

LION LETTERS

CLUB NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICES, AND MORE

MARCH 2020 | WINTER NEWSLETTER

CASINO NIGHT FUN!

CHARTER CELEBRATION +
HOLIDAY PARTY

AFLC MEMBERS DELIVER
MEALS ON WHEELS

Written by: Lion Ann Ward
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Cover Photo: Guests – many dressed in Roaring '20s attire -- enjoyed the game tables.
 Above: Lion Leonor Marques, left, Shay Cowan, videotaping with her phone, and Lion Michael Cowan, far right, watch Ann Cowan roll the dice!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your Public Relations Committee is a little late in preparing this “Winter” version of the newsletter, and I apologize. As you will read, our club has been very busy since the holidays in December, especially preparing for Casino Night in February.

Casino Night was a success! Chair Brittany Hendrickson and her committee provided a really fun event, and raised more than budgeted for our vision screening and follow-up eye care service. Our South Austin Lions Club partners were very involved the night of the event, and contributed volunteers as well as prizes.

Brittany was very pregnant on Feb. 7, and gave birth to Owen on Feb. 29. I’m happy to report that mother and baby are doing fine. Our club took up a collection, and we purchased a car seat platform and baby exerciser for Brittany and her family.

I’m also pleased to report that Mim Hruby has accepted appointment to the board as Membership Chair. She fills the unexpired term of the late Lion Scott Arnold. Mim was a charter member of the Pointe Venture Lions Club, and has been a member of the Dripping Springs Lions Club. A long-time associate member of AFLC, she and her husband Ron became active members about three years ago. She participates in the club’s vision screening and diabetic service activities, and has served on several committees, most recently the Holiday Party Committee.



Lion Mim Hruby
Membership Chair

Since January, we’ve added four new members and hosted a New Member orientation. Under Mim’s leadership, I am hoping that we will gain at least four new members – and not lose any! – to get us back to 100! On July 1, 2019, our membership was at 97, and to qualify for the Club Excellence Award for 2019-2020, we must show a positive membership growth, even if it’s just one member! So, please tell your friends about Austin Founder Lions, and let’s try to recruit some new members before June 30. Hopefully, we will begin meeting in person in a few weeks, and you can bring your friends to an actual meeting.

Now, we find ourselves in unprecedented circumstances due to a tiny, invisible virus that has brought much of the world to its knees. While we are unable to meet in person for an indefinite period, we can stay in touch through telephone calls and social media. Creating community in old and new ways will keep us connected, and help us identify ways we perhaps can serve each other or our community.

Please stay safe and well during this pandemic. If you need assistance, please contact me at 512-338-1623 or via email to awardcomm@gmail.com. We will get through this difficult time, and come back with a renewed appreciation for Austin Founder Lions Club!

Ann Ward
President



Lion Brittany Hendrickson holds newborn son Owen.



Fellow Lions,
Thank you so much for the sweet card and gifts for Baby Owen! We are all doing well and appreciate the support we've received from the club over the past few weeks. You are the best!

♡ Brittany + Drew

AFLC CELEBRATES CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

On Jan. 16, some 40 members of the Austin Founder Lions Club celebrated the 104th anniversary of the club’s charter dated Jan. 18, 1916. PID Joe Al Picone of Brenham spoke to the club, sharing some of his memories of now deceased Austin Founder Lions like PDG Bill Raschke, Jake Pickle and Willie Kocurek. At one time, AFLC was part of the District which PID Picone served as District Governor.

Picone reminded Austin Founder Lions of the need to change with the times, noting that younger people have different expectations of club meetings. While service attracts younger people, old songs and dated jokes can be turn-offs.

Picone recognized AFLC’s newest member, Meagan Ahmad. He presented her with a President’s pin. He encouraged club members to give younger and newer members leadership opportunities in order to maintain the future viability of the club to serve the Austin community.

PDG J.P. Kirksey brought a copy of the club’s signed charter for all to see, as well as a plaque recognizing the club as a Founder club.

Picone also discussed the LCI Foundation’s Campaign 100, a world-wide capital campaign with a goal of raising \$300 million over three years to empower service to 200 million + people in the areas in which Lions serve, as well as disaster relief and humanitarian needs. He urged Austin Founder Lions to become a model club.

“Having PID Joe Al speak to the club was very special to me,” said Ann Ward, club president. Picone and his wife Merle were “good friends with my parents, and my Dad – a 70-year Lion – had great admiration for Joe Al.” She added, “To me, Joe Al is Mr. Lions.” Picone originally was scheduled to install Ward and the 2019-2020 AFLC Board last June. However, his fall eight days prior to the event resulted in a broken leg, and PDG Gary Sult of Stephenville, another friend of Ward’s father and a long-time friend to Picone, substituted.



