



The Lions Pride

District 24-E

June 2009



**District
Governor**

**Melvin "Bud"
Chambless
2008 – 2009**

**A NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT
GOVERNOR 24E**

Year in a nut shell

It came and it went – to fast!

Membership – Through May 31, 2009

Clubs

Overall, I am very proud of the Clubs because they did an admirable job with all they faced this year. Some had recruited members who later found the cost to be more than they could afford. Some Lions – while not citing the issue – went on to other rewards.

We had a merger of three clubs that appears to make Lions of Martinsville/Henry County a stronger Club.

At the end of last year, we lost two Clubs – Daleville and Hollins. As this year comes to a close, we are losing an historic Club. New Castle Lions Club has meant a great deal to Craig County and the New Castle community.

Lions

When we started the year, we were at 1,060 members. At mid-year we had 1,062 Lions, we were one of the top Districts but due to deaths, we have been unable to sustain this effort. However, based on the latest LCI

cumulative report, our membership stands at 1,056. While we have experienced a few members deaths in late May, I expect our ending numbers to be no lower than 1,055 which I believe is very good.

Depending on how LCI dissolves the Charter of the New Castle Lions Club Charter, the ending membership could be as low as 1,048. I have asked LCI to allow me to take the hit for the loss of the New Castle Lions Club which in the latest report still has eight members.

Women and Family

Our goal this year was a positive growth of 5 women. In the latest report, we have a net increase of 12 women. This is a great accomplishment for the District. I appreciate everyone who has contributed to the accomplishment of this goal.

Since I was challenged to recruit women into the Pearisburg Lions Club, I congratulate Lion Charlie on recruiting women into the Pearisburg Lions Club. The Club has a positive growth in this area of two women.

Family units - Our goal for this year was to maintain the family units we had going into this year. We have a positive growth of one which exceeds our goal.

Lion Jennifer Persinger and PCC Nelson visited the Pearisburg Lions Club and made an excellent presentation. She was the leader in

District 24-E Officers

Melvin "Bud" Chambless, DG
Donald Rinehart
Vice District Governor
John T. Johnson, Jr.
Cabinet Sec/Treas.
Tammie Brightwell
State Sec/Treas.

Reg / Zone Chairmen

Dr. Kent Aikin
Reg I Chair
Burl Bowman
Reg I Zone I Chair
John Getgood
Reg I Zone II Chair

Debbie Chaffin
Reg II Chair
Lila Sullivan
Reg II Zone I Chair
Melvin "Sage" Bassett
Reg II Zone II Chair
Dallas Scott
Reg II Zone III Chair

Dr. Daryl Nash
Reg III
John T. Johnson, Jr.
Reg III Zone I Chair
James "Jim" Miller
Reg III Zone II Chair

achieving an excellent year for women in Lionism.

Retention

I attribute our success at Retention to effort of all of our Clubs. All of you are congratulated on the outstanding results you achieved. Net losses from drops minus deaths is + 7 at the end of April.

The final results for year will be available around July 20th and I will included in the first 2009-2010 Newsletter.

I appreciate all of the effort put in by all Lions to achieve this goal.

Committees

Camp Too Sweet will be at Camp Roanoke June 22 - 26. Lions Day at Camp too Sweet is June 25th. I hope to see a number of Lions there to enjoy the event and lunch by the American Culinary Federation – Southwest Virginia Chapter lead by our own Lion Charlie Chang of the Roanoke Host Lions Club.

This year's Camp will have a class of 60 children attending this year's camp. This will be the largest Camp since it began.

At the Cabinet Meeting that was held at the State Convention, the cabinet voted to form a 501(c)(3) organization which will serve the Children of District 24-E.

"Service To Children" – This is a fitting way to end the year of 08-09. Lion Gloria Guise has been a leader in this effort and we all appreciate the work she has done over the years.

Since our involvement began in Camp Too Sweet, PDG Bill Brammer has produced outstanding results.

Lions Assisted Medical

Program (LAMP/RAM) will be July 23 – 26 at the Wise County Fairgrounds. As in the past, there will be many Lions that you recognize but none more so than our Chairman PCC Cliff and Lion Mary Ann DeMars. This will be an even larger event in years past because the word is out that LAMP/RAM means quality service to the community.

