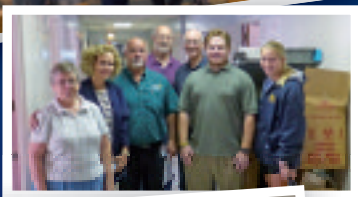


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**Club of Chester, PA**  
Chartered June 1, 1917



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## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER: 1917

# New Service Club is Chartered in Chester, PA, June 1971

The Rotary Club of Chester, PA was chartered on June 1, 1917 with the Rotary Club of Philadelphia as its sponsor. The Rotary Club of Chester became the second club in the District, only twelve years after Rotary itself was founded.

Prior to the Charter being awarded, the club began meeting in March 1917. Dr. Augustus Koenig, President of the Rotary Club of Philadelphia, and E. Wallace Chadwick, a local attorney and later a Delaware County judge, were instrumental in organizing the Rotary Club of Chester, PA. The Club held its first weekly meeting with Club President Edwin D. Glauser presiding on March 2, 1917 at the Washington House Hotel, demolished c. 1959,



E. D. Glauser was the first club president in 1917-18.

one of the oldest hotels in the country and a noted hostelry between Philadelphia and Washington, DC. At their second weekly meeting, members discussed amalgamation with

the International Association of Rotary Clubs (now known as Rotary International) and completion of the work related to joining; also, the committee on membership discussed enlargement of the Chester Club and the great care needed to be exercised in securing members, as one of the most solemn rules of the organization was (at that time), that no branch of business could have two representatives from different firms engaged in the same business.

Club president Edwin D. Glauser presided over the meeting and acted as toastmaster of the club's first monthly dinner on March 13, 1917, also held at the Washington House Hotel. The dinner featured three well-known men from the

area. Dr. Koenig was the first to speak. He congratulated the Chester organization on the splendid progress it had made during its brief career, told of the wonderful opportunities the club had in the interest of civic progress, and said that the new club could do considerable in cooperating and assisting older organizations. James P. Owens of Wilmington, Delaware, congratulated the Chester Club on behalf of the Delaware Club. He spoke of the work that the Wilmington Rotary Club had accomplished, indicated that their membership was over 100, and stated that his club was advocating for a paid fire department for their city. Captain Morey, Army instructor at the Pennsylvania Military College (now Widener University), delivered the principle address of the evening. The captain advocated universal military training for the purpose of preparing the country in the event that it needed an additional force of armed men on the international border. In addition, other men from the area discussed the role their companies (including the Remington Arms Company and the Sun Shipbuilding Company) could contribute to national preparedness.

The theme of patriotism



Many of the early meetings were held at the Washington House Hotel.

and commitment to national preparedness was a focus in many of the Chester Rotary club's first meetings. An article in the Chester Times on Saturday, March 31, 1917 stated: "Rotarians of Chester pledged support to President Wilson and the Government in the international crisis at the weekly noon luncheon. Resolutions were adopted and forwarded to President Wilson pledging loyalty and support. Within a few hours of telegraphing President Wilson the resolutions, a message was received by E. Wallace Chadwick, Esq., chairman of the resolutions committee extending thanks to the club for its attitude."

Articles in the Chester Times in the fall 1917 describe the Chester Rotary Club's earliest projects. Chester Rotarians:

(a) pledged their cooperation and appointed a committee to assist in founding a farmer's curb market; (b) took part in a nationwide campaign to secure funds for the equipment of recreation quarters and other facilities to look after the morals of the soldiers in camps (to keep the boys out of "bawdy houses" and send "our boys clean over the top and send them over the top clean!"); (c) pledged support for the Liberty Loan (bond) program and took part in the Liberty Day Parade with Flyovers by aeroplanes from Chandler Field, Essington, and took up the cry: "Every miser helps the Kaiser, Every buyer rouses his ire, Do your share, make him swear, Bond! Bond! Bond!"; and (d) made contributions to the Red Cross and Boy Scouts.

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## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER: 1918-1938

# The Rotary Club of Chester Commits to Patriotism and Service, 1918 thru 1938

**R**otary Club of Chester has enjoyed a rich and varied history. Highlights from its first 20 years follow:

**1918:** Chester Rotary Club members joined other local service organizations in contributing to the United War Work Campaign (UWWC). At February's monthly banquet ("Hooverized"), the superintendent of the Chester public schools addressed club members on school matters; and two "Tommies" (British soldiers) shared stark details regarding their war experiences. In March Chester Club members attended a Rotary Convention in Lancaster, PA. In November, the Chester Rotary hosted the Great French Band that participated in the unveiling of a soldiers' shaft, a war memorial at Market Square (Sun Shipyard).

**1919:** Chester's soldier memorial was also mentioned in the January issue of the "The Rotarian" (the magazine of the International Association of Rotary Clubs). At the club's annual meeting members articulated its golden rule as: "He profits most who serves best."

**1921:** The Chester Club sponsored the Rotary Club of West Chester.

**1923:** In August the Club held a memorial service

for President Harding, who was an ardent and active Rotarian. The White House sent the club a telegram thanking them for their condolences on the passing of the president.

**1924:** In October, the President of the West Chester Club was the luncheon speaker and described Rotary as "an aggregation of men united for self-improvement and mutual advancement of their community. The best work is accomplished when closely in contact. In Rotary you get out what you put in."

**1925:** In June, a luncheon speaker described business methods with special reference to "co-operative plans" through which employees share in annual profits and customers share on a pro rata basis.

