

# CHCA ANNUAL MEETING AND COMMUNITY SUPPER

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015**

Norwood-Fontbonne Academy  
Sister James Anthony Hall Gym  
8891 Germantown Avenue

(These are just a few notes of the meeting, which did not conduct business but which highlighted the initiatives of the Community Association and outlined plans for the future.)

Board Members Present: Sister Mary Helen Beirne (Norwood-Fontbonne Academy), Jason Bissonette (At-Large), Julie Byrne (At-Large), George Coates (At-Large), Will Detweiler (President), Sam Earle (At-Large), Lisa Howe (At-Large), Mark Keintz (At-Large), Joyce Lenhardt (At-Large), Laura Lucas (VP Operations), Larry McEwen (VP Physical), Arianna Neromiliotis (Teenagers Inc.), Chris Padova (VP Social), Marilyn Paucker (At-Large), Remy Pizzichini (At-Large), Tony Reilly (At-Large), Bob Rossman (Treasurer), Richard Snowden (CH Parking Foundation), Brien Tilley (Immediate Past President), and Jean Wedgwood (At-Large)

Board Members Absent: Liz Bales (At-Large), Patricia Cove (CH Historical Society), Tom Cullen (At-Large), Lee Foulkrod (At-Large), Nell Kahil (CH Friends Meeting), Kristina Sullivan (Secretary), and Walt Sullivan (At-Large)

From 6-7 PM attendees enjoyed the excellent wine and cheese, hors d'oeuvres, supper dishes, and desserts brought by the Board members. At 7 PM Will Detweiler made a few welcoming remarks and introduced Cindy Bass, 8<sup>th</sup> District Councilwoman, as special guest speaker. Ms. Bass has been on the City Council for three years. She pointed out how geographically huge the 8<sup>th</sup> District is, not only comprising Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy, and Germantown, but also Nicetown, Feltonville, and North Philadelphia to Broad and Lehigh over to 24<sup>th</sup> Street. The district comprises some 150,000 people, and each of these areas is unique, with its own special needs and talents. She commended the CHCA for its passion and strong sense of neighborhood and community involvement, saying that other community associations in the city have been long inspired by Chestnut Hill's example. She stated the theme that several speakers during the course of the evening also emphasized: that "good things don't just happen," but are the fruit of much community effort and devotion. Ms. Bass said it was a privilege to serve on the City Council and she invited anyone to contact her at any time for questions or comments.

Mr. Detweiler added that Ms. Bass is a great help to Chestnut Hill. The Awards Presentations followed, with Paula Riley presenting the Chestnut Hill Award to Brien Tilley. The Award commemorates unusual or outstanding service that promotes or achieves understanding in the community. Brien Tilley brought back the Holiday Parade, organized Hoops Madness, and has been invaluable to the Chestnut Hill Youth Sports Club. He also championed the CHCA's 501(c)(3) initiative. In his short remarks by way of thanks Brien said that his mother had passed away this day and that he wants to be part of this organization for many years to come. He received a standing ovation.

Other awards given: the Meritorious Service Award to Brenda Malinics and Brenda's Cat Rescue; the Distinguished Service Award to Noreen Spota for her many contributions for green initiatives and energy conservation; and the Benefactor's Award to Jean Hemphill for her Community Fund leadership.

Mr. Detweiler delivered the "State of the Association" address, reviewing goals achieved and acknowledging those yet to be accomplished. He mentioned the need to adjust the bylaws of the Association to conform to the requirements of 501(c)(3) status and said these will need to be approved at a special meeting in the next 30-60 days. He said the process has taken longer than expected and that the difficult part of it has been separating the operations of the Local while still retaining ownership of it.

Other CHCA accomplishments include: revising rules of the Association; working on the Green Space Initiative; instituting an online monthly newsletter (thanks to CHCA staff members Janet Gala, Noreen Spota, and Celeste Hardester); the Annual Fund Drive; Christmas Parade; working with the Historical Society on renovations of the Highland Avenue fire station; providing a welcome package for new residents; Harry Potter Day; the Land Use Planning Commission. There were also some disappointments: not growing the membership, not meeting fundraising goals, and the desperate need for more volunteers. Will concluded by saying that the CHCA is the oldest community association in the city, that it is revered and respected, and that what unites everyone here is love for Chestnut Hill.

Larry Hochberger spoke on the "State of the Local," saying that it was surprisingly good, considering the state of the newspaper business and how we were insolvent 6 years ago and in a cash crisis. The Local has been marginally profitable for the last 5 years and is debt-free. In the past year it received four editorial and three advertising Keystone Press Awards from the Pennsylvania News Media Association. Work is being done to provide a mobile app.

The "State of the Community Fund" was presented by President Jean Hemphill, Treasurer Moss Disston, and Secretary Stan Moat. According to Moss, the Fund has an approximate value of \$900,000 (\$735,000 net amount). His predictions about future stock market returns were pessimistic. Stan said that Town Hall is scheduled to receive a new roof, which will last for another 30 years.

*Notes prepared by Caryl Johnston and submitted on 4/25/15.*