



William Allen Interact Club Students Score Big in “Four-Way Test” Speech Contest

Did you know that public speaking is the second worst fear of human beings? That is right! According to SelfHelpcollective.com, fear of flying is number one on the list and fear of dying is number six. I guess, some of us would rather die than speak in public!

Now imagine being 15, 17 or 18 years-old and speaking to a large audience of primarily adults, among them the principal of your high school, for the first time in your life. That takes courage, as far as I am concerned. And that is exactly what five courageous 9th, 11th and 12th graders from the William Allen High School Rotary Interact Club did on Saturday, March 28, as contestants in our Rotary Interact Club Four-Way Test Speech Contest.

This is the first time that William Allen students have participated in this contest. Fellow Rotarian Bob Jacobs, Executive Director of Pinebrook Family Answers, Allentown, willingly allowed us to use his organization’s well-equipped training room to hold this important event.

The speech contest is a competition for 9-12 graders. The purpose of the speech is to address an ethical problem using the principles of Rotary’s Four-Way Test, and should be something from the speaker’s personal experience or general knowledge. The topic of the speech is chosen by each contestant. The winner of the club contest advances to the regional contest and the winners of the four regional contests advance to the district finals at the district conference on April 25th in

historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

As we all know, the Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do, is a test used by Rotarians world-wide as a moral code for personal and business relationships. It asks the following four questions:

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?

The test can be applied to almost any aspect of life. The test was scripted in 1932 by Herbert J. Taylor, an American from Chicago, as he set out to save the club aluminum products distribution company from bankruptcy. It was adopted by Rotary International in 1943 and it has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways.

Students spoke about an issue they were passionate about and how the subject of their speech would contribute to world peace and understanding. First place winner, senior Ibrahim Abbakar’s speech was about getting rid of labels and simply being known as a citizen of the world, for many labels have been placed on him as a dark-skinned refugee from Sudan.

Marie Esther Joseph, second place winner, 11th grade student and president of our club’s Interact Club, spoke about her dream to become a pediatrician and to build a hospital in her native, earthquake-devastated country of Haiti.

Third place winner, 11th grader Leticia Meléndez related her pain-



**IBRAHIM ABBAKAR
FIRST PLACE WINNER
ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST**

ful experiences growing up as a Latina immigrant child and how acceptance and respect for other cultures by those already in this country makes for better human relations. Taisha Rodríguez told us about the importance of art to enhance our quality of life, and Edwin López spoke about the tragedy of bullying and the need for an organization to educate and

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The Rotary Club of Allentown

• *in our 101st year of service* •

610-794-4101

www.AllentownRotary.org

~ A Member of Rotary International ~

Club No. 5414, District 7430

www.rotarydistrict7430.org

Meeting Fridays at noon at the
Renaissance Hotel

12 North Seventh Street, Allentown

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Some 1.2 million Rotarians belong to 31,000 Rotary clubs located in more than 200 countries.

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From the President



CHRISTINE BAUDER

While some things change, some things stay the same! Looking back and moving forward!

In the August, 2014 SMILE I listed my presidential goals for 2014-15. They were as follows:

1. To increase membership by net 10 as of June 30, 2015
2. To settle on a permanent meeting place
3. To complete and publish the 100th anniversary history book of the Allen-

“BRINGING PAST PRESIDENTS
BACK INTO THE
LEADERSHIP FOLD
WILL ADD A UNIQUE DIVERSITY
TO WEEKLY MEETINGS.”

town Rotary Club

4. To finalize decisions on the Centennial Fountain Project
5. To increase the club’s contribution to the Rotary International Foundation

This is how well I did or didn’t do on achieving those goals:

1. We did not hit the mark with net 10 new members. I was naïve in choosing that number. We came close with 4 new members and 3 pending. However, our club had 3 deaths this year, more than any club in the district, bringing our net total to one as of June 30, 2015.

(Continued on next page.)

Ibrahim Abbaker: Four Way Contest Winner

May 1 – We had the pleasure of hearing Ibrahim Abbaker, the winner of the Four Way Speech Contest, present his winning speech to the Allentown Rotary Club. He provided us with very thought provoking questions.