**1927:** The Chester Club took part in a "Ladies' Night" hosted by the Darby-Lansdowne Rotary Club. The evening's speaker discussed the quest for world peace; and described the growth of Rotary around the world (now in 43 countries with 132,900 members in 2,682 clubs) as a vehicle to foster understanding and goodwill.

**1932:** In June, the club heard a talk on the stock market collapse and great depression; the speaker blamed Wall Street propaganda and excessive loans to Germany for the crash. In June, the Club held its annual picnic at the Delaware County Sportsmen's Club. In October, the Chester Club hosted the County Rotary Club Conference at the Chester Club, 511 Welsh Street in Chester, PA. The "Service Above Self" motto presented at the conference and the Chester Boys Club was mentioned as a

service project headed by a Chester Rotarian.

**1935:** On February 23, the 30-year anniversary of the founding of Rotary, organization had grown to 3,730 clubs with 154,000 members. In May, the Chester Club enjoyed a historical talk that included stereopticon views of Old Chester by the Delaware County Historical Society. Seeing the pictures, in which Chester had a dearth of shade trees, inspired club members to advocate for Chester to establish a tree commission.

**1936:** In June, the Club's Coulter Fund Committee announced that the fund had \$500 and some of these funds were to be used for a scholarship for a graduating high-schooler.

**1937:** This year, in honor of the club's late Dr. John S. Eynon (and former club president), the Coulter Fund was renamed the Coulter-Eynon Fund for the purposes of supporting individuals' medical and/or educational needs. A weekly meeting in September featured speaker William J. Young on "The Plight of the Share Cropper in the South." The Rotary Club of Chester sponsors the Rotary Club of Swarth-



The cornerstone monument in Crozer Park to commemorate the 'Finland' settlement of the 1630s.

more.

**1938:** In June, the Chester Club took part in a ceremony planned with the Finnish Foreign Minister to lay the cornerstone for a monument in Crozer

Park to commemorate the "Finland" settlement of the 1630s. (NOTE: Finnish and Swedish settlements which grew up in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey several decades before the coming of Wil-

liam Penn. The colony of New Sweden retained that name for eighteen years after the landing of the first Finnish and Swedish settlers in the spring of 1638.)



The Swarthmore banner.

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## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER: 1939-1958

## The Rotary Club of Chester Serves Community at Home and Abroad, 1939 thru 1958

**1939:** In 1939, the club held its regular meetings at the Chester Club located at 511 Welsh Street in Chester. In April, the Chester Rotary hosted a "Youth Panel" with many other county Rotary clubs, numerous government officials, leaders of industry, and students from various high schools in attendance. Also in April, a visitor from the Rotary Club of Hangchow, China, was the guest speaker at a regular lunch meeting of the club. The program had been arranged by the International Service Committee of the Chester Rotary Club.

**1940:** In May, James Gaines, representative of the famous "Major Bowes Amateur Hour" radio program, discussed the logistics behind the program selection process of applicants wishing to appear. In August, the annual outing of the club took place at the Springhaven Club and included golf matches, softball games, swimming, tennis, and quoits. December saw an honoring of city firemen by the Chester Rotary at the annual "Firemen's Day" meeting.

**1941:** Speakers at the Club's weekly meetings addressed topics including: "What Fools We Mortals Be," a safety driving discussion; "The Romance of the Diamond" by the past president of the Jewelers' Association; and a discussion of tracking disease by the army using new X-ray technology.

**1944:** In August, navy chap-

lain L. Guy Moon, a graduate of Crozer Theological Seminary (where Martin Luther King, Jr. would study from 1948-1951), provided the club with a fascinating analysis of the effects of war on sailors' attendance at religious services aboard navy ships. Although only a small percentage of the men belonged to church, the vast majority attended. Chaplain Moon believed that attending services gave the men a feeling of purpose in life.

**1945:** In March, a presentation was given on "Vocational Education" by Charles Zinn of the Chester school district. Vocational service has always been a focus of Rotary, within a broader framework of education. In April, Dr. Aelyas Kassab, president of the Chester Rotary Club, paid tribute to the memory of late President Roosevelt. Also, a club member, Charles Pizza, spoke about Italy and its future after the war. In his presentation, "Contribution of Italy to Civilization," he expressed hope that Italy would rise again to its former position after her recent misadventures in the present war. In May, the club president expressed happiness over President Truman's victory. A plea was made for tolerance of other nations' views by Rev. David Braun, a member of the Swarthmore Rotary Club (which was chartered by the Rotary Club of Chester in 1937). Attendance at club

meetings was very high under the guidance of Charles Pizza, Chairman of Attendance. Average attendance had risen to 87.6 percent. This percentage includes attendance for those members who visit other clubs' meetings when unable to attend their own club's meeting (a "make-up" in Rotary-speak). In May, a talk was given on the plastic industry, including the showing of a motion picture.

**1946:** In June, the Chester Police beat the Rotary Club 12 to 11 in a softball game. The service club competition took place at the YMCA field in Eyre Park.

**1947:** In September the club started meeting at the Clubhouse Hotel. The local district had grown to 51 clubs. Rotary International by now constituted almost 300,000 members.

**1948:** In December, six outstanding volunteer firemen were honored in a tradition that was already established in 1940. This time the families of the firemen attended the ceremonies, which were broadcast live by Station WVCH. The principal speaker was Jacob N. Fidler, president of the Firemen's Association of Pennsylvania. Also, the club arranged a Christmas party for deserving boys was in the Chester YMCA building. There was dinner, gifts, and entertainment, including "Uncle Wip."