PID Joe Al Picone presented Meagan Ahmad, Austin Founder Lions Club’s newest member, with a President’s pin during the club’s charter celebration.



District Governor Larkin Smith, left, attended the Austin Founder Lions Club’s charter celebration Jan. 16. Club Past President (twice) PDG J.P. Kirksey and current President Ann Ward, who is holding a copy of the club’s charter, posed with speaker PID Joe Al Picone.



Lion Rudy Munguia, left, contemplates a bet!

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AUSTIN FOUNDER/SOUTH AUSTIN LIONS CASINO NIGHT A SUCCESS!

A “Roaring ’20s” good time was had by the more than 100 people who attended the Feb. 7 Casino Night hosted by the Austin Founder Lions Club, with support from the South Austin Lions Club. Guests enjoyed casino games to win prizes, hors d’oeuvres and libations while raising money for vision screening and eyeglass purchases for children in the greater Austin area. The first-time event raised approximately \$10,000!

In addition to the casino games, guests enjoyed period music from the DJ and hammed it up at the photo booth. A special treat was having a photo made with Lion Tommy Cowan’s 1930 Model A Coupe. About half of the attendees dressed in ’20s costumes, and Lion Mike Jackson and Ann Cowan won the costume contest and received bottles of champagne. Thanks to the support of some 36 local businesses, game prize packages ranged from restaurant and bar gift cards to sports and spa packages. The silent auction featured a vintage mink coat, art and a wine package.

The Texas Ophthalmological Association Foundation was the Title Sponsor for the event. The Speakeasy Bar sponsors were Haddon+Cowan Architects and the Cowan Foundation. Austin Retina Associates sponsored the Memories Photo Booth.

Game Table sponsors included HillCo Partners (two tables), IBC Bank, the Texas Society of Architects and Lion Ann Ward for Texas Lions Camp.

Event sponsors included Austin Founder Lions Scott Arnold, Bill Harris, John Nyfeler, Bob Rizzo and Tom Uhl.

The Casino Night Committee was chaired by Lion Brittany Hendrickson. Other AFLC committee members included Lions Gaylord Armstrong, Tommy Cowan, Patti Robinson, Sam Ruiz, Tom Uhl and Ann Ward. Lion Liz Bumguardner represented the South Austin Lions on the committee. South Austin Lions helped set-up and staff the event, and provided gift baskets for the prizes. More of Vickie Flaughter’s photos are available on the club website.



Dripping Springs Lions Sharon and Kevin Kemp, center, posed with members of the South Austin Lions Club, including Mary LeFebvre and Joey LeFebvre. Other South Austin Lions Club members pictured are Lions Mike Jackson, back left, Larry Thompson, Polly Orr, Liz Bumguardner and Tammy Jackson.



Committee Member Lion Tommy Cowan and Lion Brittany Hendrickson, chair, posed with Cowan’s Model A Coupe.



Lion Tom Uhl, center, and his wife and two sons and one’s date glammed it up at the Memories Photo Booth sponsored by Austin Retina Associates.



Lions Syd Popinsky, left, and husband Lion Chuck Mandelbaum had the winning bid for one of the silent auction items!



Wes Phillips, left, and his wife Lion Patti Robinson and their friends “put on the Ritz” for Casino Night!

AFLC CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

Some 50 Austin Founder Lions Club members and guests celebrated the holidays at a party Dec. 19, 2019, in the club house of the Lions Municipal Golf Course, which the club built in the 1920s. In addition, the club collected toys for Blue Santa and food for the Central Texas Food Bank.

Blue Santa and Mrs. Claus were special guests, and posed for photos with attendees. PDG J.P. Kirksey served as photographer. Everyone also enjoyed the music of the MOVE (Music Outreach Volunteer Entertainers) Band, which includes AFLC Past President Rudy Munguia. Members sang and danced to some of the selection of Christmas and Tejano songs.

A delicious beef and chicken fajitas buffet was catered by Trudy's. December birthdays were celebrated with a holiday-themed cake. Lion Glenda Summers led a group game, "Are You Ready for the Holidays?".

Immediate Past President Scott Hendrix inducted new member Rachael Reed, and President Ann Ward stood in for her sponsor, Lion Sam Ruiz, who was unable to attend.

Special thanks go to AFLC Board member Linda Locke, who chaired the committee, and committee members Lions Mim Hruby, Glenda Summers and Beverly Weeks, who organized the toy and food drives.



Austin Founder Lions Mariela Gutierrez, left, and Fred Jenga posed with Blue Santa and Mrs. Claus. Mariela's guest, George Soulayrac, is pictured at right.



Lions Beverly Weeks, left, and Judy Saal, right, posed with Blue Santa.



