



Austin  
Founder  
Lions Club

# LION LETTERS

Club News, Events, Service, and More

June 2021 | Spring Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM

# President Rudy Munguía

Hello, Fellow Austin Founder Lions,

June 2021

This has been a good year for our Lions Club, and I believe the sun is getting ready to shine a lot brighter in the near future. We are approaching some exciting times ahead.

I am happy to say that our Lions Club is strong and growing. Thank you to those of you who have invited and brought in new members. I also thank those Lions who helped retain some members who were delinquent with dues. I also appreciate everyone for getting their dues current.

Despite the pandemic, our Lions Club has continued doing service projects. Thank you to all of you who have stepped up into leadership roles. Most of all, thanks to all of you that have helped keep us together as a Lions Club and have gotten us to a place where we can dare to be more optimistic.

Continue inviting your friends to join our Thursday meetings and help spread the spirit of Lionism in the community.

**Rudy Munguía, President**

## LCI Chevrons for Long-Time Members Presented

Several members of the Austin Founder Lions Club have been recognized for their long-time membership in Lions. Each received a Chevron to add to their Lions pins.

On June 17, President Rudy Munguía recognized and presented 30-year Chevrons to Lions Jim Roberson and Robert Thonhoff, both of whose anniversaries occurred June 1. He also recognized Dewayne Naumann, whose 10th anniversary was in April.

Munguía will mail the LCI letter and the Chevron to each honoree.

# 2021 Spring Newsletter

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# Austin Founder Lions Club Elects New Board

On April 4, Austin Founder Lions Club elected its 2021-2022 officers and board, and they will be installed on June 24. Lion Glenda Summers, a 30-year plus Lion, was elected President.

Past President Robert Watson, who chairs Rose Day, was elected First Vice President with the intent of serving as president again for 2022-2023.

Lion Greg Dew, a Leader Dog puppy raiser, was elected Second Vice President. Steve Reilly, another newer member, was elected Third Vice President.

Continuing in their current roles will be PP Leonor Marques as secretary; PP Jim Roberson as treasurer; Lion Mim Hruby as Membership Chair; PP Mark Hastings as Marketing Chair; and PP Patti Robinson as Lion Tamer. Lion Gaylord Armstrong was named to serve as Tail Twister.

Three Directors were elected for two-year terms, including Lions Chuck Mandelbaum, Rachael Reed and Siva Sankar Vankadaru.

Current Directors, including Lions John Nyfeler, Sam Ruiz and Kim Wright, will serve the remaining year of their terms in 2021-2022.

Current President Rudy Munguía automatically becomes Immediate Past President.



**GLENDASUMMERS**  
*President*



**ROBERT WATSON**  
*First Vice President*



**GREG DEW**  
*2nd Vice President*



**STEVE REILLY**  
*3rd Vice President*



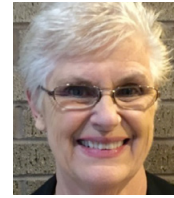
**LEONOR MARQUES**  
*Secretary*



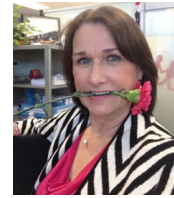
**JIM ROBERSION**  
*Treasurer*



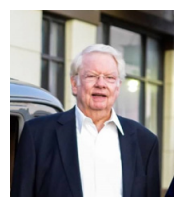
**MARK HASTINGS**  
*Marketing Chair*



**MIM HRUBY**  
*Membership Chair*



**PATTI ROBINSON**  
*Lion Tamer*



**GAYLORD ARMSTRONG**  
*Tail Twister*



**CHUCK MANDELBAUM**  
*Director 2-Year Term*



**RACHAEL REED**  
*Director 2-Year Term*



**SIVA SANKAR VANKADARU**  
*Director 2-Year Term*



**JOHN NYFELER**  
*Director 1-Year Term*



**SAM RUIZ**  
*Director 1-Year Term*



**KIM WRIGHT**  
*Director 1-Year Term*



**RUDY MUNGUÍA**  
*Immediate Past President*

# Meet Your Members



## Meet Gloria Munguía

### **WHERE WERE YOU BORN/GROW UP?**

Born in Robstown, and grew up on a farm in Petronila, Texas.

### **WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE?**

Texas A&I in Kingsville

### **CAREER(S)?**

English/Spanish teacher

### **HOBBIES?**

Gardening, reading, genealogy, sewing, art work

### **FAMILY?**

My husband Rudy and I have a daughter and a son. We have three grandsons, two from our daughter (an 18-year-old and a 16-year-old) and one (a four-year-old) from our son.

### **WHEN AND WHY DID YOU BECOME A LION?**

Joined AFLC July 2020 because I like service.

### **WHO WAS YOUR SPONSOR?**

Rudy Munguía



## Meet Rachael Reed

### **WHERE WERE YOU BORN/GROW UP?**

Born and grew up in Austin, Texas

### **WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE?**

The University of Texas

### **CAREER(S)?**

Began as an Administrative Assistant for the Texas Medical Association, now Executive Director for the Texas Ophthalmological Association

### **HOBBIES?**

Master Swimmer, any physical activities outdoors

### **FAMILY?**

Married to Glenn; we have two daughters.

