

SCHOONER

Publication of the Lions and Lioness of Eden Prairie, MN



Gala Dinner Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Club Charter

Acting City Manager Jay Lotthammer made the proclamation from Eden Prairie City Council members and Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens: **Saturday, January 29, was officially Eden Prairie Lions Club Day, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the club's charter.**

Highlighting the celebration dinner was speaker Debra Wasserman, Lions Past International Director. She commended the Eden Prairie Club for its 50 years of service to the community and helping world issues through donations to the Lions Club International. "The local club can achieve much and must encourage each member to do something for service," she said. "Keep shining your light...50 years of service from the heart...one individual can make a difference."

Wasserman presented certificates of appreciation to Lion Dan Kurtz, Club President, to Lion Curt Connaughty, the only charter member for his years of service, and to Lion Mike Gust for his service to the club. In turn, President Kurtz presented a check to Wasserman for Lions Club International service work.

Lion Jerry McCoy, as Master of Ceremonies, introduced guests and other speakers. Lion Curt Connaughty talked about his early days in Eden Prairie and early times for the newly formed Lions Club. After graduation from college, he and his wife, Mary, took their first teaching jobs in Eden Prai-

rie...only to wonder where is Eden Prairie? After stopping at the Mobile gas station with the familiar flying red horse and inquiring, Curt was told, "This is it!"

Nearly 100 guests attended with representatives from the Edina Lions Club, which sponsored the Eden Prairie charter, and the Bloomington Lions Club.

Acting City Manager Jay Lotthammer presents club president Dan Kurtz with proclamation from the city officially declaring Saturday, January 29, Eden Prairie Lions Club Day.



Lion Curt Connaughty, the only charter member was recognized for his years of service and shared memories of the "early days" of the club.



Special guest speaker Debra Wasserman recognized Mike Gust for his service to the club.



Lioness Club President Peggy Muller welcomed guests and brought greetings to the Lions Club.

Lions Den News Briefs

- **Nice thing to know** — the talent in both clubs, Lioness and Lions, is astounding. There's a great resource in carrying out the motto: *We Serve*. This talent can, and should, be used as "in house" speakers for membership programs. On March 21, the Hagens will be presenting a program on their work in the eyeglasses program. Both have been involved in the program for many years, making trips to many foreign countries—the latest trip was to Mazatlan, Mexico, for eyeglasses distribution under the sponsorship of the local Lions club. Lion Floyd serves as chairman. Other members of the committee for the Lions are: Gordon Gilbert and Steve Shea.
- **Two important events to mark on your calendar:** the annual *Mystery Night*, April 4, with Past President Jerry Biese and the *Pancake Breakfast* on Sunday, April 17. Lion Jerry said that a bus will be involved for Mystery Night. Chairman Lynn Swanson will be getting sign-up sheets ready to work the Pancake Breakfast at Camp Eden Wood. Over half the membership signs up to work in some capacity that day.
- **Scholarship applications** will be available next week for high school seniors who are in good standing academically and who live in Eden Prairie. The forms may be picked up at the Eden Prairie High School Career Center. The EP Lions Club is sponsoring a one time cash scholarship of \$1,000 for eight qualifying seniors. Deadline for applications to be in the committee's hand is Monday, April 18.

Psychologist to be Speaker at Feb. 7 Meeting

Salvador "Sal" Valdovinos is a retired psychologist who had a private practice in Edina for 33 years. He loves public speaking, likes to wake people up and converse with them about the many ways they can get more meaning and joy from life. He likes to guide and empower people to quit being their own worst enemy.

Sal will be speaking to the club about living to be 100 years old. He says that this can be a good thing if certain other things are working well for you. He will address the power that service to others has in the quality and well-being of your life. There will be a question and answer session at the end of his talk.

Staff for the *Schooner*

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We welcome your comments and story ideas for the *Schooner*. Send your comments via email to gjschell803@comcast.net.

Hearing Foundation at Work

Matt and Kelly Ripley, who live in Shakopee, are the parents of Blake (3 ½ years) and Connor (18 months). Blake failed his new-born hearing screening and was soon after diagnosed with a bi-lateral mild to moderate hearing loss. He was fitted with hearing aids at three months old.

At six months, Blake's CT scan showed a malformation in the cochlea. This malformation caused Blake to have fluctuating, progressive hearing loss. At the age of two and a half, Blake had a cochlear implant in his right ear. He continues to wear a hearing aid in the left ear.

Blake receives his medical services from Dr. Remell (ENT) and Dr. Ward (Audiologist) at the University of Minnesota. The operation took place at the Lions Children's Hearing Center at the U. of M. which is supported by the Lions Club. Dr. Remell works for the Hearing Center /Fairview U. of M.

Blake also attends an oral school for the deaf and hard of hearing, called Northern Voices in Roseville. Blake's parents report his progress in school is outstanding and he is keeping up with his hearing peers.

