



District 25A News

The Force Is Strong In 25A Lions

April 2020

Volume 55 Number 10

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District Governor Mitchell Semans

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Dear 25A Lions

I hope everyone is healthy and staying safe during these unprecedented times. I know we can persevere and stay strong in our commitment to serve our communities. I encourage all the clubs to abide by the government's stay at home orders and postpone meetings and be creative on how we can still volunteer.

We have some very talented members on our district that can make things like face mask, jewelry and baked goods. The Lake Station club are making face mask, the Kouts Lions are baking cupcakes and delivering them to the hospital and first responders, and Whitney Martin from the Westville Club and son are writing letters to the folks in the nursing home. Also, the South Haven club and several other clubs are supporting their local food banks.

I encourage every Lion to utilize our technology and communicate -- post messages on Facebook, pick up the phone utilize the district directory. If you don't have one, it is available on our website. If you Google "25A Lions" you should find the link to get you to the website.

If you do venture out, please practice social distancing and use common sense. Let's work together and let our communities know we are here to help and to serve -- even if it's outside the box and different from the things we don't normally do.

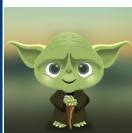
For those clubs that had to cancel their Easter egg hunts and other events, think about using that money you would have spent for that event and donate it to the local food pantry. There are lots of opportunities to help someone.

And again I encourage you to reach out and talk to your town board or city council members, local first responders, and most off all another Lion.

Be creative, stay safe and May the Lions be with you!!

God bless,

DG Mitchell Semans



Lions

Firstly, I would like to thank all who were able to attend our District Convention. We were fortunate to be one of the last Conventions held prior to the State restricting gatherings to less than 10. I know that some of you had concerns and I do understand health and family come first. Thanks again to all who made it a successful convention. DG Mitch had four great Seminars which were both interesting and motivational. Congratulations to 1st VDG Elect David Dickinson. I am looking forward to working closely with you in the coming year. We are still looking for a 2nd VDG, so anyone who would be interested please contact DG Mitch, 1st VDGE Dave or myself.

We are going through strange times with the COVID-19 Virus. We need to continue Social Distancing. All our club meetings will be canceled until at least May. It would be great to keep in touch with your members through phone, text, social media or email. That continued connection is an act of kindness that each of us can do for our Lion Family in these difficult times.

Serving Through Kindness

DGE Will Farrellbegg



Happy APRIL Lions,

I want to first thank all the Lions that braved the District Convention in Hammond.

For those of you unable to attend, we certainly understand. I again want to thank all the Lions that supported and voted for me as your 1VDGE. I am excited to finish a great year with DG Mitch and look forward to another great year with DGE Will.

As spring is upon us and everything seems to be changing quickly, please take a moment to call, text or email a senior member in your club to make sure they are all doing well. While in conversation, see what you can do to help or if they know someone that may need the help of a Lions member. Acts of kindness - big or small -- are always remembered by those we have served.

Hopefully, soon the Lions will be able to get out in front of our communities and continue the great work we all wish to do. Keep in your thoughts and prayers the children not in school that may not have much to eat. Think about helping your local food pantry and churches in this time of need. The time to help is now, the holidays are great donation times, but many families may need us more than ever with children home from school, some parents laid-off or work hours reduced. Any club donations or personal donations would be greatly appreciated.

Please be safe in coming days and practice all the required hand washing, social distancing and stay at home orders to get us back to doing what we love.

1VDG-elect
Dave Dickinson





Top Right: ID Mark and DG Mitch present Presidential Certificate to CS Lion Tiffany Nagai
 Top Left: Westville Lions
 Middle Right: Lion ID Mark Lyon, and wife, Lion Lynn, PID Linda Tincher and PDG Vern Tincher.
 Middle Left: Lions Cindy Beckman, Vicky Klein, and Donna Worst from Crown Point Lions Club.
 Bottom Right: ID Mark, Lion Wendy, Lion Lynn and DG Mitch
 Bottom Left: Lion Susie Whitehead from the Kouts Lions Club receive a Melvin Jones from ID Mark Lyon .

25A Convention Seminar - 3/14/2020

Blind Experience — Don Tul

Don Tul was a 40-year-old coach of several sports and a power lifter of 600 lbs. whose life was dramatically changed in 2015 after a horrific accident.