### **WHEN AND WHY DID YOU BECOME A LION?**

October 24, 2019. I wanted to learn vision issues from the patient perspective and to serve the community.

### **WHO WAS YOUR SPONSOR?**

Sam Ruiz



# Lions Enjoy In-Person District, State Conventions

A large group of Austin Founder Lions attended the District 2-S3 convention in Taylor on May 1, and enjoyed the fellowship of an in-person gathering with each other and Lions from our District. International Director Gary Brown from upstate New York was the special guest and featured speaker.

President-elect Glenda Summers presented the C.W.A. MacCormack Award to the Cameron Lions Club. The award is named in honor of one of the two delegates from the Lions Club of Austin to the October 1917 organizing convention of Lions Clubs International. It is awarded annually by the Austin Founder Lions Club to the most active club in the district based on Monthly Membership and Activity reports.

The club's delegates who voted in the District elections included Lions Greg Dew, Alan Ford, Mim Hruby, Patti Robinson, Glenda Summers, Siva Vankadaru, Ann Ward and Robert Watson. PDG J.P. Kirksey also voted as a member of the Honorary Committee.

Several club members also attended the MD-2 State Lions Convention in Waco, May 20-22. Those included PDG Shirley Dillman, an associate member; PDG J.P. Kirksey; President-Elect Glenda Summers; Immediate Past President Ann Ward; and 1st Vice President-

Elect Past President Robert Watson. Kirksey coordinated a group to simulate marching in the parade for the virtual LCI Convention in June. The group was filmed, and the entry will be submitted to LCI.

AFLC purchased a full-page ad in the State Convention program. It recognizes club members in leadership roles at the club, District and state levels.

Ward, who is secretary of the Texas Lions Camp Board, was involved with the Lions Charities Banquet on May 21. Members of the Executive Committee assisted with the program, which provided an update on key TLC activities, and Chairman Kent Basinger gave the keynote address, "Together We Build." Groundbreaking on Phase I of the project was held on Feb. 6, and contracts to begin construction are being finalized.

Following the announcement of the kick-off of the capital campaign and naming opportunities, First Vice Chairman Wes Carr invited members of the audience to participate in a live auction, conducted by AFLC's own PDG Kirksey. This was followed by a parade of checks. In approximately 30 minutes, TLC received more than \$100,000 in donations and pledges!

On Saturday, May 22, attendees participated in one or more of four Global Causes service projects. Ward and Kirksey helped pack meals for Caritas of Waco, and Summers and Watson participated in packing books and other children's items for pediatric cancer patients at a local children's hospital.



*Cameron Lions Club President Kevin Crouch, left, accepts the C.W.A. MacCormack Award presented by the Austin Founder Lions Club President-elect Glenda Summers during the District Convention. DG Gary Fuchs, right, also is a member of the Cameron Lions Club.*



*Lion Ann Ward, secretary of the Texas Lions Camp Board, spoke during the Lions Charities Banquet honoring Texas Lions Camp during the Lions State Convention in Waco. TLC Chairman Kent Basinger, seated left, gave the keynote address, "Together We Build."*



*Lion Greg Dew and Leader Dog Daisy attended the District 2S-3 Convention in Taylor on May 1, and chatted with International Director Gary Brown, who was the keynote speaker.*

### Austin Founder Lions Club

The Oldest Lions Club in the World  
Chartered January 18, 1916



**Austin Founder Lions Club**

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**Proudly Serves the Greater Austin Community, District 2-S3 and MD-2**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

- Vision screening of pre-K children in AISD, other schools
- Vision screening at community events
- Donations to schools named for AFLC members
- Eyeglass recycling
- Funding up to 9 eye exams/glasses per month for needy
- Sportsmanship Awards for one each girls' and boys' high school teams in AISD
- Texas Lions Camp (work day, summer service, counselor scholarship, golf hole sponsor)
- Scholarships (3) for TSBDV graduates
- Blue Santa toy drive (or cash); food drive; diaper drives
- Peace Poster contest
- Donation to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation from Sporting Clay event
- Meals on Wheels

**AFLC MEMBERS WITH DISTRICT 2-S3 ROLES**

**PDG J.P. Kirksey** – Honorary Committee, Texas Lions Foundation Trustee

**PP Leonor Marques** – Zone 3-B Chair, Lions USA/Canada Forum Committee Chair

**PP Ann Ward** – Public Relations Committee Chair



Donation to Cowan Elementary, a namesake school




Texas Lions Camp Work Day



Meals on Wheels service



Preparing for Rose Day fund-raiser

**AFLC MEMBERS WITH MD-2 ROLES**

**PDG J.P. Kirksey** – Texas Lions Foundation Trustee

**PP Ann Ward** – Texas Lions Camp Board Secretary

**2020 – 2021 AFLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	PP Rudy Munguia
1st Vice President	Gaylord Armstrong
2nd Vice President	Glenda Summers
3rd Vice President	Linda Locke
Treasurer	PP Leonor Marques
Membership Chair	PP Jim Roberson
Marketing Chair	Mim Hruby
Lion Tamer	PP Mark Hastings
Tail Twister	PP Patti Robinson
	PP Scott Hendrix
Directors 2-year Term	John Nyfeler
	Sam Ruiz
	Kim Wright
Directors 1-year Term	Bill Anderson
	Syd Popinsky
	Judy Saal
Immediate Past President	Ann Ward

