

# KIWANIS CLUB OF PALMER TOWNSHIP

February 28, 2018

*Forty-two Years of Service to Children of the Easton Area*

## Speakers

March 7<sup>th</sup>  
Janice Komisor  
ProJect Easton

March 14<sup>th</sup>  
Cheryl Baker  
Equi-librium

March 28th  
Foundation Campaign Kick Off

## Coming Events

April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Kiwanis Breakfast  
EAHS Cafeteria

## Club News

**Q**uote of the Day - "Being trusted is a greater compliment than being loved."

George McDonald

Bob Lammi was this mornings greeter. Bob Pretopapa was this mornings prayer leader and Bob Moran led the world famous Palmer Kiwanis Choir in the singing of "God Bless America".

President Jim Brown welcomed this mornings guests Kristi and BJ Metz.

Jim reported on correspondence he received from Family Connection announcing their annual fund raiser and asking for a contribution. This request will be passed on to the Board of Directors.

Jim recognized and thanked Rich Yanzsa for his 2 years of service to the Club.

Ginny Yanzsa reported on the planning for the annual breakfast. She indicated that posters will be printed and members will get them in various places throughout the area. Placemat ads are sold out but there is room in the center of the mat for patron

recognition at \$20 a piece. The membership authorized spending up to \$200 for items to go into the raffle baskets. Members are asked to get gift card donations from places they frequent. An introduction letter will be put together for use when asking for a donation. Ginny thanked Rich Knauss for the use of a PA system to be used at the breakfast.

Victor Scomillio announced the speakers and reported on the Opioid Awareness Program. He indicated that the committee continues to grow in the number of members. The committee is now considering breaking in to sub groups which they feel is more productive. The next awareness program will be in March 26<sup>h</sup> at Lafayette College.

Jim indicated that the Board of Directors for the Club will meet on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Palmer Library.

Jack Corcoran thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his recent surgery and recovery.

Next week greeter and prayer leader will be Ed Dean.

## This Morning's Speaker

Our own Jeff Finegan was this mornings speaker. Jeff's topic this morning was the impact of the overdose crisis that is impacting our country and our society. In 2017, the Pittsburg School of Pharmacy published a report entitled "Analysis of overdose death in Pennsylvania, 2016". In the executive summary they state: "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is in the midst of an unprecedented epidemic of drug abuse and drug related overdose deaths impacting every corner of the state and all of its residents. In 2016, more than 4600 Pennsylvanians died as a result of drug abuse, with thousands more affected by addiction, either personally, or through family, friends, and loved ones." Bringing this closer to home in the same time frame there were 70 deaths due to overdoses in 2016 in Northampton County and 134 in Lehigh County.

As a funeral director, Jeff has seen firsthand "the road to hell back" of what many



families go through with a loved one who has been on drugs and who has died from a overdose. To try to get help for the addicted love one, the family digs a deep financial hole. Many times the grandparents have also done so to provide financial help to the family. When the person overdoses and it's time for the funeral many families are exhausted financially. Jeff indicated that this epidemic has far-reaching tentacles as it relates to our overall society and economy. The Coroners offices throughout the county are overtaxed because of the number of autopsies they are doing because of overdose deaths. The increase in the number of emergency calls that the police departments and emergency medical services have to respond to as a result of drug use is a cost to the system. The amount of time that a person is losing from work and in some cases the lack of mental capacity of an addict at work can have an effect on the economy when taken into consideration the number of cases countrywide.

Jeff talked about the demographics of drug uses based on his experience and the condition that they are in when he sees them as he prepares them for the funeral. He just wonders if the addict thinks “this may be the end of my life” when they are putting the needle in their arm or those extra pills in their mouth.

From the above mentioned report:

- In 2016, 4,642 drug related overdose deaths were reported by Pennsylvania coroners and medical examiners, an increase of 37% from 2015. In 2016, approximately 13 people died of drug related overdoses each day.
- The Pennsylvania drug related overdose death rate in 2016 was 36.5 per 100,000 people, an increase of 26.7 per 100,000 people in 2015. The national drug overdose of death rate in 2015 was 16.3 per 100,000.
- The presence of an opioid illicit or prescribed by a doctor, was identified in 85% of drug related overdose deaths in Pennsylvania in 2016.

There is no question but that this epidemic is having such a strong impact on our country. We should all be proud of that our Kiwanis club has joined with the Easton club to try and do something about this in our area.

One of the organizations we support is the Miracle League of Northampton County and they are holding a MLNC Painting Party fund raiser on April 6th. This is a fun event for the ladies (men are also welcome) so men please pass this on to your wives, daughter or granddaughters and for our wonderful ladies in the club get you friends together so you all can join others in painting a spring tulip scene on a wood pallet. Painting skills are not necessary. See the attached flier for details.



## **FRIDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 MLNC PAINTING PARTY!**

### **Wooden Pallet Spring Tulips**

Ready for spring? Come paint with us on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Palmer Township Fire Company. Net proceeds to benefit the Miracle League of Northampton County. Instruction by Shannon Jones from Girlfriends Art Clique.

Questions? [info@miracleleagueofnc.org](mailto:info@miracleleagueofnc.org)

Reserve Online: <https://miracleleagueofnc.org/painting-party>

OR Mail in \$35 payment to **Miracle League of Northampton County**, including name, phone, and mail to:

MLNC Painting Party c/o Sue Trinchere  
4350 Eisenhower Drive  
Bethlehem, PA 18020

**Net proceeds to  
benefit the  
Miracle League of  
Northampton  
County**

**Doors open: 5:30**

**Painting: 6:30**

**Palmer Township  
Fire Company  
950 S 27th St  
Easton, PA 18045**

**Food and  
refreshments  
available**

**\$35**

