

AP Kiwanis Club Minutes - Jan. 13, 2025

Motion to open by Alex, seconded by Wendy

December meeting minutes: approved

InterfaithRise - Retired Pastor Todd Buursta, a Keyport Kiwanian, addressed the meeting explaining his organization and its mission to help refugees get settled in communities. The organization is headquartered in Bridgewater and are opening a mission here in Asbury Park.

He explained that all refugees are legal and vetted. They are helped to acclimate, including languages classes.

Refugees are provided job training and living assistance including housing and food.

The organization, he said, has assisted about 800 refugees.

Todd said that the refugees have a deep appreciation for freedom and the support they are shown by IRise.

He also expressed concern that some of the programs assisting the refugees could be cut on Jan. 20 with the inauguration of the new president.

Todd handed out literature and said they expect to be helping refugees from Cuba, Venezuela, Guatemala, etc.

Academy of Allied Health & Science Key Club: President Deena said she had heard from Alyse Riehl, the faculty advisor at Allied Health who expressed interest in holding another spaghetti dinner. We organized one in 2019, raising \$750 for a scholarship which was awarded to a graduating Key Club member.

Sister Circle Leadership: Deena said she was contacted by the group who would like to help us with projects in the city, including beach or lake/park cleanups. The girls in the club would be earning community service hours.

Club Socials: After the Jan. 23 social, we will switch to the fourth Wed. of each month starting in Feb. 26. On Jan. 23 we are hosting a meet and greet for new members at the Shore Line at the Berkeley Hotel. Members are asked to invite people who might be interested. There will be a cash bar.

New Members: Chris, who attended the meeting and joined. Also Molly has shown interest.

Wave Fest: March 8 at House of Independents, a benefit for 180 Turning Lives around. They need volunteers. We will raffle off EHN booklets.

Library: Shannon spoke to the librarian about sponsoring a Tween Game Night.

EHN: we sold 102 books during the presale for a total of \$2600. Steve also reported we have 49 contracted vendors and 3 verbals. He is still hoping to reach 50. Proposed launch date mid Feb.

Key Club Convention: this year is being held at the Berkeley, Apr. 3 to 6. The leaders reached out and asked if we could participate in a 1 hour project with Key Clubbers.. Club members discussed a possible Deal Lake, or Sunset Park clean up, but suggested it would take about 2 hours.

APLL Pancake breakfast: Morning of Feb. 1 at the Salvation Army. We will provide volunteers.

St. Patrick's Parade: March 9, club members will participate again, with Steve's car. We will supply balloons for the car and candy to throw from the car.

Covenant House: Tom is working on the grant application with Michael Ellithorpe from Kiwanis. Kiwanis will fund up to \$5000 for a new project, including a dining area. Project Chair, Karen Harrington also said the Mercy Center will be providing food for both houses once a week. Ellithorpe requested that a plaque be placed on the Covenant House wall.

Social Media Shout Outs: Members discussed partner groups giving us a shout out on their social media sites or other areas to promote AP Kiwanis.

Kiwanis Store: open for a variety of merchandise.

Motion to Close, Jackie Sharp, Karen Harrington seconded.