*AFLC had a full-page ad in the State Convention Program.*



# AFLC Helps Spiff Up Texas Lions Camp

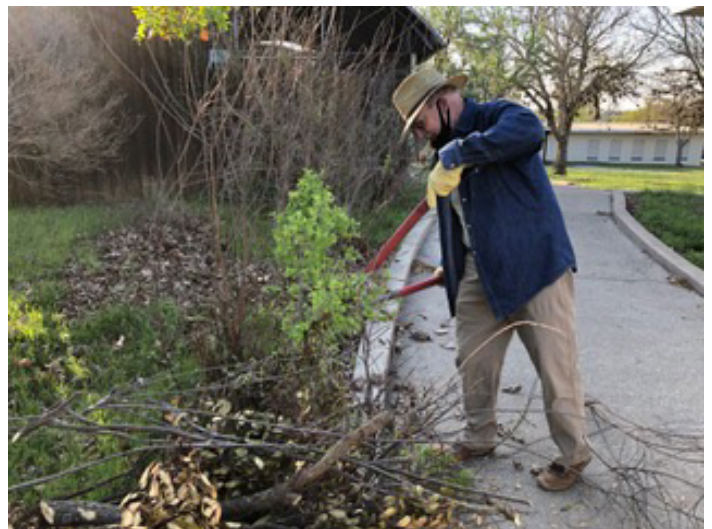
Nineteen Austin Founder Lions, friends and family traveled to Kerrville for the April 10 Work Day at Texas Lions Camp. The club's assignment was to clean up the landscaping around the pool. The weather was just right to trim the bushes, rake the leaves, and mulch the small shrubs and plants. Everyone worked hard, and all enjoyed having a chance to get to know each other a little better.

Lions participating included President Rudy Munguía and his wife Lion Gloria; Immediate Past President and TLC Board Secretary Ann Ward; AFLC Board Member Syd Popinsky; AFLC Board Members-elect Chuck Mandelbaum, Steve Reilly and Siva Sankar Vankadaru; and Lions Craig Estes, Allan Frank, PDG J.P. Kirksey, Suzan Nyfeler, Mac Ragsdale, Robert Watson and Carolyn Wright. Lion Rudy's grandson, Lucas Parker, helped out. Potential new members Kit Thompson and Suzy Gallagher also attended. Lion Steve's wife Jackie and son, Aidan, also participated.

Since about half of the group was making a first visit to TLC, camp staff arranged "mini-tours" to see the highlights of the campus, and all were very impressed.



*Among those representing Austin Founder Lions Club at the April 10 Texas Lions Camp Work Day were PDG J.P. Kirksey, left, Siva Sankar Vankadaru, Allan Frank, Chuck Mandelbaum, Syd Popinsky, Suzan Nyfeler, Mac Ragsdale, Carolyn Wright, Craig Estes, Gloria Munguía, Lucas Parker, Ann Ward, Suzy Gallagher, Rudy Munguía and Steve Reilly.*



*Lion Craig Estes coordinates the work of Austin Founder Lions at the annual camp Work Day. He really enjoyed using the chain saw!*



*Left: Lions Allan Frank, left, and Mac Ragsdale installed some new plants to replace those killed by the winter storm.*





*Lion Suzan Nyfeler had some fun as she wielded the loppers during the April 10 Work Day.*



*Lion Carolyn Wright had fun with the Lion drinking fountain.*



*Third-Vice President-elect Steve Reilly and his family enjoyed participating in the April 10 Work Day at Texas Lions Camp.*



*Lion Siva Sankar Vankadaru, an incoming member of the AFLC Board, made his first visit to TLC and joined in the pruning around the pool.*



# Texas Lions Camp Breaks Ground on New Construction, Launches New Approach to Summer Camp

Lions made a big splash literally and figuratively on Feb. 6 during the Semi-Annual Texas Lions Camp Board meeting. Members of the camp board joined the Executive Committee for groundbreaking on Phase I of implementation of the new master plan. Following the meeting, attendees gathered on the site of the now demolished bunkhouse 2 for the groundbreaking ceremony.

At a special called board meeting in November 2020, the Phase 1 building plan was modified to accelerate the construction of the Eagle Trail area while erecting only two of the four Northern Quad larger bunkhouses. Eagle Trail will provide 12 self-contained 1-room cabins, 2-room cottages and 3-room small group homes. This modification will facilitate serving small pods of people, and post-pandemic, provide opportunities for housing medical and leadership staff during summer camp and for leasing to other groups, generating additional revenue for TLC. The capital campaign to raise money for Phase 1 was announced at the state convention in Waco, and naming opportunities are outlined on the camp's website at <https://www.lionscamp.com/donatecapital.html>.



