LION LETTERS

DECEMBER 2019 | FALL NEWSLETTER

CLUB NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICES, AND MORE

LION LETTERS

JDRF ONE WALK + PEACE POSTER CONTEST!

UPCOMING EVENTS TO GET INVOLVED IN

ROSE DAY SUCCESS

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VISION SCREENING UPDATE

With the start of school in September, Austin Founder Lions Club kicked off its Austin Independent School District vision screening of pre-kindergarten three-and four-year-olds. Lion Rudy Munguia leads the North team, while Lion Robert Watson heads up efforts at schools in the South. Sam Ruiz coordinates community events. Some 42 elementary schools in A.I.S.D. originally were scheduled, and so far, the club has conducted screenings at 11 schools, testing some 246 students, with 62 children referred for a complete exam.

On Oct. 12, the club participated in the Asian Health Fair held at Juan Navarro High School, previously Lanier High School. A total of 92 individuals were screened, with 32 referred for follow-up. The club provided 24 vouchers to fund eye exams and eyeglasses, if needed.

On Oct. 19, the club provided vision screening at the Community Connections Resource Fair, sponsored by Austin Energy at Juan Navarro High School. A total of 210 children and adults were screened. That same day, Sam Ruiz and Norman Tyring screened 52 people at the Oktoberfest in Creedmoor. Of the 262 total people screened that day, 46 were referred for follow-up exams.

On Oct. 26, club members participated in the Hope Fest Health Fair at Reagan High School. A total of 222 children and adults were screened, and approximately 20 percent were referred for follow-up care.

Club members provided vision screening during the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Family Day, held Nov. 9. Some 37 were screened, and 4 were referred for full eye exams.

On Nov. 10, Lions did vision screening at the JDRF One Walk at Toney Burger Center. About 100 people were screened, and there were very few referrals.

WANT TO CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR VISION SCREENING EVENTS?

Contact one of our committee members for more information - we’d love to have you!

- Tommy Cowan | 512-762-5317
- Sam Ruiz | 512-914-1287
- Rudy Munguia | 512-258-6553

Left: Club members who assisted with vision screening at the Oct. 19 Community Connections Resource Fair included from left Mariela Gutierrez, Ann Ward, former member Vickie Flaugher, Adriana de la Torre who is seated, Chuck Mandelbaum, Tommy Cowan and Drew Scheberle. Sam Ruiz also attended, but is not pictured.

Right: Lions provided vision screenings at the JDRF One Walk event.

Left: Lions Tommy Cowan, far left, and Sam Ruiz, fourth from left, posed with the group that provided various screening services at the Asian Health Fair on Oct. 12. Club members who participated but are not pictured include Norman Tyring and Tom Uhl. Right: Tommy Cowan, left, Adriana de la Torre and Norman Tyring posed for a photo near the end of the Hope Fest Health Fair at Reagan High School on Oct. 26. Others who helped but are not pictured included Roberto Martinez, Rudy Munguia and Ann Ward, as well as former member Vickie Flaugher.

Left: Lions Tommy Cowan, left, and Sam Ruiz, fourth from left, posed with the group that provided various screening services at the Asian Health Fair on Oct. 12. Club members who participated but are not pictured include Norman Tyring and Tom Uhl. Right: Tommy Cowan, left, Adriana de la Torre and Norman Tyring posed for a photo near the end of the Hope Fest Health Fair at Reagan High School on Oct. 26. Others who helped but are not pictured included Roberto Martinez, Rudy Munguia and Ann Ward, as well as former member Vickie Flaugher.
On Oct. 31, some 23 members of Austin Founder Lions Club fanned across the greater Austin area delivering happiness and love in the form of a dozen long-stemmed red roses hand-packed in a florist box, and decorated with Halloween stickers. This year, the club sold 260 dozen roses.

Proceeds support the club’s various service activities, including vision screening and eyeglass recycling, as well as District 2-S3 charities including Texas Lions Camp, Lone Star Lions Eye Bank and Leader Dogs for the Blind. The club netted $3,837.00 on the project!

