

ABCs of Service
Lions distribute dictionaries.

What a Deal
Michigan resale shop prospers.

LION



Lions on Lions
Lions and Leos
share their stories

Claire Davies, 16
Hood River Valley Leo Club, Oregon

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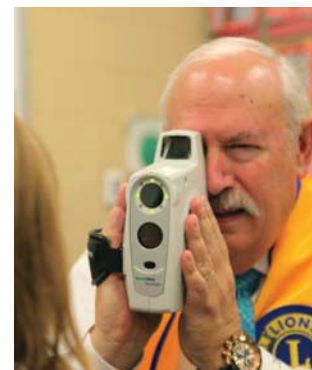


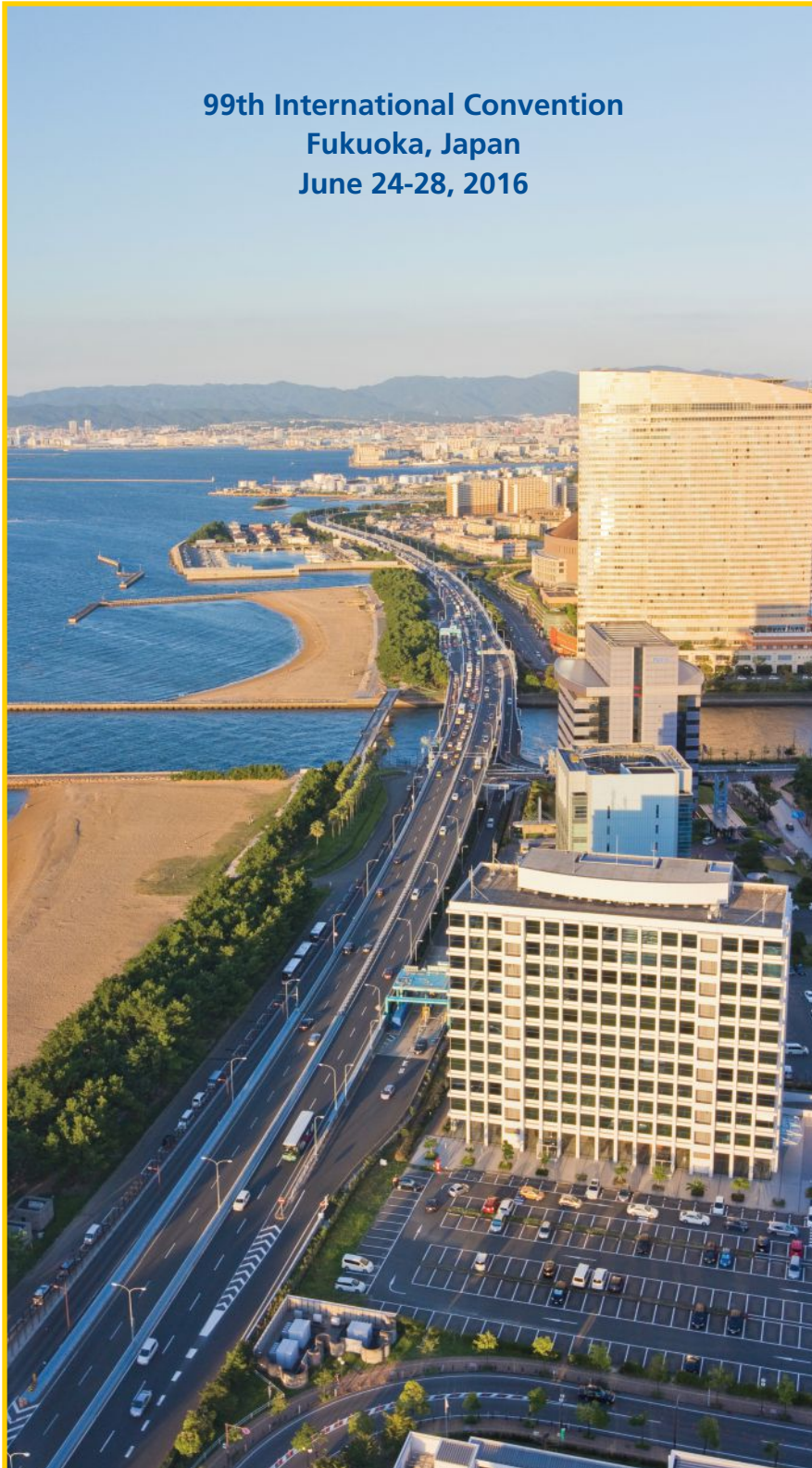
Photo by Matt Michels

Learn about our 2016-17 international president.



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YOUR LION. YOUR DEVICE. YOU'RE SET.



Members of the Milagro Melvin Jones Lions Club in Ecuador carry supplies to flood victims. Lions are sure to complete the centennial goal of serving 100 million people.

Take a Bow, Lions, for Incomparable Service

Many Japanese admire the teachings of Confucius, particularly his thinking about Onko Chishin. This means “he that would know what shall be must consider what has been.” Though elegantly expressed in the writings of Confucius, the concept is simply common sense, a sentiment appreciated by people worldwide. In fact, the idea is even incorporated into the longstanding Lions logo. One of the Lions on the logo looks back while the other looks forward.

As I enter the last month of my presidency, I find myself looking both back to the past and forward into the future. This year we built upon the success of Lions in the past. We continued to save lives through the measles campaign. We kept saving sight. We improved our communities in countless ways.

Lions also continued to be great champions and protectors of children. At the start of the year I urged Lions to reach out to children as part of my theme to promote Dignity, Harmony and Humanity. Sadly, the waves of refugees are a human tragedy the world has not seen in decades. Lions are responding with vigor, supplying food, water, necessities and kindness after kindness.

Looking to the past to prepare for the future has been especially meaningful for Lions this year as we near our centennial. Lions have made great progress toward achieving our Centennial Service Challenge of serving 100 million

people by June 30, 2018. I am utterly confident we will easily surpass that goal.

We also need to have the courage to change and sometimes even need to end longtime traditions. Our association needs to evolve to stay relevant to the needs of society. It may come with pain, but we must always have the next generation in mind.

It's been a great privilege to serve as international president. On our frequent journeys Toshiko and I have met thousands of warm and gracious Lions who exemplify the best of the human spirit. We Japanese take pride in our hospitality, but Toshiko and I learned that nothing tops Lions' hospitality. We also have been deeply impressed and inspired by Lions' dedication to service and their importance and accomplishments in their communities. Please continue to serve—the world needs us as never before in the next 100 years.



山田 實純

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada
Lions Clubs International President

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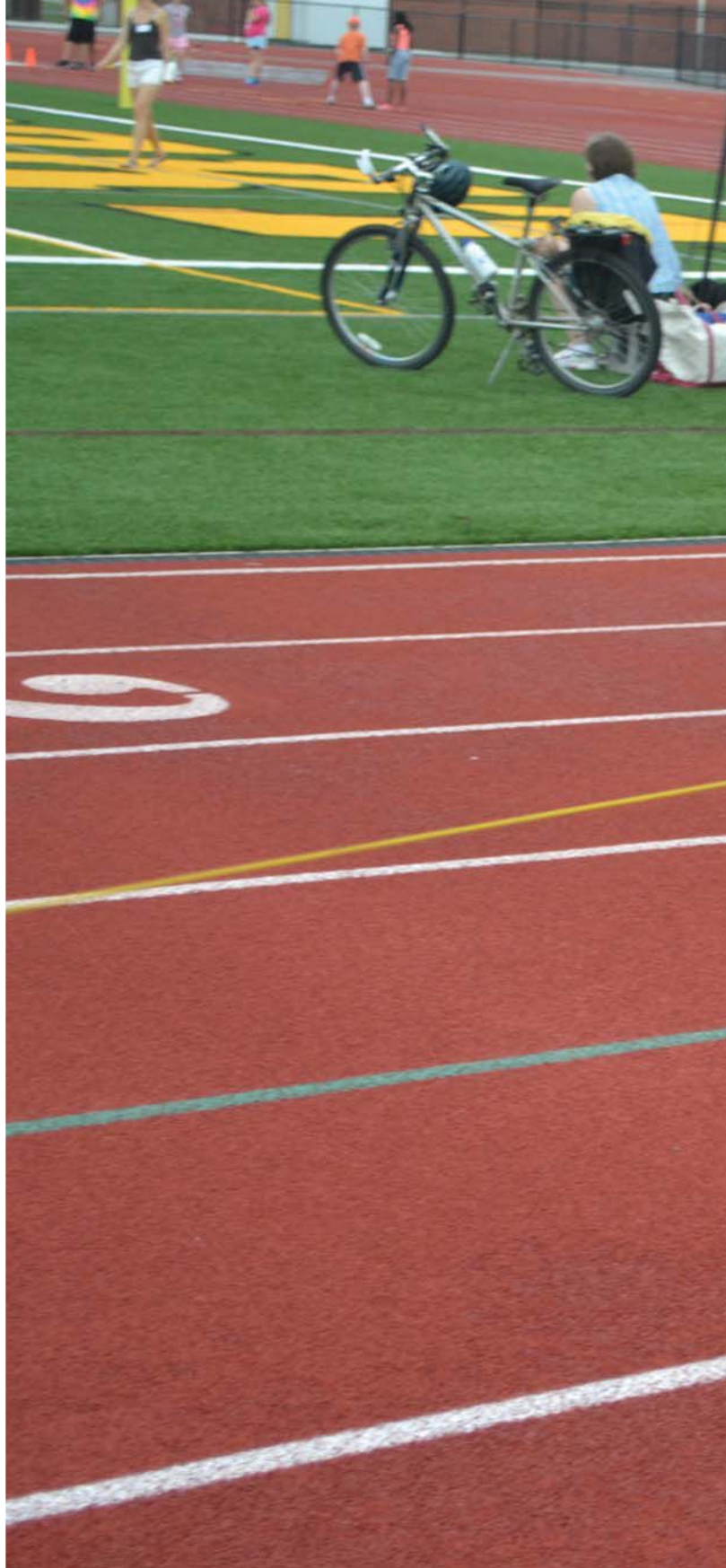
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[The Big Picture



Grin Determination

Children compete at Camp Abilities in Brockport, New York, a sports camp for children who are visually impaired or blind. The camp is supported by Lions. Either through donations or service such as serving meals, Lions support about half of the 25 Camp Abilities locations in the United States and abroad.



[Watch an inspiring HBO special on Camp Abilities.](#)

[Read how Texas Lions let the blind experience the joy of sports competition \(September 2009 LION\).](#)

[The Big Picture



Dialing Daddy

Days before Christmas in 1961, nine of Harold Lehnerr's children and two of his grandchildren got on the phone in Monroe, Wisconsin, to talk to Lehnerr, stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington, as part of Wisconsin's 32nd Division. Thirty other families called relatives in the military thanks to Monroe Lions. The Lehnerr children had good news and bad for dad. Joan, 6, lost two teeth and got a shiny dime from the tooth fairy. But Joe, 10, lost control of his sled and cut his lip when it ran into barbed wire. All kinds



The fun side of Lions as well as the impact of our service will be shown in historical videos in the digital version of the special centennial issue of the LION in November. Get a sneak preview: Lions at the 1924 international convention.

Also, watch the latest historical Lions video on how Lions built peace and international understanding across borders and generations.

of Lions' service over the last century, both world-changing and, as with the Lehnerr's, local in impact, will be highlighted in a special keepsake centennial issue of the LION. The combined November/December issue will arrive in your mailbox and also be available in the new digital LION in late November. You can be contributor: look through your closets and attics for photos or video clips of Lions service projects and events from the last century. Share your historical photos and videos on your club or district's Facebook page with the hashtag #LIONS100, and the photo or video could end up in the special centennial issue.

SAVE THE DATE

August 8-14
2016



Worldwide Week of Service for Youth

SERVE YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY THIS AUGUST

Lions worldwide will help children in their communities by hosting service projects Aug. 8-14 during Lions' Worldwide Week of Service for Youth. From health and education initiatives to helping friends and neighbors meet children's basic needs, there are countless ways to impact youth in your community and around the globe. It's also a great way to help achieve the Lions' centennial goal to serve 100+ million people. Learn more by visiting the Worldwide Week of Service for Youth page at Lions100.org.

SOUTH AFRICAN BOY WINS ESSAY CONTEST

The grand prize winner of this year's essay contest for blind youth lives in a poor neighborhood in South Africa and lost his sight as a result of a brain tumor discovered when he was 6 months old. Joel Greek, 12, is the winner of the 2015-16 Lions International Essay Contest for visually impaired youths. A sixth-grader at the Athlone School for the Blind, he wrote a 500-word essay on the importance of sharing peace by eliminating inequality and discrimination. "I myself am a young boy with a disability, the only one in my family. Yet they accept me knowing I am capable of anything. We have an opportunity to change the world," he wrote. Joel, who is blind in one eye and has partial vision in the other, will receive \$5,000 and be honored at the 99th International Convention in June in Fukuoka, Japan. The award was announced in March in New York at Lions Day with the United Nations. The ceremony was attended by Joel, his mother, a secretary from his school in Cape Town and James Lang, president of the sponsoring Gordons Bay Lions Club.



Joel Greek reads his essay at Lions Day with the United Nations in March.

Essay contests have been a longtime staple for Lions Clubs—read a 1934 LION story on a wife whose first-place essay on the value of Lions' membership praised her husband for becoming "more unselfish—a finer companion."

By the Numbers

2

Truckloads of logs sent by Forks Lions in Washington to Quincy Lions across the state, 330 miles away, in exchange for produce. For 36 years Forks Lions have distributed the produce to the needy while Quincy Lions cut the logs into firewood, to be sold or given to the elderly and disabled.



3
Length in miles of the canoe and kayak race held by Wakefield Lions in New Hampshire.

60

Minutes it took for University of Texas Lions to sell all 100 of its succulents in handmade dinosaur-shaped pots to benefit Refugee Services of Texas.

Leo clubs sponsored by Auburn Host Lions in California.

