



Kiwanis Club of Allentown

“Building our community, one child at a time”

THE DOWNTOWNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

May 14th Meeting Recap

Kathryn Best, a club member and the Director of Programs & Operations at the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown, served as a speaker and provided an update of the Make Your MARK after-school program at several Boys and Girls Club locations. Our Foundation provides a yearly grant to help cover some of the costs of the program.

The program is held at two locations twice a week. The students receive an individualized English and math curriculum to improve English and math skills. Sixty-four percent of students who participate in the 30-week program have made significant increases in their skill levels.

The students earn “money” which they keep track of in a register similar to a checkbook register. The earnings can be converted into the purchase of school supplies, games, snacks, and field trips.

This activity provides them the opportunity to learn lifelong skills in budgeting, savings, and interest.

Several club members provided gift cards to be used as items to be purchased with the students’ earnings.



We as a club are pleased to be able to collaborate with other organizations to provide this program to many Allentown school children during every school year.

In addition, we welcomed Santiago Delgado, who represented LVCIL, since Seth Hoderewski was away at a training session. Santiago gave us a brief synopsis of his duties at LVCIL.

Also attending was Andrea Wilson, the Education Director at the CASA Guadalupe Center. CASA has decided to join our club as a corporate member. We were pleased to have her in attendance and CASA’s decision to join the club. In the past, our club interacted regularly with Casa Guadalupe and provided programs for the children at the center.



May 16 Division 17/18 Meeting

The Division 17/18 meeting was held at the Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center. Every club except Stroudsburg, which had a club event, was attendance.

Interim Lieutenant Governor Diane Farliegh presided over the meeting. Since she had agreed to assume the Lieutenant Governor position when Janet Owen accepted the District's Governor-Elect position, a formal election was conducted by Janet Owen to officially install her. She was elected unanimously.

Mike Grabarits, along with Ellen Kern, from Adventures Made 4U, attended the meeting to provide information on an opportunity for division Kiwanis Clubs to participate in a personalized book program for area children.



Mike's goal is to provide individualized books for children in the Monroe, Northampton and Lehigh County elementary schools. He also would like to set up an eBook version to allow access to these books online. Mike has taken over the program established by Terry Kennedy, a former club member and now a member of Allentown Northeast. No decisions were made at the meeting and clubs with evaluate the opportunity further.



The division presented Tom Harp with a special crystallized gift to recognize him for this excellent year as the Pennsylvania District Kiwanis Governor. The beautiful crystal features an image of Tom which illuminates in the light. **Well deserved, Tom!** Hopefully, he will bring it to a future club meeting to share it with all of us.

Diane Farliegh closed out the meeting with a number of activities to engage the attendees in providing their insights on what makes Kiwanis and their individual clubs great and major contributors to their local communities.



Lehigh Valley Children's Centers Annual Picnic 2026

Inclement weather provided an additional challenge to allow our Club's Signature Project to occur this year.

Club member Keith Reynolds and his family along with the LVCC staff and all the volunteers extended extra efforts to allow this year's LVCC picnic to happen.

Their efforts to locate a facility, the St. Luke's Sports Rink and Field house, to make it possible to hold the picnic were extraordinary.

The anticipated inclement weather forced the Reynolds family and LVCC to find an indoor location to ensure the children would get to enjoy their much-anticipated event.

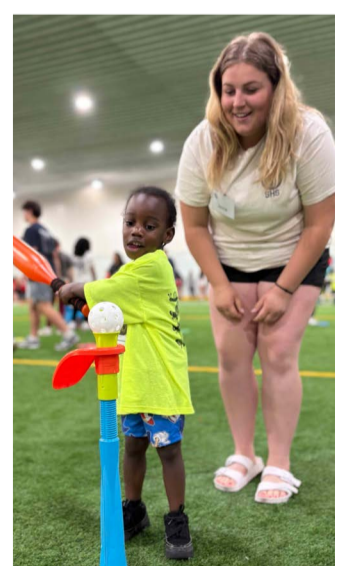
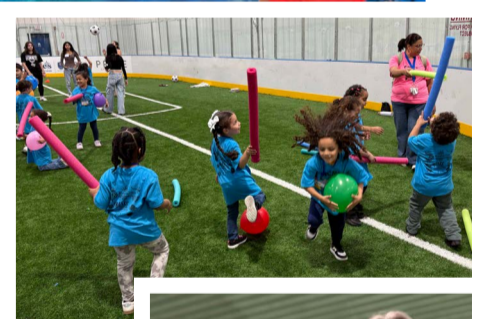
This required a lot of last-minute efforts to make it happen.

