

# LION

APRIL 2018 // [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org)

LION  
MAGAZINE

DIGITAL  
EXCLUSIVE

## GOING GREEN

Inside Lions' Mission  
to Protect the Planet



Lions Clubs International



# //APRIL 2018

Volume 100 • Number 9



9

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### We want to hear from you!

Does your club have a unique tradition? Write us at [lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org) and tell us about it. Use "Tradition" in your subject line.

# DIGITAL MAGAZINE

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## VIDEO



### ↑ CoastSavers Cleans Pacific Coast Beaches

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### ↑ Jamaican clubs reforest their land

See how Lions in Jamaica are dedicated to reforestation and maintaining nearly 52 hectares of land for over 10 years.



## VAULT

In April and May 1973 International President George Friedrichs galvanized Lions to address pollution by reminding them of their power to effect change.

**WHAT MAN HAS CAUSED  
HE CAN CURE**

**ONLY WE CAN CREATE  
A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT**

**LIONS HELP CONTAIN  
POLLUTION**

California Lions have been recycling since before it was the thing to do.

## BONUS MATERIAL

**HIGHER KEY AWARDS**

Lions honored for sponsoring members.

## 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.

### CONTACTING THE LION

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# CARING FOR OUR WORLD, CONNECTING TO FUTURE GENERATIONS



Photo by Branson Tair

## ➔ NAMASTE!



Lions know that service to others brings its own very special kind of rewards. There is nothing quite like the smile that breaks

across the face of a child who plays on a Lions playground, or the look of relief in a mother's eyes when her baby receives a measles shot. Bringing shelter to disaster victims or aid to the needy—these actions connect the humanity in us to the humanity of those all around us.

But sometimes service must be done even when the rewards aren't as immediate. Sometimes, if you aren't careful to keep your heart on the big picture, the sacrifice is all you notice. When being called upon to act for the environment, we're often given a list of things we should not do: Don't use plastic water bottles, don't drive your car too much, don't take a long shower. And you'll find those suggestions in this issue, along with other small ways you can do your part.

But caring for our world shouldn't feel like a chore. This is our only home.

And we have a responsibility to future generations to care for it. When we do a service project that makes our environment better, we are connecting ourselves to those future generations. The Environment is an essential part of our new global causes, one by which we have served 64 million people in the past four years alone.

The young people of the world are passionate about this issue. It is a cause that energizes them. Some clubs have reported that they've used environmental service projects as a way to recruit more young people, and it's worked. More than half of all Lions clubs—26,550 and counting—have recently organized a project to help the environment. We're gathering momentum, and it's time to see this through until we live in a more verdant world.

In India, we face many environmental concerns. We are struggling with air pollution and groundwater depletion, which threaten the health and livelihoods of everyone, rich and poor. Just like other countries, we use too many plastics and have to deal first-hand with the ramifications of climate change.

But these challenges are not insurmountable. And while there are many small things every individual can do, there are big things that we can do to-

gether as Lions when we use our vast network to connect to our communities.

So, yes, do the little things. Most changes are so small you won't notice them. But do the big things too: Come together as a group to clean a beach or a trail, plant trees on a bare bank, recycle newspapers or plastic bags. Not only might you attract new members, but you will also be connecting yourself and your club to the greater community, now and into the future.

We do not feel the Earth turning, but we see night turn into dawn. For the two billion people who do not drink clean drinking water, for the millions who have no sanitary toilet facilities, for the many animal species that are on the brink of extinction, we need a new dawn for our planet.

This planet does not belong to us; we belong to this planet.

DR. NARESH AGGARWAL  
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

## Pushing for Earth Day to be Every Day



**Earth Day Network (EDN)**—the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide—is focusing this year’s campaign on ending plastic pollution, including a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics and the implementation of uniform regulations on the disposal of plastics.

The exponential growth of plastics threatens our planet’s health and survival. Their ubiquitous presence in the oceans and our food poisons and injures marine life and disrupts human hormones, causing life-threatening diseases and early puberty.

“There is a growing tidal wave of interest in ending plastic pollution and some countries and governments are already in the vanguard. Earth Day Network believes we can turn that tidal wave into a permanent solution to plastics pollution,” says Kathleen Rogers, president of EDN.

The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970 and inspired 20 million Americans to launch the environmental movement. The movement soon led to the passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. Twenty years later, Earth Day became an international event that mobilized 200 million people in 141 countries and lifted environmental issues to the forefront of the global conversation. Today, EDN estimates that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.

EDN works to ensure that Earth Day isn’t just a single day, but a catalyst for yearlong action. This year’s Earth Day is Saturday, April 22.

To learn more about how to join the effort to clean up our Earth, visit [earthday.org](http://earthday.org).



The Cadillac Lions ice shack sinks below the ice during warm spell.

### SINKING SHACK RAISES MONEY

The Cadillac Lions Club ice shack has officially sunk. The Michigan club uses the unpredictable Midwestern winters as a way to raise money by collecting bets on when their ice shack will sink below the surface of Lake Cadillac.

This year is the earliest it has ever gone down.

A video camera trained on the shack determines when the Xs painted on each side have officially slipped below the surface—usually around mid-March or early April. But some unseasonably warm temperatures sped up the ice thaw, and the bright-yellow-and-blue shack officially went under Monday, February 26 at 4:13:17 pm.

The Michigan club has been running the contest for 11 years now. The first year it was called an ice “shanty” and they had to get special permission to keep it on the lake past March 5, when regulations said all shanties had to be off the ice. But some local fisherman weren’t too happy with the special treatment the Lions club shanty received and they sued.

It’s been a “Shack” ever since. The difference? “There’s no regulations about how long you can leave a shack on the lake,” says Past District Governor and current cabinet secretary Tim Anderson.

Anyone can place a bet. The winning guess takes home US\$1,000 and second place gets US\$200. “Lions aren’t always enthusiastic about selling things,” says Lion Pete Buehler, who originally came up with the idea after seeing something similar on a trip to Alaska with his wife. “But people hunt us down for these tickets.”

It’s become somewhat of a legend now in Cadillac, with local radio show hosts giving daily updates on its progress, and the fundraiser usually nets the club about US\$1,500-US\$1,800 after prizes have been doled out and repairs made to the shack.

“But the PR is worth way more than we take in,” says Anderson. He says they’ve gotten new members based on the good word of mouth the sinking shack has generated. “It definitely gets our name out there.”

## OVERHEARD

**"I became a Lion because it's a beautiful world. I want to keep it that way."**

—LION FARRALEE MORRIS, Clearwater-Kalaloch Lions Club.

**"The world needs more Lions."**

—RIAAN AND JOANIE VAN STRATEN, whose daughter was helped through the generosity of Lions.

**"I came of age thinking that I was part of a group that could change the world. I still think that."**

—LION NANCY MESSMER, Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions Club.

**"I think everyone should volunteer. I feel like it's important as a human being. Help when someone asks."**

—LION JESSICA LITTLEFIELD, Lyndon Lions Club.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**100**

Mats crocheted from "Plarn" by Lions Kris Georgeson-Hunkins and Chad Dominguez.



**6,000**

Miles traveled by the South Tucson Cyber Club Branch to perform vision screenings for children.



**2.8**

Million dollars raised by The Prescott Noon Lions since 1991 by recycling paper.

