



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450

John Kenny, International President 2009-2010

Bulletin #21 www.WestChesterRotary.us November 19, 2009

This Week's Program: November 19, 2009
Rotary Day
Arranged by President Dave

Next Week's Program: November 26, 2009
Happy Thanksgiving
No Meeting!

MINUTES by Fran Luft

President Dave rang the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. **Joe Polito**, in honor of Veterans' Day read a few facts honoring all veterans and told us about the Hall of Heroes. He ended the invocation with a reading "Pray For Our Soldiers".

Visiting Rotarians at the meeting today included Joe Caune, Evan Witmer, John Sailing, Fred Kemmerly and Jim Riley. **Katie Walker** introduced her guest Christine Wildaur and **Dave Biffen** introduced his guest Rabbi Sue Greenberg.

President Dave, in honor of Veterans' Day, stated a quote from President Ronald Reagan – "Of the four wars – none has come about because the United States was too strong."

Happy Bucks: **Jeannie McGinn** (payment for Dallas Cowboys- Philadelphia Eagle bet). **Jeff Sommer** asked the membership to sign-up for the annual bell ringing at either the K-Mart or Acme. **Katie Decker** urged everyone to sell Poinsettia plants for our newest fundraiser. Assistance is needed to help hand out the plants on December 1st and 5th. Please sign up to assist with this event. Jim Riley announced that his Rotary club is selling roses – a dozen for \$20.00. All proceeds will be used for charity.

Gary Hewett conducted the annual Service Roll Call. Rotary members who served in the armed forces were thanked for their service to our county.

Jeff Sommer picked the ticket for the 50/50. The winner today was **Craig Kalemjian**. The queen eluded him. [He donated his winnings to the Haverford Rotary Club that was selling roses for their fundraiser.]

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Faith Woodward

Dave Biffen introduced Bud Bruton as a senior aviator holding the bronze star. Bud returned to Vietnam for the sixth time as part of the Vietnam Veterans' Restoration Program. Returning to build rather than fight, changes the psyche of those who fought. The program is offered each year by this non-profit, non-governmental organization to heal the emotional wounds of those suffered in the Vietnam war. One hundred twenty-five people have gone back to build.

A wonderful DVD was shared with us. It covered the three-day intense orientation for the trip and the building of a three-room addition to a school in the Ashai Valley. As they worked on the project, one man said, "I wondered if I am the one who bombed this man's house."

When the group arrived in Hanoi, they were greeted in diplomatic style. A friendship between the two countries was built yet it was still difficult for the American Vets to see the Vietnamese flag.

The site was worked on by both local Vietnamese and the vets. They were told, "tot lam" means "good job". In the Ngo commune, the Vietnamese workers were there every day

before the Vets arrived. For 8 months, everyone worked side by side doing hard physical labor.

Funds from donors built the three new rooms for the school. At the end of the project, children who had only attended a half day of school could now attend an entire day.

Each day included a 1 hour lunch break. The children were fed first, then the workers. Each day “built bridges of understanding and freindship.” Four decades ago, these people were the Vietcong –mortal enemies.

The Tet Offensive site of January 1968 was visited. Many Vets relived their experineces. “This mission has been healing” and “seeing people again, not to apologize, but to put this behind me”, and “Got to bond with workers, teashers, and children” were some of the final reflections. As one said, “The transformation from combat warrior to peaceful warrior is complete.”

The final night included a dinner given by the school board. “Instead of feelings of anger, feelings of compassion” were filling one of the particiants.

Two dozen teams have partiicipated in this program. Please visit www.vvrp.org to consider a contribution.

SAVE THE DATE

Nov. 25 Fruit Sale Grant applications due
Nov. 30 Pointsettia orders due

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

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided by **Katie Walker** of the West Chester Chamber.

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Amedea Garella – Italy
Host Parents: Dave Breen and Cyndi Skripak
229 Forest Avenue Elkins Park, PA 19027
Home: 215-885-5195 Cyndi: 215-316-1431

POINSTETTIA SALE



Beautiful Poinsettias at Great Prices
Proceeds benefit the good works of the Greater West Chester Rotary Foundation and many local charities.
Select from Red, White, and Marbled blooms in a wide range of sizes.
Order on-line by November 30 for pickup between 10 Am and 2 PM, Dec 1 or 5.

THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Committee Members: Pat Barron, Matt Bradley, Sue Casso, Victoria Dow, Elizabeth Guman, Wendy Hoffman, Charlie Lyddane, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Joe Polito, and Mark Sammarone