

# Washington Rotary Club



**July 18, 2023**

The Washington Rotary Club met on July 18 at The Center on Strawberry in downtown Washington.

## **Guests:**

There were no visiting Rotarians, since as of this month **PDG Steve and Coleen Arnowitz** are now members of the Washington Rotary Club. Guests: **Steve Arnowitz's** sister **Frances** along with her service dog **Ellie**, and **Taaliyah Wright**, new staff at the Teen Center, guest of **Amy Podgurski-Gough**.

The meeting began with an invocation by **Susan Priest**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Our new president, Dorothy Tecklenburg**

Our new president, **Dorothy Tecklenburg**, began the meeting at noon on the dot, telling us she would be using her 'teacher voice' to be heard.

To start the meeting, **Dorothy** shared the sometimes humorous, sometimes serious secret facts which attendees at President's night shared about themselves. She then shared one about herself. She has resisted becoming the President of our club for some time because of a secret: She gets flustered and forgets the names of people she is very familiar with. She warned us that she may point,

rather call on us by name, but assured us that she knows us all.



- She began announcements with letting the club know that the **DiSalles** donated the money to pay for the 17-piece band at the pavilion celebration on Saturday. If you know them, please pass on thanks.
- She also spoke about her surprise and pleasure to find at the District Conference that even in this big new district, the Washington Club is still known and respected. She mentioned receiving the Crystal Citation, and how well received she was as she presented about our joint Kenyan project with the Australian Club, and when she presented about the Pavilion project and how we involved the whole community, making it a true community uniter.
- Between them, she and **Joe Piszczor** were very involved in presenting informative programs throughout the conference.
- She circulated two signups. One was for the Pony League series, which was mostly filled by people who used the new on-line process. The only thing needed from those already signed-up was a phone number where they could be reached if weather changed the schedule. There are still a few slots open, so check it out. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040545A9AE2DA7F85-pony>
- The other signup was for the Glass Bin, every other Saturday from 9 to 12. Look for info on the open slots there.
- The club will be looking for a couple of volunteers to staff the information table at the Farmer's Market on Thursday, August 10, from 3 to 6.
- Karen **Reese** reminded members of the Pony Players Picnic on August 11, where service clubs work to offer a picnic at the Kiwanis Pavilion for all players and families. The Kiwanians will set up the picnic and ask members of other clubs to come and meet the players and eat with them. Help around noon as the players all come and afterwards with clean-up would be appreciated.

## Happy Dollars

- **Kathy Sabol** was \$5 happy and thankful for the party on Saturday. She also said that there were still a few tickets to 'The Trial of David Bradford', a play being presented in a courtroom at the Washington County Courthouse. Saturday, July

22, is totally sold out, but a few seats remain for this Friday, July 21. Get in touch with her if you are interested.

- The club all clapped for **Kathy** and all the work which went into making last Saturday's event such a fun time.
- **Colleen Arnowitz** was \$5 happy for several reasons, including the **Arnowitz's** new membership in our club, but especially for their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- **Tom Drewitz** was happy to learn that his son saw pictures from Saturday before he (Tom) had gotten them to him, and that his daughter and her husband are happy in their new house. He also wanted to know who had arranged the beautiful double rainbow which appeared over the pavilion on Saturday.
- **Susan Price** was happy for the photographic talents of **Joe Piszczor** and the lovely pictures he took on Saturday.
- **Susan Priest** had \$20 to celebrate the first two months of her new chemotherapy, which saw a 10.5% shrinkage in her tumor.
- **Fern Sibert** was very happy to see how most people heeded her request and properly recycled items at the party of Saturday. Someone called out a question about the recent plastic cap recycling trip. Fern said that they returned from getting rid of one ton of caps with 11 benches. Most will be placed in Washington Park, but some will go to neighborhood parks, and some churches have adopted a bench. She says that businesses and churches which would like a bench can always adopt one. On the next trip in late September or early October she will be looking to get picnic tables. She hopes that there will be 2 or 3 tons of caps that time.
- **Joe Piszczor** was happy that so many people had liked the pictures from last Saturday and asks that if we like them, that we share them on social media.
- **John Tecklenburg** was happy that the entire family will be at a reunion next week at Cape May, New Jersey. He was also impressed at how well **Joe Piszczor could** do the Charlestown.
- **Bill Price** said that he was happy that so many persons admired the new white signs for the Rotary Pavilion and asked about them. They were created by inmates in state penitentiaries and cost the club very little, unlike the beautiful brass plaque, which cost \$5,000. We only recently got them, since COVID delayed manufacturing everywhere.
- **John Quayle** wanted to let everyone know that the reason we have not seen Jim Uram at meetings recently is that he has gone back to work and has moved to Peters Township. John also invited members to come to the 12:15 mass at IC on Sunday, which will be celebrated in honor of his and Denise's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- **Mike Sears** was happy for the events on the Clipper at the District Conference, and at the Pavilion on Saturday.

