



Austin
Founder
Lions Club

LION LETTERS

Club News, Events, Service, and More

January 2021 | Fall Newsletter

AFLC Has Holiday Fun, Successful Blue Santa Drive

Members of the Austin Founder Lions Club celebrated the holidays on Zoom with a virtual cheese tasting on Dec. 17. In addition, the club collected \$1,545.00 for Operation Blue Santa, an Austin Police-sponsored toy and food drive for families in need. The club doubled its goal of \$750! "Austin Founder Lions were incredibly generous, and we appreciate their support," said Margarine Beaman, chair of the Operation Blue Santa board. Blue Santa converted the cash into targeted gift cards which were distributed to registered families.



Antonelli's Cheese Shop hosted the Dec. 17 cheese tasting, with cheese mongers Kyra and Christine providing information about the seven cheeses on the plate and their accompaniments, including what foods and beverages to pair with each. In addition, they provided background information on the cheese makers and their shops, as well as explanations of what makes each type of cheese unique. They answered a variety of cheese-related questions. Members purchased the half-pound cheese plates directly from Antonelli's, or provided their own cheeses or food. Antonelli's discounted the plates to accommodate Lions' participation.

Following the cheese tasting, members shared favorite memories of the holidays. A good time was had by all!



Austin Founder Lions sampled seven delicious goat and cow's milk cheeses, including a chevre, blooming and washed rind cheeses, a semi-soft, hard and blue cheese.



Cheese mongers Kyra, bottom row center, and Christine, to Kyra's right, shared a wealth of knowledge about cheese with members of the Austin Founder Lions Club during a virtual cheese tasting Holiday Party on Dec. 17.

MESSAGE FROM

President Rudy Munguia

Dear Lions,

January 2021

Happy New Year! It is a good feeling to have a fresh start on things. As Lions, we welcome the chance to explore new opportunities and to do new service in our community. This is the time for new beginnings, and if new year's resolutions are in order, then I wish for a better year when everyone gets vaccinated against COVID-19, when our Lions Club resumes in-person meetings, and when we continue with events such as Sporting Clay, Casino Night, Rose Day, Texas Lions Camp Work Day, and other meaningful projects. Like many of you, I wish for a better future, but also wish for a return to the good ole days even if that just goes back to one year ago. The reality of our situation is that for everyone's safety, we must plan to continue having Zoom meetings at least through March 31, and more likely through June 30.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to stay faithful to what we do as Lions and invite friends to our virtual weekly meetings. Our goal again this year is to add to our membership. We can

best reach this goal by inviting friends to our meetings. Specifically, we are looking for new members who enjoy doing community service. Our Program Chairman, Mac Ragsdale, has more great programs lined up in the coming weeks, and that always adds to everyone's interest and enjoyment. Invite a friend to a meeting soon.

Despite our in-person limitations this past year, we are still able to provide community service through such projects as Meals on Wheels, eyeglass recycling boxes, and providing for free eye exams and eyeglasses to those in need. I look ahead to the new year with optimism and hope. Plan on joining our meetings each Thursday, and consider having your name on the ballot in April when the next Board of Directors is elected. Stay safe, and may this new year be our best one yet.

President Rudy Munguía

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A photograph showing several volunteers in yellow vests loading boxes of food into the back of a dark-colored car. The car's trunk is open. In the background, there are other vehicles, a green forklift, and a building with a sign that says "Meals on Wheels".

AFLC Groups Provide In-Person Service at Meals on Wheels

Each month since September, members of Austin Founder Lions Club have provided in-person service at Meals on Wheels, the first hands-on project of the 2020-2021 year.

Club members and other groups loaded meals for clients into other volunteers' cars for delivery. Each loading group had three pallets of food to distribute. In total, some 2,500 MOW clients were served, with each client receiving 10 meals, for a total of 25,000 meals delivered.

"It was nice to be out on that lovely day helping others, AND seeing other Lions in person, not just on Zoom!" said Lion Glenda Summers, second vice president. New member Lion Rachael Reed said, "That was super fun, and I love the mission of helping seniors keep their independence."

Members volunteering for the Sept. 25, 2020, event included Lions Mariela Gutierrez, Mim Hruby, J.P. Kirksey, Linda Locke, Leonor Marques, Gloria and Rudy Munguia, John Nyfeler, Rachael Reed, Sam Ruiz, Glenda

Summers and Robert Watson. Linda's grandson, Mackenzie Locke-Floyd, also helped at the event.

