



# THE LIONS ROAR

FAIRFAX HOST LIONS CLUB

www.FairfaxLions.org

Volume 63, Issue 2

## PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

by KL Mike Rumberg

June 2013

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Dear Fairfax Lions,

"Blink and you will miss it." That's how fast it seems this year went by. It has been a richly rewarding experience learning not just vastly more about Lions than I ever considered and how much more there is to learn but also more about myself.

We can justly be very proud of an undeniably successful 62<sup>nd</sup> year of serving our local and global community. Every program is important, from Bingo to Bland, from Little League to VLEI, from Eyeglasses and Exams to Eyeglass Recycling and Peace Poster to Road-Kill Saturday. But let us remember some notable achievements: even in the face of the unusual challenges facing our major fundraiser we still achieved all of the service activity we budgeted this year, and more, especially with Food Baskets, Youth Camp and the unplanned VisionWalk. A disproportionately high number of our members chaired or served on District and State level committees and programs helping our fellow Lions better serve their communities all over the Commonwealth. Fairfax Lions spent hundreds of hours designing and leading the first of its kind Core 4 Grant Diabetes Screening Pilot Project that directly helped hundreds of Northern Virginia residents and will help untold thousands more across the district, state, country, and world by being the model for future projects. And who can forget that our members volunteered thousands of hours to literally fly halfway around the planet to Myanmar opening one of the most repressive and secretive regimes in the world to Lionism by helping hundreds and hundreds of vision impaired people. Truly, Fairfax Host Lions define the meaning of "We Serve."



My goal this past year was to improve the club internally so that it can better help you achieve your goals as a Lion. Although I didn't get to check off everything I had on my list (i.e., reorganizing the storage shed) I believe we were also very successful on that score by: setting the Admin side of the club up to be financially strong; establishing the first ever Budget Guidance document setting clear expectations for Admin activity Chairs; focusing on developing new sources of Charity revenue; continuing to improve our accounting and budgeting procedures; updating policies and procedures; conducting an incoming officers orientation; and, finally, using 20<sup>th</sup> century technology to create an online repository of club information available to any member at any time so that everyone can know what needs to be done, when, and how.

Thank you very much for the honor of electing me to be your President this past year. It is hard to believe I have been a Fairfax Lion for 15 years. I can't wait to see what the next 15 years bring!

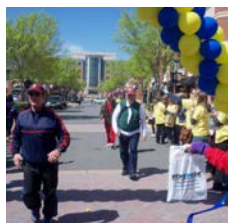
Yours in Lionism,  
Michael Rumberg



LOOKING BACK AT OUR PROUD PAST  
LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR BRIGHT FUTURE



IT'S GREAT  
TO BE  
A LION



## FOOD FOR OTHERS DELIVERY —Through Partnership by Lion Marilyn Tanner



Lion Bill Trent, the Manager of Wegmans, and Lion Marilyn Tanner ready to roll out food for others.

How could the Fairfax Lions stretch their \$370 to produce a more sizeable food donation, to feed area families in need? The club turned to collective partnerships for the answer. All members were asked to bring non-perishable food items to both of the May dinner meetings. This effort yielded 135 pounds of donated food. A donation proposal was submitted to Wegmans via the store's online "Community Giving" program. Wegmans responded by donating a \$50 gift card to the Fairfax Lions food basket cause.



Volunteer Chuck Higdon and Lion Bill Trent standing at the loading dock.



With the assistance of a "Helping Hand" from Wegmans, Lions Bill and Marilyn are ready to deliver a truck of food to the headquarters of Food for Others.

Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". And, Melvin Jones, a Chicago insurance salesman, executed that concept so very well when he worked to combine his service club with several others, to form a larger organization that evolved into Lions Clubs International. The Fairfax Host Lions Club applied that same thinking to its third food basket delivery for the 2012-2013 Lions year.

Traditional Fairfax Lions' food basket deliveries are made by club members to local families in need, at a cost of approximately \$40 per basket (a whole meal, containing meat/poultry, fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, and dessert ingredients — enough food to feed a large family). Funds used to support the club's charitable work, like the food baskets, come from fund-raising activities (citrus sales and food booth sales) throughout the year. But, with only \$370 remaining in this year's food basket budget, prospects for a robust third delivery were not looking good.

On June 3, the Fairfax Lions Club successfully made its third food basket delivery. Wegmans' gift card was used to purchase 25 boxes of cereal. The club used the \$370 budgeted funds to purchase additional food items (tuna, canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, rice and baked beans). All of these items were added to the 135 pounds of member-donated food. Lions Bill Trent and Marilyn Tanner, with help from volunteer Chuck Higdon, delivered 647 pounds of food to the Food for Others food bank. Food for Others serves those in need of food in the northern Virginia area. The Fairfax Lions proved, once again, that together (through collective partnering) we can do so much!

