



Kiwanis Holds In-Person Open House June 10, 2021

The Membership Committee of the Southport Oak Island Kiwanis Club hosted an in-person Open House on the evening of Thursday, June 10th. Attended by over 27 people, the evening showcased the various Kiwanis programs to include working with 1st graders to improve their reading skills, working with elementary, middle or high schoolers in Kiwanis service programs, growing vegetables for local food pantries and supporting our robotics and golf programs.

Many of those in attendance found our programs to be exciting opportunities to give back to the community. A number of attendees also supported our fund raising activities and were keenly interested in supporting our scholarship programs. Several attendees gave a verbal pledge to become members

of the Club and all 27 attendees have been invited to attend the next several membership ZOOM meetings or the 5 August in-person membership meeting at 0800 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Congratulation to the Membership Committee and to all of our other Kiwanians who came out to support the booths and the Open House in general. Well done!



July 2021

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Membership Meetings

July 1@ 8 AM ZOOM:

Tom Lamont, Wilmington Sharks

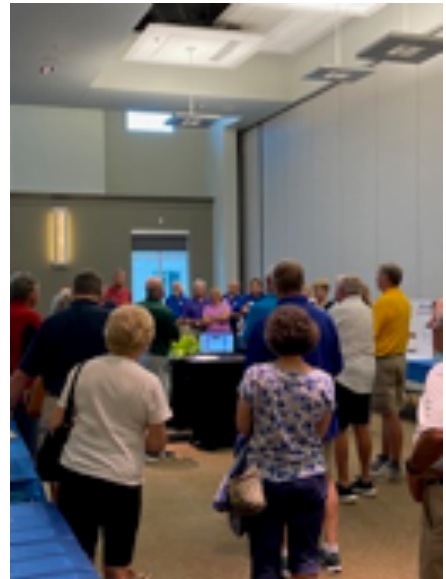
July 15@ 8 AM ZOOM:

TBD

ZOOM Board Meeting

July 8th @ 8:00 AM







President's Message

By Steve Corbett

Happy summer, Kiwanians! The heat has arrived and it is time to get outdoors, enjoy family and take some trips to get back to some sense of normalcy. For our club, we will return to full normal on Thursday, August 5, with our first face-to-face meeting. To permit additional social distancing where desired, the Board of Directors has agreed to return to Trinity United Methodist Church(UMC) across from the Southport Post Office. For new members, Trinity UMC had been our meeting place for many years until just a few years ago.

An additional change is that the meetings will begin at 8 AM. Pre-COVID, the meetings began at 7 AM for breakfast. For the first few meetings, coffee will be available. We will discuss the addition of some type of food at the August 5 meeting but the church will no longer be able to provide breakfast.

The Open House was a tremendous success and a great big thank-you to the Membership Committee, July Kiwanians of the Month, for all of the planning and execution of the event. Many of our members attended and spoke passionately about the programs they enjoy to those seeking more information about serving the children of the county. Thanks to all of you, 27 prospective members attended and we hope a handful of them will complete the journey to joining us.

Dick Otte and the Desks For Kids team completed building the desks and delivered them to Early College HS and Southport Christian School. Dick and the members were recognized last week along with neighbor volunteer, Fred Taylor. Thanks, folks! What an innovative way to serve kids who struggled during the pandemic attempting to study at home with their siblings.

We enter the last quarter of the Kiwanis year which ends on September 30 with the hope and expectation that we will again be back in the schools to start reading, listening, mentoring, teaching and supporting the students and teachers. We will approach this new school year as any other year and President-elect George Bayless and I will be meeting with the school district to discuss the return to the schools. At the first face-to-face meeting on August 5, we will discuss the plans and also have each of the program coordinators discuss the plans for the new school year. You will be able to signup at this and future meetings.

Thank you so much for all that you do and working to make our home towns a better place to live and raise a family.

Yours in Kiwanis,
Steve

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, July 1 @ 8:00 AM ZOOM

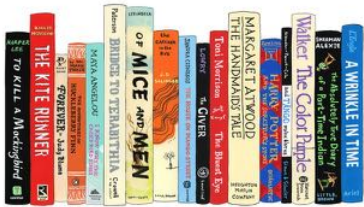
Tom Lamont
Director of Community Relations, Wilmington Sharks

Thursday, July 8th @ 8:00 AM

Board of Directors Meeting (all members are invited)

Thursday, July 15th @ 8:00 AM ZOOM

TBD



Bring Your Used Books August 5 Kiwanis Membership Meeting

We are collecting any books that you no longer desire in your personal library at the August 5th in-person Kiwanis Membership Meeting. The books will be used for the Lending Library at Port City Java.





Katie Solecki

Katie was surprised and honored to be asked to be highlighted on this month's Member Spotlight. She has been a member of the Southport Oak Island Kiwanis Club since November 2015. Despite the delays that COVID has caused for many of the Kiwanis programs, Katie continues to be a grateful member of Kiwanis. Enjoy reading the below "fun facts" about her.

What do you enjoy most about Kiwanis?

