

LYNDEN LIONS CLUB NEWS



Lynden, Washington
November 2024 ~ February 2025
Join Hands In Service



Club Officers

President	- Galen Laird
1st Vice Pres	- Debbie Anderson
2nd Vice Pres	- Nancy Guttormsen
3rd Vice Pres	- Chuck Boies
Treasurer	- Nancy Boies
Secretary	- Janice Newman
1 yr Director	- Lynne Heerenga
1 yr Director	- Harvey DeJong
2 yr Director	- Vicki Van Allen
2 yr Director	- Barb Love
Tail Twister	- Maureen Okane
Membership	- Roger Dowling
LCIF Coordinator	- Galen Laird
Past President	- Rich Kayser



MARCH

Ray Van Beek - 11

APRIL

Chuck Boies - 2

Sue Obermayer - 5

Jerry Pattison - 5

Ray Happe - 16

Pauline Weerdhuizen - 23

President's Message

The meeting of March 13 was a special one for our club. I would like to update you in what is happening.

Our fellow Lions of Fairhaven have decided and begun the procedure to disband their club after 70 years of service. They have chosen to transfer to our club and seven of their members attended last night's meeting. Our two Boards are working out details, but once merged their long standing annual 'Picture's with Santa Project' will be continued as will their 'Balloons for Kids' at our annual Toy & Train Show. Thank you all for reaching out to them and making them feel welcome in every way, as this was a very emotional decision for them.

Let's look at this change and part of our futures as we live up to our motto,'

WE SERVE'

We're better together!

President Galen

Contact Information

W/C warehouse.. Dick Martin 360 319-5020 & Russ Kuelz 360 296-3841

Lynden Family services Galen Laird 360 319-6845 & Rich Kayser 360 410-8366

Membership... Roger Dowling 360 808-3208 Flags... Chuck Boies 360 815-2991



Flag Days

SATURDAY, MAY 17th

~Armed Forces Day~

MONDAY, MAY 26th

Coming Up

**March 13 ...Coffee & Dessert
Speaker Rich Waldemar of
Lynden Youth Sports**

**March 21-22 ...District 19-O
Spring Convention**

**March 27..Dinner Meeting
Speaker Katty Baldwin**

~Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 3 Board Meeting 6:30

**April 10... Coffee & Dessert
Speaker TBA**

**April 24 ...Dinner Meeting
Speaker New Lynden Fire
Chief Mike Newman &
Induction of Fairhaven Club**

May 1..Board Meeting 6:30

**May 8...Coffee & Dessert
Speaker Ted Bargan-
Lynden Door**

**May 22...Dinner Meeting
Speaker TBA**

From the Board



~President Galen announced that Board Meetings will now be held at 6:30pm on the first Thursday beginning with the April meeting.

~The project with Lynden Kiwanis is still in concept mode and Lions Debbie Anderson and Jan Newman volunteered to meet with them.

~New Officers for 2025-2026 were discussed and all members are encouraged to apply for any office of their choosing. New slate is needed by the end of April.

~Lions Jan Newman, Chuck and Nancy Boies have 'retired' from their positions when their current term is completed.

~Our scholarship committee met recently & changes in the cover letter to School Counselors will be amended to include Technical schools, 2 year Colleges and all Universities. The Board voted to increase scholarships to \$2000 each with 3 scholarships available.

~Lion Art Van Allen voiced concerns that lumber for the KART Project changed by the CBP from personal to commercial & fees now apply to transport it from Canada to the U.S. He's not sure if the new tariffs will apply to shipments of the donated lumber.

November-December

Our 26th year of our Veterans Celebration had a new twist this past November 14th! Our Club treated our Veterans and their guests to breakfasts at one of three local restaurants here in Lynden. All 220 who attended appreciated and enjoyed the change, and happy they could once again meet up with their 'comrades in arms' All were greeted at the door by our Lions, Jim and Sue Obermayer (Dutch Treat), Jan Newman and Vicki Van Allen (Fairway Cafe'), Char Bovenkamp, Chuck and Nancy Boies, Galen Laird and newest member to be Ni'Kita Zylstra.(Rustler's)



January

General Meeting of Jan 9, 2025... Our first meeting of the year was called to order, the Pledge Of Allegiance was recited and a invocation given, we began with introduction of guests for the evening. Among them was Patrick Campaign, a member of Mountain View Lions Club in Anchorage, Alaska. He has recently been working as a volunteer doctor with the Haskell Eye Clinic (sponsored by Bellingham Central Lions). When asked about his home club's projects, he mentioned that he heads up a program offering free health care to under privileged in the area and has many local doctors volunteering their time to serve. It has been very well received and appreciated for over a year. Funds for the project come partly from LCIF, local businesses and donations from private parties.

