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Herb Groom

The President's Message:



Well, after a relatively quiet November, we jump into one of our busiest months of the year, December. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. Jacqui & I met her son Paul and his wife Jessica in Las Vegas for Thanksgiving. We had our Thanksgiving dinner at Benihana's. I had the traditional teriyaki steak and Jacqui had the shrimp. I also learned a new way to lose money on this trip. Paul showed me how to play Pai Gow Poker. It's a fun game but I lost at it like I lose at all the games I play there.

Now we enter December, which starts out with the Seal Beach Holiday Parade on the first. This is a fun event that takes a lot of work. I hope to see all of you there, either working or just watching the parade. The 11th is Story Telling Santa Night at the Mary Wilson Library. The Santa we get for this event is an excellent storyteller. The kids have a great time. December the 16th starts with Breakfast With Santa and ends with our Christmas Party. Again, I hope to see all of you at these events. We also have the Casa Youth Center Breakfast with Santa in conjunction with the other Breakfast With Santa. I understand that we have some great gifts for the kids this year. That's about all I can come up with for this message. I do better writing these when I've had a few cocktails but I'm writing this one at work so I'm sober.

Happy Holidays

Lion President Bill [REDACTED]

An Open Letter to the Kidnappers

I've been thinking it over and I've decided that \$500.00 is a reasonable ransom. I couldn't take Buzz back for any less than that. I will take cash, cashier's check, or credit card (sorry, I don't take Diners Club). I expect you to replace Buzz's Browns outfit but don't take the money for that out of the \$500.00.

Signed,
His Grieving (Ha!) Guardian

Meeting schedule: First and Third Wednesday of the month. Meetings begin at 7pm sharp and are held at 'The Lone Star SteakHouse', 6575 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA



CLUB CALENDAR

December 1 – Seal Beach Christmas Parade

December 4 – Youth Center Tree Lot – 4:45 to 9:00pm

December 6 – Lions General & Board Meeting 7:00pm

December 11 – Storytelling Santa 6:00pm

December 13 – Veterans Bingo 6:15pm

December 16 – Breakfast with Santa 7:30am

December 16 – Casa Youth Shelter Gift Giving 10:00am

December 16 – Seal Beach Lions Christmas Party 6:30pm

December 25 – Christmas Day

January 1 – New Years Day

January 3 – Lions General & Board Meeting 7:00pm

January 7 – Leo District Meeting

January 12 – Seal Beach Lions Anniversary

January 15 – Martin Luther King Day

January 17 – Lions Program Night

January 21 – 4-L4 District Cabinet Meeting 

January 22 – Leo Meeting 6:30pm

January 27 – Melvin Jones Fellowship Award Dinner

A passing

I am sad to report that on November 2nd a former Seaside Lion passed away. Those of you "old timers" will remember George Wills. He joined Seaside because its members were mostly female. He lived with his mother (until she passed away) at Leisure World and I can remember sitting in Pappilion's with George when his mother would call looking for him (he was in his late seventies at the time). We knew when George had a date because he always wore a tuxedo on his dates. If you have ever been in Spaghetini's you may have seen a brass plate attached to the bar. That was George's seat. He had gone into the bar almost every day since it opened 18 years ago. I'm sure other people have funny George stories. He was quite a character. A short time ago he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which had spread to his liver and died very shortly after the diagnosis.

Respectfully submitted,
Lion President Bill Howes.



Veterans Corner:

Origin and Evolution of



Colonel William L. Hendricks

USMCR (Ret)



Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The idea came from Bill's wife, Diane. In the fall of 1947, Diane handcrafted a Raggedy Ann doll and asked Bill to deliver the doll to an organization, which would give it to a needy child at Christmas. When Bill determined that no agency existed, Diane told Bill that he should start one. He did. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign. That year, Marine Corps Reserve units across the nation conducted Toys for Tots campaigns in each community in which a Marine Reserve Center was located. Marines have conducted successful nationwide campaigns at Christmas each year since 1948. The initial objective that remains the hallmark of the program today is to "bring the joy of Christmas to America's needy children." Bill Hendricks, a Marine Reservist on weekends, was in civilian life, the Director of Public Relations for Warner Brothers Studio. This enabled him to convince a vast array of celebrities to support Toys for Tots. In 1948, Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots logo, which we use today. Disney also designed the first Toys for Tots poster used to promote the nationwide program. Nat "King" Cole, Peggy Lee, and Vic Damone recorded the Toys for Tots theme composed by Sammy Fain and Paul Webster in 1956.

Over the 58 years of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Marines have distributed more than 351 million toys for 166 million needy children. This charitable endeavor has made U.S. Marines the unchallenged leaders in looking after needy children at Christmas. Over its 15 year life span, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has supplemented local toy collections with more than 64.5 million toys valued at more than \$344 million; plus has provided promotion and support materials valued at over \$3.9 million.



Seal Beach Host Lions Club

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Lions Holiday Party

Saturday, December 16th

**Spghettini Restaurant & Jazz Club
3005 Old Ranch Parkway, Seal Beach
Cocktails / Games - NO HOST BAR, 6:30pm
Dinner - \$40 per person, 7:30pm**

**The Lions Club will subsidize dessert / door prizes / tip
Deadline for reservations - Wednesday, December 6th**

Print and return bottom half of this page along with PAYMENT to:

**Lion Carol Linehan
4729 Rey Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
Questions? Call 714.846.2478**

**Name: _____
Name: _____**

Choice of salad:

**Spghettini Dinner Salad _____
Traditional Caesar _____**

Choice of one entrée:

**Angus Beef Short Ribs _____
Fettuccine Chicken Alfredo _____
Jumbo Shrimp Scampi _____**

Truth or Lie game

During the cocktail hour Lions and guests can join in on a game of "Truth or Lie". List below three truths and one lie about yourself. These Truths and Lie should be something about you that no one else would know.

