

# Fairfax Lions Club News

## March 2023

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



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

**SPECIAL NOTE - YOUR DUES:** Each quarter you get a bill (email) for what you owe the Club. Some Lions are “overdue.” See page 12...

**-- We Serve --**

### More on Peace Poster Contest

Last month, you saw this photo of the Peace Poster created by 7th grader Meryem Gurbuz.

It won our Club's competition, and earned Honorable Mention in the District Contest. Meryem's poster will be featured in this



year's program for the "[Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County](#)" on Sunday Mar 19, at Sherwood Community Center. 600,000 posters were submitted to Lions clubs around the world.

Meryem's family attended our Feb 7 dinner meeting to witness our recognition of Meryem. Photos are in the write-up for that meeting, later in this newsletter. See also what we posted on our [website](#).

Lion Jeff has earned a BIG THANK YOU for his continued service in orchestrating all aspects of our Club's annual Peace Poster contest (and the Bland contest). If you are interested in assisting next year's efforts, let Jeff know!

## **Eyeglasses for Those in Need**

You know, in many ways Fairfax Lions help people with vision problems: we screen youngsters for vision problems; we process donated eyeglasses for medical missions around the world (where eye-doctors dispense the eyeglasses); we support the VA Lions Eye Institute Foundation which does MANY, MANY things - see: <http://vleif.org/>; we help local, financially qualified, persons get vision exams and new eyeglasses; and - see this report...

## Report by Lion Marty Lockard.

*I recently did an inventory of reading glasses our club has maintained at The Lamb Center for the homeless and very needy for a number of years. It is normal to give "Guests" who need help with reading 350-600 of the glasses in a year. Yes, they have thousands of "Guests" going through the front door each year. [LERCNOVA](#) (Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center Northern VA) graciously provides the glasses whenever I ask. I picked up 9 boxes of glasses (50 to a box – total of 450 glasses) at LERC late last week and delivered them to The Lamb Center where they are stored in special marked bins in a large cabinet upstairs. I carefully fill the bins with the right glasses as well as smaller bins kept at the front desk and managed by front desk volunteers. I also provide reading charts and some instruction for front desk volunteers.*

Thank you, Lion Marty, for your tireless service!!!

## **Fairfax Lions Club Charity Fund Raising**

**SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS**

Our Club also depends on "Admin" funds. Our Admin account benefits from sales of Lions of VA

Foundation raffle-tickets. We receive part of the \$30 it costs to buy one ticket book. Get a book of tickets at the March 7 dinner meeting (from KL Greg) - you pay \$30, and you either sell the 30 tickets, or keep them. Turn-in completed ticket stubs for the prize drawing at the VA state convention on April 30, 2023. See KL Greg soonest to get your tickets!

<b>No 096431 M</b>	Name _____	<b>Lions of Virginia Foundation, Inc.</b>		<b>No 096431 M</b>
	Address _____	<b>Annual Raffle</b>		
	City _____	<b>1st - \$10,000 Cash</b>		
	State _____ Zip _____	<b>2nd - \$500 Cash</b>		
	Phone _____	<b>3rd - \$500 Cash</b>		
	Seller of winning ticket receives \$100.00 if signed			
	Club _____	DRAWING AT LIONS OF VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION, SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023		
	Lion _____	Winner Need Not Be Present To Win		
		<b>ROAR FOR LOVF SAKE 🐾 DONATION: \$1.00</b>		
		Lions, Lionesses and Leo Clubs not eligible. Lions, Lionesses and Leo Members are eligible.		

## Club Meetings

### Feb 7th Dinner Meeting

Our guest speaker was Gerarda Culipher, Deputy Clerk of Fairfax County's courts. She spoke on "Tips on Fraud Prevention," presenting many samples of cases of fraudulent activity the courts encounter. (References for you - See page 9.)



Gerarda Culpcher Shares Tips on Fraud Prevention



The good news is, the Clerk's front-line staff are informed and alert, and catch things such as fraudulent property title applications.

KL Greg thanks Gerarda with a speaker's gift





Lion Jeff Root presented Meryem Gurbuz a certificate and cash awards for her winning Peace Poster. Meryem told the

Club of her joy in creating a poster



about helping others. Meryem's dad told us how

pleased the family is to participate, and for Meryem's art work opportunity.

