

JULY/AUGUST 2017

# LION

**OUR SERVICE  
BLOOMS IN OUR  
SECOND CENTURY**

**OUR 101st PRESIDENT:  
DR. NARESH AGGARWAL  
OF INDIA AND HIS WIFE,  
NAVITA**



**Lions Clubs International**

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# JULY//AUGUST 2017

Volume 100 Number 1



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101st International Convention  
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA  
June 29-July 3



## WE SERVE

### MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

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## UPGRADING OUR SERVICE TO YOU—AS A LION

### → NAMASTE!



The divine in me salutes the divine in you. Welcome to our new century. My goal over the next 12 months is very simple—

to reach a new level of service to Lions and from Lions. Before I ask you to reach a new level of service, Lionism will reach a new level of service to you.

So how can I serve our 1.4 million Lions? I cannot give everyone senior positions. I cannot give you money. I cannot meet all of you. However, I plan to touch all of your lives with the power to serve.

So let's examine every stage of one's Lionistic career and how I can help. The first stage is becoming a new member. When I became a new member 43 years ago, I suddenly felt as if I had left my hometown and become a man of the world. This year, I want every member to download our new mobile app. This will connect all our members on one global platform.

The next stage is beginning to serve. As a member of the Batala Smile Lions Club in Punjab, India, I was proud of how the community began to respect me. This respect depended on the number of people I served and how many people were aware of this service. We now have a new Global Service Team. Your District GST leader will identify projects that serve the maximum number of people per dollar and per hour. They will also train Lions on how to convert a normal project into a Legacy Project via Lions branding and public relations.

The third stage is aspiring for leadership. While I enjoyed rising up the Lions' ladder, I sometimes wished that our leaders focused more on work than on long speeches. A new awards system will incentivize the efforts of Lion leaders in the right direction. We plan to reward retention of members, hence keeping the focus on you—our existing members. New awards will also be given for involving over half the club in service and for creating the most Legacy projects.

As a global leader of Lionism, I want to keep every Lion connected to Lionism. Our new Welcome Home program is an international online club for members unable to attend club meetings. Meetings and fee payments are conducted entirely online.

The last stage is now. I want to give every Lion the same goal for the next 12 months. My dream is that every Lion will serve 10 people each month. If this happens, we will serve 170 million people this year—a big increase from our current level of 100 million and a big step toward our goal of serving 200 million annually by 2020. This is the focus of all my meetings around the world.

All the best. See you as I travel around the world.

**DR. NARESH AGGARWAL**  
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

# AN ENSEMBLE DEAR TO LIONS





## // THE BIG PICTURE

**Spectators roared with approval** when the performers in the Lions World Song Festival for the Blind sang together in Krakow, Poland, in 2013. During the competition, won by a Lithuanian, 26 singers from 10 nations including the United States performed original songs. Contestants are sponsored by clubs near their homes. The contest this year is November 2-4. For information, visit <http://lionsfestival.org/en/>. See the story on page 13.



Watch a moving video of the festival.



# MIRROR IMAGE



**Kylie O'Sullivan, 6**, tries on eyeglasses at the eye clinic of the Slater-Marietta Lions Club in Slater, South Carolina. *See the story on page 14.* // PHOTO BY JASON MICZEK/AP







## Thai Girl Wins Peace Poster Contest



Lakkana Meepara of Thailand and her peace poster.

### A 7th-grader in Thailand, Lakkana Meepara

drew her peace poster after reflecting on the troubles she saw on TV and online. “I saw on the news a world of chaos. I want everybody to build peace together,” she says. A member of her school’s art club, Lakkana, 13, was named the grand prize winner of the 2016-17 Lions International Peace Poster Contest. The contest’s theme was “A Celebration of Peace.”

Lakkana says her poster portrays “every human being on the planet happy and congratulated [sic] on peace together. Because of that, we make the world peaceful, pleasant, bright and beautiful.” Lakkana will be honored in June at the 100th International Convention in Chicago. For nearly 30 years, millions of children from nearly 100 countries have participated in the contest, sponsored by Lions clubs at schools and youth groups. For more details, visit [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org).

The first peace poster winner in 1989 experienced war directly (June 1989 LION).

## MELVIN JONES’ STATUE IS DEDICATED

International President Chancellor Bob Corlew unveiled a new life-size statue of founder Melvin Jones on the front lawn of Lion’s headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, in May. “Until today, there was no tribute or recognition of our founder outside of headquarters,” Corlew told executive officers and staff of Lions Clubs International. Corlew also dedicated an imposing white lion statue, a gift of South Dakota Lions. Other ceremonies on the same day included the burial of a time capsule, to be opened in 2117, and the reburial of a time capsule from 1971 that was surprisingly uncovered during construction at headquarters. The 2117 time capsule included the centennial issue of the LION, the commemorative coin, a listing of members worldwide, a CD with a centennial video, a photo of the building, a copy of Corlew’s farewell speech for the 2017 convention and a Lion vest and pen.

Also appreciated during the ceremony were the eight centennial torches representing Lions’ seven constitutional areas and Africa, a restored, three-foot-wide fiberglass globe donated to headquarters by New York Lions in 1972 and the Japanese Garden, begun in 1972 and nurtured by District 330 B Lions in Japan.



Dedicating the Melvin Jones statue were the 2016-17 executive officers: (from left) First Vice President Naresh Aggarwal of India, Immediate Past International President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan, President Chancellor Bob Corlew of the United States, Second Vice President Gudrun Yngvadottir of Iceland and Third Vice President Jung-Yul Choi of Korea.

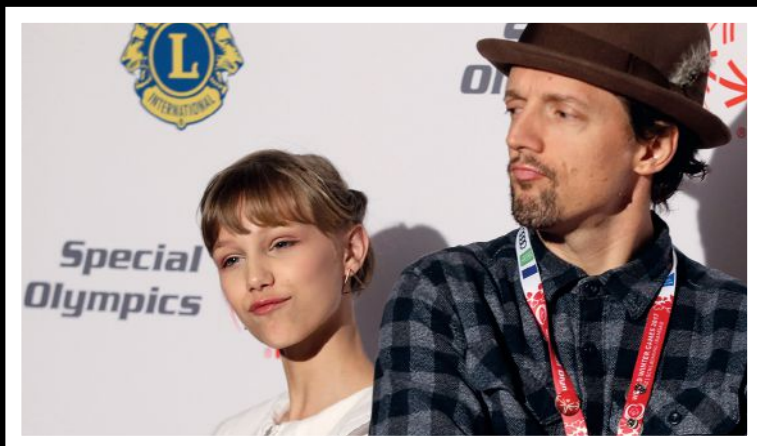


## LIONS JOIN WEEK OF SERVICE

Many hands mean more service: Lions Clubs International (LCI) teamed up with more than a dozen other well-known service groups for the International Week of Service March 25 to 31.

Lions clubs invited members of Rotary, Kiwanis, Optimists clubs and others to take part in a previously scheduled service project (or vice versa). Statistics on completed projects were not compiled, but clubs in at least 21 nations participated. Fifty-two percent of all inquiries about the program were from Lions or Rotary clubs. LCI's five Facebook posts about the service week reached an average of 14,300 people.

## Lions Further Support Special Olympics



Pop stars Jason Mraz and Grace VanderWaal have some fun at a photo session at the celebration of Lions' centennial at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

The recent Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria featured the usual heartwarming scenes of athletes skiing, skating and joyously celebrating—even if they didn't win. But something different—and reason to cheer as well—was the celebration at the Games of the centennial of Lions Clubs International (LCI), a longtime supporter of Special Olympics. Pop stars Jason Mraz and Grace VanderWaal performed, and LCI announced a \$1 million additional commitment to Special Olympics. The LCIF/Aruna Abhey Oswal Trust will support Special Olympics activities in India and other nations.

LCIF has awarded more than US\$21 million to support Special Olympics since 2000. The grants support vision screenings, hearing exams, family health forums and inclusive sports for Special Olympics athletes. Lions have made possible the screening of more than 370,000 athletes and free eyewear for 162,000 athletes. More than 20,000 Lions have volunteered in more than 90 nations through the partnership.

Watch a video of the performance by Mraz and VanderWaal.



Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau

Las Vegas will welcome Lions worldwide June 29-July 3 for the 101st International Convention.

## CITIES SELECTED FOR CONVENTION

**New Delhi, India**, will host the 2022 International Convention, **Boston**, the 2023 convention and **Melbourne, Australia**, the 2024 convention.

The board of directors chose the cities in the spring. Next year Lions will gather in **Las Vegas, Nevada**, followed by **Milan, Italy**, in 2019, **Singapore** in 2020 and **Montreal** in 2021.

This will be the first international convention in India, home to 241,000 Lions.

Boston hosted the convention in 2006, and Melbourne has not hosted a convention, though Sydney had one in 2010 and Brisbane in 1991. It will be the first time for Milan and Singapore; Montreal hosted in 1996 and 1979.

## OVERHEARD

**“Well, I guess that just has to be another lesson in life.”**

—**DICK SCHINDEL** of the Aurora Lions Club in Illinois after some of the 40 children at the club's fishing clinic came up empty. From the Aurora Beacon News.

**“They put a little zip in the Fourth of July.”**

—**MIKE MORTENSSON**, vice president of the Sebastopol Gravenstein Lions Club in California about the items for sale at the club's fireworks stand. From the Petaluma Argus Courier.

**“The only thing worthwhile on this earth anymore is to help somebody. You can be awful tired when you get home, but if what you've done that day is worthwhile it's because you helped somebody. That's what life is all about anyhow.”**

—**RON HANSON** of the Muskegon North Side Lions Club in Michigan on why he is a Lion.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**10**

Hooks on the fully-equipped, honor-system life jacket loaner station added to Lions Levee Park in the town of St. Paul Park, Minnesota, thanks to St. Paul Park Newport Lions.

**60+**

Vendors that took part in the 43rd Annual Manchester Lions Club Home and Garden Show in Maine.



**300**

Gallons of sap collected each day on average from trees on their New York farm by the Hass family, much of which they donate to the Lansing Lions for their two pancake breakfasts.



**10**

Weeks of competition of the Beanbag League organized by Lonsdale Lions in Minnesota.

**24**

Organizations that competed with handcrafted wooden lions in the Lions Race, combining elements of a board game with horse race betting and held by Lake Orion Lions in Michigan.

**150**

Tractors that took part in the annual Edgar Lions Club Antique Tractor Pull in Nebraska.



## 91 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

➡ **AUGUST 1926**

Lion Richard Byrd, a U.S. naval officer, flew over the North Pole—never done before—and dropped the flags of the United States and Lions International. Byrd and fellow pilot Floyd Bennett, who took off from Norway and covered the 1,545-mile trip in less than 16 hours, were celebrated as national heroes.