Leaderdog has been well served this year by Lion Kirk Sampson. Once I ask him to serve as the Chairman of this committee, he was off to Rochester Michigan to find out what Leaderdog really is.

From the support that Lion Kirk has given this program, the visit to Rochester provided all the motivation that he needed. At a Zone meeting he gave me a list of Clubs, he had visited but I assured him the Clubs were reporting his presentations on their activity reports.

Lions Quest & Special Needs

Lion Dallas Scott is another example of the leadership of District 24-E. I was blessed this year with quality people who stepped up and did an outstanding job.

Lion Dallas tests the outer limits when pursuing projects. He successes are many and there will be many more.

Whatever role Lion Dallas assumes, you can be assured the job will not only get done but it will be of the highest quality.

H.O.B.Y. – Hugh O'Brien will no longer have an official role in this program. The H.O.B.Y. Board Of Directors removed him from any official role.

Lion Linda All has made a difference in a great number of youth in District 24-E. The leadership training provided by this program has produce Fulbright Scholars, a Governor, and numerous Fortune 500 business leaders.

Campaign Sight First II – Lion Charlie Herbert has been a Lion for a short two years. However, he became a Lionism leader in a few short months. In his first year, he replaced a Lions Lion in PDG Bates Killinger as the Chairman of the CSFII Committee.

He served the District as the State Convention Election's Chairperson.

Leo Clubs – William Byrd High

School – PDG Jerry DeGraff has the finest LEO Club in Lionism. When I tell Lions about this Club, they always want more information and want to know why they haven't been in the Lions' Magazine.

The leaders of William Byrd High School do an excellent job in achieving all they responsibilities of making leaders of the communities they serve.

Past District Governor Don Rhinehart

was awarded the President's Leadership Medal for all of the outstanding work he has done for our District year-in and year-out.

Congratulations on your receiving this award and thank you for the many

things you did that goes into events leading up to this prestigious award.

Newsletter – If you are reading this newsletter, you and I owe a big thank you to our Editor Noel Cosby. I appreciate her delaying the issue so we could report on Convention events. She has done an excellent job waiting on me to get my copy in to her. Thanks very much for all she has done to produce a quality Newsletter.

Election of New Officers

Please see the excellent article written by our 2nd VDGE Dallas Scott in this Newsletter.

Lions Clubs International Foundation – District Coordinator

LCIF District Coordinators –

Starting this year, LCIF began a new program which will use District Coordinators to advance the goals and objectives of this vital program. The individuals chosen to serve in this role will have to commit to four years to ensure their maximum value to LCIF.

Fund Raising – This is a very important aspect of the program goals and objectives. It will take the input of all of the Lions in our District to maximize the potential of the goals and needs of people in our communities, state and our international community.

Grants – Many Lions believe that we are the supply side of the Foundation; however, over the last number of years, we receive more funds by way of grants than donation we make to LCIF. This is only to say that LCIF looks first to the needs of the International Community and not to the location that has the need.

Presentations – I want to visit all of the Clubs to provide you with information regarding this important new position. I plan on having a 20 minute program that will lead to questions we can answer after the meeting or through E-mails.

I will be providing to the Secretaries important updates regarding what is happening and how the Clubs can be a part of the LCIF activities.

Awards

During the year, I had a number of opportunities to nominate excellent individuals for various awards. Some of the Lions I nominated were not selected for Awards but this does not mean they were not worthy of them.

There is one story I will offer to everyone. I had the opportunity to nominate eight Lions for an LCI “Everyday Hero” Award. I nominated seven Lions for these awards.

There are now over 800 District Governors who had the same opportunity to nominate Lions as I did. There are eight 1st Place Awards, eight 2nd Place Awards, and eight 3rd place Awards. In other words, there is a total of 24 “Everyday Hero” Awards.

I am proud to announce that we will have one of the Awards presented at the LCI Convention to Lion PDG William H. “Bill” Brammer. Since neither Lion Bill nor I will be there, Lion ID Wayne Davis will accept Lion Bill’s Award. I am excited that we will get one of the 24 Awards. With over 19,000 nominees, we will have a winner.

You may ask why I only nominated seven Lions; the eight one was for the District Governor and he did not qualify this year.

Congratulations for Your Commitment to Our Communities

There are many people in our communities that deserve my thanks but to leave someone out would create an image that some are more important than others. So, I will say my thanks in person as I travel the District this year.

