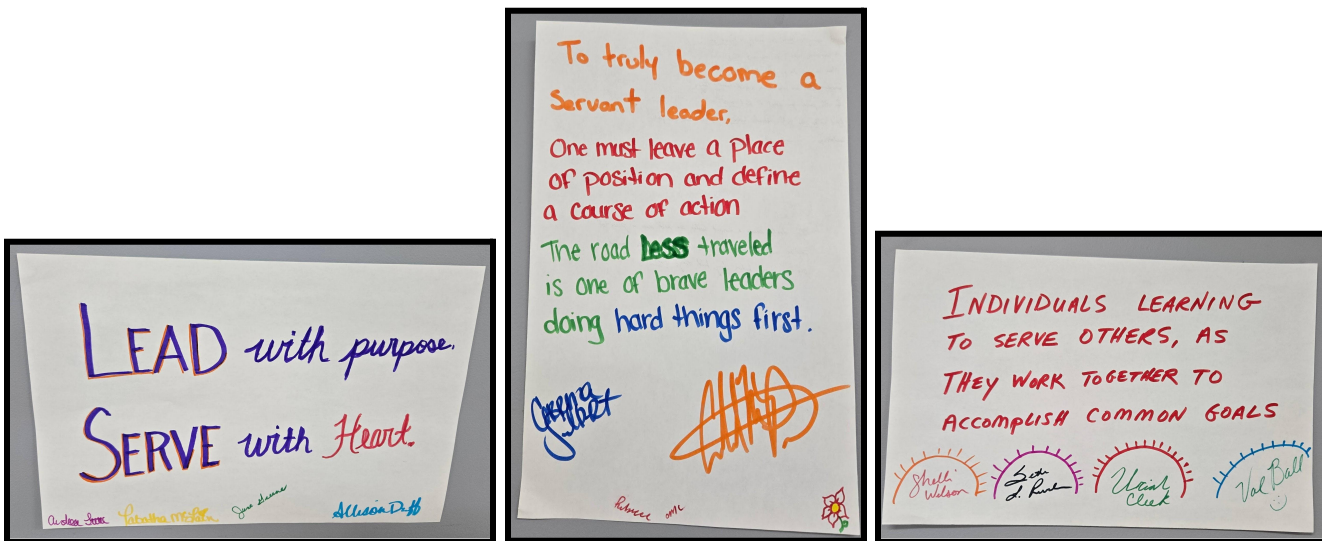


Awareness Washington County Alumni

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

AWC news from January-June 2025

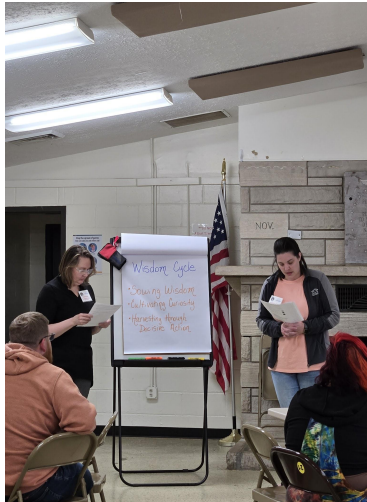
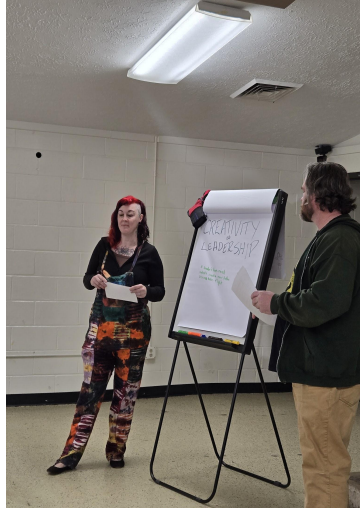
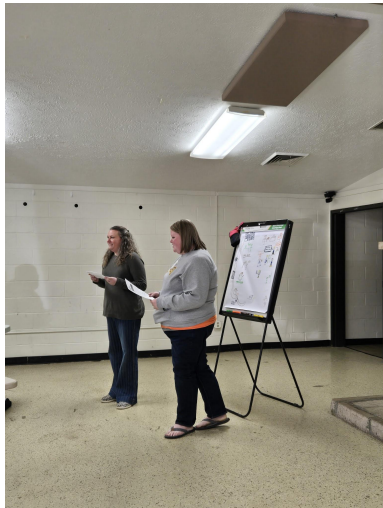


For our January class meeting we welcomed our economic board. They shared about what was happening in each of their special areas, here in Washington County. The class learned many new and interesting plans for our community. Later that afternoon the class took a trip on a Magic Carpet Ride, learning that every activity is not a competition and showing how goals can be reached just by working together.