KL Greg presented several Lions with "chevron" pins in recognition of their years of service as a Lion.

Pins went to: Steve  
Bilowus (10 years),



Gary Maxwell (30  
years),

Mike Rumberg (25 years),



and Dave McPherson  
(40 years).



KL Greg  
also had  
awards  
recognizing  
effort to build  
membership;  
included was  
Lion Jim  
Kaplan.



Lion Rodney Neely, sadly, attended his last meeting as a Fairfax Lion. Rodney and Helen are moving to Winchester, and we will miss Rodney's many contributions over the years running the Eyeglasses-for-the-Needy charity program.

Lion Mike  
announced that  
increasing  
numbers of clients  
at Food For  
Others, creates a  
need for reusable  
bags for clients to  
use. Mike will



collect any bags Lions bring to dinner meetings, and get them to Food For Others.



A couple of Lions celebrated Birthdays the week of this meeting, so Lions sang them all “Happy Birthday.”

### **Useful info from Deputy Clerk Gerarda....**

## **What Resources Do We Have to STOP Fraud?**

(CHECK OUT EACH LINK)

VA AG, Consumer Protection Office:

<https://www.oag.state.va.us/consumer-protection/>

FX County Financial Crimes Unit:

[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/Police\\_FiCOR/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/police\\_ficor/](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/Police_FiCOR/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/police_ficor/)

AARP Fraud Watch Network:

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/about-fraud-watch-network/>

Fairfax County’s Silver Shield (Anti-Scam Campaign):

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-county-silver-shield-anti-scam-campaign>

Gerarda’s last words on fraud prevention: *“Feel free to email us, with any specific questions.”*

[gerarda.Culipher@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:gerarda.Culipher@fairfaxcounty.gov) 703-246-4191

## Feb 21st Dinner Meeting

We did not have an external guest speaker, but we enjoyed a presentation from our Zone Chair.

The talk covered LCI goals (focus service on diabetes, vision, hunger, environment, and childhood cancer); award criteria for Club's to be recognized as "excellent," and so forth.

There was a report from the floor on an article in the latest Lion magazine dated "Winter 2023" .... On pages 36-39 is an article on Lions pin trading. The article starts:

*"It's not the sun, surf, and swaying palm trees that **Lion Bill Smith** remembers most about attending his first Lions International Convention in Miami Beach in 1973, it's the trading pins.*

*If you've ever been to a Lions event, you've probably seen one, two, or two hundred of them—tiny, colorful metal brooches sporting designs ranging from patriotic to whimsical, and all centered around Lions.*

*For decades Lions have used the pins as a kind of currency, trading them, collecting them, and displaying them proudly in their homes and on their Lions vests. True collectors are always on the hunt.*

*But what exactly are they looking for when they go fishing for the pin of their dreams?*

### *How it started*

**Smith**, 92, a member of the **Fairfax Lions Club** in Fairfax, Virginia for 55 years, has been collecting and trading pins for more than five decades and is one of about 800 members of the Lions International Trading Pin Club, which was founded in 1973 at that very same convention in Miami.

*The group began with fewer than 50 members from 11 states and districts and now claims members from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, most provinces of Canada and 18 other districts and multiple districts from around the world. Personal collections can number in the hundreds of thousands.”*

We are all proud to see Fairfax Lion Bill Smith called out in LCI's magazine!!! (Later in this newsletter, you will find a reprint of an article about Pin Trading from our July 2021 newsletter.)

## **Feb 28th Board Meeting**

As usual the Board of Directors met at the American Legion to orchestrate the business of the Club. (All are welcome to attend any meeting.)

You saw this note on page 1....

**YOUR DUES - Each quarter you get a bill(email) for what you owe the Club. See page 12... some Lions are "overdue."**

Members owe an amount each quarter - based on state and international dues the Club pays for you to be a member, the cost of meals members and their guests consumed. The Board noted several members are overdue. Members are encouraged to pay what their bill promptly after receiving it!

The Board reviewed plans for Charter Night (celebrating the Club's 72nd anniversary) on Sunday April 23rd (6-9pm). Mark your calendars!

Plan to attend Club meetings in March - to consider the nominations for next year's Club officers and directors.

