



Fairfax Lions Club News - June 2019

The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter
- Fairfax Lions, Serving Since 1951 -

We Always Begin With Service - It's Our Primary Mission

**WE SERVE THE WORLD AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES...
WITH PRIDE, COMPASSION AND KINDNESS**

May 2019 Food Drive

By Lion Marilyn Tanner

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and area food bank inventories will soon take a dip, as food-insecure families look for help in feeding their children during the summer months. Once again, Fairfax Lions Club stepped up to meet this community need.

At the May 7th dinner meeting, many members generously responded to this need by digging into their personal home pantries and bringing shelf-safe food to the meeting. Food (canned chicken and tuna) was also purchased with the remaining Food Basket Delivery program account balance of \$85. In total, 144 pounds of nutritious food was delivered to Food for Others food bank on May 9. We care – We serve!!



May 2019 Food Drive Donations

Vision Screening at The Lamb Center

By Lion Marty Lockhard

Fairfax Host Lions Club completed vision screenings at The Lamb Center on May 13 and May 14. We attempted to screen 23 Guests, successfully screened 21, and referred 12 (57%) for a complete eye exam. The 57% ratio is one of the highest we've experienced. We can't confirm this, but we believe one Guest had cataracts and a considerable amount of damage in one eye. We screened several guests in their 70s and one guest who was 81. Two Fairfax Lions worked about 10 hours for this service activity.

Lions Reading Action Program – Striving to Improve the Literacy of Young Readers

By Lion Marilyn Tanner

For the second year in a row, Fairfax Lions Club chose the Main Street Child Development Center (CDC) to receive books in support of its Lions Reading Action Program (LRAP). The program's primary goal is to improve the reading literacy of young children. The CDC is located in Fairfax City, and serves many low-income families.

A total of 93 books were purchased from Barnes and Noble, at a special discount rate. Book titles like Pig the Pug, Dear Zoo, We're Going on a Bear Hunt and We Planted a Tree were on display at the May 7 dinner meeting. Many members couldn't help but chuckle at the comical illustrations and antics of Pig the Pug. Each book bears a sticker that identifies it as being contributed by the Fairfax Lions Club.

Sample books displayed
at May 7 dinner meeting

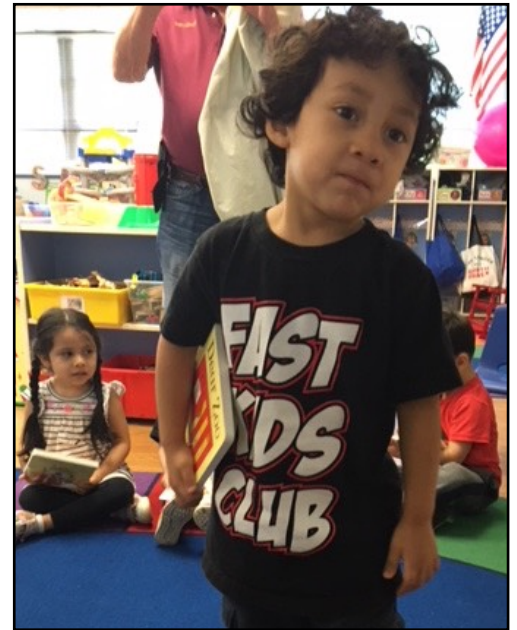


On May 15, Immediate Past President Marty Lockard and Lion Marilyn Tanner delivered the books to Carol Lieske (CDC Executive Director) and Susan Rismiller (CDC Education Director). Lions Marty and Marilyn personally handed some of the books to the 3-year-old "Butterfly" class. They were so excited when their teacher told them they could take their new book home at the end of the day.



L: Marty & Marilyn present books to Carol Lieske & Susan Rismiller (CDC)

Below: A happy reader!



Through our club's fundraising efforts (Lions working together at Citrus Sales and Food Booths) we were able to purchase these books and provide them to children who will become better readers because we care!

Fairfax Lions Support Senior Center

By PCC Bill Bartlett

The following appeared in the Fairfax Senior Center Newsletter...

