



Fairfax Lions Club News - Sep 2020

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

We ALWAYS Start with Service - Our Primary Mission

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

Update on Food For Others

This short video produced by Food For Others (click on the image) mentions the mobile food delivery service we supported with our Club's recent major service project involving donations from 5 other Lions Clubs, and matching grants from the Lions of VA Foundation. (hopefully the video link works)



Scholarship Grants for Sight Impaired Individuals

Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation (VLEIF) seeks applications for scholarship grants to sight impaired individuals. The scholarships provide financial aid intended for training or education. District 24-L Lions Clubs may sponsor individuals deserving of a scholarship. (Our Club will invite a presentation on this topic at a dinner meeting.)

You can help pass the word - to teachers, eye care professionals, neighbors, etc... make them aware of this source of financial aid for sight impaired individuals (that is, not simply someone whose vision is correctible by glasses, but someone with more limiting circumstances). See ad on our club web page: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org>

The grant application is available at: <http://vleif.org/scholarships/>

Charity Fund Raising - Essential to Our Service Mission

DELIVERING SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS WE RAISE

We received a disappointing, but not completely unexpected, email on August 14th. Lion Ken had been gearing-up to lead our club in the October 10th annual Fall Festival Food Booth fund raiser. It is always a lot of fun and a great way to involve volunteers, and for Lions to meet folks in our community. Maybe next year!

Email we received:

Hello Fall Festival Participants:

As you are fully aware, COVID-19 has made it vital to limit social contact and avoid large gatherings. For that reason, the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation (Parks & Rec) Department have made the difficult decision (with the concurrence of the Mayor and the City Council) to cancel the 44th Annual City of Fairfax Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, October 10, 2020. While staff are all disappointed, we hope you understand that we're taking these steps to keep everyone safe.

If you have questions or comments, please email Mitzi Taylor, City of Fairfax Event and Athletic Manager, at Mitzi.Taylor@fairfaxva.gov or Serrita Farnsworth, City of Fairfax Event Assistant Manager, at Serrita.farnsworth@fairfaxva.gov.

Sincerely,
Mitzi Taylor, CPRP
Athletic and Event Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
City of Fairfax, 10455 Armstrong Street • Fairfax, VA 22030-3630
703.385.7949 O • 703.470.2732 C • 703.246.6321 F

Dinner Meetings

August 4th Zoom Meeting

Our club was honored with a visit by District Governor Glen Logan. DG Glen took the opportunity to brief our club on LCI's North American Membership Initiative (NAMI).

NAMI is focused on revitalizing and growing Lions membership in North America. Invite your friends, co-workers, and family to learn more about joining Lions Club. Together we can grow our membership to better serve those in need. We serve through diversity. All Lions, young, old, or somewhere between, have their own unique experiences and skills that blend us all together to help serve our communities. We do this without any form of personal financial gain as members. Our members pay all of our administrative costs. 100% of public donations go to charitable causes.



DG Glen

NAMI Tenets

Revitalize Clubs: with New Members, New clubs, Young Adults
Re-motivate Members: with New Fellowships and Exciting Service

Challenges for this Lions Year

- Most obvious is recovery and return to “normal” Lions Clubs operations in the face of COVID-19 pandemic
- Declining membership in North America (and worldwide)
- Transition from our “traditional” modes of operations to more online meetings
 - Many clubs have already adopted technology solutions
 - We must continue to consider needs of members and clubs **reach out** to those who are not “wired in”, e.g., lack of email, broadband internet and smartphones.
- Opportunities and Response
 - Conduct District-wide technology and other surveys
 - Increase member engagement to meet their needs – “Lions Serving Lions”
 - Commit to the North America Membership Initiative

