

CLUB OF THE MONTH

LIONS CLUB OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

CLUB TITLE: Lions Club of Savannah

YEAR FOUNDED: 1922

COMMUNITY SERVED: Savannah, Georgia. Founded in 1733, Savannah was the first city in Georgia and is 75 square miles. Population: 133,000.

MEMBERS: 14 women and 38 men. They have Lions of all ages spanning from 35 to older than 80. It's a diverse group of attorneys, doctors, accountants, retired military personnel and teachers. They also have members employed in health care, utility, banking and public service who have a passion to serve their community.

MEETING MATTERS: The club meets for noon lunches the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Savannah Golf Club. The annual St. Patrick's Day meeting features the Grand Marshal of the Savannah parade and his entourage with Irish songs provided by the St. Vincent's Academy Girls Choir.

FUNDRAISING: The club has been selling Christmas trees since 1977. This year, the 32nd Annual Christmas Tree Sale profits totaled more than \$17,000. Other club fundraisers include the Broom/Mop Sales, a staple since 1950, and Earth Day Food Sales.

SERVICE PROJECT: The club is involved in a new service project, Project Vision, a vision-testing program for sixth-grade children. This school year, Lions have tested 1,950 of the 3,600 sixth-grade students in the district. The club anticipates testing every sixth-grade student by the end of the year. It then purchases the eyeglasses for those who are not able to pay. Based on records since 1957, the club has collected 175,000 pair of used eyeglasses and has purchased 10,000 new eyeglasses.

PROUDEST MOMENT AS A CLUB: The club was honored with a visit by Past International President James E. Ervin, who was the keynote speaker for the club's 80th anniversary celebration in 2002. Since 1981, the club has maintained a marker and a flag pole on River Street in the historic district from which they fly the U.S., Georgia and Lions Clubs International flags 24 hours a day, constantly promoting Lions. The city of Savannah has hosted the state Lions Club convention 13 times.

WHY BE A LION: "Joining our Lions club puts people together who share a common interest in providing youngsters with opportunities to regain and maintain good vision health. Our club is especially proud of the group effort we make to support our fundraising programs and we are physically active in various ways to make our projects so successful each year. The camaraderie and good humor are cornerstones of our club, and we welcome new members who wish to share our spirit."

– Club President Chip Nedza



Lion Bard Way (left) along with his grandson, Riley Way, help Lion Bob Lapsley unload Christmas trees at the 32nd annual Christmas Tree Sale.