On Oct. 9, several Austin Founder Lions and two members of the South Austin Lions Club covered two shifts at Meals on Wheels. Members volunteering for the Oct. 9, event included Lions Gaylord Armstrong, Ken Crone, Craig Estes, Mim Hruby, Ron Hruby, J.P. Kirksey, Linda Locke, Leonor Marques, Glenda Summers, Greg Thompson, and Robert Watson. South Austin Lions participating included Liz Bumguardner and Polly Orr.

On Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, Austin Founder and South Austin members again covered two shifts for Meals on Wheels. Volunteering on Dec. 4 were Lions Gaylord Armstrong, Craig Estes, Sally Fly, Gloria Munguia, Rudy Munguia, John Nyfeler and Ann Ward. Lions Liz Bumguardner and Polly Orr from South Austin also served.

On Dec. 18, the group included Lions Gaylord Armstrong, Sally Fly, Linda Locke, Leonor Marques, Gloria Munguia, Rudy Munguia, John Nyfeler, Suzan Nyfeler and Robert Watson. South Austin Lions participating included Liz Bumguardner, Mary LeFebvre and Polly Orr.



Opposite page image: Austin Founder Lions **Gloria Munguia**, left, **Robert Watson**, **Glenda Summers** and **Rachael Reed** load meals into a delivery volunteer's vehicle on Sept. 25.

Images starting from top Left: Lion **Leonor Marques**, left, gets the driver's information while Lions **Mim Hruby**, **J.P. Kirksey** and **John Nyfeler** load meals into the car. | Austin Founder Lions serving at Meals on Wheels on Sept. 25 included **Glenda Summers**, front left, and **Leonor Marques**, and back row, left to right, **Sam Ruiz**, **Robert Watson**, **Mim Hruby**, **Gloria Munguia**, **John Nyfeler**, **J.P. Kirksey** and **Rudy Munguia**, club president. | Austin Founder and South Austin Lions helped Meals on Wheels load food for other volunteers to deliver to clients. Left to right are **Liz Bumguardner**, **Polly Orr**, **Glenda Summers**, **J.P. Kirksey**, **Craig Estes**, **Greg Thompson**, **Robert Watson** and **Leonor Marques**. | Lions **Ron Hruby**, **Mim Hruby** and **Gaylord Armstrong** manned their station. | Austin Founder and South Austin Lions helped Meals on Wheels load food for other volunteers to deliver to clients on Dec. 4. Left to right are **Sally Fly**, **Gaylord Armstrong**, **Polly Orr**, **Gloria and Rudy Munguia**, **Liz Bumguardner**, **John Nyfeler**, **Ann Ward** and **Craig Estes**. | On Dec. 18, South Austin Lion **Mary LeFebvre**, left, helped Austin Founder Lions **Gloria and Rudy Munguia** (backs to camera) load meals, while **Leonor Marques** and **Linda Locke**, center, provided administrative support. | Austin Founder Lions **Robert Watson**, left, and **John Nyfeler** and **Suzan Nyfeler**, far right, worked with South Austin Lion **Polly Orr** at Meals on Wheels on Dec. 18. | Austin Founder Lions **Gaylord Armstrong**, left, **Linda Locke**, **Rudy Munguia** and **Gloria Munguia** worked at Meals on Wheels on Dec. 18. | Austin Founder Lion **Suzan Nyfeler** helped load food for delivery with Meals on Wheels on Dec. 18.

AFLC Honors Doctors and Administrators For Supporting Club's Vision Work

Austin Founder Lions honored several health care professionals for their collaboration with the club to provide much-needed vision services for two Austin residents. One individual was a student at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. President Rudy Munguia and Board Member Sam Ruiz presented plaques of appreciation to Dr. Jack Pearce, Dr. David Brent, Mike Geeslin and Lion Rachael Reed. Finding the help needed for the two individuals required a team effort and compassion on everyone's part.

Lion Rachael Reed, executive director of the Texas Ophthalmology Association, recruited TOA member **Dr. Jack Pearce** to help locate a surgeon to perform a lens replacement for one of the individuals. Ruiz helped secure MAP insurance for the patient through Central

Health. Munguia, Ruiz and Past President Tommy Cowan, who supplied the plaques, met with Reed and Pearce at Easy Tiger Restaurant to present the awards on Oct. 8.

