



# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450

John Kenny, International President 2009-2010

Bulletin #06 [www.WestChesterRotary.us](http://www.WestChesterRotary.us) August 6, 2009

**This Week's Program: August 6, 2009**

**Speaker: Mike Gidlewski**

**Time Management in Tough Times**

**Arranged by Dave Biffen**

**Next Week's Program: August 13, 2009**

**Speaker: Dick Shea**

**Friends of W C Parks & Recreation**

**Arranged by Dave Biffen**

## MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

President **Dave Rayburn** opened the meeting and **Charlie Lyddane** asked members to keep in mind someone in the military as he read the Marine Corps Prayer.

Although there were no visiting Rotarians, **Jeannie McGinn** introduced her guests, Jackie Sidell and Meg Bowers, who are interning with her this summer, working on the Chili Cook-off Jackie is **Wendy Hoffman's** daughter. Both young women are recent college graduates and seeking fulltime employment.

**President Dave** told a humorous story about Winston Churchill before **Carol Hanson** wished **Shauna Yeldell** a happy birthday. **President Dave** reported receiving thank you letters from Chester County Inter Link for the recent grant they received and from Community Volunteers in Medicine for the fruit sale proceeds.

**Chris McCawley** kicked off the happy bucks by noting her 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, **Michelle Parent**, was happy to have made a presentation to the WEGO Rotary Club and even happier to be back with our club, and **Carolyn Comitta** was happy to have helped her daughter find an apartment near her new job. Later, **David Biffen** put in a happy buck for help he received from **Tony Colantonio** with getting HD services in his business complex.

**Jeannie McGinn**, giving an update on the Chili Cook-off, reported there are now 35 cooking teams, a number we previously did not reach until mid September. She also announced two new sponsors, Citadel and Dave's Automotive. In addition, with the invaluable assistance of **Tony Colantonio**, Comcast will air two commercials advertising our Chili Cook-off. **Charlie Lyddane** quipped that if **Tony** was featured in the commercials, we would probably recruit several more cook-off teams of young women.

**Katie Walker** was winner of the 50/50, but despite few cards remaining, the queen and pot of

gold eluded her.

## SPEAKER REVIEW by Victoria Dow

Our speaker today was Lorri Sarosy the first Executive Director of the Interfaith Housing Assistance Corporation of Chester County. She has been with IHAC since January of this year and sees her work there as a way of giving back to the community. IHAC, in existence since 1993, has as its mission preventing homelessness for single-parent families and supporting them as they learn the skills necessary to become self-supporting and independent. Lorri noted that the recent club grant to IHAC will pay for case management services for 2 participants for one year and she is most grateful for this assistance.

Before visiting our club Lorri did her homework! She congratulated us on our club achievements, the RI anniversary, and shared that the Rotary motto of "service above self" resonated with her.

IHAC got its start when a group of religious leaders in WC recognized a need to support single parent families that were just barely getting by. They were often folks who had jobs but were not earning enough to keep their homes. These were also people who often did not qualify for assistance. From the beginning IHAC's mission was to help these families with rent and to help them gain the financial skills needed to manage a household budget and live independently again. The direct financial assistance and the skills training are IHAC's core services.

Participants find two types of programs – short-term assistance meant to help someone get over a rough patch caused by an unexpected event and long-term assistance for those who are in need of support over as long as 3 years to become fully independent of financial help. IHAC is unique in that it does offer up to 3 years of financial support, although the goal is to steadily reduce the amount of financial assistance until the participant has

taken over the entire responsibility. During this time participants continue with the other elements of the program – goal setting, meeting with a mentor, etc. Also available to participants are children's programs.

Participants are asked to make a commitment to the program – to actually set goals for themselves, meet regularly with a case manager.

IHAC has had some great success stories. Just recently Lorri met a graduate of the program who has truly gotten her life in order. She is financially independent now, and has moved to Atlanta to take a job at Emory University Hospital. She recognized the case managers as been crucial to her success. Another IHAC graduate is now on the organization's board.

Finally, Lorri shared IHAC's long term goals for the organization. They would like to increase their board, strengthen and expand their services, and increase their graduation rate which currently stands at 40%. The organization also hopes to expand community agency partnerships. Lorri closed with an invitation to Rotary members to become volunteers, join the board, or simply sign up for the IHAC newsletter.

### NEW MEMBER

The following person has been proposed for membership and has indicated her desire to become a member:

**Winnie Stroup:** Classification - Orchestra - Exec Director, Retired. Sponsor: **Sue Casso Rogers**

If no written objections are received by the Club Secretary within three (3) days of this notice a date will be set for her induction.

### THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided by **Patty Jefferis** of Whirlaway Travel.

### SAVE THE DATE

Oct 11 Chili Cook Off  
Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at <http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>  
Add events: [calendar@westchesterrotary.us](mailto:calendar@westchesterrotary.us)



## CHILI COOK OFF

### WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

This popular Chester County community event is the perfect marketing event for your restaurant, business, neighborhood group, fire department, non-profit organization or club to have loads of fun, form a team, cook some chili and get up close and personal with 5000 thousand-plus fellow chili fans. Many groups hold mini-cookoffs so that the winner can represent their organization at the official West Chester Rotary Chil Cookoff each fall.

Chili fans come from all over the Delaware Valley to compete and enjoy the Best Darn Chili in Chester County! Over 60 teams regularly compete in this fall festival, as well as dozens of vendors and sponsors. Teams will compete within one of

### THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

President, Dave Rayburn; President-Elect, Bill Ronayne; Vice-President, Mark Sammarone; Past President, Steve Karp; Secretary, Patricia Kotsay; Treasurer, Rob Feenan; Sergeant At Arms, Katie Decker; Directors-at-Large: Bruce Beadle, Cristina Combee, Elizabeth Guman, Jeannie McGinn, Terry McGrath, Bob Rogers, Bert Volger

Al Marland, District Governor  
Gary Hess, Assistant District Governor  
Robert Poole, III, M.D., P. D.G. 1980-1981  
District 7450

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432 [fwood@bf.kendal.org](mailto:fwood@bf.kendal.org); Web site maintenance, Bruce Beadle, [Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us](mailto:Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us);  
Committee Members: Pat Barron, Matt Bradley, Sue Casso, Victoria Dow, Elizabeth Guman, Wendy Hoffman, Charlie Lyddane, Fran Luft, Paula Ott, Cathy Palmquist, Joe Polito, and Mark Sammarone (Web site)