He was in a coma for 45 days and suffered many horrible injuries to his body. Forty days of rehab helped him to heal and learn to walk again. Physically he was recovering but mentally he had lost his identity and purpose – and his eyesight.

With the encouragement of his wife, Don went to Leader Dog Training and learned how to use a cane. But this was not enough. Joining Lakes of the 4 Seasons Lions Club gave him the opportunity to volunteer by using his adversity to help others, especially children.

He had an idea to educate students in all levels about the use of a cane, aps for the blind on a phone and overcoming adversity. He tells them, *“there are always obstacles in your life, but no matter what you face you have to get up and move on.”*

He describes himself as “Not a blind man, but a man who happens to be blind.”

Don is a strong advocate for children. His Club fundraiser, “Dining in the Dark”, raises \$10,000 to purchase canes, I-pads, braille books, among other items for Blind and Visually Impaired Children.

They also offer the “blind experience”, using special goggles giving the wearer an idea of what it is like to have a visual impairment.

Don does not let his disability define him. He has an amazing outlook and sense of humor, stating he is their Club Mascot for the Blind. His final comment was, “I am proud to be a LION.”

Reported by Lion Cindy Beckman



Above Left—Crown Point Lion President Jack Zenere trying on the goggles.

Above Right—LOFS Lion Don Tul



Building Freedom One Ramp at a Time

At the 2020 District 25A Convention, there were two guest speakers – Rick and Kathy – from ‘Servants at Work’. They gave a presentation on their organization and how others can help.

SAWs is an organization that helps give back freedom and independence to those with disabilities. They currently have 31 groups within the state of Indiana. Kathy oversees the Lake County group. They build wheelchair ramps for those in need. The majority of the clients are on a low income level. According to the 2015 census there are 488000 people with ambulatory challenges and of those 109000 live below the property level. SAWs will build a ramp for them at no charge!

SAWs was founded in 2003 by Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and in 2005 St. Luke’s United Methodist Church joined their cause. They became a 5013C in 2011 and received the trademark for SAWs. In 2015 OrthoIndy made a generous donation and they were able to move out of a 2-car garage and into their current 12000 square foot headquarters. The space allows them to mainly work inside and just assemble the ramps at the persons home. The organization has 3 full time and 2 part time volunteer employees.

SAWs is always looking for new volunteers! During their presentation they shared stories of some clients and why their work is so rewarding and appreciated. Rick shared a story of a mom who was hit by a drunk driver and as a result was left paralyzed and in a wheelchair. SAWs was able to build a ramp for her and give her freedom back! There was another story about a gentleman that had not left his home in over three years because of mobility restrictions. He is now able to leave his home multiple times a day and even take his dogs for walks! SAWs has helped to give independence back to these people which also boosts their spirits. SAWs conducts a questionnaire of those they help – they track the difficulty level of leaving home. (i.e. Before the ramp the difficulty level is 4.18 on a scale of 1-5, after the ramp was built it is reduced to 1.87). These statistics prove how beneficial this organization is!

How do they do it? SAWs is made up of many volunteers! These volunteers work from their homes and on site. They typically phone from home when they get an inquiry and that starts the application process. They need to get waivers and permission slips. SAWs is one of the only organizations that will install a ramp on a rental property. Their process allows the ramp to be taken down and reused if the person moves from that location. There are volunteers that do site evaluations to get measurements for the ramp. They have many different tools to design the ramp: a CAD program, power point, or hand drawn designs. After they have the design, a group of volunteers will get together and do the pre-fabrication process. They use screws to keep everything in place, so you don’t have to be able to swing a hammer to build it! After everything is built in the warehouse, they take the ramp to the home and install it! After installation a crew will go back for inspection. Rick and Kathy both mentioned that anyone can help! You can also fit it around your schedule. The group in Lake County is in need of volunteers. Last year they built 5 ramps; Indianapolis normally builds 5 on a weekend. Lake County has a long waiting list but are in need of more volunteers in order for them to help everyone on the list. If you or your club would like to do a service project with them, you can message them through their website and Kathy will help set it up.

SAWs is an ADA compliant with their ramps. They use standardized parts which allows them to recycle the ramps when they are no longer needed. They use a UEY base which allows the ramps to use a three rail system which makes them more secure. This UEY base also allows for the installation process to be easier because you do not have to dig holes! This also is what allows them to build at rental properties. They are ecologically friendly! Their website is www.sawsramps.org. If you’re interested in volunteering, click the link and provide your info for them to reach out to you. They are in need of volunteers! The current need is finishing crews -- they use a router and sand down the finishing touches. They also make sure all screws are in place. There is something for everyone! Kids can even help too! This would be the perfect service projects for a club or a mission for a Church. Lion Naomi Rodriguez shared how her Lions Club has been working with Saws for over a year. They have learned a lot and were able to build a couple of ramps for those in need.

Servants at Work is an amazing organization that is helping to give back independence and freedom to those who are in need. If you want to help an organization and see the immediate gratification of the work of your work -- this is it! You can help someone get their independence back -- get out of the house to check their mail, take their dogs for a walk, or simply just allow someone to have more freedom in their daily life. Please visit their website and consider helping their wonderful organization.

<https://www.sawsramps.org/>

Reported by

25A Convention Seminar - 3/14/2020**Miracle on Ice!**

1980. The year American's proved their "Yes We Can," attitude. The USA men's hockey team beat the highly vaunted Soviet Union, and then went on to win Gold in the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics. Charlie Adams recounted the journey that the USA team took on their way to the top. He described the hardships of each member and the leader, Herb Brooks, who knew how hard he had to push the team in order to achieve Gold. Mr. Adams introduced many background stories and experiences that were carefully put together by Coach Brooks, as well as stories about the coach himself. By the end of the presentation, everyone in the room had reassurance that all of their personal trials and hardships have shaped them into who they are today and that they can help their teams to achieve more.

Perseverance is a Lion value and together we can build our own Miracle.

Reported by Lion Rachel Hartigan

Westville Lions

The **Westville Lions** have changed the date of their car show -- it will now be on June 6th during Market on Main Street! If you like cars, homemade items, and food this will be the place to be! We are looking forward to seeing all of you there! Bring the whole family out.

At our May meeting we will be inviting the Westville Elementary Teachers as our guest of honor. It will be a thank you dinner in appreciation of everything they do for the school and community. We also will be presenting the winning grades with their gift cards from our February Collection Drive.

We are still planning on our Port-a-Pit May 9th in Westville at New Durham Estates. We will have more info in the May Newsletter.

During the past couple of weeks, everything has been cancelled or postponed. That makes it a little difficult to get out in the community. We noticed that the Merrillville Lions Club was hosting an online coloring contest. We thought that was a wonderful idea, so we are hosting a contest as well for LaPorte County kids ages 4-12. Once we finish the coloring contest, we will host an online essay contest for young adults. Lastly, we are going to do an online Lions Scavenger Hunt for anyone from ages 10 to 99. Make sure you check out our Facebook page! All these activities can be done in the comfort of your own home. Our President also posted an online reading of a book,

A Day in Mabel's Paws. The Club purchased the book and will be donating it to the Westville Elementary School Library. We plan to make a monetary donation to the Westville United Methodist Church, as they have been supplying take home bags of food for kids in the Westville area.

Lions are always here to serve and now we are doing it in a different fashion! I'm thankful for technology because it makes it easier in times like these.

South Haven Lions

Here's a couple of positive things that South Haven Lions Club is currently doing for our community:

- ** Donated \$500 to the Portage Township Food Pantry. We also, collected 2 full boxes of non-perishable food items.
- ** Lion member, Karen Buchmeier, has sewn over 100 face masks for a local hospital and nursing home.
- ** We are still meeting needs by supplying medical equipment.
- ** My daughter (future Lion) did some homemade cards and sent them to the local nursing home.
- ** Several members followed up with their assigned families that we have helped during Christmas to ensure they are accounted for.
- ** We are still serving while remaining in compliance-with CDC regulations.

Stay safe!

TO: Lions Clubs of Zones 2A & B
 From: Lion Nick Gonzalez. ZC 2B
 Lion Carolyn Laviolette, ZC 2A

Hope this finds you and your families all safe & warm during this period of strife.

At this time, for the protection of everyone, we have decided to cancel any & all Zone activities until the ban has been lifted. Hope this does not cause any inconvenience for any of you.

While the ban prohibits any gatherings, this does not mean that you cannot continue to serve your communities in various ways. One way is for the monies you were going to use for your Easter Egg Hunts or Pancake Breakfasts, etc. be donated to local food banks. Another is to check on any elderly neighbors (via phone) or family members. Sending cards to your Club's shut-ins is yet one more way. If your Club has thought of others ways, please share with us! Most importantly is to stay at home and practice safe distancing!

Though we have not heard of any Lions in our District having tested positive for the virus, others have not been so lucky. PID Lion Nick Xinopoulos and his wife CS Lion Gretchen Xinopoulos (District 25C) are both in the hospital with this formidable virus. District 25F has had 10 Lions test positive, among these in the hospital are PCC CS Lion Sue Toft, PCC Lion Reed Fisch and his wife Lion Janet Fisch.

We will continue to keep you updated as news comes our way. Until then remember "We Serve" but stay safe & healthy!

May the LIONS be with you!



Donations for our COVID-19 response are being accepted through LCIF's General Disaster Fund. Please [make a donation](#) to help us in the fight to keep our families and communities safe. All donations to this fund are eligible for Melvin Jones Fellows and Campaign 100. Please be aware acknowledgements and recognition for LCIF donations will be delayed due to COVID-19.

Region 2, Zones A and B, held their annual pancake breakfast last month at Chellberg Farms Maple Syrup Fest!

The total profit going to Pack Away Hunger is \$1,787! THIS was from only one weekend (Saturday & Sunday). Just think if we would have been able to hold the second weekend, probably \$3,000+!

Thanks to all of you that made this possible, especially the Chesterton Lions Club!

Lion Carolyn Laviolette
 Zone Chair 2A

At the Lions District 25A convention I was awarded the International Presidents Certificate of Appreciation by International Director Mark Lyon and District Governor Mitchell Semans. It was a honor to receive the 4th highest award of the Lions organization. I enjoy my work with Lions they are my second family.
 DGE Will Farrellbegg Below: ID Mark, DGE Will, DG Mitch





Below: Lion Naomi Rodriguez receives a Presidential Certificate - pictured with ID Mark Lyon and DG Mitch Semans.



We Serve

Saturday June 6th

Car Show Downtown
Westville on Main
Street

Trophies at 2:00PM

Registration 9AM car
show till 3PM

Please join us at the Westville Lions Club Car and Bike Show

All vehicles welcome

\$15 pre registered vehicle- \$20 day of registration

Proceeds from the car show will be donated to local veterans programs

Trophies will be awarded for best in show and peoples choice

There will be a donation box on site for gently used clothing for Veterans

We will have donation box for unused keys, glasses, or hearing aids for Lions Club

This is a family friendly event with no admission fee

You can pre-register or register the day of

CAR SHOW PRE REGISTRATION FORM

Please print this form, fill it out completely, and mail checks, money orders, cashiers checks payable to Westville Lions Club PO Box 916 Westville, IN 46391. Questions please call Lions President Whitney Martin 219.393.8913.

Full Name _____

Address _____

City State zip Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Make model year _____

Market on Main will take place the same day. There will be food vendors, craft vendors, and more!

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/westvillelions

Our world in facing a terrible pandemic that has totally shifted the lives of millions of people. Many are experiencing health & financial hardships as well as wondering about their jobs, some of which is our very own.

After much consideration, as we have been monitoring the growing concern of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; we've made the decision to suspend all meetings and upcoming events due to CDC requirements and the Legion being closed until further notice. As we begin to work through this crucial time, we will look at future dates to reschedule our events to serve our community.

Moments like this we always must use our best judgement to keep everyone safe, even as hard as it may be. I've learned over the course of my life, that we can't help others, if we don't help ourselves. We must take care of ourselves and those around us. As we face these trying times, we can still serve, but remaining safe for those we reach and those in our families.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Stay safe and in good health!

Lion Jason Kegebein

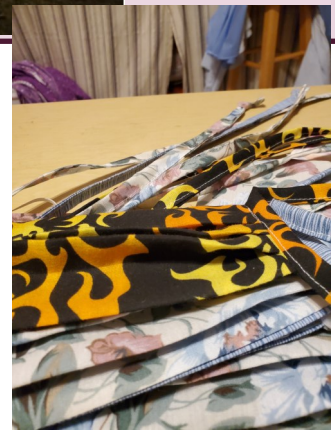
South Haven Lions Club

The Kouts Lions Club last Friday sent a dozen cupcakes to the clinic in Kouts for the healthcare workers there. We also sent three dozen cupcakes to the Porter Regional Hospital emergency room for their healthcare workers. Everyone was really appreciative of the gesture. We also have our Lions Club sign up with a positive message that we change once a week.

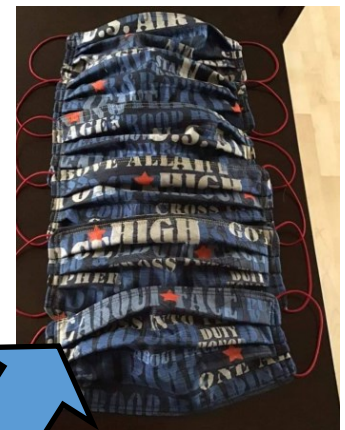
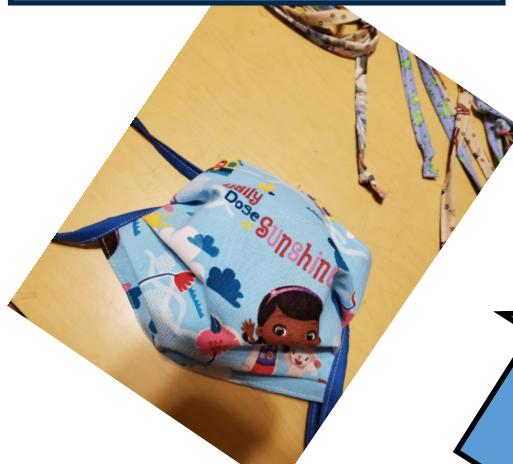


MILLION MASK CHALLENGE

GLOBAL SEW-A-THON AIMED TO SUPPORT OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS & THOSE IN NEED



Masks made by Laurie Hausman of the Lake Station Lions. Left: Wendy Semans models her new mask.



Dyer Lion Erin Tacke has also been very busy sewing masks for the community. Dyer Lions donated funds for materials, and she put in all the hard work! These masks went to six local members of the National Guard who were serving food. She already sent out over a dozen and is working on a few dozen more for community members and essential workers in need.

Welcome! Local facilities have called on us to help make masks to keep our healthcare workers and those in need safe! Are you able to help? They have asked for 10,000 masks in 3 weeks. We know the entire globe will need this so we are trying to make this a **global sew-a-thon** and make *1 million masks!*

The **Michigan City Lions Club** held a coat drive in February. President Nancy Hawkins presented the coats to Tammy at the Sandcastle Homeless Shelter. We plan to have a new sock collection at our next meeting.



A couple of Star Wars visitors who came to hang out at the business session. On the left is Darth Vader Helmken and to the right is Storm Trooper Nagai. I hear they are related to CS Stephen Helmken and CT Tiffany Nagai but I'm not sure about that information yet.

LIONS VINYL CAR DECALS

Share your club name proudly on your vehicle window, and help a fellow Lions club raise money at the same time.

The Indiana Cyber Lions Club is selling white vinyl decals similar to the decal pictured, with your club name across the top. These decals may be placed on any hard surface such as a window or the back of a computer. These 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" stickers are made of a quality vinyl Oracal 651 which is made with clear, solvent-based adhesive, ORACAL 651 is permanent, durable, and aesthetically flexible.



The cost is \$5.00 per decal, shipping and handling included.

Email questions about our product to Lion Chris Landskron (christylandskron@yahoo.com)

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

Send Orders to:

Chris Landskron
 Attn: Decal Order
 156 Trackside Drive
 Lafayette, Indiana 47905

Please include with each club order:

- Your Lions Club Name (clearly written)
- The number of decals in the order
- A check made payable to: Indiana Cyber Lions Club
- A mailing address for the shipping of your decal order.

Eyeglass Mission Report for 2020 — February 22 to March 5

District 25A was well represented in this year's eyeglass mission based in Tulancingo, Mexico.

