

Rotary Club of West Chester Quarterly Outreach. **December 15, 2022**



Upcoming Club Events

There are always multiple activities and events going on at the Rotary Club of West Chester!

Continuing her efforts to bring the four West Chester area clubs together for joint meetings and activities, for learning and sharing, for fun and fellowship, President Melissa will continue with her leadership in the New Year.

The New Year will see the restart of our Rotary Readers program in which Rotarians, and even some family members, volunteer to read to third graders at local elementary schools.

There are 30 committees in our club that provide interesting service both internally and in the greater community, such as annual bell ringing with the Salvation Army, and helping decorate West Chester Borough (seasonally), and volunteering, year around, with the Community Warehouse Project (CWP). For example, club members help with the CWP on the third Saturday of every month. They accept, sort and organize donations, load up and make deliveries to needy families, and many other tasks that are needed.

In addition, a number of our members serve on non-profit boards, most having gone through the Chester County Leadership

Recent Club Events

The Rotary Club of West Chester is active!

The Annual Rotary Club Chili Cook-off was possibly the most fun and successful fundraising event for our club and the West Chester Borough in October! After a two year hiatus due to the COVID virus, the club put on its **20th** chili cook-off, with 49 booths of members, friends, businesses, restaurants, and nonprofits doling out **gallons** of tasty chili, and 70 vendors adding booths of other foods, art, jewelry, and interesting offerings. Due to a crowd estimated at about 10,000 chili lovers, we garnered enough funds to award generous grants to non-profits.

And indeed, later in the fall, we awarded grants to 11 area non-profits, helping them extend their critical services to the needy in our county.

We also donated over \$1,000 in school supplies to the West Chester Area School District for children in needy families.

We socialized with the three other West Chester area Rotary clubs, getting acquainted through joint meetings and other

activities like Stockings for Soldiers. This included designing and installing welcome signs at the main entrances to West Chester, which enables travelers to go to a joint website and find info about all or any one of the local Rotary clubs.



Program prior to their service. Our club covers the cost of the training for a Rotarian. And every week, there are interesting and informative speakers at our lunch meetings.



Club Member Personality

Melissa Baxter

Meet Madam President, Melissa Baxter! Melissa is a long time resident of Chester County. She is wife, daughter, mother and..... President of the West Chester Rotary Club.

She is a graduate of Penn State University with a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies, a M.S. from Eastern University in Non-Profit Management, holds a Supervisory Management Certificate, and leadership through Main Line Chamber of Commerce.

Her impressive career began as residential counselor at Devereux in their Sexual Offenders Program. She has held many different positions in her storied career that led her to her most recent position with the PA Department of Health

House Adopts Prohibition Amendment by 282 to 128



A Bit of Club History

The club began the 1930s with President Henry Schramm taking the gavel from President Tom Hoopes. On October 7th of that year the club welcomed Sitting RI President Almon Roth (from the Rotary Club of Palo Alto). He spoke of the "growing Pains of Rotary" and the challenges that the organization faced as membership grew so rapidly.

On December 18th 1930- in the spirit of the holidays, the club passed the hat and took up a collection to purchase a radio for the blind gentleman who worked as a boot black (shoe shine) at the Green Tree Hotel. Note- the cost of a radio in 1930 was about \$25- that is equivalent to about \$380 in 2022.

On December 29, 1932, President Harlan Slack announced that all clubs meeting that day would listen to a broadcast on the radio from the Wilmington Club where the District Governor would address the district over the air on W.D.E.L. There was some confusion when the DG's message centered on the twenty-first amendment (which was passed one year

as Executive Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Administration. There she has written a recognition policy and implemented a program for the department to help manage/compliment efforts and support a variety of other initiatives. (i.e. a workforce development grant.)

