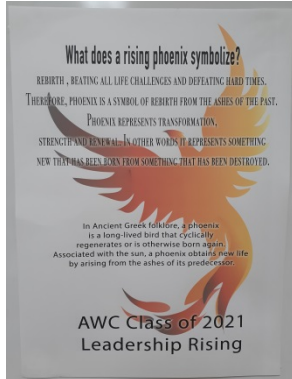


**AWC 2021 Class
News
“Leadership Rising”**



The Phoenix rises from the ashes.

The 2021 year started out strong. We used KAHOOT to play a game specifically about AWC. Alumni Rhonda Geralde challenged the class to “Set the Story Straight”. Class members learned about Consensus, Steps to a Project, Roles on a Team and about knowing the “needs of the community”. Chris Mahuron and Karen Barry, who are Alumni, had class members “seeing” various ways to reach a goal.



February brought an ice storm so we connected by a ZOOM meeting! The class discussed their project and reviewed Facilitation from the Chair.



Our only ZOOM meeting

In March Marji and Cheryl talked about skills of a servant leader. Deni took everyone on a “Reflective Walk”. Alumni Mindy Gunn took us to a “Meeting from He!!” Consensus was demonstrated by Alumni Nona Wade and our local Prosecutor Dustin Houchin brought information about the drug issues in our community.



Deni sharing “Reflective Walk”



Alumna Mindy Gunn



Dustin Houchin



Nona Wade, Alumna

April was our “Teaching Back Day”, where class members facilitate and show what they have learned. The incredible Alumni prepared a feast for the class meal and helped with feedback for the presentations. Board President/Alumni Amanda Bills spoke about Foster Parenting.



Alumni prepared meal

May’s evening closing retreat was held at a shelter house at Lake Salinda. Class members and staff shared their leadership journeys. The following day, our last class of the year, we discussed where everyone used the new leadership capacities that were learned this year. The class reviewed what we have in our “Leadership Toolbox!” and were surprised and humbled during Leaderships Taps.



2021 Class ends, but 2022 will begin soon!

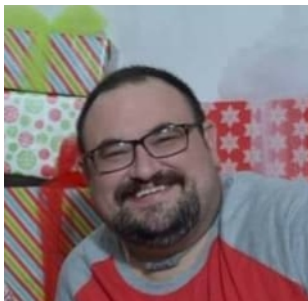


Outgoing AWC Board President Amanda Bills

The past year has been a whirlwind of change, but the one thing that has not changed in this world is the need for servant leaders. Now more than ever Awareness Washington County has the ability to effect positive change through the creation of new servant leaders for our community. Two years ago I took my position as the President of the Board of Directors.

Little did I know that I would serve in that position for two terms, and through a pandemic. My biggest goal was to help our board members, class participants, and alumni build the name of AWC throughout our community. While the work continues I am immensely proud of our organization. This year has been one for growing and stretching ourselves beyond our comfort zones. With pandemic fears came concerns that the adult class would not have many participants. Luckily, those fears were unfounded. Throughout the year I have had the opportunity to sit in on many class sessions to see the wonderful work that our facilitators are doing. I have also been able to see alumni continuing to flex the skills they learned by teaching back to the class. The members of this year’s class are like every other one, full of hope and outstanding ideas for the betterment of our community. I’m excited to see what they, and all the AWC alumni, will do with their servant leadership skills. As we continue to grow and embrace change, we are also celebrating the service of our co-facilitator, Marji Morris. Though Marji may be retiring, we look forward to continuing to utilize her amazing knowledge of servant leadership. AWC

has the best team, and we know that Marji is just a phone call away. Cheryl, Deni, and Yvonne are already working on next year's class, and we are all excited to see what the future for Awareness Washington County holds. As always, there will be a lot of opportunities this year for you to continue to show your support for AWC. The program cannot exist without you, and I thank you for continuing to provide our community with strong servant leaders.



By Nathan Bills:

Greetings from your incoming President of the AWC Board for the 2021-2022 session!

I admit, I do feel a little nervous; I have yet to experience a "normal" year on the AWC Board. My first year on the board COVID hit. My second year on the board, COVID stayed, and we played a constant game of "Will we be able to do this or that?" Now I'm supposed to guide the Board into a return of normalcy, but I have no frame of reference for what normal is.

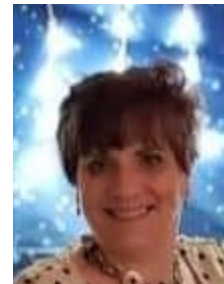
While the last two years have been anything but normal, it is also true that necessity is the mother of invention. Regardless of changed circumstances and challenges, the Awareness Washington County Board of Directors and Staff adapted and adjusted to the unprecedented pressures of the pandemic. AWC embraced technology to maintain touch when actual meeting was unsafe. AWC continued to teach, conscious of our students and community needs for safety and respect for individual concerns. AWC added a Program Director and has mentored future facilitators for our Adult program. The AWC staff have shown marvelous grit and determination to revise our style and continue the important work of empowering more servant leaders.

In addition, the AWC Board of Directors dared to try new fundraising ideas and activities. The inaugural Mrs. Clause's Gift Shoppe and gun raffle proved to be financial lifesavers, and were a fun activity for volunteers, customers, and vendors. My two years of Board service were anything but normal, yet show that the "normal" servant leader skills taught to AWC graduates can come in handy in the strangest of circumstances.

