



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
 Mark Daniel Maloney, International President 2019-2020
 Bulletin #23 www.WestChesterRotary.us December 19, 2019

**Program: December 19, 2019
 Chester County Family Academy
 Holiday Concert**

**December 26, 2019
 No Meeting
 Happy Holidays!**

MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

After **President Matt Holliday** opened the meeting, **Brad Abel** led the pledge of allegiance. For the invocation, **Steve Brown** read the touching 1897 story of little Virginia O’Hanlon who wrote to the Chicago Sun-Times newspaper regarding Santa Claus. A wonderful reminder to put us all in the holiday mood. We welcomed visiting Rotarians Reece Reynolds from the Longwood Club, Bill Wright from the Coatesville Club, and John Saling, from the Sunrise Club.

Dan Wilson introduced his guest, and our speaker, Wesley Williams. Former member Jen Fiorello was a guest, and **Winnie Stroup** introduced Mabel Mascar, a new member of her family. Regarding birthdays, **Dan Wilson** noted that our guest speaker is celebrating his 23rd birthday today! **Michelle Venema** noted her niece, who is having a birthday, has just qualified for the Olympics in freestyle swimming.

Melissa Baxter kicked off Happy Bucks by telling about her fun "Rotary weekend," of ringing bells for the Salvation Army, and attending a chocolate event put on by new member, **Arlene Adams**. **Winnie Stroup** was happy to announce that most of the coats for our warm coats project have arrived, but she doesn’t have them all yet, since there were no small sizes. She is scouting around for more coats. **Steve Bayles** was happy to announce that his daughter, Sydney, has now raised a total of \$228,000 for Alex’s Lemonade Stand.

In announcements, **Sue Casso Rogers** reminded members that those who pay half of their dues twice a year should send the second half of \$115 to her now. Secondly, she reminded members of our holiday party at **Sue and Bob Roger’s** home on Jan. 4th from 5:30 to 9 p.m. She asked that folks bring their food ready to serve, because the house gets so full, they cannot get to the microwave or oven to heat things

up. Also if you don’t want to bring a dish to share, you can donate \$20 toward a main dish. Note the party is BYOB.

Dwight Leeper thanked club members for all their efforts in supporting the World Polio Day events. Nearly \$500 was raised from donations made at the Historic Old Courthouse. **Jeanie McGinn** announced that the last new member meeting is coming up. If members have friends who may be prospective members, she urged them to bring them, because it will be next year before the next new member meeting. **President Matt** noted several upcoming dates, and thanked **Phyllis Dunn** for printing out the *Important Dates* notices on all the tables.

Randy Lindel won the 50/50, but missed the queen. **President Matt** closed with a thoughtful quote.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Patty Roos

Our speaker was Wesley Williams known as “The one wheel wonder”

Wesley did not grow up in a circus family. He always found his way on the stage as a young boy and asked for a unicycle. His parents not knowing what to do with him after he really took up quite an interest with the unicycle, sent him to circus camp. He started performing at 8 years of age for local birthday parties and did some clown work. He stopped for a while to play soccer and even went as far as to play on the Florida State team. It was right around 17 years old that he audition for a circus tour in New England, and was given a chance to perform with them. So at age 17 he went out on the road by himself. Due to a brutal schedule and a difficult owner, he stopped working for that company and is now on his own touring for different companies. Did I mention Wesley just turned 22?

He discussed how he practiced. He is self-taught (he

learned from hanging on palm tree branches all over his neighborhood in Florida). He does his own prop development. He created his steps and table that he uses that can fold up and get put into a suitcase. He learned new tricks by experimenting with 25 and 28 ft. unicycles (this is the largest unicycle he rides now). In the process of learning, he started with a safety line, then a spotter, and then was ready to do it on his own. He has also had to learn to adjust. He is always moving around from place to place with only having 3 to 4 weeks off a year. He now has a lot of international proposals and is currently negotiating with Cirque du Soleil.

Wesley says he doesn't consider this work, because he loves it. He also only performs for 7 minutes per show so if he does three shows a day, he has only has to work for 21 minutes a day. He can also choose his own path where he goes. Some of the highlights of his career has brought him to America's Got Talent and the Gong Show. Upcoming places he will be performing are in the United Kingdom for Britain's Got Talent, Girona/Spain, Los Angeles again to be on America's Got Talent (now that he performs on the 28 ft. unicycle they want him back) and Berlin/Germany.

Wesley finished up his talk by showing off his incredible talent in juggling and performing on his unicycle and by really blowing us away with juggling WHILE on his tall unicycle.

MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT

Community Warehouse Project Update: No December Volunteer Day, next date: January 18 from 9-2.

REMEMBER if you get new goodies for the Holidays, think? Could CWP recycle my old item? **YES!** Call Jeannie, if not sure, at 484-343-4577. She can make arrangements for a delivery or pickup anytime during the month.

A BIG THANK YOU to the WC Rotarians for all your 2019 support, item donations and spreading the word. What a difference it made in the lives of Families/Seniors/Veterans who made a new start with our help.



THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by **Ebbie Alfree** of The Hickman

SAVE THE DATE

Dec 26 No meeting
Jan 1 No meeting
Jan 4 Open House at Sue and Bob Roger's
Jan 9 WCGCC closed. Meeting location TBA
Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at
<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>
Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us



BOARD of DIRECTORS

President, Matt Holliday; President Elect, Michelle Venema; Vice President, Steve Brown; Treasurer, Jack Ellis; Secretary, Sue Casso Rogers; Sgt at Arms, Bob Rogers; Immediate Past President, Bill Friedmann

Directors-at-Large: Brad Abel, Laura Aloisio, Carol Hanson, Diana Liberi, Rob Malone, Rich Murray, Glen Sweet, Bill Winters, Ernest Zlotolow

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Cynthia Rugart, Assistant Governor

Charles Streitwieser, P. D.G. '13-14 District 7450

Dwight Leeper, P.D.G. '12-13. District 7510

Robert Poole, P.D.G. '80-'81 District 7450

Lynmar Brock, Past Director of RI, P.D.G. '77-78

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web support: Judi Bell and Howard Sundwall.

Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us Committee: Pat Barron, Brian Fahey, Gary Hess, Fran Luft, Danielle Mortimer, Cathy Palmquist, Kyle Rheiner, Patty Roos, Charles Streitwieser, Winnie Stroup