Melissa and her husband Aaron are parents of 3 children, who help her cook and provide meals to the St. Agnes Day Room that feeds families in need. Say hello when you see her walking around West Chester - no need to address her as Madam President, Melissa will be fine!!

later and repealed prohibition). He stated that "When the Volstead Act is repealed, and we serve wine and beer at our lunches, it will supply that something which is now lacking, to make goodfellowship in Rotary what it should be. It will attract new members to our club and present members to our meetings pleasant anticipation and depart from them reluctantly"

At the conclusion of the address, the room exploded in debate as prohibition was still a very controversial topic and the members could not believe that the district governor would take such a stand. The debate ended when it was revealed that the broadcast originated in the kitchen and it was not the dg speaking, but member Ash Smith.



Cocktail of the Quarter

"Cheers!"

As the weather starts its slow, cold march towards winter, a mixologist's thoughts naturally turn towards brown whiskeys. Gin, vodka, tequila and rum are fine for summer concoctions, but a chill in the air calls for the warm glow that only a bourbon, scotch or rye can provide. One of the classics of this category is the Manhattan. This classic cocktail is simply a 2:1 ratio of rye and sweet vermouth, with a dash of bitters. The basic formula lends itself to a number of variations however: cocktail authority Simon Difford lists 35 variants, and he was just getting started. For example, scotch may be substituted for the rye, making it a Rob Roy. Dry vermouth can be swapped in for the sweet stuff, yielding a Dry Manhattan. My personal favorite is the Perfect Manhattan, in which the word 'perfect' denotes an equal balance of dry and sweet vermouth. Here's the recipe:

The Perfect Manhattan



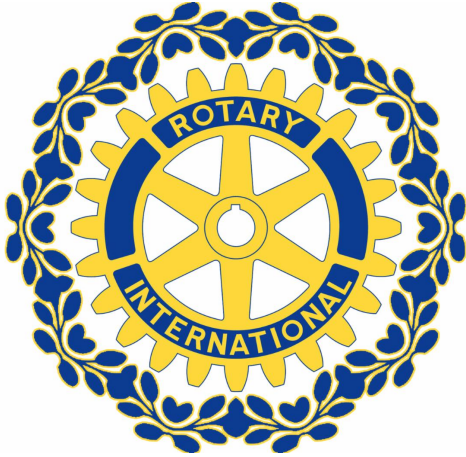
Spotlight on One of our Non-Profits

Act In Faith (AIF) has received a grant via the Rotary Community Philanthropic Committee. Its mission: "As community members, we are called to assist those whose needs lie beyond the scope of existing social services, and build a community that empowers the un/under-employed to stabilize their households, building toward self-sustainability."

Recent assistance: 50% of those provided financial assistance were single woman or single mothers, 30% were referred by the Domestic Violence Center, 34% were existing clients, 23% were 2-adult households, 27% were single men or single fathers. 47% of the women received assistance due to COVID-related life disruptions; 70% of those who shopped in the Community Cupboard were female.

Of 41 requests by females for housing

2 oz rye whiskey (Bourbon works well too)
½ oz sweet vermouth
½ oz dry vermouth
1-2 dashes of aromatic bitters
Stir with ice, strain into a cocktail glass and garnish with a Luxardo cherry (or two) if desired



stabilization, 21 were prevented evictions. 75% of those assisted with job search/resume support, and 46% of other employment support requests were made by women

AIF provides support in 3 basic program areas: *Basic Needs* (groceries, clothing, medical expenses), *Employment Support* (transportation, ID, cell phone, resume/job search, education fees, pre-employment costs), and *Housing Stabilization* (eviction and utility shut-off prevention, fuel, storage). Services include a grocery cupboard focusing on personal care and household items not covered by SNAP/Food Stamps, and the ACT Now Network-email network.

Two/three volunteers (great project for a group!) are needed on Friday mornings to help in the Community Cupboard with Food Bank delivery, and other tasks.

***The following members of the Rotary Club of West Chester contributed to this newsletter:
Cathy Palmquist, Anne Driscoll, Bill Friedmann, Howard Sundwall and Jeff Cantwell***



Rotary Club of West Chester | PO Box 743, West Chester, PA 19381-0743

[Unsubscribe theclub@westchesterrotary.us](mailto:theclub@westchesterrotary.us)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by theclub@westchesterrotary.us powered by



Try email marketing for free today!