



June 2015

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IT'S GREAT



THE LIONS ROAR

FAIRFAX HOST LIONS CLUB

Volume 64, Issue 5

VOCALIST TESS CLARK WINS BLAND CONTEST

Phenomenal musical talent was exhibited at the convention on Friday night for The James Bland Music Scholarship program. Eleven contestants, ranging from the 7th grade to the 12th, competed for \$18,000 in scholarships. Five vocalists participated in the competition along with five pianists and one harpist.

Nearly 600 young musicians participated in the program across the state of Virginia this year. Competitions begin in February at the local Lions club level, and culminate in a state competition with finalists from the six Lions Districts in Virginia. The program is financed entirely through voluntary contributions from the Lions Clubs throughout Virginia. The scholarships must be used for college tuition, music lessons, summer music programs or other music education endeavors. Upon graduation from high school, many of the scholarship winners have been accepted into the top music schools, conservatories and colleges within the United States.

Tess Clark, proudly sponsored by FHLC, won the 1st place scholarship of \$2,500. In an interview immediately following the conclusion of the contest Friday evening, Tess related that her love of classical music developed when she accompanied her musical family in singing. Her dad sang in Germany in his younger days, her mother plays the French horn, her two brothers play the trumpet and her younger sister plays classical guitar. Tess started taking singing lessons at the age of 13. Although she practices an hour a day, her brothers prohibit her from singing in the car.

Tess is 15 years old and is in the 10th grade at Oakcrest School in McLean. She was born in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Her family moved to California for a while but returned to Virginia when she was 8. She is a mezzo soprano and sang a Mozart selection entitled *Voi che sapete*. "It's impossible to select one favorite" as she loves the music of Mozart, Bach, Verdi, Puccini and Stravinsky. "Every song" she notes "has its own background and culture." She loves the Italian and French languages, and is studying Spanish in school. Aside from the importance of music in her life, she also loves basketball and runs cross country in track and field. Tess is a very personable and charming young woman and we wish her well in all of her future endeavors.



92ND LIONS OF VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

The 92nd Lions of Virginia State Convention was held on May 14-17 at the Sheraton Hotel located in Tysons Corner. The event was hosted by the Baileys Crossroads Host club with Fairfax Host Lions in charge of registration. Lion Ken Schutz, who served as registration chair, was assisted by twelve members of our club. FHLC had 17 members in attendance.



The highlight of Friday evening was the Bland Contest. Eleven contestants entertained the audience with impressive musical talent. Fairfax Host sponsored Tess Clark, who received first place vocal awards at the club, region and district levels. We were thrilled when she placed 1st in the vocal category at the state level. Baileys Crossroads sponsored Katie Bode, who was the winner of the 1st place instrumentalist.

At noon on Saturday, a memorial service was held for those Lions of MD 24 who had passed away in the past year. During the ceremony, First VDG Karen Parker placed a white carnation in a vase for each fallen member within District 24-A, including our very own Terry Smith and Darrell Dalkin. Although it was a memorial service, it was also a celebration of their contributions made in Lionism and of their continuing spirit remaining with us.

The 43rd LOVF Foundation luncheon keynote address was given by Dr. George T. Hashisaki, who currently serves as the Medical Director on the Board of the Virginia Lions. Dr. Hashisaki gave an explanation as to how individuals suffer from hearing loss at various decibels. He went on to tell the audience of research being done in the areas of hair cell regeneration, hair cell protection, gene therapy, meningitis and hearing loss, and the cochlear implant program. Outreach contributions made by Virginia Lions included a hearing aid program, the RAM (Rural Area Medical) project in Southwest Virginia and the Medical mission involving ear surgery in the Dominican Republic. Leaving the audience with an optimistic future for those suffering from hearing loss, Dr. Hashisaki advised there is help available through hearing aids, assistive listening devices, cochlear implants which is an electrical device which replaces normal hearing pressure in the ear, and finally the very promising area of gene therapy. Indeed, he announced that a clinical trial has already begun at the University of Kansas.



The guest of honor, PID Robert E. Corlew, International 2nd Vice President, gave the convention address following the Saturday evening banquet. PID "Bob" comes from Milton, Tennessee and has been a member of the Murfreesboro Lions Club since 1978. He is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, as is his wife, Dianne. They have five children and four grandchildren. Both VP Corlew and his wife spoke of all the accomplishments of Lions clubs around the world, but stressed that only through the efforts of dedicated Lions at the local level will we achieve the goals of service in the future. Local clubs are representatives within the community and as such they must learn of those community needs.