*Members of the Texas Lions Camp Executive Committee turned the dirt for the Feb. 6 groundbreaking ceremony to begin Phase 1 construction of the master plan. Left to right are Stephen Mabry, president/CEO; Past TLC President and PID Sam Lindsey; Treasurer Susan Wallis; Secretary Ann Ward; Chairman Kent Basinger; First Vice Chairman Wes Carr; Second Vice Chairman Gary Sult and Immediate Past Chairman Gary Linker.*

The board also authorized offering TLC-4-Families as a way to have children with special medical needs and their families on campus this summer. This new program uses camp facilities to strengthen the family unit and the relevancy of TLC as an organization to families with a special medical needs child. A remote camping experience also is available since family spots are limited. It is important to understand that TLC is unable to offer summer camp as we have known it under the current COVID environment.

TLC-4-Families, which kicked off June 8, offers a shorter-length camping experience for the entire family with a mix of structured activities and free time. In compliance with

social distancing requirements and the need to maintain “pods” of cohabiting people, family units are being housed separately in the 15 wings of the existing bunkhouses, which have been reconfigured to create a master bedroom and a living room. All meals are served in the dining hall.

“This is an exciting opportunity for TLC to serve families who likely need a break during this pandemic. Finding a way to safely house small family units and conduct small group activities makes it possible to continue to serve children with special medical needs this summer,” according to Mabry. The June sessions are for families of a child with physical disabilities, and the July sessions are for families with a Type 1 diabetic child.

**TLC Times**, the remote program being offered this summer, is similar to the virtual camp offered in the summer of 2020. Children who register will receive up to three mailed editions of the **TLC Times**, a newspaper with a twist. Each issue is filled with activities and embedded QR Codes, which will link to resources, activities, stories and exciting content, all easily found by any internet-capable, camera-equipped device.

Although the Polar Bear Plunge at Mo Ranch on Jan. 1 was cancelled due to COVID concerns, several members of the TLC Polar Bear Court took the plunge in the camp pool around noon on Feb. 6, a blustery 58-degree day under sunny skies. The unique fund-raiser exceeded its goal of \$250,000, raising more than \$310,000 as of the pool event!



*Polar Bear Court members Texas Lions Camp 3rd Vice Chairman PDG Tom Blasé, left; TLC 2nd Vice Chairman PDG Gary Sult; Governors' Representative to the Executive Committee DG Ken Jobe; TLC Chairman and Court King Kent Basinger; Queen PDG Terri Hawkins; Lion Bob Martin in pink tutu; and TLC 1st Vice Chairman Wes Carr prepare to take the plunge.*

## Golfers, Sponsors Needed for TLC Tournament

The 28th Annual Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament, hosted by the Fredericksburg Lions Club, is scheduled for Aug. 5 at the Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course in Fredericksburg. Corporate Sponsors, Hole Sponsors and Teams/Players are needed. Learn more online at <https://www.lionscamp.com/Wickersham.html>. Corporate sponsorships range from \$500 to \$5,000; Hole sponsorship is \$100 per hole, and individuals as well as clubs can participate. You may sponsor a hole online, or download the Hole Sponsorship form and mail your check and form to TLC. Sponsors are recognized on signage at the event and on the TLC website. To date, Austin Founder Lions Club is contributing \$100 and other club Hole Sponsors include Ken Crone, PDG J.P. Kirksey, Rudy Munguía, the Ragsdale Foundation and Ann Ward.



# AFLC Shows Appreciation to AISD Teachers/Staff at Six Schools

During March and May, Austin Founder Lions Club provided “appreciation lunches” to teachers and staff at the six Austin Independent School District schools named for former members of the club.

Approved by the AFLC Board last June, “the project was especially appropriate to do this year because of the additional strains on teachers and staff given the daily COVID-19 safety issues, the challenges of teaching by Zoom and then hybrid classes with some students present and others learning virtually, all compounded by the disruptions caused by the winter storm,” said Lion Rudy Munguía, president of the club. The former Kocurek Elementary principal added, “Teachers and school personnel are rarely recognized for their dedication and professionalism. Our Lions Club is proud to give a much-deserved recognition to the teaching profession through the appreciation lunches at the six namesake schools.”

