

LION LETTERS

CLUB NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICES, AND MORE

JUNE 2020 | SPRING NEWSLETTER



**ZOOM MTG
SUCCESS**

TEXAS LION CAMP
SUMMER UPDATES!

A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST
FEW VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Written by: Lion Ann Ward
Designed by: Lion Brittany Hendrickson



Cover Photo: PDG J.P. Kirksey, left, presented his long-time church friend Pete Thurman with a gift card to HEB from Austin Founder Lions Club as part of our pandemic service project to address hunger. Thurman was disabled about 15 years ago and subsists on Social Security Disability income.

Photo Above: Lion Laura Tyring, right, presented an HEB gift card to Yolanda, left, who is fighting cancer and unable to work.

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LIONS DELIVER HEB GIFT CARDS

Unable to do vision screening and other service projects, the Austin Founder Lions Club Board created a new service project in the area of hunger, an especially critical need in this time of COVID-19. Members were invited to identify someone they know who is in need of assistance and may be experiencing food insecurity. By the deadline, 10 individuals/families had been recommended.

During the week of May 25, club members delivered \$100 gift cards to HEB to each of the 10 individuals/families in need.

Special thanks to the following Lions who submitted recommendations and delivered cards: Gaylord Armstrong, Ken Crone, Mark Hastings, Mim Hruby, J.P. Kirksey, Robert Seidel, Mollie Tower, Laura Tyring and Carolyn Wright.

Recipients included a former club member, housekeepers, handyman, janitor, teacher, service worker, etc.

“From the feedback received, each recipient/family was very grateful for the help, and so appreciated the Lions thinking of them,” said Ann Ward, president. Gaylord Armstrong reported that his recipient said it was the nicest gift she had ever received.

Mark Hastings posted about the club’s service initiative on the club’s Facebook page and Twitter feed.



Thank you note from Paul Spaar to club.



(Photo: Page 4) PDG J.P. Kirksey delivered a gift card to Pete Thurman, whom he has known for many years. J.P. made the white door to Pete’s home on right, when the original rotted off.

(Photo: This Page, Top) Lion Laura Tyring, right, delivered an HEB gift card to Yolanda, who is unable to work due to her battle with cancer.

(Photo: This Page, Left) President Ann Ward connected with club members who had recommended individuals/families to receive HEB gift cards. She met Laura Tyring and handed off the gift card, gift receipt and a club notecard/envelop. Recommending Lions wrote a personal message to each recipient, and clarified that the gift was from Austin Founder Lions Club.

LIONS TRY OUT ZOOM

Virtual Weekly Meetings Initiated April 23

After two trials, Austin Founder Lions had its first official Zoom meeting, complete with program, on April 23. Since then, the club has been meeting weekly via Zoom.

“Zoom meetings have been working out surprising well,” said Mac Ragsdale, program chair. “Our speakers have done great presentations, and our attendance is often better than when we meet in person! We are seeing some faces of people who usually are unable to attend our weekly meetings at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.”

The club is looking to continue meeting via Zoom for the summer, unless the situation changes. At this point, the club is uncertain what the availability of TSBVI will be when the campus opens for the school year. By popular request, the club plans to offer a streaming format when in-person meetings resume for those unable to attend.



More than 40 people, including guests, listened to Membership Chair Mim Hruby's granddaughter, Lucia Hruby, who provided an outstanding program on her “gap year” in India where she learned to speak Hindi. Lucia's presentation included some great photos and a video of her year in India. You can view the recording at <https://youtu.be/jJv8-8icW2I>

On April 30, Meg Brown, athletic director for the Ann Richards Young Women's Leadership Academy, shared her compelling story about her battle with cancer. The former Longhorn Women's Basketball player now teaches math and physical education, and is healthy and loving every day. Her journey is inspirational and uplifting, and is chronicled in her book *Who's In Your Corner?*. In May 2019, she attended the AFLC meeting representing the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders Soccer Team, which received one of the club's Sportsmanship Awards. Access the recording of the April 30 meeting at https://youtu.be/h-9KGM39e_s



