



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Easton Kiwanians,

Happy New Year – 2026!! I'm not sure about you, but I feel like time is flying by very quickly and it is almost the end of January already.

The Kiwanis Club of Easton has been very busy. We celebrated Roger Conners' Year during which we recognized member, Roger Conners, for his sixty-three years of service, dedication and commitment to the Kiwanis Club of Easton. He has been and continues to be an exemplary member.

The culmination of Roger's year was a luncheon held at the Pomfret Club with Roger, his family, friends and club members in attendance. Because of Roger's commitment, to the Kiwanis Club of Easton, he received the First-Roger Conners Service Award. This award will continue to be presented every year to a member exemplifying Roger's dedication to Easton Kiwanis,

In August of 2025, several members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton attended Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. There Cathy Szymanski, from Erie, PA, was elected Vice President of Kiwanis International. Also, there Janet Owen, club member, became Lt. Governor of PA. District 17/18. Later Janet was installed as PA Kiwanis Governor Elect. We wish both Cathy and Janet all of the best.

At our last meeting in December, three new members joined our club – Marybeth Okula, Joan Kicska, and Julie Novick, representing the YMCA. They bring with them enthusiasm, knowledge and dedication to children. Welcome to all!!

At the new member installation on December 17th, we read the Six Objects of Kiwanis. These are the guiding principles of Kiwanis and are also something we can practice in our everyday lives. At the start of this New Year, I thought it might be good to look these over again.

Six Objects of Kiwanis

- To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than the material values of life.
- To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
- To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
- To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
- To cooperate in creating and maintaining the sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase on righteousness, justice, patriotism and goodwill.

Easton Kiwanians, you truly do live these objects and I am grateful for you and all that you do always.
Sue

On December 11, 2025, families who are enrolled in the ParentChild+ Program enjoyed a holiday party at Paxinosa Elementary School. The ParentChild+ program, part of Family Connection of Easton, received a \$500 grant from the Kiwanis Club of Easton that was used to purchase pajamas and gift bags for the children. It was a great time!!

On behalf of Family Connection of Easton, I'd like to thank you for your donation of funds for the purchase of pajamas for our ParentChild+ Holiday Party!
We thank you for your assistance in helping us achieve our overall mission to connect Easton families to basic needs, keep children in afterschool programs, and give preschool-aged children the tools they need for a successful school start.



January 7th – Gov-elect Janet Owen ...

The meeting today was held at SURV Restaurant. It was called to order by Sue Gallagher. After saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing God Bless America, Ken Wildrick shared two poems of the topic of HOPE.

We had a special visitor today, Cathy Szymanski, Kiwanis International Vice President. Cathy shared a few words and expressed her excitement and support for Janet Owen's leadership as PA Governor Elect. Janet was also our speaker for this meeting.

Janet's presentation started with an ice-breaker asking members what they wanted to be in the future when they were children. This led to discussion on reinventing ourselves since our initial career paths have often undergone changes.

Janet is in the process of doing that now in her new role as PA Kiwanis Governor Elect. Janet explained that Kiwanis is community with several different levels.

Growing membership is something she would like to emphasize and well as promoting Signature Projects. She also said that there will be two new initiatives happening in the future, one in Bethlehem and the other in Pittsburgh.

Also mentioned were upcoming events – PA Midyear Conference (March 7, 2026); Kiwanis District Convention (August 13-16, 2026); and the International Convention (June 24-27, 2026) in Manila.

That you, Janet, for the valuable information. You are doing a great job as PA Governor Elect!

Thanks also to Cathy Szymanski for her visit today. It was great to see her!

Click our YouTube <https://youtu.be/fDmZvVzLlgQ> for the 66min video

January 8th – Reading to children at Forks YMCA Education Center ...

Members Cathi White and Julie Novick read to about 15 children.

Members do this twice a month.

You could too!



January 8th – St Janes K-Kids Pull-tabs & Tea bags for teachers...



The St. Jane's K-Kids met this afternoon with Christi Johnstone, Faculty Advisor instructing them in the activity for today. The K-Kids have a collection canister in the church and they turned over to me a 1 gallon freezer bag of can tabs that had been collected with some left over for the canister left in the school office. They were making colored tags with a tea bag attached to a piece of yarn for the teachers at the school. They will participate with us on the Valentines for Veterans cards. Easton Kiwanians in attendance beside me were Rosemary Kocher and Cathy White. *Respectfully, Walt*

January 9th – Its official. Here's our new county judge...

Our member, Jeremy Clark, is the new County Judge.





Cathi White reading to our kiddos at our Family Fun Literacy Night and our kiddos making Valentines for veterans.

January 19th – Re-Discover PA Kiwanis Foundation....

Neil and Sue Gallagher attended the Re-discover PA Kiwanis Foundation meeting on January 19, 2026. The presenter was Brian Root, Vice President of the PA Kiwanis Foundation Board. The informal discussion group covered several topics.

