

# THE PALMER KIWANIAN

March 2024

In this Issue.....

LINCS Family Center

Northampton Community  
College Foundation

Lehigh Valley Health  
Hecktown Oaks Campus

BattleBorne - Connecting  
Veterans with Resources

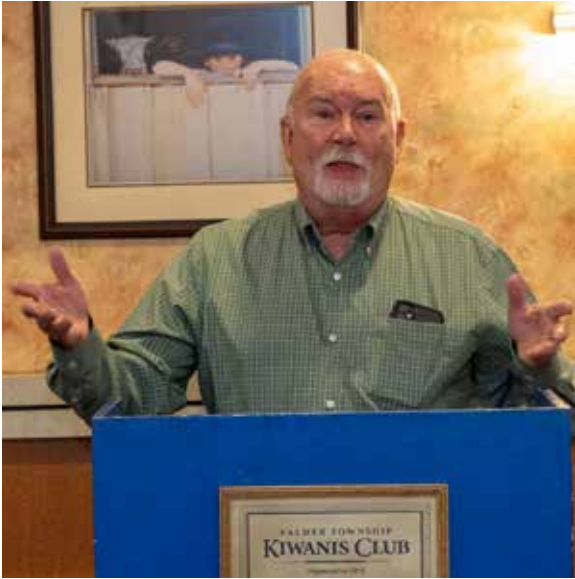
**HAPPY EASTER**



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>

CLUB OF PALMER TOWNSHIP

## From the Club President - April 2024



“April Fool’s!” It’s still March for a few more days. It’s supposed to be Spring, but I am not sure about that.

March was Women’s History Month. We should not have to have a time to specifically recognize the accomplishments of women, but a look at history tells us we do. Kiwanis was a “Men’s Club” for many years. We should all be happy that that changed for good. Where would we be without the contributions of many women workers and leaders who have served (and continue to serve) our club and community? And while the United States has not yet had a woman hold the office of President, many Kiwanis Clubs (including Palmer) have had women serve in this office. We continue to look for club officers, including a President Elect. Any women out there interested in leading our organization? Elections are coming up in May.

We have had some outstanding speakers at our meetings during the past several months. I am always amazed at the number of people and organizations that exist just to help others in some way. It should make us proud to be a part of such a vibrant and caring community. Stay tuned for more great programs at our regular meetings. There is always room at one of the tables, so, if you have not been to a meeting for a while, come back and join us. You will learn something, have fun, hang out with some great friends, and help make the world a better place.

Looking ahead to May, we will be awarding eight scholarships to students from four local high schools: CIT and Notre Dame on May 1 and Easton and Wison on May 15. This is a very important part of what we do to help the youth of our community, so mark your calendars now to be here to celebrate with these high school seniors on those dates.

See you for breakfast on Wednesday!

Ron

## PALMER KIWANIS MEETING OF MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>

### Business Meeting

We started our first meeting in March with a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of God Bless America.

President Ron Roth acknowledged that it is Women's History Month and read a nice quote from the District Newsletter.

No Club Anniversaries this week.

Birthdays: Lisa Spitale, March 6; Joe Pilyar, March 12. Enjoy!

Report of Board of Directors Meeting:

- ◇ Financial Activity was reviewed; and we approved a budget. After tweaking, the budget will be distributing to members next week. We also approved the transfer of some funds from our club accounts to the Palmer Foundation Scholarship Fund.
- ◇ Elections will be held in May for our officers. Nominating committee is Debbie Ashton-Chase, John Gregor, and Ernie Hoeflein. Once we have a slate of officers, there will be three consecutive weeks announcing the slate of candidates, voting at the end of May. There are three board members' terms expiring as well.
- ◇ Regarding the Kiwanis Palmer Youth Center, we are sending a letter stating our intended purpose (not exclusive to sports) to the Township Supervisors. Hopefully, this will move things along. Victor requested that all questions be directed his way in order to avoid confusion with the Township Board.
- ◇ Regarding the golf outing, the board approved the compensation for a coordinator for our event, Ashley Lorah. She has been given a list of duties/tasks. The committee will soon meet for our October 4th event at Green Pond Country Club. We need to start getting our golfers and sponsors.
- ◇ Palmer Days in August: Bill Tonkin and Robin Moran are going to co-chair this event. One idea is to have a skee-ball game. Cotton candy is a possibility as well.

We received a thank you note from Northampton Community College as well as one from the recipient for the scholarship.

