

The WORM

Official Publication of the Early Bird Branch of the Gig Harbor Lions Club



General Meetings 2nd Monday, Never Bored Meetings 4th Monday, both at 7:00 AM, The Madrona Links Golf Course

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Editor: Bob Wagers



Ramblings From the Top Branch

As we should all be aware, these are interesting times for both our nation and our Lions club. To begin with, January 20th at 1:30 PM EST, we will swear in our first ever African American president. And regardless of how you voted, he is now our president and deserves both our respect and a chance. We must wish him well and hope he's successful. We must lock arms and forget our party affiliations. We must have only one objective and that is to keep the United States safe from its enemies, prosperous and united. To do otherwise would be insane.

A little closer to home will be the changes that are programmed for our Lions club. Please take time to read the enclosed "Gig Harbor Lions Revitalization Concept." In essence, the plan calls for blending the Early Bird Branch into the parent club and changing the meeting place, day and time of the "New Gig Harbor Lions Club" to coincide with the current Early Bird format, i.e., 2nd & 4th Monday, 7:00-8:00 AM at the Madrona Links Golf Course. This change recognizes that the breakfast clubs in our district are the most effective and that the Early Bird Branch shares that distinction. 90% of our members attend meetings, participate in projects and all share a infectious bond of fellowship and camaraderie. At the heart of this change is the confidence that these qualities will embrace the "New Gig Harbor Lions," thereby preserving our 77 year history as community leaders. Again, we must lock arms and make this happen. To do otherwise would be unthinkable.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you all at the All-Club Christmas Party Saturday the 6th. Further, *I wish you and your families the very best of the Holidays and an especially Happy New Year.*

Bob

Branch Leadership

Branch Coordinator (BC)	Bob Wagers
Immediate Past BC (IPBC)	John Kirry
Vice Branch Coordinator (VBC)	Bart Morrison
Chaplain	Bill McMonnies
Arm Twisters	Bill Amesbury
	David McKenney
Trustee for Fund Raising	Jeannie Phillips
Adopt-A-Street Chair	Doug Johnson
Branch Liaison	Open

The Workers

John Barelli, PBC	Van Manning
Bruce Bugbee	Bill McMonnies, PBC
Gayle Burke	Pat Phillips, PZC
Steve Dreiling	Carl Sletto
Maria Barnowl-Kjaerulff	Ana Sosa
Bonnie Manning	

NEXT MEETING

December 8, 2008

"How to Stay Healthy Surrounded by Germs"

Early Bird Bonnie Manning, RN CIC



Our resident Nurse Epidemiologist, Bonnie Manning, will share the secret of keeping healthy at all times. In so doing, she will touch on influenza, storing holiday food and good health habits in general. This is a timely subject from an expert in the field having spent nearly 40 years spanning our nation helping hospitals and individuals with infection control.

This is a "don't miss" meeting: great program, good food & the Early Bird fellowship for which we are famous. And don't forget the *Toys for Tots*.

Our Branch Motto: "Wow it's early! What were we thinking?"



EARLY BIRDS IN THE NEWS

Early Birds will play major leadership roles in the revitalized “New Gig Harbor Lions Club.” **John Kirry will be President, Bruce Bugbee First Vice President and Bart Morrison Third Vice President. Bill McMonnies will continue as Membership Chairman.**

Early Bird Steve Dreiling has completed his training and is now a full fledged guard at the Washington Corrections Center for Women at Purdy. More details forthcoming when next we see Steve.

Bill Amesbury stopped by the calendar sales booth at Winterfest this past Saturday. This was the first outing for Bill and Clara in some time, having been isolated at home for several days with a ditch across their driveway. Bill indicated that his health problems are much improved & expects to become active once again. He is planning to do the arm twisting at our December meeting.

From **John Kirry in New Mexico**: “Holy cow...it's snowing like crazy. Really. We're at 8500 feet, so it's pretty high up. The food and accommodations are what you might expect from a swanky dude ranch. Although I must say that horseback riding may be off the list right now. And pretty much anything outdoors!” Poor John!!



HARBORVIEW NATURE WALK AFTER ACTION REPORT

Due to heavy rain and impossible garbage pick up conditions, Nature Walk Chairman Doug Johnson cancelled the Nature Walk and all adjourned to the Harbor Kitchen for coffee. Sharing in this event besides Doug, were Bill McMonnies, Bob Wagers and Bart Morrison.



A REMINDER

Remember, for regular meetings place and pay for your breakfast order at the restaurant counter when you arrive. This is a departure from the past procedure where the waitress took our orders and we paid our bill prior to departure. This creates faster service and we can retire the “Dine & Dash Trophy” for regular meetings. Service for “Never Bored Meetings” remains the same.

