



EASTON KIWANIS KLATTER

AUGUST
2026



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Easton Kiwanians,

Where to begin? August has been quite an active month for the Kiwanis Club of Easton. We took part in several community events, including Wilson LINC's *Touch-a-Truck* and the National Night Out. We also participated in *Give Back Day* at the Boys and Girls Club of Easton. A big thank you to the Easton Kiwanians who attended.

It was the first time we were able to use the new Kiwanis Inflatable. It can't be missed, which is great. We did have to purchase weights to keep it grounded but it is a wonderful addition for getting the Kiwanis name out there.

The 109th District Kiwanis Convention was held in Gettysburg, PA. What a great place, steeped in history! The Ghost Tour and Battlefield excursions brought history to life. Speaking of history, we had a wonderful field trip to Sigal Museum: *From Spirits to Speakeasy, Easton PA During Prohibition*. It was presented by Howie White as he brought history to life. Howie is member Cathi White's husband. He explained some of what was going on in the Prohibition and Speakeasy Era in Easton. Our town has quite a history.

A highlight of the Convention was the installation of our member Janet Owen as PA Kiwanis Governor. We are very proud of her and there were 10 members there to cheer Janet on. Her platform of "*Mission Possible*" emphasizing Early Childhood Education is one that is much needed. We look forward to supporting Janet in these endeavors.

Oh, we are not done. Work is taking place on getting our By-Laws in order and in September we will be looking at our Strategic Plan. Anyone interested in helping with this please contact me.

We have 2 great speakers scheduled for September and it's the Kick-Off for the Rose Sale. This is an important fundraiser for our club and we hope to have great participation. The bouquets are beautiful.

Membership was a big topic at the convention. In the past couple of years, we have been fortunate to have new members join who are active and are very much appreciated. We would like to increase our membership and would like to have more members on the Membership Committee.

Often the best way to get new members is to invite them. That nudge just might result in someone joining our club. We serve children and the community in so many ways. It is so rewarding and it would be great to have more members join us.

Well, that's about it for me for this month. Hope to see you all at the District Family Picnic on Oct. 4th. Sounds like an amazing time. Please let Kathy Heller know if you are going before September 12th.

With gratitude always, Sue

Aug 2nd --- Wilson School District's 4th Touch-a-Truck...

LINCS Touch-a-Truck was a huge success!

There is something special about a community that shows up for its families, and that's exactly what the Kiwanis Club of Easton, PA continues to do! Thank you for supporting our LINCS Touch-a-Truck event with your generous donation. Your kindness is helping us create a fun, exciting day where children can explore, learn, and make memories with their families. We are so grateful to have community partners who believe in investing in the next generation.

On August 2nd the 4th Annual Touch a Truck event took place in Wilson Borough organized by Trina Johnson-Brady, Director and Community Mobilizer of Easton Area LINCS and Communities That Care. It was a great fun filled, family friendly morning made possible by the many vendors, donors, sponsors, organizations with vehicles and school district staff who participated.

Thanks to all of our members who came out and assisted at the event: Sue and Neil Gallagher, Kathy Heller, Rosemary Kocher, Marybeth Okula, James and Janet Owen, Chris Paltz, and Anthony Ventura. Easton Kiwanis was a Neighborhood Supporter for the Touch a Truck



WE NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEER FOR TOUCH A TRUCK!

Touch a Truck is one of our biggest community events—and we can't do it without amazing volunteers like you!

EVENT DAY VOLUNTEERS
Help make Touch a Truck a fun, safe, and memorable experience for our community!

PREP WEEK VOLUNTEERS
Join us the week leading up to the event to sort donations and help get everything ready!

Every hand makes a big difference!

SIGN UP TODAY!
Scan the QR code or click the link below to volunteer.

<https://forms.gle/w3wKWNxuaELC3L19>



TOUCH A TRUCK BACK-2-SCHOOL EVENT

A backpack & school supply giveaway for Wilson Area families

August 2, 2026
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Wilson Area Intermediate School
2400 Firmstone St Easton Pa 18042



National Night Out is a community-policing awareness-raising event in the United States, held the first Tuesday of August. Members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton were on hand to provide Early Learning Guides and snack bags to families.

