

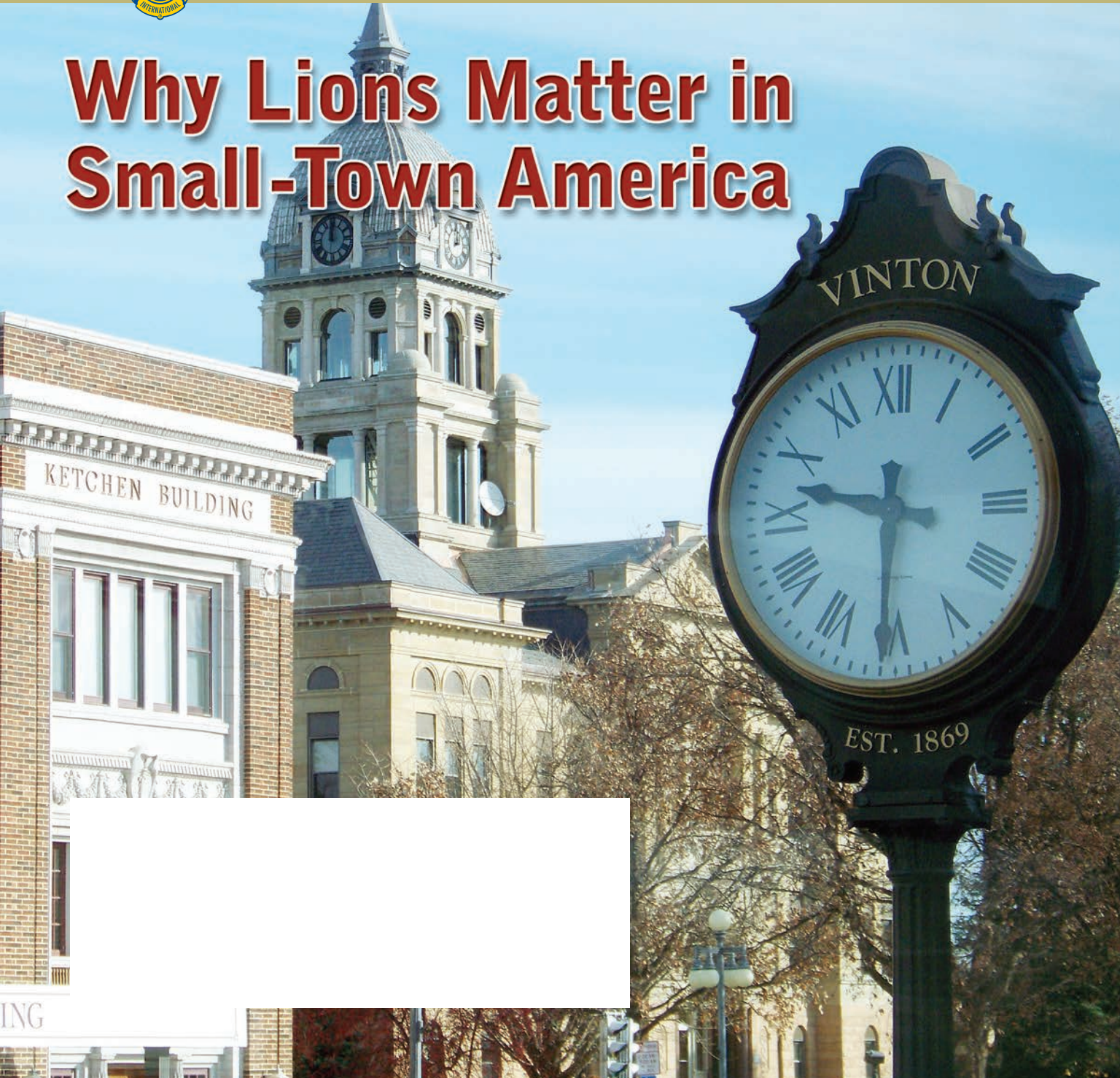
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Why Lions Matter in Small-Town America





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SERVING TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Wirfs screens children
in Prague during Lions
World Sight Day.

