



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
 K.R. Ravindran, International President 2015-2016
 Bulletin #20 www.WestChesterRotary.us November 12, 2015

This Week's Program: November 12, 2015
Speakers: Steve Founds and Phyllis Dunn
Rotary Foundation and Pinning Ceremony

Next Week's Program: November 19, 2015
Sheriff's K-9 Unit
Featuring their Cadaver Dog

MINUTES by Marjorie Wentz

The meeting was opened by **President Katie Decker** at 12:30. The invocation today was given by **Carol Hanson**, offering up a beautiful prayer.

We had a "boatload" of visiting Rotarians. Efram was visiting from Penn Yam, NY. Dwight Leeper, who is in the pipeline for membership, was also in attendance. Dennis Wallace, **Carol Hanson's** husband, joined us for the meeting. Dara and John were visiting from the Haverford Club. Dan, Jeffery and Scott were all visiting from the Radnor club. There were several guests at the meeting: Dennis Wallace brought Allison Vallona with FIG. She had repelled with him in Philly last week. **Tamara Minnick** brought Judy who will be speaking today and is the founder of Stockings for Soldiers.

Katie had a sad announcement that **Patty Jefferis'** husband has entered Hospice today and she will not be here for a while.

Today's TBT (Throw Back Thursday) was about the men in Rotary from 1996. There were lots of photos shared of the men who are still in Rotary today.

Important dates:

- Nov 13 - Stockings for Soldiers deadline and also the SASY Awards
- Nov 14 is the District Conference
- Nov 15 is the yard cleanup at Christine's (from the Presidential auction).
- Nov 24 is the Ex-SAR (Sergeant of Arms) Awards
- Dec 6 is the Rotary Holiday Party

Happy Bucks were kicked off by **Jeannie McGinn**. She gave \$5 to thank all the businesses and individuals who sold \$5000 in wristbands prior to the Chili Cook Off. **Laura Aloisio** gave \$5 to announce congratulations to **Sue Flynn** who became a grandmother this morning around 5AM. **Matt Holliday** gave \$5 and thanked everyone for their support during his campaign. **Phyllis Dunn** gave \$2 to announce the Holiday Home Tour which benefits

the Chester County Library. **Bruce Beadle** was happy that **Ernest Zlotolow** put together a presentation board to explain their current project. **Sheriff Bunny Welsh** thanked everyone for voting early and often!

Birthday wishes were kicked off by **Dave Biffen** who wished a happy birthday to **CJ Romanoski**. **Paul Woodruff** was happy to announce that it was **Jeff Brown's** birthday. **Glen Sweet** wished a happy birthday to our favorite physical therapist, **Chuck Garfinkle**.

Sue Casso Rogers announced the Rotary Holiday Party that will be hosted on Sun afternoon, Dec 6 and she will be passing around a signup sheet for appetizers, side dishes, drinks and desserts. The party will be hosted at **Tom Mann's** house. Dara Gans from the Haverford Club announced their big fundraiser. They sell roses every year and it is that time of year again! The support from the other clubs is very important for them. The roses will be distributed next Wed. **Tamara Minnick** explained that there is a list of supplies needed for Stockings for Soldiers.

Past President Rob Feenan is looking for nominations for 2018-19 year for President and board members at large.

The 50/50 winner was won by **Mac Neilon**.

SPEAKERS' REVIEW by Winnie Stroup

Tamara Minnick was very happy to introduce Judy Travis, founder and coordinator for Stockings for Soldiers in Wilmington DE. Thanks to **Tamara** and **Brad Abel**, our club has been enthusiastic about supporting Stockings for Soldiers for several years. Judy shared wonderful stories and insights that will inspire us to be even more creative in finding items. This will be the 12th year that stockings are shipped to soldiers deployed around the world. Stockings for Soldiers – DE "was founded to help improve the morale and welfare of members of the armed forces

of the United States of America deployed in harm's way." The organization is not religious and not political.

