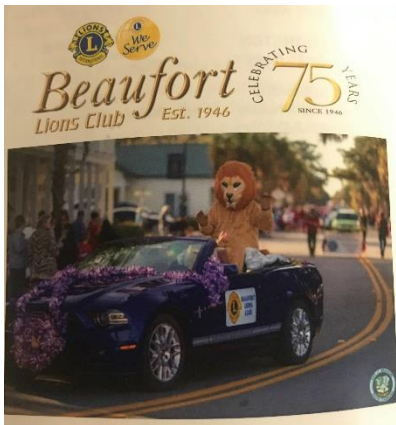




February 2021 Special Convention
Edition:
Editor: Dr. Carol Vesh Luetzow

LIONS SC DISTRICT 32-C CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS (IN LIEU OF VALUABLE MEETING TIME)

When I first receive my registration packet, I search for the Beaufort ad. Thanks Lions Sam and Melinda for the beautiful ad.



The Hilton Head Club offered
https://1drv.ms/b/s!AnYJKsKNkYDGSRIsoUEpw_mQ370RI?e=XB4cIC

A cold, rainy Florence, SC day during a pandemic did not keep Lions away from the Hilton Garden Inn on February 6, 2021. Over 140 Lions from District 32-C registered for the convention with only 12 as virtual convention-goers. Although Lion Les Taylor of the Hilton Head club was responsible for technology; he was home in bed with COVID, Lion Bill Teeter, of the Sun City Club, assumed the responsibility and ensured that all members had access to the sessions as well as the gala. The theme “Knights of the Blind” was evident

throughout as guides and assistants were attired as Knights.

THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout sessions included Lion Daniel Prohaska from Loins Vision Services, who discussed the role of and the services provided by the organization as well as the need for financial support from local Lions Clubs. Only 11% of Lions Clubs in South Carolina donate to LVS. Lion Daniel presented via zoom and Lion Carol attended the informative session. Please notice social distancing and masks.



Lion Melinda attended a session on COVID updates.

Both Lions Carol and Melinda attended the informative presentation by Lions George and Sandra Chace, the Baptist missionaries from Darlington, who work in the bush with the natives of Mozambique. The population of the African nation of Mozambique is 30 million and the average income is \$0.50 per day. Most people do not have access to affordable health care, good hygiene, or enough food. ISIS insurgents are within 100 miles of the clinic location. Few people can read or write.

Natives speaking 43 different dialects create language barriers even with interrupters. Lions George and Sandra began their work in 2001. They are now in their 70's with health concerns which prevent them from travelling as frequently to Mozambique. They have trained others to use the equipment and operate the vision clinics. Many natives have cataracts before age 30 due to the long-term exposure to the intense sunlight and the agrarian lifestyle. Spot cameras were ineffective identifying and diagnosing vision issues. Glasses are collected stateside, sterilized, sorted, and shipped in footlockers to Mozambique, where they are hand carried into the bush for clients. About 100 people per day are served through the mobile clinics. There is a need of regular sunglasses and readers. Donated glasses not used in Mozambique are sent to Roanoke, VA to be sent elsewhere. The "Sight for Mozambique" project is a 501C3 organization. Video links of the breakout sessions are not yet available.

CABINET MEETING

Lions Melinda and Carol were honored to serve as delegates from Beaufort. A 2-hour district cabinet meeting was held in the afternoon. A resolution was overwhelmingly approved to add a Chief Kindness Officer (CKO) to the District Cabinet. The first District 32-C CKO is PDG Randy Edwards. Voting of the future district governor team was next on the agenda. Lion Anthony (Tony) Bell from the Camden club was nominated by PDG Randy Crooms and voted to serve as second vice district governor elect.



Lion Les Taylor from the Hilton Head club accepted the nomination of first vice district governor elect via zoom from his COVID sick bed. Lion Jay McClary from Georgetown was nominated as district governor elect.

Lion Melinda was surprised with the Beaufort Club Excellence Award for the banner.



Lion Melinda was able to take advantage of a break to meet with the executive director, of the foundation of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind in Spartanburg to donate the school supplies donated by the member of the Beaufort Club.



THE GALA

The gala is always an exciting event with a formal dinner and presentations. International Director, Dr. Jose Marrero from Puerto Rico served as the keynote speaker. Dr Marrero was present throughout the day. He and his wife provided Russell Stover Valentine's Candy boxes for all convention goers.



Dr. Marrero showing off his new Lion shirt. Accompanied by District Council Chair, Rhett Everett.



Dr. Marrero being introduced in a breakout session by Lion Rhett.



2 VDG elect Tony Bell and his significant other with Dr. Marrero.



This photo illustrates the elegance of the gala as well as social distancing.

<https://youtu.be/OlbvTgxCMek>

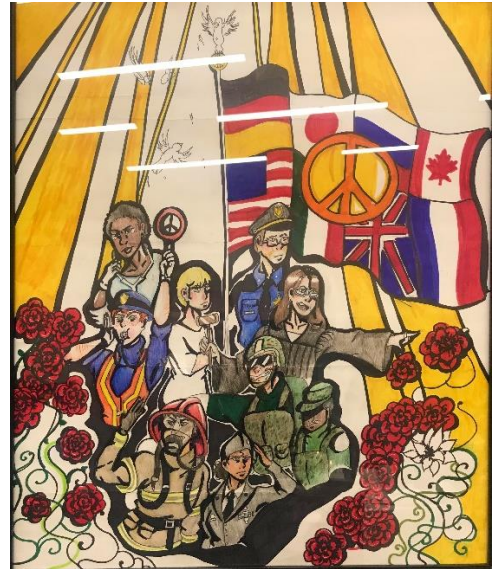
When technology failed, Dr. Marrero sang the National Anthem of Puerto Rico

<https://www.facebook.com/southcarolinallionsdistrict32B/videos/240860657587867/>

Dinner was followed by the reenactment of the famous “Knights of the Blind” speech by Helen Keller to the 1921 convention.



PEACE POSTER



The winning district peace poster



Morgan Thomas from an Aiken middle school was the District peace poster winner. Above is Morgan; VCC, PDG, peace poster chair, Pat Friday; art teacher, Wimbley Yon; and DG Bill Hahn.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Well, Beaufort Lions,

Thanks for reading the highlights of this informative, interesting convention. I had no photos of the silent auction. But reading over this, I think that is the only thing omitted.