

# Rotary



# Club of Washington

Thursday, February 18, 2021

**February 16, 2021**

## The Rotary Club of Washington met by Zoom

Present were: **Brad Montgomery, Tom Drewitz, Dave and Shirley Moore, Angeline East, Dave Hart, Mary Jo and Rich Podgurski, John Hopper, Andy Goudy, Ken Baker, Dorothy and John Tecklenburg, Bill and Susan Price, John Quayle, Lars Lange, Park Burroughs, Joe Piszczor, Susan Priest,** and our speaker **Owen Standley**

### Pre-Meeting

As this writer entered, the discussion was about the weather. **Dave Moore** said that someone he knew in Houston (Texas, not PA) was experiencing no power. **Angeline East** said that her son in Seattle shared that there was SNOW in Seattle, a very unusual event. **Rich Podgurski** told of a time in one of the Carolinas where the road was being treated with sand, thrown from the back of a pickup by a man using a shovel. **Mary Jo** told of a student who was from Maine who reproved Pennsylvanians after a storm: ♦At home, this is just a dusting. ♦ **Dave Moore** recalled a time in Dallas where the airport was closed for long enough to begin running out of food, and stores in the area were out of men ♦s underwear.

As **Dorothy Tecklenburg** entered, Kyanite made her presence known. Dorothy said that Kyanite has grown and has added about 10 pounds since last week. She now weighs over 30 pounds. When asked if Kyanite still had an appetite for books, Dorothy responded yes, and also a big appetite for shoes.

**Susan Priest** told **Susan Price** that she (Susan Price) had dodged a bullet. **Susan Priest** ♦s internet connection failed this morning, and only got connected a bit after eleven. **Susan Price** is the back-up for doing meeting write-ups. **Susan Price** responded that when their router died they lost not only the internet, but also phone service.

The conversation turned to the frustrations on trying to schedule an appointment for the COVID vaccine. Some members have managed to get on a waiting list, but without any idea when they will be scheduled. Others are still trying to even get that far. **Susan Priest** suggested that it was a lesson in the law of supply and demand, with the demand far outstripping the demand, but **Tom Drewitz** said that Pennsylvania ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states for distribution of the vaccine. Someone said that Freedom Transit is offering free transportation to people to vaccine appointments, and shared a link: [alexandra@freedom-transit.org](mailto:alexandra@freedom-transit.org)

**John Quayle** joined us at this point and put in an advertisement. Today is Mardi Gras, and tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. John wants us all to know that tomorrow, and every Friday in Lent, IC Church is holding its famous Fish Fry. Fried and baked fish with all the fixings are available (take-out only).

### Getting Started

At this point, **President Brad Montgomery** rang the bell and began the meeting. Brad asked **Susan Priest** to give the invocation, and this was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. In honor of Presidents ♦ Day yesterday, the flag he chose is the one flying over the White House.

**President Brad** began the meeting with an update of the Family Essentials project. So far over 100 bags have been collected, with a lot of loose essentials which will be combined for even more bags. Later in the meeting the bags were discussed more as **Dave Hart** joined us.

On Thursday the Virtual Membership Summit will begin a series of 6 weekly meetings, Thursdays from 6 to 7 pm. **President Brad** also said that **Brandi Miller** and **Lars Lange** have been attending Pre-PETS and PETS.

**Dave Hart** joined us a bit late and added to **President Brad** ♦s remarks on the Essentials project. ASK people. By approaching others in his church and neighborhood he has amassed 63 bags so far, and is sure he will reach 100, but, ♦Ya gotta ask. ♦ Five essentials for every bag should be bar soap, tooth paste, tooth brush, shampoo, and deodorant. Then you can add other items to fill the bag. **Susan Price** added the importance of hand sanitizer, and **Bill Price** displayed a package of handwipes which he found at Krogers, 10 for 10 dollars. He has seen similar ones for sale at Giant Eagle. **Mary Jo Podgurski** said that the teens at the Teen Center are preparing several bags, and that they felt that feminine hygiene products were also important.

### Program: Owen's Odessey



At this point **President Brad** introduced our speaker, **Owen Standley**. Owen is past President of his club in Johnstown, and in 2018 District 7330 named him as Rotarian of the year. Owen is a graduate of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, majoring in engineering and theater. He is an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher. He is going to be hiking the Appalachian Trail later this year to raise money (target \$100,000) for Polio Plus. This ambitious effort is called **Owen's Odyssey**.

**Owen** began by introducing us to his ukulele: Miss Elanius, who will be accompanying him on his trek, and sang us an original song about his planned trip to the tune of the Beverley Hillbillies theme song. He was just back in from a long hike, training up for the journey. He has broken one of his ice cleats after only two days and also broken a blister.

He intends to hike the complete Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine. The trip, 2200 miles, will amount to hiking the equivalent of 16 Mount Everests. He hopes to complete the walk in 100 days, and to average 25 miles a day.

