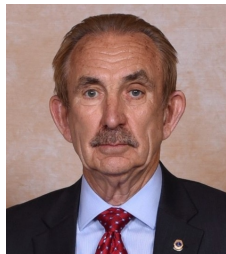




The Lions Pride

District 24-E

February 2016



**District
Governor**

**Lowell
Skelton
2015–2016**

Lions of District 24-E

Fellow Lions,

My year as your District Governor is a little over 50% complete. I have made all of my club visits, except for one that was rescheduled due to our recent snow storm. I still plan on visiting our four (4) Leo Clubs.

As you all are aware, my theme for the year is "Growing Lionism", which I selected because of my concern about the declining membership in our District 24-E.

The good news for the first half of the year is that District 24-E was one of only two (2) districts in Virginia with positive membership growth; we were +5. I am optimistic that if we all continue to emphasize and work on membership that we can achieve positive growth for the year.

One of our goals this year was to form at least one (1) new lions club. This goal appears to be very near. The Rich Creek Giles Breakfast Branch Lions Club is scheduled to become an official lions club at their scheduled charter night on Saturday, March 5th.

We are also working on starting a new lions club in the Fincastle/Daleville area. Lion Steve Thornton of Ohio, who is a LCI membership recruitment specialist, will be coming to Roanoke on Sunday, February 7th and will be leading us in membership recruitment in that area from Monday, February 8th through February 11th. We are looking for up to 20 Lion volunteers to assist us with this effort. If you can spare a half day during the period from February 8th through 11th and are interested in learning more about membership recruitment, please contact me at lskelton0169@jetbroadband.com.

Redistricting is a "hot topic" right now. District 24-F has suggested that we agree to go ahead and merge 24-E and 24-F now. The current plan is to vote on a redistricting plan at the State Convention on Saturday, May 21st.

Speaking of the State Convention, as you are probably aware, this year and 2017, the State Convention will be held in Roanoke at the Hotel Roanoke. PCC Clark Vandergrift is the State Convention Chair and has been working very hard to bring you the very best 2016 State Convention, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th through Saturday, May 21st. I urge all Lions in District 24-E to attend this State Convention, it will never be closer! This is an excellent opportunity to meet Lions from all over Virginia.

District 24- Officers

**Lowell Skelton
District Governor**

**Marty Alford
1st Vice District Governor**

**Steve Taylor
2nd Vice District Governor**

**Clark Vandergrift
Cabinet Secretary**

**Jim Newman
Cabinet Treasurer**

**Tammie Brightwell
State Sec/Treas.**

Reg / Zone Chairmen

**Chuck Dideon
Reg I Zone I Chair
Ted Futscher
Reg I Zone II Chair
Eric Mills
Reg I Zone III Chair**

**Eric Mills
Reg II Zone I Chair
Howard Kanter
Reg II Zone II Chair
Joe Straub
Reg II Zone III Chair**

The Lions Quest program activities continue; in January, we delivered new revised Lions Quest teaching materials to the guidance counselors in the elementary schools in Bedford and Franklin Counties. We would like to continue the expansion of Lions Quest in District 24-E into additional elementary schools in September, 2016.

We have some clubs in our District that continue to struggle with bringing in new members, some of these clubs will not survive. I urge all Lions to invite potential Lions to work with you on your service projects. Once they experience our "We Serve" approach, some of them will join us. As Walt Disney once said: "The way to get started is to quit talking and start doing"!

Yours in Lionism,

District Governor, 24-E
Lowell Skelton

Regional Lions Leadership Institute



District 24-E Lions who attended or taught at the Regional Lions Leadership Institute held in Lexington in December 2015. Lions Babs Newman(Cave Spring), Attendee, 2VDG Steve Taylor(Pearisburg), Attendee, Kay Ford(Cave Spring), Attendee, Charlie Herbert(Giles Breakfast Branch), RLLI Instructor, Zone Chair Howard Kanter(Pearisburg), Attendee, 1VDG Marty Alford(Dublin), RLLI Coordinator, Sherri Nipper (Giles Breakfast Branch), Attendee, PID Richard Chaffin(Forest), MD24 Global Leadership Chair and Corinne Matthies(Moneta), Attendee.

Submitted by Lion Jim Newman



Lion Tammie Brightwell
MD24 Centennial Celebration Coordinator
District 24-E Centennial Celebration Coordinator

By now I hope that all Clubs in District 24-E are aware that our Centennial is quickly approaching. This is a very exciting time to be a Lion.

We as Lions hope to serve 100,000,000 people with our Centennial Service Challenge. We are well on our way to exceed this number. As of December 30, 2015 we have served 68,000,000 people worldwide, and we still have 18 months to go.

To date 23 of 35 Clubs in District 24-E have reported projects for the Lions International Centennial Celebration Service Challenge. I know that more Clubs are doing great things in our communities, please take a few minutes each month to report your projects and accomplishments to Lions Clubs International by completing your monthly activities reports on MYLCI. If you don't have access to a computer, please contact me. I will be happy to help you. The Centennial Celebration Challenge covers four areas:

Engaging our Youth
Sharing the Vision
Relieving the Hunger
Protecting our Environment

Clubs will earn banner patches for each project reported in the four areas. Clubs that earn patches in each of the four areas for two or three years will earn a very special pin for every club member in good standing at the completion of the challenge.

