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Membership Director:

George Dooley

Tail Twister:

Bruce Gormley

Lion Tamers:

Dave Hubbard, Karen Russell

Past President:

Tom Ahrens

Leo Advisor:

Scott Newton, Mary Newton, Brad Barras, Herb Groom, Nancy Grgas, Allyn Mattox, Keri DaPron

SealBeachLions.com

Mike Narz

Growl Editor:

Herb Groom

The President's Message:



October was a very busy month for us. It started out with our Admin Fund Yard Sale fundraiser. Lion Margie Garcia was kind enough to let us use her yard for the sale and Lion George Dooley did a great job running it. The members who attended the Casa Youth Center Auction and Dinner Dance had a great time as well as helping out Casa with their winning bids at the silent auction.

I can give you a first person account of the Los Alamitos Youth Center Texas Hold'em Tournament fundraiser. I thought sure that when I went "all in" that girl was bluffing. Oh well, there's always next year. Our McGaugh School Carnival service project was cancelled at the last minute. The school decided to go with In-N-Out hamburgers this year. The Sail for the Blind service project was a great success. We had eight or nine Lions there and the blind and sight impaired had a great time sailing out in Newport Harbor. Lion Herb Groom will have a report on this event at our next meeting. Due to the editor's deadline I have to get this message in before the Harbor Mesa Casino Night, the Rebuilding Together Project, and the Halloween Chili Cook-Off so I'll be talking about those in the next issue of the Growl.

I would like to talk about the events coming up in November but we actually don't have any events in November other than our normal meetings. We will be helping the Youth center sell Christmas Trees on the last weekend of November. December will be very busy starting with the Seal Beach Christmas Parade on the first. Any of our new members who have joined since last December will want to get involved with this event. We'll also be selling Christmas trees at the Youth Center lot and there will also be the Story telling Santa Night at the library, Breakfast with Santa, and our club Christmas Party. December will be a full month. I hope to see all of you at the Chili Cook-Off.

Yours in Lionism,
Bill Howes

Meeting schedule: First and Third Wednesday of the month. Meetings begin at 7pm sharp and are held at 'The Lone Star SteakHouse', 6575 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA



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CLUB CALENDAR

November 1 – Parade Committee meeting / Baytown 5:00pm

November 1 – Lions General & Board Meeting 7:00pm

November 5 – District 4-L4 Cabinet Meeting

November 7 – Election Day

November 8 – Garden Grove Host Lions / Visitation 12:00pm

November 8 – Veterans Bingo 6:15pm

November 11 – Veterans Day

November 15 – Lions Program Night 7:00pm

November 20 – Parade Committee meeting / Baytown 5:00pm

November 20 – Leos Meeting 6:30pm

November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

November 27 – Youth Center Tree Lot – 4:45 to 9:00pm

November 29 – Youth Center Tree Lot – 4:45 to 9:00pm

December 1 – Seal Beach Christmas Parade

December 4 – Youth Center Tree Lot – 4:45 to 9:00pm

December 6 – Lions General & Board Meeting 7:00pm

December 11 – Storytelling Santa 6:00pm

December 13 – Veterans Bingo 6:15pm

December 16 – Breakfast with Santa 7:30am

December 16 – Seal Beach Lions Christmas Party 6:30pm

December 25 – Christmas Day





Veterans Corner:



McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres salient (Belgium) in the spring of 1915.

In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army

IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



2006 Melvin Jones Fellowship Recipients

Lions Alan Chavez, Bruce Gormley, Bill Howes, Chris Langlais, George Layman and Eric Reese.

[Editors note: In late August Lion members were invited to submit stories for publication of how they spent their summer. Graciously, one Lion stepped forward with an account. For the numerous men and women who have sacrificed much for their country, and in honor of Veterans Day, their story follows.]

My Summer Vacation, by Lion Allyn Mezin Mattox

The best day of my summer vacation was during my volunteer job at the Long Beach Veterans' Hospital. I worked checking out wheelchairs to our war veterans who were too weak to walk to their appointments in the hospital and needed to borrow a chair to make it through the long hallways to see their doctors.

One day I received a phone call at home from the woman in charge of volunteers. She asked if I would help her on a special project. I agreed. I was to escort an injured Iraqi war veteran to his appointments the next day.

After the Vietnam veterans came back from Vietnam, they were treated very badly. They organized and made sure that all returning veterans were never treated as poorly as they were. Now injured war veterans are entitled to special services, as I think many of us believe they should be.

I met my veteran and his wife in the eye clinic. When I looked at him, I couldn't tell that there was anything wrong with him. He was handsome and robust and he sat with a beautiful woman at his side. In his hands he held a white cane with a red tip and he wore dark sunglasses.

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I introduced myself and we waited for him to be called for his appointment. It took about an hour for the nurse to call his name, so we had a nice visit. He told me his story about how he became injured.

My veteran was jogging on the track of his base with three other servicemen. It was a normal day. There was no fighting going on. All of a sudden, there was a blast, and my veteran felt something hit his face. He fell forward and he doesn't remember much after that, just voices telling him to hang on, that he'd be okay.

He remembers being on a gurney, getting on a transport plane to Germany, and being with his commanding officer. His face was wrapped. He was heavily medicated and kept floating in and out of consciousness.