Be Seen and be Heard to be Successful

I know from running a business that employees understand there are ups and downs to any workplace but they appreciate knowing what's going on and contribute better to the company when communication is good. Likewise, I know from many years of marriage that good communication is essential to a good marriage. (Note to Margit: Yes, I have not forgotten what we discussed last Friday morning!) And from my long tenure as a Lion and especially as a Lion leader I understand how vital communication is to success in our projects and to a harmonious club.

Communication enables Lions to rally club members around a project, to bond members with one another and to Lions, and to raise our visibility in the community and thereby increase membership. Any Lion can be a communication specialist; you don't need a background in public relations or don't need to serve as the club's public relations chairperson. Provide material to your club bulletin and be sure to read your bulletin. Read the LION and then give it to a neighbor, friend or leave it at the doctor's office or library. Browse the Web site of Lions Clubs International to stay current on the wider world of Lions. Put notices about your club activities in your church bulletin, boast to your alumni publication of your Lions connection and mention Lions when making small talk across the fence with neighbors or when leaning across the aisle on the train to work.

During the last two weeks of January I am asking clubs to adopt a Lions in Sight initiative. Continue to save sight during the course of the year but for these two weeks make sure Lions are in sight of the public. It's easy to do. Display your peace poster entries, plan a Lions Crew at Work or Green Team project, arrange a cultural event such as a dance, music program or international food fair, organize a vision screening to promote Glaucoma Awareness Month or sponsor an eyeglass or hearing aid collection.

Be seen and heard. Clubs need not use a cookie-cutter approach: different cultures or even varied educational backgrounds necessitate diverse styles of communication. But please let your voice be heard and your Lion vest, pin or banner be seen. Our roar should precede us so people will follow us.

Eberhard J. Wirfs
Lions Clubs International President

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

HELEN KELLER STATUE UNVEILED AT CAPITOL

A bronze statue of a seven-year-old Helen Keller solving the mystery of language was unveiled in October at the U.S. Capitol. Installed by Alabama, the statue is part of the National Statuary Hall Collection. The statue depicts the moment in 1887 when Helen's teacher Anne Sullivan spelled out "water" in her hand while holding it under a water pump. Alabama Governor Bob Riley said the monument will teach visitors that "courage and strength can exist in the most unlikely places. Children especially need to be reminded of this basic truth, and this statue will get their attention." The 600-pound statue was created by Utah artist Edward Hlavka. A committee led by Alabama first lady Patsy Riley raised private donations to cover the \$325,000 cost of the project. Lions from Alabama and elsewhere and more than 40 of Keller's descendants attended the dedication ceremony, and students from the Alabama Institute for the Deaf sang patriotic songs. The tribute to Keller replaces a statue of Jabez Curry, a Confederate officer and educator who was little known to Alabamans. Keller, of course, challenged Lions to be "Knights of the Blind" in a 1925 speech.



PEACH BOWL FOUNDER DIES

Past International Director George Crumbley, 86, the founder of the Peach Bowl/Chick-fil-A Bowl, died in



September. The Peach Bowl was the nation's first charity bowl. The game provided entertainment and generated support for charities such as the Lions' Lighthouse for the Blind, according to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. Crumbley served as executive director of Atlanta's post-season collegiate football classic for 18 years until 1985. During that time, more than \$1 million was raised for the benefit of the visually impaired in Georgia. The Peach

Bowl is now the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Crumbley coordinated the 1982 international convention in Atlanta, then the largest convention ever held in the city with attendance exceeding 30,000. He worked in sales and management for CBS then in 1962 formed Crumbley & Associates, an advertising agency.

SLUMDOG STARS MEET WITH CHILDREN

Child actors from the Oscar-award winning movie *Slumdog Millionaire* talked about making movies and sudden celebrityhood with hundreds of schoolchildren in India. Sponsored by Lions clubs, the exchange was part of the Kochi International Film Festival in Kochi. Speaking to the children were Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, 10, who played young Salim, and Rubina Ali, who played the young heroine Latika, 9. The two were the only real-life slum-dwellers among the movie's child stars.



