



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes



P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081

July 2, 2020

Mark Daniel Maloney
RI President 2019-20
Peter A Mardinly
District 7450 Governor

Swarthmore Rotary Leaders

NOTE - To be changed
Maria Michael Zissimos
President
Youth Services Chair
William Clinton Hale
President-Elect
Brian N. Casey
Club Executive Secretary
Webmaster
Craig Fava
Secretary-Elect
Kathryn Jones
President-Nominee
Sonya Pappas
Treasurer
George C. Whitfield Jr.
Secretary
Barbara Whitaker-Shimko
Rotary Foundation Chair
Perri Ann Evanson
Membership Chair
Betty Ann A. Flynn
Club Director
Anne C. Hansen
Club Director
Lori Markusfeld
Service Projects Chair
Penelope Reed
Public Relations Chair
Barbara Anstutz
Grants Committee Chair
Sean Murphy
Assistant Governor

Service Quotation

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.” ~ Ronald Reagan

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

Years of Service

Meetings and Events

July 2, 2020 Zoom meeting

Speaker: Dan Snyder, Swarthmore Senior Citizen's Association

Dan Snyder will be telling us about the Swarthmore Walks and Trails Project, of the Swarthmore Senior Citizen's Association. Dan is a local boy, having graduated from Haverford College, earned a Masters degree at the University of Pennsylvania, and worked as a research administrator at the Academy of Natural Sciences. He has lived in Swarthmore since 1987.

Dan has always enjoyed the outdoors, since spending childhood summer vacations at Pocono Lake Preserve, and working one summer on a trail maintenance crew in Rocky Mountain National Park. He enjoyed using computers in his work at the Academy, and that became a hobby in retirement. His work on the Trails Project combined those two interests, as he computerized the trail data developed by Carol Menke, and made it available in a smartphone app, and in handout maps.

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

Lord, we know that any journey begins with the first step. Grant us that courage to take that step. Grant us the readiness to venture and with it to be grateful to you for your unfailing gifts toward us all. 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?

Last Meeting Summary

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Bill Hale was inducted as 2020-2021 President of Swarthmore Rotary at the June 25 meeting. While the induction was performed on Zoom, it was a complete and enthusiastic ceremony. Kathryn Jones conducted the ceremony. In addition to the induction of Bill and his Board, the following awards were announced:

Vocational Service Award: Mike Litka, Anita Barnett (co-recipients)

Community Service Award: Donna Francher

SPEAKER

Rosemarie Halt is the Public Health Consultant for Delaware County. She told us about the County's response to the pandemic. Because Delaware County does not have a public health department, Chester County assumed responsibility for responding to COVID-19 in Delaware County. Chester County is doing contact tracing, testing support, data collection and analysis, public communication and providing guidance to hospitals and long-term care facilities. Rosemarie was hired as a consultant as the first step to establishing a public health department. She identified a list of problems the County is experiencing that we are all familiar with at this point. They are shortages of test kits, PPE, ventilators and federal guidance.

Rosemarie stated that Delaware County is the most populace county in the U.S. without a public health department. See below for excerpts from news sources about why this is so. She said she expects the County will have a public health department in about two years. In response to a question about why it will take so long, Rosemarie said the State has mandated a process that will take time. The process has started, at least.

Happy Dollars

\$2186 (pledge \$1169)

2019-20 Happy Dollars
for Polio Plus Fund
(\$3 to fully protect one child)

2018-19 total: \$3,845

2017-18 total: \$4,515

2016-17 total: \$3,756

Guests Last Meeting

Gale Hale, Hogie Hansen, Linda Heffernan, Marv Gelb, Lisa Lee, Donna Francher, Mike Litka, Sharon Mester (accepting service award on behalf of Anita Barnett)

Why doesn't Delaware County have a public health department?

Below are some excerpts from recent articles on this topic.

From <https://why.org/articles/pandemic-spotlights-delcos-long-standing-health-department-fight/>

As the COVID-19 pandemic grips southeastern Pennsylvania, Democratic leaders in Delaware County say they hope their struggle to respond to the crisis proves, once and for all, that they need to create their own health department.

Delaware County, which has so far identified 84 positive coronavirus cases, is the biggest county in the state that doesn't have its own health department. According to county council members, it's also the biggest in the country.

"I think maybe the previous administrations were worried about the economic impact, although they never did an economic impact study to see what it would look like," said Monica Taylor, who serves as vice chair of the county council. "There was just not the political will there to push it forward."

...

In the first weeks after coronavirus patients were identified in Delaware and neighboring counties, officials mainly relied on the state to get updated data on new cases and to disseminate information about best practices to municipalities and businesses.

But, Taylor said, there was an important drawback to that arrangement: the state is governed by stricter privacy rules than counties are, and wasn't permitted to give county officials specific information on the location of new cases — just that they were within county lines.

A Republican point-of-view from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/pennsylvania-county-facing-coronavirus-crisis-without-health-department-n1173446>

Andrew Reilly, a former member of the County Council and the former chairman of the county's Republican Committee, disagreed. He said it wasn't just about money, "although it was certainly a factor."

Back in 2009, Reilly said, county leaders hired Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health to survey residents on the need for a public health department and to make a recommendation. "Johns Hopkins concluded that Delaware County was better served without a full-fledged county health department," he said.

Because the issue kept coming up, Reilly said, the county rehired Johns Hopkins to do an update, the results of which are pending.

Asked whether he regrets not having pushed for a health department, Reilly said no. "I was following the advice of Johns Hopkins," he said.

The Johns Hopkins study is available at

<http://www.delcopa.gov/ich/pdfs/JohnsHopkinsExecutiveSummaryFinal.pdf>

Note from Johnathan Cresson

Thank you for your consideration and selection of my application for your scholarship. I am very honored to win the award.

I am happy to let you know that Lafayette plans to be on campus this fall! I'm excited to see where college will take me. Thanks again.