



Cagey Comments

Coupeville Lions Club

Coupeville, WA



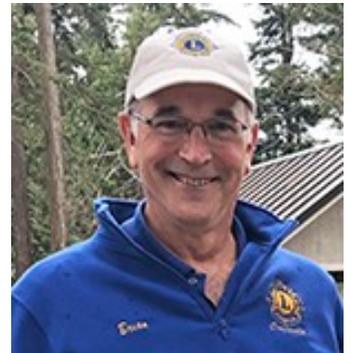
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



President's Message

I have attended several Lions Zone Meetings over the past few years and have concluded that we are the only club in our zone with a

Membership/Retention Committee. We are also the only club that trains mentors. And guess what: we are the only club with increasing membership. Do you think that there is a connection?



It all started in 2015 when Lion President **Bruce MacNair** became concerned about the numbers of members resigning each year. He had heard about a recommendation to add a Board position to focus on why people leave and how to retain membership. Thus, we appointed our first Retention Director, **Ken Halvorson**. Ken formed the Retention Committee that included a variety of new and seasoned members to assist with this mission. **Marilyn Pulk** is the current Retention Director.

The Retention Committee developed their mission, analyzed club statistics, performed surveys and exit interviews, and came up with several improvements to make our meetings more interesting and fun. Programs went from two a month to four, since many only came to meetings if there was a program. Members were surveyed

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January Events

- 1 - No Meeting**
- 7 - Woodcutting**, Recycle Center, 9:30 am (POC Gary Youngs).
- 8 - Board & General Dinner Meeting.**
Program: Mark Lucero, Pathways Counseling; New Member Induction.
- 10 - Commodities Distr.** Cam-Bey Apts. 9:30 am (POC Marilyn Pulk).
- 11 - Barn Sort**, Boyer Barn, 9:00 am (POC Gary Youngs).
- 15 - General Dinner Meeting.**
Program: Students of the Quarter.
- 18 - Highway Cleanup**, 9:00 am. Meet at Coupeville Elementary School by the highway (POC Hugh Hedges).
- 22 - Service Project Seminar, 5:00 pm; General Dinner Meeting, 6:00 pm.**
Coupeville Rec. Hall
- 23 - Blood Drive**, CUMC.
- 25 - Zone Meeting**, DH Buffet, Oak Harbor, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- 29 - Bunco**, Coupeville Rec. Hall, 6:00 pm.

The Coupeville Lions Club meets Wednesday evenings 5:50 pm Fellowship-Networking/6:20 pm Dinner/6:50-8:00 pm meeting & program. We meet at the Coupeville United Methodist Church (North Main and 7th Street). For information call 360-678-4105.

February Events

4 - Woodcutting, Recycle Center, 9:30 am (POC Gary Youngs).

5 - Board & General Dinner Meeting.
Program: Stephanie Garlichs, DVM;
New Member Induction.

7 - Commodities Distr. Cam-Bey Apts.
9:30 am (POC Marilyn Pulk).

8 - Barn Sort, Boyer Barn, 9:00 am (POC Gary Youngs).

12 - General Dinner Meeting.
Program: Lynne Donnelly, Tai Chi.

15 - Highway Cleanup, 9:00 am. Meet at Coupeville Elementary School by the highway (POC Hugh Hedges).

19 - Board & General Dinner Meeting.
Program: TBA

22 - Scholarship Auction 5 -8 pm.

26 - No General Meeting (Ash Wednesday).

- **Membership/Retention**, 5:00 pm.

on types of programs they would enjoy. Member Talks were introduced as a result of the Retention Committee's surveys. These talks have been a great addition to our meetings. This year Spotlight has been added as well to assure that we all stay abreast of the club's activities.

Probably the most interesting finding of the early Retention Committee surveys was that mentors play an important role in retaining active new club members. But mentors did not always know what their roles were or how to mentor. With the help of a Lions mentor trainer early on, the committee tailored the Mentor Training presentation for our prospective club mentors. We have had three training sessions so far, which have resulted in qualified mentor lists. The Committee is looking forward to sharing their mentor training presentation with other interested clubs. Additional ongoing membership ideas continue to be developed in order to attract and retain successful Lions who wish to serve.

Our club has always had a Membership Director whose role included bringing in new members and paving the way for their successful entry into club activities. **Sandy Johnson** has excelled in that position by improving the Orientation/Induction process. Along with the annual member open house, Sandy also includes informative member articles in *Cagey Comments* and introduced the club to the fun Bunco nights. She has also introduced many new ideas to our club that makes our overall experience more enjoyable.