## Program: Gwen Davis from Blueprints

At this point, **President Dorothy** introduced our speaker. **Gwen Davis** is the Director of Connecting Children and Families at Blueprints (formerly Community Action

Southwest).

She holds a Master of Public Administration and has worked with Children, Youth, and Families for over 25 years.

**Gwen** began with an overview of Blueprints. It is organized in four areas of focus, Mind, Health, Home, and Wallet. She focuses on Home, and shared with us the various programs which impact children.

**Truancy Intervention and Prevention:** This program title is self-explanatory. They work with schools to identify students who need intervention. It is open to any child enrolled in a Washington County school up to age 17. Family visits help to provide support and to link them to any services which can remove barriers. If a child does not want to attend for any reason, there are resources to address concerns.



- **Family Group Decision Making:** This program is aimed at children and families which have been identified by CYS or Juvenile Probation as having youth at risk. The aim is to help the family to reach decisions about how to improve the home situation. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to be involved in the planning, not simply presented with a plan. It is important the adults and youth are invested in any needed changes and own them. They work on family-set goals.
- **Families in Recovery:** The reality in Washington County is that drugs are a problem. The Families in Recovery recognizes that persons in recovery need additional resources to help with children in the home. This involves 7 weekly two-hour sessions which are tailored to the individuals, inclusive, culturally sensitive, and supportive of a range of recovery modalities.
- **Positive Parenting Program:** This is focused on working with family support systems and is designed to prevent, as well as treat, behavioral and emotional problems in youth. There are 10 intervention sessions at two levels, one for ages 1-12 and one for ages 13-17.
- **Independent Living Program:** This program works with youth 14-23 as they begin to transition into independence. The three phases are: Life Skills Training, Preparation, and Aftercare. In conjunction with this there is a Central Place, a drop-in center for young people with laundry facilities, computer labs, kitchen, tutoring, and life skills groups.

If a child needs to be removed from the home, there are services for the child and the family. For the family there are Visitation Services which are intended to provide a safe and supportive environment for family visits. Families are coached in appropriate ways to interact, engage, and communicate with their child/children in supervised visits.

## Foster Care Services

There are various kinds of Foster Care. This program works to assure a healthy transition

to the foster home and to help resolve any conflict which may occur by providing tools, education, and interventions and by ensuring that the child's educational and medical care needs are being met. Potential foster parents must go through a 90-day certification process. There is always a shortage of foster parents.

When a child must be removed, there is a program called Kinship Support Intervention. This is an evidence-based program first developed in Ohio. When placed with kin, a child will be able to stay in an area where they are familiar and keep their friends. The program provides supports for the family member, not only financial, but also services such as autism training and nurses to address medical issues. While actual members of the extended family may be involved, what is known as 'fictive kin', any known and trusted adult in the child's life, such as a coach, may be the caregiver. Home visits include attention to the needs of the kinship caregivers as well as the child.

In Ohio this program has the following outcomes: Greater placement stability, Decreased placement days, Increased permanency, Decreased re-abuse, Decreased re-entry to care.

## Outcomes of these programs at Blueprints, 2022-2003

- Positive Parenting Program
- Served 168 children with 100% placement prevention
- Truancy Intervention and Prevention
- Served 1996 youth and 95% completed services successfully
- Independent Living
- Only 2 out of 289 youth reported homelessness

**Gwen** shared a photo of staff receiving the Pennsylvania Independent Living Agency of the Year Award for the third year in a row. She is particularly pleased with this, as the young people being prepared for an independent life as adults are the ones who nominate programs.

## Questions

- **John Tecklenburg** asked whether they also suffer the overwhelming caseloads reported for CYS.
  - **Gwen:** The agencies try to work together but there are some staffing issues since COVID.
- **Bill Allison:** Do you find resistance and denial of any problems from families?
  - **Gwen:** Most have been referred by the court. They work to involve family members in decisions rather than try to impose them.
- **Joe Piszczor:** We appreciate all that you do. What can we as a club do to help you?
  - **Gwen:** We really need foster parents, anyone you can refer to us would be a help. Your help with our community outreach would be helpful, sharing our schedule of events. Looking around this room I see people who are involved in many community groups which I am also involved with. Integrating our actions can only be an asset.
- The room applauded **Gwen**.

The meeting ended with the Four-Way-Test, led by Bill Price

# Washington Park Rotary Pavilion

What a night!

