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Andover Lions Club News

By Bill Leber
Andover Lions Club

Jim Danforth contributed to this article.

At the April 25 meeting, we hosted the Andover Emergency Medical Services department head John Kinney, who brought us up to date on the activities and operation of the department under the new arrangement. He indicated all is proceeding fairly well as they work out the details of the new administrative operation.

Mr. Kinney identified the need for a new ambulance in the next few years, and efforts to raise the funds will be a project for the future. The Andover Lions Club was prominent in obtaining the very first ambulance for the town and has made substantial contributions for replacements each time. Now the Emergency Medical Services department is a town responsibility. Will volunteer organizations be asked to help replace the ambulance?

Lions District 44N Spring Convention was held at the Town and Country Inn in Shelburne, New Hampshire, and three Andover members attended. The District Governor made various awards including the President's Banner Patch "Community at Heart" to Andover Lions Club for completing a list of objectives and goals for the year.

The Guest Speaker was the International Director Anne Smarsh from Kansas, who reported the activities of the International Board and proposals for the future. A sidelight of the weekend: the Andover golf team of Bill Egge and Bill Leber came home with the first place trophy in the golf tournament.

We proudly acknowledge the work of Scout Cam Wood, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout in ceremonies at the New Hampshire Veterans Home, the site of Cam's Eagle project. Lions Jim Goody and Howard George attended and presented Eagle Scout Cam a Certificate of Achievement and four tickets to a Fisher Cats game.

The Andover Lions Club is pleased to sponsor the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in Andover and is proud of their accomplishments and successes.

Andover Food Pantry

The Andover Food Pantry was

featured at our May 9 meeting, with Andover Food Pantry volunteer Maria Glorioso attending to brief the Club on the current status of the food pantry. In the 45 days since she has been working with the food pantry, she has tabulated that the food donated and the cash donations that were used to purchase food for the pantry totaled \$2,473. She is concerned whether we can sustain that level to keep it going.

She stated, "The use of this amount of resources in such a short period of time leads to these questions:

- How many people are we serving?
- What are the demographics of this population?
- Frequency of visits to the pantry?
- Are we actually helping the people this pantry is intended to serve?
- Has this pantry become a convenience for those who may not need as much as they take, leaving not enough for those who truly need the service the pantry is intended to provide?
- How do we assure that the altruistic intent of Andover's food pantry is carried out?"

The Andover Lions Club agreed to co-sponsor, along with *The Andover Beacon*, the food pantry, and we were asked to accept responsibility for the finances. The Club is not prepared to provide a great deal of administrative support or monitor enforcement of rules. The Club simply helped to up-date the facility and provide food stock. People in the community have been very generous in keeping it stocked.

We agreed that the food pantry be open when the Town Offices were open and for the use of Andover residents with a financial need. We hope we don't have to change that operation. It needs to be self-policing, or it will be short-lived.

Our goal now is to work on sustainability of funding for the food bank. On May 9 a report was presented to the Andover Lions on usage and possible ways to improve service to those using the food bank. It was restated that the food pantry was founded to serve the residents of Andover who need help, and that goal is being met. We will be working hard to find ways to adjust and adapt the food pantry to ensure that there is food on the shelves and those in need are served.

The Andover Lions Club traveled to Amherst Lions club for a visitation on May 25 as part of the Lions program to exchange ideas and fellowship. Another trip to Gap Mountain Lions Club, the home club of District Governor Lucille Decatur in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire is scheduled for June 2. We have been so busy with local projects that we are short on our visitations.

The scholarships applications have been received and are being processed. Winners will be announced at the appropriate school awards ceremony and reported in next month's *Beacon*.

The Andover Lions Club

is sponsoring another meeting of all organizations in Andover.

June 21 at 7 pm
Andover Town Hall

Goals: To improve communication among clubs, establish a calendar of events, and join together in service to our community.

Call Jim Danforth for more information at 735-6140