I want all of you to join me in assuming active roles in the leadership of our District. I believe we got a good start this year but we need to continue our successes in the future.

I appreciate all of your support.

District Governor Bud and Katherine Chambless

As I have been named: “The Internet Governor

DISTRICT 24-E ELECTS Officers for 2009-2010 at STATE CONVENTION

By Lion 2nd VDG Dallas Scott

Sunday May 31, 2009 The Lions of Virginia met at the 86th Virginia Lions State convention. One of the duties was to modify the Virginia Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate the new offices of First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor. These changes were passed and the elections took place on Sunday. District 24-E elected PDG Lion Don Rhinehart (Roanoke Host Lions Club) as District Governor, Lion Bernice Leftwich (Bedford Host Lions Club) as First Vice District Governor, and Region II Chair Lion Dallas Scott (Forest Lions Club) as Second Vice District Governor.

PDG Lion Bill Brammer (Rocky Mount Lions Club) placed the District Governor candidate's name into nomination. The nomination was seconded by PDG JD Arnold (Roanoke Williamson Road Lions Club). Lion Patricia Maddox (Moneta Lions Club) placed the First VDG candidate's name into nomination. The nomination was seconded by Lion Gloria Guice (Moneta Lions Club.) PID Richard Chaffin (Forest Lions Club) placed the Second VDG candidate's name into nomination. PDG Jesse Garrett (Blue Ridge Lions Club) seconded the nomination.

Lion Charlie Herbert (Pearisburg Lions Club) served as the 24-E Election official. Lion Charlie made sure that we all voted (often) and that the ballots were sufficiently stuffed (no additions, no subtractions, and no hanging chads). After performing his duties as an election official for the other districts, Lion Charlie Herbert reported that District 24-E was a unanimous election.

Now that the election is over, DGE Don, VDG1 Bernice and VDG2 Dallas can get down to work filling all of the cabinet positions for the next year. If you think you might be interested in helping the District meet the needs of our communities, please contact DGE Don Rhinehart at 540-989-8757 or by email at donrh1@cox.net. We need your help to be successful. While attending the many classes at the state convention, we learned new skills for enlivening the district. We look forward to putting these new skills to the test. We will go to the International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota July 6-10. We hope to see you there.

Thank you to the many Lions who helped with the Hospitality Suite especially PID Richard Chaffin (Forest Lions Club), Zone Chair Jim Miller (Smith Mountain Lake Lions Club), Lion Frances Scott (Forest Lions Club), and Lion Mary Ellen Brammer (Rocky Mount Lions Club). The 24-E Hospitality Suite was a haven in the storm. We had no controversy and no issues. We discussed the upcoming RAM/LAMP project in Wise County, Camp-Too-Sweet visitation and Juvenile Diabetes Strides Walk. You will hear more about these in future news letters.

The Virginia Lions State Convention is in the history books. It was fun to meet old and new friends. Lions in Virginia are alive, well and growing. Your new District officers are here to serve. We look forward to the challenges of the coming year and to meeting each of you in our travels. Always remember WE SERVE those less fortunate than ourselves to make the world a better place than we found it. ROAR!!!

Moneta Lions Club at the Lions State Convention

The Lions of Virginia held their 86TH Annual State Convention, May 28th-31st, at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel, Tysons Corner, Vienna, Va. Lions, Lionesses, Leos, and their guests all experienced a very busy, educational, and fun filled weekend. Various Lions educational classes were available, also many organizational meetings held. Musical and vocal entertainment was provided by the finalists of the Bland Memorial Scholarship Contest participants Friday evening, in the Hotel's Grand Ballroom.



Pictured at the convention banquet Saturday evening, are members of the Moneta Lions Club, seated Lions Farris and Pat Maddox, Rob Senoski, standing, Lions Pat and Del Bailey, Gloria Guice.

Smith Mountain Lake Lions at the State Convention



The Smith Mountain Lake Lions Club was recognized at the 86th annual Lions of Virginia State Convention for outstanding support of the 2009 State Bland Music Contest at Tysons Corner. The SML Lions provided financial support for one of the third place scholarships. Receiving the award on behalf of the SML Lions Club were Lions Lowell Skelton (center) and Debbie Farthing (right). The award was presented by Lion Vickie Yanics (left), State Chairman of the Bland Music Contest which honors the memory of composer James A. Bland. Lion Skelton was also recognized for his outstanding service to Lionism; he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Lions of Virginia Council of Governors during the Convention. Other SML Lions attending the Convention were Kirk Sampson and Jim Miller.