Read a congratulatory letter from U.S. President Calvin Coolidge to Byrd.





# WE SERVE

1.4 million members serve in 210 countries and geographic areas around the globe. You're one of them. Show off your we serve pride with one of our many products available online. [LCIstore.org](http://LCIstore.org)

## Supporting Days for Girls

The Mayne Island Lions in British Columbia, Canada, have partnered with the local quilters' guild, Mayne Island Quilters, to support a project that provides freedom and education, impacting the lives of young women in Africa, South America and India.

They hope other Lions clubs will do the same in their communities.

Lions on Mayne Island are financially assisting the volunteer quilters in their "Days for Girls" initiative. Days for Girls is a global grass-roots network of thousands of volunteers who sew sustainable sanitary kits for distribution to girls in these countries where many school days are lost to girls who, because of a lack of sanitary supplies, are forced to remain at home during their monthly menstrual cycle.

In Kenya, a girl can lose 36 percent of her school days because of this, says Allen Slade, first vice president.

The club's financial support helps purchase materials and equipment to allow the Mayne Island Quilters to host monthly sewing sessions and produce a steady supply of kits to be sent to these countries. Each kit requires about six hours of volunteer time and contains washable pads, a washcloth, underwear, soap and other essentials in a colorful drawstring bag. In Mayne Island, the volunteer fire department has also donated workspace so many volunteers can work together at one time.

Since 2008, Days for Girls has supplied more than 640,000 kits to young women in more than 100 countries, offering health education and support as well.

"It is our goal to build on our partnership with the Mayne Island Quilters and facilitate similar connections by making presentations to Lions and quilters clubs within our district of 58 clubs," says Slade.



A Jamaican schoolgirl carries her bag from Days for Girls, made with the support of Lions.

"Imagine the impact if similar collaborative initiatives between Lions clubs and quilters guilds were established around the world."

## Growing an Environmental Partnership

The Sacramento Maharlika Lions set out to plant 100 native oak trees at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in southern California to commemorate Lions' centennial.

But like any good tree project, it grew. When all was said and done the



Multiple District 4 Past Council Chair Derek Ledda, a Maharlika Lion, plants a tree in southern California with the help of a community volunteer.

Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Tree Foundation

Maharlika Lions were joined by Lions from seven other clubs in District 4 C5, as well as two civic organizations. Instead of 100, 300 trees were planted.

Maharlika President Perry Diaz, his wife, Dolores, the club's secretary and first vice president; and District Governor Kumar Kalagara spearheaded the project.

In 2012, District 4 C5 received the Sacramento Tree Foundation's Austin B. Carrol Tree Hero Award for their commitment to tree planting, care and stewardship efforts.

"So," says Dolores, "we thought, 'let's rekindle the relationship.'"

They announced their plans to the other clubs in the district, and seven clubs chose to join in. Now efforts are under way to make this a district project that will continue as the trees grow.

"We want to maintain the trees," Perry Diaz says. "We could have also planted trees in a city park, but it's not as

exciting as planting those little trees and seeing them grow over the years, and nurturing them along."

The volunteers had to dig a large hole for each tree, plant the acorn, mulch it and put a tree tube over it to protect it. "About 60 people came to help, and it took us about three hours," he remembers.

Stone Lakes Refuge is more than 17,000 acres of reclaimed agricultural land, once home to thousands of species of native wildlife. Although the foundation has planted thousands of trees there, Perry Diaz says there's plenty room for more. And Jason Sullivan-Halpern, the foundation's volunteer specialist, agrees, adding that the experience of working with the Lions was "inspirational."

The Maharlika Lions pledged to return and help maintain the Lions Centennial Grove, saying this was not the end of the project but "the start of a lasting environmental partnership."



## EUROPE

## Patrons of the Arts

European Lions have a long history of promoting and supporting the arts. That tradition is very much alive today. Austrian Lions sponsor the Lions Music Awards for musicians younger than 24. After securing the sponsorship of a local club, the musician performs a mandatory piece and two other songs before a panel of three judges. The first-prize winner receives 1,000 euros (US\$1,068), performs at the multiple district convention and competes in the musical competition at the Europa Forum.

Polish Lions take a different approach: the four clubs in Krakow sponsor a singing contest for the blind. In its two years the Lions World Song Festival for the Blind—Sounds from the Heart has attracted more than 50 vocalists from 13 nations. Sponsored by clubs near their homes, the contestants perform songs written by them

or someone else specifically for the festival. All genres of music are allowed. While in Krakow, performers visit historical sites such as Schindler's Factory and enjoy cultural activities such as making pierogis. The contest this year is Nov. 2-4.

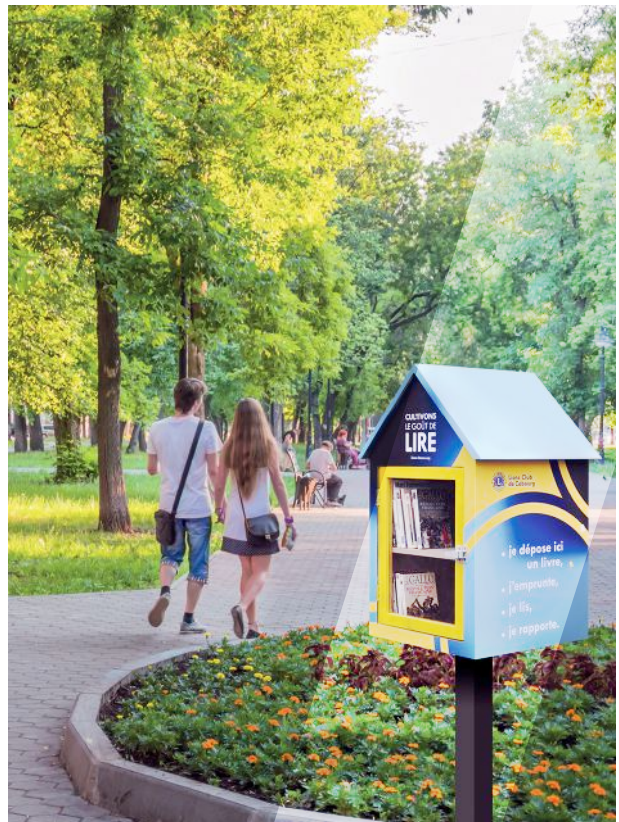
Lions in France established an Arts and Culture Committee in the 1970s, and a few years later a Lions club in France was believed to be the first in the world dedicated to promoting cultural activities. French Lions support literature, music and painting. "Are culture and Lionism not destined to evolve together?" the French LION recently asked. "As a French specialty, culture is really simply another way of communicating or broadening the audience or enforcing the range of motivations liable to attract new members. 'Motivation through pleasure seeking' could be the definition of Lions' cultural action."



A performer competes in the Lions Music Awards in Austria.



Accompanied by the city orchestra, a blind singer performs in the Lions World Song Festival for the Blind in Krakow, Poland.



A "little free library" is one example of how Lions in France support the arts.



# SCREEN GEM

**A CLUB'S EYE CLINIC**, FORTUITOUSLY ESTABLISHED AT ITS CLUBHOUSE, **RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS** FROM ITS SMALL-TOWN PATRONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

// BY CRAIG BRANDHORST

A child's eyes are checked at the Slater-Marietta Lions Club in South Carolina.  
Photos by Jason E. Miczek/AP Images



Ask David Holmes whose idea it was to start an eye clinic right inside their clubhouse, and he'll credit his wife, Karen. Ask Karen, and she'll give the credit right back to David. Ask any of the other members of the Slater-Marietta Lions Club, and they'll point to both—and then point to a dozen other volunteers.

But no one points to themselves. In Slater-Marietta—two adjoining villages with a combined population of fewer than 2,000 in rural Greenville County,

South Carolina—that's just not how things are done. Folks here are more concerned about fellowship, modesty and improving their community from the inside out.

They're also concerned about the economy, which has suffered with the demise of the textile industry, and about their neighbors, who have felt that demise in the pocketbook.

Unlike other mill communities in northwest South Carolina, Slater never lost its mill. But the fiberglass manufacturing plant that once employed upward of 1,500 people saw its workforce dwindle to just 103 by 2016. The plant, which nearly closed altogether last fall, was recently purchased by a company in North Carolina that will employ just 46.

"This is a depressed area," says David, the club's secretary-treasurer for the past three years. "Incomes aren't that great overall. Our schools get federal

and state assistance for that reason. We're a small club in a small community, and we don't have a lot of deep pockets."

Vision screenings held by the club were not well attended. Even personal outreach fell short. Many residents don't even have adequate transportation.

"We'd make them appointments in Traveler's Rest [a town], which is just six miles up the road, but they

The value of the donated equipment was \$15,000.

Members pitched in to wall off the back corner of the clubhouse, and Tucker and Voss set up the equipment. Later, to purchase a newer slit lamp and tonometer, they organized fundraisers like a rodeo and the Slater-Marietta Moon Boom fireworks display, which recognizes Slater Mill's contribution to the Space Race (materials

manufactured in the plant were incorporated into spacesuits for the Apollo 11 moon mission).

When the club held their first clinic, two years later, they relied exclusively on word of mouth. Churches referred congregants. Schools referred students. Slater Drug referred customers. Now, the clinics help as many as 20 people



Sarah Reyes, 38, of Marietta, is examined by Chip Robertson, an optician, at the Slater Marietta Lions Club.

wouldn't have a ride there," says Karen, a past president who presides over each clinic. "That, or they just wouldn't go that far. So eventually we started thinking, 'Well, why don't we just do it right here?'"

Fortuitously, Karen heard about Bud Antley, an optometrist who owned some surplus equipment down in Columbia. The Slater-Marietta Lions Club had two optometrists as members—Dr. Tom Tucker and Dr. John Voss—so why not see if Antley could help them out?

"We called Dr. Antley and said, 'Can we come get some of that stuff?' and he said, 'Sure!'" Tucker explains. "So we drove down, opened his garage and pieced together what we needed."

Thanks to Antley, the club was in business. From him they received a slit lamp biomicroscope, a phoropter, a tonometer, a chair and even eye charts.

per quarterly session.

"They all know what we do. We don't advertise or put up a sign," David explains as the first patient walks through the door on a cool Saturday morning not long ago. "If people need help and somebody around here knows it, they'll find out."

Chartered in 1951, the Slater-Marietta Lions Club has 28 members. A printer, David Holmes, 56, joined in 2004 after he printed a program for the club and members invited him to an event. Karen, 56, works at a pharmacy and joined two years later. She sees her membership as "extension of my faith and commitment to helping others."

## 'Like from a Movie'

Sarah Reyes moved to Marietta from New Jersey in 2014 to help care for a sick grandfather. After he passed, she stayed on, having fallen in love with

the area, which she fondly describes as “nice and quiet, peaceful.”