Upcoming Weeks:

- ◇ March 13th, Julie Nolan from the NCC Foundation regarding our scholarship.
- ◇ March 20th, road trip to LVHN Hectown Oaks,
- ◇ 3780 Hecktown Rd, Easton, PA 18045, at 7:30 a.m. Go into main entrance. Joe Pinto will be our speaker.
- ◇ March 27th, Eve will be presenting a speaker.

50/50 - #79--Victor, winner/then loser.

Happy Dollars:

- ◇ Hans was happy to learn it's Women's History Month.
- ◇ Mike Riskin spoke about Eve eating the apple in the Garden of Eden.
- ◇ Ed McDevitt was happy to watch his granddaughter dance in an international competition, coming in the top 24.
- ◇ Victor Scomillio was happy to have been at the West Point lacrosse team game— what a respectful group that fiercely plays the game.
- ◇ Beverly was happy to be celebrating the twins' tenth birthday.
- ◇ Bob Moran shared that the coach of the San Francisco baseball team makes sure his team is out, lined up, and respectful of the National Anthem.
- ◇ Ron Roth was happy that he did not have cold eggs today – he had no eggs, as they did not take his menu. Sorry, Ron.
- ◇ Jeff Finegan shared the sorrow in having suddenly lost his dog and having to bury on Christmas day, 2022. BUT, two days ago a mutt of a dog (matted and mangy) ran into the arms of his son in Washington. Jeff's wife drove down and got him. Dog is now living in Finesville with the Finnegan's. Jeff, they make movies of such stories.

## Today's Speakers

Brenda Brodt introduced our speaker, Trina Johnson Brady of the LINC Center in Wilson, who does much for the kids of the Wilson School District.

Trina is associated with the LINCS Family Center, a small organization connected to the Wilson Area School District to support families in the district, starting in 2012.



There is a food pantry on Monday mornings which grew by 70% from 2022 to 2023. They provide weekend meal bags to students to combat food insecurity.

They have a summer playground program as well at Wilson Borough Elementary School, expanding next year to 5th and sixth grade. They have a teaching garden at the Intermediate School.

The Communities That are Coalition was started a couple of years ago to encourage healthy behavior in the youth in the community to become respectful, competent, and healthy adults to contribute positively to our society.

Everything they do is based on the PA Youth Survey Data. Though some of the data from the last couple of year could be alarming, Trina reminded us that it will hopefully improve as we leave the COVID years.

The numbers showing low commitment to school is being handled by the District. The survey indicates attitudes regarding violence, drug use, gambling, etc. Pride of community and no neighborhood attachment are something the coalition wants to address.

Addressing depressive behavior is necessary in order to reduce drug use. Getting kids involved in activities help to protect them from bad behavior.

The Coalition does community action plan presentations to show the data and encourage involvement helping to make Wilson a better place to live.

They work with the Big Brother Big Sisters Program having high school students spend time with younger kids in the district. They held a Touch a Truck event last August, with children coming out and receiving backpacks.

There is a Community Action Plan Presentation on March 21, at Wilson Area High School Cafeteria, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. A complementary buffet will be offered; children are welcome. Registration is required: RSVP by March 13 email: [LINCS@wilsonareasd.org](mailto:LINCS@wilsonareasd.org).

## PALMER KIWANIS MEETING OF MARCH 13<sup>th</sup>

### Business Meeting

On this beautiful morning, Ron led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Rich Knauss led us in singing God Bless America.

No birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate today.

Brenda Brodt reported on the Wilson Key Club meeting yesterday where 40 kids attended. They are starting a "Walk In My Shoes" campaign where messages are written of needs in shoes and will then decorate the rotunda with ways for helping. April into May, they are doing the heroes squad, collecting change to help fight leukemia/lymphoma. They are also working with the Wilson Cares Coalition to help the youth of the community. They will also be helping to clean up on Earth Day and will need supplies and volunteers. They are doing a blood drive in May. They are one busy group.

Future Programs:

- ◇ Next week: Road trip to LVHN Hecktown Oaks, 3780 Hecktown Rd, Easton, PA 18045; 7:30 a.m. Go into main entrance. We will be collecting \$5/person. Joe Pinto will be the speaker.
- ◇ March 27th – Eve Chiles will be presenting Chris Yarnell
- ◇ April Speaker assignments will be sent out soon.

Victor was asked by a Palmer Board of Supervisors to bring Restaurant Week to our attention. He did so. More to follow.

