

Hamilton Lions Club Newsletter

October 9th, 2008

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Tribute to Derek Fletcher
- 3 Tribute To Derek Fletcher con't
- 4 Gas o Rama 2009
World Service Day
District Governor's visit
Share the Christmas Spirit
- 5 Save the Date
Birthdays
Upcoming Events

Chartered: May 12, 1946

Registered Charity #18

Club # 008399

District – 20K2

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Board of Directors 08/09

President – Lion Fred Thompson

1st Vice President – Lion Earl Soares

Secretary – Lion Faith Gilkes

Asst. Treasurer – Lion Patrick Caton

Tail Twister – Lion Joan Munro

Lion Tamer- Lion Cecelia Downs

Asst Tamer-Lion Cora Woods

Directors 3rd Year – Jacqui Graham Simmons, Linda Philpott

2nd Year -Austin Thomas, Colin Gladwin, Maureen Marshall and Stuart Pearson

IPP-Lion Richard Kitson

Message from the President

Fellow Lions;

Sorry I cannot be with you tonight, due to family arriving this evening. I have asked 1st VP Lion Earl to conduct the meeting with help from secretary Lion Faith. This means you all are in safe hands.

Board of Directors, I am a bit disappointed as only Lions Earl, Faith and myself attended the last directors meeting. It would be appreciated if you would make contact if you are not going to attend. The meeting dates were printed in the July Newsletter and also mailed to members. Please make an effort to attend the next meeting November 4th, as the District Governor may also be in attendance.

I hope you enjoy your meeting and I look forward to hearing positive feedback.

Regards

President Lion Fred

Flying on Angel Wings

TRIBUTE TO DEREK FLETCHER

Written by Lion Dudley Cottingham

I remember once reading that we should live our lives giving some thought to what will be said about us at our funeral and imagining that we are there and thinking about what we would like said about us.

I had the good fortune of knowing Derek for almost the last 30 years of his life. Initially, as a member of Atlantic Phoenix Lodge, and from 1985 as members of Hamilton Lions Club.

I don't believe he ever read that book, but during the time that I knew him he clearly could have written it and indeed this is a celebration of Derek's life.

I saw first hand the huge contribution he made to his community through his support of Hamilton Lions Club, Atlantic Phoenix Lodge of Hamilton and Prince Alfred Lodge of Somerset. He would always make generous donations but more importantly would give of his time. I also heard about the enormous contribution he made to the Anglican Church in general and to this Church in particular and to various other charities including the Hospital where Derek was a Pink Man, Meals on Wheels and his support of Helen in her work with The Altrusa Association.

You could always count on his support. He was a regular attendee and he took his responsibilities seriously. As a member of Atlantic Phoenix Lodge he worked his way up through the Officer ranks and became the Worshipful Master in 1988. I was his Junior Warden and followed him becoming Worshipful Master in 1990. He encouraged me every step of the way. It was a privilege to work with him in Lodge and a pleasure to see the way his life was shaping up.

While it did not come easy to Derek, he loved a challenge and his achievements are too numerous to mention. One that I particularly recall was his determination to learn from memory a long lodge lecture and to then go on to be installed as the Worshipful Master of Atlantic Phoenix Lodge by Denis Brookes in 1988. His face would beam when he had completed a long lecture and he had proved to himself that he could do it. I believe the discipline required of him in Lodge was a factor in Derek turning his life around. He was even more proud when he later installed his Son Rees as Worshipful Master, in 1995.

Derek was keen that Freemasonry do all it could for the wider community. He was a steadfast supporter and officer of the Freemasons Fund for Bermuda which provides financial support to the hospital and numerous other charities and until quite recently Derek served a term as its President.

Derek was keen to do more for his community and in April 1985 joined Hamilton Lions club having been sponsored by his good friend the late Derek Taylor. In the following year he chaired the World Service Day project for the Club and got involved in all facets of the Club, as Director, Tail Twister, Church Service organizer, Chair of the Gas-O-Rama and Sight Conservation.

I joined shortly after Derek in October 1985 and spent many great times working on Lions projects with him and seeing how happy he was when we made a difference in peoples lives.

Derek often introduced and thanked our Guest Speakers and when they finished their presentations and asked if there were any questions you could always rely on Derek to put his hand up. We supported many tag days and you could always rely on Derek to work a long shift.

As we say in Lodge, charity blesses those that give as well as those that receive.

This was clearly true for Derek and he cherished the blessings of his wonderful family and his many friends. He was particularly blessed several years ago when we were manning a Hamilton Lions Club sight screening on Front Street at which we were providing a free screening for glaucoma. During a quiet patch Derek was asked if he would like to be screened. He agreed and was found to have glaucoma which would have led to certain blindness if he had not started using eye drops.