On May 7, Dr. David Gracy spoke on “The Cattle Baron vs. the Yankee in Austin's Great Bank Rivalry.” His entertaining historical tale is part of his new book, *Man Absolutely Sure of Himself: Texan George Washington Littlefield*. If you purchase his book from your favorite store, Dr. Gracy graciously has offered to provide any buyer with a special bookmark printed for his book tour, which has been delayed by the pandemic. Contact Dr. Gracy at gracy@ischool.utexas.edu to obtain a bookmark. Listen to the May 7 meeting at <https://youtu.be/ZICZvcRZzio>

On May 14, club members learned about an Austin-based nonprofit working to bring clean water to people in rural Africa. Madison Magiera, Events, Outreach and Communications coordinator, described the work of Water to Thrive, which began in 2008 by funding 12 water wells in Ethiopia. In 10 years, the organization funded more than 1,000 water projects in four countries, bringing clean, safe water to more than half a million people. Learn more by watching the recording at <https://youtu.be/ieErgCN7qik>



Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch provided an excellent program about immigration on May 21. She provided factual, nonpolitical information about immigration policies and attitudes in the U.S. since the time of Benjamin Franklin. Her work focuses on those seeking asylum, which has been impacted by the pandemic. The recording of Kate's program, “Straight Talk about Immigration,” is available at https://youtu.be/_GD_bJMp4ak

On May 28, another of Membership Chair Mim Hruby's granddaughters shared her experience of going from Austin – after graduating from the Ann Richards Young Women's Leadership Academy – to the Naval Academy, via one year at Clemson. Ensign Sophia Hruby just graduated from the academy and will start pilot school in October. Enjoy her story by watching the recording at <https://youtu.be/ZJdJvq48jkU>



ELECTRONIC VOTING USED FOR APRIL ELECTION

Despite the pandemic preventing in-person meetings, Austin Founder Lions Club conducted its annual election of officers and board members on schedule on April 2. The club constitution allows for electronic voting, and Mark Hastings, Webmaster, set-up an online ballot and sent a link to club members eligible to vote.

The 2020-2021 officers and board will be installed on June 18 via a Zoom meeting. Congratulations to the winners of the election!

President Past President Rudy Munguia

1st Vice President Gaylord Armstrong

2nd Vice President Glenda Summers

3rd Vice President Linda Locke

Secretary Past President Leonor Marques

Treasurer Past President Jim Roberson

Membership Chair Mim Hruby

Marketing Chair Past President Mark Hastings

Lion Tamer Past President Patti Robinson

Tail Twister Past President Scott Hendrix

Director 2-year Term Kim Wright
Sam Ruiz
Norman Tyring

Director 1-year Term Fred Jenga

Current Directors Bill Anderson and Judy Saal will serve the remaining year of their terms. Fred Jenga will serve the second year of Linda Locke's two-year director term.

Current President Ann Ward automatically becomes Immediate Past President.

Club Awards Three Scholarships to TSBVI Graduates

At its May 13 meeting, the Austin Founder Lions Club Board approved awarding scholarships to three graduates of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Each student will receive \$1,000, which is paid to the student's college upon his/her enrollment. Congratulations to the three recipients:

Rey Garza – Valedictorian of the 2020 TSBVI class, Rey will attend Texas State University in San Marcos where he plans to major in English. The club purchased new glasses for Rey earlier in the year.

Emily Guerra – A National Honor Society member, Emily will attend Austin Community College where she plans to major in psychology.

Abby Allen - A third scholarship was awarded to Abby Allen, who will attend Austin Community College full-time in the spring of 2021. Abby will participate in a special TSBVI program, EXIT, in the fall.

AFLC Provides Univision Update

On May 20, Secretary Leonor Marques recorded a virtual appearance on Univision's "Despierta Austin" for airing the following week. She provided an update on club activities, highlighting the implementation of Zoom meetings and reminding viewers that the club continues to assist low-income, uninsured Austin residents with eye exams and glasses. She also announced the scholarships awarded to three Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired graduates (see story above). Texas Lions Camp's decision to not have campers on-site in Kerrville this summer due to COVID-19 was announced (see related story, p. 10). She also reported on the club's distribution of HEB gift cards to individuals who have food insecurity issues that members identified (see related story, p. 4).



