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# CONTENTS

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

Vol. 92 ■ No. 2

## FEATURES

**18**

### Cover Story Fight for Sight Progress

Lions—And a New Partner—Turn Back Blindness



**22**

### Helen Keller Lives!

**31**

### World Games Set Record

**32**

### Lions Color Their World Green

**36**

### Good Sports



**42**

### Revival of the Roar

## DEPARTMENTS



### 4 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lions News Briefs

### 10 IDEAS THAT ROAR

Good Gardening

Sight is Beautiful

Lions Serve ... Lunch

### 14 LIONS ON LOCATION

SWISS SAVE LIVES

POLISH ANNIVERSARY

PARK PARTY

BANGLADESH TRAGEDY

## COLUMNS



### 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

46 CLUB BUILDING

47 RECRUITING MEMBERS

48 RAISING FUNDS

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

50 NEW LEADERS

51 THANK YOU

52 VISIONARY WORK

53 CALENDAR

54 INFORMATION

55 CLUB BRIEFINGS

55 ON THE WEB

55 ANNIVERSARIES/  
KEY AWARDS

56 LAST ROAR



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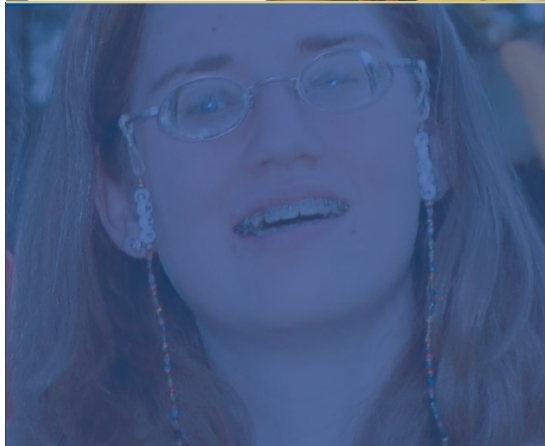
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# Move to Grow in 2009-2010

## SERVING TOGETHER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the certainties of frequent travel is being delayed because of bad weather. I can't count the number of times that thunder, lightning and driving rain forced my plane to take off late. Then when we are finally up in the air, the skies become completely clear at some point and the night is dotted with sparkling stars, the same stars I could not see when the storm raged.

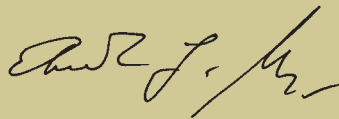
I believe friends are a lot like those stars: you can't always see them but they are there. The same holds true for Lions. People may not realize we are present in the community and may not appreciate how we improve their community but we are there in the community doing our service. We Lions are stars that bring light and beauty to our surroundings.

As we Move to Grow in 2009-10, I ask you to increase the number of stars in your club. Membership should be the focus of every Lion and every club. We can't move forward unless we have the momentum supplied by a healthy club. Being satisfied and standing still with membership is a recipe for failure, if not this year or next then down the road.

We need to induct new qualified Lions members: individuals with achievements in life who want to contribute their experience and talents to our association. We need to make them want to join us, to be inspired by our ideas, devote their time for projects and take on responsibility. Please encourage more people, especially younger people, to offer their talents and resources to help us to achieve a society based on teamwork and civic engagement.

The Global Membership Team together with the new District Governor Teams, are leading the charge. But every Lion has to help. There can be no victory in Lionism without teamwork.

Please don't ever forget how important Lions are to your community and how important you are to your club. We've been given gifts and talents, and we need to give back to our communities.



*Eberhard J. Wirfs*  
*Lions Clubs International President*

Growing membership  
should be the focus of  
each Lion and club.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## LIONS TAKE PART IN NATIONAL PARADE

For the first time Lions entered a float in the National Memorial Day Parade May 25 in Washington D. C. Riding the float were Lions who are military veterans, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Dr. Andy Baldwin, who starred in the ABC hit show *The Bachelor: An Officer and a Gentleman*, and Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes, an honorary Lion. Baldwin, a member of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club in California, is the founder of the Got Your Back Network, a nonprofit group that raises money to support families of fallen soldiers. During the parade, Lions collected eye-glasses from some of the 250,000 people who viewed the parade.



Andy Baldwin and Dominique Dawes wave to the crowd.

Photo by Brindisi Chan

## LIONS MARK NEI ANNIVERSARY

Forty years ago Lions clubs throughout the United States orchestrated a blitz of 100,000 letters and telegrams sent to Capitol Hill urging the creation of the National Eye Institute. In June 2008-09 International President Al Brandel participated in a celebration in Washington of the anniversary of NEI. "I am



National  
Eye  
Institute

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

honored to participate in this celebration of 40 years of federally funded research to save sight and restore vision," said Brandel. "As a non-profit, international organization that works closely with the NEI, LCIF can attest to the global impact of the Institute's work." LCIF, along with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, served as sponsors of the celebration. Lions have led community efforts at increasing awareness of eye health and the need for timely and regular treatment of eye diseases. In 1991, LCIF awarded a SightFirst grant of \$50,000 for a survey on eye health with NEI. The two organizations again partnered in 2005 to update this survey. Lions and NEI are planning focus groups for fall 2009 to create co-branded educational eye health materials.

## U.S. 'PRESIDENTS' JOIN LIONS BASH

George H. W. Bush wasn't there, but George Washington, Abe Lincoln and even Uncle Sam made an appearance at a Lions club's July 4th celebration at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas. It was the 49th year the College Station Noon Lions Club hosted the free event. The evening included food at a modest price, costumed historical characters and a symphony orchestra playing music in sync with fireworks. "It's not a fundraiser but a fun-raiser," said Brian Blake, a Lion who is communications director for the Bush library and museum. Some club members work for Texas A&M University, the other host for the celebration. Bush was out of state on the day. "It was 104 here and 68 in Maine so I'd have been in Maine, too, if I could," Blake joked.

## LION MAGAZINE HOLDS PHOTO CONTEST

Don't forget to submit photos for the LION



Magazine photo contest (see May issue). First prize is a Sony digital camera and runners-up receive Lions polo shirts. Even if you don't win, your photo could end up in the magazine, giving your club the recognition it deserves. Photos must be of a Lions service project or fundraiser that takes place between May 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010. Photos must be taken by a Lion or Leo. See the complete list of rules at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) (click on News and Events, then LION Magazine). Or e-mail [jay.copp@](mailto:jay.copp@)

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## CLUB OF THE MONTH

### EASTON LIONS CLUB, MASSACHUSETTS

**FOUNDED:** 1931

**MEMBERSHIP:** About 160 members.

**COMMUNITY SERVED:** Easton, population: 23,000.

**MEMBERS:** Members are from varied professional backgrounds including sales, retail, computer programming, business management and administration.

**MEETING MATTERS:** The club meets at 7 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesday at the Easton Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.

**CLAIM TO FAME:** The Yardley-Wood outdoor ice rink, the brain child of Lion Arthur Yardley in 1958. Easton Lions organized the construction of the ice rink, enlisting the help of community members, businesses and the Massachusetts 483rd National Guard Army Engineers, who bulldozed and leveled the ground for the ice surface. The facility saw significant improvement under the stewardship of Lion Ken Wood, who oversaw the addition of benches, a fireplace, more lights for night skating, a renovation of the concessions shed and an electric sign indicating the surface condition of the ice.

**THRIFTY LIONS:** Easton and Easton Grange Lions operate a thrift store at a local hall every Saturday to raise funds for eye research. The club resupplies their stock with items donated by the community.

**EARTH FRIENDLY:** The club organized the collection of household junk on Environmental Awareness Day. Lions set up a collection depot in town and accepted items such as old televisions, refrigerators and dishwashers on a fee-per-item basis. The club had more than 500 donors and walked away with more than \$10,500 in four hours. After expenses, the club donated the remaining \$8,500 toward eye research and community needs

**AWARD-WORTHY:** Easton Lions received the Challenge to Change Award in the Most Outstanding Club category at the 91st Lions Clubs International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2008.

**WHY BE A LION:** "Seeing kids skating at the rink and knowing that your club played such a role in making that happen is a rewarding feeling. Our members are always looking for a creative way to help the community and have fun at the same time, and to see that come to life is absolutely great."

—Membership Chairperson Nancy Sullivan



Easton Lions score a hole-in-one with their golf outing.

## OVERHEARD

"I can't tell you how thrilled I am just to go outside every day to sit and enjoy the fresh air, and I'm so excited to actually be able to go grocery shopping. ... The Lions Club is above and beyond the best there is. They are my ramp angels."

—Mary Nykanen, who is blind and uses a wheelchair, in the *Daily Tribune* after the Royal Oak Lions in Michigan and teen-agers from a vocational school built a ramp at her home.

"How do you not know you've lost your glasses? Yet I donate about 20 pairs of eyeglasses to the Lions club each year."

—Fairview High School secretary Jean Martter in Pennsylvania in a story in the *Erie Times News* about the last day of school.

## 51 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

### SEPTEMBER 1958

Australian Lions show their pride and marching precision at the parade at the international convention in Chicago.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## BY THE NUMBERS

205

Dollars in tips received and then donated to the Knowlton Lions in Quebec, Canada, by the cast of a dinner play. The Knowlton Players served as waiters and waitresses for the evening as well as performing.



4,000

Grant dollars given to the Imperial Lions in Nebraska by the Imperial Community Foundation to build new bathrooms in a local park.



2083

Year a time capsule placed in the courthouse steps in Mesa County in Colorado will be opened. The capsule includes a book written by Lion Russell Soderquist on the contributions of the Grand Junction Lions to Mesa State College.

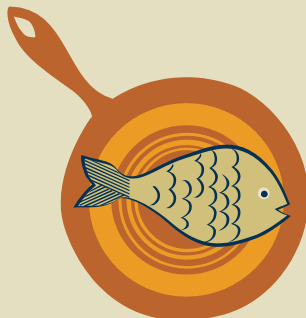


59

Years after the Clemson Lions Club in South Carolina held its charter night, led by charter president Victor Hurst (still attending meetings) and chartering district governor Henry Wofford, a past international director and still a member of the Johnston Lions Club.

560

Pounds of catfish fried by the Canyon Lake Noon Lions Club in Texas during its 10th annual fish fry.



49

Consecutive years the Cold Spring Lions Club in New York awarded scholarships at the Haldine High School commencement.



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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



Traver enjoys his new-found time with Lions.



Welcomed a new Lion into the club who you think deserves a bit of recognition? E-mail us a brief description of your Lion and the reason you're nominating him or her to [lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org). Please include "Welcome to the Club" in your subject line.

## WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Life took a different turn when **Dave Traver** moved to Anchorage, Alaska, from Palo Alto, California, 26 years ago, but it's safe to say it was for the better. Traver, then 32 years old and a member of the Sierra Club, was struck by the state's natural beauty, wildlife and untamed landscape. But the landscape of Traver's life didn't include Lions until last year, when he talked to the pastor of his church—a club member—and decided to join the Anchorage Lions Club.

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Salmon. I just got back from dip-netting, where we go to cast nets in the river and scoop them right up. I didn't even have to use a rod and reel, and I brought back 51 salmon. We have a deep freezer, so I stick them in there. Our family never has to buy fish.

**BEST PROJECT:** My favorite is the Don Fridley golf tournament we host every year. It's to benefit the Covenant House shelter for homeless adolescents. We have the tournament on a course on the Fort Richardson military base. This year I got to shuttle people around in the golf cart and help set up the luncheon after the tournament. Our summers are short, so everyone in Anchorage loves to get outdoors during the summer.

**CAN'T MISS TV:** I used to be a big *Seinfeld* fan, but they've shuffled the reruns around. My son is a big fan of comedians, and he's turned me onto *The Colbert Report*, which is very funny.

**FIRST CLUB MEETING:** I joined after I talked to our church pastor, who was a member. I was struck by how friendly everyone was, and I how young I felt. We have three guys in our club who are 90 years old, and many of the members grew up here. I've lived in Anchorage for 26 years, and I'm still considered the new guy. I still love coming, though. We have great speakers—the mayor, the president of Denali gas and some of the consultants who are working on a proposed gold mine in the area have all come to talk to us, so we're constantly learning about what's happening in our town.

