

# Fairfax Lions Club News

## "The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter"

### October 2024



Fairfax Lions - Since 1951

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

*Note: Bulletin editor was away and unable to report on Picnic  
or Board Meeting.*

## — Our Service —

### Vision Screening Consideration

**Should our vision screening focus more on  
younger children?**

*By Lion Marty Lockard*

Lion Davida Luehrs, District 24L Chair for Vision, recently encouraged Lions Clubs in the district to put more emphasis on **doing vision screening at pre-school level**. This is based on information she received during training from [plusOptix](#) (manufacturer of a hand-held vision screener).

According to the *plusOptix* trainer, the time window for effective treatment of some childhood

vision issues begins to diminish as early as age six or seven!

Information from *plusOptix* website, FAQ:

1. Does my child have vision disorder? Eye screening can answer this question. On average one in every five 4-year-olds has an undetected vision disorder that may lead to Amblyopia (lazy eye) without early detection. This high percentage is not surprising as vision disorders, unlike many other diseases, often have no obvious or detectable symptoms. But two healthy eyes are essential to a child's well-being. A poor sight as a result of a visual impairment affects school performance, increases the risk of accidents, and more. The earlier a vision disorder is detected, the better it can be treated.
2. Does a small child notice a vision disorder? Affected children don't notice their own vision disorder because they are accustomed to seeing the world with their own eyes and have no way to compare.
3. Why is vision screening important? Many vision disorders, if not detected and treated during the first years of life, can lead to permanent visual

impairment, which neither glasses nor any other visual aid can address.

4. What is involved during vision screening?

Refraction measurement (how the light bends as it passes through the eye) is an important part of vision screening. This helps determine whether the eyes are developing age appropriately – especially in infants.

5. Why is an ordinary vision test insufficient?

The sooner a vision disorder is detected and treated, the greater the probability there is for successful treatment. Ordinary eye tests or visual acuity tests can only be administered when the child is able to speak. Furthermore, these tests are not able to test refractive errors accurately.

6. From what age is vision screening recommended?

All children should undergo regular vision screening. The first screening should take place as early as possible, ideally around the age of one. If there is a family history of eye disorders, earlier vision screening is advised at 5 to 8 months old. Thereafter, regular screening is recommended as the eyes change with growth and vision disorders can arise during this process.

Summary: Our club already places importance on screening pre-school children (typically age 3-5). Extending our screenings to include infants and toddlers (age 6 months to 3 years) makes good sense given the information above. The key is finding ways to efficiently screen reasonably large numbers of these younger children in a short period of time. Health fairs are typically non-productive for any age group, so some new and unique way to do it will be explored. Interested? See Lion Marty.



Lion Joe Breda screens a youngster's vision at past event

## **Our Club Services?**

We recently updated our webpage's summary of Club service programs. Take a look, at this link: [FHLC Service Programs](#) Send recommendations for further updates (for completeness or accuracy), to your bulletin editor.

## **— Charity Fund Raising —**

### **SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS**

## **Fosters Grille Fund Raiser**

Lion Tom Comi reports this month's special (at Dining for Dollars on Sep 10th) was 50% off shakes! Next month (on Oct 8th), wings will be 50% off. Additionally, Lion Tom asked if Fosters could provide plastic bags for our fruit sale - their answer: YES! They will have 150 bags for us at October 8th Dining for Dollars! Foster's is a great partner for our Club!

## **Upcoming Fruit Sale**

- (1) **Ask friends, co-workers to sign-up** for email notices of fruit sales. See our ad: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/updated-signup-promo.png>

(2) Hold on to **plastic bags**...with those, and Fosters 150 bags, we should have plenty to assemble “bags of 20 mandarins” at fruit sales.

*Now, a Blast from the past...*

## CITRUS FRUIT SALE by Bill Trent



The March 2010 citrus fruit sale, originally scheduled for early March, was postponed until March 25-27 because of heavy snows in late February and early March. The sale featured ruby red grapefruit, Valencia oranges, Vermont maple syrup, and Virginia peanuts. A total of 220 cases of oranges and 205 cases of grapefruit were ordered and all but 12 cases were sold by 5:30 PM on Saturday. Ten cases of grapefruit were donated across the street at the Lamb Center. They were most appreciative and the manager said she knew they could put them to good use.

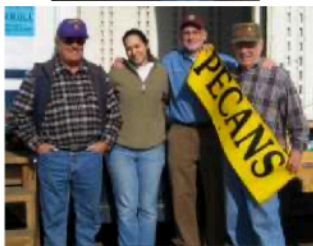
As usual, the past three sales were a big success because of all the effort put in by many Lions. Special thanks go to Lion Elden Wright for serving as straw boss

March 25-27, 2010

on Thursdays, Lion Jim Davis who was straw boss on Fridays, and Lion Bill Trent who had the honor on Saturday. Special thanks also go to Lion Carl Enix who was responsible for getting the signs up and taking them down for each sale, to Lion Steve Haywood for providing help whenever his pickup was needed and to Lion Tom Edick for the numerous extra shifts he worked throughout the sales. Many thanks to all the others who signed up and showed up! It was another great year.

