



Rotary Club of West Chester Quarterly Outreach. **June 15, 2023**



Recent Club Events

The Rotary Club of West Chester is always active!

With spring arriving, activities picked up for Rotarians as they helped neighborhood volunteers with their annual park cleanup and mulching at Marshall Square Park. Rotarians also volunteered as bartenders at a fundraiser for the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce at Locust Lane Brewery.

A couple of members represented our club at the District 7450 Conference attended by representatives from all 54 clubs. We hosted 2 of our 3 County Commissioners who updated us on the status of our county and answered questions from members.

We viewed a video of the Deep Water Pumps project in Senegal that one of our members started working on with matching funding from Rotary International prior to the pandemic.

We helped initiate "Bonus" Rotary meetings on Thursday nights.

Members continue to donate to the Ukrainian Response Fund through Rotary International.

Members continue to volunteer at the Community Warehouse Project each third Saturday.



Upcoming Club Events

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

Continuing efforts of West Chester area clubs to join together for joint activities, for learning and sharing, for fun and fellowship, our club is again participating on the student Scholarship Committee. \$2,000 scholarships will be available for one student from each of the 3 area high schools, Rustin, East and Henderson. Each applicant submits an

essay noting their volunteer and leadership efforts in their schools and communities. We will be putting up our new tent and Rotary banner at upcoming events during the summer and fall, such as the Turk's

Head Music Festival, and on **October 8th**, **our Chili Cook-off.**

Speaking of our Chili Cook-off, **which is in its 21st year**, we are well into planning for this West Chester event that attracts THOUSANDS of folks to this annual family friendly event. The committee is actively recruiting chili cooks, sponsors, and of course, LOTS of volunteers to help us raise hundreds of dollars to donate back to the community through various non-profits. **Won't you sign up to help us with this fun and philanthropic event? Go to our website for Chili Cook-off information.**



Club Member Personality

Sue Casso-Rogers hails from West Chester, as did her father, grandfather and great grandfather. Her great grandfather was actually a charter member of the West Chester Golf and Country Club. She is a graduate of Henderson High School and Susquehanna University where she was a cheerleader and member of Kappa Delta Sorority.

Following graduation, Sue took a job with a local manufacturing company, Denney Reyburn Tag and Label Company. What was going to be a temporary job until a teaching position opened up became a 40-year career in the print industry. With 7 years of inside management experience, she went out on the road in sales. After selling for Denney Reyburn and then ATL East Tag and Label, Sue started her own company, Custom Printing and Promotions specializing in promotional products.

As a young business person, Sue joined the Business and Professional Women's Club and served as President, then District Director of BPWPA District 10. After living away from West Chester for a few years, in very exotic places like Media, Concordville and even Princeton NJ, she returned to West Chester and joined the Rotary Club of West Chester. Rotary provided leadership opportunities, community service and fellowship. Sue served as club President, then as an Assistant District Governor. Now she serves as Club Secretary and was named Rotarian of the Year in 2021.

In addition to Rotary, Sue has volunteered her time with several other organizations. She was on the board of the Wentworth Home, the West Chester Area YMCA and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater West Chester, serving as Chairman of the Board for each of those organizations. Recently the Chamber of Commerce named Sue as the Citizen of the Year.

Sue and her husband, Bob, are avid golfers and enjoy winter travel to play golf. They can often be found on the front porch of their old West Chester home enjoying a glass of wine or a good bourbon. Join us - won't you?



A Bit of Club History

The club kicked off the "sizzling sixties" by scheduling a joint meeting with the Lions Club at the newly refurbished YMCA in West Chester. It was noted in the Votary that all members were very impressed with the facilities.

Later in the spring, our club was challenged by the Lions to a Duck Pin match to be held at the YMCA. We won by 26 pins, but to be fair, the Lions spotted us 50.

On March 29th 1960, our speaker was Gunner Back, news director and well known anchorman at WFL Channel 6 in Philadelphia. He had recently returned from accompanying Vice-President Nixon on his trip to Moscow. Back described the Russian people as friendly but wary of the

Americans. He described Krushchev's willingness to work with the west and noted that it was "no longer Stalin's Soviet Union." It was noted in the Votary that the prestige of the speaker resulted in a number of visitors to the club that week (they were not listed back then). Over the next several weeks there was a number of gentlemen proposed for membership. On April 12, the votary notes that a young physician named Robert Poole was proposed for membership by Horace Darlington. He was inducted later in the year.

It is said that Rotarians have a lot of pull in West Chester, but that was not the case at the borough's Fourth of July celebration as our 10-man tug of war team failed to win a single match. We were however victorious in Midget League Baseball, winning the championship that summer with a record of 11-1.

We finished out the year by partnering with the Elks and the VFW to hold a Toy Mountain Ball on December 9th 1960. This event, held at the Elks club was huge success featuring a 12 piece Big Band ensemble. The price of admission was one toy, valued at a minimum of one dollar that went to needy children in the area.





Cocktail of the Quarter

“Cheers!”

Even teetotalers and others who know nothing about cocktails, know what a Martini is – Gin and Dry Vermouth (but you knew that) – and what it looks like, in its iconic triangular glass. The Martini has been written about in countless books, songs have been sung and endless movie and TV cameos have been made. Its origins date back at least to the 1880s, and it's gone through a myriad of variations and formulas. But it's never gone out of style. Its venerable pedigree and iconic status in the spirits world make this the one cocktail you must drink before you die. Herewith, the most basic recipe, which should be freely modified to suit your taste. Less vermouth makes the drink 'drier'.

Classic 2:1 Martini

2 ounces of a London Dry Gin, like Beefeaters, Bombay or Tanqueray
 1 ounce of Dry Vermouth
 Stir (don't shake) with ice, then strain into a chilled Martini glass
 Optional: add a lemon peel or olive

(Why stir rather than shake? Shaking adds bubbles and this concoction should be clear and cold.)



Spotlight on One of our Non-Profits

Laundromat Library League

The **Laundromat Library League (LLL)**, which provides children's books in laundromats at no cost, is one of the non-profits selected by the Community Philanthropic Committee for a grant. Founded by local residents in 2016, supporters of the project were asked to donate children's books to be placed in laundromats so that children would have something educational to do while their parent was doing laundry. Children may take the books home, because many of the children have little or no access to books at home.

The program has been overwhelmingly successful. It has expanded to over 600 volunteers in 30+ states across the country!

While the donations are numerous, the founders/supporters noticed that donations lacked books for minority children. Thus, funding was encouraged so the LLL could purchase books about Latinos, African American children and other minorities. Now, the LLL also receives funding to purchase books that celebrate women in history, culture and society, and books that highlight the lives of children who persevered, and have gone on to excel in their fields as adults. When acquiring specific books, the LLL has been able to purchase them at \$5 per book. A worthy investment in children!

**The West Chester Rotary Club
meets weekly on Thursday @noon
at the West Chester Country Club.
Visitors are always welcome.
Join us for lunch and see what we're all about!**

Visit our Website

*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*



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