



Fairfax Lions Club News - Dec 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**

Thanksgiving Food Baskets for Deserving Local Families

For decades Fairfax Lions have provided holiday food baskets to deserving families in our community. This year we followed the format designed by former member Marilyn Tanner who arranged for our club to deliver holiday food baskets to local families selected by the Main Street Child Development Center. (More on MSCDC at <http://www.mainstreetcdc.org>.)

On Tuesday, November 25, Fairfax Lions met at the MSCDC facility and presented Thanksgiving food baskets to 25 local families. We are proud to serve people in our community! Many thanks to KL Mike and Lion Jim K for purchasing the ingredients of the food baskets, organizing and assembling them, and scheduling our Club to present them to local families at the Main Street Child Development Center facility.



Top left – Lion Jim K
assembles food
baskets assisted by
KL Mike and sons

Lower Left – KL Mike
coordinates with Main
Street Child
Development Center
staff member Ruth

Right – 1VP Mike
presents food basket
to one family at
MSCDC

Our partnership with MSCDC has been announced in their “Impact Report” for 2019. A clip from that report (pointer arrow added):



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Impact Report FY19

AMAZING PARTNERS!

Main Street has special partnerships with local businesses, churches, and community groups.

Fairfax Kiwanis Club

The Fairfax Kiwanis Club built Main Street its own "Little Library"! Sitting just outside the main entrance to Green Acres, the whole community can find children's books to borrow and share.

Fairfax Host Lions Club

The Fairfax Host Lions Club has become a valuable partner at Main Street. Book donations started it all, and now the Lions do vision screenings for all of the children at Main Street and donate generous holiday food baskets to our most needy families.

Morgan Stanley

For many years, Morgan Stanley McLean has hung an ornament gift wish for each Main Street child on its Angel Tree. The "angels" then deliver beautifully wrapped gifts for every single child. And as a recipient of funds from Morgan Stanley's Tee Off for Tots Tournament for Children's Charities, Main Street truly appreciates the difference Morgan Stanley makes in the lives of our children!



Assisting Tele-Rehab Appointments for Visually Impaired

At our Nov 19 Dinner Meeting, Lion Suleiman Alibhai introduced a new service project for our Club. Starting in January, volunteer Lions will be trained (in Dr Alibhai's Low Vision Clinic) to use video teleconference equipment - basically an iPad mini. Once trained, Lions will setup the equipment in homes of ten low-vision patients to enable them to meet their doctor by videoconference. Previous trials have concluded Lions have

been a valuable assist for patients in establishing the teleconference link, especially for patients challenged by lack of technology familiarity. Meeting their doctor on video teleconference eliminates the need to go to the doctor's facility (many of the patients are not able to drive). A team of two Lions will visit each of the ten patient's homes; the time required for each setup and videoconference is estimated to be an hour or less. This is an outstanding opportunity for our club to expand its current vision service, with minimal effort - and yielding significant benefit to patients. Lion Suleiman will provide initial training in early January; Lions Gordon and Jeff have volunteered, we would like to have two more Lions (and/or spouses) participate!

Charity Fund Raising - Essential to Our Service Mission

DELIVERING SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS WE RAISE

Paying for Our Service Programs

Many of our service programs would simply not happen if we did not raise funds for them. Just two examples from our many service programs: each year, (1) our club buys new eyeglasses for qualified persons in our community, and (2) our club donates for a veterans scholarship at GMU. So, in a sense, raising charity funds is itself a service.

Citrus Fruit Sale, Nov 21-23 - *thanks to Lion Marty Lockard*

November was an outstanding fund raising month. Fairfax Lions Club conducted its first of three fruit sales for charities fund raising on Nov 21-23. But, the work begins long ahead of the actual sale dates. Lion Marty Lockard, who by tradition may be called "Citrus 6" (military call-sign-lingo for "the boss"), analyzes previous sales data, negotiates with the FL growers, and orders the quantities of fruit. Marty works from a master to-do list that includes actions such as: obtaining Charitable Org Exemption from Licensing Requirements, developing sign-up sheet for work volunteers, coordinating advertising, arranging for sales van provided by Craig Van Lines, coordinating with management of the building and parking lot where we hold sales, putting up sales sign, determining item prices, servicing the generator, arranging for site set-up and movement of equipment from storage shed, arranging for traffic barriers to be delivered to the site, assuring credit-card point-of-sale app is available for sales teams, coordinating fruit delivery times with the truck driver, AND MUCH MORE!