Read more exciting news about our Centennial by visiting www.Lions100.org. Lions Clubs International is updating the site constantly. Don't miss out on all of the excitement.

If you have not already scheduled a Centennial Celebration Program for your Club, please contact me to schedule. lionva@verizon.net 540-342-5466.

Also, please visit the MD24 Website to keep up with exciting news around our Multiple District <http://e-district.org/sites/md24/>

Remember, where there's a need there's a Lion.

Sincerely yours in Lionism,
Lion Tammie J. Brightwell

Lions of Virginia Convention

The convention will be May 19 - 22, 2016. It will be an exciting time for all who attend.

On Thursday evening, attendees will have the opportunity to ride a vintage bus from the hotel to the Virginia Museum of Transportation where they will enjoy a Dessert Party. The restaurant and shop merchants in the Market Area will be offering discounts to Lions. The Visitors Bureau will have a booth set up with information about what to look for in Roanoke. The Norman Rockwell exhibit will be on display at the Tubman Museum and they are offering a special discount to the Lions.

The State Bland Music Scholarship Contest will entertain the Lions and guests on Friday evening. This is always a special treat for those attending.

Of course, Saturday morning sessions give us time to learn new things about Lionism and the General Sessions inform us about what is happening around the State and within Lions International. There is a candidate from Virginia running for Third Vice President of Lions International. Delegates from all clubs will want to attend to cast their vote. Also being considered is a discussion and vote for redistricting our state into fewer sub-districts. This is extremely important for the State and/or sub-districts to be viable districts for voting and running for International office.

There will be numerous raffle items. You won't want to miss the opportunity to put a few (or a lot) of tickets into the box for chances on getting the items of your choosing. Let's fill the boxes with tickets!

Hotel Roanoke is well known for their outstanding dinning. You won't want to miss out on this opportunity to share delicious meals with your Lion friends from around the state.

See you in Roanoke, May 19 - 22, 2016!

Lion Convention Chairman Clark Vandergrift

LCIF Donations

Through December only 4 clubs in 24-E have made a donation to LCIF. I know more of you will be contributing in the future. With this in mind, we have received a request from our International President Yamada to help the international refugee crisis which is currently unfolding. Due to recent conflicts in the Middle East and other areas, millions have been displaced from their homes and are seeking safety and new opportunities in other countries. Many of these refugees are traveling with very little and need immediate assistance in acquiring food, shelter, warm clothing and other necessary items. As Lions, we cannot ignore this need.

We encourage the Lions within the district to consider making a donation to these efforts. Please visit www.lcif.org to make a gift to the Disaster Relief Fund. The need is vast, but together, we can provide help and hope to those who are suffering. Your contributions can also be designated for future Melvin Jones Fellow Awards for deserving members of your clubs

PDG Kirk Sampson, LCIF Coordinator 24-E

Read Across America

Read Across America will be celebrated this year on Wednesday, March 2. We are in the process of matching up Lions Clubs with elementary schools. We are glad to see more participation from Lions this year. Any club interested in reading at a school that has not already signed up with Lion Linda All should contact her immediately.

Medical Clinics

There are 3 Remote Area Medical Clinics currently scheduled in Virginia for this year:

Wise: July 22-24, at the Wise County Fairgrounds,

Lee County: Sept. 10-11, at the Lee County Airport in Jonesville,

Grundy: Oct. 1-2 at Riverview School.

Online volunteer registration will begin 4-6 months prior to each event. You may register at <http://ramusa.org/volunteer/>. (Registration has not yet begun for Wise.)

For the Wise Clinic, remember to make your hotel/motel reservations as soon as possible. Rooms book up very quickly. If you need information on a place to stay, contact Lion Linda All.

Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic

There currently is no Roanoke MOM clinic on the schedule for this year. If this changes, notice will be provided.

Submitted by Lion Linda All

Lions Quest

Mrs. Mona Kanode, Librarian and Student Guidance Counselor, at Bedford County's Big Island Elementary School, accepts the newest edition of "Lions Quest" from Moneta Lion Gloria Guice. Lion Gloria, Lions Opportunities for Youth Chairperson, had a busy couple of days distributing the latest edition of Lions Quest training material to most every elementary school Student Counselor within her county.

Lions Quest is a life skills and prevention program, implemented in more than 50 countries around the world. Lions Quest programs teach young people skills necessary for everyday success. These skills include: Learning to accept responsibility, Communicating effectively, Setting Goals, Making healthy decisions, also Resisting pressure to use alcohol and drugs.

Submitted by Lion Rob Senoski



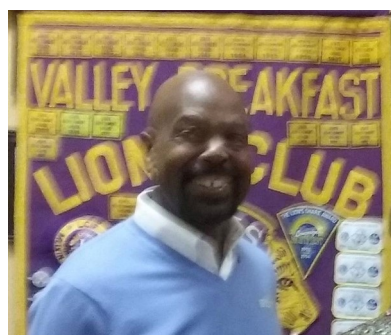
RAVE

In celebration of Roanoke Alliance for the Visually Enabled (RAVE), RVBLC is sponsoring a fashion show on April 9, 2016 featuring models from RAVE. Under the leadership of Dianne Decker, founder of RAVE, it is obvious how RAVE continues to be a vital and valuable asset in our community.

