

LION

NOVEMBER 2017 // lionmagazine.org

Hunger.
Our Common Enemy.

HOW LIONS ARE WORKING IN
THEIR COMMUNITIES TO END THE
WORLD'S HUNGER PROBLEM



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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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Lions at the recent 100th International Convention in Chicago pack bags of nutritious weekend meals for elementary school students.

REDUCING HUNGER IS ONE OF OUR FIVE TOP PRIORITIES

→ NAMASTE!



For Americans, Thanksgiving is a celebration of their blessings. Yet, in most nations, giving thanks also is a part of the culture. In

India, Hindus begin their day in their home shrine venerating the divine with fresh flowers and prasadam (a food offering). Every Hindu festival involves counting one's blessings and thanking God.

Giving back out of gratitude also is part of the culture of Lions. We serve because we are thankful. We recognize our advantages and deeply desire to give others what they lack.

Sadly, many people worldwide lack enough food. Nearly 800 million people go to bed hungry each night,

and a person starves to death every 15 seconds. Hunger is a problem both in developing and developed nations. Shockingly, 16 million U.S. households are undernourished, while 180 million people in my home country of India lack food. In Africa, the situation is even worse. Millions experience chronic hunger because of drought, conflict and high food prices.

Thanks to the "green revolution" that increased crop production, hunger can be conquered. It's largely a matter of getting food we have to people in need. Well, with Lions, we've eliminated the middleman. We have an army of volunteers, foot soldiers willing and able to defeat hunger.

Understanding how vital food obviously is and how well positioned Lions are to lessen it, Lions Clubs International has prioritized hunger as one of Lions' five core concerns. So, Lions, support your local food pantry and

bank. Help feed low-income children at schools. Donate to LCIF, which routinely supports highly effective Lions' projects to lessen hunger.

Do what you can. As Mother Teresa said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." So with your club or district feed the hungry. Lions will not fail those in such desperate need. This Thanksgiving, indeed each and every month, I give thanks to all 1.4 million Lions and an estimated 175,000 Leos, men and women and youths grateful for their blessings and determined to save and enrich lives by stamping out hunger.

DR. NARESH AGGARWAL
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

DUNK YOU
VERY MUCH



A man in a red t-shirt and sunglasses sits inside a cylindrical metal cage. The cage is part of a larger blue structure with rivets. A young boy in an orange t-shirt is in the foreground, pointing at the cage. The background shows a body of water and trees under a blue sky.

// THE BIG PICTURE

The Fisherman's Picnic in Grand Marais, Minnesota, includes a dunk tank, and local youths, accustomed to flinging fishing rods, usually don't miss their chance to plunge an adult into a watery fall. See the full story on page 30.
// PHOTOS BY CAROLINE YANG

// THE BIG PICTURE

BEST FOOT FORWARD

A seaside town, **Weymouth** in southwestern England gained a measure of fame in 2012 when the sailing events of the Olympics were held in its waters. But its streets and beaches are rarely quiet—often thanks to its active Lions club. // PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIONS STEPHEN AND HELEN JONES



The Weymouth School of Ballet performs at a festival co-sponsored by the Weymouth & District Lions Club.

The Decadettes sing at the club's Christmas variety show, held for seniors.



One of the 300 riders at the club's Beach Motorcross, a popular draw since 1984, displays his daredevil skills.



Hit Broadway Play Has Lions' Angle



"Come from Away" is a "big bearhug of a musical," according to the New York Times.

The Broadway musical "Come From Away" tells the true story of a tiny town in Canada that abruptly hosted 7,000 stranded airline passengers in the week following Sept. 11. It's been a big hit with critics and audiences—and Lions in Gander, Newfoundland, who set aside their clubhouse for more than 100 of the passengers. "It's fascinating. You can't take your eyes off of it," says Lion Jack Sturge, who has not been to New York to see the play but has seen clips of it on TV.

In 2001, Sturge had been fixing the steps of a homeowner when she frantically invited him into her house to watch the unfolding tragedy. "I saw the second plane hit the tower," he recalls.

Gander Lions and nearby Lions sought to ease the discomfort of their sudden guests. Sturge drove to Walmart and filled his truck multiple times with mattresses, sleeping bags, clothes, toiletries and other necessities. The club had just bought pizza and chicken for a party celebrating

its fundraising success at Gander Day. Instead, the food went to the passengers.

During the week the club cooked for their guests in the 40-foot by 80-foot clubhouse and allowed them to use the phones to call loved ones. Understandably, the newcomers, most of them Americans but from 10 nations, were a bit disoriented. "I heard one guy say, 'I'm calling from Gander, Spain,'" says Sturge.

Many of the stranded passengers sent the Lions cards and thank-you letters after they returned home. Sturge still has a teddy bear holding an American flag that was sent to him.

The play was nominated for seven Tony Awards this year and won for Best Direction of a Musical. The play artfully weaves together moments of high tension with comic relief. As the town feverishly prepares for the arrival of the passengers, one character protests: "For the love of God, stop bringing toilet paper to the Lions Club!"

CHANCE ENCOUNTER REVEALS A CIRCLE OF HEALING

Shuffling down a hospital hallway with a walker after surgery, Bill French, 86, joked with his physical therapist that "maybe I need one of those Leader dogs like the Lions support." That struck home with Robin Catbagan, 34, the therapist. Turns out Lions had paid for her first two years of college. French's club had done that for her. And French even had signed the congratulatory letter to Catbagan—which she still had.

"We gave scholarships for 34 or 35 years. We don't know where they end up. But this one we did," says French, a member of the Orange Park Lions Club in Florida since 1978. "She was great [as a therapist]. She knew what she was doing."

Catbagan received her associate's degree from St. John's River State College before earning her doctorate in physical therapy at the University of North Florida. The two met at Orange Park Medical Center after French's gall bladder surgery.

Watch a video of the cast of "Come From Away" perform a song from the musical on late-night TV.

LIONS MEET DOWN UNDER

An old gold rush city, Ballarat, Australia, hosted in early September the annual gathering of Lions from that part of the world. Lions heard from Lions' officers and engaged in cooperative service projects at the ANZI Forum for Lions of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the Islands of South Pacific.

International President Naresh Aggarwal of India, who visited Pakistan before the forum, says he was "deeply touched" by Lions' new hospital in Lahore, a special needs school in Sialkot and a hostel for the blind and deaf in Karachi. He also was impressed that in Australia 450,000 eyeglasses are donated to Lions for needy children in Africa.

Other forums this Lions year already held were USA/Canada Sept. 21-23 in Portland, Oregon, and Europa Sept. 28-Oct. 1 in Montreux, Switzerland. OSEAL (Orient and Southeast Asia) is Nov. 17-20 in Tainan/Kaohsiung, Multiple District 300 Taiwan, ISAAME (India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East) is Dec. 16-19 in Kolkata, India, and FOLAC (South America, Central America, Mexico and the Islands of the Caribbean Sea) is Jan. 17-20, 2018, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

1917 Ford Drives Success of Show



A Lion's 1917 Ford truck was the main attraction of his club's car show.

In Lions' centennial year, Rushville Lions in upstate New York found an apt attraction for its summer car show: a 1917 Ford Model TT truck. The vintage truck belongs to Paul Curtis, 72, a club member since 1970. The vehicle is not just any 1917 Ford truck: it was showcased in front of Ford's headquarters for the car company's centennial in 2003. Ford noticed the photo Curtis had posted on a website and invited him to haul it to Dearborn, Michigan. The car's appearance at the show during the club's annual Community Days drew many admirers. "It gets a lot of oohs and aahs most places it goes. It's in real nice condition," says Curtis, a retired high school math teacher. He received the car after his father-in-law, who had partly restored it, died in 1999, and the father-in-law had spotted it in a friend's shed, where it had sat for nearly 40 years.



Photo by Juan Lainez/MarinMedia.org/Cal Sport Media

USC long snapper Jake Olson (right), who is blind, runs off the field with a teammate after he snapped an extra point attempt during a game between Western Michigan and USC on Sept. 2.

BLIND FOOTBALL PLAYER INSPIRES FANS

USC long snapper Jake Olson thrilled football fans nationwide after he snapped an extra point against Western Michigan in September. Olson has been blind since the age of 12. In high school, he was a long snapper for two years at one of the most competitive leagues in California. A huge USC fan growing up, Olson told his parents he wanted to see the Trojans play one last time before his eyes had to be removed. Head Coach Pete Carroll invited him to the game and made him an honorary member of the football team. Predictably, Lions have helped Olson. Shortly after retinoblastoma took his vision, he was a guest of honor at a meeting of the Huntington Beach Host Lions Club. Lions gave him a Braille writer, made possible by a \$50,000 bequest to the club from a member to help the visually impaired in Orange County.

OVERHEARD

“We’re flipping to make a difference, and it’s a big flippin’ deal.”

—JASON GLOE of the Lubbock Lions Club in Texas on his club’s mammoth pancake breakfast, which typically serves 18,000 people, on KFYO radio.

“The Lions club is a working club, not a social club. We work very hard, but we enjoy it.”

—ELDRED HOLLE of the Monett Lions in Missouri. From the Monett Times.

“It was in the Lions club that I really started learning what Rappahannock County is all about. It was there I started acquiring wonderful new friends, some of whom were old-timers with deep roots in the community. ... Here is some advice for newcomers. If you want to know your neighbors, join a local organization. Become a volunteer.”

—MIKE MAHONEY the Rappahannock Lions in Virginia. From the Rappahannock News.

BY THE NUMBERS



1,725

Pounds of prescription drugs deposited in a drop box at the Pullman Police Department in Washington. Pullman

Lions recently donated \$500 for a new box with anti-tamper security.

33,720

Pounds of scrap metal, worth \$2,100, collected in the annual Scrap Metal Drive of the Penn-Elm Area Lions in Pennsylvania.



225

Kayaks and canoes plying the waters of Staffordville Lake for the annual Moonlight Paddle of Stafford Lions in Connecticut.

100

Shifts required to staff the five beer booths of Norwalk Lions in Ohio at the four days of drag races at Summit Motorsports Park. Milan, Clyde and North Fairfield Lions also helped.

