

Lions District 22-A

InSights



Volume 81, Issue 6

June 2021

JAMES KATZAMAN DISTRICT GOVERNOR 452 Norvelle Court Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (410) 761-3354 jimkatzaman@gmail.com

BIJOY MAHANTI FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 3515 Farm Road Aberdeen, MD 21001 (443) 876-4759 bmahanti@msn.com

MARIE MARUCCI CABINET SECRETARY 2029 Orman Road Dundalk, MD 21222 (443) 695-0611 lionmariemarucci@gmail.com

WILLIAM FEUER CABINET TREASURER 2007 Codd Avenue Dundalk, MD 21222 Cell: (443) 690-6875 feuerwilliam@gmail.com

SUZETTE KETTENHOFEN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 209 Dauntsey Drive Arnold, MD 21012 (443) 253-8434 lions22a@gmail.com

ADVISOR
PDG ANGELA BRUCE
6722 Mink Hollow Road
Highland, MD 20777
(443) 375-2852
highland47@outlook.com



Fellow Lions, As the pandemic ends, so does my year as District 22-A Governor. Looking back – with a few welcome breaks to be at gatherings in person – this has been a long stretch of Zoom meetings. All of us have struggled and continue to do so in one way or another. Despite that, I'm pleased to say that overall, we have persevered. We do indeed have a lot to celebrate, and if we've learned any lessons from the last year, we'll come back stronger than before.

We should pick up valuable pointers from each other for flexibility. In previous years, Darlington sponsored

successful sit-down chicken dinner fundraisers. Dealing with the pandemic, the club switched to drive-up dinners – and raised more money than before. Bel Air not only equaled prior Christmas tree sales, they sold out really fast. That's what you call pent-up demand. Many clubs have also used fundraisers to show how to succeed without being married to in-person meetings. Maybe not Zoom all the time, but consider combos. After all, the idea is not how we meet but what we accomplish for our community.

That leads me to Drew Evans, president of the VolunTeen Leo Club at Bel Air and newly named Multiple District 22 Leo of the Year. His story is elsewhere in this newsletter, and I encourage you to read it. I was honored to present the award to Drew at the Kaufman Cancer Center where the VolunTeens presented a check for \$23,000 raised during the Cancer Strides Walk. That would be eye-opening, until you consider that was only a portion of almost \$100,000 the Leos raised in 24 service projects for the community. Remember, this was during a pandemic. From their start in 2018, the original six Leos have grown to more than 170 members. Did I mention that Drew Evans is now a *sophomore*? This is what we have brewing in Harford county, and I don't think it's unique from the rest of the district. We just have to know where to look and put the right people in charge of the search parties. This is not the time to count our blessings and be complacent. Only about 5 percent of Leos grow up to be Lions, and shame on us if we let a huge group of enthusiastic young volunteers slip through our fingers.

Building from this valuable resource would be the best welcome-aboard present for District Governor Elect Bijoy Mahanti. He needs and deserves all of our support. DGE Bijoy is keen on service, and emerging from the pandemic ready to do what we do best is the ideal gift to keep him going in the right direction.

Thanks a final time for your wonderful service,

DG Jim





Greetings wonderful souls, your hearts must be doing better now.

Let us join in recovering from the last year's wounds of the Pandemic, embracing new ways of being, and working towards a brighter future.

We are thankful to DG Jim holding us together safe and continue to move our District forward as a team.

Our Lion Year is coming to end. Let us remind ourselves, to complete all the reports: activities, service, paying off invoices, newly elected club officers' names and others.

As the weather warms, there is a new attire for the season, not only our clothing but our mother earth all around us. Hopefully, we are seeing lots of smiles recognizing our accomplishments, the celebrations are especially hard-won in the face of the biggest public health crisis in the century which shattered whatever the normal tempo we had.

Everyday is a special gift to us. As I write this, today (May 20) happens to be World Bee Day. Please do not laugh (it is not a Hallmark holiday). This is to raise awareness about Bees. Bees are dying at a frightening pace. We do not see many bees any longer as we are determined to make them extinct by our way of living. We use pesticide, fertilizer, sprays, and chemicals to make us separate. Do we realize bees are one of the busiest species on the planet? A single honeybee typically visits around 7,000 flowers a day. We cannot live without them. It turns out that if bees go extinct, the ripple impact will be very deep, so powerful and so severe that humans would also go extinct. Bees are the biggest pollinator in the world. Our entire ecosystem would collapse without them. Everything is so connected, that it is such a beautiful reminder that the largest organism is inextricably linked with the smallest.

