

# Washington Rotary Club



**June 21, 2022**

The regular Washington Rotary Meeting took place on Tuesday, June 21, at Washington and Jefferson College. Joining by Zoom were **Rich and Mary Jo Podgurski**. Guest was our speaker, **The Honorable Leo Trich**.

The invocation was given by **Susan Priest**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Announcements

- **Jim Uram** announced that people who will be helping with the set-up for Presidents Night, which will be held next week at 5:30 in the Kiwanis Pavilion in Washington Park, should plan on being there at 4:00. Attendees will be billed for the \$35.00 cost. There will be a 50/50, tickets \$10. The proceeds will be used to help pay the gratuity for the servers from Krecy's. Right now 34 people have signed up, but there is room for late registrants.
- **Dorothy Tecklenburg** asked if anyone going to the District Conference would be willing to take a one-page handout about the proposed joint project in Kenya which we are pursuing with the Applecross Rotary Club in Perth, Australia. Many small clubs which cannot manage an international project on their own might be interesting in piggybacking on this project. She is committed to a family reunion, whose date she had no control over, and had intended to hand these out in person. Several persons who will be attending expressed a willingness to help out.
- **Mike Sears** announced that our club has received a silver award from Shelter Box for the 2021-2022 year in honor of "outstanding dedicated support".
- **Brad Montgomery** reminded the club that we have provided volunteers to help staff the souvenir booth at the Pony World Series for many years. The series begins on August 10, and Brad and Bob Wicker will be preparing a sign-up sheet for the series.
- **Karen Reese** said that this year all divisions in Pony will be represented, and that the Kiwanis and Lions clubs will join with Rotary to put on the annual all-team lunch. More info will be forthcoming.
- **Kathy Sabol** asked which members had volunteered for Friday night, July 8, for the Whiskey and Spirits Walk. Volunteers will staff the registration table, and some will be runners, transporting purchases to the registration to be held for participants in the walk.
- **Joe Piszczor** spoke about the planned city blight survey. This will NOT require any interaction with residents. Surveyors will be given a list of questions about the condition of the potentially blighted property, possibly a vacant lot, and they are to observe from a vehicle without exiting it. Dates for the surveys are June 28, July 6, and July 12. For more info, talk to Joe. See more info at the bottom of this newsletter.
- **Joe** also asked members to take a moment to fill out a brief survey about the club. It is available by QR code, or online. Just click the link or contact Joe for a paper copy. This information will be key when the leadership of the club meets for a retreat to chart the way forward for the club under the

leadership of incoming president John Hopper. [Click here to load the online form.](#) Here is the QR code



- **Brandi Miller** said that only one member had offered to volunteer for the United Way Golf Outing at Lone Pine Country Club on Saturday, August 29. Volunteers can work either a morning shift, an afternoon shift, or all day. Work will be done sitting down. Contact her if you want to have more of a Rotary presence for this worthy endeavor.
- **Brandi** also reminded the club that **Scott Becker** from the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum has asked for club volunteers to paint the Wexford Station at the Museum. When she receives more information as to date and materials needed, she will let the club know.

