



THE LIONS ROAR

FAIRFAX HOST LIONS CLUB

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IT'S GREAT TO BE A LION

MISSION TO MYANMAR

by PCC Dennis Brining

After almost a year of planning and preparation, a team funded by Lions Clubs International Foundation jointly staffed with Lions made up of optometrists from Virginia and PDG Dennis Kelly along with ophthalmologists from the Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology landed in Yangon, Myanmar on January 19 to conduct a multi-component medical mission that would last until February 2. The mission focused on the disadvantaged and underserved communities in several locations throughout the country and served as a major LCIF country development effort for further Lions activities in the future.

This was an extremely complex effort and had far reaching implications across a very large geographical area within the country. Patients came from as far away as 1,000 miles to see the "American" doctors who are perceived to be the best and last bastion of hope when all else fails. Reportedly, our mission was also the largest and most diverse of its kind to be hosted at both hospital locations. Our patients ranged in age from 11 months to 97 years old.



The team conducted over 610 eye examinations, and vision screenings, 118 cataract surgeries and dispensed over 250 eye glasses, and 500 pairs of sun glasses. It is to be noted that the Lions Eye Glass Recycling Center of 24-A supplied 1,000 pair of recycled eye glasses to support the effort. Additionally, we introduced the concept of low vision rehabilitation into the local medical communities as well as the concept of preventative diabetes health care. Most of what is currently done with diabetes is reactive medicine and is not directed towards education on how to mitigate the disease in the community. We purchased and/or brought enough equip-

ment and supplies to cover every contingency to insure mission success. Not only did we achieve all the program objectives with this approach, but we ended up with excess materials we left behind to support future mission teams that come to both these locations for some time to come.

Combined we had a great impact on a large number of people from a wide geographical area within the country that will last for a very long time. Along the way, a number of senior individuals instrumental in the success of our mission were made honorary Lions, and our logo was left on a number of facilities along with plaques commemorating the effort.

Team members in the mission included FHLC Lions Suleiman Alibhai (lead optometrist), Dennis Brining (project chairperson, team leader and diabetes trainer), Linda Brining (vision screener, data base development and support as needed), and Marcia Selva (travel and logistics). Lion PDG Dennis Kelly also served as the lead vision screener and auto refractor. And "Lion to be" Meera Alibhai was a vision screener, and gave support wherever and whenever needed.



JOIN THE VISION WALK ON APRIL 21

by Lion Sandy Mayo



David Luehrs, of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, spoke recently at a FHLC dinner meeting about her personal diagnosis of retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a genetic disease which is characterized by night blindness and a progressive loss of peripheral vision. However, recently the gene which carries this disease has been identified and with that discovery, work can now begin in earnest to find a cure.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness was established in 1971 for the purpose of overcoming vision-robbing retinal degenerative diseases. The organization's goal is to fund the research which would lead to preventions, treatments and cures for the entire spectrum of blinding retinal diseases, including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa and Usher syndrome. Together these diseases affect more than 10 million Americans and millions more throughout the world.. Current research includes gene therapy, stem cell therapy, nutrition, neural protective factors and artificial retina implants. Gene therapy has restored vision in patients who were virtually blind from a childhood form of RP. In a recent treatment gene therapy taking place in Philadelphia, 40 young adults had their vision restored. Valproic acid, a drug that is FDA-approved to treat epilepsy, has shown promise for preserving vision in patients with certain forms of RP. The Foundation has launched clinical trials to test this drug and, if effective, make it quick availability to those who need it. Stem cells obtained from a variety of sources, including a person's own skin, can be used to create healthy retinal cells that can potentially restore vision.

Over the past four decades, the Foundation has raised more than \$450 million for research and public health education programs. Fifty volunteer-led chapters exist across the U.S. for the purpose of raising funds, increasing public awareness and providing support to those affected by retinal degenerative diseases. With a network of nearly 50 chapters, the Foundation also provides support, information and resources to affected individuals and their families in communities across the country. The members of Chapter 6, of which David is president, hold coffee and pizza socials for the purposes of networking and support. Additionally, two presentations are made during the year as a part of the Chapter Speaker Series. Speakers include retinal specialists, low vision specialists, mobility instructors, vision rehabilitation teachers and researcher.