He spoke about labels used in the world. Is he an African or an Egyptian? There have been many labels put on him so far in his life. He asked how many more labels will be put on him down the road. As a society that we will live in, will it be a benefit to rename labels? Would we be able to become citizens of the world? At the age of 7, he had to leave Sudan because of genocide. His family moved to Egypt. On the way, he and his brother were on a boat on the Nile

River. One can only imagine his feelings but he said his eyes opened and jaw dropped looking out the window at the Nile River with stunned feelings and was left speechless. While he was in Egypt he met many different people. People help to shape who we are, whether it is good or bad.

Ibrahim asked is it fair to all concerned? He came to America where he has a refugee status. Was it fair for him to leave his hometown because of a label? On Sundays, he goes to church. Should he be labeled a Muslim? He told us that he is a Muslim but that is not okay to most people. His friends accept him for who he is. It makes no difference to them. Even though he was not in his house of worship, he respected his friends and

bowed his head while they prayed. He also played soccer on Sundays where the adults looked at him differently but his friends accepted him.

How can we remove the labels that we place on people? Are we able to build goodwill and better friendships? Do we need to be young and innocent to do so?

The idea of absolute truth similarly is more similar than our labels. If Ibrahim could, he would remove labels and then society would be able to build goodwill and better friendships. As citizens of society we sometimes need someone to help us open our eyes and look at things with a different perspective.

~Kati LaBuda

From the President (Continued from previous page.)

2. In January 2015 our club settled comfortably into The Renaissance Hotel. However, on 14 occasions we were asked to meet elsewhere due to conflicting schedules with hotel events, leaving us once again feeling like a group of vagabond Rotarians.

3. We did complete and publish "100 Years of Service Above Self: A History of The Allentown Rotary Club." We ordered 250 books, sold 47 and presented 19 as speaker or member gifts. There are still books available for purchase. At \$10, it's a bargain!

4. Decisions have been finalized on the Centennial Fountain. Warren and his team have been diligently working on raising funds, selling bricks and keeping the momentum going. The team is hoping to break ground by mid-July with a completion date near the end of September or early October. Please pay your fountain pledge now!

5. Our contributions to the Rotary International Foundation have fallen off dramatically. Perhaps we need a program expounding on the virtues of contributing to this fund.

In addition to the above goals the ARC had a banner year of publicity! In January, we hosted the first State of the City address in the new hotel bringing 200 guests to a Rotary meeting. In March, the ARC partnered with Allentown West to host the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United Nations, again bringing about 200 guests to a meeting. We received great press coverage for both events and it left members with a sense of pride that our club has the power to host such gatherings. These two events brought a sense of vibrancy and excitement to the ARC that gave us hope for recruiting new members.

Moving forward:

The coming year in Rotary will certainly present a new set of challenges. Here are the most pressing:

1. Historically, no ARC president has served two consecutive terms. That's about to change! I am honored to be the first to do so. Thankfully, I will have lots of help during the year from past presidents. Beginning in August, past presidents have agreed to chair weekly Friday meetings for one month at a time in my stead. I will remain president on paper and will continue as Chair of the Board of Directors and District Liaison, but club members will be treated to a rotating flurry of previous leaders. I am very grateful to those presidents who have stepped forward to help. I'm also thankful our club has so many talented leaders I am able to call upon for assistance. I believe bringing past presidents back into the leadership fold will add a unique diversity to weekly meetings. It will be nice to see past presidents at the podium again!

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LCCC's New President Ann Bieber Gives Rotary a Look at What's Going On in Community College Education



**DR. ANN BIEBER
PRESIDENT, LCCC**

May 8 – Education has changed a lot over the years. Dr. Ann Bieber, president of Lehigh Carbon Community College gave the Allentown Rotary Club an overview of what she sees as the future of education both locally and nationally in remarks entitled “Past Present and Future: 50 Years of Changing Lives.”

Bieber, 57 and a Lehigh Valley native, has had a 35 year career in education. Most recently she has served as the college’s interim president.

