



Kiwanis[®]

CLUB OF EASTON

February Klatter 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Easton Kiwanians,

February is drawing to a close. I hope that you have “weathered” February well. With snowstorms, a blizzard and subzero temperatures it has been quite a month. Regardless of the weather, warm hearted Easton Kiwanians have continued our mission to help improve the world, one child and one community at a time. It’s all about the kids.

It was interesting to see how one service project, Valentines for Veterans, truly took on a life of its own. Not only were our club members involved in this but also kids helped. Students from YMCA Forks Education Center, our Shawnee and St. Jane’s K-Kids and Nazareth Area High School Key Club readily jumped in, with the support of their faculty advisors, to make amazing cards. The kids’ sentiments of gratitude to our veterans were heartfelt and endearing. We know they were much appreciated by veterans from Brown and Lynch, Post 9, American Legion in Palmer Township. Thanks to Commander Terri Kaiser Krecker for helping make this project such a success.

Speaking of K-Kids, Kiwanis K-Kids Week fell right in the middle of February. Faculty advisors were provided with a K-Kids Week Guide by the K-Kids Kiwanis advisor, Walt Howell. This is time when students tell the school and others all about K-Kids.

Easton Kiwanians also added a little different spin on this week. We celebrated our wonderful K-Kids for all that they do for their school and for the community by providing treats for the children. Special thanks to Walt Howell and the Easton Kiwanians who helped with the celebration to honor these great kids and future leaders.

So much more happened in February – we had a great speaker, Easton Rotarian BJ Metz; District 18/18 Lt. Governor Elect, Dianne Farleigh visited us; 9 members also participated in *Jumpstart-Reading for the Record*; committee meetings were held and much more.

If you thought February was busy hang onto your pins!! Our Spring, yes, it’s almost here, brings us great speakers; Kiwanis PA Mid-Year Convention; Read Across PA; committee meetings and our continuing goal to increase our membership.

This letter only touches on Easton Kiwanis’ endeavors. I strongly encourage you to read this newsletter!

I will end my letter by saying this – Way to Go, Easton Kiwanians!!

Yours in Kiwanis service, Sue Gallagher



February 26th – IU20 & Special Olympics at Blue Mountain Skiing...

Amanda Seachrist from the IU20 reports: with students at Blue Mountain Ski for Special Olympics. What an incredible day on the mountain for our Annual Winter Invitational!

It was such a joy watching over 180 athletes from multiple delegations come together to compete on the slopes: Super G, Giant Slalom, and Slalom courses, cheering each other on and making unforgettable memories. The energy, determination, and smiles said it all.

A huge thank you to our AMAZING coaches and volunteers who helped make today run so smoothly and who truly helped bring so many smiles to our athletes' faces. We couldn't do this without you.

And a special thank you to Blue Mountain Resort for hosting Special Olympics Pennsylvania - Greater Lehigh Valley Pocono Region and for being such a wonderful partner in making this day possible. We are so grateful for your continued support of our athletes!

Easton Kiwanis has been a supporter for this event for many years. *Its all about the KIDS!*





From the MORNING CALL 2-4-2026

A mural artist. A nonprofit founder. A street outreach coordinator. A Super Bowl champion.

All are among the most influential people in the Lehigh Valley.

For our inaugural list, we asked readers to nominate those who made an impact over the past year. You responded, sending in more than 350 entries.

There were some obvious contenders — professional athletes, government officials and community leaders. But many of your nominations were people who haven't made headlines. These are the silent heroes who make the Lehigh Valley a great place to live, work, raise a family, and build a business.

Whittling down the list was a difficult endeavor. Morning Call reporters and editors voted based on the depth of the nomination and the scope of the person's impact on the wider community.

And now, here's one of the [The Morning Call's list of most influential people](#) in the Lehigh Valley for 2026. Dean Young, 38-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Easton.

Dean Young has led the Boys and Girls Club of Easton as it faces an uncertain future over the fate of its building. Despite this, he has been instrumental in helping to feed the community every weekend via sponsorships with local supermarkets. To help bring more people inside the club, he began organizing a weekly bingo night.

