

Washington Rotary Club



June 7, 2022

The regular Washington Rotary Meeting took place on Tuesday, June 7, at Washington and Jefferson College. Joining by Zoom were **Ken Baker, Mary Jo and Rich Podgurski, and Susan Priest.**

The invocation was given by **President Brandi Miller**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements:

- [To have your Rotary Foundation contribution added to your quarterly dues statement, click here!](#)



- **Jim Uram** had a sign-up sheet for President's Night and passed it around.
- **President Brandi** reminded us that we will be meeting at the Kiwanis Pavilion next week. Bring your own lunch.
- **Susan Price** called the members attention to a special event being held by Domestic Violence Services. On the Saturday of Father's Day weekend, June 18, from 2 pm to 8 pm, there will be a festival on the Greene County Fairgrounds in Waynesburg. Live music, food trucks, bouncy house, craft booths, kids games, and more. Cost is \$25, children 12 and under free. More info and tickets at [Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania - BandTogether Community Festival Against Domestic Violence \(networkforgood.com\)](#)
- **Mary Jo Podgurski** reminded us that members of the Teen Center will be the program next week, and told us that on that evening the Center will be presenting their annual award ceremony at the Stone Pavilion in Washington Park, starting at 6:30. Past awardees and all Rotarians are welcome to attend to celebrate with this year's honorees.

Happy Dollars:

- **Dorothy Tecklenburg** was very happy for the great joint meeting with the Applecross Rotary club in Perth, Australia, yesterday evening.
- **John Tecklenburg** was happy for the fun time had at that joint meeting.
- **Tom Drewitz** was happy for the Greek Food Festival now going on.
- **Susan Price** was happy that their dog is getting better about barking, only one bark yesterday, but then the dog decided to take off and chase a pit bull. Luckily Bill used his authority to call her back.
- **Susan Priest** was happy that she now has a boot on the ankle which she sprained in a fall yesterday and,

since it is her left foot, she will be able to drive and plans to be back in person next week.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE UPDATE



 **7305 DISTRICT
CONFERENCE 2022**

WINE PULL!
\$10 A POP!
WINE VALUED \$10 - \$100

BENEFIT THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

As everyone knows or should know, the District Conference is being held at 7-Springs on June 24, 25 and ending on the 26th with the annual Memorial Service to honor those Rotarians who have been lost over the past Rotary year. To that, our Club has lost 4 valuable members **Joe Gisoni, Phil Rush, PDG Bob Hilberry, and PDG Andy Uram.**

All Rotarians have received registration forms and as several club members have leadership roles in this conference will you be there to support our district and our club?

Activities at the Conference will support Polio Plus, Food Banks, Veteran's needs, and your participation is needed not only to support the needs of our community but to help maintain the status of the Washington Rotary Club in the District. The merger of our District with another was compounded with the onset of Covid and all Clubs have been struggling with like issues. Bottom line, please give thought to attending at least one day if not totally.

