

# Trucksville woman hopes to bring back Kingston Twp. Lions Club

By REBECCA BRIA  
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The Kingston Township Lions Club is important to Patty Oschal. The Trucksville resident was a member of the club for several years and never gave up on it, even after it fell apart.

But the club no longer exists. That's why Oschal and several others are looking for new people to restart it.

Anyone interested in joining the Kingston Township Lions Club is asked to meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Pizza Perfect in Trucksville. Both men and women are welcome to join and children are allowed at the meeting. Kingston Township residency is not required to become a member.

"I enjoy community service," Oschal said. "I always liked helping people and I'm very charitable. I like doing fundraisers and donating to the needy and our

club does all that."

Twenty people must join the Kingston Township Lions Club in order for it to become chartered.

"A community such as Kingston Township, with 7,500 residents, should have a viable, operating Lions Club within its borders," said Walter Bechtold, District 14-W Governor of the Lions Clubs International, which is comprised of Luzerne County. "District 14-W is asking anyone who is interested or just plain curious to please stop by, meet your neighbors, make some new friends, learn what Lionism is all about and maybe join a community-minded service organization."

According to Bechtold, the primary mission of Lions Clubs is and has traditionally been sight and blindness prevention. Today, many clubs have additional efforts to aid youth through scholarships and the Quest Program which teaches life and coping

skills to students. The Lions also help veterans, the elderly and those less fortunate.

Bechtold, a member of the Jenkins Township Lions Club, says the Kingston Township Lions Club existed for many years but disbanded for reasons he does not know. The club was re-chartered on June 21, 2003. Steve Crane assumed the role of president, but died unexpectedly at age 45 in January 2005. Members grieved his death and the club fell apart once again.

"One of the ex-members (Oschal) who is helping keep this thing going described him to me as a Lion's lion," Bechtold said of Crane. "This guy just lived and breathed Lionism and it was just devastating when he passed away."

Several women raised funds for the Lions White Cane Days under the reorganizing Kingston Township Lions Club on Saturday, Nov. 1. Oschal, Joan Milligan, past district 14-W governor

and a member of the Plains JLW Mountain Laurel Lions Club, Cabinet Secretary Mary Lou Bechtold of the Jenkins Township Lions Club and Patty Warwick of the Swoyersville Lions Club collected money for the fund outside of Thomas' Family Market in Shavertown. The women also took the names of over half a dozen new people who want to sign up for the club.

While the women were at Thomas' Market, Bechtold and Jeff Smith, District 14-W Region 3 Chairperson and a member of the Harveys Lake Lions Club, walked through Back Mountain neighborhoods in an attempt to recruit members and garner interest in the club.

"I really kind of fell in love with the area," Bechtold said. "We only had one person who shut the door on us. We had a lot of people that were really interested, especially young people with children."



The Kingston Township Lions Club is restarting with a meeting for interested persons at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Pizza Perfect. On Saturday, Nov. 1, several women raised funds for the Lions White Cane Days at Thomas' Family Market in Shavertown. Shown during that fundraiser are, from left, Lions Club past District 14-W Governor Joan Milligan, Plains JLW Mountain Laurel Lions Club; Cabinet Secretary Mary Lou Bechtold, Jenkins Township Lions Club; District 14-W Vice Governor Patty Warwick, Swoyersville Lions Club; and Patty Oschal, representing the new Kingston Township Lions Club.



Keeping the shelves straight at the Back Mountain Memorial Library's Slightly Read Bookshop are volunteers Kathy Waltos, left, and Rita Balberchak.



Christin Snyder exercises in the comfort of her home in Shavertown. Snyder has started an online exercise support group.

## BOOKSHOP

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tion to the library in the mid-1990s, he included room below it for a used bookstore.

The bookshop opened in November 1998 with Ruth Tetschner, a retired principal from the former Westmoreland Elementary School, as manager.

Krohle, 73, of Lake Township, started volunteering at the bookshop in 2000. In the spring of 2002, Tetschner moved out of the Back Mountain and asked Krohle to take over as manager.

Since Krohle was retired and worked as a reference librarian for 33 years at Wilkes University, he agreed to take the position.

"Naturally, it was a perfect fit there," Krohle said. "I didn't have anything to do; I was retired. So I said, 'I'll give it a shot.' And here I am six years later still managing things."

The Slightly Read Bookshop relies entirely on donated books and items. One-half of the shop contains fiction books while the other 50 percent is non-fiction.

Customers will find many genres of adult books, including mystery, science fiction, westerns, horror, romance, spy thrillers, history, biography, classical authors, cookbooks and craft

books. There is a wide variety of children's softcover and hardcover books that range from young child through teenagers. Large print books, audiobooks, DVDs, VHS tapes, puzzles and collectible books are also available.

According to Krohle, the bookshop raises about \$12,000 a year for the library's general budget. Twenty volunteers, made up of mostly retirees and a schoolteacher, run the shop. At least eight of the volunteers have been working at the bookshop the entire 10 years it has been open.

"For one thing, I like meeting people and, in a situation like this, you have both regular and new customers coming in the store," he said of why he enjoys volunteering. "You get to talk with them and we have interesting discussions sometimes, especially around Election Day. You get a lot of camaraderie."

The Slightly Read Bookshop is open from 1 to 7 p.m. on Mondays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. During July and August, the bookshop is only open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

## WEIGHT

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down to a healthy weight.

But when Snyder became pregnant with her first child, she gained 50 pounds and spent three years overweight until she ordered a workout DVD. After losing 30 pounds and with just 20 to go, Snyder learned she was pregnant again. She put on 30 pounds during the pregnancy and was back to where she started.

In January 2008, Snyder weighed 222 pounds and began

"This is all a positive thing. Nobody's going to be mad at you or take points away for your weight."

Christin Snyder

working out to the DVD once again, eventually progressing to a second and more difficult workout in her DVD series. She lost her excess 50 pounds within five months and now weighs 172.

"I kept telling myself that this is the last time that I will have to lose weight," she said. "I have

been changing the way I look at food and working out. Some people say to me, 'You're still doing that?' and I respond, 'This is forever.' I want to be healthy and fit forever. I want to teach my daughters healthy eating habits and I want them to have a healthy, energetic mom."

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