



Severn River Lions Club News



PO Box 118, Severna Park, MD 21146 • www.severnriverlions.org
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SRLC Bull & Oyster Roast at the Columbian Center in Severna Park, MD.

8th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast Another Great Evening!

Thanks to a lot of hard work by chairman Bill O’Neil and a dedicated group of Lions who sold tickets, collected donations and prizes for the silent auction, worked on set up and cleanup, manned the wheels, and spouses who baked delicious cakes, the eighth annual Severn River Lions Club Bull and Oyster Roast on April 21 was a great success.

Nearly one-hundred-eighty Lions and guests gathered at the Columbian Center in Severna Park, MD to enjoy the delicious food prepared by Atlantic Caterers. The menu that evening included assorted cheeses and vegetables to whet the appetite, a buffet line of cooked vegetables, sauerkraut and kielbasa, barbecue, fried chicken, and crab soup, and from the outside cooking area—tasty fresh shucked oysters, pit beef, pork, and turkey tempted the revelers. The nearby bar offered a selection of beers, wines, and sodas



International Theme for 2011–2012
“I Believe”

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to quench the thirst. Lines formed and guests seated at the round tables chatted and enjoyed the delicious food. Many returned to the food lines again and again to refill their plates. A DJ entertained the crowd thorough the evening.

Around the room were several tables of silent auction items that had been donated. Guests were able to examine these and, if interested, place a bid. Several Lions had been drafted to sell raffle tickets for the crowd with three lucky winners getting Visa gift cards valued at \$300, \$125, and \$75 dollars. In the corner the game wheels attracted players who bet on their number of choice. Nearby several shelves displaying delicious cakes for sale that had been donated were soon cleared.

Throughout the evening guests returned to the food lines to refill their plates. Coffee and desserts appeared and signaled that the delightful evening would conclude. Lion Bill O'Neil announced the winner of several of the door prizes and everyone eagerly awaited the major raffle drawings. Three winners would go home "richer" that evening, having won the Visa gift cards.

All good things must end and as 10:00 pm neared guests began to depart for home, satisfied with a great sociable evening and delicious food.

Volunteer Lions began the clean up process and are already looking forward to next year's event. Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this annual event a success and helped raise funds for our club's many charitable causes.



Ken McAuliffe with PDG Bob Muchow, sponsoring Lion Chris Werth and PDG Dick Bloomquist was inducted into the SRLC on April 24th.

Welcome Ken McAuliffe

New Lion, Ken McAuliffe was inducted on April 24 by PDG Dick Bloomquist and PDG Bob Muchow and was immediately welcomed to SRLC by the members.

Ken and his sponsor, Chris Werth, met through their work and discussions about Lions piqued Ken's interest in becoming a Lion. Ken is a "youngster" at age 41. He is the oldest of three brothers and hails from Louisville, KY but transplanted to Maryland. He currently works as a mental health therapist for QCI Behavioral Health in Largo, MD.

Ken did undergraduate work at Xavier University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and postgraduate work at Boston College where he earned a Masters in Social Work in 1996.

Ken has numerous interests including bowling, swimming, and volleyball. He expressed interest in several of the club's service programs and we are looking forward to having Ken McAuliffe on the SRLC team as a contributing member. Welcome Lion Ken!



King Lion Rollins Clark with Tuskegee Airmen "Red Tails" Dr. Cyril O. Bryon and Mr. Lemuel Lewis.

History Repeated

For the second time in a month the members of SRLC received a personal history lesson about World War II. On March 20, two Tuskegee airmen, Dr. Cyril O. Bryon and Mr. Lemuel Lewis, "Red Tails" from the fighter squadron of African American aviators in the war were featured presenters at the meeting.

The members viewed a video that described the unit, which fought valiantly in the war. That the unit was subjected to prejudice was characteristic of that era but the Red Tails persevered and gained recognition for their accomplishments. Following the video Dr. Bryon and Mr. Lewis recounted their experiences as pilot and armorer for the Tuskegee unit. Both "old soldiers" spoke of their personal experiences as pioneers in the military and it was obvious that they were proud of the unit's accomplishments under difficult circumstances.

