Kiwanis Club of Allentown

"Building our community, one child at a time"

THE DOWNTOWNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN

September 10th Meeting Recap

At our monthly dinner meeting, we welcomed speaker Andrea Wilson, Director of Education for CASA (former Casa Guadalupe). Andrea grew up in Guyana, the only South American country whose official language is not Spanish! She has been with CASA for 11 years now.



She provided information on the variety of programs that CASA offers. They have a robust senior program, including free lunches at their 2nd Street location. They provide afterschool services for local children. They have a summer program that includes visits to the DaVinci Science Center and the Baum School for the Arts. They have partnered with the Mindful Child Initiative which provides social and emotional support for children of all ages.

They also offer karate classes and other physical fitness activities. They have facilitated children joining the local 4H chapter, provide nature excursions through the Wildlands Conservancy. They operate a youth entrepreneurial program. Their summer program serves 100 kids. They have had field trips to the studios of PBS-39.

They have a fun time with middle school students with a "Dusk 'til Dawn" sleepover in October. And every year they host a Christmas Party with support from PPL. Their staff meets with children's families once a month. Although a majority of the children they serve are from Latino families, their services are open to anyone in need.

We are thrilled to announce that CASA has become a corporate member of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown! We welcome them and their representative Andrea, and look forward to a productive relationship with CASA in the years to come.

After dinner, Division 17/18 Lt. Governor Diane Farleigh installed our club's officers and Board of Directors for 2026-27.

That included Board members Young Chang and Katelyn Quinn, Secretary and Treasurer Peg Harp, Assistant Secretary Karen Baker, and President Enos Martin. Vice-President Deirdre Govan and Director Angela Carwell were unable to attend. President Enos then shared with us his Strategic Plan for the next few years, which focused on membership growth and fundraising initiatives. Finally, in remembrance of 9/11, Enos asked everyone in attendance to share their recollection of events on that tragic day.







Current Activities

The current happenings in our club

Bethlehem Kiwanis Charter Night Dinner

The newly-organized Bethlehem Kiwanis Club will hold its charter night on October 19, 6 -8 PM, at the Green Pond Country Club. The cost for the event is $45 per person. Reservations need to be made by October 10. Please let Enos Martin know if you are interested in attending to support our newest Kiwanis Club.

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

On October 4 from 1 pm to 4 pm, Division 17/18 will hold a picnic at Lone Lane Park, 30 Lone Lane, Allentown. Karen Baker is coordinating our club's participation. 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!

United Way Day of Caring
September 17th

The day prior to our scheduled participation at the Haven House with a variety indoor and outdoor projects at their Union Boulevard campus, we received an email that Haven House had to cancel the projects. We were given some other options to participate. After reviewing the other options, our participants who had volunteered to assist decided that none of the other options were suitable for our group. Club volunteers for the event had been Andrea Wilson, Tom Harp, Karen Baker, and Enos Martin. We will try again next year.

LCVIL Fishing and Fun in the Park –
September 26th

We are supporting this event sponsored by member Seth Hoderewski's LVCIL organization. Since we don't have any members who are fishers, we have donated $100 from our Foundation in support of the event.

Raub Middle School Back to School
September 16th

Our participation in this event at Raub was canceled since we have not been informed about the replacement advisor for Nicole Beltran. We have made the decision to deactivate the club for this school year and will work with the school to get it reactivated for the 2027-28 school year.

West End Block Part -
September 26th

Unfortunately, the rain storm over the weekend forced the cancellation of this event. We had hoped to use the event as a membership outreach effort and a club fundraiser. Karen Baker, Deirdre Govan, Young Chang, Vic Mazziotti, Tom Harp, and Enos Martin had planned to staff the event.

Plans are being made to possibly set up a club booth during the West End Christmas tree lighting event on November 28th. More details will be forthcoming.

Upcoming Membership Meeting

October 7th

The October membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 6 PM at the Shanty on 19th, due to several schedule conflicts.

Our guest speaker will be Eileen Kutzler, Community Life Coordinator at the Phoebe Home.

