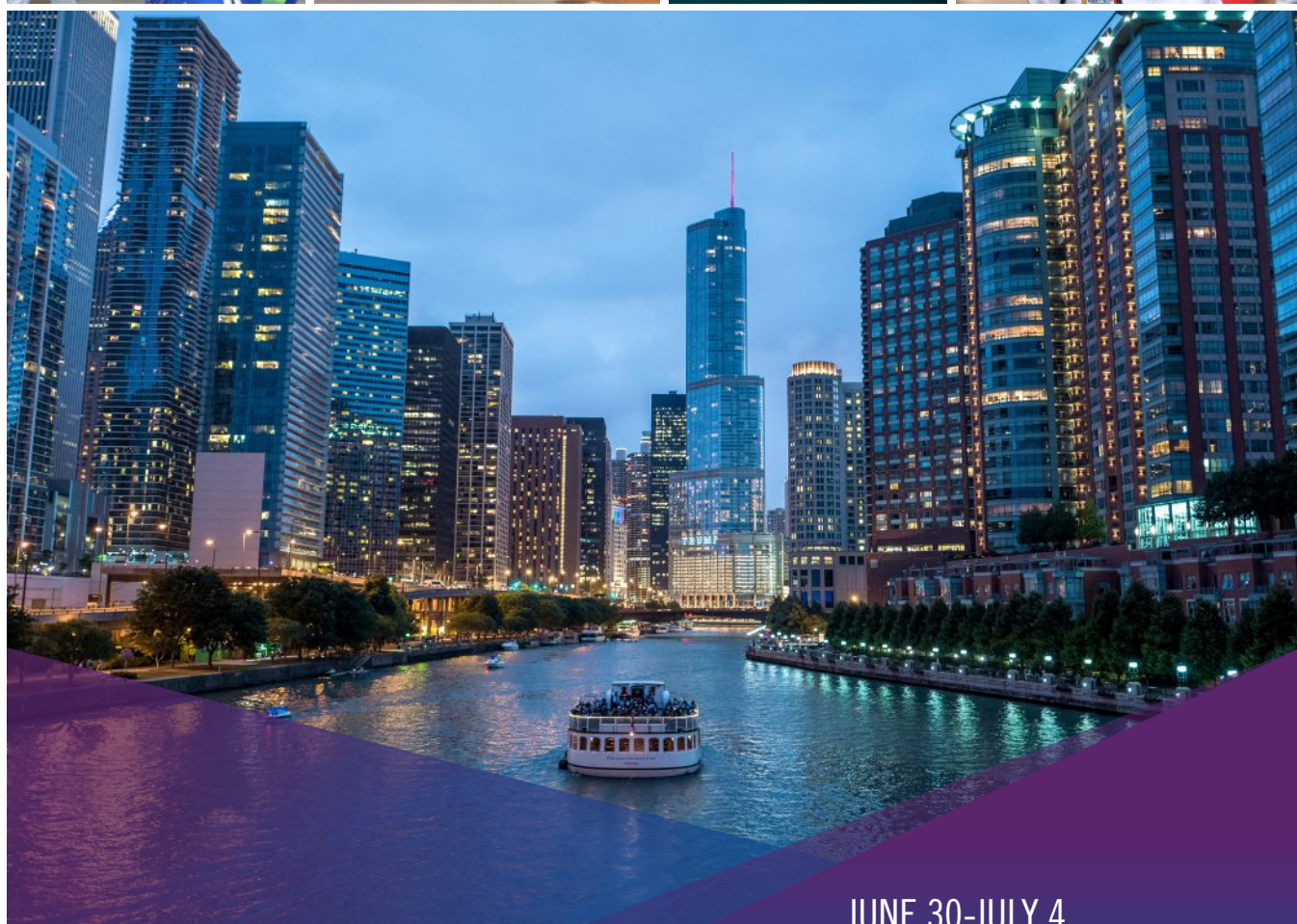


LION

FEBRUARY 2017

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JUNE 30-JULY 4

100TH LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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February 2017

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**100th
International Convention
Chicago, Illinois
June 30-July 4, 2017**

WE SERVE

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understanding
through Lions
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POSTMASTERS

Periodicals postage paid at Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 and additional mailing offices. Subscription price, US\$6.00 year, US\$12.00 year mailed outside North America; Single copies, US\$1.00. Send notices of undeliverable copies on form 3579 to LION, 300 W 22nd St Oak Brook IL 60523-8842. “Canada Post Publications Mail No. 40029736 Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: LIONS 2835 Kew Drive, Windsor, ON N8T 3B7.”



Japanese Lions parade in 2007 at the 90th International Convention in Chicago.

Be Part of the Greatest Lions Convention Ever

During the early years of Lions, LION Magazine rather breathlessly reported the amazing journeys of some Lions to the international convention: they flew. That's how long Lions have been around. Flying was not just a novelty but risky as well. Attending convention was very important to Lions, even if it meant climbing aboard a rickety, hand-made, propeller-driven contraption.

No matter your home, getting to Chicago for the International Convention June 30 to July 4 will be much smoother. And though conventions of yesterday were outstanding and Lions inevitably proclaimed them as "the best ever," they wouldn't hold a candle to the upcoming one. That's because it's 100 candles on the top of our cake, and our 100th International Convention will be absolutely packed with top-notch entertainment and attractions. We are pulling out all the stops to provide the absolutely greatest convention ever. (See page 18.)

You also can't top our convention city. We will gather in Chicago because it's where Lions started and where we are headquartered. But it's also a city unique for its stunning lakefront, great architecture and myriad cultural attractions while being lovably unpretentious, working-class proud and perfectly emblematic of America.

The one dilemma with convention, especially this one, is so much to do, so little time. Each day brims with fellowship, fun and enrichment. You rub shoulders and often share a lunch or at least a few pleasantries with Lions from more than 120 countries. You can march in

downtown Chicago during the festive Parade of Nations, attend worthwhile seminars, vote on the association's future, enjoy outstanding entertainment and hear inspiring, renowned speakers. If you like being a Lion, you will love being at the convention.

Our centennial convention will bridge the gap between two Lions centuries. It will honor the memories of the Lions who have made us what we are today and will lay the groundwork for our next 100 years. I encourage you to be part of this historic event and hope to meet you in Chicago.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Corlew". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chancellor Bob Corlew
Lions Clubs International President



[The Big Picture



Cold for a Cause



The temperature was a balmy 51 degrees—exceedingly warm for winter in Michigan—but the waters of Anchor Bay still proved to be frigid. Dozens of people solicited pledges, shed outer layers of clothes and took part in the Polar Bear Plunge for the New Baltimore Lions Club. The club's revenues from its annual Winterfest support Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Penrickton Center for Blind Children and other causes.

Photo courtesy of The Macomb Daily

[The Big Picture



1



2



3



4



5



6

My Friend Flickr

Every day Lions worldwide submit photos to Lions Clubs International, and many are posted on LCI's Flickr photostream. Here are some sent recently. Your club, too, has the opportunity to feature a service project in the LION or on the Flickr pages. The best photos are "candid," people engaged in action and not staring at the camera. Staged group photos or presentations of checks or awards will not be used. Submitted photos should be at least 1 MB (5 MB for use in the LION) and must be JPG, TIFF or PNG format. To send a photo to LCI, go to the Submit a Photo page of the LCI website. (Search for "submit a photo" at lionsclubs.org.) Be sure to include the Child Photo/Video Authorization Form or Photo/Video Authorization Form, which can be downloaded from that page. (To view LCI's Flickr photostream, go to lionsclubs.org, scroll to the bottom and click on the far right logo of the eight yellow logos at the bottom of the page.)



(1) An Accra Lion in Ghana holds one of the 114 children given cleft palate surgery. (2) Taoyuan Wu Fu Lions in Multiple District 300 Taiwan teach CPR skills to children. (3) Lions in District 325 B1 in Nepal provide health screenings for 450 people. (4) Erode Midtown Lions in India screen the vision of 317 people and support cataract operations for 87. (5) Elite Diamond Lions in Multiple District 300 Taiwan give haircuts to people in need. (6) Dhaka Rojoni Ghandha Lions in Bangladesh bring supplies to people in a flooded area. (7) Desamparados Lions in Costa Rica prepare to plant 150 trees. (8) Kolkata Youth Lions in India publicize road safety. (9) Lake Oswego Lions in Oregon get ready for a trip to a classroom of fourth-graders, where Lions will relate the history of the American flag. (10) Sincelejo Sabanas Lions and Leos in Colombia visit children at a hospital. (11) Milagro Melvin Jones Lions deliver food to people after a flood. (12) A Lion in District 300 G2 in Multiple District 300 Taiwan spends time with a child after Lions delivered food and supplies.

ICONIC GLOBE RESTORED

Since Lions of New York donated it in the early 1970s, one of the first things visitors saw stepping into the lobby of Lions Clubs International was a three-foot-wide fiberglass globe on a pedestal. A globe painter specialist has repainted it and restored its luster in advance of the Lions' centennial. Don Ecklund, who once worked for Rand McNally and has painted 20 large globes, spent two weeks on the restoration. The globe is depicted as the earth is seen 520 miles away in space in late June. The earth is colored brown near the equator, white snow is depicted at the Poles and atop mountains, and the ocean waters are shaded blue to varying degrees depending on the water's depth. "It's so accurate you can pinpoint where you live. If you live by a mountain, you can pick it out and say, 'That's my house,'" says Ecklund. Lions of New York helped fund the restoration.



Don Ecklund paints the globe at headquarters.



Overheard

"We've filled a lot of oil tanks and put a lot of groceries on the table. But it's never published—that's all behind the scenes."

—Charter member Jerry Billingsley on the 50th anniversary of the Somers Lions Club in New York. From Tapinto.net.

"Having four kids and taking them to the park on occasion, I can remember seeing a [disabled child], but not 250 of them."

—Jack Krage of the Winona Lions in Minnesota on learning that area schools enrolled that many children with disabilities. Lions now will provide all-inclusive playground equipment for at least one park. From the Winona Post.

"What else are you going to do when it's zero degrees out—sit by a warm fire?"

—Wallkill Lion Andy Harcher on the curling tournament held at the ice rink maintained by his New York club. From the Times Herald-Record.

LEO VIDEO CONTEST PROVES POPULAR

LCI's Leo video contest drew 42 videos from 24 nations. First place in the International Leo Day Video contest went to the Medan Stallion Leo Club in Indonesia for its video on its efforts to promote clean water and sanitation. The second place winner was the video on improving education by the Kathmandu Universal Leo Club in Nepal, and third place went to the video on domestic violence by the Bombay Garodia Nagar Leo Club India. The contest had a "squad goals" motif—Leos were encouraged to have fun while accomplishing their goals. The first-place winners were awarded \$1,000 with \$500 to the second place club and \$250 to the third.

Watch the winning videos.



Lions headquarters is being improved including a new statue of founder Melvin Jones.



ROAR OF JACKHAMMERS PART OF CENTENNIAL

The grounds of Lions Clubs International are a construction zone—an apt symbol of the extensive preparations in general by headquarters for the Lions' centennial later this year. The exterior has seen few changes since the building was dedicated in 1971, but now headquarters is being modernized and upgraded. Both the landscaping and lobby are being improved in advance of the 100th International Convention in June in Chicago. Thousands of Lions at the convention are expected to visit headquarters in Oak Brook, located about 18 miles from the convention site in the city. Other components of the centennial celebration are taking shape—in some cases literally. Minted in November, the centennial coin is available for purchase. The online centennial exhibit is posted (search for "lions journey at lionsclubs.org"). Centennial-related service, legacy and membership programs are being embraced by Lions. Complete centennial information is at lions100.org.

65 Years Ago in the LION



FEBRUARY 1952

Helen Keller (center) receives the Director General Award, Lions Clubs' highest honor, from R. Roy Keaton (second from left), director-general at Lions headquarters in Chicago. Also shown (from left) are Secretary William Bird, Polly Thomson, Keller's secretary, and Wilburn Wilson, treasurer at headquarters. Keller gave Lions their primary mission when she urged them to be Knights of the Blind at the international convention in 1925.

CENTENNIAL COIN GETS MINTED

Lions' centennial commemorative coin is now available for purchase from LCI's Club Supplies or the U.S. Mint. The \$1 coin with a proof finish will cost \$52.95 with a special introductory price of \$47.95 (only through the U.S. Mint.) The offer expires 3 p.m. EST on Feb. 21, 2017. The U.S. Treasury minted the first Lions' coin at a ceremony in early November. The coin shows founder Melvin Jones and the Lions logo on one side and a family of lions on the other. The U.S. Treasury will produce up to 400,000 coins; \$10 of each purchase is authorized to be paid to Lions Clubs International Foundation. Commemorative coins often cost \$30 or more. To purchase these beautifully-crafted coins, visit lionsclubs.org/coin.



A freshly minted coin is displayed.

[Read the full story.](#)

[Watch a short video of the centennial coin strike ceremony.](#)



Philomena Arena will celebrate her centennial birthday soon, just like Lions.

CLUB AND MEMBER BOTH CELEBRATE 100

Brigantine Lions in New Jersey had the perfect guest of honor at a ceremony for a new bench dedicated for Lions' centennial: member Philomena Arena, who also will be 100 soon. She was born Sept. 19, 1917, just three months after Lions Clubs was founded. Arena has been an active member of the club since 1992, though she was a Lioness for decades. Her late husband was club president way back in 1958. Installed at a seawall in the island community, the bench is a Legacy project; Lions Clubs International has been encouraging clubs to mark the centennial through Legacy projects. Arena jokingly took exception to "rushing" the ceremony prior to her birthday. "She said we put the 'maloik' [the whammy] on her," says President Tom Milhous. Arena, who lives on her own, comes to every meeting and volunteers at nearly every event including selling T-shirts at the club's car show. "She's very active," says Milhous. For Arena, the attention is "a little embarrassing. I'm just honored to be a member. Lions do so much—especially for the blind."