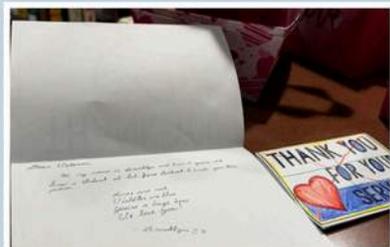


Our meeting today was at SURV Restaurant. Sue Gallagher opened the meeting with members saying the Pledge of Allegiance and then singing God Bless America. Sue welcomed members and shared a poem on Service to Others. We started with the Business portion of the meeting since we would be working in our Service Project, *Valentines for Veterans*, following lunch.

At our last meeting in January a committee was formed to plan for this project. Bill Walters was making cards for the veterans from our club and new member, Julie Novick, Director of Forks Education Center, suggested that it might be nice to have children make cards also. From there the project took on a life of its own. Cards were made by the Forks Education Center, our two K-Kids Clubs and the Nazareth Area High School Key Club. Easton Kiwanians also wrote messages in the cards made by Bill and put Kiwanis stickers on the backs of all of the cards. Altogether we had almost 400 cards which were warmly welcomed by Terri Kaiser Kreckler, Commander, Post 9 Brown American Legion and Ed Gallager, Finance Officer. The cards were delivered to the Legion on February 6th to be given to Veterans at an upcoming Dance.

Special thanks to Julie Novick (Forks Ed. Center); Givon Ellison (Faculty Advisor, Shawnee K-Kids); Christi Johnstone (Faculty Advisor, St. Jane's K-Kids) and Brigette Lubarski (Nazareth Area High School Key Club Advisor). Thanks also Walt Howell (Kiwanis K-Kids Advisor) and Kathy Heller (Nazareth High School Kiwanis Advisor) and Bill Walters, our Manager of Special Projects.

Check our short video of preparing the cards. [CLICK HERE.](#)





PA Governor Elect, Janet Owen, has been invited to sit on a panel at the Lady Boss event being held at the State Street Theater in Easton, PA.

Leadership is defined by the depth of your service and the reach of your compassion. It takes a special kind of dedication to spend a lifetime educating the future and then step up to lead thousands in protecting it.

We are honored to welcome Janet Owen as a featured Panelist for the LadyBoss Summit 2026.

A retired educator and school administrator, Janet is stepping into a monumental role as the Governor-Elect for the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis. She is charged with expanding an organization of over 2,300 members dedicated to serving children, and her work with the Easton Opioid Awareness Taskforce demonstrates that she is not afraid to tackle the hardest challenges facing our community.

We look forward to hearing her wisdom on leading with purpose and the power of civic engagement.

LBSummit is a yearly fundraiser in support of ASPIRE to Autonomy Inc., whose mission is to combat human trafficking in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas by being A Supportive Presence, Initiating Recovery, and Empowering.

Vsit www.theladybosssummit.com for more information, or email contact@thriveprp.com for sponsorship opportunities.

LADY BOSS
SUMMIT 2026

6TH MARCH 2026
9AM-3PM

STATE THEATER
EASTON, PA

JANET OWEN
PANELIST

K-Kids Week is celebrated the second full week of February. During this time, members educate other students and adults about what K-Kids, thank supporters and tell about what they do for the community.

Our K-Kids have been very busy so far this year with numerous projects and community involvement. In addition to their meetings this year during K-Kids Week, Easton Kiwanians wanted to celebrate the students as well with some treats. Please see the articles below.

Easton Kiwanis currently sponsors Paxinosa School and St. Janes K-Kids.



February 12th – St. Janes K-Kids making Valentines for Vets...

This afternoon the St. Jane's K-Kids met and made Valentines cards for senior citizens and hospital patients. Our Kiwanis Club treated the 16 members to cupcakes and juice drinks. Faculty Advisor Christi Johnstone along with Easton Kiwanians Cathi White, Kathy Heller, and I distributed the treats to the members as they made the Valentines cards. We thanked the members for the Valentines for Veterans cards they made at their last meeting for the Brown & Lynch Post which were presented recently to the post members by some of us Easton Kiwanians. The next scheduled meeting for the St. Jane's K-Kids is March 12 at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully, Walt Howell



February 12th – Reading to children at Forks Education Center...