“We appreciate the support of the Austin community, as well as our members who bought/sold roses, packed and delivered them,” said Robert Watson, committee chair. “We had a great event!”
Austin Founder Lions helped support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation One Walk, which was held Nov. 10 at Toney Burger Center. The club sponsored one of the 220 teams registered for the fund-raiser, and Lions Linda Locke and Ann Ward walked in the two-mile event.

In addition, the club provided vision screening and promoted Texas Lions Camp. Approximately 100 people were screened. Thanks go to Tommy Cowan, Judy Jones, Linda Locke, Rudy Munguia, Patti Robinson, Ann Ward and former member Vickie Flaugher for conducting the vision screening.

More than 5,500 adults and children participated in the event, which raised more than $800,000 to help find a cure for Type 1 diabetes. Austin Founder Lions contributed $10,873.00, which represents 40 percent of the proceeds from the 2019 Sporting Clay tournament. An additional $765.00 was contributed as a pass-through from Toyko Electron America Ltd., as a match to its employees’ entry fees in the Sporting Clay event. The Austin Founder Lions Club Team contributed a total of $11,638.00!

For the first time ever, Austin Founder Lions Club participated in Lions Clubs International’s Peace Poster Contest. First Vice President John Nyfeler coordinated the contest for middle school students at Gus Garcia Young Men’s Leadership Academy, which was selected due to the school’s being named for one of the club’s deceased members. Some 40 young men participated in the competition, which was conducted through the art classes taught by Melanie Hyche. Theme for the international contest was “Journey of Peace.”

The winner was Jeremijah Hunt, a 13-year-old student in the 8th grade. He received a $100 cash award during school assemblies on Nov. 11. The runner-up was Miguel Saenz-Treviño, who received a $50 award. Hunt’s entry was forwarded to the District competition.

Judges for the contest were David Everett, an Austin artist who works in multiple media; Nathan “Sloke One” Nordstrom, a spray-can artist; and Yvonne Nava, KVUE-TV morning anchor.

“This was a great project, and John did a wonderful job organizing and implementing the contest from the ground-up,” said Ann Ward, club president. “It was meaningful to the students, the art teacher, parents, the school and the club,” she added.

“Owing to the obvious benefits to the students, the school and the club, AFLC hopes to continue the contest next year,” Nyfeler said.

Melanie Hyche, the two winning students and their parents, and the judges have been invited to the Jan. 23 club meeting. Mrs. Hyche will present a program about the contest, and members will have an opportunity to meet the two winners as well as the judges.
CLUB MEMBER SHARES HER STORY

On Nov. 7, long-time Austin Founder Lions Club member Rosie Babin shared the story of how her son’s severe injury in Iraq in 2003 changed the lives of the entire family forever. CPL Alan R. Babin, a combat medic with the 82nd Airborne Division, was severely wounded in Iraq in 2003 by a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Unable to be rescued for almost three hours, Alan was in grave condition when he was rushed to the nearest field hospital. Unable to survive a medevac to Germany, he was placed on the USNS Comfort Naval Hospital ship, anchored off the coast of Kuwait. Three weeks later, he was stable enough to be transported to Germany where he underwent immediate surgery. Two days later he was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. Rosie and her husband Alain were there to receive him and stayed with him during his seven months in the Surgical ICU.

However, Alan suffered a stroke during his hospitalization. After surgery to relieve the pressure on his brain, the prognosis was grim. Rosie was told he would never be able to feed himself, walk or talk. During more than two years of in-patient hospitalizations, Alan transitioned through seven different medical centers, and Rosie was at his side throughout his medical journey, encouraging him and advocating with the medical community and Veterans Administration on his behalf.

Along the way, Rosie and her family made friends with nurses, fellow veterans/families, and celebrities, including several U.S. presidents, other elected officials and movie stars. Rosie used her voice, determination, perseverance and courage to advocate not only for her son but also for other combat-wounded veterans and their loved ones. From testifying before Congress to speaking for civic and veterans’ groups, Rosie seeks to inspire, support and keep the interest of wounded warriors front and center.

In sharing her family’s story, Rosie illustrated the challenges that injured service members, their families and caregivers face. Her son Alan overcame multiple hurdles to achieve an undreamed of level of independence, including being able to perform daily hygiene activities, feed himself and maneuver his motorized wheelchair. He enjoys sports, such as snow skiing and hunting. Rosie continues to provide the daily assistance he needs. Although life changed dramatically when Alan was injured, Rosie has used a positive, affirming attitude to cope with a tragic situation and maintain loving family relationships.

