

# Fairfax Lions Club News

## June 2024

- Fairfax Lions, Serving Since 1951 -

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

— We Serve —

### “Professional” Clothing Drive

*By KL Greg DeRosa*

The Club announced a new charity program starting in May, to collect donated clothing especially for “Professional Dress.” This is a new service project for this Lions year. The objective is to provide business-style clothing to help Lamb Center clients prepare for job interviews and the workplace. Bring donations to club dinner meetings in May and June; KL Greg will collect and deliver it by the end of June. All donated clothing is acceptable; any not used by The Lamb Center will go to another outlet serving persons in need.

This new project serves as part of our Club accomplishments to quality for the Club Excellence Award.

## Recycling Eyeglasses

In May, our Club collected, packaged and delivered 217.8 pounds of donated eyeglasses. KL Greg collects donated eyeglasses in his garage, discards glasses cases or unserviceable glasses, boxes up the useful eyeglasses, weighs them and delivers them to the [Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of NoVA](#).



What 217.8 pounds of boxed up eyeglasses looks like

## Vision Screening at NoVA Catholic Schools

Recall, Lion Marty Lockard coordinates with Lions clubs across NoVA to do vision screening at the many Catholic Schools in the area. Lion Marty received this email on May 15th:

*“Marty: As we round out our school year, I want to follow up with Lions Club team members. I hope working with our schools was a success this past year. There were some growing pains, but it was overall successful. Many of our schools were able to contact the POC you indicated, and many of our schools were served. We are very grateful for all your efforts and the efforts of all the clubs in northern VA. Do you anticipate our schools to continue to use your services next year? If so, will there be changes I need to communicate with the schools? I look forward to what the future holds and am hopeful for continued collaboration. Have a great week.*

*Beth*

*Beth Bostwick, FNP-C, MSN, NCSN  
School Health and Wellness Coordinator  
Office of Catholic Schools, Catholic Diocese of  
Arlington  
200 North Glebe Road, Suite 503, Arlington, VA  
22203”*

Marty replied...

*“Good afternoon, Elizabeth.*

*I think it went very successfully once we were able to make the links between schools and Lions Clubs capable of doing the screenings. I consider it a continuing service for the schools. We will certainly be ready to do it again next school year. I don't see anything that needs to change.*

*Of note, some of the schools on the spreadsheet do their own screenings or have arranged for them using other means. That's OK. We will stand ready in the future if those arrangements change. Our club only had one concern. Our biggest school, Paul VI (formerly in Fairfax, now in Chantilly) never contacted me and would not respond to my phone calls. I left 3-4 messages for the senior nurse and she never returned my calls. I did talk to another person in the nurse's office, but she would only refer me to the senior nurse. I'm guessing they do screenings in some other fashion. I just felt some concern that our largest Catholic school was possibly not getting the help they need.*

*Marty*

## — Charity Fund Raising —

### SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS

#### Fosters Grille

Foster's Grille donates to our Club 20% of all spending on the 2nd Tuesday (if you ask the cashier "to put sales ticket in the Lions box.") At our club dinner meeting on May 7th, KL Greg showed a recent check from Foster's for our Club Charity account.



Charity Donation from  
Fosters Grille

#### Club Meetings

##### Dinner Meeting - May 7th

Among our three guests were Ben Dilzer, a biology undergrad at GMU, who plans to go on to become an Optician. Ben expressed interest in our Club, and has submitted a membership application!



**Ben Dilzer**

Also visiting were a “Melvin Jones Fellow” from India, Lion Ravi Bothera, and his daughter Abha. He discovered our club by searching the internet for a

Lions club in this area, and saw our meeting information on our Club Web Page. Lion Ravi



**MJF Lion Ravi Bothera**

showed us a very professional marketing brochure for his Club and spoke briefly about his upcoming Lions leadership roles.

Our program speaker was Lion Walter Jessop. Jess has served over 50 years in Vienna Host Lions Club and chaired their primary charity fund raiser - Christmas Tree sales - for about 46 years. Jess has a love for the beauty and history of Washington DC, and told us about famous landmarks and memorials, and the roles of George Washington and French

military engineer, Major Pierre L'Enfant, in designing the city.

Lion Walter Jessop with Currier & Ives Print of Washington, DC

Jess described features of the city depicted in a Currier & Ives representation of the city in the late 1800's.

Jess participated (with his HS Cadet Corps) in two parades on Constitution Ave at the end of WWII - for returning Pacific war heroes Admiral Chester Nimitz, and for General Jonathon Wainwright.

PCC Bill Bartlett donated a VA Lions vest for auction, to benefit the Club's admin fund. The winning bidder was Mike Rumberg.