8

Minutes needed for the first-place canoe to complete the 200-foot course of the blindfold regatta held by Panama City Lions in Florida.

100

Minutes of play after which the male and female tennis players with the most number of wins received trophies in the doubles tournament held by Westborough Lions in Massachusetts. Players switched partners after each of the four rounds.



48 YEARS AGO IN THE LION



➡ **NOVEMBER 1969**

New Hope was a struggling small town in Alabama. It didn't have a bank, a telephone system, a police or fire department. But it did have a strong Lions club, which was able to bring into being those four entities. It wasn't easy. When the plans to create a phone system faltered, Lion Bob Moon roared prophetically, "We will have telephones!" Lions opened the first account in the new bank, formerly a feed store (photo).

Read about the remarkable success of this Alabama club.

Jeff Schmittinger, White House Chimney Sweep

Wales Genesee Lions, Wisconsin

Since 1993, Lion Jeff Schmittinger has served as the White House chimney sweep, visibly working on the roof at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in his black clothes and top hat. It's a dirty job, but Schmittinger, a sweep for 37 years, does it for free as his gift to the country. Now at 65, he's retiring.

How did you get the job?

I heard President Bill Clinton speak to Congress about the need for budget cuts and encouraging Americans to do their part. I got that job with a cold phone call. I've found you can come up with an idea, and if you're willing to give it a try and accept failure if it comes your way, almost anything is possible.

Can you tell me more about the work?

This last was my tenth time. I bring a crew of nine guys from all over the country, different ones every year. We clean the 28 chimneys over about three days.

How was the security check?

It took about a year and a half. I bet they could tell you what size shoe I wear.

Were you nervous on the first job?

I always plan for the worst and hope for the best. I always have a fear that we're going to look like clowns getting out of a car at the circus. But it's gone well.

Besides being the Executive Mansion, what's different about it?

It's 68 feet from the damper to the top of the flue. That's pretty substantial. Your average house is 14 feet. But it's just a bigger house with a different set of rules.

What administrations did you serve?

Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump. In reality, it doesn't matter if it's a Republican or a Democrat living there. For us, being able to clean the White House chimneys is like being a musician who plays Carnegie Hall. It doesn't get any better. But it's also just dirt, and dirt is dirt no matter who generates it.

Does your wife get to go along?

Yes. Denise is a gopher. She lays down drop cloths and covers furniture. We've always had a gal on the crew.

Have you met the occupants?

President Bush met the crew. One man on the crew was a Vietnam vet, who lost his son in Iraq. The president was very nice to him.

Have you had any other memorable experiences?

One time we were on the roof, the Obamas were on vacation, and a 5.8 magnitude earthquake caused the building to shake. Everyone was sent to the lawn.

Are you compensated in any way?

We all pay our own way. But my wife and I were invited to see the White House Christmas decorations. One time my grandkids got to take part in the Easter Egg Roll. Oh, I've been handsomely compensated for what we do. Not all your rewards go to the bank.

Why are you retiring?

You get to the point where you recognize that physically the capability isn't what it was in the past. When I walked off the White House grounds this last time I knew it was the last chimney I'd work on except for my own.



Lion Jeff Schmittinger (left) and a helper sweep the White House chimneys for free.

Tennessee Lions Celebrate Walking Horses

Every year in late summer the Shelbyville Lions spend numerous hours over 11 days selling programs at the National Walking Horse Celebration, a horse lovers show that draws 30,000 to 50,000 people to their Tennessee town.

But for the Lions, it's more than a walking horse celebration. This annual event is a reminder of their club's history. It was one of their Lions who worked with a Rotarian back in 1939 to bring the national horse show to Shelbyville, says Lion Katie Guthrie-Shearin, second vice district governor for District 12 S.

And it's the collaboration of these two organizations that helped the local economy immensely over the years, she says.

Shelbyville Lions sell ads for the program and are present at the gates selling the \$15 programs every day of the celebration. The money they make from the project—\$25,000 to \$30,000 a year—represents their biggest fundraiser and is instrumental in allowing them to continue various service projects. They conduct vision screenings in the county schools, provide eye exams, eyeglasses and funding for eye surgeries, make donations to Imagination Library and help with a backpack supplemental feeding program for schoolchildren.

"We put it [the money] back out there about as fast as we get it in," says Guthrie-Shearin.

The club was chartered in 1922 and is looking forward to reaching its centennial, she says. In October, the Lions were honored to be the Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce member of the month.



Members of the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan sent this "Thank You" to the Overland Park Host Lions in Missouri.

To U.S. Soldiers From Grateful Lions

The Overland Park Host Lions in Kansas are in their 10th year of sending "Shoeboxes for Soldiers" to deployed service men and women.

This year they shipped 66 boxes—one box for every soldier—to the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron stationed at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan.

Although the Lions call them shoeboxes, the containers are really flat rate postage boxes from the U.S. Postal Service. Included in each box are personal grooming items, snacks, puzzle books, magazines and DVDs. The items are contributed by club members, church groups, private individuals and students. What the club doesn't get, they purchase.

"It's a fun project and a community project as much as a Lions' project because a lot of donations come from people, some who have or had people overseas," explains Lion Margy Sundstrom.

"This is the one project that pretty much everyone in the club gets behind and gets excited about doing."

The club's Avenue of Flags project, putting up more than 400 flags for patriotic holidays, is their other sign of support for the military.

In response to this year's shipment, Lt. Col. Dustin Richards, commander of the squadron, sent a photo and wrote a letter to the Lions.

"It was great to get that last boost of morale from the U.S. and to know there are men and women all over that are thinking about us," he wrote. "We truly appreciate the efforts you and your fellow Lions take to make life a bit better for our service men and women deployed in harm's way."

Rolling is the Trickiest Part

"Lefse, as many of you know, is the finest food known to humankind," says proud Norwegian and Past District Governor Marian Johnson, a Prairie Rose Lion in North Dakota.

But for those of you who don't know, lefse is a soft flatbread made from a potato dough. It was popular with Scandinavian settlers more than 100 years ago because its ingredients were easily accessible and inexpensive, Johnson explains. And in areas like Bismarck, where at least half of the residents are of Scandinavian descent, it's still popular.

When the Bismarck Street Fair comes around each autumn, people know they can buy lefse, freshly made or frozen, from the Prairie Rose Lions.

Johnson says the club started making and selling lefse under a canopy at the fair around 2003. "It's something we all learned from our grandparents," she says. "I was only about 3, and I can remember looking up and watching my mother and grandmother doing lefse on an old coal stove."

But not everyone in the club grew up with those memories. Those who are

new to lefse making are taught by others, and fascination with the process has even brought in some new members.

"If I join, will you teach me?" potential Lions have asked Johnson. She responds eagerly, "Would we?"

The lefse dough is rolled on a fabric-covered board into thin rounds about 14 inches in diameter, then flipped with a long, thin stick onto a 500-degree grill. After about 2 minutes, it's flipped again. The trickiest part is rolling the thin dough, says Johnson.

The Lions have also invited their children and grandchildren to come to lefse rolling sessions in order to keep the skill and tradition alive. And Lion Deb Ahmann's seventh-grade grandson, Jayden, proved this isn't just for women. He quickly became a lefse-rolling champ, spending three hours rolling the dough and becoming good enough to hold his own with any of the experienced Lions, Johnson says.

Prairie Rose Lions had 450 frozen packages of three lefse ready to sell for \$5 at the last street fair in September,



Siri Paulsen, daughter of Lion Jessica Paulsen (center) and granddaughter of Lion Suzanne Paulsen (right) and Past District Governor Marian Johnson (left) learns to roll lefse.

and they expected to be rolling lefse to sell fresh and warm all weekend.

"There are always people who want to hang around and watch. For a few years we had to explain it to people, but we rarely have to explain it anymore," Johnson says. "You can see that for many people we're touching their heart. Lefse is something special they remember from when they were little."



Sold to the Mt. Pleasant Lions in Texas: one Talk-A-Thon radio auction, a proven project that's been stirring up fun and making money for the community since 1956.

Lion Rick Rajotte, the club's auction chairman, says the club's annual radio auctions have yielded about \$18,000 a year for the Lions, but this year they set their sights higher, hoping to bring in \$20,000 to use toward their projects.

It started in 1956 when the Lions worked with the March of Dimes. Anyone who donated \$100 or more

Going Once ... Going Twice ...

was given a ride around the town square in a wheelbarrow pushed by a Lion. And the idea of the auction grew from there.

Now the club starts well in advance of auction day, soliciting donations of items and gift certificates from businesses and individuals. The folks from radio station K-Lake 97.7 FM offer their time and talent to start the bidding, and the bank gives them all a spot to do business for a day.

Before websites and cell phones, listeners had to bid on items sight unseen, basing their decisions on descriptions run in the local newspaper. But now cell phones and social media have made it so items can be viewed online before auction day arrives, and bidders don't have to stay home near the phone to take part.

They call on their cell phones and listen to the auction everywhere they go. And in the bank, it takes at least six people to answer the phones. Businesses also pay \$25 for an on-air advertisement.

One thing that has not changed, says Rajotte, is the wide selection of items up for bid. This year's collection of more than 200 items included a chainsaw, \$50 worth of animal food, custom quilts, a chiropractic pillow, a puppy starter kit and multiple gift certificates.

Every auction seems to include one hot item that brings \$1,000 or more, and this year Lions expected it to be a handmade Lion-built doll house that's big enough for a child to be inside.

"It's a lot of work for those of us who put it together," says Rajotte. "The day of the auction is organized chaos. But it's fun."

BELGIUM/LEBANON/SYRIA

Joy of Sports Pushes Aside War Weariness

Victims of a vicious war, the children played tug-of-war. They competed in three-legged sprints, egg-and-spoon races, and, of course, soccer. For a day, children at the crowded refugee camp in Beirut could revert to being kids.