And it is. Country roads wend and wind through the surrounding foothills toward the Smoky Mountains in the north, and going south toward Greenville, the roads don’t get congested until you’re past the slightly larger town of Traveler’s Rest, six miles away.

“It’s not like being in the city where it’s all loud and crowded,” says Reyes, 38. “This is a community. You always find good people here.”

But that doesn’t mean life has been easy for the mother of five. Her oldest son recently moved to Puerto Rico to stay with her brother, but her other four children, who range in age from five to 14, still live under her roof, and finding steady employment has been

Reyes thinks about her dream business all the time and even has a name in mind—Zoe-Cloe Treats, in honor of two pets who died. Unfortunately, degenerating eyesight has made furthering her education difficult. She has worn glasses since she was 10, but for the past seven years she’s had to get by on a pair of inexpensive readers from a drugstore.

And they’re not doing the trick. As she explains to Tucker, she failed her last GED prep test because she couldn’t see the board. At home, she has trouble reading recipes for her dog treats. Sewing has become nearly impossible.

“I actually stopped doing needle-work,” she says. “I like to knit, and I like to crochet. But when you can’t see what you’re doing you’re constantly poking yourself. And then the stitches

test. “When you’re trying to keep everyone in your house happy, you kind of slack off on yourself. So this really worked for me. They’re should be more people like the Lions club. They’re just awesome.”

## Shocker in Slater!

As Reyes is leaving, accompanied by the volunteer who will drive her home, Lion Theresa Dewease is helping Gene Tolley fill out paperwork. A retired car salesman, Tolley learned he needed a new prescription when he tried to renew his driver’s license. He was referred to the Lions by a friend in Marietta.

“I want to say it’s been seven or eight years since my last pair. I kept them longer than I ever kept them,” he says. “The left eye’s always been bad, but

**“I’d always seen this building. But I didn’t know what went on in here or what they did, and now, here I am. It’s a shocker!”**

difficult. Her husband receives disability through the federal Supplemental Security Income program.

“It’s hard,” she says. “\$735 a month does not go far when you have rent, lights, water. And I got my children, plus four dogs and two cats.”

And those dogs and cats are important. That’s not just because Reyes gets such delight from them, though judging by the way her eyes light up when she talks about them, she clearly does. Her pets are also her motivation as she works toward her GED through the Center for Working Families program at Foothills Family Resources in Slater.

“It’s a dream of mine to start a business making pet treats—chicken jerky, doggie birthday cakes, doggie treats. I make everything all natural. If I wouldn’t eat it, I won’t feed it,” she says. “I also sew clothes for dogs. They look so cute.”

are small. I’m constantly having to undo my work, so I just put it to the side for now.”

But not for long. In a scene that Reyes will giddily describe afterward as “something like from in a movie,” Tucker adjusts the strength of her prescription, and she audibly gasps. Before he can even ask her to read the eye chart, she is shouting loud enough to be heard in the next room—“Oh, my gosh, I can see!”

Tucker laughs with her and writes a prescription for bifocals. He sends her to Chip Robertson, a volunteer lens maker who helps her try on frames. As she wonders aloud which ones she can choose—“Can I still get pretty ones with bifocals?”—Robertson assures she can. She settles on the purple ones, her favorite color.

“This is a huge godsend,” she says, still batting her eyes from the drops Tucker put in before her glaucoma

they’re both just getting weaker and weaker.”

Like Reyes, he put off getting a new prescription because finances are tight, and not just because he’s on a fixed income. Three years ago, he fell off a ladder while working on his daughter’s house and broke 10 ribs. Despite not having health insurance, he managed to pay off those bills, but he’s since had two strokes and more recently had open heart surgery.

Tolley grew up nearby. “My mother was from Slater,” he says, “so I used to take her to work and I’d drive by this place probably five days a week.” But until his recent vision troubles, he really didn’t know what the club was all about.

“I’d seen the Lions club on TV or something maybe, and I’d always seen this building. But I didn’t know what went on in here or what they did,” he says with a quiet chuckle.



"And now, here I am. It's a shocker!"

Asked what he means, he nods at the dozen or so volunteers and patients chatting at the check-in table, around the fitting station in the doorway to the exam room.

"All this," he says. "I had no idea this was even going on. I thought there'd be two people in here, and that'd be it. But this is amazing. These people are amazing."

## A Family Affair

Five of the people in the room as Tolley is wrapping up his visit hail from the same family. There's long-time Lion Joe Dill; Joe's son, Joel Dill; daughter Kim Wald; Kim's husband, Charlie Wald; and, most importantly, Joe's great-granddaughter, Kylii O'Sullivan. A first-grader, Kylii's only real concern this morning is making sure she gets pink frames.

Today is Kylii's first-ever eye exam, and three generations are along for the ride—but it's no ordinary checkup.

"We noticed her squinting when she was reading and watching TV, and then we had a note from school," says Kim, Kylii's grandmother. To demonstrate how bad her vision is, Kylii's grandfather, Charlie, holds his hand

near his own face. Gesturing, he says, "Cell phones are like this. Way up close."

Turns out it's a good thing they brought in their granddaughter. Kylii's not just myopic but amblyopic, Tucker explains. In Kylii's case, he doesn't think she needs to wear a patch to correct the lazy eye, but a strong prescription is in order.

"If she were 15 it would be different; it might not come back," Tucker tells Kylii's family. "At her age, if she wears her glasses, I'm not too worried about it. But I want her to wear her glasses all the time for six months."

Then Tucker leans down to talk to Kylii, eye to eye. "When you sleep, you can take 'em off. When you take a bath, you can take 'em off. Otherwise," he tells her, "I want you to wear your glasses all the time, OK? OK. Good girl."

Kylii is excited enough by the prospect of pink frames, that it doesn't seem like wearing them will be an issue. She even says the checkup was fun. Still, Tucker does advise her grandparents to keep an eye on his newest patient. "It's such a strong prescription, it may make her dizzy some for a couple weeks," he says. If she complains or seems disoriented, they should bring her to his office in Greenville.

Kylii O'Sullivan, 6, gets an eye exam at the clinic.





(Top photo) The Lions offer a variety of frames.

(Bottom photo) The members don't shy away from identifying themselves to patients.

## Hard Work, Good Fortune

“You have to understand, her family is in a rough place,” says Joe Dill. “There are some financial hardships, definitely.”

But Dill didn't just come because of his great-granddaughter. In the three years since his club started offering quarterly clinics he's been to all but a couple. He really enjoys volunteering at the clinic.

“It's really something else to see all these people come in,” he says. “We've found people with cataracts who didn't even know they had the cataract, and

we've found other problems. These people who donate their time—you just can't say enough about them.”

Dill praises Tucker and Voss, specifically. He brings up the fundraisers and hard work. He also brings up good fortune.

“It's unreal,” he says. “When we started this thing, Karen found this doctor online that was wanting to give this stuff to someone. We thought, ‘Well, that's gonna be a job.’ But it just took care of itself. We call it a God thing.”

To underscore his point, he gestures at Dewease helping another patient fill

out a form, then over to Robertson tightening another pair of frames, then toward Tucker, outside the exam room.

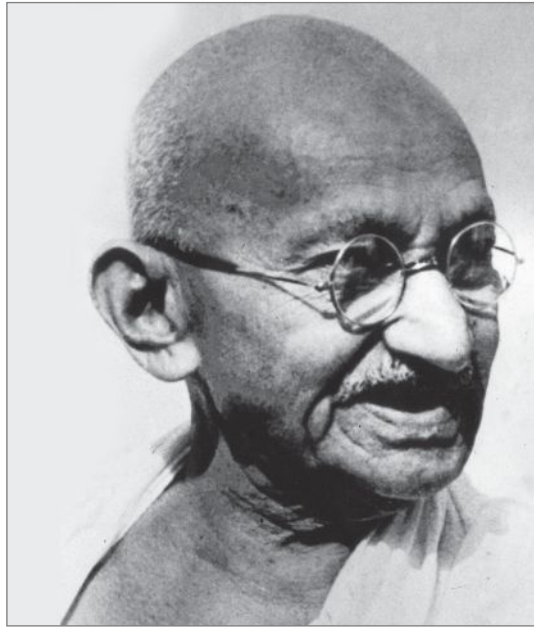
“I mean, this is almost the whole process right here in the Lions club, and you get the same exact treatment you'd get if you went to the doctor's office,” Dill says. “But this way is a lot better because we get to meet the people. We get to talk to the people. We're able to let them know we're here to help.”





**WE**   
**SERVE**

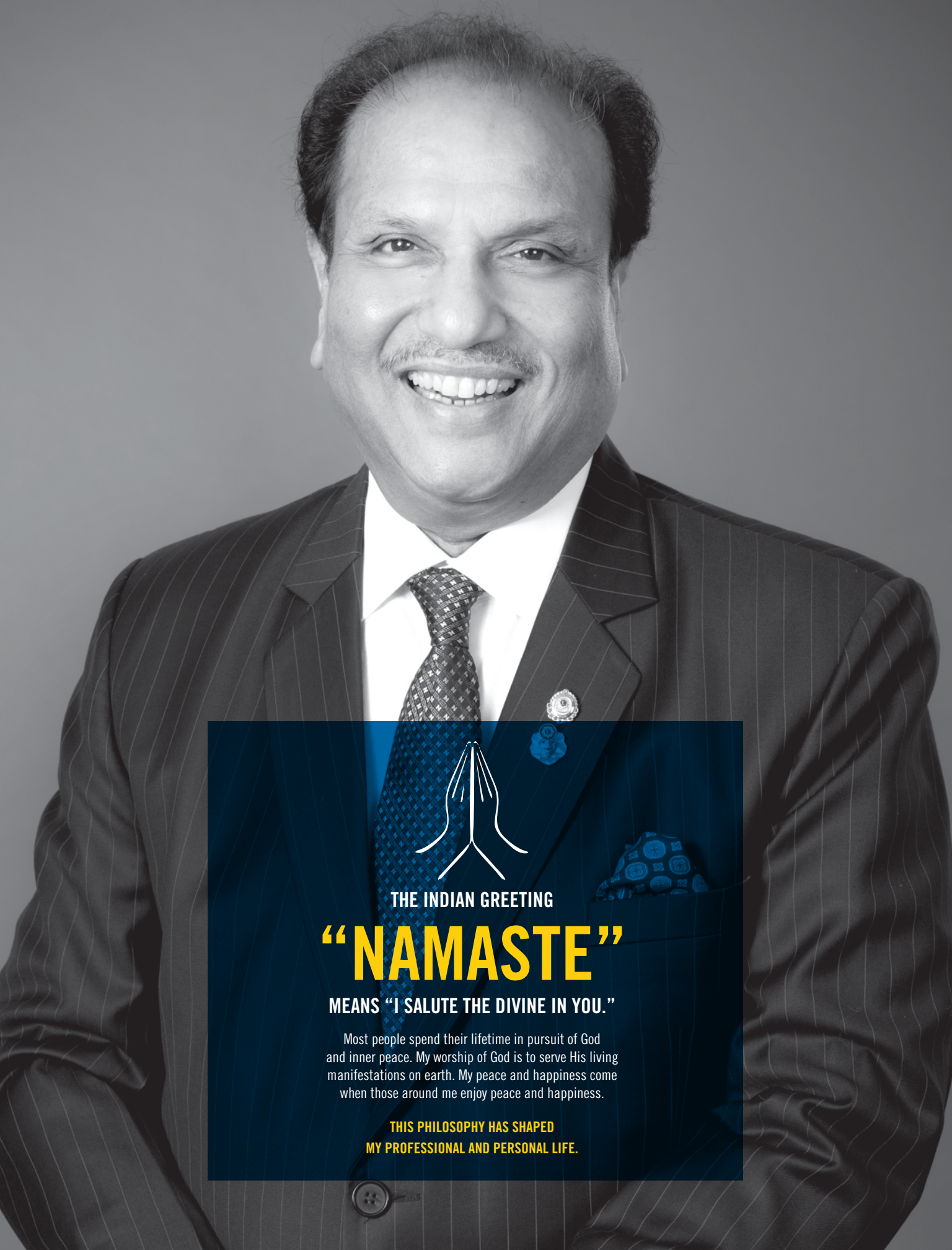
**PRESIDENT DR. NARESH AGGARWAL, 2017-2018**