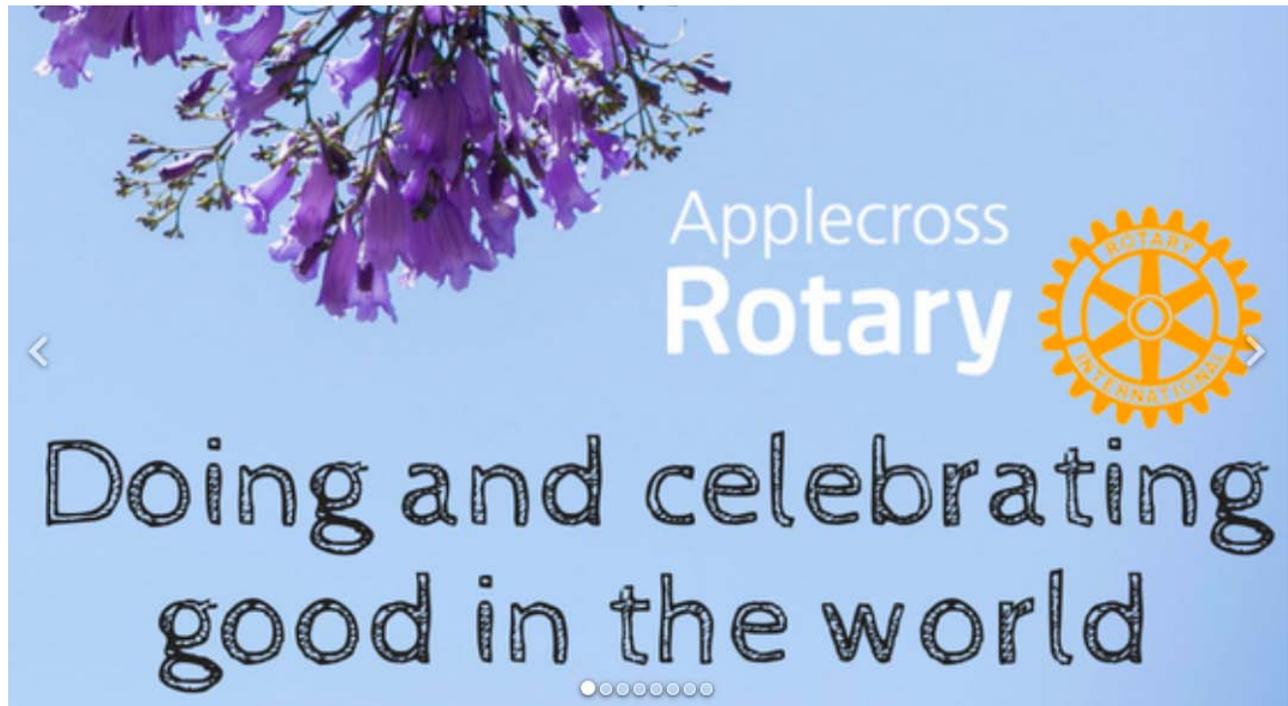
Our Club will again oversee the "Cork Pull Wine Game" in the House of Friendship. Whether you attend or not, you are being asked to be supportive by donating a bottle or two of wine to the "cause". **Susan** and **Bill Price** are in charge of collecting the wine or cash donations for the purchase of wine, District wide. We have only 2 meetings until the Conference so bring a bottle or two to the meeting or make a cash donation. If you are unable to attend each Tuesday, pick up a bottle or two and call or email the Prices...they can supply pickup service. Another alternative is to drop your donation at Brad's or at the Bar Association and either **Brad** or **Kathy** will see to it the wine is delivered.

Last year the District raised \$1580 with this project with the money going to Polio Plus and it was felt to be a great success....Can we maintain or improve on this effort?

As always, a "strong District" must be maintained by "strong Clubs" and we must continue to be a force for good in our District as well as in our community.

Any questions or concerns please contact **Bill** or **Susan Price** by email or phone.
susan.sprice@gmail.com

Program: Dorothy Tecklenburg - Zoom meeting with the Applecross Club.



A joint special Zoom meeting with the **Applecross Rotary Club of Perth, Australia** took place at 7pm, on Monday. It was arranged by **Chris Whelan** in Perth and the **Tecklenburgs** in Washington.

Seventeen members of the Washington club attended. The meeting was a chance to get to know each other and discuss general concerns about club growth, and to introduce the Washington Club members to an opportunity to work on a joint service project in Africa.

The meeting began with a view of the winter landscape beside the Swan River before moving inside for the breakfast meeting of the Applecross club. About a half hour was spent in meeting members of the respective clubs. **Tom Drewitz, Kathy Sabol, and Park Burroughs** shared their Rotary journeys.

The formal meeting in Perth began with an acknowledgement of Country. The Australians acknowledged the native tribe **Wadjuck Nynugar**. (In comments, **Mary Jo Podgurski** told us that she acknowledges the native Shawnee of Western Pa in many of her presentations.)

Then **President Brandi Miller** gave a brief history of our club, followed by a presentation from Perth on the history of their club. The Applecross club is 50 years old and has 30 active members, with another 17 members in different categories, including associate members. Their big event every year is the Jacaranda Festival. During the flowering of the Jacaranda the club holds an event with about 160 stalls which draws between 10 and 15 thousand people and raises between \$20,000 and \$50,000 Australian dollars. Covid has impacted this as it has everything else. Their next two presidents are both in their 30's. They then had happy dollars.

