

Rotary Club of West Chester Quarterly Outreach. **March 15, 2023**



Recent Club Events

The Rotary Club of West Chester is active! A traditional service event in the winter is the annual ringing of the bells for The Salvation Army at the Amish Market and Shop Rite. All day long, Rotarians ring the bells for an hour or more, in teams of two, in support of this important fundraising event for the SA. Rotarians continue to volunteer every third Saturday at the Community Warehouse Project, where furniture and household goods are donated to families coming out of shelters, veterans and families referred by other social service agencies.

Some Rotarians sew "Stockings for Soldiers," colorful holiday stockings that are filled with small items like packaged food and personal items, and sent to military troops around the world.

A highlight of the holiday season is the party that finds Rotarians, their spouses and significant others, gathering for food, beverages and fellowship at a member's home.

In the New Year, Rotarians hold a competitive barbecue (formerly Pulled Pork Throwdown) in friendly competition. Proceeds this year benefitted the Boy Scouts and Chester County History Center. A Super Bowl fun(draiser) was also held that netted club members and participants



Upcoming Club Events

There are always multiple activities and events going on at the Rotary Club of West Chester!

Continuing efforts of West Chester area clubs to join together for joint activities, for learning and sharing, for fun and fellowship, our club will participate under the leadership of the Passport Club on the student Scholarship Committee. \$2,000 scholarships will be available for one student from each of the 3 area high schools, Rustin, East and Henderson. Each applicant must submit an essay noting their volunteer and leadership efforts in their schools and communities. Our Rotary Readers program continues, in which Rotarians, and even some family members, volunteer to read to third graders at local elementary schools.

There are 30 committees in our club that provide volunteer service both internally and in the greater community. For example, club members are participating in a craft beer event in Malvern in which some profits will benefit area non-profits. Three members of our club will serve as guest bartenders at the event. We will also have an information booth at the upcoming Turks Head Music Festival in West Chester borough, as well as other community events. And a number of

\$1,250, with another \$1,250 going towards our club's good works!



our members volunteer on non-profit boards. And every week, there are interesting and informative speakers at our lunch meetings.



Club Member Personality

Meet William (Bill) Ronayne, a lifelong resident of Chester County. Born at Chester County Hospital, he was raised in East Goshen township and has lived within the same 5 mile radius his entire life. His wife, Ellen, has him beat because she has lived in the same 1 mile radius her whole life. So, they certainly know the area! They were married at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church on June 7, 1980 where they continue to attend Sunday Mass. They have 3 grown children, all of whom are married.

Bill attended East Goshen elementary school, Stetson Middle school, and Henderson High School. At the time, it was the only high school in the West Chester Area School District. He started his first job in 1973 at Pepperidge Farm the day after his high school graduation and worked there a year. Then, after tiring of shift work, he got into the heating and air conditioning business and eventually, became head of his own successful HVAC company known as Brandywine Valley.

Bill has been an active volunteer fire



A Bit of Club History

On July 31, 1975, The Rotary Club of West Chester Sponsored the area's newest club- The Westtown- Goshen club (now known as WEGO). The charter celebration was held at the Treadway Inn and our own Past-Presidents John Batley and Dr. Poole served as masters of ceremony. Rudy Lorgus, our club's only surviving charter member, was in attendance. It was noted that Dr. Poole kept his comments to a "brief" 30 minutes.

That summer, the club participated in a number of projects. 32 member's donated blood, \$100 was raised for the school district's Reading Is Fundamental Program, we sold over 400 tickets to the Moscow Circus and held our annual cider sale. Since 1970, the club sold Apple Cider each fall. Sam Smedley provided the apples which were pressed by Nussbaums. Cider was sold for \$1.75/ gallon and \$535 was raised (bringing the total to over \$6500 since 1970) and donated to the Klepper Orphanage in Urubamba, Peru.

Also, that fall, educator Earl Sykes was honored with the naming of the Sykes Student Union. He became the fourth member of our club to have a building named for him at WCU. On March 16th of

fighter for the West Chester area his entire adult life. He continues to serve at Fame Fire Company which he joined in 2005. He also sits on several non-profit boards. When he's not fighting fires, his other pastime is donning a pair of skates and taking aim for the net on an ice hockey rink. But, his real passion is spending time with his 4 grandchildren, 3 boys and a girl.

Bill Ronayne personifies the true meaning of "service above self," as a family man, a community leader, a successful businessman, an exemplary Rotarian.

1976, the club inducted four new members, including Paul Woodruff under the classification of "Environmental Planning"

In 1975, Jack Wintermute began the 50/50 at club meetings. That first year he raised over \$400 that went to the club's picnic fund. In February, the integrity of the 50/50 was raised at a board meeting. It was announced that the practice was to be continued, but Jack was banned from going from table to table strong-arming the members into buy tickets.



Cocktail of the Quarter

"Cheers!"

For much of the 19th century a cocktail only meant one thing: a couple of ounces of whiskey (usually Bourbon), modified by a little sweetness (originally a muddled sugar cube, but today simple syrup is preferred) and a few dashes of bitters. At one time it was served straight up but later over ice cubes. In the latter decades of the 1800s however, new and 'exotic' liquors from Europe came onto the scene, including everything from absinthe to maraschino liqueur. These gave bartenders many more options to create increasingly complex drinks, all under the umbrella of the cocktail. So by then, anyone who wanted the original formula had to ask for their drink to be made 'the old fashioned way'. Thus this tasty concoction finally got it's name: The Old Fashioned.

There are many variations of this drink, but let's start with the most basic:

The Old Fashioned

2 ounces of Bourbon
1 teaspoon of simple syrup (a 1:1 solution of sugar and water)



Spotlight on One of our Non-Profits

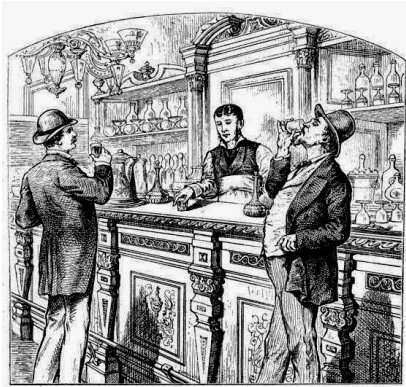
Non-Profit – Community Warehouse Project

In 2017, the Community Warehouse Project was inaugurated with its goal being to collect and redistribute donated furniture and household goods to needy individuals, families and veterans. About the same time, the president of the Rotary Club of West Chester was thinking of starting a donated furniture project. Collaborating, the CWP was activated and now serves approximately 10 households each week, "Making a House a Home."

The recipients of furniture and household items are individuals/families coming out of shelters or homelessness, who are pre-screened by local social service agencies.

From its beginning, beds have topped the list of most needed furniture. To date, over 2,500 beds have been provided to recipients, 1,500 households have been served, 400 veterans have been provided furnishings, and 61 agencies partner with CWP by volunteering, donating furniture and household items, and/or funds. CWP

A few dashes of aromatic bitters
Stir with ice in a rocks glass and enjoy.



has also been selected for funding by the West Chester Club's Community Philanthropic Committee (CPC). Jeannie McGinn, member of the West Chester Club, has become a key volunteer, helping screen calls from donors as to appropriate furniture. Among other key volunteers are members of the West Chester and Passport Rotary Clubs, West Chester University, and The Friars Society. CWP's founder and executive director, Glenda Brion, was recently named an Honorary Rotarian of the West Chester Club.

***The following members of the Rotary Club of West Chester contributed to this newsletter:
Cathy Palmquist, Anne Driscoll, Bill Friedmann, Howard Sundwall and Jeff Cantwell***



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