## **Schools served include the following:**

### **March 10**

George and Johnnie Boone Elementary School, Alan Stevens, principal; 65 box lunches served

### **March 12**

Dennis Cowan Elementary School, Travis Brunner, principal; 78 box lunches provided

### **March 22**

Willie I. Kocurek Elementary School, Heather Parmelee, principal; 62 box lunches provided

### **May 3**

Gus Garcia Young Men’s Leadership Academy, José Mejía, principal; 73 box lunches served

### **May 5**

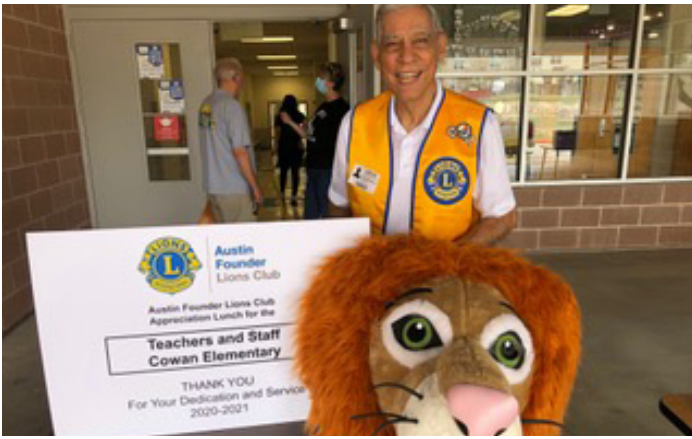
J.J. ‘Jake’ Pickle Elementary School, Rosa Waters, principal; 70 box lunches provided

### **May 7**

Carl Widén Elementary School, Jennifer Pace, principal; 77 box lunches provided

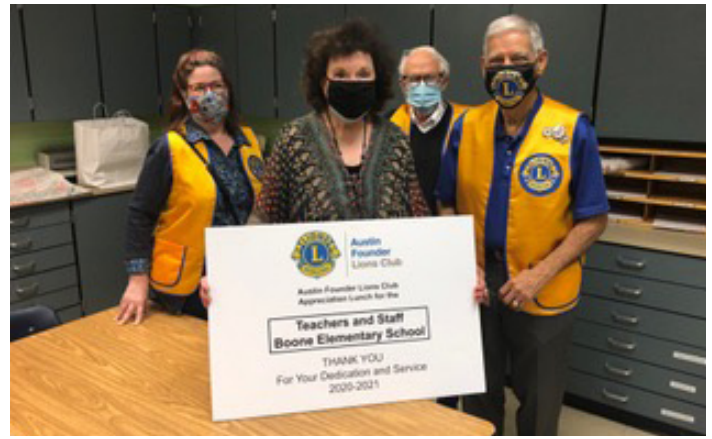
Each school limited the number of Lions attending due to COVID concerns. The Lions and family who attended included Lion Tommy Cowan and his wife Ann; Lion Michael Cowan; Lion John Nyfeler and his wife Sally Fly; Lion Suzan Nyfeler; PDG J.P. Kirksey; Lion Sam Ruiz; Lion Gloria Munguía and AFLC President Rudy Munguía.

Special invited guests included Dr. Mary Lou Clayton, retired AISD principal whose parents, George and Johnnie Boone, were honored with the naming of Boone Elementary School. Special invited guests at Gus Garcia YMLA were Mrs. Marina Garcia, retired AISD teacher and widow of the late former Mayor and former AISD Board President Gus Garcia, and their son Carlos Garcia.



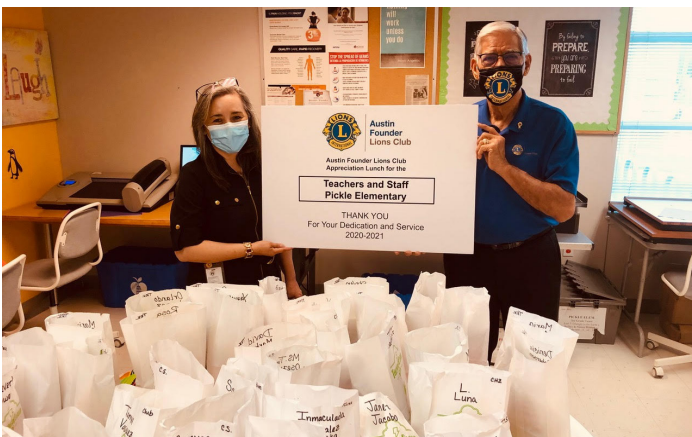
## COWAN ELEMENTARY LUNCH

AFLC President Rudy Munguía poses with the Appreciation Lunch sign outside Dennis Cowan Elementary School on March 12, where the club provided box lunches to 78 teachers and staff. The school is named for the former club member and educator, whose son Tommy Cowan is a past president, and whose grandson Michael Cowan, also is a past president.



## BOONE ELEMENTARY LUNCH

On March 10, Austin Founder Lions Club provided lunch for 65 teachers and staff at Boone Elementary, named for George and Johnnie Boone, long-time Austin educators. George was a club member. Pictured left to right are Sally Fly; Dr. Mary Lou Clayton, the Boones' daughter; Lion John Nyfeler and AFLC President Rudy Munguía.



## MEALS AT PICKLE ELEMENTARY

Pickle Elementary Principal Rosa Waters and AFLC's Rudy Munguía.



