

Fairfax Lions Club News - September 2017 "Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter"



"I resolve to take an active interest in the civic, social and moral welfare of the community."

With Sympathy...

The Fairfax Lions Club family extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Lion Scott and Liz Dulaney on the loss of their grandson Hudson Scott Lender, June 8, 2017 - August 2, 2017.

Lion-of-the-Year Recognized

The Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC) of the City of Fairfax held the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on August 2, 2017. The event is significant for several reasons:

- 20-plus individuals, each selected by their own service clubs, are recognized for service to the community;
- Clubs get a little publicity with a short description in the ceremony program, and by the presence of the Mayor and other city officials in the event; it is always worthwhile to show Lions colors in public events;
- Our own Lion Pete Conklin is the President of the ISCC and presided over the event;
- Other clubs become more aware of our Club's work, which helps lay the groundwork for potential joint service projects in the future.

As previously reported, your newsletter editor was selected as Lion-of-the-Year by last year's King Lion Gene Brown. Hence, Lion Gordon Tillery was honored in the August 2nd ISCC ceremony. Immediate-Past-President Gene Brown gave a short talk about the service of Fairfax Lions in the community, and presented the ISCC Volunteerof-the-Year certificate.



(Left) Mayor David Meyer Congratulates Lion Gordon; Lions Pete Conklin and Gene Brown Observe

This was our Club's second recent interface with City Mayor David Meyer; recall, he came to the Green Acres Senior Center and participated in our Club's vision screening event on May 3rd, 2017. Good news: a key city official is increasingly aware of our Club and its service. After the ceremony, Lion Gordon remarked: "Being named Lion-of-the-Year is a wonderful honor for which I humbly thank IPP Gene Brown. And I sincerely thank Joe and Terry Breda, Marilyn Tanner and Chuck Higdon for attending the ceremony along with Lion Pete Conklin.

Thank You, Lion Stephen Bilowus

Lion Stephen Bilowus, a local real estate agent and member of our Lions Club, is "giving back."



Stephen started - with our Club's Board of Director's concurrence - a program to donate to Fairfax Lions Club charities 10% of his earnings from any transaction associated with a 2017 referral by a Fairfax Lion, and \$500 per transaction in future years. Stephen said, "I am proud of the wonderful charity outreach accomplished by the Fairfax Lions, and want to do what I can to give back to my community." At the Lions Club meeting on August 15th Stephen announced, "I am kicking off this effort with a \$500 donation tonight to Lions charity programs." Stephen's brochure:



Lion Stephen: all Lions thank you for your generosity and caring about service to our community. <u>Club</u> <u>members:</u> consider providing referrals to Stephen!

Service - Our Mission

Hurricane Harvey Blood Drive - September 5th

Lion Elden Wright led another blood drive for the American Red Cross at Providence Presbyterian Church. This drive was timely, given Hurricane Harvey. Red Cross blood serves our community and world-wide needs, but the blood supply was disrupted severely by Hurricane Harvey. Not only did blood needs increase, but normal blood donation in the 4th largest city in the US simply stopped - as facilities and people were preoccupied. So this Lions small blood drive was more meaningful. A total of 31 "good units" were donated, and 6 hearty Lions made gave 7 of those good units (one Lion gave double). Since Elden began these blood drives, many years ago, Fairfax Lions are recognized for the donation of a total of 3295 units of blood!



1st donor to arrive -Lion Mike Schutz

Below: Lions Scott and Mike Donate



Lion Phil Squeezes the Ball





Lion Cory is Ready



"Double-Red" Lion Gary - At Meeting after Donating



Anyone notice - all Lion donors (except Phil) wear a beard?

Eyeglasses Distribution

Lion Marilyn Tanner reports, for July and August, our Club has arranged to provide 11 pair of brand new eyeglasses to qualified needy persons in our local community. The agreements Lion Marilyn has negotiated result in eyeglasses being provided at a cost of \$50 each, which our Club pays from our charity budget.

