



Club Leaders

-  **Helen Apostolico**
President
-  **Tim Mihok**
President-Elect
-  **Robert B. Fischer**
Sergeant-at-Arms
-  **Chris Malmstrom**
Vice President
-  **Brian Martinenza Jr.**
Secretary
-  **Michael A. Malchione**
Treasurer
-  **David Tallmadge Andrews Jr.**
Club Director
-  **Lee Dotson**
Club Director
-  **Gregory L. Finkle**
Club Activity & Frndrsng Chr
-  **John Hawley**
Club Director
-  **Debbie Janocha**
Club Director
-  **Matthew McMenamy**
Club Director
-  **Nancy Reilly Michener**
Club Director
-  **Austin Publicover**
Club Comm. Offr - CCO
-  **Allison David**
AG Area 10

Speakers

September 15th
[Allison Levine, President - The Local News Initiative](#)
 The Local News Initiative is part of a consortium of organizations supporting local news. Allison will discuss her views on the importance of local news and its impact on protecting our freedom and democracy.

September 22nd
[OFF-SITE](#)
 Urban Promise 2401 Thatcher Street, Wilmington, DE 19805 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Events

September 22nd, 7:30-9:00 AM
4th Friday Volunteer Day - Wilmington PAL
Speaker: OFF-SITE
Subject: Urban Promise 2401 Thatcher Street, Wilmington, DE 19805 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Birthdays



[Nancy Reilly Michener](#)
September 14th



[J. Phillip Hough Jr.](#)
September 23rd



[Greg Munson](#)
September 30th



[David Tallmadge Andrews Jr.](#)
October 8th

Years of Service



[Anthony J. Vassalotti](#)
21 Years

Committee List 2023-24

This Week's Meeting

Whist Club - 7:20Eat - Chat - Learn

Also: National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Upcoming Greeters

Doing a little better on greeter attendance. Please try and swap with someone if you can't make it. If you have no intention of attending meetings please give Rob a shout so he can modify the greeter list accordingly.

Sept 1: No meeting - Happy Labor Day
 Sept 8: David Andrews, Jim Vachris, Tony Vassalotti
 Sept 15: Desmond Baker, Jack Barr, Alicia Bryson (you can do it!)
 Oct 6: Jim Cloonan, Wes Davis, Xavi DeCaire

Our most important issue: Housing!



Housing is the most universal need, and Rachel Stucker brought to light a lot of the issues around affordable housing and advocacy for the unhoused in last Friday's presentation at CRCC.

Rachel Stucker, the Executive Director of Housing Alliance Delaware (HAD), visited CRCC on September 8 and spoke about how intractable housing problems can feel. Ms. Stucker shared that research during the last 30 to 40 years shows that solving the problem of homelessness requires doing something differently.

Ms. Stucker repeatedly stressed that housing is the most important issue.

After all, housing is a universal need... we all need a safe, decent place to live. Yet so many people don't have housing or struggle every day to keep it. Without decent housing, children can't focus on learning, families can't focus on work & increasing income, and violence prevention efforts become moot.

One sobering statistic is that, in Delaware, we are short 40,000 units of affordable housing. One of the many reasons for this lack is that, because of market pressures & regulatory burdens, it takes \$250,000 to build a modest single family home. Bringing this number down to around \$170k would help, yet there aren't enough subsidies. It's left to the private market to invest in housing, and there are proportionally few dollars coming from State or Federal governments to ameliorate the high cost of creating affordable housing on available land.

HAD's 14 staff members divvy up their work: one half of the team offers direct services (including information and referral services) to people experiencing homelessness. The other half is collecting data and sharing info to obtain grants... it takes about six months out of the year to bring in \$9 million of federal money for

housing and services. Perhaps this is partly to blame for this statistic: for every hundred people needing housing, there are thirty units available.

Ms. Stucker wrapped up her presentation by likening getting affordable housing to playing musical chairs when you're up against someone younger, healthier, faster, or perhaps someone with a weapon. It doesn't take much until you're out of the game.

The solution is to say yes to housing in your community... go to your zoning board hearing, tell your neighbors that it's a myth that affordable housing decreases property values, and visit [HAD's website](#) to become a Housing Advocate or even [just to donate!](#)

Thank you Rachel for your tireless work!



Basket Brigade Season In Full Swing

It's hard to believe but Basket Brigade season is here again. In our continuing effort to refine the process, we have decided to team up with our friends at the West End Neighborhood House this year. We bring to them a wealth of experience (this is our 23rd year of distributing Thanksgiving food!), labor, muscle, funding, and food. They also bring a wealth of experience to the table, distribution experience, and better access to and identification of needy families in our area. Together we should make a great team. A few dates to mark on your calendar:

Friday, November 12: CRRC members will be collecting food donations from local schools. (need trucks, SUVs and muscle)

Friday, November 17th: CCRC members will be sorting food and assembling boxes at the Food Bank of Delaware

Saturday, November 18th: CRRC members can help West End with distribution of the boxes at the Wilmington Library

More opportunities to assist will be announced as they arrive.

Look for a separate e-mail with flyers for posting around your office or workplace.

ROTARY DISTRICT 5000 LAUNCHES MAUI FIRES RELIEF FUND

In the aftermath of the recent challenges faced by the community on Maui, [Hawaii Rotary District 5000](#), known for its commitment to service and community support, is launching the Maui Fires Relief Fund through its Foundation. This relief fund aims to provide immediate assistance and long-term recovery support to the people of Maui, as they navigate the path to rebuilding their lives and communities.

As people of action, Rotary District 5000 recognizes the importance of coming together during times of crisis. The Maui Fires Relief Fund is an embodiment of this spirit, symbolizing the collective strength and resilience of our community. The fund is designed to address urgent needs and provide sustainable solutions to assist those affected by the recent events.

The Rotary District 5000 Foundation has established a committee that will work diligently to identify the most critical needs and allocate resources effectively. By centralizing the relief efforts into a single fund, the goal is to provide comprehensive and impactful assistance over an extended period.

Individuals, businesses, and organizations are invited to contribute to the Maui Fires Relief Fund to provide immediate relief and support for the long-term recovery of Maui's communities. 53 Rotary clubs in Rotary District 5000 have already taken the lead by collecting donations at their club meetings and collecting needed supplies at collection points.

District Governor Mark Merriam emphasizes, "As we face the challenges together, the Rotary District 5000 remains committed to creating hope and facilitating support for our neighbors on Maui. Your donations, no matter the size, will make a difference in rebuilding lives and providing a brighter future."

To donate or learn more about the Maui Fires Relief Fund, please visit rotaryd5000.org/MauiRelief. Your support will play a vital role in helping Maui recover and rebuild stronger than ever.



Club Meeting

Caesar Rodney of Wilmington
Meets at University and Whist Club - Washington Room
805 N Broom St.
Wilmington, DE 19806
Time: Friday at 07:15 AM