

Washington Rotary Club



Sept 4, 2024

The Rotary Club of Washington met at noon on Tuesday, at "The Meeting Place" in downtown Washington.

The meeting began with an invocation by Kelley Swift, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Mike Skubovius, guest of Joe Piszczor
Stacy Till, about to become a member.

Induction

President Kathy Sabol called forward Stacy Till and PDG Tom Drewitz. Tom performed the induction of Stacy as the world's newest Rotarian. President Kathy asked Stacy her standard questions for new members:

1. What do you do for fun,
2. where do you work,
3. name three things in your refrigerator.

Stacy said that this time of year her refrigerator is full of fresh veggies, and she has coffee cream as well. She works for the Washington Bar Association, and what she does for fun is work with Kathy Sabol. She is a Washington native and has a 25-year-old son.

Happy Dollars

- Susan Priest was \$20 happy that her latest scan shows that her tumor has now shrunk 38%.
- Karen Reese was happy to be mobile. Her broken ankle is now healed enough to be in a boot and she is no longer at the mercy of the husband taxi service.
- Fern Sibert was VERY happy, as were all the members, because her granddaughter was out of a diabetic coma which she was in for several days.
- Mike Sears was happy to have survived a bike crash with only nasty bruising.
- Bill Price was happy to be able to finally give a special flag to Karen Reese. In going through old club items he found a club flag which was signed by Roy Gillespie, Karen's father, President of the club 1966-1977 and District Governor 1973-1974.
- John Hopper was grateful for our newest member, and that the certificate given to her spelled both her name and "certificate" correctly. Apparently his wife

Her spelled both her name and as certificate correctly. Apparently his wife Cheryl once printed out several "certificates". He also spoke of the importance of Rotary's involvement with Polio eradication, which is unfortunately reappearing in Gaza due to the conflict there. Big goals require infrastructure and Rotary continues to recruit members and workers for this project. He also said that Rotary International is in more countries than there are countries in the United Nations.

- John Tecklenburg was happy that he and Dorothy spent some time in Chicago with their son, who will be getting married next year.
- Joe Piszczor was happy for the upcoming ribbon cutting at his new location, and to be introducing Rotary to his friend Mike Scubovius.

Announcements:

- President Kathy was pleased that \$1075 was raised by our club and the Canonsburg-Houston-Southpointe for this Saturday's Tunnel to Towers event. She and Brad Montgomery will be participating, and other members plan to volunteer.
- Amy Gough spoke of the many volunteer opportunities this month. Coming this Saturday, as well as Tunnel to Towers is Art in the Park at Washington Park.
- New events, mostly on Saturdays:
 - September 14: STEM Fest at the Community Pavilion on Main Street. Volunteers are wanted for 2-hour shifts from 8 to 4. See her email for the different jobs open.
 - September 21: Woofstock "A Pet Party in the Park" at the Wild Things Park. Contact Amy at agough@healthyteens.com for details.
 - Continuing opportunities:
 - Glass recycling on September 7 and September 21 contact aburroughs2@comcast.net
 - Cap sorting: See the brochures from Fern Sibert

Come help us for as little
or as long as you can
between 9am and 5pm



Sit and Sort Saturdays

Please Join us at Holy Trinity Church,
(605 Malone Ridge Rd)

Sept 14 & 28

Oct 5 & 26

Nov 30

Dec 7

RSVP to Fern Sibert
724-456-1780

- Persons interested in the SMART program we heard about in June, targeted at drug abuse, and who would like to be a part of exploring how our club might be involved, should get in touch with Dorothy Tecklenburg, who is a member a committee formed to learn more.
- Susan Price suggested members reach out to the Moores and to Dave Hart. They haven't been able to attend and she thinks it would be nice idea to let them know that they are missed.
- Fern Sibert wanted people to know that her new address is 1871 The Circle, and that the last load of bottle caps is scheduled for departure in December.

Remember

- President Kathy reminded members that our next meeting on September 17 has

- President Kathy reminded members that our next meeting on September 17 has been moved. That is Constitution Day, and members are invited to join in the reading of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights at noon on the Courthouse steps (indoors at the Courthouse in case of rain). Following this, there will be a naturalization ceremony for 40 new citizens in one of the courtrooms. If you have never seen a naturalization ceremony she said that you owe to yourself to do so. John Tecklenburg added that one of the persons he has been working with will be among those being naturalized.
- President Kathy also reminded members of the upcoming Million Dollar Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn on November 9. The speaker will be RI President Stephanie Urchick. Several members have already signed up. The club is a Bronze Level sponsor.