His wife received a phone call that her husband had been injured. The Government wouldn't tell her how badly, but they told her to get ready to fly to Germany. She didn't have a passport and didn't know if he was going to live or die. She prayed he would be okay as she packed her bags to make the long trip.

Back in Germany, my veteran was learning that a rocket had hit him. It had hit him in the head, entering in one eye, exiting out the other. His eyes were completely destroyed. He would be what they called "black blind," so he would not even be able to see a little bit of light.

My veteran also fell forward and landed on his face, loosening his front teeth. His body was full of shrapnel. None of the other soldiers he was jogging with that day were hurt.

I spent time with him that day taking him from appointment to appointment. I also spent time with his wife. I learned how an injury like this takes its toll on a loved one. She loved her husband so much. They were high school sweethearts and had been married for 30 years. The veteran was lucky to have this woman at his side to stand by him and to be his eyes in his future.

At one point during the day, a man came up to us and said to my veteran, "I don't know why we are in that war. I wish we would just bring our soldiers home."

I stood there in shock thinking this is not the thing to say to a man who has just lost his eyes fighting for his country. As we walked away, I said to him, "I am so sorry that you had to hear that."

My veteran replied, "I fought in that war to give people the right to say whatever they want to say. We all deserve freedom of speech. It's okay."

At the end of the day, my veteran thanked me for helping him. But I felt like I had been given the most wonderful gift, the honor of escorting him around the hospital, the honor of escorting an American Hero. I was humbled by his thank you.

Recently I was at a party with a very old friend of mine. She was suffering badly because her 21-year-old daughter was getting ready to send her husband of under two years to Iraq. As we stood at the party together she looked around at all the people drinking, dancing, and having a good time. She was heartbroken.

"Don't these people realize our country is at war?" she asked me. "These people don't care that our children are fighting and dying in Iraq."

I thought about my veteran and what he had said to me that day at the hospital. "No," I said to her. "You need to change your way of thinking. These people are here having a good time BECAUSE we have soldiers fighting for us in Iraq. They are protecting us, so we don't have to worry."

At the VA hospital there is a sign that states, "The Cost of Freedom is Visible Here." I think about how grateful I am to our veterans every time I walk past it.



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To: secretary@sealbeachlions.com

Subject: **Thank you!**

10/05/2006 9:00pm

Bill and Scott -

I hope this email reaches you. I'd just like to say THANK YOU to the Seal Beach Lions Club for donating the beach wheelchair to the local city beach. I used it today for my son, Davin, and he had a WONDERFUL time. When he was younger I took him to the beach often, but in recent years, as he has grown and gotten bigger (he is 31 and weighs as much as me) I have not been able to take him to the beach. Your chair made it possible and enabled us to create a wonderful memory, which we will cherish.

Davin spent 8 months in the hospital last year and almost died, so this outing was particularly special for both of us.

Thank you so much!

Faye Thompson
Monrovia, CA

Ensenada visitation

Our trek to Ensenada was a great success. It is always an experience. We laughed at all the tollbooths and tried our limited Spanish

lingo. We presented the Ensenada Lions with a check for \$500 to help with the local school. We brought them 200 pairs of old glasses to be used in their eye clinic. A 64th Fish Fry T-Shirt and club pin. They were very thankful for Seal Beach's generosity. Dave and Gale Hubbard also made a presentation to their club. It was a DVD they had prepared reflecting the 25th visitation they had attended in 1981.

The Gala Dinner for the weekend was held in the old Jack Dempsey Casino. We sat under the beautiful carved ceiling in the Rotunda. Lighting was provided by an elaborate ivory and gold chandelier. We ate and danced to a wonderful 7-piece band.

A note of concern is that interest is waning with this event. Problems in the near future concerning travel across borders and the lack of protection while in Baja, were two of the reasons mentioned by PDG Mike Schaefer. He also mentioned lack of interest in Chairing the event.

Seal Beach Lions have had many pleasant memories of our past visitations. You can't help remember and laugh at our antics.

Jackie Maloney Visitation Chairman

More information & updates at - <http://SealBeachLions.com>





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Lions Holiday Party

Saturday, December 16th

Spaghetini Restaurant & Jazz Club
3005 Old Ranch Parkway, Seal Beach

Cocktails / Games - NO HOST BAR, 6:30pm

Dinner - \$40 per person, 7:30pm



The Lions Club will subsidize dessert / door prizes / tip

Deadline for reservations - Wednesday, December 6th

Print and return bottom half of this page along with PAYMENT to:

Lion Carol Linehan
4729 Rey Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
Questions? Call 714.846.2478

Name: _____
Name: _____

Choice of salad:

Spaghetini Dinner Salad _____
Traditional Caesar _____

Choice of one entrée:

Angus Beef Short Ribs _____
Fettuccine Chicken Alfredo _____
Jumbo Shrimp Scampi _____

Truth or Lie game

During the cocktail hour Lions and guests can join in on a game of "Truth or Lie". List below three truths and one lie about yourself. These Truths and Lie should be something about you that no one else would know.

Make it fun! A prize will be awarded to person with most correct guesses!

Please, return the list of Truths and Lie along with your dinner reservation indications and payment to Lion Carol.

Truth: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____

Lie: 1.) _____

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