WHAT'S NEW @ TEXAS LIONS CAMP

COVID-19, Weather Affect Texas Lions Camp

In early May, Texas Lions Camp made the difficult decision to not accept campers in Kerrville this summer. This decision stems from concerns about protecting the health and well-being of the camp's special needs campers, as well as summer staff members. In addition to health/safety concerns, almost 60 percent of summer counselors were from foreign countries, and their ability to travel was uncertain.

Despite Gov. Greg Abbott allowing summer camps to open, TLC remains unable to accept campers. In addition to health/safety concerns, the camp suffered extensive damages during two spring storms. The latest and most severe occurred the night preceding Memorial Day. The roofs of several dormitories as well as the horse barn storage and stalls were damaged. Sheer winds with speeds up to 70 miles per hour blew through the camp on May 24, and left a trail of debris.



Keep in Touch with Sponsored Campers!

Although TLC will not have children on campus, the camp is working to develop some online interactions for campers over the summer.

If you sponsored a child accepted for camp, you received a notification from TLC. You are encouraged to make contact with the family/child with notes or calls of encouragement. Just because a child isn't on TLC's campus, doesn't mean they don't need a little TLC! Contact Ann Ward to obtain one or more of the camp postcards, pictured above, and reach out to your camper(s)!

Get a Work-Day T-Shirt

Due to COVID-19, the camp cancelled its April and May Work Days. However, you can order a 2020 Work Day t-shirt from the camp store at www.lionscamp.com. Long-sleeve shirts are \$10 and short-sleeve shirts are \$5 each, plus postage. The shirts are made by Port Authority and are a cotton/polyester blend. They are a dark blue with a red, white and blue imprint.



July 30 Golf Tournament Is Going 'Fore'ward!

The Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament to benefit Texas Lions Camp will occur on July 30 at Lady Bird Golf Course in Fredericksburg. Hosted by the Fredericksburg Lions Club, the tournament is being modified to comply with health/safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including social distancing and not assembling in large groups.

Teams and Sponsors are needed. Team registration is \$110 per person until July 1. Major Corporate Sponsorships are available (\$5,000, \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500) with corresponding benefits.

In 2019, Austin Founder Lions Club Past President Bill Martin was a Platinum Corporate Sponsor! In 2019, Austin Founder Lions Club was a Hole Sponsor, and members Bill Anderson, J.P. Kirksey and Ann Ward each sponsored Holes.

The camp also needs auction/raffle items valued at least \$100 or more. Past items have included wine tastings, hotel stays, artwork, rounds of golf, etc.

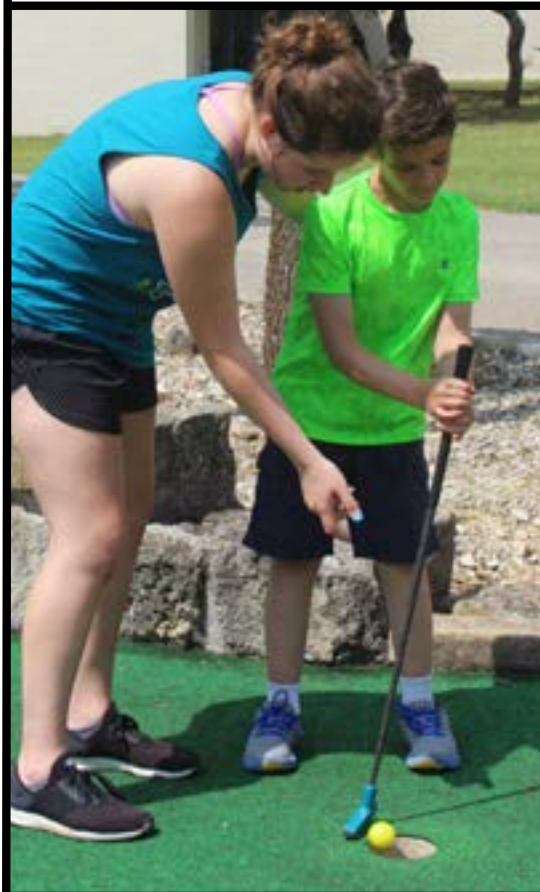
For more information, contact Milton Dare, director of development, at 830-896-8500 or via email to mdare@texaslionscamp.com. Additional information also is available online at <http://lionscamp.com/Wickersham.html> The Hole Sponsorship form is printed on page 12.