Blue Santa welcomed Lion John Nyfeler, right, and his wife Sally.



Lion Linda Locke, right, and her mother, Lois Kimbrell, got a hug from Blue Santa.



AFLC Past President Scott Hendrix, right, inducted Rachael Reed, center, as the club's newest member. President Ann Ward, left, stood in for Reed's sponsor, Lion Sam Ruiz.

INDIVIDUAL CLUB MEMBERS SERVE MEALS ON WHEELS

Under normal circumstances, Meals on Wheels of Austin provides around 3,000 meals each week, and Austin Founder Lions Club plays a small part in that process. Four current club members and two former members take turns delivering meals to seniors and adults with disabilities. AFLC is responsible for two routes every Monday, and club members have been doing this since 2011. Meals are picked up at MOW's central office located at 3227 E. 5th

Street, and the delivery process takes about one hour. Each Lion delivers about 24 meals per week.

Lions currently on the delivery roster include Gaylord Armstrong, Kathryn Gonzalez (former Lion who continues to deliver), Mark Johnson (former Lion who continues to deliver), Leonor Marques, Drew Scheberle and Robert Watson. The late Gus Garcia also participated in this activity.



Lion Leonor Marques signed in, loaded her car with meals and delivered food to residents on the club's two routes on a chilly January day.



If you would like to join the club's Meals on Wheels rotation, contact Leonor Marques at leonorfaria@gmail.com. Note that a criminal background check is required.

Helen Brown, left, a MOW volunteer, gives Lion Leonor Marques a big hug when Leonor picked up meals for delivery in January.

REGISTER TODAY!

The USA /Canada Lions Leadership Forum Planning Committee, along with the Kentucky Lions Host Committee, are working very hard to provide three days of a great leadership experience!

Visit Lions Leadership Forum at lionsforum.org.



Louisville
Kentucky

September 17-19, 2020

LIONS ON THE LOOSE

A look back at Lions in the community over the last few months.



CLUB VISITS BOONE ELEMENTARY

On Dec. 12, 2019, some 20 Austin Founder Lions visited Boone Elementary, one of the schools named for a former club member, George Boone and his wife Johnnie. A retired educator, he taught drivers' education at McCallum High School, and Boone was named Teacher of the Year in 1982 by the Texas Driver and Safety Education Association. The Boone Elementary Choir entertained club members during the meeting. Lunch was provided by Tommy Cowan. The club presented a \$500 check to Alan Stevens, principal, which will be used to buy picnic tables. Pictured left to right are Ann Ward, president; Michael Cowan, past president; Stevens; and Tommy Cowan, past president.



In 2017, Lion Scott Arnold, far right, served as chair of the club's golf tournament at Lions Municipal Golf Course. Club members Lions Jim Overton, far left, and Lillie Gilligan, chatted to PGA golfer Ben Crenshaw, who came by the event.

LIFE OF AFLC MEMBER SCOTT ARNOLD CELEBRATED

A celebration of the life of Scott Arnold was held Dec. 14, 2019, at Northwest Hills Methodist Church in Austin. Arnold joined Austin Founder Lions Club in January 2016, and was elected Membership Chairman for 2019-2020. He had chaired the club's last golf tournament, and participated in an informal "think tank" planning group that worked to prepare for the 2019-20 year. Even as his health deteriorated, Arnold continued to support the club's activities, including purchasing roses for his beloved wife Margaret, being a Station Sponsor for the club's Sporting Clay Tournament, and being an event sponsor for the Casino Night.



AFLC Past President Tommy Cowan spoke about Scott's involvement in the AFLC as part of the celebration of life event. Some 10 members of AFLC attended the service and reception which followed.

Arnold was born Dec. 13, 1948, in Austin where he graduated from McCallum High School in 1967. He earned a degree in accounting from the University of Texas. After graduation, he began his career with the State of Texas and worked for 30 years for several state agencies in programming and systems analysis. After retirement, he started Korgone Web Design and worked as a realtor.

In addition to his wife, Arnold is survived by two daughters and a son; two sisters; two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN A PROGRAM CANCELS LAST-MINUTE?

For Austin Founder Lions Club, the answer is, you tap dance, literally! AFLC Board Member Norman Tyring contacted his friend, George Bohn, who is an internationally acclaimed tap dancer. Bohn gave club members a lesson in the fundamentals of tap dancing on Jan. 9, and then he and his partner entertained with a couple of dance numbers. Bohn had a 30-year career in New York City as a dancer and choreographer before moving to Austin where he teaches all levels of tap dance at TexARTS and originated the Austin Rhythm Incubator.



