



# Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



April 22, 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

We can't help everyone,  
but everyone can help  
someone. Dr. Loretta  
Scott

## Rotary Celebrations!

### Birthdays

Susan Larson  
April 22nd

### Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries  
Found

### Years of Service

## Meetings and Events

### April

22nd - [Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Edwin Kline, Citizens Corp of Delaware County  
Subject: Covid-19 Vaccination Implementation in Delco  
29th - [Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Robert D. Putnam, Malkin Research Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Univ.  
Subject: The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do it Again.

### May

6th - [Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Frances Sheehan, founding President of the Foundation for Delaware County  
Subject: Foundation for Delaware County (tbd)

---

## Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

**Lord God, we admit to times of discouragement when we see others making the fast buck by the shady deal and prospering in our midst. Help us to hold fast to the abiding truths embodied in our Four Way**

**Test and make us ever grateful for times of renewal like this hour, when we can rekindle our commitment to each other and to the goals that Rotary sets before us. 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 Bill Hale announced that the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Committee is looking for a new coordinator. RYLA organizes a weekend workshop for high school students to learn leadership qualities. Lori Markusfeld announced the service project at the Chester Housing Authority's Ruth Bennett Community Farm will be from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, April 24. The Farm is located at the loop in Carla's Lane, which runs north off of West 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Chester. Joy Charlton invited us to visit her at a virtual booth in the Hall of Friendship at the Tri-District Conference, April 30 to May 2. She will talk to visitors about the Rotary Peace Fellowship. You can obtain the link and booth hours by registering for the Conference.**

## Last Meeting Summary

**Reggie Shuford, Executive Director of the ACLU of PA, told us that his organization focuses its efforts in five areas: criminal justice reform, reproductive rights, voting rights, immigration rights, and LGBTQ rights. Reggie gave two examples of cases on which the ACLU of PA has intervened. Both are currently being decided by the U.S. Supreme Court (see details below).**

## Happy Dollars

pledge \$3,248

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, Dave Firm  
Mary Hinds

The ACLU membership numbers markedly increased during Donald Trump's presidency. Reggie said the national membership went from 500,000 to 1,700,000.

Reggie attributed his decision to be a civil rights lawyer to his growing up in Wilmington, NC, a city he described as being hostile to blacks. He described a little known "coup" by whites to overthrow a democratically elected biracial city government in 1898. At that time the city's blacks went from a majority black population to its current small minority when the whites drove them out.

## PA ACLU Cases before the U.S. Supreme Court

Reggie Shuford mentioned two cases that the ACLU of PA currently has before the U.S. Supreme Court. Here are details about the cases from the groups website: [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).

### B.L. V. MAHANAY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

On September 25, 2017, the ACLU-PA filed suit on behalf of B.L., a high school sophomore who has been cheerleading since she was in fifth grade and was expelled from the team as punishment for out-of-school speech. The case involves a First Amendment challenge to the Mahanoy Area High School's "Cheerleading Rules," which prohibit cheerleaders from posting any "negative information" about cheerleading online. B.L. was kicked off the junior varsity cheerleading squad for posting a Snap to Snapchat on the weekend that school officials believed was "negative," "disrespectful," and "demeaning." Snapchat is a popular social media smartphone app that allows users to post images that are accessible on the platform only for short periods of time—ranging from one second to 24 hours—and are self-deleting. The post for which B.L. was punished was a photo of her and a friend at a convenience store holding up their middle fingers with the text "f\*\*\* school f\*\*\* softball f\*\*\* cheer f\*\*\* everything" superimposed on the photo. B.L. posted the Snap on a Saturday, and made it available only to her Snapchat friends.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit previously held, in [two other](#) ACLU-PA cases, that schools cannot punish students for out-of-school speech that does not pose a risk of substantially, materially disrupting school activities. B.L.'s lawsuit challenges the Cheerleading Rules on their face and as applied to B.L. to punish her for the content of her out-of-school speech.

Along with the complaint, the ACLU-PA also filed a motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction asking the court to order the District to immediately and temporarily restore B.L. to the team while the litigation proceeds.

On September 26, 2017, the Court issued a temporary restraining order restoring B.L. to the cheerleading squad.

On October 5, 2017, the Court granted plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction, finding that she was likely to succeed in her lawsuit, and issued an order reinstating B.L. to the cheerleading squad while the litigation proceeds.

On March 21, 2019, the court granted the plaintiff's motion for summary judgment, finding that the school did not have the authority to discipline her for her off-campus speech and that the school was in violation of the First Amendment.

In a landmark decision, on June 30, 2020, a federal appeals court ruled that public schools cannot censor students' off-campus speech based on a fear of disruption of school activities.

After the appeals court ruling, the school district appealed to the United States Supreme Court, and the court granted the district's motion to hear the case. Oral arguments will be held on April 28, 2021, with ACLU-PA Legal Director Witold Walczak presenting arguments on B.L.'s behalf.

**Editor's Note:** A Rotarian asked if this could be considered hate speech. Reggie said the text was not directed at any individual or ethnic group.

### FULTON V. CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

After the city of Philadelphia learned in March 2018 that two of its foster care providers would not license same-sex couples to be foster parents, the city ceased referring children to these agencies. Catholic Social Services ("CSS") and four of its foster parents, represented by counsel from the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, sued the City of Philadelphia asking the court to order the city to renew the agency's contract.

**CSS argued that its right to free exercise of religion and free speech entitled it to reject qualified same-sex couples because they were same-sex couples, rather than for any reason related to their qualifications to care for children.**

**On June 8, 2018, the ACLU and the ACLU of Pennsylvania filed a motion to intervene in the lawsuit on behalf of the Support Center for Child Advocates, a nonprofit that represents and advocates for children in the foster care system, and Philadelphia Family Pride, a nonprofit membership organization of LGBTQ&T people and their families, whose members include same-sex foster parents and prospective foster parents. The motion to intervene argued that Child Advocates and PFP and the people they serve would be harmed by a ruling in favor of CSS, and asked the court to allow them to participate in the litigation as defendants in order to protect their interests. The district court granted that motion to intervene on August 14, 2018.**

**On July 13, 2018, a federal district court denied CSS's motion for a preliminary injunction and rejected the argument that child welfare agencies have a right to discriminate.**

**On July 16, 2018, CSS asked the Third Circuit to enter an emergency injunction granting the relief denied by the district court. The Third Circuit denied that motion on July 27, 2018. On July 31, 2018, CSS asked the Supreme Court of the United States to issue an emergency injunction granting the relief denied by both the district court and court of appeals. On August 30, 2018, the Supreme Court denied their motion.**

**On April 22, 2019, the Third Circuit upheld the district court's ruling denying CSS's motion for a preliminary injunction.**

**On February 24, 2020, the United States Supreme Court granted cert in the case and heard arguments on November 4, 2020. A decision is expected by the end of June.**

[www.SwarthmoreRotary.org](http://www.SwarthmoreRotary.org)

[www.Facebook.com/SwarthmoreRotary](https://www.Facebook.com/SwarthmoreRotary)

[www.SwarthmoreFair.org](http://www.SwarthmoreFair.org)