## **March Events**

***(Come to dinner meetings for full info on events)***

Mar 1 - ISCC Meeting

Mar 2 - Lions Lunch Bunch: (Qs? [email Lion Bill](#))

Mar 7 - Dinner Meeting (Nominations)

Mar 11 - VLEI Awards Lunch [click here](#)

(FX Lion Dr Suleiman Alibhai is guest speaker)

Mar 12 - Bland Contest: 1:30pm, Providence  
Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River  
Turnpike (a great event; don't miss it!)

Mar 21 - Dinner Meeting

Mar 28 - Board Meeting

## Coming Up:

Apr 16 - Sprout Fundraiser "Sipping for Sprout"  
(Stone Tower Winery, Leesburg). This is a fun event  
in a beautiful venue; your participation supports  
"Sprout Therapeutic Riding & Education Ctr." [https://  
sproutcenter.org/events/sipping-for-sprout/#](https://sproutcenter.org/events/sipping-for-sprout/#)  
(FX Lions is a sponsor!)



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**SIPPING FOR SPROUT**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023 AT 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT**

**Sipping for Sprout 2023**

Stone Tower Winery

AND...

April 23 - FX lions Charter Night (Plan to attend!)

## **Club Participation in Other Meetings** **Fairfax City Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC)**

At the February 1 meeting in the Moose Lodge, Alex Iszard was guest speaker. Alex is George Mason Uni's Asst VP of Planning, Design and Construction. Alex summarized facility improvements on three campuses: Fairfax (in the City), Mason Square (Arlington), and Science and Technology (Manassas) - which is also home to the [Hylton Performing Arts Center](#).

ISCC voted to donate \$100 from ISCC funds (to which our Lions Club contributes via annual dues) to the Fairfax HS All-Night Grad party. The annual Volunteer-of-the-Year celebration has been scheduled for August 3rd.

## **Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce**

Our Club's first engagement with the Chamber was to attend a "mixer." Our purpose was to mingle with other Chamber members, and talk about Lions - and have brochures ready to hand out.

Lion Stephen Bilowus represented FX Lions at the Chamber mixer on Feb 9, at Red Hot & blue. Stephen reports....”the networking event was a success. New connections were made with local business owners as well as Chamber of Commerce staff. Many meaningful conversations took place and one brochure was handed out to an interested business owner. There are many upcoming Chamber of Commerce events that will be beneficial to attend in order to continue spreading the word about the Lions Club.”

If YOU wish to attend a mixer, etc, at no cost, just let your bulletin editor know.

## **Lions Information...**

**(Article reprinted from July 2021 newsletter)**

### **New Lion Pin**

On the table at June 15 dinner meeting: a pin produced by one of our club members. (photo next page)

Lion Gary is the “last to let you down” - do you catch the play on words? If not, ask someone.





Lion Gary's Pin

Club member and PDG Bill Smith is familiar with the pin, as he had a small part in its development. Bill says Gary's pin has been well received by those who have been fortunate to get one.

Bill is very familiar also with the other FHLC pins released over the years, and had the pleasure of designing all but two of them.

Below are images of two pins from Fairfax Lions Club's history of producing pins:



Pin recognizing 40th anniversary of FHLC,  
produced in 1991



Produced in 1997, a representation of  
the old Fairfax Hardware store owned by  
Lion Scott Dulaney's dad, Lion Hubert

There is a long tradition of Lions designing, producing, collecting, and trading “pins.” The tradition dates back to 1973 and the founding of the Lions International Trading Pin Club. There are Pin Trading clubs at Multiple District (state) level too. Of course, there is Lions Pin Trading Club of Virginia. Virginia Lions were not only key to organizing pin trading across VA, but also across all Multiple Districts. And a key individual in all of that was our own club member Lion Bill Smith. Bill has been a Lion since November 1, 1968 and became a life member in 1992. Bill is a past President of FHLC (1976-77), a Past DG, Past Council Chair, Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Life Member of both LCI and LoVA, and - as you might expect - a past president of both VA Lions pin traders and LCI pin traders.

