



**SERVICE Above Self**

# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, International President 2005-2006

Bulletin #41

[www.WestChesterRotary.us](http://www.WestChesterRotary.us)

April 20, 2006

**This Week's Program: April 20, 2006  
To be announced**

**Next Week's Program: April 27, 2006  
To be announced**

**MINUTES by Faith Woodward**

**President Gary** opened the meeting and **Bob Poole** gave the invocation quoting theologian, Reinhold Niebur.

Visiting Rotarians were: John Saling (Sunrise), V.J. Theodorides and Joe Kahn (WEGO), and Pat Barron and Reese Reynolds (Concordville-Chadds Ford).

Guests were: Conchetta Lotorelli with **Michelle Venema**, Noel Stanic with **Paul Woodruff**, Ashley Hicks with mom **Linda Hicks**, Scott Campbell and Jeffrey Smethin with **Dave Rayburn**, and Elaine Deaver with **Bud Deaver** (welcomed back) announced by **Hal Green**.

**Jack Wintermute** wished a Happy Birthday to **Vernon Brewer**, as did **Joe Polito** of **President Gary**, **Michelle Venema** to **Sue Casso**, **Bob Frame** to **Jim Lees**, and **Frank Helms** to **Victoria Dow**.

**President Gary** announced that elections for District Governor will be on April 20.

**Victoria Dow** informed the group that the Literacy Hero Award was presented to our club but the actual award will be presented on June 1. We were one of five winners.

**Dick Yoder** proclaimed that the next blood drive will be in partnership with the other two West Chester area Rotary clubs on May 4. The location is tentatively set for Pennswood Elementary School.

**Carol Metzker** displayed the Daily Local News story of Sebastian Velez for his accomplishments in tennis. She thanked all who participate in the Youth Exchange.

**Terry McGrath** won the 50-50 but drew the King of Spades.

**SPEAKERS REVIEW by Faith Woodward**

**Dick Yoder** introduced Lieutenant Colonel Murray, a member of the West Chester Police Force since 1995. Lt. Colonel Murray, who had joined the Marines in 1986, was active during operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 2004 he became a Cobra pilot deployed in Iraqi Freedom II and then deployed in 2005 in Iraqi Freedom IV.

Lt. Col. Murray said this was his first Rotary meeting although several members in his family were Rotarians. His PowerPoint presentation showed photos of when he was activated and given orders. His group then proceeded to Yuma, AZ for training in the desert. They then flew to Dover, DE and loaded helicopters into a large transport plane. "The most difficult part is family separation," he admitted.

After arriving at Kuwait International, they were transported to the new base. As they came in, others were being shipped out. His first home was a huge white tent housing 50 men. Their base had a cardio room, a medical tent, a gym, a game tent, a movie tent, a store, and the chow tent. All tents were added gradually.

In April, the temperatures are in the triple digits. In June and July it can reach beyond 130°! It was difficult to get used to and required that one drink a lot of water. The helicopters were equipped with air-conditioning but sometimes that was not enough and one could lose 5-10 pounds during a flight. There was no rest and flights were conducted in 12-hour shifts. Another mission might be immediately after the previous one. One tries to rest whenever he can. In eight months straight he had no day off.

He flew a Cobra as a med vac between hospitals and to escort Marine transports. He flew over the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, over Babylon, and the green zone of Baghdad. His job was to protect the Marines on the ground.

A shot of Roscoe, an acquired pet dog, depicted a fragment of tenderness in their tough existence. Games of baseball also helped to alleviate the stress and tension of the conflict. In his unit of 415 or so Marines, one was killed and five were wounded. The young man killed in flight had been his roommate.

Photos showed huge, overwhelming clouds of dust. Dust and dirt made life difficult at times for the Marines. Lt. Col. Murray saw only blue sky and brown landscapes in Iraq. The green of spring here was a welcome sight. The support from home is tremendous. Lt. Col. Murray encouraged us to continue to let the troops know that we support them.

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

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Bob Lankin, District Governor  
Robert Poole, III, M.D., P. D.G. 1980-1981

**FRUIT SALE ACCOLADES**

**Geoff Baker** announced the results of the recent Fruit Sale. A check for \$13,000 was presented to Amy Balian, the Executive Director of the West Chester Area Senior Center. Geoff thanks all Rotarians who made a great effort to make this one of the most successful Fruit Sales to date. Awards were presented in the following categories: Overall Individual **GOLD** Medal for Most Sales: **Joe Polito**, 118.8 cases; Silver: **Don Stonestrom** 50.6 cases; Bronze: **Steve Quigley**, 44.6 cases. Team Results: **GOLD**, Team Speed Skating, lead by **Domenic Carnuccio** 130.9 Cases; Silver: Team Snow Boarding, lead by **Duke Evans** 130.4 Cases; Bronze: Biathlon, lead by **Don Stonestrom** 124.1 cases. Cheerleading Medals were awards to the Team Lieutenants: **Steve Founds**, **Phoebe Kitson-Davis** and **Adrienne Masak** for supporting their 3 teams. Special Awards for carrying the torch for the fruit sale were awarded to **John Olszewski** and **Chuck Hawkins**. **Geoff Baker** received a standing ovation from the club for all his hard work in organizing and running the Fruit Sale.

**SAVE THE DATE**

May 11 Rotary Night @ the Blue Rocks  
May 13 Brighter Futures Work Day

**EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

**Virginie Bregeon** (France) Henderson  
Host Family – Ellen and Mark Morun  
416 Crislena Lane 19380 610-344-0205

**Sebastian Velez** (Ecuador) East HS  
Host Family - Steve and Catherine Burtch  
170 William Penn Blvd 19382  
610-399-1258

**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH**

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Mark Sammarone, Vice-Chair and Web site maintenance. Committee Members: Elizabeth Guman, Seamus Lavin (Web site), Fran Luft, Eric Metzker, Cathy Palmquist, and Joe Polito