EYEGLASS RECYCLING

In August, Lion Scott Dulaney and team collected 203 pair of donated eyeglasses from local collection boxes. Total for this Lions year: 407 pair, all taken to the LIONS EYEGLASS RECYCLING CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA for processing and distribution around the world. Motto of the Recycling Center: "Changing Lives, One Pair at a Time!"

NURSING HOME BINGO

Thanks to Lion Mark Salesses for Photos Lion Jeff Root led a small team of Fairfax Lions and others to bring a joy to nursing home residents on August 16th. This relatively small effort, not requiring much time on our part, brightens the day for the residents. We have been told, residents look forward to Bingo Night each month.



Lion Anh-Thu Phan Helps Residents Mark Their Bingo Cards (Lion Jeff, in Background, Calling Bingo)



Lion Spouse Diane Schutz Talks to Residents

Fairfax Lions Deliver

by Lion Marilyn Tanner

The 99 Braille books, purchased by the Fairfax Lions to support the Lions Reading Action Program were delivered on Sunday, July 30. Lion Marilyn Tanner and Lion supporter Chuck Higdon handed-off the books to Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Coordinator, Alex Castillo. At the time of the delivery, Alex and Lead Teacher Deja Powell from Salt Lake City, Utah, were leading a BELL training session of very enthusiastic volunteers.

The BELL summer program this year was held at St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia, from July 31 – August 11.



Lion Marilyn with Books Loaded on Hand Cart



Alex Castillo and Deja Powell with BELL volunteers



Lead Teacher Deja Powell Examines Some Books

After the summer program, Alex sent his thanks to the Fairfax Lions, saying:

"All of the kids went home with a Starter Braille library, and all of the parents were very thankful for the opportunity provided by the Fairfax Lions."

Youth Programs

by Lions Ken Schutz and Scott Dulaney Last year, Fairfax Lions Club allocated roughly 47% of our annual charity budget toward youth programs. Those youth programs included: reading action Braille books, Sprout therapeutic riding, Bland & Peace Poster Contests, Lions Youth Camp, LEO club, and Little League teams.

We have supported local little league teams for a long time. The photo below, provided by Lion Scott Dulaney, is a 1961 Fairfax City team called the "Lions."



FAIRFAX LITTLE LEAGUE - 1961

Can You Identify Any Players?



Uniforms Featured Lions Club Logo & Team Name "Lions"

Fund Raising - Underpinning Our Service Mission Clifton Lions Car Show

The Clifton Lions Club has for many years held a car show (in Clifton) - it is their single most important fund raiser for the year (similar to our three citrus fruit sales). Last year, they moved their show to Fairfax City, due to issues with the Clifton location, and our club ran a vision screening event (using the Sight and Hearing Van) at the location. We learned that venue was not optimal for vision screening. This year, as the City pushed the Clifton Club to include OUR club in the event (which is good news - to have the City support us) we simply offered to help however Clifton wanted. Next year, we may take a more interesting role - TBD.

In any case, two Fairfax club officers - President, and Secretary - were each asked to select winning cars for Lions awards.

KL Marty picked, for top Lions award, a representative model of the first car he owned (no photo available).

Lion Jeff Root selected for Lions awards two cars in honor of his and Penny Root's birth years: a 1955 Ford and 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air.



1956 Chevrolet Bel Air



1955 Ford

Lions Dinner Out

Purpose: Raise charity funds from our casual dinners out - no club business - just fun; and collect a check from the restaurant.

We enjoyed our 5th, "Dinner Out" on Wednesday Aug 9th (ALWAYS ON 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, AND ALWAYS AT THE AULD SHEBEEN!). Lion Joe Breda represented your Club, and accepted a check from the restaurant for \$30.95 for our Club Charities. Total raised for our charity account, after five dinners-out: \$205. We will continue this fund raiser as long as we have a decent turnout. Mark your calendars - next Dinner-Out: Wednesday, September 13th at The Auld Shebeen (6:30-8:30pm). ALWAYS AT AULD SHEBEEN / ALWAYS 2ND WEDNESDAY.

> Charity Fund Raiser – Lions Dinner Sep 13th Always the 2nd Wednesday of each month Always The Auld Shebeen Restaurant 3971 Chainbridge Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030 Fairfax Lions Club



Ask to "Sit with the Lions Group," Yeats Library dining room 6:30 pm - Happy Hour prices; 7pm - Dinner Order from regular menu Separate checks; Pay your own bill.



