



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450

John Kenny, International President 2009-2010

Bulletin #48 www.WestChesterRotary.us June 17, 2010

This Week's Program: June 17, 2010
Rotary Day
Arranged by President Dave

Next Week's Program: June 24, 2010
Meeting at WCGCC
President's Gala

MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

After **President Dave Rayburn** opened the meeting, **Bob Poole** accompanied us in singing. In lieu of an invocation, **Charlie Lyddane** shared a very personal tragedy, having recently been asked to claim the body of his brother, with whom he has been estranged for over 2 years. Charlie gave a somber prayer from the heart to urge us to stay in touch with and connected to our loved ones and friends, despite circumstances that may estrange us. He reminded us we can never again make those connections once a loved one is gone.

John Saling was the only visiting Rotarian, and **Mac Neilon** introduced our only guest, Jennifer Corrigan from 1st National Bank.

President Dave kicked off happy bucks with a generous donation to announce that his daughter Heather is engaged to a young man who had the courtesy of coming to their house and asking her parents for Heather's hand. **Paul Woodruff**, acknowledged his friend **Charlie's** recent loss, then commented on the happiness he feels for the four latest graduates in his family (making 16 to date, with 10 to 12 more to go). He feels wonderful watching the graduates and seeing the talent, vigor and enthusiasm displayed by our children and grandchildren; it gives him confidence in the future. John Saling's happy buck was due to his wife's visit to the shore this week.

Jim Langer's happy buck was bittersweet – happy to have had an opportunity to reconnect a couple of years ago with a high school friend as he approaches his 20th high school reunion, and sadness that she has recently lost her battle with cancer. **Bob Poole's** happy buck was for receiving an invitation to his 65th high school reunion.

Cathy Palmquist announced that former, longtime member Bill Hess is retiring as senior minister at 1st Presbyterian Church and will be honored at the church picnic on Sunday. All Rotary Club members are invited. She passed a card for everyone to sign.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Joe Polito

Dave Biffen introduced Dr. Bill Bailey and Jillian McGilvery (substituting for Dr. Lou DeVliger)

Their presentation was on the diversity in the Upper Darby School District. They had a slide show and spoke of the limited efficiency program. Dr Bailey was born in Coatesville and still resides there, previously was assistant principal of East High School where the students spoke 42 languages.

He now is principal at the Beverly Hills Middle School where there are more than 78 languages spoken. He advised that his new job has brought him to the realization that diversity is not only by race. As a black man he now finds that a lot of black individuals do not wish to be classified as a Black African. They have nationality problems such as blacks from Jamaica, Brazil, and the Caribbean islands.

The basic challenge in his school district are reaching higher standards on higher education. At East High School he dealt with 15 categories, he now has 43. Of the 12,000 students he has 954 teachers. They are 40% white, 40% black, some Asian, some mixed, and even one Native American.

He noted that immigrants in the United States have always been discriminated against including Germans, Irish, Italians, etc.

The school district strives to have these students embrace their cultural heritage and traditions, many of them having been born in 70+ different countries. The school district is designated as a refugee location area as is Lancaster, Erie and Philadelphia. The district has many students from Liberia and even though they might speak English, they can't read or write it, having never been in a school before coming to Upper Darby.

P.S.A. requires certain standards of progress to be met. There are 11 elementary schools. They all use the same teaching programs.

He discussed the core curriculum noting the problems with reading, language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics, as well as the constant research to make the programs better. All elementary and middle schools pay special attention to the individual progression. He noted that all categories are on an increase and can control work was needed.

He spoke of the school climate programs and the need for understanding the parents and students to understand the programs. Many of the parents have never been schooled. Programs are provided for teaching the parents. Several of the African countries have been at war with one another. It becomes necessary to explain that now that they are all Americans and have the same rights and duties, they need to forget the problems from their native countries. All programs are highly individualized. Social workers go to the homes of the students for problem solving, housing, and dietary needs. English as a second language is given with the understanding they become Americanized but it is stressed that they keep their native language and culture. The teachers and social workers need to be aware of the different cultures. He spoke of a personal problem when he was speaking to a young Muslim female and she would not look at him. He subsequently found out that it is improper and not allowed for a male to look directly into the eyes of a Muslim woman. One of the female teachers, speaking to a Hispanic male, raised her voice and the student turned away. Again, this was not acceptable because Latino male supremacy had been challenged. Many of the signs in the building are placed so students and parents can point to their specific language. Permission forms for student trips can be translated into their own language for the parent to sign.

They stress parent involvement as it means increased student achievement. One of the problems faced by students is that some live in shelter quarters and they don't know where they might be each day. But Bailey noted that once the students master the language they do very well in their school work.

He thanked Rotary for the opportunity to explain this very different scholastic climate within 30 minutes from West Chester.

Both Dr. Bailey and Jillian McGilvery who assisted with information all during the program were thanked and presented with Rotary mugs.

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Ed Malet of ValleyDel/County Lines Magazine

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Amedea Garella – Italy

Host Parent: Sally Steed pstead@comcast.net
1332 Wheatsheaf Lane, Abington, PA 19001
Home: 215-576-5055 Cell: 215-901-2402

SAVE THE DATE

June 24 President's Gala

Oct 10 Chili Cook-Off

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

Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us



WWW.WESTCHESTERCHILICOOKOFF.COM

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