On February 12th, Cathi White, Vice President of the Kiwanis Club of Easton, and Janet Owen, Governor Elect, read to the students at Forks Educational Center- YMCA. Wonderful students and very engaged. *Thank you, Julie Novick! Kiwanis member.*



Our meeting today was at SURV Restaurant. Sue Gallagher opened the meeting with members saying the Pledge of Allegiance and then singing God Bless America. Sue welcomed members and guests. Our guests today were Diane Farleigh, Kiwanis Lt. Governor of District 17/18; BJ Metz, our speaker, and Charles Chase, member of Kiwanis Club of Allentown North East. We were also joined by members Roger Conners and Ken Wildrick on Zoom.

Ken Wildrick shared Words of Wisdom on *Integrity* also relating it to *Honesty* and *truthfulness*, which Ken said very much go along with the Six Objects of Kiwanis.

Diane Farleigh spoke to the club about her plans as Lt. Governor encouraging clubs to share ideas. She also said that she would like to participate in club service projects. Welcome Diane, in your new position, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Our speaker today was BJ Metz. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Easton. BJ spoke about a Mission Trip that he and his wife took 20 years ago with Rotaplast International. This is an organization that arranges medical missions to go to underdeveloped countries to provide reconstructive surgery for children with clef lip and clef palate. These surgeries are life changing for the children.

BJs presentation was very moving. The motto for this trip to Venezuela was *Bridging the Miles with Smiles*. On these trips there are medical volunteers that provide the medical care to the children and there are other volunteers that do tasks like setting up charts, sterilizing equipment and ward coordination. BJ's wife, Chris, was an operating nurse. This is all volunteer and rotary volunteers are encouraged to participate in these missions.

BJ also explained that there were safety issues for the volunteers to follow. They had to stay at the hotel at all times when not at the Pediatric Hospital, not walk the streets and they had a police escort whenever they were out of the hotel and on their way to the hospital.

This article is only a glimpse of BJs presentation. Please be sure to see the presentation in its entirety on our You Tube Channel. [CLICK HERE for the 52min video](#). Rotaplast is doing amazing work now. We hope that in some way our donation can be of help. We hope that in some way our donation can be of help.

Thanks, you, BJ for a most information presentation.

New Member Induction

At this meeting, Bonnie Liedy was officially inducted into the Kiwanis Club of Easton. PA Gov. Elect, Janet Owen lead the ceremony. Welcome, Bonnie! So happy to have you as a member of the Easton Kiwanis family!!



**EASTON KIWANIS
WELCOMES B.J. METZ FROM EASTON ROTARY**

"BJ" WILL EXPLAIN TO US ABOUT ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S ROTAPLAST
A NON-GOVERNMENTAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION.



Rotaplast
Saving smiles, changing lives.



February 18, 2026



February 26th –Jumpstart’s Read for the Record...

Jumpstart’s Read for the Record is the world’s largest shared reading experience, uniting millions to read the same book on the same day and raise awareness of early literacy. Now in its 20th year, this initiative connects caring volunteers with children to read aloud and distribute high-quality books, building foundational literacy skills and home libraries.

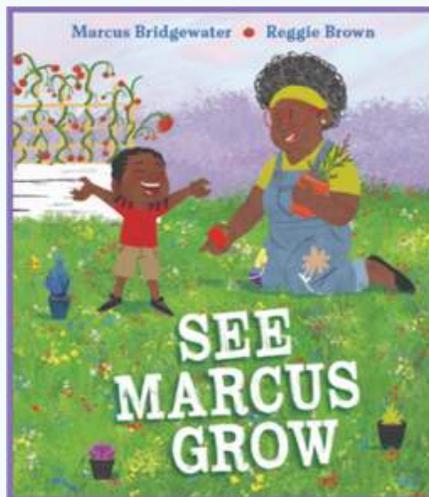
The book chosen this year is See Marcus Grow, written by Marcus Bridgewater and illustrated by Reggie Brown. It is a wonderful picture book for young readers that introduces them to the wonders of gardening. It also explores the themes of curiosity, discovery, nurturing and growth. Marcus learns much of this from his grandmother in her garden.

Easton Kiwanians again participated in this event on Feb.26th. Members reading at Third Street Alliance were Kathy Heller and Cathi White. Marybeth Okula read the book to children at St. Jane’s Preschool and at the YMCA Forks Education Center members reading were Walt Howell, Janet Owen and James Owen. Sue Gallagher was also there to join in the fun. The children enjoyed the book and a great time was had by all. After the reading, See Marcus Grow was left with each teacher for the classroom library from Easton Kiwanis.