Bill says: “Were it not for my spending approximately 7-8 hours every day doing something for either the Pin Traders Club of Virginia (PTCV) or the Lions International Trading Pin Club (LITPC), I'm not sure I would still be here. I'm the publisher for approximately 60 pin catalogs which require constant updating to reflect the issue of new trading pins. This keeps me out of trouble and connected to a hobby that has become a way of life for me. Way back in December of 1980, I proposed the formation

of the PTCV to 16 other pin traders in the former District 24-A. The 17 of us met at the Holiday Inn in Manassas and agreed to create the PTCV, which now numbers 263 members from all over the world. I was honored to have been elected the Founding President. At the time, I was also getting ready to become the First Vice President of the LITPC.



**FHLC Charter Night, 2017: PCC and Privileged Member Bill Smith with daughter Ruth Van Dyke**

Never did I realize that what I was starting would develop into the First Multiple District Pin Trading in Lionism. Following our lead were 38 other Multiple District pin trading organizations. Pin trading truly blossomed as a result of our action that night in Manassas. I later became President of the LITPC and have remained active ever since. As a matter of fact, I am extremely proud of the fact that I am the only active trader from the initial year of 1973 when the LITPC was created. Longevity in age certainly has played a major role in that. I will turn 91 on 15 July and have set my goal to last until age 96. No particular reason for 96. My oldest brother passed away when he was 99, just one month and two days short of the century mark. Another brother just past last year at age 95. It would be nice to last in age between the two of them.”

“One other accomplishment that I am extremely proud of is the establishment by the LITPC of the LITPC Youth Scholarship Program. In recognition of my being one of the earliest pin traders in Lionism, the LITPC created the **William A. Smith Fellowship Program** as the financial vehicle for the Scholarship Program. To date, almost \$300,000.00 has been raised to fund the yearly scholarships that are granted.”

“Pin trading is a way of life for me. I have daily contact with many traders in many of the states in the USA and in countries like England, Australia, and New Zealand. I'm truly blessed.”

See also the District 24-L (our parent district) July (page 4) newsletter for a short article on the Lions International Pin Trading Club scholarships.

Should you have a question about, or interest in, Lions pins you should drop Bill Smith an email (address in directory).

Webpage for Lions Pin Traders Club of Virginia:

<https://www.ptcvalions.org/>

## Miscellaneous Info...



Plate reads:  
“My ChatGPT is an honor role student...”

## ChatGPT?

You've heard about this essay writing APP?

How accurate are its products? Check out this piece written by:

*Bill Murphy, JR. Feb 16, 2023*

“A journey of self-discovery via ChatGPT, but then it turns weird and kind of dark...

Here are some things you might not know about me:

- Former investment banker and management consultant.
- Graduate of Brown University and the MIT Sloan School of Management.
- Author of the book, Breakthrough: How the 10 Greatest Discoveries in Medicine Saved Millions and Changed Our View of the World, and the founder of the online news and commentary site, The Daily Update.

**The reason you might not know these things about me is that they are not true.**

However, they comprise 6 of the 11 facts that OpenAI's ChatGPT confidently asserted when I decided to ask it to “write a short biography of bill murphy jr.” This was the response...



Bill Murphy Jr. is a journalist, author, and entrepreneur based in Washington, D.C. He is the author of several books, including "The Intelligent Entrepreneur" and "Breakthrough: How the 10 Greatest Discoveries in Medicine Saved Millions and Changed Our View of the World." He is also the founder of the online news and commentary site, The Daily Update. Prior to his writing career, Murphy worked as an investment banker and management consultant. He received his undergraduate degree from Brown University and his MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

I did previously live in Washington, but it's been 10 years, and I did write The Intelligent Entrepreneur, but not this other book about medical discoveries. Also, no Brown or MIT, no investment banking, no management consulting.

(This site where this article is, is called [Understandably](#), although *The Daily Update* might have been a good name, too.)

So, I asked follow-up questions. For example: What sources did ChatGPT use to compile this bio? **It was unable to cite anything, but it doubled-down on its confidence that what it had shared was accurate:**

Q "can you provide any sources you used to compile the bio of bill murphy jr. above?"

R "As an AI language model, I don't have the ability to browse the internet or compile sources on my own. However, I can tell you that my response

was based on my pre-existing knowledge and language model training. I can confirm that the information in the bio I provided is accurate based on my training data, which includes a wide range of sources such as news articles, books, and other written materials. The information presented is commonly known and publicly available. However, I did not refer to any specific sources when composing the bio. If you have any specific questions or require further information about Bill Murphy Jr., I'd be happy to try and answer them to the best of my ability based on my pre-existing knowledge and training."