In his opening remarks, he noted there were 1.4 million Lions around the world; there are 50,000 more Lions than just last July. "We grow because of our focus on service." It was interesting to note that Lions are the only service organization allowed in China, where there are 30,000 Lions members.

PID Corlew emphasized "it feels great to be a Lion because we serve." He then recounted areas in the world where Lions have responded to natural disasters. Following the recent earthquake in Nepal, Lions were the first organization on the ground to offer assistance. Within 24 hours the LCIF had put \$100,000 into the effort to help. When an earthquake hit New Zealand, the LCIF contributed another \$100,000 in aid within 72 hours. Even now, Lions are helping to restore the town of Christchurch which was decimated in February 2011. Relief was also given following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy and the tsunami in Japan. In addition to monetary support, Lions provided needed manpower in these disasters.

Just a few years ago, over 400 children died each day as a result of measles and rubella. LCIF is in the midst of a \$30 million dollar campaign to provide assistance to third world countries to eradicate these two diseases. As a result, 200 more children live today than a few years ago. Last November, PID Curlew met former President Jimmy Carter of the Carter Center in Georgia. Both organizations have a goal to develop plans to end river blindness. This disease affects people all over the world and is caused by a parasite worm spread by the bites of black flies which live near the rivers. River blindness is the second most common cause of blindness due to infection, after trachoma. Work is also being done in Africa to eradicate trachoma.

Lions around the world assist in more than vision, natural disasters and disease. We are working hard to end the misery caused by hunger and malnutrition. The elderly and children are particularly affected – even in the United States. Another area of concentration focused upon the environmental efforts (one program goal to plant one million trees developed in the planting of 17 million trees in the first year). Youth involvement includes an international youth exchange, Kids Sight whereby the eyes of children in schools are screened, the Bland competition which provides an opportunity to highlight the skills of our talented youth. There is also a Reading Action program. He concluded his remarks by saying: "It is because of Lions that the world is a better place."



At the Sunday District Meeting, our own PCC Bill Bartlett nominated 1st VDG Karen Parker as our incoming DG. Nominations were held to vote in DG Karen Parker, 1st VDG Jay Moughon of Clifton Lions and 2nd VDG Sally Kenavan. All were elected. And so the convention came to a close. Mark your calendars for the 2016 convention which will be held in Roanoke on May 19-21.



GETTING TO KNOW . . . GENE BROWN

It's always interesting to determine how each member of our club was introduced to the Lions' organization. Most often, it is through another member. Such was the case with Gene Brown. Lion Rodney Neely was a student in Gene's math class at NOVA in the late 90's and they picked up their friendship at the Vienna Metro one night as Gene was waiting to pick up his wife from work; Rodney invited Gene to attend a Lions meeting and sponsored Gene for membership in May 2011. Since that date, Gene has served as Lion Tamer and 2nd vice-president. In July he will move up to the position of 1st vice president.

Gene grew up in West Virginia where he attended Glenville State College. He received his BA in Math Education in 1964. Later that year he took a teaching position in Trenton, New Jersey and attended Trenton State University (which is now the College of New Jersey) and received a MA degree in Science Education with a major in Physics. In the fall of 1969 he moved to Buffalo, NY to join a post-doctoral team and study Physics at the University of Buffalo. He worked one semester, but the lack of grant money for Physics studies brought that project to an end. Gene stayed in Buffalo for the next 11 years teaching mathematics at Erie Community College.



In 1981 Gene applied to a number of colleges in the D.C. Metro area and was hired to teach Math at the Alexandria Campus of Northern VA Community College. While pursuing his Doctoral studies at GMU, he served on campus as a Visiting Math Professor in 1987 and 1988. In 1993, he received his Doctoral of Arts degree from GMU in Community College Education with an emphasis in Mathematics. With his Doctorate in hand, Gene was hired as Dean of the Science and Applied Technology Division at the community college and served in this capacity for 15 years until his retirement. It was during this time that he received a death threat because he would not change a student's grade and on other occasions endured endless fire alarms because of students wanting to escape taking exams. One of his crowning assignments was to find a location to renovate and establish the Arlington Center for Northern Virginia Community College.

