



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

ROTARY VOTARY

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

www.WestChesterRotary.us

Bulletin #5 August 5, 2021

Program: August 5, 2021
Speaker: Helen Sipala
Her long time friendship with
renowned painter, Andrew Wyeth

Program: August 12, 2021
Speaker: Jim Morehead
New West Chester Police Chief

MINUTES by Faith Woodward

President Steve opened the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Jeff**

Invocation was shared by **Bob Frame**

Visiting Rotarians -None

Guests- Joe Driscoll with **Bob Rogers** and **Sue Casso Rogers**; Lindsay Bark with **Melissa Baxter**, Katie Walker (speaker), and Kevin McKenna with **Bill Winters**.

This Day in History
1894 Kellogg's invented cereal – Corn Flakes
July 30, 1975- Jimmy Hoffa disappeared

Birthdays-None
Bugs Bunny and Mick Jagger have birthdays. Bugs is older.

Happy Bucks- **Carol Hanson** (Welcome back **Mike Larimer**, and **Linda Hicks**) **Linda Hicks** (Happy to be back).

July Rotarian of the Month presented by **Past-President Michelle** to **John Schwab**. He organized outreach to our community, joined our club in 1994, and was President and CEO at The Hickman for many years.

Announcements-
President Steve apologized that last week, his timing was off. His goal is to start 12:20 PM and finish at 1:10PM.
Last year, instead of Chili-Cook Off, an anonymous

donor gave \$30,000. Since there will be no Chili Cook off this year, the same donor is giving \$30,000.00 this year! Thanks you!!!!

Sue Casso Rogers announced that a card for **Bob Poole** was being circulated. She also reminded us that there are plenty of tee shirts in medium and large still available.

Faith Woodward asked for members to sign up to print the Votary for each week in a month.

50-50 Katie Walters picked the winning ticket of **Jim Gasho**. He did not find the Queen of Spades.

President Steve ended the meeting with one of his "think about this" statements.

SPEAKER'S REVIEW BY Faith Woodward

Our speaker was Katie Walters, Coordinator of Safe and Healthy Communities Initiative from the Chester County DA's Office. She reported that the DA will be speaking to us on Sept 2 about child abuse prevention initiatives.

COVID -19 has had negative impact on children and not only with schooling issues. Child abuse numbers were lower during this time because it wasn't reported.

The statistics are staggering for Child Sexual Abuse 850% increase since 2012. 1-10 children will be abused before age 18. They generally know their abusers, have a tendency to drop out of school and use drugs and alcohol.

Many children don't report abuse because they don't know that it is wrong and don't feel safe to report it. We all need to enforce open door policies and educate adults about prevention. A Chester County Child Abuse training program is offered for free. These courses include stories of survivors, how to recognize, prevent, and report sexual abuse.

Katie recounted one story about a local piano teacher who was abusing his students behind closed doors while parents were in the waiting room. After this teacher left, the owner of the school put cameras in the rooms to prevent future abuse. This is just one of many stories. We all must take an active role.

Chester County has a nationally recognized child abuse program. The goal of the initiative of the sexual abuse program is prevention. Katie worked on the Safe and Healthy Community initiative program at Penn State. Their goal is to train 5% of CC adults by the end of 2021. They have already trained over 5000 adults in our country and can offer training at many different organizations.

Katie encouraged all to share the word and share her email address kwalters@chesco.org and flyers.

Questions: If a child is abused and you need to reach out to police, are the local police best? PA has a designated hotline and the operator will take details and send a team.

How might dentists pick up on abuse?. All adults can notice signs. You may be the trusted adult.

Since this program is focused 100% on adults, what's the school program? The school-based program is Safe Touches- with 2nd graders. The grant for that program was lost but the DA is hoping it will return.

What are the silent signs of child sexual abuse? There has been an increase in online crimes against children. Therefore, having conversations with children about abuse is important.

PA has been ahead of the curve because of the Sandusky incident. We have experienced the need for background checks and limitations to our Exchange program.

Most cases come from Oxford, Coatesville. Stressed teachers and Daycare-levels may be higher in these areas and is linked to child abuse.

Most categories- Camp counselor, Ministers, Priests, etc. have had to go through training.

Doug Meis presented her with a Rotary gift in thanks.

President Steve pointed out that good things can come out after the Sandusky case; the Child Advocacy Center was established.

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. We could use volunteers to help with the numerous donations scheduled to arrive that day. We practice social distancing and masks are worn.

For complete information go to communitywarehouseproject.com.

Everyone is also welcomed to bring furniture, small appliances, household items, linens, utensils, matching plates, etc... Feel free to bring helpful children too.

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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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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