It was on May 19, 2014 that her appointment was made official by the LCCC board. She stepped into the

shoes of long time LCCC former president Donald W. Snyder, who retired in December, 2013. “Dr. Bieber’s expertise in administration, in higher education and her student centric approach to leadership will lead Lehigh Carbon Community College to new levels of academic success” said Board of Trustees chairman Kenneth H. Mohr, Jr.

Among the issues touched on by Bieber in her remarks was the future of the college’s downtown Donley Campus in the old Lehigh Portland Cement building. There had been suggestions that the college might close that site.

But looking at it again there was a feeling that so many students who go there do not own cars and depend on public transportation that they would have no convenient way to get to the Schnecksville campus. “We are looking at ways to see how we can stay downtown,” Bieber said. “We want to see if we can tweak it by renovations and stay at Donley.” She also talked of the many programs that are designed to prepare the LCCC students for careers in the changing marketplace of employment.

~ Frank Whelan

Romper Day

Our Allentown Rotary Club provides much-needed volunteers for the Romper Day celebration, as we have for many years.

What is Romper Day? For over 100 years, children from the East Side, West End, and Center City – all areas of Allentown -- have gathered to participate in dances, games, and musical routines. Area residents fondly remember getting tangled up in the Maypole dance or racing against each other in the 50 yard dash. Many Romper Day alumni come back to watch their own children or grandchildren play games and dance

at the annual event at the J. Birney Crum Stadium!

Begun in 1914 by industrialist and philanthropist General Harry C. Trexler, Romper Day is the culmination of the City’s ten-week summer playground program. Supported by the Trexler Trust, Romper Day continues to bring together Allentown’s children to demonstrate their skills and enjoy friendly competition with their neighbors.

Refreshments for the children participating in Romper Day are a wonderful part of the tradition. Rotary volunteers distribute hot dogs, ice cream sand-

wiches, and bottled water to hundreds of children.

This year we will need 16-20 people on Monday, August 3 at 4:45 p.m. for set-up and then to serve food beginning in the grassy area across from the stadium at 5:15 p.m. as the children arrive by bus. Clean up is from 6:15 – 6:30 p.m.

It generally takes less than two hours, but you’re welcome to attend the celebration. Admission is free and open to the public. Contact me at 610-434-9645 or jroth@trexlertrust.org to sign up!

~ Janet Roth



ROMPER DAY

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

4:45 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Lehigh Valley Health Network's Street Program

May 15 – It was a privilege to learn of the initiative of the Lehigh Valley Health Network's efforts to provide direct health care to people living on the streets. Brett Feldman, director of this program, provided a wealth of information about the needs of the Valley's homeless and who serves where they are. Direct service health care is the problem and it is like, as Brett stated, "delivering health care to the frontier." LVHN's street services are able to reach twenty individuals and families every week, in an area extending from Allentown to Easton.

People being attended are both homeless and secluded. In many cases, even the police are unable to find

them. By current estimates, there are approximately 10,000 homeless in the valley. They actually do not live far from one another; they are very resourceful and there is every attempt to be as sanitary as possible. Currently fifty-two volunteers assist with health services. They are medical professionals, i.e. nurses, doctors, etc. He is not able to utilize non-medical help (for a whole variety of reasons).

There are times people must be admitted to health care facilities, including a Lehigh Valley Hospital site. If admitted, the average stay is 9.1 days, but there is also a high re-admission rate within thirty days. However, by providing primary care, overall utilization can de-

crease by 80 percent.

Brett stated that the team looks at three definitions to reach those they can help: unstably housed, street or rough sleepers, and if in a shelter where they can temporarily reside. Shelters and soup kitchens help as resources allow. DeSales University operates a free clinic at the Rescue Mission, Lehigh Valley Hospital has a clinic at Safe Harbor and there is a clinic at St. Paul's Lutheran Church which includes an onsite nurse and a pharmacy.

This was an especially informative meeting, held at the LVHN/Mack facility on Mack Boulevard.

~ Jim Harper



Woven Welcome

June 12 – We had the pleasure to have our weekly Friday meeting at Cedar Crest College on June 12 to listen to Professor Jill Odegaard speak about Woven Welcome. She told us about the journey of Woven Welcome with the start of an idea and now a community art project. Professor Odegaard engages in community art projects through teaching at Cedar Crest College. She started to bring the projects into classroom activities.

