

Rotary



Club of Washington

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

March 16, 2021

The Rotary Club of Washington met by Zoom

Pre-Meeting

Present were: **Brad Montgomery, Tom Drewitz, Dave and Shirley Moore, Dave Hart, John and Dorothy Tecklenburg, Angeline East, John Hopper, Tom Northrop** (with guest appearance of grandson **Leyton**), **Brandi Miller, Park Burroughs, Andy Goudy, Ken Baker, Bill Price, John Quayle, Lars Lange, Joe Piszczor, Carrie Richardson, and Susan Priest**. Guests were **Betsie Trew** and **Aliesha Walz**.

Before the meeting began, **Susan Priest** said that last Thursday her credit card gave \$500 in airline tickets to an unknown flyer. She learned of this within a very short time, and her credit card was cancelled and the airline alerted. She received her new card the next day and now has to change many payment sites. **Betsie Trew** said that she has never had this happen to her card, but her husband has been hit twice.

Seeing fellow Penguins fan **Dorothy Tecklenburg**, Betsie asked her if she had attended any games yet. **Dorothy** said that her recent minor surgery had meant she had to give up some games, but she and John have tickets to three more games. The Penguins have quite a string of sell-out games at home, and even with the limited capacity the team is keeping the string alive. She and John said that the Pens have made the experience Covid-friendly. Fans are separated by a row of empty seats, and all tickets are purchased on line with a separated gate and time to space out arrivals.

At this point, Kyanite interrupted asking for her treat ball, and Dorothy obliged her. Dorothy praised the puppy games they had gotten for Kyanite. One is rated as a level 2 game was solved by Kyanite in about 30 seconds, and the one rated as a level 3 has defeated her, but the treat ball must rate a 2.5, as she can solve it, but it occupies her for some time.

Betsie asked if the club's service projects have been affected by Covid, and also wondered if it had been a year since we met in person. She said that even after this past year, she still makes errors in Zoom. **President Brad** told her that we did have one in-person meeting in June at the Kiwanis Pavilion in Washington Park, and others told her about the Greenhouse project and the Family Essentials project we are working on.

Getting Started

At this point President Brad rang the bell and then gave the invocation. For the Pledge of Allegiance he provided a picture of the flag at the Brownlee House, home of the Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF),

Announcements:

- We are sad to report that **William E. Speakman, Jr.** has died. **Bill** was a member of the the Canonsburg-Houston Club and then, a members of our club for many years. He was a great asset to the club and to Rotary. He was a great friend and will be sadly missed.
- The Dictionary Project is awaiting the arrival of the extra dictionaries, due this week. Next week start looking for the sign-up opportunities to help deliver them.
- We now have 286 Family Essentials bags, with several persons still working on more. **Dave Hart** said that with only about one and a half weeks left we need to step up our game if we want to reach the goal of supplying all 425 families who use the Food Pantry. If anyone cannot do the shopping, just send a check to **Dave** this week. If you have items but are not able to bag them, leave them in a bag on **Dave's** porch. If you would like empty bags, **Brad** has some, and so does Dave.
- In addition, **Dave** also told us that the club is still short on our required Foundation giving. If we want to take advantage of district grants, we must meet the giving threshold of \$100 per member to the Foundation. We are still about \$700 short, and it must be in by the beginning of June. Sent checks to **Dave Hart** or **Dave Moore**, made out to the Rotary Foundation.
- In other news, the club recently received a thank you from Washington County CYS for our donation toward their Christmas fund for families.
- **Dorothy Tecklenburg** said that she has heard from **Pam Kilgore**. The site prep work for the greenhouse should be finished this week, and they will be needing volunteer laborers to help set things up. She has sent more information on this to the club.
- **Dorothy** has also set up a NCAA March Madness pool on the CBS website. You have until noon on Thursday to submit your brackets. A donation of \$20 to the club will get you three brackets to fill out. The club will be awarding cash prizes. No knowledge of basketball is necessary. Follow the link to sign up. You will need to register at CBS news, but you can opt out of emails and **Dorothy** says they will honor this. You all should have received an email with specific instructions.

- **Bill Price** had two items he would like the board to discuss at its meeting following the club meeting today.
 - First is the District Foundation Luncheon. Last year the club voted to provide a \$150 value basket for a fund-raising raffle. This was never spent, because Covid cancelled the luncheon. He asked the board to do this again this year. Every club which provides a basket will receive a Paul Harris Fellowship to award.
 - He also talked about the District Conference, May 20-23. He and **Susan Price** are in charge of the House of Friendship, where there will be a cork wine pull again. The club is asked to donate one or more bottles valued at \$10 or more.

Program: Betsie Trew and WCCF

At this point **President Brad** turned the meeting over to **Susan Priest** to introduce our speaker. **Susan** said that many members remembered **Betsie Trew**, who was for many years a member of our club. **Betsie** became the director of the Washington County Community Foundation (hereafter WCCF) shortly after the Foundation was founded in 1995. It began with almost nothing and has grown to be a model of philanthropy in Washington County.

Betsie began by saying it was great to see so many familiar faces, including **Tom Northrop** and **Joe Piszczor**, who serve on the WCCF board and **Dorothy Tecklenburg**, who recently cycled off the board. She added that when the Foundation formed its Women of Philanthropy Committee in 2008 to raise money for its Mothers Fund, **Tom Northrop** was the only man included.

She had a PowerPoint presentation, which was handled by **Aliesha Walz**, Chief Operating Officer of WCCF, and informal Zoom officer. It included the world premier of a video on the Close to Home Fund, which was started one year ago. The video will be released on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter on Wednesday, March 17th, and shares how WCCF was able to raise and distribute \$700,000 to address community needs related to the Covid-19 pandemic.



In regard to the Day of Giving, she said that the Foundation was unsure what to expect in 2020, especially as they had raised so much for the Close to Home Fund. In 2019 the Day of Giving raised about \$1,000,000. How would Washington County respond in 2020? The Foundation ended up raising \$1,300,000. A donor underwrote the credit card fees, so that all of the money went to the charities.

She also spoke of her disappointment that WCCF has been unable to make full use of its headquarters building because of the pandemic. The Brownlee House offers meeting space and other amenities. She had especially looked forward to hosting a public open house at the Brownlee House but expected that would have to wait until 2022. She said that she is frequently asked how WCCF received such a beautiful historical building for its headquarters. Her answer: We asked for it.

President Brad thanked **Betsie**, and said that the foundation is the only customer which makes him nervous when he makes deliveries. He makes sure to check his shoes to be sure not to track anything into the building.

Ken Baker informed Betsie that the AMP (Afterschool Music Program), which gives musical instruction to underprivileged young people, still has some of the money that WCCF donated some time ago.

Betsie then asked **Brandi Miller** about the twins. **Brandi** said that the 3-month-olds are now weighing in at about 14 pounds.

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

Speakers

March 23rd
 Larry Maggi
 Participating in a COVID Vaccine Trial

March 30th
 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