

Washington Rotary Club



September 5, 2023

The Washington Rotary Club met on September 5 at The Center on Strawberry in downtown Washington.

Our guest was **Joann Naser**, our speaker.

In the absence of our president, **Dorothy Tecklenburg**, the meeting was conducted by **President-Elect, Kathy Sabol**.

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

Announcements

- As some members may know, **President Dorothy Tecklenburg** was attending Burning Man, which saw a deluge of rain this year. Before the situation developed into a total mess she had a bike accident and sustained an injury. **John Tecklenburg** gave an update. He quoted the old saw: 'The good Lord willin' and the crick don't rise.' Well, the crick rose. She is expecting her to be back by Wednesday evening. The event saw two months' worth of rain fall in two hours. There were 3-6 inches of mud everywhere. Because **Dorothy** was injured before the worst started, she and other injured persons were evacuated first. It took twelve hours for what is usually a three-hour trip. John said that the event takes place where cell coverage is spotty. AT&T and Verizon brought in equipment to provide cell service, which had to be rationed, since there were 60,000 people there, all wanting to contact friends and family.
- In club news: The September social will be held on Thursday, September 14 at the Lone Pine Country Club from 5-7, arranged by **Susan Price**. If the weather is fine it will be outdoors. The last time we met there several prospective members attended. **Kathy** urged everyone to bring a guest so that they can see what Rotary fellowship is like. September 14 is also Washington County Community Fellowship Day of Giving,

the subject of our speaker's talk today.

- Friday, September 15 is Constitution Day, which always includes the reading of the Constitution at the Court House. Volunteers are needed for the reading, so she is expecting to hear from Rotarians who have helped with this in the past.
- In connection with the Constitution, our speaker at our next meeting will be **Judge Katherine Emery**, who will speak to us about the Constitution and what it means to her.
- It will also see the return of Toilet Paper Man.
- **Park Burroughs** asked that volunteers working at the glass recycling on the first and third Saturdays of the month wear Rotary shirts and/or caps. We need to promote Rotary and what it does in the community.
- **Mike Sears** presented members with nomination forms for the three awards we give out for Community Service, Vocational Service, and International Service. The nominee need not be a Rotarian.
- **Kathy Sabol** reminded him he knew someone who was going to receive an award, and with a little prompting he shared that his wife, **PDG Cherie Sears**, is receiving the Zonta Community Service Award on September 17 at the Zonta Rose Day luncheon. (Doubletree Hotel, Racetrack Road, at 1pm. Tickets \$50 each, RSVP by September 9 with a check to Zonta, Inc. Send it **Cheyrl Hopper**, 595 North Wade, Washington.)
- **Amy Podgurski-Gough** had several volunteer opportunities to offer members.
 - First, the Dictionary Project will be starting soon. She needs someone to contact the school districts to help in scheduling. **Colleen Arnowitz** volunteered.
 - There will be several slots available for volunteers at the Trolley Museum in October on the weekends of October 20 and 28. The web signup is available at...
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C44A4AB2AABF58-patrolley>
 - The Common Ground Teen Center See-Saw Marathon – October 20 and 21
 - They need adult volunteers to oversee the event. The web signup is available at...
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C44A4AB2AABF58-seesaw7>
 - Dictionary project sign up coming soon!

At this point, **Kathy** postponed happy dollars and introduced our speaker, **Joann Naser**. **Joann Naser** is the Manager for Nonprofit Leadership and engagement for the WCCF. Before taking this position she was the Chief Development Officer for Transitional Paths to Independent Living (TRPIL). She is a graduate of W&J College and PennWest California. **Ms Naser** was kind enough to provide this writer with the text of her remarks, saving everyone from any mistakes in minute taking.

Program: Joann Naser - WCCF

"Good afternoon. I want to thank **Dorothy** and the Washington Rotary for inviting me to speak today. It is an honor to be here. I was a Rotary member years ago in the same club with **Chuck Keller** and **Stephanie Urchick**. You may have heard of them. First, I want to get this out of the way. The Rotary has that great event in March called trivia night. Actually, the last time I spoke to the Washington Rotary, I was working at

TRPIL, and my former colleagues asked me to get some answers to the questions. Dorothy graciously said A, B, C or D could be the answers! She was so right. Now today, I am asking for my Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) colleagues, is it the same answer? Okay. We are excited about participating.