Donated Vest and Winning Bidder Mike





Lion Walter describes landmarks around Tidal Basin, and accepts thanks for speaking



This meeting also was the annual “Elections Meeting” to vote in the Board of officers for the next Lions year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). The vote

was taken, and all nominated individuals were elected. The incoming Board:

President	Karen DeRosa
Immediate Past President	Greg DeRosa
1st Vice President	Cory Green
2nd Vice President	Gary Maxwell
Secretary	Jeff Root
Treasurer	Mike Rumberg
Corresponding Secretary	Pete Conklin
Tail Twister	Michael Greeley
Lion Tamer	Scott Dulaney
Bulletin Editor	Gordon Tillery
Membership Director	Stephen Bilowus
Director (Two Years)	Joe Breda
Director (One Year)	Jim Kaplan
Past District Governor (PDG)	PCC Bill Bartlett
PDG Director	PCC Harry Parker
PDG, Director Emeritus	PCC Bill Smith
Assistant to Secretary	Ron Zabel (non-voting)

**A BIG THANK YOU to Lion Tom Edick!!** KL

Greg reported that Tom (who now lives in Ocean Isle Beach, NC) made a generous donation to our club's

admin account. Tom has been a Lion since 1983; Tom we miss you, and thank you for thinking of us!

A new pattern is developing, after the regular dinner meetings, a few Lions adjourn to the American Legion's Social Quarters for continued comradery.



Social Quarters After-meeting

## Special Event - Bench Dedication, May 14th

In April, Lion Tom Comi received this email...."Tom - My husband, Greg, and I purchased a bench from the Vienna Arts Society auction with the intention of donating it to the town/Lions. We now understand that the Vienna Lions is no longer active. We have briefly spoken to Mayor Colbert about the possibility of donating it. Do you have any suggestions on

*where it might want to live permanently? Thank you, Robin Bernhard”*

Tom coordinated with all parties, who agreed the most appropriate action was to donate the bench to our Lions Club, and locate it at Foster’s Grille. All thank Robin and Greg for their generosity!

Thus, on May 14, the donors (Greg & Robin Bernhard, with son Gregor) brought the bench to Foster’s Grille where it will remain.



Gregor (L) and Greg (R) Bernhard bring Lions bench to Fosters

L-R: FX Lion  
Joyce Myers;  
the Bernhard  
family (Robin,  
Gregor, Greg)



(L-R) Gregor, Robin, Greg Bernhard; Lions Gordon, Joyce Myers (artist); Bailey's Crossroad Lion Connie Cordovilla; Lion Tom Comi

## **The Backstory of the Bench**

On Nov 11, 2023, [Vienna Arts Society](#) held a “Take a Seat Vienna” auction in Vienna. Forty benches were auctioned. All benches were made by Vienna resident Ralph Reinecke, and they had been painted by several Vienna Arts Society artists. One featured artist was Vienna Lion Joyce Myers (who is now a Fairfax Lion).

Prior to the auction, the Lions bench was temporarily displayed at Foster’s Grille.

Asked recently about the dedication, Lion Joyce said: “I am so thrilled that the Lions will have my bench back at Foster’s Grille!” Joyce wrote about the two benches she painted, prior to the auction. Written at the time of auction in 2023)...

### **“WHY I PAINTED THE TWO BENCHES”**

*By Joyce Myers*

How did I come up with the idea for my benches?

My husband and I are members of the Vienna Host Lions and the American Legion. This gave me the opportunity to highlight each organization by painting the Benches. My goal was to bring attention



Lion Joyce Myers with her hand painted benches

and recognition to these fine organizations. Art has a way of promoting visual and inspirational statements of awareness.

The “Lions” has a logo that reflects two lions. The one on the left indicates facing the Past With Pride, and the one on the right indicates Facing the Future with Confidence. The Lions face in all directions to render service to others.

I painted the male lion on the front to show strength, and the lion cubs on the back show the

bond of friendship and camaraderie in this



organization. Their motto is “Lions We Serve”!

The American Legion’s motto states that veterans strengthen America, have service to God, country, and families. With all the unrest, violence, and wars in our world, I wanted to focus on something positive. The dove with the olive branch is a symbol of peace, and the earth represents all of mankind. The back of the bench is the flat map of our earth showing countries of the world. I painted multiple colors randomly not to show the borders of countries, but to show the diversity of humankind.

The large peace symbol is my sincere prayer that we have “Peace on Earth.”



Fairfax Lions are fortunate indeed, to have the such a talented artist, Joyce, in our Fairfax Lions club family!

