



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS March, 2023

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

MARCHING FORWARD

Forward, March! We are moving forward with so many exciting things and welcome your involvement. We are working with the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Leadership Initiative to update our brochure, fine-tune our marketing and brain storm solutions to our ongoing transportation needs. This is a group of professionals that accepted our application for assistance and we couldn't be happier with the opportunity to benefit from their combined experience.

We also learned of new grant opportunities and are working on not only winning those, but adding a professional to help us identify and apply for others. As you all know, we wouldn't be able to provide the services we do without financial support – securing grants is vital to our success, our donor support is critical and our fundraising is ongoing. No amount is too small and is always appreciated.

Speaking of fundraising, save the date of April 27th for a brand-new, fun-filled event: “Seeing Stars Trivia Night.” You will be receiving an invitation in the mail within a couple of weeks and you will want to send in your reservation right away to secure your spot. Look for more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Most importantly, thank you for your support – we couldn't do it without you! March On!

BEING SOCIABLE

These days, social media is rapidly becoming the top choice for communicating. Did you know that the CICBVI has a social media presence? We are on Facebook and regularly update our page with pictures of our activities. We also have a web site – www.cicbvi.org – and encourage you to visit frequently. Paula B does the posting on Facebook and Jill O takes the lead on our website. Our website is hosted by Tammy Finch at WebServices, Inc. and she keeps our site safe and secure, allows us to accept donations and event payments and more. We are fortunate to have her services! Along with offering a complete range of computer services from hardware to software, virus removal and data recovery, her company provides full service computer repair, too! We highly recommend her if you ever have a need!

Of course, we are sociable in other ways, too. In February we visited our local Fire Station and got a hands-on tour of their site and learned how our firefighters work to keep us safe. And, if you missed our “Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner” you missed a LOT of laughter and fun. We split into three teams for trivia - “The Nutties,” “Team Zero,” and “Witty Women and a Guy.” After five rounds of questions all three were neck and neck but in the end Team Zero pulled off the win by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point and all team members took home a prize.

We have several events planned for March – keep reading for more information!

LOANER PROGRAM

The CICBVI has a variety of assistive devices specifically for low or no vision individuals that are available to loan out. The devices could range from table top magnifiers to prescription bottle readers to WeWalk canes equipped with GPS. We also have started up a program to provide free Alexa devices for low or no vision individuals. To find out if you qualify for either of these programs, please call the center.

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

We were saddened by the very unexpected loss of two individuals with close ties to the CICBVI. Board member, Lance Barke's, brother and CICBVI supporters Barb and Gary Barke's son, passed away. Also, Jerry Klokkenga, spouse of patron Carol Klokkenga, passed away. Both of these losses have left holes in our hearts and our thoughts and prayers are with the families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We started off the month with a trip to Gil's Restaurant for a delicious meal. And while by the time you read this that date is gone, it may not be too late to sign up for the Women's Support Group. They meet Tuesday, March 7th, for lunch at 11:30 AM. Transportation will be provided, if needed, but this is a patron-led group so by participating, you can make it anything you want from good conversation, informative topics to an opportunity to support each other in your life's journey. Call the Center ASAP if you would like to join!

And of course, March wouldn't be March without a St. Patrick's Day parade and the CICBVI will be part of it. It was so popular last year, we are entering both of our vehicles in the parade and patrons are

welcome to ride in them. It is a long day with the parade being in the morning and the requirement to line up well ahead of the start time. So, if you sign up, you will be picked up, brought to the Center for a quick break, then on to the parade line-up. Afterwards, we will return to the Center for a light lunch. These seats are filling up fast so call in your reservation right away! Deadline is March 10th.

IMPORTANT EVENT RESERVATION REMINDER:

It is important to call in your reservation for any CICBVI patron event to the center as soon as possible, especially if you need transportation. Please do not expect our drivers to remember your reservation request. You **MUST** call the center!

It is just as important to remember that if you need to cancel you need to do so as soon as possible. We order food and reserve transportation seats and when you cancel late you have caused us to order extra food and you may have caused someone who wanted to attend to not get a transportation seat because we were full. If it is an unexpected emergency, we understand. But if you simply change your mind please be courteous and let us know right away. Thanks!

“MEET AND GREET” WITH THE LIONS CLUB

Many of you know that former board member, Mark Bean, is set to become the District Governor for the Lions Club. He has offered to lead a meet and greet event so you can learn more about what the Lions do and consider starting a new club. He will have as a special guest a leader within the Lions organization who also happens to be blind and who will speak firsthand on how forming a group may be something of interest to you. The date is March 27th, at the Center at 11:00 AM. The Lions' Club will be providing pizza and the CICBVI will provide transportation. Reservations are due **NO LATER** than March 20th.

SEEING STARS TRIVIA NIGHT

You are invited to join in the fun at our first ever trivia night! Watch your mail for your “official” invitation and meanwhile be sure to mark your calendars!

WHEN: April 27, 2023

WHERE: Barrack’s Cater Inn on Pioneer Parkway, Peoria

WHAT: Food, Fun, Raffles and more

IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

- Prizes will be given for the winning team, best dressed team and most clever team name
- Teams can have between 2 and 8 members
- Discount ticket prices for a team of 8 reserving together
- When you receive your flyer, be sure to get your reservation in early as we expect a full house
- Sponsorships are available – call the center for more details

Hope to see you there!

DO YOU SHOP AT KROGER’S? If so, be sure to register your Kroger card to benefit the CICBVI. It doesn’t cost you a thing and it doesn’t affect your fuel points but it DOES benefit the CICBVI by donating a percentage of your purchase price directly to the center. You need to register on-line and if you need help, please let us know! Thanks!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- March 1st Dinner at Gil's Supper Club
- March 2nd Cat in the Hat Day in honor of Dr. Suess' birthday
(and Happy Birthday to Paula's son, Jay!)
- March 3rd In 1931 President Hoover made the "Star Spangled
Banner" the National Anthem
- March 7th Women's Peer Support Group lunch – 11:30 AM
- March 9th Staff/Volunteer/Board dinner
- March 10th Reservations due for St. Patrick's Day parade
- March 11th Happy Birthday to Gayle Workman (and Paula's
daughter, Amanda!)
- March 12th Daylight Savings Time begins – set your clocks
forward
- March 14th Board Meeting at IL Eye Center – 5:30 PM
- March 15th Beware the Ides of March
Food Bank pick-up
- March 16th Food Basket deliveries
- March 17th St. Patrick's Day parade – if you want to ride in the
parade you MUST have your reservations in no later
than March 10th
- March 19th Happy Birthday Ed Meyers
- March 20th Reservations due for Lions Club Meet & Greet
- March 22nd We Love Broccoli Day
- March 27th Happy Birthday Irvin Johnson
Lions Club Meet and Greet – reservations due
March 20th
- March 30th Happy Birthday Evon Dixon



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Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Quote for the Month

“March 4th, the only day that’s also a sentence.” – John Green
“May the blessings of each day be the blessings you need the most.” —*Irish blessing*