For our February class we planned to travel to Campbellsburg but Mother Nature had other ideas and we met through a ZOOM meeting.

In March we traveled to Hardinsburg to the old Bearcat Center, which now houses Dare to Care. Donna Griffith informed the class about the mission she organizes for the Fellowship Baptist Food Giveaway. We learned about how they get the food and distribute it to many local families. But, they can always use more volunteers. If anyone wants to help you can contact Donna at 812-844-3034.

Teaching Back Day. In April our class went to the Pekin Community Bldg. The class made their presentations and were given feedback from AWC Alumni volunteers, as well as being treated by our AWC Alumni with an incredible feast for lunch.



- **Collaboration-by Allison Duff & Danielle Walker**
- **Creativity in Leadership-by Mel Calvin & Owen Wykoff**
- **Visioning-by Corinna Gilbert & Val Ball**
- **Wisdom Cycle-by Stephanie Lashbrooks & Andrea Little**
- **Multiple Lenses-by Uriah Cleek & June Greene**
- **Learning Styles-by Seth Purlee & Caleb Purkhiser**



How can we already be having our Closing Retreat?

This year has really flown by quickly. The class joined Laura & Yvonne at Lake Salinda for our evening closing retreat. Cheryl had a pretty good excuse not to join us and we missed her very much. The class members/staff shared their “Leadership Journey” stories and we got to know each other a little bit better.





The following day was our last class together. Cheryl was able to join us for a while. We did an activity called Leadership Taps. Some of the class members were surprised and humbled by the results. The class also did a mirroring activity where we each wrote a sentence of encouragement for each person.

Highlights of 2024-2025

Cheryl Lee, Co-facilitator

What an incredible year it has been for the AWC Class of 2025! Each year, I am amazed at how quickly a group of almost strangers can unite and begin to operate not just as a team, but as friends. Community draws this group together, while their commitment to being servant leaders binds them into a cohesive unit, dedicated to improving the future of Washington County for generations to come. As we kicked off the year with our opening retreat at Wonder Valley, there were feelings of hesitation, fear, and uncertainty. However, this group rapidly collaborated to tackle every challenge we presented to them. This class is made up of the pillars of our community, including stay-at-home moms, bank employees, small business owners, retirees, school teachers, entrepreneurs, and many others, all committed to improving our community for future generations. I am eager to witness what this class will achieve in the months and years to come. Best wishes to this group as they go out and lead in our community.

Laura Wanke, Co-facilitator

It is hard to believe another full year of AWC has come and gone. This September, I stayed healthy and enjoyed my first retreat with Cheryl, Yvonne, and the Class of 2025. The excitement of getting to know a new and enthusiastic group of people dedicated to Washington County is one of the best parts of AWC. While it begins at the retreat, that feeling continues throughout the year, changing from the excitement of the new and novel to the enthusiasm of what is possible. The Class of 2025 is a group unlike any other. The diversity of knowledge and experience has come together in just the right way with this class. Each member has contributed something special that the group would have lacked without the commitment of that individual. The importance of AWC and the work each of us does to continue to breathe life into this organization is never clearer than at the

end. Knowing that our community will be stronger with each AWC alum who goes on to practice the skills learned and to strengthen the bonds forged make all of our efforts worthwhile.

AWC plays an important role in the lives of all of us. We are each working for a great today and toward a better tomorrow for all of Washington County. We can celebrate what we have accomplished this year and look forward to continuing our efforts with another year quickly approaching!

Lisa Owen, outgoing President, 2024-2025

It's hard to believe how quickly this year has passed! The year's theme was Team 42 Leadership—42, is a number that holds special significance as we celebrate our 42nd graduating class and honor the legacy of Major League Baseball great Jackie Robinson.

Jackie Robinson once said, “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.” His journey was one of resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to change—qualities that have inspired and shaped our 2025 Awareness Washington County Class.

Cheryl and Laura challenged class members in ways that tested their strengths and, at times, exposed areas for growth. Through carefully designed activities, they navigated obstacles that required adaptability, teamwork, and perseverance—just as Robinson did in the face of adversity. Each challenge became an opportunity to build connections, support one another, and emerge as stronger, more capable leaders. I am excited to see what they will accomplish in our community.

Just as Jackie Robinson met challenges with unwavering determination, the Awareness Washington County Board of Directors has faced its own hurdles this year—proving that true leadership is not defined by the obstacles encountered, but by the perseverance and ingenuity in overcoming them.