“ I finally found myself  
- when I lost myself -  
in the service of others. ”

- Mahatma Gandhi





THE INDIAN GREETING

**“NAMASTE”**

MEANS “I SALUTE THE DIVINE IN YOU.”

Most people spend their lifetime in pursuit of God and inner peace. My worship of God is to serve His living manifestations on earth. My peace and happiness come when those around me enjoy peace and happiness.

**THIS PHILOSOPHY HAS SHAPED  
MY PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE.**





# WE SERVE.





I grew up in a town called Batala, in Punjab - a state in the northwest of India. Like many young children, I dreamed of conquering the world. However, the means to this end were more important to me. I wanted to lead through kindness.

I dreamed of changing not just Batala, but the entire world. In 1974, when I first stood in the presence of Lions, I knew that I had aligned myself with an organization that could actually help me achieve my dream.

We Lions are one with the people of the world. In Sanskrit, it is called **“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,”** or **“World is my Family.”**

The key to making the world one family, or one home, rests within us - the 1.4 million Lions who dedicate themselves to the needs of others. If each Lion serves at least 10 people

per month, we will easily achieve our goal of serving 200 million people each year-tripling our current service output.

Service to others defines who we are. It is our very reason to exist as a global organization. Our motto puts it in terms others can easily understand - “We Serve.” As I prepared for my year as your international president, those words kept coming back to me. That’s why I am proud to have “We Serve” represent my theme. Our motto is timeless. It is as relevant today as it was in 1917, and it will inspire us into our next century of service.

At the 2015 International Convention in Honolulu, I said, “Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.” Our most auspicious time-the new century-has come.

“Let us reach out to others and impart our ideals-that the world is one family and no child can go to sleep in fear of what tomorrow will bring.”

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## THE POWER OF ACTION

# LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER

Many cities grow and prosper along the banks of a river. In India, we worship our longest river – the Ganga, or Ganges. We call it “Ganga Maa,” meaning “Ganges Mother,” similar to how Americans use the term “Mother Nature.”

Why is the Ganges our mother, or object of worship? Because it gives life. It feeds plants. Plants feed humans and animals. It enables trade and travel. It refreshes itself and the landscape continuously. In India, hundreds of millions of people live by the blessings of the Ganga.

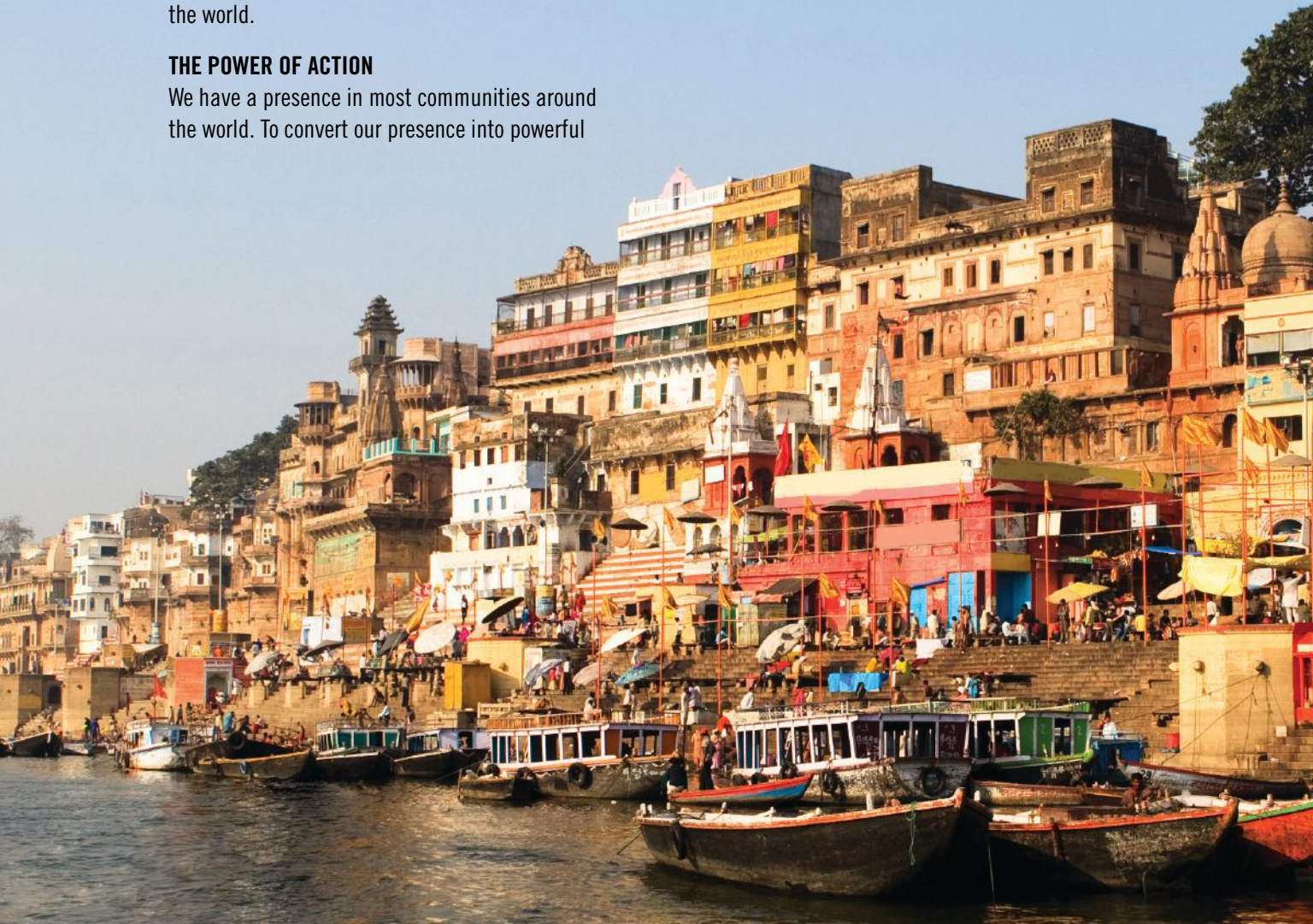
A Lions club is very similar. Over the last 100 years, “our river” has formed tributaries in 47,000+ communities (clubs). Now we must constantly refresh our clubs with new ideas and projects and make our river meander through every community in the world.

### THE POWER OF ACTION

We have a presence in most communities around the world. To convert our presence into powerful

service, we must infuse the power of action into each member.

The key to action is to engage each and every member both socially and professionally. It is only when we serve our members first that we can serve the community. A Lion leader has two hands—one to serve the community and one to serve Lion members. Let us choose projects that maximize the value of each expenditure, member and hour so that we may serve as many urgent needs as possible.





## **MORE MEMBERS EQUAL MORE SERVICE**

A Lions club brings people together. When people come together, many good things are possible. Friends are made, leaders are chosen, plans are drawn and communities become better. But it all comes down to one thing—service. Our single-minded purpose is and has always been to provide service to those in need.

From 1917 through 1987, we surged to 1.4 million members. That equates to 54 new members per day – a phenomenal rate of growth and a testament to the power of Lionism. We have continued our growth, albeit at a slower rate, over the past 30 years, and we have spread to new countries. Still more can be done.

## **NEW MEMBERS: WOMEN AND YOUTH**

Half the world's population is women, and over half the world is under 30 years of age. Yet, most of our members are men over the age of 30.

