

The WORM

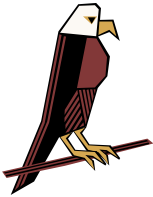
Official Publication of the Early Bird Branch of the Gig Harbor Lions Club



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

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Ramblings From the Top Branch

I have held many leadership positions over the years and have consistently held to two basic principles - (1) always try to be a positive example and (2) never ask others to do anything I wouldn't do. Unfortunately, it has been brought to my attention that I have not been doing this in my current position - at least the latter. Case in point, I have asked members of the Early Birds to share their life stories and each has been special. I, however, have not done the same. So at our May meeting I will share my life story, as I know it. I will share the highs and lows of my nearly 80 years, let all the skeletons out of the closet, and try not to embarrass my family too much.

May will witness the opening of the long-awaited Gig Harbor LERC Satellite. Thanks to the vision of PBC John Kirry and the efforts of PZC Joe Morales, we can now support this great effort without having to travel to Lacey. Of course, this means no Chinese buffet. However, I can recommend as a replacement, the Narrows Landing Restaurant at the Tacoma Narrows Airport. They don't serve Chinese, but they do have great hamburgers, sandwiches, soup, award winning clam chowder and chili that will take the hair off of your tongue. I hope to see all the Early Birds supporting this event. For more information, see the article on page 3.

I hope you are all as excited as I am about the coming Lion Year. If you have any doubt about what is happening, please take time to read President-Elect John Kirry's letter to the membership at page 4. It says it all.

See you all the 11th.

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	Bonnie Manning
Bruce Bugbee	Van Manning
Gayle Burke	Bill McMonnies, PBC
Steve Dreiling	Pat Phillips, PZC
Maria Barnowl-Kjaerulff	Shelley Ryan
Dustin Lewis	Ana Sosa



NEXT MEETING

May 11, 2009

MY LIFE AS I KNOW IT

BC Bob Wagers

After asking many of our members to share their life stories, BC Bob Wagers has finally agreed to do the same. So here is your opportunity to find out how a no-talent, unknown kid from Salem, Oregon climbs the professional ladder from a 129 pound second-string high school quarterback to Early Bird Branch Coordinator. For this meeting only, no children under 18 will be allowed.

The real reason for attending this meeting is to witness the induction of a new member by Past Zone Chair Marilyn Danby. As a bonus, you will get to enjoy a great breakfast and the famous Early Bird fellowship for which we are famous.

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



LAST MEETING

VBC Bart Morrison presided over 18 Early Birds and three guests who attended to welcome and hear a great program by our first Early Bird Honorary member, VDG elect Dan Comsia. Dan has been a regular at our meetings over the years and is the recipient of the highest award the Early Birds can bestow: the coveted Melvin Finger. Dan's presentation on a Habitat for Humanity build in Romania was fascinating and heart-rending as well, as Dan told of the family connection to Romania and his dad's participation in the Ploesti oil refinery raids of WWII as a B-24 crew-member. The challenges to building in that part of the world were many. There is no Home Depot nearby, and sometimes a 2x4 is actually a 3x5. Dan donated his father's tool belt to the family who was to occupy the house. It was a very moving program indeed.

Bill McMonnies, our FISH auctioneer, raised \$65 toward the goal of matching his generous \$500 donation by the end of the year. Our member-in-waiting, Ted Ralston, was present and treated to an outstanding program.

As reported by PBC John Kirry. Thanks John.



COL. ARCH CARPENTER ROAST & TOAST

- When:** *October 10, 2009, 6:00 PM*
- Where:** *Canterwood Golf & Country Club*
- Menu/Cost:** Steak & Prawns @ \$50.00
- Events:** Silent auction, live auction, dessert auction (dinner *does not* include dessert), Roast/Toast of Arch, Arch rebuttal & more

Ex-military are encouraged to wear their dress mess and/or medals.

