

Lake of the Woods Lions Club Awards 15 Grants to Orange County Teachers

November 7, 2014



The recipients of the 2014 Lake of the Woods (LOW) Lions Club Teacher Innovation Grants program were honored at a dinner on November 6 at the LOW Clubhouse. Pictured front row, left to right, are: Lee Finger, Anne Marie Fickes, Pa'Trice Day Owens, Rachel Collins, Frances Furlong, Denise Pauze and Elaine Seal. Back row, left to right: Christopher Mastromarino, Thomas Dixon, Robert Stewart, Vince Arebala, Betsy Hamilton and Joseph Parker. Not pictured: Becky Ramirez, Ben van Rooy and David Rabe.

The Lake of the Woods (LOW) Lions Club announced the recipients of this year's Teacher Innovation Grants (TIG). Fifteen grants were selected from among 40 applications submitted by Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) teachers. This year, the LOW Lions Club increased both the number and amount of grants awarded. As a result, OCPS educators received a total of \$4,500, an increase of 59% over last year's total grant funding! There was also a 63% increase in the number of applications submitted.

The recipients represent seven of Orange County's nine schools and the Head Start program. The grants will support a range of lessons and programs related to science, technology, music, language arts, economics, health, field trips and innovative programs such as the Locust Grove Middle School Field School and the Journey through Hallowed Ground social studies initiative.

Madeline Salustri, LOW Lions Club Teacher Innovative grant Committee Chair, said that, *“The LOW Lions Club is dedicated to supporting education. The TIG program is one way for us to learn more about what teachers are doing and to support them in their efforts.”* She added, *“Evaluating 40 high quality grants is a challenge. The TIG committee represents the diversity found in education. We work together in meaningful and productive ways.”* Carol Hunter, Orange County Education Foundation Teacher Innovation Grant Committee member stated that, *“The addition of the three \$500. Judges’ Choice awards changed the nature of the 2014 TIG grant cycle dramatically. It inspired significantly greater participation and the grant proposals focused more on enriching the curriculum with equipment and experiences that will influence achievement for years to come.”*

The Lions Club established the TIG program in 2010 to support teacher-produced lessons or programs that increase student achievement, support the Virginia Standards of Learning, promote tolerance and/or exhibit new technology in the classroom. Grants range up to \$250 and they are awarded to teachers in clustered grade levels, from the primary schools through high school. Additional funding came in the form of \$500 grants Judges’ Choice awards.

This year’s recipients were recognized during the LOW Lions Club’s meeting on November 6, 2014 at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse. The teachers and their grants are as follows:

- **Frances Furlong**, Gordon-Barbour Elementary School, \$250 to help fund a trip to the Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, VA to see *Ivy and Bean the Musical*
- **Christopher Mastromarino**, Gordon-Barbour Elementary School, \$250 for musical instruments to support *Active Music In the Classroom*
- **Ann Marie Fickes**, Orange County Head Start, \$250 *Caring for Our Animals*, science and character development instruction
- **Rachel Collins**, Locust Grove Elementary School, \$225 funding for *Jamestown Adventure Scholarships, a field trip to enrich 4th grade social studies*
- **R. A. Stewart**, Locust Grove Middle School, \$250 *Beyond Hallowed Ground*, a social studies enrichment project
- **Lee Finger**, Locust Grove Primary School, \$250 *ActivSlate for Active Teachers*, technology to support informed instruction
- **Pa’Trice Day Owens**, Orange County High School, \$250 *My Money, My Future*, materials for enhance economics instruction and personal finance
- **Thomas Dixon**, Orange County High School, *How to get to Carnegie Hall*, support for OCHS Chorus January 2015 performance in Carnegie Hall
- **Joseph Parker**, Orange County High School, *Use of Data Logging Devices in Science*, technology to support 21st century science objectives
- **Denise Pauze**, Orange Elementary School, \$250, *Cheetah Courtyard Ponds*, beautify school grounds while supporting science instruction and character development
- **Betsy Hamilton and Elaine Seal** (Student teacher), Prospect Heights Middle School, \$250 support *Author! Author!*, a virtual interview with young adult fiction author
- **Becky Ramirez**, Prospect Heights Middle School, \$250 to support *Technology in Civics and Economics*

- **Ben van Rooy**, Locust Grove Middle School, \$500, for *LGMS Field Study*, an experiential school within a school program
- **David Rabe**, Orange County High School, \$500 for *Walk this Way*, technology to build lifelong healthy living habits
- **Vince Arebala**, Prospect Heights Middle School, will receive \$500 for *Game Design Enrichment*, an innovative program for supporting learning with games and programming design

The LOW Lions Club works in partnership with the Orange County Education Foundation to promote the program among public school teachers. Inspired by the success of the Lions Club program, the Foundation established a second TIG program to benefit teachers at Germanna Community College and Grymes Memorial School as well as public school teachers.

The Foundation will issue a call for the next set of TIG applications at the semester break. Orange County teachers whose applications were not funded by the LOW Lions TIG program may be resubmitted for consideration in the Foundation grant program. Those grants will be awarded in April 2015. Individuals or groups interested in supporting the LOW Lions Club's TIG program may mail checks to: Lake of the Woods Lions Club Teacher Innovation Grant Program, P.O. Box 605, Locust Grove, VA, 22508. Individuals or groups interested in supporting the Orange County Education Foundation's TIG program may contact Matt Benefield, Treasurer, at 540-661-4550 or at mbenefield@ocss-va.org.

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Further information may be obtained by contacting Carol Hunter, Coordinator of Gifted and ESOL Programs, Orange County Public Schools, at (540) 661-4550.