Winter-Spring Newsletter: January – April 2019
Young at Heart Senior Center
of the
Fairfax City Parks & Recreation Dept.

Fairfax Host Lions Club shows Support for our Seniors!

Did you know the Fairfax Lions Club sponsors our Bingo games here at the Senior Center? We also collect usable glasses and hearing aids in the main Senior Center area to pass onto the Lions for their Recycle for Sight program. Fairfax Host Lions Club alone collects about 10,000 pair of glasses per year at more than 40 collection sites in the City - taking them to the Eyeglass Recycle Center each month. For more information on this wonderful community service organization, please visit the Fairfax Host Lions Club website at www.fairfaxlions.org or send an email to: lionsffx@msn.com

Vision Screening at the Fairfax City Senior Center

On May 1st, Lion Suleiman Alibhai represented our Club at the Fairfax Senior Center with a different format from our senior citizen vision screenings with the Spot Camera System. Dr Alibhai took time off from the Low Vision Center to discuss with interested seniors the causes and

treatments for vision loss in the aging population. While seniors undoubtedly have their fair share of aging vision problems, our efforts to provide spot screenings and an information booth with an eye doctor have not proved to be as popular as some of the other activities held at the center. Marty and Suleiman are considering alternative formats if we decide to continue to participate in the event next year. WE THANK Lions Suleiman and Marty for their SERVICE!

+++++Charity/Service Budget Requests Due June 15th+++++

Please recall this guidance from our 1st VP (incoming President), announced in the May 2019 newsletter:

The Club's charity/service budget reflects our Club member's interests. A member who wants to support a specific charity/cause is encouraged to submit a budget request. For example, members who have done this include: Jim Kaplan (Fairfax City Theater), Joe Breda (Sprout). MEMBERS - THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ALIGN CLUB SERVICE WITH YOUR INTERESTS.

Our Treasurer sent all an email on May 21st with "a simple form to use when requesting a Charity budget line item for the next Lions Year, 2019-2020...If the item you are requesting was on last year's list, there is no need to provide a detailed description as the Board already knows about these efforts. If you are requesting funds for a new initiative, please provide a 2-3 sentence description of the effort or organization you propose to support. You may submit your requests to me (the Treasurer) via email...no later than June 15th." (look for the May 21 email, and the form)

Fund Raising - Essential to Our Service Mission

DELIVERING SERVICE DEPENDS ON FUNDS WE RAISE

Amazon Smile

Do you use Amazon (of course you do)? Do you use Amazon Smile? If you do, Amazon donates a portion of your spending to our Club's charity account - IF you have designated our club as your "charity."

If your spending on Amazon does not benefit our Club, why not? It costs you nothing for Amazon Smile to donate money to our Club's charity account. You only have to remember to open *Amazon Smile*, not the generic Amazon when you make your purchases. (If you need help designating our club as your "charity," just send an email tilleryg@gmail.com)

While making a recent purchase, the following graphic appeared...proving that use of Smile indeed helps our service mission!



Your current charity
Fairfax Host Lions Club Charities Inc
has received

\$91.03
as of May 2019

Vehicle Donations

This ad appears in the District 24-L newsletter. Donating a vehicle is very simple...and proceeds gained from the sale (at an independent auction) go directly to our Charity account. Full details are on our Club website.



Lions Dinner Out - Off for the Summer

During the school year, we meet the 2nd Wednesday each month for dinner at the Auld Shebeen. It is a fun time - no business, just good food & company. And the restaurant donates 15% of our spending to our Club's charity account. We take a break for the summer. The next dinner Out at Auld Shebeen will be in September.

Dinner Meetings

May 7th

By Lion Marilyn Tanner

Lion Mike Greeley served as the Greeter, and graciously agreed to wrangle the 50/50; Lion Joe Breda led the Pledge. Lion Marilyn Tanner divided the group into sections, and all sang a rousing round of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

IPP Marty Lockard served as the presenter for the evening. With the help of an excellent slideshow presentation, Marty explained, in detail, exactly how use the SPOT sight equipment that the club purchased earlier this Lions year. Afterwards, members had the opportunity to practice using the device. Club Secretary, Jeff Root, presented Marty with a club coffee mug.