Our first speaker for the evening was a returning guest, the founder of the Lynden Branch of Backpack Buddies program, Tammy Yoder.

Her last visit with us was right after the inception of the program beginning with one elementary school in Lynden. But soon grew to another and another, especially during the 'covid years', when the program grew tremendously with the mandate of online schools. Today, the program includes all the schools in Lynden and serves more than 140 students in need. BPB distributes nutritious foods that need little preparation to those kiddos who must fend for themselves on weekends and school breaks, including summer, while adults work long days.

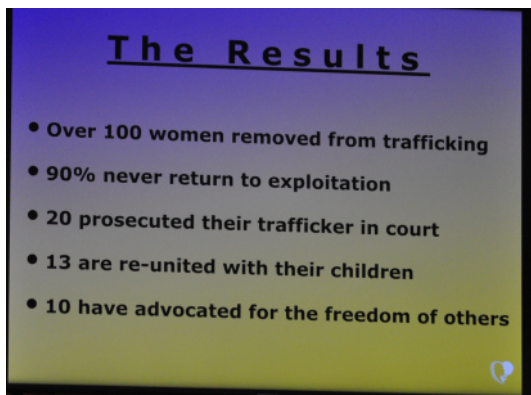
This is another successful program that we will continue to support, keeping them in our yearly budget. President Galen presented Tammy with a \$500 check for her dedication and many hours with Backpack Buddies.



February

Our January 23rd Dinner Meeting... we had the privilege of listening to Aaron Newcomb, cofounder of ENGEDI REFUGE.

The refuge is a holistic haven for survivors of sex trafficking, who are searching for safety and restoration from their previous lives. Meaning that physical safety and emotional stability with education and skill development prepares them for independent living where they can maintain their own health and safety with as sense of peace.



This means providing all the tools needed from housing, food, clothing and personal items to including medical and spiritual attention too!

This group of professional educators and many volunteers take NO GOV'T funding, only from local businesses, churches, grants, and individuals who

have made it all possible since their inception in 2013 right here in Lynden. At present there are now three 'safe houses' here, each housing 6, serving 18 at a time. Accepting women over 18, who are ready to overcome the negative effects of years of sex trafficking. Survivors are accepted from all over the U.S. there are now Engedi Programs in some other states, following the same protocol, and some are for men only. And it all began in Lynden!

At present, Mr. Newcomb reported a success rate of 90%.

Engedi Refuge was presented with a check for \$500 from our Club for their continued good works.

February

General Meeting ,, February 13

President Galen Laird called the meeting to order with 22 members and 2 guests in attendance.



Our first guest was Emma Glassgow, director of the Boys & Girls Club of Lynden, which is an after school program for students ages 5 thru 18. All Lynden school students are eligible to attend especially the underprivileged. Their programs are valuable in teaching positive role models. They provided quiet spaces to accomplish homework and someone to help if needed, encouraging, exercising mental fitness with plenty of books and games.

The club's goal is to teach young people about the benefits of developing good habits such as eating smart and being physically active as they also provide recreational sport programs for all ages.

The Lynden club 's attendance averages 60-70 students daily M-F. The cost for each student is \$40.00 per year. Additional Donations from our community, along with grants help fund the successful program, Our Lions Club was no exception.



February

Continuation of February 13 meeting....

Our Zone Chairman, Terry Bronkema was also here to remind us all of the upcoming District O Spring Convention this year being held at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge in Anacortes on March 21-22. Registration can still be made at the conference, however meals may not be included.

He and President Galen then surprised us with a few Chevron Awards for length of service in Lions Club. Those receiving these chevron included:

Bob & Pauline Weerdhuizen

Vicki Van Allen - 15 years

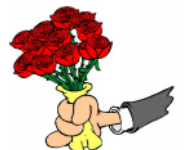
Art Van Allen - 15 years

Barb Love - 25 years

Galen Laird - 45 years



Since February is Valentines Month, Lion Nancy Guttormsen of the Social committee, served Valentines cake and candies. And those members who have been married the longest received red roses.



February



The February 27th Dinner Meeting was an extra special night as we inducted two new members to our Club. Katty Baldwin and Ni’Kita Zylstra ...

In the absence of Lions Roger Dowling and Maureen OKane, Lions Jim and Sue Obermayer, who only 11 months ago were inducted as new members, conducted the induction ! We encourage and love for our newest members to step right in and begin serving.

