



Bunny Tabatt, a representative of Leader Dog For The Blind, recently spoke to area Lions clubs concerning the organization and accepted a check on behalf of the program. From left are Bill Munck, Frostburg Lions; Tabatt; Barbara McKenney, Kitzmiller Lions and district governor; and Leon Fatkin, Frostburg Lions.

## Lions clubs hear speaker on Leader Dog program

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**FROSTBURG** — Area Lions clubs recently gathered at the Mount Savage Fire Hall to hear Bunny Tabatt, a representative of Leader Dog For The Blind, discuss the Leader Dog For The Blind Program. Lions from all over western Maryland attended, listening and asking questions about the Leader Dog for The Blind Program, one of the major projects of Lions clubs.

"It is such a pleasure to be part of this program" said District Gov. Barbara McKenney, Kitzmiller Lions. McKenney went on to compliment the organization, saying "This is what we are, this is what we do."

Tabatt received her first leader dog in 1984, and went on to attend the College of St. Catherine's in Minneapolis, Minn. Upon graduation, she accepted a position with St. Gabriel's Hospital, in Little Falls, Minn., where she was employed as a physical therapist, until her retirement in 2004. Since that time, Tabatt

has been a field representative for the Leader Dog For The Blind Program and travels all over the United States with her fourth guide dog, Baker, educating the public and raising funds for the program.

Each of the Lions clubs in the Western Maryland District presented a check to Tabatt as part of the Lions' continual support of the Leader Dog Program. A 50/50 raffle and necktie auction also were held. Lions from Western Maryland, contributed a total of \$4,550 to the Leader Dog Program.

The Lions clubs hold fund raisers throughout the year, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Leader Dog Program. "When you buy your barbecue chicken or your raffle ticket, rest assured that the proceeds will be used to support important programs" McKenney said. He recently toured the Leader Dog Facilities in Rochester, Mich., and stated that "this program is important."

Founded in 1938 by Lions

Charles Nutting, Don Schuur and S.A. Dodge, along with fellow Lions from the Uptown Detroit Club, Leader Dog For The Blind has successfully matched and graduated more than 13,000 human and dog teams since its inception. The first class graduated four students and through the years the founders began to establish a world class organization that has become an internationally recognized school for serving the blind community.

Today, Leader Dog for the Blind is proud to have assisted more than 13,000 people in achieving the freedom of safe and independent travel. Graduating approximately 300 teams a year, the school serves individuals from all areas of the globe. Leader Dog is one of only two schools in the world to offer dog guides to persons who are both deaf and blind.

For more information about Lions clubs or Leader Dog for the Blind Program, contact a Lion or call (301) 687-0212.