In 2017, it became clear that there was so much coordination needed between the Retention Committee and the Membership Director that they must work together. Thus, the Membership/Retention Committee alliance was formed. Marilyn and Sandy make a good team leading this combined committee, and share the goal of attracting new

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COUPEVILLE LIONS CLUB OFFICERS:

*Brian Pulk, President; Sue Hartin, Secretary; Gary Youngs, Treasurer;
Rick Walti, 1st Vice President; Janet Burchfield, 2nd Vice President; Sandee Allen, 3rd Vice President*

Editor—Gary Parker; Photos by Bob Pettis, Sandy Johnson & others

members and retaining members. Their committee looks at the overall experience members encounter and how to make it better, conducts training and outreach efforts, and introduces ideas for member recognition in order to get members motivated to remain active, involved, and mentored.

Since the formation of the revamped Membership/Retention Committee in 2017 much has been accomplished, and the results are shown by the membership increase from 126 to 142 over that time. Also, we can see that the weekly meetings are consistently filling the available tables. The Christmas Party had the most attendees ever with extra tables set up for the increase.

On January 22, the Membership/Retention Committee will hold a Service Project Fair at the Rec Hall in place of the normal Wednesday night meeting. This will be somewhat patterned after a Job Fair, complete with job descriptions and signups, but is also a way to convey information about our 26 service projects for all who attend. This is yet another Membership/Retention Committee strategy for support of Coupeville Lions Club's greatest resource...our members. I hope to see you there as we look at "all things membership and activities."

Happy New Year, Lions!

Lion Brian

New Year's Resolution

Here's a resolution that you can easily keep. Please resolve to help the Coupeville Lions Foundation by making your Amazon purchases through their Smile program. All you have to do is go to their website, smile.amazon.com. Login with your normal Amazon account name and password. Put your cursor over **Accounts & Lists** and select **Your Amazon Smile** from the drop-down menu. At the next screen select the **Change Charity** box. On the next screen look for the **Charity Name or Location** box in which you type Coupeville Lions Foundation and select **Search**. From the list that comes up, pick **Coupeville Lions Foundation**. You are now ready to shop at Amazon Smile with 0.5% of your purchase amount going into the Coupeville Lions Foundation account.

Please make this resolution and carry it out to benefit the programs that the Coupeville Lions support.

- Lion Gary Youngs

Membership Moments

By Membership Chair Sandra Johnson



WE ARE FRIENDLY!

One of our newest members wrote on the New Member Questionnaire I provided during their Orientation that they decided to become a Coupeville Lion, “Because the Coupeville Lions are so friendly!” From personal experience I know my Coupeville Lions friends are friendly, but to hear a newcomer actually put it into words just warmed my heart.

As the giving season comes to an end, it doesn’t mean we stop giving. In fact, we should be doing just the opposite, we should be giving and doing more for the community in which we live.

In January the Membership/Retention Committee is planning a Service Project Seminar where each of us will be able to listen to and/or read about the many diverse service projects our club supports and sponsors. As I worked on and edited the Event Proposals for each of the chairs’ responsibilities, I was amazed at how much effort many of our service projects take to be successful and available to so many members of our community.

Many, if not most, of our service projects require a great deal of interaction with our community members from the Meals on Wheels service to Shopping Spree ticket sales, Medical Equipment Team, Wood Cutting distribution, and the Swim Program Scholarships. Behind each of these service projects is a Coupeville Lion who has graciously volunteered their time and energy to serve community members in need of our service. When we are in contact with the community it is so important to be the kindest individuals we can possibly be. Who knows what the recipient of a cord of wood just went through? Why they need to take a donation of wood instead of purchasing it themselves? Or why an elderly person decided to sign up for Meals on Wheels? Maybe that individual’s family moved away and now Meals on Wheels provides the support they lost. Whatever the need, our service is what makes our community so proud of us because we are friendly individuals who love to give back and serve our community. So keep on keeping on, serving the wonderful people of Coupeville with a smile, a kind word, maybe a hug when necessary, and most of all compassion that you would expect, should you be in their shoes.

Friendly! I like that adjective which describes us (favorably disposed, inclined to approve, help, or support).

Be sure to attend our first annual **Service Project Seminar** on January 22 at the Coupeville Rec Hall. Come find out how you may sign up and work on one or more of our service projects, or become a chair or co-chair. Whatever your interests, you’ll have 22 service projects and three fundraisers to choose from.

MEMBER TALK

Victoria Anne Hanks Drew Reyes, otherwise known as Vicky Reyes, presented her Member Talk in November. Vicky went to Winston-Salem University in North Carolina, which was



founded in 1772 as a school for girls. Winston-Salem is the oldest continuously-operating school in the nation dedicated to the education of women. Vicky indicated at an early age she was bitten with the volunteer bug and has never extinguished that “bug bite,” continuing with her extensive volunteer commitments in Coupeville beyond the Lions Club. Because of a roof repair, Vicky became Vicky Reyes (you’ll need to ask her to expand on that story - it’s a good one!). Becoming a Lion was something Vicky said she couldn’t avoid as her realtor’s husband was a Lion and almost all the neighbors on Krueger Street, where she purchased a home, were Lions!! Thanks for sharing your story!