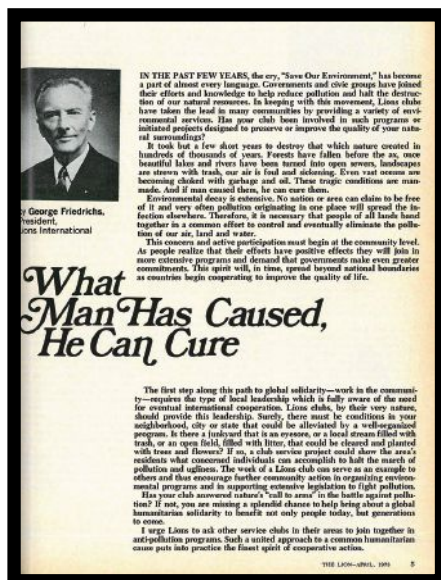


**4,000**

Eggs cooked and colored by New Providence Lions in New Jersey for their 49th annual Easter Egg Hunt.

**495,288**

Pounds of marine debris collected between 2007 and 2017 by Multiple District 19 Lions and their affiliates via CoastSavers.



## 45 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

⇨ **APRIL 1973**

**What Man Has Caused He Can Cure**

In April 1973 International President George Friedrichs galvanized Lions to address pollution by reminding them of their power to effect change.



Read the article.



## Lion Memories are Deeply Rooted

There's a growing stand of Blue Spruce trees on the east end of Lion's Park in Beecher, Illinois. Some have been there for years. Others are recent additions, shorter and smaller.

Besides providing a natural nesting spot for birds, the greyish-blue evergreens block the wind, reduce noise, and produce oxygen. Their deep roots absorb water, deterring flooding.

Beecher Lion Bill Voss says he likes them. The Lions have planted at least 15 in the five-acre park over the years. But he doesn't want to plant anymore because, "Every time we plant one, it means we've lost somebody."

At the base of each spruce is a 12-by-12 tile permanently etched with the Lions International logo and the name of a deceased Lion who gave time and service to their community. "Planting a

tree is a nice way to remember them," says Voss. "It's a tradition we plan to continue."

The people of Beecher like to visit the small park to push kids on the swings, to play soccer or walk on the track that wraps around the site.

But most Lion activities and fundraisers happen less than eight blocks away at the town's Firemen's Park where the active club will be cooking 800 to 1,000 pounds of beef and 1,000 pounds of pork at their annual Summerfest on August 4. Along with the usual summer festival activities—including bingo, crafts, and a beer garden—the Lions have already made arrangements for both vision and diabetes screenings, and a blood drive.

Last year's chainsaw cutter will make a repeat appearance, as well as a magic



Trees planted in memory of lost Lions.

show, local karate experts, and a band. Lions also hope to include 15-minute helicopter rides at this year's all-day event.

All funds go to charities and scholarships for graduating high school seniors, says Voss. "Anything we can do to help out, we're all about. But we can use some more members. Those trees in the park bring back memories. Those are for Lions who did their part."

## Stuffed Animals Go Places

The Tri-Village Lions Club in Columbus, Ohio tried a new project at Christmas: a visit to Santa's Workshop for a child's best friend. They netted US\$1,000 for a local charity, and then they started thinking like the Hollywood types: If it worked once, why not shoot a sequel?

For a US\$10 donation, the Lions took a child's favorite stuffed animal on an overnight trip to visit Santa, then returned it the next day with a personalized photo album of its adventure along with some Christmas cookies.

In spring, the Lions planned to do it again, but this time taking the stuffed animals off to visit the Easter Bunny. Even better, they thought, why not combine a fundraiser with a service project and bring some joy to the children at the Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Columbus Ronald McDonald House?

Lions bought 100 Easter baskets, 60 for the children in the hospital and 40 to use as a fundraiser, and filled them with grass and Easter eggs.

They invited families and school-age children to an egg decorating party where the community could color an egg that would put a smile on the face of a sick child.

"We were thrilled with the community response," says Tri-Village Lion Jane Jarrow, who reports that more than 20 Lions from their club and others nearby, as well as 100 community members, stopped to decorate 300 eggs. Lions shot pictures of the Easter bunny with each of the stuffed animals and again created photo albums for the children so they could see the fun their special friend had. Hospitalized children were given Easter baskets stuffed with the animals, photos and treats.



Lion Debbie Perry helps a boy decorate an Easter egg for the children at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Columbus Ronald McDonald House in Ohio.

Special education teacher Debbie Perry used her creative touch and helped the Lions decorate the plastic eggs as popular characters like Minions and Angry Birds. And Perry was so pleased with the work and spirit of the Lions that she joined the club.

The Tri-Village Lions, who were later joined by the Olen-tangy Noon Lions, one of the newest clubs in their district, raised US\$1,200 for CureJM (juvenile myositis), a nonprofit organization to support children afflicted with rare autoimmune diseases.

Jarrow calls the experience a win-win. The dedication of Lions got noticed throughout the community and money was raised for a charity dear to their hearts, as one of the Tri-Village Lions has a child with juvenile myositis. As a special bonus they were able to bring smiles to children in the hospital. And they picked up a new member along the way.

"What made it so attractive to the community members (who helped decorate the eggs) is that we weren't asking for money. We weren't asking for anything except their time," says Jarrow. "And they responded. We're very happy about it."





Young people with spinal cord injuries learn the ropes during a day of sailing.

## TURKEY

### Getting Their Sea Legs

Lions Clubs in Istanbul, Turkey partnered with the Spinal Cord Injury Association to bring 22 young people with spinal cord paralysis out for a day of sailing on the Sea of Marmara. Lions helped while four experienced sea captains trained the young people. After eight hours at sea, “There was light, pride, and happiness in the eyes of all the participants,” says Arzu Nizamoglu of the Istanbul Heybeliada Lions Club and zone chairperson.

Turkey is a country surrounded by water, and the Lions wanted to introduce the disabled to sea and water sports as a way to bring color into their lives, says Nizamoglu. The reaction was very positive. “We found out we did the right activity,” says Nizamoglu.

## MICRONESIA

### Leo and Lion clubs pair up to clean up

As part of its environmental awareness campaign, the Saipan Teen Unity Leo Club, in collaboration with the Saipan Unity Lions Club, distributed 18 trash bins to three public schools on Saipan.

They presented six trash bins each to Hopwood Junior High School, Marianas High School, and Koblerville Elementary School. “Students will have a place to dispose of their trash properly,” says Lions Club Secretary Ruth Torrecampo, adding that the schools have decided to place the trash bins in various locations around their respective campuses.

The environmental awareness campaign is being carried out by Leo Club president, Miguel Aninon, who says, “Our goal, like others of Lions Clubs International, is to make our world a better place to live in.”



Marianas High School Principal receives a trash bin donation from Saipan Unity Lions Club and Saipan Teen Unity Leos Club.





# THE SHAPE OF OUR WATER

// BY ERIN KASDIN

Water is, quite literally, everywhere. The most abundant substance in the world, it covers more than two thirds of the Earth's surface. It makes up 70 percent of our bodies. It comes down on our heads when we leave the house without an umbrella. Yet, in Cape Town, South Africa, there is none to drink.