LIONS SUPPORT FORT HOOD

Members of the two Lions clubs near Fort Hood took part in a



32-hour "Troops in the Spotlight" event after the shootings. Participants stood for 30-minute intervals in a Wal-Mart parking lot to show support. "The event had been planned prior to the tragedy; however, the turnout was more meaningful and probably accounted for the huge crowd honoring the troops and asking for God's love and support for the many injured and killed just days before," said Past District Governor Shirley Dillman, president of the Round Rock Noon Lions Club in Texas. Lions from her club and the Round Rock Dawn Busters, as well as others, contributed to memorial funds. The two clubs have participated in an "Adopt-A-Unit" for deployed troops from Fort Hood over the past year.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

RICHMOND NOON LIONS CLUB, INDIANA

FOUNDED: Oct. 5, 1924

MEMBERSHIP: 70 members

COMMUNITY SERVED: Settled by Quaker families in 1806, Richmond is in east-central Indiana and borders Ohio. A 2009 All-America City Award winner, it has a population of more than 39,000.

MEMBERS: "Many are retired but we are embarking on an aggressive membership campaign to bring in some younger members," says President Mark Harris, who has retinitis pigmentosa. He received his Leader Dog Callie five years ago and became a Lion in 2006.

MEETING MATTERS: Every Wednesday at noon at the MCL Cafeteria.

CLAIM TO FAME: With a motto of "85 and Still Alive!" Lions give a shout-out to their long tradition of service. The club is well known in the community for its hands-on, can-do attitude. When it comes to grabbing a hammer and some nails, they showed just how hands on they really are when members renovated one of 11 cabins at District 25-F's Camp Woodsmoke in 2009, where they regularly schedule work days. Lions estimate they've collected and distributed more than 500,000 pair of used eyeglasses and recently performed vision screenings for veterans and their families.



Lions (left to right) Garry Houser, Dennis Brack and Howard Crist repair a horseshoe pit at Camp Woodsmoke.

AS THE SEASONS CHANGE, SO DO THE PROJECTS: The club sponsors two big fundraisers annually. During the first two weeks of December, the club sells grapefruit. A 40-year project, the sale is a big fundraiser. Even bigger is the annual spring Home and Business Expo. Lions started off modestly in 1953, but the show has grown so large that it has been moved several times to accommodate the growing number of visitors. It's a hit with homeowners and local businesses who advertise their services at the show.

WHY BE A LION: President Harris says, "I am a Lion because I want to help someone else have the resources and opportunities that I've been able to experience in my life through Lions and Leader Dog School for the Blind. If I can help one person, it's worth the membership in the club and its efforts to raise funds to support these programs."

OVERHEARD

"I felt like I was doing something for a brother or sister."

—**Shirley Dillman** of the Round Rock Noon Lions Club in Texas on the care packages sent to soldiers overseas. From *News 8 Austin*.

"A kind of modern-day Pony Express runs throughout the state of Wisconsin."

—Reporter **Melissa Ulbricht** in the *Wisconsin State Journal* on the Lions Eye Bank.

"He was a good man with a big heart."

—**Deborah Sybert** on the passing of her husband, Steve, known as the Assassin as a professional wrestler in the 1970s and '80s and the designated pie cutter for his fellow Helena Lions in Missouri. From the *St. Joseph News-Press*.

40 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

JANUARY 1970

International President W.R. Bryan congratulates a "safe driver" after the boy completed a week-long safety course run by the Conneaut Lions in Ohio.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

375,000

Eyeglasses collected, sorted and distributed to people in need since 2002 by the Sterling Lions Club in Colorado.



4

Property tax levies discussed at a public forum sponsored by the Bellbrook Lions Club in Ohio.

3,300

Dollars donated by the Oak Harbor Lions Club in Washington toward a specialized service dog for a 7-year-old with a life-threatening peanut allergy.



1956

Year Lions in Pennsylvania began tours of the Asa Packer Mansion, named for the 19th-century railroad magnate, philanthropist and founder of Lehigh University. The Jim Thorpe Lions Club and the Asa Packer Mansion Committee recently received a \$500,000 state grant for repairs and upkeep.

75,000

Amount in dollars of matching grant received by the Tollesboro Lions Club in Kentucky from the Division of Land and Water to help fund \$200,000 in improvements to the Lions Club Fairgrounds, the site of the club's 10-day fair.

65

Children who participated in a safe boating program run by the West Linn Lions Club and marine and Coast Guard personnel in Oregon.