During our stay we served over 12, 600 residents in need. The importance of every person involved in the process -- donating eyeglasses, picking up and delivering to Wanatah Eyeglass center for sorting, refurbishing and reading prescriptions at the prison in Westville, computer entry, boxing, delivering to the border and the final destination -- is a chain of dedicated Lions and volunteers who are committed to doing their job in order to help others with greater needs than we can ever imagine.

The process involves 11 hour days and a sense of humor. The 75,000 pairs of glasses that are taken to the site for distribution are the cornerstone in the success of the mission. The time taken by the inmates at the Westville Correctional Facility to refurbish the glasses, read the prescriptions, print labels for each pair bagged and box them is invaluable to the mission team. The remainder of the glasses are left with the two optometrists hired through Lion's Eyeglass Mission to use at the clinics or the mobile unit throughout the year.

Some of the people traveled over 6 hours one way, to take advantage of these services. Tears of joy and hugs were shared when a grandfather or grandmother were able to view the faces of their grandchildren for the first time.

Many of these people sat up to 4 hours through the processing after their arrival. Their patience, respect for others and compassion are humbling reminders to the team members. This would not occur in the states due to our "busy" schedules and other priorities.

On behalf of my fellow mission team members I thank everyone for their commitment to this project and look forward to next year's mission.

Lion Kathy Grott
Wanatah Lions Secretary

Club Elections

From LCI:

If our club cannot meet, how can we conduct our annual election of club officers?

Unless prohibited under a club's constitution and by-laws, the Standard Club By-Laws permits all Lions clubs to conduct meetings via alternative meeting formats. This allows each Lions club to choose a method of conducting elections that is suitable for those members. This can be via phone, email, a combination of the two, or any other method that is acceptable to the Lions club members.

So get the emails out and make the phone calls to put together the list of our 2020-2021 officers. Then conduct your elections and be ready to submit officers in May.

CANCELLED

Cedar Lake Lions Pancake Breakfast—April 5th

Crown Point Lions Bingo—April 2

South Haven Lions Trivia Night—April 18th

Rolling Prairie Spaghetti Dinner — April 18th

South Haven Lions Pancake Breakfast—May

Ladies Symposium—May 3

MD25 State Convention

Lions International Convention in June

Every gathering in April!

I will look forward to the first Lions Pancake Breakfast when we no longer have to be so 'Distant' !

Passing of Lion Thomas (Tom) Hansen, PDG

We lost another great Lion this week – PDG Tom Hansen lost his battle with cancer. Lion Tom was 25A District Governor for 1999-2000. Originally a member of Lakes of the Four Seasons Lions, he had moved to the Hobart Lions in the last few years. He remained busy throughout the District and his Clubs serving in various offices and committees. One of his big joys in Lions was Pin Trading – travelling to various swaps around the country. Lion Tom will be missed. His family will be having a memorial in the next few months.



Lions Who Have Completed their Service

Sylvia Platt	Hammond
Thomas Hansen	Hobart
Karen Bogard	South Haven
Dee Edgcomb	Wanatah



Bass Lake — Gloria Lorenz

Sponsor: Robert Lorenz

Chesterton — Christine Cruz

Sponsor: Barbara Wilson

Chesterton — Gloria A Rice

Sponsor: Barbara Wilson

Chesterton — Tamara R. Manuzzi

Sponsor: Russell Hardsock

La Crosse — Leslie A. Garwood

Sponsor: Kelly Kiel

La Crosse — Jacqueline N Koselke

Sponsor: Kelly Kiel

La Crosse — Amy L Welke

Sponsor: Kelly Kiel

La Crosse — Bandon N Kiel

Sponsor: Ken Caldwell

La Crosse — Kara R. Rhoda

Sponsor: Kelly Kiel

Lakes of the Four Seasons—Joseph P. Barsic

Sponsor: Juan Hernandez

Lakes of the Four Seasons—Robert J. Moses Dr.

Sponsor: Charles De Las Casas

Westville—Robin M Lewis

Sponsor: Sarah Arciniega

Westville—Dorothy M. Tanksley

Sponsor: Richard Fagg

Westville—Robert M McCaughey

Sponsor: Melissa McCaughey