**THE LAST GREAT BOOK I READ:** I'm not an avid reader, but I did finish a book a short while back called *Speaking In Tongues* about individuals who claim to have had a religious experience during a religious service. The book was interesting because the author was originally a skeptic, and now that isn't so much the case for him. Right now though, I'm just reading a lot of the Department of Fish and Game regulations.

**I'M AFRAID OF:** Nothing, really. Life is different up here. No snakes, and the bears seem to leave me alone. We have a creek that runs out along the back of our property, and we did just have a black bear go through our back yard. We make sure to clean up the bird seed and keep things locked up that they might be interested in, so we don't have any problems.

**THE CLUB DOESN'T KNOW THAT:** I met my wife in the Sierra Club when we were both living in California. We came up here on a rafting trip that was an off-shoot of the club, and really liked the area a lot. Alaska isn't a Sierra Club kind of state, though.

**THREE WORDS MY CLUB USES TO DESCRIBE ME:** Youngster. Energetic. Enthusiastic.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** I'd love to go back to Hawaii, but I also love the Kenai Peninsula, which is about several hours south of here. It looks like Norway, and it's absolutely beautiful. There are fjords, beaches, great fishing, and volcanoes—three active ones, actually.

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**Q. What advantages does this advanced in-**



**frared heating process have over other heating source products?**

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#### End of interview.

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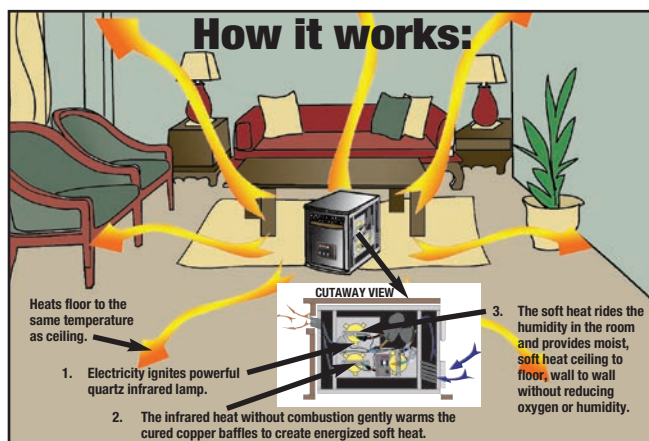
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## Hands On and Heads Down— Lions Plot a Community Garden

Brookfield Lions in Connecticut wanted to put a different spin on community service. Dick Cronin says that members sought a project that served the land as well as its citizens. Lions were looking for a “hands on” project, but even they may not have known just how hands-on it was going to be after Dave Keefe came up with an idea. He suggested a community garden located on the Gurski Farm, a historic New England property purchased by the town in 2002. The beauty of a community garden, Keefe told Lions, is that it “attracts many different people—from condo owners, senior citizens, Boy Scouts working on merit badges and people looking to socialize.” In these tough economic times, Lions strongly believe that people will benefit from growing their own small crops of vegetables.

Mobilization was immediate. They soon realized, though, that they needed a tool shed in which to keep donated tools. Converting the farm's old chicken coop into a storage facility was an easy solution. What they didn't anticipate was how much hard work was in store for them. After a crew spread mulch on the soil they'd just tilled, Cronin says with a laugh, “We had to supply our own muscle liniment.”

Each of the 35 plots is 8 x 14 feet with four-foot walking paths running between plots for easy access. Donated shovels, rakes and hand tools were painted “an awful color” so they could be easily identified and “hopefully not walk away,” says Cronin.

While believing in the “build it and they will come” theory, Lions still had some practical concerns. “The only problem with that is if they don't know where it's at, how are they going to get there?” A good publicity campaign was the key. There were multiple showings of a promotional television show on cable and the town's educational channel, and the community was blanketed with announcements. Church bulletins, library, senior center, Web sites and Brookfield's recreation department all carried information about the garden.

Plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis. There is a \$20 fee for each application because “it was felt that if



Sherri Keefe helps her children and niece plant a vegetable garden after Lions tilled the soil at the Brookfield Lions Community Garden.

Photo by Dick Cronin

nothing was charged, the people might treat the land in the same way. However, if they invested some money, they might treat the program with seriousness,” Cronin explains.

Tony Licursi, a member with extensive gardening experience, was appointed “garden captain.” It's a good thing, too, because none of the garden applicants had much experience, according to Keefe, who explains that many gardeners view it as an “educational process” for their children.

Licursi serves as an on-site monitor and mediator if needed. His expertise enables him to answer questions about fertilizer application and suitable crops. He gives advice to novice gardeners who can't decide what to grow and where to locate plants for maximum growth. Vegetables and flowers are acceptable, but invasive plants with vines, such as pumpkins and cucumbers, are not. Lions encourage organic gardening and hand-watering the plots for water conservation. The farm may be a relic from colonial days, but it has helped Lions dig deep to find a new way to serve their community.

#### INVOLVE YOUTH

If your club doesn't sponsor a Leo club already, investigate starting one to give youth a service option in your community.

## Sight is Beautiful, Indeed

A vacant storefront in a popular mall served as the staging area for a vision and hearing screening test sponsored by District 50 Lions in Hawaii. A total of 85 adults and 25 children participated in the free service effort of Hawaii Kai, Kaimuki, Koko Head and Manoa Waioli Lions. Additionally, Lions cleaned and repaired several hundred pairs of eyeglasses for shipment to people in need.

To promote their "Sight is Beautiful" program, eight elementary schools submitted posters and the winning entry from each school was on display at the mall. Lions volunteered information about sight conservation as shoppers stopped to look over students' artwork.

#### SERVICE IDEA EXTENDING SERVICE IN PUBLIC AREAS



A pre-schooler has his vision checked during the "Sight is Beautiful" project sponsored by Hawaiian Lions.

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# IDEAS THAT ROAR

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## Lions Serve ... Lunch

Lions are well known for many things, but gourmet cooking has not been one of them—until now. A group of California Lions are cooking up some pretty special meals for the graduates of Canine Companions for Independence, their families and those who raise the puppies for 12 to 18 months. CCI provides highly trained assistance dogs for people with disabilities other than blindness. Since the 1970s, Lions have supported the non-profit organization by raising puppies, serving as caretakers and donating \$2.5 million to CCI. They provide most of their assistance through the Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI), a foundation established by California Lions in 1983.

The Roseland Lions Club of Santa Rosa volunteered to provide lunch for 12 CCI graduates in 2001, serving hot dogs and basic fare. Each year since has seen the meals become more fanciful as Roseland Lions have been joined by the Santa Rosa Lioness Club and members of the Gravenstein, Santa Rosa Host, Windsor, Petaluma 7-11 and Host, Montgomery Village, Sausalito and San Jose Scales of Justice Lions Clubs.

The “Lions Lunches” project has grown to include not only the four graduating classes each year but also special hearing classes and seminars for returning graduates. Some of the meals Lions prepare are gourmet seafood salads and lavish chicken, beef

and pasta meals. One recent luncheon catered to 130 people and featured a sumptuous buffet.

LPCCI administrator Lucille Hynes says that each Lions club seems to put on their best display of gastronomical showmanship. The results are spectacular, she says proudly, “proving that competition is always healthy.” Lions do their best to serve, indeed, even if it’s with a spoon.



Lions Nan and Mike Rogalski serve lunch to CCI graduate Nancy Sawhney.

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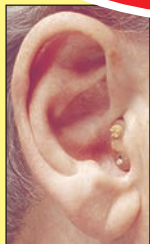
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# LIONS ON LOCATION

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GREAT WORK WE'RE DOING AROUND THE WORLD

## Buy Bottled Water, Save a Life

1 EUROPE SWITZERLAND

The Swiss enjoy clean, tasty water from the Alps. Thanks to Lions, they now better understand that many people in developing nations get sick from unclean water and they contributed \$2 million in a single day to help Lions provide safe water in Africa and Latin America.

Swiss Lions held a first-ever “Lions Day” to publicize the clean water problem and to gather funds. Lions sold bottles of sparkling Swiss water to raise money. The event was hugely successful. “Lions were visible in almost every Swiss village with a large media coverage,” said Régine Pasche, editor of the LION in Switzerland.

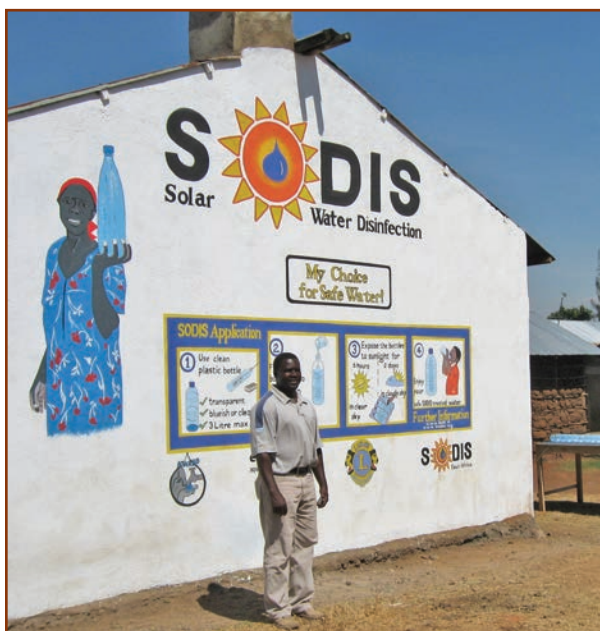
Raising funds by selling bottled water was apt: Swiss Lions promote Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS), using sunlight and transparent bottles to purify water. SODIS is a practical alternative to boiling, filtrating or chlorinating water because these traditional purification methods are either too costly or produce bad-tasting water. Microbiologically contaminated water exposed to sunlight for just six hours will eliminate diarrhea-causing pathogens, according to the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Research.

Swiss Lions used most of the funds collected for 14 projects in 11 African nations and 13 projects in five Latin American nations educating people about clean water and SODIS. As a result, about 850,000 people now use SODIS to treat their drinking water. More than 230 Lions clubs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein participated in the Lions Day.

At least one third of people in developing nations lack access to safe drinking water. More than 1.8 million people die each year because of contaminated drinking water and thousands of children die each day because of dehydration due to diarrhea.



Swiss Lions raised \$2 million in one day from selling bottled water.



Lions spread the word about SODIS.



Africans learned that sunlight purifies water.



**CV MONARCH LIONS** in British Columbia, Canada, co-sponsored the Western Canadian Blind Golf Championship for a field of 24 visually impaired golfers.



**GUBBIO HOST LIONS** in Italy pledged to continue their support of the Italian Lions Guide Dog foundation, which trains more than 1,800 dogs at any time for placement with the visually impaired.

# Polish Lions Celebrate Anniversary

2 EUROPE POLAND

If civic engagement is a hallmark of democracy, then Poland is a case in point. Lions clubs took root in that nation in 1989, the year communism ended and Solidarity triumphed in the elections. The first Lions club was chartered in Poznan 20 years ago. Today the 1,123 Lions in 55 clubs in Poland perform a wide variety of community service.

In May Polish Lions celebrated their 20th anniversary in conjunction with their district convention (District 121) in Gdansk. Attending were then International First Vice President Eberhard Wirfs, Past International Director Nesim Levi of Turkey and several district governors and past district governors from Germany, Italy and Great Britain.



Accompanied by his wife, Margit, Eberhard J. Wirfs, 2009-10 international president, lays flowers at the monument commemorating victims of a 1970 shooting of Gdansk shipyard workers.



Part of the anniversary celebration of Lions in Poland was held on a replica of an old ship in Gdansk Bay.



**TAVISTOCK LIONS** in England hosted a jazz night, carnival and parade to raise funds for their projects to benefit the visually impaired.

## Party in the Park

3 AUSTRALIA SYDNEY



The Lugarno Lions in Australia know how to throw a party. Their 29th annual Spring Festival, the largest of its kind in Sydney's south suburbs, drew 30,000 people to a local park and raised US\$26,000 for the club's service projects. The festival featured more than 150 market stalls, 450 classic cars, dancing and entertainment. Many of the stalls were run by local charities, allowing the Lions to indirectly benefit the community in myriad ways.

Music was part of the spring festival in Australia.

Photo by Bob Walker



**ROSUBANG JAYA LIONS** in Malaysia presented an FC Yap scholarship worth US \$500 to each of 12 students at a secondary school.



