

“Building our community, one child at a time”

THE DOWNTOWNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

March 12th Meeting Recap

During the monthly dinner meeting, we welcomed two new members into our club. Angela Carwell, Branch Manager for TD Bank and Vince Polakowski, District Director for Scouting America Minsi Trails Council! Both received Certificates of Membership, a Kiwanis pin and pen, and a copy of our club’s history book.

Vince was also the guest speaker. He provided updates on developments within the local Scouting America Council. Although the council had to sell Camp Trexler, they are making significant upgrades to Camp Minsi. They cleared wooded areas to construct archery and shooting ranges. They are replacing roofs on cabins and other buildings with new aluminum roofing. They are planning a climbing wall and many other upgrades to the facility. Vince reported that the Council is planning to bring back the urban scouting program, Scout Reach, in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton.

Vince himself was in the Scout Reach program as a youth growing up in a northern New Jersey community riddled with drugs and crime. It helped him get off on the right track. The council is beginning a 12-week Seasonal Cub Scouting Program for 2nd to 4th grade children. They have been working with the Kindness Project in recruiting up to 25 foster kids for scouting experiences.



They are also working on plans to begin an Adaptive Scouting Program for children and young adults with disabilities. The council serves over 4,000 youth a year. 210 are girls. Major recruitment efforts are underway in communities like Hazleton, Stroudsburg, and Hackettstown, NJ. And, of course, in the Lehigh Valley. They asking parents and scouting alumni to assist with recruitment. Our club has supported Minsi Trails scouting in the past, and will continue to do so especially with a strong advocate like Vince as their representative in our club!

We were also pleased to welcome Juliana Rodriguez, Community Inclusion Coordinator for the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living to the meeting. Juliana is a former Bethlehem Catholic HS Key Club member. President Enos Martin was able to present the 2024-25 Distinguished Club Award to Immediate Past President Karen Baker. Congratulations, Karen! (reported by Tom Harp)



2025 Foundation Grant Awards

Last December our Foundation awarded grants to a number of local non-profit agencies. Two of the awards went to the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown and the Haven House.

Boys and Girls Club – A \$1,500 grant was awarded for the “Make Your M.A.R.K.” offered at two of the B&GC facilities in Allentown: Sixth Street and the Turner Street Club House. Youth become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career. M.A.R.K stands for Motivated Academically Ready Kids.

The program provides individualized educational activities in math and reading and motivational incentives for successful completion of work. Tom Harp and Enos Martin both visited the B&GC to witness the on-going activities. The program is offered twice a week in each of the locations.



Haven House –

A \$1,500 grant was awarded for "Feelings Ninja" book series, therapists and supplies. These books and supplies help support the outpatient services to individuals ages 6 and up with therapy, medication management, and nurse support.



Scholastic Book Fair

Our club participated in its second book fair in support of the Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers. The fair was held at LVCC’s 555 Union Boulevard location from April 13 through April 17 during the hours of 9 am and 4 pm each day. Three shifts were staffed each day by members of our club and Allentown Northeast with a little support from the LVCC staff to obtain full coverage. Our members supporting the fair included Julianna Rodrigues (club guest), Kathryn Best, Young Chang, Deidre Govan, Peg and Tom Harp, and Susan and Enos Martin.

The gross sales were \$1,847.94. Deducting taxes, our net sales were \$1,743.29. We exceeded the threshold of \$1,600 in net sales and thus were awarded 40% of fair sales in Scholastic Dollars!

The two clubs agreed that those dollars will be split evenly between the Kiwanis Clubs of Allentown and Allentown Northeast. Both clubs earned \$348.66 in Scholastic Dollars. Since LVCC has been kind enough to host these fairs, they will be rewarded by our clubs by redeeming Scholastic Dollars for books, or other classroom items they need.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLUB NEWS

New member Seth Hoderewski's son Seth, better known as Sudge' was recently named to the Lehigh Valley Boys Basketball First Team for the Lehigh Valley. Congratulations to both Seth and Sudge!

Please congratulate Andrew Keuscher, our member from LVCC, on his recent wedding during the weekend of April 11th. Congratulations to the bride and groom!

Upcoming Meeting- May 14 Annual Club Meeting

The May meeting serves as our annual club meeting.

