

TOLLESBORO LIONS CLUB HOSTS AWARDS BANQUET



Photo: Members and guests in attendance at the Tollesboro Lions Club Awards Banquet, March 26, 2018

On Monday, March 26, 2018, the Tollesboro Lions Club held an Awards Banquet. It had been many years since the Club last held such an event, the last significant celebration for the club (other than the occasional Ladies Night or annual Christmas Party) was the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration in April of 2004, so the Club put together a significant program and complimentary meal to honor both members and supporters of the club, there being both many supporters and members deserving of recognition. Attending the banquet were approximately 75 persons including members, spouses, and representatives from local businesses and affiliations honored for their contributions and support to the Tollesboro Lions Club. Due to the size of the crowd, the meeting was held at the nearby Family Life Center of the Tollesboro Christian Church rather than at the Lions Club Clubhouse.

As members and their spouses entered, Tammie Brown, a professional local photographer, was on hand to photograph each couple in order to create a Lions Club Membership Directory (the Club's first) and entries were passed out for door prizes which were given away at the end of the meeting. The Family Life Center was decorated throughout with emblems of Lions Club International, including tablecloths, napkins, Lions Club "We Serve" centerpieces on each table, and banners placed behind the head table and the site of the awards presentation (in addition, the photos of Lions Club members and spouses were taken using a Lions Club banner as a backdrop). A slideshow presentation from the 2017 Tollesboro Lions Club Fair (our 60th annual fair, and the club's main fundraiser) was showing from 6:15 pm as members and guests first began to arrive, through the meal, and until the Awards Presentation began.

The meeting began at 7 pm., with introductions of visitors and a short statement about SERVICE (Lions Club motto: "We Serve") by current Lions Club Second Vice President and Treasurer Steve Pedersen (who coincidentally has been elected as the Club's next President, to take office in July, 2018, and whom spent significant time and effort making the arrangements for the banquet, setting up the banquet and placing the necessary orders through Lions Club International for the awards, banners and decorations). Members then introduced their spouses and guests. Welcome and opening remarks were then made by current Lions Club President Craig A. Stanfield. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lion Club Member Anthony Katsumi Wellman and the Invocation was given by Lions Club member Larry Tucker, the Club's longest serving active member. Then a wonderful meal was served by local caterers Skeeter and Sonia Shaw.

Following the dinner, an address was made to the Club by Greenup County Lions Club Past President and Past District Governor James "Jim" Archey. In addition to statements about Service to others, Lion Archey applauded Tollesboro's commitment to community and service, praising the Club's Fairgrounds and recent service projects including contributions for Water Filters sent to Nepal, eyeglasses (250 pairs) sent to Haiti as well as eyeglasses collected and sent to the Lions Club Eye Foundation (180 pairs) for recycling, the sponsoring of a band member of Lewis County High School to participate in the Lions Club Kentucky State Marching Band appearance in Las Vegas later this year, scholarship funds to students intending to further their academic education, and eyeglass contributions to the unfortunate as well as contributions to Project Merry Christmas among other projects. Following his presentation, PDG Archey was presented with an antique key chain from the Lions Club International's 1967 Golden Anniversary, as well as a brass Lions Club paperweight. After this presentation, the Club presented Appreciation Awards to local businessmen and supporters who deserved recognition for their outstanding contributions and support of the Tollesboro Lions Club. Recipients included: The Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department represented by Fire Chief Gary Thomas; longtime club supporter and electrician Glenn Cole; the Lewis County Farm Bureau Board of Directors represented by Lion Jim Meadows as well as Phillip Stamm; Lewis County Judge Executive Todd Ruckel; Lewis County Sheriff Johnny W. Bivens; the Citizens Deposit Bank & Trust represented by the Bank's CEO Mike Mineer; Carmeuse Lime and Stone represented by Lisa Wellman; Kenny & Kenton Meadows of Meadows Excavating; long-time assistant serving our annual livestock shows during our annual Lions Club Fair Mary Shoemaker; the Buffalo Trace Area Development District represented by Citizen Member/Past Chair/Board and Executive Committee Member/RLF Chairman Lion Craig A. Stanfield and Board Member/Executive Committee Member/Lewis County Judge Executive Todd Ruckel; and Rip's Farm Center represented by Lion Jim Meadows and his wife Jennifer, their children and spouses Matthew and Jill Meadows and Amanda and Josh Hawkins, and their children).