Noreen reminded us that Simply Savory will be held on April 10th benefiting Project of Easton to be held at the Hampton Inn on Rt 248.

Ernie shared a message from Ed Dean. The Palmer Historical Society will be meeting tomorrow 10 a.m. at the Palmer Library. Speaker will be sharing his contact with Freddy the Ghost of the State Theatre.

50/50 - #315 – Mike Riskin – winner/loser. Pot is up to \$18.

Happy Dollars –

- ◇ Hans was happy about Easton's Aubre Krazer wrestling achievements, winning states.
- ◇ Mike Riskin is going on a River Cruise and will be thinking of all of us.
- ◇ Ed McDevitt is happy to have to learn how to say, "Saquon."
- ◇ Jim Narlesky is happy to be back.
- ◇ Leslie is happy that her daughter is home for spring break.
- ◇ Ron Roth was happy to see Jim Narlesky back.

### Today's Speaker

President Ron introduced Julie Nolan from Northampton Community College Institutional Foundation Departments. She is a gift officer working to raise money for the college.

After spending 20 years working with various Chambers in PA and one in CT, she changed her career path to education. Her position at NCC is her fourth school, having been with Kutztown University, Lafayette, Alvernia University, and now Northampton Community College.

She thanked us for our support of NCC with the scholarships given by our endowment at NCC, helping many students over the years, including three just this year. She assured us that it really does make an impact with the students sometimes asking why someone helps them open doors to their future.

There are three locations, Bethlehem Township, Monroe Campus, and the Fowler Center in Bethlehem. NCC's mission is to make sure the students have accessibility, excellence, and

learning experiences in a very positive and diverse way.

David A Ruth is the President of NCC and doing a really great job. He had attended the school as well. He is very connected to the students, even living in a resident hall



during the week.

The college serves about 30,000 students a year; about twice the number of students of other institutions. Enrollments are on the rise. Dual enrollment (high school students) is growing as well. Nearly one in four students in Northampton County go to NCC. They are the only community college with a residence hall.

There are 120 degrees, certificates and specialized diploma programs. They are always open to providing new programs. If there is a need, they try to fill it. When PPL had a need to train people to climb poles. NCC developed a program which continues and is one of the best in the state.

NCC is one of the most affordable schools in PA. The tuition for one year is around \$5310.00, compared to others which are between \$10k and \$61K

Julie shared the statistics of the student body coming from 50 counties, 40 countries, and 28 states. The foreign

students embrace the culture and the opportunity. Over 2000 students are enrolled in a dual enrollment program; about 80% of those students are employed about 30 hours a week; that's quite the juggling act.

Newsweek ranked NCC as one of the top online colleges in 2024 in PA (overall, #83), which included four-year colleges. They have three online programs that are among the best in the USA; Criminal Justice, ranked 12th; Communications, #14; Accounting, #33. They were ranked the best college in the Lehigh Valley in 2023 by the Reader's Choice Awards, tying Lehigh. In 2024, they were awarded the top technical school in adult continuing education in Who's Who in Business.

The Foundation is the financial arm that helps the college, building relationships to raise money, invest properly, and managing resources. The Foundation has been around since 1969, one of the oldest and most successful in the country. The endowment value is at \$85 million. They have over 300 individually endowed scholarships, the largest in private scholarship programs. They have multitudes of awards.

Over 54% of the students require some kind of financial aid. There is still a need of \$11 million. They awarded close to \$1 million last year to over 700 students.

Their primary focus has been scholarships, but they recognize other needs as well such as helping students with financial insecurities, housing, utilities, clothing, rents, etc.

Healthcare is being expanded. They support students in many helpful ways.

There is an annual scholarship luncheon. Julie would like to see us attend and meet the students. It will be held this fall.

## PALMER KIWANIS MEETING OF MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>

### Business Meeting

Today's meeting was hosted by LVH Hecktown Oaks, treating us to a lovely continental breakfast.

Before their presentation, President Ron Roth shared a club anniversary. Ken Kochev joined on March 26, 1975; a charter member. Special thanks, Ken, for all you have done and continue to do for our club.



Birthdays: Today, Robert Lammi; in a few days, Beverly Young, on the 24th, Dan McMahon and Bob Smith on the 26th. Enjoy!