Make it fun! A prize will be awarded to person with most correct guesses!

Please, return the list of Truths and Lie along with your dinner reservation indications and payment to Lion Carol.

**Truth: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____
Lie: _____**



Uncle Sam wants you! ... all Chairperson's that is, to declare a pre-New Years Resolution!

If you've Chaired an event in the past six months el Presidente wishes to know, "Where the heck your write up is for 'The Growl'!

Amnesty will be given to all Chairpersons through the end of December to submit an article for the event they chaired commencing with Fish Fry and going forward. If not – well, let's say you could meet the same fate as dear ole' Buzz. (Now we wouldn't want that would we?)

All submissions for consideration should be forwarded to:

growl@sealbeachlions.com



Sail for the Blind and Visually Impaired

For a fourth year, the club graciously volunteered to aid the women and men of Women's Ocean Racing Sailing Association (W.O.R.S.A.) and American Legion Yacht Club Post 291 (A.L.Y.C.) on Saturday, 21 October, with the "Sail for the Blind and Visually Impaired" project.

Aside from having 150 plus hearty souls out for a day on the aqua, the highlight every year has to be being witness to the 'Seeing Eye Dogs' that work 24/7/365 for their owners and receive part of a day off playing about in a makeshift kennel with fellow canines. To their delight and enjoyment, on this special day they get to be just dogs and do what dogs do – they play, have fun together a-n-d.... (Well, view the photos on the club website to see the fun they truly shared as pictures do speak a thousand words!)

Special kudos to the following club members who participated in this years event: Bill Howes, Chris Langlais, Dan Sinks, Gary Denni, George Dooley, George Layman, Robin Alexander, Scott Newton, Stan Wolf and yours truly.

Respectfully submitted,
Lion Chairperson Herb Groom



In Remembrance - Dr. Chuck Myers, PDG

My first encounter with Dr. Chuck was in September of 2003. Having become an officer of the club that year, I attended District 4-L4's 1st Cabinet Meeting of the 2003-2004 campaign with Club President George Dooley.

Arriving at the meeting hall I was reminded, "Don't be alarmed by the 'grayness' of the congregation, Herb". Phew! Was I in for a surprise when concluding that I

was easily in the minority age bracket with this group of fellow Lions.

Before taking my place at a table with other Club Members, I made a diligent effort to go from table to table and introduce myself. Somewhere, more than halfway through introductions, I stumbled upon a table with a spry gentleman seated quite dapperly with a yellow sport's jacket, white shirt, bow tie, black slacks and an ever present smile on his face. He looked quite dignified indeed.

Just as I was about to approach, District Governor Jim North clapped his gavel upon the podium and the meeting commenced.

Returning to my table, I watched as the meeting began to unfold with the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and introduction of Cabinet Members. Then DG Jim asked if a certain member of the congregation would oblige us in song with the "Lions Spirit Song". Quick to rise, there was no hesitation with this Lion.

The man that I had moments ago begun to approach was leading this gathering of a hundred or more in song – and doing a fine job of keeping in step with tempo and energetically accompanying the movements so folks could follow along.

When finishing lunch, I walked around the gathering to continue meeting other Members in the District. While chatting, I recall a distinct tap on my shoulder. Turning to see whom it was, he introduced himself as Dr. Chuck Myers.

Then he enquired, "Son, are you old enough to be a Lion? I mean you look too young for this crowd! Are you sure you're not a Leo?" To this comment we both roared a hearty laugh together.

We then talked at length of: my being a Lion for a little more than a year and my dedicated involvement; and he being a Lion for nearly 50 years. Every Cabinet Meeting thereafter Dr. Chuck and I were in attendance, we would converse about making a difference in the lives of others. He always reminded me, "Lionism is all about sincerity of purpose" and to "Keep up the good work, Herb!"

A kinder person to one day emulate can't be found. I will dearly miss Dr. Chuck.



So, whether a new member or old, what is the 'Lions Spirit Song' you may ask? To be in the presence of Dr. Chuck's lead and hear the accompanying music, one truly felt the meaning of the lyrics as they easily resonated through ones body....

Lions Spirit Song

I've got that Lion Spirit up in my head, up in my head, up in my head

I've got that Lion Spirit up in my head, up in my head today.

I've got that Lion Spirit here in my heart, here in my heart, here in my heart

I've got that Lion Spirit here in my heart, here in my heart today.

I've got that Lion Spirit down in my feet, down in my feet, down in my feet

I've got that Lion Spirit down in my feet, down in my feet today.

I've got that Lion Spirit all over me, all over me, all over me

I've got that Lion Spirit all over me, all over me today.

I've got that Lion Spirit up in my head, here in my heart, down in my feet

I've got that Lion Spirit all over me, all over me to stay.

You can hear the Lions Song by going to our home page:

<http://SealBeachLions.com>

Then click on

< Play the Lions Song >

More information & updates at - <http://SealBeachLions.com>

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