

HISTORY OF WARNER ROBINS NOON LIONS CLUB 3-27-00

The International Association of Lions Clubs on March 22, 1975 officially chartered the Warner Robins Noon Lions Club, becoming, at the time, the "youngest" of three Lions Clubs in the immediate area.

The Warner Robins Lions Club, the senior service club in Warner Robins, having been chartered in July 1947, sponsored it. The Noon club was formed to fill a need for an additional service club in the city. Some four years earlier the Warner Robins Club has sponsored the Centerville Lions Club.

The Noon club extended Lionism by sponsoring the Warner Robins Lioness Club in 1979. This group was very visible in the community in their public service work and fund raising activities. Lion Wallace Trawick was the charter liaison worker with the ladies' organization. Later, the Lioness club became the Houston Peaches Lions Club in September 1992. The all-female Peaches also was sponsored by the Noon club. Just one year after its beginning, the club was rated No. 2 club in District 18-E. Today, there are four clubs in Warner Robins, the Warner Robins club, the Warner Robins Noon club, The Houston Peaches and the Centerville club.

In 1975, Jay Jones was sent by the Warner Robins club to be the Guiding Lion for the new organization, which began with 27 members. It currently has 23 members. Jim Clance was charter president and Ray Durham secretary. More than 100 Lions from area clubs joined in witnessing the charter presentation by then governor of District 18-E, Walter Wilson of Macon.

The Noon Lions club was a fast starter in initiating community service projects. It immediately established a local sight conservation program to obtain eye examinations and glasses for people who could not otherwise purchase them. This has been a continuing project for the club, in keeping with the main thrust of Lions International's emphasis on sight and hearing conservation. Over the years, the club has provided an average of 60 eye exams and glasses annually for the less affluent. It also collects an average of 5,000 pairs of used eyeglasses annually to be recycled and used in third world countries. It provides an average of two hearing aids annually.

During the late 70s and the 80s, the club has sent 100 Houston County Junior High School football players to the Peach Bowl football game in Atlanta. It was often the very first major bowl game for many of them. The Lions of Georgia sponsored the bowl game for years, with profits going to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. In the late 80s, the Lions withdrew as sponsors. Club members were avid supporters of this game. They used to attend the game as a group and participate in the parade.

The club is an active supporter of the Lighthouse, which provides all types of eye and hearing care for indigent Georgians. It also supports the Lighthouse's Children's Eye Care Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind in Waycross, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic in Athens, Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, MI, Lions Clubs International Foundation in Oak Brook, IL, and other Lions fund raising activities.

Each year in April the club joins other area clubs in soliciting funds locally on White Cane Day to support statewide Lighthouse eye projects. Since the inception of World Services Day several years ago by Lions International, the club, in conjunction

(over)

with the Peaches and the Warner Robins club, visited four local nursing homes and passed out bananas to patients.

For years, the club joined the Warner Robins club in conducting an annual glaucoma-screening clinic. The club continued to run several eye clinics for glaucoma screening referral. For the last several years, the Noon Lions and other area clubs have participated in the annual Senior Health Fair, which provided health checks for an average of 125 senior citizens annually.

In late 1982 the Noon Lions embarked on another first for the city by sponsoring a regular-season college football game at the then International City Stadium (currently named McConnell-Talbert Stadium). Coach Erk Russell's Georgia Southern team played the Florida State University Jayvees. A few years later Georgia Southern became national champions. Proceeds from this game the next several years went to community service work.

Since its inception, the Noon club, which was voted No. 1 club among 50 clubs in District 18-F, has been quite involved in service activities. It provided an airline ticket to join a needy father and daughter; provided transportation for a Leader Dog candidate to attend school at Rochester, MI. It participated in the annual Warner Robins Festival at Perkins Field behind the recreation department. It also assisted the Lionesses and the Peaches in the Mossy Creek Arts and Crafts Festival each year.

The club has several meetings each year with our wives. These have taken the form of dinners and picnics at the Heaberlin Plantation, where some wild auctions raised money for the Camp for the Blind.

One year the club had a Lions beauty contest with such beauties as Tommy Eilers (secretary), Mac McClung, Jay Jones, Jim Clance (directors) and others. When Lion McClung was named Miss Lion, the club retired this activity. Lion Jones still claims that Lion Mac bribed the judges with an improper invitation.

Earl Bogardus is the current president and Tommy Eilers is secretary. The club, which meets the second and fourth Monday at noon at the Golden Corral Restaurant, has nine Melvin Jones Fellows in its membership. This is the highest award bestowed on club members by Lions International.

*Hephzibah Lions Club History
1990-2000*

#1. (Margaret Turner)

On January 4, 1990, an organizational meeting was held at the Hephzibah City Hall to start the Hephzibah Lions Club. On that evening, 31 members sign up to become Lions.

At that the first meeting and the second meeting, the Charter Officers were elected. They were Beverly Roberts, President; Richard Williams, First Vice President; Mark Mims, Second Vice President; Skeet Williams, Third Vice President; Dot Williams, Secretary; Dee Oellerich, Treasurer; Ann Jackson, Tail Twister; Bruce Cadle, Lion Tamer; Jon Winters, Chaplain and Two Year Director; Ronnie Hadden, Two Year Director; and Billy Carroll and Franklin Jennings, One Year Directors.

Charter night was celebrated on March 17, 1990, at the Hephzibah High School lunchroom. Before the Charter Night celebration, 56 people had signed up to become charter members of the new Hephzibah Lions Club. The Celebration was called to order by Gene Scott, President of the Sponsoring Club, Fleming Lions Club.

Past District Governor Ray Peters of the Fleming Lions Club led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Lion Ray, will you please stand up and be recognized? Thank you.

