



THE LIONS ROAR

FAIRFAX HOST LIONS CLUB

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LIONS CLUBS AND AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION PARTNER

In partnership with the American Diabetes Association, the Lions of District 24-A are to tackle diabetes and blindness in Northern Virginia with community health fairs and the established ADA education programs. The Lions of District 24-A has received a LCIF grant to provide health screenings to high at-risk, underserved communities in six counties in Northern Virginia, to reduce the complications of diabetes, especially blindness. Over 90% of adult blindness is caused by poorly managed diabetes. The ADA National Capital Area will provide diabetes education training to Lions for this community outreach project.

Screenings will include blood pressure, body-mass index, and retinal imaging provided by the Lions Club and Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind volunteers. Additional collaborators, local churches, clinics and shelters within Northern Virginia, will work with the Lions Clubs on this pilot project to screen 2500 people. Screening sites, using Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind's new mobile van, will be selected based on areas with lowest income levels in No. Va.

The ADA role is to provide "Train the Trainer" sessions to the Lions Club volunteers. The topics will increase awareness of the rates of diabetes among Americans. More specifically, the Association's training of the volunteers will provide information about the seriousness of diabetes and its complications, teach the importance of healthy eating and exercise, and educate those with or at risk for developing diabetes about prevention, management, and control.

About 7.8% of residents in the target area have been diagnosed with diabetes but another estimated 25% of the population remains undiagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes. The complications of unmanaged diabetes are blindness, kidney failure, heart and cardiovascular disease. In Virginia, diabetes rates range up to 16% in some counties. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) projects that one in three children born in the last ten years will develop diabetes in their lifetime, if that child is African American or Latino; the odds are one in two.

"Forming a strategic partnership with the ADA gives the Lions in 24-A the critical mass to reach the largest number of underserved in the District in the most effective way possible. Once we are successful here we plan on moving the program across the State next year," said CC Dennis Brining. "This grant will allow the Lions Clubs members to provide diabetes educational resources, diabetes screenings and deliver the message about the gravity of diabetes in Northern Virginia," said Mary Merritt, Executive Director of the Association's National Capital Area program.

Representing the Lions Clubs on the management team will be CC Dennis Brining, Project Manager; Dennis Kelly, 1st Deputy Project Manager, Greg DeRosa, 2nd Deputy Project Manager, and Gloria Wilson, 24-A Diabetes Chair. Tiffany Ingram, Director of Programs and Nina Litton, Program Coordinator will represent the ADA.

All interested Lions are invited to attend the initial training session to be held on Saturday, July 14, at the Fairfax Government Center from 8 am to 3 pm. The goal is to have 75 people attend the training session. Please see CC Dennis Brining to sign up.



Photo — Back row, left to right: 1st VDG Emily Carnes, CC Dennis Brining and DG Dennis Kelly. Front row, left to right: Tiffany Ingram, ADA Director of Programs, Gloria Wilson, ADA Manager Key Market West, Patricia R. Kearns, ADA Director of Development.

FOUR ESSENTIALS FOR LEADERSHIP

by Lion Bill Bartlett



The following is an excerpt of the Volunteer Leadership Class given by PCC Bill Bartlett at the MD 24 State Convention held at Chesapeake, VA on May 19, 2012:

Today, we want to investigate and discuss at least four of the major things involved in improving our volunteer leadership skills. These four things are:

- Understanding what motivates volunteers
- Understanding and improving communications
- Developing team building skills, and,
- Learning to be an organized problem solver.

Let's first Understand What Motivates Volunteers, for if you don't understand this very basic premise, you won't be as successful as you need to be in guiding all or any part of your club toward goal accomplishment. A volunteer does something because he or she, and not someone else, has decided to do it. A Lion leader cannot assert his leadership by simply giving a directive or a command; he must use his understanding of the Lions he leads and

know what motivates each one to be a Lion. Considerable research into volunteerism throughout the world has discovered that some reasons which people give for volunteering include (1) a desire to help others or to give back to their community a "part of themselves" for benefits the community has given them; (2) a desire to use some special knowledge or skill they possess or even to learn new skills in order to participate in enjoyable and rewarding activities; and (3) a need for purpose, meaning and significance in their life.