There was a discussion between **Joe Piszczor** and **Tom Anderson** about the challenges of recruiting new members. Joe spoke of the demographic dip which Washington faces. We are working on membership options. Younger people are looking for a place which offers fellowship, and opportunities for family-friendly hands-on service to the community. The work of Rotary needs to appeal to younger potential members. Our club is experimenting with different meeting options and working on ways to address the cost of membership and time constraints. Joe congratulated the Applecross club on building young leaders.

Tom Anderson spoke about the need to review how the club operates. What works? What needs to change? What is important to keep? The Applecross Club is a social club, working to appeal to potential members. They recently spoke to the Chamber of Commerce, seeking to change the old image of Rotary. They want to find out what younger potential members want to do to serve the community.

<https://www.mamarespond.org/about-us>

OUR MISSION



"Improving health for better education"

We seek to alleviate curable disabilities and treat lifelong disabilities by connecting children to appropriate medical resources.

In doing so, we strive to ensure that students with disabilities have equal educational opportunities.

We seek local sponsorship for surgery and treatment while covering overhead costs.

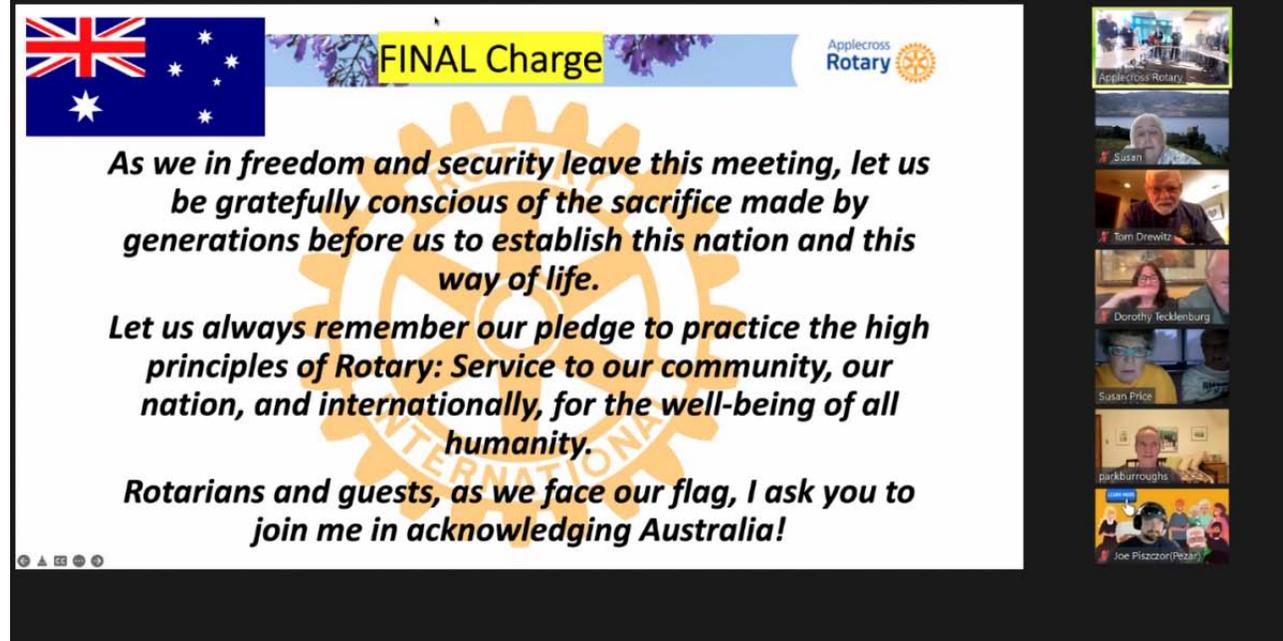
Then we had a presentation from Erin from **MAMA Respond**, an Australian organization working to improve the environment for special needs children in Kenya. They have a several-pronged approach to the needs: Wheelchairs, Special Needs Unit to provide education, Women's Training Center, Mothers' Group, Medical Support, and Community Outreach. They had approached the Applecross Club for help in creating a facility for educating the children, only to discover that RI will not fund bricks and mortar. They settled on building a toilet facility to be used with the proposed building, and that met RI standards. The funds were raised, with the help of friends of members in other countries. This is how the **Tecklenburgs** became aware of the project, and Dorothy's experience with the Bondo project offered valuable information.

