



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS April, 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

SPRING UP FOR SPRING!

Finally, we are seeing signs of spring – trees are starting to bud, early flowers are pushing through the ground, birds are chirping and the CICBVI is getting busier and busier. Just a few things going on:

First, be sure to check out the flyer for our first ever “Seeing Stars” Trivia Night fundraiser. Tickets are going fast so if you haven’t gotten your reservation in, do it ASAP – you don’t want to miss out!

Next, we have some new faces on our team. First, we have contracted with Natalie Menke to bring a new level of professionalism in our efforts to successfully secure funding through grants. Not only does she bring several years of experience, she has solid connections to various networks that will enable her to identify grants for us and provide the right information to help us win this all-important income for the CICBVI.

We also have a new board member, Gabe DuBois, who comes to us full of excitement and enthusiasm to be working for the good of the Center. He is a family man with two sons, a Southern IL University graduate and experience in leadership, consensus building and strategy. Welcome aboard!

Finally, we have a new “look” in our gathering room. Thanks to funds from the Oppenheim grant, we have new round tables that, along with some slight rearranging of furniture, has made that room more accessible, warm and inviting. I can’t wait to have you here to enjoy it!

Happy Spring! - Paula B

IF YOU MISSED MARCH, YOU MISSED

. . . a great Ladies' Lunch group get together. So fun, it is happening again April 11th. This is a peer-driven group but the CICBVI will provide transportation if needed. You do need to call in to the center to reserve your spot, however, whether you need transportation or not. The lunch is at 11:00 AM at Donna's Café, inside Two Sisters and a Warehouse on Lake Street in Peoria.

. . . a fun ride in the Peoria St. Patrick's Day parade. This year we had both vehicles participate and, once again, were warmly received with cheers and shout-outs as we followed the route. Afterwards, we had a great lunch at Arby's and have already started plans for next year! Check out the CICBVI Facebook page for pictures!

. . . a "meet and greet" held at CICBVI to form a branch Lions' Club. Sponsored by the Peoria Suburban Lions Club, this group will meet the last Monday of each month at 11:00 AM here at the Center. This is not a CICBVI activity, but we are providing space and transportation to those who need it. Just call in your reservations!

. . .and behind the scenes, in March the Education and Technology committee convened to review what we currently have and what needs we foresee in the future. The advancements in technology specific to assist individuals with low or no vision is amazing and the CICBVI plans to be on the cutting edge in being able to not only provide equipment but train on how to use it.

. . . also behind the scenes, we had an extensive audit of our bus and how we use it (required due to the fact it was purchased via an IDOT grant). We will be creating a "rules of the ride" and driver check list to further assure we always are providing safe transportation for you.

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

APRIL ACTIVITIES

April 11th at 11:00 AM is our Ladies' Lunch at Donna's Café in Two Sisters and a Warehouse on Lake Street in Peoria. Expect good conversation, good food and call in your reservation no later than April 7th to join this fun group. You are "on your own" for whatever you choose to order to eat; transportation for those who need it is provided by the Center.

April 13-14 is Food Basket delivery. Remember, if you don't want or need a food basket this month, please let us know ahead of time. Also, be sure to answer your phone when the drivers call to let you know delivery time. If you aren't on our list but would like to receive a food basket, please call the center and we will add you.

April 19th is "Hello Spring" lunch at the center. We will be grilling out – most likely brats and hot dogs. And even though it is after Easter, if you wear an Easter bonnet, or something that shouts "Spring" you will be eligible for a special prize drawing! You must call in your reservations no later than April 13th!

April 24th – "Visionaries" Lions Club meeting. Please call the center to make your reservations and sign up for transportation, if needed. Deadline is April 20th.

April 29th – Work day/yard clean up at the Center. Can you help our crew of volunteers from the Dream Center? Please call the Center if you would like to help. There may be donuts involved!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- April 1st Happy April Fools' Day!
- April 2nd Happy Birthday to Velcro! Where would we be without this miracle fastener?
- April 10th Happy Birthday Lance Barke!
- April 11th Ladies Lunch – 11:00 AM. Call in your reservations!
- April 11th CICBVI Board meeting at the Center – 5:30 PM
- April 12th Food Basket pick up
- April 12th Funding Committee meeting at CICBVI – 5:00 PM
- April 13-14th Food Basket deliveries
- April 13th Happy Birthday Katrina Silas!
- April 18th Income Taxes are due!
- April 19th "Hello Spring" lunch at the Center – 11:30 AM
- April 20th Happy Birthday Brandy Foiles!
- April 22nd Earth Day
- April 24th Visionaries Lions Club meeting – 11:00 AM
- April 25th Happy Birthday Patrick Lee!
- April 27th CICBVI "Seeing Stars" Trivia Night fundraiser – see the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter (Hope to see you there!)
- April 27th Happy Birthday Dustin Cather!
- April 29th Work Day/Yard Clean-up at the Center. In Conjunction with the Dream Center's "Serve the City" program, volunteers will be at the Center to help us with spring yard spruce up. All volunteers are appreciated. Just show up, bring work gloves and any yard tools that may be helpful. Donuts may be involved! 9:00 AM



DID YOU KNOW

- Nearly 300,000 adults in Illinois have some level of uncorrectable vision loss?
- In December, 1930, Peoria, IL was the first U.S. city to establish an ordinance giving blind pedestrians carrying a white cane the right-of-way?
- The Central IL Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CICBVI) owns the original white cane, which was created in Peoria, IL by Peoria citizens?

In 1931, George Bonham President of the Peoria Lions Club, noted the difficulty of his friend, Elmer Thomason, crossing a busy intersection (near the current Pere Marquette in Peoria) and an idea was born. George used one of Elmer's cane, painted it white with a red tip and it became an instant success. Currently, the CICBVI is the only Central Illinois organization to provide free white canes and training in their use to low and no vision individuals across the state.

CICBVI, 2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 309-637-3693 * info@cicbvi.org *



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

Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Quote for the Month

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. If we did not sometimes experience adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” - Anne Bradstreet