# ROADKILL SATURDAY — Mission Accomplished! !

by Lion Marilyn Tanner



This year's Roadkill Saturday operation officially began on April 6, 2013. Since all good service members operate better on a full stomach, we first fueled up at First Watch in Fairfax City at 08:00.

After breakfast, the team rendezvoused at the ball field parking lot near the intersection of Pickett Road and Old Pickett Road. Weather conditions were optimal — sunny and cool with very little wind. Lions Carl Enix, Tom Edick, Jeff Root, Ken Schutz, Marsha Selva, Marilyn Tanner, Gordon Tillery and Bill Trent made up the advance team. King Lion Michael Rumberg and future Lion recruits, Nicholas and Louis Rumberg, brought up the rear.

Dressed in anti-camouflage, reflective orange vests and armed with gloves, orange bags and grabbers, the teams split up and went on the hunt for enemy #1 — TRASH (otherwise known as "roadkill"). Our target area included both sides of Pickett Road from the ball fields to the Post Office. The median strip down the center of the road had been policed, prior to the start of the mission.

Like any good Fairfax Lions' campaign, the Roadkill Saturday effort included a membership display. Civilians passing through the parking lot knew that Lions were on the move in the area, and they learned about the important work of Lions clubs in Fairfax and throughout the world.

At the end of the 2.5 hour mission, all litter had been vanquished along the club's Adopt-a-Spot section of Pickett Road. Heavy-duty equipment (Bill Trent's pick-up truck) was brought in to collect 15 large bags of trash. Lions Bill and Carl are to be commended for completing the mission by depositing the bags at the Fairfax City Public Works Recycle Center.



Lions Ken Schutz, Gordon Tillery, Jeff Root, Bill Trent, Carl Enix, Marcia Selva and Marilyn Tanner suited up

Well done, Roadkill Warriors!!



Lion Bill Trent bagging trash. Lions Gordon Tillery and Tom Edick doing a good job. KL Mike Rumberg with his future Lions Club members, Nicholas and Louis. What would we do without our "lions in training."

## EYEGLOSS RECYCLING

by Lion Sandy Mayo



A visit to the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia is inspiring and almost overwhelming. In the facility (located at 601 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, in the basement of the Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital) you will find a room filled with boxes of eyeglasses to be recycled as well as a room of boxed eyeglasses waiting to be shipped to foreign countries. Yet another room is filled with volunteers processing the eyeglasses in their recycled journey.

Our very own PCC Bill Bartlett was instrumental in establishing the Northern Virginia Center. As he has worn glasses most of his life, he had always wanted to volunteer at the eyeglass recycle center in Roanoke. However, the 16 hour round-trip plus a few hours of work was just too laborious. Hence, he decided to open a branch center in NoVA when he became DG in July 1997. He was able to see his dream come to fruition in June 1998 when he cut the ribbon (almost his last official duty as DG). Since that date, the center has shipped over 1 million pair of re-cycled glasses.

The Center is a division of Virginia Lions Eyeglass Recycling, Inc. of Lions Multiple District 24. Volunteers who do the work and conduct the business of the Center come from Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs as well as other community service and charitable groups and individuals wanting to participate in this worthwhile venture.



The journey of a pair of eyeglasses begins with the donation of glasses at various locations in the area which have a collection box. Our very own Ben Wiles travels throughout the area collecting such donations which otherwise would have been thrown out or sitting unused in a drawer. In the first three quarters of the 2012-2013 Lions fiscal year, 138,690 glasses have been collected by Lions.

Once the donations arrive at the Center the first step is to sort the eyeglasses. Those which are broken in any fashion or have scratched lenses are set aside. They are later sold for six cents a pair to a firm in California. Glasses with gold frames are placed in a special box. The gold is then sold which provides necessary funds to operate the Center. Sunglasses are also placed in a separate box. Glasses are then hand washed, sterilized and hand dried. The newly cleaned glasses are checked once again for any marks upon the lenses. Cleaning the eyeglasses is the most time consuming task of the recycling process. Further along in the journey, the prescription of each pair of glasses is then determined using a lensometer. Lions Bill Bartlett, Jim Davis, Jim Dellinger, Phil Mayo and Ben Wiles spend time two Wednesday mornings each month sorting and determining the eyeglass prescription using these lensometers. Both lenses are read and recorded on the outside of a plastic shipping bag. There are 6 lensometers at the Center and volunteers are trained to use these instruments. The prescription designation is recorded on the shipping plastic bag, the glasses are placed in the bag which is sealed for placement in boxes. Single lens glasses are sorted for adults and children, as well as reading glasses (referred to as readers).

