

President's Message

"We'll meet again

Don't know where, don't know when

But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through

Just like you always do

'Til the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

- From the song, "We'll Meet Again", written by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles

At the March 10 General Membership meeting the membership voted to give the AWCC President authority to suspend future meetings in the event of medical emergencies related to the COVID-19 outbreak. I'm sure it's no surprise to anyone that tonight's scheduled General Membership meeting is cancelled. The May 12th meeting is tentative and will proceed based on Local, State and CDC guidance.

Also at the March 10 meeting, the Executive Committee was given the authority to conduct the business of the organization during a suspension of meetings. As of April 13th there has been no AWCC business requiring a vote of the Executive Committee.

The cancellation of regular AWCC meetings is a small example of the historically significant time we're experiencing. I haven't heard of anyone in Allegheny West who has been hospitalized due to the coronavirus, and for that I'm thankful and hopeful. Some of our neighbors and neighborhood businesses are facing significant financial hardships. Other neighbors are working the frontlines in healthcare. All of us are experiencing disruptions to our normal lives, along with the anxiety and stress that brings.

Amidst the darkness brought about by the pandemic are some uplifting things happening in Allegheny West. Hopefully these will brighten your day and perhaps provide inspiration to add to this list:

- The AWCC Website team – notably Nick Smerker – quickly implemented changes to our website to add helpful COVID-19 information and links to resources – see the great work at alleghenywest.org/about/coronavirus-resources
- Neighbors answered the call to place teddy bears in windows for neighborhood children (well, really for all of us) to find on bear-hunting outings.
- Neighbors are participating in Tuesday evening "Illumination Ovation" with people across the city by stepping outside to honor front-line workers for their amazing efforts by lighting porch lights and applauding. *(Continued on next page)*

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- Neighbors are checking in on other neighbors, offering to pick up grocery and pharmacy supplies or just to say hello.
- Neighbors are getting take-out food and beverages from local businesses, supporting them while normal operations are suspended.
- Neighbors are sewing and donating face masks.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that AWCC has a “Zoom Room” – with big thanks to Cathy Serventi for setting it up and providing technical support. The AWCC Zoom Room is available for anyone to use, for gatherings large and small. Please take advantage of this to keep in virtual touch with one another. If you have an idea for a Zoom event, send an email to webmaster@alleghenywest.org.

Stay safe everyone!

— Ann Gilligan, AWCC President

Friday Night Happy Hour

Join your neighbors as we practice using Zoom doing something requiring no practice: Happy Hour! Every Friday from 6:00 to 7:00, BYOB!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/479233274>

Meeting ID: 479 233 274 (This will remain the same each week!)

The AWCC Zoom account is available for virtual gatherings, large and small. Please join us on Sunday and then stay tuned for invites to more Zoom events. If you're thinking of organizing a Zoom event for the neighborhood, check out how to do that on our website

<https://alleghenywest.org/about/coronavirus-resources/>

Hope to see all your smiling faces on Friday evening!

From the Governor's Office: Please, wear a mask outside!

Gov. Wolf is now asking that all Pennsylvanians wear a mask, cloth or homemade, anytime they leave their houses, saying that "guidance is now changing" on this issue. The Governor's office asks that N95 and paper masks be reserved for healthcare workers.

"Your mask protects me from COVID-19, and my mask protects you from COVID-19," Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levin explained. "Homemade masks protect everyone else from droplets created by the wearer. It's important that as many people as possible wear masks when leaving home."

If you do not have masks to use, google a youtube how-to: How to Make a Pleated Face Mask // Washable, Reusable, No-Sewing Required. (One neighbor remarked that this one is "very zen and soothing." Sounds win-win!)

**Stay tuned for updates to events and tours as the weeks progress!
Stay safe and healthy!**



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