By the Numbers

123

Snowmobiles taking part in the annual Janeway Snowmobile run held by Sandy Cove Lions in Newfoundland, Canada.



6

Historical markers placed in town by Wellsville Lions in New York. The latest highlighted the Erie Railroad, which arrived in 1851.

1000+

New socks collected by Valleyview Overlanders Lions in British Columbia, Canada, at a hockey game and other venues and then given to those in need.



5

Safe rooms built at the El Reno Campus of the Canadian Valley Technology Center in Oklahoma thanks in part to a donation from Oklahoma Lions and LCIF. A tornado in 2013 destroyed the campus and killed 18 people (none at the school).

1500+

Pounds of Dungeness crabs served by Yachats Lions in Oregon at their annual fundraiser.



4

Chainsaws used to remove ice for the Polar Plunge of the Fall Creek Lions in Wisconsin.



3,000

Chip lovers who attended the Chip Festival of the Saratoga Springs Lions in New York. The potato chip was invented in the city in the 1850s.

35

Tables filled with toy cars and tractors at the annual Toy and Antique Tractor Show of the Timewell Lions in Illinois.

Jerry Perisho

Whittier Host Lion Jerry Perisho stands out among the 128 men in his club. Maybe it's because he's 6 feet 6 inches tall. Or maybe it's because he's the one stirring the pot.

He has brought the room down. And for the Whittier Host Lions, he's filled it up. More than once his humor has brought grown men to tears in a good way.

The 64-year-old comedy writer, who has a "real job" in the Medicare insurance business, has used his wit and skits to liven up the Whittier Host Lions meetings in California.

"A Lions Club meeting can be dry.

"We decided not to be dry," he says.

Perisho was submitting "Laugh Lines" to the Los Angeles Times in the 1990s, then started selling jokes to about 200 radio stations nationwide and finally to Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon.

But he discovered about 10 years ago that a smaller audience much closer to his heart needed a shot of humor. Chartered in 1922, his club had 200-plus members in their heyday, but in the early 2000s it was floundering. Membership and meeting attendance were dropping.

"We knew we had to change this trend," says Perisho. "We decided we needed to make every single meeting fun. It requires effort, time and creativity, but pretty soon our membership began to grow."

The club started to use their Tailtwister more. Perisho and a few other like-minded Lions started planning skits including game shows and a monthly speaker series featuring famous international leaders and people in the news. Lions played their parts.

"It was a gigantic success," says Perisho. "The room was packed." Increased attendance led to more active members and more financial support. The club scholarship fund recently gave \$36,000 to graduating high school students and college students continuing their education.



California comedy writer Jerry Perisho WANTS YOU to keep your club happy.

Photo by Miguel Pola

Some tips from the laughing Lion:

- Be self-deprecating: "I'm a tall, overweight white guy in his 60s. I'm the perfect object to make fun of."
- Adapt. "Our community is becoming much more Hispanic, so we identified the leaders of the Hispanic community and invited them to attend. That has helped us grow."
- "Evaluate your club's strengths and determine what is important to members. We happen to have some guys who are funny." In one skit shown online he lists the Top Ten Reasons to Keep Coming To Lions Club meetings. Number 10: "When you're not here, we're making fun of you."
- Keep them guessing. "You never know what is going to happen at a meeting. Keep stuff fresh, innovative and current."
- Know your limits. "We tend to be irreverent with each other. We're a little raucous and a little loud, but raucous doesn't mean disrespectful. We are never rude."

Some of Perisho's humor and club skits can be found on YouTube, including his bit where he compares Lions' brains to Rotarian brains.

One of his favorite lines: "A Lion, a Rotarian, a Kiwanian, and a Soroptimist walk into a bar. The bartender asks, 'What is this, some kind of a joke?'"

Do you know a Lion who you think has a great story or deserves a bit of recognition? Email us a brief description of the Lion and the reason you're making the nomination to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.



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SAVING LIVES OVER A WEEKEND

BY DAN PERKINS



Lions built the life-saving station at Little Presque Isle Point over a weekend.

Little Presque Isle is one of the most beautiful and isolated beaches in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The beach also is deceptively dangerous. Swimmers in the shallows who enjoy the 65-degree water can succumb to the currents and quickly find themselves in 40-degree water coping with fierce winds and waves. In mid-June two swimmers drowned there.

A few days after the tragedy, Jim Reeves, the editor of the 170-year-old Mining Journal, called me to talk about it. “We need life-saving stations,” he told me. He explained that the Department of Natural Resources built them at nearby Picnic Rocks and McCarty Cove, and there had not been a drowning there in four years. “Have you seen them? They are simple shelters with flotation rings, vests and ropes,” Reeves said. I knew what was coming next. “Can your Lions volunteer to build them at Presque Isle Park?”

Reeves’ newspaper has written about our service projects for as long as Lions have been in the area. That’s been close to 100 years. The Marquette Lions Club was chartered in 1919, and my club right next door in Ishpeming followed in 1920.

“When do you want these stations built?”

“I know this is short notice, but can you do them by next week? I think we really need those safety stations before the holiday crowds hit the beaches.”

‘We need life-saving stations,’ he told me.

The time frame was nearly impossible. I’m a roofing contractor, and all the Lions who are builders here desperately try to get our work done in the five months of the year where it isn’t snowing. At the intersection of three Great Lakes and the 46th parallel, our area is blessed with 200 to 300 inches of snow per year. We’re lucky if we don’t see any of it in June, July and August.

I called the presidents from the clubs in my zone and soon had Bill Lambert of the Skandia Lions Club and Pauli Kniivila of the Republic Lions Club on board. Both are well-seasoned tradesmen as well as committed Lions. They agreed to work through the weekend with me. The next step was to get the materials paid for. We happened to be holding

a zone event that week to celebrate a club anniversary. We passed the hat around, and Lions members donated enough for the materials for the safety stations.

Bill, Pauli and I built three stations on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, Craig Swanburg from my roofing crew volunteered to help me put the metal roofing on the stations. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Waterfront Safety Task Force provided the safety gear, which was hung on the structures that afternoon.

Turns out that our job was done not a moment too soon. DNR sent me an e-mail from Tiffany Micyus, a vacationer who came to the beach just a few hours after we were done. She and a friend were swimming when a storm hit. The high waves hit them with force. “The conditions on the lake changed so rapidly that we could not have predicted the swells,” she wrote. “I felt infinitely safer wearing a life jacket.”

I hope this story makes you feel as good about being a Lion as it does for me.



Will Bannister performs with the band at the annual Floyd Lions Jamboree in Floyd, New Mexico.

Country for a Cause

For one weekend every year the high school gymnasium in Floyd, New Mexico, has three or four times more people than the town.

Floyd, New Mexico, population: 133 according to the 2010 census.

Floyd Lions Jamboree population on a Friday or Saturday night: Anywhere from 300 to 600.

"If we can get you there once, we got you forever," says Wade Carter, one of the Floyd Lions preparing for their 67th annual jamboree on March 23 to 26.

All across east New Mexico and west Texas, Lion jamboree fans eagerly await three nights of country and one Sunday afternoon of gospel music when local talent takes the stage. And it pays off.

Jamboree profits ranging from \$8,000 to \$12,000 a year provide scholarships for graduating seniors as well as eye care for needy children in nearby communities.

"It's our way to support folks, and the more people come out, the more we can help," says Lion Paul Benoit. "But the jamboree goes well beyond fundraising. This has become a community tradition."

The jamboree was started in 1950 to raise money for new high school basketball uniforms, and it

has never stopped. With just a dozen members, the club has worked hard not just to keep it going, but growing.

Roughly two-thirds of the 26 to 28 local performers are show veterans who have played or sung at the jamboree for at least 10 years, says Benoit. Many are professional, and among them is Will Bannister of nearby Portales who at 28 has toured internationally, cut three albums and prefers traditional country—the music of the jamboree.

Bannister was 11 when he and his brother auditioned for the show and made it. He was 12 when he learned guitar.

"When I was a little kid I thought that's bigtime if I get on that jamboree," says Bannister. "And it's been help to me, that's for sure. It's been a big part of me growing up."

Benoit, who lives in Floyd, says the town's population might be actually closer to 115 if you include dogs and cats. But musical talent apparently grows well on this ranch land. People will drive long distances to enjoy and support the jamboree.

And this year they will be able to two-step to their three-chord country music, Benoit says. The Lions are adding a dance floor.

Brandon Carter, son of Lion Wade Carter of Floyd, New Mexico, made an entertaining video about the heart and the history behind the Floyd Lions Jamboree that draws hundreds to hear country music every year.

Wishin' for Another Mission

It takes lots of planning, a long flight to the Philippines, a bumpy ride over back roads and then long days in the heat tending to anxious patients. But Lions such as Rosemarie Gabriel of Phoenix say it's more than worth it.

Once, after her bandages were removed, a patient who had cataract surgery touched her mother's face and exclaimed, "You are so beautiful." Says Gabriel, "You hear Lions talk about their 'ah-ha' moments. I personally call these my 'wow!' moments because it's the only word I can say when I'm in the middle of it all."



A man shows a boy with new glasses in Caborca, Mexico, how he can read the newspaper himself now that he can see clearly.

The Phoenix Phil-Am Lions Club has completed seven medical missions to the Philippines. Many members are of Filipino descent. The club's last mission was to Mexico in 2015. Three dozen volunteers, most of them Lions, helped screen 840 men, women and children over two days. Phil-Am Lion Dr. Conrad Bal-lecer led the medical team, performing 36 sight-restoring cataract surgeries.

Patients were also given "smile kits," filled with toothpaste, toothbrushes and floss, from Delta Dental. The Arizona Lions also had a twinning ceremony with Lions from the Caborca club who hosted them during the mission.

Phil-Am Lions plan to return to the Philippines this year. "Even people like me, who don't work in the medical field, can participate because there's so much work to do, like registering and escorting patients, and eyeglass prescription matching," says Gabriel, 2015-16 president.

Disc Golf Soars as a Sport

Edwina Brown, a Sacramento Lion in Kentucky, says that “there’s no theater, roller rink, bowling alley or even a fast food chain restaurant” in her rural farming area of less than 500 people. So Lions wanted to promote exercise and provide some entertainment for residents who’d supported Lions’ projects since the club was chartered in 1952. Turns out that Lions had to look no further than their own clubhouse to find both.

New members Bob and Sharon Walker are avid disc golfers along with their son, Kyle, and other family members. “I play a couple times a week. It’s a great way to keep in shape,” says Bob Walker.

The Walkers suggested Lions use the acreage surrounding the clubhouse for a disc golf course. Members kept the property mowed, but it was used only once a year when Lions sponsor an annual classic car, truck and tractor show.

A cross between golf and throwing a Frisbee, nearly anyone can play, says Walker. The object is to get the disc into a basket with the least number of throws. As in golf, specialty discs like a driver, putter and a mid-range model can be used. “It levels the playing field between men and women, and kids and people well into their 70s can throw a disc. It’s not a physically demanding sport, and it’s not expensive.”

Walker asked 13 businesses to sponsor a hole to raise more than \$4,000 to buy concrete, baskets, rubber mats, par signs and discs. “Every one of them said yes,” he points out. Walker, his brother Travis, and Kyle designed the course in a single day. The nine-hole course laid out over more than 3 acres has chain-link baskets hung from the trees and extends across the road to land donated by 80-year-old Bobby Thomas, a charter member.



Kyle Walker winds up to hurl a disc to the first hole 150 yards away.

Photo courtesy of McClean News/Don Wilkins

Recycling Tiny Pill Bottles Saves Lives



Lions Pattu Durairaj (left) and Larry Cohen pack prescription bottles headed to Malawi.

What’s the value of an old prescription bottle? Once the medicine is gone, simply toss the plastic container into the trash can or recycling bin, right?

Not so for the 58 members of the Silver Spring Leisure World Lions Club in Maryland. They collect, clean and send the tiny bottles to Malawi in Africa. The containers are invaluable there.

“When Malawi’s health care professionals don’t have pill bottles, they just put prescription drugs into patients’ hands or into crumpled pieces of paper to carry home,” says Lion Pattu Durairaj. “If the pills spill out or get dirty, patients risk getting new illnesses or being unable to complete their drug regimen.”

Leisure World, a gated community, is a great place to collect prescription bottles. Every one of its 8,000 residents is older than 55.

To collect the bottles, Lions initially used only existing boxes for hearing aids and eyeglasses in doctors’ offices and in a shopping plaza. Now they’ve expanded to a few high-rise residential buildings and plan to include other locations. Leisure World Lions also were given 300 bottles by the nearby Sandy Spring Lions.

The club kept shipping costs to Malawi low by piggybacking on shipments of other donated goods headed there. The club first learned of the need for the bottles from a Lion in a nearby club.

The collection project has had some unexpected benefits for the club: more donated hearing aids and eyeglasses. The club also is getting a lot more inquiries about membership.

POLAND

Runners Go the Distance for Freedom since 2013

Eliciting smiles from passersby, three Lions, two from Poland and one from Germany, often heartily chanted “we run, we serve” as they ran in shifts from Hiroshima to Fukuoka, Japan. They completed the five-day, 170-mile run last June just before the 99th International Convention and met later with 2015-16 International President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan.