**ÅHUS LIONS** in Sweden raised more than US \$13,000 with a flea market that included furniture, porcelain figurines and glassware. The flea market is especially popular with students at the University of Kristianstad.

# Cyclone Devastates Bangladesh

## 4 ASIA BANGLADESH

Cyclone Aila roared up the coast of southwestern Bangladesh on May 25 and the effects were heart-breaking. More than 700,000 homes were damaged. Some 400,000 acres of crops were devastated. More than 2,000 people were dead or missing.

Lions in District 315-B4 put together boxes to tide families over for a month. The relief supplies for thousands of families included rice, masur dal (red lentils),

soybean oil, clothing for men, women and children, a mosquito net, soap, saline tablets and matches. Lions in three other districts in Bangladesh also provided relief items, and LCIF contributed three \$10,000 emergency grants. The cyclone ripped apart the homes and lives of many people with little means. But Lions and others helped them survive and begin to rebuild their lives.



The cyclone caused massive flooding.

Those affected by the cyclone wait for relief supplies.



# Flight



Yanatou waits with her son, Hassan, at a treatment distribution site.

# -for Sight

Farmers leave the most fertile land. Children are left to care for their elders. Economic productivity is greatly reduced. These are just some of the devastating effects of the blinding disease onchocerciasis, prevalent in African and Latin American countries.

Photos by Two Parrot Productions

Under a blazing sun, Yanatou continuously swats at the black flies swarming around her son Hassan's legs. She waits patiently with hundreds of others in Makouossap, her village in Cameroon, for the drug Mectizan® that will ward off the blindness caused by the flies.

Yanatou knows what the disease can do. "Our grandparents were blind when they passed away. We thought it was part of our life," she says. "Before the Mectizan reached our community, we did not know that this disease was curable. Here we used to call it 'Peau de leopard' [leopard skin] because of the skin rashes it causes. But we also knew that it would drive you to blindness."

Lions and LCIF have been fighting onchocerciasis, or river blindness, since 1993. Lions' efforts received a big boost recently when LCIF partnered with a program of the ruler of the United Arab Emirates to carry out river blindness control programs in four African countries. More than \$1 million will help treat 5.3 million people. Yanatou and her family and many others will avoid the sad fate of their older relatives.

## A Blinding, Painful Disease

In some West African communities about 50 percent of men over the age of 40 have been blinded by onchocerciasis, and at one time annual economic losses were estimated at \$30 million. A total of 120 million people are at risk for the disease and half a million are already blind because of it, according to the World Health Organization.

Onchocerciasis is referred to as "river blindness" because it's transmitted by a fly that breeds along rivers. Although the most fertile area, people vacate the area out of fear of infection. After long-term exposure to repeated fly bites, children and adults



A woman with river blindness has developed leopard-like skin, a common complication.

become infected when the fly leaves a parasite in the body that begins to grow and spread. The parasite is usually noticeable through a raised nodule on the skin. In addition to causing blindness, the disease also causes painful, disfiguring skin rashes.

LCIF and Lions have aggressively combated the disease through SightFirst, providing nearly \$30 million in funding for onchocerciasis control and elimination programs since 1993 when the first grant was awarded for activity in Cameroon. LCIF is working with seven non-governmental organizations as well as local ministries of health to fight the disease in 15 countries in Latin America and Africa.

SightFirst grants have helped fund 127 million Mectizan treatments to date, but have also trained tens of thousands of health workers and community distributors. Mectizan is provided free by Merck, Inc.

This year LCIF partnered with Noor Dubai to carry out river blindness control programs in four African countries: Cameroon, Mali, Uganda and Ethiopia. Developed by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid, Noor Dubai (“Sight Dubai” in Arabic) provides preventative eye care services throughout Africa and the Middle East. Due to the great success of the partnership, Noor Dubai is establishing a foundation to continue eye health care programs and develop a longer-term partnership with LCIF aimed at sustaining SightFirst programs.

## Making a Difference

Lions play a key role in all aspects of controlling river blindness, coordinating the distribution around the seasons. If there is heavy rain, they can't reach remote areas. Other times villagers are busy in the field planting or harvesting.



Community distributors provide a Mectizan treatment to a resident of Foubout village.



Dr. Eyemba, Country Director of Cameroon for the Carter Center, reviews educational materials with the Ministry of Health Chronic Disease National Coordinator.

Lions drive hours to reach even the most remote villages, ensuring that no individual or community is overlooked. The outreach effort requires massive planning and thousands of volunteers, including Lions, health care workers, community leaders and ministry of health workers. Lions have been vital in establishing synergy between all groups. SightFirst funding helps provide training for volunteers who distribute the Mectizan, educate communities and track results. More than 34,000 health workers and community distributors were trained in 2008 in Cameroon alone.

The Lions' work is not done after the drug is handed out. In addition to checking for side effects, Lions help track results to show the effectiveness of the drug and determine areas where elimination is close.

In parts of Mexico and Guatemala onchocerciasis transmission has been interrupted, according to health officials. Just last year Colombia became the first country to announce the end of transmission of the disease. Experts predict eliminating the need for treatment by 2012 in Latin America. Funding from Campaign SightFirst II will ensure that programs to control and eliminate onchocerciasis remain a priority.

**\$29,596,877:** amount granted for onchocerciasis in Africa & Latin America

**127,219,055:** treatments provided worldwide

**15:** countries where SightFirst is funding onchocerciasis programs

**80:** percentage of blindness that can be prevented

**5,300,000:** people treated through LCIF/Noor Dubai partnership

**120,000,000:** people at risk for onchocerciasis



Lion Dominique Coste distributes educational brochures on river blindness.



SightFirst helps fund outreach vehicles.

Villagers now understand how the disease can be halted. “We live in a very isolated community, and seeing strangers is quite rare,” says Yanatou. “When so many of them are here, we know it is for the drug distribution.”

Hassan is not able to take the drug because of his age. But one day he will be allowed to take the medication. “I want a bright future for him,” says Yanatou. “I want him to go to school and become what he wants to be.”

She adds, “The people who make this medicine possible—thank you.” ■



A young Keller reads a Braille book.

# HELEN KELLER

# Lives!

STORIES BY JAY COPP

A year ago, 40 years after the death of Helen Keller, LION Magazine lamented the dwindling of the fame of the American heroine. Schoolchildren rarely read her autobiography and general cultural awareness of her accomplishments was dimming. Lions in Alabama, where her childhood home in Tuscumbia is preserved as a shrine, still championed Keller. But we concluded "it will be up to Lions to keep not only her mission but also her memory alive."

Well, we learned that Lions and others indeed are keeping her memory alive. They search out those who knew her, stage *The Miracle Worker* and teach about her in the classroom. Keller was famous precisely because her indomitable spirit soared above daunting circumstances. Her spirit lives on and her fame endures because her story continues to inspire.

## FRIEND OF KELLER SHARES HIS MEMORIES

When Lions in Stone Harbor, New Jersey, read the cover story in the LION decrying the diminished interest in Helen Keller, they knew what they had to do. They invited resident Peter Svanda to speak at their meeting. Svanda, 78, worked for Keller and befriended her as a boy.

Svanda, a recent Lion, wowed the club with his tales of Keller. "Everybody was very interested. She's the patron saint of Lions. It was just amazing," said Phil Fiore, club president.

Svanda met Keller in 1946 in Westport, Connecticut, where they both lived. Svanda's grandmother, a Czechoslovakian immigrant, was the laundress to the 65-year-old Keller, whose comfortable home was filled with dinner parties with awed guests from across America and Japan, where she was particularly popular. Her neighbors included the conductor Leonard Bernstein and the writer Edna Ferber. Paul Newman later moved into the neighborhood.

Svanda, 12, who rode his bike five miles to get to Keller's home, mowed the lawn and washed dishes. "She was so loving," says Svanda. "She would always put her hands on my face and know who I was. Then she gave me a big hug."

He was able to draw close to the world celebrity precisely because he traveled in far different circles. Svanda later swam for his high school and she asked him about that and other parts of his life. "She didn't know very many boys my age," he said. "I was a very unique attraction."

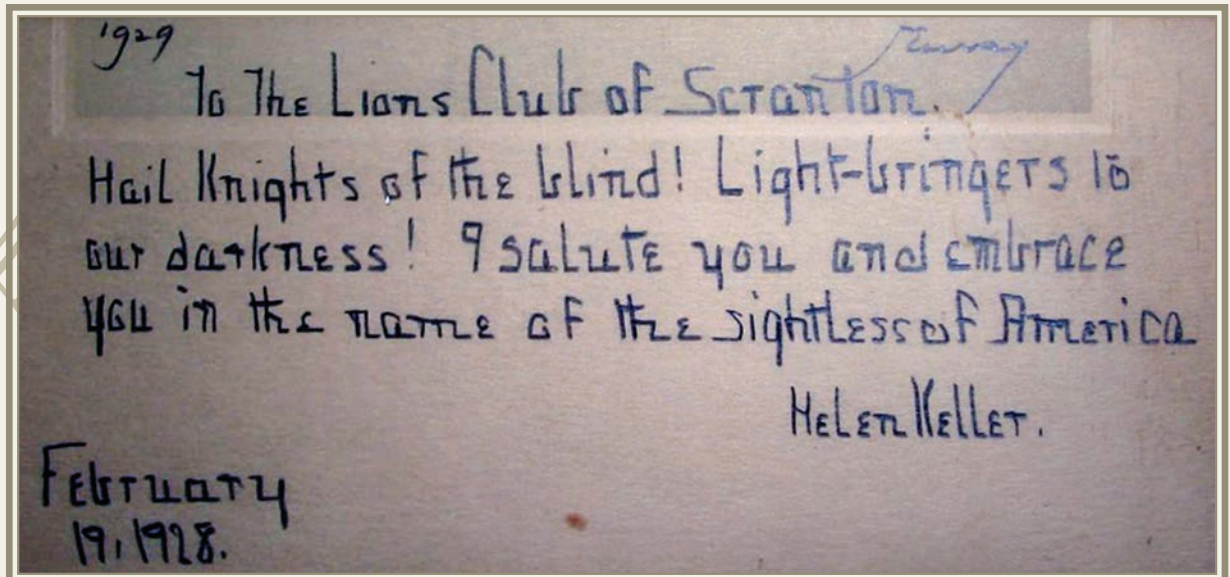
Keller could talk and did so with Svanda in her spacious office. But he preferred it when she conversed with him by using an ordinary typewriter. To understand his reply, she put one finger across his lips and two fingers on his vocal cords. "She would understand everything I said," he recalled.

Keller was extremely perceptive. "When we walked in the flower gardens, she would say 'yellow rose, pink rose, red rose,' knowing each color by the smell," said Svanda. Even more extraordinary, she could feel the vibrations of the five-foot black snake that frequented the backyard. When Keller drew near him, he slithered away. "There goes my friend," she would say.

Keller arranged for Svanda to take his driving test when he was 16, and he drove her to the train station for business meetings in New York and to the stores in Westport for shopping. He also drove her and Polly Thomson, Keller's companion after Annie Sullivan died, to the movies twice a month. Thomson used sign language in Keller's hand to explain the action. "They would both laugh or cry depending on what the film was about," said Svanda.