The Pacific Ocean is home to most of the islands in the world—25,000 atolls, archipelagos, and islets. It's also home to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—a soupy vortex of marine trash that, as of October 2016, was estimated to span more than 1.7 million square miles. The patch isn't really a solid mass, but an area of high concentration of litter at the surface with most of the debris comprised of very small pieces of floating plastic that may not be readily visible. It was only recently discovered, but debris has been washing ashore on Pacific coast beaches for decades, creating hazards for humans and wildlife, and bearing a chilling reminder that what we throw away doesn't really go “away.”





## WATER EMERGENCY IN CAPE TOWN UNITES SOUTH AFRICAN LIONS

Cape Town, South Africa is facing a frightening crisis, with municipal water taps set to run dry April 12, 2018. Despite being surrounded by some of the world's most beautiful beaches and oceans, the Mother City is suffering a severe drought that started in 2015 and has steadily depleted its natural resources, leaving residents facing a disaster unlike anything seen before.

Area Leader and Past District Governor Carl van Blerk, founding member and charter president of Edens Lion Club—based in the coastal town of George, just under 300 miles from Cape Town—notes the ingenuity residents of Cape Town have shown, turning to inventive ways to save water.

“Never before have toilet habits been so well debated by men and women,” he says. With phrases such as “If it’s brown, flush it down,” and “if it’s yellow, let it mellow,” now found printed on papers and stuck on toilet doors across the city, residents are holding each other accountable. However, they haven’t curbed their water use enough and the city has now limited usage to 50 liters (just over 13 gallons) of water per person, per day.

South Africans from all over are coming together to help, with people sending bottles of tap water in trucks from as far away as Johannesburg—nearly 900 miles from Cape Town. Van Blerk notes that as well-intentioned as these

efforts are, tap water from unreliable sources, poured into unsanitary bottles and shipped on the back of trucks over long distances, can spell a secondary health disaster.

Recognizing the need for a coordinated effort to get clean water to residents of Cape Town, the Edens Lions have stepped in and designated the Cape Town Water Project a priority for the club. They have called on residents of South Africa—and the world—to look at donating funds.

All funds raised will be used to purchase bulk water at greatly reduced prices from water suppliers just outside of Cape Town, where the drought has not taken affect. The five-liter (1.3 gal-





The Theewaterskloof dam outside Grabouw is Cape Town's main water supply. Severe droughts have caused an emergency, with taps set to run dry in mid-April.  
AP Photo

lon) sealed bottles of water, are then transported by the supplier in suitable trucks to a central location in Cape Town and distributed to Lions clubs throughout the region. The local clubs then distribute the water where it is needed most, such as homes with elderly, young children, or the sick.

An eight-ton truck can carry approximately 1,600 bottles of fresh water and can be delivered for around US\$1,600—just a dollar per bottle. Local schools from across the country have been asked to join the Lions Water for Cape Town drive by collecting enough funds to purchase and send a truckload of water to a school in Cape Town along with a message of hope and love for those who are in need.

“Residents from across South Africa have come together in a way that South Africans have proven in the past they can do so well,” says van Blerk.



Residents wait in long lines at fresh-water springs around Cape Town.  
AP Photo/Bram Janssen

## Reduce Your Water Footprint

According to a 2014 Government Accountability Report, 40 out of 50 state water managers in the U.S. expect water shortages under average conditions in some portion of their states over the next decade. Reduce your water footprint with some easy adjustments.

**Check your faucets.** Leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of wasted water every year, or 10,000 gallons per household.

**Replace your lawn.** Some municipal water suppliers are paying people to replace their lawns with drought-resistant and native species, sometimes called a “cash-for-grass” program.

**Take shorter showers.** One 10-minute shower with a traditional showerhead uses about 50 gallons of water. Replace your showerhead with a low-flow model and cut that in half.

**Turn off the faucet.** Letting the water run as you brush your teeth or wash dishes wastes two gallons per minute—as much as 3,000 gallons of water per year.

**Choose less meat.** A lot of resources—especially water—are needed to produce meat. Replacing 1 pound of beef with vegetables once per week can save more than 94,000 gallons of water per year.



# What is Marine Debris?

Marine debris is any trash that somehow ends up in the ocean. A plastic water bottle you threw away several months ago in your kitchen trash can blow away and end up in nearby sewers or waterways where it eventually makes its way to the ocean.

Commercial fishing boats may lose gear in storms, causing nets, hooks, and other nasty things to end up adrift, damaging coastal fisheries and killing marine life that gets caught in the lines or swallows the debris.

## Help keep trash out of the ocean

### Reduce

- Reduce the amount of waste you produce by using products that have recyclable or reusable containers.
- Reduce the amount of trash in the waterways by ensuring your garbage and recycling receptacles have properly fitting lids.
- Avoid purchasing products with excessive packaging.

### Reuse

- Use reusable shopping bags.
- At work, bring your lunch in a reusable lunchbox or cooler.
- Pack sandwiches, snacks and drinks in reusable containers rather than in plastic bags and disposable bottles.

### Recycle

- Know what your community recycles and what it doesn't.
- Buy products made from recycled materials.

No matter where you live or what kind of work you do, you can help reduce marine debris.

To learn more about CoastSavers or to join a cleanup visit [Coastsavers.org](http://Coastsavers.org).



**The ultimate goal is to stop the flow of trash into the oceans to begin with.**





# CLEANING UP THE COASTS ONE PIECE OF PLASTIC AT A TIME

Photo by Branson Tarr

In 2012, a 165-ton floating structure washed up on Agate Beach along the Pacific coast in Oregon. The 66-foot-long piece of concrete and steel was 7 feet high and 19 feet wide. And it happened to have come from across the Pacific Ocean. It was a Japanese dock that had been torn away during the 2011 tsunami, taking just over a year to make its way to a remote area of Oregon's famous coastline where it promptly beached itself. It was, essentially, a large piece of marine debris.

Marine debris has become a growing concern over the past few decades as more and more of what we consume is considered "one-use" and made of materials that do not degrade. The result is an accumulation of floating debris across the world's oceans. Weather conditions wash items ashore and fish and wildlife become entangled or eat the debris and become sick. "And it's also kind of a public nuisance. People come out to our beaches and they expect to see a very wild place and they're very surprised to see things like rope and plastic bottles," says Carole Bernthal, Sanctuary Superintendent for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in Port Angeles, Washington.

In 2007 the Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions Club joined other local organizations in forming the Washington Clean Coast Alliance. The Alliance then launched CoastSavers to coordinate the efforts of individuals and volunteer groups that had been cleaning up Washington's Pacific coast since 1971.

Nancy Messmer from the Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions Club, and environmental co-chair for Multiple District 19, was one of the Lions instrumental in organizing CoastSavers. Messmer and her husband, Lion Roy Morris, wanted to leverage the collective power of all the individuals and groups who were interested in keeping marine debris at bay. "Lions don't ever need to work alone. You can always work in partnership," she says.

Lions clubs along the coast in the U.S. and Canada now participate in three yearly cleanups along the outer coast of Washington and into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Their signature event, the Washington Coast Cleanup, began as a series of separate beach cleanups and now draws 1,200-1,400 participants and moves more than 20 tons of debris.

"Individually it is really overwhelming, especially when you look at the rates of marine de-

bris buildup," says Bernthal. "[But] by working together we can really make a difference. And we have to. There's no choice. I don't want to give our children and their children an ocean that is devoid of life."

Bernthal believes working with Lions may be an important key to success in the fight against ocean trash.