I wanted to thank you philanthropic people in the room. I know that you have been supportive and generous people of the WCCF and so many charities throughout Washington County. The Foundation participated in the Washington Park Pavilion project at the \$10,000 level. I was grateful to attend the re-dedication ceremony in July. Dorothy painted a great picture of what the pavilion means to the community. It has seen tears of joy and sadness; it has had great productions and simple picnics. It is to be enjoyed. The Foundation is happy to be a partner with the Washington Rotary on its important work throughout the community. And I believe you realize that a Harvard study states that giving makes you happy!

Harvard Business School Assistant Professor Ashley Whillans recently partnered with Canadian researchers Lara Aknin of Simon Fraser University and Elizabeth Dunn of the University of British Columbia on a research paper that finds so-called "prosocial spending"—spending money on other people— can increase happiness. They stated it is important to begin to understand how to create conditions where helping people might feel good for the donor. You have figured it out!

Today I am here to talk about the WCCF Gives day. It is coming soon! It will be held from 8 am until 8 pm on Thursday, September 14th. It is the 10th anniversary of the day, and since its inception, it has raised over \$10 million for local charities. What an impact! We believe that the funds raised this year will exceed last year's total. Betsie told me last year that the Day of Giving costs about \$35,000 to sponsor because of additional computer technology support is needed to process the gifts, staff time, and administrative credit card fees. It is a real investment to the community by the Foundation.

I have brought some check contribution forms if you would like to give by check. The envelope must be postmarked by September 14th. If you want to give by credit card, you can make your contribution that day.

I started in May of this year so this was my first time with the process. It is an interesting one that is a very involved process. There are 135 charities on the list this year. This is the most ever. Some of them I have never heard of I confess. There is Marie Exotic Reptile Rescue or the Titanium Titans; they are both new organizations. In a way, I want to ask the reptile rescue what they do, but I am afraid of the answer. I do not like snakes! Take a look at their Facebook page if you want to be intrigued. The titans develop robotics. The Mission Statement of The Titanium Titans states that its purpose is to inspire the people of this world to become the innovators, leaders, visionaries, and problem-solvers of tomorrow, and to enrich the lives of our community members through FIRST robotics, beginning with the youth of Washington County, Pennsylvania. How about that!

As with the Rotary, there are so many people trying to make a positive difference in Washington County. The charities are diverse and cover the eight focus areas of the Foundation's grantmaking. There are organizations involved in Animal Welfare, Arts & Humanities, Community Improvement & Economic Development, Conservation & Environment, Education, Health & Fitness, Human Needs, Religion & Faith-Based. These charities have been carefully checked by Foundation staff members regarding their IRS status, their financial information, and if they have submitted paperwork and have a

certificate number with the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations. We do not want to be the audit or BCO police, but we do want organizations to have best practices in place such as good financial processes. If they are soliciting contributions, the Foundation's stance is to register. It is not a significant investment. Perhaps \$100 or a little more. The Foundation takes seriously its role in vetting nonprofits that are soliciting funds in our community.

I wanted to tell you about a few of the charities you may not have heard about. There is Beyond Survival Ministries in Peters Township. It is a Christian organization that is dedicated to the mission of "ministering to the needs of countless men, women, and families by restoring hope and transforming lives not only in our local community, but also across the United States, and abroad."

One of their programs is A Time to Heal Beyond Survival, which is a trademarked name. It is an international ministry for men, women and teens who have suffered from all forms of abuse such as: the trauma of rape, sexual, physical, domestic, self-inflicted abuse or were a victim of human trafficking. These issues occur in Washington County. Ministries include one-on-one counseling, small groups, leaders' training, and retreats.

Another organization is the Johnson Shaw Foundation, which has been established for about a year, has joined the WCCF Gives list. There was a recent Observer-Reporter article about Jeff and Shakira Johnson, who are the founders of the organization. Their mission is to "empower socioeconomically disadvantaged people transform their lives and positively impact their communities." They focus on recidivism. The Johnson-Shaw Foundation wants to serve the men, women, and children that are affected by incarceration and the barriers during reentry to the community. Betsie Trew, WCCF President & CEO, and I believe this is a unique nonprofit in Washington County.