“We had a great time with the kids. It was nice to see them run around and just be children,” says Maddy Kelle-

her, 24, the daughter of Dom Kelleher of the Brussels Heraldic Lions Club in Belgium. The younger Kelleher volunteered at the Lions-sponsored sports camp for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The Shatila refugee camp is supported by Belgium-based SB Overseas, a nonprofit founded to assist people in the Middle East affected by war. The Brussels Heraldic Lions Club regularly

collects clothes, shoes and toys for SB Overseas. The English-speaking club primarily consists of expatriate businessmen; its 22 members hail from a dozen nations.

The sports camp was held on a field adjacent to an SB Overseas school for refugees. The school is run by volunteers and welcomes students and staff regardless of race or religion. “It’s like a family. There is no hierarchy,” says Kelleher. “SB is teaching the children to protect and empower themselves with education and hope, not guns and violence.”

The children spent the day running, laughing and forgetting about their ordeal. “The Shatila camps do not have many safe places to play,” says Kelleher. “These are young people with a lot of energy. It’s important they exercise.”



Refugee children use some of their pent-up energy.

JAPAN

Cod Specialty Has Cult Following

Locals in Shonai, a small town near the Japanese coast, like to say: “You cannot talk about the winter here without talking about kandarajiru.” That’s an ultra-popular chunky cod stew. The Sakata Lions Club make one of the most popular.

Eating cod in winter in this region is, well, elemental. The Japanese character for codfish has two components: a symbol for “fish” and one for “snow.” In the cold winters, cod plump up and put on fat as they prepare to lay eggs. “Kandara” means cold codfish.

In nearby Sakata City, along with small restaurants and fishing cooperatives, Sakata City Lions sell their cod at a stall during the Sakata Japan Sea Kandara Matsuri Festival. Lions have used the same secret recipe, based on an entrée at a sushi restaurant, since 2004.

Lions painstakingly prepare the cod in a multistep process using three pots. In one pot miso and green onions are added to a stock soup made from bonito. Other ingredients include sake lees, rock laver and the secret ingredient. The



Lions prepare their beloved cod.

cod is served in various ways including steeped in soy sauce and with minced shrimp.

Some prior customers, enamored with the Lions’ cod, show up with their own pots to fill. One year the 83-member club sold all 400 portions in two hours. Last year, assisted by Sakata Sawayaka Lions, the club sold 1,200 meals in two days.



Standing at a mural of the Old West in Bishop, California, Lion Kazmer Simon holds the Hungarian history book that was spirited out of Hungary in 1956.

HUNGARY

Rare Book Returned After 61 Long Years

Lions from Hungary and California who had never met before gathered near the stage at the end of one of the crowded plenary sessions of the 100th International Convention in Chicago. What brought them together was a rare book secretly spirited out of Hungary for safekeeping during the chaos of the Hungarian uprising in 1956.

The book was headed home to Hungary after 61 years, and the two delegations of Lions celebrated their deed and new friendship with some libations and U.S. pub grub at a Rock Bottom restaurant.

The international intrigue focused on “Letters from Turkey,” a 10-pound, colorfully illustrated tome published in 1895 and written by Kelemen Miles, a Transylvanian nobleman. Miles’ memoir, written in a series of 207 letters, details his early 18th-century efforts to liberate his homeland from the Habsburg monarchy and his bitter exile in France and Turkey.

The valuable book was in possession of the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest—until the 1956 revolution. It somehow ended up with Istvan Nemeth III, who lived in a small town 30 miles from Budapest. Nemeth’s brother-in-law is Kazmer Simon, born in 1939 in Budapest. Simon soon immigrated to Boston, then moved to Los Angeles where he worked for UCLA as a bio-technician and joined the Bishop Lions in 1997. Simon eventually received the book from Nemeth and decided to return it to the museum.

California Lions reached out to Mihaly Kokeney, 2016-17 president of the Budapest Central Lions Club and a former official of the Ministry for Welfare and Health, by contacting Lions Clubs International. District 4 L1 Governor Steven Morgan and Region Chairperson Stan Smith of the Bishop Lions were instrumental in planning the handover of the book. So sometimes service as a Lion goes beyond usual tasks and involves sweeping historical events. “How many times in a lifetime do you get a chance to do something like this?” asks Morgan.

NEW ZEALAND

Corny Success Story for Club

As in Iowa or Illinois, sweet corn is a delectable, if messy, treat in New Zealand. “We put butter and salt and pepper on it and let it drip down your face. Yum, yum,” says Rod McDonald, president of the Marton Lions Club.

Fellow club member Ian Williams, a farmer, grows corn, and he’s lent his expertise and part of his farm to the club for the past dozen years. He grows sweet corn on two acres solely for the benefit of the club and personally delivers it to markets as far as 50 kilometers (31 miles) away.

The corn is a big hit. “Sweet corn, as the name suggests, is very sweet and juicy, and the people of Marton look forward to buying it each season,” says Kate Williams, Ian’s wife.

The club hawks an ear of corn for 60 cents (US 43 cents) and sells nearly 6,000 cobs each season. The \$3,500 (US\$2,800) raised goes toward youth projects and other concerns.

A Lion since 1982, Williams grows many acres of maize for stock feed and grazes cattle on his land as well. Busy like other farmers, he nevertheless prepares his fields for the Lions’ corn, ploughs it and then picks and packs it before heading to the markets.

Kate also donates her time to the corn project, and the club recently gave the couple a mantle clock in appreciation.

This past year the harvesting was made easier thanks to a small tractor and trailer, courtesy of Lion Dave Hammond. A fertilizer company donated fertilizer to reduce costs.

Growing corn is not the only way Williams contributes to the club. His machinery is used for the club’s firewood project.



Ian Williams (right) directs the loading of the club’s corn crop.



Hunger is
Nationless

A PROBLEM —WITHOUT— BORDERS

Stories by Joan Cary

FIGHTING HUNGER ACROSS THE GLOBE AND IN OUR BACKYARD.

Thirty-three years ago, in 1984, St. Raphael Church in Chicago's west suburb of Naperville, opened a food pantry in a closet. In the first year they served eight families.

Now, as Loaves & Fishes Community Services, in a 6-year-old facility that they have already outgrown, volunteers serve 800 families a week from just DuPage County, an affluent area.

"As an individual you might think, 'What can I do?' You feel like you are just one. How can you make a difference? But you can do a lot when you volunteer at a place like this," says Naperville Noon Lion Jim Woodring, sorting bread during his weekly shift at Loaves & Fishes. "It takes a lot of manpower to make this happen. And it feels good to help people in need."



Lion Jim Woodring (left) sorts bread at Loaves & Fishes food pantry in Naperville, Illinois. Louise Schuster (right) finds healthy foods at a pop-up pantry in an apartment building for low-income seniors in Wheaton, Illinois. Photos by Alex Garcia.

**"IT TAKES A LOT OF MANPOWER TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.
AND IT FEELS GOOD TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED."**

Naperville Noon Lion Jim Woodring

Woodring is usually lifting heavy packages of frozen meat. Most volunteers don't choose his area because it's a workout and it's cold. But he wears gloves and he smiles like he's unpacking presents.

In a way, he is.

All across the U.S., Lions and Leos address the growing problem of hunger at home and abroad. Many focus on the fact that children need nutritious food—not just any food—to grow, to learn and to stay healthy.

Some Lions, like those in Naperville, financially and physically support food banks and pantries for families, including Loaves & Fishes and Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit providing nutritious meals for malnourished children in the poorest areas of the world.

Many clubs host food drives. Some feed children at schools and community centers. Others send children home from school with food so the family can eat on the weekend. Still others take meals to the elderly and shut-ins.

In a "pop-up pantry" program, Loaves & Fishes brings food to a low-income housing complex so disabled seniors and those without transportation can get healthy foods right in their building.

"It's always nice to get a few good items like fruit and peanut butter," says Louise Schuster,

88, as she fills her cart. She sometimes perilously pushes her walker across a busy four-lane road when she runs short on food.

In the U.S. today, 5 million seniors age 60 and older, and 13 million children face hunger, says Feeding America, a network of 200 food banks.

In Arizona, the numbers are higher than the national average, reports Jerry Brown of St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix. "Nationally, one in six children is food insecure. But in Arizona, it's one in five."

St. Mary's is our nation's first food bank. Fifty years ago a retired businessman was volunteering at a soup kitchen in Phoenix and met a woman who was regularly foraging in the garbage outside a grocery store for discarded food to feed her children. He went to his parish basilica, St. Mary's, and they gave him a building, an old pick-up truck and \$3,000.

This September, St. Mary's served their billionth meal, and in fiscal year 2016-2017 they distributed more than 86 million pounds of donated food statewide. That's 13 million pounds more than the last year.

"In 1967, we distributed 250,000 pounds of food," Brown says. "Now every day we distribute 250,000 pounds. What we did in that entire first year now represents a Monday for St. Mary's."

NEW FOCUS: HUNGER

The problem is all around us

- Over 42 million food insecure people living in the United States
- One in seven people are hungry worldwide
- Lack of proper nutrition is linked to 3.1 million deaths each year for children below the age of five

The states of Mississippi, New Mexico, Arizona, Alabama and Arkansas had the highest rates of food-insecure children in 2014, according to Feeding America. But hunger threatens everywhere: openly in city centers, hidden in middle-class suburban neighborhoods, sight unseen in peaceful rural areas. In fact, Feeding America says 15 percent of rural households are food insecure.

The reasons are many. In Arizona, says Brown, access to healthy food can be limited. Some people live 35 miles from a grocery store and don't have regular transportation.

Nationally, the recession shattered retirement plans. Medication prices are high. People are forced to choose between their medicine and healthy foods.

In suburban areas thought to be affluent, it's not that people don't have jobs. "It's that they have low-paying jobs. A lot of people are surprised, but poverty has risen substantially, even here," says Nancy Wiersum, a vice president at Loaves & Fishes.

The pantry relies on 60 to 100 volunteers a day. Sixty percent of the food comes from grocery stores each week—60,000

to 90,000 pounds of food that's good to eat but nearing the expiration date, explains Cary Gilkey, vice president of food operations. The rest is purchased with donations and gained from food drives.

"Just about every Lions club in Arizona has a food drive," says Sun City Host Lion Paul Yopps in District 21 A where they collected 827 pounds of food and water for St. Mary's this summer.