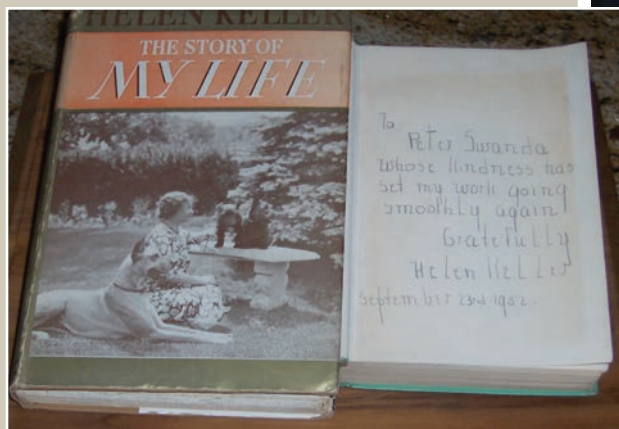
But Svanda also fondly recalled the ordinary domestic routines of the Keller home. She loved good food and loved to walk. Svanda built a long fence in the backyard, and, using the poles as a guide, she took several walks a day if the weather was decent. On warmer days, she and Thomson sat on the patio in the late afternoon. Keller

## KELLER LETTER DISPLAYED IN HOUSTON

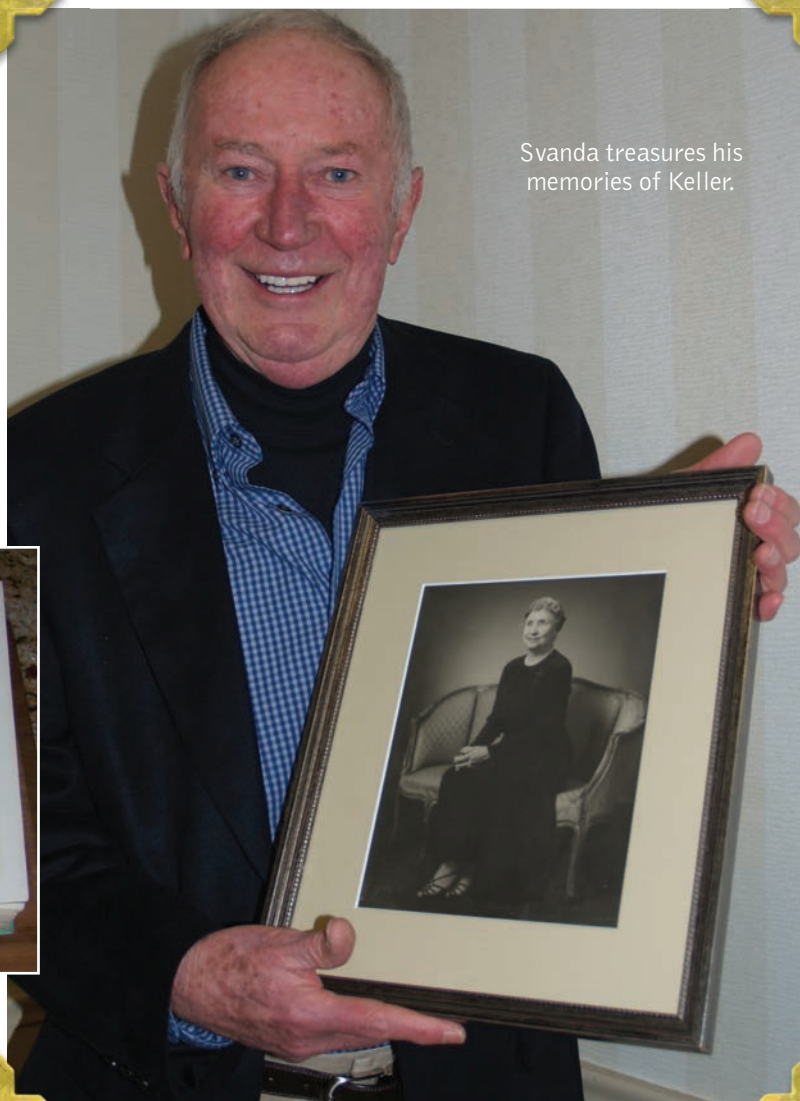


drank bourbon. Thomson preferred Scotch whiskey. In the winter, the two sat in front of the wood-burning fireplace. “Keller loved the smell of the burning wood and the warmth it gave the entire room,” he said.

In 1957, Svanda got married and went on with his life. But for years he drove Keller’s 1947 black Pontiac, which she sold to him. His memories remain. “I feel really blessed to have had the opportunity to know her, work for her and be her friend,” he said.



Keller dedicated to Svanda this copy of her autobiography.



Svanda treasures his memories of Keller.

Photo by Leslie Truluck

Helen Keller is such an icon that even a Rotarian at his optometry office is proud to display a letter from her praising Lions.

Patients of Dr. Robert Peterson in Houston see a framed, yellowing letter from Keller dated Feb. 19, 1928, that hails the Scranton Lions in Pennsylvania for being “Knights of the Blind” and “Light-bringers to our darkness.” Peterson’s late mother-in-law purchased the letter 20 years ago at an auction.

Peterson said an expert told him he believes the letter, which is eight inches long and four inches high, is authentic.

The expert appraised the letter at \$400. Peterson’s mother-in-law never would tell him how much she paid for the letter. But she did relate that the auctioneer at first refused to hand her the letter, saying he didn’t mean to auction it off. But she made a scene and he relented.

The Scranton Lions today do not know exactly why Keller thanked them. But Helen Keller Day in the city began in 1929 (see page 30), so obviously there was some sort of relationship.

Peterson said Keller wrote by using a grid-like device that kept her letters in line. Kevin Trotman, a patient of Dr.

Robert Kemp, Peterson’s partner, says Keller used a ruler to guide her handwriting. (Trotman took the photo for this story. He had it posted on Flickr, a photo sharing Web site, where LION Magazine found it.) Based on examples of Keller’s writing he’s seen online, Trotman, too, believes the letter is genuine.

Kemp’s father started the optometry practice 58 years ago. He was a Lion. Peterson is happy to give the Lions their due. “I enjoy showing it [the letter] to my patients,” he says. “The Lions do a great job.”

This letter from Keller is displayed by a Houston optometrist.

Photo by Kevin Trotman

## STORY OF HER LIFE PART OF STUDENTS' LIVES

For 32 years Joan Stafford of California has taught her students about Helen Keller. She not only relates Keller's life story to her special education students but she also has them read Braille, use sign language and place cotton balls in their ears and blindfolds over their eyes to simulate Keller's experience and greater appreciate her successes.

"My students are inspired by her," says Stafford, a Lion since 2001. "It's amazing that Helen Keller continues to inspire, continues to teach and continues to educate."

Once a staple of the classroom, Keller's autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, has been dropped from many school reading lists. Its old-fashioned writing style and the lure of young adult books dealing with typical teen-age problems have pushed it off required reading lists. But some schools continue to steadfastly value conveying the story of a person who overcame great handicaps.

Stafford's 9th-graders at the Highlands Academy of Arts and Design in North Highlands cope with learning difficulties. Some have cerebral palsy or are vision-impaired. What they have in common is a sense that their future is limited, and learning about Keller helps explode that perception.

"Their attitude [after learning about Keller] is, 'I can do something.' Their attitude is, 'I can' rather than 'I cannot,' " says Stafford. "I've seen a noticeable difference in their performance level in class, too."

Stafford's students discuss how they view people with limitations and how to help someone who is blind or disabled. "My students talk about how their own special needs may have been addressed during Helen's lifetime and how she was able to adapt to her own situation and triumph," says Stafford.

A member of the Foresthills Lions Club, she also tells her students about Lions and their mission as Knights of the Blind.

Stafford first learned of Keller as an 8th-grader in 1968. "My mother said, 'Did you hear that Helen Keller died?' I said, 'No, who's that?'" Stafford did some basic research on her and then read her autobiography in school the next year. She was hooked. Keller was a hero and Stafford traces her career as a teacher to those days.

It's a circle of inspiration that Stafford keeps twirling. At the end of the lesson on Keller, she has her students write a letter to a person of their choosing telling them about the American icon.

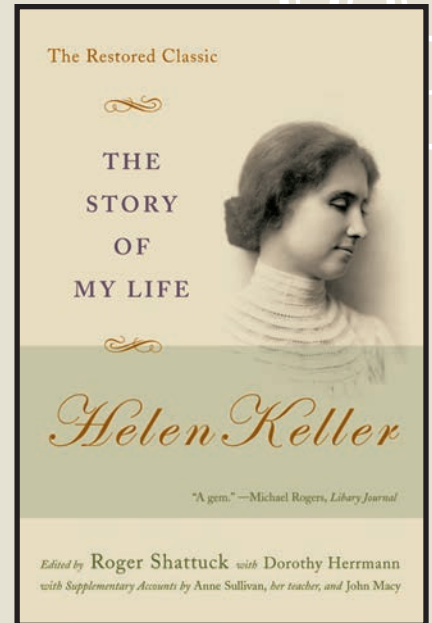


Students in Joan Stafford's class experience learning without sight.

## SPREADING THE WORD

The cover story in LION Magazine about Helen Keller spurred Lions into action. "Because of your article I have two clubs in our district that want to make sure that the local libraries have books about Helen Keller and are willing to purchase the books to donate," Past District Governor Don Allen of Oakdale, California, told LION Magazine.

LION Magazine recommends *Helen Keller: A Life* by Dorothy Herrmann. This compelling book removes none of the luster from her achievements but strips away the sentimentality surrounding her and captures her full humanity. The end result is an even greater appreciation for what Keller overcame and what she accomplished. As a companion piece also read (or, most probably, read again) *The Story of My Life*, her stirring 1903 autobiography. The instant classic made Keller a worldwide celebrity.



## RELATIVE KEEPS LEGACY ALIVE



Keller Johnson Thompson grew up in Tuscumbia and today lives eight blocks from Ivy Green, Keller's childhood home. But she's often on the road, visiting 150 schools each year to tell Keller's life story and to encourage youths to overcome challenges in their lives.

Thompson is Keller's great-grand niece. She speaks on behalf of the Birmingham-based Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education, begun by the late Patty Tyson Johnson, Keller's niece and Thompson's grandmother, to prevent blindness and deafness.

Thompson grew up seeing *The Miracle Worker* staged at Ivy Green and her father and grandmother shared their recollections of Keller. But it wasn't until she was in college and read Keller's *The Story of My Life* and *Midstream: My Later Life* that she took more of an interest in her legendary relative and decided to help carry on her legacy.

Children today know only the broad outlines of Keller's life, says Thompson, a mother of three. "They don't know what happened after the well. They don't know what kind of impact she had on the world," she says. Girls especially are drawn to her story. "Boys have sports figures to look up to. Girls are really interested in her story."

Says Thompson, "My basic message is what she overcame. We all have disabilities of our own. Look what Helen Keller did with her life."

Thompson said Keller's story still has a universal appeal. "I get e-mails from all over the world. It's not just the U.S. She's studied in Japan."

Thompson was a Lion but her travels precluded regular involvement. Still, Lions will be one of the groups represented when a statue of Keller is unveiled soon for Alabama at the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol. Thompson plans to be there, too, bringing together once more Lions and the Keller family.



Photo by Peter Svanda

The Foundation for a Better Life, a nonprofit founded to promote caring and helping others, has featured Helen Keller on its billboards. Others featured include Abraham Lincoln, Mother Teresa, Jackie Robinson and a New York firefighter.



Erin Quinn played Annie Sullivan and Venetia Ellis starred as Helen Keller in the Loveland Lions' *The Miracle Worker*.

Photo by Jim Hartnagle

## CLUB WORKS UP A MIRACLE ON STAGE

*The Miracle Worker* is performed year after year by countless community theaters and schools. But in at least one instance a Lions club spurred the staging of the beloved play about Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan.

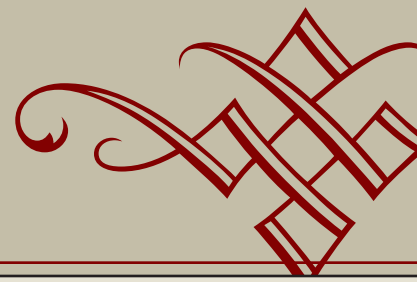
Last fall the Loveland Lions Club in Colorado partnered with the Loveland Community Theatre on six performances of the play. The production was the brainchild of Lion Roberta Price, a retired high school drama teacher. Price directed the show. A Lion served as a cast member and other Lions assisted with sets, props and promotion. Even better, one of the shows raised \$1,000 for the club's eyesight charities, and a display table provided theatergoers with background on Keller and Lions.

Loveland is a town of 70,000 located 55 miles north of Denver. The play was staged in the historic Rialto Theatre, opened in 1920 to show silent films.

Staging the play was a longtime dream of Price's. "I read the play all through my childhood. Helen and Annie Sullivan were heroines of mine," she says. "It's still an inspirational story. It never fails to touch and reach people."

Adds Joy Sandford, president of the Loveland Community Theatre, "I remember seeing the version with Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke. It's timeless. It shows the struggle to overcome steep obstacles. Everybody can relate to it to some degree."

