

Washington Rotary Club



1 August 2023

The Washington Rotary Club met on August 1 at The Center on Strawberry in downtown Washington.

Guest :

Angela Barnhart, soon to be a member, guest of **Bob Wicker**.

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

Getting Started

Our new president, **Dorothy Tecklenburg**, began the meeting with a moment of fun, which she intends to continue. Today's moment of fun was mental math. The first one who shouted out the answer would win a prize. 3 plus 7, times 5, divided by 2, minus 9, and what is the square root? Several persons immediately shouted out the answer, which is left to the reader to figure out. Dorothy decided that **Susan Priest** had been first by a nano second and awarded her a small bag of cherry tomatoes which she had harvested from her garden. She had a few more bags, so other later shouters got some too.

Induction: Angela Barnhart

Continuing in a happy vein, she invited **PDG Steve Arnowitz** forward to induct our newest member. **Angela Barnhart**, from cfsbank came up and was inducted. **President Dorothy** pinned her to general applause.

Foundation:

Then **Dave Hart** came forward to present a new Paul Harris pin to **Mary Jo Podgurski**, representing that her giving to the Rotary Foundation has reached another milestone. He then went on to tell us that our successful year in adding 8 new members in 2022-2023 meant that the Foundation giving goal would be higher this year, reflecting our growth. Dave announced that after serving as Foundation Chair for 22 years, this Rotary year will be his last in that position. He will enter a well-deserved retirement from the role next June 30.

He then announced that Captain TP will be returning this fall. Last year the club donated over 2200 rolls of toilet paper to the Community Circle Food Pantry, but the need never stops. He already has received checks from supporters, and Sam's Club has given him a gift certificate to use in the cause. Jumping the gun in donating money, **Susan Priest** immediately tossed a ten-spot to Dave to kick off club monetary donations, which he will start soliciting soon. He said it is so easy to get donations in cash or in kind, all we have to do is ask. **Brad Montgomery** has again offered Hicksons as a drop-off point.

Mary Jo Podgurski spoke about meeting **Dave** at a meeting she had been asked to attend. She said that once she met him she knew what Rotary was all about, and she knew she wanted to join a group with this kind of service mentality.

Club Assembly:

President Dorothy said that today's meeting would be a club assembly, and that she would be bringing up items which the board would be considering so that all the members could have input on upcoming decisions.

She reviewed the 2023/2024 officers of the club.

- President-Elect: **Kathy Sabol**
- Vice-President: **Lars Lange**
- Secretary: **Susan Price**
- Treasurer: **Brandi Miller**
- Asst. Treasurer: **Brad Montgomery**
- Vocational Service Chair: **Mike Sears**
- Community Service Chair: **Amy Podgurski-Gough**
- Club Service Chair: **Bill Price**
- International Service Chair: **John Tecklenburg**
- Foundation Chair: **Dave Hart**
- Membership Chair/co-Webmaster: **Joe Piszczor**
- Webmaster: **Tom Drewitz**
- Immediate Past President: **John Hopper**

President Dorothy then announced that every slot for working at the Pony League souvenir stand was filled. She asked how members liked the on-line sign-up, and received an enthusiastic response. She said that any member who preferred not to use it could contact her, and she would enter the information on-line for them. She did pass around an

old-fashioned sheet for people to sign up for helping at the glass recycling on first and third Saturdays at the Washington Park.

Another job which is coming soon is on Thursday, August 10, when as a sponsor of the Farmers' Market Rotary will have an information booth. The club will need two people to staff the booth. She has an assortment of literature about Rotary for the workers. (Note: After the meeting **Steve Arnowitz** volunteered to be one of the people at the booth.) She also reminded us of the annual Pony Players Picnic the next day, Friday, August 11, at the Kiwanis Pavilion in Washington Park. Come about noon, ready to mingle with the players and families, making them feel welcome in Washington, and incidentally have a nice picnic lunch.

The Club has signed a lease for the next year here at the Center on Strawberry. Any member who has ideas about alternatives should approach the board in the spring so that the board will have time to investigate any proposed alternative.

The Applecross Rotary Club of Perth, Australia, would like to do another Zoom meeting. As before, it would probably start at 7:30pm here and 7:30am there. She will let us know when this will be taking place.

The District Grant applications need to be submitted next week. Qualified grants will receive a 50% match. **President Dorothy** said that the club has received requests from local groups which can be considered, or if members are aware of other possibilities they can bring them up, understanding that this has to happen very soon to meet the deadline. The two proposals are:

1. Washington PA Outdoors, for an expansion of the garden path at The Firefly Gardens, a project this club helped to fund with two earlier District Grants. The cost: \$2,500, half of which would come from the district.
2. The second proposal was from the Bradford House. They need educational kits to give to students, scout troops, and other young people who visit. They have several other funders for this. The total cost would be \$10,000, the share for the club would be whatever we decided to apply for. We could also make a practical contribution by assembling kits.

