

# Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes



P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081

# September 22, 2022

Jennifer Jones RI President 2022-23 David Houtz District 7450 Governor

## Swarthmore Rotary Leaders

**Heather Saunders** President **Greg Brown** President-Elect **Brian Casev** Club Executive Secretary Patrick Gunnin Treasurer George C. Whitfield Jr. Secretary Jane C Billings Youth Services Chair Perri Ann Evanson **Public Relations Chair** Carr Everbach Membership Chair David Firn Service Projects Chair Betty Ann A. Flynn Club Director

William Clinton Hale Past President Sergeant-at-Arms Anne C. Hansen International Service Chair Kathryn Jones iPast President

Jeannine Osayande Youth Services Chair **Hillard Pouncy** Club Programs Chair Joshua Twersky Club Director

Barbara Whitaker-Shimko **Rotary Foundation Chair** Kenneth J. Wright

Club Director Cathleen Darrell

Attendance Secretary Richard Shimko **Bulletin Editor** 

Karen Aleta Mazzarella Assistant Governor

# **Happy Dollars**

pledge \$942 2021-2022 \$4,476

# **Rotary Celebrations!**

#### **Birthdays**

George C. Whitfield Jr. September 24th

## Meetings and Events

#### September 22nd

Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn) Speaker: Michael Carey, CFA, Carey Investment Solutions, Registered Investment Advisor

Subject: What is Bitcoin? (Live)

#### October 6th

varthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn) Speaker: District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer Subject: The Chester Partnership for Safe Neighborhoods: A Progress Report

# September 29th

Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn)

Speaker: Abigail Cengel, Director, Swarthmore

Public Library

Subject: Swarthmore Public Library: Looking to

the Future (Live)

## **Service Quotation**

"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But...the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" Martin Luther King Jr.

## 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**

Rotary Moment – Elizabeth Churche, in line with our speaker's theme, told us about the work German Rotaractors are doing on behalf of bees. Their efforts include educating the public on the threat to bees, raising funds for conservation efforts, and planting bee-friendly meadows.

Dave Firn asked us to complete a questionnaire on service projects. The questionnaire was sent by Heather as an email on Sept. 14. Please respond by Sept. 23.

## Last Meeting Summary

Bees are in trouble, according to Linda Coalstone. Their populations are declining throughout the world. In the U.S., beekeeper populations have decreased by almost half in the past few years. (See following article). Why should we care? Bee's are more than the nasty bugs that occasionally sting us. They, along with a few other insects, are pollinators. They are necessary for the survival for a lot of the fruits, vegetables, flowers, etc., we all know and love. Without pollinators, we would be up the creek without an avocado!

There are various reasons for the decline. Many scientists believe the decline is caused by human activity. Global warming is one factor. Another, as Linda said, is insecticides.

Pesticides that combat mosquitos or plant eating insects also kill bees and other pollinating insects. Linda's handouts contained information about the chemicals that are contained in mosquito sprays and their side effects. One handout claimed that mosquito sprays, while they are generally advertised as being safe for humans and pets, are dangerous to cats.

Linda was part of the group that convinced Media to become the 300th Bee City USA. The Bee City USA

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Chris Hanlon September 28th

#### **Years of Service**

Chris Hanlon 09-23-2021 1 Year Julie A Millward 09-23-2021 1 Year

## **Guests Last Meeting**

Jim Snively

designation is awarded by the Xerces Society to towns that agree to policies that protect bees. The primary policy is limiting the use of pesticides and herbicides by the municipalities. Any Rotarian interested in having their town be named as a Bee City USA should go to the Xerces Society website, <a href="https://www.xerces.org">www.xerces.org</a>, for more information.

What can private homeowners do? Stop all uses of chemicals in yards. This includes, in particular, mosquito sprays.

Linda offered alternatives for mosquito protection. She mentioned putting Mosquito Dunks in birdbaths. A simple solution when one is sitting outdoors is to use a fan to blow the mosquito's away. Saving our fresh fruits is worth some mosquito annoyance.

### **Bee Decline**

The following article was taken from the Xerces Society website, xerces.org.

#### A World Without Bees

Imagine a world without most of the foods you love. Without bees we wouldn't have the abundance of apples, pumpkins, strawberries, blueberries, or almonds that we enjoy. Of the foods and beverages that we consume daily, over 30% rely on or benefit from a pollinator. Pollinators even help milk production: the alfalfa and clover cows graze is replenished by seed pollinated by bees. Worldwide, production of animal-pollinated crops is valued at over \$235 billion annually. The loss of pollinators would negatively affect both farmers and consumers who would be faced with reduced crop yields and lower quality products. Moreover, insect-pollinated foods contain many key nutrients, such as vitamin E, essential to our diet. A world without pollinators would not only leave us with fewer food choices, but would make it substantially harder to find the nutrition we need to survive.

#### **Pollinators in Decline**

Pollinator populations are in decline in many parts of the world and these declines put agricultural productivity and the health of natural ecosystems at risk. Over the past decade, we have seen a dramatic rise in annual hive losses for the domestic honey bees in the U.S., with beekeepers now losing more than 30% of their bees each year.

Native pollinators may be faring even worse. Numerous wild, unmanaged pollinator species native to North America are experiencing declines and a significant proportion of native bee species are at risk of extinction. For example, at least 28% of North America's bumble bees have undergone significant declines, including species that were formerly common and widespread. In 2017, the rusty patched bumble bee, which has disappeared from 87% of its historic range, became the first bumble bee to be listed as an endangered species.

Butterflies in the U.S. have also undergone significant declines: 19% are at risk of extinction, including species with special habitat needs as well as generalist species that were once widespread. The iconic monarch butterfly, for example, has experienced declines of 74–80% in populations both east and west of the Rocky Mountains. Habitat loss, alteration, and fragmentation, as well as diseases, pesticide use and climate change are all threats to pollinators and the ecosystems that they support.

What's more, many common pollinating species are likely suffering similar fates as those referenced above. A 2016 study documented a more than 75 percent decline in flying insect biomass over a 27 year period. The study was conducted in natural areas in Germany, locations that should be relatively well protected from impacts known to reduce insect biomass.