William Gibson, the author of *The Miracle Worker*, died at age 94 last November. But his play remains a staple of the American stage, as does Keller in popular memory. "So many high and middle school productions are done," says Price. "Keller is still in the forefront of outstanding Americans. She's still in the top 10."



## MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS KELLER'S STORY

When Lions in Markham applied for government funds to mount a museum exhibit on their club and volunteerism, they also proposed to highlight the life of Helen Keller. "They were quite taken with the idea: 'Make sure you go ahead with that idea,'" recalls Jack Dawson of the Markham Lions in Ontario, Canada.

So the municipal museum in Markham, a city of 280,000 near Toronto, now features a permanent exhibit on the Lions club, the benefits of volunteerism and the life of Keller. "She ties so well into what we do: why we support guide dogs, collect eyeglasses and do vision screenings," says Dawson.

The Markham Lions Club, begun in 1943, received \$71,000 (Canadian dollars) for the museum exhibit from The Ontario Trillium Foundation, which supports community projects related to heritage, volunteerism and other themes. Markham is now about half Asian, says Dawson, yet Keller remains a cultural touchstone. "I'm always surprised by the number of people who know about her," he says.

### H E L E N   K E L L E R



Born Helen Adams Keller on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama, USA, the child developed a fever at 18 months of age. Afterwards, Keller was blind, deaf, and mute.

At age six, teacher Anne Mansfield Sullivan was hired as Keller's teacher; she taught Keller sign language and Braille. At age 10, Keller learned to speak. In 1898, Helen entered the Cambridge School for

Young Ladies. In the autumn of 1900, Keller entered Radcliffe College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in 1904.

Throughout the years, Sullivan remained at her student's side. She formed



letters into Keller's hand for comprehension of textbooks,

college lectures, and conversation. In 1915, Keller joined the first Board of Directors of the Permanent Blind Relief War Fund. In 1924 she joined the staff of the American Foundation for the Blind as a counsellor on national and international relations.

*On June 30, 1925, Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA. She challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in*

*this crusade against darkness." She said, "I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door."* In

1946, Keller became a counsellor on international relations for the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. Keller died on June 1, 1968 at age 87. Her request to the Lions 43 years earlier inspired them to adopt the Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind Program as a major service initiative.



*Helen Keller receives Lions Humanitarian Award, April 8, 1961*

The museum in Ontario displays this exhibit.





## HELEN KELLER DAY GOING STRONG AFTER 80 YEARS

Scranton is the setting for the hit sitcom *The Office*, but it's Helen Keller, not clueless office boss Michael Scott, who seems more real and alive to residents. She's been part of the Pennsylvania city's public life since 1929 when Helen Keller Day began.

A fundraiser for the Lackawanna branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, the event gives attendees a chance to eat a good lunch, gawk at the latest fashions, purchase crafts—and learn about Keller. A display highlights her life.

Keller happened to visit nearby Carbondale in 1932 three years after the event started. But her iconic status probably is why the event was named for her and why staff of the Lackawanna branch continue to tell her story when visiting schools to promote eye safety and to champion the dignity of the blind.

"Kids can be afraid of blindness. They think it's contagious," says Mary Lou Wascavich, a Lion who is executive administrator of the Lackawanna branch. "Just because someone is blind doesn't mean they're not like you and me. Helen Keller was blind and deaf. Look at everything she accomplished. You can't give a better example."

Helen Keller Day is run by the branch's Friends of the Blind, but Lions clubs and Lions are integral to its success. They sell raffle tickets, purchase tables and attend the event.

## KELLER AS CLOSE AS THE LIVING ROOM MANTEL

Callers speaking to Betty Keller at her workplace in Houston make small talk by asking, "Are you related to Keller Williams [a real estate firm]?" "No," she replies, knowing what's next. "What about Helen?"

Betty Keller is not related to the U.S. legend but she is a Lion. And she does have a framed photo in her living room of Keller, autographed by her for Betty's beloved grandfather. Printed in the characteristically straight lines of Keller, the photo reads: "To Mr. W. Donnelly, in deep appreciation of his kindness. Cordially, Helen Keller, February 24th, 1948."

William (Bill) Donnelly was a New York police officer assigned to Grand Central Station and he greeted and helped her on her way during one of her trips to the city. Betty Keller has given copies of the photo to guest speakers at the meetings of the Klein Lions Club.

Keller, the communications coordinator for the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce, joined the Lions in 2003. She had asked another member of her church choir, "I watch way too much TV. What do you guys do in your free time?" Her friend happened to be the wife of a past district governor.

"I love it," says Keller of her membership. She not only helps keep the memory of Helen Keller alive but she also has stepped up to be a Knight of the Blind. Not long ago she collected in one month 71 pairs of eyeglasses and delivered them to the Texas Eye Bank. ■



Helen Keller gave this photo of herself to a New York City police officer in 1948.

# World Games Set New Record

The Special Olympics World Winter Games in Idaho in February posted impressive numbers: 2,500 athletes from 95 nations competed and 10,000 visitors descended on Boise. But Lions in Idaho are proud of an entirely different set of figures: 1,100 athletes received vision screenings and 448 went home with prescription eye glasses and sports glasses.

That level of screening took a whole lot of service: 200 Lions logged 1,600 volunteer hours. Screenings took place for five hours a day for six days, meaning the Lions of Idaho provided the most support ever for a Special Olympics event. "We set the bar very high and I have to attribute this to the wonderful volunteers here in this area," Curt Kelley, MD 39 volunteer coordinator for Opening Eyes, wrote in an e-mail to LCI.

All the numbers can obscure the personal stories—how lives were improved and enriched thanks to better vision. Some of the improvements were dramatic. One U.S. athlete was referred for a cornea transplant, which was paid for by the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. A figure skater from Taiwan was saved from blindness when glaucoma was uncovered during a screening.

The screenings at the games were part of the Lions Clubs International-Special Olympic Opening Eyes program. LCIF has provided more than \$10 million in grants for Opening Eyes, and more than 100,000 athletes have been screened.

The winter games also deepened the ties between Lions and Special Olympics: a Special Olympics Lions Club was formed in Idaho and another

in California. The new Lions in Idaho will work closely with Special Olympics in Idaho in raising funds, helping with athlete training and generally assisting those with intellectual disabilities.

The clinical director at the games was Lion Dr. Jack Zarybnisky, who secured the screening equipment and recruited more than 60 eye doctors and opticians, many of them Lions, to assist on the screenings. Volunteers came from as far as Lebanon, Britain and Kenya.

Lions in Idaho began preparing for the games in 2007. Leos from Parma and Centennial Job Corps in Nampa also volunteered. Al Brandel, 2008-09 international president, was on hand for the festivities as were U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden and CEOs from major corporations.



Athletes were happy about their new glasses.

Photo by Víctor Sanchez

# LIONS COLOR THEIR WORLD GREEN

by Pamela Mohr

In five years, the Amesbury Lions in Massachusetts have collected more than 40 tons of metal, plastic, glass computer housing and peripheral equipment. More club members work on this electronics recycling project than any other club activity. Welcome to the green world of Lions.



It takes a lot of muscle from Amesbury Lions in Massachusetts to lift a heavy donation off the truck on recycling day.



Don Hoene uses his tractor to help House Springs Lions in Missouri.

Think of green not as a color but as a lifestyle. More and more people seem to be thinking and living green. But Lions clubs have been preserving and protecting the earth's resources for years and, in some cases, decades. From recycling paper and cleaning woods and roads of litter to clearing rivers of debris and providing clean water, Lions have been vigilant caretakers of our planet and its inhabitants.

Joan Baptiste of the Amesbury Lions credits information in a 2004 LION Magazine article for prompting the original recycling partnership between her club and Boy Scout Troop 4.

After reading that banner patches would be offered to Lions clubs that joined in events with local Boy Scouts, members decided to co-sponsor an electronics recycling project with the scouts. Lions now operate the venture by themselves. Held twice a year, the day is heavily publicized in the area. "We've also collected free of charge numerous pairs of eyeglasses for Lions recycling and cell phones, which are given to the police department to reformat for battered women," Baptiste says.

The club tacks on a small charge in addition to the recycling company's fee, and offers home pick-up for another

slight charge. Senior citizens and disabled adults are not charged for either service.

“It gives them [Lions] the opportunity to do something manual and they’re amazed at the popularity of this service,” says Baptiste. “They get to see old neighbors and friends and catch up. It’s an opportunity for good public relations. People look forward to it, calling the town’s department of public works all through the year asking when the next recycling event will be.”

In Arizona, the average age of members of the Prescott Noon Lions Club is probably around 70, says Adrian Langhus, but green has been a way of life for them since 1991 when members first began recycling paper. They originally thought it would be a good fundraiser, but helping the environment is what keeps them going now, he explains. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that about 60 percent of Americans don’t bother recycling their old papers after reading them. Prescott Noon Lions won’t ever be counted among them.

With a population of 40,000 today, Prescott’s early leanings when founded in 1864 were more cowboy than environ-

recycled by Noon Lions, who’ve invested \$100,000 in conveyors and collection trailers. They’ve earned \$230,000 by selling the paper to a company that makes eco-friendly cellulose insulation for homes—just another reason to keep doing all that heavy lifting. More than 40 worthy causes are beneficiaries of the club’s profits, including a local center for the blind and Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

Lions rise before dawn twice a week to collect newspapers. They put in around 850 hours a month and use their own vehicles to travel around town picking up the paper, collectively averaging more than 25,000 miles a year.

Working together on a green project is a great way to get members outside and seen by the community—getting a little exercise and doing some good at the same time. It doesn’t have to be a grand gesture—every little bit helps, says Elaine Fisher, a member of the Burr Ridge-Hinsdale-Oak Brook Lions Club in Illinois. After participating in a district-wide trail cleanup the previous year, Lions agreed they wanted to become more involved in environmental work.

They found their second project in Fullersburg Woods, a historic forested area that also is home to Illinois’ only wa-



Missouri haul tires out of the Big River.



Photo by Elaine Fisher

Burr Ridge-Hinsdale-Oak Brook Lions in Illinois help keep a local historic site in pristine condition for visitors.

mentalist. There’s nothing old fashioned anymore about either Prescott or the Noon Lions Club, one of four Lions clubs in the city today. The area sits amid the world’s largest stand of Ponderosa Pines at an elevation of 5,300 feet. Surrounded by such natural beauty, Lions may just have a better motive to go green than many. The reason greets them every morning when they open their eyes.

Lions agreed that paper recycling could raise money for the club and help save forests at the same time. More than 53 million pounds of paper has now been hoisted, hauled and

terwheel gristmill still working after being built in 1852. As a station on the Underground Railroad for those fleeing slavery, the Graue Mill and Museum is a popular destination for school field trips and families, and is, in fact, located just a couple of miles south of international headquarters. The heavy foot traffic also leads to litter, which is a distraction to the site’s historical significance and natural beauty, despite being located in a prosperous suburb in one of the Midwest’s wealthiest counties. Lions who spent a sunny afternoon removing large bags of Styrofoam and trash from the woods



Lions keep the paper moving in Prescott, Arizona. The recycling facility recently moved to new, larger quarters.

## A Clean Environment, A Peaceful World

The defense of personal resources, territory, faith, living and health conditions lead inevitably to conflict. Terror and war are brought about by a lack of consistency and solidarity, but the best way to prevent these conflicts is through wisdom.

The United Nations in 1992 instituted its program of action for sustainable development into the 21st century. Called Agenda 21, the program emphasizes that individual citizens must take greater ownership of their local responses to health and environmental concerns.

Lions, we must work, work, work. Energy consumption threatens the world and we have to cope with the current climate hazards and protect the environment. We challenge all of the world's 45,000 Lions clubs to immediately start working to increase awareness of the environment, climate, health and peaceful resolution to conflicts. We can all make a significant contribution to a better planet.

—Lion Professor Guy Heyden of Göteborg University and Past International Director Jan-Åke Åkerlund, Sweden.

were frequently approached by hikers who stopped to thank them for their efforts.

Ridding roadsides of litter is a common factor in the community cleanups organized by 32 percent of all Lions clubs, but in Missouri, members of the House Springs Lions Club got their feet wet—literally—when they dove into their first big environmental project. They noticed in 1969 that the local branch of the Big River was in need of some serious attention. Located in the metropolitan St. Louis area, House Springs Lions are still clearing the river of dangerous and just plain unsightly debris.

