



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester
Bill Boyd, International President 2006-2007

Bulletin #09

www.WestChesterRotary.us August 31, 2006

This Week's Program: August 31, 2006 The Philadelphia Phantoms Community involvement Speaker: Joshua Gentile

Next Week's Program: September 7, 2006 To be announced

MINUTES by Fran Luft

President Annalie Lorgus rang the bell promptly at 12:30 p.m. **Domenic Carnuccio** gave the invocation- All Rotarians recited THE FOUR WAY TEST. **President Annalie's** joke for the day involved a flower shop sending flowers; the card went to the wrong place- funeral home-congratulation on your new location.

Announcements: **President Annalie** announced that if anyone does a make-up at the Kennett Rotary club which meets at 6:45 a.m. (Annalie's mother is the president of the club) you will get a free pass to Longwood Gardens. **Charlie Lyddane** stated that he has done a make up at the Kennett Rotary Club and that it is a fun group. The meetings are held at the Terrace Restaurant. Carol Schaeffer announced that there will be a business exchange at West Chester Rehab in September. The Rehab is located at 440 Marshall St across from the hospital. Please plan to attend. **Jeannie McGinn** reported that there are currently 24 sponsors for the Chili Cook-off. Monetarily speaking that is over \$20,000 in the pot. **Terry McGrath** announced the featured entertainment for the cook off is three bands- the Ramblers, 30 Years After and Swing Kings. The YMCA golf Tournament will be held September 18th- see Lee Bunting for details.

Today's guests included Charlie Swope Jr., John? Becky Cocasy, Feronia (France- our exchange student) Carly Hicks, Maria Polito and Kevin Mc Contary. There were

two visiting Rotarians V.J. Theodorides and Grover Koon.

Charles Streitwieser won three 50/50 tickets by telling us the Rotary slogan for 1998-99. **President Annalie** reminded us that August is Rotary membership month. Please invite a potential Rotary to one of our meetings.

Happy Bucks: **President Annalie** (Susan Stigant- peace fellow), and (one of the local news paper put a picture of Annalie's mother and Annalie- she was asked which one is the mother); **Terry McGrath** (Keith Baker, friend and great harp player- passed away at age 81); **Bob Crow** (son is attending college at the University of North Dakota); **Joe Polito** (**Lee Bunting's** photo in paper for helping to save a YMCA in Russia); **Raoul Pagin** (monument- Greece).

The Pot of Gold was worth \$488. Today's winner, **Bill Ronayne**, received \$19.00

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Matt Bradley

Frank Helms gave an informative, heart-warming, and encouraging presentation on Rotary Readers, a program that, as President Annalie says, is "close to our hearts." Frank piqued our interest by placing children's books on each table that are typical of those read to second graders in the West Chester Area School District through this program. He also pointed out the significance of making his presentation on this day in which Project Jump Start is trying to "Read for the Record" by

having volunteers read *The Little Engine That Could* simultaneously in 12 locations across the country.

The goal of the Rotary Readers program is to engender a love of reading through the example of adults reading to children. Frank pointed out that this goal is especially important in light of the amount of time children spend in front of television sets and computers. We all gained an appreciation for the joy that comes – to both listeners and readers – from reading stories aloud to a group of students (or Rotarians). One of the great benefits is laughter, which Frank elicited by reading the poem, *Booger Love*.

Frank then read a selection from *Koko's Kitten*, a true story about a gorilla that communicates through sign language, in which Koko experiences love, attachment and loss. Frank described the strong emotional response that his second grade listeners had when he read this book to them, as well as the enthusiasm for a research project that developed from having heard the story. Students often greet readers with calls of, "Oh, boy! It's Rotary Reader Day!" and express their appreciation with end-of-year thank you packets and words of thanks when they meet in the grocery store. (Terry McGrath later shared the story of one student who has kept in touch with him. The student struggled with learning to read as a child and has now been accepted to West Chester University as an English major.)

In this past year, club members read to 300 students in 12 second grade classes (at Hillsdale, Penn Wood and East Bradford) on 17 dates, totaling an estimated 250 volunteer hours. Volunteers make their own selections (with help available through the West Chester Public Library) and read for a half hour every other week (or every week, if the volunteer chooses).

Frank recognized the volunteers from this past year, and encouraged more Rotarians to sign up for the coming school year. A special request was made for volunteers for a possible expansion of the program to the West Chester Area Day Care Center. The children at the center would especially benefit

from being read to and having the importance of reading role modeled.

The Rotary Club of West Chester recently received the Community Impact Literacy Hero Award, in recognition of Rotary Readers. Dictionaries were also distributed through the program to every second grader as part of their "graduation" to third grade.

SAVE THE DATE

Sept 16	District Membership Workshop
Oct 8	Chili Cook Off
Nov 18	Foundation Workshop

THANK YOU

Copies of the Rotary are provided at our meeting by First National Bank of Chester County this month.

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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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