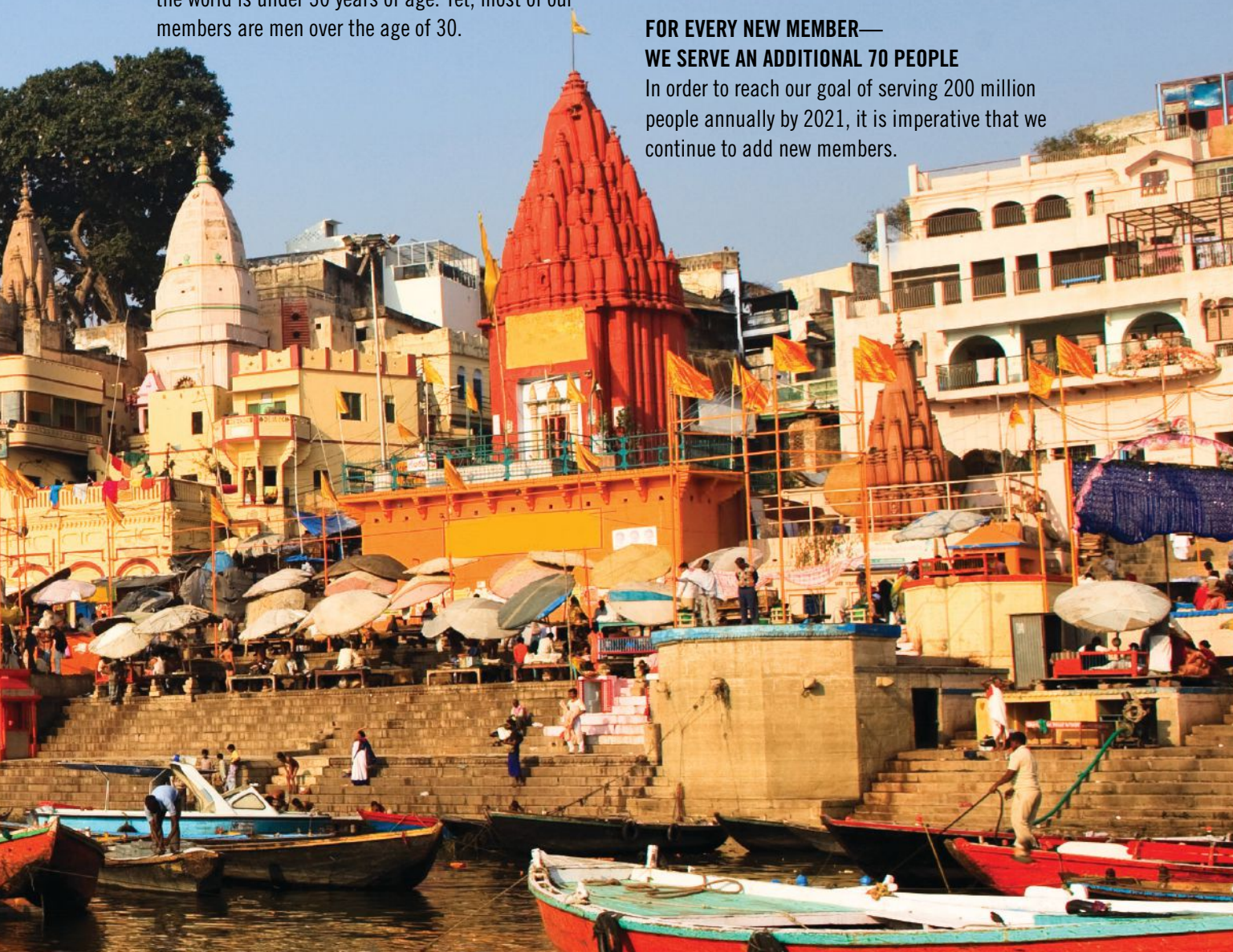
Narrowing this gap is the key to expanding our association, enabling us to serve more people in need.

Although women comprise the fastest growing segment of our membership growth, we still have only 27 percent women members, despite opening our doors to women more than 30 years ago. We also have too few young members and not enough members in continents with rich histories like Africa, South America and Europe. We must find solutions to each of these challenges.

We must continue to provide leadership opportunities for women and ensure our projects meet their expectations and priorities. We must reach young members by understanding what motivates them to serve and let them know we can help them realize their goal of making the world a better place.

## **FOR EVERY NEW MEMBER— WE SERVE AN ADDITIONAL 70 PEOPLE**

In order to reach our goal of serving 200 million people annually by 2021, it is imperative that we continue to add new members.



# THE POWER OF WE

100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

## THE POWER OF WE

We stand together to serve those in need.

1.4 M members  
x \$2 per week

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\$145 M / yr

1.4 M members  
x 1 HR of service per week

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73 M HRS of service / yr



## THE POWER OF ACTION

We must be the change we wish to see in the world.

## THE POWER OF SERVICE

As more of us come together, the world's problems become smaller.

40% of the global population lives in poverty. We can change this.



# MORE MEMBERS = MORE SERVICE

Throughout our first century, our membership grew to its current level of 1.4 million. I bow my head to our many leaders who worked hard to spread our message from one club in Chicago to 47,000+ clubs in more than 200 countries or geographic areas.

## SO WHAT CAN 1.4 MILLION LIONS DO?

If each of us puts \$10 more in our projects per month, that results in US\$170 million more each year. If each of us serves for 1 more hour per week, that gives us 73 million more hours of service each year.

## WHAT IS NEEDED IS A CHANGE OF HEART.

Every day, innovations in technology, medicine, finance and other fields are unveiled that make our lives easier. Yet, 795 million people (11 percent of the world's population) live in hunger.

Food for a hungry person in a low-income country is just US\$160 per year. This amount (795 million people x US\$160) can be met by the top 1 billion people in the world alone if they give just \$0.35 per day. That is the power of we.

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**Solving our world's greatest problems is within reach if people work together for the common good.**

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## MY FOCUS THIS YEAR IS TO EMBRACE OUR ASSOCIATION'S MOTTO "WE SERVE."

It is a powerful expression. "We" symbolizes the power of our 1.4 million members, and "Serve" expresses our clear, decisive action to convert every dollar into service for the most urgent needs around the world.

## THE POWER OF WE

The "Power of We" underscores that my power comes from you, and your power comes from me.

I cannot lift a car, but together we can. One person cannot educate a village, but a group of like-minded people can. As more of us come together, the world's problems become smaller.

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**If all of us come together, then the impossible becomes possible.**

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## "WE SERVE" ALSO HIGHLIGHTS OUR MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY – CONNECTIVITY.

We are connected to each other as Lions and to the communities we serve. In a chain, each individual link combines to form an unbreakable line. If our chain has 1.4 million strong links, that becomes a powerful force for good.



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL  
**PRESIDENT DR. NARESH AGGARWAL**  
2017-2018  
WE SERVE.

# THE FUTURE IS NOW

As we enter our second century of global humanitarian service, we continue to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs. This is truly an exciting time to be a Lion.

Our new strategy – LCI Forward – was developed as a road map for Lions to plan, implement and achieve our vision for the future and meet the growing needs of the world. This new strategy will enhance our service framework, reshape public opinion and improve visibility, improve our club, district and organizational excellence and improve our membership experience while reaching new markets.

New products, such as the new Lions mobile app, will provide our members the ability to connect with each other like never before – sharing service ideas, photos, videos, and information – bringing Lions together regardless of their location.

We have to make the world aware of just how big the world's problems are, and how relatively simple they are to solve if everyone works together.

I feel proud and blessed to be your leader at this most auspicious moment, as we begin our second century of global humanitarian service.

On June 7, 1917, in the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, businessman Melvin Jones announced an ambitious initiative – an association dedicated to the central principle of serving others. He faced many skeptics. There were people who considered it impossible. However, today it is a reality. Today, 1.4 million people walk his path of service to others.

There is no greater pleasure in life than to make a dream come true. To make miracles happen. Pick the most improbable dream and spend your life making it come true. Pick a dream that makes each precious moment in your life worth living. Becoming your international president is a dream come true for me. But that is only part of my dream. The rest of my dream is something all of us as Lions share together – a dream that every child in the world is born to a happy, caring family, and is given every opportunity to thrive. Like Gandhi, let us lose ourselves in this dream, for that is where we will find ourselves.

With a new service framework and the addition of diabetes as one of our new causes, a reshaping of our service programs, **a new marketing technology initiative, a vibrant LCI Forward global strategy, and a new century before us, the future is ours, and the future is now.**

I have always believed it is important to leave the world better than we found it and a better place for our children and their children. That philosophy has served me well – as a club president, district governor, international director and international vice president. With your help, it will continue to serve me as your international president. And together we will expand our legacy of service.

The time to act is now. We can help and we **WILL** help. Each and every one of you can have a lasting impact. Join hands with me today in committing to serve 200 million lives annually in our new century of service.

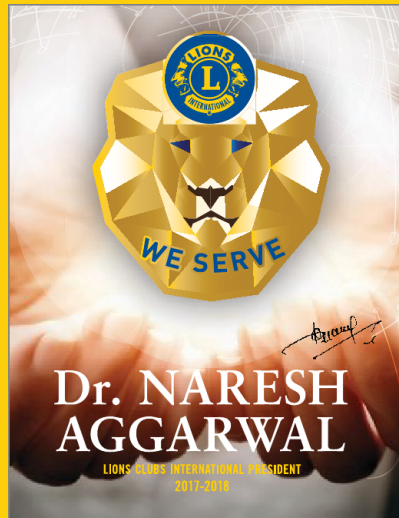




“ TOGETHER: We will harness the power of we.  
We will commit to action. We will leave  
the world a better place for all. ”



NAMASTE LIONS.  
NAMASTE.







Picture the Future of

PEACE

IMAGINE

600,000 children sharing their visions of peace

INSPIRE

Youth to showcase their talent

CREATE

Stronger ties in your community

Don't miss your opportunity to sponsor the **30th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest!**

Give kids in your community a creative way to express their visions of *The Future of Peace*, the theme for the 2017-18 Peace Poster Contest. Order your Peace Poster Kit to play a key role in engaging our youth and promoting peace around the world. Get complete contest details at [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org).

*The Future of Peace* begins with you and your club.

Order your Peace Poster Kit today!

[lionsclubs.org/peaceposter](http://lionsclubs.org/peaceposter)

# DESTINED TO LEAD

**As a new Lion in a small village in India nearly a half century ago, Naresh Aggarwal dreamt of leading Lions Clubs International. Now he dreams of taking Lions toward an unprecedented service plateau.**

// BY JAY COPP

Photos by Amanda Rae Ratliff

Ask a dozen or so people who are close to Lions' new international president to describe him and the same words keep popping up. According to his wife, three children, fellow Lions and business associates, Naresh Aggarwal is compassionate, energetic and driven.

And he's fond of singing. Without prompting, Aggarwal will break into song. In high school he was celebrated for his singing ability. But he's not a professional or practicing for a gig. He just likes to sing, a habit indicative of his being at peace with himself and his life's chosen path.

Yet aside from all that there's no denying Aggarwal's basic groundedness, his rootedness in practicality.

That surely comes from a lifetime of entrepreneurial success, from working at and growing the family foundry as a young man and then building a railroad switching system business and a rice processing enterprise. You can't develop businesses in India or anywhere else without paying attention to details, grappling with hard facts and clearing the way to achieve objectives.



✌ Our new president loves children—and children at LIONS VIDYA MANDIR SCHOOL, built by the Lions in Delhi, love Lions.





# ★ NARESH AGGARWAL ★ CONFIDENTIAL

“Many times I have heard him say that for every problem there is a solution. You should never lose heart. You should come forward and find a solution.”

—**VISZMA MITTER**, a longtime Lion in Batala

“He’s a visionary person. A person who has a magnetic smile. He’s someone who brings everybody together. He has great leadership skills. He has a heart for service. And that great smile of his.”

—**HASTINGS ELI CHITI**, a past district governor in Zambia and longtime friend

“He’s very loving. He loves all. He helps all. He motivates all. It’s like everyone is his brother.”

—**JAGDISH GULATI**, an Indian Lion

“One of the most valuable lessons I have learned from my father is that if you’re persistent, you’re committed, you’re genuine and you’re patient, you will achieve whatever you want to achieve in life.”

—**ROHIT AGGARWAL**

“In school I can really remember all my teachers coming up to me and saying, ‘Your dad is a wonderful orator.’ That always made me really proud. I always see him on the stage. Whenever he talks, I feel I would like to be like him one day.”

—**SWATI MUNJAL**, daughter

“He’s always there for his family and friends. He’s always there to help. ... He likes to sing. He’s not very good! But he sings from the heart.”

