



ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | September 9, 2020 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

Today's program

Today is our monthly business meeting and time for committees to meet.

President Doug has asked committees to do two things today:

1. Compile a list of events or projects your committee conducted or organized in the past couple of years;
2. Discuss what your committee wants to do/promote for the balance of the 2020-21 Rotary year.

Future programs

September 16 - Mark Wieggers

September 23 - Glenn Aversman's guest will Sheriff Jeff Weber

September 30 - Fifth Wednesday will be a picnic and program at Lord's Park

October 7 - Sam Cardenas classification/ education talk

October 14 - TBD

October 21 - Jill Filer

Birthdays

September 12Lynn Laffoon

Officers & Directors

President.....Doug Meyer

Secretary.....Lori Watson

TreasurerJessica Junge

Sergeant-at-Arms.....Carol Looney

Past President.....Nancy Shelton

Directors.....Judy Franklin,

Cindy Greenwell, Gabe Sweitzer,

Jeff Kleinsasser, Larry Pfautsch

Dist. Gov.Jacqueline Howard

Asst. Dist. Gov....Bing Schimmelpfenning

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Courtyard of Honor recognizes Cass County's war casualties

John Foster's interest in preserving the memories of Cass Countians who were lost in the wars of the past century can be traced to childhood. When he 8 years old, he recalls making frequent visits to the Cass County Courthouse where a Gold Star banner was updated regularly with the names who those had fallen during World War II — to see if any of his relatives had been added to the list.

So began a quest to provide permanent markers so citizens could pay fitting tribute to the local casualties of not just the second world war, but also World War I, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. Today, thanks in large part to John's tenacity, we now have fitting memorials for these men at Memorial Stadium and at the Courtyard of Honor on the grounds of the Cass County Courthouse.

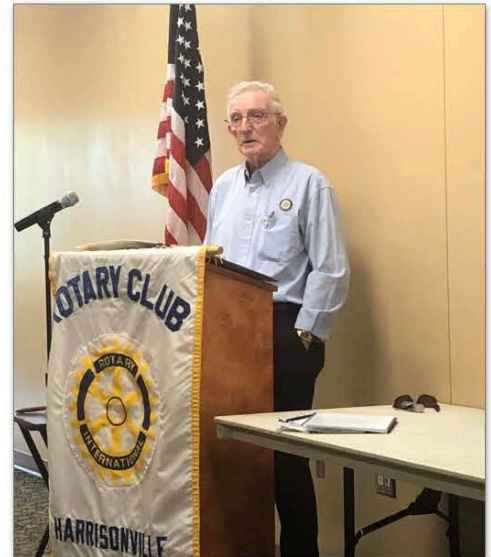
It took tremendous effort to identify all of those who perished. For several years, John worked with researchers at the Cass County Historical Society to come up with the list of 90 men who died in World War II, some in combat, some from disease and some in accidents. Granite markers with their names were installed at Memorial Field, and the Historical Society published a booklet with their biographies and photos, many taken from news accounts or obituaries.

Many are familiar with the World War I doughboy statue at the courthouse. Now installed nearby are granite memorials to the casualties of the other wars of the past century, including the Korean and Vietnam War, previously memorialized at a mini-park at Locust and Commercial streets. In all, the various monuments pay tribute to 176 war dead.

The World War I monument contains 52 names, about half of whom volunteered for service and half draftees. John punctuated his presentation with stories of individual casualties, including one family that lost sons in both world wars plus another son who died serving with the Kansas City Police Dept.. He also shared a restored photo of draftees assembled on the Square before reporting to duty at Camp Funston, now Fort Riley, Kansas, which is were the 1918 "Spanish Flu" originated.

In business before the program:

- President Doug confirmed that Casco will not be holding its annual picnic at North Park this September, so Rotary will not be serving its traditional lunch.
- Doug also shared an email from the district governor inviting Rotarians to participate in the Oct. 10 Leadership Academy, which will be a virtual event this year. There is no cost to participate.



Minutes from Sept. 8 board meeting

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting Tuesday, Sept. 8, at the Cass R-IX Administration Building. Those present: Doug Meyer, Jeff Kleinsasser, Judy Franklin, Carol Looney, Gabe Sweitzer, Larry Pfautsch and Lori Watson (late arrival).

President Doug called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. On a motion by Carol and a second by Judy, minutes of the August meeting were approved. In Jessica Junge's absence, Judy Franklin gave the treasurer's report, noting that \$300 had been reimbursed to the club for students not attending Girls State. The club also will not incur the \$1,300 budgeted for the annual Casco picnic, which has been canceled for this year. It was noted that the Log Cabin Festival also has been canceled. On a motion by Larry and a second by Gabe, the treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business

None

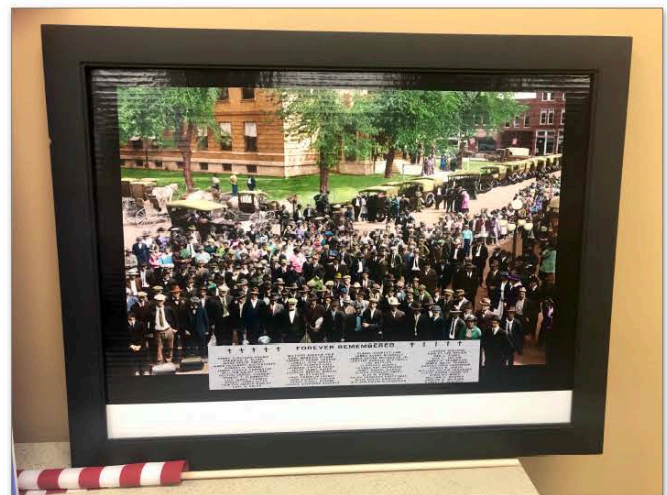
New Business

- **Flag Program Co-Chairs** — Two items related to the Flag Program were discussed. The first was discussion around a successor to Glenn Aversman to head the program for next year. There being no other volunteers, board members Judy Franklin and Carol Looney volunteered to co-chair the program in 2021, and Jeff Kleinsasser offered to help with any needed bracket replacements. There was additional discussion about procedures that would help the program run more smoothly. Several members are currently soliciting additional subscribers, offering the remaining two dates of 2020 plus all six dates for 2021 for \$40.
- **Flag Display Proposal** — President Doug brought to the board's attention a proposal by John Foster to display 176 small American flags on major holidays at the Courtyard of Honor on the Courthouse grounds, each flag representing a Cass Countian who lost his life in war. John has designed a way to mount the flags in wooden holders, which can be easily transported and positioned. The board agreed the display would be an impressive addition to the Courtyard of Honor. Discussion about the additional manpower needed included asking other local groups to assist with the display on designated holidays. Carol also suggested that Rotarians might be able to handle the small flag display if we re-worked the current distribution routes. She also suggested we look into a sign that identifies the display as a Rotary project. The cost to purchase the flags was estimated to be minimal. The board voted to pursue the project, with Gabe offering to contact possible partners organizations to see if that's feasible.
- **Leave of Absence** — The board considered a request from Jason Winter for a six-month leave of absence beginning Aug. 6, 2020, and ending Jan. 6, 2021. Jason cited various reasons, including his duties as current president of the National Auctioneers Association. On a motion by Carol and second by Larry, the request was approved retroactive to Aug. 6.
- **Trunk of Treat** — Jill Filer had asked for guidance on whether the club wanted to co-sponsor Trunk or Treat again this year on the Square, noting that she would not be able to lead the event as in past years due to COVID-19 concerns. The board felt it was unlikely the club would want to sponsor the event this year, but took no official action pending feedback from Jill on alternatives the club might pursue, such as providing goodie bags to elementary students, which the club could assemble at one of its regular October meetings.
- **Food Pantry Tents** — Gabe reminded board members of a previous request from the Shepherd's Staff Food Pantry for two portable tents to assist with food distribution, which is now done on a drive-up basis. The board is inclined to provide the tents, but Carol Looney said she would first submit a grant request to the Osage Valley Electric Co-op Foundation. She

serves on its board.

- **Little Libraries** — Doug noted that he had removed one of our four Little Libraries from McEowen Elementary School because it was badly deteriorated and will need to be rebuilt. The other libraries will be inspected to determine their condition.
- **Fifth Wednesday Picnic** — For our Sept. 30 meeting, the board agreed to meet for a picnic and program at the Rotary shelter at Lord's Park. The meeting will include remarks by Gabe Sweitzer and a celebration of the many projects our Rotary club has undertaken in recent years.
- **District Governor's Visit** — Given the option of a virtual visit by District Governor Jacque Howard this fall or an in-person visit next spring, the board elected to request an in-person visit, the exact date to be determined.
- **Member status** - The board briefly discussed the membership status of Dave Killpack and Chris Deal, who recently retired as Parks & Rec Director. If their membership is not continuing, the board would like the city to designate replacements for membership in Rotary.

On a motion by Larry and second by Carol, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Oct. 5 at the School Administration Building.



Displayed at last week's meeting by John Foster was this restored photograph of draftees being sworn in on the Square before heading to basic training at Camp Funston, now Fort Reilly, Kan.