



May, 2014 Newsletter

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PDG Dick Bloomquist receiving a check from DG Dan Scott for his support of the districts Lions Quest program

## Message from King Lion Chris Werth

Wow! It seems like yesterday that I was inducted as your King Lion! I can honestly say that I have been honored and humbled to serve as King Lion for the Severn River Lions Club. I wish to say a special thank you to each and every member of this fine club. As I have said before, if each Lion does something, we can all accomplish much and by working together we can make a real difference in the communities in which we serve. In spite of my crazy schedule, you all have stepped up and assisted me as your King Lion...and I am truly grateful. We have worked hard and I hope that we can say that we had some fun along the way! Being a Lion is not a solo act or responsibility-it requires us as individuals to put aside our egos and personal agenda and serve the common good. In some small way I hope that I have done that and I know that we as Lions of Severn River have done this for over 60 years. I have no doubt we will continue to rise to the challenges that face us every day. Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to continuing my service with you all in the days, months, and years to come! Finally thank you all as you have been pun-ished by much werth-while humor...and that tradition will no doubt continue...I remain, yours in Lionism, Christopher R. Werth, President, Severn River Lions Club.



## **Super Sorters**

On April 12 Lions Dick Bloomquist, Dale Strait, and Ollie Wittig joined nearly seventy other Lions at The Maryland School for the Blind for the semi-annual eyeglass sorting. SRLC contributed eighteen cartons of eyeglasses and several hearing aids that had been placed in the collection boxes in our service area. Early arriving Lions were tasked with setting up long table and carrying in cartons of eyeglasses. Off to the side Lion Joey Livingston and his crew began assembling the boxes to hold the eyeglasses. Directions for the sorting were placed on the tables- prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses, non-prescription sunglasses, glass cases, and broken glasses went into separate bins and cartons. On the stage coffee, tea, and a variety of doughnuts tempted the sorters. Each table was staffed by about a half dozen Lions and the opportunity to chat and mingle was an enjoyable experience. After about ninety minutes the sorting had been completed and the glasses had been packaged for transport to a facility in Virginia where they will be graded and sanitized before shipment to third world countries. The crew then began the cleanup operation and soon the hall was clear and ready for school use on Monday. This twice yearly sorting is an example of Lions service and an opportunity to mingle with Lions from other clubs in District 22-A so if you have not had this experience consider coming to the next sorting in the fall.

## **A Night of Awards**

District Governor Dan Scott and 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG candidate Charles “Chuck” Egender visited SRLC on April 15 and were warmly greeted by members who braved the elements to attend that meeting. Lion Chuck told of the District project to construct a pavilion at Maryland School for the Blind and asked clubs to consider a donation to offset the costs of the materials. DG Dan complimented SRLC for the service activities done by the club. He then announced that he was pleased to present awards to SRLC members for their longevity with the club. Receiving pins for 10 years of membership-Shirley Greene, Milum Greene, and Jon Valett, 15 years membership to Randy Roberts and Ollie Wittig, 20 year membership to Catherine Violette, Pete Geis, and Ken Tschantre, and 25 year membership to Rhine Jager and Dick Bloomquist.

DG Dan complimented the club on the effort to attract new Lions and recognized those who recruited at least one new member during October 2013. Receiving the silver membership award were Sue Parks, Chris Werth, and Dick Bloomquist. DG Dan reminded the club that a gold membership award will be given to members who bring in new Lions in April. He encouraged everyone to be active in this recruiting effort. He also told of a District plan to start auxiliary Lions clubs at colleges in the service area and mentioned a successful club at Harford Community College as an example.

DG Dan then presented a check to Dick Bloomquist to help support the active Lions Quest program in the District. Both DG Dan and Lion Chuck complimented SRLC for active service this Lions year.

## **Tenth Year Bull & Oyster Roast Is a Success**

For the past ten years the Severn River Lions Club has sponsored a bull-oyster roast to raise funds to help support the club's many worthwhile service activities. The tenth roast was held on April 26 and judging from the crowd and the many positive comments heard that evening the tenth annual event was a success. Over two hundred patrons began arriving and were greeted as they entered the Columbian Center and were directed to the tables which had been reserved. Since the morning the skilled staff from Atlantic Caterers had been busily prep the pit beef, fresh oysters, crab soup, kielbasa, fried chicken and sausage, assorted vegetables, cheese, and fruit that would tempt the revelers. The food line was ready for the 6:00 pm opening and hungry guests lined up for the feast, Guests were welcomed and the feast was on. It was not just delicious food that evening. Around the perimeter of the hall tables displayed nearly fifty silent auction items that had been donated and awaited competitive bids of the diners. Near the front of the hall a three tiered shelf held nearly two dozen delicious looking cakes that had been donated. Guests placed bets on a series of numbers and the game wheel was spun to determine a winner. Lucky guests whose number was picked got to choose a cake from the assortment. An announcement about the Cash Bonanza raffle got everyone's attention. Three cash prize drawings of \$300, \$125, and \$75 went to the guests whose lucky number was drawn. On the stage area a line of prizes awaited another drawing to determine a winner who could select their prize of choice. As the evening drew to a close several guests stated that this had been an enjoyable evening of food and fellowship. Thanks to the hard working members we made over \$6,000 profit.







