

# Rotary



# Club of Washington

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

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## The Rotary Club of Washington met by Zoom

Present were: **Brad Montgomery, Tom Drewitz, Dave and Shirley Moore, Dave Hart, Dorothy and John Tecklenburg, Rachel Gladden, Mary Jo and Rich Podgurski, Tom Northrop, John Hopper, Ken Baker, Bill and Susan Price, John Quayle, Lars Lange, Joe Piszczor, and Susan Priest.**

### Pre-Meeting

We were pleased to welcome our newest member, **Rachel Gladden**. She was waiting for a call from her daughter, Laura, who was having a procedure at Upper St. Clair Hospital, and warned us she might have to leave the meeting before the end. Since she was just back from Myrtle Beach, she was asked how the trip went. It was cold, wet, and rainy. But it was great to be with family. She congratulated **Rich and Mary Jo Podgurski** on their anniversary, and **Mary Jo** on her birthday, which is the same date as their anniversary.

Someone said that they couldn't see **Bill Price**, and **Susan Price** adjusted the screen. **John Hopper** said in regard to their placement: Behind every good woman is a good man.

Discussion of birthdays led to **Shirley Moore** telling that for her birthday on April 1, the Moores have replaced an old (30 years+) refrigerator which they keep for back-up. Susan Price said that we are now lucky if a refrigerator lasts 16 years. **Dorothy Tecklenburg** piped up to share the story of a Coldspot refrigerator from the 40s which lasted in their family for over 50 years. When it gave up the ghost, Dorothy's sister suggested they offer it to a company which provides props for films. It was accepted. To which **Rachel Gladden** said, perhaps in a jokey mood: How cool is that!

**John Tecklenburg** shared a story of a person who thought a good Christmas present for his wife would be a stove. **Rich Podgurski** topped this with the tale of a colleague who was planning to give his wife an ironing board for Christmas. Someone said that the wife might have found a new use for an iron in that case.

**Tom Drewitz** was again out in his yard, where the **Podgurskis** who live next door could see him. Someone asked if we had seen the forecast for Thursday, with a forecast of snow and a high in the 30s. **Susan Price** noted that today started out cold. **Bill Price** was spreading mulch dressed in a ski jacket and a tassel hat this morning.

**Mary Jo** said that her daughter and daughter-in-law, both physicians, are worried about another surge in Covid. **Susan Price** recommended people check out the front-page story in the Observer-Reporter about a Burgettstown man who had a severe case of Covid this winter, and is still suffering debilitating effects. **Mary Jo** added the case of a former peer educator now about 27. A runner, after his infection in November, he can now not even walk a mile. He may never come back to his previous health. **Dorothy Tecklenburg** said that anecdotal evidence points to a marked improvement in Covid survivors who receive the vaccine.

### Getting Started

At this point **President Brad** rang the bell and the meeting officially began. **Dave Hart** gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We had two flags. **Susan Price** held up the small flag which sits by the computer, and **Brad** shared a picture of the flag by the Transit Office on East Chestnut, near the location of the greenhouse.

Today's meeting was a Club Assembly. **President Brad** began by sharing what he considers the **Best Rotary Project Ever**.

On May 4, 2007, an EF5 tornado destroyed the town of Greensburg, Kansas. An EF5 tornado has winds over 200 miles per hour. The small town of 1500 was over 95% destroyed. Even tornado-proof buildings were blown away.

The Greensburg, Pennsylvania club reached out to the Greensburg, Kansas club to ask if there was anything they could do. At that time the Pennsylvania club had about 100 members, and the Kansas club about a dozen. At first the Kansas club said that state and national agencies were covering as much as they could, and they could not think of anything else the Pennsylvania club could do to help.

However, within a short time the Kansas club said that they were concerned about the teens, who were so brave. Was there something the Pennsylvania club could do? Our Greensburg club sprang into action. They offered to host teens in their own homes. When the teens came, the club provided many activities. Among others: a trip to a Pirates game, a visit to the Steelers training camp, tours of local colleges. Many Kansas teens had never seen the ocean. Trips were arranged to Virginia Beach, and to beaches in Maryland. One family took their guests to New York City. Life-long friendships were formed.

Greensburg, Kansas was rebuilt in 2009, but the tradition continued for a few more years. Then the Kansans returned the favor, inviting Pennsylvania teens to visit them. They attended a rodeo, the State Fair (the teens did remark that many trips seemed to include a 5-hour car drive. Kansas is BIG.) They also visited local colleges, and one youngster ended up going to one. They experienced running a combine, horseback riding, and more. These two towns, separated by over 1100 miles showed the connections Rotary can help forge.

Moving on to club business, **President Brad** said that our experience with the Family Essentials project, where we received some kits from the McMurray club, and with the Greenhouse Project which we are doing in partnership with WashPA Outdoors, show that we don't have to go it alone. Cooperation leads to success.

The Dictionary Project: We are almost done. Thanks to **John Quayle, the Prices, the Tecklenburgs, the Moores, and Susan Priest**, we are almost finished delivering the dictionaries. Only Washington School District dictionaries are left to deliver. **Dorothy Tecklenburg** said that when she and John delivered the dictionaries to Claysville one of the staff members said that her children, now in their 20s still have their dictionaries. **Susan Price** said that she ran into a mother in Burgettstown whose child told Susan that they still remembered the Prices coming in 2019 to deliver their dictionary.