The scheduled sales for LY 2010-2011 will be November 18-20, 2010, December 16-18, 2010, and March 24-26, 2011. See you there!!

Citrus 6



March 2010 Fruit Sale (page2)

## Fall Festival Food Sale

Coming up quick - event is on Saturday, October 12th - all day for us Lions. It is always fun (if weather is pleasant). The usual activities are: load up truck night before (equipment from the “shed”); set up site early on the 12th; connect with City employees who will pass Beer sales to us; start cook processes and get ready for customers. A few stalwart Lions buy & bring food, ice, etc. Late in the day, close out. [Link to City FF page](#). And, our page: [photos of past Fall Festival](#). Join in - watch for Club sign-up page!!!

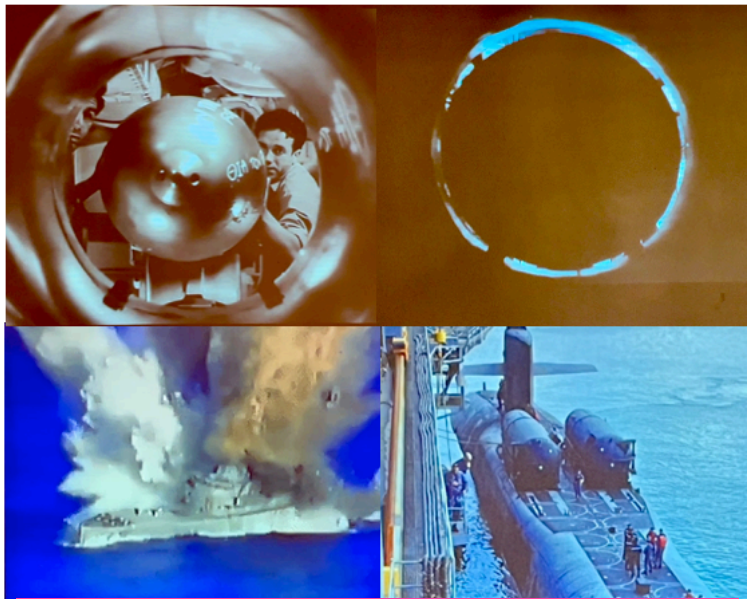
In addition to October fest brats, etc, we will offer TX Roadhouse In-shell Peanuts.



**TX RH Peanuts - ready for Fall Festival**

## Dinner Meeting - Sep 3rd

1VP Cory Green gave us more information on US submarines - characteristics and capabilities. This was the second of Lion Cory's talks to us about submarines.



Top left: crew loading torpedo into firing tube  
Top right: "Torpedo eclipse" (in tube)  
Bottom left: Torpedo damage to target  
Bottom right: Pods to deploy SEALs from sub



Cory demo's "popping" sound from uncapping storage case for special system



QL Karen presents speaker's gift to Cory

Lion Bill Szymanski updated us on plans for the Blood Drive on Sep 17. And, Lion Mike Greeley, member of the church where blood drive will be held, encouraged all to sign up!



Lion Mike Greeley speaks

We enjoyed the presence of a guest, and potential new club member, John Wasley.

John Wasley



## 2nd Dinner Meeting (nominally Sep 17th)

No dinner meeting, due to picnic

## **Picnic - Sep 22nd**

The picnic was postponed from Sep 15th because QL Karen & IPP Greg were blessed to travel to CA to be with new-born grandson Alex!

Picnic Plan: Sep 22, 11:30-3:00, Paradise Springs Winery in Clifton (13219 Yates Ford Rd). QL & Greg will have cheese platters & charcuterie, wine, soft drinks. All are welcome to bring a shareable dish. The winery has an Artisan Food Truck to purchase flatbreads, sandwiches, drinks, etc. You may also purchase tastings, wine & cheese/crackers inside the winery. (Bulletin editor missed the event.)

## **Board Meeting - Sep 24th**

(Bulletin editor missed the event.)