2026

Entry number of the first-place yellow rubber duck (there were more than 3,000) in the Meredith Lions Club 18th annual Rubber Duckie Race in New Hampshire.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



Sara Greenlee (second from right) enjoys a charter night celebration with other new Washington & Jefferson University 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. Please include "Welcome to the Club" in your subject line.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

LION: Sara Greenlee

CLUB: Washington & Jefferson University Lions Club, Pennsylvania

OCCUPATION: Retired instructional aide for Bentworth School District

INTRODUCTION TO LIONS: When I married my husband, Barrett, 36 years ago, he was already a Lion and so through him, I came to know about the good work that Lions do. One of the services that his club provided our community at that time was to hang the Christmas lights in the street throughout town. It always seemed to be a bitter cold day when they hung them, so I started the tradition of hosting a lunch for them, complete with coffee and hot chocolate.

HOW I JOINED THE CLUB: After being a Lioness, a 13-year adviser to the Bentworth Leo Club and a District 14 Leo Coordinator, she says, "I came to join the Lions club at the request of one of my former Leos. I had encouraged him [David Carroll] to start a Lions club at Washington & Jefferson University in Washington, Pennsylvania, where he was in school. In his sophomore year, he began taking steps to do just that and asked for my help in starting it. I was honored to be asked to join and am pleased to work right alongside eight of my former Leos who are also members of the W & J Lions Club."

BEST PROJECT: Our visit to the Washington County Health Center. We made and painted each of the 300 patients a suncatcher to brighten their rooms and attached them with cards. My favorite part, though, was spending time and visiting with as many patients as we could, since many of them seemed lonely and enjoyed our company greatly. They looked to these very young Lions as if they were visiting their own grandchildren.

LAST GREAT BOOK I READ: I often enjoy light reading, especially when we're relaxing in Florida. The last good serious book I read was *The 36-Hour Day*, which I enjoyed because it explained a lot about Alzheimer's disease and made me better understand it. My mother is dealing with this problem now and it helped me find ways to help her, myself and family through this difficult time.

THE CLUB DOESN'T KNOW THAT: I can read Braille, although my own vision is relatively fine. At the ripe old age of 52, I was asked by my employer if I would consider changing positions at my job and became an instructional aide for a blind girl in our local school district, working with her from kindergarten through high school before my retirement. It was clear that in order to help her, I needed to be able to read and write Braille, so I took on the very difficult task of learning this new "language" at that time by attending classes and learning by daily usage. She is presently in college and I'm proud to say that our district was able to provide her with funding for van service on campus. My work with her is another reason why the Lions' dedication to helping the blind and visually impaired is so near and dear to my heart.

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME: Youth-oriented, hard working and sincere. And although they don't treat me as such, some of my club members might say "old," too, since I am the same age as their grandparents!

IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

‘Something Wonderful’ Comes From Flood Devastation

On June 13, 2008, the swollen Cedar River swept through Palo, Iowa, destroying almost the entire town. Less than a year later, on May 30, 2009, 46 of Palo’s citizens were sworn in as charter members of the new Palo Lions Club. “Lions believe in helping their communities,” says Emily Packingham, the club’s first president. Speaking to Lions from across the state who attended the charter night celebration, she explained how important they were to not only Palo Lions but to the town: “Your support showed us we aren’t alone.”

Palo’s 430 houses were in the path of the rushing Cedar River last summer and within hours of the flood’s crest, all but 23 of them were under water. Businesses were also affected. Dan and Megan Diehm saw their Cedar River Garden Center destroyed when five feet of water rushed into their retail center to overturn shelving and merchandise and ruin their nursery stock despite sandbagging efforts. Both are now Palo Lions.

Otter Creek Lion Dave Henecke lives four miles from Palo but has a decades-old connection to the community. His great grandfather was the surveyor who plotted the town and as a child, he spent summers with a cousin there. Even though he lived on high ground, he was one of the first to come to Palo’s aid. Contacting District Governor John Taylor, he requested a \$10,000 LCIF emergency disaster grant. “And within a week, I had the money and started disbursing gift cards,” he recalls.

Henecke first went to the city’s temporary headquarters, a metal shed in the middle of a farm field. He told the exhausted mayor pro tem and the staff of four that Lions had funds to give them. “Two of the ladies burst into tears,” he says.