“There was not a dry eye in the room when Rosie concluded her presentation,” said Ann Ward, president. “This is a story of heroism, love and courage – Rosie is an inspiration.”
LIONS ON THE LOOSE
A look back at Lions in the community over the last few months.

TSBVI SUPERINTENDENT Speaks To Club
On Sept. 12, Emily Coleman, the new superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, spoke to Austin Founder Lions. Coleman is the first woman to lead the school in its 163-year history. She is a certified teacher of students with visual impairment, and has first-hand experience as a parent of a child who is blind with additional disabilities. Prior to joining TSBVI, she worked as an itinerant teacher, had leadership roles at both TSBVI and the Washington State School for the Blind, served as president of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired and provided family leadership through FamilyConnect. Coleman is pictured with First Vice President John Nyfeler who presided at the meeting and Lion Tamer Patti Robinson, right. (Photo by Robert Seidel)

AFLC Learns About Army Futures Command
Maj. John Landry, chief of Communications Plans for the Army Futures Command, spoke to members of Austin Founder Lions Club on Sept. 26. He briefed club members on the mission of the Army Futures Command, which opened in Austin in January 2019. The unit is designed to ensure that soldiers are best prepared for the next generation of warfare. Noting that the Army is well aware it has been slow to adapt and develop the kind of technology needed to maintain U.S. global military superiority, Lowry explained that Austin was selected because of the city’s creative, high tech culture. By the summer of 2020, the Army Futures Command should have 500 soldiers and civilians working in downtown Austin on a few floors at the University of Texas System’s downtown office. Currently some 103 staff members are in place, with numbers increasing each day as various engineers, high-tech specialists and others are hired, both locally and from elsewhere. Austin was selected from five finalist cities in July 2018, mainly due to its workforce and research investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; private sector innovation; quality of life; and civic support. The Austin-based UT System and the Texas A&M University System, based in College Station about 100 miles away, offer an extra boost of academic and technical support. (Photos by Robert Seidel)

AFLC Tours Zach Theatre
Some 20 members of the Austin Founder Lions Club made a field trip to tour ZACH’s Topfer Theatre on Oct. 17. Split into two groups, each toured the dressing rooms, Green Room, backstage and lounges, plus went on-stage to see the set for the “Dracula” show which was playing. One group included Norman Tyring, front left, J.P. Kirksey, Judy Saal and Herb Canada; Mark Hastings, back left; Ann Ward, Craig Estes, Ken Crone and Tommy Cowan.

AFLC Learns About Role of Mexican Consulate
On Nov. 21, Ana Carrasco, the Community Affairs officer for the Mexican Consulate in Austin, shared information on the various services the consulate provides to the Mexican community in the Austin area. The consulate’s main mission is protecting the rights and interests of Mexican citizens when they are abroad. Working with local community agencies and leaders, the consulate provides programs to elevate living standards in areas such as education, financial education, health, culture and sports. Regardless of immigration status, the consulate assists individuals with labor, human rights, criminal, family and immigration issues. AFLC screened more than 150 adults and children at the consulate’s recent community health fair. Carrasco invited club members to attend the CineClub Mexico, a monthly screening of classic Spanish-language films, with English subtitles.

Learning About Lions in Jordan
During her Sept. 10-Oct. 6 trip to Jordan and Egypt, club President Ann Ward connected with a Lion in Amman, Jordan. Past International Director Salim Moussan (whose brother Bassam has moved to Austin and visited the club last spring) connected Ann with PDG Farid Kawar of Amman and his wife Aida, who currently serves as the 2nd vice district governor of District 351, which includes Jordan, Iraq and Palestine. PDG Kawar described a recent club service project in which wheelchairs were distributed to the needy in a small, rural community. He also recommended several sights to visit in Amman, including the Royal Auto Museum which was fabulous.

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The Austin Founder Lions Club & the South Austin Lions Club Present

CASINO NIGHT

BENEFITING KIDS VISION SERVICES IN CENTRAL TEXAS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Red Oak Ballroom
2525 W Anderson Ln | Austin, Texas 78757

Come celebrate 2020 with a throw-back to the Roaring 20’s with “casino” games, hors d’oeuvres and libations - and help support Austin Lions’ vision screening and eyeglass purchases for children in need.