DG Glen's Challenges - and Opportunities - for Fairfax Lions

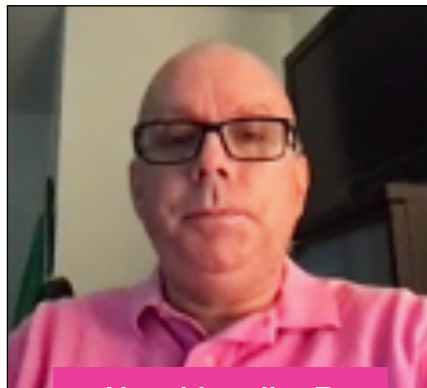
DG Glen has a favorite saying: **Don't give up.** He told us of a book called “*Three Feet From Gold: Turn Your Obstacles Into Opportunities.*” The three feet part comes from a story about miners who gave up from all the hard work, only to discover the next miners that came in after them, hit the gold payload after drilling only three more feet. Don't Give Up!

PDG / PCC Bill conducted an induction ceremony for two new members of Fairfax Lions Club: Jim Rich, and Bill Szymanski. Please welcome them at your next opportunity...

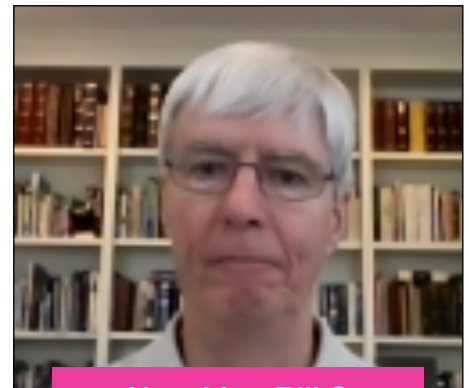
It's GREAT to be a Lion!



PCC Bill



New Lion Jim R



New Lion Bill S



One gallery view of the Aug 4 Meeting

As has become recent custom, KL Mike ended the meeting by “moving a penny.”

August 18th Zoom Meeting



Page 1 of gallery view of Aug 18 virtual meeting

The main topic at the Aug 18 zoom meeting was the Club Membership Plan, which includes these vectors...

- Retention

Survey club membership, encourage affiliates to become active, contact former members, encourage Board to use committees more effectively.

- Advertising

Provide business cards & brochures to all members (should have by now); members discuss club with friends & associates, and also local businesses (dentists, doctors, favorite restaurants, etc). Follow-up!

- Recruiting

Schedule club recruiting booth at public engagements (where Club is present, and other venues); use promotional give-away items; maintain contacts database; follow-up!

- Engage New members

Provide hat, shirt, nametag, etc, to new members quickly; assign new members to a committee; sponsors check-in periodically with new members.



Ken discussed how to approach friends and business

KL Mike informed club members to check out the current issue of Lion Magazine - it recognizes our recent service project in the Club News section <http://lionmagazine.org>

CLUB NEWS - JULY/AUGUST 2020

The **Fairfax Lions, Falls Church-Annandale Lions, Burke Lions, Springfield Global Lions, Clifton Lions, and Alexandria Asian-American Lions**, along with **Lions of Virginia Foundation**, donated US\$19,525 to support Food For Others, providers of free emergency groceries in the north Virginia region, distributing food each week to more than 4,000 families. The Lions contribution helps kick-start FFO's new mobile food pantry delivering emergency food to those not able to get to food distribution centers.

Fairfax Lions team is recognized in July/ August Lion Magazine

The **Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation** presented 29 Scholarship Grants to recipients, totaling US\$78,000 — US\$3,000 for each single recipient, and \$1,500 for multiple recipients in the same family.

KL Mike also noticed in the recent Lion Magazine, that VA Lions Eye Institute (which our club supports) has awarded several scholarships to deserving persons.

2nd VP Jim announced the invited speaker for the Sept 1 meeting is Delegate David Bulova, who represents the 37th District - the heart of Fairfax - in the Virginia House of Delegates.



KL Mike ran the meeting, which included reports from Lion Marty and Jeff

Orientation - August 3rd

You may ask, we just read about Aug 4 & 18 meetings, why do we now go backwards in time to read about an Aug 3 event? Answer: TRADITION!

In this newsletter, we first cover Service; then, Fund Raising; then, “Dinner” Meetings; then, the rest. OK?

