

# AWC Alumni Newsletter

## June 2023

### Awareness Washington County

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2023 AWC Class: (not in order) Aaron Dennis, Melissa Dick, Megan Elgin, Felicia Fields, Sherri Fleenor, Joe Keltner, Shawnda Keltner, Garrett Mehling, Kacey Pastor, Desiree Prator, Amanda Reynolds, Grace Richardson, Richard Rutherford and Beverly Terhune. Not pictured: Hack Albertson & Darrin Russell. Also pictured are AWC staff Marji Morris & Yvonne Maxey and History Tour guide Drew Wright. Photo by staff member Cheryl Lee.

# Leadership 911

We started our 2023 Awareness Washington County Class at Spring Mill with 16 class members. We had a very diverse group this year which always makes for a good class. Class members were introduced to Servant Leadership, and they got out of their “Comfort Zone”, played with hula hoops, and used a rope & blindfolds to form a rectangle. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership skills that were shared and discussed were: Learning Styles, Visioning, Timeline, Wisdom Cycle, Collaboration, Consensus, Creativity, Steps to Performing Community, Multiple Lenses, Story Telling and Communication.

Class members met new people, discussed what they had in common with each other and shared what their passions were for Washington County. They learned new things about themselves and about each other. We shared our stories on the “Timeline” and learned to laugh with new friends and at ourselves. During our year we’ve had many Alumni return and facilitate for us. We thank them for their abounding support of AWC. Josh Reasor, Jess Webster, Amanda Bills, Nona Wade, Brandan Bergdall, Brad Mills, Mike Madden, Mindy Gunn, Rhonda Geralde, Sherry Germann, and Deni Stempowski. We especially want to thank Laura Wanke for volunteering this year. Your help was appreciated.

## 2022-2023 Events

Opening Retreat  
Sept. 21-22, 2022

Scavenger Hunt  
Oct. 13, 2022

History Day  
Oct. 27, 2022

Camera Safari  
Nov. 17, 2022

Dec. 15, 2022

Jan. 19, 2023

Feb. 16, 2023

Mar. 9, 2023

Teaching Back Day  
Apr. 9, 2023

Closing evening Retreat  
May 10, 2023

Last Day of Class  
May 11, 2023



We like to find new & exciting ways to meet new people and discover what we have in common!



Learning Styles is always one of the favorite lessons each class learns about. They find it amazing to learn why certain people act this way or even why they act a certain way. We all take information in different. LS is one the greatest tools they now have in their Leadership Toolbox.

## Staff

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**AWC 2023 class is “knot” your usual class.**



Forty years of servant leadership. Forty years of giving back to our community in a myriad of ways. I am so proud to have been part of this tradition for 21 ½ of those years.

I was pleased to rejoin Cheryl for this year to work with an amazing class. So many different organizations and groups will be impacted by the class of 2023. As members of Leadership 9-1-1, they are preparing themselves to be first responders in the leadership of our community.

I hope to see many of you at the graduation and to join our 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration on June 15.

Several grads have mentioned wanting us to provide refresher one-day or one-evening sessions for past participants. Does that sound interesting to you? If so, please email Yvonne at [lymaxey1982@gmail.com](mailto:lymaxey1982@gmail.com) or by text at 812-620-0282. Let us know of your interest and which leadership skills sessions you'd be likely to attend. For example, learning styles, steps to a performing community, multiple lenses, visioning, consensus, collaboration, creativity in leadership, or????? We'll be glad to work up some sessions if we know which one's people would attend.

Thank you for caring about our community and continuing your support of Awareness Washington County. Tell someone about us today! Help us spread the word of what we offer to our county.

Marji Morris, Co-facilitator

It is hard to believe that another year of training leaders in servant leadership for Awareness Washington County has come to an end. It is exciting to think about

this being the 40th graduating class. We have over 700 alumni. There have been so many projects that have made such a huge impact in our county. The most intriguing part is the fact that we will never know the true amount of impact this program has made on our community because there are so many servant leaders out there doing things daily that we do not see. These are the things that truly make such a great difference in our community. Leaders continuing to help grow other leaders, that is what servant leadership is all about.

We are in the process of looking toward the future of Awareness Washington County, and what that will look like. One thing is for certain, we will always be guided by our servant leadership roots. The past few years, we have asked class members at the end of the year to evaluate the program and make suggestions on things that should be changed. We have had some very good suggestions. I would encourage the alumni to think about this as well. We are open to suggestions from any of you.

