



**President**

Jeff Penfil

**President-Elect**

Leo Gibbons

**Secretary**

Reese Davis  
19 E. Washington St.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
(Home: 610-692-4456)  
reese.davis@verizon.net

**Treasurer**

Bob Thomas  
35 South High St.  
West Chester, PA 19382  
rwthomas67@verizon.net

**Sergeant at Arms**

Rick Hynes

**Past President**

Mark Rudiger

**Program Chairman**

Travis Olszewski

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Dale Yeager  
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Bob Bielski  
Seth Birch  
Tom Corcoran  
Bob Thomas

Think you have news that should be put in the weekly WEGO Newsletter?

Email it to:

bobb4isu@verizon.net

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

*The Newsletter of the Westtown-Goshen Rotary Club*

**June 2, 2010**

**President's Dinner Reminder** – The deadline for signing up for the Presidential dinner at Wasabi's Restaurant is June 4th. Our summer casual/Hawaiian themed affair is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at 6 p.m. Wasabi is in the Bradford Square Shopping Square Center. If you have not done so already, please reply to President Jeff at [jpenfil@verizon.net](mailto:jpenfil@verizon.net) ASAP!

**Email from Kristen Peck** –

Hello Govinda,

I hope this email finds you well. I am in the final stretch of the semester, working like crazy to hand in all final papers and exams within the next two weeks. The semester ends June 4th, and time is flying by! I believe I had mentioned to you before my investment in a social project which I am developing as my project/thesis in conjunction with the master's program and Rotaract Monterrey. I have become very invested in the project which entails working with the parents of 35 children with developmental disabilities in order to better integrate the child within the family system and the community. I have recently decided that I would like to stay in Monterrey in order to finish the master's program and see the project through. I really feel that seeing this project through would be living up to the ideals of Rotary and the scholarship to the fullest, using my knowledge and experience as a scholar to bridge gaps, promote cultural understanding and serve a very vulnerable population.

I have recently been in touch with Jorge, my scholarship coordinator, at Rotary International. He has advised me to turn in the necessary documentation as official notice of my choice to stay and pursue my degree. I also advised him that the master's is a two and a half year program, and that I may need to stick around after graduation (in December 2011) in order to 'titularme' which is somewhat equivalent to getting my license to practice social work. Because it is not a traditional two year program, I am worried about the time lapse between now and the next two years in regard to completing all my presentations in my home country. Therefore, my intention is to complete all presentations this summer. I will be home from June 24-July 24 in order to visit with family and fulfill my remaining duties as a scholar.

I hope the club can support my decision to defer my official return home, as I'm looking forward to continuing to live up to the Rotary ideals through my academic and humanitarian ventures. I will be sending along my official paper work to defer my return home and my last official report after I finish with my semester. It would be great pleasure to visit the club and share my experience while home. I am very flexible in terms of scheduling.

I want to thank you again, Govinda, for all of your support over the past year. You have

Continue >>>

been a great resource and support for me and I truly thank you for the time you have invested in me and my scholarship year. Please give my best to the club. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Take care, Kristen

**Thursday's Meeting at Pietros Prime** – The Club met at Pietro's Prime for hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. The food and the location were excellent. Club spirit and attendance was above average. President Jeff conducted the meeting as an open assembly. Members had the opportunity to express their opinions on the future direction concerning community projects. We want projects that will motivate the Club membership and gain for us greater recognition in the West Chester community. It was a special We-Go night!!

**Tour of the Chester County Domestic Violence Center** – We-Go will be given a tour of this facility on this Thursday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. This program has been arranged by Travis Olszewski. DIRECTIONS: Stay to the far right of Gay Street off Paoli Pike as you enter West Chester. Turn right onto Garfield Avenue, at the cemetery, and immediately turn left into an unmarked open driveway. Follow the driveway to the first part of the housing complex. Enter the double green doors under a curved green hanging roof. This is the daycare, where we will begin our tour. Be on time because the tour will begin at 5:30.

## **Community Health Advocacy Program (CHAP) Year 2 – MG#68310**

### **Update as of May 16, 2010**

During my visit to India in May 2010, I attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> screening of CHAP on May 16, 2010 at Cherlai, Kochi. The screening was covered by the local television channel - Kochi Vision Channel. In local language – Malayalam, I briefly reviewed the joint CHAP program conducted by the Rotary Clubs of Westtown-Goshen, USA and Fort Kochi, India for about one minute. This TV coverage not only provided excellent “PR” throughout the Kerala State and India, but it also gave boost to the CHAP program of The Rotary International. Of the 78 patients screened, 73% of the patients revisited the screening at least on 3 occasions which demonstrated continued success of the program. As a result of “PR” I was asked to visit two Greater Kochi medical organizations – Sudheendra Medical Mission and Gautham Hospital where I gave presentations on CHAP and they were attended by health care professionals, staff and administrators.

During the Year 2 of the program, a total of 22 health screenings were completed that represented 1,764 BPL (below poverty level) patients of which 665 patients were repeat patients who had 2 to 4 repeated screenings in the three expanded screening sites, i.e., Cherlai, Fort Kochi and Mattancherry. The gender distribution was 67% females and 33% males and the age distribution ranged from 20 to over 70 years. Approximately two third (66%) of the age group was between 40 to 69 years of age and a median age of 52 years.

Body Mass Index (BMI) of the patients screened revealed 39% were ideal weight, 50% over weight and 11% under weight. The prevalence of diseases among these patients were 27% diabetics, 24% hypertensives, 7% asthmatics and below 1% COPD's.

All of the patients diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension, asthma and COPD were treated with appropriate medicines free of charge. They, also, were provided health education and consulting for maintenance of these chronic diseases and to lead better quality of life.

Two of the doctors, who previously accepted remunerations, decided to provide voluntary service to CHAP which resulted in savings. Therefore, the Fort Kochi CHAP team decided to extend the program consisting of 4 more screenings with additional medical treatment and education for 3 more months.

The screening will continue and the project is expected to be completed by September 2010.

Interim report is in the final stages of preparation which is expected to be sent to The Rotary Foundation in early June 2010.

P. A. G. Malya  
May 27, 2010