PREVENT BLINDNESS MID-ATLANTIC AND LIONS OF VIRGINIA PARTNER TO COMPLETE STATEWIDE CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING INITIATIVE

A major eye health initiative to implement high-quality, standardized vision screenings into all Virginia public school systems, has just received a grant that will complete the installation of the program throughout the Commonwealth. The program, "Project: Construction 'Sight'" was launched in 2004 by Prevent Blindness Mid-Atlantic, a private non-profit, 501 © 3 organization. Lions Club International Foundation and the Lions of Virginia Foundation have just approved grants of nearly \$100,000 which will complete the installation into each of Virginia's 131 communities and more than 1,800 public schools.

"The Prevent Blindness Certified Vision Screening program is important in that it provides standardized screening methods and equipment for school nurses across Virginia while adding a critical and often missing component of school vision screenings," said Tim Gresham, President and CEO of Prevent Blindness. "The Prevent Blindness Screening Program includes testing of binocular vision to determine if the eyes are working together to detect potentially sight threatening disorders in young children," added Gresham. In addition to the training and equipment, Prevent Blindness offers vouchers for free eye exams and glasses to qualified students in need of follow-up care.

Lions Clubs are internationally known for their support of sight and hearing projects. Local Lions recognized the benefit of the enhanced standardized screening program and over time became a partner with Prevent Blindness to help expand the program statewide. The grassroots effort was quick to catch on and within the first year, many local Lions Clubs were financially supporting the Prevent Blindness Screening Program within their own local schools.

In 2005 the collaborative works of Prevent Blindness and Lions ventured into on uncharted territory. Lion Dennis Brining, a member of the Fairfax Host Lions Club, spearheaded an unprecedented effort to unite Lions across Virginia for maximum impact for their communities. A model of success first developed within his own Northern Virginia communities has generated the momentum to help complete the statewide effort of the Prevent Blindness Mid-Atlantic Program.

Over time numerous businesses, foundations, individuals, and the Commonwealth of Virginia have become supporters of Project: Construction "Sight", however, it is the collaborative work of the Virginia Lions and Lions International Foundation that have provided the broadest sweeping coverage of the Prevent Blindness Program across Virginia. The Lions financial support has allowed for program implementation into 44% of Virginia's schools, including Virginia's largest school system of Fairfax County.

Prevent Blindness Mid-Atlantic, the School Nurses of Virginia, and most importantly the children of Virginia are all grateful for the support of Virginia Lions and the numerous Foundations, Corporations, and

Individuals that have helped the statewide implementation of this very important health initiative possible. For a full listing of Program and Community Funders please visit the Prevent Blindness Mid-Atlantic website at www.TheEyeSite.org.

To Learn more about Lions of Virginia and how you can become involved, please visit Lions of Virginia website at www.LionsofVirginia.org.

District 24-E Bland Music Contest Winners



The District 24-E Bland Music Contest was held on April 19 at the Cave Spring United Methodist Church. The vocal and instrumental division winners will represent the District at the State contest on May 29 at the State Lions Convention in Tysons Corner. The vocal winner was tenor DeMarco King (center left) sponsored by the Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club. The instrumental winner was cellist Justin Hall (center right) sponsored by the Cave Spring Lions Club. District Governor Bud Chambless (left) and District Bland Chair J. J. Johnson (right) presented the awards to the winners. Lion Anne Killinger of the Roanoke Valley Breakfast Lions Club (not pictured) was presented a certificate of appreciation for her work at organizing the District contest.

Submitted by: Lion Jim Miller

Family and Women's Membership Development

FROM: Lion Shirley Wilson, PCC
General Chairperson, MD 24

SUBJECT: Report to Council of Governors

Below is updated report of March 2 report from committee members Lion Rose Robinson (24-A), Lion Bert Colley (24-C), Lion Mary Ackerman (24-D), Lion Jennifer Persinger (24-E), and Lion Shirley Wilson (MD 24). Chairpersons indicate that they have attained most goals set for 2009-2010.

