



# PAWS-N-CLAWS

Lion Alison Claerhout

October 2009

## WELCOME, JENNIFER RYDMAN!

Jennifer Rydman is a Special Education teacher for the Ypsilanti Public Schools. She teaches emotionally impaired elementary students. She learned about the work of the Lions club not only through her husband, Lion Collin Ross, but also from the vision assistance (eye exams and glasses) provided to some of her students by the Lions over the years. She has worked enthusiastically on the White Cane Street Drive in the past, and is looking forward to working on this and other service opportunities as a member of our club.

## JESSIE'S STORY



In early September, Lion Lisa received a call from third year U of M law student, Jessie Kirchner, requesting help in obtaining a new computer. Jessie is blind and had been working with out-of-date equipment for far too long. While there is public resources available at the University to help disabled students study, according to Jessie, using

the public equipment at the University is almost out of the question.

"As a successful law student, I'm in a school environment where time is of the essence. I literally have hundreds of pages of reading per week, and if I have to keep going to the library within its limited hours of operation to use the public computers for those assignments, that makes me a lot less efficient than I am with my own computer reading whenever I need to. I'm comfortable with my own software, and it would slow me down to learn the public software or modify its settings to meet my needs. The technology in public sites isn't always up-to-date either," said Kirchner.

Jessie had applied for several grants but was turned down. Lion Lisa encouraged Jessie to contact the University Of Michigan Office of Students with Disabilities (OSWD) to determine if any grant funds were available. Jessie doubted that there would be any assistance available, but agreed to make the call. As it turned out, the Adam Miller Memorial Fund, available through the OSWD, was able to provide the majority of the funds needed to put a new MAC Book Pro computer in her hands within 3 days of making the request. The grant was given with the condition that Jessie provide \$300 towards the purchase of this \$1,350 machine. That is were the Lions stepped in again. Lion Lisa connected with the Lions Club in Guilford, Jessie's hometown in Connecticut. Together, the Guilford Lions and the Ann Arbor Host Lions went in half and provided the extra funds needed.

Jessie is ecstatic, very busy with her studies and extremely grateful to the Lions for making her life so much easier.

## 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Ann Arbor Host Lions Club 80th Anniversary Celebration was a delightful event. Thank you so much to the planning committee and everyone who attended to celebrate our special day.

In addition to our 80th birthday celebration, chevrons were handed out in 10-year increments to our long time members, and four special Lions received some outstanding service awards. As part of the ceremony, Lion Debbie Link, Lion Bill Farrand and Lion Bill Brogan, who was unfortunately unable to attend the celebration, all received the Lions of MI Foundation Kenneth E. Lautzenheiser Fellow Award for their outstanding service to the club. Our Awards Committee also surprised Lion Lisa Langley with a Melvin Jones Award for her exceptional leadership skills and dedication to our club.



When PDG Don Kiel decided it was time to hang up his hat as the Sight Conservation Chairman of the Council of Ann Arbor Lions Clubs, **Lion Debbie Link** willingly stepped in as the new Chair. The Ann Arbor Host Lions Club and the Council have been overjoyed with the job that Debbie has done during the last three years in handling these sometimes difficult phone calls and decisions related to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti residents in need of eye care. Debbie has represented Lions to local social workers, school nurses, and other service agents in a way that truly brings honor to herself and to the Lions Clubs name.



Past President **Lion Bill Farrand's** dedication to helping the visually disadvantaged is second to none in our Club. As Club President he brought much needed organization to Board meetings and helped us focus our energies in a more productive way. This past year,

he assumed the Chairmanship of our annual Golf Outing and found a way to make it prosper in Michigan's difficult economic climate. Because of Bill's leadership, our Club will be able to continue to support our state and local projects.

Past President **Lion Bill Brogan** has been the Club member who knows most about the nuts and bolts of putting on a golf outing. The money we raise through the Golf Outing has been very much dependent upon Bill's knowledge and actions. In addition, Bill has chaired our successful Holiday Fruit Sales for many years. As a former banker, Bill has also contributed by serving on our Club's Budget committee.

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## 80TH CELEBRATION (CONTINUED)

Ann Arbor Host President **Lion Lisa Langley** has shown herself to be a devoted and energetic leader. She has tirelessly promoted the Club's efforts within the Ann Arbor community and beyond. Under her tenure as president, the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club has gained tremendous community exposure and allowed the mission of Lionism to reach a new generation of members.

### GOLF RAINCHECKS

There are still six rain checks for golf at the U of M course at \$50 each. There are no other requirements for using these checks. They simply need to be presented to the counter personnel. If you're interested in purchasing one, contact Lion Bill Farrand at 734-662-7991.



### MEETING LOCATION

Just a reminder, the October Ann Arbor Host Lions Club meetings will be held at Joe's Crab Shack on Lohr Road. A separate room will be available for us and the meeting will start promptly at NOON.

The November Ann Arbor Host Lions Club meetings will be held at the Ann Arbor City Club on Washtenaw Avenue. Lion LuAnne has graciously offered to reserve us a room through her membership with the club.

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy Birthday to our October baby, Don Kiel!

We will celebrate his birthday this month during our October 6 lunch meeting at Joe's Crab Shack.



### MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECTS

**OCTOBER-** Eyeglass Collection

**NOVEMBER-** Feasts for Families, Holiday Bookwrap, Fruit and Nut Drive

**DECEMBER-** Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Project KidCare

**JANUARY-** Eyeglass Collection

**FEBRUARY-** KidSight, Winter Camp for Blind

**MARCH-** Penrickton Read to Children

**APRIL-** Eyeglass Collection, Buddy Day

**MAY-** Project KidCare

**JUNE-** Golf Outing, Green Fair, Ann Arbor Summer Festival?

## FEASTS FOR FAMILIES

This year we will be making five Thanksgiving baskets for distribution to needy families through the Ann Arbor Community Center. Please let me know which item(s) you would like to contribute as soon as possible. I would like to have all the donated items brought to the November 3 meeting or I would be happy to drop by your home and pick up your donation.



### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOOKWRAP

Join the Ann Arbor Council of Lions on November 14 for a Holiday Book-Wrap and Membership Drive Party. Buy a few rolls of holiday gift wrap, whip up a snack, **bring a friend** and head down to the Peace Neighborhood Center from 1:30-4:00 p.m. The event will consist of wrapping books for seniors and children to be distributed this holiday season, along with a short presentation about the Lions and all of their accomplishments.

Our goal is to introduce the Lions Club to individuals that are unfamiliar with us, in hopes that they may someday want to join in our efforts to serve the community.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October Service Project: Eyeglass Collection

**October 6:** Lunch meeting at Joe's Crab Shack on Lohr Road with guest speaker Grace Shackman, a local historian.

**October 17:** District 11B-1 Fall Conference at Sandstone Church in Parma.

**October 17:** Cabinet meeting at Sandstone Church in Parma.

**October 20:** Lunch meeting at Joe's Crab Shack on Lohr Rd with guest speaker Rev. Yolanda Whiten Director, Ann Arbor Community Center.

**November 3:** Lunch meeting at the Ann Arbor City Club on Washtenaw Ave with a special visit from DG Terry Walters.

**November 14:** Holiday Book-Wrap at the Peace Neighborhood Center on Maple Rd, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

**November 17:** Lunch meeting at the Ann Arbor City Club on Washtenaw Ave with guest speaker Amy Rolfes Family Learning Institute.

## UPDATED WEBSITE

Lion Alison is busy updating our club's website. Take a look every week and watch it grow with new information: [annarborlions.org](http://annarborlions.org).