



# WESTROCK COUNCIL

## Newsletter

January 2016

**Council Vision Statement** ~ Our vision is for the WestRock Council to be an effective and authentic team that represents the WestRock community, and for the Council members to feel energized, joyful, and honored to be on the Council.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR! FROM THE COUNCIL

In 2015 we sadly had to part with our dear pastor, Rev. Compton and Lydia. We can all remember Rev. Compton's Sunday Sermons with deep insight into and application of God's principles as well as many successful community events and providential accomplishments. This summer we faced the challenge of this loss and feel greatly blessed to have our new pastor, Rev. Kone and his family. The community quickly recognized in our new pastor genuine warmth and spiritual insight. Rev. Kone wisely created a pastor's team to reign in some of our community's talent to support his new role. He also requested one day off, Monday, for recharging his batteries and time with his family - and we hope we can support this and recognize a good role modeling for us all.

We have enjoyed Rev. Kone's thoughtful sermons, broadening us with his life experience, personal spiritual growth and education. Rev. Kone is maintaining regular teaching of Divine Principle which is fundamental to who we are as a church and how we grow. Many old traditions are being kept such as New Year's prayer at the Holy Rock. But we also welcome some new developments such as the new tradition of Volunteer Open House and maybe some expansion of the music ministry on Sundays.

But our pastor is only one of us. It is the council's prayer that each of you hear your calling as an important contributor to make our community reflect Heavenly Parent's loving nature guided by the clarity of Principle. We each have our part in honoring and supporting the steadfast faith and sacrifice of our True Parents. With that, we can genuinely can say we look forward to 2016 with you.

*article by Lynn Walsh*

### "SOCIOCRATIC" GOVERNANCE

Centered on our current chairperson, Kester Wilkening, the WestRock council has been making effort to establish "Sociocratic" methods, both on the council and in our committees. If you are unfamiliar with the concept of Sociocracy, here's your chance to learn about it!

On **Sunday, January 17th**, Kester will present "Introducing Sociocracy (Headwing governance) and how it can benefit the organizing of the WestRock Community". This will take place after church, from about 11:30 to 12:30. Kester will begin with a short presentation, and the rest of the time will be used for questions, answers, and discussion. We hope to see you there!

**Sociocracy: A Deeper Democracy**

*How Headwing governance can transform the organizing of the WestRock Community*

**Presenter: Kester Wilkening**

Sunday, January 17th  
723 South Broadway Tarrytown, NY



**NEXT COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING** Our next Council business meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday Jan. 12th**, from 7:30 to 9:30pm, at the White House.

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR VISITORS:** *Visitors are very welcome - but please be aware that our agenda is usually very full. If visitors would like to suggest an issue to be discussed or to be given time to express an opinion, they should contact the council (any council member) at least one week before the meeting.*



Kester Wilkening  
WestRock Council Chairperson



Lynn Walsh  
Vice Chairperson & Small Groups Committee



Peter Reiner  
Vice Chairperson & Sunday Service Committee



Justin Okamoto  
Secretary & Outreach Committee



Jessica Sattinger  
Treasurer & Finance Committee



Steve Honey  
Councilor & Facilities Committee



Akiko Morris  
Councilor & Education Committee



Elisa Hack  
Councilor & Member Care Committee

**The WestRock Council welcomes your input!**  
please email your comments, questions or suggestions to [wrcouncil@googlegroups.com](mailto:wrcouncil@googlegroups.com)

## CAMP SUNRISE ON THE RISE

One invaluable asset of our community is the close location of rustic, beautiful Camp Sunrise. Every summer for almost twenty years, youth from all over the country, but especially New York, have deepened their peer bonds and understanding of God while living in nature. This is only possible because of this wonderful facility and the many hard working and dedicated adults, such as Debbie Grodner, Brian Sabourin, Valentina Mikhailenko and Larry Benaloga as well as the talented young adult summer counselors and grounds staff. In addition, over the years many of us can remember many memorable Sunday services, workshops, retreats and family campouts at this glorious natural setting.

However, as we all know, the camp, just as much as the church, is also a business with fiscal responsibilities. Unfortunately, over the recent years, partly due to a decrease in demographics, Camp Sunrise has come up with fiscal short falls. This summer was no exception due to some sudden cancellations from outside organization who normally bring in substantial revenue. According to the camp contract, WestRock, NY district, NJ, and CT have had to provide certain percentages of the deficit in order to keep the camp running. This has happened again this year. For a while there the council was pulling our hair out with what to do. But luckily this year headquarters was able to make a huge difference by forgiving \$10,000 of this year's overall camp debt. What also helped was what WestRock earned during our Sunday Services at Sunrise. So thank you for participating generously at our Camp Sunrise Services! We still had to contribute \$808 to cover the deficit but overall we were fortunate for the reduction this year.

But we don't like to run on luck! This autumn the council felt compelled to help remedy the situation more permanently with the goal to make Sunrise support itself. Over the months WestRock council members held discussions and several meetings with regional representatives and board members to analyze the problems and solutions. We especially want to thank from WestRock, Noah Ross who was been investing much of his time for many years for the sake of our camp and Kester Wilkening who jumped in to help address the recent situation. One result from these recent meetings was a new contract drawn up with the camp, in which WestRock, NY district and NJ agreed to share the burden of any shortfall in the Sunrise budget. The commitment of financial backing has been made as follows: WestRock 40%, the NY district 30% and NJ 30%. Both Connecticut and headquarters will no longer be able to commit to filling in for any camp deficit, so this is a concern.

Another result from these meetings was the formation of a new board composed: Alexander Beebe and Manoj Jacob from the NJ, John Kung and Clementine Galvan from the NY district and Kenshin Furuta and Danso Sawamukai from WestRock. We are grateful for this team stepping up to the plate and ask everyone to

*Camp Sunrise continued...*

support them. We also look forward to bringing in the opinions of Emily Zochol Kise and Matt Kise, who have done a fabulous job of running the camp activities for the past few years. With the new energy and ideas with this business minded yet spiritually centered group of board members we feel confidence that Camp Sunrise is on the rise.

One new step forward is the hiring of a Business Director with a clear job description that includes bringing in new revenue with more clients, controlling expenditures and providing monthly and annual financial reports. Working alongside the board, the Business Director will be able to focus on building up and improving the camp functioning in order to create a steady and increased income and self-sustainability.

This is a fabulous facility with clear potential to accommodate more activity and bring in more income. We have every reason to believe the camp will be more productive than ever before. You can help by spreading the word with other organizations that might be interested in renting our facilities. It also helps if you and your family use our camp yourself such as with a family "stay-cation" or maybe a small group getaway. This fall the Council found Sunrise to be a perfect place for a retreat. Also keep in mind that in the spring a good turnout for the camp re-opening work-party makes a big difference and is much more fun.

*article by Lynn Walsh*



**TO OUR  
OUTGOING  
CAMP SUNRISE  
BOARD MEMBERS**

- **Noah Ross, Philippa Clarke and Susan Bouachri from WestRock**
- **Roger Wetherall from CT**
- **Emiljun Rapada from NJ**

**THANK YOU!**

**The WestRock Council welcomes your input!**

*please email your comments, questions or suggestions to*

[wrcouncil@googlegroups.com](mailto:wrcouncil@googlegroups.com)