



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



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July 15, 2021

Meetings and Events

Shekhar Mehta
RI President 2021-22
Roger Taylor
District 7450
Governor

Swarthmore Rotary Leaders

Kathryn Jones
President

Heather Saunders
President-Elect

Brian Casey
Club Executive
Secretary
Webmaster

Brian H. Craig
Secretary

Theresa O'Malley
Treasurer

Perri Ann Evanson
Public Relations
Chair

Carr Everbach
Membership Chair

Betty Ann A. Flynn
Club Director

William Clinton Hale
iPast President

Anne C. Hansen
Club Director

Lori Markusfeld
Service Projects
Chair

Hillard Pouncy
Club Programs Chair

Barbara Whitaker-
Shimko

Rotary Foundation
Chair

Cathleen Darrell

July

15th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Susan O'Reilly, Owner, Susan O'Reilly Studio, Media
Subject: A Live Studio Tour, Media PA

22nd - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Ray Didinger, author and Sports Talk Show Host
Subject: Finished Business, reflections from Philadelphia's Sports
Journalism Leader

29th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Peter Friedrichs, Pastor and author (And the Stars Kept
Watch)
Subject: Navigating the Landscape of Loss

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

Lord of our lives, in the midst of our larger concerns for life's longer pull, may we not miss the gifts of each single day. Like golden coins, you invest in us twenty-four hours each day. Teach us to use them wisely and well. Through the gentle discipline of Rotary, help us to give to others. 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

President Kathryn Jones reminded us that Steve Laxton would like short visits from Swarthmore Rotary club members during his recuperation.

Attendance
Secretary
Richard Shimko
Bulletin Editor
Karen Aleta
Mazzarella-Russo
Assistant Governor

Service Quotation

We cannot live
only for
ourselves. A
thousand fibers
connect us with
our fellow men.
~Herman Melville

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays



Arthur G.
Baker
July 15th

Wedding Anniversaries



Susan Larson
July 17th

Years of Service

No Years Of Service
Found

Happy Dollars

pledge \$377

2020-21 total: \$3892
2019-20 total: \$3355

2018-19 total: \$3,845

Please contact Cathy Darrell or Steve's wife to schedule a visit.

Rotary Moment by Ann Seidman – Indonesia is a country that places more social restrictions on women than the U.S. In spite of that, a group of Christian Indonesian women formed a Rotary club 21 years ago. It has grown to 72 members, all women, both Christian and Muslim. Their club is combating Dengue fever by lining dark concrete bathtubs with white tiles so mosquitos can be more easily seen and killed. They have lined over 3500 tubs. This simple fix has helped reduce the incidence of this disease. Their effort has been supported by a Rotary International Global Grant.

Hillard Pouncy notified me by email that the Swarthmore College Bookstore is offering Ray Didinger's new book, *Finished Business*, at a 10% discount.

Last Meeting Summary

President Kathryn Jones introduced her exciting plan for a Swarthmore Rotary project for her presidential year. The Chester Trades Education Project (CTEP) will solve two problems: the shortage of skilled trades persons in our area and the lack of job opportunities for disadvantaged Chester youths. The purpose of CTEP will be to teach a skilled trade to low-income young adults in Chester. Kathryn credited Betty Ann Flynn and her friend, George Rothacker, with originally suggesting the idea. There is a shortage of skilled trades workers in this area. This is a fact well known to both homeowners who try to get someone to work on their houses and contractors trying to hire trades workers. One reason is many high school graduates in this area choose to go to college instead of going into a trade. The Federal government is projecting higher than average employment growth in construction. In spite of this

Guests Last Meeting

Evette Houston,
Francy Cross
Page Huey,
Warren Sell
Chris Hanlon,
Robert Jones
(Kathryn's father)

opportunity, there are many unemployed in Chester. The unemployment rate in Chester is 18%, three times the rate as for Delaware County as a whole.

It would seem that the problem, a shortage of skilled trades workers in this area, has a potential solution in young adults in Chester looking for work. A roadblock is the training required to become a skilled trades worker.

CTEP is a way to provide the necessary training. The initial problem that Kathryn and the other CTEP team members faced were many: who would do the training? Who will recruit students? Where will the money come from? The CTEP team has already provided answers to some of these questions. However, there are still issues to be resolved.

The CTEP team has four partners:

- Delaware County Community College (DCCC)
- Riverside Futures
- Chester Housing Authority (CHA)
- Rotary Clubs of Swarthmore and Chester

DCCC will provide the training through their certificate and degree programs in skilled trades. The skilled trades certification programs are one year combinations of classroom and practical work. The classes are offered at the DCCC Advanced Technical Center and the Ruth L. Bennett housing development.

Riverside Futures is a Chester community organization that was established by John Linder, the former Mayor of Chester. Riverside Futures is tasked with screening and selecting the young adults who will be students in the program. In addition, Riverside Futures is tasked with providing each student with a mentor to guide them through the

training and early work experience.

CHA will provide meeting locations at its three existing housing development community centers for any training that can be done off the DCCC campus. For example, DCCC will be teaching carpentry classes at the Ruth Bennett community center starting this Fall. Since many of the housing units at CHA are scheduled for rehabilitation, it is anticipated that CTEP trainees can obtain real-world experience at these job sites. CTEP's plan is to use the community center as "Hubs" where some DCCC classes can be taught, students can study together or work with their mentors, and students can catch shuttle buses to the DCCC campus when necessary.

Rotary Clubs of Swarthmore and Chester will provide support to the other team members and provide some of the necessary funding through club contributions, fundraising events, and obtaining grants from Rotary International. The budget for 2021-2022 is anticipated to be \$30,000.

CTEP will also establish an Advisory Board, consisting of representatives from CHA, DCCC, Chester City leaders, Chester schools, Rotary and others.

Of course, many problems remain to be worked out. Two were identified during the talk. Kathryn said the program not only aspires to provide technical training but also would like to help graduates secure a better life after their DCCC training. Some challenging problems the CTEP team will need to figure out include helping graduates to land new jobs, find transportation to their job sites, or how to secure bank loans to help buy a new home. A club member pointed out another potential problem. Some of the renovation work at CHA will be financed by the Federal government. This work will have to be done by union labor. The Club member pointed out that unions have many rules restricting

eligibility and have not been receptive to accepting minority workers. Kathryn said these challenges are examples of the work still to be done to do to make this project succeed.

Kathryn said the project has an ambitious schedule. The CTEP team will host a kick-off meeting for interested young adults and their families on July 27 at the Ruth L. Bennett homes in Chester. The team's goal is to have 12 students start training this September. Swarthmore Rotary will have a fundraiser in Swarthmore on September 25 to help support students to pay for tuition and tools needed for their training and work. What can we Swarthmore Rotarians who are not already CTEP team members do? Kathryn said this will be discussed at the August 12 Club Assembly. This will be an in-person meeting at the Inn at Swarthmore. Kathryn identified some of the potential activities we can do:

- **Project management**
- **Work with community partners such as schools and the Chester Boys and Girls Club**
- **Finance such as budgeting and fundraising**
- **Marketing and public relations**
- **Work with employers**
- **Work with mentors**

This will be a challenging but exciting project for us all.

In subsequent editions of Cognotes, I will provide more information about our partners.