SWEET MUSIC FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Austin Founder Lions Club celebrated Valentine's Day on Feb. 13 with a musical concert by Dr. Timothy Woolsey, an accomplished concert pianist, who played works by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. The musical treat was accompanied by chocolate covered strawberries! He is Professor Emeritus at Texas State University where he taught from 1975 to 2008. He has presented more than 100 solo performances and master classes. He also is an accomplished portrait painter. He is pictured with AFLC's Peggy Brunner, who taught with Woolsey at TSU for many years and introduced him to the club.



CLUB ACTIVITIES REACH SPANISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCE

Fely Garcia Amador, director of community empowerment for Univision Communications in Austin, has arranged for the club to have five segments on the Spanish-language station to promote its activities that would be of interest to the community. On Jan. 15, Lion Rudy Munguia appeared on "Despierta Austin" to discuss Texas Lions Camp and encourage parents to enroll children with special medical needs. On Feb. 5, "Despierta Austin" host Leslie Montoya, pictured left, talked with Lion Leonor Marques about the club's Peace Poster contest. Other segments later in the year will feature the club's vision screening activities, the Sporting Clay tournament and our work with JDRF.



AFLC LEARN ABOUT AUSTIN MLS TEAM

On March 5, Austin Founder Lions learned about the city's new Major League Soccer team and stadium which is under construction near the Domain. Andy Loughnane, president of Austin FC (Futball Club), gave a brief overview of how Major League Soccer is organized, and noted that Austin FC is its 27th franchise, and will be entering the league as an expansion team in 2021. The team's home will be a \$242 million world-class privately financed soccer-specific stadium. Loughnane oversees all aspects of Austin FC's business operations. Prior to his appointment as President of Austin FC in January of 2019, Loughnane's sports and entertainment background encompassed leadership and sales roles across three major leagues: MLS, National Basketball Association and National Hockey League. Austin Founder Lions Club Program Chair Mac Ragsdale introduced Loughnane to the club.

AFLC INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

On March 5, Past President Bill Martin conducted an induction ceremony for three new members. He shared a brief history of Lions Clubs International and of the Austin Founder Club, which actually was formed a year prior to LCI. Austin Founder Lions Club was chartered on Jan. 18, 1916, and had delegates at the first LCI Convention in Dallas in 1917.

He explained the LCI motto: We Serve. He reviewed the club’s major service activities,

including vision screening of children and adults, and eyeglass recycling. He also talked about how the club supports Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville, as well as the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank and provide scholarships to Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired graduates.

Sponsors pinned the new members and presented membership certificates.



Past President Bill Martin, far right, inducted three new members on March 5. Pictured left to right are John Nyfeler, who sponsored his daughter Suzan Nyfeler; Ann Ward who sponsored her friend Carolyn Wright; and Beverly Weeks, who sponsored her friend Meagan Ahmad.

AFLC HOSTS NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

On Feb. 15, Austin Founder Lions Club hosted a New Member Orientation, which was organized by Membership Chair Mim Hruby. Led by Past President Alan Ford, the orientation focused on the club, its history and service opportunities; new members were invited to join committees and participate in service activities, such as vision screening and Texas Lions Camp work days. The club’s fund-raising activities were explained, and volunteers were recruited.

Ford also explained the club’s relationship to Lions Clubs International and its structure, and discussed the importance and significance of the LCI brand/logo. LCI educational opportunities were highlighted.

New members attending included Lions Meagan Ahmad, Fred Jenga and Laura Tying. AFLC board members participating included Hruby, Patti Robinson, Norman Tying and Ann Ward.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday to all our Lions with December, January, February and March birthdays!

DECEMBER

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Robert Watson | 1st |
| Alex Pope | 11th |
| Alan Ford | 15th |
| Chris Moyseos | 18th |
| Ellen Grimmett | 19th |
| Bill Harris | 19th |
| John Nyfeler | 21st |

JANUARY

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Norman Tying | 3rd |
| Melissa Coad | 9th |
| Peggy Brunner | 12th |
| Cameron Labunski | 14th |
| Greg Hamilton | 21st |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Linda Locke | 9th |
| Shirley Dillman | 11th |
| Jim Overton | 13th |
| Rosie Babin | 14th |
| Cliff Barkley | 15th |
| Glenda Summers | 21st |

MARCH

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Jim Roberson | 1st |
| Don Schroeder | 7th |
| Jonathan Ratcliff | 15th |
| Kirk Watson | 18th |
| Bill Hanks | 19th |
| Steven Balazs | 20th |
| Richard Berkowitz | 22nd |
| Manny Sifuentes | 25th |
| Lillie Gilligan | 30th |
| Bill Tamminga | 30th |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Meagan Ahmad
Bill Hanks

Suzan Nyfeler
Steve Reilly

WE SERVE.



Austin
Founder
Lions Club