## MEALS AT GUS GARCIA

On May 3, AFLC provided 73 boxed lunches for teachers and staff at Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy, named for the late former Mayor of Austin and former AISD School Board President, who was a long-time member of the club. His son, Carlos Garcia, left, holds the Appreciation Lunch sign, and his mother, Marina Garcia is to the right of the sign. They were joined by Lions John Nyfeler, Tommy Cowan, Gloria Munguía and AFLC President Rudy Munguía.



## MEALS AT WIDÉN ELEMENTARY

Widén Elementary Principal Jennifer Pace posed with AFLC's PP Tommy Cowan, left, PDG J.P. Kirksey, President Rudy Munguía and Lion Sam Ruiz

# AFLC Assists Meals on Wheels: Groups Loads Meals for Delivery

Through the first five months of 2021, Austin Founder Lions and some members of the South Austin Lions Club served at Meals on Wheels monthly. Each time, the Lions joined other groups to load client meals into other volunteers' cars for delivery. Some 2,500 MOW clients were served each month, with each client receiving 10 meals, for a total of approximately 25,000 meals delivered.

On Jan. 22, AFLC volunteers for the hunger service event included Lions Gaylord Armstrong, Craig Estes, Judy Jones, Gloria Munguía, Rudy Munguía, John Nyfeler and his wife Sally Fly, Steve Reilly and Robert Watson. South Austin Lions participating included Liz Bumguardner, Mary LeFebvre and Polly Orr.

Austin Founder Lions serving on Feb. 26 included Lions Gaylord Armstrong, Craig Estes, PDG J.P. Kirksey, Rudy Munguía, John Nyfeler and his wife Sally Fly, Greg Thompson and Siva Vankadaru. In addition, Lion Liz Bumguardner from the South Austin Lions Club joined the service event. After the winter snow storm, the weather was beautiful, and everyone had a good time. Just as the distribution was finishing, two Girl Scouts and their parents arrived, and the girls gave away cookies! An

unknown benefactor had paid for the cookies, and wanted to treat the MOW volunteers. The cookies were tasty and much appreciated!

On April 23, those who performed two hours of continuous work were Lions Gaylord Armstrong, Ken Crone, Craig Estes, Alan Ford, PDG J.P. Kirksey, Gloria and Rudy Munguía, Sam Ruiz, Greg Thompson, Siva Vankadaru, Robert Watson and Jon Wisser. South Austin Lions participating were Liz Bumguardner and Georjean Hubner. During the service activity, Lion Alan Ford filmed the action, as well as an interview with MOW Director of Volunteer Services Denise Jimenez. The story of how AFLC pivoted from its signature project of vision screening of pre-K three- and four-year-olds in the Austin Independent School District to serving at Meals on Wheels during the pandemic formed the basis of the club's entry in LCI's 2021 Service Showcase video contest. The club's video was among those selected for showcasing at the LCI virtual International Convention! MOW also had to pivot due to COVID, and AFLC responded to the organization's need.

On May 21, Lions participated one last time in Meals on Wheels pandemic approach to meal delivery. MOW resumed regular weekly meal delivery in June. Austin Founder Lions serving on May 21 included Lions Craig Estes, Alan Ford, Mim Hruby, Judy Jones, Gloria and Rudy Munguía, Rachael Reed, Greg Thompson and Jon Wisser. South Austin Lion Liz Bumguardner also participated.





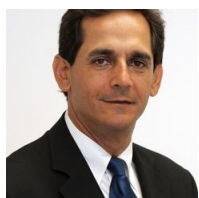
Images starting from top Left:

Two Girl Scouts provided thank-you cookies to Meals on Wheels volunteers on Feb. 26. Enjoying the treats were PDG J.P. Kirksey, left; John Nyfeler; Gaylord Armstrong; South Austin Lion Liz Bumguardner; Siva Vankardaru; Sally Fly; Greg Thompson and AFLC President Rudy Munguía. | Lions serving at Meals on Wheels on April 23, included Jon Wisser, back row left, South Austin Lions Georgjean Hubner and Liz Bumguardner, Gaylord Armstrong, Sam Ruiz, Ken Crone, Craig Estes and PDG J.P. Kirksey; middle row Siva Sankar Vankardaru, left, Greg Thompson and Gloria Munguía; and front row Rudy Munguía, left, and Alan Ford. | Sally Fly, wife of AFLC member John Nyfeler, not pictured, helped Austin Founder Lions Gaylord Armstrong, left, Steve Reilly, Craig Estes and Robert Watson load food for delivery with Meals on Wheels on Jan. 22. | South Austin Lions Liz Bumguardner, left, Mary LeFebvre and Polly Orr, far right, worked with Austin Founder Lions Gloria Munguía, center, and Judy Jones to staff one of the stations for loading meals. | Lions serving at Meals on Wheels on May 21 included Jon Wisser, left, Alan Ford, Gloria Munguía, South Austin Lion Liz Bumguardner, Greg Thompson, Rudy Munguía, Judy Jones, Mim Hruby, Rachael Reed and Craig Estes.

