



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450

John Kenny, International President 2009-2010

Bulletin #43 www.WestChesterRotary.us May 6, 2010

This Week's Program: May 6, 2010

Speaker: Bill Winters

Why Charter Schools?

Arranged by Dave Biffen

Next Week's Program: May 13, 2010

Speaker: Dr. Nancy Loane

Following the Drum:

The Women of Valley Forge

Arranged by Dave Biffen

MINUTES by Charlie Lyddane

President Dave rang the meeting to order at 12:25. The invocation was given by **Elizabeth Guman**.

Sergeant at Arms **Katie Decker** announced that we had no Visiting Rotarians and welcomed **Dan Cosgrove's** all purpose woman – Mary Lou Enochs – his friend, mother in law, boss, tailor*, ice skating partner* and lawyer*. **Paul Woodruff** introduced Jean Carr, bean counter of his empire.

Steve Quigley announced that Smith Barney was donating the furniture from their office to worthy non-profit organizations.

President Dave talked about By-law changes proposed by DG Al Marland. These changes are necessitated by liability issues. There will be a discussion of the changes (a copy of which was emailed to each member 4-29-10) at next week's meeting along with fist fighting and a vote.

Happy Bucks- **Paul Woodruff** gave one for a grandson who is graduating from Virginia Tech and is getting married. **Joe Polito**, a picture of sartorial splendor, showed off a new suit and claimed to be spit and polished because his sister Mary Lou was at Rotary. **Jim Smith** announced that they have sold 100 chances for the Gundaker Week in Bermuda vacation. **Sue Casso Rogers** announced that **Bob Rogers** is now membership Chairman at the West Chester Golf and Country Club. Anyone (other than **Jack Wintermute** or **Ken Hickman**) who wants to join should see Bob.

Ken Hickman wished **Michele Parent** Happy Birthday for the second week in a row and then tried to make believe it was **Bill Winter's** Birthday. There seems to be confusion in the ranks of the Birthday Committee.

Steve Quigley announced the Great Race for the Senior Center on May 22nd. **Michele Parent**

asked that any job opportunities we know of, be emailed to her and she will post them for the Job Bank.

Charles Streitwieser announced that Community Philanthropic Grant Requests must be in by May 17th.

The winner of the 50-50 was **Terry Weber**. Building Bridges was chosen as the new recipient of the proceeds.

* see Charlie for clarification.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Winnie Stroup

Dave Biffen introduced Will Knecht, president of Wendell August Forge, who described his company as an extraordinary example of a small company with great products and even greater people. They maintain the tradition of American Craftsmanship with unique personalized products in aluminum, copper, brass and other high quality metals. Each could be made more cheaply overseas, but the artistry and quality of each piece demonstrates the value of Made in America.

Wendell August founded the company in 1923, when he realized that the blacksmiths in his coal company could create ironwork for homes. Winning a competition for the Alcoa Company to create hand forged aluminum gates, moved the company into working with aluminum commercially. Small aluminum plates sent as thank you's to the Alcoa executives, inspired board member, Mr. Kaufman of Kaufman department stores, to request engraved plates with his home designed on them. Thus the hand crafted personalized giftware business was formed.

Will's father, Bill Knecht acquired the company in 1978 and it's been in the family ever since. Today there are approximately 70 employees at four locations including a Forge and gift shop at Main Street at Exton. The historic barn was restored for the Forge in 2008 and is itself a

treasure of restoration. Each artist engraves works with unique artistry, reverse images and thinks in three dimensions to create a work and proudly engraves his initials on each piece. Wendell August Forge has created unique items for corporations, major sports events, politicians and individuals. One of the most memorable was the ashtray for the Millionaire's flight of the Hindenburg which sported a glass model of the aircraft containing diesel fuel. Fortunately this was a successful flight.

On March 4, 2010, a fire consumed the forge, offices and retail store at the company headquarters in Grove City, PA. Will and his team had just secured the biggest order to date for souvenir tickets for the Pittsburgh Penguins' last game at Mellon Stadium. A spark in a paint booth and a failing fire suppression system resulted in total loss. Will describes with pride the resilience, creativity and energy of employees who had temporary offices, retail and forge up and running within 4 weeks. The Exton location absorbed many orders while Grove City focused on the Penguins' order and made over 20,000 aluminum, bronze and copper tickets in time for the last game. Some of the items lost in the fire were the first examples of silver jewelry crafted by a woman metal smith from Exton. Will is confident that she will re-create her concepts and they will be wonderful.

Will's obvious pride and enthusiasm for his company was inspiring. He invites us all to visit the Exton location and watch the craftsmen in action.

Sauna Yeldell thanked Will for his presentation.

Marjorie Wentz looked familiar to Will and it turns out they attended Wake Forest at the same time!

BYLAWS

District Governor Al Marland has requested each club within the District to vote either 'for' or 'against' the incorporation of District 7450.

Our club board discussed the pro's and con's, teleconferenced with DG Al, DGN Bonnie Korengal, and spoke with **Bob Poole**. It is the recommendation of the board that the club vote 'for' the proposed changes. Attached are the bylaw revisions as well as the complete bylaws for the District.

Voting will take place Thursday, May 6. We will start the meeting at 12:15 to allow time and still have our regular meeting.

If you are unable to attend you can e-mail your vote. Please have it to **President Dave** by May 5. cdrayburn@aol.com

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by **Jeannie McGinn** of McGinn Marketing Works

SAVE THE DATE

May 15 Rotary help at May Fair at CCH
May 17 Philanthropic Grant apps. due
May 24 WC Rotary Night at Blue Rocks
Oct 10 Chili Cook-Off

Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at

<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>

Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

COUNTY HOSPITAL MAYFEST

The CCH Mayfest will be held this year on Saturday, May 15th. For more information about helping with the Mayfest Event visit

<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/forms/mayfest10.pdf>

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Amedea Garella – Italy

Host Parent: Sally Steed

1332 Wheatsheaf Lane, Abington, PA 19001

Home: 215-576-5055 Cell: 215-901-2402

pstead@comcast.net

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

President: cdrayburn@aol.com

Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432 fwood@bf.kendal.org; Web site

maintenance: Mark Sammarone and Bruce Beadle Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us;

Committee Members: Pat Barron, Matt Bradley, Warren Calloway, Elizabeth Guman, Gary Hess, Wendy Hoffman, Charlie Lyddane, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Joe Polito, Sue Casso Rogers, Winnie Stroup, Terry Weber, Marjorie Wentz .