

April 2020 - Vol 1 / E4
- Does anyone read this part?...



Webster Groves LIONS SQUEAL



The Quarantine Issue

Out with the old, in with....another old!?!?

Wait! Something is amiss. President Lion Becky is stepping down. That makes her “the Old”.

Lion Pat is stepping up, but he’s, well, he’s not really “new” now is he?. (No, I’m not saying “old” because he is right up there with Methuselah. No, of course not. I’m saying “old” because he has stepped up to the presidency of the club before. Yeah. That’s it. He is a repeat offender. (Dodged a bullet there, didn’t I?)

In either event, below are the ramblings, er, I mean DEEP THOUGHTS of the aforementioned Lion folks - ed.

Wow!! I sit here and think about this past year as President of the Webster Groves LIONS, and I am overcome with emotion! It’s crazy to think my year as president has come and gone. I am truly honored and humbled to have served as the youngest President our club has had in its 95 years. I want to thank all the members of our club who have helped me this year. I know I wouldn’t have been successful without all the support I have received from everyone.

My goal for this year was to acknowledge where our club was, and work towards encouraging younger people to join and be part of our amazing club. I am happy that we were able to break away from the March and August BBQs, and add a successful Trivia Night, partnering with the Maplewood LIONS. We grew our partnership with the Affton Community with the Affton Backpack Program and the purchase of the SEARAT tools for the Affton Fire Department. We’re looking in to doing a hotdog give-away at their new firehouse in the spring. We added new and exciting guest speakers, like the World Bird Sanctuary. They brought two amazing Bald Eagles to our Special Event meeting. We had themed nights, like our Cereal Night and played games during our Special Event meetings, allowing us the opportunity to fellowship with other club members.

What sticks out to me as the best part of my year as President, is the number of people we were able to serve with the Pediatric Service Project, the New Voices Service Project, Peace Poster Night, and Books for Babies. I love working the BBQs and Carnival, knowing that the monies raised will be going to someone less fortunate. We were able to cover our budget and still had money left over to donate to additional charities. I am so proud of the Club and all the work put in throughout the year.



We had an amazing year, and I’m sorry we didn’t have the opportunity for our Installation of Officers. I was looking forward to giving out awards, but we will have a party once the coronavirus passes. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy, because once this passes, I know our club will be hard at work again with BBQs and fundraisers, and supporting local, State, and International Organizations. Robert Ingersoll said “We rise by lifting others”. I truly believe this for our club and we will continue to do that this upcoming year.

Thank you again for all the love and support this year.

- President Lion Becky Speeler

As the incoming president of the Webster Groves LIONS Club, I am looking forward to serving both the Lions club and the community.

The past month or so has been a very difficult time for everyone.

I would like to thank President Lion Becky for her leadership of this club over the past year. This young lady fears nothing and will attack problems head on.

The Club had to postpone its installation dinner, and cancel the April barbecue, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This will no doubt be a difficult year but with the Spirit of a Lion, this LIONS Club will be able to overcome any difficulty.

Thank you Lion members for being part of our club.



Featured Lion

*Name - Kelley Maureen Kastner

*Married to - My Work *(What? Was the reception in the break room?)*

*Children - Alyssa

*Lives in - Affton

*Pets - I have a dog named Adrian. She is a very awkward looking Weiner Dog/Lab mix.

*Born and Raised - Maplewood, Missouri

*Childhood dream career - NASCAR pit crew tire changer

(Good! Someone to look after our trailer tires!)

*Actual career - Financial Analyst *(I see a club Treasurer in our future!)*

*What you like about your job - The best part of my job is reconciling accounts at the end of the month. It is very satisfying to see all of your hard work presented in a clean, balanced, and organized report. #Zen #AccountingNerd *(Oh man! I REALLY see a TREASURER in our future!)*

*Something we don't know about you - Outside of my Bachelor's and Master's degree in Finance, I went to school to be a Dental Assistant and a Mechanic.