4



17

Local celebrities who prepared dishes for the Celebrity Chefs fundraiser staged by Tallmadge Lions in Ohio.

69

Vendors who took part in the Schumacher Lions Club Christmas Craft Show in Ontario, Canada.

200

Smoke alarms or batteries for smoke alarms Casa Grande Lions in Arizona helped the fire department install in homes.



145

People with vision impairments fed at the North Carolina State Fair by Apex Lions.

365

Diners at a pancake and sausage breakfast held by Bowman Lions in North Dakota to benefit a cancer patient.

25

Skydivers who performed at the Wheels and Wings event (which also featured 800 classic cars) sponsored by Osceola Lions in Wisconsin. The event commemorated the death in 1991 of seven people, including five members of a skydivers club, when two planes collided.

64 Years Ago in the LION



49

Bikes sent to people in Cape Town, South Africa, by Seaforth Lions in Ontario, Canada.

14

Skipjacks that competed in the 56th skipjack races of the Deal Island Chance Lions Club in Maryland. There are only 34 skipjacks left, traditional fishing boats used on Chesapeake Bay for oyster dredging.

JUNE 1952

Who's on first for the awards? None other than Bud Abbott (second from right) and Lou Costello (second from left). President Lou Reider of the Philadelphia Central Host Lions Club (far right) and Harry La Brum of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce honor the comedy duo for their charitable work on behalf of children. What happened next? We don't know.



Photo by Denis Tremblay/old.montreal.qc.ca

A monument honors Paul de Chomedey, the French military officer who founded Montreal in 1642.

MONTREAL SELECTED FOR 2021 CONVENTION

The world's second-largest French-speaking city (after Paris) but also remarkable for its ethnic diversity and its creative scene, Montreal will host the 2021 International Convention. The board of directors chose the Canadian city in the spring. The largest city in Quebec with 1.65 million people, Montreal is an important center of commerce, culture, finance, aerospace, technology, design, tourism, gaming, film and world affairs. It has produced such diverse talents as the writer Saul Bellow, the band Arcade Fire and the omnipresent actor William Shatner. Montreal hosted the convention in 1996 and 1979. Lions meet for the 99th International Convention in June in Fukuoka, Japan, in Chicago in 2017 (the centennial for Lions Clubs), in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2018, in Milan, Italy, in 2019, and in Singapore in 2020.



PATTY DUKE WAS LIONHEARTED

Patty Duke, who died in March and won an Oscar for her fiery portrayal of Helen Keller in “The Miracle Worker” in 1962, was an honorary Lion—twice. In 2009, recognizing her longtime efforts on behalf of the blind and deaf as well as her advocacy for those with manic depression (from which she suffered), Lions in District 37 N in Montana made her an honorary member. In 2012, after she directed a local production of “The Miracle Worker,” the Spokane Central Lions Club in Washington bestowed honorary membership on her. The club helped stage the play as a fundraiser for a group that assists the blind. Duke, whose married name was Anna Pearce, lived in Coeur D’Alene, Idaho. She was 69 when she died and just 16 when she became famous for her role as Keller.



Patty Duke’s portrayal of Helen Keller earned her an Oscar.

EIGHT CITIES GET VISION CARE

As many as 5,000 children and adults will receive free eye exams and, if needed, eyeglasses as part of a partnership between LCIF and VSP Global. Lions clubs in this pilot program are providing Eyes of Hope gift certificates in eight cities. Beneficiaries must have a household income at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines and not have insurance coverage for eye exams or glasses. Lions clubs are providing the certificates in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Columbus, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Long Island/New York, Portland, Oregon; and Sacramento, California. Based in Rancho Cordova, California, VSP Global provides eye care and eyewear products and services.

Watch an excellent VSP Global video on the importance of clear vision.

Overheard

“Last year the Lions club came out to do vision screenings, and I was chatting with them and mentioned my dad was a Lion. When I went [to a meeting], I shared some stuff about dad, and it just felt right.”

—School principal Susan Holthaus on why she joined the El Dorado Lions Club in Kansas in memory of her late father. From the Butler County Times Gazette.

“We’ll be sending lots of bouquets to people who are Meals on Wheels drivers, the thrift store workers, construction workers, Lions club members—people who are not really thanked for the work they do in the community.”

—Sherry Benko, owner of the Buds and Blooms shop in Sparwood, British Columbia, Canada. From The Free Press.

“We just have to wiggle our toes. Cuz that’s for pictures.”

—Grayson Rysavvy, 3, on the instructions given to him by Ned Doan of the Northwood Lions at a vision screening of Iowa KidSight. From the Globe Gazette.

Recognizing Hearing Loss Helps Membership

BY BILL SCHAFER

For 28 years I've lived with hearing loss. It's a disability that's not immediately apparent. Nine years ago (I remember it like it was yesterday) the members of my Mesa East Lions Club in Arizona carried on at our meeting—and I could barely hear them. I asked a question. A Lion shot me a puzzled look and said, “We discussed that 10 minutes ago. Where were you?”

Since then I have made it my mission to save others from the embarrassment and lack of connection and understanding that accompany hearing loss. I speak at club meetings about hearing loss. Believe me, it has made a difference. Recently, a Lion in Arizona stood up at the end of the meeting and said this was the first time anyone had expressed concern about his hearing loss. He had been thinking of quitting, but now he had decided to remain a Lion.

Don't assume hearing loss is an isolated matter. An estimated 30 percent of adults suffer hearing problems. Only one in four of those with hearing loss benefit from a hearing aid or cochlear implant. Think of all the Lions we likely are losing because they feel left out and disenfranchised.

Hearing is something we take for granted. I know that personally—to my regret. In the 1970s, as the general manager of a 15,000-acre farm, I regularly flew a plane to inspect the crops. I was young and strong. Advised to use ear plugs, I declined. In the 1980s I ran a 3,000-acre corn operation in Kansas whose sprinklers were pumped by large, noisy natural gas engines. The ear muffs given to me to protect my hearing lay untouched on a shelf at home.

An autoimmune disease worsened my hearing, and I gratefully received a cochlear implant nearly a decade ago. My crisis led me to advocacy. I served on the Arizona Commission of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing and also gladly served as Multiple District 21 hearing chair.

Accommodating the hard of hearing at meetings is not difficult. The president and the other members should speak more slowly and distinctly. Slow, concise speech can be learned and become habit-forming. Use the “4 P's”—persistent, patient practice with a positive attitude. Emphasize each key word in a sentence with a slight pause after that key word. Then take a breath at the end of a sentence. An example: “We—were looking—for a—white—truck—to buy.” During a brief pause, the brain is able to fill in the missing sounds that it did not understand. Also, a hand-held microphone should be positioned at the chin at all times. For every foot of distance from the chin, six decibels of volume is lost.

Unfortunately, Lions sometimes do not appreciate the scope of hearing loss. Audiologists, who can attest to the value of hearing aids and cochlear implants, also infrequently are invited to meetings. It's time we pay much more attention to this largely hidden disability, both as a courtesy and as a tool for membership growth.

Schafer has been a Lion since 1988.





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One Shot, One Life: Lions Measles Initiative

As Lions Clubs International has grown increasingly global, so has the range of problems members are tackling. Lions are playing a key role in the worldwide fight against measles and rubella—vaccine-preventable diseases that threaten the lives of millions of children in the world’s poorest regions.

Lions were drawn into the fight because measles remains one of the leading causes of death among young children despite the availability of a safe and inexpensive vaccine. Rubella can have serious effects on pregnant women and cause fetal death or congenital birth defects known as congenital rubella syndrome. The spread of the two diseases often can be prevented at the same time through the administration of a combined measles-rubella vaccine.

Through the One Shot, One Life: Lions Measles Initiative, Lions have joined a sweeping effort to stamp out measles and rubella by helping to ensure that vast numbers of children in developing countries are vaccinated.

The Lions first entered the fight in 2010 when they joined the Measles & Rubella Initiative, a global partnership formed in 2001 by the American Red Cross, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Foundation. Lions Clubs International Foundation and Lions clubs around the world have thrown their support behind the effort to stamp out the diseases.

Lions-led activities are varied and include mobilizing tens of millions of dollars to support supplemental measles campaigns to vaccinate children, advocating for increased support for immunization systems during World Immunization Week, and providing hands-on social mobilization during measles vaccination campaigns to increase awareness and ensure that all children get vaccinated.

Lions are putting their organizational and education skills to work to help mobilize communities in making a difference. “Vaccines can’t save lives if children don’t receive them,” says Past District Governor Dr. Tebebe Yemane-Berhan, a member of the LCIF Steering Committee from Ethiopia.

An example is found in the African nation of Botswana, where local Lions helped the Ministry of Health conduct an intensive five-day measles vaccination campaign by going door-to-door in the town of Selebi-Phikwe. Lions talked “one-on-one with mothers on their doorsteps to make sure they understood the importance of the vaccinations,” according to Obakeng Kanthaga, who served in 2011 as



A health care worker vaccinates a child in Tamale, Ghana.

president of District 412 Leo clubs, overseeing 50 Leo clubs in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Farther north in Botswana, local Lions in Francistown sought to make sure vaccinations were understood as safe by organizing actors to stage dramatic shows demonstrating the vaccination process. Botswanan Lions also distributed T-shirts promoting the campaign and paid for 3,500 bright orange hats that identified the public health workers. They also paid for and distributed 10,000 posters and 100,000 fliers publicizing the vaccination campaign.

Lions’ service has paid off. In 2000, a year before the Measles & Rubella Initiative was created, more than 562,000 children worldwide died from complications related to measles. By 2013, the annual number of such deaths had fallen 74 percent to 145,700.

Lions stepped up their efforts to fight measles and rubella in mid-2013 by partnering with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private partnership that funds immunization programs for the world’s poorest countries. As part of the Lions partnership with Gavi, Lions pledged to raise US\$30 million to fund Gavi’s measles and rubella programs. Matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the British government will boost that total to \$60 million.

Read the rest of the 100 Touchstone stories written for Lions’ centennial at Lions100.org.

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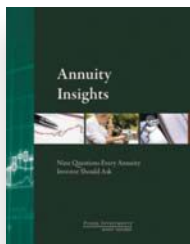
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Lions Spark Love of Reading

Greensboro Hamilton Lakes Lion Ron McKinney says that his North Carolina club wanted to maximize the number of children they could help learn to read at a school in the Cottage Grove community, a historically impoverished area in east Greensboro. Residents, volunteers and community activists are working hard to revitalize the area. “We have sweet kids,” says Thyais Maxfield, principal of Hampton Elementary School. But those sweet children needed some help. Their reading skills were low and books were in short supply.

The path to partnering with two other organizations was smooth once Lions realized that they could all do more for students by working together. By including Reading is Fundamental (RIF) and Christ United Methodist Women (UMW) in the project, Lions were able to donate books and a reading action plan to the school.

Lions knew they could give the children books, but that wasn’t enough to improve reading skills. A plan had to be in place to guide them. The UMW purchased texts aligned with the curriculum to help students learn to read. The group also provided manuals for teachers to integrate new skills into their lesson plans.

Lions donated \$3,200 to buy 900 new books and fill RIF book bags with related learning activities. McKinney says Lions did more than simply spark a passion for reading: “We also collaborated to address the children’s overall needs, including food pantry donations, playground equipment and school beautification projects. People donated furniture to the Parent Resource Center and gave more books to the children along with school supplies and student uniforms.”

Lions connected the school’s reading specialist with another agency for even more assistance. Hampton Elementary received two grants to engage parents in reading efforts and to boost the professional development of teachers. The grants also include funds for reading enrichment activities. Volunteers, many of them Lions, now serve as “reading buddies” for children at the school.

Raising Canine Companions

Before he retired, California Lion Jay Matsler taught career technical education and life skills such as getting a job and managing a checkbook or credit card to at-risk youth. There was often an extra member of the class snoozing at his feet. Matsler, a Murrieta Lion, is one of the club’s several puppy raisers who’ve raised 38 puppies for the Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI) since 1998. Bringing a puppy to class helped socialize the dog and engage the kids. “Being a puppy raiser means educating the public on what a service dog is, and how to approach a person with a service dog,” he explains.

The Murrieta club is unusually active in puppy raising. Matsler and Lion Jon Hanson are co-raising a puppy named Fiji with Lion Judy Buehler. The two other puppy raisers in the club are Jim and Gayle Batchelor. Tonia Capps is on the puppy-raiser committee, but she hasn’t raised a dog. She’s still deeply involved in the club’s efforts to provide service animals. “I’m too old to take care of a 50-pound dog,” says Capps, 79. “I have a little 10-pound poodle.” Like others in the 25-member club, she often accompanies the puppies and their raisers when they visit schools, nursing homes or malls for public outings.

Puppy raisers bring the dogs into their homes at 7 to 8 weeks and keep them until they’re ready to train with their human partners 18 months later. Members regularly have the puppies and their raisers to their homes to help socialize them, too. “These dogs are well-trained, but they need to experience other people and places,” Capps points out. Some of the puppies suffer from separation anxiety because they’re used to only one family, which can get them released from CCI. “Only about 30 percent of the puppies make it all the way through the program,” says Matsler.

Puppy raisers volunteer to train the dogs, pay for food and all veterinary services. Lions not only raise puppies, they also raise funds for and support CCI by catering meals for every graduating class at the Oceanside facility. “We’ve named puppies with every letter of the alphabet, from Adrienne to Failine, Parsley to Zuben,” says Matsler. “It’s really tough when the puppies leave us.”



Disneyland is the happiest place on earth for puppies, too, as Fiji takes a ride on the teacups with Murrieta Lion Judy Buehler.



Golf Balls Score Funds

When golf balls rained down from the sky, they raised money—not flowers—for Tewksbury Lions in Massachusetts, who sponsored their first golf ball drop and made \$3,600. The contest was held immediately after the club's 27th golf tournament that drew nearly 100 players. The balls were dispersed from a helicopter at a nearby farm so there was no danger of players on the golf course being struck by errant balls. Between the ball drop and tournament, Lions made \$10,000. Each ball was numbered and sold for \$10, and the winner took home a \$1,000 prize.