When my better half, Lion Debbie, needed help with the annual sight screening project, which provides free sight screening for all pre-school children, Lion Derek came to her rescue.

Through Lionism he supported many worthy causes. He chaired the largest annual fund raiser, the Gas-O-Rama and when on the island would always be a key helper in pumping gas and selling raffle tickets. He and Helen were also very generous contributors to the Youth Band project which sends young Bermudian musicians to the Lions New York & Bermuda State Convention each year to play in a combined Youth Band. Derek would often be a chaperone helping Lion Joan Munro and we had many fun times at the Lions Convention. He had great admiration for Lion Sandy Mitchell and would always support events that benefited WindReach.

My good friend Lion Marc Morabito has reminded me of the honour bestowed on Lion Derek when he was made a Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest Lionistic award for humanitarian service.

Marc says, "One fond memory I have of Lion Derek is when we went with a whole bunch of delegates from here (remember you and Jim attempted to drive us to a restaurant) in Syracuse NY!

Oakbrook had been late in sending us the MJF Award for Lion Derek that Year, so Lion Sandy and I arranged in secret to have the presentation made at the MJF Luncheon at the MD convention. We "tricked" Derek into attending that luncheon - over his objections as he was not (yet!) a MJF and could not understand why we insisted he should attend!

During the luncheon, the main speaker started alluding to this worthy Lion who had yet to receive his MJF award and as it started to look more and more that the mystery awardee was none other than himself, Lion Derek's eyes grew in amazement by the minute! When finally he was called to the Stage to receive his award from International Director Al Brandel to great applause, Lion Derek was visibly overjoyed and proceeded to address the quite large audience of High ranking Lions (some past international Presidents and a large number of present and past District Governors who were in attendance) at considerable length on what being a Lion meant to him and the reasons he became a member. This was the most heartfelt impromptu speech ever given on Lionism and I will remember it and cherish the occasion for many years and certainly whenever I remember Lion Derek."

On August 31st we were in this very Church at his invitation to celebrate Derek and Helen's 50th Wedding Anniversary and to witness the re-affirmation of their vows. Father Andrew spoke very movingly and we were all treated to a delicious tea afterwards. Derek spoke and publicly thanked his good friend and former boss as Police Commissioner, brother in Freemasonry and former President of Hamilton Lions Club, Fred (Penny) Bean, for all that he had done in helping him turn his life around. Derek was particularly touched when Fred stood up and spoke of Derek's achievements and how he had been proud to have helped Derek through some very challenging times and how he believed we are our brother's keeper. This was a very proud moment for Derek and touched him deeply.

On a lighter note I remember asking Helen afterwards how she had put up with Derek for 50 years. In her usual frank manner she told me that she had never once wanted to divorce Derek but could have throttled him on more than one occasion!

None of Derek's achievements would have been possible without the support of so many. He cherished his family and was especially blessed to have had such a lovely and supportive wife always by his side through both good and challenging times. He so looked forward to the trips he and Helen were able to make together in recent years.

Derek remained active to the end of his life. As well as serving as Tail Twister he was still on the board of Hamilton Lions Club and when I attended the recent meeting held on September 2nd, I again saw him taking an active part in the planning for the next Gas-O-Rama and in offering financial help to underwrite some of the costs. He was always encouraging hard working members of the Lions Club and I understand recently presented a gift to Lion Faith Gilkes for all she has done for Hamilton Lions Club.

I would sometimes feel that the Lions were asking too much of Derek even though I knew that he wanted to do it. It is increasingly hard to find those who are willing to volunteer their time and I hope that Derek's fine example will inspire others to get involved. This would be the most fitting tribute to him.

He was also still Chaplain for Atlantic Phoenix Lodge as he had been for the past several years. When a District Grand Lodge was formed in Bermuda recently our District Grand Master, Bobby Rego appointed Derek as District Grand Chaplain.

As many of you will know Derek was one of the contributors of a new book entitled "Legacies". He is quoted as saying "several people have complimented me on my courage for baring my soul", and went on to say, in typical Derek style "All of my stuff is factual. None of it is fiction." I encourage you to get a copy.

On behalf of so many I want to say thank you Derek and well done for all that you achieved in your life on earth. You were an inspiration to us and so many lives were and are better because of you.

My love and thanks to Helen, Rees, Elizabeth and Kevin for giving me this honour and May God continue to bless you

Gas o Rama - February 21, 2009

Committee members: Chair Lion Earl, David, David, Stephen, Dudley, Joan, Maureen, Jacqui and Hilary.

