

ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

District 7450

www.WestChesterRotary.us

Week # 6 August 7, 2025

CLUB MEETING ~ July 31, 2025

Minutes by Michael G. Louis

The meeting was called to order by **President Kyle Rheiner**
Alyssa Pennypacker led us in the Pledge of Allegiance
The invocation was offered by **Sue Casso Rogers**

VISITING ROTARIAN

Leah Reynolds, new Exec. Director at the WC Area Senior Center, from the Longwood Club. She will be joining our club soon.



GUESTS

David Hughes, Richard Hurst and Frank Lorine were guests.



AWARD

Several club members were on hand last Thursday to receive the WC Chamber of Commerce 1st place nonprofit trophy for our float in last December's Christmas Parade.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 31 National Days: National Avocado Day, National Chili Dog Day and National Cherry Cake Day.

On this day (July 31): in 1792, the stones were laid for the construction of the Philadelphia Mint / in 1912, Michael Phelps became the most decorated Olympian medal winner of all time.

Kyle announced that **Catherine Friedman** has agreed to chair the Rotary Readers and **Bill Friedmann** agreed to chair the Audit Committee.

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TODAY'S PROGRAM ~ August 7

Roy Smith's Trip to Africa

NEXT WEEK ~ August 14

Tom Gervasio of Bio-One

HazMat Cleanup

~ PROGRAM ~

Karen Slossburg

West Chester Green Team

Karen Slossburg was our speaker. She is the President of West Chester Green Team, a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

The mission of the Green Team is to educate the local public and to establish and nourish green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, promoting the health of all living things and of Planet Earth.

They help communities become more environmentally conscious and sustainable, educate residents about green living, urge municipal and county governments to support their efforts and ask businesses to become our allies. They sponsor **Porch Fest**, a community happiness festival mostly in the southwest part of the borough. Last year they had 70 bands on 50 different porches with approximately 9,000 people in attendance. The borough charges them \$5,000 for police and they fund it all from 1:00-7:00 p.m. It would be a wonderful volunteer opportunity for our Club.

They have a public pollinator garden in front of the Justice Center, do student internships with West Chester University and the school district and the Dark Skies Program to limit light pollution at night. They love to collaborate and it sounds like a perfect collaboration for our Club.

Go to their website to become a subscriber and/or participate. Their fundraiser in November includes a silent auction with vacation homes, cooking lessons and special desert

Feel free to email Karen at karenslossburg@gmail.com or go to wcgreenteam.com for more information.



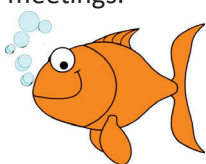
Announcements continued

Carol Hanson said that in 2016 a group of Rotarians including Christina Combee and Carol saw that schools in the Eastern Caribbean were sorely in need of books and what a difference it made in the schools that were adopted by **Hands Across The Sea**. Since 2016 our Club has been assisting Hands Across The Sea to supply books to children in the Eastern Caribbean. Most recently, Sunrise and our Club donated \$4,000 and Carol filed and obtained a grant from the District to match it and they will be sending \$8,000 to Hands Across The Sea to provide age appropriate books to the children in the Eastern Caribbean in the very near future.

Sue Casso Rogers announced a new initiative that we are collecting backpacks, new or slightly used and if possible, putting school supplies in there for elementary school children. We will be collecting at our next few meetings.

GRATEFUL GOLDFISH

Phil McFadden welcomed **Paul Sookiasian** back from Armenia.



Steve Bayles said that he is happy that he was able to clean out a large locker after his mom's death which brought back many happy memories.

Paul Sookiasian is happy to be back from Armenia and is doing tours of West Chester and a Podcast.



Gary Hess said he is happy that he won the Senior Club Championship at West Chester Country Club.

Mickey Hall says she was happy to be a volunteer at the Goshen Fair and was especially happy because **Paul Sookiasian** showed up and helped her cook donuts in the heat and because she and Bob went cross country in their motor home. Sounds like a volunteer opportunity for our Club to me.



Sue Casso Rogers was happy for **Gary Hess** who had a 68 and a 74 and won the Senior West Chester Golf & Country Club Championship for lowest net and lowest gross.

Leah Reynolds is happy that she is the new head of the Senior Center and looks forward to being a new Rotarian.

50-50 DRAWING

Guest **Frank Lorine** won but did not pull the Queen of Spades.



A BIT OF CLUB HISTORY

The 1998-99 Rotary year began like all others for our 127 members, but quickly broke down into a year-long power struggle between the executive branch and the press – culminating in the April 1st impeachment trial of **President Jim Gasho**. Early in the term **Votary Editor** and now Judge **Jeff Sommers** began unearthing irregularities in the administration. Early headlines in the *Votary* included “Gasho Presidency Leads to El Niño and Global Warming,” “Casso Offered Immunity in Exchange for Testimony” and “Did We Even Have a Meeting?”



Alleging lousy jokes and poor time-management at the start of weekly meetings, Sommers accused President Gasho of pilfering dozens of birthday pens, growing a funny-looking beard and not showing up at the club's annual picnic. In the end, despite the strong attack put forth by prosecutor **Jack Wintermute**, the club voted to acquit President Jim, and his beleaguered advocate **Joe “Objection Overruled” Polito** in the April Fools Day trial of 1999.

– written by Club Historian **Bill Friedmann**



BOARD of DIRECTORS 2025-2026

President Kyle Rheiner
President-Elect Mike Louis
Vice President Steve Bayles
Treasurer Diana Liberi
Secretary Sue Casso Rogers
Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Rogers
Immediate Past President Catherine Friedman
Directors-at-Large Rita Brouwer-Ancher, Glenda Brion,
Jeff Cantwell, Sue Flynn, Chuck Heckenberger,
Phil McFadden, Nathan Miller, Miranda Reilly, Jeff Spencer
District Governor, District 7450 Jan Biros (Phoenixville)
P. D.G. '13-14 District 7450. Charles Streitwieser
P.D.G. '12-13 District 7510 Dwight Leeper

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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