

**29 MARCH 2006**

Interim Editor: Kasser

### APRIL 24 GOLF OUTING FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Please support the Rotary Golf Outing. Sell sponsorships and sign up friends, co-workers and business associates to play. Get the forms from Darren Loew. He brings them to our meetings or will email them to you.

Sponsorship deadline is April 10.

Player registrations received by April 1 are discounted \$15. Any questions, call Darren at 782-7626 or e-mail him at drloew@loeworthodontics.com.

### VOTE FOR NEW CLUB TREASURER

We are pleased to announce that Jeff Harrison has agreed to serve as our club treasurer, replacing Bob Bowden who is unable to continue in that role. If elected by the club today, Jeff will start immediately and continue through next year.

### NEW MEMBER PROPOSED

Warren Todd, who visited our club a few weeks ago, has been proposed for membership. He is executive director of International Disease Management Alliance, an international organization. His classification would be "Disease Management".

Members who object to his membership should submit their concerns in writing to the board before next Wednesday.

### FRANK BARLOW'S RESIGNATION

Frank Barlow resigned from the club, saying that, since retirement, it is increasingly difficult for him to make meetings. But we aren't letting him go entirely. The board voted to make Frank an Honorary Member.

### AMERICA'S MISGUIDED WAR ON DRUGS

Impassioned ex-cop says we're confusing addiction with "drug marketplace violence," and causing the very problems we are trying to solve.

A lively and dedicated Peter J. Christ — a former uniformed officer and detective — argued that the nation's so-called "War Against Drugs" benefits only those who build and maintain prisons, and the drug cartels that grow, distribute and market drugs. He represented an organization called "LEAP" or "Law Enforcement Against Prohibition."

"Fifteen percent of the problem with drugs involves addiction," he said. "Let's send these people to a hospital where they belong, not into prison, where they can be transformed into criminals."

"The other 85 percent of the drug problem involves marketplace violence, and this was a waste of my time and my fellow officers' time, given that it didn't have to be there. We should have been out there protecting the public, giving out traffic tickets and solving real crimes, not devoting 90 percent of our time to a violent situation that only exists because of misguided public policy."

The answer, Christ said, is to legalize and license currently illegal drugs. "When was the last time you saw a gang turf war over liquor or cigarettes?" he asked.

When it comes to addiction, nicotine is the most addicting drug there is, "yet a huge percentage of smokers have quit over the last 20 years — and 85 percent have simply stopped, quit cold turkey," he said.

The law of unintended consequences applies most sadly to the so-called "War on Drugs," Christ said. It actually would be easier to keep drugs out of the hands of

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Apr 24** - **11th Annual Golf Outing**  
at Copper Hill Country Club

**May 5-12** - **Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team**

**Jun 3** - **Rotary Pedals for Progress Collection**

**Jun 28** - **Changing of the Guard Dinner**

**Sep 16** - **3rd Annual Ride for Rotary**

**1st Wednesdays** - **Food Pantry Collections**

**3rd Tuesdays** - **Board Meetings**

children if they were legalized and properly controlled and regulated. Plus, the current laws almost always promote violence and contribute to police corruption.

"When officers arrest rapists or robbers they make our communities safer for everyone, but when they arrest drug dealers, they simply create job openings for hundreds of people willing to take those jobs in order to obtain the obscene profits made available as a direct result of drug prohibition.

"After nearly four decades of fighting the war on drugs, at a cost of more than a trillion dollars; after arresting nine million nonviolent drug-law offenders in the last six years; after quadrupling our prison population to 2.2 million inmates — today drugs are cheaper, easier to get, and for more potent than they were when we started this war in 1970. That is a failed public policy.

"One hundred ten million people in the US above the age of 12 have used an illegal drug. If we arrested them all there would only be two kinds of people in the country; those in prison and those guarding them. If we legalize drugs today, tomorrow not one drug lord or terrorist in the world could make a penny selling drugs."

Christ said that it is at first surprising, but subsequently makes sense, that conservatives "get it" in terms of the war on drugs more easily than liberals. He believes, he said, it is "because liberals tend to want to see large government effort as a solution to problems, and conservatives are in favor of any way to solve problems with less expense and less government effort." In this way, his organization's agenda should suit conservatives because of its huge savings and huge diminishment of government — its definitive efficiency.

However, conservatives have been co-opted by the simplistic "moral" argument that drugs are evil and we must prevent their use through law enforcement at any cost. The minute conservative can see through this to understand that LEAP's agenda results in less drug use, less government, less crime, lower taxes, etc., they consider climbing on board," he said, as several Rotarians signed up to be "Friends of LEAP."

But it's also significant that membership has a category called "Anonymous Member."

### MOST FREQUENT POST-MEETING COMMENT?

What would Fred Brown have to say in response to Peter Christ's comments?

### — AREA ROTARY MEETINGS —

**Branchburg** Wednesdays 7:30 am, Loukas' Last American Diner

**Clinton Sunrise** Thursdays 7:15 am, Clinton Holiday Inn

**Lambertville-New Hope** Mondays 6:30 pm, Lambertville Station

**North Hunterdon** Fridays 12:15 pm, Beaver Brook Country Club

**Somerville-Bridgewater** Thursdays 12:15 pm, Bridgewater Manor

**Whitehouse** Tuesdays 12:15 pm, La Casa Bianca

### ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST

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?

*Service  
Above  
Self*

### ROTARY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend at least **60%** of club meetings in each half of the Rotary year, including make-ups.
2. Attend at least **30%** of the meetings in one's home club in each half of the Rotary year.
3. Miss no more than **4** consecutive meetings.
4. Make up missed meetings within **14** days, before or after absence.