A small group of club members assembled over zoom at 5pm, August 3rd, and Lion Ken presented a new orientation briefing to our newest Club members: Lions Jim R, and Bill S.

New Member Orientation

Fairfax Host Lions Club
Fairfax, Virginia

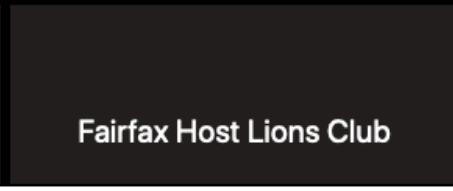
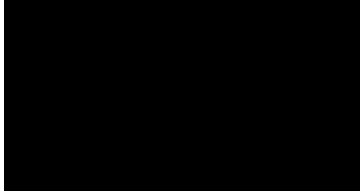


District 24-L
Lions of Virginia

On August 3rd...

WHY ARE WE HERE TODAY? (cont)

We have found that a good orientation helps ensure that the new member really knows what is involved with being a Lion. It also serves as a first step in the retention process. A Lion who knows what the club does and what is expected of him/her is more likely to be an active participant and long-term member.



OBLIGATIONS UPON BECOMING A LION

- Quarterly fees (\$110*) plus initial fee (\$35).
- Attendance at meetings (rules on make-up).
- Participation in Club activities.
- Keeping the Secretary informed.

(* Includes six meals and all dues; always subject to change based on cost of meals or dues.)

Currently dues are reduced to \$33 because we are not holding dinner meetings, and Lions International has waived the \$35 initial fee.

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome Jim and Bill into our club! Both of these new members were introduced with a short paragraph in the August Newsletter, please refer back.



New Lions Jim Rich (top)
And Bill Szymanski (bottom)
in Zoom Orientation

We especially look forward to healthier times when we can meet, and serve, in person and get to know our new members better!



Board Meeting - Aug 25th

The following actions were taken by your Board:

- Reviewed thank-you letter from Lions Northern VA Eyeglass Recycling Center for our club's \$500 donation
- Eyeglass Recycling committee reported the new Eyeglass Recycling facility plans to open on Oct 1 with 8 volunteers allowed per recycling session, BUT progress on permits needed to open the center has stalled
- Noted the receipt of \$550 for our charity account from our vehicle donation program, from sale of 2 cars donated in June
- Noted that after more than 20 years of Northern VA operations, "Waterford Receptions" has been forced by the pandemic to close its doors forever (where our club typically held our winter holiday celebration)

- Noted that VA Lions Eye Institute Foundation (VLEIF) seeks applications for scholarship grants to sight impaired individuals. Financial aid is intended to help in training or education. District 24-L Lions Clubs may sponsor individuals deserving of a scholarship. Our Club will invite a presentation on this topic. The grant application is available at: <http://vleif.org/scholarships/>
- Approved reimbursement of individual club member registration fee (\$25) for any club members participating in the “**USA/Canada Lions Leadership Experience**,” Sep 25-27. The forum is a virtual learning experience and is highly recommended for all Lions. Information, and register, at <https://lionsforum.org>
- Approved an **optional** Club picnic to be held at Providence Park on September 13. Details below, and to be announced at the Sep 1 Zoom dinner meeting.

September Events:

Sep 1 - Regular Dinner Meeting (Zoom)

Sep 2 - Fairfax Inter-Service Club Council zoom meeting

Sep 7 - Labor Day

Sep 11 - Patriot Day

Sep 13 - *OPTIONAL* - Club Picnic

Sep 15 - NO Regular Dinner Meeting

Sep 18- Rosh Hashanah starts

Sep 18 - Absentee ballot mailout begins

Sep 18 - Absentee/early voting in-person begins, at [Fairfax County Government Center](#)

Sep 22 - Board meeting (Zoom)

Sep 22 - First day of Fall (Autumnal Equinox)

Sep 22 - Yom Kippur starts

Sep 25-27 - USA/Canada Lions Leadership Experience (Zoom)

