



Kiwanis[®]

CLUB OF EASTON



July Klatter 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

As we turn the calendar to August, we find ourselves at the heart of summer and on the threshold of our biggest event of the year—our Annual Super Raffle, happening Wednesday, September 3rd at the Brown and Lynch American Legion (2260 Corriere Road, Easton). This event is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts, and its success is vital to the support we provide to the children and youth in our community.

We're aiming to sell 200 tickets at \$100 each, a price we've proudly maintained for more than 30 years. The \$10,000 grand prize is just the beginning—this is a chance to come together, have fun, and make a meaningful difference. And don't forget our Super 50/50 tickets at just \$10 each, offering another exciting way to contribute.

We understand that selling tickets can be challenging. But here's the good news: \$100 raffle tickets can be split among friends, family, or colleagues. If selling isn't an option, consider buying a ticket yourself or teaming up with others. Every effort counts—and too few members are doing too much. Let's share the load and the rewards of being part of this great cause.

But this moment is about more than just a fundraiser. It's about who we are and why we serve. The work we do is not only a gift to the children and families we support, it's a gift to ourselves. Participation in Kiwanis is, in many ways, a form of social prescription—a powerful, non-medical way to enhance our own well-being. Through volunteering, building relationships, and engaging in our community, we reduce isolation, strengthen our sense of purpose, and improve our personal health and happiness.

Let's also remember: strong clubs grow stronger through service and membership. If each of us invited just one new person to a meeting, project, or event, imagine the energy and potential we could unlock. People are looking for connection and meaning—Kiwanis offers both.

So, as we prepare for the Super Raffle, let's also commit to:

- Inviting a guest to join us.
- Volunteering for an upcoming project.
- Reaching out to a fellow member who's been less active.
- Reflecting on the many ways Kiwanis makes a difference—for others and for ourselves.

We are a club with a long and proud history, but more importantly, we are a club with a vibrant and vital future. Let's make this summer a season of action, connection, and commitment.

With appreciation and Kiwanis spirit,

Scott Fisher

President, Kiwanis Club of Easton



In Memoriam
Lynn Irwin Ratzell
September 29, 1942 – May 23, 2025



On May 23, 2025, Lynn Irwin Ratzell, passed from this life. Lynn was the husband of Kiwanis Club of Easton member, Kathy Heller. Lynn was a loving husband, father, grandfather and pillar of the community; most recently serving as President of the Nazareth Rotary. He was a frequent visitor and volunteer at the Easton Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis Club of Easton held a Celebration of Life Luncheon in Lynn's honor at SURV Restaurant on July 9, 2025. President Scott Fisher sent regrets since he was unable to attend in person but he sent a letter to Kathy and the club that was read expressing his sincere sympathy on Lynn's passing and the club's care and support for Kathy.

Sue Gallagher welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Kathy gave a beautiful tribute to Lynn, club members shared reflections and stories about Lynn and a closing tribute was given. Sue also thanked Kathy for allowing the club to honor Lynn. He was truly a member of the Kiwanis family and will be deeply missed.

Rest in peace, Lynn. Your legacy will live on in all who knew you.



From Kathy Heller

A special thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Easton for a most meaningful Memorial Service to honor my beloved Lynn, who passed away on May 23, 2025. Neil and Sue's grandson, Anthony, wrote a beautiful letter expressing his memory of Lynn, and how he touched his life forever. Please read the following letter that I received from Anthony Ventura:



Dear Mrs. Heller,

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you in good health. I would like to offer my deepest condolences on the loss of your husband, Lynn. While I only met him once or twice he has left a lasting impact on me, one of kindness and inspiration. Back in April I had the opportunity to converse with Lynn at the Scholarship Dinner at Tony's Pizza. Though we had just been introduced, Lynn was very open to listening to my interests and lending me advice on how to proceed in my path of engineering. He used his experience from his long and successful career to give me advice that will hopefully lead me to my own success. It was clear to me that I was sitting with a man whose greatest ambition was to serve those around him. In addition, at that same dinner