One only has to meet Dianne once to know that she is a person who knows how to make things happen. When she spoke to our club last year, she shared that our club is one of the Lions Clubs that has been a supporter of RAVE since its inception. In fact, the club received its name from RVBLC member, Lion JJ Johnson. In a document written by Dianne on the history of Lions involvement with RAVE, she reminisced:



"It did not take long for the group to realize that "The Support Group for Blind/Low Vision Individuals in the Roanoke Area" was a moniker too cumbersome with which to deal, so a contest was held to find a suitable name, and the entry submitted by Lion J. J. was unquestionably the winner. He explained that while on an errand for his wife to purchase a bottle of RAVE hair spray, he looked at the label and thought: "Roanoke-Alliance for the Visually"-- but was temporarily stumped until he came up with the "e" word, "Enabled!" Enabled was the word that most appealed to the group because of its positive connotation. It was not "disabled" or "handicapped," but rather "Enabled" a very empowering word. Thus, the group became known as the Roanoke Alliance for the Visually Enabled or RAVE. Even the acronym RAVE means to laud or praise-the kind of positive message the group tries to project. Lion J. J. has faithfully continued to drive for RAVE since day one. Even when a new employment opportunity came his way which required evening hours, he made arrangements with his new employer to be off from work part of the day on Wednesdays, so he could continue to drive for RAVE.



Lion Alan Guyes coordinates drivers for RAVE for our club. He is another Lion who has served as a driver for RAVE since its beginning. Lion Alan stated that projects like this are the reason he opted to become a lion three decades ago. Dianne Becker shared the following observation about Alan: "Even as the busy business owner of Audiotronics, he very rarely has to ask others to substitute for him. On one rare occasion, however, he even drew upon the generosity of his wife, Deborah, to transport his riders to the annual RAVE Christmas Dinner."



Lions Karl Saliba (left) and Glenn Asher have also been drivers for RAVE for several years. Lion Alan shared that he and Lion Karl became drivers from day one of the support group, while they were members of the Tanglewood Breakfast Lions Club. After that club folded, they joined RVBLC and continued to serve as drivers for RAVE.

Lion Glenn Asher has a special sensitivity to persons who are blind. His father was blind. When his father moved to Roanoke, he brought his father to RAVE meetings. He and his mother continued to be ardent supporters of RAVE after the death of his father. In fact, Dianne shared that his mother, although sighted, held an office in the club as the "Sunshine Lady," sending birthday and get well greetings to members. There are several other members of RVBLC who drive for RAVE as the need occurs.

Dianne is grateful for the support of the many Lions who support RAVE with drivers and financially. She is especially appreciative of her husband of 21 years, Lion Dick Decker, a 31-year member of CAVE Spring Lions Club, who was District Sight Chairman at the time she presented her proposal requesting assistance from Lions with transportation. Upon his recommendation and under the leadership of Area 24 E District Governor, Don Rhineheart, Roanoke area Lions Club adopted RAVE as a project.



Because of Lions, RAVE has been able to aid countless men and women and their families to adjust to the life changes that vision loss has brought into their lives. RAVE recognizes that the primary reason for its success has been the ability to provide transportation to its meetings. As a result, the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired has scheduled its annual Public Hearings for the Roanoke Area in conjunction with RAVE's October meetings. They have done so for 22 years because, thanks to Lions, the Roanoke meetings are the best attended in the Commonwealth. This has been possible because of the commitment and support from the Cave Spring Lions Club, the Edgewood Lions Club, the Roanoke Valley Breakfast Lions Club, the Roanoke Host Lions Club, and the Salem Host Lions Club who have consistently provided drivers for RAVE. RAVE meets every 3rd Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Lions Sight Foundation Building on the corner of Elm Avenue and 5th Street.

LIMITED BY SIGHT NOT BY STYLE"

Dinner and Fashion Show

Featuring Models With Limited Or No Vision

Saturday, April 9, 2016, 6 pm

Holiday Inn (Airport) 3315 Ordway Drive

Tickets \$25

Sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Breakfast Lions Club
In collaboration with RAVE

Please call Lion Barbara Pendergrass Richmond 540-818-0520 or Dianne Decker 540-562-0455 or 540-632-8069 to reserve tickets.

Lions Clubs are also invited to sponsor a model. If interested, please call Lion Barbara Pendergrass Richmond for details.

Special Needs

Early in December I received a call from a 38 year old woman from New Castle, VA., Clarisa Shepherd. This young woman is totally blind in her right eye and has only very limited vision in her left eye. What she does have in the left eye is complicated by tunnel vision. She has telescopic attachments she can add to her glasses but this does not allow her to read.

Clarisa's vision specialist, Dr. David Armstrong of Roanoke, had suggested a table top magnifier that he'd been shown by a sales rep. Through a deal with that sales rep he had purchased her demo magnifier. Clarisa had tried the magnifier in his office with good results. He offered it to us, along with a 22" TV to go with it for what he'd paid the sales rep. - \$ 825.00. The unit retails for between \$1600.00 and \$1700.00.