## Happy Dollars.

- **Susan Priest** was happy for the past few days of great sleeping weather.
- **Kathy Sabol** was happy for her two great-nephews. The younger one is on the C-H team which has made it to the finals, and the older one is a member of the C-H all-stars which have made it to the playoffs.
- **Jim Uram** was happy for the rookie who hit three home runs for the Pirates, and just hopes that he will stay around for a while.
- **John Tecklenburg** was happy that his project to copy and transcribe his grandfather's letters home to his wife from an aircraft carrier during WWII is coming along. The fragile air-mail letters were photocopied, and have been transcribed and he is now about one-third through reading them. When done, they will be donated to the *Intrepid*, which is in New York harbor. He notices that his depression-era father spent a lot of time writing about the food he had every day. John regrets that the other half of the correspondence, the letters from his wife, were not preserved.
- **Susan Price** was \$5 happy for: the dog is improving and only had to be sprayed in the face once yesterday. She cleaned out her purse and found receipts from the Trivia contest in early May. She spent Saturday at the fairgrounds in Greene County for the Domestic Violence first Bluegrass fundraiser, a time she found pleasantly cool, but extremely windy. The first-time event raised \$7500 for Domestic Violence. Next year they expect more, since it will be merged with an antique car rally.
- **Tom Drewitz** was happy for this past week he spent with his son and family at the beach.
- **Bill Price** dug into his wallet to honor the two big spenders he sat between. (Susan Price and Tom Drewitz)
- **Mike Sears** was happy for something which happened before last week's meeting, but better late than never. His daughter **Mary** participated in the Laurel Highlands Ultra Marathon on June 11. This event requires a 70-mile run. She started at 5:35 on Saturday morning, and finished at 2:35am on Sunday.
- **Mary Jo Podgurski** was happy to thank the club for the reception the club gave to the young people from the Teen Center last week. She was proud of them. She told us that the Banned Book Club has chosen *Night*, by Elie Wiesel

## Program: Leo Trich – World Affair Forums



At this point **President Brandi** asked **Karen Reese** to introduce our speaker, **Leo Trich**.

**Karen** said that she has known **Leo** since he was a student and that he began working with **Roy Gillespie**, her father, at Pony Baseball, a job he held for 15 years. **Leo** later became a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature for 14 years, and worked with pro teams in minor league baseball. He now is associated with the World Affairs Council in Pittsburgh, which was founded by the Pittsburgh Rotary Club. He is also Founder and President of Ballpark Scholarships, Inc. **Leo** began by saying that when he began to work with Pony, he was pulled in two directions. **Roy Gillespie and Bill Amos** would often invite him to Rotary meetings and urged him to join Rotary. However, his boss, **Lew Hays**, was a Kiwanian, and in the end **Leo** joined Kiwanis. His work now follows two tracks. Ballpark Scholarships, Inc (BSI) was founded to raise money to create the Wild

Things Ballpark. This year the field will celebrate 20 years. BSI was founded to raise the funds for the construction of the field, and raised 82% of the costs. The rest of the money came from a state grant. BSI uses the additional funds raised to provide scholarships to local students. To date \$100,000 has been distributed in scholarships.

His other work is with the World Affairs Council in Pittsburgh. He became involved in 2019 and met with high school students to discuss important issues with them. From the start he was in awe of the involvement of the students. They were discussing climate change and he was amazed at how they were thinking outside the box. They convinced him that they will do a better job in running the world than his generation. They will outdo us.

He hosted another forum in the spring where representatives from the elected sphere were joined by diplomats, peace activists, and even some from the UN. What was stressed was that public service is not only running for public office, but that there other ways to work to improve one's world.

He was chosen to represent Pennsylvania in a week-long event in Europe which included meeting members from the European Union Parliament and officials at NATO to show America's on-going support for our trans-Atlantic alliances. After two postponements because of Covid - last August he was one of 60 current and former state elected persons to attend the EU event. At one point many went to a United Nations facility in Austria, but Leo was one of those asked to attend a session at Maastricht University in the southern Netherlands. This was aimed at interacting with students of international studies, and again Leo came away with a feeling that this younger generation will do great things. He also became aware of how much these young people know about the US, and how little American young people know about them.

What **Leo** came to talk to us about, however, are two upcoming Virtual International Forums, one at Chartiers-Houston High School and one at Upper Saint Clair High School. They will be held this September and October. One person attending will be a young man **Leo** met in Europe, **Dominik Wrobel**, who greatly impressed him. **Dominic** is a German grad student who will be coming over to Pittsburgh for a 10-week study program with the World Affairs Council. He shows a great ability to connect with young people.