Thanks to all of the members, including Julie Novick, who made Jumpstart - Read For The Record 2026 such a great success!

February 26th –Jumpstart’s Read for the Record @ Third Street Alliance...

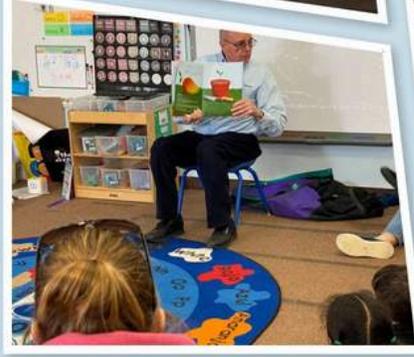
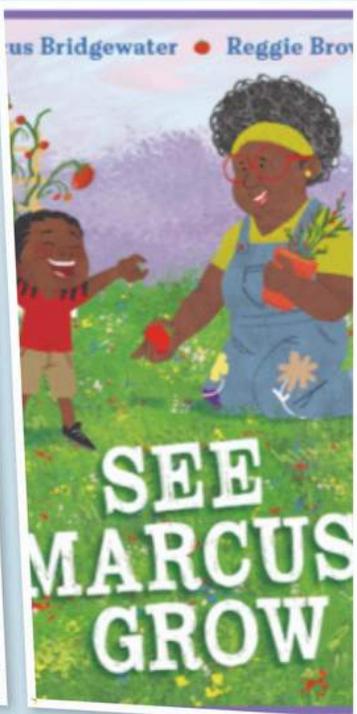
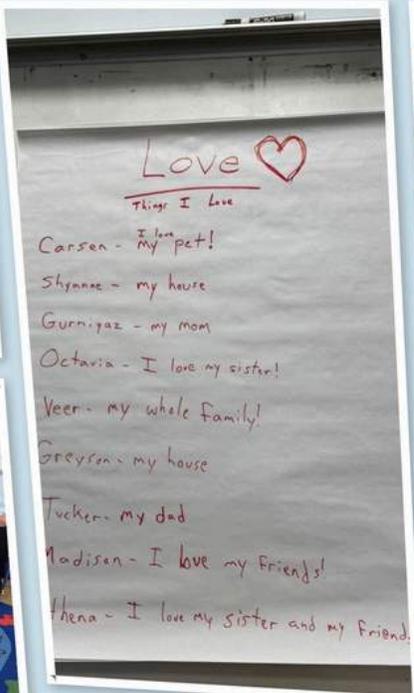
3rd St. Alliance readers were Kathy Heller (pictured) and Cathi White.



Easton Kiwanis members participated in *Jump Start Read for the Record* at Forks Educational Center-YMCA. Easton Kiwanis members have been participating in this initiative since 2019. *Jump Start Read for the Record* is the world's largest shared reading experience in the world. Today, millions of adults read the same story, "See Marcus Grow."

The book was perfect and engaged the adults as well as the children. Check it out. Thank you, Julie Novick, Site Director, Forks Educational Center, for hosting us and being an outstanding new member of the Kiwanis Club of Easton!

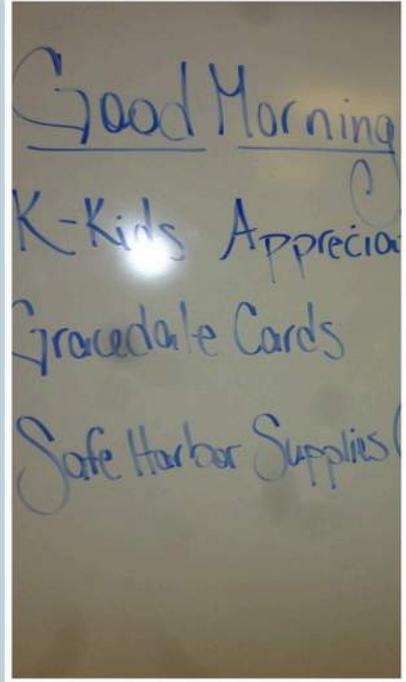
Thanks to our members, Sue Gallagher, President, Walt Howell, James Owen, and Janet Owen, Governor Elect for the PA District for giving your time.