The Foundation's national signature events are Dining in the Dark and the Vision Walk. Dining in the Dark is a distinctive sensory awareness experience in which guests participate in an unforgettable dining adventure, in complete darkness. To get first-hand insight into the challenges of the blind community, diners will wear special light-blocking masks and eat their entrée using only their heightened senses of smell, sound, taste and touch. "Reactions to Dining in the Dark are truly powerful" said David "because people often don't realize the daily obstacles of living with low to no vision."

The 8th Annual Northern Virginia Vision Walk for this area will take place on Sunday, April 21, at Fairfax Corner. Participants will gather near the movie theater complex for a 5K walk (3.1 miles). The theme of this year's event is "our million dollar year." Vision Walk has raised \$850,000 within the last seven years and David is anxious to make 2013 the MILLION DOLLAR YEAR. . David personally walked an extra 175 miles to raise awareness last year—one mile for every degree of vision she's lost to RP. Her Luehrs Racing VisionWalk team will be out walking again this year. Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 21. Registration begins at 9:00 and the walk will start at 10:00. The location is at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax. The event will be family friendly with face painting and refreshments. Contact Lion Pete Conklin or Lion Gordon Tillery for details and to register as a member of the Lions Team.

As David mentioned, the Foundation Fighting Blindness and the Lions Clubs can work together in fighting blindness. The Lions Sight and Hearing Van will be at the Vision Walk for vision screening. The Lions Club will also have a table present for distributing information about our club.

For more information, go to www.FightBlindness.org.



STEP OUT TO STOP DIABETES

by Lion Gordon Tillery



Fairfax Lions Club should be very proud - in October we donated \$3,623.00 to the American Diabetes Association (ADA). ADA is a worthy recipient of our precious charity dollars.....it leads the national fight against diabetes. ADA funds research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes; it delivers services to hundreds of communities; and it provides credible information about the disease. We are happy to know ADA focuses on research: **last year, ADA invested \$33.6 million in over 400 research projects.** There are promising results, such as development of once-weekly, long-lasting insulin. For each dollar donated to ADA, 73% goes to such research and diabetes programs. The rest, 27%, pays for overhead which includes essential fundraising and administration. I am happy to tell you, ADA promotes an easy-to-use process to report any illegal, unethical, or fraudulent activity.

The breakdown of our Club's donation:

1. FHLC budgeted donation \$2000 (from fruit sales and other Club fund raising)
2. Individual Lion donations \$805 (what you gave privately as part of our Club total)
3. Family member donations \$76 (your family members)
4. Friends donations \$256 (our friends)
5. Raffle & Auction \$486 (your support at 2 dinner meetings)

I am especially pleased by your individual donations, and also your support for the auctions and raffles we held at meetings. Every dollar helps, and we thank you very much for your commitment. We concluded this year's diabetes fund drive by joining the "STEP OUT TO Stop Diabetes" walk which ADA holds each year. It was a 3.1 mile walk on trails around National Harbor. We are proud to have been a top fund raiser for the STEP OUT activity (#1 in club/organization category), and with your continued support we hope to remain so in years ahead. Diabetes is a terrible disease, the rate of obesity in our nation is contributing rampant growth of diabetes, and our donations to ADA will help stop it.



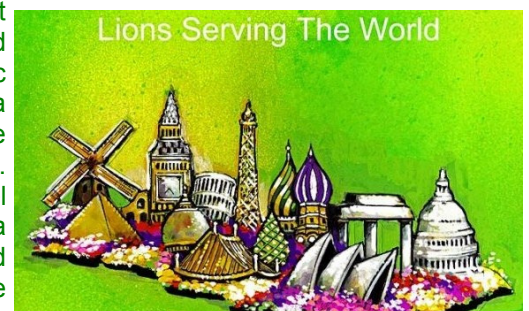
DID YOU SEE THE ROSE BOWL PARADE ?

by Lion Sandy Mayo

The Lions Club International theme, selected by International President Wayne A. Madden, of "A World of Service" was artistically designed and beautifully presented. The rooftops of several of the world's most iconic structures represented "Lions Serving the World." The Australian Opera House, the U.S. Capitol dome and ruins of the Parthenon in Greece were positioned at the front of the float. Other significant rooftop images of St. Basil's Cathedral in Russia, the Imperial Palace in Beijing, China, the Eiffel Tower of Paris, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, and the Taj Mahal of India adorned the middle of the float. And finally, the rear of the float featured Big Ben representing London, a pyramid from Egypt, a windmill from the Netherlands and finally a mission from Baja, Mexico.