The rededication of the Main Pavilion at Washington Park was an evening to remember. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Washington, festivities included a buffet dinner, dancing, and a performance by the Washington Jazz Orchestra.

A formal rededication christening of the renovated structure and renaming it the "Rotary Pavilion" was held at 6:30 p.m. Key figures who were instrumental in raising funds for the renovations were invited to participate.

There had been no major upgrade to the pavilion since it was first constructed in 1907. A community-wide effort to restore the structure was launched in 2015 by the Rotary Club and the City of Washington. Rotary raised the initial \$100,000 by June 2018 as part of its commitment to mark the club's 100th anniversary. The first and second phases of Local Share Account funding of \$400,000 were used for a new roof, accessible and upgraded bathrooms, painting, and a host of additional improvements.

Major donations included \$35,000 from the city of Washington, \$20,000 from Washington County Tourism, and \$10,000 from the Washington County Community Foundation.





For many more pictures from the event click on the link below that was provided by **Joe Piszczor**.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1auUS11zInoTbKHjJH1nDseKgbKwb\\_j0N](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1auUS11zInoTbKHjJH1nDseKgbKwb_j0N)

## What is Rotary?

That question was offered by Prez Dorothy and I decided to see if I could find a good answer.

The following is what I found...

Rotary International is a renowned global service organization dedicated to promoting humanitarian efforts and fostering goodwill worldwide. Founded in 1905 by Paul P. Harris in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a vast network of clubs spanning over 200 countries and regions, with approximately 1.2 million members known as Rotarians.

The primary mission of Rotary International is to bring together business and professional leaders who share a commitment to community service and humanitarian causes. Rotary clubs focus on implementing sustainable projects that address various societal challenges, including poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease, and environmental issues. Through their collaborative efforts, Rotarians strive to make a positive impact on local and international communities.

One of the organization's flagship initiatives is the eradication of polio. In partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary has played a significant role in reducing polio cases worldwide by over 99%. This milestone is a testament to the power of collective action and Rotary's commitment to global health.

Rotary's contributions extend beyond health initiatives. The organization supports educational programs, vocational training, and scholarship opportunities to empower youth and foster leadership skills. Additionally, Rotary promotes peacebuilding and conflict resolution through projects that encourage understanding and cooperation among diverse communities.

A key aspect of Rotary International's ethos is the Rotary Foundation, which funds the majority of the organization's initiatives. The Foundation provides grants to support local and international projects, ensuring that the impact of Rotary's work is far-reaching and sustainable.

Rotary International is renowned for its vibrant and active club culture. Rotary meetings often involve networking, fellowship, and engaging speakers who inspire members to take action. Rotarians adhere to the guiding principles of the Four-Way Test, a set of ethical guidelines that emphasize truth, fairness, goodwill, and beneficial outcomes in all endeavors.

Throughout its history, Rotary has adapted to changing times while staying true to its core values. Rotary clubs have embraced technology to enhance their service projects and facilitate global collaboration. This adaptability has allowed Rotary International to remain relevant and impactful in the modern world.

In conclusion, Rotary International stands as a symbol of humanitarian dedication, service, and friendship. With a rich history of service spanning well over a century, Rotary continues to make a positive difference in the lives of people around the globe. Through their collective efforts, Rotarians exemplify the power of individuals coming together to create positive change, one community at a time.

Now...I think that is one of the best descriptions of our club that I have seen and what is interesting and just a little scary is that it was written in about 15 seconds by ChatGBT an artificial intelligence app that is free to the public. I made no changes to the text or formatting.



## Club Leaders

[Lars Lange](#)

Vice President

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)

Assistant Treasurer

[David A. Hart](#)

Rotary Foundation Chair

[Thomas C. Drewitz](#)

Webmaster

[John Christian Tecklenburg II](#)

International Service Chair

[Dorothy Curley Tecklenburg](#)

President

[Susan R. Price](#)

Secretary

[Joseph M. Piszczor](#)

Membership Chair

Webmaster Co-Chair

[Amy Podgurski-Gough](#)

Community Service Chair

[John P. Hopper](#)

iPast President

[Kathleen L. Sabol](#)

President-Elect

[Brandi B. Miller](#)

Past President

Treasurer

[Michael S. Sears](#)

Vocational Service Chair

[William Price](#)

Club Service Chair

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)

Assistant Governor

## Speakers

## Birthdays



[Joseph M.](#)

[Manning](#)

July 24th



[John Andrew](#)

[Quayle](#)

August 7th



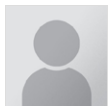
[Fern A Sibert](#)

August 8th



[Brian Gorman](#)

August 18th



[John L. S.](#)

[Northrop](#)

August 19th