In the coming year I pray the Board of Directors will continue to improve the support to our fantastic staff. I anticipate AWC providing

a surprisingly good experience to those brave enough to sign up for the class. I hope you will help us identify new class members, as well as sponsors and opportunities to maintain stable finances for this unique organization. AWC fills a niche in the community that no other public or private, secular or religious, business or civic organization does. Awareness Washington County really ties all of these groups together to better our community. Thank you for being a servant leader, and thanks for your support to Awareness Washington County, to the Board of Directors, and to our committed staff.

NB



Deni Stempowski, AWC Executive Director

We are approaching the end of the year for the Class of 2021, Leadership Rising! What a year it has been! Even with COVID-19 still casting a shadow over the ways things used to be, this class has persevered and become the Phoenix's that

represent their class. Marji Morris and Cheryl Lee have made changes in activities to accommodate the mandates and have worked tirelessly to make sure everything in the class runs as smoothly as possible. AWC is blessed to have them both!

The members of this class are going to also be a blessing to Washington County. To watch a group of people go from relative strangers to lifelong friends is so fulfilling! Some of the quieter folks in the class have found their voice with the help of the more vocal folks. Each meeting I have witnessed them using all the things they have learned from Marji and Cheryl. Facilitating from the chair, mirroring, collaboration and even the necessary silence. This class has taken what they learned and honed their skills. What an honor to witness a remarkable group of people employ the 21st Century Leadership Skills.

This class will be the last to know the daily guidance of Marji Morris. After 20 years of dedication to AWC, she has decided to enjoy a much needed retirement with Bill. I am sure there is much travel and horsemanship in their future! I am happy for her and very sad for AWC. Marji has been a mentor. I have enjoyed watching her

interactions and admired the ease with which she carries herself beginning with when I was a class participant. I wish I could have had her as a teacher in school. Every former student from Salem Schools I have met speaks of her with such fondness, a little bit of fear, and a great deal of admiration. She taught them not only what was “in the books” but also life skills that they will carry the rest of their lives. She continues to do that with each AWC class.

I felt like Marji was kinda hard on me when I became executive director. Almost every one of the early conversations I had with Yvonne Maxey started with “I think Marji hates me.” Yvonne is a walking, talking hug. Yvonne would calm me down and send me back in. I had a lot to learn, and by goodness, Marji was gonna make sure I learned it. I will be forever grateful that she guided me along through what needed to be done. I don’t always do it the way it should be done, I don’t always do it in a timely manner, but I do it. (I was always a bit of a problem student.) I’m glad she never gave up on me.

AWC will never be the same. Nor should it. Marji has led a large number of students to greatness. While she will remain active in AWC (thank

goodness!) and will even facilitate some when needed and she’s not off on her adventures, she has graciously passed the facilitators torch to me. I will never fill her shoes, but I will do my best to make sure AWC carries on with the great reputation Marji has forged.

Thank you, Marji, for your dedication, laughter, and insight. Thank you for making AWC a highly regarded leadership course, even recognized nationally. Thank you for your stories. Thank you for being you.



Wisdom from Marji Morris

It has been a pleasure and a labor of love to serve as facilitator and director of Awareness Washington County for—gasp—twenty years. I have learned so much from working with

emerging leaders that has benefited me personally as well as professionally.

I have made new friends each year and have grown to appreciate our differences as well as our common interests. I gained patience by teaching patience (although I'm still working on that). I've learned reflection—a little, anyway—and how my first ideas may not be the best. Mostly I learned that the servant leadership capacities I was teaching could really be used in all aspects of my life from the middle school classroom, to the literacy program, to 4-H, to interactions with friends and family.

Cheryl and I were lucky to be in the right place at the right time. When the board asked us to be co-directors, we were flattered but scared. We were inexperienced, to say the least. I think what made us successful was that we “got” servant leadership and believed that a single person could truly transform a community by modeling his or her servant leadership beliefs and empowering others. I

hope that's what we've done.

I have bittersweet feelings about retiring. However, I won't be leaving the community or the AWC family. I'm confident that Deni Stempowski, our Executive Director, holds servant leadership in her heart and has the ability to encourage others. She and Cheryl will carry the Awareness Washington County banner into the future, helping others to discover their leadership strengths and building a better community through Awareness Washington County. I know Yvonne Maxey will continue to support them through her hard work, quiet prodding, behind the scenes efforts, and invaluable friendship.

Thank you to the dedicated board members who have served over the years. They had a big job and willingly served to promote AWC and its ideals. Thank you to the class members who have taught me to appreciate their strengths and to understand where they are coming from. I am proud of this organization and all that

its members, current and past, have accomplished.

Sincerely,
Marji Morris
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**2020-2021 AWC
Board of
Directors**

- Lisa Aly****
- Nathan Bills***
- Amanda Bills***
- Geoffrey
Harrison***
- Stephanie
Vines****
- Jess Webster****
- Andy Miller***
- Joni Muchler***
- Helen Pickens***
- David Morris****
- Amanda Calfee***
- Nathaniel
Eckert***



Lisa Aly



Jess Webster



Stephanie Vines



David Morris

***We are sad to have
some of our AWC
Board members
leaving us this year.
We will miss each of
them and appreciate
all their dedication
and hard work for
Awareness
Washington County.***

**East Washington
National Honor Society**

Board Member Amanda Calfee arranged for the East Washington NHS to volunteer to paint the 2nd coat of paint in the interior of the AWC building. She had board member, Nathan Bills assisting along w/Amanda's husband and students from Eastern school. They met one Saturday morning in April and had the walls finished in no time. We greatly appreciate them doing this for Awareness Washington County!