**1949:** In July, Ralph E. Jones became club president, replacing William E. Krell, superintendent of Williamson Trade School. Installation was by E. Wallace Chadwick, congressman and charter member of the club. The club grew to 112 members, of which 7 were honorary.

**1950:** The June 6th meeting at the Clubhouse Hotel was run by youth from vocational, public, and Catholic high schools. Students were asked to suggest group projects and the student who submitted the most outstanding suggestion was honored with a club merit award. In July the club had its annual outing at the Wellwood Yacht Club in Charlestown, MD. Later that year, the club made an initial foray into helping polio victims. A TV set was purchased for a polio victim unable to travel. Later Rotary got involved in an effort to eradicate polio entirely world-wide, an effort that is ongoing and almost completed today. The club started a process of selection of candidates for Rotary Foundation (International) Fellowships. Recipients are allowed travel to, and in, other countries at no expense to themselves to spread friendship and goodwill among nations.

**1951:** The search for fellow-ship candidates continued



District Governor Joseph W. Meli

this year. A total of 284 fellowships were available from Rotary International.

**1952:** Joseph W. Meli of the Chester Club served as District Governor for the 1952-53 Rotary year.

**1955:** The club, together with others, honored Chester High School's Eastern PIAA basketball champions. The team came in second, like the year before. Rotary International existed for 50 years and past president of Rotary International presented a speech at the club, attended by more than 100 Rotarians, to celebrate the "Golden Years." Present was the only remaining charter member of the Chester Club, E. Wallace Chadwick, former judge and congressman.

**1956:** In the summer, the

club hosted a Swiss student to the United States for ten weeks. This is part of a large-scale good-will program; and the club met the Kiwanis in a golf tournament. Chester Rotary hosted a Swiss guest Rotarian for several weeks in September. At the end of his stay the guest gave a presentation of his experiences. In October, patients of the tuberculosis ward at Valley Forge Army Hospital, Phoenixville visited by club. A party was arranged for the patients, supported by the Chester branch of the Red Cross and many others.

**1957:** In November, the Club hosted 15 students from foreign nations at the Central YMCA. Students attend PMC (Widener) and the Crozer Theological Seminary. In December, the club honored six firemen as part of a long-standing annual tradition.

**1958:** The Chester Rotary Club elected, Rev. William A. MacLachlan, as its next president. He succeeded Maitland Roach. In the summer, the club enjoyed presentations by Edwin Max on the topic "Safety-Automobile and Highway" and Denizar Mociel, Brazilian vice consul stationed in Philadelphia, on the Sears Roebuck Company's role in South America.

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## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER: 1959-1978

## Chester Rotary Club Considers Cold War Issues and Community Service, 1959 thru 1978

**1959:** Early in the year, William Gailmor, WPEN radio news director, spoke at a Chester Rotary luncheon meeting on "How to Think about American-Soviet Relations." The next month, the luncheon presentation, "The Businessman and the Stock Market," gave club members advice on economic tendencies and basic objectives to consider when investing. In the spring, speakers shared (a) pointers on "Safety in Flight," (b) a description of salt water is converted to fresh water, (c) a warning not to take Citizenship lightly from Judge Sweney, (d) an analysis of a public education that can breed "mediocracy" in teachers by Dr. Clarence R. Moll, president-elect of Pennsylvania Military College (PMC — now Widener University); and (e) a presentation by Dr. Roy J. McCorkel, representing the American Friends Service, who asserted that "Cost is no Objective" in the Soviet school that allows students to take "all the education he can absorb" — unlike the United States. At the end of the year, as was the tradition, seven firemen received awards for their contributions to the community.

**1960:** The club used Coulter-Eynon funds to purchase a hearing aid for a fourteen-year old girl suffering from cerebral palsy. In this year the Chester Club received a certificate for 10 years' service from the Red Cross.

**1963:** The club, under the leadership of Frank E. Ritter, established two scholarships for evening division students at the PMC. The scholarships were \$60 each, towards tuition. Dean B. Arnold, dean of the division, indicated that students should apply as soon as possible.

**1964:** In February speaker,

Dr. Smoker, talked about "A Businessman's View of the Soviet Union." In March, Joseph Meil, member of the club and past District Governor of District 745 addressed the Chester Pike Club; and Albert E. Sindlinger discussed "Market Research" with the Chester Club. The Chester Club established its own "Rotary Anns" (known as "Inner-wheel" in some other parts of the world) group for members' wives.

**1965:** In August, Stanley Hughes of Smith, Kline, & French, Inc. spoke on the "Hidden Sickness" of drug abuse — mainly amphetamines (pep pills) and barbiturates (sleeping pills) in that era. In the fall, the Chester Rotary hosted the United Community Fund of Chester & Vicinity (UCF) luncheon at the Central YMCA. Radio personality Mike Stanley was the featured speaker.

**1966:** The club continued its work with the Boys' Club (now the Boys and Girls Club) and was given a presentation on the Boys' Club's accomplishments.

**1967:** A wide range of topics was addressed during the year, including: India Today, High Speed Rail Transportation, Attitudes towards Alcoholism, and Nursing Education in Chester. In the fall, a week was devoted to



Kenneth Dale



Chichester Banner

"Interact," the Rotary group activity in High Schools; and the Chester Rotary Club sponsored an Interact Club at Chester High School.