"I would love to see this spread all across the Pacific Rim. And an organization like Lions Club is really key to that because you are located in many, many communities around the world. So you have the ability to tap into people that I have no access to," says Bernthal.

Messmer thinks it's important to broaden the picture of what it means to be a Lion. Protecting the environment isn't necessarily new to Lions, she says. "So many parks are Lions clubs' parks. We take care of trails, we clean our community. All of us do that. Much of that is protecting our environment."

The goal, of course, isn't to see the number of volunteers at beach cleanups—and the corresponding amount of trash collected—continue to grow. The ultimate goal is to stop the flow of trash into the oceans to begin with, says Messmer. "When you go out on a wild beach and you pick up marine debris and you're lugging bags of marine debris around, it makes you very sad. And then it starts to make you mad. And our idea is that people that are both sad about marine debris on beaches and mad about it will start asking where this stuff is coming from. And that's the start of working on prevention."

Even if you aren't a beachgoer, marine debris can impact you. In addition to the tons of trash that make it to shore, all over the world there are large amounts of concentrated debris formed into patches by rotating ocean currents. This floating garbage has economic ramifications in addition to the stunning environmental damage it causes. For example, NOAA reports that a team of researchers found that by removing derelict crab pots in active fishing areas, the blue crab harvest could increase by nearly 24 percent—a difference of US\$33.5 million.

But mostly, the members of CoastSavers believe that caring for our oceans is part of being good stewards of the Earth—for ourselves, other living creatures, and future generations.

"We're all downstream from somebody," says Messmer.

# PROJECT IDEAS

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced environmentalist, here are some ideas to get your club going.

**Plant trees.** Consult your local environment authorities (start with the Department of Parks and Recreation) to determine a location and the type and number of trees needed.

**Clean up a natural area.** Pick a beach, a park, or a favorite trail and meet monthly to pick up debris.

**Collect used cell phones.** Set up a donation box just like you would for eyeglasses, then distribute them to individuals in need.

**Reduce water waste.** Survey your homes and community for leaks in sinks or communal water fountains. Contact local officials if repairs are needed.

**Start a community recycling drive.** Solicit gently used items that can be donated to charity organizations.

**Organize an environmental-themed mural competition.** Paint the winner's artwork in an appropriate area to beautify your community and promote environmental awareness.

**Raise native plant awareness.** Plant a demonstration garden using native plant species to encourage community members to landscape in an ecologically sustainable way.

**Sponsor a training program for farmers.** Bring in experts to show them how to make and use organic fertilizers and pesticides.

**Build a rain barrel.** Partner with your community to build and use the barrel, demonstrating how to use it for watering and irrigation.

**Build a garden.** Work with local schools to establish organic gardens and composting programs to improve the quality of school meals and reduce waste.



**Watch Lions in action protecting their environment.**

[CoastSavers cleans a Pacific coast beach.](#)

[Jamaican clubs reforest their land.](#)







GOING  
GREEN

# PAPER, PLASTIC, PLAYGROUNDS

LIONS FIND A WAY TO  
GIVE IT ALL A SECOND LIFE

// BY JOAN CARY



The Prescott Noon Lions politely quiet down when a Lion stands before his club to introduce a prospective member. But if the introduction ends with “and he owns a pickup truck,” the lunchtime crowd roars in celebration.

If there’s no pickup, well, they’ll welcome him anyway because the world can always use another Lion.

Members with pickups are highly coveted here in Prescott, north of Phoenix, Arizona, where the Lions have recycled more than 38,800 tons of paper since 1991, and used the proceeds of \$2.8 million to support other nonprofits in town.

## There’s a lot of satisfaction in knowing your efforts are going to a good cause.

It takes about 60 Lions a week, a lot of labor and a fair number of pickups to do what this club of 108 does, says Mike First, the club’s paper project chairman. But it’s worth it because it keeps recyclable paper out of the landfill, which helps the environment. The people of Prescott can easily help others in their community by dropping their unwanted paper in Lion trailers around town. And the money raised—about \$40,000 last year—stays in their community.

“The best part is that nobody gripes about doing it,” says First. “Sometimes we’re out there and it’s below 20 degrees. We do have four seasons here. But people come out and do it. There’s a lot of satisfaction in knowing your efforts are going to a good cause.

“We share those emotions with every Lion in the world.”

The Lions own about a dozen trailers scattered around town, and on Tuesday and Friday mornings, Lions with pickups or big vehicles hitch up to a trailer and tow it to the central yard—a large city-owned property with a metal building that is open at one end. Inside, a series of conveyor belts carry hand-sorted paper to an 18-wheeler.

Lions pull up to the conveyor belt to unload the trailer, and two of them with good knees crawl into the trailer to make sure it’s cleaned out. They sort and toss, cleaning out debris like plastic wrappers, cans and bottles, and cardboard that has been thrown in. Cardboard has paste in it, and no matter how many signs are affixed to the trailers that say “please no cardboard,” people throw it in anyway, says First. “It’s painful.”

On a “yard day,” the Lions may be lined up to unload as early as 6:30 or 7 a.m., but this is no car wash. They don’t sit and wait their turn. They get out and help until it’s their turn to unload, says First.

About every three weeks the truck carrying 40 tons of paper heads off to a broker in Scottsdale who sells it to an insulation company.

It’s a well-oiled system, says First, but there’s even more to it. Another 20 Lions go to the Yavapai Regional Medical Center in Prescott and do all their shredding, then bag it. The 70 to 80 25-pound bags are added to the paper in the truck. And at another location, Lions are paid just to do the shredding.

Unfortunately for the ambitious Lions, tonnage is down from what it was before social media and the decline in newspaper subscriptions.

In 2006, the Lions recycled 5.4 million pounds, but by 2009 that figure dropped to 2.9 million. Last year, the number dropped below a million, to 874,320 pounds, says Lion Bill Parker, the “yard boss” who joined the club in 1990 and was immediately put in charge of recycling. Although the Lions began recycling in the early 1970s, it wasn’t until Parker came onboard that the paper project was steady and records were kept.

There were exceptional times when Lions were grossing more than \$200,000 a year for charity, but paper prices were high and the volume was much greater, says Parker. “That’s not the case any longer. That’s history.”

Still, last year’s profit of \$38,888 is pretty impressive.

It’s a dirty job, and one that has to be done in rain or shine, but the job is better than it was, remembers 47-year Lion Norm Humphrey. “When we started we had to bail the papers with wire strapping in bundles that were about 80 pounds or so. We had to stack them in pallets, and when we got enough pallets they would send a truck with a forklift. When they quit banding them we still had to load the truck by hand. That was hard work.”

The reward, though, has always made the work worthwhile. Every year Lions distribute the money made to local nonprofit organizations that have applied for a Lion grant. Last year they split the money between 30 charitable organizations.

People Who Care, a volunteer caregiving organization that assists those who are no longer able to drive, and provides non-medical assistance in the home, has received the financial support of the Lions every year for more than 15 years, says executive director Fritzi Mevis.

“Oh my gosh. It’s solid support from them. We know that they are behind us,” Mevis says. “It’s so reassuring to know the Noon Lions are there and have been there. And we try to support them as well. We recycle papers for them. It’s grand.”

