

Washington Rotary Club



January 3, 2023

The first meeting 2023 was a Club Assembly during which President John recapped the Rotary year to date.

SYNOPSIS- JULY 2022- DECEMBER 2022

New Venue-Center on Strawberry

- **July 5-** Speaker- Barbara Miller- Washington Senior Center- Their mission is to educate, socialize, & provide nutrition and physical activities for seniors who use the Center. Center prepares 400 meals each day & delivers them ---Possible Community Service Opportunity for Rotary-?
- **July 19-** Speaker- Stephen Rydzak- Pony Baseball- signups for Souvenir stand-Pony Baseball tournament- August 14-17- We had a fully staffed roster for all the games
- **July 26-** Speaker- John Hopper- explained new format change from 4 meetings a month to new format 2-1-1- @ meetings per month (1st & 3rd Tuesdays at noon- 1 Mixer- 2nd Thursday- 5pm-7pm and rotating service project –at least 1 per month. A new trifold brochure was introduced. The goal of Interact Club formation @ Wash High was discussed- this has



had no meaningful progress. The decision was made to participate in the Christmas Parade with a float- rather than operate behind the scenes with staging.

- **August 9-** Speaker – Dominic Wrobel- World Affairs Council in Pittsburgh- an organization that was founded 70 years ago w/ help from the Pittsburgh Rotary Club w/ remains active in its work. Members are encourage to navigate [Dacdb to the Meeting Minutes of August 9th](#) meeting for penetrating questions asked by our members on energy policy, immigration, differences of educational systems between US & Germany - Academics or trade .
- New member- **Amy Podgurski- Gough** inducted- sponsored by her mother, our much loved Mary Jo.
- **August 23-** Speaker- Joe Piszczor- Membership- copies of the trifold distributed –along with business cards w/ QR codes, spoke to the new dues structure (\$1 a day) & meeting structure –now with an evening mixer & more formal volunteer opportunities) as becoming more attractive to Gen Xers and millennials. He spoke of creating the kind of organization we want to be part of.
- **September 6-** Speaker-John Quayle- Umpiring Youth Baseball- He listens for the sound of the foot hitting the base and the ball hitting the glove-something that Artificial intelligence cannot presently do. Takeaways included: a) Good behavior starts with the coaches, b) on handling objections-” nobody is perfect, you made your point, now let’s move on
- **September 20-** Speaker- Diane Ambrose w/ colleague, Kathy Pienkowski, updated us in numerous ways on the considerable changes that Citizens Library has made pre-Covid and post Covid-(check out her comments on Dac db- Meeting minutes- under our Club-newsletters- September 20.
- **October 4-** Dorothy Tecklenburg chaired the meeting w/ Jennifer Pierosh w/ Watchful Shephard presenting. 29 years ago, Joe Femiani, reacted to the death of a child at the hands of an abuser & founded Watchful Shepherd to provide capability at the press of a button on a home device or a mobile device to contact 911 & dispatch public safety personnel. Watchful Shephard works with County Children & Youth Services and Domestic Violence Agencies in many counties across Pa and in many other states. Washington Hospital is equipped ER to place with anyone showing signs of domestic abuse. 40 home units in service and 150+ mobile units in service. They are now using A new company, [InvisaWear](#) has a new device that works in 3 different ways (check it out on the minutes from the October 4th meeting –(Dacdb-Our Club-Meeting Minutes-[https://www.dacdb.com/rotary/accounts/7305/Bulletins/5252/Bulletin%20\(61408\)%2010-05-2022.pdf](https://www.dacdb.com/rotary/accounts/7305/Bulletins/5252/Bulletin%20(61408)%2010-05-2022.pdf)
- **October 18th**- Speaker Bob Hollick- Weather & the Insurance Industry- Bob started with some perspective on storm related property damage 1) Hurricanes, 2) tornadoes, 3) hail. The Average number over the last 90 years is 6 hurricanes, 600 tornadoes & 3,700 incidents of hail. The number of tornados has not increased but their locations HAVE. Then we learned these characteristics of 3 Atlantic hurricanes

Occurrence	Deaths	Damages	Florida Population
Labor Day -1935	485	\$100 million	1.6 million
Andrew-1992	65	\$27 billion	13 million
Ian-2022	+100	\$42 -258 billion	22 million

He had some projections on real estate prices and insurance costs along with public policy decisions that have to be made(ex; rebuilding a bridge to Sanibel Island with a population of 6,400 of which 10% is permanent. Check out his projections on Dacdb/ Our Club/Oct 18 notes

New members inducted- **Dawn Haber & Mari Ann Hathaway.**

Their Sponsor, Kathy Sabol expressed that it was not hard to recruit these two—they were friends & she wanted to spend more time with them. Kathy challenged us—what friends we would like to spend more time with—in our new format, 2 lunch meetings, 1 evening mixers & other volunteer settings.

