

Thurmont Lions Club  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2022

The Thurmont Lions Club Membership meeting was held on January 12, 2022, at St. John Lutheran Church in Thurmont, MD. The meeting was called to order by the President Dianne McLean at 6:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Lion Don Ely  
Song led by: Lion Jan Ely  
Invocation by: Lion Joyce Anthony

**Guests:** Grace Smith; Odale Martin

**Sign Up Sheets:** Mini Barter (Lion Gayle), Bingo (Lion Sharon)

**Getting to Know You: Lion Susan Smith**

**Career:** Worked as an Administrative Assistant at Washington Gas; Worked as a Financial Advisor; presently working at CPA firm for 18 years

**Favorite Vacation:** Visiting the beach with her family

**Family:** She has one son who is 29 years old, a sister that lives in Thurmont and a brother that lives on the Eastern Shore

**Why did you become a Lion?** Susan wanted to help the community

**Induction of New Members** – PDG Paul Cannada inducted two new members – Eileen Williard, sponsor Lion Joyce Anthony and Heidi Dennie, sponsor 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lion Julie El-Taher.

Lion Eileen is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. She met her husband, Tom Williard, in the military. Since both of them were in the service, they traveled a lot and put in 28 years. Since Tom is originally from Thurmont, they have made their home in JerMae Estates for the past six years. Lion Eileen wanted to meet some new friends and give back to the community. She is grateful to be given the opportunity to help.

Lion Heidi lives in Thurmont and works with Community Health care workers through the Asian American Center in Frederick. The Executive Director of the organization is a Lion, and she had expressed my interest in becoming a member of the Thurmont Lions Club. Lion Heidi will be helping with the Health Fair in the spring. She is very happy in becoming a Lion.

The club members welcomed Lions Eileen and Heidi into our "Lions family". Congratulations!

**Program** - We had two guest speakers for the evening. Chief Greg Eyler, Chief of Thurmont Police Department, wasn't feeling well and was unable to attend. Our other guest speaker, Sheriff Chuck Jenkins was present.

Sheriff Jenkins spoke on several topics with regard to Frederick County and surrounding area. As COVID-19 cases rise, local law enforcement agencies are feeling the effects and adjusting operations as officers in their own ranks undergo quarantine. There is an estimate of 125 percent staffing shortages related to COVID. He strongly emphasized the people would not see any decline in any service levels; they are answering every call for service. Some of the areas covered by Sheriff Jenkins are:

- ✓ Crime rate and status
- ✓ Heroin crises

- ✓ Police reform issues
- ✓ Policing thru COVID
- ✓ Use of "reasonable force" policy
- ✓ Overdoses (trending is down in overdoses)
- ✓ Murders – All of the murders in Frederick County have been gang related.

Biggest problem going forward is police reform. County short on 21 Correctional Officers. Legislation is passing laws that are damaging, body cameras must be worn, huge increase in cost, etc. By 2025, all officers on the street must wear body cameras. There are a lot of criminal elements coming into the county and increase in gangs.

**Fundraising Announcement:** Lions Doug and Don talked about their future plans with regard to chairing the fundraisers. They indicated they are getting "burned out" after twenty years. They explained the critical need for someone and/or more members to step up to chair the fundraising. It is a very rewarding position, but it is also a lot of organizing. This topic will be discussed many, many time in future meetings.

**Secretary's Announcements:** None

### **Tail Twister**

Lion Don Keeney, Jr. told his usual funny stories which were enjoyed by all and proceeded to collect fines from the members.

### **Mini Barter**

- A container of chocolate chip cookies – Lion Ross Smith for \$5.00

### **Table Announcements**

- Lion Sharon Morgan announced the bingo to be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> – there will be one winner per game.
- Lion Nancy Echard announced she is still collecting items for the VDG 2<sup>nd</sup> Service Challenge
- Lion Gayle DiSalvo announced Barter Night is soon approaching

### **President's Announcements**

- Still has raffle tickets for FVDG Nadja Muchow's campaign
- Delivered 65 pints of BBQ pork to the Thurmont Food Bank
- Essay Contest – Entries are due
- Law Enforcement Day – Lion Debbie Schray will 'Fill the Frig' at the Police Department
- Talked about the crisis the club is facing with members not stepping up for leadership positions – this is a service club – not a social club

The 50/50 (\$26.00) was won by Grace Smith

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

*Joyce Anthony*

Lion Joyce Anthony  
Secretary