Going door to door in Palo, he gave residents \$200 gift cards so they could purchase medicine, food, clothing and

Continued on page 10

The destructive overflow from the Cedar River left nearly no home unscathed.



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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

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blankets. Henecke took pictures of the flooded houses to supply proof of need for the LCIF grant. As he handed out the gift cards, homeowners peppered him with questions. "People asked me, 'How could Lions get here so fast?'" He explained who the Lions are and how they help people in need.

At a town meeting, more than 40 people signed up to become Lions. Sponsored by the Otter Creek Lions Club, Palo now has its own Lions club to serve the community and Henecke has a new role as Guiding Lion.

Dave Stouffer, a 2006-08 international director and a resident of Washington, Iowa, witnessed the Palo Lions Club charter celebration. Held as an open house barbecue fundraiser, Lions didn't waste time since they're already planning to help the town rebuild its community center on higher ground. "This proves that something wonderful can come out of something really awful," Stouffer told the crowd. "Let's start building! That's what we do."

—By Rachel Nicola

Brick by Brick, Lions Build a Basketball Court

The father of Lion Albert Chatigny Jr. held such a special place of honor in Beaumont, California, that a new community center has been named after him. The senior Chatigny was a U. S. Air Force lieutenant bomber pilot during World War II who returned home to raise 11 children and run a small business in Beaumont.

"His positive influence on his children and with all the local kids inspired one child to nickname him 'Pop' Chatigny,"

says Lion Tim Smith. The Beaumont Lions Club donated and erected a flagpole that stands tall at the entrance of the recreation center and bears a plaque dedicated to the memory of Beaumont Lions who have died. The club also donated basketball posts and purchased the concrete for an outside full basketball court to benefit local youths and adults.

Beaumont Lions sold personalized engraved bricks that were set in concrete

around the new basketball court's perimeter. The bricks sold for \$50 apiece or four for \$160 and helped offset the cost of the project. The new Albert A. Chatigny Sr. Community Center will provide child care and offer senior activities, youth and adult community recreation and serve as the city's emergency command center after a natural disaster.

photo by Tim Smith

Beaumont Lions and a construction crew work to put the finishing touches on the new outdoor basketball court at the community center.

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UKRAINE EUROPE

The conditions of rooms and bathrooms for severely ill children at the hospital ward in Kyiv, Ukraine, were so unsanitary that the BBC sent a reporter and video crew last summer. Not as obvious but just as appalling was the hospital's lack of proper medical equipment, supplies and basic services for patients and their stressed families. The hospital was so strapped for funds that when an operation was scheduled for their child parents had to travel to clinics and pharmacies to purchase on their own nearly everything needed for the procedure including blood. Parents staying overnight were forced to sleep in the same hospital bed with their child and bring food for their child to the hospital. "Frankly, I've seen better facilities in active battle field hospitals in war zones," said Martin Nunn, a Lion in Kyiv.

The BBC report touched people's hearts and many contacted the Kyiv Lions Club to offer assistance. One of the

largest in the region, the 70-member club already had saved lives by purchasing sophisticated medical equipment for the pediatric department of the Neurosurgical Institute at the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine. Lions also cleaned, painted and renovated the operating rooms, wards and bathrooms.

The dismal conditions at the hospital were especially heart-wrenching to Kyiv Lions, who are accustomed to modern, sophisticated medical care. Nearly 70 percent of members are expatriates including Brits, Scots, Scandinavians, Mexican, Americans and Canadians. Many are senior executives in the business community. The club was founded in 2002, and members have used their business expertise and leveraged their contacts to carry out large-scale social work.

The club has flourished because it's seen as a legitimate, safe and effective way to improve social conditions, says Nunn,





whose media company does free public relations for the club. Under the Soviet Union, social services in Ukraine were provided by the state. After the Soviets left, the new government was unprepared and underfunded to offer health care and other services. The wealthy often supported the sick, poor and elderly, but the law set \$250,000 as the minimum level of donation to earn a tax break. Cash donations became prevalent—and so, too, did fraud. “Charity is seen to this day by the public and the tax office as highly suspicious,” said Nunn.