On Oct. 9, Munguia and Ruiz presented an Appreciation Award to **Mike Geeslin**, president and CEO of Central Health. Ruiz had worked with Geeslin and his staff to qualify the uninsured student for Central Health's low-income insurance program. Dr. Pearce recruited a surgeon to perform the lens surgery for the amount the insurance would pay.

Later that day, an Appreciation Award was presented to **Dr. David Brent**, a retina specialist, whose staff provided special glasses for a Texas School for the Blind student at a deeply discounted rate, which the club paid.



Dr. Jack Pearce, left, received an Award of Appreciation for his compassion and support of AFLC's vision activities from President Rudy Munguia.



President Rudy Munguia, left, and AFLC Board member Sam Ruiz, presented an Award of Appreciation to retina specialist Dr. David Brent.

“We are most appreciative of all these health care professionals who have assisted the club in providing the needed service for these two individuals. The compassion of all those involved has made a difference in their lives,” said Munguia. “I also commend Lions Tommy Cowan, Rachael Reed and Sam Ruiz for their outstanding service to the club and these two needy individuals.”



President Rudy Munguia, left, presented Mike Geeslin with an Award of Appreciation as Lion Sam Ruiz, club board member and Community Vision chair, looked on.



Lion Rachael Reed, left, received an Award of Appreciation from President Rudy Munguia.

AFLC Rose Day a Success

Fourteen Austin Founder Lions gathered Oct. 28 to pack more than 380 dozen of beautiful red long-stemmed roses for delivery on Oct. 29. Those packing roses included Lions Ken Crone, Alan Ford, J.P. Kirksey, Leonor Marques, Bill Martin, Gloria Munguia, Club President Rudy Munguia, Mac Ragsdale, Patti Robinson, Judy Saal, Glenda Summers, Greg Thompson, Ann Ward and Rose Day Committee Chair Robert Watson.

Eighteen Lions and five friends of the club delivered 384 dozen roses on Oct. 29. Club members who helped deliver roses included Lions Tommy Cowan and his wife Ann; Ken Crone; Alan Ford; J.P. Kirksey; Linda Locke and her husband; Leonor Marques; Roberto Martinez; Gloria Munguia; President Rudy Munguia; Mac Ragsdale; Jim Roberson and his wife Monta and two member of his office staff,

Brenda Bohm and Michelle Sawyer; Glenda Summers; Greg Thompson; Mollie Tower; Ann Ward; Robert Watson; and Beverly Weeks.



A group of Austin Founder Lions gathered on Oct. 28 to pack roses for delivery the following day. Lions participating included, from left, Gloria Munguia, President Rudy Munguia, Mac Ragsdale, Ann Ward, Bill Martin, Robert Watson, Judy Saal, Patti Robinson, J.P. Kirksey, Ken Crone, Leonor Marques and Alan Ford. Not pictured are Glenda Summers and Greg Thompson.



AFLC Honors Namesake Schools with Donations

On Nov. 10, Austin Founder Lions Club presented \$500 checks to each of six Austin Independent School District schools named for former AFLC members.

Money is to be used to support the school's educational goals with spending at the discretion of the principal. One school plans to use the funds to support its outdoor learning space/garden, and others plan to use it for curriculum development.

A video of the check presentations was shown at the Dec. 10 meeting. In addition to presenting checks, the video included brief interviews with each school's principal. You can watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJYJpEhgE4E&feature=youtu.be>. Following the virtual field trip, Lion Ann Teich, a member of the AISD board, introduced Superintendent Stephanie S. Elizalde, Ed.D., who made some brief remarks. She was so impressed by the club's donation to the AISD schools that she contributed \$500 to AFLC!

Upon the invitation by Lion Tommy Cowan, Elizalde accepted the opportunity to join the club, and becomes the first new member of 2021!

Austin Founder Lions Club President Rudy Munguía met with Lions Tommy Cowan and Michael Cowan, and former Lion Vicki Flaughter, at **Jake Pickle Elementary School** to present the principal, Rosa Waters, with a check. The school is named for the late Congressman James Jarrell 'Jake' Pickle, who was a member of AFLC for many years.



