



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS February, 2023

2905 W. Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605

Phone: 309-637-3693

Email: info@cicbvi.org Website: www.cicbvi.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cicbvi

Paula Balistreri, Editor

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE?

February is Low Vision Awareness month and the CICBVI is working hard to increase awareness of not only our Center, but the issues that face individuals with low or no vision. Obviously, we can't do this without the assistance of our friends and supporters so we launched a mail campaign to help bring awareness and ask for your continued help as we move forward. Be sure to look for the flyer included in this newsletter as well as in your mailbox or e-mail. We hope you will consider a gift to the CICBVI – no matter how small, every dollar helps us maintain and grow our services to those who need it. We can't express our appreciation enough for not only your financial gifts but your time and talent support. THANK YOU! We feel the love!

So far this year, we have been blessed with two special gifts from community organizations that support our efforts. The first was from proceeds of sales for a week at Peoria Heights Helping Hands Thrift Shop. We work with them twice a year and are especially happy that not only does the Center benefit, but others do as well. Helping Hands gives proceeds to many worthy organizations all year round and one small way we can show our appreciation is to donate gently used items for resale. This is a wonderful partnership and we are honored to be a small part of their mission.

The second is a grant that was awarded to the CICBVI from the Peoria North Rotary Club. Thanks to our Board President, Kurt Norris, being a new member of this group, we became aware of the opportunity to apply for this grant. We were recently notified that we were selected to receive one this year. This grant is earmarked for special projects related to technology education so we are rolling out a program to provide not only specific devices (such as an Alexa) to patrons who meet the qualifications, but training in how to use various assistive technology as well. We will be sharing more information in the coming weeks on this so be sure to stay tuned! As always, if you have any questions call the Center at 309-637-3693.

Community partnerships are key to our success. We are pleased to be involved and look forward to many more opportunities that benefit us all.

UPDATES ON THIS AND THAT

Last year we were awarded a grant from Impact Central Illinois that is earmarked to update our kitchen and technology room. Work has been started with a refurbishment of our stove/oven and the counter area on either side of that appliance. We are now looking at updating the sink side of the kitchen. We also have begun plans for the technology room that, hopefully, will include new carpeting and individual work stations that will make it easy for patrons to come to the center and either be trained on or practice their technology skills. We appreciate this “seed money” from Impact Central Illinois but realize we will need to continue to work hard to finance these projects in order to complete them. These projects are fairly “long term” so your patience is appreciated as we move forward.

Last month you will recall we highlighted our transportation needs. This is a critical need and we are researching various solutions. First, Kurt Norris and Paula Balistreri are attending a seminar in early February organized by Active People, Healthy Illinois and will include several community entities such as the National Health, Planning and Transportation Commission, the Peoria Health Department and the Tazewell County Regional Planning Commission. The hope is to gain more information about transportation resources in the community.

Secondly, we have partnered with the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Leadership School which provides a team of professionals to study an issue of our choice and come up with potential solutions. We had to apply for this opportunity and chose the areas of awareness and transportation as our subject matter. We were accepted and had our first meeting with the team assigned to us. This team consists of professionals from various avenues who brainstorm together and work on this project for about six weeks resulting in concrete ways for us to improve. This is an exciting opportunity for the CICBVI and we are looking forward to learning more!

Finally, if you haven't visited our website lately, take a few minutes and check it out. It is a work in progress but we are updating information and working very hard to make it "user friendly" for all who visit.

And, of course, while you are on-line, hop on over to our Facebook page and have fun looking at all the activities we've been up to lately! Feel free to share and/or leave a nice comment!

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have four exciting and fun events coming up: First, on February 7th we are once again offering Long White Cane Training. This training is led by Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, Sean Johnson and participants will receive a free long white cane. If you haven't registered but want to attend, please call the Center ASAP at 309-637-3693.

On February 14th we will share the love with a local fire station. Patrons will tour Station 4 and get a hands on experience with fire trucks and equipment and learn more about being safe in their homes. This tour will start at 10:00 AM and is followed by lunch at perennial favorite, Pizza Ranch. Reminder, lunch is "on your own" so be sure to bring payment. Registration deadline is Thursday, February 9th and transportation will be provided on a "first come, first served" basis so get your reservations in early. And, since it is Valentine's Day, we will be bringing a special treat for the firefighters who help keep us safe. Please feel free to bring a Valentine of your own to give to them.

On February 22nd it is "Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner" night at the Center. We will be practicing our Trivia skills that night, so bring your brain! Don't worry, it isn't difficult and all levels will have fun. This will be a team event with PRIZES for the winning team. Deadline for registration is Friday, February 17th and the cost is \$5.00.

Finally, on March 1st we will be going for our annual visit to Gil's. This is always popular so be sure to get your reservations in ASAP – deadline is February 24th. Meal is "on your own."

IF YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH –

We had a great time at the “Soup and Stories” lunch at the center in January. We learned some very interesting things about each other! Who knew Z. L. hopped a freight train as a teenager and went from Chicago to New York City?? Or that Board President, Kurt Norris, had such exotic food experiences – rotten shark, anyone?? We heard about pets, jobs, family and more. This was an event that we will probably repeat some time, it was so much fun

NEW NEW NEW NEW

It is so exciting to announce a new group forming and supported by the CICBVI. Patron Connie Schiele has volunteered to organize a Women’s Peer Support group for CICBVI patrons. This will be patron directed and led, with CICBVI providing support in the way of reservation collecting and transportation. Details so far:

- First meeting March 7th, with subsequent meetings the first Tuesday of the month
- Topics to be determined by group members
- First location at Two Sisters’ Tea Room, future locations determined by group members
- Free, unless food or drink is ordered
- Transportation provided, if needed, by CICBVI
- Questions? Want to make reservations? You can call Connie at 309-232-9002 or the Center at 309-637-3693.

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

Everyone at the CICBVI extends sympathy to Jill Owen and her family at the loss of her mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this time. We also are sad to report that patron Wanda Wiley recently passed away following a short illness. She will be missed but continue to live in our hearts.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 1	Happy Birthday Jarmirah Brock
February 2	Happy Groundhog's Day
February 5	Happy Birthday Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth
February 7	White Cane Training at the Center Happy Birthday Ed Lindsay
February 9	Happy Birthday Edna Engberts
February 12	Happy Birthday Jim Gruver
February 14	Happy Valentine's Day – Share the Love! Fire Station Tour and lunch
February 15	Food Bank pickup
February 16-17	Food Basket Deliveries
February 17	National Vacuum Your Cat Day
February 19	On this date in 1913, the first prize was inserted into a Cracker Jack box.
February 20	The US Post Office was established in 1792 President's Day
February 22	“Winner, Winner Chicken Dinner” and Trivia at the Center – reserve your spot now!
February 24	French Fry Friday – have fries with that!
February 25	Happy Birthday Troy Skaggs
February 27	Happy Birthday Lynn Freeman
February 28	Happy Birthday Leona Eppy
March 1	Dinner at Gil's – reserve your spot now!

SAVE THE DATE!

CICBVI Fund Raiser Event

“Seeing Stars” Trivia Night April 27th



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605
February, 2023 Newsletter

Quote for the Month

“Love is like a backache. It doesn’t show up on x-rays, but you know it is there.” – George Burns

“Love means nothing in tennis, but everything in life.” - unknown