A sample of books purchased in support of this year's Lions Reading Action Program (LRAP) was on display during the dinner meeting. (See photo under the Service event)

Tail Twister Marilyn gave each person one piece of copy paper and challenged them to construct the tallest, free-standing structure they could manage (folding, tearing pinching the paper was allowed). Lion Scott Dulaney built the tallest structure (18.25"), and was awarded a handsome golden lion statue for his efforts. Ironically, Scott had donated this statue earlier this year to be used as a Tail Twister reward.

50/50 Winners: Lion Mike Greeley (amid good-natured cat-calls of "Fix! Fix!"), and Rodney Neely.





Above: Lions try to make the tallest paper structure

Above (Right): Winner!

Left: Golden Lion Statue



May 21st

King Lion Karen Udell Parker called the meeting to order, and after the meal announced Lion Jim Kaplan to introduce the speaker: Ms. Chloe Ritter, Multimodal Transportation Planner for the City of Fairfax. Chloe spoke at length about various goals, plans, and features of the local transportation network. She noted that 1/3 of all household trips are less than one mile in distance, but 1/2 of those trips are DRIVEN! In response to a question about synching stop lights - so traffic may flow more smoothly - Chloe stated the local government has specialists in traffic flow that focus on best timing and synching of the traffic lights. (Some drivers may have a different view?)

For more information, contact Chloe at:
Chloe Ritter, Multimodal Transportation Planner
chloe.ritter@fairfaxva.gov
703-273-5652



Chloe Ritter, Multimodal Transportation Planner

KL Karen introduced Club Secretary Jeff Root who presented meeting attendance awards to Lions present (so, this is another reason to come to meetings):

Years Perfect Attendance

1

5

10

15

20

Lion

Higginbotham

Tillery, Brown, Lockhard, Green

Davis, K Parker, Root

Mayo, Kaplan

Neeley, Rumberg, Dulaney

KL Karen reported the proceeds to our club from the sale of LOVF raffle tickets was \$280. In addition, KL Karen presented Centennial Year pins to Lions Higginbotham and Tillery.



IPP Marty Lockhard (photo on left) made a report on Vision Screening conducted at the Lamb Center on May 13-14. (See report under Service).

A request was made from the floor, by Lion Jim Kaplan, that the Board consider supporting the Fairfax HS All-Night Grad Party, which is short of finding this year. Jim also said we might consider other area All-Night-Grad Parties, which all provide a celebration environment for graduating kids while discouraging alcohol use. Board members present said they would take this up.

Lion Scot Dulaney (photo on Right) brought a pair of eyeglasses with red-blinking-lights (sort of reminiscent of Elton John?) that allegedly showed up in one of the eyeglass collection boxes. (Note: Our Club's eyeglass recycling service program has collected 9547 pair of donated eyeglasses - and 16 hearing aids - as of May 31 this year, and delivered them to the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of NOVA.)



The 50/50 drawing prizes were won by Cory Green and Joe Breda.

Board Meeting - May 28th

Your Board approved disbursement of \$1500 from Charity funds, \$500 to each of three local high schools to support their All-Nite-Graduation Parties. The HS: Fairfax, Woodson, Robinson. KL Karen is a strong advocate of such youth programs. The motivating factor behind the PTSA sponsored All-Night-Grad parties is to provide graduating seniors a safe, fun place to spend graduation night and celebrate with fellow students and friends. Since All-Night-Grad Party inception, **no teen in the entire state of VA has been involved in a traffic fatality on graduation night!** (See: <https://www.fairfaxptsa.org/about-all-night-grad-ang>). We owe a big Thank-You to Lion Jim Kaplan for this proposal, and also to Treasurer Rob Higginbotham for his hasty communication with the PTSA's and quick disbursement of the checks!