Our Builders Club at Raub Middle School has delivered candy-decorated Christmas wreaths and Easter gift bags to residents at the Phoebe Home for a number of years.

Both the Raub students and the Phoebe Home residents have shared tears of joy from this service project.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Vic Mazziotti - October 7

- Peg Harp -19 years
- Salisbury School District (Barry Frick) – 14 years
- Mary DiFebo – 10 years
- Tim Jany – 2 years
- Katelyn Quinn – 2 years

Youth Protection Training

The annual Youth Protection training has been announced. As a club, we are required to have at least 60% of our membership to complete the training. We will have a PowerPoint presentation at our next membership meeting on October 7. This will be an easy was to complete the training requirement.

The Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown

The Foundation has been receiving applications for the upcoming annual grant awards in December. The Foundations leadership has been finalized with Tom Harp as president, Vic Mazziotti as vice president, Peg Harp as treasurer, and Karen Baker as secretary. We thank them for their willingness to serve in these roles.



Service Leadership Programs

Allen Key Club

The Club held its first meeting on Thursday, September 24 with about a dozen prospective members in attendance. Since the Raub Middle School Builders Club will be inactive during this school year, the Key Club is planning to assume the Christmas wreath and Easter gift bag projects for Phoebe Home residents.

Allentown Central Catholic Key Club:

A new advisor has taken over to enable the club to be reactivated for this school. We will be meeting with the new advisor, Rosemary Welsh, to advise and assist her in getting the club reorganized.

Salisbury Key Club

On October 10, the Salisbury Key Club will be supporting the Special Olympics in the "Pull for a Purpose" activity. We will pull an airplane to help raise money for the Special Olympics.

Raub Builders Club

Since the school has not appointed an advisor for the club, we have opted to deactivate the club for this school year with the hope that we can restart the club again next 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. The Club is currently being organized and has a busy year planned with Homecoming decorations and conducting food collection for the local food pantry and holding dinners for local senior citizens.

Ramos K-Kids

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



Upcoming Activities

Allentown Halloween Parade October 31 11 AM-2 PM (Coordinators – Tom Harp/Enos Martin)

We will be participating in the Walking Halloween Parade on Hamilton Street between 6th and 9th Streets. Instead of a usual parade, booths will be set up and the attendees will walk along collecting candy and other handouts from vendor participants.

We will handout candy and other items and hopefully recruit potential members to our club.
Please considering dressing in a costume and come out to support our booth.

Holiday Hope Chests (Coordinator – Karen Baker)

We will again request participation from our membership in the Holiday Hope Chest effort to provide Christmas boxes for local needy children. More details will be released later this month.



Grant Awards Luncheon (December 10):

Our annual Foundation grant awards will be made during this luncheon at noon at the Shanty on 19th.



LVCC Christmas Party (December 11):

Fun activities, Christmas presents, and lunch will be provided to LVCC pre-school children, as well as an appearance by Santa, at the Early Learning Center on 6th Street in Allentown.





Glance into our Past

100 Years Ago – October 1926

The Club announced that it would sponsor and organize the second annual Business and Industrial Exposition, November 13-20, at the Manhattan Auditorium located in east Allentown on Hanover Avenue. The Exposition was conceived to enable the Club to raise funds to improve Allen Park, located at Walnut and 4th Streets, Allentown.

75 Years Ago – October 1951

The Club furnished 80 "picture books" on different types of locomotives to children suffering from cerebral palsy. Fifteen of the children were able to participate on a short ride on one of the local train engines, arranged by the club.

50 Years Ago – October 1976

The Club reported a membership of 138 to begin the 1976-77 administrative year. The Club reported a balance of $5,523 in the treasury. The Club had 232 gum ball machines in operation throughout Allentown as a club fundraiser.

25 Years Ago – October 2001

At an installation dinner held at the Allentown Clarion Hotel, 9th and Hamilton Streets, Tom Harp was installed as Club President for the 2001-2002 administrative year.

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