We had an unexpected (yet, in some ways, expected) setback when our HVAC system failed just before the first class, as well as ongoing financial challenges. We've had to adapt, problem-solve, and lean on one another to keep our mission moving forward. Yet, through every difficulty, our commitment to fostering community engagement and leadership has remained steadfast.

A great example of this perseverance was another successful annual Chili Cook Off—a testament to the power of collaboration and dedication. The Board and staff worked tirelessly to ensure its success, showcasing our community's

passion and support. Not to mention some excellent chili! I'd also like to thank Marji Morris for all the years of dedication as the chairperson for the Chili Cook Off. This was her last year as serving as chair. Geoffrey Harrison has agreed to fill this role going forward.

Looking ahead, we continue to innovate, expanding our fundraising efforts with the Scare to Care initiative for a fall fundraiser. We have to aim to unite various nonprofits in a collaborative event that will raise awareness and funds for our program while engaging the broader community with a haunted house or trail. Excitement is already building and several nonprofit organizations have expressed interest in participating.

Much like Robinson's impact on the game of baseball, the resilience of this board is shaping the future of Awareness Washington County. Challenges will come, but with teamwork, adaptability, and vision, we will continue to overcome obstacles, and to build a stronger community of servant leaders.

I want to take a moment to recognize our board members who are stepping down after this year. Amanda Bills, Megan Elgin, and Don Ward, who was unable to complete his term due to personal and health reasons. Each of them brought invaluable perspectives to our board, and we sincerely appreciate their service.

At the same time, we welcome our new board members—Allison Duff, from our 2025 class; Liz Losson, a dedicated community member who brings much needed experience in fundraising and securing sponsorships; and Nathan Bills, who has agreed to complete Don Ward's term. Nathan is no stranger to AWC, having served as a past board president, and we are thrilled to have him rejoin the team.

As we conclude this incredible year. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our facilitators, Cheryl Lee and Laura Wanke. Their ability to challenge, inspire, and support each class participant has been invaluable, and their impact will be felt long beyond this class and in our community.

I also want to recognize Yvonne Maxey, who wears many hats and plays an essential role in keeping Awareness Washington County running smoothly. Her commitment, hard work, and behind the scenes efforts are the glue that holds us together. More than words can express, the board appreciates all that she does to support our mission and organization.

With a foundation built on leadership, perseverance, and teamwork, we look forward to the future—knowing that, with people like Cheryl, Laura and Yvonne

by our side, we are poised to continue making a difference in Washington County.

Shawnda Keltner, incoming President, 2025-2026

In the upcoming year, I would like to see our organization prioritising growth and collaboration while maintaining our core values. We will aim to strengthen internal communication, foster professional development, and actively pursue opportunities to expand our services and reach. Together I hope we can build a culture of innovation, support, and continuous improvement, ensuring that we achieve our goals and thrive as a team and community.

Thank you to our AWC Board of Directors

The Board is the backbone of AWC and we could not do anything without their support, guidance, hard work and dedication.

2024-2025 AWC Board of Directors

- **Geoffrey Harrison (AWC Bldg Rentals)**
 - **Nicole Purlee**
 - **Megan Elgin***
 - **Amanda Bills***
- **Shawnda Keltner (VP)**
 - **Joy Bierly**
 - **Melissa Mead**
- **Sherri Fleenor (Treas)**
 - **Amanda Calfee**
 - **Lisa Owen (Pres)**
 - **Kayce Johnson**
 - **Nathan Bills**

***coming off board**

We also could not continue without our Sponsors throughout the year. Thanks to our community for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Plex	Sherri Fleenor
Sherri Fleenor	Tori Lawrence w/Centra Credit Union
Amanda Calfee	LaDonna & John Mitchell
Mid-Southern Bank	Salem Community Schools
West Washington School Corp.	CASA
Washington County Purdue Extension Service	Duke Energy
Temple & Temple Excavating and Paving	Campbellsburg Community Committee
1st Harrison Bank	MPP
WSLM	Washington County Herald
Nice's Restaurant	Loy & Fordyce Ins.
Marshall Monuments	Fireball Haulin'- Michael Jackson
Hunter's Ridge Winery	Rock-N-Bounce
Washington County Community Foundation	360` Consulting

We welcome our 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Shawnda Keltner (incoming Pres)

Joy Bierly

Melissa Mead

Sherri Fleenor (Treas)

Kayce Johnson

Nathan Bills

Amanda Calfee

Lisa Owen

Geoffrey Harrison

Nicole Purlee

Liz Losson

Allison Duff

We want to thank our incredible AWC Alumni too. Throughout the year you have stepped up to make desserts, food and volunteer for AWC whenever we needed help. Each of you are great examples of Servant Leaders and we are very grateful and appreciate your willingness to do so much for our organization and our community.

