

# MASON - DIXON LION



Annandale Lions Club  
 PO Box 453, Annandale Virginia 22003  
<http://www.annandalelions.org>



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## The King Lion's Roar

### *Halloween Frights*

by Shana Wilson

Ghosts and goblins and witches with wild hair  
 Give you a scare with their wicked stare.  
 If you are scared of the dark  
 Or ghastly creatures lurking in the park  
 Then you should not go out on Halloween night  
 Because most likely it will give you a fright.

Poltergeists and zombies come up from their graves  
 And bats are screeching in their caves.  
 Banshees are screaming.  
 I hope your flashlight is beaming.  
 Watch out or something just might say BOO!  
 Don't say that I didn't warn you.

And speaking of warning - Take a look at the activities, listed to the right that we have upcoming. Wouldn't it be nice to have some more members to share the load.

Last month we started our busy season by supporting the Mason District Park Festival with both a hot dog stand and also the operation of the screening van (see pictures on page 3.) Saturday turned out to be a great day for the festival. Although the crowds were down, Lion Leon and the crew had a good time serving the attendees, feasting on hot dogs (of various sizes and manufacturer) and talking up the club with those that would listen. Irrespective of the low crowds, we had the a record sale this year. In addition Lions Clem and Bill and the crew at the screening van were busy providing this needed service. About 60 individuals were screened.

We all need to remember to continue including membership recruitment as a part of all our Lions activities as well as during the interactions we have with our friends.

### *Upcoming Events!*

- Oct 20 - Road Cleanup
- Oct 22 Peace Poster Judging at the Mason Government Center
- Oct 25 - Hearing screening at Montessori School, Annandale
- Oct 26 - Sight / Hearing screening at Wakefield Park - Senior's Health Fair
- Oct 26 - 27 Fall Conference Ballston Holiday Inn, 4610 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA
- Nov 6 - Regular Dinner mtg - at 7:00 pm - Program will be the Lions Peace Poster
- Nov 8 - Lick and Stick at Leon's - 7:30 start
- Nov 13 - Board Meeting at George Mason Library
- Nov 17 - Fruit Sale - sorting begins at 8:00 am at the Annandale Swim and Tennis Club
- Nov 20 - Regular Dinner mtg. 7:00pm
- Dec 15 - Fruit Sale

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ANNANDALE LIONS CLUB  
 PO BOX 453, ANNANDALE VIRGINIA 22003  
[HTTP://WWW.ANNANDALELIONS.ORG](http://www.annandalelions.org)

President: Sid Jaffe  
 Secretary : Jim Hopson  
 Editor: John Landers



## News of the Board

The Board met on October 8 after finishing off an Oktoberfest feast provide by Sid and Missy.

Dues - Leon will be reactivating the management committee to look at our fund-raising events and the dues structure. There was significant discussion on a paper that Leon developed to look a alternatives to reduce the cost of dues. Options ranged from removing the meals cost from the dues calculation and going to a pay as you go for meals, elimination of one dinner meeting a month, or including a meeting a month as part of the dues and then charging for any additional meetings attended. Leon's committee will be looking at options for presentation at a future meeting. Any members with comments or recommendations should get them to Leon as soon as possible.

Membership - Sid reported that Randy Robey's had resigned which was accepted with regret. Sid will be looking for a new Lion Tamer, sunshine and fruit committee member.

60th Anniversary - Planning is beginning for the celebration of our 60th year of service this year. Sid is looking for a volunteer to chair this committee. Send any suggestions to any Board member.

Fund-Raising - The first fruit sale will be held on November 17. Some of use will meet at the Jukebox dinner prior to going to the van. Sorting begins at 8:00 at the Annandale Swim Club lot and hopefully we will be done by early afternoon. Please put this date on your calendar

11/17/07 Sale	Count / Case	Full	Half	Quarter
Florida - Ruby Red Grapefruit	32 / Case	\$32	\$17	\$9
Florida - Navel Oranges	48 / Case	\$32	\$17	\$9
Florida - Juice Oranges, Hamlin	80 / Case	\$28	\$15	\$8
Florida - Sunburst Tangerines	120 / Case	\$32	\$17	\$9
X-Fancy Red Delicious Apples	88 / Case	\$32	\$17	\$9
US #1 Anjou Pears	100 / Case	\$32	\$17	\$9
Driscoll Strawberries - \$4.00 / Quart				
Annandale Lions Club's Famous Bean Soup Mix -14oz. - \$3.00 per bag				
Annandale Lions Club Cookbook - \$5.00				
2007 White House Christmas Ornament - \$17.00				



Annandale High School - Sid reported that he had received a letter from the Annandale High School Boosters requesting \$400 for including our name on the sign at the athletic field. Expenditure was approved on a motion by Jim Hopson, seconded by Leon.