Wear your favorite flapper ensemble and snap a pic with our antique roadster. Prizes for best costume! Trade in your chips to participate in prize drawings. Bring your friends and make it party - and help Austin kids “see” a brighter future!

See the back for Sponsorship opportunities and ticket information.

Purchase online at www.austindowntownlions.org

SPONSORSHIPS:
We are actively looking for sponsorships for our casino night fundraiser. Sponsorship options range from $250 - $3,000. Visit our website for the full flyer with list of each sponsorship and what it includes.

Know a company that may be interested in sponsoring? Let us know!

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS + PRIZE DONATIONS:
We need your silent auction items and prize donations! Do you have an item that would be perfect for the silent auction or are willing to donate a gift card or other prize item? Let us know!

TICKETS + TABLES NOW AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE:
Purchase your tickets now and start selling them to friends, family and co-workers! You can purchase your ticket on our website at http://www.austindowntownlions.org/event-3555503

Early bird tickets are $45, tickets at the door are $60. Reserved table for 8 people is $500.

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2020

Planning a large fundraiser like this one takes lots of help - if you are interested in helping out, please contact Brittany Hendrickson at bhendrickson@dbrinc.com or at 713-857-0435.
Friends and family celebrated the life of the late Moton Crockett Jr. on Oct. 20 at Central Presbyterian Church in Austin. A 50-year member of the Austin Founder Lions Club, Crockett passed away peacefully at his home on Sept. 25, 2019, at the age of 96. Some 10 members of the club attended the service and reception, which featured a performance by a portion of the Longhorn Band.

Crockett was a faithful member of Austin Founder Lions Club and served as its president in 1978-79. The club is honoring Crockett with an Ebb Grindstaff Fellowship, which will be presented to his daughter Elaine at an upcoming meeting. During his life, he received a Melvin Jones Fellowship, a Jack Wiech Fellowship and numerous other Lions awards.

Crockett earned bachelor of arts, bachelor of science and bachelor of business administration degrees from The University of Texas. A music lover, he was a member of marching bands in Austin's public schools and The University of Texas Longhorn Band which he directed from 1950-1955. In the 1940s, he had a dance orchestra that played Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey tunes.

After graduating, Crockett started the Capital Music Service which provided taped background music to business offices, but when his father died in 1961, he gave it up to take over his father’s real estate holdings, which the senior Crockett began acquiring in 1906. Over time, M.H. Crockett Properties, Inc. grew to include more than 30 acres of commercial property, including the land just south of the Austin American-Statesman's property that is currently home to Texas Department of Transportation offices. Crockett also was president of Crockett Partners Inc., and Crockett Partners Ltd. His daughter and grandson-in-law have taken over leading the businesses.

Crockett was a beloved member of the Longhorn Alumni Band, which he directed from 1983-1994. Crockett purchased the famed “Big Bertha” giant drum for the band for $1, and he and his late wife created an endowment for the continued use and maintenance of the drum and other band instruments.

Crockett met Martha in 1942 when they were students at UT. They married in 1944, and had a son, Moton H. Crockett III, and a daughter, Elaine. In addition to his children, he is survived by his granddaughter Ingrid Burton, her husband, former AFLC member John T. “Jack” Burton and their son Ian, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

CABINET MEETING RECAP
AFLC Proud to Host District Cabinet Meeting in Austin

Austin Founder Lions hosted the District 2-S3 Cabinet Meeting on Oct. 12 at Anderson High School. Approximately 90 people registered for the quarterly meeting hosted by District Governor Larkin Smith. The keynote speaker was Past International Director Sam Lindsey, who also met with the Leos in attendance. A delicious beef and chicken fajita lunch, catered by Trudy’s, was served.

During the meeting, PID Lindsey presented several awards, including one to the club’s own PDG J. P. Kirksey. He received an International President’s Award from LCI President Gudrun Yngvidottir (2018-2019) which was in recognition of the year Kirksey served as President of the Past District Governors of Texas Lions. This is Kirksey’s third Presidential Award; he received his first in 1983 and the second in 1989.