Polish Lions Mariusz Szeib and Daniel Wcislo, both past district governors, and German Lion Ludwig Schlereth, have taken part in a long-distance Freedom Charity Run annually since 2013. Experienced runners, the three met before the 2013 convention in Hamburg. Aware of their nation’s tragic common history, they decided to run for peace. “We’re neighbors—we should be friends,” one said to the other two.



Children often join—for shorter distances—the epic Freedom Charity Runs.

Their first run was a 261-mile relay from Szczecin, Poland, to Hamburg. The \$15,000 raised from pledges went for German children whose towns had flooded. The Polish Lions wanted to repay German Lions for aid after a flood in Poland in 2010.

Marking the 25th anniversary of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, the 2014 run was star-studded. Solidarity leader Lech Walesa was the official starter for the run, which began at the historic Gdansk shipyard. The German consul to Poland also was present. The runners completed 385 miles and reached the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on Oct. 3, near the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The run raised \$20,000 for Ukrainian orphans.

In 2015 the runners did 434 miles on a route that included Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. Funds raised bought medical equipment for Lithuanian children with cancer. The run last summer raised money for victims of earthquakes in Japan and Nepal.

Lions and others sometimes join the runners for part of a day’s run. Supporters run, ride bikes or line the route to cheer.

In Hiroshima, the three runners prayed for peace in front of a memorial before their journey. One of the first runners to join them was Seiji Yamaguchi, born just 19 days after the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and a daily runner for 40 years.

HUNGARY

Giving Paid Forward

In giving, Lions in Hungary allowed sick children to give to others.

Miskolc Lions threw a party for dozens of children at the Children’s Hospital in Miskolc near Christmas. Some children were hospitalized temporarily for maladies such as broken bones. Other faced more serious illness that kept them at the hospital continuously.

The children did arts and crafts alongside Lions. “Lots of groups provide donations to the hospital around Christmas, but we served them with our hands,” says Lion Peter Koleszar.

The children made Christmas ornaments, which they later gave to their parents, siblings, nurses and doctors. One boy gave a finished ornament to Koleszar. “We decorated our family Christmas tree with this, and his spirit was with us Christmas night,” he says.



A Lion helps a child make a Christmas ornament.

JAPAN

Earthquake-proofing Accomplished



Lions secure furniture in the home of a person with a disability.

Public safety announcements urging bracing of large pieces of furniture are regularly made in earthquake-prone Japan. But few people with disabilities, especially those living alone, comply with the recommendation, according to the Japanese LION.

Members of the Toyota Lions Club spent a day earthquake-proofing six homes of people with disabilities. The Lions used metal brackets and poles to secure refrigerators, bookshelves and other large household objects.

“The more falls we can prevent, the more time we can buy for the disabled to leave their residences and go to the nearest disaster shelter,” says Yoshikazu Naruse, president of the 87-member club.

Lions used their connections with Utopia Wakamatsu, a nonprofit that serves the disabled, to identify residents who wanted the help. The club previously had secured furniture for elderly who live alone.

Toyota is a city in the Aichi Prefecture with a population of 420,076.

NORWAY

Young Campers Get an Upgrade

Hardangervidda is Norway’s largest national park. Wild reindeer roam up and down its breathtakingly beautiful slopes. Young campers now can embark on their adventures in the park in style: 26 Lions clubs banded together to refurbish two nearby sleeping quarters.

The facilities are at Trastolen, a popular starting point for treks into the 2,200-square-mile park. Clubs contributed 2 million kroner (US\$300,000) and secured a donation of 1.5 million kroner (US\$225,000) from Trond Mohn, a well-known Norwegian businessman and philanthropist.

Buildings at one of the complexes sleep 32 and feature a large kitchen. A second set of buildings fits 30 and includes a former barn with long, communal tables.

Lions are using the sites to host children with cancer, young people with mental health issues and others who benefit from time in the wilderness.



Lions refurbished this hut and other accommodations near a beloved national park.



100TH CONVENTION WILL BE ONE-OF-A-KIND

Lions often declare after an international convention: “greatest ever.” Chances are they’ll be saying in July: “the greatest ever—ever.” The 100th International Convention, set for June 30 to July 4 in Chicago, will be an extravaganza and then some. On tap is an all-star lineup of entertainers and speakers, a stirring torch ceremony to mark the centennial, and, on the last day, signifying that Lions are now looking ahead to their next 100 years, the official announcement of a new service focus (supplementing, not replacing current efforts) and the LCI Forward plan.

Chances are they’ll
be saying in July:
‘the greatest ever—ever.’

Performing at the convention will be Chicago, the Beach Boys, the Charlie Daniels Band, Patti LaBelle, David Archuleta of “American Idol” fame, American English (a Beatles cover band), Anna Fermin, the Blues Brothers Revue, the African Children’s Choir and Edward and Belinda Lee. Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore

will be the keynoter. Keller Johnson-Thompson, Helen Keller’s great-grandniece, will also speak.

The centennial will be front and center at the convention, and Lions will be active participants in the celebration. During the torch ceremony at the first plenary session, Lions will be given their own mini-torches. The convention hall will feature a dazzling centennial exhibit, unpacking the wonderful history of Lions through interactive and virtual displays.

The gathering in Chicago also will include all the usual elements of convention: the Parade of Nations (on State Street, that great street, no less), the flag ceremony, voting for international officers and directors, seminars and endless opportunities to meet with Lions from across the world. Lions also can book bus tours to Lions’ headquarters in Oak Brook or to founder Melvin Jones’ re-made gravesite in the south suburbs. An option for sports fan is to purchase a ticket for the White Sox game against the Yankees on Thursday, June 29.

Convention is a capstone experience for Lions. Members learn about other club and district projects and make personal connections with international leaders and representatives from headquarters. The week together allows Lions to fully appreciate what it means to be a Lion and what our service accomplishes. At this convention, members will understand and celebrate what Lions have achieved over the last 100 years.

What’s a convention in Chicago like? Pretty spectacular.

In 2007 Lions were treated to a ghostly oration from Helen Keller, the melodic hits of Glen Campbell and a rousing gospel choir (Oct. 2007 LION).

In 1967, the 50th anniversary of Lions Clubs, 48,586 Lions and guests attended the convention and heard from illustrious speakers including U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk and film star Dorothy Lamour (July/August 1967 LION).

The parade down Michigan Avenue at the 1953 convention drew a crowd of 300,000, and Helen Keller spoke to Lions (September 1953 LION).

The Centennial Convention will feature Chicago (shown at the “Bean” in Millennium Park), the Beach Boys (below, left), the Charlie Daniels Band, David Archuleta, American English and the Blues Brothers Revue.



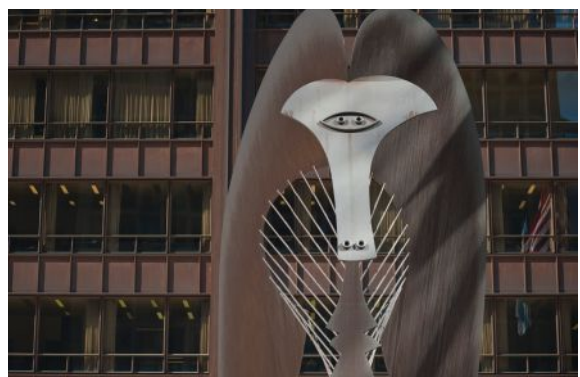
SWEET HOME CHICAGO

The Second City is easily the first choice for the 100th Convention.

BY JAY COPP



An architectural boat tour offers splendid views of Chicago, as does walking or biking the Lakefront Trail. A highlight of the Loop is Picasso's baffling untitled sculpture.



Visitors who come to Chicago leave convinced they've seen America. Echoing a sentiment to be heard down through the years, actress Sarah Bernhardt gushed in 1905, "I adore Chicago. It is the pulse of America."

Chicago has that effect: it's grand yet familiar, a big city that is down-to-earth and accessible. Chicago is delightfully all-encompassing. Chicagoans are industrious, yet on summer weekends half the city seems to converge on the lakefront for leisurely picnics, biking or sunning. Residents are unpretentious, yet their city's architecture, art and music are second to none. Chicagoans make light of their truncated speaking style ("dees" and "dem"—instead of "these" and "them") and are mocked on "Saturday Night Live" for their slavish sports loyalty to Ditka and the Bears, but the multilingual city is among the world's most diverse.

Chicago bewitches in another way. The restless city is ever evolving but its gorgeous lakeside setting remains unchanged. "She is a novelty: for she is never the Chicago you saw when you passed through the last time," Mark Twain wrote after a second visit. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, whose studio and home were in adjacent Oak Park, predicted, "Eventually, I think Chicago will be the most beautiful great city left in the world."

Lions can compare notes with Twain and Wright and enjoy the delights of the city when it hosts the 100th International Convention. It will be great to be a Lion June 30 to July 4 in Chicago. The city is a peerless gem whose groundbreaking architecture, first-rate museums, breathtaking lakefront and skyline, fabulous food scene, and, yes, at last, its North Side major league baseball team, rival that of any metropolis.

Lions will be coming home. Melvin Jones founded Lions Clubs in Chicago a century ago. Lions continue to flourish here; the paw prints of Lions are all over the Chicago area. Lions Clubs International is located in Oak Brook, 18 miles west of downtown. (A tour can be booked to take Lions from convention to headquarters.) A plaque downtown on Michigan Avenue marks a former site of Lions headquarters. Jones is buried in the south suburbs.

The Chicago area has 1,921 Lions in 74 clubs including the Chicago Central Lions, Jones' club. Lions' service cuts across broad swaths of the Chicago area from the Hadley School for the Blind in the north suburbs to the city's Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind and the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Lions attending the convention will be coming home—a much lived-in home for Lions.

An Innovative City

To try to describe Chicago is to invariably fail. The city's most prominent characteristic is its diversity. Nearly 8 million people live in the metropolitan area, and 30 percent of them speak a language other than English at home. After English, spoken are Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Tagalog and Chinese.

The language diversity results in a rich array of foods, lifestyles, pastimes and cultural attractions. A CTA train stop may drop off a rider in a Polish neighborhood of modest bungalows and an El stop or two away may be an upper-middle-class enclave with spacious homes and trendy coffee shops and brewpubs. (The Chicago Transit Authority trains are known as the "El" or "L," short for elevated, though some trains run underground or at ground level.)

An apt starting place for the groundbreaking Lions Clubs, Chicago is rooted in innovation and progress. This is the city that rapidly rebuilt after the devastating Chicago Fire in 1871, ingeniously reversed the flow of the Chicago River in 1900 to ensure sewage did not pollute the drinking water and witnessed the birth of the first skyscraper, the first nuclear chain reaction, and, proof that the city does not take itself too seriously and values leisure time, the TV remote control. Chicago is a place always moving forward, but Chicagoans are never too rushed not to savor a craft beer, walk, jog or bike the Lakefront Trail or flock to clubs to hear the jazz and blues that grow from the city's rich musical heritage.

'I adore Chicago. It is the pulse of America.'

Chicago is in many ways a small town writ large. Laid out on a neat grid, the city is served up in chunks—one distinctive neighborhood after another. Longtime Chicagoans can spot a neighborhood on a map, identify its ethnic makeup and socioeconomic class and probably know a restaurant or two nearby worth visiting.

So what to do in such a large, diverse city? Merely standing and gawking is an entirely appropriate tourist activity in Chicago—as long as you are near Lake Michigan. More so than any one site or building, the unspoiled lakefront and towering skyline epitomize the city's beauty and distinctiveness. Among the world's major cities, only Chicago has a waterfront expanse relatively free of industry or development.

Chicago is fiercely proud—and protective—of its lakefront. That was borne out once again last summer. Filmmaker George Lucas planned a "Star Wars" museum near the lake, sure to bring in millions for the city. But the nonprofit Friends of the Park sued, putting forth the public trust doctrine that has preserved the lakefront for public use since the late 19th century, and Lucas reluctantly abandoned his plans.

A picture-perfect representation of a thriving metropolis, the skyline is gorgeous from any vantage point. But it's especially riveting a few miles south or north of downtown on the path that straddles the lake. The 18-mile Lakefront Trail runs from the crowded north border of the city to the quiet 67th Street on the South Side. The path is flanked by a wide variety of flora and fauna, me-

monuments, beaches, parks and, near downtown, a museum campus. You can rent a blue Divvy bike to cover more ground.

The three outstanding museums near the path are the Adler Planetarium, the Shedd Aquarium and the Field Museum. The first will likely make you gape in awe, the second smile with pleasure and the last, well, gape in awe again. The Planetarium's theaters present stunning images of space and among its displays are the Gemini 12. The Shedd offers close-up views of beluga whales, dolphins, stingrays, piranhas and 8,000 other aquatic animals. Special exhibits show the wonders and mysteries of the Amazon River and a Caribbean reef. The mammoth 400,000-square-foot Field Museum features one of the world's best dinosaur collections. The best-known specimen is 65 million years old and still looks ferocious. "Sue" is the largest, most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossil ever discovered.

The heart of Chicago is the Loop, the several-square-mile central business district bounded by the screeching overhead El tracks. The Loop is an architect's paradise. Within blocks of one another are the famous 12-story Rookery Building, built in 1888 and the city's oldest standing highrise; the 17-story Monadnock Building, the tallest and last skyscraper built with masonry load-bearing walls; and the Reliance Building (now the Hotel Burnham), the first glass-and-steel skyscraper.