Judy's son was deployed in Afghanistan and she sent lots and lots of care packages to him. His comment that there were soldiers who never received anything spurred Judy and volunteers to send 288 stockings that first year. As a member of the Naamens Rotary, Judy's husband garnered Rotary support. Two years ago the shipments peaked at 12,000 stockings. Because we are winding down some of the deployments, 8500 shipped last year. Each stocking is hand sewn. **Linda Hicks** and her friends made 165 stockings this year. Every stocking has the first name of a soldier created in Glitter on it. A volunteer "writes" the name in glue and other volunteers apply glitter. It's a highly specialized skill to get the glue on properly. The most popular name in the military, Christopher, is especially hard to fit. Finding the names shows Judy's special resourcefulness. The military of course will not release names of deployed soldiers. Judy emails parents in the West Point Parents network and gets names and locations.

The team double checks every shipment and rarely loses a soldier. There are occasional last minute transfers, but so far they have an excellent track record. The only exception to sending unlabeled stockings is a shipment to a Chaplin who gives random gifts as needed. Each soldier receives a stocking packaged in a large zip lock bag along with a paperback book and Ramen noodles. In addition stockings are created for K9 soldiers. A detailed list is on the web site under items needed.

The bags are packed in shipping boxes originally used for fruit because they are colorful and bright. There seems to be a shortage of fruit cartons this year. Someone from ACME is trying to help. Postage cost \$32,000. After years of carting boxes to the local post office, the US Post Office decided to park a tractor trailer next to the Soldier Store. To date 68,000 stockings have been shipped.

An unexpected benefit of the project is the warmth felt by the volunteers. Judy cites a 94 year old volunteer who is so happy that she can still make a difference. The web site contains many of the pictures Judy shared and more details - <http://www.stockingsforsoldiers.org/index.html> **Brad Abel** thanked Judy.

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Patty Roos of BB&T
(formerly Susquehanna Bank)

CONDOLENCES

Please share your condolences with **Patty Jefferis** at the passing of her husband Charles "Jeff" Jefferis. Visitation at DellaVecchia, Reilly, and Smith will be Sunday, Nov. 15 from 5-8 PM. The funeral will be held at St. Agnes on Monday, Nov. 16 at 10:00 AM.

SAVE THE DATE

Nov 11 Board Meeting
Nov 13 Deadline for donations for Stockings for Soldiers
Nov 13 SASY Awards
Nov 14 District Conference
Nov 15 Yard clean-up at **Christine Wildauer's**
Nov 24 Sergeant-at-Arms Awards
Dec 6 Holiday party at **Tom Mann's**

Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at <http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>
Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Don't miss out!

Mark your calendars for the Rotary Club of West Chester Annual Holiday Party

Sunday December 6 from 2:00 - 6:00 PM

at the home of Tom and Lisa Mann,
1134 Kolbe Lane, West Chester 19382.

Tom and Lisa will supply a main dish
each club member will be asked to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. AND be sure to bring your favorite beverage - BYOB!
Sign up at any upcoming club meeting on email
Secretary Sue at shcasso@cs.com

THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

President, Katie Martin; President-Elect, Bob Rogers; Vice-President,; Past President, Rob Feenan; Secretary, Sue Casso Rogers; Treasurer, Tim Walsh; Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Friedmann; Directors-at-Large: Dave Barkasy, Judi Bell, Cristina Combee, Linda Hicks, Matt Holliday, Jim Smith, Debra Sparre, Marjorie Wentz, Denise Wine.

Chad Rosenberg, District Governor
Bronwyn Martin, Assistant Governor
Charles Streitwieser, P. D.G. '13-14 District 7450
Robert Poole, P.D.G. '80-'81 District 7450

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web site: Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us Judi Bell.
Committee Members: Rachel Barakat, Pat Barron, Chris Feryo, Elizabeth Guman, Gary Hess, Matt Holliday, Jim Kammerer, Laura House Kelly, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Winnie Stroup, Glen Sweet, Marjorie Wentz