Following the presentation of Appreciation Awards, Lions Club Service Awards were presented based upon years of service. Lion Don McCann, who couldn't attend due to health issues, was presented a Half Century Service Award, a Monarch Chevron Award for serving in excess of 55 years, and a Devoted Lion Award, all in recognition of his 58 years of membership and contributions to the Tollesboro Lions Club, these awards accepted on his behalf by Lion Jim Harris who will present the awards to Lion McCann at his home. Lion Larry Tucker was honored with the Half Century Award for 50 years of dedicated service to the Tollesboro Lions Club, our longest serving current active member, as well as a Devoted Lion Award. Lion Darrell Dixon was presented with the Quarter Century Award, a Devoted Lion Award and a 45 Year Chevron for 47 years of service to the Tollesboro Lions Club. Lion Jim Harris was honored for 30 years of service, receiving the Monarch Chevron Award, a Devoted Lion Award and a Quarter Century Award. Zone Chairman/Past President Clinton Applegate was honored for 27 years of service with a Monarch Chevron, a Devoted Lion Award and a Quarter Century Service Award, as was current Lions Club President Craig A. Stanfield (also serving 27 years). Lion Charles Kendall was honored with a Quarter Century of Service Award for 25 years of membership, a 25 year Charter Monarch Chevron (*Lion Kendall, a current member for 25 years of the Tollesboro Lions Club, was also a Charter Member of the Orangeburg Lions Club in Mason County, Kentucky, the adjoining county west, when the Orangeburg Lions Club was established in 1988*) and a Devoted Lion Award. Current Lions Club Secretary Phillip Cropper was honored for 20 years of service with a Monarch Chevron and Devoted Lion Award and current Second Vice President/Treasurer Steve Pedersen was so honored as well for his 20 years of service. Lion Paul Hampton was presented a Monarch Chevron Award for 15 years of Service (Paul is currently serving his 19th year as a member of the Tollesboro Lions Club) and a Devoted Lion Award specifically honoring his service as the Annual Tollesboro Lions Club Fair Horse Show Chairperson, and Lion Jim Meadows was presented a Monarch Chevron Award for 10 years of service (Jim is currently serving his 11 years of membership) as well as an Outstanding Service and Commitment Award. Lastly, Lions Club President Craig A. Stanfield made a special presentation, the President's Lions Club Spirit Award to Lion Steve Pedersen for his service to the Tollesboro Lions Club as a longtime Club Secretary and for his significant contribution of time and energy in setting up the Awards Banquet, presenting Lion Pedersen with a 1967 antique Lions Club International Golden Anniversary keychain and a brass Lions Club paperweight.

Following the presentation of Service Awards, gifts were given to spouses of Lions Club members and to the ladies in attendance and a drawing was held for the table centerpieces. Attendees then sang "My Old Kentucky Home" before Lion Steve Pedersen and Lion Craig Stanfield gave closing remarks, followed by a closing prayer by Lion Phil Cropper.

The Tollesboro Lions Club was organized in 1954, celebrating our 64th year as a club. We have 26 current members, and the club has held an annual fair each year since 1957, currently a 9 day event held in July each year on it's fairgrounds located on KY 10/KY 9/Lions Club Lane in Tollesboro. The fairgrounds consists of approximately 25 acres provided with several hundred thousand dollars of improvements including our Lions Club Clubhouse/Meeting Hall, a baseball/softball/Little League field, an outdoor blacktopped basketball court, a blacktopped walking track, buildings suited to use for picnic shelters and pageants (concerts, etc.), and with numerous buildings and improvements geared specifically for our Annual Fair, including a horse show ring, pulling and motorized event tracks with elevated announcer's booths, food booths, permanent restroom facilities, large livestock show barn (for beef and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats), the Floral Hall, permanent bleacher seating for nearly 1000 persons, and numerous other buildings. The Lions Club has made a commitment to erect a new playground on the premises this year (this playground is a considerable undertaking, the funds for purchase provided and made available through the Lewis County Cooperative Extension Office and the Center for Disease Control. The playground equipment, which will be handicapped accessible and includes a swing that will accommodate a wheelchair, the purchase cost alone being approximately \$30,000 (excluding the costs of erection, anchoring, fencing, maintaining) was made available to the Lions Club under the condition that the Club provide for set up and erection of the equipment (including labor and materials which shall include significant concrete for anchoring and setting up the playground equipment, fencing, maintenance, and placement of mulch or other "padding" around the equipment) and making the playground available to the public for use. This will allow for the replacement of the small outdated playground currently in place on the grounds.

The Tollesboro Lions Club meets the second and fourth Monday of each month throughout the summer (in winter months, the Club meets the 2nd Monday evening of the month) at 7:00 pm at the Lions Club Clubhouse located on the grounds of the Tollesboro Lions Club Community Park and Fairgrounds.