In addition to understanding what motivates volunteers, a successful leader needs to be (1) A good Communicator, (2) An effective Team builder and (3) An organized Problem solver.

The Communicator is someone who is able to convey a positive message to an assembled group in the shortest amount of time possible and in such a fashion that the message is loud and clear. He/she must come across to the group as a calm, collected individual who is in command of any situation and who gives the impression of being relaxed, confident and pleasant. A good communicator practices what will be said and then, when facing the group, uses the old Army procedure - *which still works* – (1) Tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em. (2) Tell 'em. and (3) Then, tell 'em what you told 'em. Communicators are made, not born. No one starts out as a silver tongued devil. It takes practice, and it takes a lot of it. We can train our potential leaders to be good communicators. It takes a lot of practice and sincere encouragement by their immediate associates.

We've talked about the communicator, but we haven't really considered that it takes more than just a good communicator to have good communications going on. We also must have good listeners and there is a real art to being an active listener. To have effective communications, both the speaker and the listener must perform some basic duties. Most of us are probably aware that the speaker must (1) Be sure that the message is heard (speak up, shift body position, pace yourself, enunciate), (2) Speak in clear and specific language and (3) Communicate by speaking in the "language of benefits" (the listener must be able to see what's in it for him). Probably the majority of us, have never really given much thought as to how important it is to be a good listener. In sum, the listener must: (1) Do more than hear the message, they are required to listen! (2) They must understand the content of the communication, and, (3) They must react to the message in a responsible manner.

So far, we have talked about what motivates volunteers and one of the three basic skills a leader must have. The next skill which a successful leader needs, Team Building, is something that many of us do every day of our lives. If we are the designated leader of a group, we have several choices in deciding how we are going to establish goals, assign work efforts and check on progress. We can be the "Dictator" who decides what is to be done, tells everyone what to do and then harasses them until it's done. This will work, but we generally lose a lot of workers along the way. Or we can be the "Pathetic Passive" who just lets things happen any way they happen. No plans, no discussion, no checks, no questions, no clues to reality.

Or we can be the effective Team Builder who meets with the group early on, gives a few general objectives for the group to reach and then lets the group decide what really has to be done, who best should do it, who should be in charge, who should check on results and who should evaluate what was accomplished. In the short run it sometimes takes more effort to be a Team Builder, but, in the long run the Team builder gets more done, people have more fun doing it and the organization flourishes. (Leadership Essentials continues on next page)

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS (continued)

Finally, as leaders we must be organized Problem Solvers. In our everyday lives we are confronted with problems almost every day. A very simple guide to problem solving which is used by many leaders in all kinds of occupations includes seven basic steps. They are: (1) Define the problem, (2) Get the facts, (3) Organize the facts, (4) Determine the possible solutions, (5) Know the consequences of each possible solution, (6) Put your solution into action, and (7) Evaluate your solution.

We should not just consider that our club officers need leadership training and stop there. We should be bringing in new members whom we think have leadership potential and then train all of them properly. Not just to get prospective club officers, but to get new members who can take charge of any situation in our clubs and get the jobs done.

Everybody needs to be a leader, but we must learn that some are stronger than others. We usually push the strong ones to be club officers sooner than the others, but we should train all of our members to be leaders and to Understand What Motivates Volunteers, to be good Communicators, effective Team Builders and organized Problem Solvers.

The Capstone of Success for a leader is to learn how to think outside the box. Rid you vocabulary of words and phrases such as: "we've never done that before, can't do it, we tried it once and it failed, won't work, afraid to mess up the status quo and there are no good solutions."

BUILD, GROW AND MAINTAIN A THRIVING MEMBERSHIP

by Lion John Bailey

Our very own John Bailey has written a booklet entitled "Build Membership MOJO: 98 Proven Steps to Build, Grow and Maintain a Thriving Membership Organization."

