



Rotary Club of West Chester Quarterly Outreach - Summer 2026

Recent Club Events



Spring brought energy and impact to the Rotary Club of West Chester as members gathered from March 15 through June 15 for service, fellowship, and fundraising. A highlight was the annual Marshall Square Park cleanup, where Rotarians rolled up their sleeves to beautify one of the community's treasured green spaces, reinforcing their commitment to stewardship.

On April 18, excitement filled the room at Designer Bag Bingo, a highenergy fundraiser that drew a packed crowd eager to win luxury handbags while supporting local initiatives. The event blended fun, fellowship, and philanthropy, showcasing the club's creativity and ability to engage the broader community.

Throughout the spring, weekly meetings featured dynamic speakers, new member introductions, and the everpopular Grateful Goldfish, fostering connection and momentum. Service projects and partnerships continued to grow, reflecting Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. As summer approached, the club looked ahead with enthusiasm, building on a season defined by hands-on service, meaningful connections, and successful events that strengthened both membership and community impact. Members also supported local nonprofits through donations and volunteer hours, while committee work enhanced communications and outreach. Guests and visiting Rotarians were welcomed throughout the season, further expanding the club's network across Chester County and beyond.

Written by Jeff Cantwell

Upcoming Club Events



There are many exciting new and recurring club events going on with the Rotary Club of West Chester and their partners.

On Thursday, July 9, at the West Chester Country Club we will be enjoying our President's Gala where President Kyle Rheiner will pass the torch to our incoming President, Michael Louis. Members will be dining, a live auction, raffle, a chance to win a 50/50, fellowship and fun. This will be an exciting night for all Rotary Club members.

Then on Tuesday, August 4, Rotary Club members will be manning a booth at Henderson High School for West Chester Parks and Recreation's National Night Out Against Crime/Touch-a-Truck Day. There will be fun vehicles, food trucks, moon bounces, rides and so much more.

Sunday, August 16th, we will host a booth at the West Chester Community Center for the Melton Center Community Event, the 16th Annual CommUnity Day. It will be a day of basketball championship games, vendors, food trucks and more.

In early October we will be at the West Chester University Career Fair to be held at the Sykes Union Building.

Written by Susan Shirley



Club Member Personality

President Kyle Rheiner

Growing up in the hardworking, blue-collar community of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Kyle Rheiner learned early the value of perseverance, gratitude, and service. A graduate of West Chester University, he made West Chester his permanent home after meeting his wife there, and the community has remained his “happy place” ever since.

Professionally, he took a leap of faith by building a career as an independent Insurance Advisor, seeking the flexibility and independence to create the life he envisioned for his family. That decision, made with courage and determination, allowed him to successfully “play the long game.”

Introduced to Rotary around 2014, he was deeply moved by a presentation about children in need around the world. As a young father, the message resonated profoundly and inspired him to become involved in service. Since then, Rotary has become an important part of his life, teaching him the value of gratitude, compassion, and helping others through time, talents, and treasures.

A member of the Rotary Board since 2021, he has embraced leadership opportunities while remaining

passionate about projects that support youth and families in the community. Among the initiatives closest to his heart are providing school supplies and backpacks for local students, supporting meal programs at the Westside Community Center, reading to kindergarten students, and helping send 43 hospital beds to Ukraine. He is also especially proud of the club’s successful Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser, which continues to expand Rotary’s impact in the community.

Outside of Rotary, he enjoys spending time with his family, coaching youth sports, cycling, golfing, fishing, and tackling fitness challenges such as Spartan races. A devoted Philadelphia Phillies fan, he and his family love attending games and visiting baseball stadiums together.

Guided by philosophies such as “Be curious, not judgmental” and *Amor Fati* — “love of fate” — he believes in embracing life with gratitude, kindness, and perspective. Above all, he hopes others will experience firsthand the fulfillment that comes from volunteering and serving others through Rotary.

Written by Anne Driscoll



Non Profit of the Quarter

Westside Community Center exists to build community through loving relationships, acceptance, caring and forgiving and to strengthen families and to empower by leveraging abilities, leadership and passion.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Ryan Enns, the Center’s mission is carried out through a wide range of programs and services for underserved families; after-school programs which include classes in cooking, photography, STEM,

art, community gardening and soccer, to name a few. They also provide legal and immigration services, advocacy and education to underserved families so they can live out their dreams.

While visiting the center to deliver and serve pizzas to the students, Rotarians experience the opportunity to learn about how the after-school program provides academic support, tutoring at no cost and reviews test grades, removing barriers and opening doors to success, while also helping to build confidence, friendships and a strong sense of belonging. Their environment is welcoming, energetic and supportive.

The Rotary Club of West Chester is proud to support Westside Community Center for empowering youth academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Those interested in volunteering can contact the Center for further information.

Written by Susan Shirley



A Bit of Club History

The Rotary Club of West Chester played a meaningful role in the community throughout the 1930s, a decade defined by the challenges of the Great Depression. During this difficult era, Rotarians embraced Rotary's guiding principle of Service Above Self by focusing on local needs and supporting neighbors facing economic hardship.

Club members worked closely with community leaders, churches, and charitable organizations to aid families in need. Efforts included organizing food drives, supporting employment initiatives, and contributing to relief programs aimed at stabilizing the local economy.

Despite financial constraints, the club remained active and resilient. Weekly gatherings fostered fellowship and collaboration, offering members a sense of purpose and unity. These meetings also served as a platform for discussing regional and national issues, helping members stay informed and engaged during uncertain times.

The 1930s helped shape the identity of the Rotary Club of West Chester as a servicedriven organization deeply rooted in its community. The compassion, leadership, and perseverance demonstrated during this decade laid a strong foundation for the club's continued growth and lasting impact.

Written by Jeff Cantwell



Cocktail of the Quarter by Howard Sundwall

“Cheers”

You'd expect a cocktail named after an artillery weapon to pack a punch; the French 75 does not disappoint. Famously named after a powerful French artillery gun of the First World War, this cocktail was invented – so the story goes – at Harry's New York Bar in Paris, circa 1915. Leave it to the French to keep the cocktail party going despite horrific trench warfare taking place just a few miles from Paris, but hey, let's not judge. The French 75 fits into a category of drinks that are topped with sparkling wine: the Bellini and the Mimosa are two others. Champagne is naturally called for, but in any of these mixtures prosecco, cava or any sparkling substitute will do. This cocktail is built with gin plus lemon juice and simple syrup (as always, a citrus nicely balanced with a sweetener) and then topped with the champagne. The aforementioned punch can be attributed to the presence of the two potent liquids, thus providing a double helping of ABV. If making this drink for less than a crowd, bear in mind that champagne (and prosecco) can be bought in one quarter sizes (175 ml) so there's no need to open a big bottle. The recipe necessarily indicates a measure for the champagne, but I just pour until the glass is full. This drink is light, fizzy and citrusy and will pair perfectly with brunch.

The French 75

1.5 oz London dry gin

3/4 oz lemon juice

1/2 oz simple syrup (1:1 sugar water)

3 oz (approx.) brut champagne

Put gin, lemon juice and syrup in a shaker with ice; shake well

Then strain into a champagne flute or white wine glass

Top with your sparkling wine of choice; for a true French 75, only champagne will do.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotarian Code of Conduct

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behaviors that reflect adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.

**The West Chester Rotary Club
meets weekly on Thursday @noon
at the West Chester Country Club.
Visitors are always welcome.
Join us for lunch and see what we're all about!**

westchesterrotary.us/

*The following members of the Rotary Club of West Chester contributed to this newsletter:
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Susan Shirley and Jeff Cantwell*