



# Kiwaniis CLUB OF EASTON, PA

NEWSLETTER

March, 2024 Edition



## President's Letter

Fellow Kiwanians,

As we come into the final days of March and a wonderful Easter weekend, we know we are turning the corner on the cold blustery days and coming into the full measure of Spring. I always marvel at the many different shades of green I see as we experience new growth and warmer days. This also means new opportunities to be outside engaging in activities with the children and communities we serve. Our recent volunteer efforts at the Equilibrium's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, serving children of all ages, is a prime example. We are thrilled to be drawing into a closer relationship with our partner in service, Jessie Shappell and all the fine folks at Equilibrium. We also are excited to be joining another partner, Susan Bartels of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley for their Annual fund raiser Bowl For Kids' Sake event coming up on April 28<sup>th</sup> where we are a Lane Sponsor and have the opportunity to field one or more teams. Teams are forming now for this superhero version. If you have an eye for bowling this is sure to be a fun time. If golf is your passion, we have another opportunity for you with the Annual Center for Humanistic Change (CHC) fund raising Golf Tournament to be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. We are sponsoring a hole and there is an excellent opportunity to join a foursome for a round of golf, three meals, some camaraderie and helping an incredible organization with your participation. You may remember CHC as a vital part of the Easton Opioid Awareness Task Force work prior to Covid.

Our committees are hard at work planning this year's events and soon to come up is the Easton Kiwanis Annual Police Officer of the Year Award. Walt Howell does some incredible work pulling this all together with the help of his committee and you will for sure want to be a part of this year's event on May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are not a part of a committee and are looking to rediscover why you joined Kiwanis, you can choose to be part of a great team of people doing great work by looking at and joining the activities of one of our many committees. This is the best way to become involved.

Of great concern to me has been recent meeting attendance. While many service clubs report declining membership that is not our case. We have continued to add new members and create new events for our members to participate in. We have, however, seen declining attendance at our weekly meetings. The club's leadership team is working on new ideas to present different ways for you to be involved. One great example is our new evening meeting. Beginning on April 10<sup>th</sup>, at Tony's Pizza in Forks Twp we will be holding an evening meeting to encourage those who cannot attend a weekday noon meeting. We hope to see you all there to enjoy each other's fellowship and learn of new activities we

are planning to serve the children of our community. I encourage you to attend more meetings as you are able. We need your energy, ideas and helping hands. See you at a meeting or service event soon.

In Kiwanis Service,

James Owen

### **Monthly Wrap Up**

#### **March 6th Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President James Owen. The Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America followed. James reported on Chris' status.

This was a roundtable meeting and the following items were discussed.

#### **SLPs**

- Walt Howell reported on the Shawnee and St. Jane's SLPs
- Karthy Heller will be doing installation of officers for the Nazareth Key Club

#### **Equi-librium**

- A report was given on the Equi-librium Egg Hunt

#### **Read Across America**

- Club members will be reading at Third Street Alliance on March 11, 2024

#### **Forks Education Center**

- Club members read the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the Month

#### **Children's Hospital Grant**

- In the works

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowling Event**

- Susan Bartels will provide information for the event which will be held in April. Volunteers are needed. The theme is SUPER HEROES

#### **Easton Area Community Center**

- Kathy Preston that the Center is currently planning for summer camp (June 17- August 10; Mon. through Fri.). Volunteers to help will be welcome.

#### **Meeting Program**

The video from the District Mid-Year Conference of the presentation by Ben Hartranft was shown. Ben is a former IU and North Penn student who was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 2. He shared what Autism is and some of the traits that are challenges for him. Issues with sensory processing, repetitive behaviors lack of motor skills, and invading other people's spaces he has to deal with personally. Ben has also done amazing things in his lifetime. He has been homecoming king, public speaker, got his driver's license, met President Biden, met Ellen DeGeneres, and has been on the Eagles staff. He is a motivated young man who has such a wonderful story to tell. Be the One, is his motto! Everyone enjoyed the video!