“We have a high morale in this club and that’s why we can continue,” says Parker. “I’d say at least 95 percent of the members are retirees, but everybody is ready to help out.” In fact, the Lions log 950 volunteer hours a month—about 850 of those involving paper recycling, according to First.

Not everybody can do that kind of work, but there are Lions every week who reliably get the coffee and doughnuts set up for the guys who have finished at the yard. That’s important too.

Times like these are an especially nice way to get acquainted with new members, explains Humphrey. “You don’t always get to sit with a new member at the meetings.”

“Well the money we make is great, but the man-hours our club puts in is something else also,” says Parker. “We’re fortunate in that we have good camaraderie in the club. What we make, of course, fluctuates, but it’s better than selling light bulbs. Let me put it that way.”







# PLASTIC

Although California has banned single-use plastic bags, there are still many plastics out there—in the form of bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaner bags and more—and Pomona Host Lion Chad Dominguez has led a mini movement to recycle them in a way that benefits the environment and the homeless.

Dominguez and his sisters, Lion Kris Georgeson-Hunkins and Lorie Georgeson, have spent multiple Friday nights crocheting bed mats from the discarded plastic, then donating the lightweight, waterproof mats to homeless shelters.

It's an idea that's spread across the country, judging from the number of how-to mat-making videos available on YouTube. But Dominguez, 29, who has Downs Syndrome and is nonverbal, has taken the project to heart, hand delivering some mats to the homeless on the street and making Mats4Homeless his Eagle Scout project.

"We've lost count," says Kris, when asked how many presentations were given or mats were made. Although the workshops have ceased, as a family they have made more than 100 mats.

"What's truly great is that it's not only helping our homeless population everywhere, it's helping the environment, and it's connecting people," she says.

On occasion, she and her brother have even driven around with finished mats in the car. When Dominguez sees a homeless person who could use one, the blue-eyed young man walks up to them and gives them one. He also gives them a hug.

"They're amazed that he wants to give them something and he wants nothing in return," says Kris. "He inspires me every day."

Halfway across the country, in Kansas, Everest Lion Brenda Troop goes to Monday afternoon

## "If you say you want plastic bags, stand back."

He frequently stays at the homes of his siblings, so he feels like he has many homes, explains Kris. "It hurts him to know that when he has all these homes, there are people without any."

Dominguez got interested in making mats after his sister, Lorie, learned the technique at a beach cleanup. He flattens and folds the discarded bags, Kris cuts them into strips, and Lorie crochets them with a Q crochet hook. For his Eagle Scout project, he made 12 mats and took them to a homeless shelter, says Kris. "It broke our hearts when we realized they were for a family with small children."

More mats needed to be made, Dominguez decided, so he and Kris took the show on the road, first sharing their work with the Pomona Host Lions. Lions soon began bringing bags to meetings, and people started dropping off bags of bags at "the Bag Lady's house," to the point where a bathroom, she says, was filled to the top with plastic bags.

The brother/sister duo began hosting monthly "Mats4Homeless" workshops in the community. Past District Governor Ken Myers drove from the Upland Host Lions for one of the Plarn (plastic yarn) nights, and took the idea home to their club where they made more than 80 mats. Each mat takes from 200 to more than 500 bags.

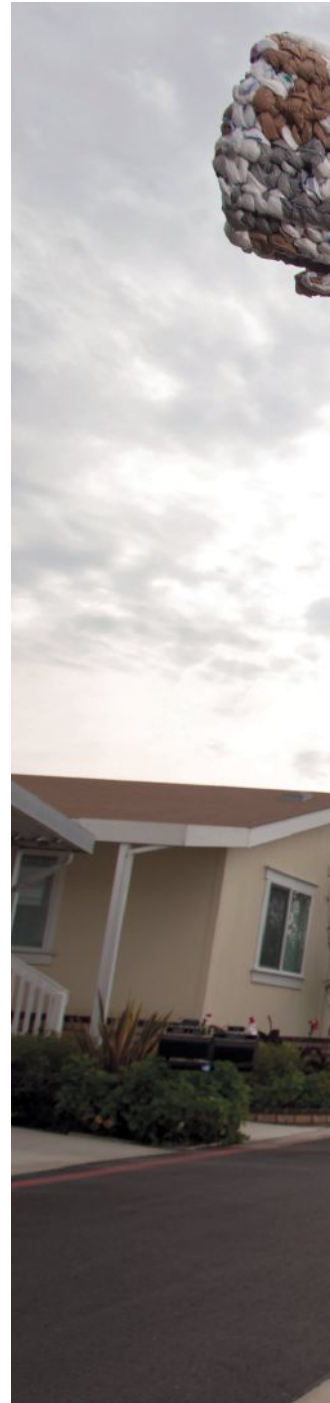
meetings to meet with Sacks to Mats, a recycling group led by Janet Rebant of nearby Horton. Rebant taught the skill to the Everest Lions.

"We have some [special needs] people in our group who can't do a lot of other things, partly because of their age, but they can do this. It gives them fulfillment, says Troop. "For me, recycling is important and there's not a lot of it going on in our community. It's a win-win. It helps people both ways."

These volunteers weave the mats with a simple handmade loom, using a heavier plastic as the warp to weave the thinner plastic over and under. They also weave pillows, stuffing them with the extra plastic pieces left from mat making, so nothing is wasted.

"We figure we have kept at least 129,000 bags out of landfills and 258 mats have been distributed to the homeless since we started," says Rebant.

"When we first started we didn't know if we would get enough plastic. But it's not unusual for me to find 10 to 20 big garbage bags full of bags on my porch now. If you say you want plastic bags, stand back."







## The Plastic Bag Problem

Between 500 billion and one trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year—an estimated 100 million of them in the U.S.

- Plastic doesn't biodegrade. It photodegrades, very slowly breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic bits.
- Each bag is used for an estimated 12 minutes before being tossed away.

Pomona Lion and Eagle Scout Chad Dominguez in California is proud of the bed mats he and his sisters crocheted for the homeless from recycled plastic bags. Photo by Orange County Register



When the Sugar Grove Lions in West Virginia were offered a hand-me-down McDonald's Playland playground to take apart, transport and put together in their community, the response was immediate.

"Let's do it!"

The adventure started when Sugar Grove president Brandon Mitchell got a call from his sister in Dayton, Virginia, notifying him of a playground available for the taking.

Mitchell, the father of two young children, thought "heck yeah," he'd get it and put it in his backyard so he wouldn't have to mow the lawn anymore, says his father, Tom Mitchell, also a Sugar Grove Lion. But Brandon

Mitchell's wife, Cara, thought differently. So, the Lions decided the large playground would be better placed where all the children in their community could enjoy it.

With little time for thought and much labor ahead of them, 10 Lions drove three trucks and three 24-foot flatbed trailers 45 miles over the mountain to Dayton, Virginia where a family had outgrown the playground. It took them at least six hours to disassemble it, take pictures, make drawings and bag all those little nuts and bolts "because we knew we had to be able to put it together again," says Brandon Mitchell.

Then over the mountain the convoy went to the playground's new home in

the Richard Homan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Community Park in Sugar Grove, which is larger than the Lions Park next door.

"About 15 people showed up to help, and when the community saw what we were doing, we had people stopping to pitch in," says Brandon Mitchell who estimates more than 150 Lion hours were spent on the project during 11 visits to the park.