Members had many questions for these brave airman and they received a well-deserved standing ovation for their contribution to the war effort.

Super Sorting

On Saturday, April 14, SRLC Lions Rollins Clark, Ollie Wittig, And Bill Zelenakas joined sixty other Lions from all over the District at the semi-annual eyeglass sorting at Maryland School for the Blind.

Early arrivers were tasked with setting up long tables, trash containers, hauling in boxes and bags of used eyeglasses that had been collected during the past six months. Neighboring District 22-B sent in two pallets loaded with filled boxes of eyewear.

Hot coffee and doughnuts tempted the workers but then it was time to get to work. Lions sorted the eyeglasses, prescription sunglasses, regular sunglasses, eyeglass cases into separate boxes which, when filled, were taken to Lion Joey Livingston's crew for taping and marking. PDG John Cullison examined glasses with possible gold content for separate processing. Used cell phones, hearing aids and batteries were also packaged for future use by LASH.

For about two hours the sorting work continued but there were opportunities to socialize with the other Lions. Occasionally a sorter would find a very unusual pair of glasses and these were shown and usually got a chuckle around the table. After about two and a half hours all the eyeglasses had been sorted and packaged for transport to the recycling facility in northern Virginia where, after sanitizing and grading, they will be readied for shipment to third world countries and will help those less fortunate to be able to function with reasonably normal vision.

It was estimated that nearly one hundred thousand pairs of used eyeglasses had been processed that day.

If you have never attended an eyeglass sorting there will be another opportunity in the fall and you will be able to mix and mingle with fellow Lions as they participate in a service project that benefits many less fortunate.

"We Serve"

March Preschool Vision Screening Frenzy

College basketball teams were not the only groups busy during the month of March. For four days this month a team of eight Severn River Lions including Rollins Clark, Jim Coolbaugh, Carl Gilbert, Bill O'Neil, Dale Strait, Catherine Violette, Ollie Wittig, and Bill Zelenakas were busy providing preschool vision screenings at St. Martins Day School and Edinboro Early School.

The team visited each school and interacted with the youngsters, ages three to six, told them about the screening process, showed them our lion cub, tested for stereo vision and possible amblyogenic conditions that could cause serious vision problems if not caught early.

Over the course of the four days a total of ninety-two youngsters were screened. Eighty-eight children passed with flying colors, four were listed as REFER for possible amblyogenic problems, and twenty-two had possible defects requiring eyeglasses. All youngsters received a sticker saying "A Lion screened my eyes" and for some this was the highlight of the morning. All parent/guardians received a report that their child was PASS, REFER, or EYEGLOSS REFER.

The club will follow-up with a parental contact during the next thirty days to insure that the child has received a professional eye exam. Past screenings have resulted in parent contacts thanking Lions for providing screenings and identifying possible eye defects that can be more easily corrected if caught early.

Not only is the preschool screening a valuable service to the schools it is a great opportunity to interact with these delightful young people in their school setting. If you have never helped with a preschool screening just watch for the announcement about future screenings and sign up to provide a valuable service.



Lion Carl Gilbert administers the butterfly test at Edinboro Day School.



King Lion Rollins Clark at St. Martins Day School.



Rollins Clark and Bill O'Neil fill out screening reports.



Working In The Rain

Whoever thought that Lions was a “fair weather club” weren’t at the citrus sale on March 24th. Twenty-four hardy SRLC members, most attired in bright raingear, assembled at the Severna Park High parking lot for the final citrus sale that Saturday.

Early arrivers were tasked with laying out pallets, securing the forklift, man handling the pallet jack onto the truck, and trying to stay dry as lightning and thunder boomed and the rains fell in torrents. To help keep the boxes of citrus dry four pop up tents were assembled and placed as Lion Randy skillfully maneuvered the forklift filled with fruit to the designated spots on line. Blue tarps covered the fruit but it was obvious that Mother Nature planned for the boxes to get wet.