Can we Lions with our motto "WE SERVE" appreciate the interconnectedness and make every effort to contribute to our sustainable development? Sustainable Environment is one of our service impact priorities. There is so much to learn from the bees! Their focus, being on purpose, activities, no differentiation etc. etc.

We are not born to be ordinary, each one of us has been sent here for a unique purpose. Each of us can have an impact on this world in our small way. Let us play our part and stay Blessed Forever.

For Better and Better

District Governor Elect Bijoy Mahanti







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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE VIRTUAL!!

Due to the continuing concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the board of directors voted to transition the 2021 Montreal Lions

Clubs International Convention to a virtual event that will be delivered totally online. This decision was made with the health and safety of our Lions, staff and vendors in mind as limiting international travel and large gatherings is key to global containment strategies.

Although we are disappointed that we won't be able to host this event in person, we are excited about hosting our first virtual international convention that can safely connect Lions from around the world. We are still finalizing the details of your new convention experience, and will share those with you as soon as they are ready.

Here are some important details about the 2021 virtual convention we'd like to share with you:

- Everyone's invited Our 2021 convention will be a virtual event that's open to all Lions and Leos around the world.
- **Registration fees** The registration fee will be US\$50 until March 31, then US\$75 beginning April 1. The registration fee for Leos will be US\$30 regardless of date. Convention is currently scheduled for June 25-29. Additional event and registration details will be provided soon.
- **Current registrants** Lions who are currently registered for convention will receive an email soon with more information about their registration options.
- **Elections** Executive officer and international director elections will be conducted electronically, and voting procedures will be forthcoming.

Convention updates – Check our convention website LCICon for convention updates and details as they become available.

This global health pandemic has forced us all to make decisions and changes that place health and safety first. However, we are optimistic that with each new day there is hope, and as Lions, we continue to find new ways to stay connected, safely serve our communities and continue our global mission of service. We appreciate your understanding during this challenging time for our organization and the world, and thank you for your incredible service as a Lion.

Regards,

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, International President





2021 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

Start 09/09/2021
8:00 AM
End 09/11/2021
10:00 PM
Location Des Moines, Iowa
Registered 1435 registrants
Registration
(depends on selected options)

Base feet
Regular Registration Fee - \$320.00

Register



USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum September 9-11, 2021 Des Moines, Iowa



The largest and best Lions Club Leadership training event in world, the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is for you! With over 70 seminars training sessions related to developing quality Lions Clubs, thousands of Lions Leaders share their experiences.

Please note: The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum will be documenting the Forum for promotional purposes. Your participation may be filmed, photographed, or recorded at this event. Your registration is your consent for use of these images and recordings by the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.





"WE SERVE" + SERVING = SUCCESS



To effectively tell our story, measure our impact and grow membership, it's critical that all clubs report service. Every project we participate in as Lions and Leos, no matter how big or small, is valuable in our journey of serving our communities and the world.

Lions Served over 275 Million!

How do clubs and districts individually benefit from reporting service?

- » Reporting service helps transfer knowledge and best practices to your club's future leaders. Club officers can review past service activity reports, learn from the successes of the club's previous activities and better plan for their future activities.
- Reporting service is a matter of local pride. Reporting puts your club on the map as leaders in your local community, and it's an important way to share success with other clubs in your district and around the world.
- » A high percentage of clubs reporting service is a sign of a healthy district.
- » Reporting service allows you to become eligible for service awards.

How do clubs and districts collectively benefit from reporting service?

- » Reporting shines a light on how and where local clubs are making a difference. This elevates the profile of Lions Clubs International as a global service club organization.
- » Service reports provide tangible evidence of our global engagement and impact to prospective partners of Lions Clubs International. These relationships strengthen the organization and yield benefits at the local level.
- » People want to participate in real, visible change. Service reporting allows clubs to continually engage communities, tell stories more effectively and ultimately grow their member base.

How does reporting service benefit the people we serve?

