

## ***AWC 2022 Class News “Out of this World Leadership”***

Awareness Washington  
County Class of 2022

By Cheryl Lee

The class of 2022 is a small but mighty group. During the pandemic there were many challenges to putting together a group of community members for the class. Many older members of the community did not feel safe, understandably, meeting with a group monthly and many businesses did not have the extra staff to allow employees time off to attend meetings regularly.

We were not sure how the year would turn out, we lacked the generational diversity we strive to get in each class year, as well as the number of students, but this group of wonderful community members have not only persevered but have thrived.

The year started with our opening retreat at Spring Mill in September of 2021. Each member walked through the door to the meeting room, some with hesitation, some shy, some eager, and some reluctant, but by the end of the first day the bond had already begun. This is a bond that only AWC alumni understand.

During our last class day of the year, one of the class members was updating me on their class meetings and said, “there was a point where we were not agreeing on things about our project and it just seemed like we were not going to be able to come to an agreement, then we took a step back and used the tools we’ve learned in class to discuss and listen to each person’s thoughts and concerns, and after using these tools, it seemed like everything just started clicking and coming together.

Seeing a group of strangers come together and build a bond to work for the betterment of Washington County is something I am so grateful I get to witness, year after year. Not all projects work out the way they are originally planned, and some not at all, but the bonds, friendships, and networks made through this leadership class will forever live on in our community. I look forward to seeing where the future takes the Class of 2022.



***Cheryl Lee, Co-facilitator  
AWC Adult Class***

By Deni Stempowski

This has been an Out of This World year!! COVID still loomed over us, giving us a smaller class size, and even causing a virtual class in February with the resurgence. This class may have been small, but they are mighty!! Looking forward to wonderful things from them!!

Their class project is a big undertaking, but they are forging ahead and a rebranded form of We the Youth is on the horizon! This will be a tremendous boost to Awareness Washington County! It will be wonderful to have the youth of Washington County involved again!! Graduation for these new leaders is coming up June 13. I cannot wait to celebrate their successes and look forward to all their successes in the future!

This was my first year as a facilitator. I have been both excited and nervous. Luckily, I had the guidance of Marji Morris, who ventured out of retirement to give us a hand several times. I am appreciative of her guidance! I also would like to thank Cheryl Lee for

her guidance (and true patience) as I try to develop facilitator chops!! And of course, Yvonne Maxey for keeping me straight and on task. It is wonderful to be surrounded by these awesome women! Their guidance and friendship mean the world to me.

Now. I would like to ask all of you for your help! As you all know when one year comes to completion, another year is getting ready to start. Please let me know of anyone whom you think would enjoy becoming part of Awareness Washington County. We would love to have a great class next year as well and could use your input to achieve that goal.

We are also looking for suggestions for having events specifically for Alumni. If you have any suggestions let Yvonne or me know. I am hopeful that I will be able to attend more this year!

Thank you all for your continued support of Awareness Washington County. I look forward to a bright future for AWC! Your support with insure that future!



**Deni Stempowski, AWC Executive Director & Co-facilitator AWC Adult Class**

2022 AWC Class members:  
Kullan Blakey  
Brandan Bergdall  
Evan (EZ) Chastain  
Selena Crady  
Whitney Hooper  
Lindsay Kulikowski  
Nicole Purlee  
Kim Reynolds  
Tina Smith  
Laura Wanke



**2022 AWC Board VP Amanda Calfee & 2022 AWC Board President Nathan Bills celebrate a successful FNOS event.**



**AWC Board President Nathan Bills**

Greetings from your outgoing President

A year ago, as I thought about the year ahead, I told you I was nervous, having never seen a “normal” year on the AWC Board of Directors. I mused on the changes and adjustments since early 2020 we made. I confessed that I had “no frame of reference for what normal is.” After a year leading the Board, I still don’t know what normal is, but that is okay. At this point, I will take a “positive” and “energetic” over “normal” all day long.

Your Board of Directors stepped up in a big way this year; they pulled off our second Mrs. Claus’s Gift Shoppe, held a great dessert dance at Friday Night on the Square, and we saw the triumphant return of the beloved and much-missed Chili Cookoff! Thank you to everyone who donated desserts for all of these events; it’s appreciated and mouth-watering.

We had a smaller AWC class this year, but smaller this year led to focused. This class is relaunching the We The Youth program with a new L.E.A.D. name, buy-in from all three county schools, and a real plan to make an impact on our kids in this dynamic and changing world. They are starting from the ground-up, and if you can support them with your time, treasure, or talents, please do!

None of this happens without a strong board and our fantastic staff, including Cheryl, Deni, and of course the woman who wears ALL the hats, Yvonne. These three ladies put enormous time and effort into helping teach and guide classes. We are lucky to have them; make sure to tell them how much they mean to you. I understand they take cash and major credit cards if that is your preferred mode of expressing thanks. In all seriousness, I cannot say enough good about their example of driven servant leaders for AWC.

Looking to the future, I encourage you not to be a stranger. Follow us on all the social media pages and come to AWC events. If you ever thought, "Gosh, I might like to serve on the Board," let a member

know. I welcome our new Board members gladly and with excitement for how they will avoid AWC ever becoming "normal" and keep us both "positive" and "energetic" in the year to come.

Best,

Nathan W. Bills  
AWC Class of 2019

Welcome from your incoming President of the AWC Board for the 2022-2023 session!



**Amanda Calfee, 2022-2023 AWC Board President**

As I take over being president of Awareness Washington County, I want to thank Nathan for being President of AWC this past year. He has led us well through some strange times! I also want to recognize our board members that are stepping down after this

year – Andy, Nathaniel, and Nathan. They've each been an important part of our board and will be missed.

It's a great time for Awareness Washington County, and I can't wait to see what this year will hold. AWC be able to have all in person meetings and training as well as have all of our fundraisers this year. Although we've learned to adapt the past couple of years and still have been successful, we haven't been able to do all that we wanted (and we've missed it in several ways). We're all rooting for this year's class project and are truly excited by the prospect of bringing Youth back into the program.

We'd like to welcome our new board members – Nicole Purlee, Whitney Hooper, and Brandan Bergdall.

I'd also like to thank the alumni for their tremendous support throughout the year. When Yvonne has 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!

**AWC Staff**

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**2021-2022 AWC Board of Directors**

- Nathan Bills\****
- Amanda Bills***
- Geoffrey Harrison***
- Andy Miller\****
- Joni Muchler***
- Helen Pickens***
- Amanda Calfee***
- Nathaniel Eckert\****
- Steve Cissna***
- Barb Voyles***
- Dusty Baker***
- Susan Soliday***

***Outgoing Board members***



***Nathaniel Eckert***



***Andy Miller***

Besides Nathan Bills we also have 2 other board members ending their terms. Thank you, Nathaniel Eckert and Andy Miller. We are sad to have you leave our AWC Board and will miss your smiles, hard work and dedication to AWC.

***2022 Class ends, but 2023 will begin soon!***

***We will need names for our upcoming class. If you have***

***suggestions, please reach out to any staff or board member.***

We would also like to thank this year's class sponsors.

- Friends of Marji Morris
- Eddie Gilstrap Motors
- Austy's
- West Washington School Corp.
- Salem Community Schools
- East Washington Community Schools
- Reedy Insurance
- MPP Incorp.
- Jason Wade, State Farm Insurance
- Melissa Mead, Farm Bureau Insurance
- 360` Accounting
- Centra Credit Union
- YMCA