



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
Ian Riseley, International President 2017-2018

Bulletin #32 www.WestChesterRotary.us March 15, 2018

This Week's Program: March 15, 2018
Classification Talk
Speaker: Brandon Smith
Induction of New Members

Next Week's Program: March 22, 2018
Secret Service
Speaker: Richard Rolfes

MINUTES by Fran Luft

President Mickey Hall opened the meeting and **Chris Franz** gave the invocation. We sang America the Beautiful. Stg. Of Arms Brad told us a joke about the weatherman.

There were no visiting Rotarians at the meeting. Our guests included the wife of **Lawrence Miller**, Melissa Baxter, Terri Edger Ken Kline and Chris Sacarello.

Katie Martin gave a happy dollar for **Bob Frame** renting out her condo. **Patty Jefferis** gave a happy dollar for her grandchildren and she did not lose electricity. **Sue Flynn** was happy that Jim Scanlon decides whether school is open when we have snow. She is also happy about the Spring Boutique Sale March 15th, 2018 at Shop Blue Horse Warehouse to benefit Chester County Family Academy summer enrichment. **Ken Klein** is happy about his wedding anniversary. **Dave Wood** is happy that fishing season will soon be here.

Birthday greeting were extended to **Eric Rosle** by **Matt Holliday**. **Vice President Bill Friedmann** thanked the Community Philanthropic Committee for all their hard work in dealing with the grant applications and distribution of monies to the various non- profits.

Dates to remember: March 10th- board retreat, March 14th board meeting, April 21st Comedy Night at Quality Inn and Suites to benefit Rotary Dictionary Project, April 28th Rotarians at Work Day -tree planting at Stroud Preserve. If you are interested in district events see **President Mickey Hall**.

President Mickey thanked all the Rotarians for helping **Christine Wildauer** with the Rotary Fruit sale. The Rotary meeting April 5th will be held at the Chester County Food Bank not at the country club.

Bill Winters won the 50/50 drawing but did not draw the Queen of Spades

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Pat Henson

Dr. James Scanlon delivered a wonderful and informative message on the challenges and opportunities the West Chester Area School District (WCASD) has faced over the past decade. His meticulous attention to programs and policies continually enhances the education the students under his watch.

Dr. Scanlon, whose career in education spans 35 years, came to WCASD in 2009 after previously serving as the superintendent of [Brandywine School District](#) in DE and [Quakertown Community School District](#) in PA. He earned his B.S. from the University of Pittsburg, his M.A. from Temple University and his Ed.D from Temple University. Scanlon lives in West with his wife and two sons. Part of his focus as an educator has been to strengthen his ties to the community as well as the ties between the students and the community.

He first noted that WCASD is a very large district covering 8 municipalities and 75 square miles. It has approximately 11,911 students, 16 schools and a \$243 million budget.

After making light of how the decision is made to close schools when it snows and soliciting volunteers to drive around with him at 4:30 a.m. to survey the roads, Dr. Scanlon outlined the leading challenges and opportunities the school district faced since 2009. Specifically he noted that in 2009 challenges included a budget shortfall of \$8 million, and an overall economic decline and revenue loss. These challenges created opportunities to educate the community regarding school testing mandates, to form a community budget task force, and identify ways to make \$8 million worth of reductions without affecting the classroom. The task force was able to achieve \$8 million in savings along with an additional \$1 million in revenue.

In 2012, the major challenge involved teacher contracts which brought about opportunities to educate teachers on the total costs of salaries and benefits thereby introducing lower cost health care plans.

A contentious school board brought about opportunities in 2013 to vote into effect regionalizing WCASD into 3 distinct regions as well as to develop a Flyer Distribution Policy.

With Charter School costs rising, WCASD began a blended learning program for cyber school students that allowed students to experience courses where they learn part of the time at school and part of the time through online delivery of content and instruction. A full day kindergarten program was also added in order to compete with the charter school that was already providing this service.

Important occurrences which make our school district attractive in the 2017-18 school year include an economic upturn, construction of many new homes and our continued low taxes.

Dr. Scanlon offered other WASCD statistics including the facts that:

- WCASD is ranked in the top 5 U.S. school districts according to the Niche rankings. Niche is a platform that helps people discover the schools and neighborhoods that are right for them by rigorously analyzing dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews to produce comprehensive rankings, report cards, and profiles for every K-12 school, college, and neighborhood in the U.S.
- 93% of WCASD graduates are college bound proving that WCASD has done a remarkable job in preparing children for the future
- East High School was awarded the National Blue Ribbon by the US Dept. of Education in 2017

Questions were taken at the end of Dr. Scanlon's talk, one of which referred to the National Walkout Day scheduled for March 14 to honor the 17 victims of the shooting at Parkland High School. It was noted that upper grades would be allowed to participate for the 17 minutes of silence and that added police protection would help to ensure the security of the event.

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, Chris Feryo, Pat Henson, Gary Hess, Matt Holliday, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Patty Roos, Winnie Stroup, Marjorie Wentz

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Don Kohler of Kohler Law Offices

SAVE THE DATE

Mar 17	Rotarians Share Community Warehouse Volunteer Day
Mar 17	Rotary Leadership Institute
Apr 5	Luncheon Meeting at Chester County Food Bank
Apr 28	Rotary at Work- Tree Planting
Apr 30	Deadline for CPC Grant applications

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



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