



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
John F. Germ, International President 2016-2017

Bulletin #11 www.WestChesterRotary.us September 15, 2016

This Week's Program: September 15, 2016
Speaker: Alison Snavely-Villano
Classification Talk
Club Assembly

Next Week's Program: September 22, 2016
Speaker: Tim Ketelhut
Business Development Manager for Teams

MINUTES by Chris Feryo

President Bob opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Today's invocation was offered by **Bill Ronayne**. With the 9/11 anniversary this week he offered a message of sacrifice and quoted a poem by Maya Angelou. The club then sang God Bless America together.

This week's "What Do You Know?" segment offer by **Sergeant-at-Arms Brad Abel** was... Women who carry extra weight live longer than the men who ask about it.

There was one visiting Rotarian, John Saling. Guests were Bill Pinamont with **Bob Frame**, Christine Scott with **Bill Ronayne** and Steve with **Laura Aloisio**.

There was much happiness in the club today. **Patty Jefferis'** son is cancer free, **Joe Fratoni** had a fabulous vacation and thanked **Patty Jefferis** for her help in arranging it, **Elizabeth Guman** son is following in his grandfather's footsteps and has started an environmentally friendly beef farm and **Don Kohler** is launching the annual popcorn sale along with the 10 cub scouts in his den and will match up to \$500 in sales as a donation to the Chili Cook Off, **Faith Woodward** reminded everyone of the upcoming Secret Garden tour and **John Saling** announced his wife is winning her battle with breast cancer.

President Bob answered the age old question "What is Rotary?" reminding us that it is a service organization of 1.2 million members committed to building relationships and serving the world. He suggested having an answer of your own ready when you are called upon to answer the same question.

Mac Neilon wished **Rich Murray** a happy birthday even though he wasn't present.

Important dates to remember – October 9: Chili Cook Off, November 22: Ex Sergeant at Arms awards

Rachel Barakat reminded us that volunteers

are needed at the Restaurant Festival, **Elizabeth Guman** reminded us volunteers are needed for the Chili Cook Off, **Laura Aloisio** provided an update on Cook Off Sponsorship with a reminder that opportunities are still available and **Ernest Zlotolow** provided an update on the successful CARS project with a reminder that kids start arriving this month, finally **President Bob** reminded us of the upcoming kick Polio Off the Planet event.

50/50 – Drum roll please..... The winner was **Jack Wintermute** who took home the \$2318.00 prize for drawing the elusive and lonely Queen of Spades. The pot was \$239 from \$718 worth of tickets. The Senior Center donation is up to \$418.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Elizabeth Guman

Our speaker today was Bill Pinamont, Assistant Director at the Chester County Veterans Affairs Office. This office, funded by the County, helps our 31,000 veteran county residents and their families obtain the benefits and services they are eligible for. Bill, a retired Navy Captain, just recently joined the department, which consists of three staff people in total.

The department has been going through a total transformation this past year. They have instituted a data management system, transferring their paper records to an electronic data base. This has enabled the office to triple the capacity of clients they serve in one year without increasing their budget.

To illustrate the type of work they do, Bill told us about a recent client. A Staff Sergeant Marine was referred to them through the court diversion program. He had attended high school in Chester County, gone on to serve in the Marines with two deployments to Iraq, experienced an IED explosion, was back in the county and had been arrested on his third D.U.I. Instead of going to jail, he was referred to the Veterans Affairs Office. They helped him get into a rehab program, file for benefits and get treatment for his P.T.S.D. which he did not realize he had. He was

able to obtain education benefits and will be a full time student at WCU this fall. He completed 500 hours of volunteer service, working in the Veterans Office creating their new data base.

This case alone illustrates the amazing work this office does. Not only was this person's life transformed, but the economic benefit to the county exceeds \$300,000. This past year the office has been able to secure over \$1,000,000 in federal benefits into the county.

The Chester County Veterans Affairs Office has the smallest budget as compared to our 7 county neighbors.

We asked Bill what we could do to support their work. He suggested two things. First, they need employers willing to give these veterans a chance and work with them if they run into difficulties as they address long-term issues they may have as a result of their service. Also, we can let our county commissioners know that we care about this work so they know that the monies allocated to their budget is valued by the county residents.

DISTRICT 7450 SECRETARY RETIRING

Sharon Quick will be retiring as the District Secretary and Administrative Assistant for Rotary District 7450 effective today 9/12/16. Due to Sharon's personal commitments, Sharon will also be taking a temporary leave of absence from her Philadelphia Rotary Club until approximately the end of the 2016 calendar year.

Our GREAT THANKS to Sharon Quick for her 8 years of "Service Above Self" efforts in this role and for her marvelous energy toward making our Rotary District 7450 organization so successful!

The Rotary District 7450's Board of Directors has approved the search for a new "Administrative Assistant" If you know of anyone interested in submitting a letter or resume for consideration, please have them contact District Governor Dave Haradon, daveharadon@gmail.com, 484-883-3110 by September 30, 2016.

Until such time as this role is filled, any administrative questions should be directed to DG Dave. Support for issues pertaining to the District's database (DACdb) can be obtained by contacting the DACdb support hotline at 720-504-7300, support@dacdb.com.

For any support issues involving Rotary International, you may contact their Club Support Hotline at rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org. 866-976-8279. Again, our sincere THANKS for Sharon's dedication and commitment to Rotary International, our Rotary District and our many Rotary Clubs! We wish her our very best wishes in her future endeavors!!!

THANK YOU

Copies of the Volary are provided today by
Bill Ronayne of
Brandywine Valley Heating and Air Conditioning

SAVE THE DATE

Sept 14 Rotary Board Meeting
Sept 14 Cook Off Kick Off Sponsor Party
Oct 9 Chili Cook Off
Nov 22 Ex-Sergeant-at-Arms "awards"

Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at
<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>

Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Gabriel Bay from Rafaela, Argentina
Attending Henderson High School
Host family: Mark and Ellen Morun
416 Chrislena Lane, WC, PA 19380
(610) 344-0205



THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

President, Bob Rogers; President-Elect, Mickey Hall.
Vice-President, Bill Friedmann; Past President, Katie Martin; Secretary, Sue Casso Rogers; Treasurer, Tim Walsh; Sergeant-at-Arms, Brad Abel; Directors-at-Large: Laura Aloisio, Dave Barkasy, Judi Bell, Cristina Combee, Linda Hicks, Jim Smith, Andrew Stump, Michelle Venema, Ernest Zlotolow.

David Haradon, District Governor

Bronwyn Martin, Assistant Governor

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

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

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web site: Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us Judi Bell.
Committee Members: Rachel Barakat, Pat Barron, Chris Feryo, Elizabeth Guman, Gary Hess, Matt Holliday, Jim Kammerer, Laura House Kelly, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Winnie Stroup, Glen Sweet, Marjorie Wentz