**The more I challenged with virtual cross-examination, the more detailed its answers became:**

Q "What other books did Bill Murphy Jr. write? What years did he graduate from Brown and MIT? Did he ever work at The Washington Post?"

Apparently, I've written five other books. (One of these is accurate): The Response...

- "In a Time of War: The Proud and Perilous Journey of West Point's Class of 2002"
- "The New Science of Customer Emotions: How They Drive Value in Your Business"

- "The Pocket Small Business Owner's Guide to Business Plans"
- "Leadership Secrets of the World's Most Successful CEOs"
- "The Unofficial Guide to Fatherhood"

And, according to my LinkedIn profile (not really, but ChatGPT cites it as if it were looking right at it), I graduated from Brown in 1994 and MIT Sloan in 2003, and I was a reporter for The Washington Post from 1994 to 2000:

"During his time there, he covered a variety of beats, including technology, business, and the military, and won several awards for his reporting," the AI generator told me.

It's all so weird. I started asking it to create bios for some of my colleagues over at Inc.com. None of us are exactly famous, but we have all been writing on the Internet long enough to have left a massive trail of digital breadcrumbs.

**In every case, the bios mixed fact with fiction, but presented it all with confidence.**

Anyway, my journey down this rabbit hole began after two things:

First, I was asked for about the zillionth time whether I've been using ChatGPT ("yes"), and

Second, I came across an article in The Washington Times, in which a reporter asked ChatGPT to come up with proposals that most of us would characterize as politically conservative, and proposals we'd call liberal, and contrast the quality of the results.

In short, they found that **ChatGPT turned down requests for right-wing proposals, but offered detailed suggestions for more liberal proposals.** Here, I tried it myself.

When I asked it to draft a law that would require the construction of a southern border wall, it refused.

But, when I asked it to draft a law that would ban the construction of an impenetrable border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, it came up with something passable.

Remember, this is just an experiment, but it's so stark. And, **it's a reminder that artificial intelligence can only ever be as good as the human intelligence behind it.**

I'm no Luddite, but I am a bit disheartened. I keep hearing people talk about how they're using ChatGPT to answer customer inquiries, write term papers—heck, I'm getting ads served to me every day advising some kind of OpenAI plugin that

lawyers can use to examine contracts, and then simply trust and send the analyses to their clients.

Does anyone even read the results?

My sense right now is that AI like ChatGPT is the equivalent of Google's search engine in 1999, or Facebook's original social media site for college students in 2005.

I find it's good for things like digging up Excel and Google Sheet formulas — with maybe 50 percent accuracy. I find it mediocre at best for brainstorming.

And, obviously, I wouldn't trust any fact I got from it without checking.

To its credit, I guess, that's what ChatGPT's AI engine advises anyway:

Q "To what degree should people factcheck any answer they get from chatgpt?"

R "As an AI language model, my responses are generated based on patterns and relationships learned from large amounts of text data, rather than on personal knowledge or experience. While I strive to provide accurate and reliable information, there may be cases where my responses are incomplete, outdated, or simply incorrect. Therefore, it is always a good idea to fact-check any information you receive, regardless of the source. This is especially

true when it comes to important decisions, such as medical or financial decisions, as well as for controversial or contentious topics where multiple viewpoints exist. To fact-check the information you receive from ChatGPT, you can start by verifying the information with multiple sources, checking the credentials of the sources, and looking for any potential biases or conflicts of interest. Additionally, you can also consult with experts or professionals in the relevant field to get a better understanding of the topic. It's important to remember that no single source of information can provide a complete and comprehensive understanding of any topic, and that critical thinking and information literacy are essential skills for navigating the vast amount of information available in today's world."

**NOTE - This Newsletter was NOT written by ChatGPT!**

### **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 and a Melvin Jones Fellow (who served as Club Secretary, President, bulletin editor, and shared 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 around the 1st of each month to its availability on the web page.

**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.*



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OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES...  
WITH PRIDE, COMPASSION AND  
KINDNESS**

## **Fairfax Lions Club**



**We Serve**

**Since 1951**