Welcome New Members!



New Lions Christine Marks (left), Doyle Marks (3rd from left with sponsor Sigi Johnson), and Anna Simonson (2nd from right with sponsor Deanna Rogers) were inducted into the club on December 4 by PZC Dennis Bullock.

Christmas Party

In keeping up with the spirit of the season, this year's Coupeville Lions Christmas party was attended by 83 Lions and guests, the largest attendance ever. We even ended on the plus side as far as finances are concerned.

Party goers enjoyed delicious appetizers, dinner, and dessert catered by Serendipity. The wonderful food and delightful service made for a grand evening.

A big thank you to all those involved in making this a memorable party: Julian & Karen Sayers and Joan Chochon for the beautiful lights and table decorations; Diana Swisher for the

entertainment, which included roaming carolers accompanied by guest Lois Remer on piano (and to Bob Pettis for inviting Lois); Deanna Rogers for her efforts in programming, tickets, caterer, etc.; Sandy and Gary Leake for keeping everyone in



high "spirits" with a choice of beer, wine, or soda; and to all who helped with setting up and cleaning up after the party under the leadership of Rick Walti. For those of you who pay attention to the sentimental side by keeping the evening's program for your scrapbook, you may thank President Brian Pulk for the design, printing, and placement on each table.

- Thanks to Lions Sandy Johnson, Deanna Rogers & Rick Walti

More Christmas Party photos on next page.





2019 GREENING OF COUPEVILLE PARADE



The Greening of Coupeville Parade was the perfect way to get into the holiday mood by a simple gesture of giving! Festive participants decked themselves in Christmas lights, and children from the Food Bank handed parade goers candy to thank them for coming out to watch them march in the parade.

We had our own special way of celebrating the Greening of Coupeville Parade with the gracious help from Lions Don Sherman, Paul Bigelow, Joe Walck, and Barbara Walck. These four Lions dusted off, plugged in, and towed the Marine Band Wagon, which was always Lion Roger Sherman's (father of Lion Don) pride and joy. I wanted to make sure we honored Roger with this iconic vintage instrument continuing its path down Main Street, ringing out melodious tunes to all the parade goers. Joe and Barbara could be seen running behind this beautiful instrument and winding it up to keep the music playing. Thank you, thank you to all four of you!

Leos Thane and Megan came out to support the Coupeville Lions and represent the Coupeville High School Leos Club. Thane dressed up in the lion costume, ready to give a few high fives to the children eager to see our lion march in the parade. With the help of Megan to assist our Leo Lion, several high fives were granted and a few handshakes were given from the seasoned parade goers.

A tradition of passing candy out to parade goers was switched up this year with the passing out of homemade cookies to folks young and old while they waited for Santa to arrive at Cooks Corner Park for the lighting of the town's Christmas tree. Early in the week, eight Lions met at my house and bagged up 600



cookies (which were made by a dozen other Lions) in individual Christmas goodie bags for distribution at the end of the parade. The parade goers were so delighted to be handed a homemade cookie made by a Coupeville Lion! What a treat for me to see so many smiles made by the generous offering of a cookie instead of candy. I would like to thank all the cookie makers and cookie bag stuffers (and you know who you are) for helping make the Greening of Coupeville a more festive occasion for the Coupeville Lions Club members.

The Greening of Coupeville is a time for sharing, receiving, making memories, starting new traditions, and enjoying the gift of giving. As Coupeville Lions marching in the Greening of Coupeville Parade, we left the parade with a feeling of being welcomed, appreciated, honored, and loved by our community.

- Lion Sandy Johnson

Lions International Peace Poster Contest:

Each year, Lions Clubs around the world proudly sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest in local schools and youth groups. This art contest encourages young people ages 11-13 to think about peace, creatively express what it means to them, and share their own unique visions with the world. For 32 years, millions of children from nearly 200 countries have participated in the contest.



This year, the theme is “Journey of Peace,” and the Coupeville Lions Club has again been working with the Coupeville Boys and Girls Club (our 11th year with this group). During our club’s November 6th Membership Meeting, a total of 6 very creative posters by youngsters (ages 5-8) were judged. The results of the judging by our club were held in secrecy until participants were recognized and awarded by

President Brian Pulk during the Coupeville Boys and Girls Club’s “Cocoa and Carols” Annual Fine Art Show and Fundraiser Event on December 19th. During this event, Amber Carmona, the First-Place winner, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and \$20 cash. The runners-up were each awarded a certificate and \$10 cash.