- » Service data helps everyone understand the needs of communities around the world and how our Lions and Leos are serving those needs.
- » Because service activities are scalable, one small service project can become the next global initiative of the organization. But Lions Clubs International is not aware of such projects unless they are reported.
- » Service data enables Lions Clubs International to identify best practices that can be shared globally.
- » Measurement leads to insight. Setting higher goals each year mobilizes the organization toward growth.
- » Service reports show how Lions and Leos around the world are using funds from Lions Clubs International Foundation grants to serve their communities. This visibility encourages Lions and Leos to think creatively about their own projects and apply for LCIF grants themselves.

Additional benefits

- » Reporting is the final step in completing a service project. If it's not reported, it's not done!
- Reporting service is a lot like voting. You may think your report doesn't make a big difference, but the only way we'll be successful is if everyone does their small part.
- Reporting is considered service in itself. The time clubs and districts spend reporting their service are considered volunteer hours, and can be reported in MyLion.







Lions Clubs International

2021 Virtual Lions Day on Capitol Hill Advocacy Agenda

Lions Clubs International // Lions Clubs International Foundation

Agenda Item I: Response to COVID and Serving Safely.

In America and 208 countries around the world, the 1.4 million volunteer service members of Lions Clubs International are working tirelessly to help their neighbors in time of crisis in light of the Covid-19 global pandemic. We have been able to continue our operations to promote health and safety in communities that have been hard hit and every dollar we generate from our members is maximized to fullest extent. Lions are the first ones on the ground to help get communities through difficult times like these. To date, we have awarded over 350 LCIF COVID-19 Frontline Relief Grants through the Lions Clubs International Foundation totaling more than US \$5.3 Million.

Agenda Item II: Childhood Cancer and Global Hope Act

Lions provide support for the needs of children and families affected by childhood cancer through impactful service activities. Lions' service includes projects providing familial support including places for families to stay while a child received treatment and addressing educational and recreational needs of children with cancer. Lions also serve by supporting increased access and better quality diagnosis, treatment and continued care to those affected by childhood cancer. Lions care about their communities and can be powerful advocates for children with cancer and their families in the United States and around the world.

Lions Clubs International Foundation's role, through grant making, supports Lions service in these areas and their communities with a focus on infrastructure to provide familial support to children with cancer and their families.

Partnerships are another way to make a difference in this cause. Through a partnership with Global HOPE. (Hematology Oneology Pediatric Excellence), Lions are collaboratively addressing the great discrepancies in the standard of children's cancer care and outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa. Lions at the country level are very active in this partnership.

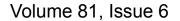
For more information about this partnership, visit our website and refer to the two-page overview included in this virtual leave-behind packet.

Agenda Item III: Service Club Organization Congressional Caucus

Lions Clubs International encourages our government leaders to join us. If you are not already a member, please consider joining or starting a Lions Club. If you are a member of a service club, you have a historic opportunity to join your colleagues, Representative GT Thompson (R-PA) and Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), in the newly formed Service Club Caucus, House Administration approval pending. Finally, we invite you to call on Lions as partners in meeting the needs of your constituents. Lions have been serving their communities for over 100 years, and are global leaders in community and humanitarian service.

PIP Clem Kusiak reports that he actively participated in the 2021 Virtual Lions Day on Capitol Hill as an advocate for three initiatives by LCI and LCIF outlined on the above flier. He indicates that his Zoom meetings were successful not only for LCI and LCIF, but for other service organizations that will benefit from the Congressional Caucus.

His scheduled Federal Legislators were **Representatives -** John P. Sarbanes, David Trone, Dutch Ruppersberger, and **Senators -** Chris J. Van Hollen Jr., and Ben L. Cardin.







Wheels for the World

This is Lion Ken Waldner. I am the Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee for the Bel Air Lions club. One of my responsibilities is to manage our Loan Closet. As with most Lions Clubs, we are faced with a few challenges with the Loan Closet. We are often running low on space for our medical supplies and we often get items returned that are in need of repair or beyond repair.

In the past, I have organized clean-up days where we would take excess or broken equipment to be recycled or disposed of. Recently I spoke with volunteer Cheri Rupp of a worldwide organization, **joni&friends** - https://www.joniandfriends.org/. She met me one evening at our loan closet to pick up a broken rollator. She started explaining what this organization does and it hit home with me as a Lion.