The world's first skyscraper was the Home Insurance building built in 1885 but torn down in 1931 to make way for another skyscraper, the Field Building (now the LaSalle Bank Building). Chicago was such an epicenter of architectural progress that it had five skyscrapers by the time New York saw its first steel-frame cloud-mingler in 1889.

A modern-day architectural wonder in the Loop is the 1,454-foot Willis Tower (formerly known as Sears Tower), the world's tallest building when completed in 1973. If you're not afraid of heights, you can hover over the city by standing inside the Ledge, a glass box extending four feet outward from the 103rd floor. Near Willis are Helmut Jahn's distinctive James R. Thompson Center and the corn-cob-styled Marina City, perched gloriously on the Chicago River.

The Loop also showcases magnificent outdoor art including Picasso's baffling untitled sculpture at Daley Plaza. Dedicated in 1967, his abstract creation caused a lot of head shaking. Is it a woman? A bird? An Egyptian god? Some angry Chicagoans demanded a statue of Chicago Cubs great Ernie Banks be installed instead, and today kids inevitably use its sloped sides as improvised slides. Also not to be missed in the Loop is Alexander Calder's striking *Flamingo*, a red-pink sculpture that contrasts sharply with the nearby stark federal buildings.

The impressive buildings downtown contain so much history and details that a tour is well worth the modest cost. The Chicago Architecture Foundation leads excellent walking, boat and bus tours of the Loop. A second interesting way to see downtown is to amble down the Riverwalk, a pedestrian walkway on the south bank of

the Chicago River. Until a few years ago the river was a polluted afterthought you drove over (or threw garbage in) but now you can experience the vitality of downtown from the ground up.

Entirely accessible without a guide is Millennium Park, just east of Michigan Avenue. Chicagoans grumbled about its construction delays and cost overruns, but since it opened in 2004 it's become one of the crown jewels of the city. It's a park with pizzazz. Its top draw is the "the Bean," a silver sculpture that reflects the sky, skyline and you, as you inevitably snap a photo. The delightful Crown Fountain features two 50-foot high towers from which Chicagoans, filmed when it was built, pucker up and spurt a mouthful of real water. The snaky BP Bridge offers terrific views of the skyline. The graceful and acoustically brilliant Pritzker Pavilion band shell hosts free concerts most evenings.

A short walk from the park is the amazing Art Institute of Chicago. It has so many iconic paintings that a special edition of the board game *Masterpiece* was issued featuring its works of art. The treasures include Grant Wood's "American Gothic," Edward Hopper's "Nighthawks" and a slew of Van Goghs and Monets; the museum's collection of impressionist and postimpressionist paintings is second only to those in France. Standing guard outside are two lion statues, merrily donned with Cubs hats or Bears helmets after big wins. It was beside these lions that Melvin Jones and other early Lions once proudly posed, a photo often reprinted by Lions Clubs International.

Just north of the Loop are the two hottest spots for tourists: the Magnificent Mile and Navy Pier. The Mag Mile is an upscale shopping strip sure to lighten your wallet. Free to admire are the turreted Water Tower, the sole downtown survivor of the 1871 fire; Tribune Tower, whose base is embedded with pieces of the great Pyramid, the Taj Mahal and 140 other notable structures; the massive Merchandise Mart, the world's largest commercial building; and the 1,227-foot John Hancock Center, incongruously rising above the bustling, normal-height stores of Michigan Avenue.

The city's top attraction, Navy Pier is sometimes derided by Chicagoans for its touristy vibe. But they forget until a few years ago it was a dilapidated, empty wharf, and the city just recently renovated it to make it more aesthetically pleasing. The 150-foot Ferris wheel offers one-of-a-kind views of the city, the carousel is colorful and nostalgic, and the beer is always cold, if pricey, at the Beer Garden.

Navy Pier also offers iconic Chicago foods such as a Chicago-style hot dog, a Maxwell Street polish, a Billy Goat cheeseburger, Giordano's pizza, Lalo's Mexican dishes and, best of all, Garrett's flavored gourmet popcorn. Finally, the Pier has a bronze couch and a seated, at-the-ready Bob Hartley, the TV psychologist played by Bob Newhart, a Chicago native. There is so much to see and do in Chicago that you'll be tempted (it's permitted) to pop down on the couch and just soak it all in.



The Art Institute of Chicago (top) is a natural photo spot for Lions. The Shedd Aquarium showcases creatures of the deep sea while the Field Museum contains a creature 65 million years old. The Crown Fountain at Millennium Park features towers from which Chicagoans spray mouthfuls of water.



A CITY OF NEIGHBORHOODS

More so than most places Chicago is a city of neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has its own look and feel, its unique sense of authenticity, its iconic places.

Once practically desolate, the South Loop was the nation's fastest growing neighborhood a few years ago. Its neglected lofts became condos, and droves of young professionals and retirees moved in. The South Loop was once the home of Chess Records, where Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley and Chuck Berry recorded. In 1964, before they were world famous, two haircut-challenged Englishmen, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, came on a pilgrim-

age to Chess to pay homage to the musicians who inspired them. On the site now is Willie Dixon's Blues Heaven, a museum that, fitting a hard-edged musical form, has erratic hours and a rather ramshackle décor.

Immediately west of the South Loop is Chinatown, announced by the large red and green Chinatown gate. The dim sum in nearly every restaurant is predictably good but also wander in the grocery stores to marvel at the exotic food items.

On the North Side are toney Lincoln Park and its imposing brownstones. The neighborhood gets its name

The Lincoln Park neighborhood is attractive and well-heeled.





Second City is world-famous for its comedy.

from the 1,200-acre Lincoln Park, which runs for miles parallel to the lake. The free Lincoln Park Zoo houses gorillas, tigers and, yes, lions. Lincoln Park is an interesting amalgam of money, nature and cutting-edge culture. Second City has given the world Bill Murray, Tina Fey, Steve Carell and many other stars. Founded in a church basement in 1974, Steppenwolf Theatre is now the city's top stage. Alumni include John Malkovich, Gary Sinise and John Mahoney.

Further north is Lakeview, also known as Wrigleyville. The Cubs begin a long homestand July 4. But even if you can't see a game, Wrigley Field is a joy to behold. The old-fashioned ball park, the second-oldest in the majors, oozes charm. The Friendly Confines are ringed with statues of Hall of Famers such as Ernie Banks and Ron Santo as well as

a likeness of a grinning, bespectacled Harry Carey, the popular broadcaster. Stand outside the park to try to snag a batting practice home run and then watch the game from the bar Murphy Bleachers where you'll be surrounded by Cubbie blue.

Just west of the Loop is the Near West Side, once a dicey place to roam even during the day but now gentrified. The neighborhood includes Greektown and Little Italy, both lined with reliably good ethnic restaurants. Three miles west of downtown is the United Center. The outdoor statue of a certain tongue-wagging, rim-rattling world-wide superstar draws fans from far and wide.

Southwest of the Loop is Pilsen, the center of the city's Mexican community and the home of a multitude of inexpensive taquerias. Northwest of the Loop are Wicker Park, Buck-

town and Ukrainian Village, a vast hipster zone since before 2000. Bars and restaurants boom at night here. The latest hipster hangout is the North Side's Logan Square, where young artists live close to longtime Latino families and quench their thirst at brewpubs.

Decidedly less scruffy is Andersonville, northwest of Lincoln Park. Swedes settled in here nearly a century ago, and locals stand in line at the venerable Swedish Bakery for its éclairs and chocolate-butter drop cookies. Adjacent to Andersonville is gritty Uptown, home of the Green Mill, the oldest continuously run jazz club in the nation. Chicagoans tire of Al Capone references, but this was the gangster's favorite speakeasy.

The South Side typically gets short shrift in stories on Chicago, but it has a city's worth of attractions and a boatload of history. Hyde

Park is home to prestigious University of Chicago. You might just bump into a Nobel Prize winner as you wander among its attractive Gothic buildings: the university has racked up nearly 90 Nobels. Worth seeing on campus are the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel and its brilliant façade with 24 life-sized religious figures and the somber Nuclear Energy sculpture, which marks the site where the nuclear age began.

Just about every school kid in the Chicago area eventually visits the marvelous, sprawling Museum of Science and Industry. Memorable exhibits that have charmed generations include a German U-boat captured during World War II, a giant three-dimensional heart and a baby chick hatchery, where the tiny, feathery creatures heroically fight their way out of shells.

Two nearby homes also beckon. Named by architects as one of the 10 most significant buildings of the 20th century, Robie House exemplifies Wright's "open plan" approach. Spaces flow seamlessly into one another. Wright also had an appreciation for gizmos: the home includes an intercom and a central vacuum cleaner system—head-turning innovations in 1910. Near Hyde Park in Kenwood is President Obama's house, a beautiful Georgian mansion that can be viewed at a distance from the street.

The South Side also is the traditional stronghold of the mighty and numerous "South Side Irish," the Bridgeport neighborhood. Left standing, mute testimony to its importance to the city's economy and identity, is the gate of the Union Stockyards. From the Civil War until

The Green Mill is the nation's oldest continuously run jazz club.





A mural in Bronzeville celebrates its African-American heritage.

the 1920s, more meat was processed in Chicago than in any other place in the world.

Near Bridgeport is Bronzeville, the destination of countless number of African Americans who migrated north in the first half of the 20th century seeking a better life. Stop at Meyers Ace Hardware Store and exult in its history: the Sunset Café swung and jived on this spot. Louis Armstrong and Benny Goodman, among many others, once made beautiful music here.

Chicago certainly has its share of urban problems, but its residents are mostly big-hearted and welcoming. The city has been a destination not only for immigrants for generations but also for hordes of college graduates from the Midwest who find a job and a new life here. It's a city from which to realize ambitions and launch overarching plans. In Chicago, Lions will embark on their second century, holding steadfast to their service mission while laying out new initiatives.

The sites listed here generally are a short walk from the El, which is reasonably safe (though not always clean). Riding the El actually is a great inexpensive way to see the city. Take the brown line north to get a kaleidoscopic, 360-degree view of the city's teeming neighborhoods.

'Ain't no Road Like It'

Have access to a car? A truly memorable drive is heading north or south on Lake Shore Drive. It's you, the beautiful lake and the magnificent skyline. A hit record from the early 1970s titled "Lake Shore Drive" captured the wonder of it: "There's a road I'd like to tell you about, lives in my home town/Lake Shore Drive the road is called and it'll take you up or down/ ... And there ain't no road just like it, Anywhere I found." With a car, also consider a trip to Brookfield Zoo, a world-class zoo in a near suburb, and to Oak Park, where you can tour the homes of Ernest Hemingway and Frank Lloyd Wright. Oak Park also is home to the remarkably eclectic American Music Festival at Fitzgerald's. For several days around July 4th the nightclub hosts dozens of bands on three stages.

WELCOME TO FOOD HEAVEN

Chicago has an incredible range of food options, covering every price point and satisfying every palate.

Affordable

Chef-owner Rick Bayless' **Frontera** is lauded for its fresh ingredients, corn tamales, street-food options and killer margaritas. The handmade pasta at **Monteverde** blends Italian tradition with a Midwestern sensibility. A Chicago treasure, **Little Goat** serves up classic American dishes with scrumptious twists.

Cheap Eats

A Chicago institution, **Lou Mitchell's** delivers huge, fluffy omelets that make lunch and maybe even dinner unnecessary. Where's the beef? At **Mr. Beef**, whose classic Italian beef sandwiches are a favorite of Jay Leno. Order a "cheezeborger, no Pepsi" at the atmospheric, below-ground **Billy Goat Tavern**, a longtime hangout of Chicago journalists and Chicagoans who like to rub elbows with other average Joes. For snacking, **Garrett's** popcorn offers flavors such as pecan caramel and cheddar cheese—no one has ever started a bag without finishing. Belying its run-down appearance, **Mario's Italian Lemonade** offers to-die-for Italian ice. **Fannie May** fine chocolates are a Chicago tradition: you'd be hard-pressed to find a family without a box at home on Christmas or Easter.

Pizza

Everyone knows deep dish pizza and Chicago are synonymous. Well, everyone is wrong. Deep dish pizza did originate in Chicago. But the city's thin-crust options are just as good, and quite a few Chicagoans prefer those to gut-filling deep dish. Having said that, for great deep dish pies, the holy trinity of that food group, drawing tourists and residents alike, are **Pizzeria Uno**, where it all started, **Pizzeria Due**, where wait times are less; and **Gino's East**, whose walls and table are crazily covered with graffiti. But don't overlook **Lou Malnati's**, famous for its flaky, buttery crust.



Don't overlook the deep dish pizza at Lou Malnati's.

Giordano's is another deep-dish destination for Chicagoans, though, technically, it serves stuffed pizza, which has an additional layer of dough above the cheese and below the sauce. **Pequod's**, an unpretentious pizza pub, has great pan pizza, in which the caramelized cheese bubbles up in pan. For traditional thin crust, **Pizano's** is pure pizza ecstasy. **Macello's** also is top-notch. If located in any other city, the lines for its pies, cooked in wood-burnings ovens, would be down the block.

High end

One of Chicago's best restaurants and located at the top of the Chicago Stock Exchange, **Everest** serves French food prepared by noted chef Jean Joho. A typical entree is filet of sole meunière with pommes mousseline and Brussels sprouts with fromage blanc apple soufflé. **Blackbird** specializes in creative dishes with seasonal ingredients. Its cocktails are top-notch as well. One of the city's very best steakhouses, **Morton's** serves up steaks generous in size and cooked to perfection.