Within the booklet, he develops tips under the headings of: Building Your Membership, One-to-One Recruiting, Social Media, Make Meetings Interesting, Serving Food (a subject near and dear to our hearts), Public Relations, Newsletters, Websites, Memorable and Effective Meetings, Build Future Leaders, and Simplify. On the last page, John even offers suggestions as to how each of us might use his booklet to build, grow and maintain our own membership organization.

John has assembled the tips assembled in this booklet from accumulated wisdom of over a dozen years of hands-on volunteer organizational leadership along with development and delivery of training programs for leaders.

We can all apply some of the suggestions within this booklet to introduce our club to prospective members. Two immediate tips are: have a new member information packet available at all times to give to a contact. The *Lions Magazine* is a possible handout. Additionally, our newsletter, *The Lions Roar*, is a great handout for introducing new people to the FHLC activities and mission.

Be sure to ask him about his new booklet.

In other news, John has become an international speaker. He was asked by the U.S. State Department to travel to Eastern Europe to teach former Communists how to organize effective public and nonprofit Boards of Directors.

His first assignment, which will take place in mid September, will be in Kosovo. During his week's visit, John will be teaching two two-day long programs as well as doing media interviews. John will be speaking on a favorite topic of helping organizations to better define their purpose in order that they might effectively reach their goals and attract the members and resources they need.

**Build Membership MOJO:
98 Proven Steps to Build,
Grow, and Maintain a Thriving
Membership Organization**



TREE PLANTING GOAL GROWS

By Lion Linda Brining

'I Believe'. This is International President Tam's motto. He believes if we work together, we can do great things. So he set a far-reaching goal of planting 1 million trees. Internationally we met the challenge and exceeded his goal, the current total is 8 million and counting! President Tam wanted us to know first-hand, how important we are individually in making great things happen. He wanted us to think big, and be part of something great. He knew once we became a part we also would believe. At the end of his year as President the motto has grown into 'We Believe' as we together with all the other clubs have planted a tree, and together we made a difference. He knew how much every effort counts and that we would understand the reach Lions has around the world when we became part of the arm. It started with one idea and a lot of faith and is helping the world produce the oxygen we all breathe and much, much more. We have come to be a better friend, trust in each other and stand in faith, because we first believed.

Each District Governor set a goal, our DG Dennis Kelly set the goal for 24-A at 600 trees, approximately 1 for every Lion in the District. Each Club then set its goal. Fairfax Host set a goal of 60 trees. We planted 30 trees for the Fairview Woods HOA at the edge of the woods. In years to come if you see the bright magenta blossoms of Red Buds peaking from the woods by the pond on Burke Center Parkway, they just may be our trees. Drive a little slower, breathe a little deeper and say a prayer of gratitude that we were able to plant these blessed trees. We also jointly sponsored with Springfield-Franconia Host the planting of 1500 trees in Viet Nam. Quite an undertaking, but they asked and we delivered! Fairfax Host sponsored an eye care mission so we found that sponsoring the planting of the trees was a manageable task. And a very special sidebar... two benches were also donated in honor of Lions. Thank you D1 and D2 (Council Chair Dennis Brining and District Governor Dennis Kelly).



CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN BAILEY

On November 4, 2011, Governor Bob McDonnell announced that Lion John Bailey was appointed to the Virginia Rehabilitation Council for the Blind. The Council, composed of a diverse membership who have different perspectives on the issues regarding rehabilitation of the state's blind population, meets four times a year in Richmond. The goal of the Council is to collect input from various sections of the public. Council members include former clients, representatives from other rehabilitation groups and members who represent the deaf blind communities. John represents the Virginia business community.

The Council reports to Virginia's Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired whose goal is to get people back to work. They focus on a set of core skills using alternative techniques where sight won't work anymore. More particularly, the Department teaches Braille, cane travel, life skills which includes cooking and house cleaning, and computer skills using talking computers. It is to be noted that the unemployment rate for work able legally blind people is over 75 percent. It costs the state over a million dollars (over 30 years) to care for a blind person. Needless to say, returning the blind and vision impaired to the workforce saves a considerable amount of money. The Council will also be working on raising the visibility of the Department so that more visually impaired people can learn about it and use its services.