In District 13 OH7 in southeast Ohio, many live far below the poverty line. Lions and Leo clubs

are working to collect 100,000 food items by February, says District Governor Dave Stockum.

Lions and Leos also fill backpacks with protein-packed food for schoolchildren to take home on Friday, knowing that it may be the only food many have for the weekend.

"We live in a very rural, very poor area. These kids would not have anything to eat if we didn't have this 'Backpack Friday' project," says Sutherlin Lion Sharon Elliott in Oregon. "We try to pack enough for other kids or the whole family, including fruits and vegetables."

At Blythewood High School near Columbia, South Carolina, Leo President Jaelyn Ellis says the club's focus on hunger has opened her eyes to how many students go hungry. "We go to school with them every day, and we don't even know," she says.

At the Illinois pantry, Woodring hopes to erase misconceptions and stigmas. "These are not people who are trying to get something for nothing," he says. "These people

have come on hard times and they would like nothing more than to be in another place in life."

Rarely does anyone leave without an expression of appreciation, but Jenny, a young

mom who made regular visits to Loaves & Fishes, said it in a letter.

"I walked into Loaves & Fishes with my head hung low the first time. I walked out feeling less shame and more love. ... I no longer have to ration a bag of apples between my four kids and my husband, and I no longer feel guilty about eating," she wrote. "I will never be able to describe how it feels as a mom to deny your kids because you have to stretch it all week."

"THESE ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING. ... THESE PEOPLE HAVE COME ON HARD TIMES AND THEY WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE IN ANOTHER PLACE IN LIFE."

Lion Woodring

St. Mary's Food Bank has been feeding the hungry in Arizona for 50 years. Photos by Caitlin O'Hara.



The Face of Hunger

HUNGER IS A REALITY IN MORE PLACES THAN EVER BEFORE

La Guarjira, along the northeast border of Colombia by the turquoise waters of the Caribbean, is home to the Wayuu, the largest of Colombia's indigenous communities.

"The people of the sun, sand and wind," wear brightly-colored garments. Women weave their internationally-known art, vivid "mochila" bags with unique, intricate geometric designs that are expressions of their culture.

But the joy in the colors is not indicative of their lives.

Nearly 5,000 Wayuu children have died since 2011 of starvation and malnutrition.

Since 2011, a persistent drought has left the people with parched land, dust and wind. Crops have died. The goats that support the people cannot live without food and water. And the people walk hours in the heat to access wells, only to find the water contaminated, and in the worst cases, laden with bacteria.

An economy based on domestic agriculture with little water available is not possible, says documentary photographer Nicolo' Filippo Rosso of Bogota, Colombia, who spent months capturing the Wayuu life in pictures and now returns to them as a friend.

Five La Guarjira Lions clubs are now offering a glimmer of hope.

With an LCIF grant, Lions are constructing six centers to provide food near local schools, encouraging school attendance and ensuring that Wayuu children receive well-balanced meals. Municipal governments nearby have committed to operating them and providing food, staff and furniture, and Lions have promised continued support.



Photos by Nicolo' Filippo Rosso

In 2011, the Colombian government constructed a dam on the Rancheria River, which once fed the aquifer that was the Wayuu's water source. But the majority of the river's water is now diverted to neighboring municipalities and to sustain South America's largest open-pit coalmine. As a result, what the Wayuu can access is merely a trickle.

As plants die, so does the traditional Wayuu healer's resource for treatments, leaving the people to walk hours to a hospital where no one speaks their language, says Rosso. The women walk the same distance to sell their bags, hoping for money to buy food. But they face exploitation and corruption.

"These people are the victims of lies and abandonment. Their culture is dying, and we should care about that," Rosso says. "I think it's important we really understand. Maybe we can't change the condition for all the Wayuu people, but let's at least try to have an impact on some. If there is anything we can do, something as little as a water pump, then maybe we can change the life of one community or even one family."

LCIF GRANTS OFFER HOPE

With an LCIF grant, Lions are constructing six centers to provide food near local schools, encouraging school attendance and ensuring that Wayuu children receive well-balanced meals.



Committed to a Solution

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP END HUNGER

Around the world, one in three children's deaths is the result of malnutrition.

Lions strive to change that number, to decrease food insecurity in their communities and provide for those suffering from a lack of healthy foods.

"We want to make sure there is not one day where the children sleep with hunger and not one day where children go to school with an empty stomach," says Past District Governor Ruth Chua, president of the Manila Amity Lions Club in the Philippines.

The Amity Lions give cash prizes to the children in their supplemental feeding program who gain the most weight. It's an incentive for parents to bring their malnourished children to the daily meals.

Club members worried that one feeding wouldn't make a lasting impact on the lives of the children, Chua explains. So with the assistance of an LCIF grant, Lions provide a nutritious meal every day to children who are small and often weak, more susceptible to

illness and infection, and at risk of falling behind in school, says Chua.

This year, the club was joined by the Tacloban City Lions and extended the feeding project to a school in Tacloban City, an area devastated in 2013 by Super Typhoon Yolanda. It is intended to help 26 "wasted" students where muscle and fat is "wasting away." Many of the children's parents were fishermen forced to relocate from the coast after Yolanda, leaving them with no income, Chua says. Her club hopes to also help these parents rebuild their lives.

"We cannot feed their children forever. We want their parents to also do their share," says Chua, "But right now we want to save the children."

These efforts extend worldwide.

In India, Lions are giving 19,000 children across the country free lunch every day. In District 321 A2, \$10,400 in free grain was distributed across the nation to needy people. Roughly \$1 feeds three people.

"WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THERE IS NOT ONE DAY WHERE THE CHILDREN SLEEP WITH HUNGER AND NOT ONE DAY WHERE CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH."

Past District Governor Ruth Chua, president of the Manila Amity Lions Club in the Philippines



Children in the Philippines benefit from the feeding program established by the Manila Amity Lions.

In East Africa, the Kenyan Lions of District 411 A team up with Lions in Sweden to provide supplies for famine victims. In Lebanon, Lions ran a charity restaurant that fed thousands. In Australia, District 201 V5's Hunger Portfolio brings Lions and the community together assembling food hampers for families in need.

In the U.S., Illinois Lions support Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit that produces nutritional complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children in the poorest areas of the world.

Every community has their own way to contribute.

Vermont's Norton Lions recognized that children need more than "belly fillers." With a \$500 Centennial Grant from LCI they launched the Norton Friends and Farmers Market's Kids Nutritional Program.

"Kid Bucks" provides children ages 4 to 12 with \$5 to spend on fresh fruits and veggies at the farmers market, giving less fortunate children a chance to enjoy these sometimes expensive foods. Lessons are provided on healthy eating,

and since the produce is locally grown, it also helps local farmers.

"Who knows? One of the children Lions help could be the future leader of this country," says Chua. "If we can provide better health, better education, they could free themselves from the poverty they are in now. They could have a better life."

Watch these two short videos on hunger.

Think you know hunger? There is a lot more to it than you realize.

A Leo club in the Philippines curbs hunger through an interesting strategy.

Lions have battled hunger for decades. Read these stories.

- A Lion family gives the 50th million CARE package (May 1963 LION).
- Famine plagues the world, and malnutrition afflicts the United States (December 1974 LION).
- U.S. Lions put food on the table coast to coast (March 2008 LION).

5 WAYS TO HELP

Ready to take action in your community? These are five easy ways to help defeat hunger where you live.



Invite a health professional to visit your club and educate members on the prevalence and impact of hunger in your community.



Support your local food bank by donating time, equipment or food.



Use social media to raise awareness about hunger in your community and to inspire others to become involved.



Deliver nutritious, prepared meals to elderly, disabled or ill community members.



Serve meals at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.



AFTER HARVEY, LIONS GET TO WORK

BY JAY COPP // *Photos by Micahl Wyckoff*

Northeast of Houston, Liberty County is divided in half by the Trinity River, which after Tropical Storm Harvey petulantly rushed over its banks and mercilessly flooded homes and businesses. That's why three Lions maneuvered a small motorboat to tiny, isolated Moss Hill, no more than a couple of restaurants and a handful of churches amid scattered homes.

Hardin Lions Bonita Davis; her daughter, Savannah Ardoin; and Travis Reed motored toward a solitary trailer home, near the river and in danger of being washed away, and rescued a grateful man.

Other Lions also took boats to rescue those in harm's way. John Joslin, a constable and a Lion in Cleveland, also plucked people from their homes. Another officer on his detail was seriously injured when his airboat was pulled under the current of the San Jacinto River. He and another responder "ended up hanging onto a tree right around the Burger King. That's how they were rescued," Joslin told a newspaper.

"The first responders in Liberty County were Lions," says Davis, a zone chairperson and a Hardin Lion since 2000.

Past International President Chancellor Bob Corlew surveys damage from Hurricane Harvey with Lion Bonita Davis, boat driver Lion Buddy Birch and Pastor Oneal Edwards of the Lone Star Missionary Baptist Church of Moss Bluff, Texas.





(Clockwise from upper left) Sorting donated supplies are Helen Thornton (from left), president of the Conroe Noon Lions Club in Texas, International Director Sam Lindsey of Texas and volunteer Lori Hooper. Past District Governor Chuck Martin moves supplies at a distribution center set up by Conroe Noon Lions at a steel facility. Lindsey carries bottled water at a Lions' shelter in Cleveland, Texas. Carlos (last name unknown) and Lion Suzie Vestal unload supplies shipped by Conroe Lions to Hardin Lions for hurricane victims.

Thanks in large part to a \$100,000 emergency catastrophe grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation, Lions in Texas also stocked shelters with food and water. The isolation of Liberty County, in particular, where roads were impassable, made the efforts of Lions and other community members vital. "The Red Cross was not able to get there. They [residents] would have been without food or water for days," says Past District Governor Mark Roth.

In devastated Liberty County, only 1 shelter of the 17 set up after Harvey was operated by the Red Cross, says

Davis. Aided by Lions and others, churches stepped up. "The Lighthouse [Church] knew if they asked and whatever they needed, Lions would get it," says Davis.