This event is classified as a fund raiser, but more importantly, it is an opportunity to honor a very special Lion, community leader and bona fide war hero.

Contact Bob Moore if you have donations for either the silent or live auction. Officers and directors are specifically requested to donate something of value for the live auction. More information to follow as we get closer to the date.

REMEMBER - AUCTION FOR FISH

Bring your check book, cash and auction items for FISH. We still have to raise \$128.00 to match the McMonnies.



GIG HARBOR LERC SATELLITE TO OPEN MAY 9

- When:** **May 9, 2009**
- Location:** **Bottom floor, Bldg H, Gateway Pointe Center (above toll booths)**
- Events:** **10:00 AM - Ribbon Cutting**
10:15 AM to Noon - Sort & Process Glasses
Noon - Potluck lunch

This is a great "hands-on" service project that anyone, young or old, can participate in. So, please plan to be present for this Grand Opening event, if for no other reason than to enjoy the company of your fellow Lions as we make a difference to people half a world away.



WHITE CANE DAYS MAY 1 & 2, 2009

In spite of fewer collection sites and a decline in member participation, the Gig Harbor Lions netted \$1391 from their White Cane Days effort. This is a dramatic decrease from recent years, but still respectable, all things considered. Our hats are off to those that helped, especially Early Birds Bill McMonnies, Gayle Burke, Dave McKenney & Bill Amesbury. And a special congratulations to Chair Sandy Bradley.

GIG HARBOR LIONS SHIRTS FOR SALE



If you have not yet purchased your beautiful Gig Harbor Lions shirt, contact Super Salesman Bill McMonnies at any meeting, by phone at 851-7111 or by email at lbmcmmonnies@comcast.net. This great looking shirt is a bargain at **\$20.00**.



A REMINDER THE PARENT CLUB BOARD MEETINGS HAVE MOVED

Effective 2 April the parent club board meetings have moved from the Methodist Church to Round Table Pizza located in the Olympic Village Shopping Center. The meetings will start promptly at 12 noon, so if you plan to have lunch come early.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------|---------------|
| May 4 | Bill Amesbury |
| May 25 | Bob Wagers |





EARLY BIRDS IN THE NEWS

As most know, *Early Bird Van Manning* recently suffered a heart attack. His recovery has been complicated by a bout with pneumonia that had him in intensive care the better part of a week. For a current update we have this email from Bonnie:

“He (Van) had his angioplasty done at 12 noon and the doctor put 3 stints in the affected vessel. He is doing fine and the plan is to have him home tomorrow (24 April.) They have one other test and that is a carotid artery ultrasound. We are thankful to all of you for your prayers and best wishes. We are praising Our Gracious God for His Blessings.”

BC Bob Wagers tripped on an uneven sidewalk 20 April and fell flat on his face. He ended up with four stitches over his right eye, a fractured cheek bone, a beautiful black eye and a candidate for new glasses. The good news is that he didn’t break anything.

Vice Branch Coordinator Bart Morrison will be absent from our meetings for awhile. Bart is still a resident of California and as such, has been called for jury duty. He also has family in that area and will spend time with them before returning to Gig Harbor.



LOOKING AHEAD

May 7	Parent Club Board Meeting, Round Table Pizza, Olympic Village, 12 Noon
May 9	Ribbon Cutting/Work Party/Potluck Gig Harbor LERC Satellite
May 11	Early Bird General Meeting, Madrona Links Golf Course, 7:00 AM
May 14	Parent Club General Meeting, Inn at Gig Harbor, 11:45 AM
May 16	ARMED FORCES DAY
May 21	Parent Club Board Meeting, Round Table Pizza, Olympic Village, 12 Noon
May 25	MEMORIAL DAY. There will be NO Early Bird “Never Bored” Meeting
May 28	Parent Club General Meeting, Inn at Gig Harbor, 11:45 AM
June 21	Installation & Awards Banquet
July 1	Gig Harbor Lions “New Beginnings”
October 10	Arch Carpenter Roast & Toast