Lions have overcome that stigma. A press release of the Kyiv Lions states that “international companies now view Kyiv Lions Club as a safe means of making charitable donations and of ensuring that their generosity is not diverted.” One corporation donated \$40,000 for charity through the club. The club plans to hold a seminar on how charity works and what legislative changes are needed and will invite government officials, charity leaders and the media. “In many ways our club is setting the national standard for charity and donations,” said Nunn.

The biggest impact the club has made was from providing an ultrasonic dissector/aspirator, allowing the hospital to undertake more difficult procedures and to reduce post-operative complications. The machine was used in brain operations for more than 100 children in the first nine months. The club teamed up on the project with Soletterre, an Italian-based humanitarian group.

The club is adept at collaboration. The renovation of the hospital was supported by club member Dave Young, managing director of the Britain-based construction company INS, and INS workers. The club also knows how to use celebrities to gain attention and support. Pop singers Anna and Lera from the band XS and Vadim from the Mad Heads XL chatted with the ward’s children and even took a turn with the paintbrush.

In its best year, the club raised \$500,000. It stages Kozak Night celebrating Ukrainian art and culture, holds a black-tie ball and works with the Scottish expatriate community on its popular Burns Night (named after Scottish poet Robert Burns). The fund-raising allows the club to support other health-related concerns as well as support homes for the orphaned sick and elderly, provide recreation for those with disabilities and buy new glasses for those who need them.



(Left page) Kyiv Lions have helped hundreds of young children survive major surgery.

(Top) Lions paint a hospital room.

(Center) Lions brighten up the day of the sick children.

(Bottom) Celebrities such as members of the band XS Girls helped at the hospital on behalf of Lions.

WHY LIONS MATTER IN



SMALL-TOWN America

by Jay Copp



Vinton is a typical small Midwestern town.

Photo and cover photo by Dean Close

Two dozen miles outside Cedar Rapids, in the heartland of America, Route 150 veers sharply away from the interstate and plunges into the countryside of eastern Iowa. Barns and farmhouses dot the sweeping landscape. “We have a diversified economy,” jokes Lion Frank Van Steenhuyse of Vinton. “On one side of the road it’s corn and soybeans. On the other side it’s soybeans and corn.”

Vinton announces itself before Vinton actually can be seen. On the side of the road, rising from the tall grass, is a large sign with a hodgepodge of emblems. The town of 5,000 contains a Catholic, a Baptist and a Lutheran church, an American Legion, a Kiwanis club and a Lions club. In town, landmarks familiar to county residents (Vinton is the county seat) jump into view: the imposing county courthouse, the refurbished main street with the only movie theater within 30 miles and the majestic school for the blind that for nearly 160 years has educated children statewide.

In the last election year, being that Iowa plays a key role in the presidential race, Obama, Clinton, Edwards and other candidates came to Vinton, some more than once. Well over a century ago, the town hosted another celebrity of sorts: the sister of the author Laura Ingalls Wilder lived at the school for the blind. But Vinton is in many ways a typical Midwestern town. In the fall on homecoming weekend fire trucks carry the high school athletes down main

street, tractors pull the class floats and convertibles escort the king and queen and their court. In summer the county fair swarms with farmers and 4-H kids. Day after day, farmers sip their morning coffee at the Hitchin Post, teenagers congregate at Leon’s malt shop and after church on Sunday the Peony restaurant, the nicest one in town, fills up. The sense of community is palpable. Residents still proudly recall when the girl’s basketball team won state and obituaries in the newspaper are old news.

If pressed, residents say nothing much ever really happens in Vinton. They invariably describe their town simply as “a good place to raise a family.” Yet the routine and normal in Vinton are still revealing. There are 80 Lions in Vinton, a high number for such a small town, and their role in town speaks volumes about who Lions are and what we do.

A Town Tour

Frank Van Steenhuyse grew up in Vinton, moved away and came back to raise his family, a common scenario for residents. A compact, gregarious man quick to smile or quip, he has offered a guided tour around town in his car. In the back seat is Julie Zimmer, also a Lion. She once worked at the school for the blind as a job counselor; her husband is a retired judge. The two know nearly every inch of their town. “Three stoplights” is a way the soft-spoken



The Iowa Braille School has been a mainstay of Vinton since the 1850s.



Residents cherish Vinton as a good place for families.
Photo by Julie Zimmer

Zimmer describes the size of Vinton.