Vehicle Donation Program

Our usual ad - no new info, but a reminder to spread the word....Know a person with a vehicle (car, boat, cycle, plane) they might donate? Ask them to call 844-455-4667. The trained staff will answer any questions, and take it from there. More at: <u>http://www.fairfaxlions.org/donatea-vehicle/</u>

Dinner Meetings

August 15th

Meeting theme: BEACH WEAR; all were to wear one item of beach wear. It was fun, lots of great beach wear showed up...



Lions Mike Rumberg & Gene Brown - Ready for the Beach?

Tail Twister Jim Kaplan (with assistance) set up an inflatable volley ball net, to give Lions a chance to "serve" the ball.



Lion Mike Rumberg Ties the Net

Spouse Terry Breda Helps Setup the Volleyball Net





Lions Joe Breda and Scott Dulaney



Our guest speaker was Lion Erika Laos. Erika is a member of Manassas Host Lions Club - joining Lions in 2015, the District's LEO chair, a veteran - having served in the US Army, and is the Founder/CEO of Bold Alliance Consulting Group <u>Bold Alliance Consulting Group, LLC</u>. Erika talked about types of LEO clubs (Alpha & Omega), ways to set up a LEO Club (school based, community based), her experience establishing a LEO club, and how to attract youth and keep them interested. Keys are having a project to focus on, and minimizing costs to the kids.



Lion Erika Laos, District LEO Chair

Membership Chair Ken Schutz spoke on four topics.1. Lions Information

- 2. I-Plan (We will use the i-Plan this year watch for email)
- 3. Two near term opportunities:
 - Food concession Sep 8 (Club subsequently declined due to short notice, insufficient volunteers.)
 - Clifton Lions Car Show on Labor Day
- 4. October 14th: Be prepared Fall Festival.

(The full text of Lion Ken's complete remarks is included at the end of this newsletter.)



Lion Ken Schutz (in Beach Wear Glasses)

Tail Twister Jim Kaplan announced that at the second meeting each month he will ask a Lion to answer "Why I became a Lion." At this meeting, Lion Greg DeRosa did just that.



Lion Greg DeRosa - A Passion to Serve

It all started when Greg was courting Karen, and learned her dad was a Lion. (We might call that a compelling factor!) In any case, Greg explained his motivation - a "Passion to Serve." When Greg was working on a church project, he was asked by a member of Fairfax Lion (Bob Dugger) to consider Lions and the rest is now history.

Lion Mike Rumberg introduced his guest: Karen Habitzreuther. Karen is a retired Army Colonel, helicopter pilot, and candidate for Fairfax City Council (Special Election on 12 Sep 2017). Recent article in Fairfax County Times:

http://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/army-veteran-andfairfax-city-council-candidate-is-graceunder/article_cable120_846b_11e7_a2a1_afd12c2d8aa6_btp

under/article cab1e1a0-846b-11e7-a3a1-afd12c3d8aa6.html



Guest Karen Habitzreuther

FYI: Sample Ballot for special election, Sep 12, 2017:

	wealth of Virginia	Ballotstyle: 1
City of Fairfax Special Election T. Use a blue or black ball point ink pen. 2. Fill in the red box to the left of your selected candidate. 3. For a write-in, write the name on the line provided and fill in the red box to the left of the name. 4. If you make a mistake, please ask for a new ballot.		
Member City Council At Large For unexpired term to end June 30, 2018 (Vote for only one)		
Jennifer E. Passey Karen L. Habitzreuther		
Write-In		

50/50 winners: Greg DeRosa, Mark Salessas

September 5th

(Due to Blood Drive overlapping this meeting, your editor is unable to report on much of the meeting. Thanks to Mike Schutz and Brian Laccone for taking photos!)

Special guest was 1st Vice District Governor Wilma Murphy to deliver an inspirational talk.