On Monday, December 21st we met Clarisa at Dr. Armstrong's office. The doctor spent 30-45 minutes showing her how to set up and use the magnifier. It consists of a tray on which she can lay whatever she wants to read and a camera she can move over it. The camera projects the images onto the TV screen. There are adjustments on the camera to magnify the images to whatever size print she needs to be able to read with as much ease as she can.



I can't say that I've seen anyone so excited or appreciative of this gift to enable her to be able to read again. Such a simple thing to most of us but such an unlikely thing to this young woman until she was able to sit down with this wonderful technology. Thanks to the generosity of Lions in District 24E this young woman was given a new lease on life and a Very Merry Christmas.

A few weeks after we met Clarisa I received the following thank you:



Dear Mrs. Herbert and other Lions Club Members,

Thank you so very much for purchasing the desktop magnifier for me. That was such an awesome thing for your all to do. I am so humbled that you would do that. I almost didn't ask for help because I thought that someone else might be in more need. I prayed and felt that God wanted me to have it. So I sought help. You answered that call. And for that I am thankful. This is such a blessing. One that I will not take for granted. I pray that you can bless other people just like myself and other that are less fortunate. Thanks again for your generosity. Be Blessed.
Clarisa Shepherd

I do feel blessed to have been able to facilitate this gift for Clarisa and to to be Chairman of the Special Needs

Committee for Lions District 24E. This is what Lions are here to do and I'm so proud to be able to say that I am a Lion.

A couple of weeks ago I received a call from Heather Dail, a diabetes case worker, about a client in need of special, diabetic shoes. The lady, who is 55 years old, has been disabled due to complications from the diabetes and other health problems since 2001. She receives \$745 SSI per month. Ms Dail returned the request form along with reports from her client's doctor about this need. On Thursday, January 28, I received a check for \$140 from District 24E to purchase the shoes for Donna Perdue of Blacksburg.

There are many others who could use our assistance in District 24E. Each time a call comes in for assistance I do my best to make sure the request is valid and that we can assist in fulfilling the request. That takes money. We currently have \$5000 in our budget. But each time a request is filled that balance is decreased. If your club or any individual in your club would like to make a contribution to the efforts of the Special Needs Committee please send your check earmarked to Special Needs to District treasurer PDG Jim Newman. If your club would like for me to meet with you to give you more information before you make a .donation please contact me at: jazsngr@hotmail.com. I'll be glad to speak to your club.

Submitted by Lion Betty Herbert

LITPC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

In June of 2016, the Lions International Pin Trading Club (LITPC) will award its fifth \$2,500 Youth Scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is the child or grandchild of a Lion or Lioness, and/or a member of a LEO Club. We in Virginia are honored to have had two of the previous recipients of this scholarship. The most important aspect of the Youth Scholarship is to help a young person pursue his/her education and follow their dreams.

Selection of the scholarship recipient is based on academic achievement, an essay stating the student's goals, a statement of reason(s) for applying, an overview of work, community and school service, and letters of recommendation. Applications and supporting documentation are to be completed and submitted to the person named below by March 1, 2016.

All graduating high school seniors who are the children/grandchildren of a Lion, a Lioness, or a member of a LEO Club are encouraged to participate in the LITPC Scholarship Program.

Contact Information:

Vrla B. Leach, 37 Woodlawn Dr., Staunton, VA 24401,
540-885-4240, vbleach@gmail.com

To Apply:

1. Go to the LITPC website: www.litpc.org
2. Click on the right column: LITPC Scholarship Information
3. Click on: Scholarship Application Form
4. Complete the Scholarship Application Form
5. Submit completed application form along with all required information to the person listed above.

Submitted by Lion Jim Newman

New Cabinet Chairperson

She's back !!!!!

Lion Marion Bullard is the new Chairperson for Women and Family Membership.

Update your Directory.

Marion Bullard
145 Monterey Ave., NE
Roanoke, VA 24012
540-581-4682
mbullard2@gmail.com



Lions Marion Bullard and Robert Foutz

Bedford Host Lions Club



The Bedford Host Lions Club rang the bell for the Salvation Army during the Christmas Season. Lion Eddie Adams caught everyone's eye in the Lions costume. He did not have to worry about getting cold.

The costume is available for all clubs. Bedford Host Lions Club donated it to the District and it is kept at the State Office. To use it, the club needs to contact Tammie at the State Office.

Submitted by Lion Nelson Leftwich

Giles Breakfast Lions Club

Thursday morning, November 19. Governor Lowell brought a message from Lions International President Lions Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada about his dreams for Lions internationally as well as at local levels. His goal of growth in membership was realized in small part during this visit when he inducted two new members into Giles Breakfast Lions Club. Half of his second goal, two new clubs, will become a reality within the next few months when Giles Breakfast Lions Club reaches the necessary number of members to be chartered as a full Lions Club



Governor Lowell inducted Laura Lawson of Pembroke and Brian Fisher of Pearisburg into the club during the meeting on the 19th. Both new Lions have already offered their time and energies to Giles Breakfast Lions Club projects. New Lion Laura was a busy assistant working in the club's Community Garden in Pearisburg during the summer. New Lion Brian assisted with vision screenings at the Head Start location in Pearisburg recently. Both new Lions were sponsored by club president Lion Charlie Herbert.