—**NAVITA AGGARWAL**, wife

So when Lions in India wanted to help children succeed in school, indeed, to come to school regularly, Aggarwal and other Lions leaders in India knew in their gut that what was or wasn’t in the stomachs of students was key. “So if your stomach is full, your brain works better,” asserts Aggarwal with a warm smile. More than 25,000 schoolchildren now receive meals thanks to Lions and a partner.

The 64-year-old Aggarwal, a Lion for 43 years, took the oath of office as our 101st international president on July 4 in Chicago at the 100th International Convention, and it’s clear his presidency will be free of any dreamy ideals and instead rooted in meticulous planning. Service comes from the heart. But the precision of mathematics can help channel the impulse to serve. “If our 1.4 million members give one hour of service a week, that gives us 73 million man hours of service,” says Aggarwal, convinced Lions can reach our goal of serving 200 million people annually by 2021.

## A Life of Service

Aggarwal was born in Batala in northern India, a small town with its share of wrenching poverty. A Rotarian, his father also quietly pursued a personal charitable agenda. He made sure shopkeepers would provide food to those in need but too proud to ask for help. “I learned from my father not only that earning [a living] is important but that giving is equally important,” he says.

As a teenager, Aggarwal became the charter president of a Rotaract club, similar to a Leo club, and also was elected as a leader of an important school group. His take-charge persona, self-confidence and respect for others made him a natural for leadership roles. The Batala Lions Club chartered when he was 21, and despite his youth he was selected to be vice president.

He knew from the start that he wanted to climb the ladder to the very top. It was not a matter of ego; it was about a golden chance to change the world for the better. “Ever since I joined Lions club I dreamed to head the organization,” he recalls. “I saw this big opportunity in front of me. When I joined, that really made me understand I can make a difference. Together



Lions can make a difference to make a city a better place, the country a better place and, as Lions of the world, the world a better place.”

His Batala club has been an active one, providing vision care including cataract surgeries, a mobile medical unit and a sewing machine workshop for women to learn a trade. A centennial

Aggarwal is pious, but he gives credit to Navita for encouraging daily prayer at the small worship place in their home. “I like to do it whenever I’m there. My wife insists that this is something we need to do—respect to the Almighty,” he explains.

In his everyday encounters with people Aggarwal also strives to see the

power of we,” he says. “There’s one thing stronger than all the armies in the world. It’s an idea whose time has come. So the power of we is how we make a difference.

“The power of we is the magic we have. Our Lion identity is about the power of action. There was a lot of debate about it when Melvin Jones



**THE BATALA SMILE LIONS CLUB**, Aggarwal’s club, built a playground for its centennial Legacy Project. Hundreds of children use the park every day.

Legacy Project, the club built a park with playground equipment, the only one of its kind in Batala.

Aggarwal married Navita nearly 45 years ago. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Navita has been his mainstay. “She’s my lifeline. She’s my biggest strength,” he says. “People say that behind every man is a successful woman. I believe she’s not behind me—she’s always right beside me.”

sacred, to appreciate that every person has value. He practices the traditional Indian greeting of Namaste. “Namaste means that nobody is different,” he says. “You and I are equal. You and I have the same divinity. The divinity in me salutes the divinity in you.”

His tenure as president will enable him to help harness the enthusiasm for service of 1.4 million Lions worldwide. “If each Lion plays a proportional part, we can make a huge difference. But everyone has to participate. It’s the

proposed it. The lion is a very decisive animal, a very clear-thinking animal. Our logo speaks to who we are and what we can do.

“And a lion is a leader. He’s the number 1 in the jungle. So that’s right for us—we are number 1 in society.”

Read the latest issue of the LION Magazine for India.

Watch an interesting biographical video on Aggarwal.

Watch a video on Aggarwal’s service theme.

# GRIEF, THEN ACTION

## A New Hampshire Lion who lost his daughter tragically teams with Leos to curb drug abuse

// BY ANNE FORD

Photos by Elizabeth Frantz

Doug Griffin knew his daughter Courtney, 20, had problems—doing drugs, getting poor grades, sometimes disappearing for days at a time. But he never thought the worst would happen.

Despite her family's desperate efforts to get help for her drug addiction, Courtney died on Sept. 29, 2014, after overdosing on a combination of heroin and fentanyl. It was the tragic ending of a long attempt to help a bright, talented, loving young woman get her life on track.

"We were never mad at her. We didn't love her any less," Griffin says. "But there was so much anguish."





Now Griffin, a member of the Kingston Lions Club in New Hampshire, is turning that anguish into efforts to save other teens and young adults from the addiction that ended Courtney's life. He was the driving force behind the chartering of the Sanborn Leo Club, which is dedicated to drug prevention efforts. He also joined the board of directors of the Washington, D.C.-based Addiction Policy Forum; helped the initiative to designate Jan. 29 as a National Day of Remembrance of those who have died from drug and alcohol addiction; and helped make naloxone, a medication that reverses the effects of opiate overdose, available in New Hampshire.

None of it, of course, will bring his daughter back. "But we still keep working," he says.

## DEADLY FENTANYL

A town in rural New Hampshire with fewer than 7,000 residents, Kingston is the kind of place where the community faithfully turns out for pancake breakfasts and meat raffles. "A quiet country town," Griffin calls it. "A place you'd never expect to see drugs."

Courtney graduated from high school there in 2012. A smart kid with poor grades, she wasn't ready to go to college, her parents thought. "Work for me, take some classes and show me you can be a student, then I'll send you to college," Griffin remembers telling her.

At his urging, she joined him as a member of the Kingston Lions Club. He also put her to work for his company, Seacoast Digital Computers, where she shone. "She could handle my inventory; she did my shipping and receiving. She was just the smartest kid," he says. "But she liked to get high." He knew she'd smoked pot in high school. But at some point she moved on to much more dangerous drugs such as heroin. Prescription medication, credit cards, money, and jewelry all started disappearing from the house, while inventory started disappearing from the company.

Things got even worse when something called fentanyl hit the town, and hit it hard. Invented as a form of general anesthesia and as a treatment for severe chronic pain, fentanyl—which killed the musician Prince last year—is an opioid 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine and 25 to 40 times more powerful than heroin. Its potency

means that it's potentially fatal even at very low levels.

When Griffin was a teenager, "doing drugs" meant smoking a little marijuana now and then. "But nowadays, these drugs are so powerful that they're just not to be played with," he says. "Fentanyl swept through and took several kids in 2014, and it's still going on. These kids don't even get time to be drug addicts, because fentanyl's a killer. It just kind of snuck in the door and took over."

A stint in rehab didn't work for Courtney. Still, "she knew she had a terrible problem," her dad says. "She decided she wanted to live, so she joined the Marines. This kid weighed 115 pounds, and she was 5-foot nothing. She worked six months to get in good enough physical shape to get in, and after a month in boot camp, they realized that on her entry urine exam, she had tested positive for pot, which stays in

your system a long time. So she came home and she was pretty dejected. She just couldn't get a grip on things again." He knew things were bad again when he began finding needles around the house, even in the clothes dryer.

Courtney's parents' health insurance wouldn't cover another attempt at rehab, saying it wasn't "a life-or-death situation." In desperation, and on the advice of local police, Griffin and his wife, Pam, kicked Courtney out of the house and canceled her insurance, so that she would be homeless and therefore eligible for treatment in Massachusetts.

It worked—or so they thought. Courtney moved into her boyfriend's grandparents'

house and prepared to enter treatment at a Massachusetts facility. Only a few days before she was to start, she overdosed and died. When Griffin got the phone call, at first he couldn't believe it was true.

## LEOS GET BUSY

People react to the loss of a loved one in different ways. Griffin reacted by turning his grief into action.

Within two months of his daughter's death, Griffin organized a memorial in Kingston, attended by about 200 people, to honor her life and to speak openly about his family's experience with addiction. That soon led to other, bigger efforts, such as testifying before the New Hampshire House and Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittees to encourage passage of NH House Bill 271, which increased

“Those kids will still be Leos after they graduate, and then they’ll be Lions. They’ll be functioning members of the community.”

(Opposite) Sanborn Leos are working with Lion Doug Griffin, whose daughter died from a drug overdose, to prevent drug abuse. Shown outside Sanborn Regional High School in Kingston, New Hampshire, are (back from left) Runit Patel, Jazmin Alvarado, John Merry-Carreiro, Colin Holt and Ian Messier and (front) Aiden Macdougall, Griffin and Nick Frost.

access to the overdose reversal drug naloxone. At the behest of then-U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte, he testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee about opiate addiction.

Griffin wanted to target his anti-drug efforts to young people in particular. In his view, teens are uniquely suited to fighting addiction among their own age group. “When my daughter was in school, I knew she was getting her drugs in school, but I never did find out who she was getting them from,” he says. “But the kids know. The adults can’t get drugs out of the schools. The kids have to get ‘em out.

“It just seemed like the natural thing to do, to form a Leo club. Kids are our future, and if we mentor them properly, then we can have a good future. But if we don’t, these drugs are here. They’re here to stay till we get ‘em out.”

Griffin started by meeting with the principal of Courtney’s alma mater, Sanborn Regional High School in Kingston. “I said, ‘Every club you have in your school ends the day the kids graduate. But the Leos program continues,’” he says. “Those kids will still be Leos after they graduate, and then they’ll be Lions. They’ll be functioning members of the community.”

The club chartered this year with 14 members, at least one of whom is in recovery for substance abuse herself. “These kids are so smart,” Griffin says. “I enjoy working with them so much. Our president wears a tie to the meetings, and our secretary brings her laptop and gets the minutes out within a couple hours of the meeting. Just so professional. I try, as a Leo adviser, not to make their decisions. They always want me to say what we should do, and I say, ‘It’s not up to me; it’s for you to think about.’ And they think of things I wouldn’t think of.”

Such as? “One of the kids had the idea to buy some drug-awareness books. So we’re buying 10 different books for elementary school kids and donating them to the local library, and the Leos are going to take the books and go to the elementary school kids and read the books to them. I think that kids listen to kids and idolize those high school kids a lot when they’re in the younger grades.”

But that’s just one of the Leos’ efforts. The club has also hosted events such as an open-mic night and a pasta dinner and created an initiative to help residents safely dispose of unwanted prescription medications.

Nick Frost initially joined the Leos because “I was like, ‘All right, this is going to be a club that looks good on my college applications,’” he says. But then a close friend of his died in a drug-related car crash, and he became truly passionate about helping stem the tide of addiction. “I think that it’s a big problem, and I just want to help prevent it,” he says. “Kids getting involved—that’s how we’re going to fight this thing.”