During this meeting, we will elect officers and board of director candidates for the 2026-27 Kiwanis administrative year. Please attend to elect your new slate of officers for the club. The slate of officers will be announced with the meeting announcement.

A guest speaker for the meeting is also being sought.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Karen Baker - 3 Years

Young Chang - 21 Years



Annual LVCC Picnic

With the weather warming up, we are all looking forward to the annual Lehigh Valley Children's Centers (LVCC) Picnic,

This will be the 16th Annual LVCC Picnic! And each year it gets better and better.

This year we are expecting approximately 220 pre-school children from four LVCC Centers - Early Learning Center, South Mountain, Union Boulevard and Walnut Street.

We are also expecting over 100 Key Club volunteers to help with activities and serving food at lunchtime. As in the past, there will be several activity stations including arts & crafts (decorating tiles for display as a mural in their classrooms), parachute game, obstacle course, bubble-making, and the always- popular "Reptile Guy." With the extra Key Club volunteers, one station will be to supervise children at the park playground.



WHERE: Lone Lane Park 30 Lone Ln, Allentown, PA
WHEN: May 21st | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Glance into our Past

100 Years Ago – May 1926

On May 27th, the Club sponsored a “Welcome Home” concert by opera star Dorothea Flexer at the Allentown High School Auditorium. Ms. Flexer graduated from Allentown High School in 1919 and went on to study music at the New England Conservatory. She was a contralto and at the time was one of Allentown’s two representatives in the Metropolitan Opera Company. After the concert, the club held a reception for Ms. Flexer at the Hotel Allen.

75 Years Ago – May 1951

The Boy Scout Troop sponsored by the Club installed four Kiwanis road signs on the four major high ways running into the city during the month of May. The Club obtained the signs and coordinated the location of the signs with the Scout Troop. The Club gave specifications for the design of the supports to Lehigh Structural Steel. After the fabrication was completed, the scouts under the direction of the Club installed the supports and the signs.

50 Years Ago – May 1976

Thirty-two club members sold chances on May 22-23 at local golf courses for a raffle to raise money for the Lehigh Valley Society for Crippled Children (now known as Easter Seals). Each member worked a 3 ½ hour shift at one of seven local golf courses including Shepherd Hills, Twin Lakes, Northampton Country Club, Brookside Country Club, Wedgewood, Willowbrook, and Green Pond. A total of \$1,544 was raised for the society.

25 Years Ago – May 2001

The May 11th edition of the Morning Call included an advertisement announcing the distribution of Personalized Children’s Books to first grade students at Sheridan Elementary on May 10 and Union Terrace Elementary on May 11. A major sponsor of this program was our Allentown Kiwanis Foundation along with nine other local organizations. The program was coordinated by former club member Terry Kennedy who is now a member of the Allentown Northeast Club.

Shanty Fundraiser

The Kiwanis Club of Allentown and the Shanty on 19th are collaborating on an on-going fundraiser for the benefit of the Club’s Youth and Community Services (Y&CS) Fund. A similar effort had been attempted during the month of February, but it was severely impacted by the rough weather stretch during the month.

Since then, the Shanty has offered to make this an on-going fundraiser for our Club. We are very appreciative of the willingness of owner Joe Tatasciore and his staff to provide this opportunity to raise funds for our many projects and activities for the children in the Allentown community.

The Shanty will donate 10% of the food bill to our club to be allocated to the Y&CS Fund. If you are looking to dine out, please consider the Shanty on 19th located at 613 N. 19th Street. Please feel free to share the coupon with friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. The more individuals we can encourage to dine at the Shanty the more it will benefit the Shanty and our fundraising efforts.

Please present the attached coupon to your waitress or waiter when you order. The coupon can be used multiple times. We greatly appreciate your willingness to support this fundraiser!



YEAR-ROUND FUNDRAISER



DINE AT THE SHANTY ON 19TH RESTAURANT

613 N. 19TH STREET, ALLENTOWN

AND 10% OF YOUR FOOD BILL WILL BE DONATED TO OUR
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES ACCOUNT
CAN BE USED ANY TIME AND MULTIPLE TIMES

SHOW THIS FLYER TO YOUR SERVER BEFORE ORDERING

RESTAURANT HOURS:

MONDAY – CLOSED

TUESDAY-SATURDAY – 4 PM -12 AM

SUNDAY – 12 PM – 8 PM

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL 610.841.9153