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LIONS INTERNATIONAL

lionsclubs.org/CentennialMembership

SAVING AN ALASKAN VILLAGE

Lions help a hamlet doomed by the encroaching sea.

BY ANNE FORD

The waters are rising in Alaska. As global temperatures rise, sea ice is melting—and the ocean is swelling, shores are eroding, and rivers are bulging. For the river and coastal Alaskan communities most in danger, life has become a bit like battling a slow-motion flood.

At least one of those communities, the isolated indigenous village of Newtok, knows all about slow motion. Since 1996, the village has been trying to move to a new site, one that sits safely on bedrock instead of melting permafrost. But lack of funding, plus seemingly endless red tape, has left Newtok largely in limbo.

Now the efforts of Alaskan Lions have brought the community one crucial step closer to relocation. How? By supplying access to the one thing you'd think Newtok's residents would have more than enough of already: water.

The story begins a few years ago when the Fairbanks Host Lions Club, at the suggestion of member Yvonne Temple, a Philippines native, carried out several projects designed to bring safe drinking water to remote areas of the Philippines.

As the president of CampWater Industries, a company that builds water-treatment systems all over the world, Jon Dufendach worked with the Fairbanks Host Lions on its Philippines efforts. "The Lions were just delighted with the results," he says. "But then they asked if I had thoughts about a similar project to do here in Alaska. And I presented the needs of Newtok to them, because that village is rapidly washing away."

He wasn't exaggerating. Newtok, a community of about 350 residents (primarily members of the indigenous Yupik people), sits just 10 feet above sea level on the Ninglick River in western Alaska. Each year, Newtok loses between 75 and 150 feet of shoreline to erosion. It's estimated that within two years, the community's school, which sits dangerously close to the river, will be lost to its waters.

The danger has been apparent for a long time—at least 21 years. That's when the residents of Newtok voted to move their community to a site about nine miles away, which they named Mertarvik. Not only is Mertarvik located on volcanic bedrock instead of the permafrost on which Newtok sits, but it also rests at a much higher elevation than Newtok does. In addition, Mertarvik is still close enough to the Yupiks' hunting grounds to make their traditional subsistence lifestyle possible.

Sounds simple enough. But the logistics of moving an entire village, even one as small as Newtok, have proven immensely challenging. For one thing, before the structures necessary for people to live in Mertarvik can be implemented, the community must meet certain frustrating requirements.

To wit: until 25 families live in Mertarvik, neither a school nor a post office can be built—but who's going to move to a town where their children can't learn and no one can get mail service? For another thing, the state of Alaska is facing a \$3 billion budget deficit, making it more difficult than ever to obtain government funding.

Then, too, "because Newtok has voted to move to the new location, federal and state agencies won't put any resources into keeping its current location functional," says Larry Helgeson, a member of the Anchorage Benton Bay Athletic Lions Club who is familiar with Newtok's plight. "So they can't get new stuff built at the new site because it's not big enough yet, and they can't get stuff fixed at the old site because the plan is to move it before it erodes away. They're really caught in a Catch-22."

But as implacable as that Catch-22 seemed, there was a way for Lions to begin to break it.

One thing Mertarvik needed before anyone could live there was potable water. And in fact, as Dufendach explained to the Fairbanks Host Lions, in 2007 the state of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation had drilled a 106-foot well there and installed





The well house and deep-well hand pump made possible by Lions provides water for the new village of Mertarvik.

an electric pump. But because Mertarvik has no electricity, there was no way for people to actually get water out of the well. Instead, the few people who had moved there had to travel several miles to a spring for fresh water.

Dufendach suggested that the Lions raise funds to build a deep-well hand pump, so that the well would be usable without the trouble of a generator. Dufendach would donate his time and labor, but the cost of purchasing and flying in the necessary materials (there are no roads to Mertarvik) would be considerable: \$30,000.

That didn't faze John "Benny" Benevento, a Fairbanks Host Lion.

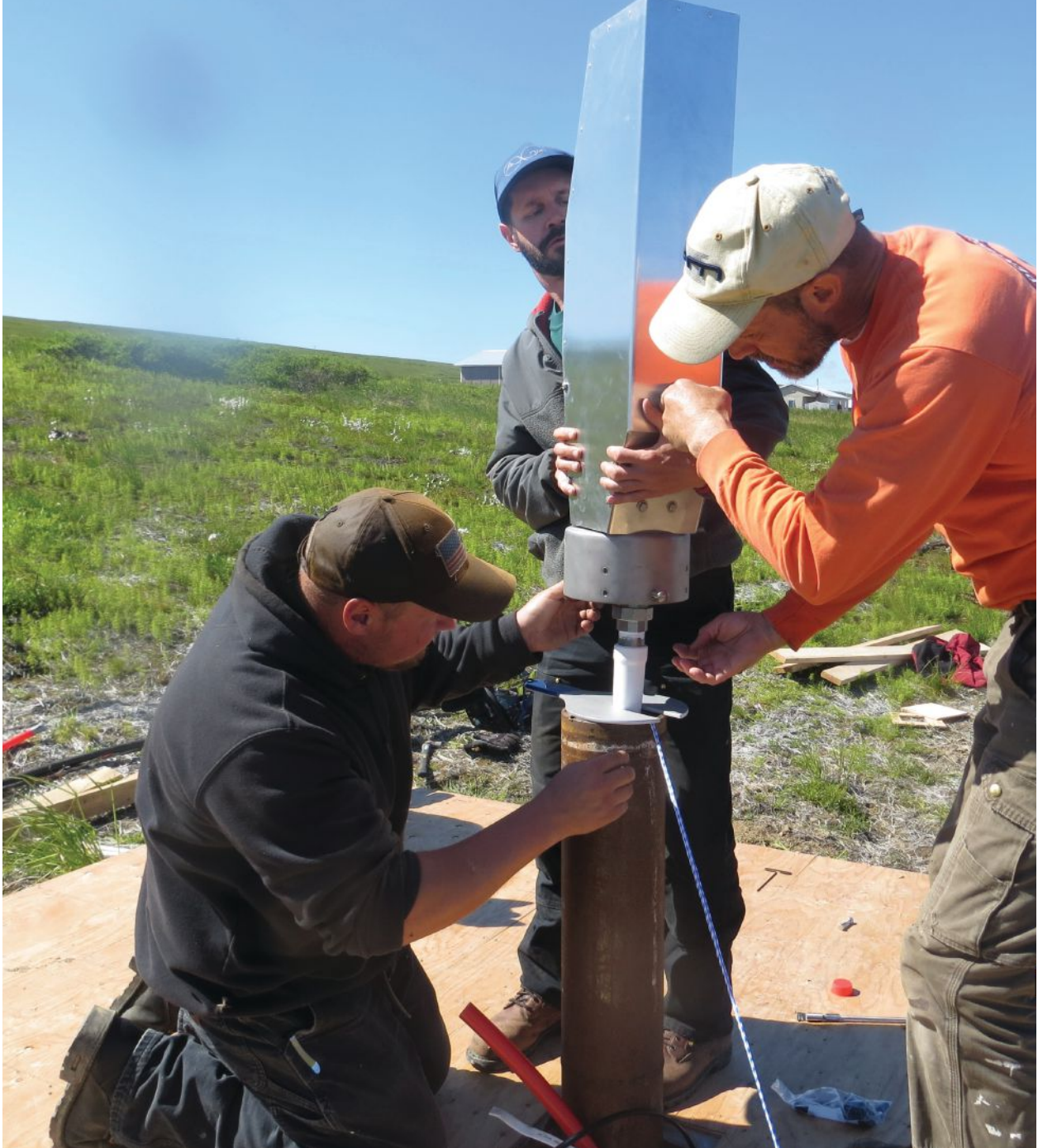
"We said, 'Gee, we did it in the Philippines; why can't we do it here?'" he remembers. "We just wanted to get it done, darn it."

His wife Sally, also a Fairbanks Host Lion, chimes in. "Some people said, 'Wait, there's a lot of government agencies out there that should be able to do this. Why can't HUD do it? Why can't this other agency do it?'" she says. "It was so easy to say, 'Somebody else needs to do this.' But it's our job."

That said, it was too big a job for the Fairbanks Host Lions to accomplish by themselves. Instead, they enlisted the help of the District 49 A and 49 B foundations, each of which raised roughly half of the funds needed.

In June 2016, Dufendach and carpenter Mikhail Lukinov traveled to Mertarvik, where they spent a week installing the hand pump, building a well house and testing the water for safety. The work required a bit of improvising. For example, without any timbers available for the well house foundation, the pair had to make use of some old railroad ties they found instead. But in the end, they got the job done.

And the people of Newtok/Mertarvik appreciate it. "We are very thankful for that well water, and we thank the Lions very much," says Newtok tribal administrator Tom John. It's not just that having a useable well makes life easier for anyone



Michael Lukinov (from left), Thomas John and Dave Shippey build the deep-well hand pump in Mertavik.

living in Mertarvik (though it certainly does). Having potable water on site, John says, will make it easier to increase the population of Mertarvik. Once that population reaches a certain level, the community will be eligible for funding from FEMA and other agencies.

In other words, the Lions of Districts 49 A and 49 B haven't just gotten water out of the ground. They've helped a community in dire need take another crucial step towards saving itself.

"It was wonderful coordination between two districts that are very competitive in their own way, but in this way, they were absolutely a team," says Benny Benevento.

"It wasn't 'us and them.' It was just 'us.' Everybody came together. I'm going to get teary thinking about it."

But the work isn't over. "In the process of doing this, we found out that there are something like 30 more villages in the state of Alaska without water," he adds. "So we're going to adopt another village somewhere and get them going. We're going to get water to everybody and keep working till we get it done."



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LAUGHS FLOW EASILY AT HARD TIMES DANCE

STORY BY JAY COPP

Photos by Rick Collins

Five dollars gets you a rollicking band and a spacious dance floor, all the coffee you can drink and complimentary beans and wieners. You get to gawk at the ragged costumes some couples wear at the Hard Times Dance. And you also can laugh along with the “winners” of the raffle. Last year the first prize was a candlelight dinner—two candles and a box of mac and cheese. Since 1990 the popular event of the Sooke Lions in British Columbia, Canada, has driven away the winter blues and brought people together in the small, close-knit community of 11,000.

“Christmas is over. There’s not a whole lot going on,” says Lion Jim Bailey, 63. “The idea is to have some fun. We get all ages mingling together. It’s an overall good time.”

Located near Victoria, Sooke is a seaside, picturesque hamlet with loads of outdoors recreational options and artisan shops that draw visitors. Winters are mild, and the hills that loom beyond the town tend to keep away the rain. So it’s not exactly a Depression-era setting. But the dance nevertheless has had lasting appeal. It’s held upstairs in the Sooke Community Hall (the club meets downstairs), and last year the maximum capacity of 450 once again was easily reached. “We get couples to come. It’s a very inexpensive evening that lifts people’s spirits,” says Lion Mike Thomas, who helped begin the dance.

Sooke is a Lions town. The Sooke club has 41 men; the Sooke Harbourside Lions Club has 60 women. The Sooke Lioness Club counts 25 members. Nearly all the Sooke Lions work the dance—selling raffle tickets, serving as security and staffing the bar and kitchen. Lionesses sell raffle and drink tickets. The women in the Harbourside club are content to display their dance moves.

Hard times may not characterize Sooke, but need and hunger do exist in the community. The club supports the local food bank both with donations and service, and the dance contributes to the club’s coffers.



Some dancers opt for colorful clothes.



Couples dance to popular songs of the '50, '60s and '70s.



A typical Lions' event, the dance allows old friends to catch up.

People of various ages enjoy the dance.



Lion Mike Thomas helped start the dance.



Checking the beans are (from left) Lions Harry Connor, Pat Forrest and John Paterson.



Standing in front of a mural painted by a local artist are (from left) Lions Connor, Carl Medwedrich, Forrest and Bob Halliday.

SERVICE SURPRISES

BY JAY COPP

Sure, Lions flip pancakes, screen children's vision and better their communities in dozens of familiar, routine ways. But in the last 100 years Lions have often become intertwined with historic events and famous people or made history of their own. Here are nine ways (among many others) that Lions stepped outside the cage and showed the world that service can be fun, daring and groundbreaking.

Braille Magazine for the Blind Printed

Robert Irwin went on to head the American Foundation for the Blind, but in 1922 he taught blind and partially sighted children in public schools in Cleveland. An eye inflammation when he was five had left him blind. Troubled that there were no magazines for the young blind, Irwin approached the Cincinnati Lions Club, which promptly put up \$1,600 for a pilot issue. The *Juvenile Braille Monthly* was born.

For more than 60 years, the magazine was mailed to schools for the blind during the school year and then to the homes of the youths in the summer. It typically went to more than 200 schools and 1,600 homes. Its 60 pages included stories, poems, games and puzzles. Articles ranged from a history of aviation and a profile of Beethoven to a fictional tale of a boy who builds and launches rockets.

Lions in Ohio supported the magazine before Lions Clubs International began funding it in 1925. The magazine eventually was mailed to eight nations. In the 1980s grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation made the magazine possible. By then, the magazine took its contents from the popular *Highlights for Children* magazine. From the start, the magazine was produced by "the blind girls at Clovernook"—the Clovernook Home and School for the Blind in Cincinnati.

To Russia With Love

So what were four middle-aged men from England wearing white overalls that displayed a Union Jack and a Lions emblem doing at a car repair shop not far from Moscow, Russia, in the summer of 1969? The curious Russians who milled about the men did not know who Lions were. Nor did they understand what compelled the quartet to drive more than 2,000 miles from England to Russia. For Lions, the matter was completely understandable, even predictable. Their long-distance drive behind the Iron Curtain was a novel fundraiser.