*Austin Founder Lions Club **Past President Michael Cowan**, left, and current **President Rudy Munguía**, right, presented a check to **Pickle Elementary Principal Rosa Waters**.*

Pickle served as president of the club in 1952-53, and he served as District Governor from 1959-1960. A native of Big Spring, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas in 1934 where he was president of the student body and captain of the swim team which won the Southwest Conference swim championship. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1938-41. He was elected to the 10th Congressional district in 1963 and was re-elected 15 times before retiring in 1995.



Lions **Rudy Munguia**, left, and **Michael Cowan**, right, presented **Heather Parmelee**, principal of **Kocurek Elementary**, with the club's donation in honor of the school's namesake, who was a long-time club member, past president and past district governor.



Students at the **Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy** and their **Assistant Principal Bruce Carr**, middle back, received Austin Founder Lion's contribution from **President Rudy Munguia**, back left, and **Past President Michael Cowan**, back right.

The group presented José Mejía, principal of **Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy** with a check later that day. The school is named for beloved AFLC member Gus Garcia, who was born in Zapata, Texas, in 1934. He served in the U.S. Army and received an accounting degree from UT in 1963. He accomplished many firsts for his culture. He was the first Hispanic elected to the AISD School Board; he also was president of the AISD School Board. He also served on the Austin City Council and was the first Hispanic elected as mayor of the city of Austin. He and his wife, Marina, have three sons, and five grandchildren.

Kocurek Elementary School Principal Heather Parmelee also received a check from the group. The school is named in honor of the late Willie I. Kocurek, who served as president of AFLC

from 1943-44. Kocurek also served as District Governor for 1944-45. Born in Dime Box, Texas, Kocurek attended UT and received his B.A. degree in 1935, before serving in the U.S. Navy. Kocurek was elected to the AISD School Board from 1946-1956, and served as president for four years. He was very involved in community events, and received many honors including being named Austinites of the Year with his son, Neal, in 1990. After retiring, he returned to UT and at age 70, became the oldest law school graduate. He and his wife, Maurine, had two children, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



President Rudy Munguia, left, and club **Past President Michael Cowan**, right, presented a check to **Travis Brunner**, principal of **Cowan Elementary**. The school is named in honor of Cowan's late grandfather, **Dennis Cowan**, a long-time AFLC member.

Cowan Elementary School Principal Travis Brunner received a check recognizing Lion Dennis Cowan, father of current member

Tommy Cowan, and grandfather of Tommy's son, Michael Cowan. Although Dennis Cowan was active in the club for many years, he never served as president. However, his son Tommy was club president for 1981-82, and his grandson Michael held the position from 2012-2013. Dennis received his B.A. degree from North Texas State University and his M.A. degree from UT. He was a teacher, principal and administrator for 38 years in AISD. He was the first principal at Murchison Junior High School. Married for 56 years, he and his wife had two children and four grandchildren.



*From left, **President Rudy Munguia, Past President Tommy Cowan and Past President Michael Cowan,** presented an Austin Founder Lions Club donation to **Widen Elementary Principal Jennifer Pace.***

Widen Elementary School Principal Jennifer Pace was pleased to accept a check for her school, named for the late Lion Carl Widen, who was born in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1889. He received his B.A. degree from UT in 1902 and was active in the Longhorn Band. He was an officer in the American National Bank and served on the AISD School Board as president in the 1930s and 1940s.

Photos and video by Vickie Flaughter, former Austin Founder Lions Club member.



President Rudy Munguia, left,** displays a photo of the late Lion **George Boone and his wife Johnnie,** the namesakes of **Boone Elementary School. Principal Alan Stevens, center,** accepted a check from **Munguia and Past President Michael Cowan.

The group presented a check to **Boone Elementary School** Principal Alan Stevens. The school is named in honor of former Lion George Boone and his wife Johnnie. Boone received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from UT, and was active in the Longhorn Band. A World War II veteran, Boone served 29 years in AISD at McCallum High School. His wife, Johnnie Boone, was a UT graduate and classroom teacher for 18 years. She was principal at Sunset Valley Elementary School, and was named “Administrator of the Year.” She and George had two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



LCI Chevrons for Long-Time Members Presented

Several members of the Austin Founder Lions Club have been recognized for their long-time membership in Lions. Each received a Chevron to add to their Lions pins.

On Oct. 28, 2020, President Rudy Munguia recognized and presented 30-year Chevrons to **LION GLENDA SUMMERS** whose anniversary occurred in August 2020, and to **ROBERT WATSON**, whose anniversary occurred in September.