1. Organize family-oriented Lions clubs, with assistance from other MERL team members and LCI extension members. Lions Rose Robinson and Shirley Wilson participated in the training given by LCI extension team Wanda and John Barnett. They are working with other MERL team members in an effort to organize one new family-oriented Lions club and rebuild another club. To date, no family-oriented Lions club has been organized.
2. Build a team, including MERL team and district PR chairperson, to help support efforts and achieve success in the area of Family and Women's Membership Growth. One chairperson has concentrated on recruiting more women in her own club, now showing a net increase of 20%. As of April 30, 2009, results are as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss in Family Units</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss in Women Lions</u>
24-A	+13	+18
24-B	+3	+5
24-C	0	-32
24-D	+18	-6
24-E	+1	+11
24-F	+7	-7

District 24-C Chairperson reported that the large net loss in their district can be attributed to the diminished size (disappearance) of University of Virginia Campus Club.

3. Participate in district workshop training conducted by LCI Membership/Extension team members, followed by two days of field work in recruitment of members for new clubs. To date, Districts 24-A and 24-C have participated in the workshop training and MD 24 Chairperson participated in the field work.
4. Write and submit articles pertaining to importance of family and women's membership growth and impact that will be made in communities. Articles have been submitted – emphasis placed on starting more family-oriented clubs.
5. Enlist assistance of "Welcome to Community" organizations to include Family and Women Lions' literature in welcome packets. Welcome package (in English and Spanish) about Lions ("I Am a Lion," "Your Family Can Make a Difference," membership application giving contact information) has been submitted to Chamber of Commerce for approval and distribution.

6. Plan and develop new community projects to raise awareness. A few clubs have developed new projects.
7. Visit clubs to present district ideas and goals for family and women's participation. Visits to 18 clubs have been reported, in which chairpersons asked for input on getting more family memberships. One or more clubs is looking at sponsoring middle school activities, to get parents interested in Lions' activities. One club with male membership only has now accepted women members.
8. Provide input at cabinet, zone, and region meetings. Committee chairpersons have actively participated in meetings.
9. Identify key people at AARP locations in Virginia to link people interested in volunteerism to the LCI web site membership programs' page. In progress.
10. Organize a presentation to enlist future retirees into volunteerism mode before they leave employment. Invite the Fortune 500 companies in Virginia, AARP members, and others to participate. This has great potential and real magnitude of resulting coordination needed to make this a reality and success for the Lions of Virginia. Two chairpersons reported that they are working on presentation.

District 24-E Chairperson has raised issues and made suggestions in two areas that she thinks could make both programs (Family Oriented and Women Membership) more successful; therefore, should be pursued with LCI:

In the past, many corporations paid dues for employees to serve as members of Lions clubs. Perhaps, some losses are due to the cessation of this practice. Her question is this: Why doesn't LCI offer an incentive to businesses that are willing to sponsor employees? Example, cost to businesses relevant to number of employees sponsored.

International dues ½ for spouses, children, and other relatives living in same household and members of same club. Incentive needs to be more realistic. Family members who join the same club should not have to reside in same household to receive the family membership benefit.

Position Available: Webmaster for District 24-E

Requirements:

- ...Knowledge of Microsoft FrontPage or equivalent.
- ...Able to devote at least 5 Hrs. per week to maintenance.
- ...High Speed Internet connection required.
- ...Good email skills.
- ...Digital Photo processing ability.
- ..Keyboarding skills...some.

Lion Marvin Gilliam will be leaving after the beginning of the new Lion year

MONETA LIONS CLUB GOLF TOURNEY

The Ninth Annual Moneta Lions Club Golf Outing Fundraiser was held at Mariners Landing Golf and Country Club on April 20th. The tournament as a major fund raiser was very successful again. The first place winners with a **NET 55** were, left to right, Steve Stutsman, Roland Wine, Barry Dick and Randy Harris. The winner of the Raffle Grand Prize, a set of Cobra SZ Irons 4-PW, GW, valued at \$700.00, purchased from Mariners Pro Shop, was Grady Ayers. He is pictured between Lion Del Bailey, Golf Chair, left and Lion Rob Senoski, President of the Moneta Lions Club.