He sees this a great way to raise awareness about Polio and Rotary's goal to eliminate it. Rotary has the goal of following the successful eradication of smallpox. That eradication gives us a clear path on how to do this, that path is marked, and we need to keep persevering. He takes inspiration from the musical Hamilton: who lives, who dies, who tells my story.

So far he has raised over \$30,000 of his \$100,000 goal, an amount which the Gates Foundation will make \$300,000. So far most of the money has been raised from our district, but he is working at connecting with Rotary clubs along the route of his odyssey for logistical support and more awareness of the project, generating more contributions.

### Questions:

- **President Brad** asked **Owen** when he would be starting.
  - Owen: March 9. He runs the soundboard for the spring and fall productions of the drama department at Mount Aloysius and will be leaving after their spring production. Once that is done he will be off to Georgia.
- **Joe Piszczor** asked when **Owen** would be on the Pennsylvania section of the trail and if people could join him.
  - **Owen**: He will be in Pennsylvania around the end of April, Waynesboro, Carlisle, and going toward New York. He would welcome anyone who would like to hike along with him. There will be 29 places to meet up with people along the 100-day journey.
- **Joe Piszczor** also asked about the logistical issues in planning the odyssey.
  - **Owen**: The work of hiking with a loaded back-pack means he will need about 20,000 calories a day. He expects to be a lot skinnier by the time he gets to Maine. He will need replenishment every 3 to 4 days and will need local ground support. The plan: a car will pull up and the driver will say: **Get in the car, stranger**. They will drive to a store to stock up on groceries, then to the driver's home for a much-needed shower and a hot meal, followed by a presentation to the local Rotary club. COVID is actually helping him, since ZOOM frees a club to hold a meeting any day they need to, without the logistics of holding an in-person meeting for members. He has 29 target location and has 16-18 set. He is reaching out to clubs along the route through Facebook pages and web sites. Generally he succeeds when he can speak directly to someone in the club. Personal contact is the key. For the first 300 and last 300 miles there are no Rotary

clubs. He plans to depend on the traditional hiking infrastructure of trail aficionados.

- **President Brad** asked about his use of the website, [www.hikeforpolio](http://www.hikeforpolio) to drive donations.
  - **Owen:** This is one way to donate. In addition, if you register for his newsletter, he will send updates throughout the odyssey. On line donations are best, but he knows some are resistant to the internet. Our district is offering a sweetener. Donations of \$100 or more through the district will be matched two for one in Paul Harris points. And of course any donation will be matched two for one by the Gates Foundation. He finds the numbers persuasive. It costs 60 cents for one dose. That means every dollar raised, when matched by the Gates Foundation, will immunize 50 children.
  - If you visit the website, you can also order a buff for \$30.
  - He stresses the importance of social media in getting the word out. @hikefor polio.org will get you to his sites on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. The more people who learn of the Odyssey, the more money and other support can be gained. The hierarchy is: like, engage (comment, anything at all, this drives the site beyond just those who like it) and share. Everything which make the Odyssey more visible is a good thing.
  - His goal: Terri Gross on NPR and Hot Ones on YouTube. The latter is a show where the guest will be asked to eat 10 chicken wings, each one ramped up to hotter and hotter sauces. The last one is rated at over two million Scoville units.
- **John Tecklenburg** asked if **Owen** was going alone.
  - **Owen:** Yes, just him and Miss Elanious. He will have a Garmin and it will link to the website so that his movements can be followed. He will also be working on a blog, for which we can register on the website.
- **Bill Price** wondered what he would do if confronted by a bear.
  - **Owen:** He would use Miss Elanious and go down swinging.
- **Park Burroughs** asked if he realized he would be hiking through swamp in Maine in June. Was he concerned about insects?
  - **Owen:** Since spring comes later in Maine he is hoping to avoid too much insect activity.
- **Susan Priest**, who has experienced black fly season in Maine in June warned him that he was wrong about that. Cover as much skin as you can and you may survive.
  - **Owen** was asked what would be the next production at Mount Aloysius in which he would take part. He said it was 110 Stories, a play based on the day of the World Trade Center attack, and the day after. It has 20 characters. It will be produced later in 2021.
- **Owen** concluded with a more contemporary song promoting the project based on the Flobots Handlebars.

President Brad thanked Owen for his presentation and there was general applause.

The meeting ended with the Four Way Test, led by President Brad.

## Speakers

February 23rd  
Brad Montgomery  
Club Assembly

## Events

No Events found

## Club Leaders

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)  
President

[Brandi B. Miller](#)  
President-Elect

[John P. Hopper](#)  
Vice President  
Vocational Service Chair

[Lars Lange](#)  
Secretary

[Susan E. Priest](#)  
Assistant Secretary

[Robert K. Wicker](#)  
Assistant Treasurer

[David W. Moore](#)  
Treasurer

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

[William J. Mesler](#)  
Membership Chair

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

[Thomas C. Drewitz](#)  
Webworker

[Angeline Anyango East](#)  
Community Service Chair

[Dorothy Curley Tecklenburg](#)  
International Service Chair

[Antonio Zuloaga](#)  
Area Governor

## Club Meeting

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