During the Nov. 5 club meeting, Munguia recognized the following for their long-time membership:

- LILLIE GILLIGAN** 10 years as of November
- RON HRUBY** 15 years as of July
- MIM HRUBY** 15 years as of August
- DREW SCHEBERLE** 20 years as of July
- ROSIE BABIN** 25 years as of September



President Rudy Munguia presented 30-year Chevrons to Lions Robert Watson, in the left photo, far right; and Glenda Summers, left in the right photo.

AFLC Presents LCI Centennial Awards

During the Oct. 1, 2020, Zoom meeting, Austin Founder Lions Club President Rudy Munguia recognized three members with Lions Clubs International Centennial Membership Awards. Honored Lions include:

- SAM RUIZ** with a Diamond Centennial award,
- ANN WARD** also with a Diamond Centennial award, and
- CHUCK MANDELBAUM** with a Gold Centennial award.

These awards indicate that new members recruited by these Lions during the Centennial Membership Campaign have remained Lions. The Centennial Celebration Membership campaign started on April 1, 2015, and concluded June 30, 2018.

The Diamond Centennial Lion award recognizes a Lion who sponsored a new member who remains in good standing for three years and a

day. This is the highest Centennial Celebration Membership award.

The Gold Centennial Lion award recognizes a Lion who sponsored a new member who remains in good standing for two years and a day.

Each award recipient will receive a very special limited edition pin and certificate, and will be recognized in various ways, including at district meetings. The Diamond Centennial Lions will be recognized on LCI's website and in LION magazine.



From left to right: Sam Ruiz, Ann Ward, and Chuck Mandelbaum and his wife Syd Popinsky whom he sponsored.

Austin Founder Lions Fund Remainder Of Bath Remodel for Blind Camper

Two summers ago, Kiara Sandoval attended Texas Lions Camp. She loved all the activities.

In mid-September, former Austin Founder Lions Club member Robin Hutzler, RN, CMM, contacted the club asking for help for a client she works with through her job as a service coordinator with the Texas Medicaid Clinical Operations program. Kiara Sandoval, who is 10 years old, became blind as a result of treatment for her brain tumor. The family bathroom needed modification to make it accessible to Kiara and give her the privacy she wants.



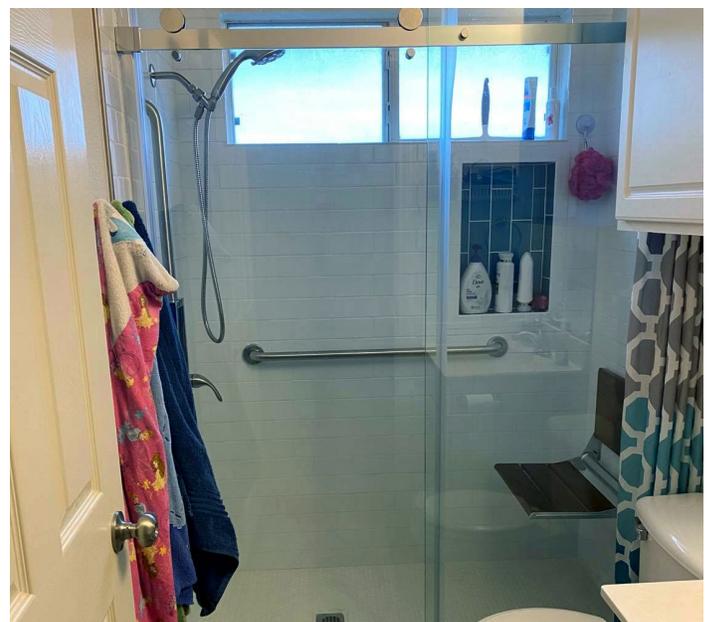
Kiara Sandoval

“Kiara is very excited about the handicap grab bars and the little alcove that he [the plumber] installed so she can easily get to her shampoo and conditioner,” Mrs. Sandoval told the Lions.

“Dear friends, on behalf of my member and myself, I can’t thank you enough for this assistance,” Hutzler wrote in an email to the club. “This young lady is going through so much with her tumor reoccurring and her blindness that I know that she will be blessed with this bathroom modification to assist her in her daily needs.”

