



We Serve

Lions District 22-A

InSights



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Fellow Lions:

As counties in our district resume hunkering down in the **latest round of unpleasantness, let's start with good news** because we can all use an injection of that.

Bel Air Lions have earned the 2019-2020 Club Excellence Award. I was pleased to call Club President Ken Spoerl to give him the news. We agreed that the formal presentation will have to wait until at least after the New Year when – fingers crossed – we can ease into a healthier atmosphere for in-person meetings. We also

agreed not to keep the award a secret. Bel Air and the rest of the district **can use a great reason to celebrate. The award's cover letter states in part, "The International Board of Directors wishes to extend their congratulations to these Lions for the contributions they have made to enhance the image of the association." It will be a good sign for many reasons** when I can present the award in person to the Bel Air Lions.

Why stop there? I was happy to hear that Severn River and Annapolis combined their efforts to save on shipping expense in their November fruit sale. They took all the precautions needed to keep themselves and their customers safe while raising funds to support their communities. Likewise, Bel Air is in the midst of its annual Christmas tree sale, which if other fundraisers in the district are any indication, 2020 results might be better than previous years due to having a captive audience.

All that said, I know that fundraisers and other club activities are understandably down throughout the district and beyond. Indeed, a few **clubs have yet to meet in person or virtually since early spring. That's completely fine** because we all need to put our health and safety first. Look after each other. Stay in touch. A phone call, Facebook post, text or any other connection makes a world of difference for those of us who, rightfully so, are anxious about what lies ahead. In the wait for the pandemic to recede and go away, we dare not count our chickens before they hatch. Vaccines offer hope for better days, yet we must be patient and prudent until those hopes become a promise and we can resume our lives in whatever semblance of normal we find.

One way or another, we will get through this and gladly put 2020 in the rearview mirror where it belongs. I wish all of you happy holidays in whatever way you observe this time of the passing of an interesting **12 months and the birth of a new year that needs to grow up fast. Don't be shy about calling or dropping me an email. Remember, that I work for – and serve – you.**

DG Jim



I was wondering what to write during these present circumstances.
Let's think about it.

Challenges reveal who we really are. As we have challenges in COVID-19 we are no doubt being faced with cravings. **"I want my life back", "I want to go back to normal", "I am bored".** Do we ask ourselves (reflect on) how our lives were then? What was it that we had normal and what was it that we had normalized etc.?

When we stay with the challenge, instead running from it, we grow. Do we want to evolve (grow) or repeat? The choice is ours.

As most of you know, Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday. It involves everything we love: family, friends, food, fun, traditions, football games, fight for shopping on Black Friday, go to those melees in the stores etc. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on **everyone's lives this year and raged into our Thanksgiving. It is forcing us all to** rethink and reimagine how we do things and how we celebrate with our loved ones.

Let us accept that we all carry a certain perception and lens by which we see things, and that we all live in the normalcy of our daily bubble. Can we go on a pilgrimage, pop the bubble and expand how we see the world? This is my 50th year living in this **country. I have been living in my own bubble creating a secret garden. I've been** told I am so un-American (**I really do not know what it is to be an American**). I've been told they will never fly with me in an airplane because they look at my last name and tell me I am a Muslim (what if I am) in disguise (my last name has too many letters of a Muslim name). Several times during a LOVRNET telephone interview the clients do not want to speak with me due to my heavy accent and that I may be a terrorist. Look at our damaged environment and its effect.

In order to evolve or grow, our small worldview must give way. It means who we have been and how we have been living will not make any sense anymore. It means we cannot remain as we were. We ultimately must come to a place where we take responsibility for our perception of the circumstances. We cannot control the circumstances as we know, but our reaction and perception of it, we can. This means taking responsibility, which often we are afraid to take. What we resist, persists. We are greater than any idea we have of ourselves. There is a power within us greater than all things; greater than circumstances, situations.

We are coming up on the end of 2020. I am curious – how are you feeling? I know this year has been extremely challenging for so many. A force within us is stronger than any challenge we might be facing now. We always have circumstances that challenge us. The key is to plug into the strength inside us that is far more powerful than circumstances. The words we choose to use have a powerful effect on the results we generate ourselves.

Everything in our world is created twice – first in our mind and second in our lives. We are co-creating our reality every day. Whatever our lives look like now is the direct results of our thoughts.

Continued next page



Our freedom does not come from a Constitution or from having more choices as we have been taught. Freedom comes with responsibility. Can we free ourselves from our past stories, from small worldviews and rise and be greater than any idea we had? Our life is our message to the world. Let us go on a wonderful pilgrimage together.

This too shall pass as everything else.

May the best for all involved occur. This or something better. Celebrate life and stay blessed forever.