Energetic band students assembled the booths and by the time daylight broke we were ready to go. Gradually cars lined up but not in the numbers we are accustomed to. The rain continued throughout the morning and forecast updates announced a break about 10:00 am. That respite was welcomed and Lions loaded fruit into customer’s vehicles and reminded

them of the club’s annual bull and oyster roast coming up in April. A slow but steady line continued and the respite from the rain held off –for a while.

Hot coffee and doughnuts helped ward off the morning chill and Lions took shelter under the canopy of the “warming van” parked next to the citrus lines.

The stacks of citrus gradually diminished and soon the call “lunch is served” was heard and workers drifted inside to enjoy the delicious band subs and tomato bisque soup. Then it was “back to work.”

As closing time approached there were still many cartons available. Several last minute customers wanted big orders and soon the stacks shrunk. By closing time about a dozen cartons of grapefruit and two dozen boxes of oranges were loaded into Lion Rhine’s truck for transport to his garage.

While this was not the most pleasant day weather wise the spirit and conviviality shown by the Lions was a bright spot. Let’s hope next year’s sales are as much fun.

SRLC Well Represented at District 22-A Cabinet Meeting

On March 30 seven Lions from Severn River – PDG Dick Bloomquist, Nancy Burns, Dick Maurer, PDG Bob Muchow, Nadja Muchow, Catherine Violette, and Ollie Wittig joined nearly fifty Lions from the District at the 22-A Cabinet meeting at the Crown Plaza in Timonium.

The pre-meeting social enabled attendees to meet and converse with Lions from different clubs before sitting down to a delicious meal of chicken or flounder which was preceded by the customary Lions opening ceremony.

Following the meal a presentation about a Lions program, The Measles Initiative, conducted in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, was given. The video described the severity of measles in developing countries and described efforts to have youngsters immunized to prevent the serious consequences this disease brings. For less than one

dollar a measles vaccine can be administered to prevent serious or fatal illness. Brochures describing the program were distributed and clubs were encouraged to make donations to The Measles Initiative (these donations can count toward a Melvin Jones Fellowship).

Clubs were given the opportunity to tell about their local programs and “success stories” and several clubs took advantage of this opportunity. It was obvious that a variety of service and fund raising activities were being used successfully across the District and attendees were encouraged to take ideas back to their home clubs. Brief reports from several committees showed that the District was continuing to be active and providing valuable service throughout its communities. The Cabinet meeting adjourned with a benediction and a caution to “Drive Safely.”

Building Lions

The next time you are driving east on Benfield Blvd. near Shipley’s Choice take a look at the Welcome sign along the right side of the road. Over the course of several weeks Building Lions, Rhine Jager, Dale Strait, Ken Tschantre, and Ollie Wittig built the sturdy frame, painted the wood, and installed lattice to display the club medallions for the civic organizations in the community.

Lions were joined by the Kiwanis Club to remove the old lattice and repaint the woodwork. Finally on March 31 the framework was installed and the medallions were put in place to tell passing motorists and visitors about our community’s active civic organizations.

Other civic organizations have partnered to refurbish the welcome sign on north and south Ritchie Highway. This project is another example of a community project well done.



Newly refurbished community welcome sign on Benfield Blvd.

Lions at the Fair Again

For the fourteenth year the Annapolis Lions and the Severn River Lions have joined forces to provide vision screening at the annual Anne Arundel Community College Health Fair. The Lions were one of four dozen health service providers who were present on April 11 to offer free information and screenings to the mostly student audience.

On that day Annapolis Lion, Steve Smith and Severn River Lions, Bill O'Neil, Catherine Violette, and Ollie Wittig joined forces to use the Titmus device to test clients near and far vision. The test required clients to read columns of letters in descending order to determine if possible eye conditions existed. Visitors were given a sheet showing the results and in some instances a recommendation that they see a medical professional for a thorough eye exam.

During the four-hour session twenty-seven students and adults were screened. Several asked questions about the kinds of services available from Lions and they were given information.