The Moneta Lions Club continues to help people in the area through eyesight and hearing preservation and other programs. The outing helped raise essential monies for things over and above our time; equipment, screening, education and providing eye exams, eyeglasses, hearing aids and other equipment for the needy in the area

The Moneta Lions Club would like to thank the golfers that turned out and the many tournament sponsors and donors. The new Platinum Sponsor level this year was Preu Enterprises. The Gold Sponsors this year include Conrad Brothers Marine, Downtown Moneta/ Mayberry Hills and Blue Ridge Optical/Eye Care & Surgery. The Major Sponsors this year include; Alan Mullins Complete Automotive, At The Lake Boat & Mini Storage, Bob Riddick Roofing, Central Oil, Cruise Planners, El Torito Mexican Restaurant – Lakewatch, Fraternal Order of the Eagles SML AERIE 4344, Kroger – Mid Atlantic, Roanoke, LaBarbera Family Chiropractic P.C., Mariners Landing Resort Community, Mariners Landing Golf and Country Club, M.L. Sutphin Insurance Agency, Moneta Farm & Home Center, Sam's Club – Roanoke, Smith Mountain Realty & Development, Southside Electric Cooperative, StellarOne, Tacoma Mgt.- Taco Bell & Long John Silver, Virgil Naff Sea-Doo, Wal*Mart Supercenter – Valleyview, Webster Marine Center – Mark Mills and The Willard Companies, Inc.

Golfer prizes included a new Bayliner – Bowrider 175 I/O w/Trailer for a Hole-in-One on #5 par-3 hole (Conrad Bros. Marine) and a new Sea-Doo w/Trailer for a “Hole-in-One” on #16 par-3 hole (Webster Marine), greens fees at Ashley Plantation, Botetourt Country Club, Blue Hills Golf Club, Countryside Golf Club, Hanging Rock, Ivy Hill (Rounds), Mariners Landing (also 4 Rounds), The Waterfront and The Westlake, Gift Cards, Gift Certificates and other items of equipment and sportswear from local merchants.

The Moneta Lions Club would also like to thank those area businesses that signed up as Hole Sponsors: All Seasons Marine Service, Inc., All-Size Storage, Anthony D. Bailey D.D.S., Artfully Framed at the Lake, Ayer's Garage, Aztec Rental Center, Bryan D. Sicher, D.M.D., Call Richard Handyman Services, Debbie Robbins State Farm Ins., Dom Buccola Electrical Contractor, Drift-In Sunoco & Convenience Store, Drs. Sherman & Richardson, DDS, Eastlake 122 Self Storage, El Torito – Lakewatch, Enirtep, Inc., Eric J. Smith, DDS, PC, Fisher Auto Parts - Moneta, Franklin Community Bank - Westlake, Fresh Seafood Co. – Rest. & Mkt., George Cooper Agency/State Farm, Glenwood Fuel Oil Co., Inc., Grand Home Furnishings, Golden Corral – Lynchburg, Haywood's Jewelers - Westlake, Home Town Bank – Westlake, Jeff Persinger – State Farm, Lyons Jewelers, Lyons Team Realtors, LLC, Mary Lou McDonald – Realty World Properties, Mayberry Drive-in-Diner, New York Pizza, Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, Phil Hager Insurance, Print-n-Paper – Westlake, Radio Shack – Westlake, Scott & Bond, Inc., Shoprite/Great Valu, SML Chiropractic Center, SML Family Practice, SML Mini Shops, Steve Chiminello/ Long & Foster, Suggs Appraisal Service, Sweets Heating & Air Cond., Team Coachworks, Inc., Tharp Funeral Home & Crematory, Tuck's Tire & Auto, Vogel & Cromwell, Wal*Mart Super Center – Bedford, Westlake Signs & Design Group, Westlake Veterinary Medical Center and Woods Towing Service Center..

Many fine gifts were given by local and area businesses that were used as door and raffle prizes. Awards and prizes were given out after a fine dinner at the Saunders Fire house, catered by Adell's Catering of Rocky Mount.

Lion Del Bailey, Golf Outing Chair and Treasurer and Lion Rob Senoski, President and P.R.

Congratulations to the Rocky Mount Lions Club.

**On June 14, 2009 they will celebrate
the 85th Anniversary of their charter.**

The Lions Club of Martinsville and Henry Co.

proudly presents “Bluegrass at the Rives”

June 20th - Circle Creek Review

Come and join the fun!