With much gratitude to you all,
Bijoy Mahanti

“(For someone living Reverence for Life) life will become in every respect more difficult than if he lived for himself, but at the same time it will be richer, more beautiful, and happier. It will become, instead of mere living, a genuine experience of life.”-----Albert Schweitzer



**Update October Leader Dog
“Bark, Brew and Wine”
Postponed Until Spring 2021**

We have made a hard decided to postpone the Leader Dog “Bark, Brew and Wine” till **Spring of 2021**.

For us to have a successful Leader Dog event we depend on you, our attendees. With State guidelines in mind, and the fact that individuals will still be hesitant to go out into large gatherings, it makes sense to reschedule the Leader Dog “Bark Brew and Wine” until the **Spring of 2021**.

If your Club has not made a donation please consider making one, for those of you who purchased tickets [we can roll your ticket purchase to 2021, or donate the money in your name to Leader or provide you a refund.](#) Please contact PDG Angela Bruce by email at Highland47@outlook.com with your decision.

Thank you for your support of this annual event and look forward to you attending the 2021 Leader Dog “Bark, Brew and Wine” event with your family and friends.

Thank you for your support of this annual event.

PDG Owen Landis, Chair PDG Angela Bruce, Co-Chair



NORTH AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE (NAMI)

Membership is a key factor to any organization’s survival. Membership has been in serious decline in North America for over a decade. The Lions Clubs International Board of Directors addressed the situation and authorized NAMI at the October 2018 board meeting. NAMI is a focused program designed to address and reverse the decline in Lions membership in the US and Canada.

The NAMI objectives are to:



The NAMI process involves:



All North America districts were invited to join this evolving program and help develop best practices for membership growth and all Multiple District 22 sub-districts opted to participate in this NAMI process. DG Jim’s goal is to charter a new club with 20 charter members and to have no net loss in membership by June 2021.

As clubs are the foundation of NAMI success, we will be engaging our clubs in the project. The district is in the process of developing a team and FVDG Bijoy Mahanti is the district’s NAMI champion. Since our district Global Membership Team coordinator position is vacant, PCC Harold Boccia and FVDG Bijoy Mahanti are jointly fulfilling those duties. DG Jim and the team met with the leader of a Philippines club exploring the possibility of chartering a Specialty Lions Club. The follow-up meeting has not occurred yet due to COVID-19 pandemic. We need a team to revitalize clubs, develop leadership skills etc. Anyone who wishes to explore possibilities, please contact any of the team members mentioned above.

As St. Teresa once said; *“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot, together we can do great things.”* Let us move our district forward in this endeavor.

You can find much more information about the NAMI process, resources and results at www.lionsclubs.org/nami

Thank you LIONS!

FVDG Bijoy Mahanti, PCC Harold Boccia, DG Jim Katzaman



ABERDEEN LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

HARFORD COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Hi Everyone,

The month-long donation collection for the Harford County Humane Society was a success!

We collected food, play toys, checks, gift cards and office items for the Humane Society!

Thank you to those that donated-

I'll be delivering these items to the Humane Society within the week.

Thank you Aberdeen Lions for continuing to Serve during these difficult times!

YIL,

Lion Mark





BALTIMORE BROOKLYN LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS



Lion Cheryl Gifford welcomes DG James Katzaman and his wife Myrna to the October 31 Brooklyn Lions Club meeting held at Lion Cheryl's house.



DG Jim Katzaman presents LVRF's Arnall Patz Fellowship to Lion Terri Mills at the October 31 general meeting.



Brooklyn Lions Pat Pettway, Chris Daniels and Terri Mills (front) attend October 31 general meeting. District Admin Assistant Suzette Kettenhofen (Severn River Lions Club) (rear) attended with the Governor and his wife.



DG Jim presents 15-year membership pin to King Lion Chris Danielsen



Lions Jim Kimble and Cheryl Gifford



BEL AIR LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Bel Air Lions contribute 7000 pairs of glasses

Bel Air Lions cleaned, sorted, and boxed about 7000 eyeglasses, 11 hearing aids and 58 cellphones toward the District 22-A effort.

Lions Holly McIntyre and Natalie Shaw Clean and sort glasses.



Bel Air Lions volunteer at the Miracle League



Lions Wayne Dudeck, Mark Wilson, Dave Guzewich and Sandy Guzewich volunteered at several Miracle League baseball outings. The Miracle League program started in Bel Air in 2020 and provides an opportunity for disabled individuals to play baseball in a safe, controlled, fun environment. Volunteers serve as “buddies” with the individual players to help them bat, run the bases and field. There have been 5 outings for disabled individuals this fall.