### **Dinner Meeting - May 21st**

The bulletin editor could not attend this meeting.

### **Board Meeting - May 28th**

The bulletin editor could not attend this meeting; we will provide notes from the official minutes in the next newsletter.

## June Dates

June 4 - FHLC Dinner meeting

June 5 - ISCC Meeting

June 6 - 80th Anniversary of D-Day

June 11 - Lions "Dining for Dollars," at Fosters Grille

June 14 - Flag day; US Army Birthday

June 16 - Father's Day

June 18 - FHLC Dinner meeting

June 19 - Juneteenth

June 20 - Summer Solstice

June 25 - Board Meeting (all welcome)

June 27 - Helen Keller Day

## Fairfax City Inter-Service Club Council

ISCC met on May 1st at the local Moose Lodge.

FYI - The Moose aggressively collect eyeglasses for our Club...at Texas Hold 'em tournaments (Tuesday/Sunday), they give bonus poker chips to folks donating eyeglasses. The ISCC speaker was Ms. Hope Homan; she works for Friends of Fairfax County Animal Shelter, and talked about the animals they are able to fix-up (medical, dental, etc) for adoption. See their success stories.

The ISCC is preparing for the Volunteer of the Year event on August 7, 2024.

## Club Marketing

You know we have a Club Instagram account (the link: [https://www.instagram.com/fairfax\\_lions\\_club/](https://www.instagram.com/fairfax_lions_club/) )

When Ben Dilzer visited our Club in early May, he saw us struggling to post information to our Instagram account, and offered to help. So, Ben now has access to our Fairfax Lions Club Instagram account, and can help us create a more timely and interesting presence on Instagram.

## Guess Who?

Can anyone guess who this is?  
(This will be hard, unless you were a Lion in late 1980's-90's)

Hints:

- Born in TX, 1934; Died 1996
- Bowen HS, IL, 1952
- Past President of FX Lions Club
- Led orientation for bulletin editor, 1991



## Answer to Previous Month's "Guess Who"

May 2024 newsletter

Hints:

- Current Member of FHLC
- Photo taken at Cohoes HS, Cohoes, NY 1958



ANSWER:

Lion Tom Comi  
(There were several  
guess's, none right.)

## **Membership**

FHLC added two new Lions in May: Tom Hewlett and Ben Dilzer. The Board approved both Tom's & Ben's applications, and KL Greg presented an orientation to both on May 15th - at Fosters Grille. The plan is to induct Tom (possibly Ben, TBD) into the Club at the regular dinner meeting on May 21st...stay tuned.

Tom, you may recall, is Lion Cory Green's Brother-in-Law and has served with club members at several fund raiser in recent years. Ben Dilzer

submitted his application after the dinner meeting on May 7. GMU student Ben aspires to be an optician. We look forward to Ben's service as a new Lion!

Also, Ben invited fellow GMU student Jordan Jacobi to the orientation, as Jordan has expressed enthusiasm for our service. Jordan is the president of the [GMU Pre-Optomertry Club](#).



Above: (L-R) Lion Joe Rovansek, Jordan Jacobi, KL Greg, Ben Dilzer, Lion Marty Lockard

Below: (L-R) Lions Stephen Bilowus & Cory Green, Tom Hewlett, Lions Karen DeRosa & Pete Conklin





Smiling (L-R) Ben  
Dilzer, Tom  
Hewlett, Jordan  
Jacobi

And Lion Growls!



Outside Foster's at Orientation



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As you might agree, it is exciting to see two Pre-Optometry GMU students interested in our club. They said:

- “I would be very interested in participating in some of these vision screenings and contributing to the eyeglass recycling center once we get more information about the status of the facility.”
- “The vision screening service stood out to me as the most interesting community service we spoke about. I love working with kids and having an opportunity to help children with their eye care sounds like the perfect job for me!”

We look forward to integrating both into Club vision projects and other service opportunities, and also spreading the word among their cohort at GMU about Fairfax Lions Club!

## Miscellaneous Info...

**Rod Sterling** died in 1975 at age 50 of a heart attack. You probably know his name for his TV series “The Twilight Zone.” You probably did not know he was a war hero severely affected by combat he experienced.

From upstate NY, Rod enlisted in the Army the morning after HS graduation. With the 11th Airborne Division, he saw combat in Leyte and then Manila in the Philippines, 1944-45. He saw death nearly every day at the hands of his enemies and our allies, and through freak accidents (not unusual in warfare). Serling's

regiment had a 50% casualty rate, with over 400 men killed or wounded. Serling's combat experience affected him deeply and influenced much of his writing. It left him with nightmares and flashbacks for the rest of his life.