Re-discover
**PENNSYLVANIA
KIWANIS
FOUNDATION**
An online info. session
& open house
7PM MONDAY, JAN. 19

Kiwanis

Today’s meeting was held at SURV Restaurant with Scott Fisher presiding. After The Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America, Ken Wildrick shared Words in Inspiration on Kindness. Sue Gallagher also mentioned that in observance of Martin Luther King Day, celebrated on January 19th this year, several community events had taken place. On this day of service, the Boys and Girls Club of Easton hosted a complimentary Food Giveaway at the Boys and Girls Club.

Scott Fisher, Immediate Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Easton and Chairperson of the Membership Committee, was our speaker. Scott had a Round Table discussion with members sharing their ideas on membership. These included factors that are diminishing membership, ways to increase membership and ways to retain members.

Some items discussed were cost of membership, keeping present members engaged, identifying where new members can be found, social activities and person to person contact to invite potential new members and retain present members.

Other ideas were making sure that new members are mentored by their sponsors, reaching out to former members by a letter, asking present members why they joined Easton Kiwanis and tailoring some activities to meet those “whys.”

The membership committee is chaired by Scott Fisher. Members of the committee are Neil Gallagher, James Owen and Chris Paltz. Thank you all for serving on this committee. This round table meeting provided a good deal of food for thought and action. If anyone else is interested in joining this committee please contact Scott Fisher.

Thanks so much, Scott, for your work as Membership Chair and for a great meeting on a vital topic for our club.



January 22nd – St Janes K-Kids School Clean-up...



The St. Jane's K-Kids met this afternoon with Faculty Advisor, Christi Johnstone listing activities for today. Assisting Miss Johnstone were Easton Kiwanians Cathi White, Rosemary Kocher, and me. Most important to accomplish for today was to do a school clean-up for the upcoming Catholic Schools Week wherein visitors would be coming into the school. If time allowed the 12 members attending would finish the "Tea Tags" they worked on last meeting. Make food drive signs for the St. Vincent de Paul food distributions. Lastly make posters for the Catholic Schools Week of Pride. Miss Johnstone was given the labels for the Valentines for Veterans cards they would be making for us. February 9th-13th is K-Kids week. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12th at 2:15 PM. *Respectfully, Walt Howell*

January 25th – Gov-elect Janet Owen announces her focus project...

Our member, Gov-elect Janet Owen has announced her "focus project" when she becomes PA District Governor for Kiwanis 2026-27: PennAEYC, Pennsylvania Association of the Education of Young Children. More details will be released at the August District Convention.

pennaeyc

Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children





**Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley
Bowl for Kids Sake**

Sunday, March 29, 2026, Jordan Lanes in Allentown.

Aloha! Bowl for Kids' Sake is a fun and easy way for you and your company, friends, or family to support the life-changing work of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley. BBBSLV matches and stewards mentoring relationships which provide guidance and positive role modeling for 400 children annually.

What's in it for you?

- Free T-shirt, food, and drinks
- Exciting prizes via contests and raffles
- The chance to dress up in your most festive LUAU attire and WIN BIG

Don't miss out on the Lehigh Valley's biggest COSTUME 'BOWL'! Register today and let's bowl for brighter futures for area youth.

[Click Here for more details](#)



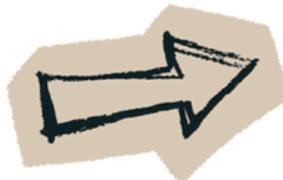


Kiwaniis[®] CLUB OF EASTON



...has a need for an assistant club secretary to record the meeting minutes at board meetings to help our very busy club secretary/treasurer, Rosemary.

You will



**to improve
Easton
Kiwaniis**





No one has joined in February

February 20 – Rosemary Kocher



UPCOMING S.L.P. & COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

Why not plan to attend our “youth club” meetings

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 youth meeting you are available. You can download the documents [CLICK HERE](#) Make sure Walt has a copy of your documents.

Shawnee K-Kids meetings. Thursdays 7:30AM; Feb 26; Mar 19; Apr 16; May 14.

St. Janes K-Kids meetings. Thursdays 2:15PM-3PM. Feb 9-13 K-Kids Week, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 16, May 7 + May 21.

FORKS EDUCATIONAL CENTER – reading for children 2nd + 4th Thur 11am, contact Cathi White or Janet Owen

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

2026: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – speakers, 4th Wed Hybrid Board Meeting

Feb 4—Valentines for Vets, Hands-on project. Lunch @ SURV

Feb 18 – BJ Metz from Easton Rotary talking about a Rotary International Project for “cleft palate repairs” in a third-world country he visited in person. Lunch @ SURV

Mar 4 – Dawn Fenner of the Essentials Café will talk about a “Pay What You Can” café @ SURV

May 13 – Easton Police Officer Award @ Pomfret Club

June 10 -- Super Raffle Fundraiser-proposed date

Aug 12 – Easton EMS Award @ Pomfret Club

Oct 14 – Easton Firefighter Award @ Pomfret Club

Contact Easton Kiwanis

www.EastonPaKiwanis.org

www.facebook.com/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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