This organization has delivered over 190.000 wheelchairs worldwide. They have served 64.000 special needs family members worldwide. In third world countries, a person with limited mobility is tragically often excluded from life in their community because they have no way of moving around. The gift of a wheelchair literally lifts someone from the dirt to a seat of dignity and opportunity. This organization will collect wheelchairs or other mobility devices in need of repair and send them to one of their restoration sites that are located in 15 federal, state or private correctional facilities around the country. The item then makes its journey to a person in need somewhere in the world.

If you have excess inventory in your loan closet or have something in need of repair, please reach out to Cheri and arrange a pickup that could help a handicapped person gain the gift of mobility. Her number and email are in the flyer.



THE GIFT OF MOBILITY IS LIFE CHANGING



- There are over 1 billion people disabled in the world today. 80% live-in poverty-stricken areas
- > 75 million people worldwide, need a wheelchair daily.
- > Tens of thousands of wheelchairs and mobility aids are thrown out.

DONATIONS NEEDED:

- Manual wheelchairs, all types and sizes, adult and pediatric
- Wheelchair foot and leg rests, parts, cushions and trays

Worn, torn, dirty and even broken is fine.

Rollators, walkers, metal crutches and canes
 Lap blankets





For more information visit: www.joniandfriends.org

For equipment donations and questions please contact: Cheri Rupp 410-808-9181 ruppcheri@yahoo.com



ABERDEEN LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

EMPTY STOCKING TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS 2021



EMPTY STOCKING FUND 2021 ABERDEEN LIONS CLUB ANGEL PROJECT

Collecting toys to help put smiles on little faces at Christmas. Please consider donating one or more unwrapped, new toy(s).

Toys are accepted anytime throughout the year.

Contact Lions Cynthia Moats, Karin Hancock or Linda Welsh
for additional information. Toys, gift cards can be dropped off at:

Century 21 The Real Estate Centre 200 North Philadelphia Blvd, Suite C Aberdeen, MD 21001

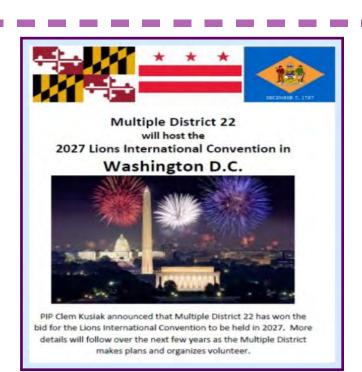
NOTE NOTE

JUNE 8TH, TUESDAY GENERAL LIONS CLUB MEETING

AWARDS NIGHT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL AT 6PM

PAY AS YOU GO AND MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

NOTE THIS IS FOR JUNE 8TH







BEL AIR LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS



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Bel Air Lions Support Camp Possibilities

Camp Possibilities executive director Jeff Dietz and treasurer Courtney Bollinger presented an update on the organization's plan for 2021 at a recent meeting via Zoom.

Camp Possibilities was founded in 2002. Each year the camp provides approximately 100-110 children with type 1 diabetes a traditional camp experience in a medically safe environment. This year, the camp will be held at Elk Camp Barrett in Crownsville, MD from July 25-30, 2021. (Due to COVID restrictions, the traditional location at Ramblewood in Darlington was unavailable.) The cost for a family to send their child to camp is \$775 (and about half of the children are subsidized.) However, true cost to provide this experience for each child is approximately \$1600. This leaves Camp Possibilities with the need to raise around \$150,000 each year to fund the camp. Once again, the Bel Air Lions will support this worthy cause and will donate \$3000 to the children of Camp Possibilities.

Bel Air Lions Doing Fixup Projects on the Bear Legacy Adventure Trail

The Bel Air Lions have been doing several repair and improvement projects at the local nature trail. The trail has many activity areas for kids to learn and climb and explore.



Lion Ken Zorbach installs a new library box at the outdoor classroom.



Lion Robin Young repairs one of the climbing stations.



Lion John
Verbillis presents
a Scholarship
Certificate to
Madison Buher
from Patterson
Mill High School.

The Bel Air Lions Foundation awarded scholarships to 11 local high school students primarily based on their outstanding service to the Bel Air community. The certificates were presented to each student at their home.



