

Lions celebrate 68th anniversary

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McDiarmid receives award.

Gothenburg Lions Club celebrated its 68th anniversary with a charter night held at Randazzle Cafe Nov. 1.

The principal guests were the Lions district governor Nancy Russell, her husband PDG Fred Russell and several Gothenburg people with connections to Lions going back over many years.

Two new Lions were inducted as part of the program, Chuck Titkemeier and Russell Crawford, and 11 members were presented with attendance and service awards.

As part of the evening's activities, attendees were treated to poetry readings by the club's two published poets, Chris Hodges and Marlin Kuxhausen. Popular songs from the Lions Songbook were well received, with everyone joining in.

District governor Russell, in her short address, spoke of the targets for Lions this year as she stressed the theme "Beacon of Hope." Following her address she pulled off the surprise of the night by presenting the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award to club secretary Barry McDiarmid.

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The Lions district bestowed this honor in recognition of his services over many years as Youth Talent Contest chairman. McDiarmid, in accepting the award, dedicated it to the people who had given their services to the talent contests, which were held in Gothenburg at the Sun Theatre.

Lions were reminded of several of the community activities they perform. Flags that are displayed on national holidays are posted and collected by the Lions Club members. The annual flag retirement and disposal ceremony has been scheduled for Dec. 6, and members of the public are invited to attend the event at 7 p.m. at the KOA campground.

Anyone with a flag that is no longer serviceable who would like to have the flag included in the ceremony should give it to any Lion member, or simply drop it off at KOA.

The flag disposal ceremony will be followed by the annual drawing for the Lions food raffle. Tickets for this raffle are already being sold in the community, and funds raised will be used to help finance the vision and hearing screening of Gothenburg's students, the Christmas movie matinee on the Saturday, Dec. 18, continued support of the work of the Lions Eye Bank, leader dogs and hearing dogs, as well as supporting of people with needs in vision, hearing or diabetes in the Gothenburg community.