The theme of the float, which was 35 feet in length, 18 feet in width and 16.6 feet in height, was "Lions Serving the World." It was covered with approximately 7,000 roses (white, light and dark lavender, yellow, red, and light pink) and 3,000 lavender, yellow gerberas. For those uninitiated flower connoisseurs, the gerbera flower is a relative of the sunflower family. They are very popular and widely used as a decorative garden plant or as cut flowers due to their size and variety of colors. Gerberas are commercially important, being the fifth most used cut flower in the world (after rose, carnation, chrysanthemum, and tulip).

This was the 27th Rose Bowl Parade in which the Lions Club had participated. International President Wayne Madden, of Auburn, Indiana, his wife, Linda, and grandsons, Mike and Maxwell Babcock were seated on the float. Four other riders were prominent members representing various Lions clubs in California and the United States. (We looked for our very own Lion Dennis, but alas he was not seated amongst the roses.)



PRESENTATION OF VLEI GRANTS

by Lion Elden Wright

At the Winter Conference held on February 23, Lion Elden Wright presented on behalf of the Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation and all of the clubs of District 24A the Joe Lipomi Memorial Scholastic Grant awards to eight recipients. The VLEI operates with the co-sponsorship of the INOVA Health System. The Lions eye clinic located in the Fairfax Hospital operates 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, 52 weeks of the year. The primary mission of the VLEI is to provide sight handicapped individuals with financial aid to help in their training or education. The secondary mission of the foundation is to support District 24A's low vision facility in Old Town Alexandria. It is hoped that another facility will be opened later this year. And finally, the third mission is to provide scholastic grants to adults and students. Since 1996, 175 grants have been awarded. \$247,000 has been invested in the blind student population within District 24-A to help them become self-supporting and have an independent life.



Eleven grants of \$1500 each were awarded this year. Three recipients have already received their grant money. The remaining eight were awarded their grants at the conference:

District Governor Emily Carnes presents a check to Ameerah Amin, sponsored by FHLC

Michelle Duquette, sponsored by the Sterling Lions Club. She has been a member of Special Olympics for most of her life and competed in many different sports until she became legally blind. She now only competes in swimming. She is also active in community sponsored activities for disabled individuals to include being a team captain for the Foundation for Fighting Blindness Vision Walk for the past seven years.

Quieria Alvares, sponsored by the Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club, is enrolled in advanced placement classes at Robinson Secondary School and a member of the National Honor Society. She credits her success in high school to her iPad, a video magnifier and computer with low vision aids. Quieria intends to use her grant money to purchase an iPad3 to maximize her productivity.

Ameerah Amin, sponsored by the FHLC, attends Robinson Secondary School and is 13 years old. She has lived with her family in Pakistan, Taiwan, Australia and Canada. She says, "If I had to pick a dream job I would choose something that has to do with traveling. I love to study new places and meet people from different countries and cultures."

Christian Dudley, sponsored by the Warrenton Lions Club, is 15 years old and in the 10th grade at Fresta Valley Christian School. He is a member of the National Forensics League and has placed first in the three competitions held thus far this year. Although he will be visiting colleges in Virginia this year, he has his sights set on Liberty University where he wants to study Criminal Justice and Law.

Jada Dudley, also sponsored by the Warrenton Lions Club, is active outside her school, taking piano lessons and gymnastics twice a week. She had all A's when she entered 5th grade but reports that 5th grade is harder and she has to study much more. She commented "The Lions clubs are very important to me and I thank them for always helping me, and my brother have better lives."

Leo Cantos, Steven Cantos and Nick Cantos, triplets sponsored by the Arlington Host Lions Club, used their grant funds of last year to travel and speak to 1,055 people sharing their unique story, and testifying to the assistance they have received from the Lions Clubs. These amazing 8th graders have even been featured in *The Smithsonian Magazine*. The brothers are in the process of being adopted by Ollie Cantos, himself blind since birth. Ollie overcame the difficulties of growing up blind and became self supporting and independent, two characteristics which he is passing along to his sons. After receiving his law degree, Ollie was appointed Special Counsel to the Assistant U.S. Attorney General for civil rights and a member of the Attorney General's committee on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities. He then became Associate Director for Domestic Policy at the White House, and earned a presidential appointment at the age of 37. He continues in the current administration as a trial attorney on the U.S. Attorney General's staff. The boys have learned to network and mingle in crowds and carry on conversations with strangers. In their travels, they have learned to maneuver through the intricacies of air travel, even meeting a pilot and sitting in the cockpit. When they were younger they were singled out for their blindness and bullied in school. Now they are among the most popular kids in their classes. They have developed a good work ethic, are making good grades and are optimistic about their future. The message left by the brothers to the audience is: "You have touched our lives more than you can imagine."