Bill Price spoke in favor of the Firefly Gardens project, but asked if we could have some physical acknowledgment of Rotary's involvement over the years with the gardens.

President Dorothy felt that this should not be a problem.

Susan Price then asked if one of the benches recently retrieved from recycling plastic caps could be given to the gardens. **Fern Sibert** then said that a bench which was not sponsored and could not be used by the park at this time was available. As an aside, Fern was wearing a unique hat, decorated with plastic caps. Fern also said that part of what was proposed for the project was treated wood. The company which produces the benches also makes a

product which could be used in place of the wood, and she could retrieve it when she takes the next load of caps in late September or early October.

At this point, with the discussion of District Grants, **John Tecklenburg** asked **President Dorothy** about the status of last year's Kenya project. **President Dorothy** replied that the project funding is finished and the work is being completed. About 7 Australian clubs and 3 local clubs were involved in the Global Grant initiative. Our district contributed \$7,000 to the effort.



President Dorothy reminded us that Rotary International wants us to keep track of the hours we volunteer, not only for Rotary projects, but for other groups as well.

Fern Sibert asked that the club consider ways to promote the plastic cap and glass recycling at any event held in downtown Washington. The feeling was that we wait on the glass for a bit.

President Dorothy said that **District Governor John Hartman** has asked clubs to donate to Guardian Angels Service Dogs, the organization which **Jack Wagner** spoke to us about last November. She asked if we wanted to dedicate several months of Happy Dollars, or have a donation jar. The Happy Dollar option was the unanimous choice of members present. And with that Happy Dollars began.

Susan Price was happy for a significant anniversary for **Bill** and her this week. When pressed, she revealed that it would be their 50th. Applause broke out for the happy couple.

Mary Jo Podgurski was 20 dollars happy to be with us all, because classes at W&J start in two weeks and she will not be with us on Tuesdays for the duration.

Dave Hart was happy to kick in money for 'Man's Best Friend.'

Shawn Cessna was happy for the dogs.

Bill Price has happy for the dogs, and also would be happy to donate his dog, who apparently is in need of training.

John Tecklenburg was 10 dollars happy for the dogs, and also that the Penguins start skating in a couple months.



Mike Sears was happy for the dogs.

Colleen Arnowitz was happy that their landscaping is done.

John Hopper was happy that Cheryl survived having an accident where her car was totaled. She was not badly injured and is recuperating. They are both grateful for airbags and other auto safety devices.

Susan Priest was happy that today two people who use the pool area at the same time she does noticed her weight loss. (15 pounds so far) Since it happens a little at a time, she really doesn't see it, except in the scales.

Dorothy Tecklenburg was happy for the recent chance to be at the beach with 10 other people who she does not see enough of.

Dorothy Tecklenburg then said that we need to remember the past of the club. Recently the subject of landscaping work at the Patriot's Pavilion, across from the Observer-Reporter, came up and a newer member asked why the club was involved with that. As older members remember, the Patriot's Pavilion was a club project which cost over \$61,000 and was constructed from 2005 to 2008. It has become an integral part of events in downtown Washington. Until Covid, the club used a special fund to buy mulch, etc., and members donated labor every year to spruce up the area.

In closing this assembly **President Dorothy** spoke about the need to get younger people involved in Rotary's 'Service above Self' worldview. She recalled a piece of advice: Don't ask people what they can do for you, find their passion and find out what we can do together. In recent years we have become known as an environmental club and she would like to build on that.

There are a number of 'Citizen Science Projects' which match people's interests with a great need in the science community for data. She mentioned several:

- Monarch Butterfly Monitoring: If you see a monarch butterfly, take a picture with your phone and document when and where the sighting took place. Similarly, there is a project which monitors milkweed, the only food of the monarch.
- Butterfly counts: This applies to all sorts and kinds of butterflies.
- Earth Eco Water Challenge: Choose a waterway and take samples at different times and seasons. This uses a \$13 kit. It was started by Jacques Cousteau's son, Phillippe.
- Weather: Install a water gauge and record rainfall numbers.
- Invasive Species Monitoring: This involves taking pictures and documenting time and place when a member of an invasive species, such as the spotted lanternfly, is seen. It happens in the spring only.
- Galaxy Zoo: Be the first person to identify distant galaxies. There are millions of photographs taken by telescopes, and only so many astronomers to review them. Computers cannot identify galaxies, only human eyes can do this. Volunteers are trained in how to identify galaxies and review photographs.
- Annual bird count

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

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

August 15th

Logan Hollowood

2023 RYLA

Birthdays



[John Andrew Quayle](#)

August 7th



[Fern A Sibert](#)

August 8th



[Brian Gorman](#)

August 18th



[John L. S. Northrop](#)

August 19th



[Michael S. Sears](#)

August 23rd



[Karen Reese](#)

August 25th