During his three-year appointment, John will be meeting with the Commissioner of the DBVI to discuss ways in which the Department and its affiliated Virginia Habilitation Center can improve services. The Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired was established in 1970 to provide comprehensive adjustment services to severely visually impaired Virginians. The Center teaches blind persons strategies and skills to adapt to living without sight, and also teaches people with partial vision ways to use their remaining sight more effectively.

The Center, which is over 30 years old, is located on a very nice campus on the outskirts of Richmond. The campus consists of class rooms, a training kitchen, a gym, a cafeteria, and dorms for those receiving intense training. Those who cannot attend the Center receive some training a few hours each month in their homes or offices. At the meeting in June, the Council members received a tour of the recently refurbished Center facilities.

YOUTH CAMP PROJECT



As a result of the Gainesville-New Baltimore Lions Club surrendering their Charter after 27 years and thereby ceasing their involvement at the Northern Virginia Lions Youth Camp, the FHLC has taken up the responsibility of maintaining one of the cabins within the compound. The cabin which will be maintained by the FHLC is the smallest of the six cabins at the Youth Camp and sleeps twelve. The Gainesville-New Baltimore Lions have donated a reasonable amount of money to the Youth Camp for the exclusive purpose of maintaining this cabin. Only one stipulation is attached to the donation – that the cabin maintain the designation “Harold D. Smith, II Memorial Cabin” as part of its new name.

The Northern Virginia Lions Youth Camp, Inc., is a non-profit, public service organization supported by the Lions Clubs of District 24-A. Its purpose is to provide camping

facilities to any youth group accompanied by adult leaders and supervisors. The Camp Site is located on a mountain west of the Town of Paris and the Appalachian Trail and just east of the Shenandoah River in Clarke County, Virginia. Facilities include a 2000-square-foot Pavilion with fireplace and picnic tables, six cabins, a modern wheel chair oriented bathhouse with toilets, hot and cold water showers, wash facilities for both male and female, an amphitheater with a 216-square-foot-stage, a meeting facility, a large playing field and a caretaker's house.

Over the years youth groups have used the camp, Lions Clubs have had picnics and overnight stays and shared lots of good fellowship. Many Boy Scout Eagle projects, such as an amphitheater, orienteering trail, horseshoe pits, a maintenance building, bunk beds, and picnic tables, have enhanced the camp. A nominal fee of \$5 per camper per day is charged for use of the camp.



A work day was conducted on Saturday, April 21. The hardworking crew was composed of Lions Phil Mayo, Jeff Root, Mike Rumberg (assisted by sons,



Nicholas and Louis), Marcia Selva, Marilyn Tanner and Bill Trent. Although we were led to believe that little work needed to be done on the cabin, reality told a different story. Lion Marilyn Tanner sent a lengthy email to all FHLC members detailing the work performed and observations about work to be done in the future. Lion Phil Mayo is heading up the Cabin Committee to evaluate the work and expenditure necessary to bring the cabin up to ADA official standards and to schedule future work trips to improve the cleanliness and structure of the cabin. When the call comes forth for the labor of our club members, Lion Marilyn encourages each member to “do yourself a favor and raise

your hand (as well as your rake, hammer, scrub brush, etc.!!) to make the FHLC cabin one of the best cabins at the Youth Camp!”



There will be an Open House event held at the camp on Sunday, September 23. Lion Harry Parker will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. So be sure to mark the date on your calendar. See you there.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FAIRFAX LIONS CLUB

By Your Neighbor

June 8, 2012

Dear Fairfax Lions Club:

Just how does a civic-minded person of good moral character get to be a member of the Fairfax Lions Club? You don't seem to advertise about your activities and what you really do in the community. And, my neighborhood Lion never seems to talk about the local Lions Club activities, nor does he ever ask me to come to one of the meetings with him. Perhaps he thinks I'm too busy to participate because I have to go to work each day or that I can't afford to be a member because I have a child in college. Well, that's just not the case. And who is he anyway to pre-judge me without giving me a chance to show what I can really do? Since you are supposed to be the largest service organization in the world and since you don't seem to make many overt efforts to bring in new members, you must have some self-duplicating process that keeps your numbers growing without any effort. It really amazes me!

