clubs (Allen, Central Catholic, Salisbury, Southern Lehigh and Parkland) along with students from the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute. Over 125 members of the Key Clubs and Technical Institute chaperoned the children to the seven activity stations around the campus and served lunch to the children. Without their assistance, this event would not come off as well as it does.

The new location served the project well, especially since around 10 large school buses had to negotiate the site to drop the children off and to accommodate the many Key Club volunteers."

The following photos from the picnic were provided by LVCC.





We would like to thank volunteers from our club, as well as the Kiwanis Club of Allentown Northeast, for helping out that day. The venue worked out well, and the weather gods favored us. Let's look forward to another amazing event next May!

Mother's Day Flower Project

On May 9, **Karen Baker** and **Deirdre Govan** treated children at the LVCC Early Learning Center to a Mother's Day Flower Pot project. The children decorated individual flower pots as gifts for their moms. This project was created years ago by **Bob Ashcraft**. It was wonderful that Karen and Deirdre were able to take it over this year. It was a fun and rewarding event!



IronPigs Game



Karen, FeFe, and Tom

May was a BUSY month for our club. On June 12, we had a chance to relax at our annual “Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs” game at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. For a change this year, we enjoyed the evening in an Executive Suite on the club level of the ballpark. This new location was fantastic! Great sight lines of the field, and more room than the Dugout Suites. President **Karen Baker** got to throw out a ceremonial first pitch, and did well! No sideways toss or into the ground. Our group of 30 enjoyed a 2 ½ hour buffet featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, pulled pork, salads, fruit and cookies. And everyone took home a beach tote giveaway. **Enos and Susan Martin** were unable to attend, but they treated Raub Builders Club faculty advisor **Nicole Beltran** and her family to their tickets. Our club also sponsored a family of four who were recommended by LVCC to the game. The icing on the cake was when the IronPigs crushed the Worcester Woo Sox 12-3! It was a lovely evening of fun and fellowship for our members and guests.



Kiwanis International Convention

There is no doubt that the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh was a HUGE success! **Tom and Peg Harp** drove out on Tuesday, June 24 for an early preview. The next morning, Tom volunteered at the airport at the “Welcome to Pittsburgh” table in the baggage area. Dozens of delegations from around the world stopped by. KI President **Lee Kuan Yong** officially opened the convention Marketplace that afternoon with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Later that day Tom, who is President of the 2024-25 Governor's Class hosted a class dinner for over 60 guests at Sienna Mercado, a restaurant near the Westin Downtown Pittsburgh Hotel, the site of the Pennsylvania delegation. They had a fabulous time despite the air conditioning system breaking down! It was toasty, but the food was tasty.



The following morning, on Thursday, June 26 was the opening session. It began with the traditional parade of flags from nations around the world. KI President Lee Kuan Yong welcomed everyone with the Malaysian term for “wow” – “WAH!” Following the introduction of the KI Board and Officers, the Keynote Speaker and NFL Hall of Fame Steelers legend **Terry Bradshaw** was introduced. Terry immediately commented on how he was never a “replacement” in his football career. He was referencing the fact that both Henry Winker and Martin Sheen had withdrawn as speakers. Terry was a dynamic speaker, funny and at times irreverent. But definitely a big hit with the audience.



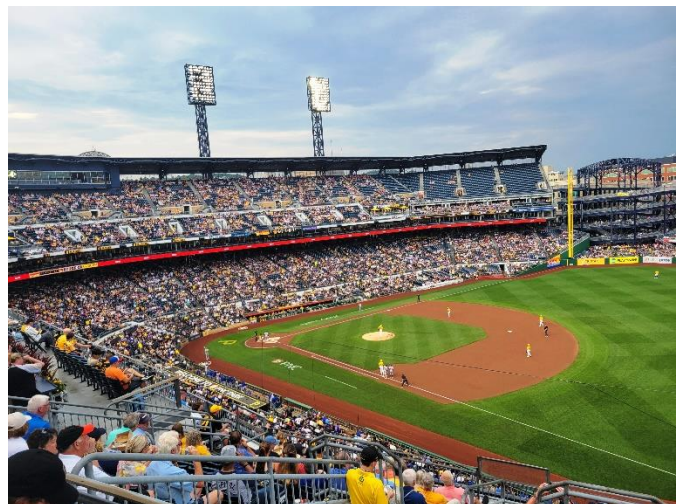
The opening session was followed by lunch in the convention Marketplace. Our District had a lounge set up in that space, offering a variety of activities including screen printing of “terrible towels” with a convention logo, writing cards out for children being served by