The fun begins when the delivery truck arrives, and action is nearly non-stop for three full days - until we sell out and close the sales van. Well over 600 boxes of fruit were shipped from our Florida grower: Egan Farms. Included were navel oranges, grapefruit, and Sol Zest mandarins. After "rolling" each piece of fruit (to find any unsatisfactory items), we sold all the fruit by the end of the first shift on the third day,

Saturday. We also sold surprisingly large quantities of Whitley's VA peanuts (one customer bought 12 CASES, 144 large cans, of peanuts) and Vermont Maple Syrup. As is our practice, some fruit was donated for use by The Lamb Center, a drop-in center for the homeless, poor, those suffering from substance abuse, and those with mental and physical disabilities. Additional fruit was donated for our food baskets given to poor families with children at Thanksgiving. A total of 190 hours of volunteer time by our members made the sale a huge success.

It is too soon to know exactly how many \$ were generated for our Charity Account by this fruit sale, because we still have to pay for the fruit and other products. But it is certain that this was a very productive sale.

THANK YOU's: Members who signed up and worked 3 or more shifts (including transport of equipment and fruit off-load) assuring the sale was a success: Joe, Jeff, Cindy, Ken, Phil, Gordon, Mike G, Scott, Marty. **The top honor goes to JOE BREDA!!! Joe worked FIVE shifts and still showed up for the mid-day shift on Saturday (after we were sold out). All the while, he was in pain because of a back injury. It is indeed an honor to serve alongside Lion Joe Breda!** "Walking wounded" (those volunteers with some limited capabilities) who pitched in and made a positive contribution where able: Joe, Jim D, Bill, Ken, Huey, and Harry P. We want to issue a special thank-you for those in our community who helped support us make it all happen: Craig Van Lines, Dominion Development Corporation - c/o Lann Companies, and the City of Fairfax Public Works - Street Division.



Phil Mayo on setup crew, in his 1960's era Army field jacket



Advance crew with overhead lighting in sales trailer, advises Marty to "Hang em High"



(L). Phil "rolls" grapefruit!
(R) Some bad fruit discovered in rolling



PRICE LIST

CITRUS FRUIT:

	<u>FULL BOX</u>	<u>HALF BOX</u>	<u>1/4 BOX</u>
ORANGES	\$ 40.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 12.00
GRAPEFRUIT	\$ 40.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 12.00
MIXED	\$ 43.00	\$ 23.00	N/A

Retail Prices
(Tape covers up Mandarin price once sold out)

Quart	\$26.00
Pint	\$16.00
½ Pint	\$10.00
<u>Gift Idea:</u> Glass Maple Leaf	\$16.00



(L) Harry Pontius's impression of NFL wide receiver one-hand catch
(C) Team Lead Harry Parker
(Rt) PCC Bill and customer



WHITLEY'S PEANUTS:

32 Ounce can: (Salted), \$19.00

20 Ounce can: (Salted or Unsalted), . \$13.00

NEXT SALE: December 12-14, 2019

*Thank you for supporting the
Fairfax Lions Club!*





(L) Joe and customer
(Rt) Joe and Pete working
in the rain



(L) Membership table
(Rt) Display table



(L) KL Mike dries tarp after rain
(Rt) Pre-sold, or pre-donated fruit set-
aside from sales



Lions Get to Meet Lots of Customers





Last Case of Fruit Sold

Sold Out! 1130 Saturday



NEXT MAJOR FUND RAISER: Citrus Sale, Dec 12-14

November Dinner Meetings

Nov 5th Dinner Meeting

We enjoyed four guests this evening: Nancy Brown (better half of Lion Gene), Kate Greeley (better half of Lion Mike), Sandy Szymanski and evening speaker Bill Szymanski.