A local man with a body shop used his "boom truck" to set the top on for them. Multiple missing parts had to be found on the internet, purchased, and installed. "Nuts and bolts? Too many to count," says Mitchell. "It was crazy."





To fund the project, Lions used \$3,000 from the \$7,500 raised at their food stand during the Treasure Mountain Festival to fund their project. Every year they sell country ham sandwiches, beans and cornbread.

Along with the purchase of missing parts, they bought rubber landscape borders and 1.5 tons of rubber mulch that was added under and around the playground for safety. A picnic table

and cedar swing handmade by a local man were added nearby.

They'll also be adding a see-saw and merry-go-round and revamping the baseball field this spring.

Seeing the Lion effort has also ignited a fire within the VFW, fueling even greater enthusiasm for the project, says Mitchell. The VFW has added restrooms and a trail that connects their park with Lions Park, and the two

groups, working together, split the cost of liability insurance.

Lions are also adding two new members—people who saw them working hard and stopped to help.

"It's been really cool," says Mitchell. "This day and age it's hard to find people who have the time or want to take the time to help. But when you have things organized, people do show up and help."

**"[W]hen the community saw what we were doing, we had people stopping to pitch in."**





# What Happens in Vegas

How do you follow up the biggest celebration in Lion history? You go to Vegas, baby.

With the centennial year wrapping up, it's time to sit down at the table, meet fellow Lions from across the globe and get down to work. If you've never been to a convention, this is a perfect one to start with.

All the events will be taking place at the historical MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in the heart of Las Vegas' strip. As the largest hotel in the United States, it's the perfect venue to host the largest service organization in the world. And with five outdoor pools, rivers and waterfalls that together cover 6.6 acres, you may not notice just how warm it is outside.

Speaking of the heat, it will be cool and comfortable in the exhibit hall. Located inside the MGM's Marquee Ballroom, the exhibit hall is your place for all things Lion.

**Get inspired.** The interactive Service Journey Experience will educate and motivate all Lions.

**See 50 years of LCIF in action.** Visit the "Explore Your Foundation" exhibit to reflect on LCIF's relevance and impact across the globe. You can also use this time to familiarize yourself with LCIF's programs and grants that can help you further expand your Lion service outreach.

**Get in the Technology Zone.** Improve your skills and boost your confidence in social media and digital technology. Learn how to use the MyLion app hands-on and discover how easy it is to reach out to your global Lions network. You can participate in a variety of learning sessions in the exhibit's Tech-Byte Theater or take advantage of one-on-one assistance.

**Grab a marshmallow and a seat at a Lions Campfire Session.** Ask questions and learn about a wide variety of topics from fellow Lions throughout convention week.

**Been eyeing that cozy pullover?** The Club Supplies Store has you covered. It also has all the pins, flags, banners and statuettes you could ever dream of. You can also pose for a fun convention souvenir photo here.

**Get your headshot taken.** If you want a more professional photo, head to the Photography Sales Booth where they'll snap a complimentary professional digital headshot—perfect for your MyLion profile, Facebook page, or other social media sites.

**Win a trip to the 2019 International Convention in Milan, Italy.** Make sure to get your badge scanned at the Grand Prize Drawing Booth to be eligible.





When you aren't experiencing the array of things to do in the exhibit hall, there are plenty of other things to occupy your attention.

For one, you'll want to cast your vote. Following a successful launch last year, club delegates again will be able to vote following the opening plenary session on Sunday July 1 through Tuesday July 3 in a single-step process.

Come out for a display of Lion pride at the Parade of Nations on Saturday morning, where an estimated 10,000 Lions from more than 125 countries will march, many in native dress.

Saturday evening all registered convention attendees are welcome to attend the International Show starring Cirque Dreams. The show is complimentary and features a dazzling display of

music and acrobatics. You may be tired from the day, but this show will keep you mesmerized.

If you're itching for a chance to get outside the MGM, Host Las Vegas is the official local tour partner of the convention, offering Lions and their guests a wide variety of custom escorted tours to choose from: See the city sights with lunch or dinner at a legendary Las Vegas restaurant, cruise on Lake Mead, visit a lion habitat, take in the view from 550 feet above ground on the famous High Roller, see the amazing Hoover Dam, explore the desert landscape at Red Rock Canyon and so much more.

Visit [lcon.org](http://lcon.org) to view and book your tours, get registered for the convention, sign up for a service project and plan your itinerary.



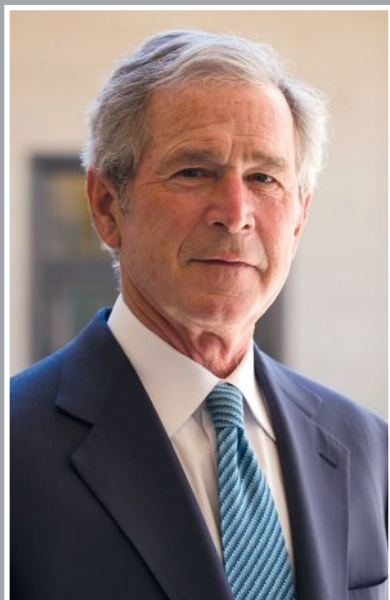
#### Watch

[See why this year's convention is a can't-miss event](#)

## The MGM Grand is No Stranger to Lions

In 1999 the MGM Grand installed a glass lion habitat inside the casino, where up to six lions would roam daily. A see-through tunnel ran through the habitat for close-up viewing, where the lions would frequently lounge on top of the glass, allowing visitors to walk under them. The lion habitat closed permanently in 2012, but a large bronze statue of Leo the Lion (MGM's logo) still greets guests above the main entrance.

## Special Guests



### President George W. Bush

43rd President of the United States and Founder of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, George W. Bush was sworn into office on January 20, 2001, and served as Commander in Chief for two consecutive terms. Before his presidency, he served for six years as Governor of the State of Texas.



### Dr. Sanjay Gupta

The multiple Emmy® award-winning chief medical correspondent for CNN and a practicing neurosurgeon, his medical training and public health policy experience distinguishes his reporting from war zones and natural disasters. Gupta's passion for inspiring Americans to lead healthier, more active lives led him to launch "Fit Nation," CNN's multi-platform, anti-obesity initiative that is now in its sixth year.

# Voting at 2018 International Convention

## Voting for Executive Officers and International Directors

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

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

- Sunday, July 1, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM (13:00 – 17:00)
- Monday, July 2, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (9:00 – 17:00)
- Tuesday, July 3, 7:00 AM – 10:30 AM (7:00 – 10:30)

## Assigning Club Delegates

Club Delegates for the 2018 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned by the club president or secretary, using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> International Delegates
- Submitting the [Club Delegate Form](#) to LCI headquarters at the address below.

Clubs using MyLCI can assign their club delegates at any time between January 1 and June 27, 2017.

Clubs using the Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates will need to mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2018. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2018, bring the signed form to the convention site. The form will also be available online.