Now don't think that just because I would like to have an opportunity to "give a little back to my community" that I would be a complete pushover if you asked me to visit your club, made me feel welcome and then asked me to join! I would probably deal with you just like I do the telephone solicitors at dinnertime. I'd come up with a hundred excuses for why I couldn't join. But don't let that deter you from being persistent. Just wait a few weeks and ask me again. After a while, I might run out of excuses and say yes. At least, you could try hard to convince me that you really do have something to share that might be of interest to me. It certainly wouldn't hurt matters if your public relations folks (you do have them, don't you?) would publish an article in the local paper sometime telling about your activities. That might help "soften me up" before you come over and ask me to participate.

It seems to me that if you asked fifty people to join your club, you might get thirty good, new members. On the other hand, if you try to think of all the reasons I might not join and let it go at that, you might never get any new members.

Why don't you try a new approach for a while. Do some real public relations work in the community and then **ask me to visit your club. You might discover that I'm really an O.K. person who would be a good Lions Club member! What have you got to lose? Go ahead. Ask me!**

Sincerely,

*Your Neighbor, Friend, Co-Worker
or Perhaps Just a Stranger*

MEMBERSHIP NOTE

Lion Club membership within the Commonwealth of Virginia dropped from 12,848 in October 1978 to 8,548 in October 2009. Two years later that number decreased to 8,002. At a recent dinner meeting, CC Dennis Brining indicated that Virginia is losing 100 Lion members PER MONTH. As has been noted before, with this progression, it is just a matter of time before "the last one out can turn out the lights."

Now is a good time to invoke PCC Bill Bartlett's I-Plan for membership: Identify, Interest, Invite, Induct and Involve.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . . JOE BRED A**by Sandy Mayo**

Did you know that Joe Breda was a fantastic dancer? Or that he was a soldier at the age of nine? Or that he has been a citizen of three countries? All true, but let us return to the beginning of his story. He was born in Venice, Italy and was caught up in World War II, like every other male. Joe, however, was only nine years old when he worked against Mussolini's army by carrying messages and ammunition to and from the partisans. With others his age, he would walk through the farms with his messages while the older enemy soldiers ignored mere children playing. At this tender age, he learned to shoot a rifle and to salute. During the war, he believes he saved a dozen Americans who were shot down by the Germans. He left his beautiful homeland after high school at the age of 19. Like all teens, he was looking for adventure and certainly found it. He spent a year in England, but then moved to Canada where an Italian family sponsored



Notice the painting of Venice in the background.

him. He received his BS degree from the Northern Institute of Technology at the University of Toronto. Along the way he joined the Canadian Army Reserve as an electrical communication officer.

It was in Toronto that Joe and Terry met in 1961 at a Saturday night dance. Terry was a senior in high school at the time. Joe paid his way through college as a dance instructor with the Arthur Murray Dance Studio. His favorite dance was the cha cha, of course! (We expect a demonstration at the next Charter Night) Terry was told about this good looking dancer and went to check out the scenery. As she says "I wasn't that great a dancer." To which, Joe responds "No, you weren't." However, Terry held her own in ice skating commenting that Joe was the "worse ice skater that ever was." He was always on the ice – just not on his feet! Eventually they were engaged and three months later were married on April 20, 1963. Their

wedding reception was at a "very nice" Chinese restaurant. Joe's father, Italian that he was, brought all of the home-made wine.

By now Joe was working with General Electric in Canada. Radar communication was the big thing in those days. After they had been married for two years, Joe got the idea to go to California – head west, young man. So off they went in their brand new '65 Chevy Impala – yellow with black interior (with no air conditioning!) with a trailer, which could sleep 6, but only had room for the two of them, plus all of their material belongings. They made it to the Canada/Buffalo NY border at 10:00 p.m. – just in time as their visa expired at midnight. It took them two months to arrive in California – that's how long it takes when you are traveling fifty miles a day! Joe had no job and no prospect of one waiting for him. Upon arrival at Van Nuys, they parked in a mobile home park surrounded by an orange orchard. No job, but they did have money from the sale of their house in Canada and went night clubbing every night in Hollywood.