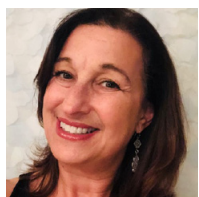


# Austin Founder Lions Continue to Enjoy Outstanding Programs

As the 2021 calendar year began, Austin Founder Lions continued to meet via Zoom. The Program Committee, chaired by Mac Ragsdale, kept club members coming back week-after-week with outstanding programs. The programs provided from January through April have ranged from reducing the gas produced by dairy cows and the importance of incarcerated mothers reading to their children to politics and services for the blind and visually impaired. All of these programs are recorded and posted on the club's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS-QEUSZUXfrnOMQvUi2s6A>.



The New Year kicked off on Jan. 7 with *Austin American-Statesman* columnist/armchair philosopher **Ken Herman** offering random musings on all things Austin, especially politics.

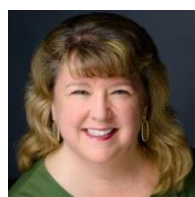


On Jan. 14, **Jackie Nirenberg**, community engagement manager for Capital Metro, informed the club about **Project Connect**, CapMetro's plan for a more connected, more equitable and more reliable public transportation system. The \$7 billion program includes three new rail lines, new MetroRapid routes, neighborhood circulators and new park and ride facilities to better serve Austin.



Club members met another of Membership Chair Mim Hruby's and Lion Ron Hruby's granddaughters on Jan. 21. **Alexis Hruby**, a Ph.D. student

in dairy science at Virginia Tech, explained how nitrogen waste from animal agriculture can cause gas imbalances in nearby aquatic systems. She talked about ways to decrease nitrogen waste in dairy cattle through what they are fed.



**Jill Gonzalez**, executive director of the **Women's Storybook Project of Texas**, spoke on Jan. 28 about how her organization works to connect children with their incarcerated mothers through the joy of literature. Her favorite picture book is *Shh! We Have A Plan*.

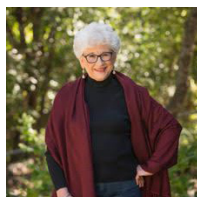


On Feb. 4, **Sen. Sarah Eckhardt**, who represents Austin, spoke about the issues facing Austin and Travis County during the 87th Texas Legislature. She explained that the Legislature is required to pass a two-year budget; other challenges included redistricting, health care, economic consequences of COVID-19 and the power grid failure, as well as the usual challenges of funding public education and health and human services for a growing population. In addition, Austin faced backlash related to reallocating Austin Police Department funds and camping of homeless people and their related issues.



**Rusty Hruby**, one of the Hrubys' sons, spoke on Feb. 11. He educated the club about private lending secured by real estate and how being a private lender can yield consistent, above-average returns. Since selling a software company he

founded, he shifted his focus to several real estate projects including self-storage, raw land, senior living, private lending and single-family residential.



Club members learned about Texas historical markers during the Feb. 25 meeting. **Myra Hargrave McIlvain** is a teller of Texas tales through her books, lectures and blog. McIlvain researched and wrote Texas historical markers, and became fascinated by the immigrant stories of Germans who settled in Texas, which spurred her to write 11 books about early settlement in Texas.



On March 4, members learned about VSP's Eyes of Hope programs. **Gilbert Melgoza**, charity care manager for the programs, discussed global initiatives that provide access to eye care, eyewear and disaster relief to places where it's needed most. To date, VSP Eyes of Hope has provided access to no-cost eye care and eyewear for more than 3.3 million people.



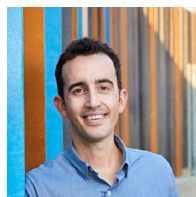
Life coach **Sam Gozo** provided a program on "**Emotional Intelligence**" on March 11. After working as a professional trainer, he formed his coaching practice in 2016 to help individuals find who they are and set goals from that place of self-awareness.



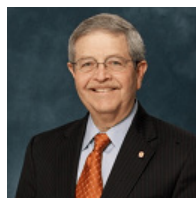
On March 18, **Beth Slade**, Leader Dog's director of philanthropy for Lions Engagement, talked about how "blindness changes everything." Although she thought the work would be "all about the dogs," her perspective changed after she met the people – the amazing clients, dedicated staff and volunteers whose stories and work she loves to share with others.



**Dr. Jane Edmond**, a member of the club and professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Dell Medical School, and director of the Mitchel and Shannon Wong Eye Institute, spoke March 25 on **ocular health disparities affecting women**. As people age, their eyes become more likely to develop conditions such as dry eye, age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma. While these conditions affect both genders, older women face enhanced risk.



In preparation for the May 1 local election, club members heard the pro's and con's of **Prop F: Mayor-Council or Council-Manager** at the April 1 program. Prop F asked voters whether they wanted to change the current governing model of a city council and city manager to one which would eliminate the position of city manager and designate an elected mayor as the chief administrative and executive officer of the city with veto power. **Andrew Allison**, from Austinites for Progressive Reform, spoke for the Mayor-Council approach. **Jesus Garza**, former Austin city manager and 2020 Austinite of the Year, provided the rationale for voting no and maintaining the current council-manager governing model. Ultimately voters rejected Prop F, voting to retain the current council-manager governance structure.



