



# THE LIONS ROAR

FAIRFAX HOST LIONS CLUB

Volume 64, Issue 2

## DISTRICT 24-A FALL CONFERENCE— OCTOBER 17 and 18

October 2014

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**IT'S GREAT  
TO BE  
A LION**



Immediate Past International President, Barry Palmer, was the featured speaker at the Saturday luncheon of the District 24-A Fall Conference. His wonderful accent immediately tells you that he is from Australia. He has been a member of the Hornsby Lions Club since 1976. In addition to serving as club president, zone chairperson, cabinet secretary, cabinet treasurer and district governor, he also served as the Host Committee Chairperson for the 2010 Lions Clubs International Convention in Sydney, Australia. Lion Palmer has received numerous awards including nine International President's Medals, and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the organization bestows upon its members.

He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, as his wife, Anne.

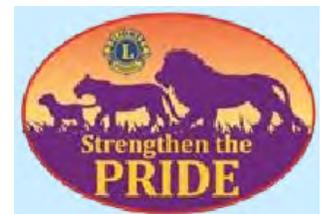
In keeping with President Joe Preston's message to *Strengthen the Pride*, Past President Palmer instructed those Lions present to not ask a question of a potential member to which he/she can answer "No." He went on to illustrate how often we say "no" in the market place. When a woman is in the market to buy shoes and is approached by a sales representative asking if she can be of help, the normal response is "No, I'm just looking." Similarly, a man serious shopping for a new car will have the same response when approached by a salesman.

Do not give a potential Lion member the alternative of a "No" response. In other words, do not ask the question "Would you like to join the Lions Club?" An alternative question might be "What would you like to leave your community as a legacy?" After a discussion of that topic, you could follow up with a comment such as "I would like to introduce you to some of my friends who think in the same way." Once you have the potential member at a club dinner/meeting, do not introduce him/her as a "potential member." This puts unnecessary and unwelcomed pressure on the individual. Instead introduce the person as "my guest." "Ask a person in the right way and you will have a new member" promises Palmer.



There is so much need in every community that we need more hands to do the work. "And there is always some work needed to be done in every community" advises Lion Palmer. Club leadership and members need passion, creativity and imagination to develop a vibrant club dedicated to serving the community. When you might think that you accomplish so little, remember the number of lives the Lions Clubs have saved (perhaps through inoculations against measles for example) and the number of lives we have changed (in providing eye glasses around the world as well as the money provided for research in retinal disease – to mention just one area of assistance).

So roar with conviction Lions. Roar with courage.  
Roar because we are making a difference in the world.  
Focus on community and humanitarian service, and  
**STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE**



## DINNER IN THE DARK

# FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

**The Foundation Fighting Blindness is making a difference today to make the world a brighter place for those suffering with retinal degenerative diseases.**

The Saturday evening “Dinner-in-the-Dark” was unique in that diners were presented with black eye masks to wear while they ate. Our very own Lion Jeff Root participated and did a great job. Fortunately, the masks were optional and fellow FHLC members – Pete Conklin, Phil and Sandy Mayo and Bill Bartlett – were not courageous enough to eat their meal in total darkness.

After dinner remarks were given by John Corneille, a staff member and volunteer for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. His opening words were so encouraging: blindness will be cured and that Lions will have a tremendous impact upon the cure. He gave details of how Lion fundraising efforts are healing retinal eye disease and helping the blind, including some of the Lions in our District. It seems that Virginia is doing more than any other state in treating blindness. The Foundation was established in 1971 with



the goal to “drive the research that would lead to prevention, treatments and vision restoration for retinal diseases, including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, and Usher syndrome.” These diseases affect more than 10 million Americans and millions more throughout the world. Over the past 43 years, the Foundation has raised nearly \$600 million in its effort to reverse blindness and restore vision.

John, who suffers from retinitis pigmentosa himself, spoke of gene therapy research. The Foundation is funding research and clinical trials of gene therapy that have restored vision in patients who were virtually blind from a childhood form of retinitis pigmentosa. Thanks to gene therapy, patients can now enjoy some of life’s simple joys, like reading and playing baseball. A short heart-warming film was shown of a little boy who was blind from birth, but is now playing softball.