at Tony's your husband reminded me of a very important fact of life, "nothing is over until you give it up". Many people in their eighties find joy in slowing down, but Lynn was very proud to inform all of us of his 10- mile bike ride that same day. This truly showed me that in life you can do anything until you decide that you can't and it seemed there was very little that your husband, decided he couldn't do. When I was informed of his passing I knew that this world has lost one of its great citizens, somebody who gave his time to the service of others consistently. Though in this World, Lynn will be missed, it is my firm belief that he has been called home by his Creator, for his work here on Earth is done. Many people have benefited from Lynn's community efforts and many more, like myself, have been rewarded just by his kindness. In the gospels we hear that after the ascension of Christ, the disciples mourn the loss of the teacher and their Lord. It is during this mourning that they are reminded that he is not gone, but that he has simply taken his seat in heaven so that he can serve the whole world. I know that unless something can keep him from it, Lynn is up there doing all that he can to guide the generations to come to find success. I hope that one day when my time comes that I may shake his hand and offer my gratitude to him directly, but until then, Lynn, yourself and your family are constantly in my thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely, Anthony Ventura

"I tell you; you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. So, with you. Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." John 16: 20,22

July 20th - The Conners' Covered Dish Picnic

On July 20th, members of Kiwanis Club of Easton and Easton AAUW were invited to a summer social picnic at the home of Carolyn and Roger Conners. Guests enjoyed relaxing on their patio in their beautiful garden. Delicious food was served compliments of their potluck dinner. A great time was enjoyed by all.

Thanks so much, Carolyn and Roger. You certainly have the gift of hospitality!



July 30th - Easton Kiwanis' Evening Social at Wanderlust Beer Garden



By all accounts, the evening social at Wanderlust was a great success...great conversation, good food, and refreshing beverages....a little warm, but no rain.

In attendance from our club were Neil Gallagher, Janet Owen, Kathy Heller, Cathi White, Walt Howell, Rosemary Kocher (including husband Bob and daughter Stephanie) Tom Lubben, and Laurie Nelson. St. Jane's School K-Kids Advisor, Christi Johnstone, and her son, Colin, were there. From the Palmer Club we had President Ron Roth, Jim Mack, and Joe & Maryanne Sobeski. Also, from the newly formed Northampton Club, President Crystal Messer joined us. In whatever way possible, let's support the growth and success of this new club.



President Roth promoted his club's 2025 fundraiser - their annual golf tournament on October 3rd at Green Pond (I'll be participating as I did last year) and the Palmer Club is purchasing one of our Raffle tickets, along with two members who also purchased tickets.

It was a great night! A special thank you to Wanderlust for welcoming the Kiwanis Club of Easton!



The Kiwanis Club of Easton would like to congratulate Marybeth Okula, Principal of St. Jane Frances de Chantal School, on her retirement. She has been instrumental in setting up and advising the K-Kids Club at St. Jane's with teacher Christi Johnstone. A few days before her retirement, three members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton (Walt Howell (K-Kids Kiwanis advisor), Rosemary Kocher and Sue Gallagher) spoke with Marybeth Okula about her time at St. Jane's and her future plans.



Marybeth's path to her career in education was not direct. She attended secretarial school in Manhattan, got a Business Degree in Marketing and an MBA and worked on Wall Street for 8 years before moving to Easton in 1999.

She began volunteering at St. Jane's when her son entered school there. This led to substitute teaching after she got an emergency certificate, teaching for 11 years at St. Theresa's School in Hellertown ("a great experience"), while pursuing her teaching certificate and then to St. Jane's School as a principal. She said St. Jane's was a great fit. It was home, she loves children and she had a marketing degree.

Marybeth was asked a few questions and here are her responses:

- Memorable Moments – when the children come back to St. Jane's after they graduate to visit.
 - Covid, though not good, after being closed since March, everyone at St. Jane's came together, planned in August how they could reopen the school in Sept. which they did and stayed open through Covid
- Achievements – helped refurbish Father Farrell Hall and visits students outside of their homes during Covid
- Challenges – trying to help all children succeed
- Changes in Education – technology, which is both good and bad
- Advice – be true to yourself. You have to have a sense of humor. Don't make rash decisions (she has a 24-hour rule – think it over first). Be sure to understand all sides and do what is best for the children.
- Future – She loves doing things for the community and she said that K-Kids really fosters helping the community in the children. She plans to stay involved at St. Jane's as a volunteer.
- Retirement – to be whole, happy and healthy. To spend time with her family – her husband of 34 years, Mark; her son Christopher, his wife, Kate, and their 2 sons; daughter, Jenna-Rose; and her parents.
- Legacy – that she is caring, fun and loving; She cared for all involved at St. Jane's School, students, teachers and parents and she gave 110%.