The idea of Lion Jerry Selissen, the golf ball drop added some excitement from the skies, but none of the balls actually made it into the cup dug into a field. "The winner's ball was just two or three inches from the hole," says Selissen, who with other Lions waited some distance away during the drop. A friend of his, Vinny Fratalia, leaned out to drop the balls while strapped into the helicopter hovering a few hundred feet in the air. The helicopter, owned and operated by businessman Marc Ginsburg, was donated to help Lions raise funds to pay for vision and hearing needs and help support a food pantry and other charitable projects.

"Everybody wanted in on the drop," he says. A new member, Selissen says he's "thrilled to be a part of this club." Already actively serving his community in various capacities, he says it was a natural progression for him to join the Tewksbury Lions. "They do so much for everybody here. There's actually a Lions connection that goes way back in our community. Annie Sullivan once lived in and taught in Tewksbury." A life-sized, bronze sculpture of her and her most famous student, Helen Keller, stands near the Tewksbury town hall.

Vinny Fratalia leans out to drop golf balls onto the ground for the Ball Drop contest.

The Play's the Thing

When New Philadelphia Lions in Ohio want to make a dramatic impact, they don't have to take to the stage. No acting skills required—all they need are some tools in their hands. "I don't think any of our Lions have stage production experience, but they're definitely a handy bunch with big hearts," points out Angela Stingel.

An outdoor theater production company asked Lions for their assistance in rehabbing its storage building. Lions fixed up the barn-sized facility, home to the drama troupe's props and equipment, using only their know-how and only about \$600 in materials. They not only added new siding to protect its interior from the elements, but also built storage bins and shelving inside to safely store play gear. Several Lions have served on the board of trustees since the show started running.

The Schoenbrunn Amphitheater produces Ohio's longest-running outdoor play, "Trumpet in the Land," which just completed its 46th year. Written by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Paul Green, it tells the story of David Zeisberger and his Christian Indian followers. They tried to preserve peace in 1772 in the heart of the Ohio wilderness as the Revolutionary War violence spread. Lions readily helped because they believe the outdoor drama is an important part of the local economy and telling of the state's history.

To learn about Ohio's history, elementary schools routinely bring students to the amphitheater located in Schoenbrunn Village. "The story is told in a beautiful natural setting near where the actual events took place," says Ward Holdsworth. "The play has beautiful horses, brilliant fire



Lions (from left) Ward Holdsworth, Ken Sopher and Neil Rupe work on the storage building.

dances, authentic-looking costumes and even battle pyrotechnics. It's one of our area's biggest tourist attractions."

INDIA

Mysterious Donor Helps Hospital

The mysterious caller never disclosed his identity. Or explained why he wanted to provide the Lions' hospital with several dialysis machines. He even became angry when a Lion suggested he should be the special guest at a ceremony unveiling the machines; instead the unknown benefactor berated Lions for not planning to immediately use the machines as a fitting end to the ceremony.

The donor's last contact with Lions about his initial donation in 2012 was just as mysterious as his first. When Lions emailed him photos of the ceremony, a response came back: "I thank you for giving me a chance to be of service of mankind. This email will be deactivated today."

The LNM Lions Hospital in Bhuj has the motto "for the people, by the people." Thanks to the 11 donated new dialysis machines, worth more than an estimated US\$1 million, the hospital is able to meet patients' needs. It has done 57,500 dialysis treatments since 2006.

The telephone calls from the unknown benefactor four years ago came to Past District Governor Bharat Mehta, the hospital administrator. Mehta told the caller five machines were needed. He had agreed to

forward the reports on the hospital's dialysis treatments even while the two spoke on the phone. "He was impressed that it took less than a minute," recounts Mehta. "He observed that this meant we hadn't edited or altered the reports to our advantage in any way."

The hospital began with two dialysis machines in 2006 and eventually acquired 27, but 12 were discarded as they aged. Mehta said the Lions "would have been overjoyed to receive even just one more dialysis machine" from the unknown benefac-

tor. Instead, five machines were delivered from Germany within 15 days of the benefactor's call. Three years later, in 2015, after another brief phone call from the benefactor, six more machines arrived.

"This is a true story," says Mehta, who shakes his head in wonder at how odd and wonderful the story is. He still knows nothing about the donor, other than he is religious. The last email from him read: "God bless you all. May God bless you and your team with the strength to continue to be of service to the poor and needy."



The dialysis machines at the Lions' hospital are in constant use.



The Lions' float was decorated with 13,000 flowers.

SWITZERLAND

Teamwork Blooms Between Clubs

For 60 years the Fête des Narcisses was an iconic spring event in the Riviera district until it ended in 1957. The Feast of Narcissus celebrated the blooming of the narcissus, known as the "May snow" for its brilliant appearance on hillsides. Last year, with the help of two disparate Lions clubs, the festival returned after a hiatus of 58 years.

The Montreux and Riviera-Chablais Lions clubs entered a flower-strewn float in the colorful parade and hosted a food booth. Founded in 1951, the Montreux club, located where the famous jazz festival is held, is all-male. The Riviera-Chablais club, chartered just two years ago, is all-female.

The clubs worked side-by-side to help make the festival a success. They served croissants and Highland beef raised in the heights of Montreux and roasted on a spit for 14 hours. More than 500 patrons dined on the beef.

SWEDEN

Youth Camp Houses Refugees

A Lions youth camp in Sweden was recently canceled. But there were few complaints. Lions decided the camp was needed to house refugees from Syria and Afghanistan.

As many as 80 refugees will live at Lions Green Camp, located about 75 miles southwest of Stockholm. The living quarters are spacious and clean with a kitchen, dining room, showers and a washing machine and dryer.

The Swedish government had urged its citizens to accommodate the stream of refugees pouring into Sweden, which welcomed 160,000 refugees in 2015. "It gave Sweden and its towns an enormous challenge," says Lion Mats Granath, chairperson of Youth Camp and Exchange in Sweden. "We don't know how long they will stay [at the Green Camp]. It depends if they get permanent permission to stay in Sweden."

Fifty youths from 29 nations were scheduled to stay at the camp. Most youths should be able to sign up for another youth camp elsewhere, says Granath.

"We're sorry for their situation, but Swedish Lions are convinced we are doing the right thing," says Granath. "This is Lionism—helping people."

Youth Camp and Exchange has benefited youths for generations—read how Virginia teenagers experienced foreign customs and cultures in 1998 (February 1998 LION).

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Lions on Li

Lions and Leos share their stories.

Claire Davies | 16

Hood River Valley Leo Club, Oregon

Davies is a self-described risk taker. She is a freestyle and alpine skier. For her school, she competes in track and field. She commutes 60 miles to Portland four to six times a week to play for two soccer clubs. "I'm extremely happy and outgoing. I'm not afraid to embarrass myself in front of a group. I like to have fun," she says. But being a Leo still has lent a little edge to her game. "The leadership opportunities I've had as a Leo have helped me become a leader on my soccer teams," she says. "If it wasn't for Leos and Lions, I wouldn't have met some of my best friends I have today." Her proudest moment as a Leo is a project she created and chaired to collect 800 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls. Her Leo meetings now draw at least 25 youths. "For our small town, that's a huge turnout!" she says. Lions may be older than her, but she can relate well to them. "I love working with them because they're always so funny and cheerful. I've already learned so much," says Davies, who wants a career either in medicine or soccer. "The Leo club is such a good fit for me."

—Pamela Mohr



ons

Aaron Madar | 41

Markham Lions Club, Ontario,
Canada

Madar has the rare distinction of having been both the oldest and youngest member of his club. He started out with a group of young professionals in the Toronto Trillium Lions Club and then transferred to the more traditional Markham Lions Club. "With my former club, we had a lot of new ideas and events for a younger crowd, like an all-day sports charity event. Meetings were informal, and we would go out to dinner afterward if people wanted to. My current club is more traditional, with a lot of longstanding events and more formal dinner meetings. It took time to adjust to the differences," says Madar, a marketing manager. Active on social media since the '90s, he has 4,000 Facebook friends and 1,000 Twitter followers. He believes there's a lot of untapped potential in millennials. "If LCI really wants membership to go up, we need to start more new clubs for young professionals," he says. "Lions have got to be more active on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. It takes a lot of practice to build a following and figure out the types of posts they respond to, but it's the best marketing for the younger generation."

—Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt



Dan Goodwin | 52

Sacramento Senator Lions Club, California

Goodwin played rugby in college, but now he gets his exercise as a Lion. He rakes bamboo leaves, trims trees and paints a shed in helping to maintain the sensory garden for the visually impaired at the Sacramento Zoo and a nearby Japanese garden. "It's great to be outside, enjoy the company of other Lions and have a sense of accomplishment," he says. A vice president of health and human services systems, Goodwin is his club's membership chairperson. "We're a hands-on club, so the best way to let someone know what being a Lion is like is to have them work alongside us," he says. A recent experience exemplifies this approach. "A friend from work would come to fundraisers but never showed interest in joining. He finally came to a Japanese garden workday—he joined after that." Goodwin also takes an active approach toward recruiting younger members. "We Lions have to get out into the community and make sure young folks are aware of who we are. And once they join, we've got to get them engaged and really listen to their ideas," he says. "Some clubs and districts aren't willing to change or try something new. That can deter new Lions from becoming leaders. In my club, a lot of people who joined in just the past couple of years are taking on leadership roles."

—JGG



Pamela Williams | 62

Marietta Lions Club, Georgia

Williams attributes her can-do spirit as a Lion to her 21 years in the Army providing logistics support for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. "I just jump right in there and try to get things moving. I don't stand around waiting for orders," she says with a laugh. She retired from the Army, but not from service. She works at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, sending medical personnel overseas. She treasures her two rescue dogs, Dozer, a big Husky, and Max, a little Pomeranian. "They travel with me everywhere I can take them," she says. She became a Lion after learning more about them from her uncle, Lion Clarence. Her biggest hope as a member is to see more women as well as people of color in leadership positions. "What Lions do is critical to a healthy society," she emphasizes. "But we need to reach out to more people."

—PM



Amanda Gehring | 30

Kerrville, Texas

Gehring was the youngest member of her club in Delaware by far when she joined at age 23. But the transition was smooth. She had attended Lions events in New York with her father, David, since she was 5, and as a speech therapist, she was accustomed to interacting with people older than her. Besides, Lions immediately put her to work. She ran the pancake breakfast and served as eyeglass collection chairperson. "I did all the things Lions 30 years older than me do. They made me feel confident," she says. Gehring recently moved to Kerrville, Texas, where there are four Lions clubs from which to choose. She's met Lions from all over Texas at a cleanup of the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville. She was so enthusiastic about Lions and the camp that a work colleague has already asked about becoming a Lion.

—PM

Hilary Wickenhauser | 18

Cologne Leo Club, Minnesota

Although her mother, Cologne Lion Anna Wickenhauser, helped sponsor a new Leo club, Hilary Wickenhauser, then 13 years old, was reluctant to join. Participating in her first service project changed her mind. "Being a Leo became one of the most important parts of my life," says Wickenhauser, a college freshman. "In a world with so many problems, Leoism has helped me be optimistic because I can see the ways to help people." She is passionate about the power of books, and her favorite project was a Lions' book drive that collected more than 20,000 books. "Something as simple as providing someone with a book can be a key to success," says Wickenhauser, who helped launch a summer reading program. "The children are excited to have teenagers interacting with them, and the Leos love encouraging reading and also being silly with the kids," she says. Becoming a Leo changed her life. "In high school I struggled with depression and anxiety. Being a Leo provided me with a positive outlet to do good and friends to rely on. I saw the joy we brought to others and redirected that back to myself, helping me to be motivated and thrive—even when I didn't think I could. I can honestly say I would not be the person I am today had I not been a Leo."

—JGG

Mason Romero | 19

Hood River Valley Leo Club, Oregon

Studying kinesiology at Oregon State University, Romero says being a Leo changed him in an unexpected and deeply personal way. "I've become much more aware of the amount of need we still have in this country, and I've become more compassionate as a result," he explains. He's fed the hungry, participated in environmental action projects, provided water filtration systems to poor families in Nepal, collected money to fight cancer and participated in dozens of projects that help people and the planet—all as a teenager. "Leo clubs offer so much to anyone who participates. When you're young, there's no better way to help others than as a Leo," says Romero, a windsurfer, kite boarder, rock climber and hiker who also enjoys photography. He believes his club's diversity is what makes it successful and engaging to members. "So many people of different backgrounds are able to come together and help the community," he says. "Our club has a fairly casual atmosphere, so nobody feels scared to contribute at meetings."

—PM





Tom Garriss | 68

Lynne Garriss | 65

Coppell Lions Club, Texas

Married for 40 years, Tom and Lynne readily admit they approach service differently. He typically thinks about the big picture, and she often focuses on the details. But they claim the same favorite project: their club's holiday toy and food drive. Students in local schools make blankets, and classes compete on collecting the most food. "It's kids helping kids," says Tom, a Global Leadership Team member. Adds Lynne, "We're able to directly help people rather than just making a monetary contribution." Tom is active in building Lions leaders through the annual District 2 X1 Lions University. He sees a need to improve membership recruitment. "We need a flexible approach for each district," says Tom, who spent his career as a construction manager. "We may need to form more branch clubs that are less traditional for millennials or consolidate smaller clubs." Meanwhile, Lynne stays busy with club activities. "That way, as a family, we can make sure we're active in the club as well as the district," she says. Adds Tom, "And it gives us room to do our own thing and not stumble over each other." After 14 years as an "unofficial" Lion, Lynne took the oath last year. "I joined because I retired from teaching and also because a female Lion encouraged me to join her. But really, Tom made it happen—he filled out the membership form for me!"