(Good combo here. Though I might be concerned of her choice of tools if I were in her dental chair.)

*Talents - I worked as a professional cake decorator for several years. I can make some amazingly extravagant and crafty cakes! *(Again, her choice of tools could be in question.)*

*Free time - My daughter plays select softball, so much of time is spent driving and watching her games. I also spend A LOT of time studying for the CPA Exam. *(oooooh! I bet she's the life of the party!)*

*Hobbies - I enjoy running and competing in several races throughout the year. After I pass the CPA, I plan to train to run a full marathon. *(Good to hear. Stamina. She will need that at the Carnival!)*

*Proud Accomplishment - Successfully passed 3 of the four parts of the CPA Exam (I am currently working on the 4th) *(This is where you refer back to that "life of the party" thingy.)*

*Favorite Holiday - Christmas! I love presents! *(Now that she is one of us, favorite holiday will become 4th of July!)*

*Favorite Food - Mexican *(NO! She meant to say "Barbeque"! Maybe she just misspelled it! Yeah, that's it.)*

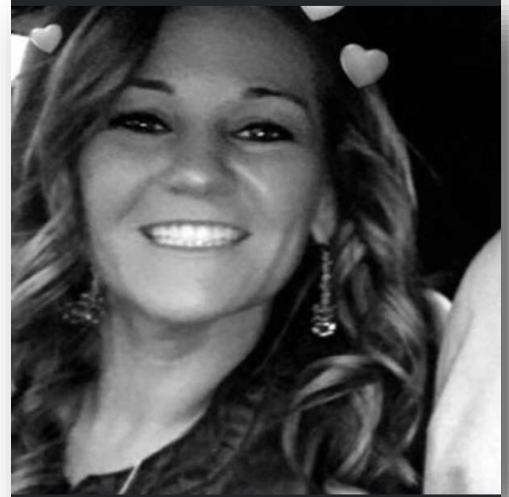
*Favorite Movie - Rocky, is my #1 favorite movie of all time! A League of Their Own, is a close second.

*Favorite TV show - I usually binge watch documentaries.

*Favorite Music - I listen to a little bit of everything.

*Why you like being a Lion - I like being a lion because I get to serve the community and make new friends.

*Why you become a Lion - Because my big sister joined! Even though we are not kids anymore, I still follow her around and copy what she does.



NEW VOICES

The New Voices March Spotlight is a Lion who has a passion for Lionism and wears it well!

Here is her story.

Lion Ruth Boyer began her LION journey in March 2007. She and husband Kevin were attending a Cub Scout event at the Beaufort Lions Club. Past Council Chair Joe Foster noticed they were at all of the scouts' events, and asked them to join. She hasn't looked back since! Lion Ruth wanted to be active in the community, and Lionism fits that need!

Since joining, Lion Ruth has been President (and all VP positions leading to President), Tail Twister, Chairperson for a variety of committees, to include Candy Days, Diabetes collections, food pantry drives, collecting school supplies, and overall Public Relations. In fact, her first event was a Candy Day.

Lion Ruth enjoys working Beaufort LIONS Club's Friday Night Bingo. "I am almost up there every Friday. I am teased a lot about living at the Club. I just love being involved with all our events." With all of those activities, Lion Ruth's favorite project is handing out Christmas gift cards to local school students.

Aside from President of her Club, Lion Ruth's favorite position is District 26M2 Diabetes Chairperson, a position she has held for 8 years.



When thinking about the challenges faced over her LIONS tenure, Lion Ruth describes the fear of giving reports in front of crowds, and how she overcame her fear. "I used to read real fast and shake. I was also out of breath due to it. Now I

have made so many friends from other clubs that I am getting better". Lion Ruth's story just proves fellowship and friendship, the heart of LIONS, can help in so many ways.

