

SEVERN RIVER Lions Club

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JUNE 2016 SRLC NEWSLETTER

Getting Ready For The Party

On May 13 Lions George Council, Nancy Earley, Jackie Hetrick, Sue Parks, Joinette Smallwood, Ken Tschantre, Catherine Violette, and Ollie Wittig assembled at the Health Center to begin preparation for the SRLC Luau. The large table was filled with items that had been donated by local merchants and individuals that will be on the silent auction line and the prize wheel line and Lions did an inventory of the prizes. Lions Joinette and Sue recorded all of the donated items and determined the asking price for each item. For the next hour items were counted, packaged, and placed on three large tables to await transport to the Luau on May 21. Included in the donations were certificates for purchase, wine and spirits, hand painted pictures, household items, a set of fireplace tools, pet supplies and a variety of items that should appeal to bidders at the Luau. All of the donated items will provide a profit for SRLC and will enable the club to continue supporting a variety of community service activities throughout the coming year. Since this year's citrus season was not profitable due to quality problems with the fruit the club hopes to have a successful and rewarding Luau so our charitable work may continue this year. Last year's Luau was a fun and profitable event and Lions are looking forward to another good year. Get the grass skirts and leis ready and come on out for an evening of fun on May 21. Go Lions!

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Rain Didn't Stop Our Party

The morning of May 21 gloomy and the rain was falling but that did not stop ten Lions from arriving at the Legion to begin preparations for SRLC's second Luau party. The large garage tent that would be used as a dressing room was unloaded, the framework assembled, the roof tarp, sides, and end pieces were installed just at the edge of the large Legion tent and it was ready for action. Several Lions attached many strings of colored lights around the perimeter of the tent and tested them to see that they were working. Large utility light that would illuminate the performers were placed and the cables and speakers for the sound system were put in and tested. After several hours of work it was determined that we were ready to go and the Lions departed in the falling rain.

About a half hour before the 5:00 pm start time guests began arriving and were greeted. Tickets were taken and told that the dining would take place indoors and that the entertainment would be held outside under the big tent. Guests were reminded that the long tables by the wall were displaying all of the silent auction items that could be bid on. Gift items donated by over sixty merchants and individuals were on display and a sheet showing the value of each item and the minimum bid was included. Bidders entered their names and their bid price on the sheet and at the close of the event the winner for each item would be announced. Winners paid and were given their prize. The silent auction items was quite varied- food items, accessories, small appliances, certificates for service, kitchen utensils, and some alcoholic beverages and the auction attracted a lot of attention. At the end of the hall a prize wheel staffed by Lions was operating. To participate a guest place a quarter on the number of choice, the wheel was spun, and when it stopped the winning number was announced. Each winner received back his original quarter plus three more and the game continued. Guests could also opt to try for winning a bottle of wine or liquor by selecting a number by placing a five dollar bill on the number of choice. Winners got to choose a beverage from the extensive collection of wine and spirits.

Lion Chris Worth announced that the food was ready and guest lined up for service. The menu provided by the Hawaiian Entertainment Company included roast pork from a whole pig, Polynesian teriyaki, chicken, passion fruit meatballs, coconut shrimp, macaroni, potato salad, and tasty chocolate, pineapple, and coconut cake dessert treats. The servers were attired in Hawaiian apparel and would later be the entertainment. There was agreement that the food was excellent and plentiful and a hush fell over the hall as guests dined. During the meal guests were entertained by a talented singer/ukulele player. After about an hour it was announced that the entertainment was soon to begin outdoors under the big tent and guest went outside. The sky was cloudy and there was a little drizzle but the show went on. The servers, now performers, were introduced and the announcer provided a history lesson about each selection. The skill and coordination of the performers was special and the applause was well earned. Guests had an opportunity to dance with the team and several took advantage of this. The finale was the fire dancers who twirled torch like objects which brought on another round of applause. At the conclusion of the performance guests were reminded that drawings and prize awards would take place in the hall and the crowd moved indoors. Several Lions picked winning tickets for door prizes and called out the names of the winner for each item who came forward to get their prize. The money drawing was announced and the finalist for the three amounts of cash were announced and came forward for their prize. There was agreement that this had been a very enjoyable evening with delicious food, games, entertainment, and a chance to socialize in a friendly atmosphere.

But the party was not over for Lions after the guests departed. On Sunday morning six hardy Lions were back at the Legion to take down the large garage tent and store it, remove over a hundred feet of colored lights that had circled the tent. The sound system and cable and the bright lights were taken down and stored for next year. It was agreed that the 2016 Luau was a fun and financially successful event and the proceeds should help offset the deficit caused by this year's citrus season.







Great Day For A Bike Ride

The weather was perfect on April 24 for the Pack 688 and Pack 855 annual bike rodeo. Lions George Councill, Jackie Hetrick, Bill Zelenakas, and Ollie Wittig ventured to Shipleys Choice Elementary School to assist with this annual event. Lions were tasked with performing the pre ride bike safety check for the riders and as the bikes lined up Lions checked the tire pressure, seat height adjustment, safety helmet fit and adjustments were made where needed. Most riders had obviously done some pre ride checking before coming to the school. As always it is an enjoyable experience interacting with the Cub Scouts and the parents. Then it was time to ride! The leaders gave directions for the event and the Cub Scouts began riding in four different activities which tested their riding ability and reinforced the boy's skills on two wheels. Parents assisted the Scout leaders along the route and the event lasted nearly two hours. To observers it was obvious that the boys were having fun and learning from the ride and the packs will hold this event again next year and SRLC has been invited to help again. Lions did not miss an opportunity to publicize an upcoming club event and flyers about the Luau were distributed to the parents. SRLC has assisted with several pack 688 events each year and Lions chefs will be at the Pack Bridging Ceremony on June 11 at Kinder Farm Park to man the large grill and prepare the hamburgers and hot dogs for the Cubs and parents. The leader said that the Lions assistance with the cooking frees the parents to take part in the Bridging with the boys and the Lions were heartily thanked. Go pack 688! Go SRLC!

Lions Join in Service

On April 13 Severn River Lions Bill O'Neil, Randy Roberts, Ray Smith, and Ollie Wittig joined with Annapolis Lions Jeff Fair and Gene Zeiser at the annual health fair sponsored by Anne Arundel Community College to provide vision screening to students, staff, and visitors. Nearly forty different vendors occupied tables all around the dining hall and provided a variety of services and information to those who visited. Annapolis and Severn River have joined to offer vision screening for at least six years and the service was a good example of Lions serving their communities. Two Titmus screeners were set up and Lions extended an invitation to come in and have an eye exam. While the Titmus screening is not an "official" eye exam the results can indicate a potential problem. Several people screened who got below average results commented that "I thought I was having vision problems and I will make an appointment with an eye doctor." Attendees also were given an SRLC brochure and a flyer for the upcoming Luau in May and several commented that this sounded like a fun event. AACC also provided lunch for the vendors. During the three hour fair approximately fifty people were screened. Lions had a chance to interact with the students, staff, and visitors during the fair and tell about the many community services offered by both of the Lions clubs.