The Master of Ceremonies was Past District Governor Johnny Bagwell. Lion Johnny, please stand. Thank you.

Past District Governor Curlie Bross introduced the head table, and Junior Teasley introduced the charter members. Lions Curlie and Junior, please stand. Thank you.

Past District Governor Robert King from District 18-F installed the officers.

Bill Shurling was District Governor then, and he presented the charter. Lion Bill? Thank you.

Past International Director George Crumbley was the Guest Speaker, and Past District Governor Olin Newby responded. Lions George and Olin, please stand. Thank you.

Past District Governor C. W. Edwards of the Augusta Lions Club gave the invocation.

That night we received our bell and gavel which was given to us by the Fleming Lions Club. The American Flag was given to us by the Thomson Lions Club. The Podium was given to us by Garden City, and our Banner came from the Augusta Lions Club.

#2. (Terry Atkins)

For our first two meetings, we met at City Hall here in Hephzibah. Then we moved to Mama's Kitchen on Highway 88. Starting on February 8, 1990, we found a regular meeting place and we are still here today.

Our first fund raiser was in January of 1990, and it was a BBQ Chicken dinner. And our first donation was \$100 to the Lighthouse in February of 1990.

Since then, we have had many fund raising activities. We have had BBQ Chicken and BBQ Pork dinners, concession stands at the Blyth Reunions, mops and brooms sales, the Exchange Club Fair, the Hephzibah Country Fair, turkey shoots, yard sales, the Fall Festival in Hephzibah, pancake breakfasts, raffles for shotguns, raffles for go carts, a raffle for a 3 burner cooker, and chuck wagon concessions at the horse show, fishing rodeo and Girl Scout Jamboree. Other fund raisers have been the golf tournament and working the Civic Center and Bell Auditorium.

We also worked the Lighthouse Mobile Eye Care Unit when it was in Augusta, joined the other clubs in this zone for three years at Christmas in collecting Toys for Tots, participated in the Hephzibah parades, Shepard Blood Center drives, Richmond Country Recreation Center's Adopt-A-Park, Lions Quest, and White Cane Day. In fact, we have not failed to participate in White Cane Day for 10 years.

Other projects have included:

fishing rodeos for the children of this community.

Easter Egg hunt at the Community Center

Jim Ervin Campaign

Halloween carnival for the children

six handicapped ramps built for the sick and elderly

the Hephzibah Middle School Leo Club, which was chartered in Dec. 1995

We have been a 100% contributing member club for LCIF for three years, and we have supported all of the approved Lions of Georgia projects.

#3. (Skeet Williams)

Treasurer Mary Turner went back through the records and found that we have given away \$70,151.98 through December 1999.

Lighthouse	19,810.17
Camp for the Blind	17,166.97
Leader Dog	12,839.50
Exam & Glasses	8,479.00
Children Eye Center	750.00
Community Donations	1,836.50
Lions Beauty Contest	275.00
Flood Relief	200.00
All State Band	2,456.00
Lions Quest International	328.84
Recording for the Blind	1,670.00
LCIF	4,340.00

#4. (D.B. Atkins)

We have purchased 214 pairs of eyeglasses and many eye exams for needy people. And we have donated 5,476 pairs of used eyeglasses and 48 hearing aids to the Lighthouse. We continue to collect eyeglasses at 10-12 locations south of Tobacco Road.

The fellowship among the members has grown with each project undertaken and each meeting attended. Some of our meetings have been strange. I remember one when the Snake Man brought snakes for us to meet and learn to appreciate. Some of our meetings have been tiring, for the Square Dancers wore us out teaching us the do-si-do! We have had meetings about making pottery, pruning roses, and how to hold a rodeo for profit and fun. We have learned to hula and line dance. We have been to Atlanta to see the Braves play and WIN, and we even had a scavenger hunt.

We built a chuck wagon in 1993 and 1994 and then a storage shed in 1997 and 98. Some of our members have attended the Zone and Region meetings and fellowships, some have attended the District and State Conventions, some have traveled around the United States and the world attending the International Conventions and USA/Canada Forums.

Sadly, four of our charter members have been lost to death. Lloyd Wallace, Joseph Turner, Wayne Brown, and Dorothy Williams. They are gone, but they are not forgotten. They were part of the foundation of this club. Today there are 8 charter members remaining.

Our accomplishments have been many and we have been blessed. Our club has 3 Melvin Jones Fellows. We have had several members to hold the positions of zone chairmen and region chairmen. This year, the Region Chairman is Frank Spinney. We have one Past District Governor who attained Council Chairman, and Jon Winters is now serving as District Governor.

#5. (Marion Rogers)

Some of the awards that we have won at the State and District Levels are:

District Governor's Award three times for the Best Club in the District

District Dr. Damren Award for 18-F for the Most Outstanding Club Secretary in the District

District 100% Club Treasurer

District 100% Club Secretary 2 times

District 100% Club President

Most Outstanding Club in Region III award three times

First Place two times for the Tucker Award for best club bulletin

Most Outstanding Club Region III Zone I three times

Don Anderson Award

Second Place in the State Lanier Award for largest per capita support to the Camp for the Blind

**First Place two times and second place once for the State Hephzibah Award for largest per capita support
of Leader Dog**

**Second Place in the State Dr. W. Malcome Reid Award for largest per capita support of the Recording of
the Blind**

Many Golden Chain Awards

Best of Show in 92 Country Fair parade

Numerous certificates of accomplishment

**We are very proud of the Hephzibah Lions Club and the work the members have done
over the last 10 years. We are confident that the next 10 years will be even better ones.**