Program: Brady Brooks with AMVETS

President Kathy then turned the floor over to Brady Brooks with AMVETS to let us know what will be happening as AMVETS moves its headquarters from Washington DC to Washington PA.

Brady began by sharing the proposed layout for the new AMVETS facility which will be housed in the old Laboratory School building, which was most recently used by the PA Intermediate Unit for schools in Southwestern Pennsylvania, with emphasis on special education needs.

This 35,000-square-foot building was purchased at auction this spring by AMVETS National Charities. Once renovated, this will provide transition housing and an array of important services to Veterans and their families who are experiencing or in danger of homelessness.?

The vast majority of transition housing centers segregate by gender, often separating sons and mothers, daughters and fathers, and husbands and wives.

AMVETS Charities will provide housing for the Veteran and his or her family, safely keeping them together. Outcomes are much better when families are able to stay together.



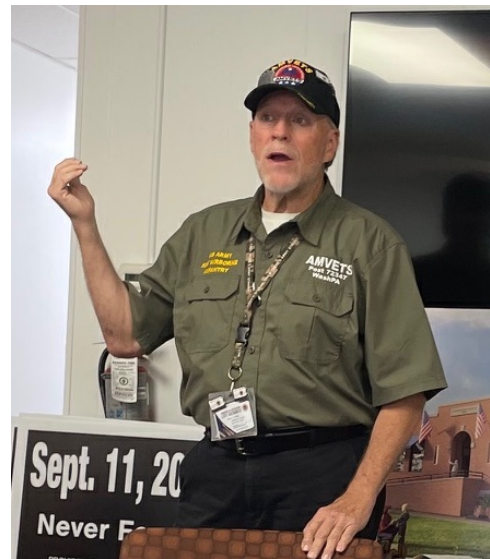
AMVETS also recently purchased the former synagogue on North Avenue, which will become the site of its national headquarters.

The former school building will include classrooms and 8 apartments, some 1 bedroom, some 2 bedroom. There will be 24/7 medical and psychological staff available. Also available will be VSO service officers to assist with VA paperwork. They are particularly interested in creating local networks. They have buy-in

from several local veterans who are in government service, including local government officials, who understand that AMVETS is non-political and non-denominational. They are looking for individuals and companies who will be able to offer apprenticeships and jobs. They have some already lined up, but could always use more.

At the school they are working with Blue Star mothers who will be going through the large number of items left by the Intermediate Unit. This includes toys and PT equipment used with the special education students. Also left behind were all the desks and other educational paraphernalia. The work to prepare the facility will take some time. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for March 25, 2025.

John Hopper asked about the synagogue. Brady explained that AMVETS is very pleased with the facility, which is in excellent shape. All national programs will be run from there. There already exist 12 offices and a full gymnasium. When Mayor Burgess saw the gym he suggested it would be useful for youth basketball. AMVETS is planning to use some of the



extensive grounds for an outdoor pavilion, and see this facility as something for the whole community. As an example, the current congregation of the synagogue numbers 30, and they have been using a secondary chapel for services. As a condition of the sale, AMVETS offered them the use of the chapel for 20 years.

Dorothy Tecklenburg asked about marketing. Brady said that AMVETS wants to wait until closer to the time when the facilities are ready. They don't want to sell too soon. They welcome suggestions on marketing and other ways they can interact with the community. Contact him at brady.brooks@icloud.com with ideas or further questions.

The meeting ended with the Four-Way Test, led by Joe Piszczor.

Club Leaders

[Kathleen L. Sabol](#)

President

[Kelley Swift](#)

Secretary

[Susan R. Price](#)

Membership Chair

[William D. Price](#)

Club Service Chair

[Dorothy Curley Tecklenburg](#)

iPast President

[Michael S. Sears](#)

President-Elect

[Brandi B. Miller](#)

Treasurer

[Thomas C. Drewitz](#)

Webmaster

[John Christian Tecklenburg II](#)

International Service Chair

[Lars Lange](#)

Vice President

[Joseph M. Piszczor](#)

Rotary Foundation Chair

[Amy Podgurski-Gough](#)

Community Service Chair

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)

Vocational Service Chair

Speakers

October 1st

Doreen Dingle and Sandra Samples, Washington Financial
Financial/Internet Scams

Birthdays

— [DeAnna L
Martin](#)
September 6th

— [John Christian
Tecklenburg II](#)
September
12th



— [David Bradley
Montgomery](#)
September
23rd

— [Dawn L Haber](#)
October 1st

— [Lynn Galluze](#)
October 1st