## What A Great Evening For Severn River Lions!!

Tuesday, April 1 may have been April Fools day but the Severn River Lions Club scheduled the annual **Bring a Friend-Friendship Night** on that day to attract potential new Lions to the club. For several weeks members had been asked to identify family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues who might be interested in attending this event and learning about the club's many worthwhile service activities. Lions arrived well before the announced starting time to set up displays about the many community service projects done by the club. Around the perimeter of the meeting room colorful posters and charts, and interactive displays, were available and provided information about SRLC's many service projects. Nearly a dozen prospective new Lions were in attendance that evening. They were introduced and invited to partake of the delicious treats that were being served. Lions were near the display tables to provide details about each of the exhibits or displays and this informal but interactive session went on for some time. The guests, several of whom had a familial connection to Lions, asked questions and expressed interest in the club and we are looking forward to seeing them again as Lions. A follow up letter will be sent to all guests to thank them for their interest in Lionism and inviting them to consider becoming a contributing member of the world's largest service organization.





## **SRLC Helps the Scouts**

The annual Scouting For Food drive in the Four Rivers District-Anne Arundel county- was held on April 5 and the Lions assisted with this drive. Lions George Councill and Ollie Wittig with George's trailer journeyed to St. Bernadette's Church in Glen Burnie early that morning and were met by eager Scouts and leaders who loaded thirty portable tables onto the trailer. The trailer load then drove to the JJ Haines warehouse on Aviation Blvd where they were off loaded and set up to receive the food that was collected by nearly eighty Scout units. Scouts sorted the food and packaged it into large boxes which would be transported to the Maryland Food Bank for distribution to less fortunate families. The collection, sorting, and packaging went on until 3:00pm when George, Ollie, and the trailer returned for the tables. Eager Scouts reloaded the tables and the caravan back to St. Bernadette's was underway. On arrival the tables and carts were off loaded and the Lions were given a hearty "thank you" for their contribution to this worthwhile Scout project. Together the Lions and the Boy Scouts lived up to the "We Serve" motto that day.

## **Lions Help Get The Wheels Rolling**

The annual joint Pack 688-Pack 855 bike rodeo was held on April 6 at Shipley's Choice Elementary School on a sunny, bright Spring afternoon. The Severn River Lions were invited again to perform the pre-ride bike safety check before the riders pedaled off to compete in the four event course which tested their biking ability, stamina, and energy level. About two dozen riders began arriving and were met by Lions Carl Gilbert, David Knabel, Bill O'Neil, Jon Valett, and Ollie Wittig. Lions checked the correct fit of the required helmet, seat height, whether the bike had a bell or horn, and tire pressure. Lions reminded the riders that the recommended pressure is on the side of the tire-a fact several riders did not know. Adjustments to the helmet fit, seat height, and tire pressure were completed and the cyclists moved to the starting line. A Scout opening ceremony preceded the ride and the Lions were thanked for the assistance given that day. Severn River Lions is the charter partner for Pack 688 and, in addition to the bike rodeo, SRLC assists at the annual cake judging, the Pinewood Derby, the SPAN food challenge, providing a close lot for parking the Pack trailer, and cooking for the Pack Bridging ceremony in June. Lions distributed flyers for the bull and oyster roast and several parents indicated an interest in this event. We have been invited back to help with the bike rodeo again next year.





Lions Bill O'Neil Steve Knappe Ollie Wittig Jon Valett Carl Gilbert



Lion Jon Valett



Bike Safety check



Check Air Pressure



Pack 688



## Lions Screen At The Fair

For at least eight years Anne Arundel Community College has sponsored a health fair at the Student Union building to acquaint students and guests with a large variety of health, safety, and general welfare issues. On April 9 the fair featured forty-five vendors or agencies who gathered in the dining area to set up tables and booths demonstrating or displaying information and handouts that explained the groups offerings. In an adjacent room the Severn River Lions Club was set up to offer both vision and hearing screenings and Lions Carl Gilbert, Bill O'Neil, Ray Smith, Dale Strait, Catherine Violette, and Ollie Wittig manned the vision screening device that checked far and near vision and the audiometer to perform the hearing screening. To test the far and near vision the client was asked to read columns of letter which got smaller as they descended. At the end of the test they were given a report on the results. While this is not a professional eye exam the vision test is a good indicator of potential vision problems and those individuals whose results indicated a problem were advised to have a professional eye exam. In a "quiet" section of the room the hearing tests were administered. The client was asked to put on a headset and listen for tones which were broadcast at different levels. Upon hearing a tone the client was asked to raise a hand to indicate a tone was heard. Test results were explained and several clients indicated they suspected a hearing problem and were encouraged to have a professional hearing exam. Sixteen clients took advantage of the screening and received a vision and hearing test. Lions also took advantage of this event to distribute brochures about our club's many service activities and tell about the bull and oyster roast. This screening at AACC is another example of the many worthwhile service activities offered by the Severn River Lions Club and we will plan to return again next year





Vision Screening at AACCC Health Fair