Foundation-funded researchers are also using stem cells derived from a variety of sources, including a person’s own skin, to create healthy retinal cells which can potentially restore vision. Stem cell treatments hold great promise for people with advanced vision loss. John indicated that his own skin cells are currently in a petri dish in Illinois for research. After 18-24 months, the cells will be implanted back into the eye.

A one year research trial requires \$100,000. We cannot rely upon state or federal governments. Lions have the mission and the numbers to play a significant part. In John’s words, we have the ability to be “a game changer in eliminating blindness.”

To support their mission, the Foundation Fighting Blindness is hosting fundraising events across the state, including the Dining in the Dark dinner in June 2015 at the McLean Hilton and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Virginia VisionWalk will take place on May 3, 2015 at Cameron Run Regional Park, Alexandria, VA. Lion Davida Luehrs announced that VisionWalk has raised \$1.1 million thus far. For additional information, go to <http://FightBlindness.org>

## THE POWER OF SERVICE



The theme of the conference held in Reston was the *Power of Service*. In the words of District Governor Jim Ryan, “as Lions we are dedicated to service both locally and across the world.” From 9:00 to noon on Saturday, nine informative and challenging classes were offered:

*Feed the Hungry – A Local Approach.* Marilyn Stevens, Executive Director of Stafford Emergency Relief through Volunteer Efforts, spoke of volunteer efforts in distributing 95 tons of food to nearly 3,000 families in one recent year. To learn more, go to [www.serve-helps.org](http://www.serve-helps.org).

*Special Olympics Virginia.* Veronica Jennings, Potomac Region Director, discussed avenues for Lions Clubs to assist with the organization’s mission: “We are a social movement built on inclusion, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place – one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.” <http://specialolympicsca.org>.

*Stream Clean Up for Bull Run.* The president of the Reston Lions Club, Lion Don Leas is leading this project and gave a report on how we can improve the quality of our waters at the local level. Fellow Lions and non-Lion neighbors can band together to care for a section of Bull Run.

*Global Climate Change and the Lions: A Need for Action.* Dr. Susan Crate, Associate Professor of Anthropology at George Mason University, presented a slideshow on global climate change. The presentation covered the science of the problem and actions which must be taken for solution.

*Regenerative Medicine.* Optic nerve cells are being grown in the lab! The research of Dr. Michael Steketee, Assistant Professor, Dept of Ophthalmology of the University of Pittsburgh is on central nervous system regeneration, tissue engineering, and optic nerve regeneration.

*Restoration of Impaired Hearing and Congenital Hearing Loss.* Dr. Bradley Kesser, Dept. of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery of the University of Virginia has extensive expertise in cochlear implants, hearing loss, otology, and unilateral hearing loss. He spoke of the progress in recent years in the field, as well as what to expect in the future for those with hearing loss.

*The Future of Vision.* Lawton Snyder, Executive Director, Eye & Ear Foundation, University of Pittsburgh, introduced the audience to the mission of this foundation which is to focus on bringing in philanthropic support for the leading-edge academic and research efforts at the University. <http://eyeandear.org>

*Leos Make a Difference.* Lion and Leo Advisor facilitated a round table discussion with a group of Leos. As we all know, Leos are an integral part of developing future vibrant Lion clubs.

*Seven Steps to Effective Communication.* Lion Teresa Smith, President of Aquia Evening Lions Club, provided seven steps to tap into and release more productivity and cooperation from our committees, boards and members. <http://u2thepowerofu.com>

As International President Joe Preston writes “You join [Lions Clubs] for certain reasons. And you stay for certain reasons. But, there are so many side benefits to being a member. It’s the friendships, the relationships.” Lions are encouraged to attend the Winter Conference to be held in Fredericksburg in February and the State Convention to be held in Tyson’s on May 14-17. These gatherings of Lions are educational and FUN. Mark your calendar for February and May – right now!