Jan Schwartz, Kiwanis Club Member and Director of Outreach PennAEYC, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, also partnered with Easton Kiwanis at a table during Easton's National Night Out. This annual community-building event gave them an opportunity to connect with local families and share resources on how to find, choose, and afford quality child care. A big thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Easton, PA for the partnership, and to everyone who stopped by our table to chat!

Glorious weather, wonderful families, good food, outstanding music, and Kiwanis community. The Easton Police Officers cooked amazing burgers and hotdogs and we had a visit with the Mayor.

Thanks to Sue Gallagher, Walt Howell, Rosemary Kocher, Marybeth Okula, James and Janet Owen, Jan Swartz, and Cathi White.

Comments from neighbors: *Thank you to everyone!! My family had a great night! Delicious food (that I didn't have to cook), great music, and fun activities for the kids!*



The Kiwanis Club of Palmer presented the *Carl Brown School Courage Award* to 2 recipients on Wednesday, August 5th at the Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center.

The first recipient, was Daniel DeFranco, who attended CIT and lives in Bangor, PA. Daniel is an incredible young man who was directly responsible for saving two people in his family. He administered CPR to a family member who was having a heart attack and was first on scene at a car accident that involved an uncle. He is now going to EMT school.

Anthony Ventura, Red Poppies for Veterans Club President and an Easton Key Club member was recognized for his role in the March 29th Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony held at Easton High School. Anthony is a truly remarkable person and an inspiration to young and old. He is also the grandson of Neil and Sue Gallagher, long time Easton Kiwanis members.

Such an honor to attend and be a part of this great event!

Thank you, Palmer Kiwanis for remembering Carl and for recognizing our youth who are doing extraordinary things! *Reporting by Janet Owen.*



On August 5th, Easton Kiwanians were treated to an amazing fieldtrip at the Sigal Museum in Easton PA arranged by Kiwanis Club of Easton member, Cathi White. Howie White, Cathi's husband, was our tour guide as we navigated through some of the history of Prohibition and Speakeasies in Easton.

Howie explained the history behind the prohibition of alcohol and how many Easton breweries got around it in very interesting ways. We met several of the Eastonians alive at the time through the presentation and learned of their involvement not only on Prohibition and the speakeasies but also in the history of our city. So many of the locations and buildings from that time are still in existence. We also heard about organized crime, vice and other illegal activities during the Prohibition Era.

This brief article does not do justice to the great presentation. The best way to experience this tour is to go on our You Tube website and see the program in its entirety. You won't be disappointed. [Click here](#) for the [EASTON KIWANIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL VIDEO](#)

Thank you, Howie, for a great tour. Your knowledge of and enthusiasm for history are greatly appreciated.



Suzanne Gallagher, President of the Kiwanis Club of Easton presented the Easton Emergency Squad Person of the Year award to Paige Griggs.

Paige is a graduate of Lafayette University and has a degree in Chemical Engineering, in addition to her exemplary service as an EMT.

Representative Bob Freeman was present and thanked the Kiwanis Club of Easton for recognizing first responders at their events. He also presented a citation in her honor from the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Tara Zrinski, County Executive, also gave remarks and a certificate congratulating Paige on her award.

Unity Bank, a corporate member of the Kiwanis Club of Easton, was represented by Crystal Rose. Crystal presented her a gift card basket.

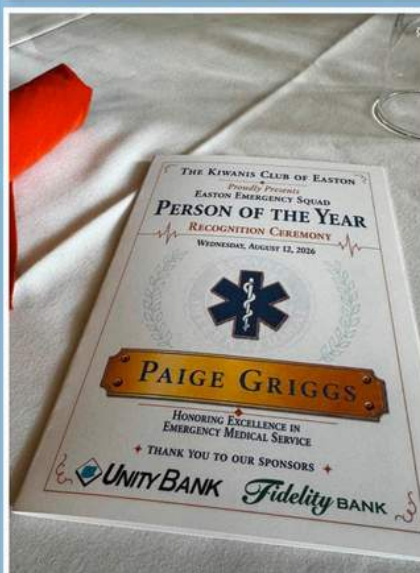
Fidelity Bank also sponsored the event.