A Black Ribbon for Lion Rev. Bill Sleasman

On May 26, Lion Rev. Bill Sleasman passed on. Lion Bill joined the Lions on September 1, 1956. He served in many roles and at his passing was the President of the Narrows Lions Club and the District 24-E Chaplain.

He had been a minister for more than 60 years.

Lion Bill was still an active minister and a pillar of his Community of Giles County. He will be missed.

TROUTVILLE LIONS CONDUCT CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM AT TROUTVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Members of the Troutville Lions Club, in cooperation with the Botetourt County Sheriff's Crime Prevention Department and the Troutville Elementary Parent Teacher's Association conducted a child ID program at Troutville Elementary School on March 23rd and March 25th. The program involves placing a photograph of the student on one side of a printed form provided by the Sheriff's Office, placing a left hand print and right hand print on the other side, and attaching a cotton swab DNA kit to the form which is then taken home by the student for safe keeping by the parent. A total of 194 students participated in the program during the two morning sessions.

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to prevent all crimes including child abductions. The office provides kits that parents can use at home to preserve DNA samples from their children. The dry sterile swabs are used inside of the mouth along the cheek and placed on a paper towel or foil to air dry for 24 hours. When dry, the swabs are placed in an envelope with the date prepared and any personal information for safe keeping.

Sharon Coleman, Crime Prevention Specialist with the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office, provided the forms and DNA kits and took the hand prints. Jane Wolfe, President of the Troutville Elementary PTA, coordinated arrangements with the school and teachers. Bill Rader arranged and managed the project for the Troutville Lions. Troutville Lions President Sage Bassett and members of the club provided the personnel to man the stations involved to include registering the students, taking and printing photographs, and assembling the ID forms. The excellent support from Troutville Elementary Principal Karen Crush and the teachers and the smiling faces of the students made the entire project a success.



Salem Host Lions Club



Photo: Miranda Adkins, So Salem, The Roanoke Times

The names of those from left to right are:

Bill Powell, Salem Host Lions Club President; Jane Lindsay, Salem Rescue Squad Officer; Bryan Jenkins, SHS DARE Officer; Mike Akers, ALMS Asst. Principal; Marge Dillon, ALMS DARE Officer; Lt. Guthrie of the Salem Police, a Torch Run sponsor; Jim Paxton,

SHS Band Director; John Hall, SHS Principal; Shaun Chelgreen, W Salem & Carver DARE Officer; Bryan Robertson, E Salem & S Salem DARE Officer Dawn Farrell; Tom Sixbey, Salem Host Lions Club Treasurer.

At the March 17 meeting of Salem Host Lions Club, donations totaling over \$20,000 were presented to organizations below:

Salem High School (for Activity Fund & Band) - \$13,500

Andrew Lewis Middle School (for A F & Band) - \$2,100

DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program at six Salem schools - \$3000

Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics - \$500

Salem Rescue Squad - \$1000

At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, Salem Host Lions will award scholarships totaling over \$14,000 to deserving local high school seniors. The funds for making these donations are raised as a result of a longstanding agreement between the Salem Host Lions and the City of Salem to provide concession services at the Salem City Stadium.

Submitted by: Lion Jim Arnold, Salem Host Lions Secretary

Bedford Host Lions Club

Well, it seems it's that time again, time for another newsletter update on the Bedford Host Lions Club's activities.

Our club did hosted "Civic Night" at Bedford's Bower Center on April 7th. We were joined by people from the Bedford Breakfast Lions Club, the Forest Lions Club and the Moneta Lions Club along with members of the Bedford Women's Club, Kiwanis and the Rotary Club. We were attempting to help showcase the Bower Center's new music lab. The Bower Center is a place for kids and adults to go to develop their creative side. They have art programs and classes for all ages, as well as music classes. Everyone that attended seemed to have a wonderful evening. It was really nice to see members of so many different organizations come together in one place. The folks at the Bower Center were so pleased with the turn out that they approached us about partnering on fund raising opportunities. We gladly accepted their offer.

