



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Bhichai Rattakul, International President 2002-2003



Bulletin #42

www.rotary7450.org/WestChester

May 15, 2003

This Week's Program: May 15, 2003

**Honorary Rotarians
Recognition Meeting
arranged by Jean Oakes**

Next Week's Program: May 22, 2003

**Wellness
Speaker: Deborah Ellenberg
arranged by Lil Georg**

MINUTES by Bruce Catando

Domenic Carnucci gave the invocation and also announced that he is getting married. Guests were Gustavo Giacomini (exchange student), Neil Geritano, Chris Vario, and John Percheck. Visiting Rotarians were introduced by Steve Riley. They were Dan Yeh (GWC Sunrise), Frank Roia (WEGO), and Roger Tellefsen (Sunrise). Michelle Venema had birthday greetings for Carol Hanson.

There were several announcements. First Sue Casso wanted to thank all involved in the auction. Over \$11,000 was raised. Also there was one item left over which was auctioned at today's meeting. The autographed Philadelphia Eagles football came down to a bidding war between two avid fans, myself and Steve Karp. I walked home with the football for \$235. Geoff Baker wants anyone interested in helping out with Gustavo to please call him. Dan Yeh from Sunrise, was looking for participation in the Gundaker Golf outing on June 2. Finally Terry McGrath is looking for a junior road assistant. Please contact him with any interest.

The Pot-O-Gold was won by Bill Ronayne, but no queen of spades.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Bill Badnaruk

Gustavo Giacomini, Our exchange student from Brazil was today's speaker. It is always interesting to here from the exchange students, to listen to them share their experiences and perceptions, and to learn how that experience has changed them.

The purpose of the Youth Exchange program is to build lasting cross-cultural ties. It gives foreign students a chance to experience real life in the U.S. So often their perception of America is derived from what they see in the movies and what their news media portrays. By actually living here and attending school here they get a true

picture of American life. Most exchange students will admit they had quite a few misconceptions about us before they arrived and usually go home realizing that the U.S. is not the "Great Satan" they may have been led to believe. On the other side, American students soon realize that not all Brazilian's run around the jungle naked killing monkeys with blowguns and eating their brains. In fact, we learned today that Gustavo is about as far removed from this image as possible.

Gustavo comes from the town of Palhoca in the state of Santa Catalina and is an accomplished pianist. He has a penchant for really good pianos and has already completed one semester of music college in Brazil. He plans to return and complete his music education in Brazil. Both the Hicks and Metzger families kept him supplied with pianos during his stay here for which Gustavo was most grateful. This was his first trip to the U.S., in fact it was his first airplane flight ever. He learned of the Rotary Youth Exchange program through his mother who has been a Rotarian for five years. While here he has been attending Unionville High School. Gustavo has two brothers ages 15 and 13 and both his parents are in the pharmaceutical/ biochemistry industry.

Palhoca is located along the coast and is frequented by many European tourists in the summer. There are quite a few fishermen in the area and the seafood is purported to be quite good although Gustavo "hates" most of it. (He does however LOVE Philly Cheese Steaks and good old American Cheese burgers!) Gustavo showed us some posters of the area from which he comes and it seems quite beautiful. He also showed us the Brazilian flag and explained the meaning of its design- Green for the trees of the Amazon, Yellow for the mineral riches, and Blue for the sky. A field of stars with one separated from the rest to represent the capital of Brasilia, and the motto "Order and Progress".

Gustavo didn't expound too much on the differences between Brazil and the U.S., but he did note that the autos are much bigger here as are the schools. Also the school day is shorter in Brazil- from about 7:30AM to Noon. The other thing that struck him was our use of wood in home construction. Most Brazilian homes are constructed of brick with tile roofs which makes sense in termite country.

Before he presented PRESIDENT CARL with his home club's banner Gustavo thanked West Chester Rotary for sponsoring him, The Hicks and Metzger families for hosting him, President CARL, and Joe ("the Godfather") Polito for counseling him.

INDUCTIONS

The following people were inducted into our club: Sally Miller, Development Director at West Chester Friends School, sponsored by John Schwab;

Frank Helms, Director of the WCU Library, sponsored by Christine McCawley:

Matt Bradley, Head of West Chester Friends School, sponsored by Charles Streitwieser;

Major Susan Stinson, Salvation Army Pastor, sponsored by Howard John, Jr.

Bob Rogers gave the induction speech and pointed out that new members are the vitality of Rotary.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 19 District Assembly

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

June 2 District 7450 Golf Outing

June 5 - Rotary Club of West Chester in the Cafe @ the Blue Rocks.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Monday, May 19, 2003 7:30-11:30AM
Delaware Community College, Media

Seminars on Membership, Fundraising, Rotary Knowledge, Community Service Projects and more.

Great way to meet other Rotarians!

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Gustavo Giacomini - Palhoca, Brazil

Hosts: Eric and Carol Metzker

1109 Forsyth Lane,

West Chester, PA 19382

610-793-4286

GUNDAKER FUND DRIVE

As of April 24, one month into the campaign, various members of our club have contributed a total of \$1,645 to the Gundaker Foundation. This is an excellent start! So far, 20% of our members have made contributions...our goal is for 100% participation. Over 90% of the money given to Gundaker stays within our District to support a variety of local programs run by Rotarians. We welcome contributions of any size, so please, consider a donation to this excellent non-profit Foundation.

"HOW TO GET IN TOUCH"

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