Special thanks to all the AFLC members who worked very hard to make the Cabinet meeting a success. A special “thank you” goes to Craig Estes, who coordinated the event with Anderson High School. Leonor Marques handled registration and helped with food set-up. Patti Robinson and Judy Saal also helped with the breakfast and lunch set-up/clean-up. A big “thank you” goes to Alan Ford, John Nyfeler and Tom Uhl who helped direct attendees to the correct parking area. Kudos go to Mac Ragsdale who persevered and found a Boy Scouts Troop to be the color guard. Mark Hastings set-up online registration, and Jim Roberson and his team kept up with the money! And, many thanks go to J.P. Kirksey for his wisdom and guidance on the event.
UPCOMING EVENTS

COATS FOR KIDS VISION SCREENING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019
The Junior League of Austin will be hosting its annual Coats for Kids distribution at the Palmer Events Center, and Austin Founder Lions will be offering vision screening as part of the community health fair. Due to the large number of families attending, two Spot cameras will be in use. Please contact Sam Ruiz at 512-914-1287 to volunteer. Two shifts are available: 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free parking for volunteers is available at 721 Barton Springs Road.

FIELD TRIP TO BOONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019
The club will visit Boone Elementary School, located at 8101 Craftwood Drive. The school is named for former AFLC member George Boone and his wife Johnnie. In honoring Lions’ namesake schools, AFLC will present Alan Stevens, principal, with a check for $500 which will be used toward the purchase of picnic tables. Present a photo ID in the office before noon. Lunch from Schlotzsky’s will be $10; be sure to pre-register. Meet in the Library at noon, and the 5th grade choir will provide the program.

LIONS HOLIDAY PARTY + TOY/FOOD DRIVES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019
Plan to attend this annual event at Lions Municipal Golf Course Club House. Enjoy music from Rudy Munguia’s MOVE (Music Outreach Volunteer Entertainers) band, a delicious beef and chicken fajita meal catered by Trudy’s, door prizes and a silent auction. Please bring a toy or two for the Blue Santa toy drive and non-perishable food items for the food pantry. Cost is $20 per person; guests/spouses are welcome! Event Chair: Linda Locke, 512-789-9876. Volunteers needed for set-up and clean-up.

DISTRICT 2-53 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE/CABINET MTG
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020
Hosted by the Taylor Lions Club, the event will be at St. Paul Lutheran Church, located at 401 W. 7th St. in Taylor. Registration and breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Featured speaker will be Past Council Chair John Landrum, the Global Action Team Area Leader – Group 1A. Cost is $16 for the meeting and lunch before Jan. 13. For more information, go to www.lionsdistrict2s3.com.

CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020
Plan to get involved with this new fund-raising activity to benefit the club’s vision screening activities. The event will be at the Red Oak Ballroom, located 2525 W. Anderson Lane. Enjoy casino “games,” hors d’oeuvres and libations. Win prizes, stop by the photo booth, wear your best “Roaring ’20s” outfit! Single tickets are $45 if purchased before Jan. 15. Reserved tables for eight guests are $500. Volunteers are needed! Contact Brittany Hendrickson at 713-857-0435. Visit the club website for more details.

LET’S CELEBRATE
Happy Birthday to all of our Lions with September, October and November birthdays!

Greg Harkrider | September 6th
Sam Hammett | September 6th
Laura Tyring | September 9th
Suzanne Rose | September 10th
Teel Clark-Jarvis | September 18th
Cecelia Burke | September 19th
Lamar Urbanovsky | September 21st
Will Williams | October 13th
Michael Cowan | October 17th
Judy Jones | November 3rd
Mim Hruby | November 4th
Bob Thonhoff | November 5th
Rachael Reed | November 7th
Tom Orlando | November 8th
Judy Saal | November 15th
Greg Thompson | November 15th
Scott Hendrix | November 16th
Wes Braden | November 18th
Beverly Weeks | November 18th
Craig Estes | November 25th
Clyde Sutton | November 28th
Paul Spaar | November 29th
Ken Crone | November 30th

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Allan Frank
Fred Jenga
Rachael Reed
Siva Sankar Vankadaru
Laura Tyring
WE SERVE.