One great suggestion we have had is to move around the county the way we used to for our meetings. We plan to start that again this next year. We also plan to add more guest speakers. I am excited to see what the future holds for Awareness Washington County, and I am super excited to celebrate the 40th anniversary graduation.

Cheryl Lee, Co-Facilitator

As we wrap up another graduating class from Awareness Washington County, I reflect on the successful and impactful year our organization has had on the many members of the community. From walking around in circles hoping to win a yummy dessert, to tasting several delicious chilis, our organization continues to thrive and spread the importance of servant leadership and bettering Washington County as a whole.

As a recent AWC graduate and wrapping up as a first-year board member, I have had the honor to dive deeper into the organization and work alongside the amazing individuals that have a vision of seeing AWC grow and prosper for years to come. However, it is our alumni and supporters that can continue to play a vital role by advocating, donating, and assisting AWC when called upon. I look forward to continuing to grow our organization and recruit more adults so they too can be impacted through Awareness Washington County.

Brandan Bergdall—incoming V President



A few words from our current AWC Board President, Amanda Calfee.

As President of Awareness Washington County, I want to celebrate 40 years of training leaders!

I also want to recognize our board members that are stepping down after this year – Barb Voyles, Steve Cissna, and Helen Pickens. They've each been an important part of our board and will be missed.

We also want to thank Amanda Bills and Joni Muchler for their service to the board as well.

We'd like to welcome our new board members - Lisa Owen, Melissa Mead, Shawnda Keltner, and Sherri Fleenor.

Did you enjoy your class and feel compelled to serve the community? We are still looking for an executive director to help keep us all in line so please reach out if interested (in that or helping in a volunteer area too).

It's a great time for Awareness Washington County, and I can't wait to see what this year will hold. We're excited about this year's class project as our Hometown Heroes deserve the recognition.

Additionally, I'd like to thank the alumni for their tremendous support throughout the year. When Yvonne asked for help or donations, you all have delivered! We would not have made it without you. Please continue. AWC continues to train the current and future leaders of our county, and our alumni truly can be seen being servant leaders everywhere!

As we applied for a grant this year, I reflected on all we've done and accomplished. The board worked to create an impact statement that I want to share below.

#### Awareness Washington County (AWC) Impact Statement

In 2023, Awareness Washington County (AWC) will graduate our 40th class. We grow servant leaders from the seeds we plant in each individual to the crops we grow and finally to the harvest we spread throughout the community.

Examples of the seeds we plant are what our graduates say after the class:

"I am better connected to my community. I am more confident of my abilities as a leader, and I am enthusiastic about what I

can accomplish using the skills I have learned for the betterment of the community."

"AWC helped me develop self-awareness and self-confidence...One of the best experiences I have done for myself, more than I expected."

"New skills learned in AWC have awakened my spirit!"

"I have been made aware of the people around me and how we relate to each other. My world has opened up..."

"I feel so much more connected! I see myself as a viable part of this community. I can make a difference. I am blessed by the opportunity to be part of AWC."

The crops we grow are the community projects of each year's graduating class. Past projects include the Downtown Revitalization 1983 & 1990, Old Settler's Day 1986, Historic Preservation 1995, Lake Salinda Improvements 1999, Friend of Beck's Mill 2005, Community Fitness Park 2014, and Lighting the Path 2015.

The harvest we spread throughout the community is our graduates as servant leaders. The skills they have learned support them in their current pursuits and help them with future ones. You can see our graduates and alumni as educators in our 3 county school systems; serving the community as law enforcement, dispatchers, and firefighters; leading our local non-profits - YMCA, CAST, Special Olympics; and many others. AWC is involved in nearly every non-profit group in Washington County, and we are so proud of our over 700 + alumni!

Awareness Washington County's community leadership program provides a framework for developing leadership skills, promotes an awareness of Washington County history and its strengths and issues, and commits to servant leadership. Our goal is to empower class members and send them out into the community as catalysts of change, thus making Washington Co. a "leader-full" community, responsive to the needs of its citizens.

## **2022-2023 Board Members**

**Melissa Mead**



*Barb Voyles\*\**

*Helen Pickens\*\**

*Steve Cissna (VP)\*\**

Amanda Calfee {Pres}

Lisa Owen

Dusty Baker

Susan Soliday {Treas}

Geoffrey Harrison

Brandan Bergdall

Whitney Hooper

Nicole Purlee

**\*\*denotes outgoing board members**