Plans are in action, Raffle request letters have been sent out. If you know of a sponsor that you wish to approach directly please see Lion Earl after the meeting for a letter.

We would like for someone to write the history of this project so that it can be used as a news story, we would also like pictures of past events.

Also we need to design a flyer for the event, if you have any ideas, please send them to Lion Faith via email or drop them in the mail as soon as possible. The best one will win \$50

District Governor's Visit Nov 1st –8th

Our District Governor will be arriving on November 1st for a week. Traveling with him is his wife Lion Flo, and Past District Governors Lion Steve and Renee Lesetz who are the current Cabinet Treasurer and Secretary.

While here they will attend the World Service Day Luncheon. Visit dignitaries. Attend Zone meeting and maybe our Director's Meeting.

They will also help to launch the Share the Christmas Spirit.

The Joint Dinner meeting will be on November 6th at Henry VIII Restaurant at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Cost \$45 – Uniforms required

Our club is to supply four raffles and take our banner.

Directors please contact the members you are responsible for and get the number to Lion Cora no later than November 4th.

Our regular meeting is canceled on November 14th.

Great News – Share the Christmas Spirit is on

As you all know this project was not going to continue this year. But after a meeting with Market Place Management and the members of Zone (Club Presidents, Secretaries and Chairpersons) it was decided to make it happen for its twentieth year.

We as members must now honor our motto" WE SERVE" because we need members to gave of themselves to make this work.

Starting November 17th we will need volunteers to assist with the sorting of the food items/packing the boxes etc. This will take place at the Bermuda Sea Cadets Building at PCC, Pembroke, from 5:30pm – 7:30pm M –F, Saturdays 9:am – 1:00pm. And as the project gets going we will really need MEN. It would also be great to have you (Men) present for security. This project will finish on December 13th.

The launch will be on Thursday November 6th at the Hamilton Market Place at 11 am, with a Tag Day on November 29th, at all of the Market Place/ A One Stores.

World Service Day – November 2nd, 2008

Fairmount Hamilton Princess Hotel

Time: 12pm – 2pm

Club member Donation \$25

Each club is to supply four raffles suitable for seniors – no soap.

We will need drivers to collect and deliver from the allocated Rest Homes. Please see Lion Richard to give your name.

This event is open to all seniors and the cost is \$25.

Please let Lion Richard know if you have invited your friends to attend no later than October 28th.

Windreach Harvest Festival Saturday October 11th, 2008

Lion Patrick sent to out via email to members.

Windreach will be happy for volunteers in any area, but would like the Lions to help cook and serve food on the day.

They would also like for anyone who can supply baked goods for their sale.

The event runs from 9 to 5.

Birthdays

September

Aideen Fletcher, Helen King, Faith Gilkes, Ewen McLean, Richard Kitson

October

Sue Daniels, Marlene Christopher, Joan Munro

Cynthia Postlethwaite, Cecelia Downs, David James, Marian Sheratt

Save the date

Friday, December 5th, 2008

Pompano Beach Club will host the

HAMILTON LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

Details pending

If anyone has the address for a former member can you please forward it to Lion Faith.

We have extended this invite to our sister clubs and they have accepted.



It is with great sadness to inform you of the death of our friend Mr. Joseph Guerra, former Food and Beverage Manager at the Dinghy Club. It was reported in the Royal Gazette on September 22nd.

A donation will be made to PALS in his memory.

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Also a donation will be made in memory of Lion Derek

Upcoming Events

A great way to support our sister clubs and support Lion members in their other activities.

“The Full Monty” starring David James Oct 8th – 18th

Olympic Association Tag Day Oct 24th

Paget Lions Grocery Packing Lindo's Dev. Oct 25

District Governor's Visit Nov 1st – 8th

Joint Dinner Meeting Nov 6th

Share the Christmas Spirit Launch Nov 6th

Share the Christmas Spirit

Sorting/packing/delivery Nov 17th – Dec 13

Matilda Smith Williams Home Tag Day Nov 21st & 22nd

Share the Christmas Sprit Tag Day Nov 29th

Christmas Dinner Dec 5th

Sunshine League Tag Day Dec 5th & 6th

Lion Cynthia Bell will be doing her first showing of paintings on October 12th at the Clock tower in Dockyard and also at City Hall on October 17th 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

Lion Cynthia is a member of Eastern Lioness Lions Club and the force behind the Share the Christmas Spirit, however she is leaving Bermuda after the showing to return to England with her Husband Geoff.

We wish her all the best at the showings. And we wish them safe travels.