LAST MEETING



Immediate Past Branch Coordinator John Kirry presented a program in the “My Life as I Know It” series. John is always a happy-go-lucky person, with a quick wit and an infectious smile. Unfortunately, John’s life has not always been the idyllic version that he portrays. At an early age he lost his father in a fishing incident and most recently went through an intensive procedure for cancer. He also shared some things that many of us would have kept to ourselves. However, to quote John, “I was a little nervous about some of the things I spoke about, but I felt I was truly among family this morning. The Early Bird experience just gets better and better.” What a wonderful compliment and insightful description of the Early Birds.

SUMMARY

“NEVER BORED MEETING” NOVEMBER 24



Topics discussed were;

1. **Gig Harbor Lions Revitalization Concept.** This was a Power Point presentation by John Kirry followed by a lengthy discussion of how it will effect the Early Birds. The response was positive.
2. Importance of keeping the **2009 Tribute to Gig Harbor Calendar** sales locations well stocked Also, the obligation of all Gig Harbor Lions to purchase at least one calendar.
3. Announcement that an **International Dessert Competition** will take place at the 2009 Spring Conference. Each club is asked to provide one entry. PZC Jeannie Phillips has volunteered to represent the Early Birds. Thanks Jeannie!
4. Request from District encouraging clubs to underwrite the cost of coffee breaks at the Spring Conference. The Early Birds voted to **sponsor one coffee break at a cost of \$30.00.**
5. Much to the dismay of many, the Parent Club has voted to discontinue the invocation at its meetings. The Early Birds were unanimous in condemning this practice and to ensure that our invocation is always non-secular, appointed **Bill McMonnies to the office of Chaplain.**

In the tradition of the “Never Bored Meetings,” Bart Morrison and Bob Wagers shared a couple of jokes. The meeting was adjourned before things could get out of hand.

2009 TRIBUTE TO GIG HARBOR CALENDAR UPDATE



Calendar sales have been slow, so we need to pick up the pace with the emphasis on what great Christmas gifts they make. We added the re-opened LeBistro last Tuesday (at the request of the owners) and saw some immediate sales. Winterfest gave us a boost with over \$800.00 in sales for the two days.

As a reminder, every Gig Harbor Lion should be purchasing at least one calendar and sharing the opportunity with friends and neighbors. We have a wonderful product - something we can truly be proud of, so don't be afraid to take on the role of a salesperson (sales associate?)



DON'T FORGET...

...to bring your stuffed animals to the next meeting for the **Toys for Tots** collection. Lions are preferred, but any stuffed animal will be appreciated.

AUCTION FOR FISH



Thanks to the generosity of **Bill & Lois McMonnies**, we will once again be holding monthly auctions to match their \$500 gift to FISH. This will start at our December meeting, so be sure to bring those valuable items for auction. *Also bring a can, a box or a buck for the FISH food bank.*

Food for Thought



"No rain, no rainbows."

"Clear your mind of can't."

"A wise man has long ears & a short tongue."

"It's nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice."

All collected from area Reader Boards



REMEMBER! Membership is an every member responsibility. So invite someone today to share the joy and fun of an Early Bird membership.



To all the Early Birds & their families
Happy Holidays!

ALL-CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



When December 6, 2008, 6:00 PM

Where The Lakes Community Building

Bring Potluck dish to share
Your own dinnerware
Your own beverage
Fun grab bag gift (max \$8.00)

Also... This year we would like to help a Gig Harbor family in need. So, bring a generous donation or an auction item. All proceeds will be donated. Our goal is \$500! Can we do it? Of course we can!



LOOKING AHEAD

- December 1 Branch LERC Work Party, meet RiteAid/Starbucks parking lot, 9:00 AM
- December 4 Sell calendars in front of Post Office. **No Parent Club board meeting.**
- December 5 FISH collection at Safeway.
- December 6 **All-Club Christmas Party at The Lakes, 6 PM**
- December 7 *Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*
- December 8 Early Bird General Meeting, Madrona Links Golf course, 7:00 AM
- December 8 Parent Club LERC Work Party, meet RiteAid/Starbucks parking lot, 9:00 AM
- December 11 Parent Club General Meeting, Inn at Gig Harbor, 11:45 AM
- December 18 Parent Club Board Meeting, Visitors Center, **Noon to 1:00 PM**
- December 21 *First Day of Winter*
- December 22 Early Bird "Never Board Meeting" Madrona Links Golf course, 7:00 AM
- December 22 *Hanukkah*
- December 25 *Merry Christmas*
- December 26 *Kwanza Begins*
- December 31 *New Years Eve*
- January 1 *Happy New Year!!*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

According to Branch records, there are no Early Bird birthdays in December. However, regular attendee 3rd VP Sandy Bradley has a birthday 11 December. *Happy Birthday Sandy!*

The Gig Harbor Lions Revitalization Concept-A Bold, Simple Plan.