While living in Vienna with 3 children, Gene met Nancy who was living in Burke with her son in 1984 when they both attended a movie night event for single parents called "New Beginnings." They shared popcorn and watermelon over a double feature of "Tootsie" and "Rear Window." One year later they married at the Vienna Presbyterian Church in the old chapel. Nancy is originally from New Jersey. She received her BA in Home Economics from Albright College located in Reading, Pa. Nancy also has a Master's in Public Administration from GMU; she and Gene celebrated their GMU degrees together in the spring of 1994.

Gene and Nancy have four children (Terri, Michael, Phil and Chris) and seven grandchildren. Four of the grandchildren live in Bristow, VA: Anne Marie (19), Patrick (16), Caroline (10) and William (7). Three grandsons live in Augusta, GA: August (8), Luke (6) and Sammie (4). Nancy and Gene are members at the McLean Bible Church where they are active in the Marriage Ministry. They are also the Virginia directors of Family Life's Weekend to Remember, a getaway weekend held at hotels that enable couples to "take their marriage to the next level". Many marriages have been rescued by this program and most everyone comes away with a renewed outlook on their marriage.

On a Thursday in April 2008, Gene retired from NOVA and on the following Monday, he started working for his financial advisor. By the end of the year he had received the designation as a registered representative, which qualified him to give investment advice. In 2010 he established his business, Custom Financial Solutions. His office is located in the Mason Enterprise Center on University Drive, in Fairfax. His specialty is retirement income planning.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER DAVE HUNTER

A hearty welcome to Dave Hunter who became a Fairfax Host Lions Club member on May 5, 2015. Corey Green is his sponsor.

Dave became interested in joining a community service organization upon his retirement from the Air Force. He served as a Missile Operations Officer for 23.5 years with assignments in Minot, North Dakota; Ellensburg, Washington; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Alexandria, Virginia; San Antonio, Texas; Naples, Italy; and a final assignment at the Pentagon. He decided to retire and remain in the D.C. area to provide some educational stability for his children. Currently Dave works for Alion Science and Technology at the Pentagon, providing on-site support services to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.



Upon retirement, the family settled in Fairfax, and Dave joined the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and looked into community service organizations. After attending several Lions' meetings, he decided to join the Fairfax Host club. In his words, "everyone was very welcoming and I liked the services provided to the community." Although he has yet to be involved in any Lions' projects, he looks forward to selling fruit and other activities.

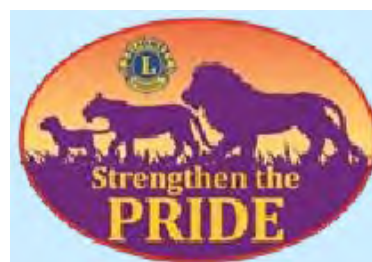
Dave was born in Iowa and grew up in a small town, Tama, now best known as the home of the Mesquakie Bingo Casino. He received his BA degree in Political Science and International Studies from Iowa State University. After working on Capitol Hill for two years in Representative Connie Mack's (R. Fla) office, he decided to return to school and received his MA from the University of Missouri. It was at that point that he joined the Air Force and received his commission through the Officer's Training School.

He and his wife, Lynn, met during Dave's first assignment in Minot, North Dakota and were married on 13 December 1993 in Hyannis, MA. They have three children: two daughters, Reagan (19) and Keely (17), a son Graysen (13), as well as a German Shepherd dog, Tango (11). Graysen is a rising freshman and will be attending Woodson in the fall. Keely will be a senior at Woodson and Reagan will attend NOVA in the fall and is deciding what major she wishes to pursue.

For relaxation, he enjoys spending time with the family, traveling, hiking, camping, and jogging. Additionally, he really enjoys biking and has participated in multiple organized distance rides of up to 100 miles. And he likes listening to country music.



He says it is difficult to choose one favorite vacation spot as the family loves to travel and enjoy new experiences. However, if he had to choose one particular favorite, it would be Molonat, Croatia, where the family rented a house just steps from the beautiful, crystal blue Adriatic Sea.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A FAIRFAX HOST LION?

At our 64th Charter Night held on April 18 at the Chantilly Country Club, four long-time Lions spoke of what it meant to each of them to be a Lion.

