

# Fairfax Lions Club News

## Feb 2024

- Fairfax Lions, Serving Since 1951 -

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**WE SERVE THE WORLD AND OUR  
LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE,  
COMPASSION AND KINDNESS**

— We Serve —

### Canine Companions

Fairfax Lions support Canine Companions - a non-profit organization providing expertly trained assistance dogs and support to ensure quality partnership between dog and person. We donated \$1000 to Canine Companions this past October.

Lions world-wide have supported Canine Companions since its founding in 1975. The “Lions Project for Canine Companions” (LPCC), is a Lions foundation formed in 1983 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to create awareness for and provide support for Canine Companions.

The Veterans Administration needs Service Dogs for Veterans with disabilities. [Canine Companions is the VA's partner](#) to place service dogs with

veterans with disabilities entirely free of charge. Service dogs can assist veterans with a variety of physical, auditory and trauma-related disabilities. Canine Companions expertly trained service dogs can perform physical tasks to enhance independence, including retrieving dropped items, opening doors, picking up prosthetics, alerting a veteran with hearing loss to important sounds, and much more.

Here is a short video of that program supporting a veteran of the Army's 10th Mountain Division:



## Peace Poster Contest

Lion Jeff Root is District 24L Chairman for the annual Peace Poster Contest. Jeff has a short article on page 1 of the [District Newsletter for January 2024](#). Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. Below is the winning Peace Poster (2023 theme “Dare to Dream”) for Northern VA selected by George Mason University art students:



As Jeff says: Start thinking now about participating in the 2024 contest. The theme is Peace Without Limits, and Poster kits are available to order (for \$11.95). [More information](#) is on the LCI website.

## Vision Screening

Fairfax Lions were scheduled to do vision screening for youngsters at Emmanuel Lutheran Preschool, in Vienna, on January 17th. But, snow and cold weather got in the way. Emmanuel told us they had a delayed opening, and expected many children to be “out.” They asked to reschedule; at present, it is scheduled for January 31st. If you want to know more, email Lion Marty at: [lock7-mar2@cox.net](mailto:lock7-mar2@cox.net)

## — Charity Fund Raising —

**SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS**

## Vehicle Donation Program

A vehicle was donated near the end of 2023, from Michigan! It was auctioned by our agent and our club charities account received \$562.60. Club correspondent (Lion Pete Conklin) is sending a thank-you note to the person in Michigan. Total

received so far this year from two vehicles donated: \$1291.20. This a great way to raise money for our charities account, with practically no effort on our part. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this page: [Vehicle Donations](#).

## Club Meetings

### **NO Club Dinner Meetings in January!!!!**

The holidays, and then the weather, worked against having club dinner meetings in January. But a couple of hardy Lions did show up at the American Legion Social Quarters at 6:30pm, January 16th, for Taco Tuesday. Unfortunately, the restaurant had not received their weekly food delivery due to inclement weather - so NO tacos available!

### **Board Meeting - January 23rd**

Several Board members showed up early, to enjoy “Taco Tuesday” in the American Legion “Social Quarters.” Tacos and liquid refreshments are reasonably priced, and members enjoy each other’s company prior to getting down to business in the Board meeting.



Board Members at Taco Tuesday

The Board approved disbursing \$1000 charity donations to both Fairfax Little League and VA Lions Eye Institute Foundation, and also \$280 for VLEIF Scholarship winners (& family member) to attend awards luncheon, Feb 24th at Elks Lodge in Fairfax. (All Lions invited, cost is \$20 per person.)

The Board approved renewing the Club's annual membership (\$175) in the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, which enables us to significantly expand advertising for fruit sales.

The Treasurer reported:

- Received Charity funds from Fosters Grille in Vienna - checks totaled \$228. That is the result of spending at Fosters on the second Tuesday each month, "Lions Dining for Dollars," next one on Feb 13th.
- Received residual funds from the former Vienna Lions Club, \$1614 in Charity funds, and \$1379 in Admin funds.
- One anonymous charity donation of \$500 from a club member.

Lion Jeff Root, Chair for the Bland Contest, announced the Club's contest will be at 2pm, Sunday, March 10th at Providence Presbyterian Church.



Board Members at Work, Jan 23rd Meeting



KL Greg, out-going zone chair, will announce at this month's Zone meeting, nominations are open for next year's Zone chair. If any Fairfax Lion is interested, see Greg.



## February Events

Feb 2- Ground Hog Day

Feb 6 - FHLC Dinner meeting

Feb 7 - ISCC meeting

Feb 8 - Lions Lunch Bunch (see Bill Bartlett email)

Feb 10 - Chinese/Vietnamese Lunar New Year (*Tet*)

Feb 11 - Super Bowl Sunday

Feb 13 - Lions "Dining for Dollars" at Fosters Grille

Feb 14 - Valentines Day

Feb 20 - Lions Dinner Meeting

Feb 24 - VLEIF Scholarship Awards Luncheon

Feb 27 - Board Meeting (all welcome)

Feb 29 - Happy Leap Day

Coming up:

Mar 10 - Bland Contest (2pm)

## Fairfax City Inter-Service Club Council

Nothing to report this month.