The Farnham Lions Club correctly surmised that a long car trip to Russia and back would generate interest and fill club coffers. The club easily raised from donors, on a per-mile basis, the \$2,400 needed for a swimming pool for the Farnham Training Centre for Mentally Handicapped. The eight-day trip was made in a Zephyr 6, a car fitted with an extra-large fuel tank (because gas stations were rare in parts of Russia) loaned to them by Ford.

Once in Russia, they aroused intense curiosity: large cars, foreigners and Lions were all relatively unknown commodities. The part about raising funds for charity was particularly puzzling—nonprofits were practically unheard of in that part of the world. Most Russians assumed the men were on a road rally.

The Russian police discreetly kept tabs on the Lions. Despite an ever-present language barrier, the Russian people proved to be warm and friendly. In Orel, south of Moscow, the Lions treated locals with cans of Coca-Cola, and residents broke out bottles of vodka. "The four Lions received firsthand evidence that most people, wherever they live, are friendly, hospitable and helpful, if only given the opportunity," the LION concluded. "Perhaps therein lies the key to unlocking the barriers of fear, hate, prejudice and distrust that divide much of the world today."



In the Rose Garden, President Kennedy greets the blind teenagers on the bus.

A Freedom Ride for Blind Children

Taking 24 blind teenagers on a 10-week cross-country tour of the United States might not seem like such a major event today. But in 1962 when Norman Kaplan, founder of the Los Angeles-based Foundation for the Junior Blind, conceived the trip, it was nothing less than revolutionary.

Many blind children then grew up sheltered, attended special schools and traveled little. Children with disabilities weren't regularly mainstreamed into public schools. Kaplan's philosophy was different. "I don't know about blind children," he liked to say. "But I do know about children." And children, according to Kaplan, needed to take tours to learn about the country's history. They needed to ride horses and drive bumper cars, to visit the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls, meet presidents and ordinary people. Blind children would soon grow up to be blind adults and Kaplan wanted to make sure they could lead productive lives, find meaningful work, be independent. The 10,000-mile journey was a way to help set them on that path.

Kaplan knew he couldn't do it alone. So he called on the Lions for help. Some 72 Lions clubs from across the country pitched in to make the trip a reality. The Lions raised money so that the Southern California teenagers didn't have to pay a dime for their journey. They planned outings in their towns, and opened their homes to provide food and lodging to their road-weary visitors.

The trip, christened BY LIONS (Blind Youths Looking Into Our Nation's Scenes), lasted just 68 days. But its impact lasted a lifetime. The participants, who became small business owners, administrators of social service

agencies, teachers, homeowners, parents and grandparents, fondly look back on their cross-country trip and credit it with making them believe that they could take risks, be successful, be themselves.

Linda Woodbury, 15 in 1962, remembers arriving in New York, racing to the base of the Statue of Liberty and bounding up the circular staircase. Just when the ascent seemed it would never end, Woodbury found herself standing at an open window inside Lady Liberty's crown, New York City spread out 22 stories below. Woodbury couldn't see the view. She relied on the sighted adults with her to answer questions about what spread out before them. As Woodbury stood there with the wind blowing in her hair, she was struck by the magnitude of the experience. How fortunate she was to be on this trip. The words to her favorite Woody Guthrie song ran inside her head: "This land is your land, this land is my land; From California to the New York Island; From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters; This land was made for you and me."

"This is America," she thought. "It belongs to everyone, sighted and blind. We get to come here because we're free."

Woodbury eventually earned a master's degree in speech communications, served as a consultant to Fortune 500 companies, founded two businesses and administered programs to people with disabilities. "What the trip me taught me most of all, really, was to never give up," she says. "There's always a way. It's not can you do something, it's how can you do something."



Families enjoy the playground in 1996.

Lions Respond to Oklahoma Bombing

Nineteen children were among the 168 who died in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. That occurred on April 19, 1995. Almost exactly a year later—on April 20—a playground built by Lions in Oklahoma in memory of the 19 children was dedicated.

Lions built the lovely Little Hands, Innocent Smiles, Beautiful Memories playground in just two days. The 10,000-square-foot playground was constructed at a quiet spot on Lake Hefner, eight miles from downtown.

The project was an unusual collaboration between Lions, a onetime Lion and corporate workers. Gerry DeRoche, a former Lion and a vice president at Fleet Financial Services in Boston, suggested the project to colleague Louis Marotta of the Hyde Park Lions Club. Fleet employees donated \$35,000, which was matched by Fleet as well as the Shawmut Corporation.

The Oklahoma City Lions Club spearheaded the construction, and at the time of the dedication Leamon Freeman of the club visited a young bombing victim at the hospital. The legs and arms of Royia Sima were in a cast, and her face was disfigured. Still, she was grateful for the visit. “Y’all have a nice day,” she told him. “We were all in tears,” Freeman told the LION.

The Oklahoma City Downtown Lions Club, incidentally, is one of the 25 Founder Clubs of Lions, which were represented at the first Lions’ convention in Dallas in 1917 or were in existence or being organized then and have functioned continuously since chartering. In 1920 two members designed a logo with one head of a lion looking back at the past and the other toward the future. The logo was then adopted by Lions Clubs International.

Read the full story of the Lions’ playground in grief-stricken Oklahoma City from the September 1996 LION.

Town Built by Lions Marches On

“I see something coming ... something big,” fisherman John Larson yelled frantically over his radio transmitter as he squatted in his boat near Afognak, a small island village in Alaska. “Boy, this is a big one.”

Those were his last words. Larson and his boat were lost in a tsunami from the Good Friday Earthquake of 1964, the strongest earthquake ever recorded in North America. A second casualty was the town itself. None of its 170 residents died—they fled to higher ground thanks to prior radio warnings. But the town was nearly wiped off the map. A series of 25-foot waves obliterated everything in its path.

Lions in Alaska received an outpouring of donations from Lions from the “South 48” as well as many offers of assistance including a million feet of lumber from a lumberman’s association. After huddling with government officials, Alaskan Lions made a proposal to village leaders: to build a new town on raw, virgin land of nearby Kodiak Island. The Lions would construct 40 homes, the sewer and water systems, a community center, a school, a post office, a boat dock and even an airstrip. With their village reduced to an eerily wracked landscape, Afognaks agreed.

Afognaks were a mix of Alutiq natives and descendants of Russian settlers. Hardy and normally self-reliant, they welcomed the helpful outsiders. Afognaks, Lions and Mennonite Service volunteers worked shoulder to shoulder surveying lots and installing the sewage and water systems. Forty-four cedar homes were prefabricated in Kodiak and shipped by barge to the settlement. Two weeks before Christmas in 1965, people of the former village of Afognak arrived by boat and settled in. The Alaskan community became the only town in the United States built by a service club group. Residents gratefully named their village Port Lions.

The new Lions club in the village helped it grow, raising funds for a library. Port Lions also took on other needs such as providing food and clothing for villages scorched by wildfires and giving a wheelchair to a local fisherman whose legs were amputated after an accident. The club disbanded in the 1980s after a local cannery and sawmill closed, leaving the town reeling. But a new harbor and health clinic in recent years as well as a flourishing school have helped Port Lions turn a corner.



A photographer in Valdez, Alaska, looks over wreckage from the 1964 Good Friday earthquake.

Photo by AP Images

Read the full story of Port Lions: villagers in Alaska start anew in 1964 thanks to Lions (November 1964 LION), and the town is still going strong decades later (September 2007 LION).

Lions to America: Keep Cool—It's Only Rock 'n' Roll

Roy Orbison sang for the lonely—and Lions. And Elvis might not have been Elvis—at least not the hip-swiveling king of cool and rebellion—without the acquiescence of Lions. When rock was young, Lions, keepers of the keys to countless halls and gyms, gave the green light to the new generation of stars.

Orbison was a pale, scrawny, picked-on fourth-grader in Wink, Texas, in 1945. His singing and guitar skills caught the attention of his principal, Lion R.A. Lipscomb, and soon the shy and insecure 9-year-old was the star of the school assemblies. Eight years later Orbison fronted The Wink Westerners, a raw country-and-western band with a small but loyal following. A gig at the McCamey Lions Club led to their first paid performance, a dance.

Running for district governor, Lipscomb invited Orbison to tour West Texas with him. Lipscomb was so impressed with Orbison that he invited him to represent Texas at the Lions' international convention in Chicago in 1953. The Wink Westerners played in the lobby of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, alternatively entertaining, amusing and confounding the Lions from near and far. Orbison became a star when he released "Only the Lonely" in 1960 and eventually gained induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Lipscomb didn't do too badly, either. He served as an international director for the Lions from 1958 to 1960 and eventually was voted into the Texas Lions Hall of Fame.

In 1955, Elvis, 20, was a raw, mostly unknown talent. A country boy quite unsure of himself, he was so nervous performing live



Elvis Presley gives the Lions something to roar about in March 1955 in DeKalb, Texas. Also playing are Jimmy Day (left), Scotty Moore and Bill Black (right).

Photos courtesy of Willie Cox

that his legs wobbled. But his stage fright worked only to his advantage: the uncontrollable shaking drove his female fans wild.

That year Elvis toured Texas. Like the Beatles a decade later, who honed their musical talents in neighborhood clubs in Germany before bursting into stardom, Elvis was still developing his distinctive sound.

Elvis and his sidekicks played whatever was available—high school hops, car dealership openings and, on March 4, 1955, a benefit for the DeKalb Lions Club. The Lions needed to raise funds for the high school football team. However, the school's football coach abruptly decided to cancel the show. He didn't want any part in promoting a "sex maniac." This was perhaps the first time the controversy over Elvis and his sexually charged performance came to a boil.

The school principal overruled the coach, and Elvis was in fine form at the high school gym. The teen-agers went wild, the Lions walked away with a nice bundle of cash, and Elvis moved one step closer to ushering in the rock and roll era. "I owe a lot to Texas," he later reflected. "They're the ones who put me over the top." Within one year, the whole country, especially its teen-agers, would discover him and the frenetic music he pioneered.

Lions Golf Course Altered History

African Americans were barred from golf courses throughout the South in the Jim Crow era. At best, black caddies could play on certain days or black golfers could play at designated times. The first desegregated municipal course south of the Mason-Dixon line was founded by Lions.

In 1951, two African-American youths walked onto the Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin, Texas. Mayor Taylor Glass received a phone call telling him about the presence of the youths on the course. "This was before there was any mixing of the races in restaurants, schools or anywhere," said Glass in a 1974 interview that was not discovered until 2008. "I don't see why it ought to bother anybody, and I'm for leaving them alone and not even calling the newspaper and see what happens. We went on and [let] them play and never heard a word."

Lions had founded the course in 1924, and they transferred the lease to the city a dozen years later. The University of Texas, which currently owns the land the course sits on, voted to let the lease expire in 2019 and has wanted to develop the land. But in July the course was added to the National Register of Historic Places because of its role in desegregation.

Lions for Art's Sake

Professor Trento Longaretti, the director of a prestigious arts academy in northern Italy, sat on a treasure trove of art in 1964. Some of the work of Italy's greatest artists lay hidden at Carrara Academy—unseen by the public for more than 150 years. Even art authorities were not aware of many of the works. It was no easy task to mount an exhibition. Thousands of drawings and paintings first needed to be catalogued, critically appraised and winnowed down.

Who you gonna' call? That was easy. A Bergamo Lion, Longaretti proposed the special exhibit as a club project. The club promptly hired a panel of art experts and appointed renowned Professor C. L. Ragghianti of the University of Pisa to direct them. The end result was a stunningly well-received and popular exhibit of 350 works of art, some of them more than 400 years old and most of them by Italian masters such as Canaletto, Lotto and Veronese. Also included were 22 prints by the acclaimed German painter Albrecht Dürer. An Italian newspaper hailed the show as meriting "national significance." With government sponsorship, the exhibit toured the United States, Japan, Iran and other nations. Lions in an ancient mountain town proved that service can take varied shapes and forms—even an artistic slant.

Are Lions Smarter Than Sixth-Graders?

Long before reality TV became popular, "Quiz Kids" fascinated Americans. The radio and TV series drew huge numbers in the late 1940s and '50s. On December 3, 1950, six Lions took on five Quiz Kids on NBC radio.

The Quiz Kids ranged in age from 15 to 7. Four were from the Chicago area, and the other was from Elkhart, Indiana.

The Lions were a formidable bunch. Two had master's degrees, and all had good jobs. Among them were S. A. Dodge, the third vice president and a founder of Leader Dogs for the Blind in Michigan; First Vice President Harold Nutter of New Jersey; R. Roy Keaton, director of Lions headquarters; and Joe Kelly of the Chicago Central Lions Club. Blessed with a mellifluous voice and genial manner, Kelly was the show's regular quizmaster. So Pat Conlon, a 13-year-old Quiz Kid, took that role. Nutter set the tone off the bat: "I tried to bribe Pat to get a copy of the questions but was not successful."

The first question was: "What yellow flower that you dig up and throw away describes six men, all brave and stout?" Naomi Cook, 12, quickly shot up her hand: "A dandelion." Lions were slow on the draw for a while. Kelly offered a defense to Pat: "Lions didn't know they're supposed to hold up their hands." A bit later, as Lions continued to lag behind, Kelly turned to his teammates and implored: "Fellows, you get permission to put your hands up."