Lion Ruth is inspired by serving the community with eye glasses, the food pantry, and the local school. If you look at all of the projects and committees in which Lion Ruth participates, it

will show her spirit and kindness toward helping others. In an effort to help others have a voice in LIONS, Lion Ruth says "We are here to serve others. Step up and get involved in your club and community. Don't be afraid of getting involved in activities in your club and asking questions. Look up to the older members for advice or questions."

Lion Ruth has these final thoughts, "Please get involved and attend District and State conventions. Take advantage of all the District has to offer. I have made a lot of new friends in the District and other districts".

Thoughtful words from a dedicated LION!

What to do, and when to do it...

April 2 Board meeting - CANCELLED

April 9 Business Meeting - CANCELLED

April 10/11 April BBQ - CANCELLED (are ya sensing a theme here?)

April 20 Reevaluation of the path our lives take in the future, to include installation— ON SCHEDULE

April 21—? TBD

At our meeting on February 13th, we invited, and were joined by, the Affton Fire Folks and the Webster Groves Police Folks for dinner and frivolity. This gave us the opportunity to present them with some much needed items for their use.



For the Affton FD, we had the Seattle Rapid Access Tool. The SEARAT is designed to gain access to specific types of doors and latches widely used in both commercial and residential properties. It sports a Shove Knife, Pry Bar, Hex Head Wrenches, Speed Square, Ruler, Gas Shut-Off Wrench, Window Breaker, Seatbelt Cutter, O2 Wrench, and Lanyard. It's the "MacGyver" of pocket tools. This tool is designed to do all sorts of "help the fire dude or dudette do their fire fighting job in a nifty way" stuff. Google it. Maybe you'll want one of your own. Pictured describing the SEARAT to us, is Chief Fahs.



For the WGPd, Officer Jason Flanery received Emergency Response Bags. They are emergency kits stuffed with medical supplies for emergency use at Webster Groves Middle and High schools and will be in the possession of the school resource officer.



Although these men and women are from vastly different cultures, great distances apart, they were able to come together in peace and harmony, sit together and enjoy each other's company, and to



my knowledge, no unwarranted hijinks ensued while there. Of course, as we all know, what happens AFTER the meeting, stays after the meeting!

New Voices Toiletry Collection

At our District Convention, over the last weekend in February and beginning of March (You all remember those times, right? Back when you could go out and socialize with your friends?), toiletries were collected to be given to three previously selected charities.



Over the weekend, and via subsequent donations of both cash and products, close to 600 full-sized items and *huge* numbers of smaller, travel-size items were accumulated.

These items were grouped, counted, then divided in to three sets of boxes, each set of four to be delivered to one of the three charities.



On March 13th (Still free to roam), they were delivered to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (not pictured), Circle of Concern, and Feed My People.

Our thanks to all who donated for this event. Also want to let you know that folks in need do not get any time off from that need, just because we are all hunkering down in our homes. Please keep them in mind and help where you can.

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture.

The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks, or clay pots, or grinding stones.

But no.

Mead said that the first sign of civilization in ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken, and then healed.

Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die.

You cannot run from danger.

You cannot get to the river for a drink.

You cannot hunt for food.

You are meat for prowling beasts, for no animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed, is evidence that someone has taken the time to stay with the one who has fallen.

They have taken the time to bind the wound.

They have taken the time to carry the person to safety.

They have taken the time to tend to the person through recovery.

“Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts”, Mead said. “We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.”



As we begin to gear up for our annual juggernaut we lovingly call "the Carnival", Lion Mike's musings on his and Lion Vicky's time volunteering at last year's event, and how it affects us, our family, AND our pets, bears repeating. (Yes, I know. Our pets are our family as well. I just wanted clarification here.) - ed.

Even our pets give to help the community

I just spent three *very long* days doing what I love to do, and that is volunteering as a Webster Groves Lion, doing my part during the Community days Carnival.