the Caitlin Smiles organization, viewing videos about Pittsburgh and enjoying displays from our 7 District Regions. There were silent auction items to benefit the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation (PKF). One of the items, a Martin Guitar “backpack” guitar, donated by clubs from Division 17/18 received a high bid of \$350! In all, the auction netted over \$1,800 for PKF.

Our other delegate to the convention, **Karen Baker** was joined by a representative of the newly-chartered Kiwanis Club of Greater Northampton Area, **Linda Macnamara** in traveling and rooming together at the convention. They both enjoyed the many educational sessions offered on Thursday and Friday. Tom attended the Signature Project Breakfast Thursday morning, as well as the Service Leadership Program Luncheon on Friday. There was a lovely “rooftop” reception Thursday evening that was moved inside due to the heat and threat of thunderstorms. The highlight was a performance by the local Chinese Dragon Association.



There were more educational sessions on Friday, culminating in a group outing to the Pirates-Mets game at PNC Park that evening. Over 550 tickets were sold to the “all you can eat” section of the ballpark. Over 10 Kiwanis Districts participated in the outing. Fans enjoyed a Pirates win, and a spectacular drone light show after the game.



Saturday morning, June 28 was historic. For the first time in nearly 80 years, a Pennsylvania Kiwanian was elected Vice-President of Kiwanis International! **Cathy Szymanski** of Erie was comfortably elected by the House of Delegates on the second ballot. All of us in the Pennsylvania delegation wore blue and white “Kiwanis Needs Cathy”

t-shirts to show solidarity with her campaign. A lot of effort went into her election. She will be our Kiwanis International President in 2028-29. Only the 4th from Pennsylvania in the 110 year history of KI. We are SOOOO proud of Cathy. And proud to be members of the Pennsylvania District. On a sour note, the amendment to approve remote voting at future KI conventions failed once again.



The convention ended with KI officers and board members wishing everyone safe travels home. But the Pennsylvania Delegation was not through. Saturday afternoon was our District Business Meeting and House of Delegates. As Governor, Tom Harp chaired the meeting. There was a District Awards ceremony, at which time our own **Enos Martin** received a "Kiwani Hero in Service Award!" He was nominated by President Karen and selected for the award by Division 17/18 Lt. Governor **Janet Owen**. Enos was vacationing with this family at the time, and Karen accepted the award on his behalf. It will be presented to him at our club meeting on July 10. KI Trustee **Cathy Tutty** was our main speaker. Later in the program, **Barb Carter** of the Kiwanis Club of Sheraden was elected District Governor for 2025-26. Once again this year, there were no candidates for Governor-Elect.

It was an exhausting, but exhilarating week in Pittsburgh. I have been to 7 Kiwanis International Conventions, and can honestly say this was the best! A lot of credit goes to **Shawn Smith**, who chaired our convention host committee, and to all of our District volunteers. Pennsylvania was a gracious host, and this convention will be remembered fondly by all who attended.

Key Club Scholarship Dinner

Our next monthly dinner meeting on July 10 will be a special one. Our foundation, the Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown, will be awarding \$1,000 college scholarships to 5 members of our sponsored Key Clubs. They include:

- **Reina Escobar**, Salisbury HS. She will be studying finance at Penn State University.
- **Emma Osher**, Lehigh Christian Academy. She will be a history major at King's College.
- **Alexander Torres**, Allen HS. He will study biology at Lehigh Carbon Community College.
- **Eli Ulman**, Brandywine Heights HS. He will be majoring in computer science at George Washington University.

- **Sungwon Yu**, Southern Lehigh HS. He will be attending Lehigh University where he will major in computer science and business.