### Future Meetings:

- ◇ April 3rd, Jim Reagan will be introducing Colonel Patrick Callahan from the NJ State Police.
- ◇ April 10th, Mike Riskin has a surprise speaker.
- ◇ April 17th, Ron Roth will be introducing Adrienne Jones, Director at CIT.
- ◇ April 24th, Victor Scomillio will be talking about the grant process of our Foundation.
- ◇ May 1st, scholarships will be awarded to Notre Dame and CIT.
- ◇ May 15th, Easton and Wilson scholarships awarded.

The past Monday, the Palmer Board of Supervisors approved the moving forward to finish the flooring at the Kiwanis Palmer Youth Center . . .progress!

### Today's Speaker

Rob Pretopapa thanked LVH Hecktown Oaks for hosting our breakfast and the past support of our golf outing. He then introduced Joe Pinto, President, LVH Hecktown Oaks.

Joe started by thanking Kiwanis for all we do, volunteering, raising funds, and all the work we have done.

Joe has been in the area since 1992, attending Moravian College, then the University of Scranton. The last 21 years, he had a career at St. Luke's becoming the Chief Operating Officer for three hospitals. After his wife went back to become a nurse, graduating this past May, she went to work for Lehigh Valley Health hospital on Cedar Crest Blvd. She loved the culture at LVHN, a welcoming, sincere atmosphere.



Joe then contacted a friend who connected

him with the appropriate people and ended up joining Lehigh Valley. He's been with them for 7 months and does appreciate the culture.

Hecktown Oaks will be celebrating their third anniversary in July. They have come a long way with a great future.

LVHN is a big network with 13 hospital campuses, over 20,000 employees. They have express care locations. They make sure their nurses are well trained. The accolades go on and on.

The hospital was built as Northampton County needed a facility; and this one is conveniently located. Their vision is simple: continuous top-level performance in all areas such as quality, safety, patient experience, and staff engagement. They want to continue to grow their clinical capabilities, keeping patients' care close to home.

The campus is 290,000 square feet, 188 acres of land. Local farmers farm the land. They have many patients' private rooms, 20 critical care rooms, four state of the art operating rooms, two procedure rooms, 17 pre and post- private rooms, and 28 emergency rooms. They also have diagnostic programs. They have the knowledge and capability to take care of the sickest patients.

The building hold three separate buildings under one roof: an acute care hospital, a cancer center, and a health center. They also have an orthopedic center. They are comprehensive.

In the inpatient center, they have indigo cleaning. When lights go out a UV light comes on killing all bacteria. Amazing! There is a camera above the TV's whereby any specialist can be zoomed in even able to show a doctor the pupils of a patient's eyes.

In the ICU, they have pulmonary critical care specialists to take care of the sickest patients, 24/7. They have 28 ER bays, four of which are dedicated to children. There are separate waiting areas for adults and children.

They do community needs assessments where mental health is found to be the top concern.

They are a level 4 trauma center. LVH goes into schools to teach children how to handle some situations. They are working with Northampton County to identify children with lead exposure. They are accredited to work with kids, teaching them and helping them.

The stroke program is second to none being a certified stroke hospital. They continue to expand, meaning they don't have to transfer out as many patients.

LVHN is No. 5 in the country out of 333 similar hospitals proving you get top level care. They keep their costs low, have high quality care, and incredible performance.

Where do they go from here: increase clinical capabilities, add neurological diagnostic capabilities to measure brain waves; interventional radiology, continue to add to trauma and stroke capabilities.





## PALMER KIWANIS INTERCLUB MEETING OF MARCH 27<sup>th</sup>

### Business Meeting

On this rainy morning, we were back to Williams Restaurant. After Pledging Allegiance to our Flag, we sang God Bless America.

One club anniversary; April 2nd, Jack Panella will celebrate his fifth anniversary with Palmer Kiwanis.

Happy Birthday, Noreen Davis.

Sadly, a former member of Kiwanis, Peter Reichert, has passed away. Condolences to his family.

We received a thank you note from Special Olympics for our contribution in support of the LV Polar Plunge.

Project of Easton is having their Simply Savory event at Hampton Inns on April 10th. Direct questions to Ron if interested in attending.

- ◇ Next week: April 3rd. Jim Reagan will be introducing Colonel Patrick Callahan from the NJ State Police.
- ◇ April 10, Mike Riskin has a surprise speaker.
- ◇ April 17th, Ron Roth will be introducing Adrienne Jones, Director at CIT.
- ◇ April 24th, Victor Scomillio will be talking about the grant process of the Foundation.
- ◇ May 1st, scholarships will be awarded to Notre Dame and CIT.
- ◇ May 15th, scholarship awards to Easton and Wilson.

