Kiwanis Club of Allentown

"Building our community, one child at a time"

THE DOWNTOWNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

August 6th Meeting Recap

Our speaker was Tina Wida, Nurse Supervisor for the St. Luke's VNA Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP). Our club has supported our local NFP for many years with grants to purchase books distributed to moms during Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. NFP was also the beneficiary of Tom Harp's Governor's Project "Bucks for Babies."

The St. Luke's NFP received 1,100 referrals last year, and already has 900 referrals this year. The good news is that there is no longer a waiting list for services!



The program has been able to hire more nurses to accommodate the demand. Clients must meet low-income criteria, which generously is 235% of the federal poverty level, which means that working moms may be eligible for services.

Funding primarily comes from the state Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The program used to be strictly for first-time moms during pregnancy through the child's 2nd birthday. However, there is new expanded eligibility that accepts referrals even after birth, and even for moms with multiple births. Each nurse has a caseload of 25 at any given time. They make home visits every month or two, schedule virtual visits, and provide case management as well as nursing services.

Tina announced a new NFP initiative, "Project Pink" to combat post-partum depression with new moms.

It uses flamingos as a life lesson. Flamingo moms lose their pink coloration after giving birth. Their feathers turn white. Eventually the pink color returns. With new moms who suffer from post-partum syndrome, they feel isolated and hopeless. But using the flamingo example, "this too shall pass."



Remembering our Friend

Our monthly dinner meeting honored former long-term member Bob Ashcraft who tragically passed away exactly one year earlier after attending the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, with a moment of silent reflection. Bob was a dear friend and a loyal Kiwanian who loved helping children. He is greatly missed.

In addition, Member Seth Hoderewski provided an overview from his recent two-week trip to Japan. Seth is the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, which serves individuals with disabilities. While in Japan, Seth was asked to lecture to over 50 disability advocates in the Tokyo area. He shared disability advances and legislation in the United States and learned about how their culture treated disabilities. He visited a CIL center in Osaka, and spent time with their clients and staff. He traveled with his brother, an English teacher at Emmaus HS, his son Aiden, and his niece. They are all huge baseball fans, and enjoyed attending two professional baseball games n Japan, including one at the renowned Tokyo Dome. Quite an experience!



DISTRICT CONVENTION AT GETTYSBURG



Our Club was represented at the District Convention in Gettysburg by Karen Baker, Enos Martin and Tom and Peg Harp. The Wyndham Hotel and Convention Center had an authentic restored Civil War cannon in the main lobby and art work everywhere depicting scenes of the town of Gettysburg, the battlefield, generals, and President Lincoln. Prominently displayed was a sign with convention sponsors. Tom and Peg Harp were recognized at the highest sponsorship level, the "Union Victory Level." Thanks, Peg and Tom!
Friday morning featured greetings from Governor Barb Carter and a celebration of the legacy of Pennsylvania Kiwanis. Throughout the convention, Kevin Thomas and Jim Janosik provided historical presentations on the rich Pennsylvania District history. The District honored Kiwanians who passed away since our last convention, which included our own Bob Ashcraft, who tragically lost his life last August. This was an emotional moment for us in the audience.

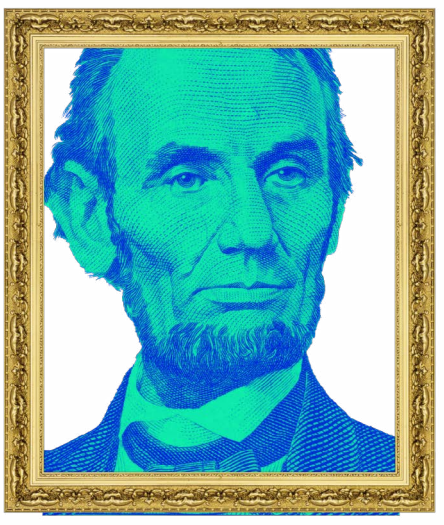
Two excursions occurred on Thursday night: a battlefield tour and a ghost tour.

Friday's lunch featured a very informative mental health panel. Friday night's highlight was a Gettysburg Train Tour, a short ride through the Gettysburg countryside in passenger cars with plush loveseats and arm chairs.