On June 5th, the Bower Center brought the Cajun cultural experience to Bedford. A catering company from Bayou country came up and cooked hundreds of pounds of crawfish, shrimp, chicken and just about anything else you could imagine. A band played Zydeco music. A good time was enjoyed by all. The lions club helped sell tickets to the event and manned the beverage booth. The funds raised will go back to the Bower Center in the form of scholarships for campers attending the summer music and art programs offered at the Bower Center.

The yard sale we had in May was a big success. We raised more than \$800.00 for the community. We are busy collecting items for next year's sale. It has not been scheduled yet, but keep your eyes glued to the newsletter. You never know what kind of treasures you might find.

Our club raised \$1500.00 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. We had about ten volunteers at the relay on Friday, May 15th. Unfortunately, the event was cut short due to weather, but those who attended had a good time while it lasted.

The American Red Cross reported that we had 60 people sign up to give blood at the blood drive we sponsored in May. Of the 60, only 54 were able to give that day, which was a little disappointing to us; however, we did have three first time donors included in the 54. We look forward to continuing our work with the Red Cross in 2009-2010.

Bernice Leftwich asked that I extend her appreciation to everyone in District 24E that supported Bernice's run for First Vice District Governor in 2009-2010. She looks forward to representing the District in the coming years, and hopes to see you all at the district's fall conference, if not before.

2008-2009 proved to be a very successful year for the Bedford Host Lions. We raised more than \$8500.00 and gave every penny back.

We want to make 2009-2010 even better and to prove it, our Club's calendar is filling up fast. Already scheduled is the Cow Patty Bingo, a pancake breakfast, our participation in the Bedford Women's Craft Show, and Christmas tree sales. We will probably add Bedford's Centerfest and another partnering event with the Bower Center. Again, we would love to see our fellow District 24-E Lions come to Bedford and join us an event or two.

Submitted by Lion Jennifer Persinger

You may remember Lion Alan Boyce sent a special message to men which was published in the February 2008 issue of the newsletter. It was written just prior to his prostate cancer surgery and he urged all men to have a yearly physical examination and include a PSA test. Lion Alan's surgery was successful and he continues his message of faith and hope.

Journeying Together

Alan Boyce

Canon for Administration

President Salem Host Lions Club

The optimist in me wants to talk about the extra \$80,000 we might have in the 2010 diocesan budget, and then, on top of that, an additional extra \$40,000 in the 2011 diocesan budget. I can talk about this for two reasons. First, we have, by Resolution #9, a formula that defines suggested levels of giving from parish budgets to the diocesan budget. Second, we have a requirement from the long range plan to suggest and project a three-year budget to be shared with Council delegates at the spring convocation meetings.

An extra \$80,000 is not much when you consider that the 57 parishes that ARE the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia accumulate in excess of \$8,000,000 in revenue each and every year. We are a pretty formidable enterprise when you think about the bigger picture.

I love being the optimist. I hate being the pessimist. I must admit that some of both live within me. I do try to let the optimist have more air time, just because, as a Christian, it feels more compelling to err on the side of generosity than to give into the scarcity theory.

So, what might we do with an extra \$80,000 a year? Far be it from me to decide, but I can tell you that we have been trying to promote seamless ministry in our diocese for quite a while now. Do you ever wonder, for example, what happens to those 200 or so Youth at Council who eventually graduate from high school? Do you often wonder where the 20-something-year-olds have gone? Look around your own parish. Do you see a lot of Young Adults? Wouldn't it make sense to fund a Young Adult ministry in our diocese? Well, we could do it if we wanted to. Of this, I have no doubt.

Or, wouldn't it be nice to restore that \$45,000 that we cut from our giving this current year to the greater good beyond our diocese to the needs of the wider church? Sure it would. We know we would be healthier for it as well.

I am convinced that we could come up with quite a list of things we could do with an extra one percent of our common wealth as a diocese. I am convinced that we would all be the better for stretching beyond our parish boundaries just a little more.

I am keenly aware that many are feeling the effects of this economic climate in which we live. I am not suggesting that we ignore the fact that receipts are down or will be down somewhat in the future as a result of the economy right now. I am suggesting that we live in the tension of economic realities and the realities that the ministries we advocate need to continue more than ever in uncertain times. It is a challenge. It is going to be a challenge for a while. Thankfully, we have God to help us and to give us faith and hope in the future. The journey is what we are called to take together.

Reprinted by permission from the May 2009 issue of *Connections*, a publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia