

LYNDEN LIONS CLUB NEWS



Lynden, Washington
October 2025
Join Hands In Service



Club Officers

President - Galen Laird
1st Vice Pres - Nancy Guttormsen
2nd Vice Pres -
3rd Vice Pres - Nancy Boies
Treasurer - Char Bovenkamp
Secretary - Na'Kita Zylstra
1 yr Director - Vicki Van Allen
1 yr Director - Dick Martin
2 yr Director - Jan Newman
2 yr Director - Harvey DeJong
Transition Director - Joel Haggen
Tail Twister - Sue Obermayer
Membership - Jim Obermayer
LCIF Coordinator - Joel Haggen
Past President - Rich Kayser



November Birthdays

Galen Laird - 12th

Jeanne Martin - 26th

December Birthdays

Bob Van Mersbergen - 11th

Harvey DeJong - 20th

Irwin DeJong - 22nd

Carol Pattison - 23rd



*It's that time of year again! We don't need a season to be thankful!
We should all be thankful everyday for our many
blessings of family and friends, a warm home,
food on our tables and best of all to
live in a free nation where we can pursue our
happiness...*

*Living in a community such as Lynden,
coincides with our own Lions Clubs' endeavors
and beliefs to support and give back to
our smaller communities, be compassionate and help
whenever and wherever needed.*

*Be thankful for all our members, past and present,
who have always given their time and energy
to the task at hand.*

*It's not just one of our mottos,
'WHERE THERE'S A NEED, THERE'S A LION '
IT'S AN EVERY DAY OCCURRENCE!*

*We should also be thankful for our newer members
who are now part of our Lions Pride, as we work together
on our many fundraising events, so we in turn, can serve others
with our many service projects and charities near and far
away.*

*If so inclined, please pray for good health and happiness
for our Lion's family so we may continue
doing our part in making a difference to others.*

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Contact Information

W/C warehouse... Dick Martin 360 319-5020

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

Membership... Jim Obermayer 360-521-4278 Flags... Chuck Boies 360 815-2991



Flag Days

Tuesday, November 11
Veterans Day

Sunday, December 7
Pearl Harbor Day

Coming Up

Thur Nov 6 - Board Meeting**

Thurs Nov 13 - Veteran Celebration
Coffee & desserts... Veteran Speakers
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**Thur Dec 4 - Board Meeting\*\***

**Thurs Dec 11 - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** 6:00pm (provided by our club)  
Rustlers Front Street Grill - lower level  
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Thur Jan 8 - Board Meeting**
12:00 pm Noon

Thur Jan 8 - General Meeting
Refreshments - speaker David Garcia
Kids At Risk

Thur Jan 22 - Dinner Meeting
Menu TBD - speaker Terry Bronkama ZC

Meetings begin at 6:30 pm at UMC unless otherwise noted.

****Club members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.**

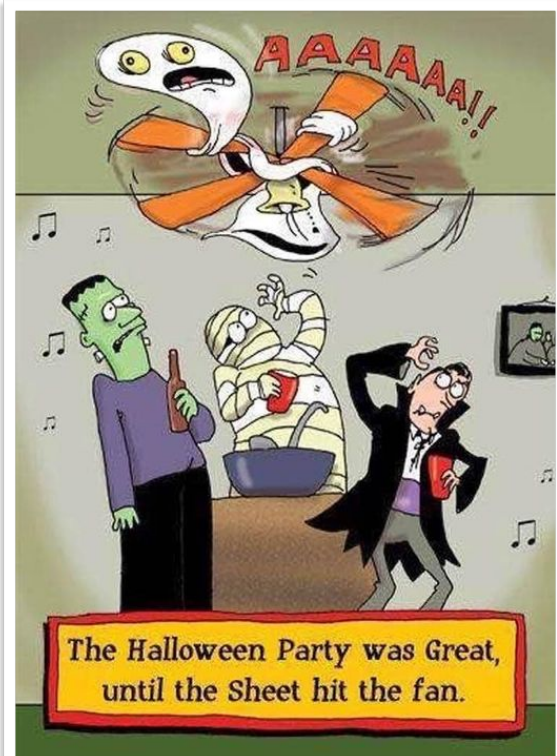
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we wrap up the first four months of our Lions fiscal year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible momentum we've built together. Thanks to your dedication, energy, and compassion, we've been able to complete our biggest fundraising projects, each one (Fair Parking, LTI Picnic, 40th Train Show) being more successful than expected and forecasted.

From the successful projects to the amazing fellowship at our meetings, this year so far has been a testament to what the Lynden Lions Club can achieve when we unite with purpose. Whether you volunteer your time, shared your ideas, or simply showed up with a smile, you've helped make our club stronger.

Let's carry this spirit forward into the next season of our year with the same or even greater ambition. I'm so very proud to serve alongside each of you.

President Galen



40th Annual Train and Toy Show

This year's show was a special event for many reasons... In addition to being our 40th show, expanded staff with Fairhaven members, a free photo booth backdrop, 17 layouts and displays, most of which took a lot of space; 2 that were 50'x60', 1 that was 75'x3' and then a couple that were just a table or two, an 11th grade student from Lynden High School came his 2nd year with an amazing 17'x19' layout made completely with Legos... just to name a few. We also had members from the LHS football team help set up and clean up and the local scout troop took care of the parking. Members of the LHS Honor Society helped to judge and with sales at our Lions sales tables. We also took in close to \$500 in donations for balloons. The pizza feed on Friday evening was a huge hit! Thanks to all the Lions and friends who helped out, we had a very successful show!



Whistle Stop Shows Donation

As many of you are already aware, the Fair has converted the Dairy Barn into their Hobby Building. A while back, they asked us if we knew of any train layouts that were looking for a home. We got a call early this year from the museum indicating they were interested in finding a new home for the circus train we had given them almost 20 years ago. We moved it and set it up for the Fair this year; it drew a lot of attention and was great advertisement for our train show. Lion Char was still in contact with Debbie Morgan. She and her husband Mike (who passed 4 years ago) had built a circus train layout they called Whistle Stop Shows. They had come to our show for over 30 years. Char happened to mention that the Fair was looking for train layouts for the hobby building. She said it was still in the trailer and she had no idea what she was going to do with it. She was very excited and relieved that it would have a home. So Char, Woody, and Chuck drove to Spanaway and pulled the trailer to Lynden. We set it up at the show this year, then loaded it up and parked it in the hobby building. It will be set up this coming spring for the Fair next year. We are also in the process of getting a G scale circus train layout donated to us for the Fair next year. This layout will be quite an attraction in the hobby area. We will have a lot of work this Spring getting them set up for the Fair.



Meeting of October 9...

One of my favorite things about our Lions Club is that we always have interesting speakers on interesting subjects and this night was no different! The evening was a chilly one as we began our fall season.

After President Galen's call to order and invocation, everyone helped themselves to the donuts and cider, settling in to hear our speaker for the evening.

As Cindy Alsum, the Operations Manager/Memorial and Family Service Advisor for Gillies Funeral Home was introduced, she had the full attention of all those present, speaking on a matter that make some people apprehensive but an important one to all of us;



‘End of Life Planning’

Gillies has been a prominent name in Funeral Services to Whatcom County beginning in the 1920's. Beginning with 2 Mortuaries, one in Sumas and later in Lynden. The business was partially owned by a few partners throughout the years, but always involved was the Gillies family.

This establishment has lovingly assisted more than 5100 families since 1975. Always providing compassionate and professional care during their time of loss, offering traditional, memorial, graveside and cremation services.

Cindy spoke to us on how to begin the inevitable conversation before it becomes time for the decisions needed and how waiting makes it more difficult for the family when experiencing actual loss of their loved one, coping with grief, sorrow and suffering, adding to their emotional stress.

She was also very helpful in answering our questions and sharing with us all, copies of her “Thoughtful Decisions Guide’ with topics for one to answer such as ‘my wishes for type of service, overview of my life, precious memories along with vital info needed at time of death.’

