



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
Gary C.K. Huang, International President 2014-2015

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This Week's Program: June 18, 2015

Presentations to:
Nicole Wiley, Honorary Rotarian
Rotarian of the Year
Paul Harris Fellows

Next Week's Program: June 25, 2015

NO LUNCH MEETING
Presidential Gala and
Induction of New Officers
at Westbourne 6-9 PM

MINUTES by Matt Holliday

President Rob opened the meeting and **Judi Bell** gave the invocation.

We had a number of guests who were introduced. **Judge Jeff Sommer** introduced Judge Jackie Cody, **Jeannie McGinn** welcomed Jane Huber, **Sue Flynn** introduced Kristen Krapf, **Steve Quigley** presented Martha Carson Gentry, **Cristina Combee** welcomed Dr. Alan Wright and Francisco Castro who are involved with one of our international projects. **Jack Wintermute** gave greeting to **Honorary Rotarian Alan Clark**, and **Mark Sammarone** introduced Bruce Cattell.

We had two Visiting Rotarians. **John** from Longwood, and **John Saling** from the West Chester Sunrise Club.

Patti Roos gave 14 happy dollars because her grandson was just born. **Jeff Brown** did a happy buck for the Devon Senior Living facility that was having an open house. **Justin Sochovka** gave a happy dollar for **Mel Josephs** as she was retiring from West Chester University. **Steve Quigley** mentioned that a past Rotarian, Dr. Lee McFadden, had passed away. **Carol Hanson** gave a happy buck for all the Rotarians who helped out at the Barclay Friends' Golf Outing. **Matt Holliday** gave a happy buck to thank all the Rotarians who came to Up on the Roof, and specifically to thank **Bill Friedmann** for all of the help Blue Dog Print & Design gave to the fundraiser. **Katie Decker Martin** gave a happy dollar for **Sheriff Bunny Welsh** to thank her for sitting with a new potential member who was sitting by himself. **Winnie Stroup** gave a happy buck because her daughter was graduating from High School that night.

Bill Friedmann reminded everyone that we still need teams for the Chili Cook off. If folks sign up by July 1st they will get a free tent package and a 100% refund of their entrance fee. **Katie Martin** reminded folks that the Rotary Night at the Phillies is August 4th. She also reminded folks that June 25th

would be the Rotary Officer and Board Inductions Ceremony night. **Glen Sweet** is taking care of coordinating the auction for that evening. **Cristina Combee** and **Rob Feenan** presented a 500 dollar check to Dr. Alan Wright from our club to help him with his project to save the cloud forest ecosystem in Huatusco, Mexico. They are going to plant 10,000 new trees to try to counter act the previous deforestation.

50/50 winner **Rob Malone** took home 29 dollars.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Winnie Stroup

Bob Frame introduced the **Honorable Jeffery R. Sommer** and cited Jeff's long term membership in our club including president 15-16 years ago. The Honorable Jacqueline Carroll Cody attended the meeting s Jeff's guest. His talk was originally titled *Legal Update*, but a more apt title became *Observations From The Bench* as he prepared his remarks.

Jeff was born in Philadelphia, lived in Montgomery County and is a graduate of Lehigh University and the Widener University School of Law. He has lived in Chester County for over 30 years and was a partner in Buckley, Brion, McGuire, Morris and Sommer prior to his election in 2013 to Judge in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas.

Delayed four times for weather, Jeff was sworn in in January 2014. He gave us a unique and unexpected insight into the criminal makeup of Chester County. He described his own expectation as an Action New picture of a young tough male shooting or robbing or knifing a victim. His very first trial broke that image as he studied a probation offence of an attractive 22 year old woman. She is a heroin addict.

Jeff had expected to be tough on crime. He has been "stunned and amazed" to realize that the majority of crimes in Chester County are based in

social issues – addiction and homelessness. The statistics are different from his and our expectations. Of the 4422 crimes in Chester County in 2014; 76% are drug and alcohol related, 5% are retail theft and all other categories are 4, 3 and 1% each. Remanding or returning a parole violator for drug or alcohol offenses to prison does nothing to solve the underlying issue. One could posit that at least in prison an offender is sober. However studies show that immediately on release, the violator seeks drugs or alcohol.

Observing that drug court, which s offenders into rehabilitation programs and other social programs. has a much better outcome. Jeff's view is that connection to the community is what can make the real difference. People turn to addition because they are essentially lonely. He cited several studies including one published in the British Journal of Criminology on the First Independent Study to Assess Effects of Portuguese 2001 Decriminalization of Drugs. Another example is the Denver program that provides housing and programs and has a very long waiting list. Programs such as these cost more than prison, but they are more successful than prison.

Jeff asked us as Rotarians to keep doing what we do. Our support of community advances social solutions to social problems. John Saling thanked Jeff.

PRESIDENT'S GALA AND INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

Remember to bring your scratch off lottery tickets to our Thursday meeting. A lottery ticket tree will be one of the auction items. Also, please complete the auction item donation form that will be on the luncheon tables and return it to Glen Sweet. Your participation is what makes the auction a success!

SAVE THE DATE

June 25	Induction of New Officers and Presidential Gala
July 1	Membership Dues are Due
Aug 4	Rotary Night at the Phillies
Oct 11	Chili Cook Off

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

Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web site:

Judi Bell Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us

Committee Members: Rachel Barakat, Pat Barron, Helen Flanders, Elizabeth Guman, Mickey Hall, Gary Hess, Matt Holliday, Jim Kammerer, Laura House Kelly, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Winnie Stroup, Glen Sweet, Marjorie Wentz

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Chris Franz of Advent Lutheran Church

AFRICA: ON THE BRINK OF POLIO ERADICATION

Nigeria and the whole continent of Africa is on the cusp of being polio free, Dr. Hamid Jafari told audience members at the Rotary Convention on June 8 in São Paulo, Brazil.

Between 2013 and 2014, the reported cases of polio dropped from 53 to just six in Nigeria. Even more encouraging, said Jafari, is that the last case of polio in Nigeria was reported in July of last year and the last case in all of Africa was reported in Somalia in August.

“With a year of no polio cases in Nigeria tantalizingly close, and no cases in Somalia since August, the tireless work of so many people across the continent is paying off,” said Jafari, director of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for the World Health Organization. “But it is incredibly important that Nigeria remains vigilant. As long as polio exists anywhere, it will continue to be a threat everywhere.”

Transmission of the wild poliovirus has also never been stopped in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2014, 85 percent of polio cases worldwide were in Pakistan, the country's highest case count in over a decade.

Since January, cases in Pakistan are lower than this time last year thanks to advocacy work from Rotary members, said Jafari. “This is a reminder that we cannot let politics and conflict stand in our way, because at the end of the chain stands a mother or father that just wants to protect their child. We are entering the high season for polio transmission.”

Jafari encouraged attendees to stay committed. “I need you to continue to advocate and engage with your political leaders with that strong, influential Rotary voice of yours, so that all our stakeholders continue to commit to funding the final stages,” he said. “I need you to keep on educating and engaging your communities and the global community on this great endeavor.”

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