

ROTARY VOTARY



The Rotary Club of West Chester

District 7450

www.WestChesterRotary.us

Week # 41 April 9, 2026

CLUB MEETING ~ April 2, 2026 Minutes by Chris Zaccarelli

The meeting was opened by **President-Elect Mike Louis** (**President Kyle** on family Spring Break in Aruba)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Michael Karwic**

An invocation was offered by **Connell O'Brien**

GUESTS

Lisa Leonard, District Public Image Co-Chair, who attended the Communications meeting today. **Liz Janoski** and **Anthony Sutherland**, both in the membership queue.



BIRTHDAY

Andrew Stump was toasted by **Michelle Venema**

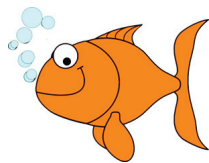


GRATEFUL GOLDFISH

Michelle Venema Grateful to announce that the Home of the Sparrow golf outing is June 1st at Waynesborough Country Club

Chris Zaccarelli Grateful for announce The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Denim Day on April 29th and the Annual Homicide Vigil will be on April 9th at Kardon Park.

Mike Louis Grateful that he officially retired on March 31st and fun fact about zombie runner in extra innings in Phillies game last night.



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TODAY'S PROGRAM ~ April 9 State Senator Carolyn Comitta

NEXT WEEK ~ April 16
Club Business - Member Inductions
Classification Talk - Dimeji Gisanrin

APRIL 2 PROGRAM

Kate Schroder - Canine Partners for Life

Kate is with a Taste of Olive in West Chester and has been a volunteer with CPL since 2009. She lives in West Chester with her family and three labs. She has been a board member for 4 ½ years and is very passionate about CPL. Kate introduced her companion, **Daisy**.

CPL is a non profit that provides service and companion dogs for those that have cognitive and physical disabilities. CPL trains the dogs for all types of services including comfort dogs, home companions and service dogs. They have an in house breeding program so they are born at CPL, they then go to puppy homes for initial training for 4 weeks, then they go into the prison programs where an incarcerated individual will train them for another 15 months and finally they go back to CPL for the final phase of their training.

After that final training they are assigned to their owner and complete another two weeks of training. They can alert their owners and others that they are about to have a seizure. An applicant applies and will get matched with a dog that meets their specific needs. The dogs become very tuned in to their partners. About 80% of the dogs are labs. They have very good temperaments and they are motivated by food. At this point, Kate took a number of questions:

The prison training process – Kate has been working with this program over 10 years, the incarcerated



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Grateful Goldfish continued

Steve Bayles Grateful to announce an Equal Pay, Equal-Future event on April 16th being held at the Conference Center at Penn State Great Valley.

Paul Woodruff Grateful that his wife Marsha is coming home from the hospital tomorrow.

Fran Curtain Grateful that he attended the communications committee today and appreciates the members of that committee and commented that they are a “brain trust”.



Jeff Cantwell Grateful that Lisa Leonard and Liz Janoski joined the communications committee this morning and shared a story about his grandson fishing this week.

ANOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING E VENTS

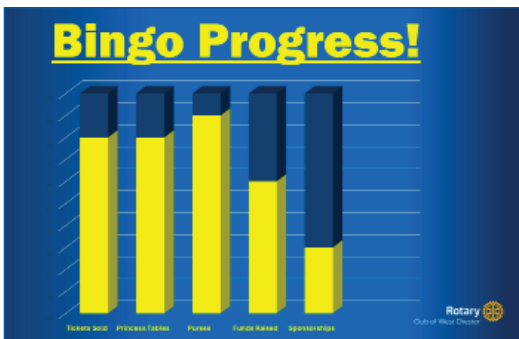
April 9 - Extra Westside Community Center **Pizza Night**

April 18 - **Marshall Square Park Clean-up**

April 18 - **Designer Bag Bingo** at the WC Sr. Center

April 25 - Rotary information Tent and table at the **SPCA Walk for Paws** event

May 15 - **Sunrise Rotary Club Trivia Night**



TRIFECTA DRAWING

Jeff Cantwell had the winning ticket, but did not draw the Queen of Spades to capture the \$350+ jackpot!

Better luck next time.



Canine Partners for Life continued

individuals go through a detailed application process, are trained by Kate and then they will have a dog with them 24 hours a day. It is a huge benefit to CPL, the prison and the entire community. One of the participants was so good he opened his own training business after being released.

Do All Dogs Graduate - About 50% will graduate. Non-graduates (for many reasons) are generally available for adoption. The entire training process is about 2 to 2 ½ years. The cost is approximately \$30k per dog.



CPL Funding relies on individual donations, corporations and foundations. Staff – there are about 30 paid staff at CPL so some trainers are paid and some are volunteer like Kate.

Fee – CPL does not charge for the dog but does appreciate a donation in the range of \$1k - \$3k.

Wait List – there is a very long wait list, about two years but they are working on it.

Number of Dogs in Training - Has between 60 and 70 dogs currently in training and they are between 6 weeks old and 2 years. They do not accept dogs for training from the general public.

Daisy showed off the results of her training by picking up a hand weight, taking off a glove, and picking up a remote control and a number of other tasks. She was adorable!

BOARD of DIRECTORS 2025-2026

- President Kyle Rheiner
- President-ElectMike 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 Glenda Brion, Jeff Cantwell, Rita Brouwer-Ancher, Sue Flynn, Chuck Heckenberger, Phil McFadden, Nathan Miller, Miranda Reilly, Jeff Spencer
- District 7450 Governor Jan Biros (Phoenixville)
- P.D.G. '13-14 District 7450Charles Streitwieser
- P.D.G. '12-13 District 7510 Dwight Leeper

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Anne Driscoll, Joe Driscoll, Brian Fahey, Randy Lindel, Mike Louis,

Photo: Anne Driscoll, Jeff Cantwell, Miranda Reilly