



# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Bhichai Rattakul, International President 2002-2003



**Bulletin #28**

[www.rotary7450.org/westchester](http://www.rotary7450.org/westchester)

**February 6, 2003**

**This Week's Program: February 6, 2003**

**Speaker: Carl Werner  
Club Forum**

**Next Week's Program: February 13, 2003**

**Speaker: Dan Guyon, District Governor  
Arranged by Carl Werner**

### **MINUTES by Joe Polito**

President Carl called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. The invocation was delivered by Victoria Dow, who quoted the Dali Lama.

Carol Metzker announced the Visiting Rotarians, they being: John Saling and Roger Tellefsen, both of GWC Sunrise and Sally Miller of Alexandria/ Skyline in VA.

Guests were introduced first by President Carl, they being: Charles Davies, Bronwyn Martin, and John Messersmith, all in the membership procedure to be future WC Rotarians. Dave Reyburn had to introduce himself as his sponsor was not available. John Hall introduced Steve Riley, an attorney from his office. Present Carl indicated that he hopes to have some of these individuals ready for induction in two weeks when the District Governor visits.

Vernon Brewer wished Happy Birthday to Bill Ronayne, Al Filano to Ted Butcher, and Charles Streitwieser to Adrienne Masak.

Mayor Dick Yoder announced Italian Night at the Italian Social Club on Feb. 22, a fundraiser for West Chester Recreation for children to attend the summer camp in the borough. Patti Jefferis invited all to contribute to the WCU Scholarship Fund by purchasing chances to win prizes of \$1,000, \$250, or \$100. Gary Hewitt presented to Bill Ronayne with a Paul Harris Fellow.

Carl announced a Centennial Project for the year 2005. This joint project with GWC Sunrise will benefit the community and raise community awareness of Rotary. Carl also noted that he had some brochures for an RI Leadership Institute. Sessions are planned at Plymouth Meeting, Newark, DE, and NJ. The Pot of Gold charity recipient is the WC Library. Roger Tellefsen won \$26 but did not pick the Queen of Spades.

The next order of business was the fruit Sale. John Olszewski called everyone's attention to a poster indicating that Team #4, with Captain Carol Hanson was in the lead. The poster will be up the entire time during the sale to note team progress. John then called upon Coach Steve Karp who noted that although 50 cases of fruit were sold the first week, there were several uncounted slips returned this week. Each team is expected to sell 70 cases so as to give CHAD a check for \$10,000 at the end of the sale. Each team should have a meeting to select a team name. Steve promised a half time show next week and noted that we all "have to have faith" to get it done. At that point,

a cheerleader appeared wearing a black top and a rather short skirt and carrying two pompoms. Dancing around Steve as he spoke, it appeared to be a younger Faith Woodward. With that, Mike Alfonsi was called up front to help lead the group in this year's fruit song. (the Morman Tabernacle Choir need not fear.) Of course the fruit song is sung to the tune "Fly, Eagles, Fly." Don Stonestrom offered the fruit sale tip of the week. "the best way is face to face contact. Give a pitch one a good day- like when the market is up. The worst a person can say is NO," suggested Don. Coach Karp said we should GET IT DONE- JUST DO IT.

### **SPEAKER'S REVIEW by Faith Woodward**

Wesley Kirk Firkin was born in Long Branch in 1977. His dad was a Math Instructor and his Mom an English and French teacher. His siblings are Emily and Jeff. His mom is very involved in her church where she and Wes' dad live in Fredericksburg, VA.

Wes now works in Phoenixville at Re-Max Real Estate. He described his former life as being on a freight train on a roller coaster track. Wes did well academically but had difficulty with authority and ended up matriculating at Valley Forge Military Academy for 2 years. After returning to public school, he skipped his senior year to enroll at Brookdale College. He transferred to WCU where he did well academically but loved to party. After graduation, Wes worked at Vanguard and at what is now Comstar. At the age of 24 he had it all but felt unfulfilled. This job dissatisfaction lead to unemployment.

Seven months ago Wes came to a crossroads in his life. He felt a calling from God that brought him to attend Calvary Chapel in Chester Springs. At this time he also began to attend Rotary. Wes had always tried to be in control but always fell short of his expectations. Faith and obedience to God have helped to keep him on the right path. Through expository bible study he discovered that he had been his own worst enemy.

To change his life style he has had to eliminate distractions such as wine, women, and sin. He feels his purpose in life is now service to his community and to do God's will. Rotary is about service so coming to this club was perfect timing.

One can do God's will and still make money by being an example to others, conducting business fairly, and reaching out to people who need "to be saved."

Born in Athens, Greece, Demetrios Cidis' mother taught Classical Greek and French, and his father, who only finished third grade, was the sole owner of a successful manufacturing company in Athens. This very religious family attended Greek Orthodox services regularly and led a happy life until WWII. Demetrios was in his mid-teens when Mussolini attacked Greece. The resistance held him off until Hitler also attacked and all food was cut off. Starvation was rampant and thousands died. Demetrios volunteered for the Red Cross picking up the dead off the streets. He also served in the National Underground movement. In 1943, he was caught, pistol whipped and left for dead. Surviving this assault, he served as a fighter in the National Forces during the civil uprising following Hitler's soldiers' leaving. Demetrios, his brother, and sister were taken for execution. Many before them had been forced to dig their own graves but these three were able to get a release from the chief of police who was later executed himself. After the war, Demetrios was awarded two medals for service in the Red Cross by the Greek Parliament.

Applying for a student visa to the US for medical education, Demetrios was accepted in 1947 at both Northwestern and Chicago University only to find he arrived here too late for the beginning semester. The Chicago College of Optometry was willing to take him though. During his two years as a student there, he worked odd jobs selling bibles, Good Humor, and Fuller Brush. He also worked the night shift at a bakery getting about 2 hours of sleep a night.

In 1951 Demetrios received his O.D. degree. He did post graduate work at Columbia University and obtained his license in NY. After a year he was able to open his own office in Manhasset and was there for 44 years. He specialized in abnormal vision and abnormal corneas. He is a fellow in several optometry organizations for this profession that he highly values. Nine years ago his sister died but he still has weekly phone visits with his brother, a retired priest in Greece. Demetrios travels to Greece once a year to see him.

Demetrios has two daughters from his first marriage. Marianne is an optometrist like her dad. Caroline, his other daughter, is Chief of Neurology at the University of Pittsville. Demetrios' present wife, Esther is a retired teacher and they have been married for 25 years. He has been a member in two Rotary clubs on Long Island and feels it is an honor to belong to an organization that fulfills its mission.

#### **"HOW TO GET IN TOUCH"**

Rotary Votary Committee: Faith Woodward, Publisher  
Work: 918-3432 Home: 692-5411

Fax: 918-3404 e-mail: [fwood@bf.kendal.or](mailto:fwood@bf.kendal.or)

Committee Members: Bill Badnaruk, Bruce Catando, Victoria Dow, Steve Karp, Fran Luft, Joe Polito, Sid Rabin.

Web site maintenance: Mark Sammarone

#### **Fruit Sale Update**

The best performing team as of 1-30 was Team 4, Carol Hanson's team having sold 21 cases!

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Feb 13 Board Meeting

Feb 20 "The Laramie Project" at WCU

6:45 Reception 8:00 Drama

Feb 27 Drawing for Bollinger print

Mar 6 Rotary at Media Theatre for

Gundaker: Joseph's Amazing

Technicolor Dreamcoat 8:00 PM

May 20 - W.C. Community Night at the Blue Rocks

#### **ROAMING ROTARIANS**

Joe Peta, Ft. Myers, FL

#### **EXCHANGE STUDENT**

Gustavo Giacomini - Palhoca, Brazil

Hosts: James and Linda Hicks 610-347-2134

1072 Glenn Hall Rd. Kennett Square, PA 19348

Unionville High School

Future host families are needed.

Please contact Joe Polito or Linda Hicks

#### **FRUIT SONG -**

Sell, Rotarians, sell

We have lots of fruit to share

Sell, Rotarians, Sell

We wanna show them that we care

Sell for Rotary, sell for CHAD

Watch those sales just add and add

So sell, Rotarians, sell

We have lots of fruit to share!

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS - THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST CHESTER - DISTRICT 7450**

Carl Werner, President; Charles Streitwieser, President-Elect; Steve Quigley, Vice-President; Jeffrey R. Sommer, Past President; Jim Gasho/Amos E. Bassett, Jr., Secretary, M. Robert Clarke, Treasurer; Steve Karp/Annalie Lorgus, Sergeant At Arms; Phil Sacks, Assistant Sergeant At Arms; John Hall, Gary Hewitt, Carol Hanson, Ken Hickman, John Olszewski, John Schwab, and Michelle Venema

Dan Guyon, District Governor

Thomas Gibson, Asst. District Governor Area 8

Robert Poole, III, M.D., P.D.G. 1980-1981

#### **NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED**

**The following persons have been proposed for membership and have indicated their desire to become a member. They are:**

**Steven A. Riley, Classification: Professional/ Legal-Civil Litigation; sponsored by Paula Ott**

**Karen Busby, Classification: Education/Adult- Administration; sponsored by John Hall**

**Bronwyn Martin, Classification: Business Service- Financial Planning; sponsored by Carl Werner.**

**Written objections must be received by Club**

**Secretary within three (3) days of this notice**

**otherwise a date will be set for their induction.**