The Board also endorsed KL Karen and PCC Harry Parker as our delegates to the International Convention, and also heard a proposal to be Host Club for the VA Lions State Convention in April, 2021 - see discussion below.

PLS READ 2021 Lions State Convention – Will Fairfax be the “Host” Club?

By Lion Mike Rumberg

The annual Lions State Convention will be returning to northern Virginia in 2021. It will be held April 22-24, 2021, at the Dulles Hyatt Hotel. The annual convention is when Lions from all over VA vote to make changes to our state constitution, elect District Governors, hold the grand-finance of the Bland Contest, recognize and celebrate state-wide and individual club achievements, meet and network Lions from all over, and other activities.

Our club has first crack at the opportunity to be the Convention “Host” Club (because PCC Lion Harry Parker is the chair of the convention planning committee). Being the “host” club means we provide the “Lion-power” to handle the registration process & vendor exhibit venues (the 2 most time-intensive admin tasks of the convention). **As a reward for helping make the convention successful, a convention “host” club receives a contribution of about \$3,000 which may be used for either Admin or Charity needs.**

This is a wonderful fundraising opportunity: \$3,000 is about 10% of our annual Charities activities budget and also of our Admin budget. That would make for a very nice boost to our activities in our 70th year!

The convention committee pays all convention expenses so being the host requires no financial resources from our club. However, committing to being the convention host means committing to a significant amount of work. Club members will need to be involved in preparing, mailing out & receiving registration materials in the months leading up to the convention and then many members will be needed in the several days before and during the convention to staff the registration tables and monitor vendor exhibits. This is not really much more work than what we do 3 times a year for our Fruit Sales, except that it will all be all indoors and involve no heavy lifting.

The Board of Directors needs to make a decision at the July board meeting. So we want to know what members think. Please discuss with a Club officer (KL Karen Parker, 1stVP Mike Rumberg, incoming 1stVP Mike Greeley) or Lion Ken Schutz (who lead the registration process when the convention was in NoVA a few years ago), or any Board member. The Club needs to understand YOUR interest in taking on such an event. We do not want to sign up for it, and later find out only about 5 people are actually willing / available to help.

Upcoming:

- June 1 - Helen Keller Day*
- June 4 - Regular Dinner Meeting
- June 5 - Eyeglass Recycling
- June 6 - 75th anniversary of D-Day (see “Just a Thought” on pages 10-11)
- June 6 - Lions Lunch bunch
- June 7 - Lions Clubs International Birthday
- June 15 - 2019-20 Charity Budget Requests due to the Treasurer
- June 18 - INSTALLATION Dinner Mtg & **Spouses Night**
- June 19 - Eyeglass Recycling
- June 19 - Bingo at Fairfax Nursing Center
- June 25 - Joint Board Meeting
- July 4 - Food Sales Booth at City of Fairfax City Independence Day Parade
- July 5-9 - 102nd Lions International Convention, Milan, Italy

* Helen Keller Day: In 1971, LCI set aside June 1 to commemorate the speech Keller gave on June 30, 1968, to spread awareness of the American Foundation for the Blind.

Lions Information - Lions Around the World

By Lion Jeff Root

Once again, on Monday, May 27, Lions had a strong presence in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. Eighty Lions from Virginia, DC, Maryland, and Delaware walked or rode in the parade. Ten clubs, including Fairfax, had banners in the parade. Miss America and Miss Teen America rode on the Lions' float. Jeff Root represented Fairfax Lions Club.



Left: Lion Jeff getting ready to walk with VA, DC, MD, and Delaware Lions in National Memorial Day Parade
Below: Lions at registration table



Left: Lions Float
Below: Jeff carries Club Banner in parade



Lions Around the World - Continued

By Lion Gordon Tillery

We all know Lions Clubs are present in many countries around the world. Some of you have brought back photos so demonstrating, and some of you have even visited clubs overseas.



Your newsletter editor was recently in Italy (a lovely country filled with good people, good food, and many tourist attractions). The city of Pisa - known for its leaning tower - has a Lions Club as evidenced by the photo on the left.