I believe we all walked away with a more comfortable way to meet this need.

The General meeting of October 23 began with traditional Call to order, singing of 'My Country tis of thee' and the invocation. Our speaker cancelled at the last minute so we had a short business meeting in their place. After enjoying the 'soup supper', including variety of breads and ice cream plus toppings for dessert, there were a few reports given.

With the Pistol Pete Invitational Competition completed, the winners were announced. Art Montague placed 2nd and 3rd in his division and also received the Top Gun Award! Joel Haggen placed last in his division. Good Job Joel, even though you were beaten by a blind man!! The even raised \$4500.00 to be given to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation.



Vicki Haggen shared that the "Pictures with Santa" meeting for those interested in playing Santa or an elf will be October. 28th. Sign up sheet will be available.

Since our club has been offered a 3rd train (Outdoor Garden Size), we're asked to give thought as to whether to accept offer and where to store it.

Art Van Allen accepted our club's annual donation of \$1000 for Project Santa Claus sponsored by the Fourth Corner Elites Car Club in conjunction with Whatcom County Sheriff's Department.



Our only meeting in November will be our celebration of our Veterans with speakers from each branch of our US Armed Forces. Please plan to attend a club tradition of 27 years. More info to come.

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### Last minute news!

### THE GREAT LYNDEN TRICK OR TREAT

Throughout downtown yesterday between 2-5pm had another successful turnout despite the pouring rain and wind...heard from the participating merchants there were somewhere between 1800 and 2500 by the kiddos in their many 'disguises' who made it standing room only on the sidewalks all over town, including our 2 other commercial centers and new businesses skirting town.



Of course our Lions Club always take part in dispensing the sweets along with the Heritage Museum year after year!



**Sunday Nov 2 Set all your clocks back!**



**Veterans Celebration Thurs, Nov 13th.**  
**Please don't miss our 27th year of giving our respects & appreciation for those who have served or are presently serving our nation's Armed Forces. Program will include a speaker from each branch of service.**



**If you missed the Santa Pictures meeting and wish to sign up to be Santa or an elf, contact Vicki Haggen @ 360 739-9636. There are openings still available.**



**Mark your calendars for our 44th Annual Christmas Dinner. We will gather on December 11th at Rustlers on Front Street for another amazing turkey dinner and evening of fun, food and fellowship. More details to follow in the weeks to come.**

**Deadline to order the new gray 50th anniversary T-shirts will be the Jan. 22 meeting. Please contact Nancy Guttormsen @ 206 999-9668.**

**The first three sessions of the Great American Toilet Paper Give-A-Way at the Hope Association Food Bank was a great success.**

**The next three sessions will be during the second week of December. We look forward in this small way of helping another estimated 270 families just prior to the Christmas school break.**



## MEMBER UPDATES...

*If you have any news about our missing members that you care to share, please email [vickivanallen@msn.com](mailto:vickivanallen@msn.com)*

**ALL our members and their families are important to us  
as**



### **Requests for Thoughts and Prayers**

*Please remember to keep the Heerspink Family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of adjustment for them. May they be blessed with peace and love in remembering the many lives Jake touched by making a difference in theirs.*

*Remember Christine, Ron Baxter's daughter in your thoughts as she begins her treatments for a recently diagnosed cancer. She will be needing many prayers along her journey to wellness.*



*It's been long over due and since Lion Barb hasn't been able to come to the Lions lately, some Lions went to Barb on Sat, Oct 25th to present her with her Lifetime Membership Certificate and special Membership Card. THANKS Barb, for your dedication!*



*Our missing Secretary, Na'Kita, has given hints that she's home from her mission trip to Viet Nam !*

*Hoping she'll soon return to meetings and perhaps share her stories and pictures of her adventures...*

*They've done it again... our members who want to increase their Vit D levels have flown south for sunny & drier climates once again! All we can say is travel safe & enjoy! Come home refreshed and full of energy. We await your return with much enthusiasm!*



**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**

**Editors - Vicki & Art Van Allen**