**1968:** Kenneth S. Dale serves as District Governor for the Rotary Year 1968-1969

**1969:** The Chester Club sponsored the Rotary Club of Chichester.

**1971:** William K. Betts was installed as president for the 1971-72 Rotary year and Donald E. Cross, father-in-law of current member, Francy Cross, became vice-president.

**1973:** The Chester/Widener University Scholarship Program was established through a collaboration between the club and the University. In the fall, L. S. Wilson of the DuPont Company spoke about communications, "I Can't Hear You, The Water is Running!"

**1974:** The Club toured the new Chester High School, under the leadership of John Vaul, Chester Upland Schools' Superintendent. The building's architect, Abbott W. Thompson, spoke the next week at the YMCA luncheon. The new high school opened in September.

**1975:** In the spring, Dr. Charles Schreiner Jr., headmaster of the Church School in Exton, addressed the

club. In late summer, a captain of the Salvation Army spoke on a "Walk through the Holy Land."

**1976:** The Rotary Club of Chester awarded Savrio Mirarchi, 25, of Milmont Park, a full year's scholarship to study abroad. He competed with 22 other applicants from district 745 and planned to study at the University of Lyons Law School in France. He was a graduate of St. James High School and Harvard University. The Club listened to a presentation on "Personal Estate Planning," at the weekly luncheon at the YMCA. The club also devoted a week to the Widener Scholarship program. Finally, as usual, a number of firemen were honored.

**1977:** The Chester Rotary Club awarded two scholarships to high school seniors



Rotarian Joe Cirilli helps serve roast beef dinner with Rotary Anns, Peggy Jenkins

at Chester High and St. James High. The recipients were Michael Curry and Michele Tabron. Each student received \$1,000 from the club, to be matched by another \$1,000 from Widener College towards fall 1977 tuition. Awards were made on basis of scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, leadership, and need. In July, new officers for

'77/'78 were installed: John L. Phillips, president, W. Gordon Atherholt, first vice-president, John Roberts, second vice-president. Dante Scattolini was honored as "Rotarian of the Year" for outstanding service; and outgoing president, Edward Linder, presented Wanda Phillips with a Silver Revere bowl for her work as president of the Rotary Anns.

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# Rotary



## Club of Chester, PA

Chartered June 1, 1917



Black Horse Graphics, Media PA

**ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER: 1979-1998**

# Vocational Service and Finally Women in Rotary

**1979:** The club actively participated in the Gundaker Foundation of the local Rotary District. This foundation serves and is operated by more than 50 Rotary clubs in Southeastern Pennsylvania. It is one of only three such foundations in the Rotary world. The foundation assists clubs with local and international projects and provides scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. Application materials can be found at [www.Gundaker.org](http://www.Gundaker.org). The club served its annual Roast Beef Dinner event at the Masonic Temple of Chester. The public was served both in the dining hall of the Temple, and by way of take-out orders.

**1982:** The Rotary Club of Chester installed an in-ground pool for the Boys and Girls Club of Chester. The



Alonzo Cavin was the first African-American president.

Boys and Girls Club grew out of the Boys Club of Chester. The latter developed from an attempt by a Chester Rotary Club member to offer young boys an alternative to becoming mischievous and committing crimes.

**1984:** Alonzo "Cav" Cavin becomes the first African-American president of the Chester Rotary Club. Cav was an Education professor at Widener for many years and was very involved with many education, mentoring, and scholarship activities of the club. He is particularly well-known for his involvement with Project Prepare at Widener and with the annual Martin Luther King Day celebrations in Chester.

**1987:** The Supreme Court ruled that Rotary International must admit women for the first time in a decision that forced many "men only" organizations to become more inclusive. The result was a large influx of women into clubs worldwide. Barbara Hirsh was the first woman to be admitted to the Rotary Club of Chester under the presidency of long-term member Joe Cirilli. Hirsh was sponsored by Les Jenkins. The Chester Rotary Club hosted a Rotary Club from Bangladesh during Rotary International's convention in Philadelphia. Also, the Chester Rotary Club held a 70th anniversary banquet.

**1991:** The Rotary Club of Chester sponsored the Widener University Rotaract Club. Joe Cirilli initiated the



Barbara Hirsh was the first female member of the club.

club in 1990; and it received its charter in 1991. Kathleen McGinnis, a charter member of the Widener Rotaract Club, wrote a research paper entitled "Exploring the Struggling Role of Women and Minorities in Rotary International" for a communications class at Widener.

**1992:** The first edition of the Chester Rotary Club Supplement was published. The club initiated the tradition of the Delaware County Times insert to commemorate its 75th anniversary. The Club once again



In 1991, The Rotary Club of Chester sponsored the Widener University Rotaract Club.

invested in pool facilities for the Boys and Girls Club of Chester. This was a new pool in addition to the one constructed in 1982.

**1993:** The Chester Rotary Club joined with Project Prepare at Widener University to create additional opportunities for students at that university. A Book Fund was established that loaned books to students. In addition, the Coulter-Eynon fund made emergency loans available to students in need. The loans were interest free. The scholarship committee, chaired by Dr. Alonzo Cavin, awarded four Widener scholarships

for the 1992-93 academic year. The earlier recipient of the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial scholarship left for England to commence his economics study. As an interesting note, Bill Moyers' career was shaped by just such a scholarship. By this time, the female membership of the club had grown to four: Diane Lord, Edith Hilton, Joan Taylor, and Mary Maguire. The club worked at Camp Sunshine, served another Roast Beef Dinner, supported the International Foundation, helped in the fight against Polio, etc.