## THE HISTORY OF THE FAIRFAX HOST BLOOD DRIVES by Lion Elden Wright

When my Son Bill was searching for a worthwhile Eagle Scout Project, one of the needs described for the Scouts to consider was coordinating a Red Cross Blood Drive. Bill explored the possibilities with the Red Cross Coordinator, wrote up the plan for executing the project and presented it to the Board for approval. The plan looked complete and feasible and was approved. The Red Cross gave a warning to Bill that several previous attempts by Scouts to conduct a drive had failed to achieve the quota given by the Red Cross and they would not give credit for a successful drive unless the established quota was achieved. Understanding this Bill decided to take on the challenge and received approval from our church to conduct the drive on the premises. The Red Cross provided material for the Scouts to provide to the members of the church about the process for donating blood. For three Sunday's prior to the drive date the Scouts of the Troop assembled in the church parking lot dressed in their Scout uniforms, clipboards in hand and recruited donors as they got out of their cars on their way into the church. The Red Cross had established a quota of 50 units for the drive. In those days there were very few restrictions associated with donations, not at all like today's environment. The drive collected 55 good units and the Red Cross declared the drive successful.

I joined the Lions several years after Bill's Scout project took place and was tasked to find a civic service project for the club to perform. The first thing I thought of was Bill's blood drive. So using the population of the church and the facility and recruiting fellow Lion members we sponsored our first Blood Drive in 1983. The drive was successful and the Red Cross asked us to do another drive 6 months later. It was also successful. Today we conduct 3 drives a year. We cannot recruit enough donors to have a successful drive in the summer months when school is out and everyone is on vacation. The drives have been a good partnership with Providence Presbyterian Church and we could not have successful drives without the support of their donors. Our sponsored drives have produced 3155 good units for the Fairfax area and have not cost FHLC one cent. According to the Red Cross, each one of those donations can save the lives of up to three people. We are, indeed, making a difference. I also boast that our blood drives are probably the longest standing Eagle Scout Project in history.

Our next drive is scheduled for November 25. Mark your calendars.

"I'm here to give blood." Lion Ken signs in. That's the easy part.



Our Lion by osmosis, Mary Ellen Wright, helps Lion Phil sign in.



Lion Elden is the first to volunteer. Brave man!



"Nothing to it" — says Lion Phil. Speak for yourself!



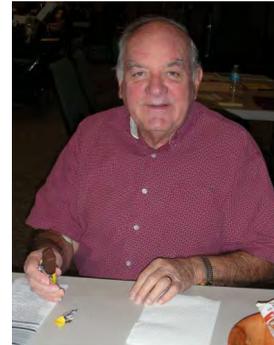
All Done! Now don't let it drain out.



OH MY GOSH! Too late now Lion Carl.



Whew! I made it. Now for my treat!



## FHLC WELCOMES DISTRICT GOVERNOR JIM RYAN



Our club gave a hearty welcome to District Governor Jim Ryan on Tuesday, October 7. He brought with him membership chevrons for Joe Breda (40 years), Bill Bartlett (35 years), Dennis Brinning (15 years), Steve Haywood (15 years), Walter Juraszek (10 years) and Mike Schutz (10 years).

In keeping with International President Joe Preston's theme of *Strengthen the Pride*, DG Ryan emphasized that it is service which will drive our membership rolls. He noted that clubs with less than 20 members have a fifty per cent chance of failing. To prevent that from happening in District 24-A, he needs our help in creating service projects and spreading the word to the public. For the next year he will focus upon the "Power of Service" in (1) relieving hunger, (2) participating in Special Olympics events, (3) providing a home cooked meal for our military members who cannot make it to their far away homes and to those who are on duty on Thanksgiving Day, (4) cleaning up Bull Run scheduled for April, and (5) placing wreaths on the graves at the Quantico National Cemetery on December 6.

Lions are needed to volunteer for each of these projects. DG Jim announced there will be a Special Olympics soccer tournament on Saturday, October 25. These courageous participants need others to cheer them on. Additionally, Lions are needed to not only help in the Bull Run environmental project in April but also to register members of the public, hand out t-shirts and tend the Lions membership table.

## LION PRIDE CAN BE FOUND IN REMOTE PLACES

You never know where you will find Lion Pride.

On Lion Phil Mayo's recent train trip across Canada, he passed a windmill sporting the blue and yellow Lion seal.

And in Butchart Gardens located in Vancouver, Canada one red rose bud was about to blossom. The name of the rose plant was *International Lion*.

If you see other examples of Lion Pride in your travels, take a photo and send it off to Lion Sandy Mayo.



# FHLC PICNIC— SEPT 21 — HEARTY THANKS TO LION GORDON AND ELSIE