The Greenhouse Project: **President Brad** said that there were 8 to 10 Rotarians and Rotarians' family members there on Saturday to help erect the greenhouse. They ran into a bit of a snag when they tried to assemble a 9ft by 21 ft perfect rectangle with 6ft-by-6ft sections. Credit was given to **John Hopper** who, with the help of a virtual advisor, managed to oversee getting the structure up only a 1/2 inch off. John said that the foundation is not adequate to withstand snow and wind. He plans to organize a team to dig post holes to better anchor the frame. He asked if anyone has a post hole driver. **Joe Piszczor** said he would coordinate this with **John and Pam Kilgore** from WashPA Outdoors.

**Joe** said that there seems to be another group working on the Jessop Place exit on I-70. He suggested that perhaps the club could adopt the Main Street area and spearhead a group of Rotarians and community members for the city Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 24. **Mary Jo Podgurski** said that she was sure the kids from the Teen Center would like to be a part of this. It is the kind of hands-on-action the teens like to be involved in.

The Family Essentials Project: On Monday, April 29, a group of Rotarians: **Brad Montgomery, Bill and Susan Price, Dave and Shirley Moore, and Dave Hart**, delivered 424 kits to the Family Circle Food Pantry. All clients will receive one, thanks to the work of our club and the McMurray Rotary club, which supplied 28 kits. **Dave Hart** said that it was the work not only of Rotarians, but neighbors, church members, and others who heard of the project and wanted to help. There were some cash donations which were used to purchase items, and there is some cash left. The Food Pantry said that tooth paste is always in demand, and **Dave** plans to use the remaining funds to buy extra tooth paste for the pantry.



**Susan Price**, who sparked this project, said that too many don't realize the strain these families are under. They need these items, but food stamps cannot be used for them. **Dave Hart**, who spearheaded community outreach to let people know of the need, said that a clerk at a dollar store, who had received an explanation for Dave's purchases, said that it is all about dignity. The clerk's mother always said: Don't leave the house smelling musty. **President Brad** thanked **Susan Price** for bringing the project to us and **Dave Hart**, who spread the word, as well as **Wanda Hart**, who wrote on all the bags. He also thanked all the members who helped us reach our goal. **Bill Price** noted that some of the packs contained crayons, a great idea.

House of Friendship: **President Brad** reminded the club that **Bill and Susan Price** are running this at the District Conference. A big part will be a cork pull for wine. Donations of bottles of wine (\$10 minimum) are needed. **Brad** will collect them for the Prices at

Hickson ♦s.

The district is also asking members to contribute to the Hand Wash in Haiti project. We should have received information about this. Please be sure that any donation, which is supposed to be in the form of a check to the Rotary Foundation, should go through **Dave Hart**, so that the club gets credit. **President Brad** did say that the club ♦s deficit to meet the annual goal set by the district is down to \$150. We also have a goal set by RI of \$45 per member to Polio Plus. We are doing fairly well in that as well, although we are not there yet.

March Madness: **Dorothy Tecklenburg** said that 6 members created brackets. At an entry fee of \$20, this will raise \$120. She proposed that we split the money between the winner and the Foundation.

Foundation Luncheon: This will be on Sunday, April 18, at the Three Rivers Casino. Several Rotarians are going. The ballroom has a capacity of 300, and the luncheon is limited to 100 persons. **Mary Jo** expressed concern that this will be an indoors event, and that masking is not possible while eating. She urged members who attend to take precautions.

**John Tecklenburg** complimented **Mary Jo Podgurski** on her achievement of establishing a national day: National Each Person is a Person of Worth Day, which will be held every year on March 24, which happens to be her birthday. This received publicity in the Observer-Reporter recently. Mary Jo said that her publisher sent out a release to over 200 news outlets.

**Rich Podgurski** promoted the Washington Hospital Charity Ball, which this year will benefit the Health System. The ball last year was intended to honor **Mary Jo**, but had to be cancelled due to Covid. This year it will be a virtual event. There will be special recognition of **Mary Jo**. The event will be on April 10 at 8pm. It will be a one-way 45-minute event. Attendees will see the event, but will not be shown, unlike our Zoom meetings. There will be no charge to attend, although donations to the Health System are welcome and needed.

**Bill Price** noted that today is National Doctor ♦s Day.

**Mary Jo Podgurski** said that the Teen Center will hold virtual camps again this summer, and the first one the teens selected will be Chocolate Camp. The weekly Cooking Club has been a success, although the teens much prefer desserts. The one non-dessert creation was Chicken and Rice. The teens liked it, but asked for the next club meeting be cake. Dave Hart shared that his son-in-law, who lost his sense of taste when he had Covid, has asked his wife to cook all the foods he does not like while he cannot taste them.

**Shirley Moore** jokingly chided **Tom Northrop**, who was muted during the meeting, for talking too much.

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 27th  
Brad Montgomery  
Club Assembly

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