Bel Air Lions VolunTeen Leo Club

VolunTeen Leo Club leads effort to build and deliver 120 desks for kids

The VolunTeen Leo Club and Bel Air Lions partnered to build and deliver 120 desks for kids to have a dedicated workspace at home at the beginning of school. Several other organizations contributed and some individuals “sponsored” desks to help pay the costs.



Three Teams of 30 VolunTeens each built 120 desks



Desks being constructed.



Completed desks



Delivering Desks



Recipient of a desk working at home



SEVERN RIVER LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS



We held our first fruit sale of the 2020-2021 season on November 21 but not sure we'll be able to have another. Just days before the tractor trailer was due to arrive, the county shut down our pick up location - they did give us a one-time concession as long as we kept our numbers small, wore our masks, and observed social distancing. We had already made big changes - prepaid orders only, no cash sales, no extras ordered. The December fruit sale has already been cancelled and January is iffy.

A major thank you to the Fruit Sale Committee (Lions Jon Valett, Carl Gilbert, Chuck Horne, and Jim Coolbaugh) for all of their heroic and extra-mile efforts working 'behind the scenes' in making the sale happen as well making the sale a success. A thank you also goes to all those Lions who volunteered their time and labor along with the Band students and moms!

In addition to the fruit sale, we joined with the cub pack we sponsor and our customers in collecting canned goods and non-perishables for the Maryland Food Bank. 526 food items filled two full pallets and were transported to the food bank.

A great Lions Team effort!!

Above - fruit on pallets ready for loading into customer vehicles.



Left - Lion Ashley Sanford has loaded up for delivery to the Maryland Food Bank.



CHILDHOOD CANCER

Hello great souls. Hope all of you are doing well, healthy and being safe.

During this unique and challenging times our lives continue to evolve. Every Sunday is my day to leave all our Nations news at bay, and fill my account at the Bank of the Universe with some good deeds. And to look for opportunities to do good deeds the following days to come. I wanted to share with you a great opportunity to do good deed in helping support Childhood Cancer activity. Childhood Cancer is one of our 10 main service activities. Before I explain to you how to support; here are some of the facts to bring awareness:

LEARN



Childhood Cancer Facts

- 2 minutes** a child is diagnosed with cancer every two minutes
- 13%** increase in incidence of childhood cancer over the last 20 years
- 6 years** average age at diagnosis of children with cancer
- >90%** of childhood cancer deaths occur in low resource settings

Childhood cancer generally cannot be prevented. Cancer is a leading cause of death for children and adolescents around the world and approximately 300,000 children aged 0 to 19 years are diagnosed with cancer each year.

The most common categories of childhood cancers include leukemia, brain cancers, lymphomas and solid tumors, such as neuroblastoma and Wilms tumor. In high-income countries more than 80% of children with cancer are cured, but in many low-income and middle-income countries only about 20% cured. Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Maryland Medical Center, and Sinai Hospital are the only 3 hospitals in Maryland that have Pediatric Oncologists to treat childhood cancer patients. The other closest renowned hospital is Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Horizon Day Camp is a not-for-profit organization in Baltimore which provides activities for hospitalized children and siblings affected by Childhood Cancer throughout the year and summer day camp at no cost to family. I have partnered with them to be of service to children. I had taken the privilege to sign up our District to help out during the Summer Day Camp. Unfortunately, this activity did not materialize due to the Pandemic. We hope to participate in the summer day camp next year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Stay Blessed Forever.

With much gratitude

Bijoy

Global Action Team Member





JUNE 25-29 | PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE MONTRÉAL

#LCICON2021



MONTRÉAL 2021
103rd Lions Clubs International Convention

See life through Lion lenses in Montréal!

Online registration is officially open for LCICon 2021 Montréal, where Lions and Leos from around the world will come together to celebrate a life of service while indulging in the culture and life of Montréal. Find out what's in store for you at this year's international convention!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Experience la vie en Lion

We're excited to share this year's campaign theme, La Vie en Lion! Discover how we're preparing to "live life in Lion" in the beautiful city of Montréal.

[➤ Read the blog](#)





Submit **brief** 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:

1/20/21 for February issue

3/20/21 for April issue

5/20/21 for June issue

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.

Upcoming Events

Given current events, schedule is subject to change.

I haven't a clue!!

Although I was just notified that the

MD Convention was moved from April 2021 to May 2021 (I guess we'll



MEMORIALS

Norman Lee Ports - Reisterstown

George Stockman - Reisterstown



Narayan Khakurel - Baltimore Nepalese

Sponsor - Bijaya Shrestha

Mitchell Tobias - Overlea

Sponsor - PCC Bob Eisenberg

Charles Rhoads - Perry Hall Kingsville

Sponsor - Michael Klausmeier