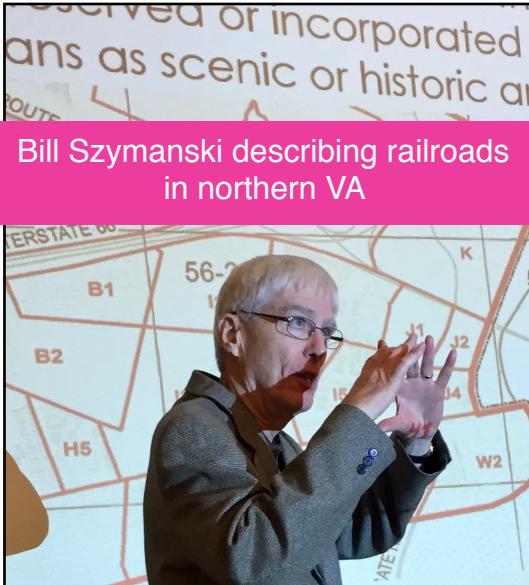
Bill told us about pre-civil war history of railroads in northern VA. For example, Alexandria did not become a rail hub until after "retrocession."

Retrocession was the process of returning (in 1846) to the commonwealth of Virginia part of the land that had been ceded - in 1790 - to the federal

government to create the District of Columbia. Rail construction to connect Alexandria with existing rails began in 1850, and when completed in 1854, connected to the Virginia Central Railroad in Orange County. This boosted commerce; farmers from the Piedmont and the Shenandoah Valley could ship goods more cheaply than

before.

Photos below: King Lion Mike thanked Bill Szymanski for his talk, and also presented an official Lions pin recognizing Lion Joe for being named our Club's Lion of the Year for 2018-2019.



Bill Szymanski describing railroads in northern VA



Bill and Sandy Szymanski, Kate and Mike Greeley



This dinner meeting was an occasion for folks to wear costumes left over from halloween or whatever; three Lions did. We did not get a photo of Jason (AKA Lion Marty), but here are LION Bill, and also Lion Dave dressed as a Lion from a Pennsylvania club.



50/50 Winners: King Lions Mike, and 1VP spouse Kate Greeley. Each won \$19, and the club took home \$36 for its admin account.

[Nov 19th Dinner Meeting](#)

Our featured speaker was Lion Davida Leuhers. Davida is the Sight Chair for our Lion's District and has been the inspiration behind local fund raising for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Davida founded the local chapter of Foundation Fighting Blindness and her efforts have raised over 2.2 million dollars to fund research worldwide to stop blinding retinal diseases. She gave us an update on the past two years of progress being made by Foundation Fighting Blindness. She also introduced us to her new guide dog, which she obtained as her own degenerative eye disease has continued to rob her eyesight. The dog's name was selected by the dog's sponsors: "Chubb," as a recognition of the star running back of the Cleveland Browns - Nick Chubb. Chubb and Davida are featured in an article titled "*How Davida Regained Her Speed with Guide Dog Chubb*;" see this link: [Davida and Chubb](#)

Davida thanked our club for the recent donation of \$500 to FFB, and asked us to consider walking in the annual FFB Vision Walk on May 3, 2020. The event t-shirt will include Fairfax Lions Club on the back, as a sponsor.



Lion Davida

We learn about Chubb



So, Chubb must be a Yoga dog - isn't that the DOWN DOG pose?



KL Mike Thanks Davida & Chubb

It was a pleasure to welcome Kevin Humphrey, owner of Fairfax Opticians, as a guest of PCC Bill Bartlett (see related news under Board meeting notes below).

In addition, Lion Phil discussed past bridge-wash-out and other problems at the Lions Youth Camp, resulting in a financing problem. But thanks to several donations, including from our Club, a way-ahead plan appears to have developed.

50/50 Winners: Congratulations to winners Lions Scott (won \$12) and Lion Harry Parker (won \$13). The Club admin account took home \$25, thanks to all who engaged!

Board Meeting - Nov 26th

The Board of Directors met at the City of Fairfax Senior Center; seven Board members and two guests participated. Notes:

Correspondence received:

- Main Street Child Development Center invitation to Open House breakfast on Dec 3, and MSCDC Impact Report for 2019 - featuring FHLC as one of their “partners.”
- VA Lions Youth Camp thank-you note for our Club’s charitable donation of \$3000

Disbursements: The Board approved budgeted charity disbursement of \$1000 to GMU towards a scholarship supporting a veteran.

MEMBERSHIP: The Board approved the membership application submitted by Kevin Humphrey who attended our last dinner meeting as a guest. PCC Bill Bartlett is the sponsoring Lion.