## Club Marketing

Lion Tom Comi consistently works to have an announcement in a local Vienna newspaper about Lions fund raising night (2nd Tuesday) at Fosters Grille. The most recent announcement published is below. (Tom recognizes the editor got the Club

name wrong, and is working to correct that in future ads.)

**FUND-RAISER WILL SUPPORT LIONS CLUB:** The Vienna Host Lions Club will be the recipient of a fund-raiser slated for Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Foster's Grille in Vienna.

Those dining can ask the cashier to put their receipts in the Lions' box, and 20 percent of the tab will be donated to support various initiatives of the service club.

In addition, used eyeglasses and hearing aids are accepted for donation.

For information, e-mail [golfertom1943@gmail.com](mailto:golfertom1943@gmail.com).

We thank Lion Tom - and other former Vienna Lions - for supporting this event; Fairfax Lions Club has already received \$228 for our charity account!

In addition, thru our club's membership in the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Fairfax Lions are participating in a no-cost marketing event on Jan 31st to learn about using video effectively, and to promote our Lions Club!

## **District 24L Winter Conference**

Traditionally, District 24L Lions hold a "Winter Conference" in February. The District newsletter in January included this notice from District Governor Donalda Lovelace:

*“I have received several inquiries regarding the Winter Conference and have been thinking of something unique that might interest Lions in our District.*

*Our Winter Conference usually has an attendance of around 64 to 85 people, and many Lions have shared with me that they are not enthusiastic about attending due to the cost and distance. As we have over 2,000 Lions in District 24L, I hope my idea will reach Lions all over the District.*

*Therefore, I am excited to announce a new series of Zoom videos that I hope will offer you exciting and informative discussions, inspire you and your club members, and motivate changes that will bring you inspiration and success—more details to follow on the first Zoom video and dates.”*

## Remembering

### Lion Spouse George Johnson

We were all deeply saddened to learn of the passing of George Johnson, husband of Fairfax Lion Maureen.

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are with Lion Maureen and her family during this difficult time.

George's obituary was in the Washington Post:



George "Geo" T. Johnson, Esq. transitioned into eternal rest on January 17, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Maureen Johnson; daughters Lawann Johnson, Jaida Moore, and Kiyanna Johnson; his grandchildren Lakeisha Plummer, Latasha Smith, Amiyah Johnson,

Victor and Chideraa Anyanwu. He is also survived by a host of family and friends. A viewing will be held on January 26, 2024 at 10 a.m. with the service starting at 11 a.m. at the Marshall-March Funeral Homes, 4308 Suitland Rd. Suitland, MD 20746. The service will also be live streamed at [www.MarshallMarchFH.com](http://www.MarshallMarchFH.com)

*Published by The Washington Post, Jan 24, 2024*

## Lion Emily Carnes

Past District Governor Emily Carnes passed on Monday, January 8, 2024. She was a member of the Bailey's Crossroads Lions Club, was 24L District Governor from 2012 to 2013, and over the past 2



years, enabled Northern VA Lions to establish a new Eyeglass Recycling Center on property she owned.

You might remember the photo below; it appeared in the May 2018 Fairfax Lions Club Newsletter....

PDG Emily Carnes is presenting a [Virginia Lions Eye Institute](#) Scholarship Award. (Fairfax Lion Elden Wright is in the background of the photo).



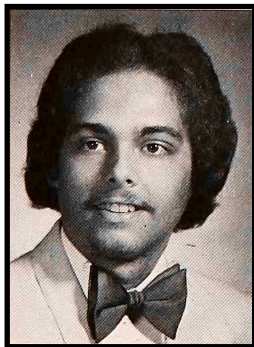
PDG Emily Carnes, Lion Elden Wright Award Scholarship

## Who is This?

Can you guess who this is?

Hints:

- Current member of FHLC.
- Photo was taken when a senior at Archbishop Molloy High School, 1978.



## Answers to Previous Month's Guess Who

December 2023 newsletter

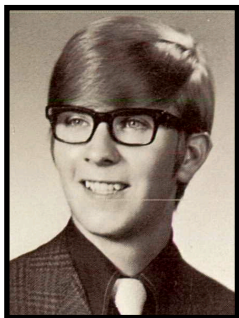


Hints:

- Current member of FHLC.
- Photo was taken when a Freshman at Columbus High School, 1950

ANSWER: Bill Bartlett





Hints:

- Current member of FHLC
- Photo was taken when a Senior at Ripon High School, 1973

ANSWER: Jeff Root



## Miscellaneous Info...

### Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution from your individual retirement account (IRA) to a qualified charity. You must be age 70½ or older to make a QCD. A QCD is not taxed, nor is it included in your taxable income. QCDs also count toward the required minimum distributions (RMDs)

that people age 73 or older must meet each year - if they have traditional IRAs.