A special Minor Home Modifications Medicaid program pays for up to \$7,500 over a lifetime. The project was approved and would be financed by Medicaid. However, after the work began, a plumbing problem was discovered when the tub was pulled to be replaced with the walk-in shower. The additional cost exceeded the lifetime maximum by \$200. Hutzler asked Austin Founder Lions to contribute the needed \$200. President Rudy Munguia “passed the hat virtually” and quickly collected the needed funds.

On Sept. 24, Kiara’s mother, Robyn Sandoval, attended the club’s Zoom meeting and expressed her thanks. She showed photos of Kiara, who attended Texas Lions Camp two years ago.



Several Austin Founder Lions made individual contributions to raise the \$200 needed to complete the modification of the Sandoval bathroom to accommodate Kiara’s blindness.

Camper Applications Delayed until Feb. 8; Polar Bear Plunge Moved to February

Texas Lions Camp has delayed summer 2021 camp applications until Feb. 8 to provide additional time to assess COVID public policy and conditions for opening camp this year. However, Lions should begin recruiting campers now. TLC has provided some tips to share with parents so they can be ready when online applications are being accepted:

1. Have all of your child's information ready (emergency contacts, insurance, information, etc.).
2. Follow the steps and save your work (you may return as often as necessary until the entire process has been completed).
3. Contact your Lion Sponsor to have him/her ready to sign the form ASAP.

When applying, parents should use the email address they check the most because that is where they will find information about their child's session. Applications and more information will be available on the camp's website at www.lionscamp.com.

POLAR BEAR CHALLENGE

Due to COVID-19, the 28th Annual Polar Bear Challenge at Mo Ranch was not held as scheduled on New Year's Day. However, as of Jan. 4, some \$230,037.45 has been donated to TLC through the Polar Bear Challenge! This places TLC within \$20,000 of reaching its pre-COVID goal of \$250,000 for the project. Donations still are being accepted. All funds raised will help replace buildings that were severely damaged during the March and May 2020 thunderstorms at TLC.

Despite the lack of the big slide into the Guadalupe River, the Polar Bear King and

Queen, TLC Chairman Kent Basinger and Past District Gov. Terry Hawkins of Lubbock, will be taking the plunge for all in the Texas Lions Camp pool during the semi-annual Board Meeting in February. The event will be live-streamed on Facebook for those who wish to join virtually. The board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 6 in Kerrville.

If you would like to be part of the final push to reach the goal of \$250,000, it's not too late. Click [here \(https://lionscamp.ejoinme.org/MyPages/DonationPage/tabid/81165/Default.aspx\)](https://lionscamp.ejoinme.org/MyPages/DonationPage/tabid/81165/Default.aspx) and give online or send your tax-deductible gift to Texas Lions Camp, P.O. Box 292047, Kerrville, TX 78029 and write "Polar Bear Challenge" on the envelope.



WORK DAYS

Austin Founder Lions are scheduled to participate in the April 10 Work Day at TLC. The camp will provide breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, with a break for lunch, both provided by the camp. Work assignments should be completed no later than 3:30 p.m.

As we get closer to the event, Lion Rudy Munguia will assess how many need accommodations at the camp on April 9, and more details will be provided.



Outstanding Programs Continue; Zoom Recordings Available

Despite the pandemic, Austin Founder Lions have continued to meet each week on Zoom, and the Program Committee, led by Lion Mac Ragsdale, has provided outstanding programs. The fall/early winter 2020 programs have covered topics ranging from bats and the arts to politics and psychology-related topics. Each week's recording is on the club's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS-QEUSZUXfrnOMQvUi2s6A>.



On Sept. 3, club members learned about **Dr. Kim Chi Trinh, O.D.'s Open Eyes Beyond Border** mission trip in 2019 to remote villages in Vietnam to provide vision check-ups and glasses for under-served children; VSP and other nonprofits provided the supplies. Open Eyes Beyond Border, a nonprofit which she founded, focuses on helping disadvantaged children everywhere to see well and learn well.



On Sept. 10, **District 2-S3 Governor Gary Fuchs** made his **official visit** to the club. He provided an update on Lions Clubs International, with a special emphasis on COVID-19 ramifications for Lions, and praised the club for its activities during the pandemic.



On Sept. 17, members learned about how **people hurt each other's feelings via communication** from University of Texas **Professor Anita L. Vangelisti**. She talked about how relational partners hurt one another, and the ways they respond to such hurt. What varies from relationship to relationship is how they hurt each other, how often they feel hurt, and how their relationship is affected by hurtful episodes. Improve your important relationships by listening to this program!