On Friday, December 11, Santa made an early visit to Giles County when he joined Giles Breakfast Lions Club members in their 3rd Annual Christmas Fruit Basket Visits. Each year the Giles Department of Social Services has provided the names and addresses of 10-12 of their elderly or shut-in clients for the club to visit. Club president, Charlie Herbert, stated "for some this may be the only Christmas visit they'll have."

L-r : Suzy Quillen, Sherri Nipper-Williams, Phil Blankenbeckler, Charlie Herbert, Laura Lawson, Adrian Johnson, Shay McLaughlin, Santa, Betty Herbert, Wyatt Sasser, Al Katz and David Zai.



There were many surprised faces when the club, and especially Santa, came through the front door and presented them with their baskets. One lady asked Santa to pray with her - and he did. One person asked the group to sing for them - and they did. All the ladies and some of the men received a hug from the jolly old guy in red.



At one stop Santa noticed a toddler on the front porch of a nearby house. The child had spotted him and was excited. He was no longer on the porch when the group emerged from their visit with his neighbor. But Santa knocked on his door and presented him with candy canes and a big hug. Club members agreed that this child really would have a great story to tell when his parents returned home from work. A few days later Lion Charlie Herbert delivered signed photos taken of the child with Santa - much to the 4 year old's delight. Santa (aka John Mills) surprises 4 year old on Basket Delivery day.

December 2015 was an extremely busy month for members of Giles Breakfast Lions. With several members traveling and others busy with functions with other organizations the

club decided to postpone a Christmas party in favor of a winter gathering at the home of Lion Edna and Bret Malone for Early January. On Sunday afternoon, January 3 the club gathered to celebrate the induction of 2 new members. Mary Katz, wife of Lion Al Katz, and Leslee Lucas were inducted by Governor Lowell after a lovely pot luck luncheon. Both new Lions were sponsored by Lion Al. Other guests included Rich Creek Lions president Gary Eaton and his wife Marsha; Rich Creek Lions Club secretary Lion Denny Whitlow; PDG Jim and Lion Babs Newman; plus spouses and other family members of Club members.



Lion Al Katz pins new Lion Mary Katz during her induction

Lion Al pins new Lion Leslee Lucas during her induction



To Our House Ministry, a program sponsored by large churches throughout the New River Valley, serves the homeless men of the area. Women and children have shelters to which they can turn but there is no shelter for the homeless male population. Beginning in November and carrying through until April these churches rotate hosting a group of homeless men offering them a place to be out of the cold, have shower facilities, hot, freshly prepared meals and a warm bed to sleep in.

Pembroke United Methodist Church, where Giles Breakfast Lions meet, hosts these gentlemen for a two week period in January. On the morning of our monthly meeting members prepare and serve a hot, nutritious breakfast for the men. The club began this partnership with the church in the first year we met there in January 2011. After the men have eaten the club meets and shares a breakfast together. This year the club moved its regular meeting schedule one week so that they could accommodate the church's schedule.



Also at this meeting the club was joined by Melanie Hart from the Smart Beginnings program. This program targets at risk pre-school children. It is estimated that the "Word Gap" between children of professional parents and those who live in under privileged homes is 300,000. Which puts them at a distinct disadvantage on the learning curve. Smart Beginnings places one adult with one child for a one-on-one reading/literacy hour on a weekly basis. The goal is to build a love of books, reading and learning new things as well as building vocabulary. Several members have now signed up to be part of this mentoring program.

The last order of business for this meeting was the announcement of the date set for the club's Charter Night on Saturday, April 16, 2016. By February 8 the club will have reached the requisite number of 20 members and will be eligible for full club status.

Submitted by Lion Betty Herbert



At this January meeting the club was joined by 1st VDG Marty Alford who inducted our newest member into the club. Sonu Chawla. Originally from India, Sonu and her husband Micky now make their home in Pearisburg. With Sonu's induction club membership has increased by 5 since December 1, 2015. Lion Sonu was sponsored by her neighbor Lion Al Katz. Lion Sonu brings the club's total membership to 17.



Moneta Lions Club



Moneta Lions Club Members: Rob Senoski, Bart Matthies, Gloria Guice, Del and Pat Bailey also Tim Hear, took on the title of "Elves" recently as they set up their "Club Christmas Tree". The Club Tree and display table were part of the Parade of Trees at the Pointe, at Mariners Landing.

Moneta Lions Club members a.k.a. The Caroling Elves: Mary Davis, Gloria Guice, Corinne Matthies, Bart Matthies, Pat Bailey and Del Bailey, recently visited the Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living (CVACL) dining center in Moneta. The Elves sang a variety of Christmas Carols, to the seniors in attendance, encouraging them to join in, prior to their luncheon on December 7th.



Moneta Lions Club Member Lion Del Bailey, a.k.a. Elf Del, recently distributed various gifts and Food Lion Gift Cards (items were purchased out of pocket by club members) to the Seniors at the Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living dining center in Moneta. The presentation was made following a "Caroling Session" prior to their regularly scheduled luncheon.