In foreign lands I often visit cemeteries - as they can be very interesting places. In Portofino, Italy - a small, lovely sea-side town near Santa Margherita Ligure - one local cemetery is in a beautiful spot at the rear of a church on a hill side overlooking the

Mediterranean Sea. Burial plots are packed tightly next to each other, and each is lovingly maintained in honor of the departed person.

This photo (right) shows one marker that obviously honors the departed person and also announces that person was a proud member of the local Lions Club.



While not related to *Lions Information*, I was interested in the world-wide presence of Amazon and the delivery means of Amazon packages in the city of Venice. In Venice canals serve as roads. Do you see the Amazon Smile packages (with the smiley logo) stacked on a delivery boat on a canal in Venice.

Just a Thought -- 75 Years After D-Day

On June 6, 1944, and during the days that followed, men from all over the world came to fight in Normandy to defeat Nazism and re-establish freedom. Normandy will bear the scars (the hallmarks of freedom) forever from that moment in history, and every year we remember and pay tribute to the veterans from America, Britain, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Norway, Poland, Australia, the French resistance, and their brothers in arms - those many heroes who lost their lives during that summer of 1944.

Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6 as 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults ever.

Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign which misled the Germans about the intended invasion target - it helped assure success. Long before dawn on June 6, thousands of paratroopers and glider troops were already on the ground behind enemy lines, securing bridges and exit roads, and creating confusion for the enemy - actions that all helped. US Army Cavalry soldiers, at 4:45AM silently swam ashore the St. Marcoufs Islands...6000 yards off Utah Beach, armed only with knives to neutralize enemy prior to the main landings. The amphibious invasions began at 6:30AM. British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture beaches codenamed Gold, Juno and Sword, as did Americans at Utah Beach. US forces faced heavy resistance at Omaha Beach, and suffered over 2,000 American casualties. Omaha Beach was represented in the opening scenes of the film "Saving Private Ryan." Picture that in your mind - the surf turned red with blood, brave young men - each terribly afraid, but each moving forward doing his job.

By day's end, allied troops successfully stormed Normandy's beaches. The cost was high; more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded in that one day. But their sacrifice allowed the allies to begin the hard slog across Europe to defeat Adolf Hitler's forces.

By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated; the Battle of the Bulge was next; but, by the following spring the Allies had defeated Hitler. D-Day was the beginning-of-the-end of the war in Europe.

A memorial to D-Day sits upon 88 acres in Bedford, VA. The center is a tall arch embellished with the name "Overlord;" the arch is highlighted by a reflecting pool and a scene symbolic of the arduous trudge soldiers made across blood stained beaches of Normandy.

Why Bedford? Bedford provided a company of soldiers to the US Army's 29th Infantry Division that landed at Omaha Beach, and more soldiers to the First Infantry Division. 19 Bedford soldiers died in the D-Day invasion; 2 more Bedford soldiers died later in the Normandy campaign; and another 2 died fighting elsewhere. Bedford's population in 1944 was about 3,200 people; proportionally, Bedford suffered the nation's severest D-Day losses of any city.

On June 6th, we honor our Nation, our Allies, and all who fought for victory...that Greatest Generation to whom we owe our freedom today! Think about it.

Special thanks to...

A tremendous response from club members, as your editor was gone over one-half of May!!! You stepped up to help make the June newsletter happen...thank you Lions Marilyn

Tanner, Mike Rumberg, PCC Bill Bartlett, Jeff Root, Marty Lockhard, Suleiman Alibhai and others for providing ideas and/or input (whole articles, reports, photos) for this month's newsletter. Such help is essential to presenting the news of this Club!

About This Newsletter

Bob Stahl was a WW2 veteran (US Navy - Pacific Theater) - part of the Greatest Generation - 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 distributed by email to club members near the 1st of 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. And please do not hesitate to let me know where I may have misspelled names, etc.

That's all folks!

Send any suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter.
tilleryg@gmail.com

Fairfax Lions Club



We Serve

Since 1951

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