—JGG



Darnell Little | 66

Spenard Lions Club, Alaska

Little's wife, Yvonne, a fellow Lion, likes to tease him: "You can't save the world." His retort is: "Yes, you can—one person at a time." He feeds homeless veterans, screens children's vision, dresses up in a pink suit to raise funds to fight breast cancer and helps victims of domestic violence. He's walked in the cold and rain to raise money for the hungry. "I'm always trying to show people that tomorrow's a better day than today," he says. Little is a born adventurer. A native of Montgomery, Alabama, he's long since left the Lower 48 behind and never looked back. "Alaska is my everything. It's beautiful, bold, wild, exciting and free. It takes a certain type of person to live here. It was the spot that God put me, and I'm loving it." Little says he's only been tested by Alaska's brutal winters once—"the winter of 1980 when I rode a bicycle to three jobs. But I truly enjoyed it." He became a Lion shortly after his wife and mother-in-law did because he saw how they made a difference in others' lives. "Now I dress up as Santa and deliver the gifts and get to see the smiles on their faces. I'm the only 150-pound Santa for miles around!" He is a Lion to help others, but he fully understands what it has meant in his life. "I've learned to love people more because my club has expressed love to me and our community," he says.

—PM

Barry Allen | 69

Manchester Lions Club,
Michigan

Twenty years as a Navy pilot followed by an 18-year stint flying with United Airlines drew Allen to Lions. "My eyesight is extremely important to me, so I know how important it is to others. Having seen much of the world, I understand the poverty and hardships people face," he says. Since 2007 he has rotated through all of his club's leadership positions, but found serving as charter president to be the most rewarding. "In most cases, the president is handed the reins and can adjust the direction of the club. But as charter president you need to envision where the club will be in five to 10 years," says Allen, a past district governor. As the district centennial coordinator, Allen visits clubs with his wife, Peggy, the district governor. "I've read several books on Melvin Jones, and I've worked up a presentation on him," Allen says. His Lions family has grown over the years by hosting 29 youths from nine countries through LCI's Youth Exchange program. They stay in touch through a Facebook group Allen created, and he and Peggy visited several of their "kids" in Australia and New Zealand. "Every student is special to us. We treat them like grandkids. Unless you've done it, you don't realize what an honor it is to show young people our wonderful country."

—JGG



Janet B. Quinto | 73

San Diego Executive Lions
Club, California

Quinto relishes being a Lion because she can help her homeland. A clinical laboratory scientist, Quinto traveled on three Lions medical missions to the Philippines. Then fate steered her to schoolchildren in dire need. On a trip to visit family with her husband, Lion Alex, also from the Philippines, they met a teacher. The encounter was pure happenstance. The school was so remote that the teacher rarely left his village but happened to be on a break at a gathering with the Quintos. So in 2014 the Quintos made an arduous trek to the island of Castilla. "We traveled by plane, boat and by land with the aid of a walking stick to climb a mountain until we reached Dulangan elementary school. It was really challenging to walk through the rain and on such slippery roads," Quinto recalls. A crowd of excited children, parents and teachers greeted them. "They were all so emotional and joyful," she says. Lions brought donated backpacks brimming with school supplies and sandals for the barefooted children. The 81 students learn in classrooms with no electricity, but that may change someday. Now retired, Quinto says supporting the school will be an ongoing club project.

—PM



Helene V. Thompson | 52

Satellite Beach Lions Club,
Florida

Lionism is all about the fellowship for Thompson. She felt awed carrying the Florida state flag in the parade at the international convention in Hamburg, Germany, in 2013. "There was such a tremendous sense of camaraderie on the parade route. To be in a city with 20,000 Lions is amazing. You feel like you're all friends, even if you haven't met yet," she says. She joined the Danbury Lions in Connecticut as a young mother of two daughters in 1999. Her club was family-friendly. "I could serve the community and be a parent. My club found projects I could do with my children, like bell ringing for the Salvation Army. And as my children grew, I grew as a Lion," says Thompson, a region chairperson. Now that her children are older, Thompson keeps the family atmosphere alive in her club. "I find the constant pressure to add members to sometimes be counterproductive. I think the focus should be on keeping and building what we already have."

—JGG

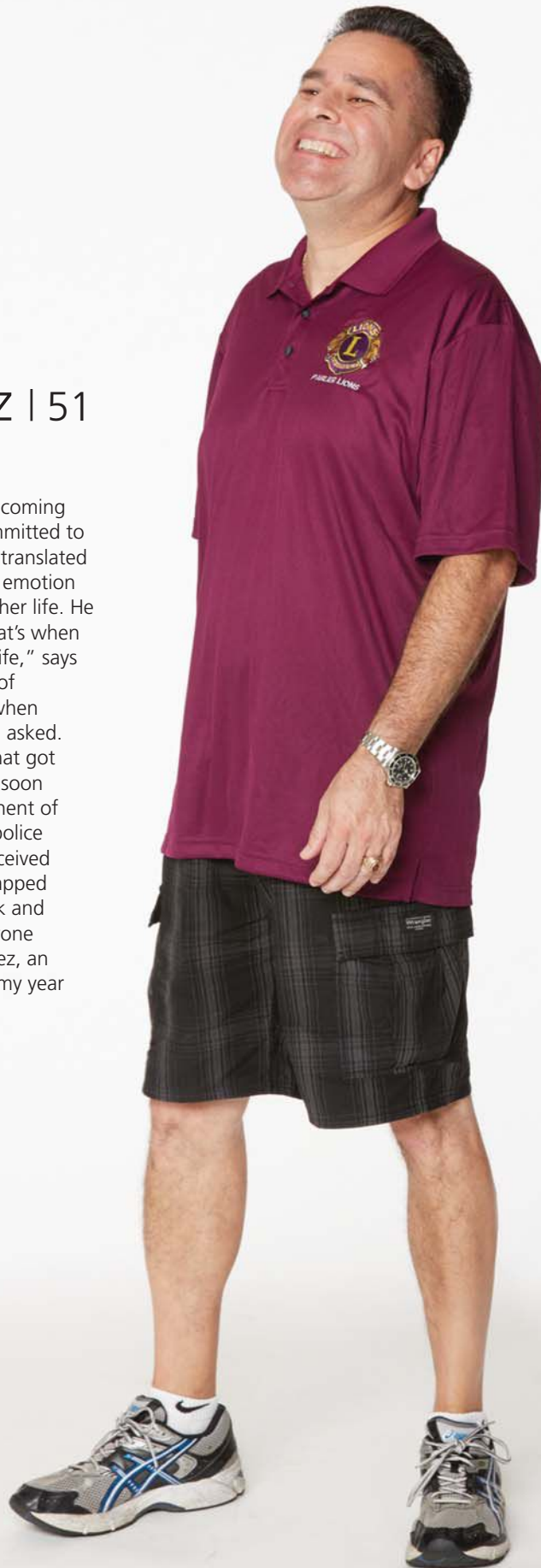


Anthony Martinez | 51

Parlier Lions Club, California

It took only one incident, just one year after becoming a Lion, for Martinez to become irrevocably committed to Lionism. On an eyeglass mission to Mexico, he translated for an elderly woman who was overcome with emotion at being able to see clearly for the first time in her life. He also was moved at witnessing her joy. "And that's when I 'earned my whiskers' and became a Lion for life," says Martinez, a Fresno police lieutenant. That sort of inspiration was not exactly what he expected when joined in 1997. "What's a Lion?" Martinez had asked. "My sponsor said it was a bunch of old guys that got together, drank beer and ate tri-tip." Martinez soon discovered that was a joke. The service component of membership complemented his dedication to police service—he's delivered twins on the job and received an award for risking his life saving someone trapped in a burning car. He's proud of Lions' teamwork and cohesion. "No one dominates the group. Everyone is encouraged to give their input," says Martinez, an immediate past district governor. "They made my year as governor run as smooth as possible."

—PM





Nigel Malkin | 51

Ambleside Tiddlycove Lions Club,
British Columbia, Canada

Malkin isn't a Lion for the recognition. "At multiple district conventions there's a little too much back-patting and not enough discussion about service. Starting a few years ago, I refused to accept any more awards. It's nice to have recognition, but that's not what it's about for me," says Malkin, who runs businesses including a commercial laundry company and a dry cleaning store. Malkin also believes clubs need to move away from old ways to draw and retain members. "New members don't seem to stay longer than a few years because they don't like formal meetings and the older members don't let them get involved enough. I hope this changes," he says. A "roll-up-your-sleeves Lion," Malkin has an affinity for his club's more intimate projects. "My favorite projects are the smaller ones, like our barbecue. But we raise the most funds through our big projects like our Christmas tree sales."
-JGG

Lorne Beaudette | 62

Salt Spring Island Lions Club,
British Columbia, Canada

A retired supervisor in the oil industry, Beaudette finds Lions to his liking—and his wife's. "I learned leadership and public speaking skills on the job—invaluable when it comes to coordinating the efforts of a bunch of 'Type A personality' volunteers," says Beaudette, twice a past president. "My wife says that I need to be the boss of something, and she's just happy it's not her." Beaudette joined Lions in 2010 after his retirement. He and Charlene were out enjoying a cup of coffee and noticed a Lions emblem on a couple's car. "I asked them what Lions were all about. They invited us to a couple of meetings," he says. Beaudette is proof you can be a Lion after a career and still ride off into the sunset. With Charlene riding on the back, Beaudette has piloted his motorcycle all over North America. "We're a motorcycle club of two," he says.
—PM

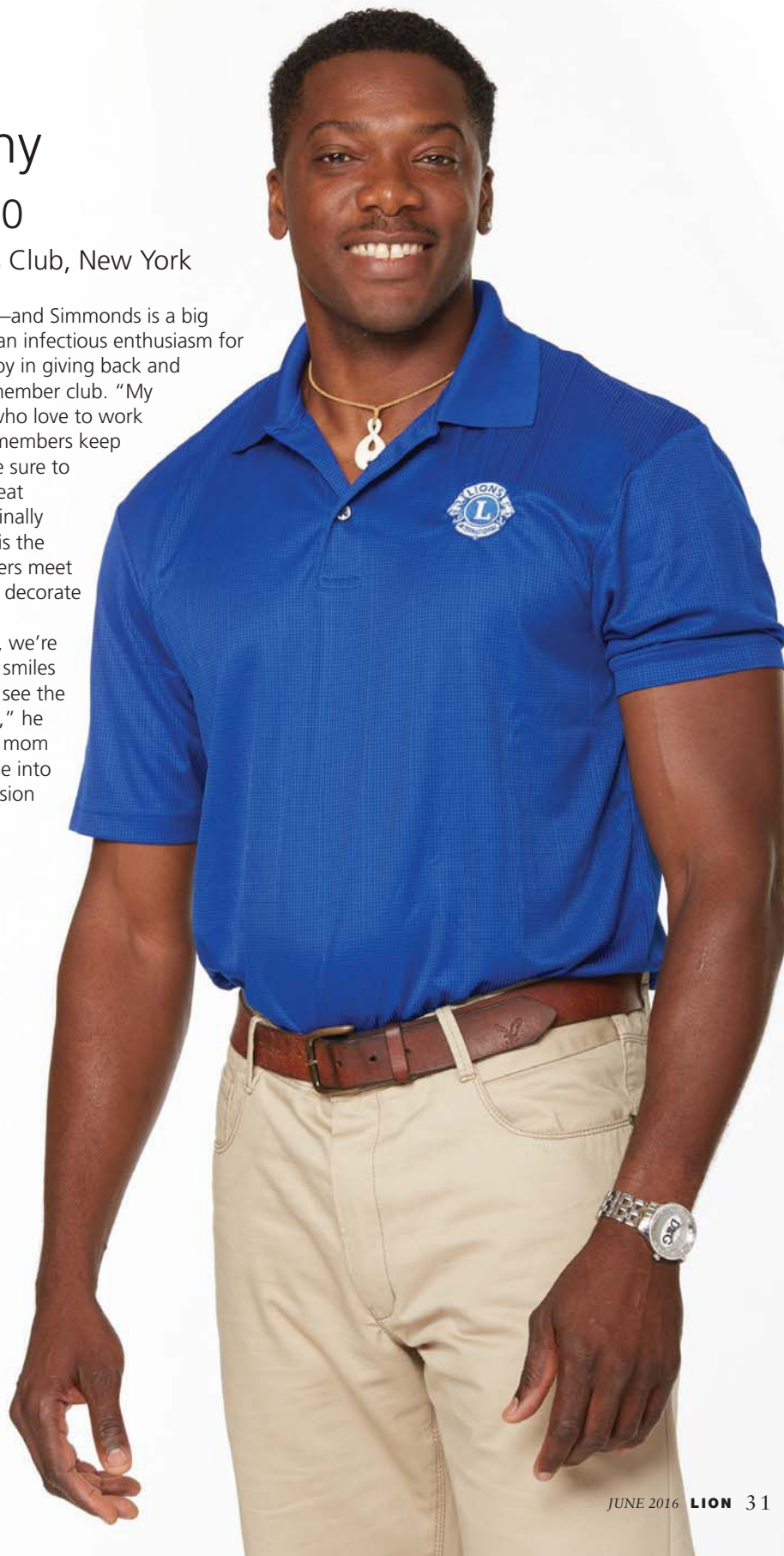


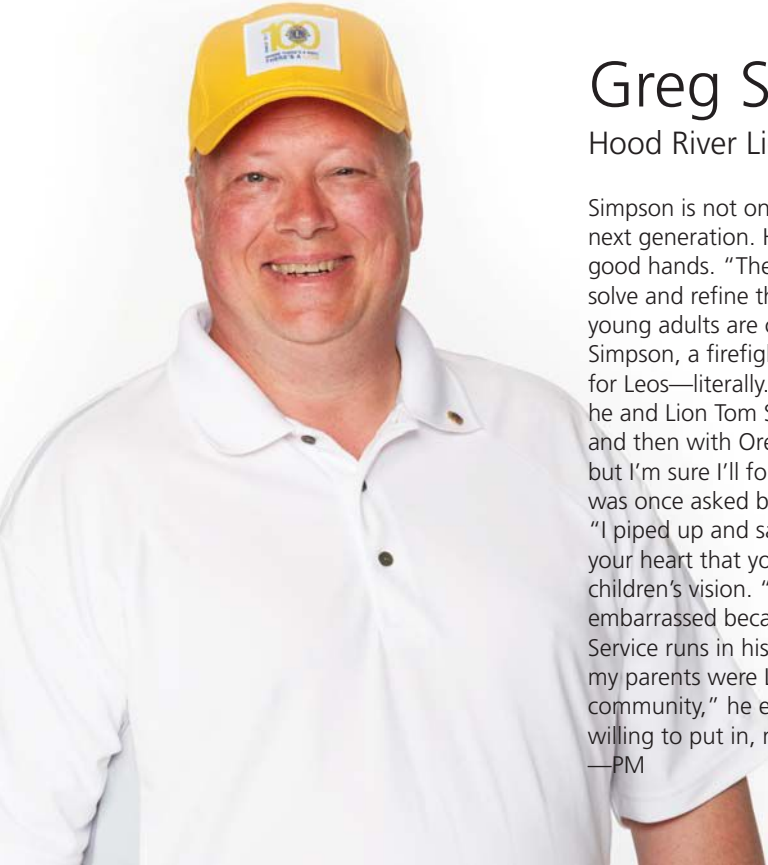
Steve Anthony Simmonds | 40

Brooklyn Metropolis Lions Club, New York

His motto is “Metropolis Rocks!”—and Simmonds is a big reason for his club’s energy. With an infectious enthusiasm for life and serving, Simmonds finds joy in giving back and sharing camaraderie with his 55-member club. “My club is a great mixture of people who love to work together and socialize. The older members keep us grounded, and the young make sure to keep the club busy. We have a great connection,” says Simmonds, originally from Jamaica. His favorite project is the club’s Thanksgiving dinner. Members meet the night before to prep the food, decorate the hall, play music and enjoy one another’s company. “The next day, we’re ready to serve—350 people. Their smiles are priceless. It’s a great feeling to see the faces of people I gave my heart to,” he says. “Growing up in Jamaica, my mom fed and clothed everyone she came into contact with. That’s where my passion to serve stemmed from,” says Simmonds, who is teaching his 5-year-old son about the value of service.