Their stay in California lasted three months. Without being a citizen of the US, it was hard to find a job in the engineering field. (Joe later became a citizen on September 19, 1970) So off to the East coast – as Terry said, the worse they could do was end up in New Jersey! Upon their arrival in Virginia Joe received a job offer from an Illinois firm located in Virginia. Eventually they arrived in Alexandria and bought a house in Rose Hill in Alexandria with a monthly mortgage of \$128. While they lived in this home, they started their family of two girls and one son – all of whom are 18 months apart! Deanna (born in 1967) is married to Steve. They have twin sons: Erik and Brandon, aged 7. Deborah (born in 1969) works for Boeing Aircraft in the HR Department at Chantilly, but travels to the headquarters in Seattle every two months. Both Deanna and Deborah live in South Riding. Dan (born in 1970) is single and a real estate agent for Long & Foster.

Along the way, Joe receive a Bachelors of Individualized Studies from George Mason and an MBA from National Louis University, which is associated with American University. In 1982, Joe joined United Research Services, a California company. In his career with URS, he has traveled to Italy, England, Israel and Greece. He says he is against war, but has spent his career making weapons. Joe has set his retirement date – March 29, 2013. After that he's going to become a "mountain man" in Marshall, Virginia. So mark your calendar for a terrific party next March.

YOU JUST NEVER KNOW

By Marilyn Tanner

Telling others about the work of the Lions sometimes produces unexpected results!

Several years ago, I retired from Fairfax County Government. I had worked in the Department of Purchasing and Supply Management (DPSM), as did my sponsor, Lion PJ Story. We sold Florida citrus fruit and Virginia peanuts to our co-workers, invited them to deposit their surplus eyeglasses in the collection box in the Government Center Library, and told them about the work Lions do to help others (especially the sight impaired) in their communities.

Years later, someone remembered! In November 2011, I received an email from my former DPSM boss, D'Arcy Roper. Elizabeth A. Janson, D'Arcy's mother-in-law had passed away. Prior to her death, she had purchased an Aladdin Apex 17 Magnification System at a cost of nearly \$3000, which allowed her to continue to read despite her failing eyesight. The Aladdin Apex System needed a new home. D'Arcy immediately thought about the Lions, and contacted me.



Left to right: Lion Dr. Suleiman Alibhai director of the Low Vision Learning Center, equipment donor D'Arcy Roper, Michele Hartlove executive director of Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington

A few emails later, Fairfax Lion, Dr. Suleiman Alibhai, confirmed that the Low Vision Learning Center in Alexandria would gladly accept the machine. On December 13, 2011, D'Arcy and I delivered it to Lion Alibhai at the Low Vision Center. For a short while, it served in a "demo" capacity for clients who visited the clinic. It wasn't long before an elderly woman, suffering from macular degeneration, was given the machine to help her read the daily newspaper and pay her bills.

The lesson to be learned here is to keep talking to others about the work of the Lions. Talk to your co-workers, friends, relatives, neighbors, and anyone else you know or meet. You just never know what might come of it, and whose life might be improved because you took the time and made the effort.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE — THANK YOU FHLC

As you may recall, Lion Mike Shutz spoke at a recent dinner meeting about the organization for which he works, Fallen Officers Remembered. The organization, which is a 501(c)(3) charity, was started in 2004 as the result of the death of Police Officer Rodney Poceschi, who was shot and killed during a traffic stop on June 23, 2003. Through Mike's presentation, we learned that there are approximately 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the country. On an average, one law enforcement officer is killed every 53 hours. More than 56,000 officers are assaulted each year, 16,000 of whom are injured in the line of duty. In spite of these statistics, an estimated 250,000 officers do not have bullet proof vests provided to them by their agencies.

