



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
 John Kenny, International President 2009-2010
 Bulletin #02 www.WestChesterRotary.us July 9, 2009

This Week's Program: July 9, 2009
President's Gala
6 PM

Next Week's Program: July 16, 2009
Speaker: Matt Bradley
West Chester Friends School
arranged by Dave Biffen

MINUTES by Fran Luft

President Dave rang the bell at 12:30 pm. **Bill Ronayne** gave the invocation. In celebration of the 4th of July **Bill** researched the Declaration of Independence. This is an amazing document. The Declaration was completed and signed on July 4th 1776 by John Hancock. The rest of the delegation did not sign the document until August 2, 1776. **Bill** read the first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence.

There were no visiting Rotarians at the meeting today. Rotary guests included Dwight McCawley, John Hannifin, Kelly Keller, and Winnie Stroup.

Announcements: The Motto for this Rotary year is The Future of Rotary IS IN YOUR HANDS. The most terrifying words according to President Ronald Reagan are I am from the government and I am here to help you. We have tickets available for purchase to a Philadelphia Phillies game on July 21st. Please contact either **Steve Quigley** or **Pam Costanzi** to secure tickets.

Birthday greetings were extended to **Frank Helms** by **Chris McCawley**. **Bob Frame** announced that the target shooting outing is set for July 22nd at Target Master in Chadds Ford. Cost will be \$35-\$40. Dinner to follow. **Sue Casso Rogers** updated us on the president's Gala on July 9th at 6 p.m. Please contact Sue as soon as possible if you plan to attend or have auction items to donate. Cost is \$30.00 per person or \$50.00 for a couple. Cutoff date is Monday, July 6th.

Happy Bucks: **Pat Barron** (will become a grandparent in January 2010); **Bob Poole** (increase in Becky's family); **Becky Cacace** (will find out Monday whether the baby is a boy or girl); **Terry Mc Grath** (Electric Steve is performing at the

Chili Cook off and his illness is Occupational Respiratory disease), **Charlie Lyddane** (new golden lab puppy)

Sue Casso Rogers won the Pot of Gold but left the Queen behind for the next winner.

SPEAKER REVIEW by Sue Casso Rogers

Today's program was presented by **Frank Helms** who coordinates our Rotary Readers Program. Frank gave each of us a bookmark to encourage us to read.

A recent article in The Inquirer concerning Workforce Readiness pointed out the Low Literacy Limits in today's local population and the numbers are staggering. More than 1/2 of the workers cannot handle basic math and reading yet 75% of the jobs require this basic skill. And the numbers are more staggering in the US population: 32% have never been in a bookstore, 42% never read another book after college, 80% have not read a book in the past year.

The US spends over \$2 billion on students who repeat grades. 6 million students drop out of high school. And these were just a few of the many statistics Frank shared. Frank's point - Reading is Important!!

The good news is The Rotary Club of West Chester does our part to help local students develop an appreciation for reading and books. Our Rotary Readers program provided 369 sessions of reading this year. We sent Doctors, Lawyers, Educators, Veterinarians, Librarians, Business people and Retirees into the schools to read and educate the local children with books. Frank pointed out that the Teachers love the

readers, the students love the readers and the readers love the students. It is a win-win for all.

Our newest school, the Chester County Family Academy, was recommended by **Joe Polito** and their head of the school recently sent a letter thanking us for sending our readers. And it doesn't just stop with reading - **Patty Jefferis** took a group of students to her office and **Jack Wintermute** enjoys showing the students his motorcycle.

Part of the Rotary Readers program is the Dictionary Project in which each graduating second grader receives a dictionary stamped with a plate showing the Rotary name and a place for the student to put their name inside the book. Additionally, 3 cases of dictionaries were given to the Police Athletic League program.

Frank then recognized all the Rotarians who participate in this worthwhile program: At Penn Wood School - **Bob Connolly, Terry McGrath, Joe Polito, Paul Woodruff**; at Hillsdale School - **Jack Wintermute, Jeannie McGinn, Bob Struble, Frank Helms**; at East Bradford - **Bob Poole, Dwight McCawley, Bill Ronayne, Craig and Sandy Kalemjian, Dave Wood, Jack and Janet Wintermute, Shauna Yeldell, Frank Helms**; at Chester County Family Academy - **Becky Cacace, Cristina Combee, Patty Jefferis**. Thanks to all the readers!

Frank shared a personal story about his 5th grade class. He noticed that in the past years the students have been very polite, quiet and attentive. This year, however, he asked the students to help pick out the books to be read and each time he arrived they were already on the floor, in their circle, clapping when he arrived and anxiously waiting for him to hear more of their story. Their participation made a big different in their interaction.

Frank offered a challenge - if we read 1 hour/day, we will complete one book a week and over 50 books per year. This will make us so knowledgeable that we will be become very popular, be asked out to parties, everyone will want to hang around us, we will be very well spoken..... Amazing what a book can do!! Thank you Frank for all you do for Rotary.

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided by **Michele Parent** of Makemie Ridge.



SAVE THE DATE

July 9 President's Gala
Oct 11 Chili Cook Off
Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at
<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>
Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

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District 7450

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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