27th Annual Texas Lions Camp Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT TEXAS LIONS CAMP

TLC is tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S.—Donations are tax deductible—see your tax professional for details.



Joseph Dusl, Camper 2019

Children Can...With TLC™

July 30, 2020

8:00 am Shotgun Start

**Lady Bird Johnson
Golf Course
Fredericksburg, TX**

Sponsor One or More Holes

For a one time donation of \$100 per hole, individuals, clubs, associations and corporations may sponsor a hole(s).

All sponsors of the tournament will be recognized in publications on location and on the Texas Lions Camp website: www.lionscamp.com

Please make checks payable to Texas Lions Camp.

Name _____

Address _____

City / State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Email: _____

Credit Card: MC ____ Visa ____ Discover ____ Amount: _____

CC#: _____ Expiration: ____ / ____ CVC ____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Come Play and
Make a Kid's Day!**

For more information or to download
player registration forms go to
www.lionscamp.com

**MAIL TO: TEXAS LIONS CAMP
PO Box 290247 Kerrville, TX 78029**

HONORING A VETERAN AFLC MEMBER

April 12 marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of one of our long-time (former) members who experienced the combat perils of World War II. Max Noe was a charter member and first Secretary of the South Austin Lions Club (1948) before transferring to Austin Founder Lions Club where he served for many years, and became President in 1974-1975. On two occasions, he graciously accepted the club's invitation to speak about his experiences in WWII – including nearly four months as a prisoner of war in Belgium and Germany.

Noe consented for PDG J.P. Kirksey to transcribe his notes and produce a booklet documenting his experiences. Visit this link to download a copy of the booklet - <http://www.austindowntownlions.org/resources/Documents/Presentations/POW%20Story-Noe,%20Max.pdf> According to J.P., Max was always a loyal, dependable, reliable Lion who loved to attend club meetings. He developed dementia around 2007 and was unable to attend. He died in 2011 at age 94.

According to J.P., "Max was one of those great Americans that Tom Brokaw identified as the 'Greatest Generation'." In today's uncertain environment, it is appropriate to remember another time when the entire world was in crisis. World War II ended 75 years ago, and in time, this current pandemic will subside. Our lives may never return to "normal" but to a "new normal." In the meantime, stay safe and wash your hands!



"HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?"

In early April, after the club stopped meeting in person due to the pandemic, members of the Austin Founder Lions Club Board implemented a membership outreach program. Organized by Membership Chair Mim Hruby, the "We Care, We Serve our Members" campaign involved each board member telephoning six to eight members "just to check in."

While Lions "serve," the board felt we should start with our own members. Two rounds of calls were made to determine if anyone needed help – like picking up food or medicines. The board also wanted to identify if any members are ill (from the COVID-19 virus or anything else). The underlying message was "We are Lions and are here to help each other."

Most everyone contacted seemed appreciative of the call, and no one reported any illness. The second round of calls promoted our trial of Zoom meetings.

While everyone is missing our social interaction each week, Zoom is providing a weekly opportunity to "see" each other, even if only briefly.

Thanks to all the board members who participated in the campaign and to all the members who took our calls!



LET'S CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday to all of our Lions with April, May & June birthdays!

Ann Ward	April 2nd
Patti Robinson	April 14th
Bill Anderson	April 23rd
Rudy Munguia	April 24th
Carolyn Wright	April 24th
Bill Martin	May 6th
Roberto Martinez	May 9th
Siva Vankadaru	May 15th
Mac Ragsdale	May 20th
Mark Hastings	May 24th
Cari Clark	May 31st
Sam Ruiz	June 2nd
Susan Salling	June 6th
Brittany Hendrickson	June 8th
Drew Scheberle	June 10th
Paul Cruz	June 16th
Jackie Hammett	June 19th
Bob Rizzo	June 20th
Frank "Moon" Tantillo	June 22nd
Leah Baxter	June 29th

**WE
SERVE.**



**Austin
Founder
Lions Club**