



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
Shekhar Mehta, International President 2021-2022

www.WestChesterRotary.us

Bulletin #7 August 19, 2021

Program: August 19, 2021
Classification Talks

MINUTES by Gary Hess

President Steve rang the opening bell at 12:19 sharp. The want of tintinnabulation off the bell was so serious that my table took up a collection for a gym membership for Steve.

Invocation by **Deb Sparre**, who later engaged in quite a bit of badinage with our speaker, the new chief of police for WC. Surprising she didn't end up in cuffs! We had a couple of guests make the scene, Matt McCuen and John Robinson, the latter a guest of **Phil Beig**. We also had a special visiting Rotarian, Past District Governor Dave Harridan from our archrival *the Longwood Club*.

Prez Steve regaled us with a couple of historical goings-on from this date, one about a British guy from 1865, and the other from 1972, the 49th anniversary of the US exit from Saigon.

We had a couple of birthdays, **Bill Friedmann** wished an increasingly svelte **Matt Holliday** a happy birthday, followed by **Ebbie Alfree** who gave a new candle to tres fashionable **Danielle Mortimer** to put atop her cake.

On to announcements, PDG Harridan let us know that **Chris Franz** won the Gundaker raffle for Eagles tickets. The Pastor and his soon-to-be-adopted son Jeremiah were decked out in game appropriate regalia, as was PDG Dave, who also sported an Eagles cap. Call me old-fashioned, but seeing a gentleman wear a hat indoors, no less a baseball cap, was shocking to this writer, and a violation of country club protocol. Where's the fine master when you need him?

Bill Friedmann let us know that October 2022 will be the next official Chili Cook Off. Some local establishments, Saloon 151 among them, are planning a mini cookoff to be held on 10/10 at the Knights of Columbus. See Bill if you'd like to help out. Cowboys fan **Jeannie McGinn** let us know we have a date next weekend with the Community Warehouse, so if you have any unused furniture you'd like to donate, be sure to let her know.

Program: August 26, 2021
Speaker: Kathy Mullen,
Red Cross

Happiness abounded, and the bucks were flowing. PDG Dave tossed in a buck for his second Rotary meeting off the day. **Steve Quigley** chucked a buck to let us know that he has locked down several tee times for a golf outing at Downingtown C.C. on 9/17. Police Chief Jim Morehead was happy that the A/C was cranking at the club, since it was a bit warm back at the precinct. **Chris Franz** was happy that he won the tickets, but perhaps forgot that the stadium will be even warmer than the police station tonight. **Cristina Combee** was happy that her new braces will give her an awesome new smile. I remember my new braces back in 8th grade. That shiny metal was such a magnet for all the girls. **Jill Stoltzfus** was happy that her son got a new job, landing him on someone else's payroll, presumably. **Charles Streitwieser** (say that 3 times fast) was happy that his daughter is finishing up her MS in Library Science, and presumably Charles is finishing up writing large checks.

Former gendarme, now "sergent d'armes", **Bob Rogers** won the pot of gold, the ticket being pulled by Top Cop speaker Jim Morehead. I don't know about you, but this looked suspicious...very, very suspicious. Inspector Clouseau has already agreed to take on the case.

SPEAKER'S REVIEW BY Derek Chandler

Rotary of West Chester was pleased to welcome the Borough of West Chester's Chief of Police James Morehead. Captain Morehead preferred to do his presentation using his "outside voice" as the microphone's reliability was questionable. Even though his presentation was highly anticipated, his table had a lack of pertinence interrupting his lunch.

Captain Morehead started his speech telling a story of his recent travels to South Carolina to visit a dear friend Greg & Betty Stone. Obviously looking for the cheapest flight, Spirit Airlines' delay (and later cancelation) did not deter him from his travel plans....and even with no rental cars available,

persistence was rewarded. A moving truck equipped with unlimited miles was a perfect method of transportation. His wife is still not talking to him.

Captain Morehead started his career in law enforcement 33 years ago. Originally from New York, West Chester University was decided as the location for his studies, even if what he was going to study was still a large question mark. After watching an episode of *Adam-12* during his freshman year, being involved in the police became a passion. His first law enforcement job, after a mere three weeks of training, was a summer cop at a small, local beach; Wildwood. His first arrest? A couple on their honeymoon smoking a joint, which **Debra Sparre** later admitted her involvement.

In the year 1989 when *Batman* was a summer blockbuster in the theaters, James applied to the West Chester police department. He was welcomed with opened arms and since then has always came to work with a smile. He specifically enjoyed his narcotic days, when his appearance and attire was a perfect doppelganger to Shaggy from *Scooby-Doo*.

Under the guidance of Scott Bohn, James attended the FBI National Academy in 2014. This training was instrumental in his leadership style. December 2019, Captain Bohn decided to retire after many years of faithful service in the force. Mayor Dianne Herrin was adamant to hire within, and James Morehead accepted the position gracefully.

February 2020, James Morehead was sworn in to become the new Chief of Police. Preparing for his new responsibilities coming with the title, James, as the rest of the world, was blindsided by the pandemic. His staff of 57 employees, 44 of whom are police officers, continued to protect and serve through-out the crisis and uncertain times. As if the pandemic was not enough to deal with, the George Floyd incident occurred in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It became a regular occurrence to receive hate mail, outrageous demands, and multiple demonstrations and protests directly outside the department's office. The hypocrisy of the situation, West Chester police department made choke holds illegal many decades prior...yet still to this day he has to explain police actions. The police department makes it routine that every morning the staff reviews themselves and ways to improve.

Captain Morehead continues to actively pursue accreditation for his police department. The bill has passed Pennsylvania House of Representatives, but waits for the Senates judgment. He is adamant this is essential to the local community moving forward.

The title of Police Chief can be difficult,

- 8,600 walk-in complaints annually

- Approximately 600 prisoners walk through the doors.
- A financially strapped community
- An unhealthy impression of police to an uninformed population.

but the most important thing to Captain Morehead is to be kind...always be kind. West Chester Police Department takes great pride in hiring good, character individuals. The entire force knows the responsibility wearing the badge and the meaning behind it.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Aug 21 Community Warehouse
Sept 30 Pulled Pork Event at Boy Scout Facility

COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE DONATION DAY

Mark Your Calendar! Saturday, August 21 from 9a-1p is our next Community Warehouse donation day.

For complete information go to communitywarehouseproject.com.

800 East Virginia Ave. West Chester in the Schramm business campus.

Contact: **Jeannie McGinn**; 484-343-4577 cell
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VOTARY COPIES

Thank you to **Past-President Michelle Venema** of Home of the Sparrow for printing copies of the Votary this month!

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Committee: **Derek Chandler**, **Brian Fahey**, **Gary Hess**, **Michael Lewis**, **Danielle Mortimer**, **Kyle Rheiner**, **Jill Stoltzfus**