—JGG





Greg Simpson | 53

Hood River Lions Club, Oregon

Simpson is not one to vent about the “good old days” or worry about the next generation. He mentors 60 Leos, and he’s convinced the future is in good hands. “These Leos are top-rung. I sit back and watch them problem-solve and refine their ideas into a first-rate finished product. I think these young adults are capable of a lot of great things on their own,” says Simpson, a firefighter/paramedic. He’s willing to walk an extra mile or two for Leos—literally. While in Hawaii last year for the international convention, he and Lion Tom Schaefer twice walked the parade route, once with Leos and then with Oregon Lions. “I told myself I wouldn’t do that ever again, but I’m sure I’ll forget that by Chicago 2017,” he says with a smile. Simpson was once asked by a past international director when he became a Lion. “I piped up and said April 1999. He said, ‘No, I mean when did you feel in your heart that you were a Lion?’” It was when he first began screening children’s vision. “Without us, these kids might have been left behind, embarrassed because they just didn’t understand something,” he says. Service runs in his blood: he’s a second-generation Lion. “Even before my parents were Lions, they were a great example of service to their community,” he explains. “I think you get out of a club what you’re willing to put in, maybe even a little bit more.”

—PM

Greta Salsbury

Springfield Gardens Lions Club, New York

Originally from St. Kitt’s in the West Indies, Salsbury moved to New York in 1986. She learned about Lions through her church, joining in 1992. “Being a Lion has opened up so many doors for me to be able to help people,” she says with a soft, lovely island lilt. “I just like helping people.” Salsbury says her favorite club project is supporting a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. “They need to know that people care about them. We tell them that when you come upon hard times, it’s not the end of the world. You can still rise up. And many of them do.” says Salsbury, whose own life is testament to upward mobility. A retired statistician for the United Nations, she first received a degree from Elmira University in upstate New York and then earned her MBA in international business from Rutgers. Salsbury also mentors Leos, some of whom she hopes will eventually become Lions. “We need young people. They learn from us. Leos help at the shelter, too. We’re there to guide them and help them, but we also learn from each other. I think we need to realize that if we work with others, we can just get more done.”

—PM





Stefan Kaufmann | 52

Rüsselsheim Lions Club, Germany

Kaufman reveres his club's 54-year history. "Our club has a legacy, which makes us all proud. I get to work with Lions who can look back on 40 years of Lionism," says Kaufman, club secretary. But he also envisions how Lions will advance into the future. An IT consultant for more than 20 years, Kaufman is co-chair of Lions SMiLE (Social Media Including Lions Everywhere, lionssmile.org), a global, volunteer-led project that helps Lions use social media. "Despite some progress, Lions still need to improve on embracing the Internet. Online tools are today's platform for sharing news, attracting new members and supporting collaboration among Lions," he says. Through SMiLE, Kaufman leads seminars at forums and conventions to take the guesswork and fear out of the Internet. He loves connecting with his "global community of friends." At one convention he assisted an 80-year-old Lion who wanted to use social media to improve her club's fundraising for a diabetes project. "It was fantastic to see a senior Lion open to new ways to serve and reach her community," he says.

—JGG

Ian Hill | 57

Plymouth Lions Club, England

Hill says he's so involved in Lions activities that his wife, Dawn, complains she never sees him. She's only kidding—he thinks. A zone chairman, he also is second vice president of his club. He still works full-time helping people with learning disabilities after spending 24 years in the Royal Navy, sailing the world. But he flew 8,000 miles to Hawaii last year for the international convention. The best thing about it was meeting Lions worldwide. "Lions are the friendliest group. Some people are just born to care. Those are the people who become Lions," he says. His best moments as a Lion are helping to feed the homeless, a project he suggested to his club four years ago. "This is one reason I became a Lion, to help people. You can't beat the friendships in this club, either." He believes that the biggest challenge for clubs today is attracting younger members.

—PM



Parveen Sandhu | 34

North Delta Lions Club, British Columbia,
Canada

Sandhu has a very special reason for being a Lion. Every summer from the age of 6 to 18 the Lions sponsored her at the Easter Seals Camp in Squamish, British Columbia. Born with spina bifida, she uses a wheelchair. "I could forget about being disabled and just have fun with the other kids and teenagers," she recalls. Her husband, Malcom Jones, has been a Lion since 1987, and Sandhu took the oath three years ago. As a Lion she helps feed the hungry. "At the end of the day, I'm just feeling proud to have done something for my community and help put a smile on people's faces," she says.

—PM



Curt Wentzell | 60

Sackville, Nova Scotia, Canada

A 40-year veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Wentzell finds that volunteering give his life balance. "Volunteering helps me keep a positive perspective about the general population," he says. "If any police officer doesn't want to serve others in a civilized society, well, then, they'd better seek different employment." But it took two years of arm twisting by a friend to get him to join in 2008. "He kept telling me about all the projects they'd done and how proud he was to be a Lion. The only thing I knew about Lions was that the club provided free meeting space for my sons when they were in Cub Scouts," he says. Now Wentzell is the one being persistent in recruiting. "I rocked my club by sponsoring three new members in one evening—all ladies!" he proudly says. His favorite project is supporting Camp Brigadoon, a new camp in District N 2 for children with chronic health problems. He'd like to see more clubs use social media. "Too many clubs are afraid or reluctant to embrace this opportunity," he says.

—PM

Søren Stensgaard | 55

Greve Lions Club, Denmark

A district governor now, Stensgaard may have very well quit Lions if his club had not been flexible. Both he and his wife, Helle, work demanding jobs at a major European bank, and their two girls were teenagers when he became a Lion in 2002. "We were an active family and had limited free time. My club knew I had to prioritize and couldn't participate in all the activities," he says. "Members should know that sometimes everyone, for various reasons, can't make the same effort." Hawaii last year was his first international convention. "It was overwhelming. It was a true experience of diversity to see so many people from different parts of the world," he recalls. He liked it so much that he plans to attend the 2017 international convention in Chicago to celebrate Lions' centennial. —PM



Judith Witter | 51

Tropical Gardens Lions Club, Grand Cayman

Witter's club is atypical. When she helped charter her club in 1993, the membership was composed solely of women. "We welcomed our first male Lion three years ago, and now he's club president," she says. He's one of three men in the 44-member club. Priorities haven't changed. The club's signature project remains breast cancer awareness. A campaign runs the entire month of October. Members issue about 500 vouchers every year for mammograms to women not covered by insurance and also organize a Memorial Walk/Run, Dress Down/Dress Pink Day and a breakfast for breast cancer survivors. Witter says she loves being a Lion because she gets to meet new people and has made so many friends—"not just locally, but internationally as well. And I get to make a difference in so many lives. If I wasn't a Lion, I wouldn't have the opportunity to be involved with projects that touch so many lives in my own community and beyond." —PM



Zsolt Istvan | 47

Miskolc Lions Club, Hungary

Every holiday season, Istvan staffs his club's small, wooden hut at the city's Christmas Market, talking with passersby and selling mulled wine. "It's great to meet people and tell them about what Lions do in this festive atmosphere," says Istvan, a district governor. "We raise money for the blind and have a lot of fun. We don't notice how cold it is when we drink warm wine." A mechanical engineer in waste management, Istvan loves that as a Lion he can help people directly, alongside friends who feel the same way. A club outing with 20 blind people to a vineyard embodied his favorite aspects of being a Lion. The group picked more than 1,500 pounds of grapes for wine, later sold at an auction. "It was a great day because most of the blind people had never experienced a grape harvest before. We got to know them and learned about their daily life. That helped me be a better Lion."

—JGG





HOW DO YOU SPELL SERVICE? D-I-C-T-I-O-N-A-R-Y

BY MIKE LEONARD

Students now know never to call their teacher an aeolist. Teachers are sure to discourage students from being inaniloquent. And Lions smile with satisfaction, knowing the role they play in usufructuary.*

An enriched vocabulary, which helps unlock keys to learning and even enhances friendships, is the great advantage of The Dictionary Project, adopted by Lions in 40 states. Lions clubs and other groups distribute the dictionaries to schoolchildren after purchasing them through The Dictionary Project, a

nonprofit based in Charleston, South Carolina. Lions alone have donated 526,000 dictionaries.

The dictionary project began in 1995. First among all Lions, Minnesota Lions have distributed 132,940 books. Indiana Lions have passed out 122,024 books and Washington Lions have given away 84,125.

We turn to Indiana Lions, an early adopter of the dictionary project in 2004 and the leading contributor among Lions in the last five years, to detail the project—from A to Z, of course.



*An aeolist is a pompous, windy bore who pretends to have inspiration. Inaniloquent is speaking foolishly or saying silly things. Usufructuary is a person who has use or enjoyment of something, especially property.



A Student's Dictionary, a shiny 540-page paperback, is a favored selection of many Lions clubs. It includes standard dictionary words plus the biographies of U.S. presidents, the U.S. Constitution, weights and measures and the longest word in the English language. Students nearly fall off their chairs when they see the 1,909-letter word that is the scientific name for a Tryptophan protein.

Book. "We had one child say, 'This is the first book anybody has ever given me that I can keep.' When you hear something like that, you know you've done some good," says Linda Scott of the Decatur Central Lions Club in Indiana. "It's easy to do, and it's very rewarding. The first year we did it, everybody in the club said it was the most amazing thing we've done."

Cost. "The cost of the book is quite low," says Mary French, the director of the Dictionary Project. "We could offer \$10 dictionaries, but we have the cost down for the dictionaries we provide to \$1.50-\$2.50 including shipping. We want it to be as affordable to as many people as possible."

Desert. "When I give a child a book it's almost like giving water to someone in the desert," says French. "They know it's valuable but nobody's going to say, 'Oh, I want a dictionary.'"

Eight. Eight different dictionaries are distributed by The Dictionary Project and sponsors such as Lions clubs are free to choose whichever book they want. Other offerings include A Student's Dictionary & Animal Gazetteer, The Best Dictionary for Students, the American Education Publishing Dictionary, Webster's American English Dictionary, Webster's Dictionary for Students, Webster's Dictionary for Students (Special Encyclopedic Edition) and Webster's Dictionary & Thesaurus.

Four. "Every book that is handed out is shared by at least four people," says French. "That's a lot of bang for the buck."

Gratitude. "Gratitude is a word I hear a lot," French says. "People who participate in the project say children who got a book come up to them and tell them they really like it and use it all the time. Those are the kinds of things you can't measure." Adds Howard Heines, a Lakeville Lion, "Once you get your club members into a school and present those children with their own dictionary, for free, that they can put their name on and take home with them, the excitement and joy they express tells you it's a really good project."

D-I-C-T-I-O-N-A-R-Y

Home. “People say kids have computers now, but all kids don’t have computers. All families don’t have a computer for everyone. You can take your dictionary home with you, and if someone else is on the computer and you need to look up a word, you have your own dictionary,” says Heines, a longtime project proponent.

Ideas: “The Dictionary Project also provides lesson plans if you can use them and teachers really appreciate getting new ideas about how to inspire kids to use their dictionaries,” says Scott, a retired schoolteacher.

Juxtaposition. French recalls that the first new word she learned as a high school student studying for the Scholastic Aptitude Test was “juxtaposition.” “Now the vocabulary section of the standardized test has been eliminated,” she bemoans. “Clearly, we are lowering our academic standards today.”

Kohl’s. Kohl’s department stores helped the Decatur Central Indiana Lions get their Dictionary Project up and running with a \$500 grant through its Kohl’s Cares for Kids program.

Leaders. When Jeffrey Schafer, 2015-16 council chairman for Indiana, visits Eastern Greene High School to hand out dictionaries and discuss their value he also takes with him a Leader Dog for the Blind that he’s training. “It really opens up the door with children,” he explains. “Who doesn’t like a little puppy?”

Money. Lions have been both pragmatic and creative in raising the money they dedicate to the dictionary project. Past District Governor John Scott (married to Linda) of the Decatur Central Lions says his group has used a citrus sale, a flower sale and donations to its booth at the Marion County 4-H Fair.