The show was tailored to Lions. Two questions related to lions in the Bible (who killed a lion and who slept with lions?). Audio was played from Talking Books (a Lions' project), and the competitors had to name the book's title. Toward the show's end was a Lions' "commercial." Keaton explained that Lions were Quiz Men: they constantly asked "what can they do to improve the lot of humanity?" Lions, he said, took on "every conceivable worthwhile community project." In fact, International President H. C. Petry Jr. of Texas could not be present because he was at the dedication of a Lions' children's hospital in Panama, he added.

Who won? Listen to the show at the digital LION.

Special Olympics Athlete Cherishes His Role as a Lion

BY CASSANDRA ROTOLO

Lion Steve Rodenbeck embodies the spirit of Special Olympics (SO) on and off the playing field. His leadership in his community, on the field and in his workplace represents the power that SO athletes have to impact those around them.

An SO athlete for nearly 20 years, Rodenbeck plays several sports. A proud member of Team New Jersey's flag football team during the 2010 USA Games in Nebraska, he led his teammates to a bronze medal. Rodenbeck was also a member of Team NJ during the 2014 USA Games, competing in unified volleyball. He and his teammates advanced to the 2015 World Games in Los Angeles as members of SO USA. They proudly represented the USA and New Jersey, taking fourth place. He also competes in floor hockey, basketball and tennis.

Rodenbeck graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University, receiving an award for distinguished academic performance. He now works as a conference center coordinator where he recently was honored for "doing right."

Rodenbeck is very active in his community. Volunteering as a global messenger, he speaks publicly on behalf of SO. He currently serves as chairperson for the Athlete Congress, the governing body representing SO New Jersey athletes' interest. He also is president of his Garden State Champions Lions Club.

What made you want to become a Lion?

I wanted to make a difference in the community and other people's lives.

How has being a Lion made you a better athlete leader and community leader?

Being a Lion has taught me the value of teamwork within a group. Working on numerous service projects with the group has enabled me to assist members. It's all about making a difference in the community and other people's lives.

What type of new skills has being a Lion taught you?

Leadership, teamwork and communication is the key.

How would you increase volunteering with Lions in your community?

By working and communicating with other Lions clubs in the area. This way, we can have our members plus members of the other Lions clubs working as one unit. Remember, there is no "I" in team.

How do you envision athlete leaders learning more about leadership opportunities with Lions to help their communities? What could our clubs do to help that?

Athlete Leaders could take Leadership Seminar courses to expand their leadership skills. This way, this will teach them the value of hard work and dedication while leading a team effort. Also, the more that we are involved with service projects and

fundraisers, the more that we will feel that we have made a positive impact in our community.

How do you see local Lions helping with awareness for your Special Olympics program?

Getting other Lions clubs to attend and participate in Special Olympics New Jersey events would be a simple way for them to see and embrace our Special Olympics community.

What is your one message to other clubs regarding athlete engagement?

Help support our great cause by volunteering in our many events. We have sports training and competition September through June. Athletes love to meet new volunteers. Also, our Garden State Lions Club is always looking forward to working as a unit and with other clubs as well.

Champion clubs are special interest Lions clubs that support Special Olympics. For information on the Lions Clubs International-Special Olympics partnership, visit lcif.org.



Rodenbeck has played in flag football for Special Olympics since 2007.



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Bedford Lions in **Ohio** distributed 30 baskets of food to people in need in their community.

The **Marathon Lions** in **Wisconsin** donated \$10,204 to Special Olympics Wisconsin. The proceeds were from the club's annual Motorcycle Fun Run.

North Pocono Minisink Lions in **Pennsylvania** gave \$6,000 to a food pantry, purchased bulletproof vests for police officers, provide annual scholarships for graduating high school seniors and, for the past 21 years, have purchased new clothing for students in need identified by school officials.

The **Peterborough Lions Club** in **Ontario, Canada**, initiated a Message in a Bottle program, in which residents are able to receive a free empty pill bottle in which to store their medical information in case of emergency. First responders will be alerted to look for the bottle by a label on the outside of the refrigerator door. Lions worked with more than 30 pharmacies and medical clinics on the initiative.

The **Sunrise Lions Club** in **Lebanon** sponsored a Mother's Day luncheon for 120 elderly women.

Streeter Lions in **North Dakota** sponsored their annual pancake breakfast, serving 145 people. More than \$600 was raised with proceeds being used to help pay for elementary students' swimming lessons.

Atwood Lions in **Ontario, Canada**, helped plant 500 spruce trees as part of an Earth Day celebration in their community.

The **Fulton Lions Club** in **New York** gave \$1,000 to a United Way food pantry.



Photo courtesy of The Clareshom Local Press

Len Burchill (above) of the **Clareshom Lions Club, Alberta, Canada**, receives a wheelchair from a volunteer helping pack a shipping container with medical and school supplies collected by Lions to be shipped to Chile. Lions loan medical equipment to residents, but a change in the laws resulted in a slew of donations to the club of lightly-used home health care equipment by retail stores. Area Lions clubs helped pay the \$8,400 shipping cost, and Lions clubs in Chile arranged for the container supplies to be distributed to an orphanage and people in need. The container bound for Chile was loaded with 1,000 pounds of books, 3,600 pairs of reading glasses, 145 walkers and 72 wheelchairs and other equipment. Lions also received 40 bicycles from the community to send to the orphanage.

The **Hewitt Lions Club** in **Texas** donated 5,000 readers and sunglasses to the Texas Eyeglass Recycling Center and a VA hospital.

The **Remington Lions Club** in **Virginia** gave two scholarships to graduating seniors.

The **Bethlehem Lions Club** in **District 351** sponsored a dinner to raise funds to help deaf and hearing-impaired children.

Forsyth Lions in **Missouri** donated \$500 to the Forsyth High School's Junior R.O.T.C. program.

A Scout collected 200 eyeglasses to earn the rank of Eagle Scout after learning about the need for donated eyeglasses publicized by the **Boise Capital Lions Club** in **Idaho**.

The **Muhlenberg Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** and the Bing Miller Foundation combined to grant a 9-year-old girl \$2,000 toward the purchase of an eSight device. The girl has conic-rod dystrophy and only has her peripheral vision. This technology will enable her to see things clearly, including her central vision, up to about 30 feet.

The **Crossville** and **Fairfield Glades Lions clubs** in **Tennessee** sponsored a STRIDES Walk with the **Cumberland County High School Leo Club** and a hospital to raise more than \$6,000. The funds were used to send campers to the Tennessee Camp for Diabetic Children and for the American Diabetes Association.

Hurlock Lions in **Maryland** have donated 43 scholarships to graduating seniors for a total of \$73,000. Each year, the club awards two \$2,000 scholarships to deserving high school graduates.

Members of the **McKeesport Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** worked with postal employees to print and distribute bags to residents to fill with donations of nonperishable food during Postal Workers National food drive to fill food banks for residents in need. More than 20,000 pounds of goods were collected by the McKeesport post office branch.

Members of the **Bedford Lions Club** in **Nova Scotia, Canada**, partnered with Scouts and Scouting leaders to plant 2,000 seedlings in a park as part of the Scouts Canada "Scoutrees" program.

Imperial Lions in California participated in a community wellness fair by screening the vision of preschoolers and school children.

Quakertown Lions in Pennsylvania paid for and installed a bench at a new park pavilion in honor of deceased member John Ulrich.

Kelso Lions in Washington donated six scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

The **Campbellsville Lions Club in Kentucky** gave 20 stuffed bears to the court system to give to children who are involved in domestic issues and the adoption process. The bears are identified with the Lions logo.

In **Lebanon**, the **Deir el Kamar** and **Ainsaade Sunrise Lions clubs** purchased and distributed more than 100 recycling containers for use throughout the community and schools. Lions also visited students to explain the importance of recycling.

The **Austin Noon Lions Club in Minnesota** raised more than \$6,300 from its Pancake Day.

Hampstead Lions in Maryland sponsored a fundraising breakfast with all proceeds donated to the family of a 9-year-old who was severely injured after being struck by a car.

The **West Hanover Lions Club in Pennsylvania** gave a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior and donated a magnifying reader to an elementary school student in need of one.

Betterton-Still Pond Lions in Maryland are promoting Lyme disease awareness, prevention and education to students in a school district after educator and member Nancy Fox wrote three children's books about the tick-borne illness. Lessons she helped develop with other educators will be used in kindergarten through 12th grades. Lions supported the educational efforts by funding the awareness program with \$1,000.

The **Lions Club of Mombasa Baharai in Kenya** sponsored for the fourth year a reconstructive and medical surgery project at a hospital. For three days, surgeons repaired cleft palates, grafted skin to repair burns and performed other reconstructive surgeries for children and adult patients.

The **Olcott and Barker Lions in New York** sponsored a joint project with a county Farm Bureau to sponsor a workshop for farmers and their families about eye safety.

The **Rockaway Township Lions in New Jersey** published the 61st edition of the White Meadow Lake Directory to provide to all residents. Boy Scouts, friends and neighbors helped Lions with their biggest fundraising effort, which raises an average of \$10,000. The money helps support Camp Marcella, provides eye glasses for needy Rockaway residents and pays for holiday baskets at Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter for families in need.

The **Wolfville Lions Club in Alberta, Canada**, in conjunction with the Wolfville Hearing Clinic, sponsored a macaroni and cheese dinner with desserts and entertainment that raised \$1,600.

The **Southport Lions Club of Indiana** purchased five defibrillators and five Narcan kits for the Southport police department. One of the Narcan kits is credited with already saving the life of a person who overdosed on drugs.

The **Townsend Lions Club in Massachusetts** awarded two \$1,000 memorial scholarships in the names of Lions Tom Harrington and Joe LoDuca to graduating seniors and gave \$2,500 to a food bank.

The **Star Prairie Lions Club in Wisconsin** donated a \$1,000 college scholarship and three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors.

January 2017

95 Years: Wheeling, W.V.; Manitowoc, Wis.; Anderson Noon, Ind.; Mitchell, S.D.; Wadena, Minn.; Santa Ana, Calif.; Galveston, Texas; Fort Morgan, Colo.; Little Falls, Minn.; Richmond Host, Va.; Sheboygan Evening, Wis.; Huron, S.D.

90 Years: Westville, N.J.; Auburn Host, Calif.; Marlow, Okla.; South Boston, Va.; Palo Alto, Calif.

85 Years: Muhlenberg, Pa.; Scott City, Kan.; Langhorne, Pa.; La Fayette, Ga.; Plainville, Kan.; Crawfordsville, Ind.

80 Years: Bad Axe, Mich.; Geneva, Ill.; Palm Springs, Calif.; Greeley, Colo.; Edenton, N.C.; Hobbs Downtown, N.M.; Crosbyton, Texas; Silver Lake, Ind.

75 Years: Fountain City, Tenn.; Wellsville, N.Y.; Mechanicville-Stillwater, N.Y.; Elkton, Va.; Monahans, Texas; Aurora, Mo.; Louisburg, N.C.; Brimley, Mich.; Flushing, Mich.; Williamsport Newberry, Pa.; Centre Hall, Pa.; Newington, Conn.; Shinnston, W.V.; Lapel, Ind.; Tappahannock, Va.; Tipton, Mo.; Arnold, Pa.; Powers, Ore.

50 Years: Pocatello Sunrise, Idaho; Palouse, Wa.; Pacolet, S.C.; Merced Golden, Calif.; Mauldin, S.C.; Hastings, Minn.; Foster City, Calif.; Horizon City, Texas; Meadville, Mo.; Alma Center, Wis.; Charlesbourg, QC, CAN.

25 Years: Columbus Greater Columbus, Miss.; Newcastle Golden Spike, Calif.; Hinton, Okla.; North Pole, Alaska.

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



Club Delegate Form

Club delegates for the 2017 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> International Delegates
- Submitting this form to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Confirmation of the club delegate assignment will be emailed to the club delegate. When the email address of the club delegate is not available, the confirmation will be emailed to the club officer.

Club Number: _____ Club Name: _____

Club City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____

Delegate Member Number: _____

Delegate Name: (first middle last) _____

Delegate Email Address: _____ Delegate Preferred Ballot Language: _____

Authorizing Club Officer: (select one) Club President _____ Club Secretary _____

Officer Member Number: _____ Officer Name: (first middle last) _____

Officer Signature: _____

Mail form by May 1, 2017 to:

Member Service Center • Lions Clubs International

300 W. 22nd St. Oak Brook, IL USA 60523

MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org • Phone 1-630-203-3830 • Fax 1-630-571-1687

Clubs using this Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates must mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2017. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2017, bring signed form to the convention site. Clubs using MyLCI must assign their club delegates by June 28, 2017.

VOTING AT THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Voting for Executive Officers and International Directors

Every Lions club in good standing can participate in the election of executive officers and international directors and can vote on amendments to the association's bylaws by assigning delegates to represent the club at the international convention.

At the 2017 International Convention certification and voting will occur at the same time in the convention Voting Area. As soon as you are certified, you will receive a ballot and will be able to vote immediately. Certification and Voting days and times are:

- Sunday, July 2, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Monday, July 3, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 4, 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Assigning Club Delegates

Club delegates for the 2017 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned by the club president or secretary, using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> International Delegates
- Submitting the Club Delegate Form to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Clubs using MyLCI can assign their club delegates at any time between January 1 and June 28, 2017.

Clubs using the Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates will need to mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2017. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2017, bring the signed form to the convention site. The form will also be available online.

For more information on voting at the International Convention go to www.lcicon.org/vote.

