



# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Wilfrid J. Williams, International President 2007-2008

Bulletin #34 [www.WestChesterRotary.us](http://www.WestChesterRotary.us) March 6, 2008

**This Week's Program March 6, 2008**

**Speaker: John DiBounoventura  
Public Safety Training Facility  
Arranged by Bunny Welsh**

**Next Week's Program: March 13, 2008**

**Speaker: Pat Barron  
Gundaker Program  
Arranged by Pat Barron**

## **MINUTES by Sue Casso**

**President Gary** rang the bell at 12:25 - more than promptly! **Jeannie McGinn** commented that she considers all Rotarians to be special people and offered an Irish prayer.

**President Gary's** joke had to do with **Charlie Lyddane**, an old man and a perfect woman.

Visiting Rotarians were Joe Kahn from We-Go, Dee Dee Carruthers from We-Go and Samantha Ramsey from West Grove - Avondale. Visitors were Gary Altoonian with **Mark Sammarone** and the local well known character, Fred Gusz with **Katie Walker**. Our speaker Police Chief Scott Bohn was also introduced.

**Dave Biffen** wished a Happy Birthday to **Jeff Sommer**, then **Jeff Sommer** wished a Happy Birthday to **Dave Biffen** - turn about is fair play. Happy Bucks - **Prez Gary** is happy to be back after a week of skiing. He saw a moose and his wife saw Kevin Bacon - now, who is the winner of that contest!? **Dave Biffen** is happy for the success of the new club. **Geoff Baker** thanked **Katie Walker** for the great works of the Chamber of Commerce and is happy because, through the Chamber, he won an ad in the Inquirer which is running soon. **Prez Gary** said that he saw **Geoff Baker** in Town Talk Newspaper. Our Phillies fan, **Duke Evans**, was happy that he and Mary (also a Phillie fan) are going to Clearwater to watch the Phillies in Spring Training. **Steve Karp** was happy to be hosting a business card exchange tonight. Ken Hickman was happy for his new hip.

**Prez Gary** announced that we will have our annual road trip to Westtown School on March 20. He also informed us that our District has a new District Governor Nominee in Joan Batory from the Philadelphia Club. Joan is a former member of our West Chester club so we are happy for her success in Rotary.

Assistant Governor Dee Dee Carruthers greeted our club and introduced the next AG to

follow in her footsteps, Sam Ramsey. DeeDee reminded us that District Conference will be at the beautiful SkyTop Lodge in the Poconos, April 25-27. On March 13 the District Rotoplast fund raiser will be held at the Media Theater with a presentation of the Buddy Holly Story. The Rotoplast team has performed over 1,000 cleft lip and palate surgeries.

**Prez Gary** reminded us that the Italian GSE team is coming in April and host families are needed.

**Christine McCawley** is the new chair of the Honorary Rotarian committee and is looking for suggestions of non-Rotarians who further the ideals of Rotary.

**Steve Karp** told us that he recently attended the President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) which is the beginning of his Rotary leadership training. He is excited about some of the new initiatives within Rotary and the training he receives, not only for Rotary but for all parts of his life, he and looking forward to working with Gary to transition the leadership.

**Geoff Baker** said that final fruit sales are coming in at an alarming rate and tomorrow is the final day for sales. He had sign up sheets for help at the distribution on March 8th and needs help. **Terry McGrath** is happy to help deliver fruit now that his van has passed inspection.

The 50/50 was won by **Bill Ronayne** and HE PICKED THE QUEEN - AGAIN!! CONGRATULATIONS BILL.

## **SPEAKERS REVIEW by Elizabeth Guman**

**Katie Walker** introduced our speaker, Chief of Police, Scott Bohn. Chief Bohn came to speak to us about the benefits of the PBT (Pre-Breath Tester) to the community and to ask our club to consider supporting the department in their purchase of more PBTs.

