

Lions Club Meeting of September 13, 2018: The Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center Representative Receives a Message

By Don Audette

The Lions Club meeting of September 13, 2018, held at the Sperryville Fire Hall, started off per usual with a rousing song. This evening the song was “Amore,” with Bill Gadino, below, leading off with his accordion and other joining in.



“Amore” was a song made famous by Dean Martin back in 1953. And although many did not know the words in detail, most joined in on the famous chorus of:

When the moon hits your eye
Like a big pizza pie, that's amore
When the world seems to shine
Like you've had too much wine, that's amore

A number of those singing along are shown in the following photo, where guest speaker, Laura Galante, is joined by others in the rousing song. The photo includes Richard Antony, Scott Wells, Bill Pumphrey, Rick Kohler, Ross O'Donoghue, Larry Grove (partially hidden), Yogi Bear, Tom Tepper (partially hidden), Joel Daczewitz, and Gordon Axelson.



The presentation for the evening was given by Laura Galante, a member of the board of the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center located at Harmony Hollow, where the Rappahannock Lions Club makes use of the facilities for their Camp Fantastic effort each year. Laura Galante noted that Virginia Tech owns the Harmony Hollow facility, but has cut funding for an overnight camping program and was looking for possible support from the Rappahannock Lions Club. This led to a discussion of what Virginia Tech actually did to support the 4-H Educational Center as the Lions Club found that it had to clean the pavilion facility and provide a measure of vigilance for facility elements in need of repair. Larry Grove was particularly interested in Virginia Tech's actual support to the 4-H Educational Center at Harmony Hollow. Laura Galante agreed to look into the matter.

Below, a photo showing Laura Galante listening to Larry Grove's comments.



At the conclusion of her presentation, Dave Shiff, the President of the Rappahannock Lions Club, presented Laura Galante with a framed drawing by Tom Tepper of the wild life found in Rappahannock County.



Since the meeting, further research was undertaken on the facility at Harmony Hollow.

According to the web-site, <http://www.nova4h.com/camps/>

“The Center hosts 4-H camp for the following county 4-H programs: Arlington, Alexandria, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Warren.” The 2019 4-H camp dates show the following: “June 23-27: Culpeper, Shenandoah, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania.”

The Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center was deeded to Virginia Tech in 1976. Virginia Tech is part of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Program.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension is an educational outreach program bringing the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities (Virginia Tech and Virginia State University) to the people

of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center is just one of six 4-H Educational Centers located across Virginia.

Since 1981, it has “offered year-round, research-based programming to the youth and families of Northern Virginia. In addition to its acclaimed camps, the Center hosts a variety of corporate retreats, festivals, team building programs, and outdoor recreation.” Among these is the use of the facilities for Camp Fantastic by the Rappahannock Lions Club.

Since 1995, The Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center “has been accredited by the American Camp Association. Accreditation means that the 4-H Center and other accredited camps care enough to undergo a thorough (up to 300 standards) review of its operation — from staff qualifications and training to emergency management.”

These 300 standards are incorporated in the Virginia 4-H Camping Handbook (2015) and apply to the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Conference Center. Section 6, “4-H Camp Risk Management,” covers “the protection of our human, financial, and physical resources and assets from loss or destruction.” A reference states: “The State 4-H Office and/or Camping Specialist can be consulted at (540) 231-6372, and the Virginia Tech Office of Risk Management at (540) 231-7439.”

It appears that Virginia Tech is involved in protecting physical resources and assets from loss or destruction.

The Virginia 4-H Camping Handbook can be found at the following site:

https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/388/388-562/388-562-pdf.pdf