February 26th – Celebrating our sensational Shawnee KKIDS and their advisor, Givon Ellison!!!!!!! ...

This morning 23 Shawnee K-Kids were treated to breakfast by the Easton Kiwanis Club to celebrate a belated K-Kids week. The breakfast was served to the members by Easton Kiwanians Janet Owen, Julie Novick, Cathi White.

Mr. Ellison informed the members the objectives for today were to make St. Patrick's Day cards for the residents of Gracedale and also to make posters to hang around the school for a donation drive for items for Safe Harbor. Chris Paltz made sure the information of the cards and posters the members made was spelled correctly. The next meeting is on March 19th, the members were told to dress down as they would be making dog biscuits for the Peaceable Kingdom Animal Shelter. At the April 16th, meeting the members were to dress similar since they will be cleaning up around the school. Reporting by Walt Howell



Congratulations to Our Top Sellers – PA Kiwanis Foundation Rose Sale 🌹

Dear Kiwanis Club Leaders,

On behalf of the PA Kiwanis Foundation, thank you for your outstanding participation in this year's statewide Rose Sale. Despite some hiccups with our new vendor, your dedication helped us raise critical funds to support our early learning mission across Pennsylvania, and we are grateful for your commitment to serving children in your communities.



We are pleased to recognize your club as one of the Kiwanis Clubs as our Top Sellers this year in Tier 1 and in recognition of your achievement, your club will receive a \$500 grant to be used toward early learning projects or initiatives in community. We are excited to see how you put these funds to work to benefit young children and strengthen their educational foundation.

More details about the grant disbursement and reporting process will be sent in the coming days. In the meantime, please accept our sincere congratulations and appreciation for your hard work, teamwork, and spirit of service.

Thank you again for making a meaningful difference. Warm regards,
Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation

February – 2026 Pennsylvania District Key Leader..

April 24-26, 2026 at South Mountain YMCA Camps

[Register Now CLICK HERE](#)

About

Key Leader is designed to inspire young people to achieve their personal best through leadership. Key Leader Camp is a three-day event where students learn from communication and leadership skills through a series of group events, small breakout groups, and a ropes challenge course. The program is centered around the five key principles: Personal Integrity, Personal Growth, Respect, Building Community, and Pursuit of Excellence.

Who - any students ages 14 to 18.

When - April 24-26, 2026

Students will arrive for registration from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Friday and depart at 12:00 pm on Sunday.

Where - South Mountain YMCA Camps, 201 Cushion Peak Road, Reinholds, PA

Cost - \$175 for the weekend. This includes all materials, food, and lodging upon arrival.

NOTE: For security purposes, all bags and personal belongings are subject to be searched.

Any questions, please reach out directly to Matt Wise, PA District Key Leader Administrator, at 570-660-2540 or keyleader@pakiwanis.org.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to develop leadership skills as well as friendships.

Young people that have attended have said it has been a great experience and even life changing.

Students do not need to be Key Club Members. If you know of any young person who might be interested please contact Sue Gallagher, President Kiwanis Club of Easton sue2300@aol.com for more information.



Kiwanis

CLUB OF EASTON



Governor-elect Janet Owen & Past President James will be hosting a Kiwanis Afternoon at Coca Cola Park and the Iron Pigs on Sunday April 12th.

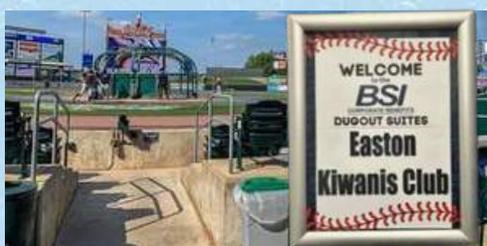
They've reserved a Dugout Suite so it's a fantastic viewing opportunity. All you can eat buffet included. Cost is \$50 per person. Please let James know ASAP if you'd like to attend. Bring your family, friends, prospective members. We will be opening this up to our Kiwanis friends in the region after a short period of time to give our members and families first choice at attending. We have space for up to 40 people. Game starts at 1:15PM, gates open at 11:45AM.