Rosemary Kocher

#### **March 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Neil Gallagher. The Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America followed. Barb Walters shared Words of Wisdom.

#### **Meeting Program**

Our speaker for this meeting was Bruce Clash who is Pennsylvania State Director for Fight Crime; Invest in Kids. His program was on Early Learning PA and the State Budget Update as of March 13, 2024. He explained that Early Learning PA (All Children Learning to Succeed) is a "broad-based umbrella coalition comprised of four specific campaigns focused on access to voluntary, high-quality

early care and education and healthy development opportunities for all Pennsylvania Children and families.” These are CHILDHOOD BEGINS AT HOME; START STRONG PA; PRE-K FOR PA And THRIVING PA. He also emphasized that due to budgetary issues an overwhelming number of Children are not receiving much needed early learning services.

Bruce Clash then presented areas of 2024-2025 on this topic. These included: Toplines and State Budget - Pre-K (despite Pre-Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance proposing needed increases on the budget both items were level funded leading to no additional students being served and no salary increases for staff who are already underpaid).

Other State Budget areas presented and explained were Home Visiting (only 7% of eligible families are receiving these services); Child Care (two-part crisis – what parents can pay and not enough child care workers); Early Intervention (not a priority) and concluded with What’s Next?

This was a very important meeting stressing the need for Early Learning – in this case from Prenatal to 5 years of age. Early Childhood Learning is in a state of crisis and increased support is needed in all areas.

Thank you, Jan Schwartz, for inviting Director Clash, to speak to us on this very important topic.

Thank you also for providing the following link <https://earlylearningpa.org/> for more information on early care and learning.



Bruce Clash



### March 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting

#### Board Meeting

The Meeting was called to order by President James Owen followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America. Eight board members were present and Janet Owen.

Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports were given.

**Request for Funds** – Funds were requested and given to CHC Golf Tournament and Big Brothers Big Sisters for Lane Sponsor for Bowling Tournament

#### **Committee Reports**

**Neil Gallagher** reported on the **Membership Committee**

**Walt Howell** gave reports on:

**SLPs:** Shawnee and Nazareth Key Club stuffed 500 eggs a piece for Equi-librium Egg Hunt: St. Jane’s SLP met on March 14<sup>th</sup>

**Awards – Police Officer of the Year**, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Pomfret Club, \$25

**Scholarships** – Presentation to CIT and Nazareth Key Club recipients\

**Terry Thomas – Recognition Awards;** July 17<sup>th</sup> Club Birthday Party

**Bill Walters – Fundraising**, Super Raffle will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> at American Legion (2260 Corriere Rd.; Easton, PA)

**James Owen – Nominating Committee**, for the club was discussed

#### **Old Business**

**James Owen – Policies and Procedures**

**Kiwanis International Children's Fund Pediatric Medicine Support Fund** (applications March 1-April 15)

**Equilibrium** - March 24, volunteers welcome

**PA District Fundraiser** – Cooler of Fun \$10 Raffle tickets

**Open Forum Announcements**

**Key Leader Registration Open** – Apr 12-14 \$175 – meals, lodging, materials – Needs Transportation

**Amplify** Registration remains open until April 1st

**Upcoming Dates:**

**April 10 Meeting** – Tony's Pizza 3417 Sullivan Trail, Forks Twp, 6 PM

**Forks Education Center Reading Dates:** March 21, April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16 (11 AM)

**May 29 Meeting** – Evening Meeting, Details TBD

**ProJect of Easton Highmark Walk Fundraiser** - Sat June 1 DeSales University

**Kiwanis International Annual Convention:** Denver, CO July 3-6 Annual dues increase of \$35 being proposed

**PA District Convention (DCON)** – August 15-18, 2024 (Reading) Joint with NJ District, Speakers from KI

Meeting Adjourned

**Kiwanis Club of Easton members are all welcome to attend Club Board Meetings in a non-voting role and to bring information before the Board.** Please give advance notice to be included on the agenda.