Harvey is predicted to be the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. Its potential price tag is \$190 billion. The hurricane transformed Lions in Texas from typical service club members to vital cogs in rescue and recovery initiatives.

For small clubs in small towns, the storm was particularly groundbreaking. There are 24 Lions in Hardin, a town of only 700. Year after year, the

Lions hold pancake suppers, mount American flags on holidays and auction students' art to raise funds for scholarships. Within the space of a few days of unrelenting rain and unprecedented flooding, the Lions became instant, self-appointed deputies in ensuring people's well-being in a region scarred by war-like damage.

Trucks of goods began arriving by the dozens; many came from Lions. "They were from Rhode Island, Phoenix, New York," says Davis. "I put out a call; come with your truck and trailer. The Lions are bringing in stuff."

CLUBS AID TEXANS

Many Ledyard Lions in Connecticut went without power or running water for a week after Superstorm Sandy five years ago. So after Hurricane Harvey members collected money and gift cards at club meetings and also donated the funds of the sale of its Yo-Yo balloon at a fair.


Sag Harbor in New York also was in Sandy's path, and Lions there donated part of its annual Andy's Run to aid Texas as well as other funds. The club expected to send \$2,000 to LCIF for Harvey relief.

Across the nation, remembering their own travails, Lions have sent funds to LCIF or loaded trucks of goods for Texans. Its members moved by the televised images of the scope of the disaster, clubs in towns without any recent history of a calamity also provided relief.

Among many others, Sevier Lions in Tennessee collected items such as diapers, cleaning supplies and tarps. Lisbon Lions in New York stationed themselves outside a Walmart to collect donations. Massapequa Lions and Lions from nearby clubs in New York filled a 53-foot semi-truck with nonperishable food, blankets and emergency supplies. On the other side of the country, Carpinteria Lions in California passed a hat at a meeting and garnered more than \$1,000.

The Aberdeen Lions Club in Maryland raided its closet—its medical closet—to help Texans. The club donated 25 walkers.

Lions in Texas dug deep for their fellow Texans. Amarillo Lions hosted a Fill the Truck event, and Ysleta Lions dedicated the proceeds of an RC race car competition to Harvey.



Conroe Noon Lions Richard Brooks (center) and Bobby Brennan help remove belongings and damaged property of Dale Miller (red shirt) of Conroe.



This man from Moss Bluff was helped by Lions.

Some residents did not understand who Lions are and even whether the goods were free. Davis posted a message on social media letting people know “that Lions don’t get paid.”

In Cleveland, the civic-minded doggedness and courage of a Lion ensured that people would get fed. Second Vice President Thomas Higgins, a store manager at Brookshire Brothers, drove through a flooded area to open his store. “He did that at great peril to himself,” says Mike Penry, a fellow Cleveland Lion. The waters rose even higher after Higgins arrived to open the grocery store, so he had to stay overnight in his store.

As Harvey approached, like other Texans, Lions closely watched the fore-

casts. They also prepared themselves for a disaster. District Governor Betty Ezell of Houston worked the phones. “She was a real champ,” says Roth. When the deluge hit, Lions were ready. “She [Ezell] told us to get whatever we need. LCI would be able to reimburse us,” says Penry.

Lions’ readiness was steeled by prior experience—more than they’d prefer—with hurricanes. “I lived through the hurricane in 1962. I was walking my dog in the eye of the 1983 hurricane. It’s a way of life on the Gulf Coast,” says Roth. “We’re far enough away from the coast that the wind dies down. ... We were anticipating we’d have 20 or 30 inches of rain. Fifty-four inches made it difficult.”

“My running joke with the cabinet secretary was that I had an easy year,” says Roth, whose term as district governor ended June 30. “My one fear was a hurricane. Then the call came in”

Like other Lions, Roth had to balance work and service. He’s a manager at an organ bank at a hospital in Houston. His “vacation” was spent attending to the consequences of Harvey. “I told my boss I needed to take some days off. I had plenty of vacation time in the bank.”

Roth lives in Houston on the first floor of a high-rise. The waters crept toward the steps but came no further. Less fortunate were many other Lions whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged. Lions in Huffman and Hardin

“We were anticipating we’d have 20 or 30 inches of rain. FIFTY-FOUR inches made it DIFFICULT.”



Residents of Moss Bluff were grateful to Lions.

suffered great personal losses. Don Haven, a Huffman Lion, had two feet of water in his home. “It’s gutted—the whole place. There’s nothing left,” says Haven, 79.

“I’m president, so as soon as we get the Lions back together, we’ll get going. A lot of us had damage. Some not as bad as others,” he says.

The club took \$3,000 it had and donated food and provided portable toilets to a shelter at a church. “That’s what we do. We’re about helping,” says Haven.

Second Vice District Governor Tony Austin, a Humble Noon Lion, saw many of his possessions ravaged by floodwaters. Amid the pile of ruined goods in front of his home was a damaged framed photo—“my most prized possession”—of he and his Lions’ mentor in his native South Africa.

Yet the readiness of others to lend a hand cheered beleaguered Texans. LCIF Chairperson Chancellor Bob Corlew toured parts of Texas to assess needs—and to add an extra pair of hands. “It brought a tear to my eye, and I don’t cry easily. There was Chair Corlew and [Past International Director] Al Picone with a bad knee unloading the pallets of water,” says Roth.

Later, another moving moment, a grateful recipient beseeched the Lions’ contingent to gather in a circle to pray.

What went around came around—in a very good way. Davis, hurrying to various locations to orchestrate aid, spied the man whom she had helped rescue in her boat. He was standing in line for food at a shelter. “I wanted to give him a hug,” she recalls. “But he hugged me first.”

Hurricanes and Lions have a long history. Lions nationwide responded after Camille devastated the Gulf Coast (November 1969 LION). Read the story.

LIONS FILL NEEDS AFTER IRMA IN FLORIDA

After Hurricane Irma pounded Florida, District Governor Betty Barrera learned from a Lion that several dozen low-income people were left homeless after damage to their 19-floor housing complex. She made a beeline to a parking lot across the street from their shuttered home. They had been in the hot Miami sun for nearly a week.

“Can I get you food?”

“We don’t need food. We need to get out of the sun,” they told Barrera, who lives in Pembroke Pines.

So Barrera and Lions went to Home Depot and bought 13 tents with open sides. They also purchased 22 chairs, two tables, a camping bed for an elderly woman and medicine for sunburn. Lions later provided food, made possible, like the tents, thanks to an LCIF emergency grant.

Lions in District 35 N also provided food and other goods for a shelter in Hollywood for residents of a trailer park and for two shelters at Florida International University in Miami. One shelter was for evacuees from the Florida Keys and the other for people with special needs. An LCIF grant also financed that aid.

“LCIF was great. They had called me and asked me what we were doing and what we needed,” says Barrera.

Notwithstanding widespread damage caused by Irma, the hurricane actually was not as catastrophic as anticipated. “We were well-prepared. We saw what happened in Houston. There were long lines for days [before Irma hit] for food, water and gas,” says Barrera.

Communication was a problem. The internet was a casualty of Irma, and cell phones were often useless. As of press time, Barrera was still unsure of how Lions in the Florida Keys were personally impacted. But she did reach a Lion in Marathon, who told her not to send food. “We have food. That would just get wasted,” he told her. He told her to get back to him in a couple weeks.

Wounded Warriors Heal Together

// BY JOAN CARY





// Twenty veterans a day commit suicide in the U.S.

No matter where they served—Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan—thousands more face a daily struggle with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, trying to adjust to life after time in the military.

The Saratoga Springs Lions in New York, a club of 105, including more than 15 veterans, is working hard to address that, says Lion Bill Gibeault, who is spearheading his club's support for Saratoga WarHorse.

Saratoga WarHorse is a nonprofit that matches two unlikely but weary warriors—a racehorse and a veteran—and helps them create a healing bond.

The organization's founder, Bob Nevins, a Vietnam veteran, discovered some years ago that the two have much in common. Both lived a life of high anxiety, working in stressful situations, and both are adjusting to starting out new. Introducing one to the other can heal men and women who suffer the psychological wounds of war, and also give a meaningful job back to thoroughbreds whose racing days are done, he says.

Nevins, who served as a medevac pilot in the 101st Airborne Division and flew hundreds of rescue missions across Vietnam, has been awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses for Heroism, a Purple Heart, a Soldiers Medal and 10 Air Medals. Retired after 24 years as an airline captain, he became aware of the vast numbers of veterans who suffer depression and PTSD, as well as the veteran suicide rate, which jumped 32 percent from 2001 to 2014.

And importantly, he knew that working with horses was most soothing to him when he returned from the war.

In 2011, Nevins founded Saratoga WarHorse, and since then more than 600 veterans from across the country have graduated from his cost-free, three-day program in Saratoga and also South Carolina. In the program, veterans—most with no equine experience—work daily with one horse, building trust, resetting the emotional circuits in the brain that have disconnected or shut down, says Nevins.

Saratoga Lions and veterans Russ Terpening and Mike Stoneback got to experience the program firsthand.

Terpening, a 70-year-old veteran who served as a medic in Vietnam, building tunnels and clearing mines and jungles, oftentimes finding soldiers already dead when he got to them, saw

a WarHorse poster that said “Having Trouble Sleeping?”

“It never dawned on me before, but I was. And now I’m not,” he says. For more than 30 years he attributed restless nights to too much adrenaline from being a police officer, a job he took on shortly after returning from the war.

After three days in the program, learning about horse behavior and working with Kit, a 1,000 pound thoroughbred, he became more comfortable with the horse and the horse with him.

Then on the final evening, “He came and laid his head on my shoulder,” recalls Terpening. “That’s when the transition takes place. The horse trusts you. It makes a connection with you, and what you see with a lot of vets is that they lose the connection.”

// It’s hard to explain, but it’s amazing. //

Gibeault says the Saratoga Lions were onboard with Nevin’s mission shortly after he visited a club meeting. Now they want to spread word of his work nationwide and send proceeds from their expanding “Save a Vet” program his way. Before the club’s annual Memorial Day Duathlon, they sold more than 600 \$7 flags printed with a veteran’s name and displayed them at the race before sending them on a “Freedom Flag Tour” around town. Lions hope to expand on that every year.