Dr. Art Markman, who hosts the radio show/podcast Two Guys on Your Head, talked about a few aspects of psychology that can be used to be more **productive** and **feel better about your work** during this pandemic. The Sept. 24 program started with a discussion of values and how those may change during a pandemic. He explained the need to be more explicit and mindful about maintaining good social interactions with colleagues and clients.



In preparation for the **Nov. 3 General Election**, **Bill Miller**, one of the most accomplished and recognized political authorities and lobbyists in Texas, gave an overview of the Presidential race, contested Texas Congressional races and important Texas House of Representatives races. You can check out his accuracy by watching the Oct. 1 meeting recording!



Club members learned about **Orientation and Mobility (O&M)** on Oct. 8 from Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired's **Chris Tabb**. This professional service field helps individuals who are blind and those who have vision loss develop skills for safe and independent travel. This often includes working with a white cane or a guide dog, as well as learning to cross streets using one's auditory sense, and working with smartphones with non-visual or low vision accessibility software to access GPS information and transportation options. This program replaced the club's usual White Cane Day activities.

On Oct. 15, members reflected on the club, its membership and activities, and its implementation of LCI goals. Led by **Immediate Past President Ann Ward**, "**How Does AFLC Measure Up? LCI Tools Help Us Unite in**



Kindness and Diversity" included highlights of the results of the membership survey conducted in June 2020. **Second Vice President Glenda Summers** and **President Rudy Munguia** provided reports on the September Lions USA/ Canada virtual Forum. Members also viewed a video featuring LCI President Dr. Jung Yul Choi, who talked about his 2020-2021 theme, "United in Kindness and Diversity," especially during the pandemic.



Austin Buchan, CEO of College Forward, provided an update on the state of higher education in Texas on Oct. 22, and discussed College Forward's most recent innovations to scale **coaching services to our community's most underserved, first-generation collegians**. Members learned about the common struggles low-income students must navigate on their path to a middle class life. Throughout his tenure, Buchan has expanded College Forward's services to more than 10,000 new students and families across the country, and overseen the development and release of CoPilot – a leading student data management tool built on the Salesforce platform, which is reaching 400,000 students across 22 states.

Oct. 28 and 29, club members conducted the annual **Rose Day fund-raiser**. See related story, page 7.



Award winning screenplay writer, filmmaker, actor, composer and singer **Glenn Towery** talked about **veteran suicide** on Nov. 5. He shared the history and goals of the "Veterans Suicide Prevention Channel." He explained how VSP Channel's Austin Veteran Arts Festival helps prevent suicide, and why they have designed a plan to use the combination

of arts, family and community to help positively impact veterans who are suffering from PTSD. During this pandemic, veteran suicide is dramatically on the rise in part due to the isolation associated with social distancing.



Dr. Amanda Adams loves bats, and on Nov. 12 she talked about “Why Bats are the Rock Stars of the Night.” Bats are one of the most diverse groups of mammals on the planet and are very important to ecosystems all over the world. Having worked with bats on every continent except Antarctica, Dr. Adams teaches at Texas A&M University and is the Conservation Research Program Manager for Bat Conservation International.



Although unable to visit in person, club members learned about The Neill-Cochran House Museum on Nov. 19. **Dr. Rowena Houghton Dasch**, executive director since 2013, provided a history of the museum from Austin’s beginnings in 1839 through the 1950s. During her tenure at the NCHM, she has focused on increasing the diversity of the displays, mounting a first-ever curated exhibition of paintings, installing a didactic display of silver-working methods, and overseeing annual exhibits in the museum’s new upstairs gallery.



After a break for Thanksgiving, club members met on Zoom on Dec. 3 and learned about The Crystal Palace. The Great Exhibition in London in 1851, is considered the first ‘world’s fair,’ and celebrated ingenuity and many ways of improving daily life. The Exhibition also is famous in art history, and **Karen Pope, PhD**, provided a fascinating description of the exhibition and its art. Wife of club member Alex Pope, Karen retired in May 2015 from a full-time position on the Baylor University faculty where

she taught art history courses in 19th-century European and American Art. In addition to lecturing and leading day and study abroad trips, she is heavily involved in the operations of the historic Neill-Cochran House Museum.