Another Leo, Jazmin Alvarado, has seen addiction in action as well. “You don’t find a lot of people at our school that

don’t drink or do some form of drugs,” she says. She calls working with Griffin “a very eye-opening experience,” saying, “It makes me realize how much of a problem the drug crisis is, and it gives me more of a drive to fix it.”

She enjoys being a Leo for its own sake, too. “I like that the club gives me a purpose,” she says. “I know that I’m helping people, and I like the feeling that gives me. And I like that it brings a lot of us together. Most of the people in the club are people I don’t think I’d normally talk to because we don’t do a lot of the same activities. But we’re all friends now, and it gives you a good sense of community.”

The club hopes to raise enough funds to build a couple of local

teen centers. “High school kids are bored,” Griffin says. “They’ve got nothing to do. They sit on their phones, and they do nothing. They go home from school and sleep, and mom and dad both work so there’s nobody there to push ‘em to do something. We want to have after-school mentoring programs, so we can teach them how to cook and do music and art and keep things going in a fun way.”

Eventually, Griffin hopes to establish more Leo clubs in the area. “My goal is to try to get Leos clubs going in every club in our zone,” he says. In two years, when he retires, he’d also like to get Lions Quest, a social and emotional learning program for schoolchildren, established in New Hampshire.

In the meantime, he’ll continue to make sure that his own Leos thrive. He speaks warmly of their recent sponsorship of an anti-drug speaker at a middle school. “To see these 15- and 16-year-old kids be proud to be doing something, to give them that feeling ... ” He trails off. “That’s what a Lion feels like.”

“I like that the club gives me a purpose,” she says. I know that I’m helping people, and I like the feeling that gives me. And I like that it brings a lot of us together.”

Lions teamed up with Nancy Reagan to curb drug abuse.  
Read the story in the October 1983 LION.





↗ The Sanborn Leo Club donated a French horn to the school band in honor of Courtney Griffin, who played that instrument in the band. Leos Nick Frost (from left), Colin Holt, Jazmin Alvarado and John Merry-Carreiro listen to Hunter Holmberg play a French horn.



Sanborn Leo Ian Messier serves food during a pasta dinner at the high school to raise money for Austin17House, a new community center. ↘



# FAST, FURIOUS FUN— AND A FEW FALLS

// BY JAY COPP

In southern Wyoming cowboys and skiers are easy to find, so Saratoga Lions staged a weekend project centered on a growing fad that incorporates elements of both. The club held a skijoring competition. Two-person teams—one on a horse and the other on skis pulled by the horse—navigated a twisty 600-foot course full of gates and four-foot bumps. The horses ran on dirt, and the skiers glided over snow. Missing a gate meant a five-second penalty. Seventy races were held each day. Some competitors were neophytes. “There were some great falls. But no one was hurt,” says Lion Will Faust, a past president. Emergency personnel were on hand just in case.





Skijorers race at nearly 50 mph.





The course's bumps are small but challenging.





**// Some of the nation's best skijorers raced. The winners completed the course in 11 seconds.** That's averaging 38 mph. Of course, hurling wide to swing around a gate, the skiers were moving even 10 mph faster at times.

The club had held chariot races for 35 years on the same course outside town. But finding competitors had been problematic. The club already had bleachers, a trailer and PA system in place, making the transition to the new event easier.

The event was more than a race: it was a happening. "Oh, yeah—you've got music playing, hamburgers grilling, beer. A lot of fun," says Faust, whose friend's horse, Daisy, pulled him through the course. Talk about fun—"That's the most fun you can have other than ... well, don't quote me on this."

Even after the club paid \$8,400 in prize money, it walked away with \$5,000, thanks to sponsors, entry and spectator fees and an evening concert. Profits will fund scholarships, a fishing derby and other concerns. The clubs' 56 members are busy. "We raise \$80,000 a year and give that away. Not bad for a small town [population 1,600]," says Faust.

The club is adept at adapting to challenges. Unseasonably warm weather, coupled with sunny skies, melted away the snow needed for skiers. So members enlisted a fleet of dump trucks to haul in snow.



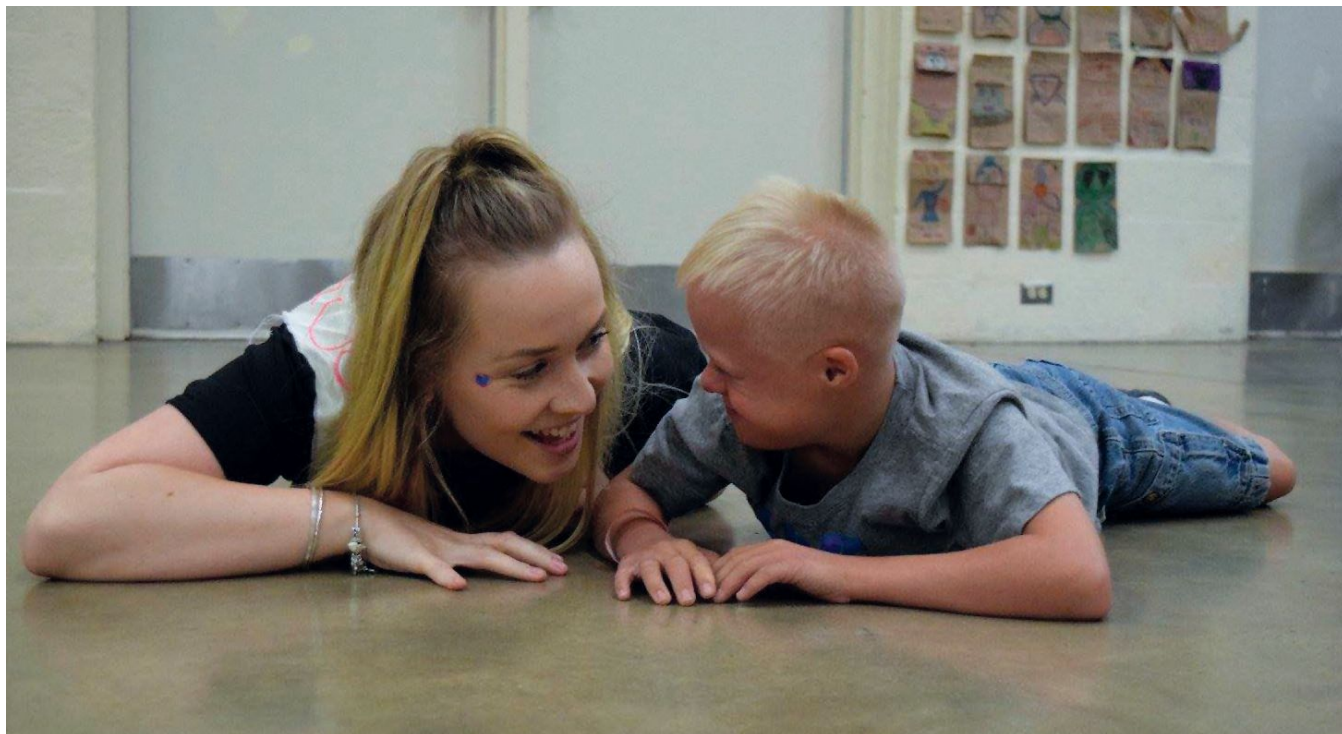
Leave it to Lions to hold a fundraiser that also is a fun-raiser.



Cookies make the races even better.

# TEXAS CAMP INSPIRES A LIFE OF SERVICE

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**AMY HAZLEHURST**, a counselor at the Texas Lions Camp, plays with Stone Gist, who has Down syndrome.

For two summers Amy Hazlehurst, 20, left the bustle of London for the back country of Texas. At the sprawling, 500-acre Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville she met campers with disabilities who “prove that anything is possible. Each day they reach goals, conquer fears and make friends for life.” London swings, but Kerrville rocks. “The campers take hold of your whole heart. It’s the happiest place on earth,” she wrote in a blog post.

Each summer the Texas Lions Camp hires 100 young camp counselors from the United States and another 50 from five foreign nations. They’re up with the sun to dress the campers, accompany them as they fish, ride horses

and enjoy arts and crafts and roast marshmallows with them at night around a campfire. But the counselors are not mere assistants.

“They’re close enough in age to the campers that they can look up to them. There’s that hero element,” says Steven King, the camp’s director of operations. “When they tell them they can do something, there’s believability. It’s not like their mom is telling them that.”

But the counselors themselves also undergo profound changes. “It’s a life-changing experience,” says King.

**“You have to be honest about yourself at the camp. You have to know your strengths and weaknesses. Your most real self comes out. There’s no faking it.”**

“I tell them to take a piece of the camp back to your community. You can change the world.”

Counselors get to know what Lions Club is all about, and many join Campus Clubs or have become Lions, King says.



# Thanks to Lions, LCIF's Grants Top \$1 Billion Mark

Pregnant and suffering from trichiasis, a dangerous eye condition, Mariam, a young woman in Chad, was not sure she could take proper care of her baby. However, thanks to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), her eye problem was corrected shortly after giving birth. Mariam's happy outcome is just one of millions from LCIF's first half century.

This particular year marks a historic milestone for Lions and LCIF. In January, the LCIF Board of Trustees approved grants that put LCIF over the US\$1 billion mark. Since its founding in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than 13,000 grants. Millions of people around the world have been given hope and comfort in their times of need.

LCIF restored sight for parents who could not see their children. It rebuilt communities devastated by earthquakes and wildfires. It fed hungry children and empowered youth to become healthy, productive adults. With the support of LCIF, Lions built water wells and latrines that are helping to control the spread of blinding diseases. People who were once hidden from the world because of a disability, denied education and companionship, now attend school and contribute to their communities. This US\$1 billion has shown the world that Lions care and LCIF helps.

The first grant LCIF ever awarded was disbursed to the community of Rapid City, South Dakota, after a catastrophic flood. The year was 1972. Due to conditions that the National Weather Service says only happen once every 100 years, a storm hovered over the Black Hills and sent down disastrous amounts of rain. More than 200 people lost their lives to the floods, and more than 5,000 people lost their homes. LCIF awarded US\$5,000 to help the community rebuild. Lions were among the first on the scene to provide help to the devastated community, beginning a legacy continued today.

Since then, LCIF has provided funds to projects all over the world. Communities are supported both around the globe and around the corner. LCIF's four major areas of focus—sight, youth, disaster and humanitarian efforts—have ensured help goes to the areas most critically in need of assistance.

Lions and LCIF have accomplished great things by working together, but there is still so much that needs to be done. As Lions and LCIF begin a new century of service, we will focus our efforts on supporting the new global service framework: diabetes, the environment, hunger relief, pediatric cancer and vision. As our world continues to change, we must change with it to address new concerns and best serve our communities and future generations. Lions can get involved by supporting LCIF. Whether you make a donation or join a service project, you can make a difference both locally and globally. Talk to your club's LCIF Coordinator for information on how you can support LCIF.