LIONS ALERT PROGRAM FOR DISTRICT 24-A

by Lion Greg DeRosa

We have all seen and experienced various types of disasters in the recent years. These disasters can be tornadoes that demolish entire towns or a fire that destroys a neighbor's home. Whether the disasters are large or small, these horrible events have a great impact on families and communities. As Lions, we always ask ourselves, how can we help those in need ?

We now have the opportunity as Lions of District 24A to get involved.

The Lions ALERT program is a LCIF program that provides direction and help to Lions clubs in order to provide support to victims of disasters. At the October 2011 Fall Conference, the below recommendation was made to the Cabinet and the General Assembly:

Based on the needs to prepare and assist the community in the event of an emergency, request board approval to initiate implementation of the Lions ALERT Program for District 24-A.

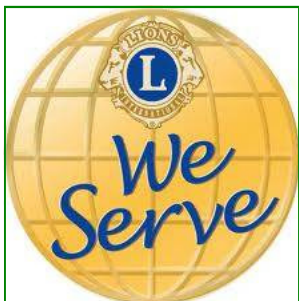
The General Session approved District 24A to initiate a Lions ALERT program. With a revitalized effort under the leadership of DG Lion Emily Carnes, we are now on the path to move forward with Lions ALERT.

At the winter conference recently held on February 23, Lion Greg had the opportunity to present the key areas of the Lions ALERT Program: (1) the mission, (2) the objective, (3) the three emergency levels, (4) how to develop a Lions ALERT plan, (5) the team response and (6) partnership with the community.

The mission of the Lions Alert program is to "provide Lions with a standardized structure and network to deliver needed services to people in emergency situations." The objective of the Lions ALERT Program is to develop a plan of action in case of a Level One (affecting a few people), Level Two (affecting a community) or Level Three emergency (affecting hundreds or thousands of people in a region).

Lions provide various levels of involvement when a disaster occurs. A single Lions Club may provide assistance and supplies such as food, shelter, clothing, water for a single family or neighborhood affected by a Level One emergency, such as a fire or localized flood. When a Level Two emergency, such as a tornado, hurricane, or flooding occurs, Lions will partner with local government and relief agencies to provide assistance. In the event of a catastrophic event such as an earthquake or tsunami, considered a Level Three emergency, Lions would work alongside major international government and relief organizations.

Our initial goal is to build awareness among the clubs about the Lions ALERT Program and begin to build a network of Clubs willing to actively commit to being involved in the Program. Every community has a well-established organization that provides emergency preparedness, prevention training, response, and relief. These organizations seek volunteers to train and organize. Our goal is to build the connection to these organizations. Each Club has Lions willing to be called upon to provide various types of support assistance. No contribution is too small when helping out a family or community in need, and as Lions, we now have another opportunity to expand our service.



Please take the initiative to learn more about the Lions ALERT Program on the LCIF website and start to think how you and your Club can continue to expand your Lions spirit.

**Lions remain dedicated to serving their communities,
especially in times of crisis.**



GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . . JIM DAVIS

by Lion Sandy Mayo

FOLLOW THE MONEY . . . and it will eventually lead you to JIM DAVIS, our very competent club Treasurer. Although Jim spent 30 years in the US Navy, he grew up as an Army brat. Born in Richmond, he graduated in 1959 from Fairfax High School. Off he went to the University of Virginia on a NROTC scholarship where he majored in chemical engineering, graduating in 1964. While at UVA he met his future wife, Sarah Ellis on a blind date set up by one of his fraternity brothers. On September 24, 1966 they were married. Sarah herself is from Richmond and attended Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg from 1961 to 1965.

