



ROTARY VOTARY

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

Bulletin #35 www.WestChesterRotary.us March 8, 2007

This Week's Program: March 8, 2007
Club Assembly
President Annalie and Avenue Chairs

Next Week's Program: March 15, 2007
To be Announced

MINUTES by Elizabeth Guman

President Annalie called our meeting to order. **Bill Hess** led us in a prayer and a reminder about how the proceeds of the fruit sale will plant "good seeds" of hope throughout the community. **President Annalie** told a really good joke!

President Annalie informed us of **Jeannie McGinn's** unfortunately fall last week right after Rotary. Her leg broke in 2 places and she is confined to a wheel chair for many weeks. We will be organizing for sending meals to her and her dad, who is in town to help.

We had three guests: Brian Marrinan (**Katie Walker's** guest), Megan McGinn (**Jeannie McGinn's** cousin. . .she's not even at the meeting and she sends a guest!), and Bill Eaton (**Bill Eaton's** son.) We had four visiting Rotarians: Reese Reynolds (Kennett@ Longwood), Fred Weiner (our speaker from Blue Bell), John Saling (Sunrise), and Steve McGann (Sunrise).

Charles Lyddane returned from his trip to Nairobi and reported that the project there is progressing very well. He's glad to be back, though. The food was terrible.

Jeff Sommer had his whole table stand to help him wish **Dick Yoder** a happy birthday.

Ken Hickman had the table stand again, except **Jack Wintermute**, so they could wish Jack a happy birthday.

Happy Bucks: **President Annalie** because **Patty Jefferis** was referred to in a Newsweek article, **Mark Sammarone** because of the great Chamber video that is now on the website, **Bunny Welsh** because **Pat Barron** was so enthusiastic about selling fruit he called her to see if she

wanted to buy some, **Martha Carson Gentry** just because she was happy, **Joe Polito** because his daughter was safe after hitting a deer with her car, and **Terry McGrath** because East will be having a great performance or *My Fair Lady* this weekend.

Announcements: The Rotary Leadership Institute will be held two times in our area: March 10 in Scranton and April 14 in Wilmington. **President Annalie** read us a note from the Volunteer English Program, the 50/50 recipient last quarter, thanking us for our donation. **Dick Yoder** told us about another opportunity to give blood, next Thursday, March 8 at the Borough building. **Geoff Baker** can accept fruit orders through 9am Monday (3/5). We can order and have cases donated to CC Cares or another charity. He asked for us to sign up to help on Saturday March 10 and told us Jeannie already told him she was coming to help, broken leg and all.

Mac Neilon won the 50/50 but not the jackpot.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Cathy Palmquist

Fred Weiner, a Rotarian from the Blue Bell Club, and executive director of Dragonfly Forest, gave an informative presentation about this camp for seriously ill children. Dragonfly Forest is connected to the "Hole in the Wall Gang" camp program for seriously ill children started by Paul Newman.

Weiner explained that Dragonfly Forest is being held this year at Westtown School, where they will provide a week of summer camp fun for ill children. There will be two sessions, June 30 to July 5th for

hemophiliacs, and July 8-14 for asthmatic children. Dragonfly is one of 12 camps nationwide for children with chronic illnesses. Fred said they can take 150 children, ages 6 to 18, but that number could go to 1,200 kids. "There's no shortage of kids who need this type of experience."

Expenses for the camp are \$2,500 per camper, although campers attend for free. The expenses are significant because there is medical care available 24/7 and medical staff are "embedded" with the children. However, the medical aspect is kept in the background as much as possible so the children can focus on being themselves and having fun. There is a two-to-one ratio of children and staff. All medications are given at meal time, he said, explaining that even the staff take pills (even if it's just vitamins). The camp has also established close relationships with local hospitals and children's centers. Care is taken to assure the special needs of the children, such as heating the swimming pool and changing rooms, so as not to shock the children's bodies or trigger medical problems.

Because the campers have been in hospitals a lot, the camp allows them to feel accepted and do some of the things they see their friends doing at camp. To help the children experience this life-changing experience, Fred said they need "angels" of all kinds – people who give financial support, in-kind services, volunteer, etc.

"What makes Dragonfly Forest so magical for the children is that they have choices. As seriously ill children, they are always told what medicines they must take and what they can't do – at camp, they get to pick activities and make choices," he said. "If we do our job right, our camp looks like every other summer camp,"

There is still room for campers this summer and registration may be done online at their website.

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided at our meeting by **Victoria Dow** of the West Chester Public Library.

SAVE THE DATE

- March 8 Blood Drive
- March 9 Explorer Post at CCH
- March 10 Fruit Pick up

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

To add events send e-mails to: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Fiona Baldinger (France) Henderson HS
Host Family - Paul & Peg Eberts
125 E Virginia Ave, W Chester, PA 19380
Ph: 610-430-8111

Counselor - **Cristina Combee**
610-399-5047(H) 610-431-6977(W)

Francois Dellis (Belgium) East HS
Host Family - Claudia and Dr. Gregory
Simone

930 Weston Rd., West Chester, PA 19382
Ph: 610 701-5445

Counselor - **Bert Volger**
610 793-1708

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