

Nov. 2011

- Zone H-7 Newsletter -

Zone Chair Doug Tyler

~ Nine Top Clubs SERVING Five Great Islands~



[MD19-H7](#)



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Old Glory Flies Over Oak Harbor

Twelve days a year, members of the Oak Harbor Lions Club place over 320 American flags in front of Oak Harbor businesses and along the main arterial roads of Oak Harbor. The flags are displayed on most national holidays and on Oak Harbor's 'Holland Happening Days'. On days such as Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day and Veterans Day, the flags are a tribute to the military men and women serving at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island adjacent to Oak Harbor and to all veterans living in the Oak Harbor area. The public truly enjoys seeing the unfurled flags commemorating the holidays and other special occasions. Just as dawn is breaking, four teams load up about 80 American flags into pickup trucks. Each two Lion team is armed with precise maps, a list of sponsored locations and a flashing caution light atop each vehicle; they set



off to bedeck the town with the American colors. The eight-foot flag poles are set into prepared holes in concrete sidewalks or into preset bases in landscaped areas. Later that day, just before dusk, the teams retrace their routes, picking up and stowing the flags until the next special occasion.



This program is a major fundraiser for the Oak Harbor Lions with businesses and individuals sponsoring a flag for a \$25 donation per year. While hundreds of Lion volunteer hours a year go into making this fundraising project a success, the Flag Project Chairperson coordinates the volunteers, updates the route maps and sponsor lists, and maintains the flags and equipment. At the end of a flag's life, the Oak Harbor Lions and Boy Scout Troop 59 gather together to retire it with the dignity and respect befitting our nation's emblem.

Money raised is returned to the local community to fund vision and hearing exams, glasses and hearing aids, health screening events, scholarships, medical equipment, and to support programs such as Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Help House and more. The Oak Harbor Lions Club is grateful to the businesses and individuals for their continued sponsorship and support.

Congratulations!

We are proud of the Zone H7 Lions that had their efforts commended with awards at the recent Fall Forum in Yakima, Washington. Please tell them "job well done" the next time you see them.

PZC John Kohlmann received the Zone Chairperson Excellence Award for his performance as the 2010-2011 Zone H7 Chairperson. In addition, he was recognized as the best of the best, receiving the MD19 Zone Chairperson of the Year. We have all witnessed his hands-on approach through his participation in our clubs' projects and fundraisers. His "leading from the front" leadership style is worth emulating. Well deserved!

The outstanding performance of Lopez Island Lions Club **Secretary Fritz Baesman** and Oak Harbor Lions Club **Secretary Dennis Doll** was recognized by their being awarded with Secretary Excellence Awards. This award is given to those that go above and beyond the basic administrative requirements expected of those filling this key club officer position. Both Fritz and Dennis have received this award previously and their clubs are better off for it. Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our Lions! --ZC Doug

It's Great to Be Among Lions!

A big thank you to **President Doug Deans** and the Anacortes Lions Club for hosting our Second H7 Zone Meeting on November 5, 2011 at the Anacortes Yacht Club. There were 27 Lions representing 7 of the 9 clubs in our zone. We were also fortunate to have MD19 **District H Governor Tom Bond** in attendance.

We need a club to act as our zone's Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) Satellite. LERC deals with centralizing the sorting/cleaning and the transporting of the eyeglasses collected by the clubs in our zone. It was my pleasure to present Central Whidbey **Lion Ginny Munn** with a thank you gift to acknowledge her past contributions as our zone's LERC Satellite Coordinator; but now we need somebody else to step up.

Our President and Secretary discussion sessions were helpful in clarifying expectations and standardizing processes, as well as highlighting some of the challenges our club officers face. DG Tom was appreciative of the input and we can look forward to enhanced training for new officers. DG Tom told us to look forward to the Leadership 101 training that will be offered at our Spring Conference in Bellingham on April 12-14, 2012. Speaking of training opportunities, the next Northwest Lions Leadership Institute will be February 9-12, 2012 in Gig Harbor, WA and maximum participation is encouraged. The application deadline is December 31, 2011.

I am openly looking for my replacement as Zone Chairperson. Hopefully, you are either looking forward to holding higher office or you are helping someone else prepare for those officer positions. One of the signs of a healthy club is the sharing of club officer responsibilities among all the Lions in the club. Take a good look at your club and ask if you can help.

Our next zone meeting will be hosted by the Oak Harbor Lions at the San Remos Grill in Oak Harbor on February 4, 2012. I hope to see you there. --We Serve! ZC Doug

District Governor Visitation Schedule

Anacortes - February 23rd
Coupeville Central Whidbey - January 5th
Coupeville - November 30th
North Whidbey - February 8th
Oak Harbor - February 29th
Orcas Island - November 16th
San Juan - October 11th
South Whidbey - January 12th