



Newsletter

Bluffton Lions Club

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February 2013

2012-2013 Officers & Board Members:

President-Barbara Plaughter; V. Pres-Tom Edwards; V. Pres-Elaine Harris; V. Pres-Don Hostetler; Secretary-Elaine Brubaker; Treasurer-Lowell Hostetler; Lion Tamer-Arliss Plaughter; Tail Twister-Greg Aversch; Board Members: 2 yr-Katie Keifer & Dale Metzger; 1 yr-Howard Shelly & Mark Alliman; Foundation President-Dick Ramseyer; Editor-Barbara Plaughter

March Birthdays:

Katy Keifer	3/5
Burton Yost	3/5
Mitch Kingsley	3/19
Corrinne Boehr	3/23
Neil Reichenbach	3/24

March Anniversary:

Ron Lora	3/22
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 27th - Zone meeting at Van Buren 6:30 PM Meal cost \$10. Sign-up sheet at club meeting.

March 5th - Gary Bright, CEO of West Ohio Food Bank and Jamie Crawfis, Co-director of Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry will be our speakers at the noon Lions meeting at Maple Crest.

March 19th - Citizens of the Year Meeting 6 PM at the 3rd Floor of Bluffton Town Hall. Meal cost \$13. Election of officers for 2013-2014.

March 22nd - 9 AM will be the drawing for the Shopping Spree at the Community Market. Proceeds go toward the Scholarship Fund. Sign up to sell tickets on Fridays and Saturdays prior to the drawing.

March 23rd - Pancake/Sausage breakfast with and at the Senior Citizens Building 7 AM until 1 PM. Tickets available to sell. Sign-up sheet and tickets available at next meeting.

Board Report:

The nominating committee will present a slate of officers for this next year at the March 5th meeting to be voted upon on March 19th. Officer training provided by the District will be offered on April 6th.

The health fair committee is working on a time in the spring to have the health fair.

The shopping spree at the community market scheduled for March 22nd is being well received by the club members with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund.

Pancake and Sausage tickets are printed and ready to be sold for the breakfast on March 23rd.

Tail twisting for food has been well received. Three more meetings of tail twisting for the food bank and a check will be presented to the Food Bank by the end of March.

The Citizen of the Year banquet is being planned to honor Robert and Beverly Amstutz.

A tour of the Allen County Museum is being planned for Sunday, May 19th as our second meeting in May June 18 will be a Lions work night at the VOSH sorting center in Pandora.

A letter of resignation by Dick Weaver was accepted by the Board. The Board requested a status of honorary member status be given to Dick for his years of service to the club.



FEBRUARY 5TH MEETING:

The program at the February 5, 2013 Bluffton Lions club meeting was Bill Swartley, a Nurse Anesthetist for Blanchard Valley Health System both Blanchard Valley and Bluffton Hospitals. Swartley spoke about the Medical Ministry International organization and his most recent voluntary experience on a medical mission to the Dominican Republic. His power point presentation gave a close up view of the people, culture, living conditions and the important medical help the organization provides. A medical team will consist of 60 medical professional and support volunteers. Each participant covers their own expenses and will bring along medical supplies to have available with the treatment of patients...medical

supplies are in very short supply at remote locations. The reality is that the Medical Ministry International visits are the only source of medical care for people in many of the remote villages...this means people will only receive medical care again, when a medical team returns to the village in a year or two.

FEBRUARY 19TH MEETING:

President Barbara Plaughter presented the program on the two VOSH-Ohio missions provided for the year of 2012. A team of 19 members treated patients for eye care in a village of Cedros and also in the capitol of Tegucigalpa, Honduras in January 2012. We learned that volunteerism can and does change lives. One five-year-old child was identified to have a serious condition of eye cancer and taken to a medical center for treatment. Another child was provided with a personal energy transportation, PET, system to enable her to continue school, as she was a polio victim and unable to walk. Along with the 3,474 patients treated by the 19 member team, lives were changed. Our hosts were two church groups in Honduras.

The second mission was to Targoviste, Romania in October 2012. A 19 member team with 5 new optometrists not with VOSH on previous missions cared for 2,577 patients. The Rotary of Targoviste was our host and provided our lodging and transportation during our visit. Many patients on this mission were older and required more time in the clinic. President Barbara shared many personal incidents that happen during mission times and shared some incidents of living in a third-world country.