A bouquet of flowers from the club was also presented to Paige by Janet Owen, Governor Elect of PA Kiwanis.

Thanks to the leadership of the Kiwanis Club of Easton, the Awards Committee chaired by Walter Howell, also the emcee of the ceremony and members for supporting this event.

The 18min video of the event is on our [YouTube Channel](#), [CLICK HERE](#).

Comment from Easton Councilman Frank Pintabone: *Today, I joined the Easton Kiwanis Club to celebrate and recognize our Easton EMS Person of the Year, Paige Griggs! First responders like Paige, who dedicate themselves to serving and protecting our community every day, are another reason why Easton is such a great city to call home. Congratulations, Paige, and thank you for your service to our community!*





THE EMT PRAYER

God, grant me the ability to give emergency care with skillful hands, knowledgeable mind, and tender loving care.

Help me deal with everything when lives are on the line; to see the worst, administer aid, and ease a worried mind.

So help me, as I go today, accept what fate may be.

Touch these hands, use this mind, help this EMT.

Amen.

What a great time was had by Easton Kiwanians at the 109th District PA Kiwanis Convention held in Gettysburg, PA. The convention was a great success thanks to the planning team lead by District leadership.

It was a wonderful ceremony and a first for Easton Kiwanis' 110-year history when Janet Owen was installed as Governor for PA District of Kiwanis. It was probably another first when 10 members and 4 spouses attended a district convention. Even Abe Lincoln made an appearance.

The breakout sessions were very interesting and members came away with great ideas. Cathy Szymanski was endorsed for Kiwanis International President and two of our members, Janet Owen and Walter Howell, were recognized as Distinguished Kiwanians. Thank you also to outgoing PA Kiwanis Governor, Barb Carter for a great year and for the work she did to bring Mental Health Awareness to the forefront.

There were outings planned – a Ghost Tour or Battlefield Field Tour on Thursday night and a Gettysburg Train Ride on Friday night followed by a “Kiwaneoke” Session! There were a Basket Raffle and a Silent Auction where the basket of Gift Cards and Lottery Tickets donated by the Kiwanis Club of Easton went for \$325. And the \$20 Raffle ticket main winner was our own Bill Walters. Great job Easton Kiwanians!

A highlight of the Convention was the Installation of Kiwanis Club of Easton member, Janet Owen, as Kiwanis Governor of PA. Her speech was one of encouragement and enthusiasm as we go forward this year with “Mission Possible” and with Janet’s dedication to Early Childhood Learning and PennAEYC.

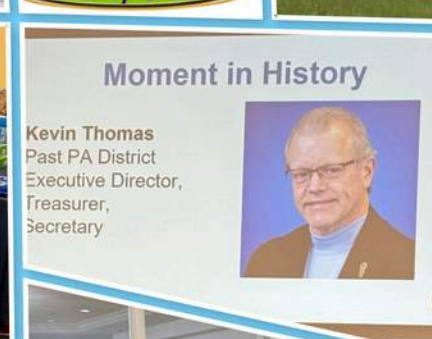
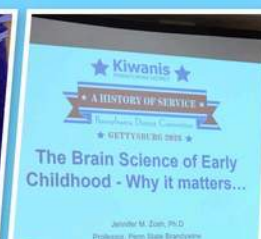
Attending the convention from Easton were Neil and Sue Gallagher, Walter Howell, Kathy Helller, Rosemary and Bob Kocher, Janet and James Owen, Marybeth and Mark Okula, Barb and Bill Walters and Cathi and Howie White.

Great job, all!!!

Be sure to see highlights on our You Tube Channel. Another great job, Bill Walters! [Click here](#) for a [23min video of the District Convention](#).