For more information on voting at the International Convention go to  
<http://lcicon.lionsclubs.org/EN/seminars-events/certification-voting.php>

Lions Clubs International  
Member Service Center  
300 W. 22nd Street  
Oak Brook IL 60523

email: MemberServiceCenter@LionsClubs.org  
fax: 630-571-1687  
phone: 630-203-3830

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**International Convention  
Club Delegate Entitlement Table**

Membership	Delegates Entitled	Membership	Delegates Entitled	Membership	Delegates Entitled
1-37	1	263-287	11	513-537	21
38-62	2	288-312	12	538-562	22
63-87	3	313-337	13	563-587	23
88-112	4	338-362	14	588-612	24
113-137	5	363-387	15	613-637	25
138-162	6	388-412	16	638-662	26
163-187	7	413-437	17	663-687	27
188-212	8	438-462	18	688-712	28
213-237	9	463-487	19	713-737	29
238-262	10	488-512	20	738+	See below*

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

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





## Club Delegate Form

Club Delegates for the 2018 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned using one of the options below:

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

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

Club Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Name: (first middle last) \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Preferred Ballot Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Club Officer: (*select one*) ☐ Club President ☐ Club Secretary

Officer Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Name: (first middle last) \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form by May 1, 2018 to:

Member Service Center – Lions Clubs International – 300 W. 22nd St. – Oak Brook, IL USA 60523  
[MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org](mailto:MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org) Phone 1-630-203-3830 Fax 1-630-571-1687

Clubs using this Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates must mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2018.

If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2018, bring signed form, along with your government issued photo I.D. to the convention site.

Clubs using MyLCI must assign their club delegates by June 27, 2018.

# New LCIF Grant Opportunities Give Lions More Ways to Serve

// BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

The needs of the world continue to increase and Lions are responding. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is making some exciting changes to its grant structure that will better support Lions by empowering service. There's nothing more central to being a Lion or Leo than service. It's why we join; it's what we do. Of course, we don't do it alone. Lions are supported by a powerful global foundation. LCIF empowers Lions with the resources needed to take on the issues we care about, bringing about real and lasting change.

## Adjustments to the Structure

LCIF's grants are available to support Lions' districts in large-scale humanitarian initiatives. The foundation provides support in four areas of service, including sight, youth, disaster relief, and other humanitarian efforts.

- Standard grants are now called Matching grants, a title that better represents the grant.
- Core 4 Lions Quest grants are now called Lions Quest grants.
- Core 4 Diabetes grants are now called Diabetes grants.
- Lions Quest grants and Diabetes grants are grouped under Humanitarian Grants.

International Assistance Grants (IAG) are no longer available, but an alternate option for equipment needs is to apply for a Matching grant. This change will enable a greater focus on sustainable service projects.

Be sure to visit LCIF's website for more details, and note that the criteria for some of these grants are being updated. Application deadlines will remain the same. As a reminder, here are the remaining deadlines for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

- May 12: Application deadline for SightFirst grants to be reviewed at the August 2018 SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting.
- May 14: Application deadline for Humanitarian Grants (including Lions Quest Grants) to be reviewed at the August 2018 board meeting.

## New Grant Opportunities

LCIF is excited to announce two new grant opportunities. Inspiring positive action, these opportunities represent LCIF's focus on the future.

### Leo Service Grants

The eagerly anticipated Leo service grants are now available for application. These grants enable Leos to assess, plan, and implement their own service projects, creating a bigger impact in their communities and around the world. Grants will be awarded up to US\$2,500 to Lions districts and up to US\$5,000 to Lions multiple districts. Potential project categories include any of LCIF's focus areas and our new global causes.

### District and Club Community Impact Grants

Soon there will be a program that allows 15% of a club or district's donations to LCIF to be transformed into grants that serve their local community. The District and Club Community Impact grant requires a US\$5,000 minimum annual donation for clubs and a US\$10,000 minimum annual donation for districts, and donations must be unrestricted to qualify (beginning next fiscal year, campaign donations will also qualify). Donations to LCIF in one fiscal year are made available for a grant application in the following fiscal year.

Visit [LCIF.org](http://LCIF.org) for more information, as criteria are for this program are still being developed.

With exciting changes on the horizon, there has never been a better time to become involved with LCIF. Supporting LCIF is a wonderful way to empower the service of Lions through exciting new programs such as these.

## Grants at a Glance

### Humanitarian Grants

- Matching
- Lions Quest
- Diabetes
- Board Directed
- Humanitarian Award
- Seed
- Partnership

### Disaster Grants

- Emergency
- Preparedness
- Community Recovery
- Major Catastrophe

### Other Types of Grants

- SightFirst
- Designated
- Leo Service Grants
- District/Club  
Community Impact  
Grants



# LCIF, Lions Make Major Measles Impact

// BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

The goal has been reached! Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)'s US\$30 million commitment to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, was reached at the end of December 2017.

At the Lions Clubs International 96th annual convention in Hamburg, Germany, LCIF made a commitment to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to raise US\$30 million to help protect tens of millions of children in some of the world's poorest countries against measles. If LCIF could accomplish this ambitious goal, these funds would be matched dollar-for-dollar by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and their partners, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Department for International Development. LCIF is pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity and service of Lions, this goal has been reached, bringing the total amount raised to US\$60 million.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that can cause serious consequences such as hearing loss, blindness, and death. It usually begins by attacking the respiratory system and causing a high fever. A rash will then develop and spread across the body. The virus is so contagious that 90% of people who come in contact with it will become infected if they are not immune to it. Though the risk of infection is great, measles is preventable with a vaccine.

Lions and LCIF are working together to ensure that every child has access to the vaccine. The impact of LCIF's financial support and the Gavi matching funds is projected to be 87.7 million children immunized, 97.8 million doses of the measles or measles-rubella vaccine procured, and 61,000 future deaths averted. For the first time in known history, the annual measles death rate has declined to less than 100,000 deaths per year. LCIF and Lions are applauding that achievement and are happy to be a partner contributing toward it.

Lions around the world support measles vaccination campaigns with aid from LCIF. For Lions in Indonesia, the goal is to eradicate measles in their country by 2020. After a successful first phase in 2017, Lions of Indonesia are now planning their second phase this coming fall. They have already begun to prepare for this campaign, which is larger than the last. Covering the 28 provinces outside of Java Island, the campaign will involve four Lions districts.

Though LCIF and Lions have made great strides to end measles, there is still so much left to do. Measles has an average daily death rate of 245 people, most of them children. To ensure Lions can keep fighting this terrible disease, please consider making a donation to LCIF. Make a donation in honor of World Immunization Week, which is coming up later this month. Make a donation to show gratitude for the healthy children in your life. Or make a donation to extend a helping hand to children in disadvantaged areas of the world who have not yet received their immunization. Together, LCIF and Lions can help end measles for good.



Boy receives measles vaccine as part of a global initiative to eradicate the illness.

// For the first time in known history, the annual measles death rate has declined to less than 100,000 deaths per year. //

## // CLUB NEWS

For four years the **Portsmouth Host Lions** in **Virginia** have supported the Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition shelter by sponsoring a room at their facility for displaced homeless families. The club also sponsors a fishing trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel for the visually impaired, helps individuals with hearing and vision problems, and provides student scholarships.

The **Tiny Township Lions** in **Ontario, Canada**, raised US\$3,400 for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides with a New Year's Day Polar Bear Dip. Eighteen dippers braved the waves, snow, and -18 C (0 F) temperature.

The **Houtzdale Lions'** Showboat Show has entertained generations of families in the Moshannon Valley Area of **Pennsylvania** for more than 60 years. The Lions say if you have a pulse, you've probably been to at least one Showboat Show and know that it promises songs, skits and plenty of jokes. Rehearsals were conducted in February for the show on May 4 and 5 at the Moshannon Valley High School Auditorium. This is the club's largest fundraiser. Proceeds go to sight and hearing projects as well as support for youth programs like Boy Scout Troop 57.