September 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Upcoming

Oct 13 - 5pm Deadline to register to vote

Oct 14 - Absentee/early voting in-person begins at [satellite locations](#)

Oct 23 - Deadline to request absentee ballot be mailed to you (must be received by 5:00pm)

Oct 31 - Final day to vote absentee early/in-person,

OPTIONAL Club Picnic

Fairfax Lions will host our annual picnic with multiple options available. Lions pre-order a boxed lunch from Dickie's BBQ in Fairfax. The club will pick up all meals and bring them to Providence Park. For those comfortable with social distancing & outside dining, eat at the park. For those who prefer to eat at home, you can pick up the meals at the Park. For those who do not feel it is safe to interact at all during the pandemic, we will see you on our next zoom meeting. This is an **OPTIONAL** event. Please participate however you feel safe for

you. Individuals in high risk categories should conduct any interaction in a safe and careful manner. More information to be provided at Sep 1 meeting.

City of Fairfax Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC)

ISCC takes a break over the summer. Next zoom meeting, September 2.

Lions Information - USA/Canada Lions Leadership Experience, Sep 25-27



This forum is a virtual learning experience; it is highly recommended for all Lions. And, it is free to you - as the Board voted to reimburse you for your registration expense (\$25).

For information, and to register, go to: <https://lionsforum.org>

Lions Information - Update on Elections

- Inaccurate Center for Voter Information Mailing: (repeat of earlier info) - a non-profit mailed absentee ballot request forms with an incorrectly addressed return envelope. For more, see: [Inaccurate Voter Info](#)
- Temporary Work with Absentee Ballots: You can help process mailed absentee ballots, or help at an in-person absentee voting location before election day. Complete this form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/absentee-positions-application>. (Note: the process is handled by "Survey Monkey," on behalf of Fairfax County Government.)
- Have a Plan to Vote:

We have heard of possible delays at the US Postal Service. Given that, and the health situation, it is prudent to have a plan to vote. Basic options: go to the polls on Nov 3rd - as usual. Or, go and vote early (as early as Sep 18). Or, vote by absentee ballot.

If you have an absentee ballot, and decide to skip the mail, you can take it with you to one of the "In-person Absentee/early-voting sites."

No matter which way you vote - do it early. If in-person, pick a time/place to minimize exposure to crowds. If you requested an absentee mail-in ballot, mail it **early**. Or, take it with you to an In-person Absentee/early-voting site, and give it to the poll-worker.



- Voter Timeline:
 - Sept 18 - **Early / In-Person Absentee** Voting begins at:
 - Fx **County** Office of Elections, 12000 Govt Center Pkwy, M-F, 8-4:30, Sat, 9/19, 9-5
 - Fairfax **City** City Hall Annex Suite 300, 10455 Armstrong St, M-F, 8:30-5
Sat, 10/24 & 10/31, 8:30- 5
 - Oct 13 - DEADLINE to register to vote, change or update your registration
 - Register online [HERE](#) by 11:59pm
 - Oct 14 - **Satellite voting locations** open for **Early / In-Person Absentee** Voting
Hours vary by location; see satellite locations [here](#)
 - Oct 23 - DEADLINE to apply for absentee ballot - 5pm
 - Oct 31 - DEADLINE to Vote Early / In-Person Absentee - 5pm
 - NOV 3 - ELECTION DAY - VOTE IN PERSON! All polls open 6am - 7pm
- For more on locations & dates, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee>

Lions Information - For The Health & Well Being of Club Members

Can You Safely Visit Grandparents and Older Adults?

(Copied From Fairfax County Govt: [See this link](#))

Since March, many older adults have been kept safe in quarantine, limiting contact with family to Zoom or Facetime. Now it is August, and many long to see their children, grandchildren, and other family and friends, but are unsure of the risks.

Here are some scientific facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to keep in mind as you make your decision whether or not to visit with family members who are older.