## ***Rod Serling's story, 'First Squad, First Platoon'*** ***(from his World War II service)***

**An AP News Report at [this link](#)**

In a famous “Twilight Zone” episode from the early 1960s, a bloodthirsty World War II commander stationed in the Philippines finds himself transported into the body of a Japanese lieutenant and, to his horror, expected to help kill an entrapped and wounded American platoon.

“What you do to those men in the cave, will it shorten the war by a week, by a day, by an hour?” he pleads to a Japanese officer. “How many must die before (we) are satisfied?”

For the show's host and writer, Rod Serling, World War II was a trauma he would re-imagine often.

Serling, born 100 years ago this December, served in the 11th Airborne Division in the Philippines and received a Bronze Star for bravery and a Purple Heart for being wounded. He left the war with lasting physical and emotional scars and, like such fellow veterans as Joseph Heller and Kurt Vonnegut, with a will to find words for what had happened. He wrote war-related scripts for “Playhouse 90” and other early television drama series and for at least two other “Twilight Zone” stories,

including one in which an Army lieutenant can predict who will die next by looking into his soldiers' faces.

Serling's "First Squad, First Platoon," a fictionalized take on the war that he worked on and set aside while attending Antioch College, has now been published for the first time. It appears this week in the new edition of *The Strand Magazine*, which has unearthed pieces by Ernest Hemingway, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and many others. "First Squad, First Platoon" is broken into five vignettes, each dedicated to a fallen peer.

"Serling wrote this story in his early twenties, yet it carries a maturity beyond his years," *Strand* managing editor Andrew Gulli writes. "It's a powerful, unvarnished look at war in all its brutality — an unforgettable study of ordinary people in an extraordinarily hellish situation."

Nicholas Parisi, author of the 2018 biography "Rod Serling: His Life, Work, and Imagination," helped edit the story. Daughters Jodi Serling and Anne Serling each contributed brief forewords. Jodi Serling wrote that the war "opened up dark horizons of terror" for her father and left him "gut-wrenching memories" that influenced his writing and awakened him at night, "sweating and screaming inconsolably." Anne Serling told *The Associated Press* that "First Squad, First Platoon" reminded her of his innocence when he joined the military.

"My reaction was particularly painful because when I read the story, I was writing a memoir about my dad and reading the letters he wrote from training camp before he

was sent to the Pacific,” she said. “He was just barely 18 when he enlisted and sounded like a kid at summer camp in his letters to his parents. He was asking for gum, candy, underwear (because he didn’t like the GI ones). Like all of the kids we send into the horror of war — he didn’t know what was waiting on the other side.”

Amy Boyle Johnston, author of the 2015 book “Unknown Serling,” found the story while looking through Serling’s papers at the University of Wisconsin. Serling, who died in 1975, had yet to start a family when he wrote “First Squad, First Platoon.” But he was already thinking about the next generation, including a dedication to his yet-unborn children urging them to remember “a semblance of the feeling of a torn limb, a burnt patch of flesh” and “the hopeless emptiness of fatigue” were as much part of war as “uniforms and flags, honor and patriotism.”

Parasi says that “First Squad, First Platoon” was an early sign of Serling’s ironic touch. One soldier is shot dead as he admires a wooden statuette of Jesus, and another — a true story — is killed by a food relief package.

In the opening section of “First Squad,” Cpl. Melvin Levy is introduced as the squad’s resident comedian, whose usual barrage of jokes had been silenced by the ongoing starvation that threatened to kill them all. But as Levy slept weakly in the mud, dreaming of pastrami and other treats back home, he is startled by the sound of motors — airplanes clearly marked as American. Levy

shouts with delight as more than 100 heavy boxes of K-rations fall from on high, fatally unaware that one will land right on him.

“The heavy crates were smashing into the earth close to their holes. Men started shouting in alarm,” Serling writes. “Levy just stood where he was, waving his arms and shouting. Sergeant Etherson pulled at him from behind, trying to get him down in a hole. But Levy was oblivious to all around him except the food which poured down.”

““It’s raining chow, boys . . . it’s raining chow,”” his shrill voice pierced the air.”

The Sterling story “First Squad, First Platoon,” is available [at this link](#) - for \$12.

## Time for a Dad’s Joke...

How do you say “Hi” in mandarin?



## 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!

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** (News items, photos from recent trip, etc.) 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.

“The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter” is published on the [Fairfax Lions web page](#) (see right hand column under the section titled “Pages”). You should check the FHLC web page periodically.

Club members are alerted around the 1st of each month to the newsletter’s availability on the web page. That's all folks!

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

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