After spending 12 hours away from my best little buddy for the first two days, I knew what I wanted to do for him when the third day came. I got up before the sun came up, even with not getting to bed before midnight and two a.m. those first two days. I wanted to spend at least three hours in that early morning with my little buddy to reconnect, and to make sure he knew it was not his fault I wasn't around. So we spent those hours out in the woods, doing what we always have done, but I could not get him to go much more than an arm's reach away, without the coaxing and reassuring I wasn't going anywhere.

After a good long walk, and because of what I was doing as a Lions volunteer, I needed to save my legs for standing all day. So I took out a four-wheeler to ride. I realized my little buddy was getting hot and tired, so I put him on the seat, and he rode in between my legs. I could tell he was really enjoying this ride, so we went for a long couple of miles, and then home. When we pulled up his mom "Lion Vicky" came running out of the house and snapped this picture. You know how moms think everything is cute!



Well, at the end of Lion Vicky's and my shift on the last day serving the community at the carnival, we drove home as quickly as "legal" would allow. Reason being, I wanted to let my little buddy out of the house that he was cooped up in all day. Well, when we got home, he and I rushed back outside. He went out the front door and I hit the garage door button. I went back thru the house to the garage door to get the four-wheeler out. To my amazement this is what I found when I went into the garage.

When we as Webster Groves LIONS serve our community, those that love us also give. Anybody that thinks animals are dumb needs to look in the mirror.



Lion Mike, Lion Vicky, and Lion Barley Swederska

PlusOptix gets a new face, and F.A.C.E. gets a new PlusOptix

In February, We were able to help the Webster Groves FACE (Family And Community Engagement) in their effort to screen all Webster Groves preschoolers for vision issues by donating a PlusOptix screener for their use.

After they get up to speed on it's functioning, they will be able to perform much more in-depth examinations on the children.

AND, when we can get back to normalcy with our meetings, they will visit us with a demonstration of the device.

Great to meet with the staff - Laura, Megan, and Chris.



During these days of "self-quarantine", "shelter in place", "work from home", "social distance", and of course, toilet paper hording, stress can become a bit of an "inconvenience".

Yeah. Sure. That's what we'll call it, an "inconvenience".

We are washing our hands, almost continuously. We are avoiding who we can. (Sometimes that's a blessing) We are stocking up on supplies to the point of stripping bare the shelves of not only Sam's and Costco, but Wal-Mart, Target, and our local grocery stores.

Our favorite restaurants and "watering holes" are all but shuttered, only those that can have pick-up or delivery are there to save us.

Those of you with school-age children, or grandchildren, get to spend time with them, hour after hour, day after day, week after week, just enjoying the heck out of those bundles of never-ending energy, and totally loving laments of "I'm bored. There's nothing to do".

And as we attempt to move in to a (hopefully) very temporary lifestyle, that will allow us to somehow get through this semi-isolated existence, we learn new things about ourselves. We learn that, with the help of friends and family, we really can do this.

Assuming of course, we've already stocked up on toilet paper, food, and liquor.

Stay home. Stay well. Stay sane -ed.

Anniversaries

LION	Month	Years
Kelley Kastner	Feb	1
Mary Stovesand		5
Tim Rabbitt		14
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Max Burton	Mar	18
Cheryl Davidson		19
Lee Keefer		53
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Leo Christ	Apr	41
Lou Schopper		59
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Barbara Schopper	May	25
Bob Buerk		28
Craig Krabbe		31



February

Dennis Donze 12-Feb

Michelle Krabbe 19-Feb

March

Norma Belcher 6-Mar

Lou Schopper 20-Mar

April

Quin M. Swederska -Apr 4

Scott Young -Apr 6

May

Maria Suiter -May 7

Jerry Clubbs -May 21

Jim Greenlaw -May 25

Larry M. Schumaier -May 26

One Final word—

"Don't ever question the value of volunteers.

Noah's Ark was built by volunteers;

The Titanic was built by professionals."

— Dave Gynn