

## **AWC 2020 Class**

AWC 2020 Class members are: Karen Barry, Erin Bontrager, Damion Bottorff, Nathan Brough, Cassidy Bryant, Christina Crank, Nathaniel Eckert, Tara Kritzer, Chris Mahuron, Renee` Mather, Stacey Nance, Cam Smith, Nona Wade, Donna Wesner and Gail Wisecarver.



## **Leadership in the time of COVID**

### **By Marji Morris**

2020 was going to be the year we focused on leadership. And in the adult class, we did just that, but we had not counted on a pandemic affecting our classes, as well as our personal lives.

Nonetheless, many AWC class members and alumni stepped up. The health care workers worked overtime, the teachers creatively designed lessons, seamstresses made masks, philanthropists donated to the food bank and to individuals in need. Many of our grads delivered groceries and ran errands for elderly or ill friends and family. People made phone calls to check on those they couldn't visit. I applaud you all.

One of the activities we usually do in Feb. or March is to examine a list of Servant Leadership traits and discuss which we personally need to work on and which are the most important traits. Ironically, dealing with ambiguity is one of the traits. If we needed personal practice with that, this was our moment.

We had to cancel the Chili Cook Off with less than a week's notice, we had to cancel board meetings, and class meetings.

Personally, I also had to cancel 4-H meetings, two

horse shows and a trip to Mexico. I must confess, when suddenly faced with ambiguity I could not control, I just shut down. I spent about a month being more of a slug than a leader. I simply did not know how to plan for an uncertain future.

Finally, I decided *I* was the only one who could bring order to my chaos. Using the Internet, I took several classes and tutorials on online facilitation. Then Cheryl and I put our heads together and decided what we could accomplish in our online meetings and what we had to let go. We held two Zoom meetings, in which we covered a lot of things we normally do at the closing retreat. It seemed awkward at first, but everyone was able to attend and make it work. In late May, we held our evening session of the closing retreat IN PERSON. And trying to talk about sensitive issues (our personal leadership journeys) from six feet away also seemed awkward. Again, we persevered and had a meaningful and memorable evening.

Our closing retreat was a combination of Teaching Back and the usual closing retreat activities. The class rolled with it and did an outstanding job. We all certainly got a crash course in dealing with ambiguity.

Join us June 25 at The Destination for the Annual

Meeting and Graduation. You can meet the amazing class of 2020, who know how to “Focus on Leadership!”

---



**By Amanda Bills, Out-going 2020 AWC Board President**

For me Awareness Washington County was something I never thought I would take part in, but I'm so grateful that a few years ago I decided to reach out after seeing a Facebook post. AWC reignited my passion for servant leadership, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my flame with others.

When I took my position as the President of the Board of Directors last year I hoped to help our board members, class participants, and alumni continue to build the name of Awareness Washington County throughout our community.

One of my goals was to find a director for the Awareness Washington County program. We have been extremely fortunate to welcome Deni Stempowski to our team in this position.

She has become an invaluable resource. She solves problems, and makes things happen. She is a great representative for our organization, and has become an indispensable part of our leadership team.

This past year has been a roller coaster ride for everyone, and AWC has not been immune. Last Fall we began looking at new ways to grow our brand, and we gathered a core group of people to lead our search for a new We the Youth Director. The adult class got off to a fantastic start, and we started to focus on our biggest fundraiser of the year, our annual Chili Cook-off.

Then everything changed. The pandemic that has swept across our world has created a lot of hardship. It has also helped to shine a light on the continuing importance of servant leadership. People around the globe are surviving these hard times because servant leaders are stepping up to help. Our program, and our mission, is more important than ever.

Yes, our adult class has had to change to short, virtual meetings, and our Chili Cook-Off was cancelled. Together, though, we have been able to integrate new technology into our program, and started brainstorming other fundraising ideas. We have not stopped, and we will not

stop. Our time to shine is now, and I know that Awareness Washington County will come out of this crisis stronger, and better prepared to face new challenges in the future.

There will be a lot of opportunities this year for you to continue to show your support for AWC. This program cannot exist without you, and I thank you for continuing to provide our community with servant leaders.



**Normal classes**



**COVID-19 means ZOOM meetings**

**WE ARE THANKFUL TO  
OUR 2020 CLASS  
SPONSORS**

- JEANS EXTRUSIONS
- GKN SINTER METALS
- AFFORDABLE HEARING AIDS
- 360` ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICE
- MOSIER FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC
- LIVING FREE COMMUNITY OF WASH. CO.
- DR. BLACK EYE ASSOCIATES
- H & R BLOCK
- MARJI B-DAY FUNDRAISER
- HOOSIER UPLANDS
- HAMMOND/ LEMMON PEST CONTROL
- SALEM COM. SCHOOLS
- E. WASH. SCHOOLS
- W. WASH. SCHOOLS
- CENTRA CREDIT UNION
- ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL
- CARMELITA JEAN CHOICES
- EDDIE GILSTRAP'S MOTORS
- IVY TECH. COM. COLLEGE
- CANTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



Brenda Castueras

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



Connie Hardaway

*2018-2019 AWC Board of Directors*

*Lisa Aly*

*Nathan Bills*

*Amanda Bills*

*David Voyles*

*Brenda Castueras\**

*Connie Hardaway\**

*Geoffrey Harrison*

*Stephanie Vines*

*Jess Webster*

*Andy Miller*

*Kevin Nance\**



Kevin Nance

**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-Director  
812-216-6505  
[mjmsoar@hotmail.com](mailto:mjmsoar@hotmail.com)

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

*AWC have 3 board members finishing out their terms this year. We appreciate the dedication and sacrifices each of them have made for AWC/WTY. They have been essential to keeping our program running successfully and will be greatly missed.*