After a brief history of how Lions Clubs first began in Chicago in 1925 by businessman Melvin Jones and his idea of doing good for others and making communities a better place for all, the inductees came forward with their sponsors, Jan Newman and Vicki Van Allen. After they were presented with their Lions emblems, they then pledged their oaths and promises to uphold Lionism in the forms their time, talents and loyalty to follow our motto WE SERVE! Their sponsors also pledged to ‘be there’ for any concerns or question about the club. To make sure they always feel welcomed and are comfortable building new friendships, helping with projects which are always more the merrier and to enjoy the experience of finishing projects with pride, then finding more to do that gives back to our communities. The Lynden Lions Club way!

Our speaker for the evening was a familiar face, Margaret Ballencourt of Lynden Family Services. Family services is funded by Lynden Public Schools and from donations from local groups such as our Lions Club. This program is included in our annual budget. Our club also helps with donations of food, clothing and picking up or delivering used furniture in good repair for their transition housing program available to students’ families when needed. This past year they assisted 126 students.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LYNDEN LIONS!

KATTY BALDWIN... *Originally from Northern California, found her way to Lynden by way of Bellingham in 2014 to attend beauty school with some girl friends. She has since then found a new career in Real Estate and specialized in Veteran's Loans for the past six years. She loves helping her clients making sure they get all the benefits they deserve for serving their country. Her reason for joining Lions Club was her Grandfather had always been a Lion and she admired what he and his fellow Lions did in giving back to the community and the motto, 'We Serve!' This past November her Grandfather passed and she thought this would be the perfect time to join in her Grandfather's legacy of helping others. Katty also shared she enjoys spending time with family and friends and trying new restaurants.*

She also serves on the Women's Counsel for Realtors and on the Banquet committee for Whatcom County Association of Realtors. The only secret she would share is that even graduating from Beauty School, she doesn't know how to braid!

NI'KITA ZYLSTRA... This past summer, while working as the Activities Director for Lions Camp Horizon, she witnessed how the members of local Lions Clubs affected the success of the camp and seeing a big difference it makes in the lives of others. She decided she wanted to be a part of that in helping with their mission, 'Where there's a need there's a Lion'!

Actually, born in Lynden, her family moved when she was 2 years old.

Later in life, moving from Woodinville to Bellingham to attend WWU where her studies in education included an emphasis on Special Education. That gave her the perfect opportunity at Camp Horizon. After graduating, she moved back to Lynden to be closer to family.

Nikita shared that in her leisure time she enjoys ballet, hockey, playing

the cello and piano (probably not at the same time)!

After living in Germany for a year she hopes to return someday.





Announcing... Everson Lions will be sponsoring North Whatcom County Leos Club. It is in the planning stages and our club's been invited to join them. Watch for more info to come.

Our Flag Project will need volunteers for a Spring workday. Lion Chuck is planning the event as weather permits. Lion Lynne offered to prepare lunch. Date TBA

Volunteers will be needed for 'Out of Darkness Walk' (suicide prevention) Bellingham in Sept.

**Not wanting to miss anyones Birthday, our members want to wish you a
Happy Belated Birthday!**



Just a quick thank you for being so patient in waiting for this special 'Catchup' edition of the Newsletter to appear in your emails!

Kind of like the hairs on my head, I am NOT in control!

The Editor

December

Bob Van Mersbergen - 11

Harvey DeJong - 20

Irwin DeJong - 22

Carol Pattison - 23

January

Katty Baldwin - 16

Dar George - 21

John Connell - 28

February

Janice DeJong - 7

Lynne Heeringa - 8

Jan Newman - 25



Member Updates

Our Lions Jan Newman & Barb Love will be representing our club as delegates at the District 19-O Spring Convention. Last minute registrations are accepted at the door and will be reimbursed by the club.

We will soon be welcoming home our 'snow birds' once again! We wish you safe travels and may your journeys be uneventful. May your travels bring you lasting memories !
See you soon!



REQUESTS FOR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our Lynden Lions Club has recently lost three cherished members.
Mark Hidebrand on October 24th
Nancy Rourke on February 5th
Shirley Baxter on February 19th
As we mourn the loss, let us celebrate their lives and the legacy they leave behind. Their kindness, generosity, and laughter will be greatly missed and so I want to encourage all to continue the work of our club in their honor and memories through our ongoing service activities.
President Galen Laird

A Memorial Service for Shirley Baxter will be held at Sunlight Church , 8800 Bender Rd, Lynden on Friday March 28 at 3pm. Those of you attending, please wear your BLUE Lions shirt.

Please keep Lion Bob Van Mersbergen in your thoughts & prayers for his recent health problems and the loss of both his Caregiver and his niece .

We ask if you have news about any of our members who might be ill or hospitalized please notify our
MS. SUNSHINE Carla Van Beek @ 360 441-0865

Editor - Vicki Van Allen