



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



August 18, 2022

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

Swarthmore Rotary
Leaders

- Heather Saunders
President
- Greg Brown
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

Meetings and Events

August 18th
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#) (At Inn)
 Speaker: Melissa Murdoff, Chief, Environmental Crimes Unit, DelCo
 Subject: Environmental Crimes

September 1st
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 Speaker: Vudi Xhymshiti, photojournalist currently in Ukraine
 Subject: Ukraine and Kosovo, Shattering Russian Propaganda

August 25th
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 Speaker: Past Rotary Club President, William Hale
 Subject: Planetary Management and the Haliens

Service Quotation

Contributed by Patrick Gunnin:

The Bridge Builders

BY [WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE](#)

*Old Rotarians were going a lone highway,
 Came, at the evening cold and gray,
 To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
 Through which was flowing a sullen tide
 The old Rotarians crossed in the twilight dim,
 The sullen stream had no fear for them;
 But they turned when safe on the other side
 And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*“Old Rotarians,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
 “You are wasting your strength with building here;
 Your journeys will end with the ending day,
 You never again will pass this way;
 You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
 Why build this bridge at evening tide?”*

*One old Rotarians lifted their old gray head;
 “Good friend, in the path I have come,” they said,
 “There followed after us to-day
 Youth whose feet must pass this way.
 This chasm that has been as naught to me
 To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
 They, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
 Good friend, we are building this bridge for them!”*

Club News

George Whitfield presided.

Brian Casey, in giving his Rotary Moment, related his dismay during a conference to hear a young person from South America say “everyone knows Americans don’t like Latinos”. He understood the need for Rotary International’s Peace Mission to help us all understand each other.

Ken Wright suggested that individual Rotarians attend local Rotary meetings when traveling. He said there is an app that can be used to determine where and when local Rotary clubs meet.

Anne Hansen announced that a group is being formed to go to India to distribute the polio vaccine and to help

Happy Dollars

pledge \$494

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

Norman Ledwin Jr.
 August 18th
 Hillard Pouncy
 August 23rd

Wedding Anniversaries

Barbara Amstutz
August 24th

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

Guests Last Meeting

Mathew Ndukwu

build a dam. She said the trip will be over Thanksgiving. Contact Anne for more information.

Last Meeting Summary

When we reach a certain level of maturity, we start to ask important questions: what is the meaning of life? Is there a god? What happens to the dirty water that goes down the toilet and sink? Charles Hurst answered the last question, at least. Charles is the Director of Engineering at DELCORA. DELCORA is a municipal authority, owned by Delaware County, that transports and treats sewage and rainwater. He explained that Swarthmore's sewage flows, generally by gravity, to a large pipe near Crum Creek and then flows to a treatment plant in Chester. He seemed quite proud of the treatment plant. The facility treats the water "naturally", that is, by having microscopic organisms digest the waste and leave crystal clean water and a sludge.

Charles wanted to talk about a new project that DELCORA was undertaking. The utility has a problem with rainwater getting into the sanitary sewer system. Normally, rainwater flows through a separate system of pipes that discharge directly to the creeks. However, following a heavy rain, some rainwater infiltrates into the sanitary sewer systems, increasing the amount of sewage to be treated. In addition, in parts of Chester, rainwater and sewage flow into the same pipes to the treatment plant. Because this greatly increased flow exceeds the treatment plant's capacity, the excess is pumped to a Philadelphia treatment plant. The Philadelphia water authority charges DELCORA a treatment fee and it is expensive. DELCORA wants to store the excess wastewater and treat it after the rain ends. To do this, they are planning to drill an eight-mile-long tunnel under Chester to store excess water. The tunnel is 100' below the surface. Although the cost of the project is \$420 million, Charles said it will save money in the long run.

Jane Billings commented on the trend of private utilities, such as Aqua, buying public utilities, such as DELCORA. She provided additional information after the meeting. It is summarized in the article below.

This is a photo of the DELCORA treatment plant in Chester. The dirty water enters the plant at the top. The clean water leaves the plant at the bottom.



Info on Sale of Sewer Authorities

Jane Billings stated her concern about Aqua's purchase of public sewer authorities such as DELCORA. She provided several articles after the meeting. They are summarized below.

Recently, Aqua has purchased, or announced plans to purchase, many public sewer systems. This includes announced plan to purchase DELCORA. The purchase frenzy was set off by a 2016 Pennsylvania law that allows private utilities to charge customers at a higher rate than previously to cover the purchase price. The stated objective of the law was to consolidate smaller systems to allow more efficient operations and to provide money to fix outdated sewer systems. The law will also prompt municipalities to get out of the sewer business. Grassroots opposition to purchases has sprung up, including in Delaware County. Opponents to the

purchases state that any benefits will be outweighed by the higher prices they will be charged as customers. Some of the articles Jane provided deal with the announced purchase of DELCORA by Aqua. The outgoing Republican Delaware County administration announced the planned sale in 2019 for \$276 million. The new Democratic County administration sued to block the sale once they took office. The sale is currently on hold until the courts decide. It should be noted that, according to the articles, the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission tends to favor the purchases for the reasons given above.

Drugs in Water?

The following notice was provided by Dave Firn. Contact him if the ticket link doesn't work:

Want to learn more about **Microplastics and Drugs in our Local Streams?** The CRC Watershed Association is bringing its Science on Tap series to Swarthmore's own Ship Bottom Brewery on August 30th from 7-9pm, where Dr. Meghan Fork, a biology professor at West Chester University, will discuss microplastics in the snow, water, and insects of Pennsylvania streams and the sources and dynamics of pharmaceuticals in streams around Baltimore, MD. **Find out how our choices and behaviors contribute to this kind of pollution and how small changes we can make will help protect our local streams.** You will have the chance to try a variety of Ship Bottom beers. Your \$25 ticket includes your first beer and a selection of yummy snacks.

[Get A Ticket](#)

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