You don't have to itemize on your tax return to take advantage of a QCD.

If you must make RMDs, the amount of the RMD is taxable. But if you make QCDs, that amount is not taxable. So, you can satisfy all or a part of your RMDs by making QCDs instead. And, you pay no tax on the amount of your QCDs. (You do need a special checking account that is used specifically for QCDs.)

So, what does this mean for you? If you want to make a donation, for example, to Fairfax Lions Charities...you can do that with a QCD check. Instead of writing a check (to Fairfax Lions Charities, in this example) from your regular checking account, instead write a QCD check from your IRA account. The advantage to you is it both counts toward your MRD, and you pay no tax on that QCD.

[This IRS page](#), is titled: "Reminder to IRA owners age 70½ or over: Qualified charitable distributions are great options for making tax-free gifts to charity."

Discuss with whoever manages your IRA, to ask for QCD checks for that account.



## What's Up With the Name "February?"

*Many Thanks to Lion Joe Breda for suggesting this as a monthly topic in our Newsletter*

February, on average, is the US's snowiest month. The name February comes from the Latin word *februa*, meaning "to cleanse." The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year. February, and January, were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC).

February is the only month with a length of fewer than 30 days. It is usually 28 days, but February is 29 days long in leap years such as 2024. Simply put, a leap year is a year with an extra day—February 29th—added as the 366th day to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical year.

In America, February is African-American History Month, paying tribute to generations of Black Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

## Looking Forward to Spring?

After the recent VERY cold temperatures and snow, it's only natural to look forward to warm, sunny weather this spring and summer.

But then there is this recent headline on NPR news: **“Billions of cicadas will buzz this spring as two broods emerge at the same time.”** Read the article at [this link](#).

## What's Up with a Casino at Tysons?

*from*



Currently in the General Assembly, there is a proposal to allow a casino to be built in Fairfax County. Fairfax County did not request this bill. As it stands today, the bill would add Fairfax County to the list of localities eligible to hold a referendum to host a casino, meaning that even if the bill is successful, a majority of Fairfax County voters would still need to support it in order for it to

become a reality. The bill also has several stipulations on the development: any proposed site must be (i) located within one-quarter of a mile of an existing station on the Metro Silver Line, (ii) part of a coordinated mixed-use project development, (iii) within two miles of a regional enclosed mall containing not less than 1.5 million square feet of gross building area, and (iv) outside of the Interstate 495 Beltway. Essentially, this means the bill allows for a casino to be built in Tysons, if approved by referendum and if the development meets all applicable zoning and comprehensive plan requirements.

At our Legislative Committee meeting today, I presented a letter that I sent to House and Senate leadership outlining our concerns. We have also been communicating with members of our delegation about this bill just as we do with legislation every General Assembly session. My commitment is to protect our local interests, specifically that Fairfax County retains all its current local controls over any potential development (such as zoning and comprehensive plan requirements), that a voter referendum is still required, and that the tax revenue generated by the gaming part of a

casino development is returned to Fairfax County through a good deal for our taxpayers.

As the law stands today, Fairfax County would only receive about 30 percent of the gaming tax revenue generated by a casino. I do not believe this is a good deal for the County. We are already working hard to get more money from the Commonwealth for education, and I do not have any interest in supporting a deal that would reinforce Fairfax County's status as Virginia's ATM.

You can see our full letter [here](#) which captures all of our Board's concerns with the legislation. To be clear, the Board of Supervisors did not request, endorse or support this legislation. We are monitoring it rather than opposing it at this stage because we need to retain our ability to ask for amendments should the legislation appear to be headed toward passage. It was passed out of the Senate General Laws and Technology Committee on Wednesday (1/24) and is currently slated to be heard by the Senate Finance Committee. If advanced by that committee, it will go to the Senate floor before moving to the House later this session.

Sincerely,  
Jeff McKay

## Special thanks to...

Several Lions always step up to help make this newsletter happen...thank you for providing ideas and/or input (whole articles, reports, photos). Such help is essential to presenting the news of this Club!

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** Send words & photos for the newsletter, anytime. They must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the next issue. We need your help to publicize information about our Club, and about you.

"The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter" is published on the [Fairfax Lions web page](#) (see right hand column under the section titled "Pages"). You should check the FHLC web page periodically -

Club members are alerted around the 1st of each month to the newsletter's availability on the web page. That's all folks!

*Send any suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter.*

# Fairfax Lions Club



**We Serve**

Since 1951