LVCC delivered many tables and folding chairs to provide seating space for the luncheon. And they had to be set up and arranged to ensure sufficient seating.

The Reynolds family had to determine the arrangements to set up their activities for the children.

In the end, 156 total volunteers allowed the picnic to happen without complications and more than 200 children enjoyed the day.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers including the Reynolds family and Reynolds Business Systems staff members; Lehigh Valley Children's Centers' Charles Dinofrio and Jessika Nasatka and their dedicated LVCC staff; the many local Key Club members from Salisbury HS, Southern Lehigh HS, and Parkland HS as well as students from Lehigh Career & Technical Institute; Allentown Northeast Kiwanis members David Tagg, Cathy Kane, and Lieutenant Governor Diane Farliegh; Easton Kiwanis member and PA District Governor-Elect Janet Owen; and Allentown Kiwanis members Rudy Shadle, Tom Harp) special efforts to obtain the blowup Kiwanis logo sign), Andrew Keuscher (also an LVCC staff member), Barry Frick (also Salisbury Key Club advisor), and Young Chang.





ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLUB NEWS

Upcoming Meeting - June 11 -Membership Meeting

Please plan on attending our next membership meeting at the Shanty on 19th at 6 pm on June 11.

Our guest speakers will be Lynn Schoof and Tjwana Reed from the Sixth Street Shelter. They will provide us with an update on recent activities and programs at the Shelter.



District Convention at Gettysburg August 13-16

Registration is now open for Kiwanis members to register for the Pennsylvania District Convention to be held August 13-16 at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel & Conference Center.

Please consider attending the convention and let Enos Martin know if you are interested in attending the convention.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Tim Jany - June 13th

Vic Mazziotti - 11 Years

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Glance into our Past

100 Years Ago – June 1926

The first interclub meeting of the entire Northeastern District of Pennsylvania was held in Allentown on June 24, 1926, at the Hotel Allen. There were over 300 Kiwanians in attendance from the Philadelphia, Plymouth, Pittston, Reading, Easton, Stroudsburg, Carbondale, Wilkes-Barre, Quakertown, Kinston, Scranton, Lansdale, Lancaster, Sellersville, Hazleton, Bangor, Bethlehem, Berwick, Tamaqua, and Allentown.

As part of the festivities, golf matches were held at the Saucon Valley Country Club and tennis matches at the Allentown Tennis Club. In the golf competition, a booby prize was awarded to Allentown member G. Harold Bechtel for shooting a score of 143

75 Years Ago – June 1951

At the June 7th meeting, the Kiwanians heard a plea from Jean Thurston of the American Nursing Association for the need for 65,000 nurses across the United States. The Club endorsed a plan to work with local business officials to implement the "Allentown Plan". The intent of the plan was to provide scholarships for up to 150 local nursing students. The Club began its plan to raise sufficient funds from local businesses and industries to raise the necessary funds.

50 Years Ago – June 1976

On June 25th, Casa Guadalupe sponsored a block party and fiesta for the traditional Puerto Rican celebration of the feast of St. John the Baptist on N. 2nd Street between Turner and Chew Streets. Casa Guadalupe unveiled a plaque in recognition of a \$15,000 grant from our Kiwanis Foundation. The grant made possible the purchase of the agency's service center which the agency had been renting on a monthly basis. Allentown Kiwanis Foundation president Carl Kresge accepted the presentation of the plaque to the Club.

25 Years Ago – June 2001

Tom Harp, president of the Kiwanis Foundation, shared with the Club's board of directors that the Foundation made a total of \$61,000 grant awards with a significant grant awarded to \$40,000 towards the construction of a New Family Center and Playground. The Club was given naming rights for the playground because of the significant donation. Another grant of \$10,000 was also awarded to the Lehigh County Historical Society towards the construction of their new facility.

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 Tatascore 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

