

Rotary



Club of Washington

Friday, March 26, 2021

March 23, 2021

The Rotary Club of Washington met by Zoom

Pre-Meeting

Present were: **Brad Montgomery, Tom Drewitz, Dave and Shirley Moore, Dave Hart, Dorothy Tecklenburg, Angeline East, John Hopper, Andy Goudy, Ken Baker, Bill and Susan Price, John Quayle, Lars Lange, Joe Piszczor, and Susan Priest.** Guests were **Randi Marodi** and **Commissioner Larry Maggi.**

As this writer entered the group was discussing the television series Ozark, and wondering if it would continue. Some felt that there were episodic shows which went on too long. **Tom Drewitz** said that he had recently watched all seasons of West Wing. Someone said that how, in the final season, the losing candidate took the post of Secretary of State under his former opponent, and regretted that this represented something which probably could not happen in today's political climate.

John Quayle entered with the news that he was going back to work this afternoon. When asked if this meant that he was umpiring again, John replied that yes, he was umpiring a JV game at Peterswood Park today. A GREAT sign of spring. Another sign happened when **Commissioner Maggi** joined us and thought that **Tom Drewitz**, soaking up the sun in his yard, must be joining us from Florida.

Susan Price joined us alone. The Prices had been to the dentist, and Bill was still there. Someone asked about her feet. They are fine, but her knee is now bothering her. Another person asked her if she was taking fish oil. No, she cannot take it. Another person suggested, not as a joke, WD-40. To which **Tom Drewitz** said: WD-40 is made from fish oil. We all learn something new every meeting.

Getting Started

At this point, **President Brad Montgomery** rang the bell and the meeting began. **Susan Priest** gave the invocation, and the flag used was one in the background of a photograph of **Commissioner Maggi**, since his assistant, **Randi Marodi** had begun screen-sharing in preparation for his talk to us. **President Brad** welcomed **Commissioner Maggi**, and said that he was a true public servant.

President Brad then reported to the club the slate of officers from the nominating committee.

President: (for 2021-2022) **Brandi Miller**

President-Elect: (for President in 2022-2023) **John Hopper**

Vice President: (for President in 2023-2024) **Dorothy Tecklenburg**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Lars Lange**

Club Service: **Diane Ambrose**

Community Service: **Angeline East**

Vocational Service: **John Hopper**

International Service: **Dorothy Tecklenburg**

A motion to accept the slate was made by **Dave Hart**, seconded by **Susan Priest**, and the nominees were approved by acclamation.

CASA FOR KIDS

President Brad recommended members consider Step up for Kids, a fundraiser for CASA for kids. It calls for participants to walk 135 miles during the month of April. President Brad said it would be a good way for everyone to shed the Covid 19 we gained last year. He asked **Tom Drewitz** to include the brochure in the newsletter.



Walk details

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/casa-for-kids-inc/step-up-for-kids-2nd-annual-virtual-run-walk>

Sponsor Opportunities

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/casa-for-kids-inc/step-up-for-kids-2nd-annual-virtual-run-walk>

Personal Care Kits

We have assembled 392 Family Essentials packs. There is still time to drop off bags at Hickson♦s. They will be delivered to the Family Circle food pantry next Monday, March 29. A photo of the mound of kits as they are prepared for delivery is planned. Any Rotarian who would like to be included in the photo should be at Hickson♦s next Monday between 10:30 and 10:45. This should be great PR for Rotary.

Dictionaries

The dictionaries are ready for delivery, 667 to 10 schools. In fact, **Dave Hart** has already delivered to Faith Christian School. On Friday, **Bill and Susan Price** will be delivering to Avella and Burgettstown. Since we will be dropping off the boxes and not seeing the students, the dictionaries come with a script which the classroom teachers can use to let the students know about Rotary. **Dave** said he thought the script was excellent. Dictionaries can be picked up from Hickson♦s ahead of time, just call first to be sure **President Brad** is there and not out doing deliveries.

Other schools:

Wednesday, Washington and Joe Walker;
Thursday all four Trinity elementary schools;
Friday, Claysville.
Contact Angeline or Brad to nail down a school.
Angie651@comcast.net
Brad4664@yahoo.com

Program: Larry Maggi-COVID Trials

At this time, **President Brad** turned the meeting over to **Susan Priest** to introduce our speaker. Susan said that she well remembered the first time **Commissioner Maggi** spoke to the club because he began with the most often asked question he received. You are safe from the state police if you do not to exceed the speed limit by more than 7mph, a fact she has since taken advantage of. She then said that President Brad was correct to call **Commissioner Maggi** a true public servant, especially since this past year he undertook a service which not only served the public in Washington County, but in the state, the nation and the world. He was here today to share with us his experiences in the Covid 19 vaccine trial for the Pfizer vaccine, which many of us have now received. (Washington Health System uses the Pfizer vaccine exclusively.)

Commissioner began by apologizing for a technical problem. **Randi Marodi**, his assistant, was supposed to provide visuals, but she was in North Carolina and technology had intervened, kicking her off the internet and out of the meeting. He reviewed his life story as a person who pushed the envelope. He was a Marine in Vietnam as a young man. When he returned he entered the Pennsylvania State Police. Then he entered an ever more challenging field: politics. He served for several years a Washington County sheriff, and then ran for and was elected as one of the three Washington County Commissioners. During his earlier life, he acquired a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and made cross country trips with his biking buddies. He officiates in wrestling and football. His creed: Push life to the fullest.