As an attempt to increase our sales, Sid will be placing ads in the Times newspapers prior to each fruit sale. He also will be putting an ad in the paper for our White House Christmas ornament sales.

White House Ornaments - We all need to support this fund-raiser and it is not too soon to be getting orders. Send your orders to Marty. Price is \$17.00 for each ornament.

Next Board meeting will be at the Library on November 13 .



## Additional Notes

60th Anniversary - It was originally planned to include our 60th anniversary celebration with our holiday party. However, with December on us, Sid decided to move the 60th back several months which will closer to the date of the charter issuance.

Club Shirts are in - Please see me if you had ordered a shirt

Tony Reyes of the Lake Ridge Lions has announced his candidacy for Vice Governor.

The District 24 - A's Winter Conference on 22 - 23 February will include a trip to the Riverside Dinner Theater to view a performance of Thoroughly Modern Millie



Shown are Lion Clem and two Lake of the Woods Lions at the Annandale Montessori school vision screening working the registration and photo evaluation desk



The Lions screening van in operation at the Mason District Park Festival - shown are Lions Clem, Pat, Dave, Gene, and Bill



Shown is Lion Leon setting up a student at the Annandale Montessori school for her MTI Photo-screening



Hot Dog stand at the Mason District Park Festival getting ready for business - Shown are Cao Mai, Jean Conover and several members of our sponsored Boy Scout Troop



## Halloween History

We generally see Halloween as a harmless children's celebration. And it is. Now. The history of Halloween, however, dates back before Christianity and involves death and evil spirits and fears of all sorts.

Let's start with the date, October 31. When mankind first started to settle down into villages, there were two sources of food. You farmed and you raised cattle. Cattle were easy. On May first, you drove the cattle out into your field. On November first, you brought them back into the barn for the winter. Your entire year was two seasons - growing season and winter. Life and Death. Beltane and Samhain. Since November first was the start of the season of death, when food grew scarce and the plants all died, it was also the night to honor the Lord of the Dead, Anwynn. The belief was that spirits of those who had died during that year also gathered that night, driven out of the bare woods and empty fields. The spirits returned to their homes and needed the help of their kin to cross over to the land of the dead. Relatives would hollow out turnips and gourds and use them to carry the spirits to the proper location.

Not just good spirits were loose on Samhain - evil spirits, witches and goblins also roamed the earth. To protect your relative's spirit, you'd paint a scary face on the gourd to chase the evil spirits away. And to play it safe, you'd also disguise yourself by painting your face with hideous paints and donning a wild costume. This just left the problem of the faeries. Faeries also ran free on the Eve of Samhain. Faeries weren't evil, they weren't good. They were faeries. They liked rewarding good deeds and did not like to be crossed. And on Samhain, the faeries would disguise themselves as beggars and go door to door asking for handouts. Those who gave them food were rewarded. Those who slammed the door tended to experience some unpleasantness.

Bonfires were very popular part of the ceremony in the Celtic countries. In Ireland, the fires were all allowed to go out. A large bonfire was lit in the center of town and sacrifices were thrown in. From this one central bonfire in each town, all the hearths and fireplaces were re lit. The same ceremony took place in Scotland, but the Scots also believed that you could tell the future by staring into the bonfire.

In 43 AD, the Roman Empire conquered the Celts and Celts and Romans found themselves living in the same villages. The Celtic festival of Samhain was celebrated at the same time as Pomona, a Roman celebration of the harvest. As the two cultures lived together, their cultures began to merge and suddenly apples and harvests became part of the celebration.

Over the next 500 years, the Catholic Church grew in power until, under Pope Gregory, it had converted most of Europe and the British Islands to Christianity. Pope Gregory's successor, Pope Boniface 4th, desperately wanted to eliminate pagan ceremonies. Pope Boniface felt that as long as the old festivals were still celebrated, the church's control wasn't complete. He also knew that if he banned the festivals, he'd have a full blown riot on his hands. So he decided to replace the old festival with a new festival and the church created All Saints' Day, a holy day to honor all the saints that always fell on the exact day as Samhain. And to celebrate All Saints' Day, young men were to go door to door begging for food for the town poor. Villagers were allowed to dress up in costume to represent a saint. Now, instead of dressing up to chase away evil spirits, you dressed up to honor the saints.

Eventually over the course of the years, Samhain and All Saints' Day blurred into one holiday. By the 1500's, you couldn't separate the two anymore. Of



course, by this time, no one called it All Saints' Day. Now it was All Hallows' Day. The night before All Hallows' Day was of course, All Hallows' Evening, or in the slang of the villagers, Hallow Evening or simply Halloween.