They took to the water in seven canoes and a jet ski last year to remove an assortment of junk, including a sunken boat, from the river's depths. The trash not only clogged and polluted the waters, but also posed a hazard to boaters. So many old tires were dragged out, says Carl Strieder, that a member used his tractor to haul them away from the shore for proper disposal. It's a hard, dirty job, but the benefits from the

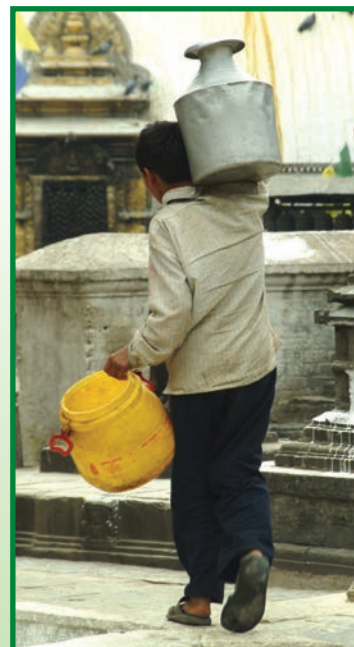


# 'Aqua Madam' Saves Lives

Roughly the size of Illinois, Nepal is a country of six million people. Although rich in natural beauty, it is a poor country where thousands of children (estimated by UNICEF to be as high as 45 a day) die from drinking contaminated water. In underdeveloped nations, taking positive environmental actions very often means the difference between life and death. Worldwide, the deaths of as many as three million people are attributed to drinking polluted water.

Located 7,800 miles away in Illinois, Spring Valley Leos decided to help better the odds of Nepalese children reaching adulthood by giving them clean water to drink. First approached by the Chautari Leo Club of Pokhara to twin, club advisor Barb Fulara says she was initially cautious about joining the two clubs. A flurry of e-mail exchanges and inexpensive cultural gifts soon followed. Spring Valley Leos learned about Nepal's critical need for uncontaminated water. They decided that the first joint project between the two clubs would be providing a reverse osmosis drinking water system for a school of 300 students in Pokhara. Each club paid half of the cost—\$250 apiece. "Our Leos were so excited to have the opportunity to affect children's lives so positively half a world away," Fulara reports.

Leos, who are already very active in their own community, plan to continue reaching across the globe to partner in more water purification projects for the people of Nepal. Their first twinning project may have inspired Spring Valley Leos, but it also earned Fulara a new name from Chautari Leos. They now call her "Aqua Madam" in honor of her help in bringing the two clubs together to save lives.



A young boy carries clean water to a temple in Nepal.

day spent on the river—and often in it—far outweigh the work, he believes. "It's a no-cost way to help the community and get the Lions in front of the public."

In South Dakota, the Dell Rapids Lions got into the recycling business when approached by a recycling company with an offer they couldn't refuse. And because they didn't, Dell Rapids Fire and Rescue received a \$1,000 donation to its building fund. The biggest problem was where to put a 53-foot trailer the company provided for the collection it wanted Lions to sponsor. That issue was solved when the city agreed to let Lions park the trailer on a street corner. Without the city's help, says Lion Carolyn Drew, "This project might have been stopped before it even got started."

Residents were so enthusiastic about that initial collection that Lions organized a second one not long after the first ended. And it's not only Dell Rapids supporting the club. When the family of Lions Sue and Marlowe Hovey visit from St. Paul, Minnesota, they don't come empty-handed. They bring carloads of paper to toss into the Lions recycling container—more paper means more money to the club.

Hovey says the club has collected more than 78 tons of paper and cardboard, "waste that has been kept out of our landfill," she points out proudly. "The thing we hear most often is

'Thank you for doing this!' " The price of recycled paper has dropped dramatically, from \$65 a ton to \$30, but Hovey jokes, "The project is so popular with our community that we would probably continue the collection even if the price dropped to zero! And boy, do we have a good time—we don't care if it's 100 degrees or 40 below."



Dell Rapids Lion Sue Hovey takes a break on a mountain of trash—or is it gold?





# Good SPORTS

The athletes can't see. But they can run, jump, throw a softball, hit a baseball and shoot an arrow. For 10 years in Texas the Sports Extravaganza for the blind and visually impaired has allowed children and older youths to experience the joy of competition and the thrill of speed and daring.

Last fall some 300 children from across Texas and from as far away as Colorado and Missouri competed. The Lions of Texas from Districts 2-X1 (which includes Irving) and 2-E2 (which includes Fort Worth) are major sponsors.

Some competitors stand out for their athleticism and skill. But, as Lions and others at the games can attest, they all are equally adept at proving that blindness does not dim the human spirit.

Photos by Allen Crenshaw of the Carrollton Evening Lions Club

## Satisfaction

does not  
come with  
achievement  
but with  
effort.

Full effort  
is full victory.

—Mahatma Gandhi



The difference between try  
and triumph is a little umph.

—author unknown



For us,  
there is only  
the trying.  
The rest is  
not our  
business.

— T.S. Eliot, poet



The glory of sport is born at the moment when the game and the person become one, when all the complexity of one's life finds a moment to emerge in the game.

— Timothy Shriver, chairman of Special Olympics





**Courage** is the discovery that you may not win,  
and trying when you know you can lose.

— Tom Krause, motivational speaker



# REVIVAL of the ROAR

## A Town That Loses a Club is Not Doomed to be Lion-less

by Elizabeth Blackwell

Lions arrived in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in 1941. For decades, the club grew along with the town. Located on the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, the town thrived as a resort community. Barbara Walters praised it as "a little slice of heaven" and *Good Morning America* broadcast the city's Christmas lighting ceremony. The Lions did well, too. Being in the club was a surefire way to be part of the town's fabric.

But over the years the club lost its appeal. Members aged and weren't replaced. The club's biggest fundraiser—selling food each summer at the North Idaho Fair—became an impossible burden. Faced with a declining, dispirited membership, the club disbanded five years ago.

But as Zone Chairman Ken Cook discovered when he visited with an extension team, the club had left its mark on the town. "The majority of the places we went to we met people who had dealings with the Lions in the past," he says. "We had a lot of people interested."

The new Coeur d'Alene club was chartered in July 2008 with 22 members. The club quickly assisted 18 people with vision-related needs. This summer they planned to work with the Park District on its annual festival and hope to return to the North Idaho Fair, taking over the booth that residents still associate with Lions. It will be a public declaration that the Coeur d'Alene club is finally back.

When a Lions club disbands, it may seem as if the final chapter has been



The new Coeur d'Alene Lions aren't afraid to make a splash with their service. Pictured are (from left) Nancy Clark, vice president; Joe Lewis; and Roseanna Lewis, president.

written for Lions in town. But not so. Every so often a new club springs to life down the road.

Reviving a club can take as much work as starting a new club from scratch. But few clubs disappear without a trace. Disbanded clubs leave a legacy behind, one that can be used as a foundation for a new group. Or residents who were Lions elsewhere often are eager to return to the fold. The desire to serve survives even after a club has disbanded.

### Building on Lions Roots

Among those signing up for the new Coeur d'Alene club was Roseanna Lewis, now club president. A Lion in Maryland for two years, she moved to Coeur d'Alene when her husband found a job in town. She became a charter member after seeing a newspaper story on the forthcoming club.

Her club is new and "we rely on other clubs in the area for advice," says Lewis, whose experience also has helped. "I've been able to bring to the table some of the things we did out East," she says.

Like Coeur d'Alene, Bullhead City, Arizona, has been transformed in the past few decades. Located across the Colorado River from Laughlin, Nevada, and at the edge of the Lake Mead Recreation Area, Bullhead City benefited from the housing boom that rippled through the Southwest. The town's population grew to 40,000—twice what it was in 1990—and brought new condo developments and shopping centers in its wake. Although new residents were moving in, Bullhead City's original Lions club didn't adapt to welcome them, and it disbanded in 2005.

"We didn't want to let the area die," says Rand Terwilleger, a past district governor and a member of the Kingman Club. "The Lions club went away, but the needs didn't."

Those needs were clear to Sheryll Johnson, 47, a first-grade teacher, and the new club's 2008-09 president. She vividly remembers how the world seemed to open up when she got her first pair of glasses as a girl. Now she sees countless other children with poor eyesight come into her classroom, children from families who can't afford glasses. "There's no big industry here," she says. "Lots of areas are poverty stricken. Reading is the foundation for everything, and you can't read if you can't see."

*"I haven't given up because I believe so strongly in what Lions do to serve others. I want them to feel like I do—it's great to be a Lion!"*

*—John Fehr, past district governor for District 5-M13 in Manitoba, Canada*

When she heard about the effort to revive the Bullhead City club, Johnson's firsthand knowledge of the Lions' work with children motivated her to get involved. "At our first meeting, we had two people," she says. But she remained dedicated, convincing fellow teachers to join along with her. Today, a year after it was chartered, the club focuses on projects for kids, from providing reading glasses to donating backpacks stocked with supplies for

## REVIVE TO SURVIVE

Does your club's future look shaky? Before you risk disbanding, try these steps to re-inspire your membership:

### 1. Learn from your peers.

Make regular visits to meetings of other clubs in your area. This is especially important for members new to Lionism. "I've found it helpful to attend functions at other clubs," says Jon Koethe of the Sheffield Village club. "It helped me better understand what Lions do."

### 2. Get a mentor.

Sheryll Johnson of the Bullhead City club says the encouragement she got from the nearby Kingman, Arizona, club was a key source of strength. "Having someone support you is very important," she says.

### 3. Reach out to former members.

Members drift away for many reasons—some personal, others related to their club's social dynamics or choice of activities. "I've been a Lion three times," laughs John Fehr, a past district governor. Give them convincing reasons to come back.

### 4. Think flexibly.

Gone are the days when meeting attendance was the main criteria for deciding who was a "good" Lion. New clubs make allowances for busy schedules and allow for a range of interests. "We have members from their 20s to their 80s," says Johnson. "Not every activity will be met with approval by everyone."

### 5. Spread the word about Lionism to all ages.

Clubs often encourage business leaders and local government officials to join, but their message can be made much broader. "Clubs should reach out in partnership with schools," suggests Amanda Moore McBride, director of the Gephardt Institute for Public Service and research director of the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. "Create opportunities for young children to make contributions and feel engaged." Making classroom presentations and encouraging children to get involved shows the next generation what Lionism is all about. Don't forget—those are your future members.

foster children. “It means a lot to know we can step in to make their lives easier,” she says.

It’s been a learning process for all of the new members, admits Johnson, who says being president “is very far outside my comfort zone.” But she took on the responsibility because she believed so strongly in the club’s mission. “I wanted this to happen,” she says. “I can’t ask anyone else to do what I’m not willing to do myself.”

Because teachers can’t meet during the day and often have family obligations in the evening, the club has had to be flexible to retain its members. But, Johnson notes, “we have a very supportive group. Quite a few don’t come to all the meetings, but they participate in all our activities. We know that they’re there when we need them.”

### Location Shifts

It’s hard enough for active, successful clubs to bring in new members. When a club disbands, it can be that much harder to find people willing to bring it back. However, neighboring towns—places that have not had clubs in the past but are familiar with Lions’ charitable work—sometimes step up and take over, reaching out to many of the same people as the earlier club and serving many of the same needs.

That’s what happened in Sheffield Village, Ohio, not far from Cleveland. The Lions club in adjacent Sheffield Township disbanded a few years ago, and efforts to bring it back were unsuccessful. However, a Lions extension team focused on surrounding towns as potential sites for a new club.

Club president Jon Koethe, the owner of a local sign company, had no connection to the earlier Sheffield Township club. But he was looking for a meaningful way to contribute. “I wasn’t involved in any charitable organizations,” he says, “I had been thinking about ways to give back to the community.” The Lions he met convinced him he could make a difference.

Sixty people attended the club’s charter night last November. “It got everybody motivated and excited,” says Koethe. Within a few months, the club already had a schedule

of fundraisers, including a pancake breakfast and Mother’s Day flower sale. But as with any new club, maintaining the early enthusiasm can be a struggle. “We have a core group of about 8 to 10 people who attend meetings regularly,” says Koethe. “We have others who aren’t able to be as active, but you don’t want to push people away. You try to keep people as involved as they’re able. It may take awhile to get bigger, but we’re going in the right direction.”