**March 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Neil Gallagher presided over our meeting this week...in the absence of our President James Owen. We recited the Pledge of Alliance and sang *God Bless America*. Barb Walters gave us some words of inspiration. Following the opening segment, Neil turned the program over to Jan Schwartz who in turn presented Susan Ellis. Susan introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth. Susan presented us with who were and are the Moravians in a very interesting slide show. The presentation highlighted the history and journey of the Moravians from their very early beginnings in Europe to their now presents in our local communities. In addition to being here in PA, they also have established themselves in other parts of the US and the world with their largest group in Africa. Susan proudly told us about the many numbers of historic pieces...artifacts, musical instruments, paintings, textiles, firearms and other items that played a role in the making of America. We saw a picture of the oldest Moravian structure in North America...the Gray Cottage built in 1740. A log structure that served as the living quarters for the Moravian settlement. It served many purposes over time and can be toured when visiting the other exhibits. The Whitefield House came after the Gray Cottage which was completed in 1743 and became the living quarters for the Moravian settlers...providing a larger space. It, too, served many functions throughout its history. In 1990 it became the museum and headquarters for the Moravian Historical Society. Both the Gray Cottage and Whitefield House are on the National Register of Historic Places.

A visit to the Historical Society can give you a peek into the history and life of the Moravians from their beginning to the present. You can visit 7 days a week (except holidays) from 1 to 4 pm. "Your place to explore and discover history."

Other business....

- Update on Chris Paltz...Walt reported that Chris is doing well and eventually will be coming

home, but he is enjoying his recovery and rehab so for him...no rush!

- Bill introduced a new logo that he is working on and explained its benefits. We should see it soon. He also reported that the Super Raffle Committee is working on some revisions for the upcoming event.
- We had a Zoom inter-club meeting with Phillipsburg, PA Club. They had 16 folks join us today. Nice to be able to host them.



Susan Ellis

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*April 10, Meeting*

**TONY'S PIZZA & RESTAURANT**

**3417 Sullivan Trail, Easton, PA**

**6:00**



The **April 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting** of the **Kiwanis Club of Easton** will be held at **Tony's Pizza and Restaurant** at **6 PM!!** It will be great to have an **evening meeting!** Bring your spouse and friends who might be interested in the Kiwanis Club of Easton. Hope to see you there!

### **Member News**

#### **Shawnee SLP**

On March 15, 2024, Janet Owen and I assisted Mr. Ellison with the activities for the day with the 34 Shawnee K-Kids in attendance. Mr. Ellison informed the members of the Thank You he got from Safe Harbor for the items he brought there from the supplies the members packed during the 100 Days of Awesomeness back on the February 9th meeting. He advised them if they had time, they would make posters to hang in the school for donations for the SPCA when they make dog biscuits during their April 12th meeting.

The first activity for today was to fill plastic eggs with small candy and trinkets to be used by Equilibrium, Inc. during their upcoming Easter Egg Hunt. Once all the eggs were filled Mr. Ellison thought it would be a good idea to clean up debris around the school grounds since the weather was

mild. We did this and there was enough time for the members to make a few posters before they headed to their first classes.

The next Shawnee K-Kids meeting is scheduled for April 12th.

Walt



### **St. Jane Frances de Chantel School SLP**

#### **K-Kids Meeting – March 14, 2024**

The second meeting of the St. Jane's K-Kids was on March 14, 2024 with 22 third and fourth graders in attendance. Under the direction of Faculty Advisors, Christi Johnstone and Amy Brennan, elections of officers took place.

Students running for office gave speeches for each position in the club. After each speech ballots were passed and students voted. Student officers elected were a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sargeant of Arms.

Students were given K-Kids pins and Guide and Activity Booklets. The advisors and officers will be meeting to come up with an agenda for the April K-Kids meeting.

Easton Kiwanis Members present were Walt Howell and Sue and Neil Gallagher.