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# Rotary



## Club of Chester, PA

Chartered June 1, 1917



## Women

### FROM PAGE 6

**1994:** Working with youth took center stage. Activities included work with Interact at Chester High, Rotaract at Widener University, Youth Exchange with international students, and various scholarships and awards. The Boys and Girls Club and the Chester Rotary Club served an annual holiday dinner to about 800 people.

**1995:** The medical clinic in Nigeria, which is sponsored by the Chester Rotary Club and prominent local doctors, was nearing completion. Dr. Daniel O. Dada MD, a member of the club, was tireless in his pursuit to finish the Metro Clinic for women and children. Day-to-day operations of the clinic were supported by the revenue from a newly established farm operation, Metro-Farms. The Rotary Club of Chester established its own tax-exempt foundation under section 501(c)3 of the tax code to better serve the community. Once again the club made available two scholarships to Widener students. Our Rotaractors at Widener had a "productive" year. They helped clean up City Ministries, a homeless shelter; they distributed personal care items at nursing homes; and spread holiday joy through the provision of food and gift baskets. City Team Ministries gave



Edith Hilton was the first female club president.

its "Good Samaritan Award" to Eric Stong, member of the Rotary Club of Chester.

**1996:** To fight under-immunization in the area, the Chester and other local Rotary Clubs joined together in support of Childhood Immunization Week in April. The Chester Club sponsored immunization efforts in various locations in the county.

The members actively engaged in various service endeavors and raised funds for the financial support of local service organizations, such as Camp Sunshine, the Boys and Girls Club, the Red Cross, the Delaware Literacy Council, etc. The club was well on its way to secure a large matching grant from the Rotary International



Fun was had at the annual soap box derby.

Foundation for the Metro Clinic project in Nigeria.

**1997:** Edith Hilton becomes the first female president of the Club. The sought after matching grant for the Metro Clinic in Nigeria was secured. Hogie Hansen, Rotary District Foundation Chair and member of the Swarthmore Club, presented a check for \$15,000 to the Chester Club Foundation. The Rotaractors just finished collecting old textbooks at Widener to be sent to the University of Sarajevo in war-torn Bosnia.

**1998:** The Chester Rotary Club actively participated in

the newly launched RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) program in District 7450. Congressman Kurt Weldon was the keynote speaker at the 80th

birthday of the club gala. Dr. Alonzo "Cav" Cavin, long-time member of the club, was appointed assistant governor in Rotary district 7450.

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## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER: 1999-2017

# Literacy, Hunger, Health

**1999:** The club contributed to Rotary International's PolioPlus campaign. The club conducted its Third Annual Chester Rotary Golf Outing and raised \$7,000 for local charities, educational scholarships, and club service projects. Beneficiaries include the American Red Cross, Camp Sunshine, Chester Boys and Girls Club, Stinson Towers programs for elderly residents, the United Way of Southeast Delaware County, a health clinic in Nigeria, and Rotary International's fight against polio. Club member and Chester Mayor Dominic F. Pileggi, Esq. sponsored Police Commissioner Wendell N. Butler, Jr. as a new member.

**2000:** The club presented

a \$15,000 check to George Carter the Boys and Girls Club of Chester to refurbish their Learning Resource Center with equipment for computerized tutoring, textbooks, and mentoring activities.

**2001:** The Club enjoyed another year of serving the community through its many service projects motivated by Rotary International founder Paul Harris' words, "Humanity is my business; he profits most serves best." Service projects included awarding scholarships to four students attending Widener University; Coulter-Eynon Fund donations to help a student buy books, assist a community resident recuperate from a house fire,

and support for a student stricken with leukemia. The club also championed Service Above Self by recognizing club member Joe Cirilli for his lifetime of service. Joe began his volunteer service career in 1946 and led many causes and touched the lives of thousands of individuals throughout the years. Joe became a member of the Rotary Club of Chester upon retirement from Westinghouse in 1982. He served as club president in 1987 and began inviting students from Chester High School and St. James High School to Rotary meetings to receive merit awards. In 1990, he began the process of developing a Rotaract Club at Widener University; and the club was formally chartered in 1991. During its first decade the Widener Rotaract Club reached out to the homeless, visited the elderly, and supplied food, clothing, and toys to the needy. Joe fostered leadership in youth through multiple programs, scholarships, and achievement awards.

**2002:** In its 85th year the Chester Rotary Club was proud of its contributions to both the local and global communities. Local projects included: new coats for Chester's young children; Christmas gifts for local children; five Widener University student scholarships; and support for the local United Way and Red Cross chapters, Camp Sunshine and CityTeam Ministries. Contributions to international projects included donations to help eradicate polio throughout the world; and to fund Rotaplast missions that provide surgeries to help children who were born with cleft lip and cleft palate deformities. Club member Edith Hilton used



In 2004, Rotary International District 7450 recognized the Chester Club's Nigeria Metro Clinic Project as the Third Best Project of the Century.

her social work skills to develop a personal care school for senior residents of Stinson Towers; and she orchestrated a graduation complete with caps, gowns, diplomas, family, friends and a catered reception.