On Friday, our own Tom Harp, as District Risk Manager, provided a breakout session on risk management and good safety practices.

Saturday began with a Service Leadership Programs breakfast and more Breakout Forums and then a luncheon featuring speakers on the benefits of Early Childhood Education. This was followed by the Business General Session, where two bylaw amendments were approved, and Janet Owens was elected incoming Governor and Mike Coolbaugh incoming Governor-Elect. Fifty-two out of 127 Pennsylvania Kiwanis Clubs were represented at the session, with 116 certified delegates present in the house. There were reports from our District Secretary, Treasurer, and the President of the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation.

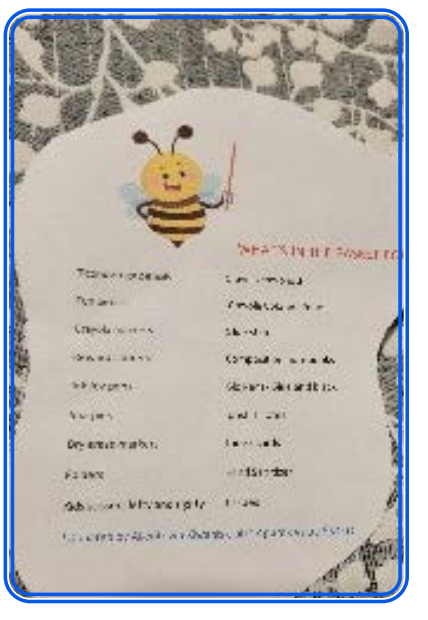
That evening everyone got "dressed to the nines" for the annual Governor's Banquet. After a delicious plated meal, a very authentic Abe Lincoln impersonator entertained the attendees. You could hear a pin drop in the large banquet hall when he recited the Gettysburg Address.



Peg Harp was surprised when Tom presented her with a Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation Pliny J. Wilson Award, honoring her 19 years as a member of the club, 18 of which she has served as our Secretary, her last 3 years succeeding Enos as our club Treasurer, her willingness to join the Kiwanis Club of Greater Northampton Area and serve as their Secretary on an emergency basis, and her many years as Treasurer of our Foundation. She deserved the standing ovation she received from the audience. It was an emotional moment for both Peg and Tom.

The Keynote Speaker for the banquet was Cathy Szymanski, KI Vice-President-elect Designee.

At the banquet, thee winning tickets from the Kiwanis Kash raffle were drawn. Unfortunately, no one from our club was lucky, but Bill Walters of the Kiwanis Club of Easton won the grand prize of $2,500. Prior to the banquet, the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation basket raffle and silent auction winners were selected. Over 40 baskets were donated by district clubs and individuals, including "back to school" student and teacher baskets donated by our club and wonderfully assembled by Karen Baker. This was a highly-successful fundraiser for the district foundation.





Sunday morning featured the Kickoff Breakfast, at which time Janet and Mike were installed by KI Trustee Amy Zimmerman, and Janet launched her Governor's theme for next year, "Stories of Service." Her Governor's Project will be to support Early Childhood Education initiatives and advocacy in Pennsylvania, a very worthwhile cause.



Current Activities

The current happenings in our club

Rose Sale

The annual rose sale fundraiser has begun and will run through the end of September. Our goal is 60 dozen. Contact Coordination Peg Harp to order your roses.

Division 17/18 Picnic Committee
October 4 | 1PM to 4PM

Karen Baker is coordinating our club's participation in the Division 17/18 picnic. The picnic committee has opted to make it a "bring-your-own-lunch" picnic with the focus being a joint service project by the division clubs. The project will be the preparation of "Birthday Boxes" for children which will be shared with local foster family agencies and food banks. Each box will include a foil baking dish, cake mix, icing, candles, greeting card and balloons. We will prepare the boxes and wrap them. Karen will be reaching out to club members requesting participation, even if it can only be for an hour or so. Please come out and meet up with other Kiwanians from our division!



Service Leadership Programs

Allen Key Club

Mary DiFebo and Michelle Tasker serve as club advisors for the club's 81st year.

Allentown Central Catholic Key Club:

A new advisor needs to be appointed for the club by the school in its 77th year.