A virtual field trip to visit six AISD schools named for former club members and present \$500 checks to each was the program on Dec. 10. After the video tour, Lion Ann Teich, AISD District 3 Board member, introduced new AISD Superintendent **Dr. Stephanie Elizalde**. See complete story, pages 8-10.

The final meeting of the year was the Dec. 17 **Holiday Party**. See story and photos, page 2.

Lion Fred Jenga Graduates, Returns to Uganda

Austin Founder Lion and board member Fred Jenga graduated from the University of Texas in December, receiving a doctorate degree in Communications Studies. He has returned to his native Uganda, and is missed by his Lions friends.

As many know, Fred is an ordained and practicing Roman Catholic priest. Part of the requirement by Canon Law/Church Law is to be trained in philosophy and theology, so he has an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Pontifical Urban University in Rome, and an undergraduate degree in theology from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi. While working toward these two undergraduate degrees, he took several courses in journalism and communication studies.

After ordination and while doing media-related work, he pursued two master's degrees – one in journalism and communication from Uganda's oldest and prestigious Makerere University, and later in Communication Studies from San Francisco State University in California.

Fred sought out AFLC because he was familiar with Lions in his native Uganda, and the good works they do to help others. During his time in the club, he was an active member of the Program Committee, recruiting several outstanding speakers for weekly meetings. He filled six-months of an unexpired term on the board, resigning in December.

Fred has been offered a teaching position in Nairobi, Kenya, where he will move in May. He is reconnecting with family and friends in Uganda, and doing radio-TV work on issues, such as the value of education for poor people and matters of faith.



Lion Fred Jenga poses in his graduation robes on the University of Texas campus in December.

AFLC Remembers PP Lillie Gilligan

Austin Founder Lions Club Past President Lillie Gilligan died on Jan. 9. She served as president from 2014-2015. She became a member through her late husband, Past District Governor Neil Gilligan, and together had perhaps one of the first husband/wife family memberships in our club.

Lillie was instrumental in numerous Lions Club projects. With her ties to the Texas Legislature, she helped arrange recognition for our club on the floor of the Senate to celebrate the 95th and 100th anniversaries. In 2016, she was a member of the Centennial Celebration Steering Committee, and secured a resolution from Gov. Greg Abbott. She also worked with Austin

Mayor Steve Adler who proclaimed Jan. 18, 2016, as Austin Founder Lions Club Day.

Graveside services will be at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 23 at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville. The club thanks Lillie for all she did as a Lion, and hopes she rests in peace.



Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Past President Lillie Gilligan celebrated at the Centennial Gala in 2016.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday, Austin Founder Lions!

Each and every birthday is special. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope you celebrated on your birthday, and made it a day to remember!

OCTOBER

MICHAEL COWAN Oct. 17
SUZAN NYFELER Oct. 17
GREG DEW Oct. 23

NOVEMBER

MIM HRUBY Nov. 4
BOB THONHOFF Nov. 5
RACHAEL REED Nov. 7
TOM ORLANDO Nov. 8
SYD POPINSKY Nov. 8
JUDY SAAL Nov. 15
GREG THOMPSON Nov. 15
SCOTT HENDRIX Nov. 16
WES BRADEN Nov. 18
BEVERLY WEEKS Nov. 18
SANDI MANN Nov. 23
CRAIG ESTES Nov. 25
JANE EDMOND, M.D. Nov. 28

CLYDE SUTTON Nov. 28
KEN CRONE Nov. 30

DECEMBER

ROBERT WATSON Dec. 1
ALEX POPE Dec. 11
ALAN FORD Dec. 15
CHRIS MOYSEOS Dec. 18
ELLEN GRIMMETT Dec. 19
BILL HARRIS Dec. 19
JOHN NYFELER Dec. 21

JANUARY

NORMAN TYRING Jan. 3
MELISSA COAD Jan. 9
PEGGY BRUNNER Jan. 12
CAMERON LABUNSKI Jan. 14
DAVID MANN Jan. 26

Important Dates

JAN. 21

Board Meeting
(1:45 p.m. on Zoom)

JAN. 22

Meals on Wheels Service Project
(8:30 – 11:30 a.m.)

JAN. 30

District 2-S3 Mid-Winter Conference
(via Zoom)

FEB. 6

Texas Lions Camp Board Meeting, Kerrville

APRIL 10

Work Day at Texas Lions Camp, Kerrville



**Austin
Founder
Lions Club**

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