Notes. “The kids write us thank-you notes after they get their dictionaries and we read every one,” says Linda Scott. “Some are quite moving and some are just funny.”

Ooh. “They ooh and ahh when they get their books,” says John Scott.

Personal. “It’s a personal experience for everyone who participates—the feelings, the look in the eyes, the comments. Everyone makes the most of the moment. The children are very appreciative, even in this age of technology,” French says.

Quantity. Nearly 27 million children in all 50 states have received a dictionary through the Dictionary Project, including almost 2 million in the current school year. Almost 10,000 organizations have participated.

Recycle. Books have a life of their own. Many students pass on their books to other students and siblings or simply leave it behind in the classroom for the next year’s class. A dictionary really never goes out of style or becomes outdated, at least not in a person’s lifetime.

Service Organizations. “When a Lions club or Kiwanis club goes to a school to distribute dictionaries, often it’s the first time these children have ever even heard of the concept of a service organization. It’s another side benefit to the project,” says French.

Third grade. The Dictionary Project targets third graders to receive dictionaries. “It’s the period where they transfer from learning to read to reading to learn,” says Heines of Lakeville.

URL. Learn more about The Dictionary Project at dictionaryproject.org, email worpower@dictionaryproject.org, call (843) 856-2706 or write to P.O. Box 1845, Charleston, SC 29402.

Vocabulary. “It all starts with words,” says French. “The larger vocabulary you have, the more relationships you can form.”

Webster. “We owe a debt of gratitude to Noah Webster,” French says of Webster (1758-1843), the lexicographer whose name has become synonymous with dictionaries. “He wanted the English language to be distinctly American.”

XX words are scarce in any dictionary, which may be one reason French loves them. “Xeriscape is my favorite word,” she says.

Your Name. “Inside the first page of every dictionary is a box that says, ‘This book belongs to,’” says Heines. “There’s something special about putting your name on the book. It makes them feel important.”

Zillion. “Twenty years ago, somebody asked me when I’d reach 100,000 dictionaries,” French says. Now the goal is best described by the definition provided in *A Student’s Dictionary* for zillion: “An indeterminately huge number.”

Mike Leonard is a writer in Bloomington, Indiana, who now knows the meaning of sesquipedalian.

TOP SHOP

A decades-old resale shop in Michigan thrives.

BY JULIE HALPERT | PHOTOS ED KELLER

Business is brisk today at the Lion's Den. Rebecca DeJesus pushes a cart full of glassware in her cart and hunts for clothes for her 11 grandchildren. The goods here are plentiful, and the prices are unbelievable. "You get a lot for a good price, and everything is of very high quality. Retail stores are too expensive," says DeJesus, who drives nearly an hour roundtrip five times a week from Toledo, Ohio, to the resale shop in Temperance, Michigan.

Tatiana Dahmoun, 20, of Temperance, shops with her mother. She recently found a jacket with its original \$80 price tag that cost only \$4. "I was so excited," she says.

Since 1978, the Bedford Township Lions Club has been operating the Lion's Den. It sells used clothing as well as used small household items and appliances. The prices—many clothes cost no more than a dollar—draw treasure hunters as well as those in need, both from the area and miles away.

The shop is located in an unassuming orange-brick building on a quiet downtown street. Next door is an auto body repair shop, and across the street stands the Faith Chapel Church of God. Only a small sign in the window marks the resale store's presence.

The shop's inconspicuous footprint belies its importance. The Den raised \$100,000 last year alone. Bedford Lions funneled that into 50 different types of charities including Leader Dogs for the Blind, Relay For Life, Ronald McDonald House and the YMCA Scholarship Fund. The Den "attracts people who need a break. This store provides that break," says Jon White, club president. The high quality merchandise "gives everyone the opportunity to take advantage of the value."

Temperance is a small village in southeast Michigan in Bedford Township, which has 30,000 residents. The economy has been steadily improving in the township, yet sales at the shop continue to rise. "I suspect some of that is because of more, better-quality donations," says Lion Garnet Francis.

The store carries an assortment of goods. Racks of clothes of all sizes hang in the center, surrounded by silverware, stacks of books, board games, a remote-controlled truck and a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. Pillows, blankets, crocheted afghans and an illustration of Jesus frame the right wall.

Lynette Fisher, the manager and volunteer coordinator of the Lion's Den, says she has no trouble recruiting Lions and others to help at the resale shop.





Taylor Made

Mens Dress

2X



Jon White, club president, says the shop “attracts people who need a break.”

This is a place where people feel at ease. Long-time volunteers chat with regular customers, discussing the weather, church outings and family. “I pray for you every Sunday,” one customer says. “It’s not working,” laughs the volunteer.

The store, which is open every day but Sunday, is able to generate big profits because it has no overhead. Bedford Township owns the building, a former car dealership, and occupies the back of it, while allowing the Lions to set up shop in what used to be the showroom in the front free of charge. Lions Larry O’Dell and George Warnke direct the operation, and the 35 workers at the shop except Lynette Fisher, 50, who has been running the store since September, are volunteers. Most are senior citizens, able to donate their time. “We have never had a problem getting volunteers,” says Francis.

Lions staff the shop two days a week later in the day, when seniors are less willing to be there, especially in the winter when it gets dark early. About 25 Lions regularly volunteer.

Fisher says the recipe for the Den’s financial success is

a simple one: clothes are priced at “garage sale prices.” All the items the Den sells are donated.

The store typically attracts between 50 to 60 customers a day. They are a wide range of people, from those who love treasure hunting to others truly in need. “We don’t always know their circumstances and what befalls another family. They could have lost a job or had [an expensive] roof repair but their kids need new school clothes,” says Fisher.

Those experiencing a disaster, such as a fire, are given a voucher for a certain number of free items. “They’re very thankful. There’s always a smile,” Fisher says.

She recalls a mother who was looking for winter coats in sizes 8, 6, 4, 3 and 2 for her five young children, but none were in stock. When coats arrived two weeks later, Fisher contacted her and provided them.

It’s difficult to predict the types of donations that will come through the door. Recently, it was 20 garbage bags full of plus-sized women’s clothing. “You never know what you’ll find. That’s part of the fun of it,” Fisher says.

Sometimes people drop off a bag or two of goods for the shop. Other times, after a garage sale, a trunk full of goods is donated. "We do seem to get a lot of stuff from families who are emptying out their parents' home when they die or go to a nursing home," says Francis, who is a deputy clerk for Bedford Township. "I know that when my husband and I sold our house and downsized last year, I hauled a lot of stuff to the Den for resale."

Residents know about the Den simply because it's been around so long. The club also advertises in the Bedford Press. A good percentage of donations actually are sent to the Salvation Army. "We sent any dirty, damaged clothing to them because we don't have the ability to clean or repair items," says Francis.

Volunteer Theresa Miller, 87, dresses professionally in a blazer and black pants. She has dedicated 20 years to the Den. Her energy, upright posture and brisk walk defy her advanced age as she confidently interacts with customers. She believes volunteering helps her stay vital. "A lot of people thank us daily for having this store here. They just love it. You see the same people every week. You make a lot of friends. It's a very happy place to work," she says. She plans to continue working there "as long as my knees hold up and my eyesight too."

Volunteers Kathy Runkle, Dorothy Bridgeman and Jean Penner chat amiably as they cheerfully sift through dozens of garbage bags of donations that take up an entire room in the back of the store. Runkle volunteers as a brief respite from her full-time job caring for her 90-year-old mother, who suffers from dementia. She pays a caregiver \$80 every time she volunteers.

Runkle is often touched by the actions of her fellow volunteers. She points to Bridgeman, a soft-spoken, 20-year volunteer, who gave a dollar of her own money to a man who was short the price of a \$3 winter coat. He put on the coat as he walked outside; it was his only one. "That's what this is all about," Runkle says. "I buy for a lot of people," Bridgeman responds.

Penner once spotted a young woman she had worked with at a nearby grocery store in the Den who didn't have enough money to purchase a garbage bag full of clothes. The woman had a disability and her mother, her caregiver, was killed in a car crash. Knowing she was struggling financially, Penner gave her \$5 so she could make the purchase.

The significance of the shop to the Lions is evident at a recent club meeting. The Erie Restaurant in Erie seems set in time from when it opened 71 years ago, with green carpeting and paneling adorned by a moose head. Decked out in yellow vests, two dozen Lions engage in cheerful conversation while seated at long, rectangular tables. They communally feast on salad, baked chicken and green beans. The 46-year-old club has 69 members, many of whom joined decades ago.

Past District Governor John Cioroch, 78, is one of the oldest-serving members. He joined in 1970. The funeral home he purchased came with a membership. He's forged 45-year friendships with members built through the camaraderie of helping people. He recalls how the shop began:

a pastor who belonged to the club got a call about a family in need. As Cioroch walked out of the family's house, the pastor said to him, "John, they've got a problem."

The two rallied Lions to bring clothing, which were sorted at Cioroch's funeral home. Once they were distributed to family members, there were clothes left over. President Ron Hershberger, a charter member of the club, suggested a resale shop. He thought this would be a perfect club project, recalls his widow, Alice Hershberger, who is at the dinner meeting. "Nobody ever thought it would last this long," she says. The shop was originally located in the Lions' clubhouse, owned by Lion Chuck Greer. The shop has since been relocated several times.

Ron's son, Todd, 48, owns the Erie Restaurant. He clears empty dishes as he tells the story of how he became an "unofficial Lions member" when he was 10 years old, painting and setting up clothing racks for the shop. He agrees that the low prices fueled the store's longevity by "having a place for people who don't have money to buy pants for 50 cents and shirts for a dollar." He joined the Lions seven years ago so he could bring his father, who suffered from Alzheimer's, to meetings. But "he never made it," passing away five years ago.

A former administrator of Bedford Public Schools, Lion Larry O'Dell serves as the director of the Den. "We've had a really good month financially. We're really happy with how people are working together to make it a better Lion's Den," O'Dell says. Being involved in an endeavor that so directly helps others is particularly rewarding, he adds. He recalls a victim of domestic abuse who fled with nothing. Fisher asked him, "How much should I give her?" O'Dell replied, "What would Jesus do?" The Den provided her and her three children with a full set of clothes.

The Den is also there for people when disasters such as house fires strike. "I've opened the shop for people when the house was still burning," Cioroch says.

Some of the money raised through the Den provides eyeglasses for those in need. "We will get thank-you notes—the fact that they can see, people are almost in tears," says Francis, who joined the club 12 years ago. "That's where we get our gratification."

The Den's profits continue to increase. "Four years ago, if we had a \$300 day, it was a miracle. We were thrilled," says Francis. "Yesterday, we had a \$700 day."

The goal for 2016 is for the Den to generate \$115,000, which will enable the club to donate even more money for good causes. That will continue to make members such as O'Dell happy. "I just feel good about working there," he says. "My feeling is we do God's work there without being in a church."

Julie Halpert is a freelance writer based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and a self-described foodie who relished her stint as a local restaurant critic.

Read about the Bonita Springs Lions and their nifty thrift store (November 2010 LION).



Centennial Bus

Drives Lions into Next Century of Service



The Corlews begin their road trip from the Tennessee Lions State Headquarters in Nashville.



Nine states in nine days, 26 stops, 2,300 miles, lots of Lions, laughter and learning—the Lions Centennial Bus covered a lot of ground in February. Steering the adventure was International Vice President Chancellor Bob Corlew of Tennessee and his wife, Dianne. The Corlews, Matt the driver and an occasional past international director or two crisscrossed the South in a 45-foot long, 13-foot high and 8-foot wide Prevost XLII Corporate coach.

The Corlews got a firsthand look at Lions' service projects, gathered input from members and did the sort of reconnaissance that serves an incoming president well—Corlew becomes international president June 28 at the international convention in Fukuoka, Japan, and the bus he steers then will contain nearly 1.4 million members in 210 countries and geographic areas.



Corlew meets with Captain David Bryson of the U.S. Navy in Millington, Tennessee, to discuss the Lions U.S. Veteran Program and perhaps starting a Lions club at Naval Support Activity Mid-South. In the small town of Cairo, Illinois, Corlew inducts Sarita Sawyer as a member of the Mounds Lions Club—on the bus.

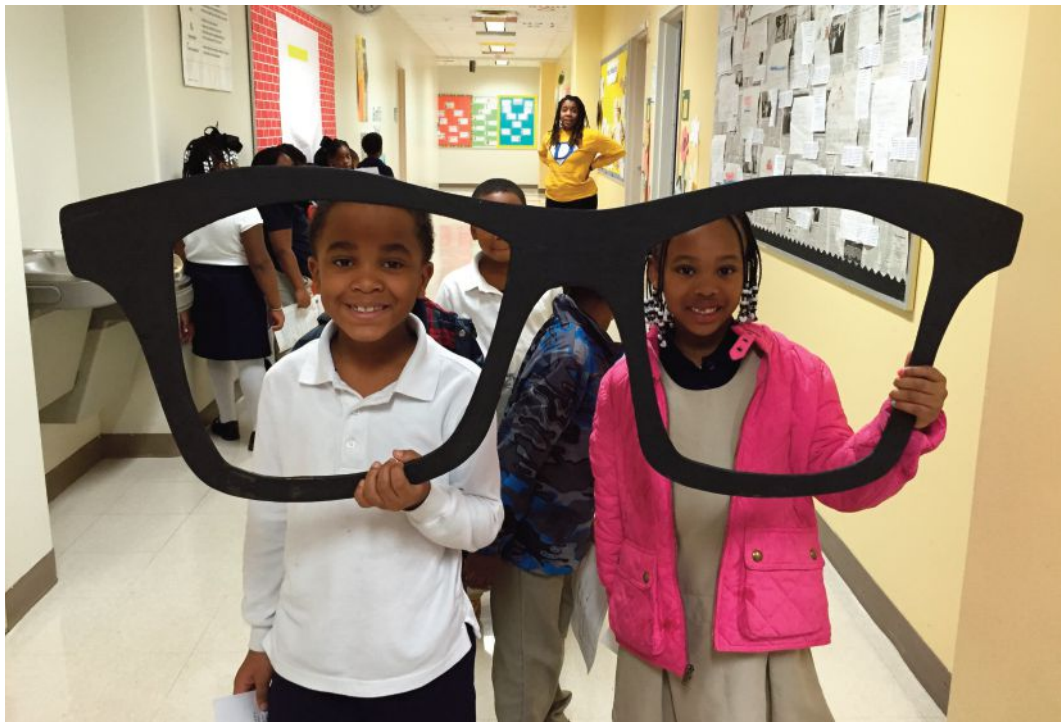


Corlew spends time with members of the University Lions Club at the University of Mississippi. The vice president encourages the students to continue volunteering after graduation wherever their new lives might lead them. Earlier, Lions gathered at the Mississippi Lions State Headquarters in Jackson to greet the bus with a loud roar.