The Eden Prairie Lions Club annually donates at the U. of M. through the Parade of Checks at the district mid-winter convention.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 7	Membership Meeting Camp Eden Wood Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
February 21	Membership Meeting Board Meeting
March 7	Membership Meeting
March 21	Membership Meeting "Eye Program: Collection to Distribution" Speakers, Jacquie & Floyd Hagen
April 4	Board meeting Mystery Night Past President Jerry Biese
April 17	Pancake Breakfast Camp Eden Wood
April 18	Membership Meeting Board Meeting

Notice: There will be no Schooner newsletters in March or April as the editor will be out of the country. The Schooner will resume with full publication in May. News items and notices can be emailed to Lion Jerry Biese who will notify members accordingly.

LARGE TURNOUT AT 5M5 MID-WINTER CONVENTION

Good representation from Eden Prairie added to the large turnout for the District 5M5 Mid-winter Convention. Seven delegates participated in the business sessions and voted where necessary. Delegates were: Tim Clare, Gregg Fletcher, Mike Gust, Bob Haugen, Dan Kurtz, Gary Stevens, and Burdell Wessels.

The Lions Memorial Service was the kick-off event Friday evening where Lion Earl Raths and Lioness Helen Anderson, from the Eden Prairie organizations, were honored with life tributes, biographies and photographs.

The club had several hosts and hostesses for the many Hospitality Room visitors who enjoyed the food and drink along with a special raffle. "This was a good time to meet fellow Lions from the district," said Lion Jerry Biese.

On Saturday night at the Lions Awards Dinner, the special guest and speaker was Don Stolz from the Old Log Theater. Stolz, owner, founder, and director at the theater, had entertaining episodes and stories about actors who got their start at the Old Log and are now entertainment celebrities. Stolz has written a memoir of his life directing at the Old Log Theater.

The Eden Prairie Lions Club participated in the Sunday morning Parade of Checks with a total of \$6,000. Donations went to: Diabetes Foundation, \$1,000; Lions Eye Bank, \$1,000; Macular Degeneration Research, \$1,000; Lions Hearing Foundation, \$1,000; Lions Club International, \$1,000; Leader Dog, \$500; Service Dog, \$500.



Lion members enjoyed visiting the poolside hospitality rooms at the Mid-winter Convention.



Lion Tom Anderson wears his vest with trading badges from various clubs; Lioness Lonnie Anderson shows part of the decorative stemware in the Lioness raffle.



Lion President Dan Kurtz and wife, Stephanie take time out from greeting guests.

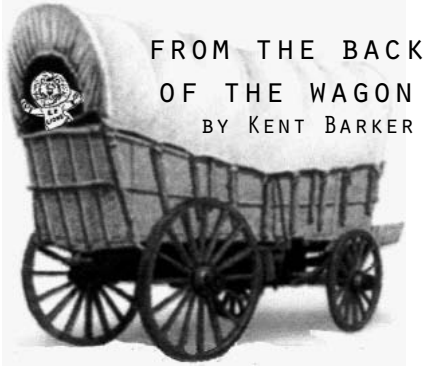


Happy Birthday in February & March



- Fred Beauvais February 03
- Mike Gruidl February 03
- Gordon Gilbert February 06
- Ed Sims February 09
- Hawk Nyhammer February 14
- Gary Diamond February 21
- Bob Krocak February 26

- Dick Howell March 02
- Bob Haugen March 10
- Bob Carling March 17
- Robbie Pashina March 17
- Steve Wilson March 21
- Bob Grootwassink March 23
- George Schell March 24
- Paul Yager March 25
- Floyd Hagen March 31



Looking Back – But This Time Only a Couple of L-o-n-g and Difficult Weeks

A quiet Saturday morning in a neighborhood shopping area was torn open without warning when an unhinged gunman killed 6 and wounded 14 more. In those very few minutes people responded to the unthinkable happening with a full array of human reactions — heroism in risking personal safety to capture and hold the shooter — caring and comforting the wounded — attempting to protect another as was the man who shielded his wife successfully, but losing his life. “*No greater love ...*”).

There were unfortunate recriminations that “someone should have done something” and attempts to politicize the tragedy. A “church” sent members in hope of disrupting funerals. Despite these acts Tucsonans responded with concern, remembrances, tributes, contributions for all. In short, Tucsonans reacted as most of us believe we too would if confronted by such a terrible situation.

A few days later, President Obama urged all Americans to pause and make sure that we talk with each other in a way that heals, and not in a way that wounds. He also reinforced the importance of keeping away from charged rhetoric — or casting blame.

Tucson is a fairly small city, a community of kind, friendly people who care for one another, and is on the road to recovery. It would be as wrong to judge Tucson by the act of an unstable individual as it would be to do so had it occurred in any other community. Clearly this does not make Tucson a bad place — rather it simply means we are real — and because we are, that sometimes bad things happen to individuals and even to communities. Let the healing begin. — *kb*



Going like 90! Lions - Do you know just how actively Eden Prairie Lions Bob Carling, Hawk Nyhammer and Bob Gibson SERVE? “*We Serve*” — **to them, not just a motto. Thank You Much!**



Return to
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Visit us on the web at
www.eplions.org