Regrettably, there were no scholarship applicants from the Allentown Central Catholic Key Club this year. Most of the students will be attending the dinner, in some cases with their parents. Our guest speaker will be Lehigh County Executive **Phillips Armstrong**, who will assist with the presentation of the scholarship awards. We hope that our entire membership can turn out to show support for these fine young adults! Thursday, July 10 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Shanty on 19th.

A Glance Into Our Past - June Edition

100 Years Ago – June 1925

The Kiwanis Club athletes had a very busy June. The baseball team played in the Business Men's League in Allentown. The league had four teams including Unco-St. Leger, YMCA, and the Lions. They began the season by defeating Unco-St. Leger 4-1 and the Lions 12-4. In an exhibition game, they defeated the Sea Isle Champions from New Jersey. Not to be outdone, the Kiwanis golfers defeated their Stroudsburg Kiwanis counterparts in Stroudsburg and later were treated to dinner at the Central Inn at the Delaware Water Gap.

75 Years Ago – June 1950

At their June 15th club meeting at the Americus Hotel, the Kiwanis sons and daughters ran the club meeting. The program included, supposedly, a "real live cowboy" and a magician. The real live cowboy "Pancake Pete" who was a member of the Sleepy Hollow Gang featured on local radio station WAEB. Later in the month on June 24, seventy-five sons and daughters entertained their parents at a party.

50 Years Ago – June 1975

During the month, the Club treated 15 boys from Casa Guadalupe to the circus. The Club also contributed \$1000 to the Boy Scouts for their Historic Trails Project and another \$350 to sponsor inner city boys to attend Boy Scout Camp. Another \$1,000 was contributed to the Allentown Community Concert Association for cameo concerts to expose every 7th grader in Lehigh County to classical music.

25 Years Ago – June 2000

The June treasurer's report showed income of \$52 for the sale of Entertainment Books, \$4 from the 50/50 Jackpot, and \$24 Happy Dollars. The administrative balance stood at \$5,705.61 and the Youth and Community Services balance a \$2,504.10 for an overall total of \$8,209.71.

- **Enos Martin**

A Glance Into Our Past - July Edition

100 Years Ago – July 1925

On July 9, the Kiwanis baseball team traveled to York to face the York Kiwanis baseball club. Prior to the game, the York Kiwanians hosted the Allentown club at a luncheon. The team came home happy after easily defeating their York comrades 15-2. They followed up with a trip to Sellersville on July 16 to play the Sellersville Kiwanis Club and again went on to an easy victory 10-1. On July 30 on the road again this time to Lebanon, The Kiwanians from Allentown shellacked the Kiwanians from Lebanon 23-1. Earlier, on July 13, in a more competitive match, the Kiwanians again came out with a victory over the Allentown Lions Club at Muhlenberg field. Off the field, the club allocated \$14,000 from its Business Show to restore Allen Park and preserve its glorious old trees and beautify the park

75 Years Ago – July 1950

On July 13, the Club had a grand opening for its Twin Ponds facility located on Route 222 beyond Trexlertown. The Club purchased this 8-acre site and refurbished the facilities. The site was opened up for use by the club for special meetings and to host the various youth groups the club sponsored. On July 27, the Kiwanians hosted a Kiwanis Ladies' Summer Party at the Brookside Country Club. Both the men and ladies engaged in golf matches, played bridge, and enjoyed swimming in the pool.

50 Years Ago – July 1975

The Club renovated the Casa Guadalupe facilities located at 226 N. 2nd Street with funding from the Club's Foundation and individual members assisted with the renovation work. The Club participated in an open house tour on July 13. Later in the month on July 23, the Club hosted 40 children and parents at a Phillies/Braves game at Veterans Stadium.

25 Years Ago – July 2000

No items included in our archives for July 2000.

- *Enos Martin*

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Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, July 10, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Key Club Scholarship Presentations. Guest speaker will be Phillips Armsstrong, Lehigh County Executive.

SERVICE PROJECT – Reading Event, LVCC Early Learning Center from 3-4 PM.

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



June Birthday



13 - Timothy Jany

June Anniversaries

Vic Mazziotti - 10 years

Todd Siegfried - 17 years



July Birthdays



15 - Peg Harp

18 - Katelyn Quinn

July Anniversary

Tom Harp - 29 years!



- ***Tom Harp, Editor***