



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



March 18, 2021

Holger Knaack
RI President 2020-21
Kevin M. Katarynick
District 7450 Governor

Swarthmore Rotary
Leaders

William Clinton Hale
President
Kathryn Jones
President-Elect
Brian Casey
Club Executive Secretary
Webmaster
Craig Fava
Past President
Secretary
Sonya Pappas
Treasurer
Barbara Whitaker-Shimko
Rotary Foundation Chair
Betty Ann A. Flynn
Club Director
Anne C. Hansen
Club Director
Lori Markusfeld
Service Projects Chair
Penelope Reed
Public Relations Chair
Ann K. Seidman
Membership Chair
Barbara Amstutz
Grants Committee Chair
Maria Michael Zissimos
iPast President
Heather Saunders
President-Nominee
Francy Cross
Assistant Governor

Service Quotation

No act of kindness,
however small, is ever
wasted. Aesop

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

Craig Fava
March 23rd

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries
Found

Years of Service

George C. Whitfield Jr.
03-19-1999

Meetings and Events

March

18th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Jeannine Osayande & Dunya Performing Arts Company
Subject: Making A Homeplace - Part II: Stories From The Historically Black Neighborhood of Swarthmore

25th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Danette Reid, Founder of Reid Cares Foundation
Subject: Addressing the Hunger Crisis on Local College Campuses

April

1st - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Brian Corson, Founer/Executive Director, MVP Recovery
Subject: Addiction, Incarceration, Recidivism and Reforms at George Hill Correctional Facility

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

Lord of the ages, show us how best to employ our days that we may make the most of them. We shift our clocks forward and back to squeeze out a few added hours for work and play, yet too often those hours slip through our fingers like fine sand. Thank you for this day. Amen.

4 Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Club News

Bill Hale announced that the food bank fundraiser will be held in the Spring when the weather improves. Pen Reed and Hillard Pouncy mentioned Pen's recent experience in producing videos for Hedgerow Theater. They discussed Pen producing publicity videos for Swarthmore Rotary to be shown on Facebook.

Barbara Whitaker-Shimko recognized four Swarthmore Rotarians who have advanced in their levels of being Paul Harris Fellows. Rotarians receive pins with different arrangements of sapphires and rubies based on their total life-time contribution to The Rotary Foundation. The four individuals who were acknowledged for advancing to the next level of contribution were: Ann Seidman, Perri Evanson, Cathy Darrell, and Bill Hale.

Last Meeting Summary

Mike Litka, Swarthmore Co-op General Manager, told us about how the Co-op fared in the year of Covid. He and the Co-op staff overcame the many difficulties they faced. In the end, the Co-op made out just fine. The Co-op wouldn't have managed as well without the help of many

Happy Dollars

pledge \$2,801

2020-21 Happy Dollars
for Polio Plus Fund
(\$3 to fully protect one child)

2019-20 total: \$3355
2018-19 total: \$3,845
2017-18 total: \$4,515

Guests Last Meeting

Gudrun Weinberg
Mary Hinds

volunteers, including our own Rotarian, Perri Evanson. Mike said this last year was the second best year ever for sales. He said the Co-op had a good bottom line. A number of Rotarians commented that they felt safer going to the Co-op than they felt at other stores. Mike said he believes the Co-op was the first to institute a number of safety policies such as a mask requirement, limiting the number of shoppers in the store at any time, and plexiglass shields at checkout stations. Only three staff have caught Covid so far. It appears fairly certain that they caught the virus while doing risky behavior in their personal life such as going to house parties.

There were a few shortages of goods along the way caused by problems in the supply chain and hoarding by customers. Mike said when the virus started there was a rush on some to be expected items such as toilet paper and paper towels but also some surprising items such as yeast and flour. Perhaps Swarthmoreans had a sudden urge to bake bread when Covid hit.

In response to a question, Mike said the proposed \$15 an hour minimum wage would be a problem for the Co-op. Although the Co-op pays less than the big grocery chains, he believes the Co-op makes up for it by providing more benefits. If the Co-op had to increase the its wage to \$15 an hour, it would have to reduce the benefits it provides. He believes an increase in the minimum wage to \$11 or \$12 an hour would be acceptable.

Mike emphasized his hopes that after the pandemic is over and conditions get back to normal, Swarthmoreans remember how well the Co-op served the Community during Covid; and continue, therefore, to shop at the Co-op.

Swarthmore Coop during the pandemic

Here is a view of Swarthmore Coop during the pandemic in case you haven't been in it lately.