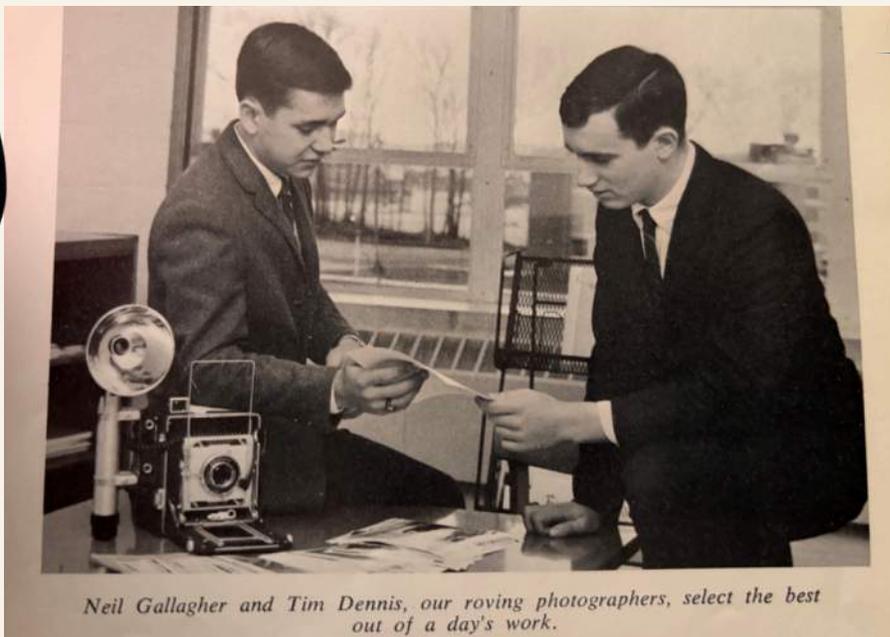
There's no place closer to the action than the Dugout Suites at Coca-Cola Park. These suites are located on the ground level behind home plate and have access to a private full-service bar and lounge, and a climate-controlled suite with 24 fixed stadium seats outside. The 2.5 hour all-you-can-eat buffet at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania, serves a variety of food items, including fried chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and more. The buffet also includes unlimited bottled water and soft drinks until the middle of the eighth inning. *Remember Coca Cola park is cashless and parking will be \$5/car-credit card only.*

Make your reservations for seats now. Pay your \$50 per seat to James Owen via Zelle to his phone, (610) 564-1419. Questions: text James' phone.



ROCHESTER RED WINGS at IRON PIGS





Neil Gallagher and Tim Dennis, our roving photographers, select the best out of a day's work.



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](#)

Big Brothers Big Sisters.
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

2026
BOWL FOR
KIDS' SAKE

LUAU
ON THE LANES



**Anniversary
Joined Kiwanis**

March Birthdays

Dean Young - March 1st
Bonnie Leidy - March 2nd
Crystal Rose - March 4th

March Club Anniversaries

Salvatore Cucciuffo - March 1, 2021
Ken Wildrick - March 7, 2008
Kathy Heller - March 3, 1993
Chris Paltz - March 17, 2009

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; Mar 19; Apr 16; May 14.

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

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

MIRACLE LEAGUE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY Volunteers are needed and the kids always appreciate people cheering in the stands. Contact Janet Owen if you can volunteer as dates are now being established for games.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

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

Mar 18 – NAMI National Assn Mental Health

Mar 25 – Board Meeting ZOOM

May 13 – Easton Police Officer Award @ Pomfret Club

Apr 22 -- Board Meeting ZOOM

May 27 -- Board Meeting ZOOM

June 10 -- Super Raffle Fundraiser-proposed date

June 24 – Board Meeting ZOOM

Jul 22 -- Board Meeting ZOOM

Aug 12 – Easton EMS Award @ Pomfret Club

Aug 26 – Board Meeting ZOOM

Sept 23 -- Board Meeting ZOOM

Oct 14 – Easton Firefighter Award @ Pomfret Club

Contact Easton Kiwanis

www.EastonPaKiwanis.org

www.facebook.com/easton.kiwanis

www.youtube.com/@eastonpakiwanis

info.EastonKiwanis@gmail.com

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Suzanne Gallagher sue2300@aol.com

PUBLISHER-SPECIAL PROJECTS: Bill Walters EastonKiwanis@gmail.com