“What we would like to do is reach into the smaller communities where vets are and let them know this program is out there to help them,” says Gibeault. “We are trying to be an outreach ambassador for them.”

Appreciative of the Lions’ support, Nevin says, “Everyone has one of these veterans right in their own backyard. Whether a Lion can donate or not doesn’t matter. What matters is getting the word out and not losing 22 veterans a day.”

Says Lion Mike Stoneback, “Russ and I, we’re Vietnam vets. Once we got out of the military, we didn’t talk about it. We were so poorly received by the public that when you got home you just put it away. But a lot of guys came home with problems, and problems don’t just go away.”

“We [Lions] support a lot of causes,” Stoneback says. “This is another one that feels right. Losing our vets to emotional distress is not right. If we can save just one, we’re a success.”

(Opposite) Vietnam veteran Russ Terpening, a Lion, bonds with Kit, a retired thoroughbred at Saratoga WarHorse.

CATCHING TONS OF FUN AT THE FISHERMAN'S PICNIC

// BY JAY COPP

Photos by Caroline Yang



The Fisherman's Picnic has an ideal setting: Grand Marais, a gateway to the Boundary Waters and recently named the Coolest Small Town in America by Budget Travel. The event is held in a lakeside park and on the town's streets, which include the one-of-a-kind Beaver House, a family-owned shop that sells all things fishing.



Forty miles from Canada and perched on Lake Superior, Grand Marais in Minnesota draws outdoors enthusiasts all summer. But the little town of 1,300 is absolutely transformed in early August when the Lions hold their annual Fisherman's Picnic. As many as 12,000 people, some of them who've booked rooms a year in advance, flood the streets.

It's entirely safe to say Grand Marais is the only place in the world where within four days you can compete in loon calling, fish tossing (similar to egg tossing but with herring) and minnow races, attend a lumberjack "camp" with its sawmilling demonstrations and logrolling and crosscut sawing contests, and wolf down "fish-burgers," the festival's signature food item. You can also watch children, with gritted teeth, struggle mightily on a weighted tricycle to see how far he or she can ride in the tractor pull.

If you like more traditional summer happenings, there is plenty of that, too: a parade, music, bingo and fireworks.

The Fisherman's Picnic is an

88-year-old tradition, a salute to the logging and fishing roots of Grand Marais. The club has 39 members, not bad at all for the size of the town. But the size of the festival is another story. "We're pretty exhausted by the time it's over," says Cheryl Woodward, who moved here from California to be near her mother.

About those iconic fishburgers: the club sells 650 pounds of the breaded, fried herring, served on a hot dog bun. "I hate them. But lots of people love them," says Woodward. The fishburger is celebrated in song: a musician once penned an ode to it, and it's sung on stage. And Lions periodically take to the PA system with their siren song: "Are you hungry?"

Maybe other parts of the world are too often reminded of its troubles and turbulences. But those concerns seem to fade away at the Fisherman's Picnic. "Up here you are pretty much separated from what's going on in the world. This is all about family," says Woodward.



NASCAR has the attraction of speed, but minnow races, well, those little fish move fast in their own delightful way.



The log rolling contest is a staple.



The secret to crosscut sawing? Find a young person with lots of energy to do it.



Adults devour the fishburgers, but kids enjoy sugary treats.



The festive parade is a highlight of the four-day Lions' festival, which nets the club nearly \$20,000. The fun is priceless, of course.



Lion Pete Kavanaugh explains the Loon Calling contest.



John McElevy, a Lion since Aug. 1, 1958, displays some of his Lions' paraphernalia.

Skipping stones is a popular competition enjoyed by all ages at the Fisherman's Picnic.





**CHEESE
CURDS**

**J
C
S**

CORN
CORN EGGS
CHOPS

When the sun sets on the Fisherman's picnic, what's left are **memories**—lots of good ones.





Lions Clubs International

LIONS ELECT DIRECTORS IN CHICAGO

Delegates to the Centennial International Convention in Chicago elected 17 new international directors to serve a two-year term. Visit the Lions Clubs International website for biographies of newly-elected directors and to also view the biographies and photos of the five international officers and second-year directors who lead the association.



Doo-Hoon Ahn
Seoul, Korea



Sandro Castellana
Padova, Italy



Hastings Eli Chiti
Lusaka, Zambia



William Galligani
Nimes, France



Tom Gordon
Ontario, Canada



Dr. Nicholas Jara Orellana
Quito, Ecuador



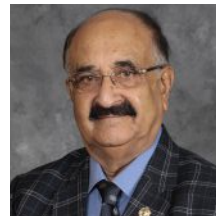
Ardie Klemish
Adair, Iowa
United States



Alice Lau
Guangzhou, China



Connie LeCleir-Meyer
Mondovi, Wisconsin
United States



V.K. Luthra
Panta Bihar, India



Datuk Dr. K. Naga
Malacca, Malaysia



Don Noland
St. Peters, Missouri
United States



Regina Risken
Giessen, Germany



Yoshio Satoh
Nagano, Japan



Patricia Vannett
Mandan, North Dakota
United States



Gwen A. White
Columbia, North Carolina
United States



Nicholas Xinopoulos
Brownsburg, Indiana
United States

CHANGE THROUGH AN EXCHANGE

The Lions Youth Camp and Exchange Program Transforms Lives

// BY JAY COPP

In two trips abroad to Denmark and Japan, Katie Wong, 22, ventured into new realms. She dined on exotic foods, visited historical sites and, in living with host families, immersed herself in the everyday life of another culture.

She also met, quite literally, a boatload of new friends.

Now a college senior in California, Wong spent two weeks on what she fondly calls a “pirate ship” with 25 other young people. The crew sailed in the seas around Denmark aboard a sailing ship. They adopted a rugged sailor lifestyle, putting up the sails, scrubbing the deck and sleeping in hammocks.

Studying kinesiology and preparing for a career as a physician’s assistant, Wong returned to the States as a changed person. “I learned so much about so many things. I got out of my little bubble,” says Wong. “It taught me a lot about responsibility, communication and being open-minded.”

Wong is one of tens of thousands of youths who have taken part in the Lions Youth Camp and Exchange Program (YCE). The Los Angeles International Lion Club sponsored her two stays abroad.

YCE often is a transformative experience. Living in close quarters with youths from a dozen or more other nations plays out as a broadening, exhilarating adventure. Sharing meals, small talk and frequent outings quickly break down the barriers that seem to separate youths from different cultures.

“We hope the youths become global citizens,” says Michelle Anderson, the former YCE coordinator at Lions Clubs International (LCI). “It’s part of the mission of Lions Clubs to promote peace and international understanding. The program does that powerfully.”

Participants follow a familiar arc of progress. “They’re timid and nervous at first. But they meet people from all over the world, and they start to get comfortable and understand another culture,” says Anderson.

YCE students stay with a host family, either a Lions’ family or a family vetted by a club. Or they live for a week or two at a Lions Youth Camp overseas. Many trips involve both a camp experience and a host family stay.

She also met,
quite literally,
a boatload
of new friends.

The exchanges, mostly during the summer, are for youths ages 15 to 22. Each year thousands of U.S. youths, sponsored by a local Lions club and partnering with a host club, head overseas. Youths similarly come to the United States. LCI does not keep an exact count of participants, but in a typical year more than 250 camps and host family stays are available.

LCI began YCE in 1961. “Camp” actually is a misnomer. Some stays are in an actual camp facility, some even at a Lions camp, with plenty of swimming, boating and hiking. But more often

“campers” stay in a group home, dormitory or hotel and enjoy cultural activities more so than outdoor pastimes.

Duncan McPherson, 47, of Orlando, Florida, stayed in a hotel in Japan with youth worldwide as well as with a host family when he took part in YCE in 1990. The trip was a pivotal experience for him. “I was just thinking about it the other day,” he says. “You have to be open to new things. Like fish for breakfast. They do things a little differently there.”

McPherson, who was a Lion for a couple of years, works at Disney World and often encounters Japanese. “I use a little Japanese. They love it,” he says. “The thing about the Japanese is their hospitality. They went out of their way for me. I try to go out of my way for them.”

Some of the camps today offer a specific theme. The popular Sound of Music camp in Austria is for youths who play an instrument or sing; on the last day the youth perform together at a concert. Other camps cater to certain youths such as a camp in Italy for those with disabilities.

Costs are divided—not necessarily evenly—among the host club, the sponsoring club, the participating youth and the host family. LCI’s role is to help connect clubs and youths interested in an exchange with camps and host families. The LCI website has a pin-dotted Google map showing the location of camps and host families as well as some details and contact information. It’s up to clubs and youths to contact the Lions overseas to reserve a spot.

Studies have shown that international youth exchanges increase the skills, confidence and sense of empowerment of participants and also lead to greater

(Opposite) A selfie of Katie Wong (first row, right) shows her on an outing with fellow participants in a Youth Camp and Exchange Program.

civic involvement. As one example, nearly 3,500 students took part in the U.S. Department of State's Youth Exchange and Study Program after it was begun in 2002. Independent researchers found that the students, mostly Muslim, did much more community service after returning home than they had prior to their stays in the United States.

Some of the YCE stays devote a day or two to service. Lions are determined to not only showcase their cultural heritage, cuisine and customs but also

impress upon their guests the centrality of service in their community. A recent camp in Turkey included a beautification day in an impoverished Romanian neighborhood.

Youths selected for YCE need not have prior ties with Lions. But Wong happens to have plenty. Her grandmother, Dorothy Lew, is a member of the Los Angeles International Lion Club. Her late grandfather was a district governor. As a child Wong collected pop tabs for Lions for a Ronald McDonald House and cleaned out the eyeglasses

from the receptacle in front of her grandmother's home. She still attends club meetings with her grandmother to spend time with her.

Read about the first year of the youth exchange program (April 1963 LION).

Read an eye-opening account of youth exchange a decade after its founding (June 1974 LION).