KL Marty Thanks VDG Wilma for Visiting Our Club

KL Marty Lockhart presented several individual awards to club members.... Immediate Past President Gene Brown accepted the award for Outstanding Club in Region III, 2016-2017. Congratulations all!



Outstanding Lions Club in Region III, 2016-2017 KL Marty led all in a word scramble contest, to see who could make correct words from 10 sets of letters. Lion Scott Dulaney was the fastest (by a long margin) to get all ten - and he was so confidant he did not even do the tie-breaker.

Scott Will Plan a Fishing Trip to Use His Word Scramble Prize



Membership chair Ken Schutz reported that 28 responses have been received on the survey of **ALL** Club Members. Hmm... 28 is probably a good sample size but don't we have 45 club members? The survey site: <u>http://www.fairfaxlions.org/clubsurvey/index.php/295234?</u> Lion Ken plans to report survey results to the Board, then to membership.

KL Marty mentioned an upcoming series on PBS, a documentary of the Vietnam War (a Ken Burns product), to air starting on September 17. Set your DVRs!

Lion Gary Maxwell announced Mary Ellen Wright's interment is scheduled at Arlington National Cemetery: September 21, 3pm (assemble at the administration building by 2:30)

50/50 winners: Lions Mike Schutz, PDG and guest Harry Parker

Membership

There is no change in membership status from the last month. Note - our Membership Chair has announced that our club will begin to use this year "the i-Plan." An initial step in that plan is for all members to participate by identifying potential new members. Be thinking about who you can identify - stay tuned for further information! And view each individual you happen to speak to as a possible candidate...without being "pushy," consider asking if they might be interested in helping others perform community service.

Board Meeting - August 22nd

Your Board of Directors held its regular monthly business meeting. A few hi-lites:

- Approved August Treasurer's report.
- Approved August Eyeglass Distribution report (details under "Service" in this newsletter).

- Reported: currently Club has 45 members, of which 35 are "active" members.
- Agreed to focus one dinner meeting on the training opportunities offered on the LCI website.
- Approved proposed Charter Night venue: Chantilly International Golf & Country Club on Sunday, April 8, 2018, 5:30-9:30pm.
- Approved ending (on Sept 30, 2017) contest where one Club member purchasing 50-50 tickets at every meeting in the quarter would draw a special prize.

For more complete information, consider attending a Board meeting - all Club members welcome!

Upcoming Events

- Sep 6 Eyeglass Recycling
- Sep 6 Inter-Service Club Council Meeting
- Sep 6 Region III Zone 5 Meeting
- Sep 7 Lions Lunch Bunch (11:15, Wegman's Fairfax, Market Cafe)
- Sep 12 Fairfax City Special Election
- Sep 13 Lions Dinner-Out Charity Fund Raiser (6:30pm, Auld Shebeen)
- Sep 16 Club Retreat/Picnic, Providence Park
- Sep 19 NO REGULAR DINNER MEETING
- Sep 20 Bingo at Fairfax Nursing Center
- Sep 20 Eyeglass Recycling
- Sep 21-23 USA/Canada Leadership Forum
- Sep 26 Board Meeting

Looking ahead:

- Oct 14: Fall Festival Fund Raiser (no rain date)
- Nov 16-18: Citrus Fruit Sale
- Nov 20: Food Basket Delivery
- Dec 19: Holiday Party, The Waterford Fair Lakes
- Dec 21: Food Basket Delivery

Club Retreat/Picnic

As noted in the above schedule, our picnic is on **SATURDAY September 16**. (NO REGULAR MEETING ON September 19th.)

1st VP Karen Parker is planning the event - make sure you RSVP to Karen at <u>acgakup@cox.net</u>

The venue - Providence Park - seems perfect. Karen has announced you do not need to bring food - the Club (and Karen) will provide all. Bring lawn chairs & smiles!

Location: Providence Park, 10715 West Dr, Fairfax Date/time: September 16, 11am-4pm

Providence park occupies about 20 acres, with:

- Lots of overhead shade, away from traffic
- Bike/hike trail
- Covered pavilion; 10 tables
- Grill
- Playground for kids
- Tennis courts
- Multipurpose field
- Plenty of parking

Lions Information

On the occasion of 100 years of history, Lions Clubs have a new International President (for year 2017-2018): Dr Naresh Aggarwal from Punjab India.