BEL AIR VOLUNTEEN HIGHLIGHTS

Multiple District Leo of the Year 2020-21 Awarded to Drew Evans, President, VolunTeen Leo Club

DG Jim Katzaman presented the MD 22 Multiple District Leo of the Year Award for 2020-21 to VolunTeen Leo Club President Drew Evans in a ceremony on May 17 in Bel Air. The Leo of the Year is awarded to recognize "Outstanding leadership, humanitarian service, contributions to the Lions Clubs International Leo Club program, community involvement and personal integrity."

Drew Evans is the founder of VolunTeen as an 8th grader in October 2018. He has served as Club President since the beginning. He led the transition of the VolunTeen group to partner with the Bel Air Lions and join Lions Clubs International as an Alpha Leo Club in September 2019. He chairs the VolunTeen Leo Club Board of Directors.

In 2020, the VolunTeen Leo Club completed 27 service projects, serving 9,554 people with service values/ donations of \$42,770. The VolunTeen group started with only 6 teens in October 2018 and in just 18 months, it has grown to over 170 registered members.

He is currently a sophomore at The John Carroll School in Bel Air where he excels in school (GPA is 4.150), runs cross country and throws discus. Drew was honored by the Bel Air Town Commissioners in March of 2019, with the Student Achievement Award. In 2019, Drew and VolunTeen received the 20th Annual Honors Row award presented by the Baltimore Ravens along with a Certificate from the Governor of Maryland for outstanding community service.

In 2019-20, only 35 Leo of the Year awards were given worldwide; 15 in the USA. Lions Clubs International (LCI) has not yet announced all of the winners for 2020-21.



Left to right:

Incoming Bel Air Club president Sandy Guzewich; IPP Bobbie Whitlock; Aberdeen Lion and incoming District Governor Bijoy Mahanti; DG Jim Katzaman; VolunTeen Leo Club President Drew Evans; Bel Air Lions Adivsor to VolunTeens David Guzewich, Bel Air Lions President Ken Spoerl and Bel Air Lions Treasurer John Mosier





CHURCHVILLE LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

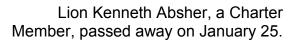


Trash Pick-up - Environmental Service Key - The Churchville Lions Club conducted a trash pick-up along Paradise Road in Aberdeen. Meanwhile, members John and Shari Walker also conducted a trash pick-up in Cape Coral, Florida.





Members John and Shari Walker volunteered at Night to Shine sponsored by Tim Tebow's Foundation, providing a special Prom experience for people with special needs.







DARLINGTON LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Due to the pandemic, the Darlington Lions had to cancel a number of our regular fundraisers. Despite operating on a budget reduced by 67%, we still supported LASH, Leader Dog, and LVRF without change to our regularly donated amount of \$600 to each. We also directed \$500 to our local volunteer fire company and will continue to sponsor the two elementary schools' Patriot awards, providing gift cards and plaques to the winning students.



We continued to be active with different service activities. Over the Christmas holidays, we provided 28 families with a food basket and grocery gift card. Because of safety concerns with distributing donated toys, we had to forego the toy giveaway this year, but financial donations from our Christmas appeal were so strong, we quadrupled the value on the grocery cards we provided over prior years.

The club's community aluminum can collection trailer has continued to provide a source of revenue with more than \$450 received since the on-set of the pandemic. PDG Larry made 14 runs with a full-load (like the one shown on the left) to the recycling facility since April of last year.

We have also continued with distribution of medical equipment from our loan closet that has generated \$375 in donations from appreciative residents for this service.

We are excited that our joint, monthly bingo with the fire company recommenced in May and helped to re-establish our prior funding stream.

Finally, our 501(c)(3) foundation, the Darlington Lions Independence Day Committee, Inc, is moving forward with planning and organizing a parade and fireworks display for the community Independence Day Celebration. As always, in patriotic Darlington, we get a jump on the rest of the country and our celebration will be June 26 this year.

GLENWOOD LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS



Photo of the refurbishing work on our Howard County Fairgrounds Food booth. Lions Joe Long, Bill Barnett, Scott Ichnliowski are the principal carpenters.





