

Hub Lions Club News



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Club marks 35th anniversary of bingo games

EDITOR'S NOTE--This article is reprinted from the August 1977 issue of The Windmill, an official publication of District 2-T2 Lions Clubs International.

Peals of laughter echo off the room's walls as shouts of "Bingo!" or "I've won!!" are heard from the game's participants.

Although it sounds like a usual game of Bingo, the location and participants are out of the ordinary.

This activity takes place once every two weeks in one of the eight nursing homes located in Lubbock.

Members of the Hub Lions Club host the bingo parties for the residents (rotating the game from home-to-home every two weeks) and provide gifts for the winners.

This service project was initiated by the Hub Lions Club in Jan. 1976, under Club President Lion Jerry Cloud. Cloud says he got the idea for this project when he saw some Bingo equipment for sale.

"I've always been interested in the older folks because of their plight and thought this would be a way to provide them with some entertainment."

The overwhelming majority of nursing home residents are senior citizens, but some are handicapped young people, as young as 30, who enjoy participating in the Lions' Bingo Games just as much as the senior citizens.

The first few visits to each nursing home drew small



crowds, but now participants usually fill the recreational areas of the different homes. The reception of the Bingo Parties is mirrored in the participant's parting words to club members, **"When are you coming back?"**

Members of the club and often their wives volunteer to go to a nursing home on a Thursday night every two weeks. Members and their wives not only host the game, but also assist many of the elderly participants during the activity.

Lion Paul Kyle and Lioness Mary Belle Kyle have been in charge of the project since it began. They purchase the gifts for the winners and tote the game equipment from site to site. Lion Paul is responsible for rounding up volunteer club members each Thursday the games are held and both he and Mary Belle attend the parties and participate.

As a reward for the club members' hard work under 1976-1977 Club President Orland Harger, the club's bingo parties for nursing home residents was cited as the most outstanding service project in District 2-T2.

The honor was given to the club's project because "of its humanitarian nature and



Bingo With The Boss Lion

Hub Lions Club President Kim McCain (standing) assists residents with their cards during the Oct. 17 bingo game at Lubbock Hospitality House. This is the 35th year that the Hub Lions Club has conducted this service project.

because of the personal service rendered by the club members in making in making life more enjoyable for their fellow man."

The project also received local recognition when the *West Texas Times* published a quarter page picture and story about the project last winter.

As a final testimonial to the club's service project, Mrs. Willie Hager, a Lubbock nursing home resident, wrote the following poem:

HUB LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club is a club well known;
They are praised for the good seed they've sown.
They go in the Eve, or either in the night,
Their happy faces makes everything bright;
They came to our house one night at seven,
Playing Bingo, we could have played until eleven.
We laughed and played and had so much fun,
And we were sorry when they said "we must run."
Their hearts are right, they are a friend to us all;
When you are in trouble, just give them a call.
This kind of people we don't meet every day.
But we are thankful you came our way.
We want you to know, we thought it so grand
To have fellows like you to lend us a hand.
We are no longer young, it's plain to see,
And sometimes we are as lonely as we can be--
But we bid you come every hour you can spare,
and we promise you know we'll meet you there.
In our dining room we have plenty of space,
To play, sing, and laugh with a big smile on our face!