**2003:** The club continued its support for children through financial contributions and/or hands-on support of: (a) Camp Sunshine, a summer camp for underprivileged children from Chester and other communities in Delaware County; (b) distribution of 3,500 Operation Warm winter coats to needy Chester youth; (c) building two "cars" so children in the Boys and Girls Club could race in the Rotary Club of Media's Soapbox Derby; (d) tuition for two students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) conference; (e) family literacy activities at the J. Lewis Crozer Library; (f) the Chester High School Interact Club; (g) Student of the Month recognition; (h) the "Sheva Nevas" school for abandoned children in Changanacherry, India with a donation of \$2,000 — of which \$500 was raised by the club's Rotaract Club at Widener University, another \$500 by the Chester Rotary, and a \$1,000 match from the Gundaker Foundation of District 7450; and (i) a Christmas toy drive and food collection drives at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The club also contributed to local community organizations, including: the local Red Cross chapter,

the Crozer Chester Foundation, the local library, and the Mount Pleasant Community Development Corporation. The Cross family established a scholarship to Widener University in memory of Donald "Don" Cross, ex-president of the club (1972-73) and club member from 1952 until his passing in 2000.

**2004:** Rotary International District 7450 recognized the Chester Club's Nigeria Metro Clinic Project as the Third Best Project of the Century.

**2005:** The club donated a town clock to the city of Chester to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International. The Rotaract Club at Widener supported a center for street children in Changanacherry, India. The Chester Club once again supported Chester High School students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program, held at the Freedom Foundation. The Club played a leading role in the Martin Luther King day celebrations in Chester for a second year in a row, by chairing the event (Dr. Alonzo "Cav" Cavin and Doreen Storey).

**2006:** Francy Cross was elected president for the Club's 90th year. The 15th Annual Supplement was published. The club supported a "Rotaplast" mission to LaRoya, Peru in June 2006, both monetarily and through the participation of club member Faith Holefelder. Rotaplast missions offer cleft lip/cleft palate surgery to underprivileged children internationally. 2,502 winter coats were distributed to children in need, in conjunction with "Operation Warm." At the District level, Francy Cross co-chaired the Youth Exchange Program (YEP) Committee; Louise Vitiello Burroughs co-chaired the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference for a second year; and Art Sybrandy was an active



The Chester Town Clock commemorating Rotary International 100th Anniversary.

member of the Gundaker Foundation Committee.

**2007:** MLK Day, January 15, was of particular relevance to the Club since the year 2007 represented the 90th year of the chartering of the Rotary Club of Chester and a commitment to Rotary International's motto, "Service Above Self, He Who Serves Best, Profits Most." On June 1, the Rotary Club of Chester celebrated its 90th anniversary. Club Member, Senator Dominic F. Pileggi, presented Francy Cross, Club President, with a citation from the State of Pennsylvania congratulating the Club on 90 years of Service Above Self. The Town Clock gifted to the City of Chester to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International was officially dedicated. Plaques mounted on the clock honor businesses and individuals who contributed to the project. The clock is located opposite the main entrance of Chester's City Hall at the corner of Avenue of the States and 4th Street. As is now a tradition, the club rang the Bell for the Salvation Army and provided holiday meals and gifts. By achieving many goals set forth by Rotary International for the Rotary year, the club was awarded a Presidential Citation by the president of Rotary International, Bill Boyd.

LITERACY » PAGE 9



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# Literacy

FROM PAGE 8

**2009:** In March the Club distributed dictionaries to all third-graders in the local public and private schools. Throughout the year the club recognized high school "Students of the Month." The club participated in "Operation Warm" and supported the Salvation Army to help those in need. We also raised funds for the fight against Polio and to support Rotaplast, an international service project to send surgeons and supporting personnel, equipment, and materials to underdeveloped areas in the world to provide cleft lip/cleft palate corrective surgeries. In addition, the club started raising money for our next major international project — providing clean drinking water in developing countries. In many places such a project involves the drilling or digging of a well and furnishing associated equipment.

**2011:** In January the Chester Rotary Club applied to Rotary international to take part in a pilot program through which our club would introduce greater flexibility and innovation in our club structure. Our innovation would be to eliminate one lunch meeting each month when we would instead go into the community to do hands-on service projects. The Chester Rotary began its participation in Pennsylvania's "One Book, Every Young Child" initiative. Other local clubs have also taken part in this project. Members of the clubs read to young school children and give each child a book to take home. Further, as part of its emphasis on literacy related service projects, the Chester Rotary Club distributed dictionaries to third-graders, worked with the J. Lewis Crozer Library and the Delaware Council Literacy Council,



In 2011, the Chester Rotary began its participation in PA's 'One Book, Every Child' initiative.

and invited luncheon speakers on the topic of literacy. One of our members, Faith Holefelder, traveled to Vietnam as part of a Rotaplast mission. The club furnished financial support to the mission. Widener Rotaract, which was sponsored by the club in 1991, celebrated its 20th year of service. This made it the oldest continuously operating club in the District. The club received Literacy Awards from Rotary International Zone 32 and Rotary District 7450 for its activities in this area, both for children and adults.

**2012:** The Rotary Club of Chester became one of only 200 clubs in the Rotary universe to test new approaches to community service and fellowship. The plan was to experiment with alternative approaches to find one or more that fit better in the current environment. We decided to be more flexible and innovative, both in terms of membership requirements and meeting formats. One immediate innovation was the joint presidency shared by two Rotarians, Francy Cross and Louise Vitiello-Burroughs. The Club continued its emphasis on literacy this year with many activities, once again participating in "One Book, Every Young Child," distribu-

tion of dictionaries to third graders, partnering with the J. Lewis Crozer Library, supporting the Delaware County Literacy Council. The Club took the lead in a tailgate party at a Philadelphia Union game (vs. the New England Revolution). The annual tailgate raises funds for the Rotary Polio Plus campaign, which aims to rid the world of polio (similar to small pox eradication) by vaccinating the majority of the children in the world each year.