Although the Sheffield Village club is serving the same general area as an earlier, disbanded club, it was started with a fresh mindset. “I heard a speaker once who said our first mission is to serve the community we are involved with, but the second, equally important mission, is to serve the needs of our members,” says Koethe. “We want to get people out doing things. We want our members in the community making that personal connection. That will help our membership retention.”

### Uphill Battles

For every club that comes back to life, there are others that simply fade away. John Fehr, 72, past district governor for District 5-M13 in Manitoba, Canada, has worked hard to ensure that one such club in the town of Carman doesn’t share that fate.

Carman, a town of about 3,000 southwest of Winnipeg, serves as a commercial and recreational center for the region. The original club, which disbanded in 2007, was active for years and best known in the area for its food booth at a local fair each summer. But as members grew older and the ones who left were not replaced, staffing the booth

for five full days became impossible. “They raised a lot of money for the community, but it was a burnout situation for a lot of them,” says Fehr. “They were offered assistance when they were in trouble, but there was no spark left by then.”

During a visitation in the area, Fehr was encouraged when he talked to residents about bringing back the club. “There are still some former members that feel the need for a service club,” he says, “and there are also new people in the community that had some experience with Lions in other



Members of the Sheffield Village Lions include (from front left) Katie Blue, secretary; Jim Schilens; Jon Koethe (green shirt), president; Lee Kelling, vice president; Kara Gorney, treasurer; Romolo DeBottis; and Kathy DeBottis.

## CLUBS BOND COMMUNITIES

It's more important than ever to save every club we can. Each time a club disbands, it's a loss not only for the community, but the country as a whole, says social work professor Amanda Moore McBride. "Service clubs represent the institutional fabric of America, our multigenerational history," she says.

McBride notes that clubs such as Lions serve a dual purpose: they give members a chance to give back while also promoting social relationships. When a Lions club is allowed to die, there's one less opportunity for people to get to know each other and work together toward a common purpose. "It's important that we acknowledge the glue these clubs have been for decades," McBride says.

locations. There seemed to be interest remaining."

But almost a year since he began his efforts, the Carman club remains in limbo. While residents have told Fehr they support the idea of a revived club, few have shown a serious commitment to leadership. "I haven't given up because I believe so strongly in what Lions do to serve others," he says. "I want them to feel like I do—it's great to be a Lion!"

Will the Carman club come back? It's still too soon to say. But no club can be rebuilt without bringing in new, younger members. And traditionalists have to accept that young adults have different expectations for their charitable activities.

"We need to look at what drives them in terms of civic contribution," says Amanda Moore McBride, director of the Gephardt Institute for Public Service and research director of the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. "They want to know how it will enhance their job skills or what they will learn from it. It's as much about them as it is about others. When doing outreach for young adults, you have to think about how it's in their interest. You have to create flexible opportunities that allow them to take ownership of the organization."

All too often, it seems, a club's fate lies in the hands of one or two highly motivated individuals. People such as Sheryll Johnson or Jon Koethe, who stepped up as leaders when others held back.

The Carman club may not have found their leader yet. But for countless other struggling clubs, one person with the right attitude can truly make a difference. With motivation and dedication, a revived club can be even better than what came before. ■



Photo by René VanDerBruggen

Lions once staffed a food booth at the Carman country fair and parade but it's uncertain if a new club will be chartered.

# OFFICERS ON DECK

## Understanding leadership positions



A treasurer works into the wee hours crunching numbers. A secretary's desk light is the last left burning at the office as he dubiously checks the minutes from this evening's club

meeting. A president furiously works the phone lines to confirm the catering and room reservation for tomorrow's big raffle. Every Lion who's served as a club officer knows the drill: faced with new-found roles and responsibilities, club officers can find themselves stressed from the grind of the extra hours needed to run the club smoothly. But, thankfully, it doesn't have to be that way.

The roles of Lions club leadership positions such as president, secretary and treasurer are clearly defined in several helpful handbooks available from International Headquarters, but what's on paper doesn't always apply in real life. A clear delineation of duties based on past experience can provide club officers with a solid understanding of their responsibilities while helping them avoid the pitfall of taking on every task—and eventually becoming overwhelmed. Following are a few quick tips to keep club officers on the path to success while avoiding the danger of burning out on Lions leadership.

**Know Your Role:** It's tough to admit but it's true—there are club treasurers out there who think a spread sheet is a nice cloth to cover the dining room table. Lions can be persuasive in pitching a leadership role to someone they like in the club, but that person might not always have the skills necessary to successfully perform the job. While it feels good to be wanted, it's important to be realistic about how your talents line up

with the position in question. If you're not good with numbers or are uncomfortable handling the finances of the club, say so. Don't give in to the pressure of other club members

eager to fill a position just for the sake of filling it.

**Avoid Excess:** Being an officer means accepting a *greater* level of responsibility, not all of it. If other officers or committee chairs are consistently trying to push other duties onto you, be honest with them. There's no shame or embarrassment in saying you're busy, which is a better alternative to failing or hurrying to complete the work. If the problem persists, suggest a meeting with the club president to resolve the problem.

**Use Your Tools:** Have a club member who's quick with numbers or nifty with a computer? Don't be afraid to tap those talents. A Lion with skills like accounting or computing can add an element of professionalism while helping with the workload. Encourage a Lion with talents specific to your position to buddy up with you. Doing so might ease your stress, and you could just be grooming the next great treasurer or secretary.

**Lead To Succeed:** Facing a cavalcade of new tasks and responsibilities can be intimidating, but don't clam up when it's time to make decisions. The true test of an officer is making the tough calls after assessing the situation to the best of their abilities. Being indecisive or avoiding a decision on something important shows a lack of initiative and can hurt the club. Avoid having unresolved issues that may accumulate to create a real pain.

# Calendar Days

Capitalizing on holidays brings publicity, new members

When the leaves start falling and Halloween approaches, Bartlett Lions in Illinois know it's time to don their favorite scary wear and hunt for eyeglasses during their annual Sight Night eyeglass collection campaign. But Lions aren't just prowling the streets at night for recycled glasses. They're also on the hunt for new members.

Using specific holidays or calendar events as the basis for service projects is an excellent method for capitalizing on the social buzz that surrounds such days. In the United States, the streets of communities nationwide are filled with citizens enjoying their

precious reprieve from work on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Halloween brings neighborhoods filled with trick-or-treating families, and Thanksgiving and Christmas see stores crowded with shoppers. Each event is an opportunity in itself for a good service project, plenty of publicity and the possibility of new members.

The Bartlett club has collected thousands of pairs of glasses by inviting community members and businesses to a Halloween lights parade and placing eyeglass collection boxes along the parade route. And while the collection itself is successful, as Lion Anthony Troyke points out, using an event like Halloween is invaluable in getting people interested in Lions—which can mean new members.

"We've used our Sight Night event in conjunction with Halloween every year, and it's become a community event with a parade and everything," Troyke says. "The project is great because it gets the families involved, but it also makes us very visible. People here know that this isn't just a Halloween event, it's a Lions event, and I think that's what you want when you do a project like that. When you have that recognition and people are enjoying themselves, they want to find out how to be a part of it."



Halloween and other holidays are opportunities to be visible and add members.

Getting face-to-face recognition is also the name of the game for Louisville West End Lions in Kentucky, who hold a Thanksgiving basket drive in the fall to provide a traditional holiday meal for those in need. Joe Tapper, the club's membership chairperson, says Thanksgiving is an especially poignant reminder of the simple things in life that many take for granted.

"What I hear most still rings the truest," Tapper says. "People who give to the drive say to me, 'Boy, I can't imagine what it would be like not to have a Thanksgiving dinner with my family and my

friends.' That thought really touches people, and makes them reach out, and they feel that reward of giving. I'm always there to remind them that our club is a great way to reach out and give the whole year round."

People in the northwest suburbs of Chicago pack Melas Park in Mount Prospect around the Fourth of July each year for the club's annual Lions Club festival featuring a carnival, market, concessions, live entertainment and fireworks. The event enjoyed its 71st year in 2009 with an additional day of fireworks—and throngs of potential new members, says John Korn, the club's membership chairperson. While the club's festival is a large undertaking, Korn cautioned that other Lions don't have to make a herculean effort to capitalize on the recruiting value of a Fourth of July holiday.

"Our event is big, so we're planning for next year's as soon as this year's ends, but there are other ways to get to talk to people," Korn says. "I know a lot of clubs make it simpler. Just run a concession stand, and that gets you a lot of interaction with the public. You get to tell each and every customer where there money is going to, how it's going to help someone. That by itself can get them interested."

# Lions Go the Distance with Track Competition



Long jumper Kenny Smith lands hard in the muddy ground during the Lions Club Invitational Track Meet held at Chesapeake High School.

Photo courtesy of Chris Jackson/The Herald-Dispatch

Herb Nida, president of the Chesapeake Proctorville Rome Lions Club in Ohio, says that for the 42 years the club has been sponsoring its annual track meet one thing has remained nearly constant. “You can count on bad weather,” he laments. “Rain, sleet or snow—it’s a given.”

The 2009 event was no exception, but Lions were happily surprised when the sun came out in the morning after a night of hard rain that left grounds muddied but usable. More than 300 students from nine different schools competed in front of parents and friends for a chance to win awards, prizes and trophies. The event usually raises between \$2,000 to \$3,000 from the sale of programs, tickets and advertising. The money is used to pay for eye exams, glasses and other items for people in need. With the economy taking a hit, Lions believe it’s even more important to help out where they can. There are a lot of people who

need assistance now, Nida told *The Ironton Tribune*. “Young kids whose families don’t have insurance, they aren’t working and they need glasses for school. And there are a lot of elderly people on Medicare, that only pays part. They can’t pick up the rest of it.”

Lions don’t look at the track meet solely as a fundraiser, though. They run the meet every year for the kids, too. “They love the competition,” Nida says, and their families and friends

also love to cheer them on. “I see neighbors having fun, people who haven’t seen each other in a while running into each other at the track meet. It’s fun for everybody,” he believes. It’s also a project that gets every club member out on the field or stands to help out—all 54 of them. Between overseeing the discus, high jump, pole vault, long jump and 100-meter dashes and high hurdles, Lions may just be moving faster than the kids on the track.

# Wheels Keep On Turning for Caribbean Lions

All it took was wheels to join the Petit Juan Lions Club in Trinidad and Tobago in what Lion Mae Lee Jordan calls a “mega sight-saving, prevention and awareness” campaign. The project was so big that it involved 25 Lions and Leo clubs and government assistance to organize the rally.

Decorated motorcycles and bikes, trucks, cars, police cars and an ambulance were part of the motorcade. During the procession, a loudspeaker broadcast news of Lions sight-saving projects and informed people lining the streets that Helen Keller called Lions Knights of the Blind.

They weren't on wheels but the parade's “moko jumbies,” costumed stilt walkers, helped energize the crowd. Club members on foot collected donations from the crowd as people gathered to watch the procession. With an estimated 15,000 blind in Trinidad and Tobago, Lions are urging people to check their eyesight. Major causes of blindness in the Caribbean are cataract, glaucoma and diabetes.

The motorcade ended with a huge party at a park where vision screenings were held and prizes were distributed for the best decorated category in the motorcade. Newspaper, television and radio media covered the daylong event.



Lion Mae Lee Jordan and a motorcycle police officer get ready for the motorcade's procession through the island's streets.

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# Lions Elect Leaders in Minneapolis

Delegates to the 92nd international convention in Minneapolis in July elected the Lions leaders for 2009-10. Eberhard Wirfs of Germany was elected international president. Sid L. Scruggs III of North Carolina was elected international first vice president. Dr. Wing-Kun Tam of Hong Kong, China, was elected international second vice president. Immediate Past President Al Brandel of New York became chairperson of LCIF. (Full convention coverage will be in the October issue.)

Delegates also elected 17 international directors—two from the India/South Asia/Africa/Middle East constitutional area,

one from Canada, three from Europe, three from Orient/South-east Asia, one from South America/Central America/Mexico/Islands of the Caribbean Sea and seven from the United States/U.S. affiliates/Bermuda/Bahamas. The directors serve for two years. (The names of the second year directors are on page 2.)

