



*“Building our community, one child at a time”*

## THE DOWNTOWNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

### March 12th Meeting Recap

Club member Katelyn Quinn introduced Erin McFadden, Human Resource and Quality Assurance Manager at Haven House as a speaker for the meeting. Katelyn became familiar with Haven House during her assignment at the facility during the United Way Day of Caring last September. We are exploring opportunities for a relationship with the organization, possibly helping with stocking of their food pantry. Their facility is located at 1411 Union Boulevard in Allentown.

Erin provided us with an overview of the organization. Haven House has been providing mental health services to our community since 1957. The organization strives to make mental healthcare readily available to our local community. Haven House’s mission in “To empower individuals to overcome barriers in their lives, provide them with support, and an opportunity to reach their full potential”. Their mental health programs include: Outpatient Services to individuals ages 6 and up with therapy, medication management, and nurse support; Wellness Recovery Team to help clients to maintain their physical, mental, and emotional health; Mental Health & Aging Program for Gracedale residents struggling with mental illness; Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services to support adults diagnosed with serious mental illness; Group Therapy to reduce feelings of isolation for participants; and Community Outreach through local partnerships to the high-risk population, which includes a food pantry.



### March 7th Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Mid-Year Conference

Tom Harp attended the Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Mid-Year Conference held at the Wyndham Garden Inn in Boalsburg on March 7. Over 80 Kiwanians were in attendance. The Keynote Speaker was Jason Sizemore, Co-Executive Director of the Mindful Child Initiative. That organization is headquartered in Allentown and was formerly known as the Prabha Sinha Foundation. Our Foundation has provided them with grants over the year, and Tom recommended them to the Mid-Year planning committee as a presenter at the event.



The session was very interactive as attendees participated in relaxation techniques and breathing exercises. This was followed by a number of breakout sessions on membership, Young Children Priority One, technology, risk management and more. In the final general session, awards were given out including Distinguished Club Awards to 18 clubs in the District. The Kiwanis Club of Allentown was a Distinguished Club for 2024-25 and the conference was highly successful.

### A Salute to Jim Fronheiser - 58 Years a Member of Club

Our Club would like to provide special recognition to our longest serving member Jim Fronheiser. Jim joined our club in February 1968 and just celebrated his 58th anniversary as a member of our club. In years past, Jim was a very regular attendee at our club meetings.



Unfortunately, in recent years, Jim has not been able to make our monthly meetings. Jim served as our president during 1980-81. He has also served as club treasurer and as treasurer of our Foundation. We salute Jim for his long-time dedication to our club!

### March 21st Ribbons of CARE Fundraiser

Rudy Shadle coordinated the club’s participation in the Ribbons of C.A.R.E. Basket Bingo Fundraiser held at the Vera Cruz Fire Company Social Hall. Through donations from club members, we provided several baskets to be used as prizes for the fundraising event. The organization supports families affected by cancer by providing them with care and resources needed during their difficult times.

### March 13th Reading Across Pennsylvania

Club member Deirdre Govan coordinated our annual support of Reading Across Pennsylvania at the LVCC Muhlenberg Elementary School After School Program at located at 740 N 2st Street, just north of Tilghman Street in Allentown. Tom Harp ordered books from Scholastic Books on three different reading levels for the children in the program.

Book titles included:

- The Cool Bean
- The Bad Seed
- What If You Had Animal Eyes?

Deirdre, Tom, Susan and Enos Martin read the books to the children. Deirdre provided snacks for the children.



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## Anniversaries

Deirdre Govan – 9 years

Boy Scouts – 7 years

Rudy Shadle – 1 year

## A Glance into Our Past

### 100 Years Ago – April 1926

At a monster interclub meeting held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia on April 28, Allentown Kiwanis was awarded a beautiful loving cup for aggregating the greatest mileage in attending the meeting. Clubs from Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey were in attendance. Forty-seven members of the club made the trip to Philadelphia and accumulated over 2600 miles.

### 75 Years Ago – April 1951

The April 26th club meeting featured George “Whitey” Kurowski as the club’s guest speaker. A colorful former third baseman who played 8 seasons and participated in 4 World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals, Whitey was named the player-manager of the Allentown Cardinals for the upcoming season. The Allentown Cardinals were the last major league-affiliated team, as a farm team of the St. Louis Cardinals, prior to the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs. Their stadium was located where the Lehigh Valley Mall is currently located.

### 50 Years Ago – April 1976

The club participated in seven inter-club meetings during the month including at West Allentown, Whitehall (3 times), Allentown-Salisbury, Stroudsburg Daybreak, and Allentown Northeast. Allentown Northeast is the only one of these clubs to still be active, since Stroudsburg Daybreak apparently has combined with the Stroudsburg Club, A total of 52 members participated in the inter-clubs.

### 25 Years Ago – April 2001

The Club’s Foundation announced the award of the following grants: Salvation Army \$40,000 to help with the construction of a women’s and children’s child care center; Lehigh County Historical Center \$10,000 to help with the construction of the new museum on Walnut Street; Lehigh Carbon County Community College \$2500 for a college summer computer camp; Girls Club of Allentown \$2000 for a summer program; Communities in Schools of the Lehigh Valley \$2000 for an afterschool enrichment program; Allentown Symphony Orchestra \$1000 for spring concerts for children; and the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (Now Sights for Hope) \$500 for a summer camp.

## Upcoming Meeting

### April 9th

Membership Meeting at the Shanty on 19th Street on April 9th at 6 pm. The speaker will be Vincent Polakowski, Minsi Trails Boys Scout Field Director. Polakowski will officially inducted as the new Boy Scout representative to our club. New member Angel Carwell of TD Bank will also officially be inducted into the Club.

## Upcoming Events

### LVCC Scholastic Book Fair

**WHERE:** 555 Union Blvd. Allentown PA 18109  
Executive Education Academy Charter School Auditorium  
Entrance located in rear parking lot door W

**WHEN:** APRIL 13 - APRIL 17 | 9 AM - 4PM

Our Club along with Allentown Northeast will staff the event and serve as cashiers (2 cashiers/shift). The two clubs will split Scholastic Dollars earned between the two clubs. The Scholastic Dollars earned will be used to order books from the Scholastic catalog in the future at no cost to the club to support our Reading Across Pennsylvania service project. Please sign up

### LVCC Picnic

**WHERE:** Lone Lane Park  
30 Lone Ln, Allentown, PA 1810

**WHEN:** May 21st

### Shanty Fundraiser

Joe, the owner of the Shanty on 19th, has graciously agreed to continue a fundraising effort for our club. During February, we attempted to run this fundraiser, but the weather did not cooperate well with us. Joe offered to run this fundraiser on a continual basis. Be on the lookout for the reissue of the revised dining coupon and share it with your friends! We thank you, Joe!