SPICING UP THE SONGBOOK

Many Lions are familiar with the music in the Lions Songbook. But the Shawnee Lions in Virginia have also tackled some Elvis and Tammy Wynette tunes.

“Hey Good Lookin’” and “Don’t Be Cruel” are both in their repertoire, as well as some hits from Hank Williams and Tony Bennett.

Club President Edward Touchstone, a professional accordion player and singer who performs in an Italian restaurant, has always led the club in song. Originally members kept to the typical meeting routine—a flag salute followed by a club song, a patriotic song, then a prayer and then time to eat. But one evening when the club had finished a particularly fine rendition of “God Bless America,” Touchstone asked if anyone had a particular favorite they’d like to try. He would gladly get the lyrics, and the club could sing it, he said.

Lion Gene Burkhart, the first to come forward, expressed interest in a little Hank Williams.

Touchstone worked up three of his selections for the next meeting. Charles Puglisi, the club’s conductor, followed suit, and the ball started rolling.

Soon after, the Lions took on the crooners, including Frank Sinatra. For Elvis Presley’s birthday, they sang “Love Me Tender” and a few other favorites.

“These guys have a repertoire of about 35 selections now, and never have I heard anybody say, ‘No. Oh, I don’t want to sing,’” says Touchstone.

Although most members know the songs, he always has a cheat sheet for them, making sure they don’t sound like the nearby Winchester Lions,

whom they razz about not being able to carry a tune.

Possibly the most challenging request was for the Bee Gees’ disco hit, “Stayin’ Alive.” Touchstone says he overheard one of the guys say under his breath that he wondered if the club could handle it. Quietly, Touchstone wasn’t sure they could either.

“Never have I heard anybody say, ‘No. Oh, I don’t want to sing.’”



Photo by Lion Byron Clemens

“But I got the lyrics, and darn if the guys didn’t sing it,” he says, his voice still tinged with amazement. “Of course, we didn’t sound like the Bee Gees. But it’s a lively way to start the meeting. It’s good for morale.”

“Sometimes the singing is not that good, and we razz each other. But sometimes it sounds pretty darn good,” Touchstone says.

“The idea is that they try their best, and we have a good time.”

The Shawnee Lions in Virginia, led by professional accordion player and Lion Edward Touchstone, enjoy a wide repertoire when it comes to starting the meeting with a song.



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- Keynote addresses by global leaders
- Expert panel discussions on the global diabetes epidemic
- Lions Peace Poster Contest awards ceremony
- Special entertainment
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Lions Protect Indonesian Children from Measles and Rubella

// BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

“We will make this world a safer place to live for our children,” declares Council Chairperson Jono Koesmo, confident in the success of Lions’ efforts to protect the children of Indonesia from measles and rubella.

Both the measles and rubella viruses are prevalent in Indonesia, and thousands of cases are reported annually. Measles is a potentially life-threatening virus that can leave its survivors with brain

damage, deaf and blind. Rubella can cause miscarriages and birth defects.

Of course, Lions cannot stand by and watch as thousands of children are diagnosed with these diseases each year. With funding from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions of Multiple District 307 in Indonesia have joined the Indonesian government and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in a measles and rubella (MR) immunization campaign.

During this two-year campaign, the goal is to immunize at least 95 percent, or around 70 million Indonesian children against measles and rubella. After the campaign, the Indonesian

government will replace the measles vaccine with the combined MR vaccine in the country’s routine immunization system. The government is hoping to eliminate measles and rubella from Indonesia by the year 2020.

In order to accomplish this monumental goal, the campaign is being conducted in two phases. The first phase took place in Java Island’s six provinces during August and September. All schools conducted vaccination days in which children between the ages of 6 and 15 years received the vaccine. The campaign extended to local clinics, hospitals and community centers to reach children between the ages of 9 months and 6 years who were not yet in school. The second phase of the campaign will take place in 2018 and will bring vaccinations to children in the remaining 28 provinces outside of Java Island.

Koesmo, who is very involved with the MR campaign, has described some of the challenges local Lions face in their efforts to raise awareness and encourage participation. “[It] surprised me [that] so far there are so many myths and wrong information [about vaccinations] given to some schools and parents.” In order to advocate for the life-saving MR vaccinations, Koesmo says Lions are reaching schools and parents through social media, websites, radio, seminars and other types of ads. Lions are also visiting schools, religious leaders and local governments.

The MR vaccine protects children from the potentially life-altering and deadly infections that are widely affecting Indonesia. LCIF and Lions will continue to work together to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a MR vaccination.



Knowing another child will be protected from measles and rubella, Lions in Indonesia smile at a vaccination event.

// CLUB NEWS

The **Penn Yan Lions of New York** built a special needs playground as their Legacy project. Seventy Lions and community volunteers built the playground in two days, amassing more than 980 man hours.

The **Sarasota Lions in Florida** held eye screenings as part of kids' back-to-school physical exams. They also took part in Day4Hope to prepare children from low-income families with the things they needed to go back to school including free haircuts, food, books and a family photo.

Six Carroll County Lions clubs—**Deer Park, Freedom District, Greater Carroll, Roaring Run, South Carroll and Taylorsville/Winfield in Maryland**, hosted the 16th annual Lions Club Spring Golf Tournament in honor of International Director Richard Liebno. All of the money went to the American Diabetes Association and the Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.



Lion Elizabeth Manning (above), one of **California Lions Friends in Sight**, was happy to help a patient in Tecate, Mexico. The Lions have served more than 60,000 people in southern California and northern Mexico since 2010.

The **Knowlton Lions Club of Quebec, Canada**, awarded bursaries to two graduates of the Brome-Missisquoi Campus Continuing Education program. The Lions also raised more than \$10,000 through their community garage sale.

The **Wild Rose Lions in Wisconsin** granted a 99-year lease for land with Main Street frontage to the Wild Rose American Legion for the veterans'



Paul Buddy (from left), Dick Schindel and Don Davids were among the **Aurora Noon Lions in Illinois** who viewed the eclipse on August 21 and enjoyed MoonPies and a raffle for an eclipse-themed gift basket that included Star Crunch cookies and Eclipse chewing gum.

memorial they are constructing. They also shared the proceeds of their annual Brat Fry with the Legion.

Six clubs from Lions District 5M 11 in **Minnesota—Grunthal, Lac Du Bonnet, West St. Paul, Winnipeg Riverside, Winnipeg West and Winnipeg South Lions** clubs, joined to kick off their centennial celebration by co-hosting the 2017 Manitoba Walk for Dog Guides in Winnipeg, Canada.

The **Hayward Lions in Wisconsin** served breakfast to more than 250 people on the Friday prior to Memorial Day, continuing a tradition that's more than 20 years old.

Each month **Roanoke Valley Breakfast Lions in Virginia** visit second-graders at an elementary school to encourage their success and let them know how important they are. Lions take gifts and treats to their lunch buddies and report that the children have given them much more in return.

Dallas Park Cities Lions Club in Texas was joined by the youth Infinity Club of Dallas for Youth Day, a time to do work in the community. They repaired roads, cut brush and cleaned out drainage ditches before the rain came.

The **Southbridge Lions in Massachusetts** installed their new board of directors and officers. They gave special recognition to Leonard DiGregorio and Michael Morrill for more than 60 years of Lion service.

In **California**, the **Winters Lions** donated \$2,500 to help defray the cost of a new playground facility to be made of redwood and to represent a castle.

The **Jackson Lions Club in California** awarded \$16,500 in scholarships to 2017 graduates of Argonaut High School and Amador High School.

The **Stirling and District Lions Club in Ontario, Canada**, held a rain barrel fundraiser. The club sold 199 rain barrels and numerous rain barrel accessories for a profit of \$2,300. The event was spurred by a severe drought that the village of Stirling experienced in 2016.

The **Riverview Lions in New Brunswick, Canada**, are great at flipping pancakes. Their pancake breakfasts have benefited the Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, as well as a young girl battling brain cancer.

// CLUB NEWS

When Lion Dick Martini moved across the country to be near his family, the **Amherst Lions** in **New Hampshire** and the **Beaverton Lions** in **Oregon** connected. Martini had already received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, but his old and new clubs didn't want his 40-plus years of service to go unnoticed. Martini was invited to attend a regular dinner meeting at his new club in Oregon where they surprised the newcomer with his Lion life membership certificate and pin.

The **Nashville Lions** of **Michigan** served a pancake breakfast to more than 450 people at the Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival in the spring. A joint project with the Vermontville American Legion, the fundraiser raised more than \$3,400 for the organizations.



An April Fools Plunge sponsored by the **Norfolk Lions** and the **Wrentham Lions**, both in **Massachusetts**, raised more than \$24,000 for the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc. The air temperature was 37 degrees on the day of the plunge, the water was 39 degrees, and freezing rain made it even more tempting to jump in.

In **Arizona**, the **Midweek Bell Lions** completed their Centennial Legacy project with the donation of two benches to the Duffeeland Dog Park, the first dog park in Sun City.

The **Quincy Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** hosted an Evening for Sight, raising \$25,000 to help meet needs in Quincy, especially the KidSight and high school scholarship programs.

In celebration of the **Loyalist Township Lions Club** and the 100th anniversary of Lions, a horticulturalist designed a special flower arrangement in Islandview Park. In addition to Lion charities, the **Amherstview Lions** in **Canada** contribute to many community youth and family projects and host a pancake breakfast in Bath every month.

The **Prescott Noon Lions** in **Arizona** collected more than \$21,000 for LCIF Disaster Relief. The collections for Hurricane Harvey victims took place at local grocery stores over two days.

The **Port Coquitlam Lions** in **Canada** had two centennial projects. Assisted by the Terry Fox Leos, they planted 100 trees in Lions Park downtown, and they refinished the Lions' memorial bench.

In **Puerto Rico**, the **Isabela Lions** sponsored a vision service activity that benefited the residents of a nursing home in the city. Seniors waiting to be seen by the optometrists received cookies and soda served by the Lions.

Islip Lions in **New York** planted three cherry trees near Brookwood Hall as their Legacy project, and guests laid a plaque at the site to commemorate the club's decades of service to Islip residents.