**Forks Education Center of the Great Lehigh Valley YMCA**

Thank you, Kathy Heller and Jenylin Rodriguez, for being [Kiwanis Club of Easton, PA](#), readers! The children enjoyed hearing the stories. Thanks to Janet Owen for arranging these volunteer opportunities for Easton Kiwanis.



Katherine Heller



Katherine



Jenylin Rodriguez



Jenylin



Walter Howell



Walter Howell



Janet, Owen, Jenylin Rodriguez

*Read Across Pennsylvania*



2024

***Read Across Pennsylvania*** is a PA Kiwanis initiative in which all PA Kiwanis members were asked to Read Across PA. The Kiwanis Club of Easton answered this call on March 17, 2023 when volunteers read at the Third Street Alliance. Two members from the Kiwanis Club of Easton had the opportunity to read to students attending the Third Street Alliance Learning Center. The PA District of Kiwanis encourages clubs to participate in its “Read Across Pa” initiative!



Janet Owen and Carlos Plaza read a Superhero Book that discussed what it takes to be a super hero. Thanks to Janet and Carlos for doing such a SUPER job.



### **Equi-librium Degg Hunt**



The Kiwanis Club of Easton, donated 1,000 filled eggs to Equi-Librium for their egg hunt on March 24th. Thanks to the Nazareth Key Club and Shawnee Elementary K-Kids for filling the eggs! Thanks to all of our members for supporting Equi-Librium!



James Owen, Jessie Shappell



Janet & James Owen\



Kiwanis members, James and Janet Owen, had a great time volunteering as egg layers for the annual egg hunt! Thank you, Jessie Shappell, and Equi-librium!!



***Trina Johnson-Brady, Community Mobilizer for Wilson Area CTC, presents a community youth action plan on March 20, 2024 in St. Luke's Easton Campus.***

On March 20, 2024, Sue Gallagher and Terry Thomas attended, as invited guests, along with Coalition Members and community leaders to St. Luke's Easton Campus to the reveal of the Community Action Plan for Wilson Area Communities That Care Coalition (CTC). The Wilson Area Communities that Care (CTC) Coalition is a group of youth, families, community leaders, business members, and residents from the Wilson Area School District and surrounding communities. The coalition consists of a key leader board, to provide group guidance and organization; coalition members, to raise community concerns and develop workable solutions; and work groups that put the plan into action. The coalition is aiming to reduce what they consider "risk factors" to the youth of the Wilson Area with different community initiatives and partnerships. The information regarding the "at risk" youth situation was based on the 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) Study, the areas of concern focused on were: drug and alcohol misuse, mental health concerns/suicide risk, and engagement/belonging to school and community. By addressing these issues, the hope is to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for the youth in the WASD community.

Members include WASD students, district parents, residents, local health care experts, law enforcement members, community leaders, and members of non-profit organizations. The Wilson Area CTC Coalition is working to combine resources and strategies within Wilson Area School District to address youth problem behaviors.

Sue and Terry decided to join this group after Trina spoke at one of our more recent Kiwanis Club of Easton lunch meetings.

## **Giving Basket Project**



A note of thanks to the members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton. Your generosity in donating to the Third Street Alliance Early Learning Center and to the Salvation Army Food Bank was greatly appreciated. The Kiwanis Club of Easton cares deeply about our community. Thank you so much for your support.

**[3<sup>rd</sup> St Alliance, BW Nice-Red Shoe event 6PM-10PM](#)**

**BW NICE Lehigh Valley Chapter invites you to participate in [The Red Shoe™](#), our annual charity fundraiser benefiting Third Street Alliance for Women & Children in Easton and BW NICE, Inc.**

Third Street Alliance, known as the “Mansion With A Mission,” offers services for homeless women, children and families, often the result of a job loss and having no support system, physical and/or emotional abuse from a significant other, alcohol or drugs. To attend, donate items, or sponsor the **Friday, April 19, 2024** event being held at The Third Street Alliance, please go to this link: <https://bwnice.org/red-shoe-event-lehigh-valley-red-shoe-event/>

**BW NICE**, Business Women Networking Involving Charity & Education, is a professional women’s empowerment organization that provides women at all stages of business and personal life with support, education and resources. Each BW NICE Chapter is dedicated to raising funds and awareness supporting a local organization in the fight against domestic violence and sexual abuse.  
Jan Marie Schwartz

## *Volunteer Opportunities*

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### Reading Opportunities – YMCA Forks Learning Center

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#### **April 4**

- 1.
- 2.

