



THE LIONS TALE

Alexandria Lions Club

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WE SERVE!

CALENDAR

January 9, 2008

Board meeting—
Jan 15 at 6 p.m. at Cajun
Catfish in Pineville

Feb 15-16—District
Lions Forum at the Best
Western in Alexandria

SPEAKERS

Jan. 16—George Robertson
of Cenla Advantage
Partnership (Economic
Development)

Jan 23—Jonathan Martin of
ROM, speaking on Blueprint
Louisiana and the new
administration.

Jan 30—Lions Forum for
our club

BIRTHDAYS

Viola Britt	Jan 9
Aaron Atwood	Jan 12
Jena Brame	Jan 12
Norman Thompson	Jan 12
Joe Daniels	Jan 14

Lion Glen Armand led the pledge of allegiance and **Lion Rev. Gary Van Horn** led in prayer.

Lion Pam Wunderlich transferred her membership from North Carolina to our Club. Welcome, Lion Pam!!!

The **2 Card Draw** continues to grow since **Lion Bob Hollingsworth** and **Lion Sam Echols** couldn't find the joker.

Lion Chris Tyler missed out on the \$70 door prize, so the amount rises to \$75. If you come to the meetings, you could get a little help with those Christmas bills!

Announcements:

Lion PDG Joe Wolf, our beloved Tail Twister, returned and promised no fines in the month of January, after threatening your editor, *on her birthday*, for not leading the Club in song during his absence.

Lion Mike Monceaux was missed. All assumed that he was still celebrating the Tigers great victory in the BCS. Lion Mike, you were **slandered!!!**

There will be a Lions Forum at the Best Western in Alexandria on Feb. 15-16. See Lion Aaron if you'd like to attend. The Club will pay your fees. Those registering by next Tuesday, Jan 15, will be eligible for a special door prize drawing.

Lion Susan announced that Girl Scout Cookie Sales begin on Jan 11. This is her LAST year!!!



2007-08 Lion Board

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James Ballard

1st Vice-President

Bob Hollingsworth

2nd Vice-President

Viola Britt

3rd Vice-President

Dave Perry

Secretary/Treasurer

Aaron McAllister

PDG

Tail Twister

Joe Wolf, PDG

Lion Tamer

Susan Ballard

Membership Chair

Sam Echols

Ex-Officio

Kermit Pharris

Board Members

Andy Juneau

Joe Daniels

Jared Hicks

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Beverly Price

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Editor

Viola Britt

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Lion Viola introduced her beloved husband of 30 years, Dave, who was the speaker. David Britt has been the President/CEO of the United Way of Central Louisiana for almost 11 years.

When the United Way began in Central LA, the purpose was to unify and simplify the fundraising efforts of the non-profits. There are now more than 1000 non-profits in Central Louisiana and there is no way that the United Way can fund them all.

United Way's Community Investment Cabinet, a group of volunteers, has identified 3 Goal Areas for our local United Way. They are Successful Children, Successful Families, and Families in Crisis.

The volunteers decided to try to find the one thing that would have the greatest impact on our community. After doing much research, they discovered that Early Childhood is key. Research has shown that children who receive the proper stimulation and basis as preschoolers have much higher success rates as adults. They are half as likely to be incarcerated and 2 or 3 times as likely to be successful, productive adults.

As Lions know from their work with eye screening, much of the brain's development is "set" by age 5 or 6. Just as lazy eye cannot be corrected after a certain age, neither are brain cells made.

While job training and education (K-12) are important and add to an individual's success, the largest Rate of Return on Investment (ROI) is from **effective** preschool programs. The Rand Corp has estimated the ROI as more than \$5 for every \$1 invested.

The Nurse Family Partnership is one such successful program. Another is the school system's Hippy program.

The United Way of Central Louisiana is continuing to convene community leaders to plan for the best solutions to school readiness. In Rapides Parish, 1 of 3 preschoolers cannot pass the pre-K assessment test which asks children to identify simple body parts such as neck, hand or arm, or know their colors such as red, blue or green. The United Way volunteers want to reduce the number of unprepared children from the 2007 rate of 420 to a somewhat less horrifying 320 or 220.

As the United Way continues to seek funding to put exciting new solutions in place, the community will continue to hear about the work of the professionals who have come together to try to solve the problem.