Rotary Club of West Chester

ROTARY VOTARY

District 7450 www.WestChesterRotary.us Week # 4 July 23, 2026

CLUB MEETING ~ July 16
Minutes by Anne Driscoll

Outgoing President **Kyle Rheiner** opened the meeting joking that he was "doing another year," before proudly introducing the club's new President, **Michael Louis**, entering the room to the Lynryd Skynyr song "Free Bird."



Michael shared a story about coaching his grandchildren, explaining that many young baseball players now have "walk-up songs." Since several of them chose "Free Bird," he declared it would now be his "walk-on" as he assumed his presidency.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by **Kyle Rheiner**

The invocation was offered by **Bob Frame**, who shared a prayer written by **Chad Campbell** of the Redondo Beach Rotary Club. The reflection beautifully captured the spirit of Rotary service, reminding members that Rotarians:

- Dig wells from which they will never drink
- Vaccinate children they will never meet.
- Restore eyesight for people they will never see
- Build homes they will never live in
- Educate children they will never know
- Plant trees under whose shade they will never sit
- Feed hungry people regardless of race or politics

The invocation concluded with **Albert Schweitzer's** reminder, "true happiness is found through helping others."

GUESTS

Several guests were welcomed to the meeting, including: **Joe Clifford, Jake Shan, Steve Quigley's** daughter and **Larry Miller's** son.









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TODAY'S PROGRAM ~ July 23
Tracy Bhalla, Log House Aromatics
Mindfulness Aroma Therapy

NEXT WEEK ~ July 30
Jason Reed on Suicide Prevention

JULY 16 PROGRAM
President Kyle Rheiner's Year in Review / President Michael Louis's Plans for 2026-27



2025-26 President Kyle Rheiner reflected on an outstanding Rotary year, thanking members for their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to Service Above Self.

The club completed its retreat and launched Year Two of our three-year strategic plan while continuing monthly Board meetings focused on long-term growth. Several committees were strengthened, including Vocational Service and the new Sunshine Committee.

Membership grew from 104 to approximately 121 members—an increase of more than 13%—with average weekly attendance reaching 52%. The club also celebrated surpassing $1 million in cumulative donations to The Rotary Foundation, earning District recognition for this achievement.

Community service remained a priority. Rotary sponsored a week-long soccer camp for 67 children at the West Side Community Center, provided pizza for more than 200 local children, packed thousands of meals for families in need, partnered with neighboring clubs to supply 200 backpacks for students, continued monthly baked goods donations to Safe Harbor, and supported the Senior Center through fundraising proceeds and a $1,000 contribution.

Members also participated in Marshall Square Park cleanups, the West Chester Christmas Parade, fellowship dinners, Speed Networking, the Super Bowl Pool, and the inaugural Designer Purse Bingo. Increased community visibility, expanded partnerships, and a wider variety of weekly speakers highlighted a year made possible through Service Above Self.

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Meeting Minutes continued

BOARD SERVICCE AWARDS

On behalf of the club's Board of Directors, President Mike presented **Rotary Service to the Board** recognitions to outgoing Board Members **Jeff Cantwell** and **Catherine Friedman**. Thanks for your service.





HAPPY BUCKS



Members shared a variety of Happy Bucks celebrating friendship, gratitude, service, and personal milestones. Among them were:

One member contributed $40 in Happy Bucks in honor of **Kyle Rheiner**, thanking him for his outstanding year of leadership and service to the club.

Paul Woodruff offered $20 to thank fellow Rotarians for their kindness and support following a recent family loss.

Jeff Cantwell, who recently moved away, was warmly welcomed back. He and his wife are enjoying Willow Valley and invited fellow Rotarians to visit for a tour.



Deb Sparre announced she was leaving for a tennis camp.

Heartfelt Happy Bucks came from **Patty Jefferis** who is recovering from a fall and the loss of her beloved dog Buddy. She thanked **Jeannie McGinn, Diana Liberi, the Driscolls** and **Phyllis Dunn** for their support.



Outgoing President **Kyle Rheiner** contributed Happy Bucks to thank the club for the privilege of serving as president. Referencing his **"Free Bird"** walk-up song, he joked that he was now "free as a bird."

ROTARY ANNIVERSARY

Members recognized **Michelle Venema** for celebrating her Rotary anniversary, marking 34 years of Rotary membership after joining on July 1, 1992. Congratulations and applause follow**ed.**

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Rheiner/Louis continued



2026-27 President Michael Louis reflected on feedback from the club survey, noting members' desire to learn more about Rotary International.

Quoting form Rotary International President-Elect **Mário César Martins de Camargo**, "Better your best," he encouraged members to focus on continuous improvement rather than comparing themselves to other clubs.

He praised outgoing President **Kyle Rheiner** for an exceptional year of leadership and challenged the club to build on that success by continuing to raise the bar.

President Louis also introduced his theme for the coming Rotary year:

"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."

Meeting Minutes continued

TRIFECTA DRAWING



Michelle Venema had the winning ticket but did not draw the Queen of Spades.

Only 15 cards left in the deck!

We'll have a big winner soon.

BOARD of DIRECTORS 2026-2027

President . . . . . Michael Louis
President-Elect . . . . . Steve Bayles
Vice President . . . . . Phil McFadden
Treasurer . . . . . Diana Liberi
Secretary . . . . . Sue Casso Rogers
Sergeant-at-Arms . . . . . Bob Rogers
Immediate Past President . . . . . Kyle Rheiner
Directors-at-Large . . . . . Rita Brouwer-Ancher, Glenda Brion, Sue Flynn, Bob Frame, Chuck Heckenberger, Miranda Reilly, Jeff Spencer, Howard Sundwall
District 7450 Governor . . . . . Carol Lerner
P.D.G. '13-14 District 7450 . . . . . Charles Streitwieser
P.D.G. '12-13 District 7510 . . . . . Dwight Leeper

VOTARY COMMITTEE

Anne Driscoll, Joe Driscoll, Brian Fahey, Michael Karwic, Randy Lindel, Miranda Reilly, Susan Shirley
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