Comments from Bill Walters: *I learned again “It pay\$ to be a Kiwanian” as I won the PA Kiwanis Ka\$h raffle, and recently the Easton Kiwanis’ Super Raffle. Also I am so proud of our 10 club members who attended and prouder still that 4 brought along their husbands and even prouder of the fact that most are newer members.*





During the week of August 13 through August 23, I served as a guide for blind and visually impaired adults that I have done for 20 years. The program "Sports For Health" takes place at Sky Lake Camp & Retreat in Windsor, New York. Participants come for the week from various states along the eastern seaboard and guides either come for the week, a few days or just a day to help with activities. The program is part of Northeast Pennsylvania Regional SKI For Light/Sports For Health.

During the week we have meals together, take walks, spend time at the lake, ride tandem and recumbent bicycles, have social time in the lower level of the lodge where we sleep. Photos are of some of the persons who participate in the program.

Reported by Easton Kiwanian Walt Howell



Today's meeting was held at SURV Restaurant Sue Gallagher presided. After the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America, Sue shared *"The Starfish Story"* with members. This story was told at the Kiwanis PA District Conference that ten of our members attended from August 13-16. It also tied in well with our club mission of *"improving the world, one child and one community at a time."*

Before the Roundtable meeting started, Janet Owen, who was installed as the next Pennsylvania Kiwanis Governor at the convention, was presented with a congratulatory bouquet from the club. She will be officially the PA Kiwanis Governor October 1st.

Roundtable: James and Janet Owen spoke about their experience at the National Kiwanis Convention this year held in Manilla. It was a wonderful experience for them. Everyone was very warm and welcoming, new ideas were presented and it was a great event.

Janet and James and other members who attended the PA District Convention shared highlights and different ideas from the breakout sessions. Membership, literacy, Early Childhood Education and mental health were among topics discussed as well as ways Kiwanis can help in these areas and more. Definitely a lot to think about for the upcoming year.

Janet's installation as PA Governor for 2026-2027 was memorable highlight. Her theme is *"Mission Possible"* and the emphasis will be placed on Early Childhood Education. Her installation was also history making since we have never had a Kiwanis PA Governor from our club. She will begin her term in October. Warmest Congratulations, Janet!

Thanks to all who participated in this Roundtable Discussion-Janet and James Owen, Marybeth Okula, Rosemary Kocher, Neil and Sue Gallagher, Kathy Heller and Bill Walters.





Kiwanis

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT

MISSION POSSIBLE



Mission briefing: Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to become a hero in the life of a child. Every Kiwanian has a unique story, a special power to serve, and the ability to make a lasting impact. This mission cannot be completed alone. It requires Kiwanians like you who are ready to step up, take action, and help change lives.

Do you accept the mission?
To complete your assignment, consider the following questions:

- ☒ 1. What is your Kiwanis Why?
- ☒ 2. How will you put children at the heart of Kiwanis?
- ☒ 3. How will you help your club grow?



Aug 25th – Give Back Day @ Easton Boys & Girls Club...

What a great day! Several Easton Kiwanians participated in Give Back Day at the Boys and Girls club of Easton. We were welcomed by Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club and Easton Kiwanis Club member, Dean Young. It was an action-packed afternoon with different stations – games, making bookmarks, Book Bingo and more.

Special thanks to Rosemary Kocher, Marybeth Okula, Sue Gallagher, Cathi White, Kathy Heller, Walt Howell, Janet Owen, Dean Young and Bill Walters. Special thanks also to Boys and Girls Club staff members for their support.

Dean Young on Facebook: *Thank you to my fella Easton Kiwanis Club Members for making Easton Kiwanis Give Back Day another huge success at the Boys & Girls Club of Easton located at 210 Jones Houston Way Southside Easton PA.*

We had an excellent time fellowshiping becoming acquainted with our friends who have been amazing supporters for the Boys & Girls Club of Easton including projects such as; the community playground, the community garden, the Score Clock in the gymnasium and their amazing assistance with the library which they continue to provide books, these days with additional books for the little free library near the community garden where the community have free access to enjoyable books.

As Give Back Day is winding down, but not before several scoops of ice cream are given through the ice cream sundae giveaway, club members, staff, and Kiwanis Club members celebrate with line dancing and farewells!



Aug 29th – Miracle League Concession Stand...

