



“Building our community, one child at a time”

THE DOWNTOWNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

January 8th Meeting Recap

The January 8th meeting featured the induction of a new member into our Club. Seth Hoderewski, Executive Director-Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL), was installed as our second new member of the current administrative year. Seth was sponsored by Tom Harp. Tom also performed the installation ceremony for Seth. We welcome Seth as a new member to our fine organization.

As part of the agenda, two members were honored for their contributions to our club and the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis. At the December Foundation Grant Awards luncheon, we announced the Distinguished Service Award recipients for 2025. Peg and Tom Harp were recognized as joint winners of the award. Tom’s plaque was presented to him at the luncheon. We did not have the plaque for Peg. We formally presented her plaque to her at the meeting. They were recognized for their significant contributions to the Kiwanis organization.

As the district governor for the Pennsylvania District, Tom traveled several thousand miles to attend Kiwanis functions across the state and a countless number of hours traveling and taking care of activities through the District. His dedication went well above the norm for anyone in that position in many years. Peg was recognized for her role as secretary/ treasurer of our club as well as the many sacrifices she had to make in support of Tom’s role as district governor. Congratulations and thanks to both for their dedication to our club.

Our guest speaker for the evening was our latest new member, Seth Hoderewski. He gave a presentation on his organization LVCIL. LVCIL is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization that provides programs and services for people with all types of disabilities living in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Recently, he has also picked up the responsibility to oversee the Bucks County office. More than fifteen such facilities are located across the state of Pennsylvania.



The organization is located at 713 N. 13th Street, Allentown. The organization strives to empower persons with disabilities to live independently, get involved with their community, and live life to their fullest. This is done by providing five core services: Information and Referral, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills, Advocacy, and Youth and Adult Transition Services.

We hope to partner with his organization in the future on some volunteer activities.



Book Fair Recap



Here’s a recap of the first Scholastic Book Fair we held at Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers South Mountain. Net sales from the event totaled \$1043, with the club receiving \$313 in Scholastic dollars to purchase books and classroom supplies.

Thank you to our volunteers Tom & Peg Harp, Enos & Susan Martin, Karen & Chelsea Baker, Vic Mazziotti, Young Chang, and Jessica Reynolds and LVCC for hosting the event.



Kiwanis 2026 LVCC Holiday Party

It was another great showing for Kiwanis Club and the many volunteers, staff, and teachers who make the annual LVCC Holiday Party Possible. Over 150 children were in attendance for the party and to sit on Santa’s lap. Enjoy some photos from the event, where some children’s excitement was captured inside of a “wintry mix.”



Salvation Army Food Packing Service Project



We had three members of the club participate in the Salvation Army food packing service project on Wednesday evening, January 21.

The volunteer corps was depleted because of sickness of several of the volunteers. We had three members participate at the Salvation Army Eighth Street facility: Deridre Govan, Rudy Shadle, and Enos Martin.

During the two hours, the club packaged approximately 60 bags.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries
Susan Martin- 6 Years

A big welcome to our newest member
Seth Hoderewski

A Glance into Our Past

100 Years Ago – December 1925

The Club began the New Year with a total active membership of 120. The January 15th meeting featured the tennis great Bill “Big Bill” Tilden. Tilden is arguably the first great American tennis player. He was ranked the world #1 amateur from 1920-1925. He won ten Grand Slam events and was the first American to win Wimbledon. His subject was “Municipal Tennis” which he professed should be sponsored by all cities. Allentown was one of the first cities to promote tennis led by Kiwanis member Ernest Ashley. Ashley established the Allentown Tennis Club in east Allentown and was the original owner of Ashley Florists which still exists on Hanover Boulevard in east Allentown.

75 Years Ago – November 1950

The Club began the New Year with a total active membership of 146. From the January 4, 1951, newsletter:

Coat Hangers

The wire coat hangers that are always falling off the hooks in your closet and cluttering up the floor are at a premium. The laundries and cleaners are unable to purchase them and have offered our scouts 75 cents a hundred if they will collect them from homes. We know that every Kiwanian has dozens of these hangers. We know he will be glad to dispose of them. We also realize that he will get some satisfaction in knowing they are being sold to benefit our youth activities. Suitable cartons will be provided at the meeting this week and we hope every Kiwanian brings all the coat hangers he can scrape together himself and canvass his neighbors, as we hope to get thousands and thousands in this collection.

50 Years Ago – December 1975

The Club began the New Year with a total active membership of 148.

The building at 171 Turner Street owned by the Kiwanis Club for use by the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the Club was sold for \$1500 to the Spanish Center of Allentown which would later become Casa Guadalupe. The club no longer sponsored a Boy Scout troop.

25 Years Ago – December 2000

At the January 8 board meeting, Foundation president Tom Harp reported that five Foundation grants were approved. In addition, five projects were being considered for a large \$50,000 grant were being considered including Salvation Army, Arts Walk, Lehigh County Historical Society, Play Lot on North 5th Street, and J Birney Crum Arena.

Upcoming Meetings

February 12th - 6PM

The Shanty on 19th

Annual Key Club meeting with our sponsored Key Clubs in attendance.

Upcoming Events

**Lehigh Valley Phantoms
Private Party Deck**

**WHEN: February 1, 2026
WHERE: PPL Center**

Cost \$45

Join your fellow Kiwanians on February 1st at 3:05 at the PPL Center to see the Lehigh Valley Phantoms vs the Wilkes Barre/ Scranton Penguins in the private party deck.

Contact to purchase-
Peg Harp: 610-428-9878
Katelyn Quinn: 613-379-1093