A stark reminder of the need for service: "40% of the global population lives in poverty." Around that fact, Dr Aggarwal endorses a service model integrating:

- The Power of We
- The Power of Service
- The Power of Action

Learn more about Dr Naresh Aggarwal and the service model in the July/August 2017 issue of *Lion* magazine.

Dr Naresh Aggarwal, LCI President 2017-2018



New - LCI Focus: Diabetes!!!

Some might opine, **LCI is becoming relevant!** On July 4th, the only living descendant of Helen Keller, Keller Johnson-Thompson, stood before the 100th Lions International Convention and asked:

"Will you not constitute yourselves to continue to be Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness through your work with diabetes?"

LCI has now adapted diabetes as a central cause ...enlisting the support of 1.45 million Lions cannot come too soon, as 420 million people live with diabetes.

LCI's stated goals:

- Prevent Type 2 diabetes through healthy lifestyles and healthy communities
- Control diabetes related complications through education, support and increased access to care
- Support and advocate for research that leads to new treatments and technologies that can change lives

In Memory of Lion Everett Bierman

Four Lions attended Ev's funeral service, August 26. The minister and Ev's son, Jim, spoke of Ev enjoying being a Lion - and how he looked forward to the next meeting. Jim

recalled, fondly, the many years Ev brought home a case of citrus fruit from a Lions fruit sale.



Flowers from our Club in memory of Ev:



Several items from Ev's interest in the Lions were on display, including: hat,...



paper weight,...



and a certificate for Ev speaking to the "Bryan Lions Club" (Ohio) in 1967.



Several Lions had the pleasure of meeting Ev's daughter, Karen, at the funeral. Afterwards, Karen sent the photo below of the interment site for both of her parents' ashes at Fairfax Memorial Cemetery. (Note the flowers.)



What's Up with Spouses?

Did you see the eclipse?



Make Your Bed Everyday

Consider William Harry McRaven - he might possibly be a good role model. His 37 year Navy career was almost entirely in "special ops" - where duty is tough, comes with high standards, and is most important. McRaven was steadfast, unyielding - a high performer and leader despite adversity.

As recounted in TIME magazine (Dec 14, 2011 issue): "On July 18, 2001, McRaven was tumbling from the sky, and there wasn't much sky left...." That was midway through the quiet summer before the world learned Osama bin Laden's name. McRaven was a 45-year-old Navy SEAL Captain leading a HALO (high altitude, low opening) jump exercise near San Diego. The commandos had dropped into 10,000 feet of free fall, reserving their parachutes for the last moment and a stealthy landing. As they neared the parachute release point, one of the men - below McRaven drifted directly underneath him. Seconds later, the lower parachute canopy slammed into McRaven at well over 100 mph, throwing him into a violent spin. "Frankly, I wasn't sure whether I had been knocked unconscious, so when I had the chance - I pulled my rip-cord," McRaven told TIME. "Part of the chute wrapped around one leg, the risers around the other, and the good news is that it opened. The bad news is that when it opened, it split me like a nutcracker, I guess, and just kind of broke the pelvis, broke my back."

Eight weeks later came the surprise attacks of Sept 11. McRaven and his four SEAL teams had trained for such a moment, but it was all he could do to follow the news in bed. Naval Special Warfare Group 1 began the hunt for Osama bin Laden without its leader, and he soon had to step down from that command.

But the story did not end there. McRaven recovered and rose up the ranks. Bin Laden lay low and stayed alive. A decade later, their paths finally crossed. McRaven is credited with organizing and overseeing the special ops raid that led to the death of Osama bin Laden on May 2, 2011.

Retiring from the Navy, McRaven became chancellor of The University of Texas System. His bio:

http://www.washingtonspeakers.com/speakers/biography. cfm?SpeakerID=8675

The link below (24-seconds) takes you to McRaven's wisdom on making your bed every day...



with resolve to take an active interest in the civic,

social and moral welfare of the community." Watch for a fresh header each month.

the Newsletter - and this month's resolution..."