She is currently in the fourth chapter of the project titled "Making Community." She uses the rug as a meta-

phor to people of the community in which she becomes engaged. The project is choreographed to engage people in conversations through the loom. The loom works as the infrastructure of the community as individuals weave into and collaborate with their community.

Professor Odegaard started this idea in the Portland Airport in 2012. She was at a conference and was welcoming presenters at the airport. She wanted to use a welcome mat for the conference presenters. The idea was that the presenters

would weave into the mat and this in turn would welcome them into the conference. It was a nice way to bring art and people together. The welcome mat was at the edge of the table and all the presenters would step on it. Woven Welcome then became an umbrella for other projects.

The project came to life in the small town of 3,000 people in Park Rapids, Minnesota. The people of the community started creating mats all over the town and it was then presented to Governor Mark Dayton when he



JILL ODEGAARD

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From the President (Continued from page three.)

2. I made the announcement at the June 19 meeting regarding the Renaissance increasing the cost of lunch to \$21. The issue was discussed at a recent Board of Directors meeting and the following was decided: members will continue to pay \$18 for lunch. The club will cover the difference for the meal over the short term. An ad-hoc committee consisting of Bob Stevens, Marci Schick and Linda Friedman will explore other options and report their findings back to the board at the September meeting. If you have any comments/opinions please communicate them to the members of the ad-hoc committee.

Since leaving the Holiday Inn almost two years ago, this issue of where to meet has left us all somewhat frustrated and with a continued feeling of being adrift at sea. It has affected members' attendance. It has affected our ability to recruit new members and it certainly has bruised our collective ego as a club. But we are much more than a lunch club. And while meeting at an exclusive, four-star hotel brings an elevated cachet to our club's persona, we may find that meeting in a less glorious venue will bring stability and a greater sense of happiness. We will await the findings of the committee and bring this issue once

again before the membership.

2015-2016 Goals

1. I set a more reasonable goal of net 5 new members for the coming year. Membership recruitment remains EVERYONE'S responsibility!
2. The completion of the Centennial Fountain at Center Square. This means members need to make good on the promised pledges. We cannot complete this goal unless YOU step up and pay your pledge.
3. Member engagement: your Board of Directors needs **TWO** new members for the coming year. We recently welcomed Jay Geiger to the board but still need to fill two seats. We will be looking for someone to step into the role of president following Jamie Kratz's term in 2016-2017. We need a succession plan!
4. Member engagement: I want to increase our attendance percentage. It currently hovers around 30-35 percent. Our average attendance is now between 25-30 members on any given Friday. We need to raise that number. What can we do to encourage your attendance?

Lastly, there are so many Rotarians to thank for the support bestowed upon me this year. The committee chairs and their members

for all the work they've accomplished this year: Jim Bova, Nan Yarrish, Barb Bottitta, Linda Friedman, Alicia Ruiz Orbin, Bob Stevens, Marci Schick, Warren Armstrong and Ann McManus, Treasurer Tom Christman, Secretary Barb Bigelow (I don't know how you do it Barb!). Those of you behind the scenes moving us along; the writers behind the SMILE, Deb Baldree of Zion's (responsible for compiling the SMILE), those that work the Badge Board (the ambassadors of the ARC). It truly takes a VILLAGE to run the Allentown Rotary Club. I am grateful to every one of you. THANK YOU! Here's to 2015-2016!

~ Christine Bauder

*Join Us
Every Friday
at the
Renaissance Hotel*

The Rotary Club of Allentown meets on Fridays in the Innovations Conference Room on the third floor of the Renaissance Allentown Hotel at 12 N Seventh Street in Center City Allentown (or in the ballroom for special events). Occasionally we have off-site meetings. Check our Facebook page "The Rotary Club of Allentown" or our web site www.AllentownRotary.org for up-to-date information. Lunch is \$18 for Rotarians and \$23 for guests.



