



Kiwaniis
CLUB OF GREEN BAY



GREEN BAY – DOWNTOWN, Founded 1917

KIWANIS KEY

Weekly Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Green Bay – Downtown
KIWANIS MEETING OF September 17th, 2018

A nice turnout of 15 members, plus Vince' helper, the program speaker and two of his guests. The 15 members were: Maria, Joe, Dal, Rick, Pat, Doug, Denis, Vince, Ann, Anne, Emmet, Dave, Jerry G., Bob R. and Bob F. Our meeting was in the second floor room facing south, which (in my opinion) is a definite improvement over our usual room.

Lunch was a green salad, French bread, and what I would have described as a meatless noodle casserole. But, one of our more meal-knowledgeable members told me that there were pieces of chicken in the casserole. Thanks Rick, I accept the correction.

Two songs were “The Packer Fight Song” (although there was a suggestion that we should only sing half of the song, which would be neither good or bad, just like the game---and “You’re A Grand Old Flag” with the line that is appropriate to our times “where there’s never a boast or brag.”

Many Happy Dollars from: Joe, who used the half-full glass concept to be happy that the Packers are still undefeated---Anne, who had a wonderful family vacation cruise in Alaska---Ann, who told us that her daughter has a part in the coming “Nutcracker” production---Rick, who said his firm is re-designing a long time Sheboygan park called “Kiwaniis Park.”---Dal, who told us that our program speaker’s daughter, Maria Gilson, was in the Southwest Key Club when she was in high school---Doug, who recognized Denis who is celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Kathy (did I get that right? was Denis married when he was a teenager?).

Our program speaker was Bob Gilson, the president and CEO of Imperial Supplies. The parent company of Imperial is W.W. Grainger, Inc. Imperial is a

national distributor of trucking fleet maintenance equipment, supplies and tools. Imperial purchased the former Feld Building at 300 N. Madison Street in Green Bay, investing approximately \$14 million in the purchase and renovation of the building. Imperial moved into the building in January, 2018. Imperial now has approximately 400 employees, and hiring 200 more is anticipated in the near future. As we learned, Imperial is a major Green Bay company and Bob Gilson gave a very interesting presentation about the company.

GREEN BAY-DOWNTOWN CLUB FOCUSES ON MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES

Submitted by Dal Wood, Kiwanis Club of Green Bay-Downtown



Governor Justin Hahn assists with induction of three new members on July 23, 2018. Left to right, District Governor Justin Hahn, new members Brie Jacques (pinch-hitting for her mom, Maria Jacques) and Christy Faymonville, President Dal Wood and new member Lorna Wood.

The Kiwanis Club of Green Bay-Downtown, founded in 1917, is one of the oldest clubs in the WI-UM District. At its peak in the 1950s and 1960s it boasted more than 150 members. Recent years have not been kind to the Green Bay club. Recruiting has been difficult, aggravated by a weekly noon-time meeting schedule which doesn't fit many employed people. During 2017, the club's 100th

anniversary year, active membership declined to about 20 members. Amazingly, those dedicated Kiwanians have maintained all of the club's long-standing community service activities, including the sponsorship of three large Key Clubs and many other youth-oriented programs.

In 2018, the club adopted a commitment to devote itself to membership growth. This involved an upgrade in meetings, programs and activities, as well as a concerted recruiting effort. Seven new members joined in 2018.

Dal Wood, club president, says this is just the beginning. "We want to serve as a model for other clubs who may be shrinking due to normal attrition and worn-out recruiting methods. We want to prove that, in spite of the well-known obstacles, it still can be done!"

For further information on some of the innovations used to revitalize the Kiwanis Club of Green Bay-Downtown, contact the club at greenbaykiwanis@gmail.com.

Coming Programs:

Sept. 24---Wyatt and Carolyn Kuether will tell us about current developments at the Production Farm.

Oct. 1---installation of our new club officers for the next two year terms.

Oct. 8---the speaker will be Alexia Priddy from St. John Homeless Shelter in Green Bay.

By Bob Fahres