The good news that Chief Bohn gave us is that last year we had the lowest number of serious crimes in

West Chester in the past 15-20 years. That is truly good news! The bad news is that there was an increase in secondary crimes and they hit record highs. There was a 30% increase in the violation of liquor laws, a 24% increase in drinking in public, a 3% increase in disorderly conduct, and an 11% increase of the open bottle violation. These violations often lead to the more serious crimes, which is not good for the victim or those committing the crimes.

Chief Bohn then explained how the landscape of downtown West Chester after midnight has changed dramatically since he started on the force 23 years ago. At that time if an officer saw someone walking around at 2:30 a.m. there was a pretty good guess that they were up to no good. Today, at 2:30 a.m. there might be over 100 people in the streets out for a good time.

The PBT allows an officer to check a person's blood alcohol level on location. It is not admissible evidence in court (Judge Ott explained that although it was a very good instrument, the science was not as strong as a breathalyzer.) But the benefit is that the officer can direct someone to not drive or can know better when they have to take someone in.

A lively discussion of questions and comments kept us all willingly past the normal ending time. Bob Poole remembered when he used to get called in the middle of the night to the old station on High Street to evaluate people who had been arrested. Bill Ronayne put in his support of the PBT's with the hopes that it would help deter disorderly conduct, and told us that often the Fire Department gets unnecessary calls in the middle of the night because people under the influence seem to think that pulling fire alarms is great amusement. Judge Ott offered her endorsement, believing it was a valuable tool for the police department.

**Joe Polito**, echoed by **Victoria Dow** asked the Chief's opinion about whether we had things "backwards" – lower the drinking age and increase the driving age (and the requirements for getting a license). While we didn't have time to fully explore that option, the Chief did share that he thought a key thing we needed to shift was the perception on the part of many parents that kids getting drunk and behaving irresponsibly is a "rite of passage".

**Bob Rogers**, as a retired Philadelphia police officer, thanked the Chief for his presentation, and also for his good service to our community. Bob concluded the presentation with his personal endorsement for the PBTs. All in all, an educational and thought provoking program!

#### FROM THE FRUIT CZAR

We have sold about 811 Cases (That's 1,622 boxes) of fruit. This is down by about 11 cases from last year. Well done. I have ordered extra fruit, so we do still have Temple Oranges and Ruby Red Grapefruit for those last orders, so keep them coming. Call or e-mail me with you new orders. I will let you know when we have sold it all.

The forecast is good for Saturday at the moment. This is a full club event, so we do need your help either from 8-11 or 11-2pm. All day also works!! Please sign up on Thursday if you have not done so. If you will not be there on Thursday, just let me know by e-mail. Again, well done and let's sell these extra boxes of fruit.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Mar 8 Fruit Pick up  
Apr 25 District Conference  
May 17 CCH May Fest @ Goshen Fair Gnds  
Oct 5 Chili Cook Off

Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at <http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>  
Add events: [calendar@westchesterrotary.us](mailto:calendar@westchesterrotary.us)

#### THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided at our meeting by **Geoff Baker** of RE/MAX Preferred.

#### EXCHANGE STUDENTS

**Bjoern Brauner** (Germany) Henderson HS  
Host Family: Christina Ellis & Andrew Sitkoff  
852 Chandlee Dr. West Chester 610-692-4917  
*Bert Volger* 610-793-1708(H)  
484-459-9023(C)

**Andrea Kogoj** (Italy) Unionville HS  
Host Family: Marc and Rachel Bevis  
110 Merrymet Farm Dr. Kennett Square  
610-444-0324(H) 610-563-0443(C)  
*Joe Polito* 610-692-8123(H)  
610-431-3090(W)

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#### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Faith Woodward, Publisher. 610-918-3432 [fwood@bf.kendal.org](mailto:fwood@bf.kendal.org) Mark Sammarone, Vice-Chair and Web site maintenance. Committee Members: Pat Barron, Bruce Beadle (Web site), Matt Bradley, Sue Casso, Victoria Dow, Elizabeth Guman, Charlie Lyddane, Fran Luft, Eric Metzker, Paula Ott, Cathy Palmquist, and Joe Polito