Moneta Lions Club members, Lion Gloria Guice and Rob Senoski took on the role of Santa's Helpers recently, delivering "Lap Robes" to Runk and Pratt's SML Retirement Village, Gills Creek-Memory Care residents

Yarn remnants are accepted from various sources throughout the year, passed out to senior centers and home based crafters who knit or crochet the Lap Robes, with care and much love. They are collected by the Lions Club members and distributed as Christmas Presents.



The Moneta Lions Club members gathered with their friends and family members for a gala Christmas Feast in lieu of their regular club meeting December 17th. The group met in the Resurrection Catholic Church's "Morrow Hall" feasting on home made appetizers and desserts, with a scrumptious catered meal prepared by Aretha and Johnny Jones, owners of Jones Catering (right).

After having their fill, the group shared their wisdom, playing Christmas Trivia, followed by a demonstration of their vocal talents, singing Christmas Carols.



Anna Semonco, Executive Director Ronald McDonald House Charities, of Southwest Virginia, shows a sampling of tens of thousands of can tabs delivered by Moneta Lions Rob Senoski and Gloria Guice.



Members of the Moneta Lions Club volunteer at the Virginia Eyeglass Recycling Center in Roanoke, every month on the third Monday, and it's become a club tradition to deliver the tabs, as a Christmas Present to Ronald McDonald, following the clubs December recycling endeavor.

Moneta Lions Club President Lion Bart Matthies, thanks Moneta Ruritans Club President Woody Gregory following his informative presentation to the Lions membership.

President Gregory spoke of the Ruritans history, stating that unlike most civic service organizations, Ruritans rarely have national programs. Rather, each club serves its own community as to the needs of that community and then works to meet some of those needs.

By meeting's end, Presidents Bart and Woody agreed to continue correspondence, perhaps sharing in future fund raisers, and assisting each other with community projects.

Build it and they will come !

Like the movie legacy, the MONETA PARK's new playground addition attracted the neighborhood children even before it opened for use. The new playground, located at the Bedford County "MONETA PARK" was completed by adding a wood chip play grade surface area on Saturday afternoon, November 28th. As shown in the picture, Jared Lineberry with Kendrix (2) and Nolan (5) after enjoying the swings, while Bryson (8) climbs



through the play equipment. So the playground addition has already begun to meet the recreational needs of younger children in the area, even before its official opening. Adding the playground to the MONETA PARK (Bedford County Park system) was started in February 2015 by two local service clubs (Moneta Lions Club & Moneta Recreation League) and the Bedford County Parks Department



Lion Del Bailey, Chairperson of the Moneta Lions Club Annual Golf Outing, presented a kick off "Briefing and Pep Rally" to the club's membership during a recent club meeting. The 16th Annual Outing, the club's largest fund raiser of the year, thanks to the many dedicated golfers and the generous sponsorship of area businesses, will again be held at Mariners Landing Golf Course, in Huddleston, April 18th, with a 9 AM Shotgun Start.

Submitted by Lion Rob Senoski

Smith Mountain Lake



Each year, Lions International sponsors a Peace Poster contest. The 2015 theme is "Share Peace" and the poster must convey the message of the theme without writing any words on the front of the poster. The SML Lions Club has been sponsoring the contest at Benjamin Franklin Middle School for 14 years, and this year 105 posters were submitted for the competition. The 2015 SML Lions Club winners and their families were honored at the Club's meeting on December 3, 2015, at the Waterfront County Club. The winners were (left to right): Tiffany Meadows (2nd place); Sara Barber (3rd place); and Lindsey Smith (1st place). Kirk Sampson, District 24-E Peace Poster Chair, introduced Freda Nichols (right) who thanked the Club for their on-going support.

The Smith Mountain Lake Lions Club is working with the Lions of District 24-E to purchase and distribute newly revised Lions Quest program materials to elementary schools in Franklin County. Lions of District 24-E have installed the Lions Quest program in the elementary schools in Franklin County, Bedford County, Roanoke County and Roanoke

City. Materials were distributed to Dudley Elementary Schools on January 11, 2016. Allison Garland (left), Guidance Counselor, accepted the materials from Lowell Skelton (center), District Governor of District 24-E, and Kirk Sampson (right), SML Lions Club Director.



The SML Lions inducted new member, Dennis Mischel, at their meeting on December 3, 2015. The induction ceremony was conducted by Club President, Rick Carroll (left). Also in attendance was District Governor 24E, Lowell Skelton (right). After the induction ceremony, Skelton spoke on his theme for the year, "Growing Lionism". He noted that the SML Lions Club is the largest club in District 24E and is expected to be a leader in Lionism and providing services to the local and international community.

The SML Lions met on November 20, 2015, to assemble Thanksgiving food bags at Lake Christian Ministries, Moneta, VA. This is an annual project of the Club, and this year 450 bags were packed.

Submitted by Lion Cindy Decker



Salem Host Lions Club



The Salem Host Lions Club was busy this winter. The club celebrated Christmas by collecting for Toys for Tots during their annual Christmas banquet at the Salem Civic Center on December 1, 2015. The club collected over 60 toys which were received by First Sergeant Michael S. Richard and Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Kenyon, shown with Lion Pres. Chris Whisnant. Collecting toys has become an annual event for the Salem Host Lions and a fundraiser enjoyed by all members.