SEVERN RIVER LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Severn River Lions Doing What They Enjoy Most Collecting, Sorting Used Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids for Those in Need



On Saturday, April 10, Lions (from left to right) Lillian McGraw, Rollins Clark, Chris Werth, Bill Zelenakas, Dick Maurer, and Carroll Hicks met at Lion Carl Gilbert's house to use the double wide carport and sorted some 1,000 eyeglasses into bags of prescription, non-prescription sun glasses, reading glasses, gold & titanium frames, and broken frames. We were done at about 2 pm and transferred the bags of sorted glasses to Lion Carl's vehicle. (Lion Carl taking the photo.)

Pinewood Derby May 15th at Shipley's Choice Tennis Club.

This is an annual event in which the Lions serve as the judges for the Cub Scout's entries for the Pinewood Derby. A number of categories are set then judged according to standards presented. The judging usually lasts about 30 minutes (maybe less depending on the number of entries).





Order now thru

https://severn-river-lions.terrilynn.com

and product will come directly to you with a flat shipping charge of \$5, regardless of size of order. 20% of your purchase comes to Severn River.





Lions Association for Sight and Hearing (LASH)

On 11 April 2021, LASH held its semiannual collection of eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cellphones. District 22-A clubs brought donations from their servicing area to the drop off point in Dundalk from 10 AM - 2 PM. Thirty-six boxes of 500 eyeglasses each were collected along with some 50 sets of hearing aids and 200 cellphones.

Project Chairman Lion Joey Livingston continues waiting for one of the eyeglasses refurbishment facilities to reopen since COVID onset. The

eyeglasses will be shipped to a company who will refurbish them and ship them to those in need in South America and Africa. The hearing aids will go to the Towson University Speech, Language and Hearing Center to be refurbished under contract and then issued to clients who could otherwise not afford them. The cellphones will go to a veterans organization that will send them to be recycled for cash. The cash is then used to purchase phone cards to issue to troops overseas to use to call home.











Fraud Alert

We've all heard this before but this is a recent message from a friend.

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BE careful of phone calls asking for info from your Medicare cards - yes, I was caught yesterday, they wanted to "confirm" the info on my card and so I did. After I hung up I knew right away I had been SCAMMED. So I called Medicare right away. They are going to send me a new card with a new number. Not everyone on this list is over 65 but some are and have these cards. Please beware! This is why I almost always let my home phone ring and pick up on its own. Yesterday I didn't because I was awakened by the phone and didn't let it ring til the answering machine came on. The caller was extremely convincing and I was partly awake. So please BE careful. - Friend Pat R.

Here's some info that may be helpful to anyone still using a landline. Three years ago, I had to replace my landline phone and came across an AT&T phone set on Amazon. It has what's called Smart Call Blocker. My phone rings once, the caller is asked to press 1 and give their name; if they give a name, I get another ring and am asked to press 1 if I want to accept the call. If I do, I can add them to my directory and trusted list so they don't have to go thru the ID process in the future. If they don't give a name, or I don't want to accept the call, the system hangs up on them. It's been a true blessing not to have to deal with unwanted calls, because we all know how well that Do Not Call list is working. With all of the articles I've seen (AARP, Consumer Reports) on dealing with robocalls, I've never seen this simple solution mentioned. There's no extra equipment and no monthly fee. This is not a sales pitch - just thought I'd let you know about it because it's been a blessing to me. Yours in Lionism, Lion Sue Parks





Submit <u>brief</u> articles on service activities or ads for fundraising events to InSights' Editor Lion Sue Parks (rich99991@verizon.net).

Only email copy is acceptable.

Deadlines for materials:
7/20/21 for August issue
9/20/21 for October issue
11/20/21 for December issue
1/20/22 for February issue

Given current events, schedule is subject to change.

Upcoming Events

June 12 22-A Turnover

June 25-29 Virtual International Convention

REMINDER TO CLUBS

Thank you to the Clubs who submitted articles for this issue. Short articles with pictures (jpgs) should be submitted by the deadlines shown above. These articles must be emailed to me separately from your club newsletters which are often locked into formats I can't use. Thanks.



Earnest Lee Lassiter - Balto 40 West

Sponsor - PDG Bill Nelson

Daniel Fuqua - Bel Air

Sponsor - David Guzewich

John Schwarzman - Ellicott City Columbia

Sponsor - Ciera Gallub



MEMORIALS

Melvin Johnson - Aberdeen Robert Fritschi - Bel Air Lawrence Gmeiner - Reisterstown