We hope you noticed the "header" in this edition of

The Last Word - on Resolutions

Special thanks to ...

Ken Schutz, Mark Salesses, Stephen Bilowus, Marilyn Tanner, Phil Mayo, Mike Schutz, Brian Laccone - each providing ideas or other input (whole articles, reports and information, photos) for this month's newsletter. Such help is essential to presenting the news of this Club! We already have 2 articles from members in line for the next newsletter - KEEP THEM COMING! (All suggestions welcome also.)

Note About This Newsletter

Bob Stahl was a WW2 veteran (US Navy - Pacific Theater) and a Fairfax Lion for nearly 40 years (serving as President and bulletin editor, among other duties). This "Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter" is published in PDF format, and is sent by email to club members after the 1st dinner meeting each month. YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! (That does not mean \$ contributions, but your words & photos!) Send anything, anytime, to tilleryg@gmail.com I need your help to publicize information about our Club, and about you.

That's all folks!

Send me any items to include in the newsletter. <u>tilleryq@qmail.com</u>

ADDENDUM

Complete Remarks of Lion Ken Schutz, August 15 Dinner Meeting

<u>First – as planned by the membership committee, here is</u> <u>some Lions Information all may want to be familiar with</u>: Lions Clubs International, a service membership organization of over 1.4 million members worldwide (as of April 2015), was founded in the United States on June 7, 1917, by Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman. We have over 46,000 local clubs and more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries around the world.

The stated purposes of Lions Clubs International are:

- To Organize, charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions clubs.
- To Coordinate the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.
- To Create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- To Promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- To Take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgzLzbd-zT4

- To Unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- To Provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- To Encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

Membership in the Lions Club is by "invitation only" as mandated by its constitution and by-laws. All member applicants need a sponsor who is an active member and of good standing in the club they intend to join. And while sponsorship may be obtained by an applicant in order to become a legitimate member, there is no guarantee of this. Acceptance of membership is still subject to the approval of the majority of the club's board of directors. Several clubs are even difficult for applicants to join in. A Lions Club chooses its members diligently as it requires time and financial commitments. Prospective applicants must be a person of good moral character in his or her community. Attendance at meetings is encouraged. Because of the hierarchical nature of Lions Clubs International, members have the opportunity to advance from a local club to an office at the zone, district, multiple district, and international levels.

There is a wealth of additional information on the LCI webpage – I encourage all of you to look at it once in a while.

Second – also a membership topic:

We have already announced that we will use the i-Plan this year as a component of our membership growth plan. As you all know, PCC Bill Bartlett authored this plan, which is used by many clubs around the world. You all will shortly receive and email explanation of the plan, which will include a request for you to refer 3 or more friends, acquaintances, neighbors, co-workers, professionals you deal with – that you think may be interested in the purposes of LCI and this club as I just discussed. The membership committee will then communicate with these referrals to promote a visit to a meeting to consider the club. It is an easy thing to do – but it needs all members to participate – and to consider the attributes of the people we want to encourage to join us. This is a big deal – please participate as fully as possible.

<u>Third - We have been approached by the City of Fairfax and</u> <u>asked if we would set up a food concession</u> at a family night at the movies planned in Van Dyke park on Friday evening, September 8. I am still trying to get additional information, but currently I am thinking we would set up a booth selling:

• Water

- Soft Drinks
- Dry snacks (chips, cookies, candy, popcorn) items that we could also sell at Fall Festival if left over
- Possibly pizza by the slice

I sent everyone an email today – I have several volunteers – but could use more.

Forth – We have agreed to support the Clifton Lions with their Car Show on Labor Day – explain relationship

- Help now in exchange in help from them on fruit sale
- Participate in planning next year to incorporate Fairfax identity and develop a fundraising opportunity

- we need volunteers - not sure what you will be doing - but it should be fun and rewarding.

Please sign up on the sheet being circulated. Between Marty and I, we will coordinate with Clifton Lions Lastly – put October 14 on your calendars and be prepared to assist in our booth at the Fall Festival. We will be soliciting commitments during the next several meetings.

END