Members of the **Bowness Lions** in **Canada** created a quilted wall hanging in blue and yellow, paying tribute to Lions and serving as a fundraiser for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Club names from southern Alberta are embroidered around the borders, and individual squares highlight the global service areas of youth, diabetes awareness, disaster relief, hearing and vision.

The **Stanford Lions** in **Kentucky** dedicated a granite park bench with dogwood trees at each end of First Southern Veterans Park as their Legacy project. Markers in front of the trees honor the memory of deceased Lions Bill Fox and Lorraine Fox, who were instrumental in keeping the Stanford Lions Club active and strong for many years.

For 50 years, the **Nocona Lions** in **Texas** have thrilled residents with a dazzling fireworks display on the Fourth of July. This year was no different with 34 minutes of pop, sizzle and bang.

Seventy artists from across the Midwest gathered for the **Glen Ellyn Lions'** 48th annual Festival of the Arts in **Illinois**. The club's largest event of the year includes a variety of art, raffles, refreshments and live music for two days. Patrons also have the opportunity to participate in a free hearing screen provided by the Lions of Illinois Foundation onboard a hearing screening vehicle.

Carmel Lions in **Indiana** distributed 1,272 dictionaries to third-graders in the fall.

The **Kiel Lions** in **Wisconsin** and the Kiel Optimist Club jointly host the Kiel Community Picnic each year. This year the Lions proudly hung their centennial banner over their food stand.

The **Mount Orab Lions** in **Ohio** teamed up with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to anchor and refurbish the handicapped-accessible fishing dock on Lake Grant. During several harsh winters the ice pushed the dock away from its moorings, making it impossible for disabled fishermen to get to it. Lions saw the need to fix it and contacted the state department.

In **Minnesota**, the **New Hope Lions** made a \$48,000 donation to the city of New Hope to fund and build a digital message board located at the city's golf course. It's located on a busy road and advertises city and Lion events.

The **Financial District Lions Club** in **New York** brought classical music to Wagner Park in downtown Manhattan to send a message of peace and unity to communities worldwide. A tribute to the first responders who worked at ground zero on 9/11, it was designed to bring cultures together through live music.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. The committee will continue to monitor and follow up on action plans as well as proceed with identifying candidates for the two open positions.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Denied a district governor election complaint filed in District 355 B1 (Korea) and appointed Lion Hak-Young Yeo as district governor in District 355 B1 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
2. Denied a second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 108 IB3 (Italy) and declared Lion Angelo Chiesa as second vice district governor in District 108 IB3 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
3. Upheld a second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 300 C1 (MD 300 Taiwan), declared the second vice district governor election in District 300 C1 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year null and void and of no force and effect, declared a vacancy in the office of second vice district governor for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and that the second vice district governor vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the International and District Constitutions and By-Laws, and declared that US\$650 of the filing fee shall be refunded to the Complainant.
4. Denied a second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 301 D2 (Philippines) and declared Lion Generoso Del Rosario as second vice district governor in District 301 D2 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
5. Denied a second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 315 A2 (Bangladesh) and declared Lion Mohammad Fakhruddin as second vice district governor in District 315 A2 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
6. Upheld a second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 322 D (India), declared the second vice district governor election in District 322 D for the 2017-2018 fiscal year null and void and of no force and effect, declared a vacancy in the office of second vice district governor for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and that the position of second vice district governor shall remain vacant for the year and shall not be filled and declared that US\$650 of the filing fee shall be refunded to the Complainant.
7. Upheld a second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 323 E1 (India), declared the second vice district governor election in District 323 E1 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year null and void and of no force and effect, declared a vacancy in the office of second vice district governor for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and that the position of second vice district governor shall remain vacant for the year and shall not be filled and declared that US\$650 of the filing fee shall be refunded to the Complainant.
8. Denied a second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 324 A3 (India) and declared Lion Geetha Kamalakannan as second vice district governor in District 324 A3 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
9. Directed the Sendai Core Lions Club to revoke the membership of Tsugumichi Hata for conduct unbecoming a Lion and a past international officer. Declared that Tsugumichi Hata shall not be recognized in the future as a Lion or as a past international director by Lions Clubs International or any club or district and that he shall not be entitled to any privileges of such title.
10. Directed the Kwang Myong Lions Club to revoke the membership of Byeong-Yeol Ahn for failure to meet the requirement of good moral character.
11. Revised the Privacy Policy in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual and requested that the Legal Division further update the Privacy Policy as necessary to comply with the requirements set forth in the various global privacy protection laws applicable to the association.
12. Revised the Standard Form District By-Laws in Chapter VII of the Board Policy Manual to clarify the provision related to the timing of vice district governor candidates filing their intention to run for office with the Nominating Committee.
13. Revised Chapter XV, Paragraph P of the Board Policy Manual for consistency with previously adopted changes.

CONVENTION

1. The committee updated the board on the plans for the 2017 Chicago Convention.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Created a new undistricted area in Bulgaria.
2. Recognized the clubs within the Republic of Georgia as a provisional region.
3. Appointed Lions to serve as coordinating Lions for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
4. Revised board policy to reaffirm that a guiding Lion may serve no more than two clubs at any one point in time and that the Lion should be required to have served as a club president before being appointed as a guiding Lion to serve a club.
5. Revised the board policy manual to allow provisional districts to be created throughout the year instead of requiring that they only be formed at the close of the year.
6. Revised the board policy manual to expand the support of coordinating Lions and to allow the position to be referred to as a "country advisor."
7. Revised the board policy manual to recognize the Global Action Team and LCIF Coordinator positions as official positions of the Standard Form Club Constitution and By-Laws, Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws and Standard Form Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the investment policy statement be revised to reflect a combined weight for the Russell 3000, MSCI ACWI exUS and UBS Real Estate Investor Indices equal to 63 percent with the benchmark as the MSCI ACWI Index.
2. Approved the FY 2017 4th Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.
3. Approved the FY final budget for fiscal year 2018 reflecting a deficit of US\$10,250,358.
4. Approved the creation of a committee of International Director G.S. Hora, International Director Vijay Kumar Raju, Treasurer Catie Rizzo and ISAMME Executive Administrator Dr. Neville Mehta be authorized to negotiate a purchase agreement for the ISSAME Secretariat in Mumbai, India. The Executive Committee be authorized to approve the purchase of said property upon confirmation of the final negotiated purchase price including regulatory and tax requirements.
5. Moved Chapter XXI, Paragraph B of the Board Policy Manual to a new Chapter XXIII, Area Forums.
6. Amended Chapter XXI of the Board Policy Manual by deleting the existing language in its entirety and replacing with the language set forth in Exhibit A.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Reviewed the progress of leadership programs, new initiatives and improvement plans and found them in alignment with the committee's yearly goals and objectives, while also identifying areas of improvement through research and analysis approaches.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Authorized the LCI Forward Project Team made up of five Lions to be reappointed in 2017-2018 to work with staff on implementing remaining components of the association's strategic plan: LCI Forward.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the New Global Action Team to be executed as outlined in Exhibit B.
2. Approved the creation of a new Global Action Team Board Policy Chapter XXIV.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Approved three centennial PR grant applications from multiple and single districts.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Awarded the 2016-2017 Leos of the Year Awards.
2. Added a new representative to the Leo Club Program Advisory Panel.
3. Updated Chapter II to reflect current practices.
4. Updated Chapter XIII to reflect current practices.

For 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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// INFORMATION

In Memoriam

Dr. Fernando Aguayo Rojas, a past international director in 1998-2000, from Mexico, died in August. He was a member of the Ciudad Juarez Lions Club since 1971. He was awarded the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor of the association. In his work life, he conducted important research in hematology.

// ANNIVERSARIES

November 2017

95 Years: Pine Bluffs, Wyo.; Reedley, Calif.; Garden Grove Host, Calif.; Newcastle, Wyo.; Eldorado, Ill.; Holyoke, Mass.

90 Years: Ossining, N.Y.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Paden City, W.V.; Santa Barbara Host, Calif.; Weslaco, Texas; Greenville, Pa.; Lumberport, W.V.

85 Years: Tupelo, Miss.

80 Years: Lanai City, Hawaii; Beech Grove, Ind.; Springfield, Vt.; West Kauai, Hawaii; Port Perry, ON, CAN; Graceville, Fla.; River Falls, Wis.; Midland, ON, CAN; Little Rock Pulaski Heights, Ark.; Colon, Mich.; Ava, Mo.; Welch, W.V.

75 Years: Jonestown, Pa.; Americus, Ga.; Bracebridge, ON, CAN; Picayune, Miss.; Easthampton, Mass.

50 Years: Jayton, Texas; Broadville District, SK, CAN; Colorado City-Rye, Colo.; Hilton, N.Y.; Soldotna, Alaska; Callaway, Neb.; Sovereign, SK, CAN; Harrison, Mich.; Chase, BC, CAN; Thomasville, Ala.; Spring Hill, Fla.; Riverhurst, SK, CAN; Aylesford District, NS, CAN; Plainfield, Minn.; Newport, Ind.; Rocky Mountain House, AB, CAN.

25 Years: Eva, Ala.; San Francisco Korean America, Calif.; Atlanta Metro, Ga.

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

Time to Celebrate!

Celebrate
your club's milestones,
anniversaries, or the
success of an event

Decorate
with our festive Lions
party supplies available at
LCIstore.org





Photo by Norio Sekine

Game Face

The Lions club in Japan officially calls it the “General Tournament for Working up a Good Sweat,” held at a gym called Sun Abilities. The goal is for those with disabilities at the Comprehensive Welfare Center of Kasugai City to play sports and to exercise. By all accounts, both participants and their families, as well as Lions, immensely enjoy the curling, the Frisbee tossing and quoits (throwing a ring at a peg). Kasugai Choi Lions have held the event for 28 years.

Revolutionizing Service



The New MyLion™ Mobile App

LCI celebrates 100 years with the unveiling of MyLion—a world-class mobile app designed to make service volunteering fun, fast, and easy. Get ready to connect and serve with Lions everywhere—right from your mobile phone.

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