

Awareness Washington County Alumni

WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2023

LOOK What's NEW!



AWC Class of 2024 “LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMERS”

We have had so many NEW things happen this year for our AWC Class! AWC Alumni Laura Wanke joined Cheryl Lee and Yvonne Maxey as a new FACILITATOR. But, unfortunately COVID hit her the day before our Opening Retreat. So what did we do? Our fearless AWC Board President Amanda Calfee volunteered to assist and did an amazing job!

NEW AWC 2024 Class members are: ***Matt Adkins, Joshua Calvin, Paul Chastain, Jeanie Combs, Debbie Green, Paula Gross, Angela Girgis, Hailey Jackson, Kayce Johnson, Tori Lawrence, Kayla Seybold, Brittany Toppe, Anita Teeter and Donald Ward, Sr.***

Our biggest NEW this year was the location for Opening Retreat, since Spring Mill was closed down for renovations, Cheryl went seeking a new facility with not very good results until she spoke with AWC Alumni Jess Webster who has recently started working for Wonder Valley. Cheryl, Laura & Yvonne went out to the camp to view their amenities and were pleasantly pleased with what they could offer plus the cost would be significantly cheaper than Spring Mill. Cheryl presented the idea to the AWC Board and they voted to try it this year.

NEW this year there were class mascots at Wonder Valley, they had pot bellied pigs, who were grazing outside the facility early that first morning with fog rolling around. Cheryl & Yvonne both thought they looked like black bears out in the field!

We made NEW friends, saw NEW ways to introduce RESUMES, (this year we actually had guitar music and singing, a skit like The Office and another group prepared a first, it was a eulogy about each of the members in their group!



Another NEW team building activity was a High Ropes Course and Ziplines. We stayed in dorms and walked down to the Dining Hall for our delicious meals. On the evening of our 1st day, the camp provided a bonfire and treats for all those setting around it. We were entertained by AWC class member Donald Ward on his guitar.



October HISTORY DAY



History Day started off good with local historian Drew Wright showing different spots that created Washington County. Unfortunately we had another NEW event happen at the 1st stop. One of our class members took a very serious fall as we were preparing to load back onto the bus. Anita Teeter fell and broke her ankle. This was a first for AWC but Anita's new class members stepped up to help her. One class member laid down beside her to take pressure off her ankle, another was on the phone calling 911 and others stood holding umbrellas over Anita to keep rain off her. This was an unplanned opportunity to practice teamwork and to serve others. We are thankful and grateful to each class member and staff that did their part to help Anita. Another class member Jeanie Combs slipped stepping up to get on the school bus, and hurt her shin. We are thankful that these 2 ladies are healing and on the mend.



History Day is always exciting for people born and raised here but it's incredibly beneficial to those who have moved into our area. Washington County is so full of historic areas to visit and learn new things. We would also like to thank County Historian AWC Alumni Stephanie Vines for coming with us on the tour as well as AWC Alumni Steve Cissna, with Reedy Insurance, who were one of our sponsors for History Day!



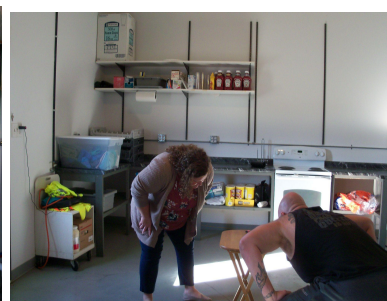
For our November class we traveled to a NEW location for class, the Livonia Fire Dept building located east of Livonia. We learned a little history about Livonia. November class is when we get to listen to the Camera Safari presentations from our class members.



All were very creative and wonderful to see.



We also did an activity using Legos. Working together as a team, with setbacks, disadvantages and limited communication we learn each other's strengths and were able to reach our goal.



In December the Awareness Washington County class met back at the AWC building. We focused a lot on Facilitation from the Chair, learning about things that are helpful to say or do if you are not in charge of a meeting or event that can help move it along. Something NEW was having 2 community leaders join us. Mark Clark came and informed the class about the Lion's Club and what they do locally, but also nationally.

Later that day AWC Alumni Nathan Bills came and spoke about the Mason's and how they help our community. It was interesting to hear about these 2 wonderful civic organizations in Washington County.

We had a Card Social with everyone in the class. Lunch was provided by our own AWC Board of Directors. We appreciate their dedication and support for AWC.



SPECIAL THANKS to the following: 2023-2024 AWC Board of Directors : Amanda Calfee, Brd President, Lisa Owen, Co-VP, Dusty Baker, Susan Solliday, Brd Treasurer, Geoffrey Harrison, Brandan Bergdall, Co-VP, Whitney Hooper, Nicole Purlee, Melissa Mead, Sherri Fleenor, Shawnda Keltner, Joy Bierly Sponsors: MPP, Salem Com. Schools, West Washington Schools, YMCA, Austy's, Reedy Ins., Melissa Mead Farm Bureau Ins., Homeroots, 1st Savings Bank, Mid-Southern Bank, Centra Credit Union, FB friends of Marji Morris, Duke Energy, Hoosier Uplands, Staff Management/SMX, Plex, Inc., Loy & Fordyce AWC Staff : Cheryl Lee, Co-facilitator, Laura Wanke, Co-facilitator, Yvonne Maxey, Assistant, Brd Secretary, Alumni Chairperson And our AWC Alumni/ Current Class members who have helped with AWC's FNOS Dessert Walk, Cookie Walk/Mrs. Claus Gift Shoppe and Christmas Magic in Salem

Mark your calendars for opportunities to help Awareness Washington County: Salem Rotary's Daddy Daughter Dance February 24 (Volunteers are needed); AWC's Annual Chili Cook-off March 9 (Volunteers, attendees and donated desserts will be needed; & our Alumni will be asked to prepare meal for current AWC class April 11.

Thanks to all of you who make the Awareness Washington County Leadership Program a success!