The final step in the process is to pack the glasses according to the lens prescription. Fifty pairs of glasses are packed in a small box. Eight small boxes are then packed in a larger box. At this point, 400 pairs of glasses are ready to be shipped to foreign countries. The only glasses distributed within the United States go to the Bristol, Virginia Health Fair. These packed boxes are stored at the Center until they are requested for an eyeglass dispensing mission. You might say that is where the fun begins. Millions lack access to basic eye care and financial resources to obtain corrective vision. Using the gift of these glasses, adults and children in foreign countries are able to work and to study. Between July 2012 and March 2013, 63,750 glasses and 17,500 readers were shipped to those in need. The total cost to complete these glasses for shipment was \$2,931.84 or 37 cents per one pair of glasses.

Volunteers are always needed for this important work. Join Lions Bill Bartlett, Jim Davis, Jim Dellinger, Phil Mayo and Ben Wiles on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday morning of each month as they drive to the eyeglass recycling center. An added perk is a stop at Bubba's for lunch at 11:30. Or contact Lion Roy W. Davis, Chief Operating Officer, for further information at 703-671-1919.



*Changing Lives, One Pair at a Time*

## CHARTER NIGHT AWARDS and PHOTOS



The above members received Chevrons for years of service. Lions Marilyn Tanner (10), Don Ballard (10), KL Mike Rumberg (15) Bill Trent (16), Dave MacPherson (30), Gary Maxwell (12) and Terry Smith (34).



King Lion Mike's acceptance "speech" (or some variation thereof) cracks up Lion Bill Smith, as well as the rest of us. The best Charter Night in recent memory. Lots of laughs, good food and fun music.



## FHLC MEMBERS INCLUDED IN NEW DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S CABINET

Several of our FHLC members are included in District Governor Mike Ryan's Cabinet.. More particularly, the position and member are:

**Advisory:** PCC Bill Smith & PCC Bill Bartlett

**District Protocol Officer:** PCC Bill Smith

**Lions Leadership Institute Coordinator:** PCC Bill Bartlett

**Lions Leadership Institute Faculty:** PCC Dennis Brining

**Lions Alert:** Greg DeRosa

**Canine Companions:** Karen DeRosa

**LCIF, Ethics, Long Range Planning & Global Outreach:** Dennis Brining

**Peace Poster:** Jeff Root

**Speakers Bureau:** John Bailey

**Special Needs:** Gary Maxwell

**Sight Conservation:** Dr. Suleiman Alibhai

**Trading Pins:** Terry Smith

**Zone Chair (Z1, R3):** Mike Rumberg

**President, VLEI:** Elden Wright

**State Global Leadership Team:** PCC Bill Bartlett

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . . PETE CONKLIN

by Lion Sandy Mayo

*"Dad, you have been president of something since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade!"* comments Sandy of her father, Pete Conklin. True to form, he has most recently become President of the FHLC. Pete is involved with so many organizations that he has a collection of name tags hanging on the stair banister ready for him to grab as he sprints out of the front door.

Pete grew up in Garden City, New York and attended Mount Herman Preparatory School. From there he attended Brown University, graduating in 1967 with a degree in history. An ominous year to be graduating with Viet Nam heating up. Pete joined the Air Force and flew in missions for a year in VN.

During his years in the Air Force, he received a graduate degree from the University of California, Davis, again majoring in German history. Following his tour in Viet Nam, he was assigned to Military Air Lift Command for three years at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, CA where he became a Standardization/Evaluation flight instructor.



It was while he was stationed as a flight training instructor at Mather Air Force Base in CA for three years that he met his future wife, Pat. Following his tour at Mather, he became a Squadron Commander at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, overseeing the training of nearly 1,155 airmen. At one point, he commanded the largest squadron in the USAF. Despite the long hours and late night calls, it turned out to be one of Pete's favorite assignments. He was there from 1977 to 1980 when he was sent to the Air War College in Montgomery, AL where he served first as a student majoring in general military education and leadership and later, as a faculty instructor. He taught Staff Communications and Research. During this time, he completed the course work for his Ph.D. at Auburn, again in German military history. Pete went on to serve at the Pentagon for five years at the Air Staff and Joint Staff and returned to operations at Andrews Air Force Base. Along the way in his Air Force career, he had learned financial planning and began to think of starting his own business. After serving in the Air Force for 23 years, his retirement ceremony was held on the morning of February 1, 1991 and that afternoon he had his first client appointment. He then attended the College for National Endowment and the College for Financial Planning, graduating in 1992.