## **October Dates**

Sep 28 - FX Woman's Club: Food Drive and Shredding (See ISCC note - next page)

Oct - Fruit Sale On-line Ordering Opens

Oct 1 - FHLC Dinner meeting

Oct 8 - Foster's Grille - Fund Raiser (50% off Wings)

Oct 12 - Fall Festival fund raiser

Oct 15 - FHLC Dinner meeting (guest - Lions pins)

Oct 18-20 - [District 24L Fall Conference](#) (click for info)

Oct 22 - FHLC Board meeting

### Coming Up

Nov 21-23 - Club Fruit Sale - Fulfillment site open

Dec 19-21 - Club Fruit Sale - Fulfillment site open

### Fairfax City Inter-Service Club Council

The ISCC opened the new fiscal year with a meeting on Sep 4th, after the summer break.

The Woman's Club of Fairfax announced a free shredding service, and food drive, on Saturday Sep 28th, 10am-1pm, in the Fairfax HS parking lot. (Note: 3-ring binders NOT accepted for shredding; limit of 5 boxes of documents). Non-perishable food items will be collected for the Fairfax HS Food Pantry.

The Zonta Club reported they enjoy participating in the city "Rock-the-Block" events, serving beer for the City. They earn about \$3000 for their charity account at each such "Rock-the-Block" event.

Sadly, the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary reported it has folded. Reason: insufficient members to sustain club operations.

## **Fairfax Lions Family Grows**

You may have seen this great news - it was circulated by email on Sep 10th.

Congratulations to Lions Karen and Greg on the birth of their grandson, Alex!! Alexander Louis Abidi was born on September 3 in Berkeley, CA. He was 8 lbs 14 oz and 21 inches at birth.

Parents Danielle and Samy are doing great!



## Guess Who?

### Hints:

- Born 1935, Died 2015
- Dallas HS (Dallas, OR) - 1953 Photo
- Past President, FX Lions Club



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

### Hints:

- Born 1930
- Past President FX Lions Club
- Past District Governor
- Current Club member



### ANSWER:

Congrats to several Lions who guessed correctly, including (1st to guess) Mike Greeley, (2nd) Gary Maxwell, and (3rd) Diana Amsbaugh. The smiling person pictured is **PDG Bill Smith**. Bill lives in Warrenton; he turned 94 years young this year. He cannot join us often as he no longer drives. A few photos follow of Lion, PDG, and PCC Bill Smith...over the years.





**District Governor Bill Smith & Cabinet Secretary Fred Bayne Visit Fairfax Host 1979**

**L-R: Dave Willey, Dave Crandall, Fred, Bill, Ed Eichelman, John McGinty**



**Bill and Terry in 1987**



**Charter Night, 2010**



**PDG Bill arrives at  
Charter Night, 2017,  
with daughter Ruth  
Van Dyke**



PDG/PCC Bill Smith and Sarah Bartlett

Bill at Charter Night, 2018

## **- Namesake for this Newsletter - Who was Bob Stahl?**

We have called this, “The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter.” Lions in the club in the 1990’s knew Bob; most current members never had the opportunity. The recent talk by 1VP Cory Green, on submarines - torpedos especially - reminded some of

us of Bob Stahl's experiences in WWII. About 5 years ago, we included the information below in the newsletter. It seems appropriate to repeat it now.

## Bio - Robert Bruce Stahl

Born: 18 May 1917 PA

Enlisted US Navy: June 12, 1935 (age 18)

Entered USNA: Summer 1938 (age 21)

Graduated USNA: 19 Dec 1941 (age 24)

Married: 12 Apr 1942, to Jane King

Retired (Commander, US Navy): 31 Jul 1962

Secretary, Fairfax Lions Club: 1964-65

President Fairfax Lions Club: 1966-67

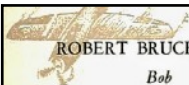
Club Newsletter Editor: thru the 1990's

Presented "Lions Information:" (a brief explanation of some aspect of Lionism) Each meeting thru the 1990's

Died: 27 Nov 2000

Interred: 16 Apr 2001 Arlington National Cemetery

From US Naval Academy "Lucky Bag" - Yearbook for  
Class of 1942 (which graduated Dec 19, 1941)



ROBERT BRUCE STAHL

*Bob*

Did someone say an artistic taste for music? Not Bob—he still thinks *I Like Bananas* is a classic. When it comes to the arts Bob takes the honors in the art of narration. Many varied experiences in his pre-academy days as well as his imagination and perpetual humor have given him a repertoire of colorful sea tales which he can call upon whenever the party becomes boring. The Navy is his true career and he will never tire of those blue and gold injections.

*Football 4; Battalion Crew; 2 Stripes.*



Midshipman  
R. B. Stahl,  
Ninth Co.  
Officer

(photos taken Senior year, 1941)

## Bob's WW2 Duty Station

Commissioned from the US Naval Academy 12 days after Pearl Harbor (senior year was cut-in-half), Bob spent the entire war on the aircraft carrier **USS Saratoga** in the Pacific theater.

Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Saratoga was the centerpiece of the unsuccessful American effort to relieve Wake Island; **the Saratoga was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine**. After lengthy repairs, the ship supported forces in the Guadalcanal Campaign; her aircraft sank the light carrier Ryūjō during the Battle of the Eastern Solomons in August 1942. **She was again torpedoed** and returned to the Solomon Islands area after repairs.

In 1943, Saratoga supported Allied forces in the New Georgia Campaign and invasion of Bougainville in the northern Solomon Islands; her aircraft twice attacked the Japanese base at Rabaul in November.

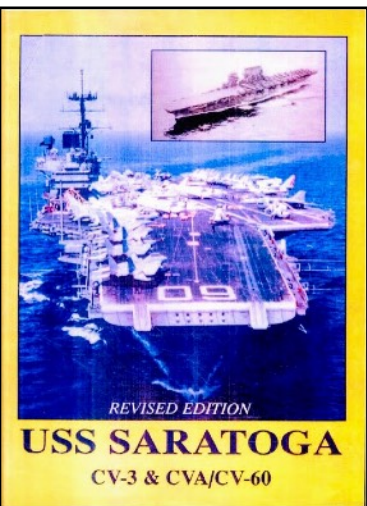
Early in 1944, her aircraft provided air support during the Gilbert and Marshall Islands Campaign, then she was transferred to the Indian Ocean to support the British Eastern Fleet as it attacked targets in Java and Sumatra. After a brief refit in mid-1944, the ship became a training ship for the rest of the year.

In early 1945, Saratoga participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima as a night fighter carrier. Several days into the battle, **she was badly damaged by kamikaze hits** and was forced to return to the US for repairs. While under

repair, the ship, now increasingly obsolete, was permanently modified as a training carrier with some of her hangar deck converted into classrooms. Saratoga remained in this role for the rest of the war and was then used to ferry troops back to the US after the Japanese surrender in August. In mid-1946, the ship was a target for nuclear weapon tests during Operation Crossroads. She survived the first test with little damage, but was sunk by the second test.

*Can you imagine Bob's experiences, fighting the war on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific theater...when it was torpedoed twice, and attacked by Kamikazes?*

## A Book About the Saratoga (excerpt about Bob Stahl on right)



**ROBERT BRUCE STAHL**, was born May 18, 1917 in Pittsburgh, PA but was raised in Columbus, OH where he graduated from South High School. He worked his way through the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Naval Reserve, and joined the Navy June 12, 1935. He served aboard USS *Langley* (CV-1), attended the Academy Prep School, entered the Naval Academy, and graduated **December 19, 1941** in the Class of 1942.

He reported aboard *Sara* in Pearl Harbor and served throughout the war in the Gunnery Department as Lookout Officer, 2nd Division officer, and Training Officer. He married Jane King of Detroit April 12, 1942 while the ship was being repaired from the first torpedoing. They have one daughter and two granddaughters.

He served in engineering and research billets during the rest of his career, retiring in August 1962 as a commander to a happy life in little old Fairfax, VA.



**District Governor Bill Smith's Visit to Fairfax Host 1979**

**Front Row:** Bob Stahl, Ed Steger, Bill, John McGinty, Dave Knoch

**Back Row:** Mel Clayton, Ed Eichelman, Charlie Mowrey, Ernie Lynn, Bill Sheets, Jesse Gallegos, John Spencer

**Fairfax Lion Bob Stahl in 1979**  
(far left - bottom row)

Rest in Peace Bob and Jane Stahl

Robert Bruce Stahl  
B. 18 May 1917  
D. 27 Nov 2000 (aged 83)  
BURIAL -  
Arlington National Cemetery



## Miscellaneous Info...

### **First Submarine Fully Integrated for Coed Crews**

1VP Cory Green told us about submarines, then this news item appeared...(in “[Stars and Stripes](#)”)

The USS New Jersey, the first US Navy submarine fully integrated for mixed gender crews will join the Navy fleet next week. The fast-attack submarine's modifications included obvious ones — more doors and washrooms to create separate sleeping and bathing areas — and some that are more subtle — lowering some overhead valves and making them easier to turn and installing steps in front of the triple-high bunk beds.



USS Virginia

The Navy received the New Jersey, its 23rd Virginia-class, fast-attack submarine in April 2024. The first fully integrated sub for mixed-gender crews, the New Jersey will join the fleet on Sept. 14, 2024, during a commissioning ceremony.

The USS New Jersey, a fast-attack submarine, will become a deployable part of the Navy's force during the ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Earle in New Jersey on Sept. 14, culminating five years of construction that represents a historic shift in how Navy submarines are designed.

## Time for a Dad's Joke



Want to  
see the  
menu?

## 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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**We Serve**

Since 1951