SUMMARY

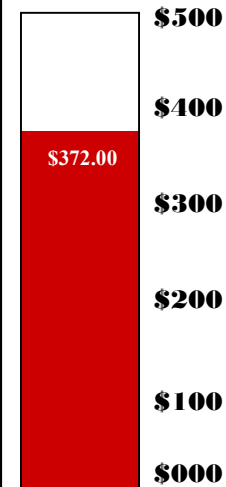
“NEVER BORED” MEETING



The following were discussed at the 27 April “Never Bored Meeting:”

1. PBC John Kirry reviewed the preparations in place for the upcoming merger of the parent club and branch July 1. This will include an effort to encourage ex-members to rejoin, an aggressive drive to recruit new members in the Uptown and Harbor Plaza shopping areas, a more stimulating meeting format and a plan to get all members involved in some form.
2. PBC John discussed the grand opening of the Gig Harbor LERC Satellite. John expects the satellite to be a big attraction for recruiting new members and getting current members more involved in the life of the club. See page 2 for details
3. PBC John described the format and projected target date for availability of the 2010 Tribute to Gig Harbor Calendar. This calendar will once again contain the donation envelope with a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 dollars. John hopes to have the calendars out of the printers in June.
4. BC Bob circulated a proposed club business card that reflects the new look of the “New Beginnings” Gig Harbor Lions Club. Bob was given the go-ahead by Membership Chair, Bill McMonnies, to produce 100 cards for member distribution.
5. White Cane Days Chair Sandy Bradley discussed the problem she was having filling the White Cane Days slots. She has reduced the effort to two days at two stores, Fred Meyer and Safeway, and still can’t fill them all.

FISH AUCTION THERMOMETER





Gig Harbor Lions Club
P.O. Box 331
Gig Harbor WA 98335
www.gigharborlions.org

Dear Gig Harbor Lions,

We are very pleased and excited to tell you about our upcoming year of New Beginnings for the Gig Harbor Lions Club. As members, we invite you to renew your commitment to a better and stronger Lions Club, and help continue our legacy.

For the past 79 years, the Gig Harbor Lions Club has been serving our community with a unique brand of caring service that has enabled us to become one of the premier service organizations in the region. This year, we will continue that commitment while making significant changes to our meeting time and day. We will also actively seek local business people to join the Lions and participate in our New Beginnings.

Starting in July we will meet the second and fourth Monday's at 7AM at the Madrona Links Golf Course. By doing so, we hope to draw more interest from local merchants who wish to serve the community while networking and forming business contacts. The result will be to strengthen and enhance ties to local business while creating new opportunities to serve the community.

So what are the New Beginnings? Besides our new time and day, we are adding a very significant sight related project in partnership with the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center. We will provide key volunteer services that will give thousands of people throughout the world the gift of clear vision. With the eyeglasses processed by the Gig Harbor Lions, children can learn to read, and adults who have never seen clearly can learn new skills. In doing so, people half a world away will experience New Beginnings as well.

Closer to home, we'll continue to build our program Live Successfully with Low Vision, participate in White Cane days, staff the mobile Lions Health Screening Van, provide scholarships and senior project mentoring to our local high schools, provide youth camp opportunities for kids with diabetes and continue the fun of sponsoring a Little League team. While doing all this, we bring a unique brand of humor, fun and fellowship to our meetings, projects and services to the community.

We welcome old and new members alike to join us in our New Beginnings. We extend a special invitation to our long-time members who may have drifted away from active involvement in recent years. We hope you will renew your commitment and come back to the club that has been successfully serving our community since 1931.

Please join us for our New Beginnings "Grand Re-Opening" celebration on Monday, July 13, 2009 at 7AM at the Madrona Links golf Course.

Elaine Morales
President, 2008-09

John Kirry
President, 2009-10