**2013:** The Rotary Club of Swarthmore invited the Rotary Club of Chester, as well as eleven other North American clubs and seven international clubs to develop and contribute financially to a Global Grant Program to support "WorkReady Chester," a summer internship program for Chester's high school youth. The program was implemented in Chester through the "Chester Work Force Development Center," affiliate with a similar program in Philadelphia.

**2014:** The club supported a graduate student who obtained a Graduate Grant (Scholarship) from the Gundaker Foundation, the district 7450 foundation "owned and operated" by more than 50 clubs in SE Pennsylvania. Kristin DeGhetaldi is a graduate student at the University of

Delaware, pursuing a Ph.D. in (Art) Preservation Studies. The grant applies to 2015-16 academic year tuition.

**2015:** The Rotaract Club at Widener University was also reenergized, after a short period of slow-down. Dean Gretchen Mielke played an important role. Our participation in the "One Book, Every Young Child" grew, and we managed to include more clubs in the effort. We created an Adult Education Lending Library at the Delaware County Literacy Council. We greatly improved the visibility of the club by creating a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/chesterparotary](http://www.facebook.com/chesterparotary)) and a club website ([www.chesterparotary.org](http://www.chesterparotary.org)). The club has initiated cooperation with project C.U.R.E., an organization that tests and ships retired medical equipment to developing nations. The club received the (Rotary International) Presidential Citation once again for meeting all the objectives required by the plan put forth by the RI president.

**2016:** The club made a major contribution to Project C.U.R.E. which we joined last year. The club, with the help of Rotaract and nursing students from Widener University, packaged, loaded, and shipped a major amount of medical equipment. The equipment was donated by Crozer-Keystone Health System upon the closure of its North Campus. The equipment, including many hospital beds, will be checked, repaired, and adapted at the project C.U.R.E. facilities before being shipped to hospitals in developing countries. The club established a scholarship in memory of Joe Cirilli, a long term, active member. Joe was very active not only in Rotary, but he also played key roles in the local Athletic and Historical societies. Joe received many Rotary honors, including a Governor's Citation for his key role in establishing the Widener Rotaract Club in



In 2013, the Rotary Club of Swarthmore invited the Rotary Club of Chester, as well as eleven other North American clubs and seven international clubs to develop and contribute financially to a Global Grant Program to support 'WorkReady Chester,' a summer internship program for Chester's high school youth.

1991. The club once again hosted a tailgate party at Talen Energy Stadium in support of Polio Plus, the Rotary project to eradicate polio. As part of our innovative, experimental approach to Rotary we decided to convert one of our luncheon meetings each month into a happy hour meeting at UNO Pizzeria & Grill in Chester, close to the Widener Campus. This approach is designed to meet new potential members in a less formal setting. This new location also offered a new fundraising opportunity by offering coupons from UNO to potential customers. Part of the proceeds go to the club. We collected food items for the foodbank and did the customary "bell ringing" for the Salvation Army of Chester.

**2017:** June 1 marked our club's first 100 years! President Warren Sell planned a wonderful evening event held at Harrah's Casino and Racetrack in the Ballroom on April 27, 2017. The current supplement tries to recapture some of the history and achievements of the Rotary Club of Chester over the past century. We are looking forward to another 100 years of service. Our newest member, Dan King, was elected Presi-

dent for the 2017-18 Rotary year. Club members have traditionally been active at the district as well as at the club level. Currently Francy Cross is AG for Area 7 and helps with the Youth Exchange, Art Sybrandy is our Gundaker representative, Jessica Hoopes is our Rotaract adviser, Faith Holefelder is active in Rotaplast, Louise Burroughs is our Rotary Foundation representative, and Susanne Cianfarò identifies youth to attend RYLA. In November the club was recognized for its Distinguished Contributions to the Rotary Foundation in 2016-2017: (1) the Chester Rotary Club was one of only 1,573 clubs of the 34,282 clubs (4.6%) around the world to Achieve Top Three Highest In Per Capita Annual Giving honors in our district; (2) one of only 5,034 clubs worldwide (14.7%) to attain status as an Every Rotarian, Every Year Club; and (3) one of only 5,136 clubs worldwide (15%) to become a 100% Foundation Giving Club. The club also received a certificate of appreciation for our financial support of End Polio Now: make history today campaign. So that Rotary international can fulfill its promise to the children of the world and eradicate polio.

## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER

## WINNERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER'S "JOE CIRILLI SCHOLARSHIP AT WIDENER UNIVERSITY": JENNY METELUS AND ANISH SHARAN

Joseph "Joe" Cirilli was an active member of the Rotary Club of Chester from 1982 until 2011; and an honorary member until his death on April 3, 2016 at the age of 93. Always a shining example of Service Above Self, both in his ever active role in our club and in his many leadership roles in the community, Joe leaves behind a rich legacy of the many lives he touched through his service and his example. One of his lasting Rotary achievements was founding and guiding our club's Widener University Rotaract Club in 1991. To honor Joe and keep his memory alive, the Chester Rotary created the Joe Cirilli Scholarship for Widener University Rotaract Club members who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to service



Pictured with president Dan King are Anish Sharan and Jenny Metelus.

in Chester.

