

## **AWC 2021 Class News “Leadership Rising”**



### ***The Phoenix rises from the ashes.***

*This expression symbolizes we have risen from flames as a rebirth, beating all lives challenges and defeating hard times.*

This is exactly what our AWC Staff & Board have had to face this year with the arrival of COVID-19. Marji Morris & Cheryl Lee (AWC Co-facilitators) along w/Deni Stempowski (Executive Director) felt the “Leadership Rising” theme was symbolic of how our Awareness Washington County program was going to have to work this year. CHANGE, no one likes it, no one wants to go through it, but in order to grow you must change.

The 2021 Awareness Washington County class is no different than everyone else. Adjustments have had to be made in order to continue with this

incredible leadership program. The new “norm” for everyone is social distancing, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer and disinfecting everything! But, good servant leaders learn to “make it work!”

The Awareness Washington County Class of 2021 is well underway. We have a good group this year that are dedicated and eager to learn, they want to help each other as well as the community they love.

The Opening Retreat was once again held at Spring Mill Inn, with the theme “Leadership Rising” being represented in decorations around the room, welcoming this year’s new faces of servant leaders. Getting to know one another, bonding, listening to each other’s stories, going through our time line, discovering why “we think and react” like we do, and finding our gifts and talents are always enlightening.

Activities had to be “re-thought” to keep social distancing guidelines but the class members were more than willing to follow for everyone’s safety.



The Historical Scavenger Hunt was also different with the loss of long-time friend of AWC, Ginger Morris. She brought her historic knowledge to many classes and will be missed but we are always appreciative of AWC Alumni, Anne Terrell sharing her equally impressive knowledge with us. This informative event not only brings to light wonderful history of our beautiful county seat to people born and raised here, it makes any newcomers aware of the town’s rich history.

Drew Wright facilitated the annual History Tour, with additional changes because of this pandemic. He drove his car, and used modern technology to

communicate w/our class on the bus and in a personal vehicle. Drew even spoke about the cholera epidemic that affected Washington county many years ago.

November the class shared their Camera Safari presentations. It's always interesting to see everyone's take on the areas and hear about new discoveries they have found in their very own county!

AWC Alumni and Board members Jess Webster & Amanda Bills invited everyone to their party when they facilitated an activity on Creativity!

At the December class members talked about "What makes Washington County great?"

- Countryside & natural beauty
- How the community can come together
- Safe
- Isolation but close enough to city life
- Welcoming & friendly
- Everyone knows everyone

- Looking out for each other & children
- Not as hustle & bustle
- networking

Our Barnga card game brought us trumps, tricks, Ace high, keeping score, moving from one table to another, absolutely no talking and total chaos. This showed how communication is key and that we all have to know what the vision is to reach our goals!



Marji, Cheryl & Deni arranged for an economic development panel w/ guests Justin Green, Todd Ewen & Nancy Grossman who spoke to the class about how the Pandemic has affected the financials of our community. Later Deni asked everyone to band together to get their cups all stacked in a pyramid, which seemed easier said than done.



Alumni Josh Reasor brought the group together for a Strategy activity.

The class will begin discussing the vision, criteria, and options for their class project at the January meeting.

AWC 2021 Class members are: Amy Abner, Dusty Baker, Zenus Bowling, Autumn Hall, Lana Hamilton, John Hammond, Marlana Hill, Hannah Ledgerwood, Renee` Lewis, Mike Madden, Krista Martin, Brad Mills, Glenna Mitchell, Kathy Moore, Ellen Mosier, Gary Myszak, Dakota Reynolds, and Barb Voyles. These participants represent diversity in age, occupation, geographical location, and experiences, as well as a balance of business and non-profit backgrounds.

*Organizing Alumni events has been hard with covid-19. I still hope to have a day to give another coat of paint to the interior of the AWC building. We have had so many compliments of the new color.*

*Alumni, please update me if you have any current events that we can support.*

*Spreading the word on social media is an easy way to help do things for others. Let me know so I can get the word out about events you do have going on.*

*Send me your suggestions for an upcoming event for Alumni. I have a couple of ideas but until we are a little freer in numbers that can attend, I'm waiting on those.*

*Contact Yvonne Maxey at: [lymaxey1982@gmail.com](mailto:lymaxey1982@gmail.com)*

*"Be the change you wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi*

Since Covid caused us to cancel our Chili Cook-off in March, which is our largest money maker of the year our AWC Board and Staff have been busy creating numerous smaller events to bring in \$\$\$ for organization.

On-line events are working well, they have done dessert auctions, raised

funds for birthdays, just had friends donate, hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Claus's Gift Shoppe with vendors and raffled off 2 guns. Each has been successful. But, we encourage you to continue to support AWC in any way you are able.



AWC Alumni DanNae Brown was a vender at AWC Mrs. Claus's Gift Shoppe



AWC Executive Director Deni. selling Gun Raffle tickets at our Mrs. Claus's Gift Shoppe

**AWC Staff**  
**Deni Stempowski,**  
 AWC Executive Director  
 440-213-0667  
[deni.awareness@gmail.com](mailto:deni.awareness@gmail.com)

**Marji Morris,**  
 AWC Adult Class Co-Facilitator  
 812-216-6505  
[mlmsoar@hotmail.com](mailto:mlmsoar@hotmail.com)

**Cheryl Lee,**

**AWC Adult Class Co-Facilitator**  
 812-844-0431  
[cleetlee@aol.com](mailto:cleetlee@aol.com)

**Yvonne Maxey,**  
 AWC Brd Secretary,  
 Assistant to AWC Directors,  
 Alumni Chairperson  
 812-620-0282  
[lymaxey1982@gmail.com](mailto:lymaxey1982@gmail.com)

**Geoffrey Harrison,**  
 Building Rentals  
 812-620-5167  
[Gharrison@blueriver.net](mailto:Gharrison@blueriver.net)

*2020-2021 AWC*

*Board of Directors*

*Lisa Aly*

*Nathan Bills*

*Amanda Bills*

*Geoffrey Harrison*

*Stephanie Vines*

*Jess Webster*

*Andy Miller*

*Joni Muchler*

*Nathaniel Eckert*

*Helen Pickens*

*David Morris*

**Awareness  
Washington County  
2021 Class**



Mike Madden



Hannah Ledgerwood



Amy Abner



Gary Myszak



Brad Mills



Renee Lewis



John Hammand



Kathy Moore



Glenna Mitchell



Zenus Bowling



Autumn Hall



Barb Voyles



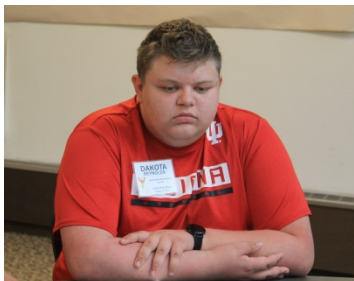
Lana Hamilton



Ellen Mosier



Krista Martin



Dakota Reynolds



Marlana Hill



Dusty Baker

evening. She asked us to think about during this Pandemic and everyone dealing with COVID-19, how had we used or seen being used Servant Leadership capacities. It was nice to reflect on those answers we shared. How have you been using those qualities that you learned in AWC during these times? Can you and I do more? Maybe we all could use a reminder.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership Capacities

- Learning Styles
- Steps to a Performing Community
- Wisdom Cycle
- Collaboration
- Consensus
- Vision Process
- Facilitation Techniques
- Creative Thinking
- Storytelling
- Listening

## Something to think about...

During the last AWC Board meeting, Board member Lisa Aly brought our gathering for the

## The Best Test for Servant Leaders

**"Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?" –Robert Greenleaf**