After graduating from college, it took him an additional two years of Navy schooling before he saw his first ship. First he was in a nuclear power school, followed by 6 months at a nuclear prototype facility, followed by yet another 6 months in submarine school where he learned to dive and surface in a submarine. Jim has had an illustrious career with the Navy. He has been around the world twice – once in a submarine going through the Panama Canal and the second time as a participant in arms control negotiation, which took him to London, Paris, Kiev, Moscow, Beijing, and Hawaii. His first assignment was as a division officer on a missile submarine, the *USS John C. Calhoun*. His next sea assignment was a 3 year tour as the Chief Engineer on the *USS Haddo* (that's a fish, not a person). His next assignment took him to Newport News where he was the navigator on a new ship *USS Mendel Rivers* named after the former senator from SC. He served as the Executive Officer of the *USS Batfish* (a batfish is similar to a stingray) and for three years he had command of the *USS Memphis*. This would be a good place to explain how ships are named. Cruisers are named for cities, destroyers for war time heroes and battleships for states. Submarines were originally named for fish. But fish don't vote and some submarines now are as tall as a four story building and have the same displacement as a cruiser so naming is a little confusing. Sarah has even been on board a submarine (under the water) when she and several other wives traveled from Puerto Rico to Roosevelt Roads to St Croix. She thought it was really neat, the water was so clear and there were flying fish trying to get out of the way.



During the four year assignment in Hawaii Jim performed three different jobs. The first was in Submarine Squadron One advising and consulting new commanding officers. Having been promoted to Captain he was next assigned as Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board where he managed the annual, rigorous, examination of all nuclear submarines, cruisers, and aircraft carriers which they must undergo to maintain their nuclear certification.

Back in Norfolk, the next step up the ladder is major command, in Jim's case as Commander of Submarine Squadron Eight. Overseeing operation and new construction of submarines, two tenders and shore facilities was an interesting and rewarding assignment. But nothing is as challenging as actual operations of a ship at sea. The commanding officer of a ship is absolutely responsible for everything and everyone on the ship. As Jim says, "Going to sea is a risky business." His career spanned the time of the Cold War and one can imagine scenes from *The Hunt for Red October*. Indeed, US submarines followed Soviet submarines. However, Jim is quick to explain that the clever individual "Jonesy" does not exist. Submarine personnel work as a team.

In 1990, Jim and Sarah moved to Northern Virginia where, as a member of the Joint Staff, he was head of the Nuclear Arms Control Division and initially assisted in the completion of the Start I treaty. Serving under George Bush (41) and Bill Clinton, Jim worked on the Start II treaty, which Bush wanted completed before he left office. The final assignment for Jim before he retired was as a member of the Navy Presentation Team. In this capacity, he talked to every Congressman who was on the Armed Services committee, and made speeches around the country to all private organizations, including the Lions Club, in an effort to keep the Navy issues in the public eye. In June 1994, Jim retired from the Navy, and joined the Nuclear Energy Institute, located in D.C. As the Director of Operations, he helped the industry speak with one voice on issues before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. After spending 12 years in private industry, he retired in 2006. One year later he joined the FHLC.

He and Sarah have two daughters. Cynthia, who lives in New Zealand with her husband, Mark, received her PhD in Computer Science from the University of Maryland. They have 4 children (2 girls and 2 boys) aged 4 to 13. Kimberly received her PHD in chemistry from Cal Tech. She and her husband, Jeff, live in Harrisonburg and have three children, all girls.

When he retired Jim wanted something for outreach (the Lions Club) and something for personal satisfaction (his model trains). Jim's model train hobby actually started when his family was stationed Germany in '47-51. His trains are the tiny ones, the scale being 1 to 160. "Lionel is not to scale," he says, "it is a toy." The third Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 4:00 will find Jim at the Fairfax Station train museum running (dare I say playing with) his trains.

FHLA BLAND MUSIC CONTEST

by Lion Jeff Root

The Bland Music Contest hosted by the FHLC was held on Sunday, February 10, at the Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax. Thirteen instrumentalists and six vocalists competed. The first place for an instrumental performance was award to Miyabi Saito, who is in the 11th grade at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The second place award went to June Ji-Yoon Kim, who is a 10th grade student at Westfield High School. Both played the piano. The first place award for a vocal performance was given to Larissa Converti, soprano, who is in the 11th grade at The Potomac School. Another soprano, Isabella McNiff, won the second place award. She is home schooled and is in the 11th grade.