On April 8, **Michael Barnes**, an *Austin American-Statesman* columnist and an author, talked about **Austin, its people, culture and history**. In specific, he talked about how the city has changed during the past several decades.



The annual **Celebration of the A.I.S.D. Schools** named after Austin Lions was held April 15. **Alan Stevens**, principal at





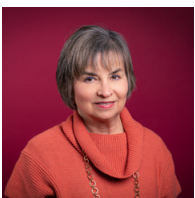
Boone Elementary, and **Heather Parmelee**, principal at Kocurek Elementary, described the impact of COVID-19 on standard operating procedures at their

schools. Each principal shared successes, difficulties and responses to their educational challenges.



On April 22, A.I.S.D. District 2 School Board Member **Ofelia Maldonado Zapata** shared her experiences **growing up with limited vision**. Diagnosed

as “clumsy” in the third-grade, the extent of her visual issues was not discovered until she sought a driver’s license in her early 20s. She had trouble believing the doctor when he said she was going blind from Retinitis Pigmentosa, a rare, inherited degenerative eye disease. She hid her disability from everyone, even her family. She feared losing her husband, losing her job, losing everything. Now 60 and legally blind, Ofelia is a social justice warrior, with a long history of serving her community on multiple fronts. Though widowed at age 25, she raised her three daughters and later adopted a son. Today, she continues to work on social justice issues, especially housing, education, immigration, job training and legislative advocacy.



COVID has changed the world forever; new needs have been identified, and technology is changing how people do things. This is a good time to think about

community service, and **brainstorm about potential new service programs** that may be more relevant to Austin in today’s environment and to today’s Austin Founder Lions. On April 29, the club participated in a brainstorming session led by Immediate Past President **Ann Ward**. Some 14 members responded to the request to submit ideas for new service projects or fund-raisers, as well as ways to enhance or update existing activities. Ward presented the 25 ideas anonymously, and meeting attendees

participated in several real-time Zoom polls to determine which merit further exploration. An idea for a new environmental project recycling plastic that the city does not accept was the top scoring new service idea.

## Important Dates

### JUNE 24

Installation of 2021-2022 Board & Officers

### JUNE 25-29

LCI Virtual Convention

### JULY 29

Club Social in Deep South Austin, Moontower Saloon, 10212 Menchaca Road

### AUG. 5

Harry Wickersham 28th Annual Golf Tournament benefitting Texas Lions Camp, Fredericksburg

### AUG. 6

Texas Lions Camp Annual Board Meeting, Kerrville

### SEPT. 9-11

Lions USA/Canada Forum, Des Moines, Iowa

### SEPT. 17

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clay Shoot-Out, Capital City Clays

### SEPT. 24

Casino Night, Red Oak Ballroom

## BIRTHDAYS

# Happy Birthday, Austin Founder Lions!

*AFLC congratulates each of you on another birthday! Hope you had an awesome day!*

## FEBRUARY

<b>LINDA LOCKE</b>	Feb. 2
<b>SHIRLEY DILLMAN</b>	Feb. 11
<b>JIM OVERTON</b>	Feb. 13
<b>ROSIE BABIN</b>	Feb. 14
<b>CLIFF BARKLEY</b>	Feb. 15
<b>GLENDA SUMMERS</b>	Feb. 21

## MARCH

<b>JIM ROBERSON</b>	March 1
<b>DON SCHROEDER</b>	March 7
<b>JONATHAN RATCLIFF</b>	March 15
<b>SALLY RAMIREZ</b>	March 18
<b>BILL HANKS</b>	March 19
<b>STEVEN BALAZS</b>	March 20
<b>RICHARD BERKOWITZ</b>	March 22
<b>BILL TAMMINGA</b>	March 30

## APRIL

<b>ANN WARD</b>	April 2
<b>PATTI ROBINSON</b>	April 14
<b>BILL ANDERSON</b>	April 23
<b>RUDY MUNGUÍA</b>	April 24
<b>CAROLYN WRIGHT</b>	April 24

## MAY

<b>BILL MARTIN</b>	May 6
<b>ROBERTO MARTINEZ</b>	May 9
<b>SIVA SANKAR VANKADARU</b>	May 15
<b>MAC RAGSDALE</b>	May 20
<b>MARK HASTINGS</b>	May 24
<b>CARI CLARK</b>	May 31

## JUNE

<b>SAM RUIZ</b>	June 2
<b>SUSAN SALLING</b>	June 6
<b>BRITTANY HENDRICKSON</b>	June 8
<b>JACKIE HAMMETT</b>	June 19
<b>BOB RIZZO</b>	June 20
<b>FRANK "MOON" TANTILLO</b>	June 22
<b>GLORIA MUNGUÍA</b>	June 25
<b>KIT THOMPSON</b>	June 25
<b>DREW SCHEBERLE</b>	June 28
<b>LEAH BAXTER</b>	June 29



**Austin  
Founder  
Lions Club**

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