



WE SERVE!

CALENDAR

Spring Social April 5

Board meeting is April 7 (a MONDAY) this month at the home of Joe Crouch 6232 Moody Oaks

The Past Presidents meeting is Tuesday, April 8 at Tunks.

April 24—Outback Fundraiser

SPEAKERS

April 9—Yvonne Cook

BIRTHDAYS

Angela Tull 4/2

Percy Dauzart 4/3

Tony DeMarco 4/4

THE LIONS TALE

Alexandria Lions Club

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Alexandria, Louisiana 71309

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www.alexions.com

April 2, 2008

Lion Paul Blais led the pledge of allegiance and **Lion bob Hollingsworth** led in prayer.

Future Lion Ben Caplan was visiting with dad, **Lion Brent. Lion Beverly** had as her guest, Jim Elder, President of the Board of Renaissance

And we have a WINNER!!! The **2 Card Draw** was finally WON! **Lion Chuck Tosten** drew twice for his table and found the joker once. Once was enough! The \$675 was split 4 ways. What a day for our Tail Twister to skip and not be part of the ticket split!

And we have ANOTHER winner!!! **Lion Beverly Price** had her name drawn AGAIN and won the huge door prize of \$130. Was it a coincidence that HER program pulled her name? When she missed a few weeks ago, she was at a Renaissance Board meeting. Hmm.... (We're just teasing, Lion Beverly. No one deserves it more)

Announcements:

- This weekend is our Spring Social, a trip to Natchitoches for the Cane River Rhythm & Blues Festival and Mariner's Call Lion Beverly if you want to be a last minute addition.
- **Lion Susan Ballard** had all the tickets for the Outback fundraiser on Thursday, April 24. Different tickets are available for each of the two seatings or for take-out. Tickets also indicate whether chicken or steak is ordered. **The money and reservations are due back on April 16**
- **The Golf Tournament is May 19.** Contact Lion Mike Kearney at 445-9328 if you can help
- The Board meeting is 6 p.m., Monday, April 7 at Lion Joe Crouch's home, 6232 Moody Oaks in the Tennyson Oaks subdivision.
- Lion Bob announced that we screened 63 additional children for a total of 1103. Lions have volunteered 165 hours on Cubsight this year.



2007-08 Lion Board

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Bob Hollingsworth

2nd Vice-President

Viola Britt

3rd Vice-President

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PDG

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Joe Wolf, PDG

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Joe Daniels

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Beverly Price

Patrick Cunningham

Editor

Viola Britt

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Lion Beverly Price introduced our speakers, Brooks Harris, former Board President, and Angela Chutze, Executive Director, both of the Renaissance Home.

Renaissance has 3 basic programs: Detention (court referrals), the Group Home, and Shelter Care. With 48% of the budget coming from an ad valorem tax of 2 mils, the Home is quasi governmental. In addition, 40% of the funding comes from state contracts (Office of Youth Development and Dept of Community Service) and the remainder is grants and donations. The largest expense is personnel. They employ 68. The budget is \$2.1 million. Renaissance is a licensed facility. The group home is accredited. At the last inspection, 100% of mandatory and 99% of non-mandatory standards were met.

The educational component has been difficult to meet. Many of the youth have special problems. Renaissance is now part of the state's special school district instead of being part of the Rapides Parish Schools. There is a groundbreaking for the new building on Friday. They will have their own school building. They currently are using t-buildings from Rapides Parish.

Renaissance has a varied population with different incomes, extra curricular involvement in school, etc. They have a total of 41 beds, with 17 of those as detention. Services vary according to the program. They now are keeping kids longer and seeing families that are more troubled. However, the number of kids entering Renaissance is slightly down. The courts are trying hard to keep families together with some support.

They recently began a "Positive Behavior Support" behavior modification program and are seeing great results. They have a 70% NON-recidivism rate. Kids spend an average of 8-12 months in the group home. Rapides Parish is 50% of the population in the group home and 90% of the detention.

Angela spoke to the need for volunteers on the Board and with the youth as mentors and tutors. Brooks commented that a problem in our community is that the same people serve on multiple boards. He encouraged all to become active in the community and to volunteer. People need to take time to get past the acronyms and the "clubby" feeling.