During the banquet the club also awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow, to Lion Tim Miller. Lion Tim joined the Salem Host Lions in April 2013 and has served as club treasurer since initiation. He has also donated countless hours working the concession stand, conducting vision screenings at local schools and participating in many other club activities.



The club also recognized the following members for their years of service as a Lion: Fred Akers(65 years), Alan Boyce(30 years), Jenny Poland (10 years), Benjamin Lockhart (15 years - not pictured), Jim Robertson (25 years) and Jim Archer(25 years)



The club finished up the concession season with the Stag Bowl December 18th. The club is looking forward to another great year in 2016.

Submitted by Lion Jenny Poland

Forest Lions Club

November - In recognition of National Diabetes Month, Forest Lions supported the Type I Diabetes Experience (TIDE) organization's diabetes education & screening at the Lynchburg City Market.

Reading with K - 2 students continued at New London Academy and Boonsboro elementary schools.



At the November 10th monthly Club Meeting, Forest Middle School winners of the annual Peace Poster Contest were recognized and awarded cash prizes.

Holiday Assistance Shopping: Lions escorted 10 families with a total of 30 family members on holiday food shopping excursions with a budget of \$150 each.

December - Christmas Tree Sales dominated the month's activities from November 28th delivery of trees to lot clean-up on December 12th. Overall sales were slowed by unseasonably warm weather and 3 days of torrential rain. This all Lions effort netted the club \$8,527 paying for the Club's acquisition of a new SPOT machine.

An "Elvis Sings Gospel & Christmas" fund raising concert culminated in 115 supporters attending an outstanding December 14th performance supporting "Toys for Tots". Marine Sergeant Jack Noe, Toys for Tots Area Coordinator accepted a \$1,000 ceremonial check from Lion President Cindy Mohrmann.

The Club's Annual Holiday Celebration kicked off on the 15th with drinks and appetizers at the home of Lions Cindy and George Mohrmann before departing for a local restaurant for dinner. The highlight of the evening was the induction of new Lion Jeff Taylor, who had already demonstrated his commitment to service through many long hours on the tree lot.

Back to support those in need with more Holiday Assistance Shopping, 9 more families, 38 persons, were served with shopping, each with a budget of \$150.

To close the holiday season, 10 Lions, led by Lion Sheila Sylvester, supported the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. Ringing the bell for entire day of December 21st, the Club raised \$411

January 2016 - The Book Buddy program continues. Planning is underway for the Annual Bland Music Competition. - Recruitment of new members resumed with a January 9th Membership Drive & Broom Sale



At the Club's January meeting, new Lions Jim and Vickie Budge were inducted by Past International Director Richard Chaffin and immediately stepped up to spearhead the Bland Music effort.

The month comes to an end on Monday, the 28th with participation in the Bedford Chamber of Commerce New Member Showcase at the Forest Recreation Center. Another opportunity to show the Lions Banner.

Submitted by Lion George Mohrmann

Christiansburg Lions Club

On February 25th, 1941 The Christiansburg Lions Club was formed as a way to be of service to the citizens of Christiansburg, The New River Valley and through Lions International, to the larger world around us! And so in 2016, our Lions Club will be celebrating its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary!

We are excited about this event for it reminds us that for a long time we have had as our purpose for being and reason for existing that Lions International motto is, "WE SERVE!" It is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve our local community and others, and we are grateful for the ways in which our Lions Club is active in the community! We are also grateful for the encouragement and support of our community, its leaders and citizens, as together we plan projects and programs for the betterment of children, youth and adults.

Our primary focus of service is "sight conservation" as we support screening of children, youth and adults, contribute to District and State Lions Foundations for eye surgery, "Leader Dogs for The Blind," and other local services agencies, such as The Community Housing Foundation, The Community Health Center, Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, The Scouting Movement, local fire and rescue squads, and each year provide on average 100 plus glasses for others.

On Tuesday evening, January 26th The Christiansburg Lions Club was recognized by The Christiansburg Town Council with a Resolution designating the week of February 21st-27th as Christiansburg Lions Club Week! The current President, Douglas W. Kanney, was present to receive the Resolution and to express appreciation to the Council for their recognition. The closing remarks of the Resolution are of significance for our celebration.

"Now, therefore, be it Proclaimed that Mayor Barber and Christiansburg Town Council designates the week of February 21-27, 2016 as Lions Club of Christiansburg Week to show their appreciation for the work of the Christiansburg Lions Club in Christiansburg and surrounding communities."



Lion Pres. Doug Kanney and D. Michael Barber, Mayor

Our Charter Night will be on Tuesday, February 23rd with a special dinner for all of our Lions, spouses, significant others, local dignitaries and District Lions leaders. A highlight of our Anniversary Celebration is the creation of a 75th Christiansburg Lions Club Pin, which will be given to our guests and visitors for the dinner and we will be entertained by The Fort Vausee Musical Group from Shawsville.