The first place winners in each category received cash awards of \$200, and the second place winners in each category received cash awards of \$100. Miyabi and Larissa will advance to the Region III Bland Contest on Sunday, March 10, at Old Town Hall in Fairfax. The winners of the Region III Contest will advance to the District 24-A Contest on Sunday, April 21, at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria. The winners of the 24-A District Contest will advance to the State Finals on Friday, May 31, in Bristol, Virginia.

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PEACE POSTER CONTEST

by Lion Jeff Root



The Fairfax Host Lions' Club recognized two local middle students for their winning Peace Posters at the January 15 dinner meeting. Asher Alam, a 7th grader at Rocky Run Middle School, and Ashmitha Narayanan, an 8th grader at Stone Middle School, each received \$50 checks and certificates for winning the Peace Poster contests at their respective schools.

Their posters were among more than 375,000 entries submitted worldwide in the 25th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs sponsor the contest to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people. Winning posters were selected on the basis of originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the contest theme, "Imagine Peace." FHLC Peace Poster chairperson Jeff Root said he was impressed by the expression and creativity of the students. "It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about



what peace means to them. I'm proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions."



SALUTE THE HERITAGE . . . REWARD THE EFFORT

by Lion Sandy Mayo

On February 5, Lions Joe Breda, Phil Mayo and Rodney Neely received their first Membership Key Award. A Lion can earn their first membership key by inviting at least two new members and may earn up to seventeen keys. Each key is designed to reflect the number of new members a Lion has sponsored. Membership Key Awards acknowledge the importance of effective recruitment in membership growth by recognizing the number of new members a Lion has sponsored. In order to be eligible for an award, the new sponsored member must remain a Lion for a year and a day before the name may be used as credit toward a key.



Other keys, which increase in elaboration of design, include the membership Advancement Key (5 members), Builder Key (10), Senior Builder Key (15) Master Key (20) Senior Master Key (25), Grand Master Key (50), Key of State (75), Key of Nations (100), Ambassador Key (150), International Key (200), Global Key (250), Universal Key (300), Embassy Key (350), Monarch Key (400), Imperial Key (450) and Supreme Key (500).

We all have a great deal of work to achieve ANY of these keys.

MEMBERSHIP IS LIKE DATING

by Lion John Bailey

I have a confession to make. In my down times and when the family is off doing something else, I like watching reality shows. I know, watching reality shows is like drinking the cheap beer of television. Reality shows are what is left over after all the good ideas are gone. Nevertheless, there are a few programs I try to make time to watch. For example, I really like watching "Millionaire Matchmaker". This is a program where emotionally dysfunctional rich guys and gals speed date in front of the camera with people who act as if all that money had no effect on their choice to date these people.

I also watch it because it is a great example of the courting process. The millionaire and their prospective mates negotiate whether or not their union will be a win-win for them. What makes it really interesting is that most of the negotiating goes on non-verbally. It is how one person interacts with the other that conveys their personal values and priorities. The goal is that all this non-speaking will result in a situation where the needs and resources of one will complement the needs and resources of the other. The hopeful outcome of this communications exercise is that they live happily ever after.

Unfortunately, many membership organizations treat membership development as a one-night-stand. They see their job as reaching out to the prospective member, rapidly downloading information about the organization, then waiting for the person to come back to them to sign up and drop off their membership dues. This is a very ineffective approach to growing an organization.

Rather, membership development is much more like courting. Over time and many interactions, the representative of the organization and the prospective member communicate with each other. Also like dating, each participant decodes the values and objectives of the other in an effort to determine if a membership union will work for everyone. This is how long-term relationships are formed.

The lesson to take away from this is that membership development is a dating ritual between an individual and an organization. Each has their own values and desired outcomes from the partnership. It is only when these values and outcomes are complementary that they can join. Take time to recruit. Speed dating prospective members does not communicate enough about your organization. And, without taking time to communicate, a successful relationship cannot form.

John Bailey Voted Vice Chair of Governor's State Board. In January of 2013, Lion John Bailey of the Fairfax Hosts Lions Club was voted Vice Chairman of the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council of the Blind. John was appointed to the SRC board in 2011 by Governor McDonnell to assist in helping report on the state's efforts to prepare Virginia's visually impaired for employment. After John's one year term as Vice Chair, he will assume the office as Chair in 2014.