The bus crosses into Alabama and stops at the productive Birmingham Lions Eye Clinic. The tour makes a stop in Prattville for the club's 80th anniversary, and Corlew does a radio interview from the bus while International Director Jerome Thompson of Alabama looks on.





The Corlews join Lions from the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation in screening boys and girls at Dunbar Elementary School in Atlanta; the students get into the spirit of the eye screening with a large frame. After the bus motors into South Carolina, the all-women Aiken Mid-Day Lions Club gives a spirited welcome.





At the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind in Spartanburg, Corlew inducts Leos. The club's charter was printed in Braille, and the students receive a gift of noise-cancelling headphones from LCI. The bus pulls in for the night at Camp Dogwood in Sherrills Ford, North Carolina.



At Robeson Community College, David Cox of the Lumberton Lions shows how his club's new vision screener helps them to screen all kindergarten through 3rd-grade boys and girls in their county. The bus also stops at the Lions Clinic for the Blind in Raleigh, and the day ends with a dinner meeting of the Lee County Lions Club at the Cotton Museum in Bishopville, South Carolina.





Day 8

Corlew and other Lions wear blindfolds while hiking the Braille Trail at the Playcard Environmental Center in Loris. In Charleston, doctors at the Lions-supported Storm Eye Institute give a tour of the facility including the remodeled children's waiting area.



Day 9

The bus stops in Beaufort for lunch with the Beaufort, Hilton Head Noon and Sun City Lions clubs. The trip ends with a beginning: Corlew inducts Tim Hagins into the Beaufort Lions Club.



On the Web

Join the e-club

Take advantage of LCI's free e-clubhouse resource and create a club website today. The easy, fill-in-the-blank template allows Lions to create an eye-catching home page, event calendar, photo gallery and other customizable pages to share your club's work with the world. Use member-only features including a directory, message boards, newsletter template and more. Visit e-clubhouse.org and submit an application to get started.

Fletcher Brown's Top Website Design Tips

- Choose a platform that meets your club's needs and is easy to update. For many clubs, this might be LCI's e-clubhouse.
- When developing content, think about what would excite someone to join your club.
- Use a large typeface and plenty of photos—don't overload the site with text.
- Think about how the site will appear on a smartphone or tablet.
- Don't let the site get old. Keep it up-to-date and add fresh photos.



A Club Reimagines its Website

Last year, the Denver Lions were ready to start from scratch with their website, and they wanted to do it right. "We found that people, especially younger generations, would usually visit our website before coming to a meeting. Our website was dated, didn't have the functionality our members needed and wasn't attractive for prospective members," explains First Vice President Fletcher Brown. Brown, part of a six-member team who led the redesign effort, shares some wisdom gained from the experience.

Taking Time to Plan

Although the team initially wanted to leap into designing the site, they agreed on the importance of planning. "We had much discussion about the target audiences and priorities. The audiences drive the content and how a site looks. A site primarily for current members will look very different than one for recruiting."

Creating the Framework

The Lions determined three main focus areas: recruiting new members, engaging current members and providing community resource and program information. "The site includes images and information to create interest for potential members and tools for members such as a calendar, directory and online dues payment. It's informational but also has usable functions."

Realizing the Vision

The team chose a website platform that would best fit the club's needs. "We picked Club Runner [site.clubrunner.ca] for its functionality and integration of features like the newsletter, directory and calendar. We hired someone to work with us on the site map and train us on how to make updates. As the design unfolded, the team repeatedly referred back to our goals and priorities to stay on track."

Visit the Denver Lions' website at denverlions.org

Connect with Us Online: lionsclubs.org/web

Email us at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org to submit a comment or make a story suggestion for our editors.

Party Like It's 2017

It might be hard to believe, but we're already at the midway point in LCI's four-year Centennial Celebration. Whether it's carrying out a special Community Legacy Project, holding a membership drive or participating in the Centennial Service Challenge, Lions clubs can say happy 100th birthday in a variety of meaningful ways—and now is the time to start planning.

Centennial Coordinators Share Project Plans

More than 700 Lions worldwide are serving as district and multiple district Centennial coordinators, sharing knowledge, supporting projects and building excitement. Coordinators provide a glimpse of some of the special projects and activities in the works in their districts:

"We're holding a statewide high school speech contest in which female students will use the 1925 Helen Keller speech and male students will be giving a Melvin Jones speech. In 2017 our state convention will be a recreation of the international convention from 1928. And in 2018 we'll be holding a retreat to set goals for the second hundred years of Lionism. The most important way to celebrate is to review and honor the past and then make plans for moving forward." – Past International Director Gary Fry, Multiple District 9, Iowa

"Plans are underway for many Level 3 Legacy Projects including renovating a domestic violence program room and child care area, improving the infrastructure for pediatric vision care and expanding our international vision missions. I'm very excited to see clubs pushing themselves to develop Legacy Projects, and I encourage every club to do this." – Lion Diane Wehby, Multiple District 11, Michigan

Three Easy Steps to Celebrate

Get your club's Centennial Celebration started with these steps offered by Past International President J. Frank Moore, III, Centennial Celebration chairperson:

1. Share information about the Centennial with your club and get them excited about joining the celebration.
2. Choose a Centennial club chairperson or form a committee to lead your celebration.
3. Create a plan for your club to Lead through Service by supporting the Centennial Service Challenge, Invite for Impact by inviting family and friends to serve with you, and Connect with your Community by planning a Legacy Project in your community.

Every Club Counts

Lions are well on our way to the Centennial Service Challenge goal of serving 100+ million people by June 30, 2018. Make sure your club's service counts and receive recognition by reporting projects that engage youth, share vision, relieve hunger and protect our environment on MyLCI. Find instructions and FAQs at Lions100.org.



#LIONS100

Join in the global celebration! Include the #LIONS100 hashtag with all Centennial-related social media posts.

Celebrate in Style

Make your Centennial party a celebration to remember with supplies from LCI. Order brightly-colored balloons, logo-adorned tablecloths, elegant glassware and banners at Lions100.org.



Tools for Centennial Success

The Toolbox at Lions100.org is your one-stop-shop for Centennial Celebration resources, ideas and inspiration. Download the Club Centennial Planning Guide and Centennial logos, watch Centennial videos, read Lions Touchstone Stories and more.



Thank You

Helping to Level the Playing Field

His talent for basketball, commitment to education and unwavering ability to dream transported Andrew Lovedale from living in poverty in Nigeria to attending college in the United States. Now he's helping children in his homeland to succeed. Lovedale, who studied political science and economics at Davidson College in North Carolina while on a basketball scholarship, created the Access to Success (A2S) Foundation in 2010 to empower youth in Nigeria through sports and education.

"I see myself in every child we serve," Lovedale says. "I am that child who walked miles to fetch water. I am that child who went weeks without electricity and studied for exams by candlelight. I am that child who defied the odds." A2S collaborates with communities in Nigeria to provide meals, award scholarships, offer after-school programs, hold sports camps and construct libraries.

Lion Michael Corbett found out about A2S while visiting his son at Davidson College. He contacted Lovedale and learned about the great need for eye glasses in Nigeria. Corbett's Delaware Lions Club in Ohio donated two years' worth of collected glasses—5,000 pairs—to A2S for children and adults in need, along with



A young woman receives an eye screening at an Access to Success health clinic in Nigeria.

funds for transportation. Lovedale is grateful, knowing how many lives will be uplifted. "With these glasses, parents can assist their children with homework. Children who struggle with vision problems won't have to put their educations on hold. The glasses give the children one less thing to worry about on their paths to becoming the best members of society they can be," explains Lovedale. "The circumstances you live in should not determine whether you are able to dream or not."

Lions, has your club heard from a recipient of your service or charity? Tell us about the feedback you've received from those whose lives you've changed for the better. Email a brief description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Thank You" in the subject line.

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Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2016 International Convention. Our 99th International Convention will be held in Fukuoka, Japan. It begins at 10 o'clock June 24 and ends June 28. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, a first, second and third vice president and 17 members of the International Board of Directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Fukuoka is a charming, graceful city that marvelously balances the old and new. Fukuoka is the home of the oldest Zen temple in Japan yet it is celebrated for its cutting-edge gourmet food. This city has an abundance of fresh seafood, traditional festivals and the most *yatai* (street food stalls) in all of Japan. Historically, it is the merging of two cities: the picturesque castle town of Fukuoka and the bustling port city of Hakata.

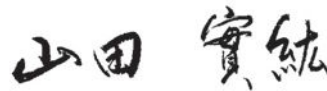
The five days will feature inspiring speakers, world-class entertainers and native music, dance and food. Lions also will enjoy convention traditions such as the grand parade, the swearing-in of the new international president and three plenary sessions that demonstrate the amazing range

and scope of Lions' service. Kailash Satyarthai of India, a human rights activist and the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner, will give the keynote address. Doctors Without Borders will receive the 2016 Lions Humanitarian Award. Another highlight is the announcement of the Peace Poster and Essay Contest winners.

Convention Week is a wonderful, remarkable experience packed with fellowship, fun and learning. The Lions of Japan will embrace visitors with *omotenashi*, the spirit of hospitality. I strongly encourage Lions to strengthen their commitment to Bring Dignity to Others by joining tens of thousands of your fellow Lions in Fukuoka.

Signed by me in Oak Brook, Illinois, United States of America, this 2nd day of May 2016.

Warmest regards,



Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada
Lions Clubs International President



Candidates for Second and Third Vice President

As of press time, there were three candidates for the office of second vice president and six for third vice president. The election is scheduled for June 28 at the 99th International Convention in Fukuoka, Japan.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



Salim Moussan

Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon, served as an international director from 1997 to 1999. A member of the Beirut St. Gabriel Lions Club, he has twice been a board appointee and group leader and has chaired several leadership forums. He is fluent in three languages, has visited 92 countries and has attended 28 consecutive international conventions, 65 area forums and more than 45 regional conferences.



Walter R. "Bud" Wahl

Walter R. "Bud" Wahl of Streator, Illinois, served as an international director from 2003 to 2005. A retired risk manager and foundation coordinator in the health care field, he is a charter member of the Streator Hardscrabble Lions Club. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Wahl is also active in many professional and community organizations. He has served as chairperson of the 2011 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, as a national coordinator for Campaign SightFirst, as chairperson of the 2012 Elections Committee and has been a presenter at LCI national and international seminars.



Gudrun Bjort Yngvadottir

Gudrun Bjort Yngvadottir of Gardabaer, Iceland, served on the international board of directors from 2010 to 2012. A member of the Gardabaejar Eik Lions Club, she is the vice director of the Institute of Continuing Education at the University of Iceland and has served as a faculty member and presenter at many Lions Leadership Institutes and international conventions. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, she is active in several community and professional organizations and has received many LCI awards.

29th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

A Celebration of Peace



Encourage the youth in your community to express their feelings of peace, while gaining exposure for your club. Participate in this year's Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

Start now. Purchase a 2016-17 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2016, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



CALL 1-800-710-7822

To order online visit the Lions Store (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit) at www.lionsclubs.org or download the order form (PR-785).

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



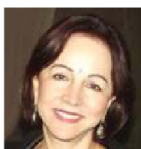
Jung-Yul Choi

Jung-Yul Choi of Busan, Republic of Korea, served as an international director from 1996 to 1998. The president of a real estate company, he has been a member of the Busan Jael Lions Club since 1977 and was host committee chairperson of the 95th International Convention and chairperson of the 39th OSEAL Forum. He is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow with a humanitarian partnership and the recipient of the Ambassador of Good Will Award and has been a director of the Busan Sports Association and vice chairperson of the Dong-A University Alumni Association.



Patricia 'Patti' Hill

Dr. Patti Hill of Edmonton, Canada, is a psychologist and member of the Edmonton Host Lions Club. An international director from 2007 to 2009, she served as Leadership Chair, member of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum multiple times, Multi-National coordinator for Campaign SightFirst II, Institute Faculty member, and presenter at several forums and international conventions. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Hill received the Inspiring Woman Award and remains active in many professional and community organizations.



Rosane Teresinha Jahnke

Rosane Teresinha Jahnke served on the international board of directors from 2008 to 2010. A member of the Balneario Camboriú Lions Club in Brazil, she was a teacher and is a lawyer. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Helen Keller Knight of Sight recipient, she has participated in 19 international conventions and 14 FOLAC forums. Active in many community and professional groups, Jahnke promotes the rights of children with special needs and cancer prevention awareness.



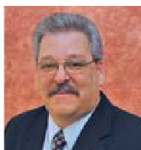
Carolyn A. Messier

Carolyn A. Messier of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, served as an international director from 2011 to 2013 and a board appointee from 2014 to 2015. She is the retired executive director of the Lions Low Vision Centers and a low vision therapist who joined the Windsor Locks Lions Club in 1990. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, she has presented or moderated at six USA/Canada forums, is active in the New England Lions Council and is the recipient of the Ambassador of Goodwill Award as well as numerous other professional and LCI recognitions.



Fabrício Oliveira

Fabrício Oliveira of Catolé do Rocha, Brazil, served as an international director from 2006 to 2008. He is a businessman and business administrator, and has been a member of the Catolé do Rocha Lions Club since 1985. He is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received the Global Vision Medal Award, the Ambassador of Good Will Award and 10 International President's Awards. Twice a District Governors-Elect seminar group leader, Oliveira is also active many professional and community organizations.