Easton Kiwanians, Cathi White, Marybeth Okula and her husband Mark, along with Governor-designate and Easton Kiwanis member, Janet Owen, assisted at the Miracle League baseball game at Palmer township community complex on Saturday. It's all about the kids, service and bulding community.

Rotarian BJ Metz was in charge of the grille. *He grills an excellent cheeseburger!* It was reported that "It was a party! Great event!"



EASTON KIWANIS HISTORICAL MOMENTS...

THE EXPRESS, Easton, Pa., Thursday, Mar. 13, 1975

Easton Unit Organizes Palmer Kiwanis Club

A new Kiwanis Club has been organized in Palmer Township.

Although it will not be chartered until March 26, members of the new organization nominated officers to represent them this morning.

The Palmer Kiwanis Club, which has been meeting informally at breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Wednesdays in Picadilly Restaurant, Palmer Park Mall, will be the fourth club organized by the Easton unit.

The club, which hopes to boast 25 members by its charter date, has been led by temporary chairman H. Robert Daws, an Easton Kiwanian and Palmer supervisor.

Creation of the group is to allow more local men to join Kiwanis organizations, he

said. While Easton Kiwanis meets for lunch Wednesdays and Suburban Kiwanis meets Wednesday evenings, Palmer will continue its breakfast sessions to provide another time-spot for interested businessmen.

Easton also has helped organize the Pen Argyl and the Bethlehem Kiwanis chapters.

When the Palmer unit is chartered it will set Pennsylvania's Kiwanis record for the most clubs organized in a single year. It will be the eighth new club to be formed in 1975.

Leading the new group as president probably will be Dave Meyers, owner of the Picadilly restaurant and a former Jaycees leader in Delaware.

Also nominated by a committee of the club's 16 existing members were: for vice president, Nat Albee, an associate of Heikki Eilo engineers; secretary, Al Sieg, a member of the township's citizen advisory committee, and treasurer, Mike McNab, an assistant manager at the Palmer Branch of Easton National Bank and Trust.

Nominated for the club's board of directors were: Walter Auch, a district magistrate; George Kelchner, township civil defense director; Tom Rance, an associate with Henstreet, Smith and VanAntwerpen law firm; Dick Cowell, township realtor, and Carl Thornton, associated with Northampton County Special Education Unit 20.

KIWANIS HISTORICAL MOMENTS...

THE SERVANT LEADER

Published by William S. Brandamore, Jr., Governor
2004-05

In closing, may I leave you with this Native American Proverb:

Tell me, and I'll forget.

Show me, and I may not remember.

Involve me, and I'll understand!



Susan Bartels Sept. 17
Chris Paltz Sept. 28



Bill Walters 9/8/1982
Gary Tempest 9/23/1993
Sue Gallagher 9/29/2019

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 Awaiting start up this school year.
St. Janes K-Kids Awaiting start up this school year.
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 September 19 9:30-Noon & October 17 9:30-Noon

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

2026: *usually* 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – speakers, 4th Wed Zoom Board Meeting
 Sept 2 – Jana Morris, Recovery Revolution
 Sept 16 – Tom Lubben, author
 Sept 30 – Board Meeting, General By-laws, Budget, Rose Sale Final Orders Due (Wednesday)
 Oct 4 – Division 17/18 Picnic
 Oct 7 – Installation of Officers
 Oct 14 – Easton Firefighter Award @ Pomfret Club
 Oct 21 --
 Oct 24 -- Trunk or Treat (Miracle League)
 Oct 25 – Halloween Parade w Phillipsburg Kiwanis
 Oct 26-29 – SURV Fundraiser for Easton Kiwanis
 Oct 28 – Annual Rose Sale Delivery (Wednesday)
 Nov 4 – Nurture Nature, Birds, fireflies, invertebrates, and wildflowers - discovering the biodiversity in our local environment
 Nov 17 – Mixer at SURV 5PM
 Dec 9 – IU 20 Kids Christmas/Holiday Party
 Dec 19 – Christmas Party @ Riverview Clubhouse

Contact Easton Kiwanis
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