Older people are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 infection and death. According to the CDC, people in their 50s are at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s. The greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is among those aged 85 or older.

People can spread the disease without having symptoms.

A negative COVID-19 test is not a guaranteed clearance for safely visiting with grandparents. If you test negative for COVID-19 by a viral test, you probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected. However, that does not mean you will not get sick. The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing. You might test negative if the sample was collected early in your infection and test positive later during your illness. You could also be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and get infected as a result

For grandparents in long-term care facilities, like nursing homes and assisted living facilities, visitors are restricted. Call ahead to ensure you know the facility's policy prior to arrival. Ask if an outdoor visit is allowed.

A summary of what the CDC recommends to make any visit with family and friends as safe as possible...

- **Delay or cancel your visit** if you or other visitors:
 - Have symptoms of COVID-19,
 - Have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 during the last 14 days, or
 - If you had close contact to a person with COVID-19 – meaning you have were within six feet of a person who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more during the days they had symptoms or two days before they had symptoms.
- **Stay outdoors** for the visit. If that is not possible, meet in a well-ventilated space where you can have open windows or doors. Also, ensure the space is large enough to enable social distancing.
- **Spread out.** Practice the “Safe Six” (six feet apart).
- **No hugs and kisses.** Avoid close contact. Wave instead.
- **Wear a mask.**
- **Wash your hands** and sanitize surfaces.
- **Communicate!** Talk with your family members and understand everyone’s concerns before visiting an older parent or grandparent. This is not a time for surprise visits. Planning ahead will help everyone get on the same page in advance.

And, always remember: **you are safest at home.**

Managing Stress & Promoting Positive Mental Health During COVID-19

5 Tips to Promote Positive Mental Health

1. Engage in self-enhancing activities.
2. Limit exposure to news about the pandemic.
3. Exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep.
4. Invest time in relationships.
5. Embrace the gifts around you.



Read about mental health resources:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb

COVIDWISE Smart Phone App

VA has implemented a free COVID-19 exposure notification app. The app is called [COVIDWISE](#); it was developed in a partnership between the VA Department of Health, Google, and Apple. COVIDWISE allows your smart phone to **anonymously** notify others if you have tested positive for COVID-19, and notifies you if you've likely been exposed to the virus based on anonymous reports from other app users.

The goal is to reduce risk for your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues. But, it only works if most people use it. Here's how you can:

1. Visit the App Store or Google Play Store and download COVIDWISE
2. Share information about COVIDWISE with friends, colleagues, and family
3. Post & share your support on social media



A Civics Refresher - What is our Electoral College?

Source: [wikipedia](#) - [US Electoral College](#)

The Electoral College is a body of electors established by the US Constitution, which forms every four years for the sole purpose of electing the president and VP. The Electoral College consists of 538 electors, and an absolute majority of at least 270 electoral votes is required to win the election. According to Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the Constitution, each state legislature determines the manner by which its state's electors are chosen. The number of each state's electors is equal to the sum of the state's membership in the Senate and House of Representatives; currently there are 100 senators and 435 representatives. Additionally, the 23rd Amendment, ratified in 1961, provides that DC is entitled to the same number of electors as the least populated state (presently three). US territories are not entitled to any electors.

Following the nationwide presidential election, each state counts its popular votes according to that state's laws to designate presidential electors. In 48 states and DC, the winner of the plurality of the statewide vote receives all of that state's electors; in Maine and Nebraska, two electors are assigned in this manner and the remaining electors are allocated based on the plurality of votes in each congressional district. States generally require electors to pledge to vote for that state's winner. Each state's electors meet in their respective state capital on the first Monday after the second Wednesday of December to cast their votes. The results are counted by Congress, where they are tabulated in the first week of January before a joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives, presided over by the VP, acting as president of the Senate. Should a majority of votes not be cast for a candidate, the House turns itself into a presidential election session, where one vote is assigned to each of the fifty states. The elected president and VP are inaugurated on January 20.