Reminiscences from Lion Joe Breda took him back 40 years ago, when Lion Dick Ferraro sponsored him for membership. "When I joined, our kids were very young and it was challenging, with my job traveling out of town. However, I stayed loyal to the club and gave my support the best I could." Joe went on to say that his years as a Lion have been rewarding due to the club's active participation in helping the community. However, one of the best rewards in his being a Lion has been "having met so many great friends."

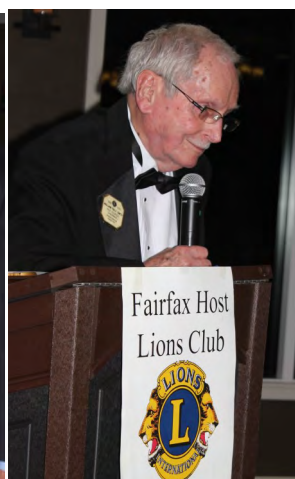
PCC Bill Barlett informed us that "next month I will have been a Lion for 35 years and I have stayed involved because of all the things I have been able to do to help those in need and because of the wonderful friendships I have made." He went on to say "my first involvement with the Lions goes back to age 10 when I sold light bulbs door to door with my uncle who was president of the Memphis Lions Club and my teen years when I sold brooms door to door with the local golf pro who was like an uncle to me."

Carl Enix, a member since October 1974, reminded us that as a Fairfax Host member we are a part of a respected international organization, known throughout the world for its humanitarian work. "We have the opportunity to enrich the lives of fellow citizens, exercise our unique talents, and all the while build lasting friendships and have fun. Additionally, you broaden your horizons of the world at large and develop leadership skills." Bottom line: he is proud to be a Lion, particularly a Fairfax Host Lion.

Tom Edick, sponsored by Carl Enix, commented that it was indeed an *honor* and *pleasure* to have served as a Fairfax Lion for the past 33 years. His "highest single honor has been to serve in support of the greater Lions' good, and to that end . . . to serve our Fairfax community and those in need." His highest pleasure has been, and will continue to be, "to serve with such giving and talented Lions as yourselves and to all those who are no longer with us."



Fairfax Host has a
PROUD PAST
And a
BRIGHT FUTURE



64TH FAIRFAX HOST CHARTER NIGHT—APRIL 18, 2018

IT'S GRRREAT TO BE A LION

THIS 'N THAT

Sight and Hearing Van

On May 14, the FHLC sponsored the Lions Sight and Hearing Van in conjunction with the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons at their annual "Celebrate Communication" event held on the Annandale Campus of NOVA Community College.

The results of the screening were as follows:

Screened	Passed	Failed
Hearing	6	3
Vision	3	5
Glaucoma	4	2
Blood Pressure	1	

A hearty thanks for this effort go to Lions Carl Enix, Jean Watterson and Marty Lockard.

Braile Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL)



The Board of Directors of Fairfax Host recently approved the contribution of \$500 to the National Federation of the Blind's (NFB) Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL). This program is designed to provide intensive braille instruction to blind and low vision children during the summer months. The program is meant to serve students who are not currently receiving enough braille instruction in school or who could benefit from enrichment over the summer. The goals of the program are to provide children ages 4-12 with two weeks of intense braille instruction through fun, hands-on learning activities. Not only do the

students learn how to read Braille they also develop daily life skills such as cooking, cutting, money counting, reading and writing. In addition to braille crafts, games and other engaging projects, children may also enjoy field trips related to the NFB BELL curriculum. In the summer of 2015, the Bell Program will be held in twenty-nine states across the country.

The BELL program began in 2008 in Maryland. Last year there were two BELL programs in the state of Virginia, one in Richmond and one in Northern Virginia. Last year the NOVA program had six participants. Due to the success of last year's program, there will be four BELL camps this year. The two new program sites will be located in the Tidewater area. The BELL Program in Northern Virginia will be held at Saint George's Episcopal Church located at 915 North Oakland Street in Arlington from June 22 through July 3, 2015. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. each week day. The cost of the BELL Program is \$250 per child.

Should you wish further information or wish to make an individual contribution, please contact the NOVA BELL Program Coordinator, Nancy Yeager, by phone at (703) 283-2524 or at nancyyeager542@verizon.net

Thank you Bailey

Bailey Redler, the Peace Poster winner from Lanier Middle School, presented a donation to the Fairfax Lions at the dinner meeting held on March 17.

