



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Wilfrid J. Williams, International President 2007-2008

Bulletin #3 www.WestChesterRotary.us July 26, 2007

This Week's Program: July 26, 2007
Speaker: Dede Carruthers
Assistant District Governor's Report
Arranged by Gary Hess

Next Week's Program: August 2, 2007
Speaker: Tim Harvey
Elwin School
Arranged Stan Zukin

MINUTES by Faith Woodward

President Gary opened the meeting. **Bob Poole** gave the invocation and **Past President Annalie** gave the joke! Oh dear, she'll never be the same again.

Visiting Rotarians were Vijay Kumar Datla (India), and John Saling and Don Barr (both WC Sunrise). **John Olszewski** pointed out that Vijay was here for his four month vacation.

Guests were Sarah Credeur with **Faith Woodward**, Katie Decker with **Geoff Baker**, and Calvin Idler with **Eric Metzker**.

Birthday wishes were extended to **Trish Kotsay** by **Annalie Korengel Lorgus**, to **Martha Carson Gentry** by **Joe Polito**, and to **Joe DellaVecchia** by **Steve Founds**.

President Gary announced that the budget had been approved at the board meeting. Expenses will be posted after the Chili Cook Off. **President Gary** thanked **Past President Annalie** for the presidential party and to everyone for a great time. **Bob Frame** reminded all of the Golf Outing at Honeybrook Country Club on July 23. **Annalie Korengel Lorgus** announced that the deadline for Valentine's Day in August will be July 26. **Carol Metzker** invited everyone to the Honduras Project meeting after this meeting. **Jeannie McGinn** let us know that the Sponsorship drive for the Chili cook Off will be closed as of July 31. Please give your information to **Jeannie, Bill Ronayne, Jim Gasho, or Jeff Summer**. Don't forget the Chili Cook Off is Sunday, Oct. 7. Twenty teams have signed up already. **Joann Tadeo** announced that **Concetta Schiattarella** had sign up sheets for the Community Service Committee.

Happy Bucks were given by **John Schwab** (saw his son at today's meeting), **Kevin Quinn** (**Carl Werner's** retirement), Sarah Credeur (The Goshen Country Fair needs volunteers to help in the food booth on Thursday, August 2 and if we do help, Rotary can hang its banner up), **Joe DellaVecchia** (ninth grandson), **Jeannie McGinn** (YMCA Golf Outing at Whitford Country Club, July 30. Donations needed for auction), **Eric Metzker** (Carol and Kathryn leave for Ghana on July 22 for one month to teach), **Gary Hess** (his family used proper table manners at last week's meeting).

50-50 proceeds will go to Brian's Run. **Linda Hicks** won but pulled the Jack of Hearts.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Eric Metzker

Today's program was arranged by **Dave Rayburn** who introduced our speaker, Catherine Mesaros of Chester County Futures.

Ms. Mesaros is the executive director of the organization which was launched in 1996 to help students overcome by challenges get the mentoring and tutelage they need to successfully finish school – not just to graduate but to be prepared for college as well. Two key individuals in starting and setting the direction of Chester County Futures are Dr. Henry Jordan and John Featherman.

The organization works with middle school guidance counselors who identify 'at risk' students who have never been in trouble and have scholastic ability but are on the verge of a path that leads to dropping

out rather than graduating. Then, as Ms. Mesaros says, “we scoop them up” and provide them with 8 years of support – 4 through high school and if they are accepted into college, 4 more along with a generous scholarship that pays for much of the expense. To date, Chester County Futures has helped 180 students, 55 of which are in college.

The main support offered comes in the form of after-school programs in 4 of the 5 poorest districts in the county – Coatesville, Kennett, Phoenixville and Oxford. Plans are in the making to begin working with West Chester Schools in 2008. Poverty in this case is identified by qualifying for either a full or partial assistance for school lunch. These families likely make in the range of \$32,000 to \$35,000 for a family of 4 living in places where that is only enough for housing with no consideration for food. Poverty levels in districts around West Chester range from 2 to 5%. According to the same statistics West Chester borough has on the order of 21% below the poverty line. Statistics show that these groups are most at risk for dropping out of school and not being able to make enough money to have proper food and shelter.

For a county that ranks first in wealth in the state, 7th in the nation and 17th in the world, the people in this organization think that we ought to be able to lend a hand to overcome poverty. Their approach is to start a chain of success – get a child successfully through high school and college. The difference comes in starting salary which for a high school graduate is in the mid \$20K range – to that of a college graduate in the \$40K range. This takes a child from a future needing assistance to a future of being able to give assistance.

Ms. Mesaros speaks with passion from personal experience. Her husband came from a large family that did not have the wherewithal to send children to college. His persistence in hitchhiking to school, finding a football coach who might give him a chance and applying himself to studies as well as sports ultimately led to his gaining a PhD. He was the first in his family to make it

to college. He became an inspiration and helper to his family so that something like 20 children of the next generation were not only able to finish high school but also enter and graduate from college.

The club gave a rousing show of thanks in support of the important mission.

SAVE THE DATE

Aug 30 Valentine’s Day in August
Sept 23 International Picnic
Oct 7 Chili Cook-off

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

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

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided at our meeting by **Faith Woodward** at Barclay Friends.

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

President, Gary Hess; President-Elect, Carol Metzker; Vice-President, Steve Karp; Past President, Annalie Korengel-Lorgus; Secretary, Patricia Kotsay; Treasurer, Rob Feenan; Sergeant At Arms, Mike Alfonsi; Directors-at-Large: Rich Kauffman, Adrienne Masak-Rosier, John Messersmith, John Olszewski, Dave Rayburn, Bill Ronayne, Mark Sammarone. Russell deFuria, District Governor; Dede Carruthers, Ass’t District Governor; Robert Poole, III, M.D., P. D.G. 1980-1981

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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