With continued support from Lions, LCIF can make a positive change for those who need it.



“When I was told that a [trichiasis] surgery camp would be organized, I was pregnant,” says Miriam, a young woman from Chad. “Two days after the delivery, I decided to get the operation and my husband brought me to the health center on our donkey. **Now my eye doesn't make me suffer, and I can take care of my baby.**”

# LEO CLUBS CHANNEL VOLUNTEERISM OF YOUTHS

**All over the world, young people are forming lasting friendships and learning the value of volunteerism with a Lions' initiative geared specifically for them: Leo clubs. Whether they join an Alpha Leo club (for ages 12-18) or an Omega Leo club (for ages 18-30), young people are developing the skills to serve their communities. The results are nothing less than inspiring.**

The Curaçao Leo Club in Netherlands Antilles organized a project to encourage schoolchildren to stop bullying. The Batu Pahat High School Leo Club in Malaysia cycled 40 kilometers to raise awareness of alternative, environmentally-friendly forms of transportation. In the Netherlands, the Rotterdam Leo Club sold clothing to raise money for an Easter breakfast for the homeless. The Neapolis Nabeul Leo Club in Tunisia donated goods to a local nursing home and spent time visiting with residents and raising spirits.

"You realize one act can change lives," Kat Sandell, a Leo in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, said after collecting cold weather clothing for children in 2014.



Photo by Othmar Fetz

Leo clubs received official, international recognition in 1967, but Lions' auxiliary youth service clubs are almost as old as the association itself. As early as 1922, Lions in Fort Smith, Arkansas, had organized what they called a Junior Lions club in the town's high school, focused on civic leadership. Within the first year, dozens of junior and senior high school students joined the club.

Over the years, other Lions clubs also hosted youth clubs. In 1957 the seeds of a permanent youth program were planted in Abington, Pennsylvania, when Bill Graver asked his father and Glenside Lion Jim Graver, "Why





isn't there a Lions-sponsored service club for young people?"

As coach of the Abington High School baseball team, Graver soon came to believe that forming a Lions youth club at the high school would encourage students to participate in community service. Graver and fellow Glenside Lion William Ernst presented the idea to their club, and the Lions decided to support the effort with the help of 35 eager students (mostly from the baseball team). On Dec. 5, 1957, the first Leo club was formed. The club

adopted the high school's colors—maroon and gold—and created an acronym for Leo: leadership, equality, opportunity. The word equality was later changed to experience.

In 1964, the Lions of District 14 K in Pennsylvania sponsored the Leo club as an official district project. Clubs soon sprang up throughout Pennsylvania, as news of the Leo program spread. A few years later, a youth committee of Lions Clubs International studied the possibility of developing a youth club program. But the committee

soon recognized there was no need to create something new. The Leos had already set a standard as efficient and effective youth clubs. By October 1967, the board of directors decided to implement Leo clubs on a global scale. Within two years, 918 clubs were operating in 48 countries.

Today, there are an estimated 174,000 Leos in 6,942 clubs in 144 nations. As Leos, young people are changing their communities and building personal leadership skills that will last a lifetime.



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## // ANNIVERSARIES

### July 2017

**\*100 Years:** Chickasha, Okla.

**95 Years:** Augusta, Ga.; Eastland, Texas; Ontario Host, Canada; New Britain, Conn.; Worcester Host, Mass.; Colorado City, Texas; Brea, Calif.; Douglas County, Colo.; Durham, N.C.

**90 Years:** St. Cloud, Minn.; Brownsville Downtown, Texas

**85 Years:** Harrisonburg, Va.

**80 Years:** McAdoo, Pa.; Antioch, Ill.; Fairfax, S.C.; Fort Fairfield, Maine; Ashford, Ala.

**75 Years:** Ontario, Ore.; Arlington, Ohio; Espanola Valley L C, N.M.; Hazlehurst, Miss.; Homer, Mich.; Du Bois, Pa.; Linn, Mo.; Port Angeles, Wa.

**50 Years:** Starks, La.; Spring Hill, Tenn.

**25 Years:** Chicago Mexico, Ill.; Franklin Park Manila, Ill.; San Marcos Bluebonnet, Texas; Woburn Middlesex, Mass.; Harrow & Colchester South, Ontario, Canada; Spring Valley Lake, Calif.; West Linn Riverview, Ore.

### August 2017

**\*100 Years:** Chicago Central, Ill.; El Reno, Okla.

**95 Years:** Kennett, Mo.; Pittsfield, Maine; Goderich, ON, CA; New London, Conn.; Greenville, S.C.; Van Buren, Ark.; Lorain, Ohio; Owatonna, Minn.

**90 Years:** Harlingen, Texas; Washington, Pa.; Wauchula, Fla.; Fillmore, Calif.; Many, La.; San Benito, Texas; Brownstown, Ind.

**85 Years:** Flemingsburg, Ky.; Hanover, Pa.; Liberty, N.Y.; Highland, N.Y.

**80 Years:** Kitchener, ON, CA; Gladstone, Mich.; Granite Falls, N.C.; Keene, N.H.; Orillia, ON, CA; Warrensburg, Mo.

**75 Years:** Baraboo, Wis.; Poulsbo, Wa.; Grand Prairie Host, Texas; Holgate, Ohio; Stockton, Mo.; Holyoke, Colo.; Winder, Ga.; Gothenburg, Neb.

**50 Years:** Troy, Idaho; Sanibel Captiva Island, Fla.; Metairie Lakeside, La.; Latta, S.C.

**25 Years:** Brooklyn Red Hook, N.Y.; Carroll Bloom, Ohio; Edmonton Strathcona, Alberta, CA; South Ozone Park Empire City, N.Y.; Winnipeg Transcona, MB, CA.

\*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 **Pennsylvania**, the **Bellefonte Lions'** biggest fundraiser is their semi-annual Rib Roast, and year after year, Robert Schaeffer leads the club in pre-sale dinner tickets. Schaeffer, an active Lion for 68 years, rarely misses a meeting, a fundraiser or a function. Members estimate he has attended more than 2,000 Lions meetings.

**Basye/Bryce Mountain Lions** in **Virginia** donated \$1,000 to the local Free Health Clinic to start a program that will insure the clinic has a continuous supply of pneumonia and shingles vaccines for patients in need.

The **Whitehall Lions** in **Pennsylvania**, with the help of other organizations and businesses, purchased an electronic reader to aid the visually impaired at the Whitehall Township Public Library. The Lions sponsor two Leo clubs and helped with a church-sponsored dinner for the Whitehall Hunger Initiative.

The **Brookfield Lions** in **Connecticut** have distributed more than 1,500 medical alert bottles in their community. A medical information form—blue for male and pink for female—is filled out and put inside the bottle. A sign at the front door tells emergency personnel that a medical alert bottle is in the refrigerator. It provides contact information, a list of medications taken and preferred hospital, saving time and confusion during an emergency.

For five years, the **McKeesport Lions** in **Pennsylvania** have assisted American Legion Posts 361 and 666 as well as the AMVETS Post 8 in placing more than 3,000 flags on veterans' graves in the McKeesport and Versailles Cemetery. The club also sponsors Wreaths Across America.

The **Holgate Lions** in **Ohio** donated \$700 to Ohio Proud Kansas Strong, an effort in northwest Ohio to send hay to those affected by wildfires in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The club also donated \$1,000 to the Kansas Lions Foundation.

**Sarasota Lion** Margaret Alletson received the Frist Humanitarian Award presented by Doctor's Hospital of Sarasota, **Florida**. The Lions are active in diabetes screening and providing vision screenings for more than 600 children.

**Oglethorpe Lions** in **Georgia** partnered with FATZ Café in Athens to serve pancakes and sausages, benefiting the club's "Short Stacks for Big Change" fundraiser.

**Willapa Harbor Lions** in **Washington** hosted an open house to introduce Lionism to their community. They advertised the event with fliers, and asked members to bring a guest to the event. Ten newcomers joined the club.

In **North Carolina**, the **Mocksville Lions** used the North Carolina Lion's Vision Van to conduct 50 eye and hearing screenings. Optometrists helped, and high school students served as translators.

The **South Tucson Lions** Vision Screening Team in **Arizona** screened 22,500 children. Eight state-certified volunteer screeners completed the task with almost 2,000 hours of volunteer service. Their goal for next year is 30,000 children. They also provided 200 children with exams and eyeglasses.

The **Mansfield Lions** in **Pennsylvania** honored member William Bradshaw with the Lions-PA Counselors Distinguished Service Award for his 69 years of service to Lions and the community.

**Waseca Lions** in **Minnesota** collected almost 1,000 used eyeglasses, gave 250 dictionaries to third-graders, helped distribute 1,000 free books to school children and raised about \$2,000 at their annual pancake breakfast for local and worldwide causes.

The **Lehr Lions** in **North Dakota** honored Lion Minnie Kranzler on her 108th birthday.

## In Memoriam

Past International Director Bruce E. Murray of Ontario, Canada, has died. He was 84. A Lion since 1965, he served as an international director from 1981-83. He founded Canada's first International Youth Exchange Camp and served for six years as its director. He also was a founder of the Lions Foundation of Canada and served as chairperson of the board of directors for Lions Quest Canada. He was known as a tireless advocate for children. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, he received the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association gives to its members.

Past International Director James D. Foster of River Falls, Wisconsin, has died. He was 93. A Lion since 1959, he served as an international director from 1968-70. The River Falls Lion of the Year in 1973, he received the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Birch-Sturm Fellowship, which honors those who exemplify great dedication to Lionism. He also received the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association awards its members.

Past International Director John "Spud" Edling has died. He was 81. A member of the Clear Lake Lions in Minnesota since 1973, he served as an international director from 1995-97. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, he received the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association awards its members. He enjoyed a successful career operating the Edling Brothers Potato Farm with his brother until retiring in 1995.

Past International Director H. H. "Ernie" Moore, of Perth, Ontario, Canada, has died. He was 88. A Lion since 1953, he served as an international director from 1985-87. Instrumental to the success of the Lions Foundation of Canada, he also was involved with eyeglass recycling, the Perth Garlic festival and Santa Parade and especially the Dog Guides programs. A Melvin Jones Fellow, he received the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor of the association. He worked for the Ontario government for more than 34 years.



## Standing Up for Veterans

Justin Bond, who was wounded in combat in Iraq, thanks people who attended a Lions' fundraiser in California to help his nonprofit group that helps veterans. Bond heads Our Heroes Dreams (OHD), which runs Healing Safaris for veterans to swim with dolphins, ride elephants and feed lions. OHD also offers more traditional services such as counseling and financial support. Lions raised more than \$186,000 from an outdoor festival and auction at the Caruthers fairgrounds. The Caruthers, Easton, Kings, Lemoore and Riverdale Lions clubs organized the fundraiser.



# Revolutionizing Service



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