#### **April 18**

1. Janet Owen
2. Sue Gallagher

#### **May 2**

1. Sandra Stewart-Barrett
2. Kathy Heller
3. Jenilyn Rodriguez

#### **May 16**

1. Jenilyn Rodriguez

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### Miracle League – Chrin Center

**May 4 (9:30 – 11:30)**

**May 18 (9:30 – 11:30)**

**June 1 (11:30 – 1:00)**

**For more information contact:**

**Janet Owen – ladyjowen@outlook.com**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Apr 3** – Jason Sizemore, Co-Ex of the Mindful Child Initiative

**Apr 10** – EVENING MEETING at Tony’s Pizza, 3417 Sullivan Trail, Club Round Table

**Apr 12-15** – Key Leader @ Camp Conrad Weiser

**Apr 17** – Keith Lampman-Perlman, Development Director at ProJeCt of Easton

**Apr 19**- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Alliance, BW Nice-Red Shoe event 6PM-10PM

**Apr 17** – Keith Lampman-Perlman, Development Director

**Apr 24** – Board meeting

**May 1** – "field trip" to the Sigal Museum to view the "Forged by Fire" exhibit

**May 4** – Miracle League

**May 8** – Annual Club Meeting and Election for new Easton Kiwanis leadership.

**May 18** – Miracle League, contact Janet Owen if you can help

**May 15** – Easton "Police Officer of the Year Award", Pomfret Club \$25/person. Checks payable to EASTON KIWANIS and send/give to Walter Howell

**May 22**— Board meeting

**May 29** – Communities in School: Tim Mulligan, Pres+CEO; Michael Raymond-Communications Manager

**June 1** -- Miracle League, contact Janet Owen if you can help

**June 5** – Scholarship presentations

**June 12** – Round Table

**June 19** – Dr Tom Lubben, member & author

**June 26** – Board Meeting

**July 17** – Club Anniversary Picnic (in planning stages)

**Aug 14** – Easton EMS Member Award @ SURV

**Sept 7** – *Annual Super Raffle* @ Brown & Lynch American Legion Post 9, 12-3PM, great pasta meal, Super Raffle, Tricky Tray fundraisers. More details will be coming.

**Oct 2** – Easton Firefighter of the Year, Pomfret Club

**SLP Meetings:** As long as you have your valid PSP Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse History Clearance, you can join Walt and other members at any meeting you are available. You can download the documents, [click here](#). Make sure Walt has a copy of your documents.

**Shawnee K-Kids meetings.** Shawnee Meetings @ 7:30 AM: Friday April 12, 2024, Friday May 10, 2024

**St. Janes K-Kids meetings.**

Bill Walters, Manager of Special Projects

610-533-4709

[EastonKiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:EastonKiwanis@gmail.com)

[www.EastonPaKiwanis.org](http://www.EastonPaKiwanis.org)

[@easton.kiwanis](https://www.instagram.com/easton.kiwanis)

EASTON KIWANIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC56Xw6VDh-Jb](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC56Xw6VDh-JbLjyFuq4V-AA/videos)

[LjyFuq4V-AA/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC56Xw6VDh-JbLjyFuq4V-AA/videos)

**Editor's Note:** Members, please feel free to submit any news about you or your family that you would like to share with the club. Our email addresses are below.

KIWANIS CLUB OF EASTON meets every Wednesday  
[www.eastonpakiwanis.org](http://www.eastonpakiwanis.org)   [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**Newsletter:** Sue Gallagher [sue2300@aol.com](mailto:sue2300@aol.com)   Terry Thomas [terryathomas@rcn.com](mailto:terryathomas@rcn.com)