This may have been the end of it except for one significant development. On Halloween, 1517, Martin Luther began trying to reform the Catholic Church. His reformation ended up as the Protestant Church, the followers of which didn't believe in saints. No saints meant no All Hallows' Day. No All Hallows' Day meant no Halloween. The Celts have never given up a party without a fight, so the Halloween festivities were moved to November 5 - Guy Fawkes Day. Guy Fawkes was a minor player in a Catholic plot to blow up the English Parliament, which was Protestant. So, although technically, the celebration was to commemorate the failure of the plot, it was Halloween. Bonfires were lit across the country. People made lanterns from carved out turnips and children went begging for money.

Meanwhile, in the new world, the settlers were all Protestant and Halloween was technically a Catholic holiday. The original colonists in this country found ANY celebration immoral, never mind a Catholic one. In fact, celebrating Christmas in the Massachusetts colony was illegal, punishable by banishment or death. After the American Revolution, Halloween still never really caught on in America. Most of the country was farmland, and the people too far spread out to share different celebrations from Europe. Any chance to get together was looked forward to - barn raisings, quilting bees, taffy pulls. Eventually, a fall holiday called the Autumn Play Party developed. People would gather and tell ghost stories, dance and sing and feast and light bonfires. The children would stage a school pageant where they paraded in costumes.

The Autumn Play Parties lasted until the Industrial revolution. After that, the majority of Americans lived in cities and had no need for these types of events. By the end of the Civil War, only Episcopalians and Catholics celebrated All Saints' Day and Halloween, and the two religions combined made up less than 5% of the population. Concerned about letting a part of their heritage fade away, the two religions began an aggressive campaign to put those two holidays on all public calendars. The first year All Saints' Day and Halloween showed up on the calendars, the newspapers and magazines made a big deal about it. Suddenly, everyone knew about Halloween and began celebrating it by lighting bonfires and having masquerade parties.

In the late 1800's, nearly 7.4 million immigrants came to America, bringing their European customs with them. Seven hundred thousand Irish Catholics came over during the seven-year potato famine alone. These immigrants may have brought their customs with them, but once they saw how plentiful pumpkins were in the New World, it didn't take them long to start hollowing out jack O'lanterns instead of turnips.

In 1921, Anoka, Minnesota celebrated the first official city wide observation of Halloween with a pumpkin bowl, a costumed square dance and two parades. After that, it didn't take Halloween long to go nationwide. New York started celebrating in 1923 and LA in 1925. By then, not only had Jack O'Lanterns replaced the hollowed out turnips, but the disguised fairies begging door to door had become trick or treat. So if it appears on October 31 that the wind sounds a little too mournful as it whistles through the skeletal fingers of the bare trees, it's only your imagination. And if the nip in the air seems to bear the chilling touch of the grave on it, it's only fall foreshadowing the arrival of winter. It has nothing to do with the ghosts and goblins that once called this night their own. And as you peer out into the stygian blackness of this night, if something should rustle through the dead leaves, just remember that the faeries dance no more in the realms of man. - It is only Halloween (or is it?)

# Canine Companions for Independence



Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that provides assistance dogs to people with developmental or physical disabilities who

can demonstrate that a Canine Companion will enhance their independence or quality of life. CCI dogs are provided at virtually no cost to the graduates. All the expenses of breeding, raising, and training a Canine Companion is funded through private donations.

The training of the CCI dogs is a highly structured program that eventually takes place at five Regional Training Centers across the country (the center serving our area is in New York).

Volunteers provide permanent homes for the CCI breeder dogs and nurture newborn puppies until they are eight weeks old. They are then sent to volunteer puppy raisers who will



socialize them in a variety of environments for an additional 13 to 18 months.

They are then transferred to a regional center to begin their specialized training. This training lasts for six to nine months during which time professional instructors

teach the dogs to master 50 specialized commands. Then dogs are matched with an adult or child with a disability.

Then begins an intensive two week team training program that teaches dog handling and care, training methods and commands and field trips where individuals can practice as a teams with their potential assistance dog.

Graduate teams can remain active for ten years or more. CCI provides follow up services including in-person visits, phone calls, e-mail, and regular training workshops to add extra skills and fine-tune existing ones. When a dog is ready to retire, CCI assists in the planning of the dog's retirement and in applying for a successor assistance dog.

## Types of Assistance Teams

**Service Teams** — Adults with physical disabilities who work with a Canine Companion to extend their abilities and utilize the dog to perform physical tasks such as pulling a wheelchair, retrieving dropped items, flipping light switches and opening doors.

**Skilled Companion Teams** — A three-part team including a child or adult with physical, developmental or emotional disabilities, a primary caretaker, and a Canine Companion who helps with physical tasks and creates a bond of companionship, affection and love.

**Facility Teams** — Adults who work as rehabilitation professionals, caregivers or educators and utilize a Canine Companion to improve the mental, physical or emotional health of those in their care.

**Hearing Teams** — Adults who are hard of hearing or deaf who use a Canine Companion to alert them to everyday sounds such as doorbells, alarm clocks and smoke alarms.