Steven D. Sherer

Steven D. Sherer of New Philadelphia, Ohio, has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980. A licensed public accountant and retired finance officer/CFO of New Philadelphia Public Schools, he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received numerous Lions and professional accolades. Sherer served as an international director from 2006 to 2008, was a GMT area coordinator for four years and currently serves on the Lions Quest Advisory Committee.

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Club News

The **Alexander Bay Lions Club** in **Canada** helped establish an emergency warming center at the Lions Community Centre they own and operate. Two years ago, residents of Newfoundland and Labrador had extended periods of electrical power outages during the coldest winter months, says Lion Ronald Pond. "That period was called Dark NL." Lions partnered with area municipalities to purchase a 100,000-watt generator and made extensive changes to their clubhouse to include space for medical equipment and hospital beds. The rehabbed facility is designed to provide those without electricity, including residents of two senior housing complexes, a warm and comfortable place to stay during power outages.

The **Calhan Lions Club** in **Colorado** has been honoring a student of the month for 15 years. Each year, four students each from two high schools are honored. Students are selected by their high school teachers, and they and their families are invited to be guests of Lions at their dinner meetings, where they are presented with a certificate of recognition.

The **Knowlton Lions Club** in **Quebec, Canada**, supports the "Guardian Angels" project of the Brome Lake fire department to distribute smoke alarms to schoolchildren. More than 440 alarms have been distributed so far. Lions pay for approximately 90 alarms and an educational program each year.

The **St. Ignace Lions Club** in **Michigan** sponsored a service dog that was raised by a prisoner at Kinross Correction Prison. Dog Chewy then progressed to the training center at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan.



The **Bolingbrook Lions Foundation** in **Illinois** partnered with **DuPage Township** to raise \$3,400 to support a beep baseball tournament for the blind. The two-day event welcomed teams from several states to the suburban Chicago event where between six and eight teams annually have played since 2000.

Members of the **Little Beaver Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** serve as "Lion Listeners" to children they mentor to help them with reading. Lions also helped donate a Dr. Seuss book to each of the school's 258 students.

The **Spokane Central Lions Club** in **Washington** gave a total of \$34,000 in scholarships to 14 nursing students and five high school graduates. The club awards scholarships annually.

The **Shelbyville Lions Club** in **Indiana** sponsors an annual "Fly-In—Drive In" breakfast for pilots at the Shelbyville Municipal Airport. Tickets sell for \$6 and the public is invited to attend the breakfast fundraiser held inside an airport hangar, where they can visit with pilots and see various aircraft.

The **Stanford Lions Club** in **Kentucky** celebrated Helen Keller Day by eating dinner blindfolded at their meeting. "It was challenging; we now realize how amazing this small task is handled by the visually handicapped," says Lion Bob Swett.

The **Randolph Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** sponsored and participated in the town's Senior Olympics. A weeklong event, it features many of the same Olympic events such as javelin and discus throwing, but also includes a bean bag toss, darts, bowling and basketball free throws. The seven Lions who participated won 39 medals among them at the closing ceremony.

The **Whiting Lions Club** in **Indiana** gave away free smoke alarms to families attending Safety Day, sponsored by the fire and police departments.

Largo Lions in **Florida** sponsored a Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day by delivering large sheet cakes to three schools closed to students during a teacher training day. Teachers and staff were so grateful for the recognition that Lions will now make this event an annual tradition.



More than \$200,000 has been raised from the Irish Stampede sponsored for the past 15 years by the **Dublin Lions Club** in **Texas**. It's a salute to the local dairy industry and also raises funds for Lions to support vision screening, the Eye Bank and Leader Dog programs, the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville and other programs in "the Irish Capital of Texas," says Lion Mac McKinnon. More than 800 runners annually participate in the 10K, 5K and 2K races.

Winnipeg Lions in **Manitoba, Canada**, donated \$5,000 to a high school to help pay for lighting its athletic field. Lions sell Christmas treats, chocolate rabbits and honey to help raise funds for their community activities.



In Kenya, **Nairobi Lions** are promoting the teachings of noted urban farmer Francis Ilahakai, who advocates growing organic vegetables and fruits without using chemicals in cities. Planting fruit trees at a school is just one activity Lions are undertaking as part of the project, during which vegetables will also be planted at several schools with available land to sustain gardening. The fruits and vegetables will later be harvested to help feed the hungry. Gardens have already been planted at three schools with seedlings donated by Ilahakai, who says that he hopes to promote awareness of Lions clubs among the youth of Nairobi. "They will grow to know who Lions are and what they do to help in their communities," he adds.

In **Tennessee**, **Fairfield Glade Lions** have collected 20,500 pairs of used eyeglasses in the last eight years. Lion Ed Litman personally made arrangements with a nearby Wal-Mart store to ship the boxed glasses to the Lions Recycling Center in Indiana. Lions also collect used printer cartridges and hearing aids for recycling.

The **Tanahu Lions Club** in **Nepal** provides free eye care services in partnership with an eye hospital since 2011. Last year, more than 9,500 men, women and children had their vision checked and 217 had cataracts removed at no charge. Lions also annually check the vision of students in 14 schools.

The **Amherst Lions Club** in **New York** gave five graduating high school students each \$500 scholarships.

Concordia Lions in **Missouri** poured a new concrete pad for a shelter in a park, which had to be moved to a new location and needed flooring.

The **Singapore Bedok Lions Club** in **Singapore** raised more than US\$20,000 to improve living conditions for children living in an orphanage in Myanmar. The funds will be used to construct water and sanitation facilities at the orphanage and to provide more beds and chairs for the residents.

The **Emmett Lions Club** in **Michigan** donated money to purchase a handicapped-accessible paddle boat for Lions Bear Lake Camp. Lions in District D 2 and from throughout the state donated money to purchase a second boat for campers after the first one proved so popular.

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Anniversaries

June 2016

95 Years: Albia, Iowa; Council Bluffs, Iowa; Denison, Texas; Emporia, Kan.; Lafayette, Colo.; London Central, ON, CAN; Norfolk, Neb.; Rawlins, Wyo.; Salina Downtown, Kan.; Salt Lake City, Utah; St. Louis Downtown, Mo.

90 Years: Kirkwood, Mo.; Long Beach, N.Y.; Visalia Host, Calif.; Wewoka, Okla.

85 Years: Bourbon, Ind.; Cornell, Wis.; Crowley, La.; Cumberland, Md.; Eaton, Ind.; Lethbridge, AB, CAN; Rosenberg, Texas; Tiptonville, Tenn.; Washburn, Ill.; Whitney, Texas

80 Years: Bainbridge, Ga.; East Dubuque, Ill.; Frenchtown, N.J.; Keyser, W.V.; Peterborough, ON, CAN; Wilmington, Calif.

75 Years: Attica, Ind.; Bonners Ferry, Idaho; Dickinson, Texas; Dillonvale Mount Pleasant, Ohio; Eagle Lake Noon, Texas; Fern Creek, Ky.; Marysville, Ohio; Medina, N.D.; Port Lavaca, Texas; Reagan County, Texas; Rome, Ga.; Sidell, Ill.; Stroud, Okla.; Terryville, Conn.; Waynesville St. Robert, Mo.

50 Years: Athabasca, AB, CAN; Bennington, Neb.; Eupora, Miss.; Falmouth, Ky.; Gordon, Texas; Kenner University Park, Inc., La.; La Pocatiere, QC, CAN; Ocean Shores, Wash.; Quilcene, Wash.; Reno, Ohio; Rolesville, N.C.; Somers, N.Y.; Summerfield, Ill.

25 Years: Bon Homme, S.D.; De Soto Area, Wis.; Madison Evening, Wis.; Union City Ecuatorianos, N.J.; Weaver, Ala.; Winnett, Mont.

Anniversaries are based on the official records of Lions Clubs International. The recorded charter date at LCI sometimes differs from local club records.

View the Higher Key Awards.

In Memoriam

Past International Director **William Henry "Bill" Maguire**, who served on the international board of directors from 1977 to 1979, has died. A member of the Cobourg Lions Club in Ontario, Canada, Maguire was also a hockey enthusiast who was a volunteer and member of the Cobourg Cougars Junior "A" hockey club. He received many honors including the Ambassador of Good Will Award and six International President's Awards.

Past International Director **Gerry Robbins** of Minnesota has died. He was a member of the Pine City Lions Club since 1960 and served as an international director from 1975 to 1977. Robbins received 57 extension awards, six Presidential Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor bestowed on a Lion.

Past International Director **Howard Towns** of Florida has died. He joined the Lake Wales Lions Club in 1953 and served on the International Board of Directors from 1974 to 1976. A recipient of the Ambassador of Good Will Award, Towns also received special recognition for his community volunteerism from the city of Lake Wales and was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

For the Record

As of March 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,404,423 members in 46,725 clubs and 743 districts in 210 countries and geographic areas.

Convention Countdown

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 2016 | Fukuoka, Japan June 24-28 |
| 2017 | Chicago, Illinois June 30-July 4 |
| 2018 | Las Vegas, Nevada June 29-July 3 |
| 2019 | Milan, Italy July 5-9 |
| 2020 | Singapore, Singapore June 26-30 |

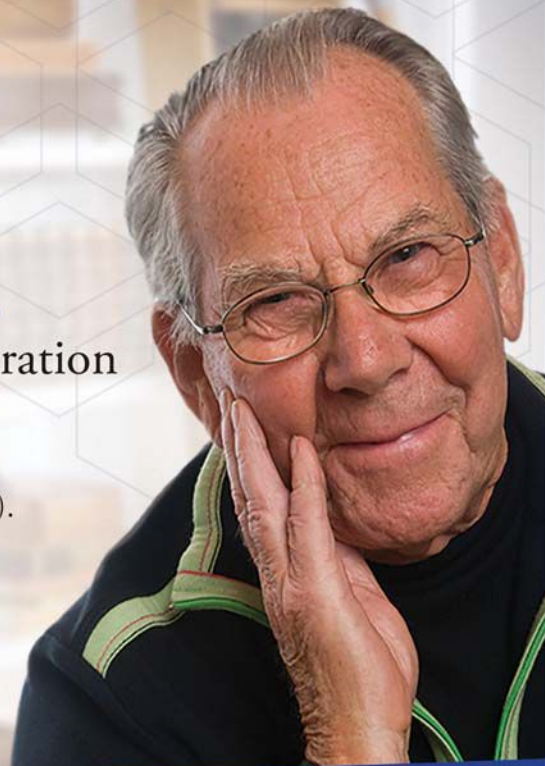
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Photo courtesy of Dameon Pesanti/The Chronicle

Hooked, Line and Sinker

Cohen Hartly, 8, searches for the hook inside the mouth of the fish he caught at a fishing derby held by Centralia Lions in Washington.

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How Well Did You Sleep Last Night?

Did you toss and turn all night? Did you wake up with a sore neck, head ache, or was your arm asleep? Do you feel like you need a nap even though you slept for eight hours? Just like you, I would wake up in the morning with all of those problems and I couldn't figure out why. Like many people who have trouble getting a good night's sleep, my lack of sleep was affecting the quality of my life. I wanted to do something about my sleep problems, but nothing that I tried worked.

The Pillow Was the Problem

I bought every pillow on the market that promised to give me a better night's sleep. After trying them all, with no success, I finally decided to invent one myself. I began asking everyone I knew what qualities they'd like to see in their "perfect pillow." Their responses included: "I'd like a pillow that never goes flat", "I'd like my pillow to stay cool" and "I'd like a pillow that adjusts to me regardless of my sleep position." After hearing everyone had the same problems that I did, I spent the next two years of my life inventing MyPillow.



Mike Lindell
Inventor & CEO
of MyPillow®



In the early days, Mike and his family spent countless hours hand-making each MyPillow. This hard work and dedication to "doing it right" helped MyPillow become a classic American success story.

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Flash forward eleven years and MyPillow, Mike Lindell's revolutionary pillow design, has helped 12 million people improve the quality of their sleep. MyPillow has received thousands of testimonials from customers about how MyPillow has changed their lives.

"Until I was diagnosed with various sleep issues, I had no idea why my sleep was so interrupted throughout the night. I watch Imus each morning and heard endless testimonials about MyPillow. I took his advice and ordered a MyPillow. Now I wake up rested and ready to conquer the day ahead. Thank you for helping me remember what it's like to sleep like a baby!" - Jacqueline H.

Lindell has been featured on numerous talk shows, including *Fox Business News* and *Imus in the Morning*. Lindell and MyPillow have also appeared in feature stories in major magazines and newspapers across the country. MyPillow has received the coveted "Q Star Award" for *Product Concept of the Year* from QVC, and has been selected as the Official Pillow of the National Sleep Foundation.

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Michael Lindell



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- Hand-stitched mocc toe
- Twin elastic insets
- Updated TPR outsole with excellent traction

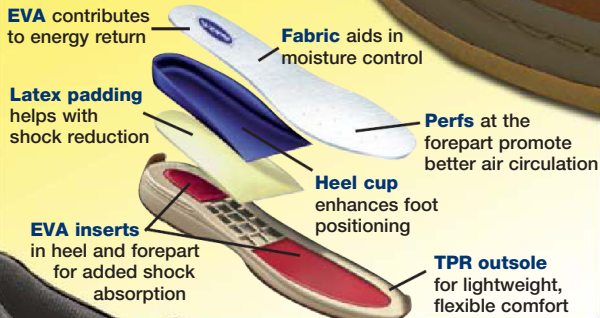


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Copper Brown



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| | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| | 760-42J2R | WHAT SIZE? | WHAT WIDTH? | HOW MANY? |
| D6 | COPPER BROWN | | | |
| 01 | BLACK | | | |
| 6B | PEWTER GREY | | | |
| 02 | TAN | | | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---|----|---------|
| Men's D Widths: | | | | |
| 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8½ | 9 9½ 10 |
| 10½ 11 12 13 | | | | |
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