The initial winners of the Joseph Cirilli Scholarship are Jenny Metelus, a junior majoring in Anthropology and a member of the Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society, and Anish Sharan, a sophomore studying Hos-

pitality Management in the School of Business Administration and a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Both are active participants in volunteer service both at Widener University and in the City of Chester

## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER

## A message from president Dan L. King

My dear fellow citizens:

I've been an observer of the human condition for longer than I care to admit, however observing for this long a time is certainly better than the alternative! I've watched many things develop during the five decades of my adult life; many positive, some troubling ... all interesting. For the last 15 years I've observed life through the lens of Rotary-member, a lens that has given me a particular perspective on life and on my personal and professional relationships. As the current President of the Rotary Club of Chester I now have an opportunity to share some of what I've seen and some of what I've experienced through Rotary over the years.

I first joined Rotary because my employer wanted to have a representative in the local Rotary club. While I wasn't a reluctant member I wasn't particularly gung-ho, either. But, that changed rather quickly. I found new professional and personal friends; I participated in local community development activities; and I became a member of a 1 million-plus member organization that does great works to improve the human condition. What does that have to do with "observing the human condition?"

I've observed how we've changed socially over time. Participation in groups used to be more important. Today, we're more isolated from one another. We text, rather than visit. While I text as much (or more) than most, I look forward to my Rotary club meetings. No, I don't get to every meeting (except this year now that I'm serving as president) but I really enjoy the opportunity to sit for a meal with my Rotary friends. We're not a family, but we're close



Past President Warren Sell transfers the Paul Harris statue to President Dan King.

... for me, Rotary provides a useful and valued opportunity to regularly interact with others.

I've observed how we seem to have come to pay less attention to the less fortunate. Perhaps it's because of our increased social isolation, but—for whatever reason—we seem to pay less attention to those who are in-need. Of course, we are all moved by the disasters which occur periodically. But, what about our fellow humankind who are down-on-their luck, or who just don't have the resources to lead to opportunities that we enjoy? Rotary is a way that I give-back, locally and internationally. It's an organization that, through its commitment to service, ensures attention to those in need. My participation makes me feel good!

I've observed that we seem to be challenged in our efforts to behave ethically in our daily interactions—with our family and friends, and in our business dealings. Rotary's four-way ethical test prompts me to ask, "Is it the truth?" "Is it fair to all concerned?" "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" Here I am, a guy that studied ethics in college, finding a useful and powerful ethical guide through my membership in Rotary.

Finally—for this letter—



Francy Cross pins the newest Paul Harris Fellow, Jessica Hoopes.

I've observed increased polarization in our America society, sufficient that some days I'm concerned about our future. We know that a democratic society requires give-and-take, requires compromise in sustaining itself. Rotary is the place where I encounter people with differing social and cultural perspectives. It's the place where I work together with people from a range of economic backgrounds and political viewpoints. It's the place where I'm buoyed by the fact that I can work constructively with others, including with those who have quite different views regarding politics, religion, social values, and so forth. We find commonality in our efforts to improve our local community as well as the world-condition.

Consider this letter an invitation. Visit us. Come to a meeting, share a meal, and learn about the work of the Rotary Club of Chester. Join me in observing, reflecting on, and helping to improve the condition of our world. I think you're likely to see the value in participating. In a short-time you may be leading this great club ... it's a wonderful opportunity.

Dan L. King, President  
Rotary Club of Chester

**Craig A. Cassey, O.D. P, C,**

*Diplomat, American Board of Optometry*



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## ROTARY CLUB OF CHESTER

# Welcome to our Newest Club Member: Susanne Cianfaro

Susanne Cianfaro is the Director of Social Services at Chester Community Charter School (CCCS). Susanne has worked for the Charter School for the past 10 years, and has a great passion for the students, their families and the community. During her time at CCCS Susanne has held several positions. She began as the only social worker for seven school buildings grades K-8. She later became director of a grant funded after school program, as well as director of the school's summer camp programs. She most recently took on the position as Director of Social Services.

In Susanne's current position as director of Social Services at CCCS, Susanne

is responsible for the case management of many families within the Chester Community. Through building strong relationships with students and their families she is able to connect them to the necessary resources available. During her time at the Charter School, Susanne has been able create and develop a number of successful partnerships which enhance both the social and emotional experiences of the Charter School students. Most recently she has partnered with local college social work departments to develop an internship program which provides social work students with the opportunity to develop their skills as well as provide the much needed support to CCCS scholars

and their families.

Susanne received her undergraduate degree in social work at Kutztown University and her Master's Degree in social work from Widener University. She is currently working towards her Level I certification in Internal Family Systems (IFS) trauma training.

Susanne has two children Allie age 23, an environmental engineer for the JMT engineering company and Jimmie age 20, currently studying sports management at the University of Delaware.

As a social worker, Susanne joined the Rotary organization because she felt as though it would be another way to connect with the community



New Member Susanne Cianfaro, center, is pictured with Louise Burroughs and District Governor Dave Haradon.

of Chester. Through the Rotary organization she is able to build better relationships with commu-

nity partners and share some of the struggles the city is up against. She is

grateful for this fellowship and the opportunity to better serve the City of Chester.



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# Rotary



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SUSANNE CIANFARO



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EDITH HILTON



FAITH HOLEFELDER



JESSICA HOOPES



DAN KING



CHARLES O'HALA



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## WIDENER LEADERSHIP WORKS

Widener University salutes the Rotary Club of Chester for making a meaningful difference in our community and across the world.



Widener University