I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of Royal Readers. Having spent my 33 year career as a kindergarten and first grade teacher I am happy to share my knowledge of the best practices helping young children develop their literacy skills. I am impressed with the expertise of the local kindergarten and 1st grade teachers and am glad to help 1st graders achieve success in reading.

If you were recruiting a new member to Kiwanis, what would you say to them to persuade them to join?

To recruit a new member to Kiwanis I would point out all the possibilities that our club has to fulfill our mission of helping one child and one community at a time. The opportunities Kiwanis provides to help children of all ages and abilities. I would also mention the support and camaraderie of this club.



How did you come to live in Southport?

Moving from New England is something I thought I would never do. Our youngest son played baseball at a Massachusetts college, going to spring training in Florida. My husband enjoyed the southern climate and he planned a few trips south to find a spot for retirement. Visiting Southport helped make the decision — so here we are.

What is my favorite book?

This is a tough question to answer as reading is a favorite hobby. Being a member of 2 book clubs provides the opportunity to read books I might not have chosen. While I can't choose a favorite, I will name two books that surely had an impact on me. First - "American Dirt" This book tells the story about the ordeal of a Mexican woman who had to leave behind her life and escape as an undocumented immigrant to the US with her young son. The book is an eye opening account of the desperation immigrants face trying to find work and safety. Another book that I feel is important is "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Beginning of FBI". This non fiction book investigates a series of murders of wealthy Osage people. It is an example of how terribly our government treated the American Indian.

What's your proudest accomplishment?

A recent accomplishment has been a wonderful and fulfilling experience. During this school year our 4 year old grand daughter was not able to attend pre school in person. I was fortunate to work with her virtually helping her learn the many skills needed for pre school. It has been a blessing to have this connection with her and to see how successful she has been.



The Next Kiwanis Beach Social/
Sunset Set Happy Hour
is scheduled for
Wednesday, July 28th
at the St. James Plantation Beach
on 72nd Street Oak Island



The giving garden has already contributed over 500 lbs of vegetables to local food pantries. The beans are ripe for picking and the peppers, tomatoes and eggplant, as well as other vegetables, are well on their way thanks to the warm weather and the rain. Anyone who wants to volunteer, your help is always needed on Monday and Friday mornings beginning at 9 a.m. If there isn't picking to be done, there is always weeding!

Kiwanians of the Month

The Kiwanis Membership Committee



(Pictured: John Ertlschweiger, Steve Corbett, Bev Ertlschweiger, Patty Voigt, Kathleen Bradcovich, Ed Dougherty, Tony Nunzio, and Darryl DeSerio. Not pictured: Joe Crostic, Helenea Grace, and Teresa Carroll)

Congratulations to the Southport/Oak Island Kiwanis Membership Committee, our Kiwanians of the Month, for putting together and hosting a tremendously successful Open House on Thursday, June 10th, at the St. James Community Center. It took a village, but the commitment and organization and dedication of the Membership Committee was top notch. Many of our members attended and spoke passionately about the programs they enjoy to those seeking more information about serving the children of Brunswick county. In attendance were 27 prospective members from a variety of neighborhoods in the Southport Oak Island area. One attendee is already beginning the membership process. Two others have committed to attending our first in-person meeting. We hope more of the 27 will choose to join our club. Congratulations Membership Committee on a job well done!

Reminder that Kiwanis e-mails all of its members an E-Card Birthday wish on the occasion of the member's birthday. The e-mail will come from Elaine O'Donnell. It is safe to open the link.



July Birthdays:

Mandy Bayless, Teresa Carroll, Paul Chopko, Bev Ertlschweiger, Jeff Mount, and Charlie Peker



June Meeting Notes

By Anne Hager

June 3, 2021

Our club was pleased to invite Debbie Keener, Program Director of Samara's Village, to speak on our Zoom membership meeting. Samara's Village is a community-based non-profit serving adolescent families. They provide an individualized curriculum, essential needs for babies from birth to age three, and connections to agencies for additional support services needed by these families. Female and male volunteers are given different curriculums to educate the mothers and fathers about their importance and engagement in a child's life as well as healthy lifestyle, budgeting, family development, caring for baby and baby's development. Currently they are mentoring 20 young mothers and 5 fathers. You can check out their website, <https://samarasvillage.org> to learn more or find out how to volunteer.

June 17, 2021

Daniel Richardson, Clean Energy teacher at the Center of Applied Science and Technology or COAST, spoke to us about the transition the school has been making into the COAST. Formerly an alternative high school in Brunswick County, the COAST is changing their philosophy and offering all students an opportunity for hands on learning with classes focused on STEM and technical skills. These courses range from Clean Energy, to Carpentry and Electrical Programs, in addition to Cyber Security – and many more. Classes and programs are always evolving and being added. The transition began five years ago with interested students traveling to the COAST for a half day of specialized classes and then spending the rest of the day at their neighborhood high school. The school is always looking for retired industry people to support the learning process of their students. Members of our club did tour this new facility two years ago and another tour may be set in the future.