



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



April 6, 2023

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

Swarthmore Rotary Leaders

Heather Saunders
President
Lori Markusfeld
President-Elect
Brian Casey
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 Finn
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 \$3,204
2021-2022 \$4,476

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

Andrew Bunting
April 8th

Meetings and Events

April 6th
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Perri Evanson, Berkshire Hathaway Fox
and Roach, Past Rotary Club President
Subject: State of the Local Area Housing Market

April 13th
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting

Service Quotation

Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in the world all of your own."
~Albert Schweitzer

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?

Last Meeting Summary

CLUB ASSEMBLY

Club succession

President Heather Saunders announced that Greg Brown will not serve as Club President next year because he is relocating to California. Lori Markusfeld has agreed to move her term of office up one year starting July 2023. Heather thanked Lori for her cooperation and asked us to assist her in the unexpected transition.

Strategic Planning Priorities

Heather reviewed progress on the Strategic Planning Priorities that had been established earlier in her term. She rated accomplishments on each priority as being either Green – priority accomplished, Yellow – progress made but more work needs to be done, or Red – very little progress made.

1. Maintaining club culture – Yellow
2. Service projects and their impact – Yellow. Although the participation rate has been moderate, Dave Finn has arranged service projects with CRC Watershed and Loaves & Fishes food pantry.
3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion – Red. Heather said little has been done on this priority. While the Club is gradually becoming more diverse, this is not the result of any formal effort.
4. Membership, participation, succession planning – Yellow
5. Youth engagement – Green. Heather said Jeannine Osayande and Jane Billings have established partnerships with the Swarthmore Rutledge School and the Home and School Association.
6. Relationships with other organizations – Green. Ken Wright has cooperated with the PACC to start the Rotary Arts Project. Dave Finn has set up service days with Loaves & Fishes food pantry. The Club has also supported First Place Swarthmore.
7. Awareness and image in the community – Green. Heather thanked Ken Wright for promoting the Rotary Arts Project, which is raising the community's awareness of Rotary. She said restarting Fun Fair was a great boost to the visibility of the Club within the community.

Shepard's Heartbeat

We were joined by Clarice Richards on audio feed. Clarice is the founder of Shepard's Heartbeat, a charity

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

Years of Service

Patrick Gunnin
04-07-2022
1 Year

Guests Last Meeting

No guest



based in Liberia, Africa. Liberia was devastated by a civil war and an Ebola outbreak in the 1990's. She had to flee her home with her children. She began to farm in a remote village within the country. Clarice started Shepard's Heartbeat to teach modern farming methods to residents of the nearby villages and to educate children.

Swarthmore Rotary is partnering with Chester Rotary and a Rotary club in Liberia on a Global Grant application. The project is described in more detail below. The text shown below was taken from a copy of the grant application. Swarthmore Rotary has allocated \$8,000 for the project.

Project Overview

Tell us a little about your project. What are the main objectives of the project, and who will benefit from it?

Remote villages in Liberia lack access to basic life necessities and are cut off from the rest of the country. The Shepherd's Heartbeat Foundation has partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Chester and Swarthmore in Pennsylvania, USA, and Sinkor in Liberia to launch an Agricultural Project in Margibi County off the Bong Mines Road near Yassah Village, Liberia. The primary goal of the Project is to develop a self-sustaining farm that offers nutrition, water, and electrical power as a foundation for on-going economic and community development in these remote villages. The Agriculture Project is designed to use the country's existing natural resources (land) to grow fresh vegetables and fish (aquafarming) to provide healthy meals to children and families in the villages served, as well as teach farming, machinery, and business/economic skills.

Specific Project objectives are to: (1) increase the farm's capabilities for water collection and irrigation; (2) create an "Earn as you Learn" revenue-generating program to address food insecurities for children and young adults; (3) provide skills training in use of farming tools, equipment, and more effective inputs (seed varieties, aquafarming, fertilizers); and (4) expand cooperative activities among local farmers and businesses.

The Project is desperately needed to break the cycle of poverty and its devastating impacts on hard-to-reach communities in Margibi County. The farm is surrounded by 22 villages with an estimated population of 750+ persons, including over 300 children and almost 500 men and women. All of these persons should benefit from the project in the future; but the most immediate beneficiaries will be the 100 persons (30 children and 70 adults) living in the three villages closest to the farm: Sao Village, Jimmiese Village and Yassah Village.

Financial Update

Heather told us that fiscal year to date (YTD) club income was \$32,000 and expenses \$27,000. Treasurer Pat Gunnin said most of the surplus will be used when the money collected during Happy Dollars is transferred to the Rotary International Polio Fund. The Club trust currently has \$93,000. About \$51,000 of that is earmarked as follows: scholarship \$18,000, CTEP \$12,000, and President's Grant Fund \$11,000. Heather said the Club has given or pledged \$12,000 in grants so far this year.

CTEP

- Carpentry Cohort 1 students (8) are on target to graduate in July 2023.
- Efforts are underway to identify employers for Cohort 1 students.
- Carpentry Cohort 2 students (12) are in first year of studies at Ruth L Bennett Hub in Chester.
- Waiting for a decision as to whether DCCC Foundation will take over CTEP later this year.

Fun Fair

Heather declared that the Club is at a crossroads regarding whether to continue hosting Fun Fair. There will be no Fun Fair in 2023. The decision to continue with a Fun Fair in Spring 2024 will be based on the Club members response to a survey that will be conducted soon. Heather said it will be necessary to develop other ways to raise funds for the Club if there is not Fun Fair. She offered the idea that each Club member be assessed \$400 a year. The Club raised money by a variety of methods before Fun Fair, including auctions. Several members pointed out positive benefits to the Club and the community from Fun Fair. One member cited the survey which had been done last year by the Long Range Planning Committee that showed that many community members know about Rotary because of the Fun Fair. Another member said many community charity groups depend on Fun Fair to get their message out to the public. Almost 50 charity organizations had booths at last years Fun Fair.

Induction Ceremony

Tamba Brown was inducted into Swarthmore Rotary by Carr Everbach.



www.SwarthmoreRotary.org ----- www.Facebook.com/SwarthmoreRotary ----- www.SwarthmoreFair.org