College benefits their party. For the same reason, Democrats in California fought hard to block a 2007 proposal that would have divided up the state's electoral vote, awarding one vote to the candidate who received the most votes in each congressional district.

For long stretches of our history, attempts to replace the Electoral College with a national popular vote were thwarted by the implacable opposition of the Southern states. With a popular vote it is the number of actual voters that matters, but under the Electoral College each state's number of electors is determined based on its population. This worked to the advantage of the slave states before the Civil War, when slaves were counted as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of representation, even though they couldn't vote.

The end of slavery only increased the advantage for white Southerners: Black citizens were counted fully for Electoral College purposes, but they remained mostly disenfranchised until the 1960s. As late as 1969-70, a proposal for a national popular vote was approved by the House but defeated in the Senate in a filibuster led by Senators Sam Ervin of North Carolina, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and James Eastland of Mississippi.

Ironically, the sheer number of problems with the Electoral College has helped preserve it. There is the winner-take-all method of awarding each state's electors, which is not in the Constitution but has been almost universal since 1830; the use of electors as intermediaries; and the latitude given to states to change how they pick electors from one election to the next. Then there's the "contingent election" provision—not used since 1824 but still on the books—which says that if no candidate wins an outright majority of electoral votes, the winner is chosen by the House, with each state having a single vote regardless of size. It has proven difficult to change any one part of the system without changing others, a fact that has multiplied the sources of resistance.

There is also simple fear of the unknown. Faced with the choice of sticking with a flawed but familiar system, or adopting a new one that might have unforeseen consequences, many legislators have opted for the devil they know. Interest in change has also been hard to sustain. It has tended to surge around messy elections like those of 1824, 1876, 1948, 1968 (when George Wallace seemed poised to become a kingmaker), 2000 and 2016. But the momentum for change dissipated when electoral crises failed to materialize, faded in memory, or spawned partisan rancor so acute that cooperation became unthinkable.

What does this history tell us about the prospects for Electoral College reform or abolition today? Certainly, the long track record of failed attempts underscores the scale of the challenge. Jimmy Carter, who endorsed a national popular vote when he was president, gloomily predicted in 2001 that "200 years from now we will still have the Electoral College." He may have been right.

But the historical record also reveals Americans' enduring dissatisfaction with the institution, and the fact that we have twice come very close to changing it suggests that the goal is not a pipe dream. Indeed, numerous approaches to reform are now underway, including the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact—an innovative effort to institute a

national popular vote without amending the Constitution—has been formally endorsed by 15 states and the District of Columbia since it was launched in 2006.

If the Republican Party retains its current strength and remains committed to the Electoral College, the odds of reforming it are close to zero. But history shows that political conditions can change, and so can the positions of parties. If the Democrats start to have a chance of carrying Georgia, Texas and other once-reliably red states, Republicans may find the winner-take-all system less attractive.

The acrid partisanship that surrounds us today doesn't foster reasoned conversations about the best way to choose a president. But if we as a nation succeed in backing away from the precipice on which we now stand, with democratic norms eroding and democracy itself in some danger, those conversations could well begin. In the past, reform efforts have come closest to success when party alignments have been in flux. It's possible that the post-Trump era, whenever it begins, will bring a similar realignment, and with it a chance to finally reform the Electoral College after 200 years."

—Mr. Keyssar is a professor of history at the Harvard Kennedy School and the author of the new book "Why Do We Still Have the Electoral College?" (Harvard University Press), from which this essay is adapted.

Special thanks to...

Several Lions always step up to help make this newsletter happen...thank you for providing ideas and/or input (whole articles, reports, photos). 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 Secretary, President, bulletin editor, and sharing at each meeting a bit of "Lions Information.")

"The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter" is published on the Fairfax Lions web page. Club members are alerted to its availability on the web page around the 1st of each month.

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! Send words & photos for the newsletter, anytime. They must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the next issue. We need your help to publicize information about our Club, and about you.

That's all folks!

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

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

Fairfax Lions Club



We Serve

Since 1951