Situated on a hill, the Iowa Braille School looms large. That's true figuratively, too. Anyone who grew up in Vinton was shaped in one degree or another by school. Until federal law in the 1970s decreed that children with disabilities be mainstreamed, the sprawling 55-acre campus held as many as 150 students. They lived at the school Monday through Friday but they weren't confined to the campus. Staff encouraged students to learn mobility skills by making their way around town and to learn to be part of society by mixing with residents.

Van Steenhuyse remembers that his family took students to church on Sundays. "You'd see the Braille kids downtown. You grew up really alert to the red cane. There was even a tunnel under one of the main roads," he says. "You'd see them at church, around town, at sporting events. They were intelligent, mobile kids."

Van Steenhuyse shakes his head. "This gives me goose bumps to think about. One of the kids I used to wrestle with—he could see as good as I could. 'Why are you in the Braille school?' He had a degenerative eye disease and he'd be blind by his mid-20s."

The Vinton Lions Club was chartered in 1921, four years before Helen Keller gave Lions their primary mission by urging them to be "Knights of the Blind." But in Vinton the Lions got a head start. The club's first project was to present Braille typewriters to graduates of the blind school. From then on every administrator at the school has been a Lion, and often several staff are members.

In the mid-1980s government officials, realizing that the school's large campus now served only a handful of residential students, proposed merging the school with a school for the deaf in Council Bluffs. Vinton Lions rallied other clubs in the state against the idea, and the officials backed down. A few years ago Lions again successfully helped counter a push to close or move the school.

The school has helped given the club a purpose and identity. "With Lions you always have to circle back to the connection with the Braille School," says Zimmer. "The founding of the club gave the town and school a head start. They all echo off each other."

The school still has a commanding presence. But since it lost its residential character it doesn't loom quite as large in the community. "The Braille school was part of the community when I was growing up," says Van Steenhuyse. "When I was a youth there was a lot more interaction.



Civic, social and religious groups are active in town.

Without even thinking about it there was a sense of ownership. It wasn't the school 'over there.' "

Slowing for a stop sign, Van Steenhuyse waves to a woman in a red van. Growing up here gives him a strong connection to Vinton. But, so, too, does his career path. He left town to join the Army, worked elsewhere (in Washington, D.C.) and then moved back after he was married and had young kids. He ticks off a list of names of peers who followed a similar path. "Number 1, we wanted to raise our families here. Number 2, there were better business opportunities here," he says. When he was younger, Van Steenhuyse sold farm machinery with his dad. He later owned an auto parts store and now runs a funeral home in town.

Nearing the outskirts of town, Van Steenhuyse drives by the sparkling new high school, opened two years ago. Schools represent a community's commitment to its future,

of course, and several bond issues for a new school had failed, an ominous sign. Then the community was asked to approve an even larger expenditure, a \$15 million bond to reconfigure the school system. The old high school would become the new middle school. The middle school would become the elementary school. The bond passed.

A Lion donated the extensive tract of land needed for the new high school. Lions helped build support for the bond. “The first thing you do when you want to raise money for a project is to lay out the project before both the Lions and Kiwanis,” says Van Steenhuyse, the former head of the town’s economic development group.

The Lion are a fixture at the high school football games, an event that pulls the community together. Lions direct traffic and the Lions trailer sells tenderloin, hot dogs, popcorn and, most famously, delicious funnel cakes. Profits go back to the school. The club also funds scholarships, provides backpacks, supports the post-prom party and pitches in when a random need arises such as when a new wrestling mat is required.

Two new school administrators, both on the young side, recently joined the club. That’s how things tend to go in Vinton. “It’s just a smart thing for them to do. If they need money for wrestling or whatever, they can get it,” says Zimmer.

Driving through town, seeing kids on bikes, Van Steenhuyse and Zimmer can’t help recall two or three decades ago when their own children were gallivanting around town. “My big job every spring was to make sure the bikes were functional, so they [the kids] were mobile,” says Van Steenhuyse. “No kid could starve to death in our community” reflects Zimmer. “You don’t know whose kitchen they’d end up in. It’s a real small town—a great sense of community.”

Van Steenhuyse motors by a small cluster of relatively new homes on the edge of town. He names the families that live in each. “It’s a small town. Everybody knows everybody,” he explains. But he can’t resist a little self-mockery. “I’m old. There’s lots of people I don’t know.”