And as a way for us to celebrate our Anniversary and "birthday," we have designated a "Major Gift" of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program as a means of continually giving back for the opportunity to serve, for we are always conscious of the fact that our reason and purpose for being as Lions is, "WE SERVE!"

Our Christiansburg Lions Club has had a number of special projects and programs through the year to raise funds. Our Golf Tournament was well played, our Annual Craft Show was again a remarkable success, and our SPOT Sight Screenings in local schools was a highlight of our service to children, youth and adults.



Lions Joe Wade and George Rust at the Golf Tournament Setup

Lions Doug Kanney, Judy Wade and Lion wives Marie Howard Penny Kanney and Geneva Cox at Lions Family and Friends Night.



Lions Pres. Scott Fenton, Joe Wade and IVDG Marty Alford at Lions Family and Friends Night



: New Lion Mark Clark, sponsored by Lion Pres, Doug Kanney, being installed by Lion Tim Rosche, Membership Chair

Lions Wayne Bishop, Joyce Bishop, Chubb Flanary, Tim Rosche and Allan Burke conducting SPOT Sight Screening



Submitted by Lion Doug Kanney

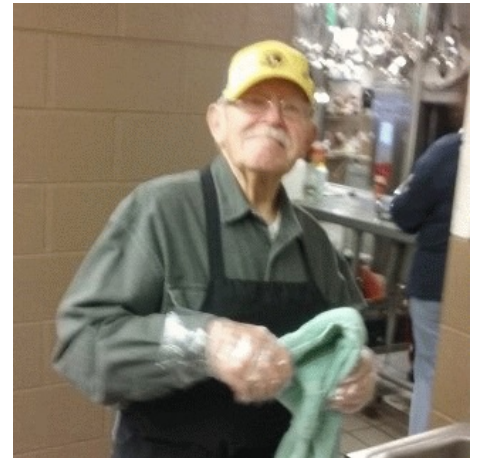
Roanoke Valley Breakfast Lions Club

Approximately 80 percent of Roanoke Valley Club members are involved in at least one of the clubs' service projects on a regular basis. There are several members involved in most service projects. They are called the "frequent flyers" club. Setting the bar high for the rest of the members, they are at the eyeglass recycling and the Rescue Mission every month, in addition to assisting with other projects.

They are also the ones always present at White Cane. Members of this Club are Lions Jerry Hardesty, George Ferguson, Leonard Booth, Jim Dalton, Wanda Dalton, Gary Swain, and James Pratt.



Left: Lion George Ferguson



Lion Jerry Hardesty

Several new members show promise of joining the frequent flyers Club. Lion Judy Simmers Manual Dotson, Nina Wright, Brenda Cooper and Susan Reese began their volunteer career with our club prior to becoming a member



Lions James Pratt, Manual Dotson, Jim Dalton, Barbara P. Richmond, Gary Swain and Joshua Chocklett at the Rescue Mission



Lions Susan Reese and Wanda Dalton

Roanoke Valley Breakfast Lions Club ended 2015 with a focus on serving others, assisting second grade teachers at Fairview Elementary School with their Christmas around the world program on December 16, serving Breakfast at the Rescue Mission on December 19 and volunteering at the Eye Glass Recycling Center on December 21.



RVBLC members continued its tradition of celebrating Christmas by donating Toys for Tots and canned and other non perishable food items to a local food bank.





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Lions Mary Ann DeMars, Ellen Coleman and Mary Jo Hubble visited our "lunch buddies" at Fairview Elementary just before Thanksgiving and took them turkeys made with cookies and candy.

RVBLC's Christmas social, organized by Lions Jean Broyles and Lynn Keene, was a wonderful festive affair. The approximately 50 Lions and guests were serenaded during the meal by Mr. Jim Robinson playing the dulcimer (right). Lions Glenn and Becky Asher, our world travelers donated wine for the occasion. The gag gifts, the door prizes, the music, the singing, and the fellowship made the evening a fun time for all.



Lion President Wanda Dalton, always on the job, spent a few minutes to conduct club business.



The highlight of the evening was the induction of a new member, Lion Veronica "Nina" Wright, sponsored by Lion Glenn.

Submitted by Lion Barbara Richmond

Cave Spring Lions Club



Peace Poster Winners Joshua Taibbi, from Woodrow Wilson Middle School with his art teacher Anne Fournier and father Chris Taibbi and Megan McGinnis, from James Madison Middle School with her mother Amy McGinnis and art teacher Janet Curry and Peace Poster Chairman Lion Jim Cosby

Lion Past President Dharam Sawh receives the Year Growth Award for Membership, Contribution Award from the Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation and a 45 Year Membership Certificate



Lion Craig Camidge receives a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as Program Chair and Lion Tressa Camidge receives a Certificate of Appreciation for her work with the LOV Raffle





New Melvin Jones Fellows Lions Jane Nash and Noel Cosby with PDG Jim Newman



Lion Frances Mills receives a 10 Year Membership Certificate



Lion Gabe Voss receives a 15 Year Membership Certificate



Lions Noel Cosby and Jane Ambrose Cosby receive 15 Year Membership Awards



Lion Kay Ford receives a Membership Key for bringing in 3 new members

Submitted by Lion Noel Cosby