Through other sources of funds, the main building is done, but it is an empty shell. They need all the equipment which transform it into a learning place. That is what the Applecross Club is asking Washington Rotary to partner with them to raise the \$10,000 to \$20,000 needed. Because of the volatile economics, they are still trying to get a firmer figure on the costs. It was proposed that **Chris Whalen** and someone from our club should work together to flesh out what is needed. **Dorothy Tecklenburg** offered and was obviously the unanimous choice of all.

The meeting closed with **President Brandi Miller** thanking the Applecross club for arranging this special joint club program. She is excited about the potential and urges the two clubs to stay connected.

A member from Applecross spoke about the way technology has expanded our ability to do service.

The meeting ended with the following, which is recited at the close of all the Applecross meetings.



FINAL Charge

As we in freedom and security leave this meeting, let us be gratefully conscious of the sacrifice made by generations before us to establish this nation and this way of life.

Let us always remember our pledge to practice the high principles of Rotary: Service to our community, our nation, and internationally, for the well-being of all humanity.

Rotarians and guests, as we face our flag, I ask you to join me in acknowledging Australia!

Today other members of our club shared things they noticed about the Australian Rotarians:
At a 7:00 breakfast meeting, wine ended things.

- They have a unique game involving tossing two coins. Our club tried it. Members stand and place their hands in one of the three possible outcomes of tossing two coins. Two hands on the head, two hands on the tail, or one hand on each extreme. When the coins were tossed, the five members here who had two hands on their head were the winners. In Perth, winning involves wine.
- **Dorothy Tecklenburg** was struck by the resemblance between **Joe Piszczor** and one of the Australians and had to comment on it.
- The Australian club has a Sergeant-at-arms, who runs a tight ship, keeping the meeting on track. **Tom Drewitz** reminisced about the time when our club had a Sergeant-at-arms. This officer was responsible for enforcing badge and pin compliance, fining anyone who did not wear these items, but he also was an arbitrary person. He could and did fine anyone for anything he pleased. Tom remembered being fined because he was wearing an ugly tie.
- Someone picked up on a unique Perth institution, **the Perth volunteers**. The Perth volunteers consist of 2000 residents who have registered with the city to be involved in volunteer activities to improve the city. Applecross club is working to tap this pool of people who are already committed to service. It was agreed that the idea of the Perth volunteers sounds like something which Washington could use.
- Discussion moved to the proposed joint service project in Kenya. This writer was joining by Zoom and could not hear comments. Based on the answers, there seemed to be questions about the feasibility of raising between \$5,000 and \$10,000. **Dorothy Tecklenburg** was confident that we could get a matching grant. Some were concerned that there would not be enough time, but **Dorothy** said that the district has not posted any information about grants for the new year. Our club is one of a handful of clubs in the district who are even eligible to apply. Clubs had to send a member to grant training, and meet the \$100 per member in Foundation donations. Apparently, many clubs did one but not both of these.
- **Dave Hart** inserted a plug for signing up to have Foundation donations included in our quarterly bills. Remember that this must be done again every Rotary year. Look for the link in this newsletter to enroll in this painless program. If we fail to meet this goal, then no matching grant money will be available for the 2023/2024 Rotary year.
- **Dorothy Tecklenburg** was confident that other clubs in the area will want to get involved. They want to be a part of this kind of project.
- **Susan Price** said she has met a lady who is interested in joining but wants to know about PROJECTS. What are we going or going to do in service?
- **Brandi Miller** said that we need to update our recruiting materials, and this will be done. She said that **John Hopper**, who will be back June 28, wants the club to do some strategic planning and will be working on this in July.
- The board has adopted the concept of the 2-1-1 plan. We would have a regular luncheon meeting two Tuesdays a month, a happy-hour meeting once a month, and a hands-on service project one day a month. The exact logistics will be set soon.

The meeting ended with the recital of the Four Way Test, led by President Brandi.

Speakers

June 14th
Teen Center members
Banned Book Club

June 21st
Barbara Miller
Washington Senior Citizens Center

June 28th
Brandi Miller
President's Night

Events

No Events found

Club Leaders

[Brandi B. Miller](#)
President

[John P. Hopper](#)
President-Elect

[Lars Lange](#)
Secretary
Treasurer

[Dorothy Curley Tecklenburg](#)
Vice President 2023-24

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

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

[Thomas C. Drewitz](#)
Webmaster

[Angeline Anyango East](#)
Community Service Chair

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)
iPast President

[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