



Make Dreams Real

ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester
Dong Kurn Lee, International President 2008-2009

Bulletin #42 www.WestChesterRotary.us May 14, 2009

This Week's Program: May 14, 2009

Clean Water

Speaker: John Hoekstra, Dir. Of Watershed Activities, Green Valley Assn.

Arranged by Ed Malet

Next Week's Program: May 21, 2009

**Rotary Program
Arranged by President Steve**

MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

TOUR REVIEW by Sue Casso Rogers

President Steve Karp opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the briefing room of the Sheriff's Office at the new Justice Center. The room felt comfortable to Rotarians due the numerous leadership and teamwork signs posted around the room.

President Steve lead the club in the Pledge of Allegiance, then called on **Sheriff Bunny Welsh** to give the invocation. Then **Sheriff Bunny** explained how the tour and dinner would be handled, with her taking half of the group to view the Sheriff's offices and half of the group, lead by **President Judge Paula Ott**, to view the courts. After everyone had toured both parts of the building, dinner was available in the Sheriff's Administration offices.

Kicking off the brief announcements, **President Steve** said that a post party would be held at the Knights of Columbus building on the second floor following dinner. The District 7450 Assembly will be held on May 19th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Delaware County Community College in Media. The club has paid for several attendees; please let **President Steve** know if you can attend. Check the website for further details.

Mac Neilon announced that May 30th is the Habitat for Humanity Ribbon Cutting and photo op. He thanked all who have participated and urged them to attend the gathering.

President Steve dismissed half of the members in the room to begin their tour with **President Judge Ott**, and the remainder to stay and tour with **Sheriff Bunny**.

Visit to the new Chester County Justice Center

This evening was graciously arranged and hosted by our fellow Rotarians, **Sheriff Carolyn "Bunny" Welsh** and **President Judge Paula F. Ott**. As we assembled in the sheriff's squad room, **Sheriff Welsh** welcomed us to "the people's house," the new Justice Center built for the people and by the people, standing seven stories at approximately 500,000 square feet. Our Rotary group was divided in half, half going with **Sheriff Welsh** and half with **Judge Ott**. In the squad room, **Sheriff Welsh** explained that "we've been served," roll call is performed every morning and assignments are made. Chester County Sheriffs are trained at both the Police Academy and the Sheriff Academy. There are 85 Sheriffs in the department. She then escorted us through the lock up and into the Sallie port where prisoners are securely transported. No prisoners are held overnight in this lock up but are moved to the County Prison. There are no weapons in the area. One side of the lock up is for juveniles, the other is for adults as the prisoners are separated by law. We passed through the control room where the monitors show both the inside and outside of the property and then through the interview room. As we moved into the main hallway, Sheriff Welsh explained all the offices on the first floor such as the clerk of courts, prothonotary and Judge Bruno's District Court. We were also greeted by former Rotarian, Judge John Hall.

We all convened in the Jury Lounge and **Sheriff Welsh** noted that the public rides a different set of elevators from the prisoners. The new Jury Lounge is a “far cry” from the lounge in the old courthouse. Meeting with **Judge Ott**, we proceeded into the Courtroom areas which are on the top 2 floors of the building. Judge Tuck Reilly, a We-Go Rotarian, gave us a tour of his courtroom which is designed with an oak finish to match a bench resurrected from Courtroom One in the old courthouse. However, this bench traveled from the old courthouse to a local tap room before coming to rest in the new courthouse. Judge Reilly noted that the courtrooms were built with a balance between comfort and cost. All the wood in the courtrooms came from Canada. **Judge Ott** gave us a tour of the largest courtroom, Courtroom One, a large beautiful area designed for cases involving many people. This courtroom also has seats for every judge for ceremonial events. She pointed out that there is a series of corridors in the building allowing prisoners to be kept out of the public hallways and the jury room is accessed through secure hallways.

Following the tour, we enjoyed dinner in the Sheriff’s office and drinks at the Knights of Columbus hosted by Gary Hewitt. Many thanks to **Judge Ott** and **Sheriff Welsh** for their hospitality. The new Justice Center is a building which makes us proud!

SAVE THE DATE

- May 15 Community Grant applications due
- May 19 District 7450 Assembly
- May 26 Rotary at the Blue Rocks
- May 30 Habitat for Humanity- Ribbon Cutting

June 4 Blood Drive with Borough
 Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at <http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>
 Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Anri (pronounced Anli) Izui at Henderson HS
 Hosts: Eric and Susan Aaldenberg
 129 Bantery Rd. W C19380 610-436-1615
 Anri Cell Phone: (610) 400-7432

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided by **Bill Ronayne** of Brandywine Valley Heating and Air Conditioning.



WILMINGTON BLUE ROCKS

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

5:30 PM to ????

Cost \$35 per ticket

See **Jack Wintermute** for tickets

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 District 7450

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