International Convention
Club Delegate Entitlement Table

Membership	Delegates Entitled	Membership	Delegates Entitled	Membership	Delegates Entitled
1-37	1	263-267	11	513-537	21
38-62	2	268-312	12	538-562	22
63-87	3	313-337	13	563-587	23
88-112	4	338-362	14	588-612	24
113-137	5	363-387	15	613-637	25
138-162	6	388-412	16	638-662	26
163-187	7	413-437	17	663-687	27
188-212	8	438-462	18	688-712	28
213-237	9	463-487	19	713-737	29
238-262	10	488-512	20	738+	See below*

Delegate count is based on the club's membership as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. See Article VI, Section 2 of the International Constitution and Chapter XVII – Membership, Board Policy Manual.

*Delegate entitlement is one delegate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Nashville, Tennessee, USA

October 13-16, 2016

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Approved a resolution to direct the district governor of District 300 C1 (MD 300 Taiwan) to work with Past International President Tam in recommending Lions be appointed as first vice district governor in a fair and consistent way. Further, the board approved that in the event the district is not able to comply with the directives of the board, further action will be taken by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.
2. Revised the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws in Chapter VII of the Board Policy Manual for clarification purposes.
3. Revised the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws in Chapter VII of the Board Policy Manual to remove an unnecessary duplication of policy.
4. Revised the Neutral Observer Policy in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual to clarify who appoints the neutral observer.
5. Revised the Trademark Policies in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual related to the timing of when a convention trading pin is considered a "collectible."
6. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2017 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws to amend the timing of the official call to be consistent with the notice of amendment requirements.
7. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2017 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws related to the number of directors elected from the United States to reflect recent amendments to the International Constitution.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Revised the 2017 Chicago Convention Schedule.
2. Established per diem allowances for appointed Credentials Committee members serving without other reimbursement, District Governors-elect and District Governors-elect Faculty and headquarters staff attending the Chicago convention.
3. Revised Elections Procedures to combine certification and voting at convention.
4. Revised bid policy to allow an exception to the endorsement requirement.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Approved Coordinating Lions for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
2. Approved the redistricting proposal received from Multiple District 105 (British Isles and Ireland) and Multiple District 323

(India) to take place at the adjournment of the 2017 International Convention and the redistricting proposals submitted by Multiple District 24 (Virginia), Multiple District 32 (South Carolina) and Multiple District 43 (Kentucky) be approved and take place at the adjournment of the 2018 International Convention.

3. Approved an amendment to the Standard Form Club Constitution and By-Laws, Exhibit C, to add Club LCIF Coordinator to the Organization Plan section.
4. Approved name badge designs for the LCIF Chairperson, Trustees and LCI Board Appointees.
5. Approved Simplified Chinese as an official language of the association.
6. Clarified the policy regarding automobile expenses related to DGE attendance to the DGE Seminar held during the International Convention.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the FY 2017 1st Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.
2. Approved the amendment of the Board Policy Manual to increase the number of expensed travel reimbursements for the presidential appointee from one to up to two forum planning meetings.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved curriculum support for a locally planned, delivered and financed ELLI in Korea, provided that the application is received and the program will be fully financed locally, including translation. Instructors must be approved by LCI, and LCI will provide a representative to evaluate the process as has been done with previous pilots.
2. Approved the curriculum plan, schedule, and group leader team for the 2017 District Governors-Elect Seminar.
3. Approved the move of the DGE Seminar to a fixed location near headquarters and the presentation of the DGE Seminar earlier in the fiscal year for a pilot period of five years. This pilot plan will commence with the 2019 DGE Seminar.
4. Revised the Board Policy Manual, Chapter XIV, paragraph D.10.e. to clarify that District Governor-Elect Seminar group leaders must have the ability to speak and understand English, or have local access to non-LCI translation services, for communications between group leaders and Lions Clubs International Headquarters.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the Involve a Veteran program to be extended to all constitutional areas to June 30, 2018, as well as include active duty military personnel.
2. Revised board policy to allow charter fees to be submitted after charter applications are submitted, but before the charter is approved.
3. Revised board policy to add that effective Jan. 1, 2018, all new club charter applications must be submitted through MyLCI.
4. Revised board policy to allow the Membership Development Committee to review and approve appropriate deviations to the policy requiring 75 percent of new members who reside or work within the multiple district.
5. Amended board policy related to the process for districts who charter 10 or more clubs within a fiscal year. In addition to the district governor approving the charter application, either the first vice district governor, second vice district governor, or the GMT Area Leader/Special Area Advisor shall also approve. One half of the International dues will still be required prior to the approval of the charter.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Approved all Centennial Grants submitted.
2. Approved the four-year digital marketing plan and adjusted budget and forecast accordingly.
3. Revised board policy manual to accurately reflect the committee's name to "Marketing Communications Committee."
4. Revised board policy manual to reflect the editor in chief of LION Magazine to "Chief of Marketing and Membership."

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Approved diabetes as the fifth service campaign area to be added to the Centennial Service Challenge effective during the final year of the centennial from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018.
2. Awarded two additional Leos to receive the Leos of the Year Award for 2015-2016.
3. Revised Chapter XXII updating the term office for Leo president in the Standard Leo Club Constitution.

For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI website at lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at (630) 571-5466.



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11 issues published yearly by Lions Clubs International
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<http://www.lionsclubs.org>

(ISSN 0024-4163) (R-124397233)
 (PRINTED IN U.S.A.)

Official publication of Lions Clubs International. Published by authority of the Board of Directors in 20 languages—English, Spanish, Japanese, French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian and Thai.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President Chancellor Robert E. "Bob" Corlew, Milton, Tennessee, United States; Immediate Past President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, Minokamo-shi, Gifu-ken, Japan; First Vice President Naresh Aggarwal, Delhi, India; Second Vice President Gudrun Yngvadottir, Gardabaer, Iceland; Third Vice President Jung-Yul Choi, Busan City, Korea. Contact the officers at Lions Clubs International, 300 W 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523-8842, USA.

DIRECTORS

Second year directors

Melvyn K. Bray, New Jersey, United States; Pierre H. Chatel, Montpellier, France; Eun-Seouk Chung, Gyeonggi-do, Korea; Gurcharan Singh Hora, Siliguri, India; Howard Hudson, California, United States; Sanjay Khetan, Birganj, Nepal; Robert M. Libin, New York, United States; Richard Liebno, Maryland, United States; Helmut Marhauer, Hildesheim, Germany; Bill Phillipi, Kansas, United States; Lewis Quinn, Alaska, United States; Yoshiyuki Sato, Oita, Japan; Gabriele Sabatosanti Scarpelli, Genova, Italy; Jerome Thompson, Alabama, United States; Ramiro Vela Villarreal, Nuevo León, Mexico; Roderick "Rod" Wright, New Brunswick, Canada; Katsuyuki Yasui, Hokkaido, Japan.

First year directors

Bruce Beck, Minnesota, United States; Tony Benbow, Vermont South, Australia; K. Dhanabalan, Erode, India; Luiz Geraldo Matheus Figueira, Brasília, Brazil; Markus Flaaming, Espoo, Finland; Elisabeth Haderer, Overveen, The Netherlands; Magnet Lin, Taipei, Taiwan; Sam H. Lindsey Jr., Texas, United States; N. Alan Lundgren, Arizona, United States; Joyce Middleton, Massachusetts, United States; Nicolin Carol Moore, Arima, Trinidad and Tobago; Yasuhisa Nakamura, Saitama, Japan; Aruna Abhay Oswal, Gujrat, India; Vijay Kumar Raju Vegesna, Visakhapatnam, India; Elien van Dille, Ronse, Belgium; Jennifer Ware, Michigan, United States; Jaepung Yoo, Cheongju, Korea.

Anniversaries

February 2017

***100 Years:** Texarkana, Ark.

95 Years: Grand Forks, N.D.; Plainfield, N.J.; New Haven, Conn.; Norfolk Host, Va.; Tekamah, Neb.; Colorado Springs Downtown, Colo.; Parkersburg, W.V.; McKeesport, Pa.

90 Years: Smackover, Ark.; Magnolia, Ark.; La Crosse, Kan.; Sacramento Fort Sutter, Calif.; Souderton, Pa.; Smithville, Texas; Jackson, Calif.; Fowler, Calif.; Merrill, Wis.; Fort Erie, ON, CAN.

85 Years: Vinton Host, Va.; Miltonvale, Kan.; Monticello, Ark.; Provincetown, Maine; Delphos, Kan.; Bennington, Kan.; Canton, Texas; Kingfisher, Okla.

80 Years: Argos, Ind.; Nash, Okla.; Macon, Mo.; Seymour, Texas.

75 Years: Southington, Conn.; Clinton, Maine; Mason, Texas; Astoria, Ore.; Chase City, Va.; Pennsauken, N.J.; Versailles, Ind.; Plaquemine, La.; Landisville, Pa.; Dyer, Tenn.

50 Years: Janesville, Iowa; Flora, Ind.; Brooklyn Mill Basin Bergen Beach, N.Y.; Valley East L C, ON, CAN.; Centerville, Ga.; Sugar Camp, Wis.; Funk, Neb.; King City, Ore.; Bridgeport, ON, CAN; Oxford, N.Y.

25 Years: Royalton Hills, Ohio; Schertz-Cibola Buffalo Valley 1, Texas; Toronto Hummingbird, ON, CAN; Morrin, AB, CAN

*Lions clubs operated before Lions Clubs held its first convention in Dallas on Oct. 8, 1917. Hence, the centennial of some clubs predates the centennial of Lions Clubs International.

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

In Memoriam

Past International Director **George D. "Dur" Roberson** of the Oak Harbor Lions Club in Washington, has died. A Lion since 1960, he served as an international director from 2004 to 2006. In addition to 43 years of perfect attendance, he was awarded the International President's Award and the Ambassador of Good Will Award. He retired as a lieutenant commander after serving for 23 years as a naval aviator and was active in numerous professional and community organizations.

A Parade that Tops all Parades

Flags, costumes, dancers, marching bands, cheers and Lions as far as the eye can see: It must be the International Parade of Nations at the Lions Clubs International Convention.

Each year, Lions from as many as 130 countries participate in the annual procession on the second day of the convention, a tradition dating back to the early 1920s. The parade is an opportunity for Lions to display their enthusiasm for the association and their national heritage. Many Lions don traditional dress, colors or costumes representing their native lands for the march. They carry their countries' flags with pride and sometimes sing and dance along the route as well.

Lions-sponsored bands, floats and officers also join in the fun. Throughout the decades, officers have led the way in everything from horse-drawn carriages to floats. Past International President Earle W. Hodges, who served from 1930 to 1931, led the 1931 convention delegates and marching bands down the streets of Toronto in a purple and gold Studebaker car, courtesy of the Windsor Lions Club of Ontario, Canada, the first Lions club established outside of the United States.

For Lions, the parade celebrates the bonds of friendship and displays the great reach of Lions' service around the world. Anne Ford, a Lion from Trinidad, calls the parade her best memory from the 2014 Lions Clubs International Convention in Toronto. "It was nice to see all the traditional costumes of Lions from all the different countries," she says. "We all gathered in one location and recognized that no matter what color, creed or race, we are all here to serve."

But as always, Lions like to insert a little bit of fun and friendly competition wherever possible. Delegations often participate in contests to win cash prizes for the best floats, bands, uniformed marching delegations and precision demonstration units.

Lions from Egypt march at the 98th International Convention in Honolulu in 2015



The parade is often the largest procession many host cities have seen in years, and with thousands of participants, it is truly spectacular to behold. Fellow Lions, convention guests and residents line the streets to exchange greetings and cheer on the delegates.

At the 1924 Lions Clubs International Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, a sense of excitement filled the air as some 2,500 Lions from across the United States and Canada took part in the celebratory procession. The event became even livelier when Lions from Colorado began a snowball fight at the end of the parade. The Colorado delegates had brought in loads of snow by railway car from the mountains back home and couldn't resist sharing a mid-summer surprise—a first for Omaha in June.

Parades grew larger over the years as clubs formed across the globe. Marching bands became a staple and floats a common sight, with usually at least one float taking the shape of a lion. Today, there are so many participants and performances, the procession lasts several hours.

The parade has been and remains a highlight of the convention each year, placing the exuberant camaraderie and global spirit of Lions on display for all to see.

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



Wrong Way

Harsh winter weather damaged the sign on the road leading to the clubhouse of the Marystown Lions in Newfoundland, Canada, and the Department of Transportation replaced it. Members were surprised to see the new sign. "We did get a chuckle about it at our regular meeting," says Jim Knight, one of 41 members of the club in the small town of 5,500. A correct sign was slated to be installed.



SHOW YOUR LIONS CENTENNIAL PRIDE

We have many different items for you to choose from to celebrate our centennial. Choose from limited edition apparel, pins, scarves and more at our online store.

LCIstore.org



Celebrate 100 years of humanitarian service

by purchasing a Lions Clubs Centennial Commemorative Coin.

This exquisitely crafted, limited-edition, silver dollar coin is produced by the United States Mint and features our founder Melvin Jones.

This keepsake coin is the perfect way to honor our rich history and support the life-changing work of Lions around the world. For each coin sold, US\$10 is authorized to be paid to Lions Clubs International Foundation to improve the lives of even more people in need.

The Centennial Coins will only be minted during 2017 and supplies are limited. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of Lions history.



On Sale Now!
US\$52.95

Get a special introductory price of **US\$47.95** only through the U.S. Mint! Offer expires 3:00 pm EST on February 21, 2017

Order your Centennial Coin today!

lionsclubs.org/coin