Mrs. Okula, The Kiwanis Club of Easton wishes you all the best in your retirement. Your legacy of caring, dedication and enthusiasm will certainly live on in all of the lives you have touched at St. Jane's School and beyond.



On July 26th, children at Forks Education Center were treated to guest reader, Easton Kiwanis member, Cathi White. Looks like a great time was had by all, Cathi!



2025 Rose Sale Information

Pennsylvania Kiwanis
Foundation's
22nd annual

Rose Sale


\$26 per dozen
multicolored, long-stemmed
roses with baby's breath in a
decorative box



Kiwanis
PENNSYLVANIA KIWANIS FOUNDATION



Kiwanis members,
It's that time of year
again for our
wonderful fundraiser,
the ROSE SALE. The
roses are always
beautiful, and they
make great and
thoughtful gifts.
Orders and payment
should be given to
Rosemary Kocher by
October 2nd with
Delivery Date –
October 23rd.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5 - 5-8 PM

FREE FOOD AND DRINKS, GAMES, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY PARTNER INFO TABLES, AND MORE!

West Ward	South Side
N. 12 th St. between Paxinosa School & Cottingham Stadium	Pioneer Park Milton & Reynold Streets
Hosted by the West Ward Community Initiative	Hosted by the South Side Civic Association

TOUCH A TRUCK EVENT AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

DOOR PRIZES!



RAIN OR SHINE



WILSON AREA
COMMUNITIES THAT CARE COALITION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10
10:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVE-A-WAY

Be connected with local services and organizations!

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

**WILSON AREA HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT,
424 WARRIOR LANE, EASTON
EMAIL LINCS@WILSONAREASD.ORG
WITH ANY QUESTIONS**

The Kiwanis Club of Easton will be participating in the West Ward's 'National Night Out' on Tuesday, August 5th and the Wilson Area Communities That Care Coalition 'Touch a Truck Event' on Sunday, August 10th. Any Kiwanis member who would like to volunteer for one or both events should contact Janet Owen... or just show up that day! Everyone is welcome!



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF EASTON**

The Kiwanis Club of Easton will be volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club summer camp on August 15th from 9:00AM to 2:00PM. Volunteers are needed! Contact Janet Owen to sign up for 1 hour, 2 hours or more. Help us make this a great time for children!



Joanne Cappellano - August 13
 Janet Owen - August 13
 Priscilla Martinez-Perez - August 13
 Laura Nelson - August 22
 Jessie Shappell - August 28
 Gary Tempest - August 28

Jessie Shappell 8/1//2023

Sending "Get Well" wishes to our Manager of Special Projects and Co-Editor of the Newsletter, Bill Walters, who is recovering from surgeries. We miss you, Bill, and wish you a smooth and complete recovery.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Aug 5 – National Night Out
- Aug 6 – EMS person of the year @ Pomfret Club
- Aug 10 – Sunday-Touch a Truck Wilson Area Communities that Care @ Wilson High School parking lot, 10:30am-1PM
- Aug 15 – Boys and Girls Club Give Back Day
- Aug 20 – Roundtable Discussion about the International Convention and Super Raffle
- 4th Week – Board / Committee Meetings
- Sept 3 – Super Raffle @ Brown & Lynch American Legion 6PM dinner, 7PM Drawing
- Sept 10 – Kiwanis Luncheon Honors Roger Conners @ Pomfret Club
- Sept 13 – Miracle League
- Oct 1 – Installation of officers and board by LTG Janet Owen
- Oct 3 – Palmer Kiwanis Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser @ Green Pond CC.
- Oct 8 – Easton Firefighter of the Year @ Pomfret Club
- Oct 26 – Miracle League, Trunk or Treat

Contact Easton Kiwanis

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Easton Kiwanis normally meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 11:45AM
check our Facebook page for further information

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