Fallen Officers Remembered formed a partnership with a body armor manufacturer in order to provide high-quality life saving vests at a cost of only \$600. At that meeting, the FHLC members contributed funds to purchase a bullet proof vest for one of our counties' enforcement officers. Printed below is the thank you note we received from the Detective who received the vest.

"Thank you so much for the bulletproof vest that you purchased for me. It is so nice to have a vest that fits properly and provides protection that I can rely on. My family is also most appreciative of your donation. Being able to wear this vest gives them a little extra peace of mind as I leave for work. Once again, thank you for your generosity."

Should you wish to learn more of this organization or make an additional contribution for yet another vest to protect an officer, go to www.fallenofficersremembered.org

"Bringing Law Enforcement Officers Home Safe Everyday"

CELEBRATE COMMUNICATION

Lions Carl Enix, Marilyn Tanner and Bill Trent participated in the “Celebrate Communication” event on Saturday, May 12, on the campus of George Mason University. This annual event is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, a local Fairfax County organization. In addition to serving the deaf and hard of hearing persons and their families, the Center also includes educators, sign language teachers, sign language students, hearing aid users, people with cochlear implants and people with tinnitus within their service group. Other sponsors for this premier event are the Helen A. Keller Institute for Human Disabilities, GMU and Lions International. The exhibitors present the most current information, resources, service and technologies available for improving communications for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Carl, along with several Lion volunteers (from other clubs) and one sign language interpreter, manned the Lions Sight and Hearing Van. They screened 30 people for sight and/or hearing, checked 9 people for glaucoma and checked 6 for blood pressure.



Inside the Performing Arts building, Marilyn set up the membership booth display highlighting some of our fundraising and charitable activities. Don Ballard and son Ray stopped by with a heavy-duty Vehicle Donation Program sign and loads of VDP fliers for distribution.

Approximately 200 event guests stopped by the FHLC

membership table. Interest in the Lions membership display differed widely. Some were drawn to the Vehicle Display board and picked up a flier. Some had no idea what the Lions organization does, or that it's the largest service organization in the world. Many had heard of the Lions, and knew that the Lions were conducting sight and hearing screenings in the van parked outside. One woman said that the Lions had seen to it that her sister, who could not afford the care, had received a cataract operation years ago. One of the hearing aid vendors remembered our table from last year and presented us with a shopping bag full of used hearing aids and eyeglasses.



THIS 'N THAT



CC Dennis Brining and Lion Linda Brining survived the heat of May 28 at the National Memorial Day parade on the National Mall. Fifty-five Lions from District 24-A participated, a fourth of whom were young people. The parade gave the Lions Clubs a lot of publicity. We appreciate your carrying the FHLC banner, Dennis.

In addition to PCC Bill Bartlett's class on leadership, CC Dennis Brining taught a class at the Virginia Lions State Convention in May on LCIF Grants and Partnering. The class reviewed the various types of grants available through LCIF and the importance of partnering in securing matching funds and expanding our base of operations and technologies to reach a larger number of people in need around the State and world. Specific examples of partnering including ADA, Prevent Blindness Mid-Atlantic, National Federation of the Blind, and State of Virginia Department of Blind and Visually Impaired were highlighted. The class was well attended and there was an expressed interest by some to do the class again to organizations outside of the Lions in the future to give folks an idea of our global reach.



The FHLC was represented at the 2012 Annual State Convention held in Chesapeake by Delegates Dennis Brining, Bill Bartlett, Pete Conklin, Mike Rumberg, Charlie Raper and Gary Maxwell. District Governor Dennis Kelly presented Lion Linda Brining with the LCI International Presidents Award for Distinguished Service for her chairing the District tree planting project. CC Dennis Brining received the District Governor's Distinguished Service Award for the overseas missions to Viet Nam and Burma earlier this year. Lion Jeff Root received a thank you gift for serving as the 24-A Peace Poster Chairman. Additionally, the District Governor gave the Virginia Script pin to KL Charlie Raper for embracing the Melvin Jones Club.

The FHLC proudly received the 2010-2011 Club Excellence Award, which was accepted by IPP Gary Maxwell.

