

## Poquoson Lions Club

The Poquoson Lions Club has provided various community services to the residents of Poquoson, the Hampton Roads area, as well as the State of Virginia. These have included purchases of special equipment at each of the Poquoson Schools, assistance at the Eyeglass Recycling Center, funding and construction of home-ramps for the disabled, sponsorship of a local student at Boys/Girls State, scholarships to graduating High School Seniors, and monetary donations for the Eye Bank, Seeing-Eye Dog foundation, and tonight's Bland Competition. The Poquoson Lions Club has also participated extensively in our city's Hurricane Isabel relief effort. All of these services are possible through the many volunteer hours of members, fund raising through our Annual Broom sales, Mint sales, and the generous donations collected during our White Cane Days. 100% of all donations and profits from fundraisers are used directly to support each of the services identified.

The Poquoson Lions Club meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Poquoson Community Center in front of the Poquoson High School. For more information about becoming a member, please contact Mr Carey Freeman, 868-0811.

## Poquoson High School Leo Club

The Poquoson Leo Club was formed during the 2000/2001 school year to meet the growing need of organizing student volunteers for community service. All activities are community based and in the past have included Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, delivery of meals for Meals on Wheels, family adoption for Christmas, assistance at the Eyeglass Recycling Center, and assisting the Lions with the annual Mint sales.

The Poquoson High School Leo Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Poquoson High School Library/Media Center. For more information, please contact the school sponsor Mrs Roper, at 868-7123.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA LION'S BLAND MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Virginia Lions' Bland Memorial Music Scholarship Contest is the ultimate result of many years of effort on the part of the Virginia Association of Lions' Clubs.

The Lions of Virginia first became interested in James A. Bland in 1938, as the composer of the stirring song, "Carry Me Back To Ole Virginny." Impressed by the patriotic fervor and nostalgic quality of this lyric, the Lions began a campaign, which resulted in the General Assembly of Virginia officially adopting the song, in 1940, as the Virginia State Anthem. In 1994 the Virginia State Senate adopted the revised song "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" as the State Song. In February 1997, the Virginia state legislature voted to retire the song.

James A. Bland, the greatest Black writer of American Folk Song, composed over seven hundred songs, a number of which were outright contributions to Americana.

In 1938 as Virginia Lions inquired into the career of "Jimmy Bland," they found that his grave was unknown and unmarked. Further investigation found his grave in a cemetery in Merion, PA, near Philadelphia. The Virginia Lions erected a suitable monument over the grave. The culmination of this work became a feature of the 1946 Convention of Lions International at Philadelphia. On that impressive occasion, July 15, 1946, the dignified monument was unveiled in the presence of many distinguished representatives of Government, the world of music, and of Lions International. At the Lions International Convention in Philadelphia in 1997, Virginia Lions rededicated the monument at James Bland's grave.

The Lions of Virginia were not content that a monument of granite should suffice to memorialize the work of the author of our official State Song. As a permanent living memorial, they established the Virginia Lions' Bland Music Scholarship Program. Scholarships for musical excellence in both instrumental and vocal performance are awarded annually. Since the initiation of these contests, the Lions have continuously added to the value of the scholarships. Today the contest is spread over the entire state, commencing with individual Club, and thereafter expanding through Zone and/or Region, and District competitions to the final state contest at the annual State Convention. The first Bland contests were held in 1948 with the state finals in Roanoke. Two awards of \$150 were given to the winners. Through the interest and efforts of the Lions of Virginia, the music Scholarships have grown from 2 to 12 scholarships which amount to **\$12,600.00** at the state level. The project is financed entirely through voluntary contributions from the Lions Clubs throughout the State of Virginia.

# Poquoson Lions Club



**We Serve**

**1948 - 2004**

**Bland Memorial Music Contest**

**February 24, 2005**

**Poquoson High School**

## Welcome

On behalf of the Poquoson Lions Club, welcome to the 2005 Bland Memorial Music Scholarship Contest. This contest is held annually and provides the young people of Poquoson and our neighboring communities an opportunity to display their musical talents in both voice and instrumental competition. The contestants tonight are vying for scholarship awards totaling \$450 locally, and the opportunity to continue on in higher levels of competition to possibly win even more scholarship funds. We congratulate all the contestants and thank them in advance for providing such fine entertainment for us this evening.

I would like to thank Mrs. Lisa Spruill and Mr. Doug Spruill, of Poquoson High School for their hard work and support in arranging this evening. They play a very large role in making this annual "Lions Club" event the success that it is. Many thanks also to the Poquoson Lions Club and our own PHS Leo's Club members who have also worked to make tonight's event a success.

Finally, I wish to thank both the Poquoson High School Women's and Men's Ensembles for adding a choral component to our musical appreciation this evening.

First place winners of our contest tonight will advance to the Zone finals, to be held in Yorktown in February 2005. Winners will continue to advance thru the Regional, District 24D and then the State competition to be held in May 2005. You are cordially invited to follow our winners onward, and to attend all of these events. Admission is free.

I know you will enjoy tonight's competition, and hope you will join us again next year as we recognize our talented young musicians. Thank you.

Yours in Lionism,

Keith Feigh  
President

## Contestants

**Sarah Grothaus** ..... Mezzo-Soprano  
"Per la Gloria d'advoarvi" by Bononcini  
Accompanist: Mrs. Dot Little

**Kristin Gavaza**.....Soprano I  
"Pupille amatce" by Mozart  
Accompanist: Mrs. Haczewski

**Alexander G. Rohrer** ..... Piano  
"Rondo Alla Tusca" from Sonata Noill  
By Wolfgang A. Mozart

**Virginia Workman** ..... Mezzo-Soprano  
"Voi, Che Sapete" by Wolfgang A. Mozart  
Accompanist: Ms. Albertina Dowe

**Erin Plisco** ..... Soprano  
"Apres un Reve" by Faure  
Accompanist: Mr. Sean Linfors

**Nicole Marie Lindell**..... Piano  
"Scherzo Op. 31"  
by Chopin

**Bethany A. Bowen** ..... Mezzo-Soprano  
"Chi vuol la Zingarella" by Paisiello  
Accompanist: Mrs. Dot Little

## Contestants (continued)

**Rebecca L. Hopkins**.....Soprano II  
"Pietta Signore" by Stradella  
Accompanist: Mrs. Dot Little

**Carl P. Olson**.....Piano  
"Prelude in C# Minor"  
By Sergei Rachmaninoff

**Emily A. Harker**..... Soprano  
"Alma Mia" by Handel  
Accompanist: Mrs. Dot Little

**Christopher P. Russo** ..... Baritone  
"Vittoria, mio core!" by Carissimi  
Accompanist: Mrs. Dot Little

**Catherine H. Pao**..... Violin  
"Concerto No 2 in d minor, first movement"  
by Henri Wieniawski

**Lauren Hartman**..... Soprano  
"Una Donna A Quindici" from Cosi Fan Tutte by Mozart  
Accompanist: Ms. Linda Gilpin

Entertainment by **"Women's and Men's Ensembles"**  
of Poquoson High School  
under the direction of Mrs. Lisa Spruill