Be a gift to the world

William Allen Interact Students (Continued from page one.)

support parents to teach their children how to deal with bullying and not to become bullies themselves.

Allentown Rotary Club President Chris Bauder presented the cash prizes funded by our club to the three winners, as well as presenting participant certificates to the other two contestants.

Members of the Sunrise and Lehigh Valley Toastmasters Clubs served as students' coaches, contest judges, timer and master judge. Also, a PPL manager and the Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs served as judges. Fellow Rotarian Linda Friedman served as the students' interviewer and Alicia Ruiz Orbin was master of ceremonies.

William Allen Principal Mr. Luke Shafnisky and Rotarian District Contest Chair Joe Wynands congratulated the students, and we welcomed the surprise attendance of District 7430 Governor Elect Doug Cook. Parents and siblings of the contestants were also present.

The first place winner, Ibrahim Abbakar, competed in the area contest held at the Lehigh Carbon Community College on Saturday, April 11. He competed against students from Emmaus, Freedom, Fleetwood, Hamburg, and Kutztown high schools. Although Ibrahim did not win any of the three top places, we are all very proud of him!

We celebrate our students' courage to do what millions of people never experience in their lifetime; public speaking that is. We thank everyone who made this first club contest possible and for investing their time and effort to continue to foster our Interactors' leadership skills.

~ Alicia Ruiz-Orbin, Rotary Adviser

Woven Welcome (Continued from page five.)

was going to throw out the first fishing line for the fishing opener of the season. The symbolism of the weave united people together. New connections started happening and partnerships were created with different local organizations such as schools, assisted living facilities, churches and the library. The library became the focal point with every third Saturday acting as the host for people to show up and weave. When the time came to present to Governor Dayton, there was over 1,200 square feet of rug to welcome him. The rug was then given back to the people in the community and there are still people who have them hung in their homes today.

Woven Welcome has partnered with the Allentown Art Museum and Via of the Lehigh Valley. The project is now ten times the size of the Park Rapids, Minnesota project. Via is building looms and the fabric is coming through them as well. They are cleaning the fabric for use. Since February, the project has interacted with over 95 different organizations such as Cedar Brook in Fountain Hill and McKinley Elementary School in Allentown.

The project is currently at the Allentown Art Museum from June 3 through October 11. The final unveiling of the project will take place on October 11. Professor Odegaard told us that she was the idea maker. "Community is evolving and ever changing and we are all part of it." We all had the opportunity to take part in weaving a rug that once the project is over will come back to the Allentown Rotary Club. It was an opportunity to take part in our community with a fun, hands on project.

~ Kati LaBuda



June

- 4 Debbie Ferry
- 4 Ed Pawlowski
- 5 Jim Bova
- 5 Jonathan Epstein
- 10 Miriam Huertas
- 10 Don Wieand, Jr.
- 12 Larry Campbell
- 15 Andrew Block
- 15 Asa Hughes
- 15 Ben Walbert, III
- 29 Debra Khateeb

July

- 11 Ibi Balog
- 24 Bob McNabb
- 27 Tom Huff

Upcoming Events

- July 3rd - Independence Day
- No Meeting
- July 10th - Forensics Program,
Cedar Crest College
- Janine Kishbaugh
- July 17th - Glazier's Furniture
- Len Glazier
- July 24th - Allentown School
District Re-engagement
Center
- Keith Falco
- July 31st - Global Village
- August 7th - Cedar Crest
College President
- Carmen Ambar



William Allen High School staff, Interactors and Rotarians: Front row (left to right): Contestant Edwin López; Contestant Taisha Rodriguez; Rotary Advisor Alicia Ruiz-Orbin; Third Place Winner Leticia Meléndez; Second Place Winner Marie Esther Joseph; Interactor Greeter Rae Moh; and Interactor Greeter Dayna Garcia. Back row: (left to right): Allentown Rotary Club President Chris Bauder; William Allen High School Principal Mr. Luke Shafnisky; First Place Winner Ibrahim Abbakar; Ibrahim's coach Mr. Frank Vowinkel, Lehigh Valley Toastmasters Club; and Rotary Co-Adviser Linda Friedman.

the Rotary Smile



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