The cost of the two forums will be \$1100. They have secured a grant from Washington Federal for \$500, and Leo is asking that our board consider matching this amount. BSI plans to fund scholarships for some of the student participants.

**President Brandi** asked if volunteers will be needed at the forums, and Leo said that volunteers would be welcome, as well as anyone who would like to come and observe.

The meeting ended with the recital of the Four Way Test, led by **President Brandi**.

## Volunteer Opportunities!

### Spark in the Park July 3rd - volunteers needed to collect admissions and work the pop and water tent.

We are looking for some volunteers to collect admissions and work the pop/water tent! Thanks!

<https://forms.gle/Y4TQ1DQPvETgFquN8>

DeAnna



DeAnna Martin  
Park Director, Washington Park  
[724-228-2812](tel:724-228-2812)  
[washington.park.director@gmail.com](mailto:washington.park.director@gmail.com)  
[283 Dunn Ave, Washington PA 15301](https://www.washingtonpark.org)



## Blight Remediation Initiative

Good morning,

Thank you for your willingness to aid our in our recruitment efforts!

My name is Jordan Murray, and I am the intern this summer at the Washington Citywide Development Corporation. The WCDC is committed to serving our city and its residents and thinks that we can make a difference in our community. We intend to carry on with our efforts to combat out-migration and improve Washington this summer by continuing our multi-year Blight Remediation Initiative. Through this project, we hope to target areas of Washington that can be improved.

Using GIS, Volunteers will assist in this initiative by surveying the neighborhood, assessing buildings, homes, and/or lots, and answering survey questions.

They will not be knocking on doors.

We plan to examine ward 5 this year. We've set aside four weeks to go out and examine the neighborhood once a week. Lunch will be given, and volunteers will be able to earn service hours as well. We are also providing training materials virtually as well as tutorials before each day of volunteering . I've attached the flyer, which has further details on the times and dates. Please disregard the training date and location; we've decided to do the virtual method.

Any help in getting this information out would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for as many people as possible, as this is a larger area that we are surveying this year. We will be recruiting all summer through the dates listed on the flyer, so if being present next week is an issue, we will be retraining and refreshing on each date of surveying. Please let me know if there are any questions.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf30HxLHI0dICwfKfSTwoAE-9W8cptUBYpAIIgmgGaZhKcshA/viewform>

Best,

Jordan Murray

City of Washington Citywide Development Corporation

273 South Main Street

Washington, PA 15301

(304) 279-3385

[jmurray@pcrg.org](mailto:jmurray@pcrg.org)

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help fight the blight!



Aid in improving Washington by surveying neighborhoods alongside the Washington Citywide Development Corporation! Training will be given on June 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Ignite Center. Service hours are available, and lunch will be provided!

**Dates:**  
June 21st  
June 28th  
July 6th  
July 12th

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Washington  
Park Office, Washington,  
PA 15301



Scan the QR  
Code to sign up!

Contact Staeshaun Morris at [smorris@pcrg.org](mailto:smorris@pcrg.org) or Jordan Murray at [jmurray@pcrg.org](mailto:jmurray@pcrg.org)

## Speakers

June 28th  
Brandi Miller  
President's Night

July 5th  
Barbara Miller  
Washington Senior Citizens Center

## Events

No Events found

## Club Leaders

[Brandi B. Miller](#)  
President

[John P. Hopper](#)  
President-Elect

[Lars Lange](#)  
Secretary  
Treasurer

[Dorothy Curley Tecklenburg](#)  
Vice President 2023-24

[David A. Hart](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Diane L. Ambrose](#)  
Club Service Chair

[Thomas C. Drewitz](#)  
Webmaster

[Angeline Anyango East](#)  
Community Service Chair

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)  
iPast President

[Antonio Zuloaga](#)  
Assistant Governor

## Club Meeting

Washington  
Meets at W & J College, The Commons  
60 S. Lincoln St.  
Washington, PA 15301  
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM