

THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

October 23, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

October 23 – Chuck Fennell and Anne Darron, Washington Heritage Museums

Anne Darron is the Executive Director of the Washington Heritage Museums which includes Mary Washington House, the Mary Washington Monument and Caretaker's Lodge, Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop, the Rising Sun Tavern, and the St. James' House.



Chuck Fennell is Chairman of the Board of the Washington Heritage Museums.

October 16 Meeting

President Jamie presided. IPDG Rene gave the Thought of the Day.

Announcements

- ❖ Kristy to send out details for the Chili cook-off on October 30th by the end of this week.
- ❖ Club members to consider nominating themselves for District Governor 2027-2028 by October 30th.
- ❖ Brandi and Bruce to provide Amazon wish list for STEM Scout supplies to

Club Calendar

October Is Economic and Community Development Month

- ❖ October 23 - Chuck Fennell and Anne Darron, Washington Heritage Museums
- ❖ October 24 - World Polio Day!
- ❖ October 30 – Annual Chili Cookoff, UMW
- ❖ November 2 - District Foundation Day!
- ❖ January 7 Get the Puck Out Polio! Noon game v. Rangers!
- ❖ February 20-22 – RI Peace Conference in Istanbul
- ❖ June 21-25 – Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta

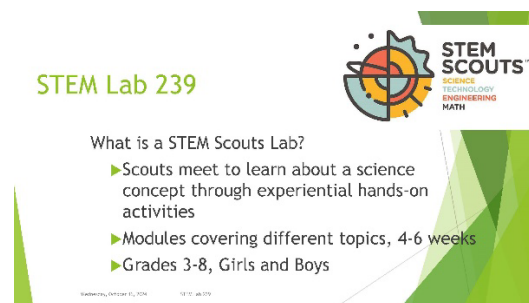
the club for potential donations.

- ❖ IPDG Rene to schedule Meg Bonke and Deontay Dave as speakers for upcoming meetings.
- ❖ Club members to consider volunteering as presenters or merit badge counselors for STEM Scout activities. There is a sign-up sheet for October 15th Board of Supervisors meeting to receive the proclamation for World Polio Day.
- ❖ Kristy to coordinate with Nikki about alternatives to dictionary project and updated the club on Toys for Tots.
- ❖ President Jamie discussed potential speaking opportunities with the Special Olympics and the Planning Commission office, emphasizing the importance of these connections for future partnerships and volunteer opportunities

Program – STEM Integration in Scouting and Programs Kristy Freeman and Brandi Sable



Brandi discussed the integration of STEM in scouting, highlighting its presence in Cub Scouts and the availability of STEM-related merit badges for older scouts. She introduced the concept of a STEM Scouts Lab, a nine-month program with hands-on, experiential learning, and mentioned plans for field trips. She also shared details about an ongoing science program for elementary school students and a chemistry module for middle schoolers. He discussed the annual merit badge university, which included hands-on activities like programming robots and making catapults. She acknowledged the challenges faced by the STEM Scouts program, which is now up to individual councils to support.





Challenges and Future of STEM Program

Brandi discussed the challenges faced by the STEM program, including the cost of materials and the difficulty in finding a janitor to access the meeting space at Rocky Run Elementary School. She mentioned that the program is open to all of Stafford County, but the cost of supplies and the need for volunteers are significant challenges. She also mentioned that they have a Facebook page and a flyer to advertise the program. She expressed interest in having presenters with a science background to talk to the students. Kristy added that they have been trying to reconstitute the STEM program within the Council and have been working on making the kits more cost-effective by ordering supplies through Amazon. She also mentioned the possibility of a service project, such as a stamp party, and encouraged donations of money, time, or equipment.

STEM Activities Expansion and Challenges

She discussed the STEM activities organized by their group, including classes on cooking, astronomy, welding, electronics, geology, and chemistry offered in collaboration with companies like the one in Alexandria and George Mason University. They are expanding their outreach to offer these opportunities to more units beyond their own. Stafford mentioned plans to provide certifications in various technical fields for high school students to boost their resumes. However, they are facing challenges in staffing and organizing some of the activities.

Organizing More Frequent Merit Badge Universities

They discussed the potential for organizing more frequent merit badge universities for scouts, which would serve as both a fundraiser and a program showcase. Brandi emphasized the need for various roles to make the event successful, including chemistry teachers, dentists, and photographers. She also mentioned the possibility of creating activities for those who don't think they're qualified for any of the roles. She suggested that the group could participate in service projects, such as the Whitewater cleanup, and expressed interest in being invited to these events.



The **UMW Rotaract** Presents Their

ANNUAL

chilli cookoff
social

OCTOBER 30

Starts at 5:30 PM
Cedric Rucker University
Center at the University of
Mary Washington
Colonnade Room 313



**WORLD
POLIO DAY**
24 OCTOBER

Rotary  