Golf Committee met last evening. Ashley Loran headed up the meeting as she will be leading us to our success this year. We are hoping to get 110 to 120 golfers and raise more money this year.

Palmer Days are in August. Robin Moran

and Bill Tonkin are working together to find some new ideas. It's a lot of work, but good exposure for the club.

Debbie Ashton-Chase, representing the nominating committee, announced that they have been working on getting the secretary position filled, as Ernie wants to retire. Please get in touch with either Debbie, John Gregor, or Ernie Hoeflein. There was discussion about having two people share the job, as the weekly need is somewhat daunting. Ernie, obviously, you are irreplaceable. John Gregor suggested billing members rather than collecting every week. Just an idea. Ernie will shadow whoever steps up.

Board meeting, April 2nd, at 4:30 p.m., at the Palmer Municipal Building. Bob Moran let us know that Bob Williams will be able to attend.

Ginny Yanzsa shared that backpack day is July 20th at Wesley Methodist Church. They will need socks and underwear, which we will be collecting. Last year, Elaine Arnts took the donated cash and did a great job purchasing items for the event.

Ron announced that the CIT Foundation will be holding their annual clothing drive, Saturday, April 20th, at the Fidelity Bank in Forks Township. You can drive up and guys will unload your car.

John Gregor shared the letter he received from the PA Kiwanis Foundation, questioning the PA scholarship awards. He also questioned the funds used to support leadership programs for Key Clubs. Chuck Lewis assured John that the information is shared with the Key Club Advisors. Brenda Brodt will check with the Wilson Key Club.

50/50 - #94, Bob Moran winner...loser.  
Pot is up to \$22.

Happy Dollars:

- ◇ Ernie started that she and Hans celebrated their 49th anniversary with Kiwanis. We can't thank you two enough for all you do. Also, she spoke to her foot doctor yesterday, who had spoken to us years ago; he still has the certificate we gave him in recognition of his talk.
- ◇ Ginny Yanzsa is very happy that her grandson has a solo trumpet performance for the upcoming spring concert.
- ◇ One fellow was happy that after 25 years of living in Palmer, he finally got his radon system installed.
- ◇ Bob Moran put in a dollar for himself and one for Mike Riskin, who is in Normandy. Mike Riskin, your bill is growing.
- ◇ Beverly Young spoke of the fun she had at a Mystery Murder Masquerade dinner at the Cock 'n Bull in Peddlers Village. Highly recommended.
- ◇ Ron Roth was very happy that his one-year-old granddaughter's minor eye surgery went well. Grandparents were nervous, but, of course.

Services and Outreach. She helps them get connected with needed services and runs a support group. They have four case managers who know of all the services the veterans may need. They are planning on buying a home for veterans, as reputable places for them are few and far between.



They have the Palmer Recovery Center, opened 5 days a week, with resources for children up to the veterans. There is a center in Allentown with many support groups, including one for children.

Their largest event, Walk for Recovery, will be held on June 8th at LCCC. They are looking for vendors; the fee is \$50. You must provide your own table. The walk is from 2 to 6 p.m. They do take sponsorships. For more information on this worthy organization: <https://wearebattleborne.com/>

Eve shared that she did not do military; she did mercenary serving in the Middle East and Northern Africa. She had quite the job, not even able to really discuss. Most of her family was involved with the military. After Eve graduated from paramedic school, she went in as a combat medic. She was recruited very quickly. Thank you for your service and all you do to this day.

### Today's Speaker

As Chris Yarnell did not feel well this morning, Eve Chiles stepped up to the podium.

BattleBorn was founded by Chris Yarnell five years ago. Eve says that Chris and his wife are very special people. Upon exiting the Marine Corp, Chris had some issues to overcome. "The mission is to connect veterans with the resources needed to recover from mental, emotional and physical trauma so they can restore their lives and reintegrate into society. We achieve this through a collaborative effort of like-minded individuals and organizations, by leveraging both internal and external resources to assist veterans in our community."

They do this in multiple ways. They partner with Second Harvest. It's very hard for veterans to ask for help.

Eve is Director of First Responder Support

## IN MEMORIAM

Former member Pete Riker passed away on March 26<sup>th</sup>. For those of us who knew Pete we remember him as a quite gentleman who pitched in to help in many of the projects we had as a club. Pete also served Meals on Wheels for 25 years. We also remember him as a musician as a member of the Easton Municipal Band.  
May Pete Rest in Peace.