



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
 John F. Germ, International President 2016-2017

Bulletin #37 www.WestChesterRotary.us March 30, 2017

This Week's Program: March 30, 2017

**Speaker: Sue Weldon, Founder of Unite For Her
 Assisting Women through Breast Cancer**

Next Week's Program: April 6, 2017

**Project Waters Fly Fishing
 Rehab of Veterans and Active Military
 through Fly Fishing**

MINUTES by Matt Holliday

Vice President Bill Friedmann opened the meeting and **Larry Miller** gave the invocation.

Brad Abel told a horrible joke, and then launched us into Visiting Rotarians. These included Paul Marobzi from the Longwood Club and Gary Hewitt from a club in Seoul, South Korea. **Larry Miller** introduced his guests, which included his wife Maggie and Pastor Dan from Calvary Lutheran Church. **Brad Abel** introduced for the third time his guest Diana. **Sue Casso Rogers** introduced Brandon from Operation Warm Coats. **Ernest Zlotolow** introduced his wife Laura and daughter Vanessa. **Carol Hanson** introduced Gabrielle Bay our exchange student for the year.

Dr. Poole gave a happy buck because he took a lady friend out on the town. **Catherine Friedman** was happy that **Matt Holliday** asked her to sing at the next Chester County Naturalization Ceremony. **Deb Sparre** gave a happy buck to announce that **Steve Founds'** band would be playing at a local watering hole that weekend. **Steve Quigley** gave a happy buck because he was stuck in the snow a couple weeks ago and three different people stopped to help him.

Ken Hickman wished a very happy birthday to both **Dave Biffen** and **Jack Wintermute**. The wish was mainly comprised of an unkind and untrue joke/story that heavily implied they were both stupid. Despite how terrible the joke was it was still better than **Brad Abel's** jokes each week.

Jack Wintermute made an announcement about the Blue Rocks game. Apparently, there will be monkey's riding on dogs during the seventh inning stretch. **Carl Warner** made an announcement about the Rotary Leadership Institute which will be held on April

1st at Delaware County Community College.

Dave Barkasy won the 50/50 drawing, but didn't draw the Queen of Spades.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Cathy Palmquist

Ernest Zlotolow, chair of the CARS (Children with Amputations Rehabilitation Strategies) Committee introduced members of his committee in attendance, **Larry Miller, Dave Barkasy, Carol Hanson, Charles Streitwieser, Glen Sweet, Rob Feenan** and **Diane Lemonides**, before introducing the most recent youngsters who are recipients of the CARS efforts. The three boys are from Nicaragua, Daniel Hernandez Solano, Alexis Morales Pineda and Carlos Reyes Leon, and traveled here with their mothers. Ernest began the presentation by showing a map of where the students are from, and the countries that have helped with making the program possible. He also introduced Richard and Steve Powell, representing the Powell Family Foundation, a key player in funding the CARS project. Lisa Montanti, founder and director of the GMRF (Global Medical Relief Fund), was reintroduced to us. "Putting the project together is a complicated operation," Ernest explained, "but has benefited with help from Ethiopia, Canada, Tanzania, Nicaragua and Argentine districts."

The three boys arrived on February 23 and Ernest explained how our exchange student, Gabriel Bay from Argentina, has been helping, by speaking to and interpreting for the boys. Ernest also showed photos of where the boys are living here, and being cared for by the Shriners. The boys were taken to visit Manhattan, and enjoyed a Valentine's Day celebration, a holiday not celebrated in their country. Gabriel then translated comments from Carlos, "we are grateful and give thanks to Global Medical, to

Rotary and to everyone who helped us realize our dreams – God bless you.”

Lisa Montanti spoke about partnering with the Shriners for over 20 years. “The children return home empowered. You see the difference. They are restored with dignity. Thanks to Ernest for initiating this project. As the children interact with each other, they heal each other.” She explained that the Shriners follow up with the children until they are 21, because as they grow, their prosthetics need to be changed.

Stephanie Byrwa, the PR Manager at Shriners Hospital, spoke briefly, saying they have a two year waiting list of children. Gabriel then expressed his point of view, saying that he had never seen anything like this (children with missing limbs), and though he and the boys come from different cultures, but with a similar language, they all laugh and joke the same way. “They’re SO happy to be at Shriners, and if not for Rotary, these kids would not have arms and legs. Thanks to you all!”

Steve Powell expressed thanks to his father, who founded the Powell Family Foundation, a major contributor to the CARS program. “It’s been amazing to see the results of this charitable work so quickly. It’s easy to write a check, but mind boggling what Ernest and Rotary have accomplished in such a short time,” he said, adding, “my cousin Ernesto got me involved and has kept me involved.”

After the presentation, Ernest clarified that Lisa Montanti is at the center of everything they do. Katie Martin thanked Gabriel for getting so involved with this Rotary project, more so than some other exchange students. When asked what is next for CARS, Ernest explained there are four kids from Tanzania coming for the second time because they have outgrown their prosthetics. And, how did the kids like the snow – they loved it! Carol Hanson expressed the feeling of all of us when she said “Ernest has put his heart and soul into this project that has had such a positive impact on the lives of these children.”

With the few minutes remaining, **Sergeant-of-arms Brad**, asked if anyone had taken recent trips or was planning trips. **Catherine Friedman** told of a (now) hilarious trip she took with her husband to Maine 12 years ago, which she vowed never to do again. **Jeannie McGinn** said her parents had planned to take a cruise in April, but due to her father’s health, have decided to take all their adult children with them.

Rob Feenan announced that the little house on the back of his property, which he has renovated, will be featured on the DIY TV show on April 26th.

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by **Matt Holliday**, Chester County Prothonotary

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Gabriel Bay from Rafaela, Argentina
Attending Henderson High School
Host family: Mark and Ellen Morun
(610) 344-0205
416 Chrislena Lane, WC, PA 19380

SAVE THE DATE

April 1 Board Strategic Retreat
April 1 Rotary Leadership Institute
May 25 Rotary at the Blue Rocks

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



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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 support: Judi Bell and Howard Sundwall.

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