John Kirry, 1st VP, Gig Harbor Lions

The room at the Volunteer Center was filled to capacity On November 21 as the Gig Harbor Lions Club Board of Directors met to discuss future challenges and long-range survivability of our 77 year-old service organization. In the end, the Board voted to make some very significant changes.

The center point of discussion was a Power Point presentation entitled “The Gig Harbor Lions Revitalization Concept – A Bold, Simple Plan.” For those who weren’t there, I’d like to take you through the main points of the presentation so you are able to see the challenges as well as the future opportunities facing the club.

Background.

As most of us are aware, membership in our club has seen a slow and steady decline. In the simplest terms, as our membership falls off, our projects fall off. When our projects fall off, our visibility in the community is reduced and the result is no new member interest. No new member interest equates to a further decline in club viability. It’s a cycle affecting many service clubs today.

Last month, President Elaine Morales called a special meeting to address this membership crisis. Bill McMonnies and I created a program to show our club what we had to offer and how to speak to prospective new members. We ended the meeting with a club survey. In a clear illustration of the problems we are facing, it was painful to see that only nine members from the noon club attended the meeting.

Very much in contrast, however, is the status of our Branch Club. The Early Birds are thriving and possess a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. Their meetings are well attended and they form the nucleus of our project base for the Gig Harbor Lions.

The Concept, Bold and Simple:

Effective July 1, 2009, merge the Noon Club and Branch Club back into a single entity.

Implementation:

The Gig Harbor Lions will continue to serve the community through current strategic initiatives i.e. the Calendar, Live Successfully with Low Vision and our new concept to form an eyeglass processing satellite in Gig Harbor.

To do that, we propose to dissolve the Branch Club, reduce club meetings to two per month and one Board Meeting. We’ll meet at Madrona Links Golf Course on second and fourth Mondays at 0700 and the BOD meeting will be conducted at noon on a day to be determined. Initially, our plan is to have the first meeting be centered on a community speaker, and the second meeting focused on a Lions speaker from the many other clubs in our district and beyond.

Further, we will focus member recruiting efforts on local business, starting with Gig Harbor Uptown, where we propose to establish a new core of younger, business-oriented Lions. The 0700 start time will ensure that business people can get to work after the meeting.

We hope to re-engage current inactive members with this fresh start initiative and we plan to create a vigorous public relations campaign to let the community know of these changes.

Transition Team.

We will establish a transition team to deal with the myriad of questions and concerns. The transition team will consist of seven active Lions from both the noon club and branch:

President Elaine Morales
Branch Coordinator Bob Wagers
Secretary Joe Morales
1VP John Kirry
2VP Bruce Bugbee
3VP Sandy Bradley
Vice Branch Coordinator Bart Morrison
Membership Chair Bill McMonnies

What is Gained?

1. No separation between clubs. Fundraisers and projects are always done together.
2. Budgets will be combined, fewer bookkeeping problems for the treasurer.
3. VP's continue to move through chairs, no interruption.
4. No loss of 77 year history as community leaders.
5. No chartering of new club.
6. Single membership meeting time with less formality.
7. All meals pay-as-you-go. No pressure to purchase meals to help the house.
8. A single newsletter.

A new core of community volunteers.

What is Lost?

1. Some members may choose to no longer participate.
 2. Some members may not want come to an early meeting.
 3. Some members may quit outright.
- The very successful Early Bird Branch Club fades into history.

The Bottom Line

While these changes are significant, in the simplest terms all we are really doing is changing the day and location of our meetings.

As you might expect, there was some lively discussion following the presentation. While it was generally thought to be a well-structured plan, there was some thoughtful opposition to several points: Some were concerned with the 0700 start time. It was pointed out that the most successful clubs in our area were morning clubs (Our Early Birds, Lakewood First and Lacey Sunrise) and we need to accommodate the planned new business people. Some wondered why we were implementing it next year and not right now. (The end of the Lions year makes a convenient break in terms of dues and finances , and we need the time to start a membership and PR campaign)

After the discussion, a motion to accept was made and seconded and the Board voted unanimously to accept the changes.

So What Happens Now?

The transition team will begin the process of combining the clubs, to be effective July 1, 2009. We will also launch a membership campaign to target business and create a public relations effort to tell the community what we are doing.