- **Nov 1-** Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs- Jack Wagner & Craig Hodgkins-check out the 3 page long notes from this meeting. Information packed and sobering about mental health issues- Again [Dac db/our club/ Meeting minutes](#)
- **December 6-** Al Delucia- spoke of the bold idea that was committed to in 1987 under the Presidency of our own Chuck Keller to eradicate polio from the world. Now, more than 34 years later and 2.1 billion spent and another \$2b committed for the next 10 years, we expect to achieve no wild polio cases for 3 years, the goal will be considered met. Check out Al's full remarks on our Dacdb website under the tab [Our club/ Meeting minutes.....](#)
- This explanation goes to the heart of Rotary and how matching grants work globally and locally- He used our local club examples as well as District Opportunities.
- Induction : **Kelley Swift**- Executive Director – CASA for Kids, Inc (casawashington.org) See their impact report on their website.
- **December 20-** Kathy Sabol chaired the meeting with Dr. Jamie Weary speaking on Holistic Medicine. Our minutes taker, Sue Priest, got her hands on the entire presentation complete with pictures and description on 6 different healing plants that can be grown in the garden. [Check out the pictures on descriptions on Dac db.](#)
- Induction: **Fern Sibert**- [Clean & Tidy Our County-check out their Facebook page](#)—more about her mission on DacDb- Next clean up opportunity March 25th @ 7am.- Need 25 people-How about inviting friends and prospective members??

It's been an eventful, wide ranging and educational 6 months around several of our 7 focus areas.

So what's ahead for the next 6 months?

1. January-February- March – we need more hands on deck for the Community Service & Scholarships awards and Team Recruitment & Sponsor Recruitment for our Trivia Contest

We need full club involvement to make these successful.

1. FILLING IN THE GAPS- We need the increased involvement that our new 2-1-1 format can provide to attract new people and involve our members more deeply. More support for our mixers and volunteer activities. See Calendar attached. Board needs to reinforce Marketing Committee(Joe P.) with specific skill sets- selecting right software for

- volunteer signups, social media content creation, Other committees need infilled.
2. JOINING Rotary Action Groups to study new projects and new ways to build. For instance, joining the Environmental Action Group will allow our club to avail themselves of knowledge and methods that will allow us to start initiatives that can be built on in a significant way.
 3. ESTABLISH INCUBATORS AROUND SEVERAL OF OUR FOCUS AREAS OF SERVICE. Our legacy members are chronologically gifted –and ,as such are not able to engage in strenuous activities. However, they are accomplished business and professional leaders who can mentor and guide activities into existence. They have substantial knowledge that, along with the enthusiasm, energy and knowledge and values of Gen-Xers and Millenials into worthy enterprises.

Here are two possible examples.

1. Environmental – The Lake Chelan, Washington(state) Rotary Club has developed an organization called 911 Glass. A Rotarian in NY state started a company called Andela Products some years back that manufactures and sells Glass Recycling Systems that process glass into sand. Our local economy was devastated starting in the 1960's and 1970's as the move from glass to plastic occurred . Our local Duncan & Miller Museum made a presentation to us a year ago and could be a local partner with us, in any similar way. Their support is wide and deep. I have heard comments of how successful they are during WCCF Day of Giving ranking among the top fundraisers. I point this out, not for any fundraising sense, but for the substantial legacy of glass making that has gone on in this town for over 100 years. Those family members, collectors and business people are now nation wide and would be supportive to any effort to make Washington, Pa once again a leader in Glass(Recycling).
2. Fern's group is participating in a plastic-bench project and mentioned at today's meeting that they are collecting plastic caps from household items. See info attached below.

With the Club's endorsement, the Officers and Directors can address foundational steps necessary to assemble a business case for such and effort. Just like re-doing the Main Pavilion @ Washington Park struck a chord nationwide, This effort has the potential to do likewise. This can be done through the ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS GROUP.

1. The Rule of Law- Our member Kathy Sabol developed a seminar called the RULE OF LAW, which was presented to the attorney members of the WCBar Association. In talking to the judges who presented there, they agreed that a similar Citizens training would be beneficial to the community. I will present several examples of Rotary Clubs & allied organizations doing Civic Education as part of our PEACE BUILDING Focus Area of Service. Look for that in FEBRUARY—which appropriately enough has the RI theme of Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution. Who would have imagined a decade ago—that we would be talking about this within Rotary as a domestic issue.

I ask your indulgence and attendance to present this approach - and have a through

discussion.

Speakers

January 17th
TBA