The name of Pete's business is Personal Affairs Management, LLC. He "helps people with tasks in everyday living." (I wonder if he does windows?) His clients range in ages between 24 and 103. The younger ones, who travel a great deal in their work, need assistance in budgeting and guidance counseling (gosh, where was Pete when I was that age!). The middle-age range of clients need executive support services such as paying bills and compiling tax returns. And finally, the older clients (ahem, those over 60) need daily money management and transportation services. His brochure promises "no more late fees, no more piles of paper, no more feeling overwhelmed." (Sign me up!) Pete also teaches time management, systems management and financial management at the Osher Life Long Learning Institute at George Mason University during the month of February each year. These are classes for those students over the age of 55.

No biographical sketch is remotely complete without the mention of the family. On December 17, 1977 he and Pat were married at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, CA. Pat graduated from Sacramento State in 1972 with a degree in Physical Education. Through the years she obtained an administrative degree from the University of Virginia in 1992 and a counseling and human development degree from Troy State in 1983. In her career, she has taught music and PE; indeed her drill team became state champions four times. She was also a guidance counselor and later an assistant principal at Mantua. She is now the Principal at Saratoga Elementary School.

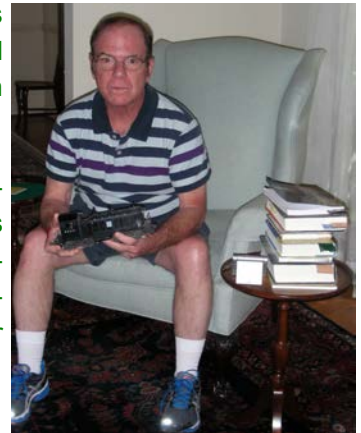
On the wall in the dining room are two wedding portraits: one of Pete's mother and the other of his daughter, Sandy. The veil Sandy is wearing is four generations old. Sandy was married at Woodlawn Plantation on October 17, 2009. It was the coldest day in 138 years! In addition to the family veil, she also wore a diamond brooch belonging to her grandmother. After graduating from George Washington University in 2002 with a degree in German literature and language, she spent a year in Germany at the University of Munich. It was there that she met an American citizen also studying in Germany named Chris Campbell. (Continued on page 7)

The family calls him “Campbell” as Sandy dated four previous fellows named Chris and her brother is named Chris. She is now a project manager for a contracting firm. She and her husband live in Alexandria and are expecting a baby girl in early August.

Son Chris is an engineering graduate of Kettering University located in Flint, Michigan. Just three months after graduation, Chris was hired by the Chrysler Jeep firm. At the time, Chris was driving an Acura which, needless to say, he parked in the back lot. Then came the day when he drove to work in a restored 1943 Willys Marine jeep. His fellow employees were in awe. Chris did the restoration himself and is a regular at antique car shows, particularly those featuring old World War II jeeps. Chris and Jessica are the proud parents of Griffin Charles Conklin, born on December 3, 2012. It is worth noting that there has been a “Charles” in the Conklin family since 1832! Griffin even has a dimple in his chin which has been passed down through the generations.

Pete’s hobbies are model trains (Lionel 0-27 gauge). The engine he holds in his hand is dated 1954 and is one of the few Santa Fe switch engines with a bell. He loves to read (mostly about U boat submarine warfare) and has a stack of 6 books by his chair which he is reading – all at once. He also enjoys bike riding, as well as sailing and canoeing.

If you have ever read the tag line of Pete’s emails, you know that he is involved in a plethora of organizations – even the Titanic International Society. Pete created and leads his homeowners association and recently concluded his presidency of the American Association of Daily Money Managers. He is actively involved in many other volunteer organizations including Capital Hospice where he has been an acute and home care volunteer for 22 years.



We now welcome Pete as King Lion and look forward to a year of *grrreat* leadership.

## LION JOHN BAILEY APPOINTED TO NEW POSITION IN DG’S CABINET



Lion John Bailey has been asked by upcoming District Governor Mike Ryan to serve as Chair of the 24-A District Speakers Bureau. The position was created two years ago by PCC Dennis Brining. However, this is the first time they were able to fill the position.

The objectives of the District Speakers Bureau are to promote Lion’s Club membership to external audiences, promote District 24A Lions programs and charities to the community at large and solicit program support and financial contributions from non-Lions.

