



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450

John Kenny, International President 2009-2010

Bulletin #26 www.WestChesterRotary.us January 7, 2010

This Week's Program: January 7, 2010
New Year's Financial Outlook
Speaker: Rusty Leonard, CFA
Arranged by Dave Biffen

Next Week's Program: January 14, 2010
Community Grants
Speakers: Grant Recipients
Arranged by Matt Bradley

MINUTES by Faith Woodward

President Dave opened our meeting at Westtown School by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Charlie Lyddane** wished all a Happy New Year and gave the invocation.

Although no Visiting Rotarians were present as noted by **Mac Neilon**, guests attended with **Mark Sammarone** (his wife Tracy), **Charles Streitwieser** (his son Charlie), **Cristina Combee** (her husband Joe), and **Bruce Beadle** (his daughter Beth).

Bob Connolly introduced the Westtown School staff from the Offices of Advancement and Finance.

Happy Bucks were given by **Faith Woodward** (daughter turned 21 today), **Geoff Baker** (We have seven exchange students and are taking applications for exchange students. Offered to take those present on the bus he will be driving to Sands Casino that evening) **Paul Woodruff** (Closing a deal in Arizona for a medical office, settled dispute after 8 years in NY in his favor, and Christmas rounds made safely and happily), **Charlie Lyddane** (both kids went away for the holiday), **Dave Biffen** (88 year-old father-in-law only broke his hand after being hit and dragged by a bus), **Charles Streitwieser** (planning to attend the June International Rotary Convention in Montreal, the first adults only trip away since the kids were born).

President Dave proclaimed the snow beautiful since he had been raised in New England and he offered \$5 to anyone who could translate the Latin saying on his chair.

For the next two weeks the Country Club will be closed and our meetings will be

held at the Holiday Inn on Rte 202 in West Chester.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Pat Barron

Bob's Swan Song in West Chester

After enjoying a scrumptious meal at Westtown School, **Bob Connolly** entertained us with an historical review of old-time Christmas at the school. Stuart Brooks' wife Mary expertly prepared the slide presentation. This was Bob's last Rotary meeting; he will leave shortly for his new job running a private school in New York State.

The presentation was extremely interesting. For the first century of the school's existence it did not recognize any special holidays, not even Christmas! The rationale was that each day was God's gift to us and we should live each day accordingly. From letters written by the students over many decades, it was apparent that the students accepted this rule with little enthusiasm, but they did respect it. Finally, the "committee", meaning the board of directors, decided to close the school over the holidays and allow the students to enjoy Christmas with their families. In the interim, the students at the school made the most of winter weather, spending a great deal of time out of doors.

One of Westtown's graduates invented the "Flexible Flyer" sled that most of us grew up with. I had one, but I must admit that I really didn't think much of its maneuverability. But, maybe that was just me.

The quality of the education that the students received (and I assume still do receive) was evident in their letters home.

Using perfect grammar, the students described their environment and their feelings with a descriptive power that survives the years. I was struck by the letter describing the approach to midnight on New Year's Eve 1900 in which the student awoke to a display of rockets from West Chester. He wakened two of his friends and they heard the clock in the hall strike midnight as they watched the show. You could feel the atmosphere of this special occasion in this special place. Thank you, Bob, for bringing it to us.

TOP FIVE REASONS TO SUPPORT THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

- By Antoinette Tuscano
Rotary International News -- 29
December 2009



By contributing to the Foundation, you advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. *Rotary Images*

There are as many reasons to support The Rotary Foundation as there are ways to do good in the world.

By contributing to the foundation, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Here are a few ways your contributions are making change possible:

5. Fighting hunger
4. Reducing child mortality
3. Promoting peace and conflict resolution
2. Giving the world hope for just US\$2 a week
1. Eradicating polio

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



SAVE THE DATE

January 7 Meeting at Holiday Inn
January 14 Meeting at Holiday Inn

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 **Bob Frame** of Coldwell Banker Preferred.

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

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