



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



December 15, 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 Firm
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 \$1,653
2021-2022 \$4,476

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

Joy Charlton
December 18th
Dorothy Lee Gelb

Meetings and Events

December 15th
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#) (Inn)
 Speaker: SHHS Silvertones
 Subject: A Holiday Celebration

December 29th
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 Speaker: Holidays
 Subject: No Meeting

December 22nd
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 Speaker: Holidays
 Subject: No Meeting

Service Quotation

"Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work."

William Arthur Ward

Club News

The December 8th meeting was a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Media. It was a great opportunity to connect with members of our neighboring Club, and the consensus was clear that we would like to continue with occasional joint meetings.

We were joined also by several staff and Board members from the Foundation for Delaware County and by Dan Staub of the Haverford Township Rotary Club.

During Club business, we voted to confirm Lori Markusfeld as President Nominee. She will succeed Greg Brown as Club President for the 2024-25 Rotary year. Many thanks to Lori for agreeing to serve!

The Giving Tree: A friendly reminder that Sonya Pappas and Maria Zissimos are collecting new Christmas toys for children living in the Chester Housing Authority homes. If you wish to participate, you may drop off contributions on Thursday evening, December 15th, 5:00-7:00 at Ship Bottom Brewing in Swarthmore and join Sonya for happy hour. If you can't make it Thursday evening, please contact Sonya directly to arrange dropoff: sonya@gsm.biz

Last Meeting Summary

By Heather Saunders

Our speaker was PA State Representative Jennifer O'Mara. While she has been in office for 4 years already, as a result of redistricting, Jenn will begin representing both Swarthmore and Media in 2023. Her visit was an opportunity for us, as new constituents, to get to know her. Jenn shared her compelling personal story, explaining her interest in public service. She encouraged us to take advantage of the constituent services provided by her Springfield office. It was apparent from lunchtime conversation that she has already been drawn into the PECO/tree canopy discussion here in Swarthmore.



More information about Jennifer O'Mara

For more information about Jennifer, I went to her website, voteomara.com. The following is from that site:

December 19th
Dennis Hoffman
December 22nd
Greg Brown
December 28th

Wedding Anniversaries

Jane C Billings
December 30th

Years of Service

Anne C. Hansen
12-29-2000
22 Years

Guests Last Meeting

Dan Staub
Media Rotary Club
Members Foundation for
Delaware County

“Jennifer O’Mara believes there is more that unites us than divides us, and is committed to being part of a government that works to serve the people. As a member in the State House of Representatives, she is committed to improving public education for our children, ensuring access to affordable healthcare, and expanding job opportunities at all skill levels. Her dedication to public service is deeply rooted in her own experience, and her ability to deliver practical solutions has been shaped by her challenging personal journey. Jennifer is the daughter of a union firefighter. When she was thirteen years old, her father died by gun suicide. Everything changed for Jennifer and her family. They moved to Delaware County and her mother found a job as a school bus driver. Thanks to essential public services, her father’s pension, and her mother’s union job, Jennifer’s family made it through.

After graduating from Interboro High School, Jennifer faced familiar challenges. As the daughter of the single mother with two younger brothers at home, affording college seemed impossible. But, Jennifer supported herself through college by working three jobs and was able to earn a dual degree from West Chester University with the help of financial aid and student loans. Studying history and secondary education, she became a certified teacher.

Jennifer’s friends, family, and community members know her as an advocate who is always ready to help others. Jennifer is incredibly hardworking and puts the needs of her community ahead of her own. She also served as an advocate with the Department of Veterans Affairs for her now-husband, Bradford Bitting, a combat veteran and two-time Purple Heart recipient. Jennifer O’Mara holds a Masters degree in English and history from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Lion’s Club and sits on the Board of Directors of the Delaware County Historical Society.

Jennifer and Bradford were married in 2017. They currently live in Springfield with their rescue dog, Ladybug.”

The first issue discussed on Jennifer’s website is Education. Here is what her website has to say about how she works to improve public education:

“Expanding and improving public education is Jennifer’s number one priority as a legislator. As a certified social studies teacher for secondary education, Jennifer understands the challenges faced by Pennsylvania’s teachers. Jennifer has committed to fully implementing the entire fair-funding formula generated by the Basic Education Funding Commission and ensuring quality public schools across Pennsylvania. Jennifer opposes merit pay for teachers, favoring instead a model in which teachers can run their classrooms creatively without worrying about standardized test scores for their paycheck. Jennifer is fighting hard for the rights of teachers to organize for better pay, fair hours, and continued pensions, and will do whatever it takes to address the teacher shortage our state is currently facing.

Jennifer is also committed to ensuring that public schools are equitable and well-funded. Pennsylvania ranks 47th in the country for public school funding, providing only 37% of basic education and 25% of special education costs. Additionally, as an increasing proportion of public school funding is collected through local property taxes, educational inequity is exacerbated – wealthy areas continue to have well-funded schools, while lower-income areas suffer. In Harrisburg, Jennifer has fought to increase other sources of school funding. As a first-generation college student and former university administrator, Jennifer also understands the challenges facing higher education. As a legislator, she was appointed to the Public Higher Education Commission helping to ensure that our public colleges and universities are fully funded. She is also a co-founder of the bipartisan Student Debt Caucus, working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to prevent Pennsylvanians from facing crippling levels of student debt into adulthood. Recently, she has been working to ensure that our state budget addresses food insecurity and hunger at Pennsylvania’s colleges.”

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