

Sherwood Lions Club roars back

By PETER GREER
Correspondent

SHERWOOD — "I'm very pleased with the people who are turning out for this," says Sherwood Lions Club president Rick Roby, "considering we don't have our charter yet."

Roby was speaking of the positive community interest to the newly-reorganized Lions Club, presently comprised of 32 members.

The club need not worry about not being chartered for long: Tuesday, Sept. 15, will be its charter night, in which all of its members will be inducted and a club charter is received. Members of area Lions clubs will be at the ceremony, including those from Pemberville, who were partially responsible for instigating the club's recent revival.

The original Sherwood Lions Club was formed in the late 1940s to support local parks and baseball teams. The club was disbanded in the early 1950s when the Circle Club, run by local businessmen, took its place.

The club was rejuvenated when

Roby, who works at the State Bank and Trust Co. branch in Sherwood, was approached by the Pemberville Lions Club at the request of Mark Moats, one of Roby's directors. The Pemberville club, along with those in Defiance and Bryan, convinced Roby that a new Sherwood Lions Club was viable.

Convincing the rest of the village went smoothly for Roby and the others involved, and soon the civic organization, which had lain dormant for 40 years, was re-established.

"It was actually kind of a struggle," says Roby of the group's getting a foothold in town, "but once we got going we got a pretty good response to it."

"There were times I never thought we would make it this far; we had to have (at least) 20 members for a charter."

The new club will promote and serve local projects and organizations — including, once again, local parks. Although it has yet to be chartered, the club has already made itself known, with positive results.

"We went through (this year's Sherwood) homecoming," says Roby. "We used it as our first project. We served food there, and people that weren't in Lions chipped in."

The club also raised money via a recent golf tournament.

Except for the group's administrative fund, which is funded by club dues, all monies the Lions make go toward improvement projects, bringing equipment to the parks or the Sherwood Library among other areas. So far the Lions have raised about \$2,000.

Because of the group's slow growth, its members are unwilling to discuss many future plans at present, although, Roby says, "We're trying to come up with ideas."

Among the future ideas Roby does mention are the sale of Fenton glass bells, which part of the membership is planning, and the probability of an "adopt-a-highway" plan for litter control, probably on U.S. 127. Right now, though, the group is planning events one at a time as it cau-

tiously gets back on its feet.

"We don't want everyone burned out from the beginning," explains Roby.

The Sherwood Lions Club meets on the first and third Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. in the VFW Hall.

Besides Roby, officers include secretary Dorothy Yanser, treasurer Bob Eble, and tailwister Mark Lee.

According to Roby, a tailwister's duties include collecting money from other Lions by penalizing them for things they did or did not do. "He might say, 'You're not wearing the right color sweater; that will cost you,'" says Roby.

The group plans to elect a vice president in the near future. Any community-minded Sherwood resident wishing to join may become charter members if they sign up before Sept. 15. After that date, memberships are welcome but will not be noted as charter members.