In **New York**, the **Northern Columbia Lions Club** invited a Girl Scout troop to participate in their Peace Poster Contest. Certificates and monetary prizes were awarded for first, second and third place. In addition, the first place winner's poster was placed on a local billboard for the month of January. Her quote: "A kind word can change the world."

**Waubonsee Community College's Lions Club** in **Illinois** hosted a food drive to benefit the Between Friends Food Pantry in Sugar Grove. Visitors with a non-perishable food donation were admitted free to the college men's and women's basketball games on January 16. From October through December, the WCC Lions collected 746 pounds of food for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

For more than 25 years the **Oro District Lions** in **Ontario, Canada**, have chosen to brave the elements over the winter holidays and unload a tractor trailer of frozen turkeys for distribution to more than 1,800 families from the city and surrounding townships.



Thanks to the persistence and planning of Past District Governor Don Trumbull, the **Moriarty Lions Club** building in **New Mexico** now sports a new 8-by-20-foot billboard that reads "WE ARE LIONS." Lions say it took numerous people—a teacher, a policeman/artist, a butcher, a librarian, and a journalist, all representing the **Moriarty Lions**, **Sandia Mountain Lions**, and **Santa Fe Capital City Lions**—to get it done right.

The **DeRidder Lions Club** in **Louisiana** feared the club history had been lost. The charter, declaring the founding of the club and its charter members, was thought to be gone forever but was recently discovered in DeRidder City Hall. Some of the current Lions are now able to trace their lineage back to the original charter members. Fathers, uncles, fathers-in-law, and grandfathers are listed on the charter and featured in the photo of the founding DeRidder Lions.

More than 250 people ran the scenic half marathon and 5K races sponsored by the **Lions Clubs of St. Lucie West and Fort Pierce** in **Florida**. The scene was tropical, but the temperatures were not. Runners had to prepare for 42 degrees. But the good news is that more than US\$20,000 was raised for other nonprofits.

The **Irricana Lions Club** in **Alberta, Canada** hosted its 20th annual Steak and Lobster Dinner Dance in February. Proceeds will go toward rebuilding the Irricana Lions Splash Park. For 42 years the Lions have been instrumental in building community facilities, including the Irricana Community Hall and the Irricana Lions Centennial Park and Trail.

In **Maryland**, the **Lineboro-Manchester Lions Club** offered free vision screening for children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years at the public library, emphasizing that early detection of certain eye diseases is important, particularly in the young who often cannot communicate their vision problems to their caretakers.

The **Wasaga Beach Lions** in **Ontario, Canada**, purchased a vision screening machine as their first Legacy Project. Their second project was to partner with the town to place traffic calming signs on entry points to Wasaga Beach, reminding drivers of speed limits and making roads safer for children. Their third project was the purchase of climbing bars and bongo drums for a school yard, creating another place to exercise while having fun.



In **Minnesota**, Lion Joe Macko was the ring announcer for the Lions Open Weight Championship wrestling competition. For the fifth time, **Columbia Heights Lions** sponsored the fundraising matches, and each time the crowd has gotten bigger and more enthusiastic. The Lions charge US\$10 at the door and have an open cash bar and US\$1 hotdogs for sale.



In **Arizona**, Lion Richard Stevenson, president of the **South Tucson Cyber Club Branch** founded by the **South Tucson Lions**, screens children for vision problems. The club brought in 14 new Lions and specializes in vision screenings in schools. The Lions traveled more than 6,000 miles and racked up 2,000 hours of volunteer time to perform 120 school vision screenings, reaching more than 31,000 children.



The **Elmvale District Lions** of **Ontario, Canada** finished off 2017 in fine form with the addition of three new members. They also organized the Elmvale Santa Claus Parade, provided assistance to the food bank, manned Salvation Army kettles and hosted a 4-H banquet.

## In Memoriam

Past International Director Dr. S.P. Amin (2001-2003) passed away on February 27 at a London Hospital. The late Past Director Amin was originally of Nairobi, Kenya, and a member of the Nairobi Central Lions Club since 1967. He held many offices within the association, including national LCIF Coordinator. As such he helped to raise several million dollars to support LCIF's programs fighting measles and diabetes, and for childhood survival initiatives.

In recognition of his service to the association, the late Past Director Amin received numerous awards including the Lion of the Year Award, the 100% Club President Award, the 50 Year Monarch Award, the 100% District Governor Award, several Extension Awards and Senior Master Key, several District Governor's Appreciation Awards, the Lion of the District Award, two International President's Certificates of Appreciation, three International Presidents Leadership Awards, thirteen International Presidents Awards, Silver and Gold Centennial Lions and the Ambassador of Good Will award, the highest honor the association gives to its members. He was also a multi-level Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Second Century Ambassador.

He was a compassionate and dedicated individual who will be missed by many. His friendly smile and warm personality touched many lives and his dedication provided vision, medical services and hope to those who previously had none.

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## // ANNIVERSARIES

### April 2018

**95 Years:** Welland, Ontario, CAN; Lincoln, Kan.; Ventura Downtown, Calif.; Taunton, Mass.; Phoenix Downtown, Ariz.; Fairmont, W.V.; Marion, Ill.; Scranton, Pa.; Tucson Downtown, Ariz.; Culver City, Calif.

**90 Years:** Wayauwega Fremont, Wis.; Eureka Host, Calif.; Midland Downtown, Texas; Grass Valley Host, Calif.; Spencer, W.V.; Fairview, Okla.; Fort Stockton, Texas; Carlsbad Downtown, N.M.; Gypsum, Kan.; Greenville, Ala.

**80 Years:** Manhattan, Kan.; Marshall, Texas; Wauwatosa, Wis.; North Wilkesboro, N.C.; Lowell, Ind.; Siler City, N.D.; Jacksonville Beaches, Fla.; Sallisaw, Okla.; Eden, N.C.; Stafford, Kan.; Belton, Texas; White Haven, Pa.; Liberty, Mo.; Lawndale Bay City, Calif.; Folsom City Host, Calif.; Reading, Mass.; Cobden, Ill.; Downieville, Calif.; St. Joseph, Mo.; Key West, Fla.; Halstead, Kan.

**75 Years:** Gonzales, La.; Beggs, Okla.; White Castle, La.; Culver, Ind.; Audubon, Iowa; Heidelberg, Pa.; Globe, Ariz.

**50 Years:** Saskatchewan, CAN; Summerville Noon, S.C.; Viking, Alberta, CAN; Clearwater-Venby, British Columbia, CAN; Medical Lake, Wa.; St. Felicien, Quebec, CAN; Mt. Olympus, Ind.; Tahsis, British Columbia, CAN; Ottawa, Mich.; Sherwood, Wis.; Boyle, Alberta, CAN; Beaver City, Neb.; Woodville & District, Ontario, CAN; Cedar Key, Fla.; Windermere & District, Ontario, CAN; Friona Noon, Texas; Pochahontas, Ark.; Canso, Nova Scotia, CAN; Qulin, Mo.; Interlachen, Fla.

**25 Years:** New Ulm, Texas; Salisbury Metro, Md.; Elizabeth Borinquen, N.J.; Union Peruvian, N.J.

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