Last March, life changed for us all: masks, isolation, working remotely. For a man who wanted to push the envelope, this was extremely frustrating. The situation was unclear. What were the rules? They kept changing. He wanted to DO something, not to sit back and complain; and do something positive.



He began to read about groups looking for volunteers for project Warp Speed. He applied to AstraZeneca, Moderna, and Pfizer. Pfizer responded, and a series of emails were exchanged, seeking more and more information. Then came a phone call with more questions. At one point Commissioner Maggi asked something and was told: *We* ask the questions. If you continue with us you will opportunities to start asking. The questions wanted to learn as much as possible about his health, life style, what he was involved in.

They were particularly concerned about his willingness to make the 4 hour round trip to Columbus on a regular basis. They did not want people to start the trial and then drop out. A normal trial would have about 15,000. This one began with 44,000 and lost about 30%, finishing with 28,000.

His first appointment lasted about 4 hours. They took blood samples, did nasal swabs, and other medical tests. Legal issues took up 1 hour. Among other things he had to give up his rights to his blood. As number 1047 he said that he had to ♦sign away my life.♦

One of the things he told an interviewer was that he liked to journal, keeping track of his life. Suddenly a person who looked like a very senior member of the project entered and asked: was he a journalist? Commissioner Maggi explained that he was not a member of the media, the journal he kept was personal and private. Finally, he received his first injection.



At this point, Commissioner Maggi's assistant managed to beat the internet and rejoin us. One of the first pictures she shared for him was of the site of his first injection.

When Commissioner Maggi was 65, he had a tattoo, and it was there that they chose to make the first injection

This was followed by many blood draws, checking for the existence of antibodies.

During the trial, he and his doctors did not know whether he was receiving the vaccine, or a placebo. This is the nature of a blind study, a necessity for the trial. Commissioner Maggi had a suspicion that he had received the vaccine because he noticed some chills and a slight elevation in temperature after the shot. However it was not until January when he was asked if he wanted to be unmasked and learn which he had received. As he had suspected, he had not received the placebo but the vaccine. He was asked if he would be willing to continue in the study. They need to know how long the vaccine remains effective. Months? Years? In addition, they want to study booster shots for the variants which have emerged. One request he has turned down. They are looking for children to be involved in vaccine tests. That was where he drew the line.



He is pleased to have been a part of something which will benefit, among others, his own family.

He asked for questions.

- **Joe Piszczor** asked: The pandemic has shown signs of discontent in the community. In your opinion what can a service organization such as ours do help our community come back together?
 - **Commissioner Maggi:** As a nation, we have seen tough times before. He remembers the 1960s. What is different today is social media, a great benefit but with a great generator of a toxic environment, base on its use and misuse. The key is communication. We need to talk and more importantly listen to one another. Looking for ways to work together for a common purpose in the community can help us to heal.
- **John Hopper** noted that a great deal depends on people not focusing on rights but on responsibilities. We are too addicted to being *right*. As Rotarians we have the ability and the responsibility to respond to the community. The question is how can we respond.
- **President Brad** thanked Commissioner Maggi and gave a special thanks to **Randy Marodi** for managing to find a way to connect to the meeting.

With time remaining in the meeting, **President Brad** informed us that the board decided last week to buy a basket of Paradise candy, valued at \$125, which will be donated to the District Foundation Luncheon. In return the District will give the club 1000 Paul Harris points which we can use to give someone a Paul Harris Fellowship. He also said that if at least 10 members attend the Foundation Luncheon, the club will receive an additional 1000 Paul Harris points.

The **Prices** reminded the members that they will be hosting the House of Friendship at the District Conference this May. Bottles of wine, of a value of at least \$10, are needed for the cork pull fund-raiser. The board has voted to encourage members to participate. Bottles can be given directly to the Prices, or dropped off at Hickson. **President Brad** promised not to sample.

President Brad put in a plug for people to consider making a trip to the conference on Saturday, May 22nd. There is no cost to attend the conference itself, but he does highly recommend the Saturday luncheon. This is always devoted to youth, and the enthusiasm of the Rotaracters and the youth exchange students is catching.

Dorothy Tecklenburg, accompanied by a 45-pound small bear (at least Kyanite *looked* like a small bear), let us know that today is National Puppy Day.

Joe Piszczor told us that this Saturday, March 27, is a work day on the greenhouse project. Volunteers will start to gather about 9:00, and there are many things to do for Rotarians of all skill and physical levels. Bring your own masks, gloves, and water. **Susan Price** has a box of heavy-duty gloves for those interested.

Joe also said the city will be holding a community-wide clean-up day on April 24. He urges Rotarians and their families and friends to be a part of this.

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

Speakers

March 30th
Brad Montgomery
Club Assembly
April 20th
Drew Manko
Ross Farm Update

April 6th
Tracie Libertore
Bradford House Historical Association

April 13th
Cherise Sandrock
Greater Washington County Food Bank

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](#)
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