During the slow periods Lions had a chance to visit some of the tables and booths and converse with some of the providers. The college again treated the providers with a delicious lunch, which was enjoyed by all.

Participation at the annual health fair is another example of Lions service to the community and an opportunity to acquaint them with the value of Lions clubs in the neighborhood. We are looking forward to joining with the Annapolis Lions again next year at the fair.



Lions Catherine Violette and Bill O'Neil provide vision screening at the Anne Arundel Community College Health Fair.



Don't Forget...Ledo's Pizza Night is the 4th Wednesday of each month!

The Ledo's Pizza in Severna Park will donate a portion of sales to the SRLC, plus kids eat free too!

May 24th • June 28th • July 25th • August 22nd • September 26th

It's easy to help raise money, just stop by and get a slice of pie!



Lions Ken Tschantre, Rhine Jager, Bill Stack, Dale Strait and George Council take a break from building the SPAN handicap ramp.

New Look At SPAN

During the week of April 11-18 visitors to the Severna Park Assistance Network building behind the Lutheran church on Benfield were greeted with stacks of lumber and supplies and a hard working group of Lions who had volunteered to construct a handicap access ramp on the front of the building.

Chief Engineer Dale Strait and Main Tool Men, George Council and Bill Zelenakas coordinated this building project and were assisted by Lions Rhine Jager, Bill O'Neil, Bill Stack, Ken Tschantre, and Ollie Wittig. Builder, Ted Mathison, SPAN treasurer and Bryan Cooper from the Lutheran church also joined the group several days.

The plan called for a ramp that would be ADA compliant and specific levels had to be maintained on the fifty-foot ramp. Initially the large upright posts were installed and set and then the struts and stringers that would support the platform were installed. When those tasks were completed the next chore involved the decking. For

several days the whine of power saws and the hiss of pneumatic nail guns could be heard and the deck came to life. Side rails and posts were the next items to be installed and then the handrails were placed. At the bottom of the ramp a concrete pad insured a smooth access from the sidewalk to the ramp. The treated lumber used for the ramp eliminated the need for painting.

It was not all work, however. About midday the tools were put down while the crew enjoyed delicious Pizza Hut treats and cold drinks and then it was back to work.

After six days of labor the last lumber was nailed in place and an official "ribbon cutting" marked the occasion. An estimated three hundred man hours of labor were needed for this ramp project but the workers had the satisfaction of knowing that the efforts would insure easier handicap access to the SPAN building and the finished project would let the public know that, as Lions, "We Serve."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please check our web calendar for updates at:
<http://my.calendars.net/srlc>

MAY

- 5/1 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 5/3 LASH General Meeting 6:00PM
- 5/4 Club Officer Training 6:00PM
- 5/9 to 5/12 MD Convention Salisbury
- 5/15 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 5/24 Ledo's Pizza Night 5:00PM

JUNE

- 6/1 Club Officer Training 6:00PM
- 6/5 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 6/15 District Turnover Meeting 6:00PM
- 6/19 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 6/28 Ledo's Pizza Night 5:00PM

JULY

- 7/3 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 7/17 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 7/25 Ledo's Pizza Night 5:00PM

AUGUST

- 8/7 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 8/21 General Meeting 6:30PM
- 8/22 Ledo's Pizza Night 5:00PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY

- Bill Zelenakas – 24
- Catherine Violette – 4
- Joe McClellan – 26
- Nancy Garczynski – 28
- Dick Bloomquist – 30

JUNE

- George Council – 9
- Carl Gilbert – 18
- Bill O'Neil – 29

JULY

- Myra Payne – 7
- Laurie Bishop - 12
- Bob Muchow – 16
- Bob Siska – 18
- Jack White – 18
- Dale Strait – 19

AUGUST

- Yvonne Jackson – 2
- Chris Werth - 3
- Rollins Clark – 7
- Mike Milord – 17
- Bill Meyers – 25
- Ollie Wittig – 26
- Milum Greene – 26



SPAN ramp construction in progress.