- Co-Chairs, Lions Sandy and Gary Leake

2019 LIONS CHRISTMAS SHIP

It wouldn't be Christmas in the San Juan Islands without the festive Lions Christmas Ship making its rounds from island to island. For those Lions who are lucky enough to make this voyage and share their experience, it would be a shame not to tell the tale of Lions Ginny Munn and Deborah Morrison, who enjoyed this year's festivities in the 73rd year of the Lions Christmas Ship.

Neither Ginny nor Deborah knew they would be roommates aboard the Christmas Ship, so both were delighted to know they would be rooming with someone they already knew.

The Christmas Ship departed from Bellingham and traveled 2 1/2 hours into the Canadian Islands beginning with Saturna, Pender, Mayne, Galiano, and ending at Saltspring on Saturday night, where they were treated to a nice overnighter. Sunday morning they were back on board the ship at 8:30, prepared to travel to US waters and visit Waldron, Orcas, Blakely, and Lopez Islands, ending their voyage in Bellingham.

Lion Ginny was thrilled to see so many folks, including children, on the docks waving and excited as the ship arrived. There was a Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, elves, a choir, pirates, and critters dressed in festive costumes! In addition, the ladies saw two pods of Orcas as they traveled from island to island. What a treat!

The Coupeville Lions Club should be so proud to have Lions Ginny Munn and Deborah Morrison participate in this service project, bringing a little bit of Christmas cheer to parents and children who live in the remotest islands in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Merry Christmas!

-Lion Sandy Johnson



The Christmas Ship, a Bellingham Central Lions Club project, began in 1947 when islanders in the Pacific Northwest asked a boat captain to bring Santa to them. Past Zone Chair Don Wight, the son of the original captain, now steers the Christmas ship. The ship covers 2500 square miles in two days, has a volunteer crew of 65, and visits 14 remote islands located in the Salish Sea. Two of the islands, Stuart and Waldron, still have no electricity. Life on some of the islands is rough, and children are spotted wearing old shoes and tattered clothes. Some of the wealthier kids will ask for the things mainland kids ask for, however most children ask for very little for themselves and instead ask for health for their parents, a job for dad, or a new frying pan for mom. You don't see cell phones in abundance, kids texting, or for that matter any electronics at all. While the children wait in line they are kept occupied by pirates who challenge them to balloon sword fights. Clowns make balloon animals on demand, elves dance, and the choir sings Christmas carols. Over 600 children are treated to a visit with Santa and receive a toy and a few treats. A trip that costs a person very little to join presents the true spirit of Christmas and leaves one with irreplaceable memories.

2019 Sight & Hearing Screening

The iconic NW Sight and Hearing Van “had the flu” this year. In its place were several borrowed audiometers and a Snellen eye chart. Coupeville Lions used these tools to test the hearing and eyesight of students in grades K-6, as well as 80 seventh-grade students.

Lions Tracy and Charlie Calvert took over the Sight & Hearing Screening Service Project from long-time project leader Lion Al Sherman. The Calverts thought this was going to be an easy-going process, as they were involved in it last year, so how hard could it be! Well, these two are troupers, because it was a “Murphy’s Law” kind of year for them beginning with the van not coming this way, to no screening devices, and finally to finding an adequate space for screening the 350+ school children.

Thanks to the following Coupeville Lions for making this year’s screening process a success:

Bob Allen, Sandee Allen, Penny Barville, Fred Bronson, Janet Burchfield, Joan Chochon, Dave Fish, Karen Fletcher, Hugh Hedges, Sandra Johnson, Trenton Lay, Gary Leake, Sandy Leake, Jim Phay, Marsha Phay, Brian Pulk, Ricardo Reyes, Vicky Reyes, Bill Roberts, Paddy Roberts, Julian Sayers, Karen Sayers, Mike Tenore, Jon Vermillion, Gary Youngs, and Linda Youngs.



Without the assistance, guidance and coordination of Coupeville’s School Nurse, Morgan Driscoll, Island Eye Care technicians Scott Matthews and Casey Wood, and Dr. Christine Jarrell from Hearing Solutions, this project would not have been possible. We owe them a great deal of gratitude for donating their time, expertise, and expense in arranging and training all participating Lions on the various audiometers, as there was quite a kaleidoscope of them to use in the screening.

After a late start at the junior high and a few minor adjustments, all 80 available 7th graders were screened. We then packed up the audiometers and eye charts to head over to the elementary school to

begin the screening of the cutest little kiddos, who were eager to put on the huge headphones and show off how they knew their letters or shapes.

A big “hats off” to Lions Charlie and Tracy Calvert for their perseverance in making this year’s Sight & Hearing Screening delightful, engaging, and successful!!

- Lion Sandy Johnson