As Chair, Lion John will work with the District Governor to: (1) identify prominent Lions who have public speaking skills and are willing to make formal presentations to select external audiences, (2) develop and update presentation materials for use by members, (3) maintain a library of PowerPoint presentations, (4) provide training to Speakers Bureau members and (5) develop an annual mailing list of targeted audiences.

While we hesitate to use the term “targeted,” such audiences include prominent homeowners associations (Reston, Sterling, Burke, and others), high school PTA’s, professional organizations of physicians, ophthalmologists, dentists and other care givers, church organizations, large regional employers (such as Cox, Verizon, Dominion, government contractors, and hospitals), and other professional organizations located regionally.

In this new position, John will be called upon to develop brochures and letters, produce quarterly or semiannual mailings to a portion of the mailing list, and coordinate a schedule of requested presentations and available speakers.

## LIONS CORE 4 DIABETES PROJECT

by PCC Dennis Brining



PCC Dennis Brining and his team completed their 10th screening in Lovettsville, VA on May 4, 2013 at an annual community health fair and flea market event called Lovettsville Cares. A total of 24 volunteers (11 of which were Lions) ran the event's activities. While many local community members attended the event, they screened only 20 people. Of the 20, two had a diabetes diagnosis and completed the diabetic retinopathy screening. The images have been sent to our retinal readers for evaluation. Also, Lovettsville Lion and ADA Ambassador Diane Chang promoted her five upcoming ADA diabetes/wellness workshops. The event was a great way for her to promote her classes and to educate the community about nutrition, diabetes, and exercise. In addition, two

Lions applications were handed out to interested individuals. No matter how hard the team or the hosts work to attract participants, the ultimate turnout is often beyond our control. The weather was beautiful, the location was central, and there was a population of some 3,000 folks living in the surrounding close-knit community. In addition, we partnered with an annual event that should have attracted more participants. Unfortunately, there seemed to be a cultural resistance to our services. When people learned about the screening services we were providing, we often got the response "I don't want to know" or "I already know I'm unhealthy."

The team also completed the 11th and final screening in Alexandria VA, at the United Community Ministries Creekside Community Center's Community Day on May 18, 2013. Of the 34 volunteers who participated in the event, eight were Lions representing four Lions Clubs. We screened a total of 39 participants. Of the total number of participants, two had a diabetes diagnosis and were screened for diabetic retinopathy. In addition to the screening services we provided, we gave 2 Lions applications to interested individuals. Despite the community's familiarity with the event and the fact that it was heavily advertised, about 100 people attended. We attribute the low attendance to the weather. It rained heavily for most of the day and the majority of the event activities were outside.

A final report, which will be submitted to LCIF on or before June 22, will include: a procedural manual for all stations and all forms that we have created in Spanish and in English, an Ambassador training outline and supporting materials, a listing of volunteers involved in the project, a listing of partners/collaborators and the likelihood of each contributing to future efforts, an example of one of our site flyers in both English and Spanish, County health center contacts, the health referral information we use, and all local services information that we distributed in Fairfax and Prince William County, and a project brochure.

The main issues facing a continuation of the program after June continue to be sustainability and finding Lion leaders to continue this effort as personnel changes continue to evolve. Discussions continue with a number of Lions who have been working on our program to see if any would like to step up to a leadership role next year. Considerable time is required to make this program work. Additionally, we continue looking for future sources of funding to support further LCIF Core 4 funding. More work is needed on this to determine the extent of future LCIF funding for a multiyear effort.

At the present time, we have not identified funds to continue the use of a project consultant when LCIF funding runs out. As a result, we are meeting with potential partners with whom we may be able to work with next term so that we do not lose what we have established in communities across Northern Virginia. The Kaiser diabetes program was evaluated to determine where we may be able to collaborate. Our request for a meeting to collaborate with the Lions Clubs has been endorsed by Dr. Cappiello, Physician in Chief, Northern Virginia Service Area. We look forward to a possible speaking engagement at the Northern VA Access to Health Care Coalition, a group composed of all the free clinics in Northern VA. Discussions have taken place with Dr. Pedro Rivera, a member of the Board of Directors of the Prevention of Blindness Society (POB) in Washington, D.C. about a potential partnership to take the program forward in the DC and Northern VA area. POB has an interest in establishing a similar program to our current effort and does not want to recreate the wheel if they can partner to help achieve their goals.

Now that we have finished our last screening, our camera will be loaned out to one of our partners, Dr. AT Pham, for use in her practice. She has agreed to take the equipment in exchange for doing pro bono work for the Lions when patients are referred to her for diabetic retinopathy.



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