Visit the Web site of Lions Clubs International for biographies of the new directors as well as biographies and photos of the four international officers and second-year directors.



Enrico Cesarotti,  
Rome, Italy



Luis Dominguez,  
Mijas Pueblo, Spain



Gary B. D'Orazio,  
Idaho, United States



Yasumasa Furo,  
Dazaifu, Japan



K.P.A. Haroon,  
Cochin, India



Carlos A. Ibañez,  
Panama City, Panama



Ronald S. Johnson,  
Maine, United States



Byeong-Deok Kim,  
Seoul, Republic of  
Korea



Horst P. Kirchgatterer,  
Wels/Thalheim,  
Austria



Hamed Olugbenga  
Babajide Lawal,  
Ikorodu, Nigeria



Daniel A. O'Reilly,  
Illinois, United States



Richard Sawyer,  
Arizona, United States



Anne K. Smarsh,  
Kansas, United States



Jerry Smith, Ohio,  
United States



Michael S. So,  
Makati, the Philippines



Haynes H. Townsend,  
Georgia, United States

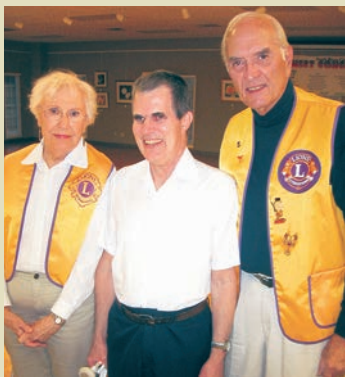


Joseph Young,  
Ontario, Canada

# THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Blind since birth, Philip Roach hasn't had it easy. So when the Hixon Lions Club in Tennessee offered Roach and his wife, Louise, the occasional trip to the doctor, the Knoxville native was always appreciative. "Phil and Louise are such grateful people," says Hixon Lion Marilyn Lampe. "They're the exact reason our club continues to do what it does. As a matter of fact, we want to make him an honorary member of our club."



*Philip Roach is a fan of the Hixon Lions Club.*

Fast-forward 15 years, countless Christmas gift baskets and a handful of lifelong friendships, and the sentiment still rings true—but the recent gift of a text-to-speech PC with some high-tech tricks inspired Roach to attend a meeting and thank his friends in person.

"I know the Lions motto is 'We Serve,'" says Roach. "And boy, do they ever."

Lions: have you heard from a beneficiary or a recipient of your kindness, service or charity? Tell us about the feedback you receive from those whose lives you've changed for the better. E-mail a brief description of your correspondence to [lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org). Please include "Thanks and Appreciation" in the subject line.

## Q&A: Philip Roach

**LION Magazine:** Was meeting the Hixon club your first experience with Lions?

**Philip Roach:** No, not at all. I'm from Knoxville originally, and I was familiar with Lions in that area ever since elementary school. I remember the Lions giving \$10 to the students who did well in school, and I remember thinking, "Wow, these people are great!" I graduated from the Tennessee School for the Blind in 1972, and after that I went to several meetings and luncheons with clubs around Knoxville. They were kind and generous people—every one of them.

**LM:** And Hixon Lions were the same? How have they helped?

**PR:** Oh, absolutely. They're the best people you could ask for. Louise and I moved here in the early 1990s, and we got to know the club real well. The Lampes are good friends, and the club has never been shy about giving us a ride here or there, for a health checkup or a hearing test or such. At Christmas the club always delivers a food basket with little treats in there to let us know they care. I love my instant coffee and my instant tea, and they'll sneak a ham or some turkey in there, too. There's always a treat.

**LM:** So, what's JAWS? How's life different with it?

**PR:** Job Access With Speech. It's a screen reader that uses text-to-speech or a Braille display so that the blind can read and interact with a text or a document on a computer. The Hixon club gave me one awhile back, and it's been a great help. Before I got JAWS, I didn't have a PC, period. I was strictly a Braille person. I remember using a typewriter. It required so much concentration to mentally envision and keep track of what you're writing. Now I type a letter, a paragraph or a whole document, and it'll tell me what I wrote. I received my PC certification from Hadley School for the Blind last year, and now I'm doing more some more technical things with JAWS.

**LM:** Such as ...?

**PR:** JAWS isn't only a reader. You can use it to make scripts for other programs. It's a bit hard to explain, but with JAWS, a user can change the amount or the type of information that's relayed from a computer application to that application's user. For instance, some programs don't use normal Windows controls, which JAWS needs. Using JAWS to create scripts for these different controls, I can make those programs usable through JAWS, and eventually, other JAWS users can take advantage of those scripts, too.

**LM:** And the Hixon club made this possible?

**JG:** Really, with everything they've done, my life is so much easier. They've always been there to help, and I can't say enough about them. On a scale of 1 to 100, the Lions get the top score.

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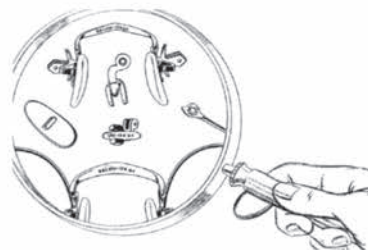
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# Saving Vision, Preserving Opportunity

by Alecia Dimar

A.D. Prasad Ranjan Perera, an electrician in Sri Lanka, received the surprise of his life after his 10-year-old son underwent a vision screening. “The specialist told my son that he would have gone blind in one eye” if not for the Lions screening and subsequent care at a Lions hospital and then a children’s hospital in Colombo.

His son, Handapangodage Don Rusiru Harita Perera, is one of 10 million children screened through Sight for Kids, an initiative of LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care. The program screens children for vision problems including refractive error and myopia (nearsightedness), which causes significant vision loss in more than 15 percent of children under the age of 15 in many Asian countries. Vision loss can severely harm a child’s development,



A nurse conducts a vision screening at a Sight for Kids event in Sri Lanka.

since learning is often visually based.

Johnson & Johnson has committed \$1.55 million to fund Sight for Kids, which screens children in Korea, Thailand, China, India, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines. More than 275,000 children have been referred

to physicians for further evaluation, more than 75,000 have received glasses and more than 55,000 have been treated for various eye conditions.

Handapangodage is now able to see. “This has made our lives happy, especially for all the service we received from the Lions Hospital free of cost. We could not have afforded the specialist treatment, medicines and glasses,” said Perera. “We wish all success to the Lions who are saviors of children’s sight.”



# CALENDAR

2009 UPCOMING EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

### SEPTEMBER 13-16

Senior Lions Leadership Institute  
TAMPERE, FINLAND

### SEPTEMBER 13-16

MERL Chairpersons Seminar/Europe  
TAMPERE, FINLAND

### SEPTEMBER 17-19

Europa Forum  
TAMPERE, FINLAND

### SEPTEMBER 24-26

USA/Canada Lions Forum  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, USA

### SEPTEMBER 27-30

MERL Chairpersons Seminar/USA,  
Affiliates, Bermuda, the Bahamas  
and Canada  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, USA

### SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 4

International Board of Directors Meet-  
ing  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA

## OCTOBER

### OCTOBER 8

Lions World Sight Day

### OCTOBER 15

International White Cane Safety Day

### OCTOBER 15-19

Senior Lions Leadership Institute/  
Australia, New Zealand, Papua New  
Guinea, Indonesia and Islands of the  
Pacific Ocean  
PERTH, AUSTRALIA

### OCTOBER 20

Deadline to report members for the  
October Membership Growth Award

### OCTOBER 22-26

Senior Lions Leadership Institute/South  
America, Central America, Mexico and  
Islands of the Caribbean Sea  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

### OCTOBER 31

Deadline to purchase Peace Poster  
Contest kits from Club Supplies Sales

## Sydney Australia



### Pre- & Post-Tours

93rd Lions Clubs International  
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# INFORMATION

## IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Dennis Greyvensteyn of Sloane Park, Rep. of South Africa, has died. A Lion since 1965, he was elected to a two-year term on the International Board of Directors at the International Convention held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1978.

## FOR THE RECORD

As of June 30, 2009, Lions Clubs International had 1,318,908 members in 45,645 clubs in 753 districts and 205 countries.

## CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

2010	Sydney, Australia June 28-July 2
2011	Seattle, Washington July 4-8
2012	Busan, Korea June 22-26
2013	Hamburg, Germany July 5-9
2014	Toronto, Ontario, Canada July 4-8, 2014

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# CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NATCHITOCHES LIONS** in Louisiana showed support for Natchitoches youth in presenting the Northwestern State University Foundation with a \$10,000 check to establish the Natchitoches Lions Club Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will provide financial help to a qualified student attending the university.

**CAZENOVIA LIONS** in New York let thousands of rubber ducks loose on the water as part of their fourth annual Duck Race to benefit the club's scholarship program, which recognizes graduating high school seniors who exemplify outstanding community service.

Third-grade students at Highland Park Elementary School in Indiana were the proud recipients of more than 100 dictionaries donated by **INDIAN CREEK LIONS**.

**BURBANK LIONS** in Illinois gave a helping hand to the Prairie Trails Public Library with the donation of a closed circuit television and BookReader device. The club has a history of supporting the library for more than 20 years.

**BRIGGSDALE LIONS** in Oklahoma collected, repainted and reset crosses and grave markers in a cemetery north of Briggsdale as part of the club's annual tradition of tending to the lot over Memorial Day weekend.

## ANNIVERSARIES SEPTEMBER 2009

**85 Years:** East Liverpool, OH; Belleville, KS; Ephraim, UT; and Sudbury, Ontario, CAN.

**80 Years:** Sweetwater, TX; Brentwood, CA; Sauk Rapids, MN; Cleveland, TN; Caledonia Mumford, NY; Holbrook, AZ; Newark, DE; Groton, CT; Shelbyville and Piercetown, IN; Mrogan, UT; Henderson, NC;

Webster, MA; Enterprise-Joseph, OR; and Panhandle, TX.

**75 Years:** Richardton, ND; Cambridge, NY; Coutts and Sweetgrass, MT; and Escanaba and Menominee, MI.

**50 Years:** Red lake, Ontario, CAN; Sherman and Greater Ravena Area, NY; Allen and Frederick Francis Scott Key, MD; Louisiana and Cowgill, MO; Westby, WI; Friendly, WV; and Whitby, Ontario, Canada.

**25 Years:** Lancaster PQH Desert Noon, CA; and McLaughlin, SD.

## HIGHER KEYS MAY 2009

**Grand Master Key** (50 Members)


- Lion R. A. Igou, Fort Payne, Alabama

**Senior Master Key** (25 Members)

- Lion Robert Hurt, Trimble, Tennessee
- Lion Robert Pasquil, Junction City Sundowners, Kansas
- Lion Robert Scofield, Sandia Mountain, New Mexico
- Lion Sharmin Nasir, Karachi Supreme, Pakistan
- Lion Subhash Agarwal, Calcutta New Alipore, India
- Lion Ashokbhai Dalal, Broach, India
- Lion N. S. Kumar, Coimbatore Gems, India
- Lion Mudivarthy Rao, Ongole, India

## ON THE WEB ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org))


Do you have the scoop on a great Lions-related story in your community? How about a photo to go with it? Share your news and photos with staff at International Headquarters for possible use in magazine and public relations materials by using the "Submit Your Story" and "Submit a Photo" sections. From the front page, click "Member Center," then "Online Community," then "Submit Your Story" or "Submit a Photo" and supply the information



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# LAST ROAD



Photo courtesy of Linda Fausz of Village News

## EYE SPY

Terry Hunter, a professional appraiser, inspects a piece of estate jewelry at the Chester Lions Antiques Evaluation Road Show in Virginia. A total of 212 items were appraised including a grandfather clock with a link to George Washington.



## Join Lions Quest in Celebrating 25 Years

For 25 years, Lions have been helping youth grow into solid citizens through Lions Quest. Now in 50 countries, more than 11 million students have learned skills for life through the program. This year, donate \$25 to Lions Quest to provide the program to two students, and receive an "I support Lions Quest" button. Enter the "Heroes in the Community" contest.

View [www.lions-quest.org](http://www.lions-quest.org) throughout the year for more information on events to celebrate 25 years.

# FINAL NOTICE!

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