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM: KL Mike announced 1 vehicle was donated in November - his own, well used, Jeep.

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING: PCC Bill Bartlett reported that the Fairfax Lions collected 707 pairs of eyeglasses in November. Nine Lions volunteered a total of 18 hours at the Eyeglass Recycling Center.

Internal Audit results: Lion Jim Davis reported results of the audit he completed on the previous Lions year treasury accounts. There were no significant problems in any accounting, although some chronological back-up invoices/receipts/data was lacking. Three specific recommendations were delivered, which the Board will act on at the next Board meeting (in January):

1. Institute a required financial review (audit) to be conducted soon after the end of each fiscal year.
2. Formalize a process (who does what, when) for handling delinquent member accounts during the year.
3. Assure a treasury “chron file” is maintained to enable a full and accurate annual audit of the treasury books.

Club members are welcome to attend any Board meeting, and join the pre-Board meeting meal at Coyote Grill (order your own meal, pay your own bill).

December Events **(Lions Event, Other Event)**

Dec 3 - Regular Dinner Meeting
Dec 4 - Eyeglass Recycling
Dec 5 - Lions Lunch Bunch
Dec 7 - NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
Dec 8 - **Last day to RSVP** for Fairfax Lions Holiday Party
Dec 11 - UNLOAD FRUIT
Dec 12-14 - Fruit Sale
Dec 14 - WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY (date changes each year)
Dec 17 - Holiday party at Waterford (replaces regular Dinner Meeting)
Dec 18 - Eyeglass Recycling
Dec 18 - Bingo at Fairfax Nursing Center
Dec 21 - WINTER SOLSTICE (winter begins, fewest hours of sunlight)
Dec 23 - Chanukah Begins (date changes each year)
Dec 24 - NO Board meeting
Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!
Jan 1 - Happy New Year!
Jan 7 - Regular Dinner Meeting - start the NY right, Invite a Guest!

Lions Information

City of Fairfax Inter Service Club Council (ISCC)

The ISCC meets monthly to share information, coordinate schedules, and to promote service in the City of Fairfax general area. Member organizations (reverse-alpha order):

Zonta Club of Fairfax
Woman's Club of Fairfax
Soroptimist International of Fairfax County
Shepherd's Center of Fairfax Burke
ServiceSource
Salvation Army Auxiliary
Rotary Club of Fairfax
Optimist Club of Central Fairfax
Shelter House - NOVACO
Knights of Columbus
Kiwanis Club of Fairfax

Independence Day Celebration Committee
Historic Fairfax City, Inc./ Fairfax Museum
Friends of Fairfax Station
Friends of Fairfax City Regional Library
Fairfax VA Chapter Harley Owners Group
Fairfax Host Lions Club
Fairfax Ferns Garden Club
Downtown Fairfax Coalition
Civitan Club of Fairfax
Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
City of Fairfax

Examples of service projects over the holiday period by these organizations:

- Salvation Army Auxiliary has 1300 children registered to receive a stocking; and will operate 30 donation “Kettle” in the Fairfax area.
- Woman’s Club of Fairfax is collecting used clothing for needy persons, and also will help fill Salvation Army stockings.
- Fairfax VA Chapter Harley Owners Group will assemble children’s bicycles for the Salvation Army gift program.
- Knights of Columbus feeds the homeless in DC and delivers family food baskets.
- Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax Burke provides rides for seniors to medical appointments.
- Rotary Club of Fairfax provides dictionaries to 3rd grade students, a copy of the US Constitution to all 8th grade students, and rings the bell for Salvation Army kettles.
- Fairfax Ferns Garden Club decorates the City Old Town Hall for the holidays.
- Kiwanis Club of Fairfax provides “meals for young minds” and sponsors families for holiday dinners.

So, other local service clubs may also proclaim: WE SERVE!!!

Truly, it is wonderful to serve others in our area.

Special thanks to...

Several Lions who provided 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 “The Bob Stahl Memorial 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).

"The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter" is published in PDF format, and is distributed by email to club members around the 1st of each month. **YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** (That does not mean \$ contributions, but your words & photos!) And please do not hesitate to let the editor know where there are misspelled names, etc.

Fairfax Lions Club



We Serve

Since 1951

That's all folks!

Send any suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter.

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COMPASSION AND KINDNESS**