The barriers that they would like to resolve includes but is not limited to:

- Access to transportation and proper identification such as getting photo IDs or a driver's license. We take it for granted, but it can be a challenge for some people.
- Finding safe, supportive, and affordable housing
- Finding employment
- Provide seasonal needs and supplemental attention to children of those incarcerated.

You may be familiar with the Washington City Mission, and its work with people who are homeless to live independently again. Blueprints does great human needs work for individuals and families. CASA does great work in assisting our most vulnerable members of society, children, to become healthy and functioning adults. The Literacy Council of SWPA is doing fantastic work in integrating those who use English as a second language into our written and oral society. There are fire departments on the list, lots of libraries, educational centers, the Mon Valley YMCA, and the Salvation Army. The Teen Outreach program is part of the Washington Health System. It does great work addressing the health needs of adolescents physically and emotionally. For whatever fits in a donor's interest, there is a charity to support! The Washington County Community Foundation is also listed on the form. You can give to its ongoing operational support as well. If you have any specific questions, please let me know. Thanks again. I enjoyed our time together."

Comments:

- **Joe Piszczor** offered kudos to WCCF for it's very well-done organization for the Day of Giving. He asked about the corporate sponsors who contributed to promotional

material.

- **Joann**: Chapman Corporation, Washington Financial Charitable Foundation, Alex E. Paris Contracting, the Observer-Reporter, South Hills Toyota, and WCCF Acorn Fund.
- **Susan Priest** reminded the club that while our club is not a 501(c)3 organization there is a fund at the WCCF which funds the Tracana scholarships every year. She asked if this was an organization which could be included in donations on the Day of Giving.
 - **Joann**: There are many small scholarship funds at the foundation, and the decision was made not to include them.
- After this a question arose as to whether the Tracana scholarships were awarded this year. **Brad Montgomery** said that he had received a communication from the Foundation, and that yes, they were.
- **John Tecklenburg** suggested that donors follow their passions while making donations and not spread their donations too thin.
- **Kelley Swift** from CASA said that the Day of Giving makes a difference to small non-profits. One advantage is the reporting not only of how much was donated, but how many separate donations were made.

Happy Dollars

- **Susan Priest** was happy to announce that after 17 years as a volunteer at Washington Hospital she has been recognized as Volunteer of the Month for September.
- **John Tecklenburg** was happy that Dorothy will soon be back home.
- **Susan Price** was happy that Dorothy is on the way home and especially happy for air conditioning.
- **Colleen Arnowitz** was happy to have been able to spend time with friends over the Labor Day weekend.
- **Brian Gorman** was especially happy that a documentary film about pardons called "Pardon Me" has been produced using local interviewees and will be available for a private showing on October 18 at the Burnett Center at W&J followed by a panel including some of the film makers. When **Susan Price** said the October 18 was the Domestic Violence Services Dinner, he said that the date might be changed. Expect more information in the future. He said that pardons were very underused and cited the fact that one in three Americans would be charged with a felony or misdemeanor during their lifetime. During the Wolfe administration there were an average of only 250 pardons a year.
- **John Hopper** was happy that **Cheryl** was healing from her accident and could participate in a trip this past summer, even doing most of the driving. He was especially impressed with the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois, and the Czech/Slovak museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was also happy to be back.
- **Mike Sears** was happy for **Cheri** winning the Zonta Community Service Award, and also for his daughter Mary receiving a doctorate in Speech and Language Pathology.
- **Kathy Sabol** was happy to offer members an opportunity to visit a truly remarkable

residence. Driving out Route 136 there is a magnificent house on the hill. It is the residence of **Judge Damon Faldowski** and it will be open for a house party on Saturday, September 16 from 5 to 8 to benefit the Washington County Bar Association. The cost is \$75 per person and reservations are due by September 13. **(see attached PDF)**

The meeting ended with the Four-Way-Test, led by President-Elect Kathy Sabol.

Club Leaders

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Webmaster

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[William Price](#)
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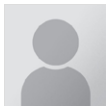
Speakers

September 19th
Judge Katherine Emery
The U. S. Constitution

Birthdays



[James M. Uram](#)
September 7th



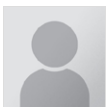
[John Christian Tecklenburg II](#)
September 12th



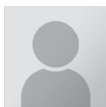
[Elizabeth Rogers](#)
September 14th



[David Bradley Montgomery](#)
September 23rd



[Dawn L. Haber](#)
October 1st



[Lynn Galluze](#)
October 1st