



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

# ROTARY VOTARY

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

[www.WestChesterRotary.us](http://www.WestChesterRotary.us)

**Bulletin #13 September 30, 2021**

## **CLUB MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 MINUTES by Faith Woodward**

**President Steve** opened the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Jack Wintermute**

The Invocation was shared by a pro, **Nate Keisler**.

Visiting Rotarians – None were present.

Guests: Joe Driscoll, Bethann Rothaca,

Announcements:

**Bill Friedmann-** The Chili Cook-Off will be held October 9, 2022. Returning after two years, our largest service project, will show off the town and Rotary; provides team building for our club; and raises funds for club projects (scholarships and grants to non-profits in the county). The Planning committee will be starting now with a goal to raise \$50,000 in sponsorships, recruit 65 teams, 45 vendors, and 8,000 participants. This will be an "All hands on deck" event so put it in your calendar. We need committee leaders, please see Bill to sign up. Please also fill out the volunteer forms on each table.

**President Steve-** Fame Firehouse had their dedication and it was a great event. **Bill Ronayne** was the MC. Congratulations!

**Catherine Friedman-** Reminder to all of the Pulled Pork event on Oct 7. Please text **Deb Sparre** if you can bring a side dish.

50-50- **Bill Winters** pulled the ticket for **Brian Fahey** but he found no Queen of Spades.

Ponderables- "Whenever you see these ads for free gifts, what really is a free gift? Aren't all gifts free? "

## **SPEAKERS REVIEW by Jill Stoltzfus**

**Melissa Baxter** announced the 2021 Community Philanthropic Committee recipients. Grants are awarded to agencies serving the West Chester community and are based on humanitarian need, quality of programs, how they represent club goals and the meaningful impact they will have on our local community. There was a total of \$75,000 requested with only \$30,000 in available funding. The annual Chili Cookoff funds these local grants and we are grateful to all participants involved in this event.

Recipients included:

*Home of the Sparrow* represented by Meghan Ervine, Executive Director. Working on the frontlines to

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**September 30, 2021**

**Members of our sister Rotary Club,  
Tigre Club from Argentina**

**October 7, 2021**

**Pulled Pork Event at the  
Boy Scout Facility in Exton  
No lunch meeting**

prevent homelessness to single moms throughout the Chester County area, funds helped sponsor their 2021 Back to School program which provided clothes, backpacks and school supplies to over 35 families and over 75 backpacks were dispersed before the 2021-22 school year began.

Glenda Brion from *The Community Warehouse Project* accepted the next award. They have been supporting flood victims in the community with furniture and appliance donations to help rebuild their lives. The number of families helped has increased due to the devastation from Hurricane Ida. Grant funds will be used to pay costs for transportation, bedding, and other necessities needed to help families return to their homes.

Hallie Romanowski from *Act of Faith* shared that their agency never closed their doors during the pandemic, however, they lost all of their volunteers which they are currently trying to rebuild. They reinvented processes to continue to provide services to their recipients during the last 18 months.

Dolly Wideman-Scott from *The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County* representing her organization reported they continued to provide services 24 hours per day/7 days per week/365 days per year even during the pandemic and provide services to victim survivors and children through hotline, housing, counseling and other services.

*The West Chester Senior Center* was represented by Ellen Donohoe. Funds from the grant will be used to support their food distribution program which started 1 week after COVID began and continues to date. They provide curbside pickup and deliveries to homes on an as needed basis. In the 19 months of program

operation, they only closed 1 week!

**Don Neimetz**, Rotary member, from *Northstar of Chester County* emphasized the need for local organizations to partner and collaborate together to meet the needs of our local community. Serving single working parents in Chester County to locate and maintain independent housing, they often support the county A.L.I.C.E population and continually work to link their participants to local resources to promote independence and self-sufficiency.

*Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy* was represented by Dallas Knowlton. Hope Springs has provided therapeutic riding lessons to those with cognitive and physical disabilities since 1997. Horses establish an emotional attachment with their riders and the bond between rider, horse and instructor can be strong. Their organization has grown from 1 horse, 1 child and 1 instructor to now 7 instructors and a large amount of horses and riders.

Emily McClure from *Friends Association* supports families with children facing housing insecurities who are at risk for homelessness. They will be celebrating their 200th anniversary next year, so we are excited for them! They continually strive to maintain strong partnerships with other local agencies to support those most in need of their services.

Kim Booz, Director of Advocacy for the *ARC of Chester County* shared that The ARC has supported individuals with disabilities and their families for the past 69 years and continue to move forward in their quest. They provide advocacy, education, and help families navigate systems so everyone is eligible to receive free and appropriate education that meets their needs. They currently support over 400 families and individuals in the area and funds received from the grant will continue to help them serve their clients.

*Family Services of Chester County* was represented by Tyler Changaris. Their mission is to provide life-changing individual and family support by removing barriers and providing access to counseling, case management, youth services, and family programs. Grant funds will be used to allow everyone access to counseling services in the local community.

Rita Brouwer-Archer from *The Hickman* stated that The Hickman is a non profit personal care community serving people of all backgrounds. One of their senior residents, Myrtle, is their longest resident residing there for over 20 years and age 101. Funds from this grant were used to fund The Hickman Olympics which Myrtle participated in and enjoyed. She led fellow residents all representing various countries and regions in a parade around the complex.

Christine Zaccarelli from *The Crime Victims Center of Chester County* who works on the Direct Services Prevention Team explained that this agency provides a 24-hour hotline and services for those needing counseling, advocacy, resources, and education.

Their goal is to prevent crime from occurring in the community and supporting victims of crimes.

*The Maternal & Child's Health Consortium* was represented by Natalie Coughlin. This organization provides education services, winter coat donations, food access, health insurance, food benefits and pre/post delivery care for those facing hardships with providing these basic necessities.

Loretta Cohen accepted the award for *West Chester Communities that Care*. Working on improving outcomes for youth struggling with mental health conditions, as well as addiction and violence issues, they have a partnership working with Padres Latinos and focus working with Spanish speaking families to build up protective factors and helping youth thrive in our community.

All recipients expressed sincere gratitude and thankfulness for the generosity of the Rotary Club of West Chester.

**Melissa Baxter** concluded the ceremony with a quote from Mother Theresa. "You cannot do what I can do. I cannot do what you can do, but together we can do great things."

#### EVENTS CALENDAR

Oct 7	Pulled Pork Event at Boy Scout Facility
Oct 16	Community warehouse Day

#### VOTARY COPIES

Thank you, **Sue and Bob Rogers** of Robert W. Rogers Appraisals, for printing copies of the Votary this month.

#### BOARD of DIRECTORS 2021-2022

President, **Steve Brown**; President Elect, **Melissa Baxter**; Vice President, **Rich Murray**; Treasurer, **Jack Ellis**; Assistant Treasurer, **Yolanda Van de Krol**; Secretary, **Sue Casso Rogers**; Sgt at Arms, **Bob Rogers**; Immediate Past President, **Michelle Venema**

Directors-at-Large: **Ebbie Alfree, Phil Beig, Carol Hanson, Diana Liberi, Doug Meis, Christine Scott, Yolanda Van de Krol, Bill Winters, Dave Wood**

**Charles Streitwieser**, P. D.G. '13-14 District 7450

**Dwight Leeper**, P.D.G. '12-13. District 7510

**Robert Poole**, P.D.G. '80-'81 District 7450

#### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, **Faith Woodward**, 610-918-3432; [Votary@westchesterrotary.us](mailto:Votary@westchesterrotary.us) Web support: **Judi Bell** and **Howard Sundwall**.

[Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us](mailto:Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us)

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