Lehigh Christian Academy Club

Club needs to be reactivated after an inactive year.

Salisbury Key Club

Barry Frick continues as the club's advisor in its 41st year.

Southern Lehigh Key Club

Nicole Yaghi will succeed Tom Beaupre as the club's advisor in its 41st year. Tom served as the advisor for over 30 years.

Raub Builders Club

Nicole Beltran, who has served as the advisor since the club' charter in December 2016, has accepted a new position and stepped down as the advisor. Raub is currently looking to find a replacement.

Ramos K-Kids

Efforts are being made to find and advisor and reactivate the Club.

Upcoming Membership Meeting

September 10th

The September membership meeting at the Shanty on 19th Street will be our annual officer installation dinner.

Officers for the 2026-27 administrative year include:

- Enos Martin, president;
- Deidre Govan, vice president;
- Peg Harp. secretary/treasurer;
- Karen Baker, assistant secretary;
- Angela Carwell, Katelyn Quinn, and Young Chang as directors;
- Tom Harp, Rudy Shadle and Vic Mazziotti were elected in previous years and will continue as directors.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Barry Frick – September 20
Mary DiFebo – September 28
Rudy Shadle – September 28
Angela Carwell – September 30

Keith Reynolds – 23 years of Kiwanis

Diane Farleigh, our lieutenant governor and member of Allentown Northeast, will perform the installations after dinner. Prior to the dinner, new member Andrea Wilson will give us an overview of the programs and activities at CASA (Casa Guadalupe).

Volunteer Opportunities



United Way Day of Caring at Haven House
September 17th at 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Tom Harp will coordinate our participation. We will assist with a variety of indoor and outdoor projects. Projects may include: painting walls and touch-up painting, finishing the stain on our outdoor fence (weather dependent), washing and detailing our agency vans (weather dependent), refreshing seasonal décor in their café, and organizing and tidying their food pantry and storage areas.

Consider assisting for several hours as your schedule permits.

Raub Middle School Back to School
September 16th | 6PM - 8 PM

We will again participate in this event in an effort to recruit members for the Builders Club at the school.

The event runs from 6-8 PM. We will be looking for several volunteers to support our efforts.

LVCIL Fishing And Fun in the Park -
September 26th | 10 AM - 4 PM

This event will be held from 10 AM – 4 PM at the Iron Bridge in the Lehigh Parkway. The event, co-sponsored by the City of Allentown and LVCIL (club member Seth Hedorski serves as the Executive Director of LVCIL).

More details will follow in the future on the opportunities for our members to serve.

West End Block Party -
September 26th

We will be participating in this event again this year.

We have been approved for a crafter location.

We will be selling some items and recruiting new members. Details will be forthcoming on how members can provide some items for sale and also cover shifts (Noon-10 PM).

Glance into our Past

100 Years Ago – September 1926

Membership meeting presentations included the history of the electric light bulb by General Electric, local production of coal by the Jeddo-Highland Coal Company, and the manufacture of high-grade linoleum by the Armstrong Cork Company of Lancaster.

75 Years Ago – September 1951

The club took its membership meeting on the road on September 6 touring the General Electric Toaster Plant located at 1801 S 12th Street. The plant manufactured toasters from raw steel to the final product. General Electric provided lunch in their cafeteria at the end of the tour,

50 Years Ago – August 1976

Al Meltzer, renowned Philadelphia sportscaster, provided an insight on all Philadelphia sports including the Phillies, Eagles and 76ers. Al covered all the sports during various stints at KYW-TV3, NBC10, WPHL-17, and Comcast from 1966 to 2003. He made several appearances at meeting throughout the years including this appearance on September 23.

25 Years Ago – August 2001

The Club contributed $100 to the Bulgarian Refugee Fund.

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.

This fundraiser has not taken off as we had hoped. We ask the membership to please pass on the Shanty on 19th fundraiser coupon to friends and family. The Shanty will designate 10% of the food purchase to our club to help raise funds for our Youth and Community Services account. Also, consider going to the Shanty for dinner other than our club meeting nights. The funds will help cover costs for our various children's programs,

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!

Kiwanis
CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

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

KIDS NEED KIWANIS