The afternoon wears on and clouds roll in, spoiling a sunny sky. “Typically it’s sunny here. It gets cloudy only at night. I’m joking,” says Van Steenhuyse. He pauses. “It’s Camelot here.”

The ‘List’

A few blocks from downtown is Virginia Gay Hospital, one of Vinton’s primary assets. The Vinton Country Club is just a chip shot from the hospital. The fairways are lush and green; the clubhouse is comfortable, not tony or plush. The dining room is completely empty this Monday night except for a few Lions. Don Eells, the club president, and Marty Blind, the club’s publicity chairperson, chat freely about their lives, their town and the influence of Lions on both.

Trim with an erect posture, Eells has the look of a leader—and the background. He taught in high school and

served as a basketball coach in Vinton before moving to California to work in corporate training and development. Then he returned to town. He grew up reading the Vinton newspaper. “There was always a lot of stuff about Lions and Kiwanis. I could see even as a 12- or 13-year-old it was a neat thing to be in a club. It’s not like I said to myself that my goal is to be a Lion. But that’s the way it worked out,” he says. The newspaper remains important. “The thing that really helps is to have a newspaper in town. We get a lot of publicity. That perpetuates interest in the club. People want to be involved and do good things.”

Decades ago Eells learned the hard way that Lions did more in town than he even imagined. One of his duties as a coach was to start a slow-pitch softball league. He needed a field, so he did the arduous labor himself, carving out a crude but usable field. Then a friend tapped him on the shoulder. “He said, ‘Don, did you know that within two weeks you can use the softball field?’ I didn’t know that the Lions had built a slo-pitch softball complex.”

Not deterred by his name and being an easy target for kidding, Marty Blind worked as the director of technology for Iowa School for the Blind before heading up the IT department at the hospital. He taught school and lived elsewhere, including Amana, before settling his family in Vinton. He’s glad they moved. “It’s [Amana] good for tourism. They don’t even have a playground. Here the parks and recreation is fantastic,” he says. “The idea that I can drop off my kids at the movies and know they’ll be safe is mind-boggling.”

Blind first became interested in joining the Lions when he saw them having a good time while doing good. Lions were conducting a “roundup” at the local store: shoppers who paid \$19.18 for their groceries, for instance, were encouraged to drop 82 cents into the bucket. He soon was working the Lions concession trailer. “That made the biggest impact on me. I had not seen the ‘list.’ It was a sign taped to the trailer about all the things the Vinton Lions had donated to or helped. It was a big, long list. My gosh, we do a lot,” he says.

Vinton and Lions are a good fit. “As an outsider I always felt that people in Vinton want Vinton to succeed,” says Blind. “The only way you can make that happen is to just get your hands dirty and do it.”

Main Street

Vinton’s main street is Fourth Street. The business district runs for about four blocks down Fourth with dozens of other small businesses scattered a block or two away. The Benton County courthouse, stolid and solemn, dominates the intersection of Fourth and First Avenue. The storefronts include a pharmacy, a TV and appliance store, a furniture store, a spa, a cleaners, a florist, several restaurants and more. The downtown, in terms of foot and car traffic, clean-

LIONS OF VINTON

Frank Van Steenhuyse grew up on a farm in Vinton. He praises the value of the Lions trailer, which sells food at the town's Party in the Park in June and at football games on Friday nights. "The Jaycees nickled and dimed people. Lions are so much smarter. Our profits [from the trailer at the high school] go right back to the school," he says.

Attorney Keith Mossman is part of a four-generation Lions family. He says the club is smart about simple but effective ways to bond members with the club: for years the club has held a months-long contest in which members guess the winners of college football games. "It increases attendance during the football season," he notes.

Dianne Utsinger is the administrator at the Iowa Braille School. A Lion for 15 years, she believes her club's weekly meetings contribute to its vitality. "We're able to energize each other and stay connected," she explains.

Jeff Peterson is an investment adviser at Farmers Savings Bank. He believes in Lions ("they're good people; all kinds of people, too, such a mix") and believes in Vinton. He's recruited his parents, sister and four in-laws to live in town. "I tell them it's like Mayberry. People are very community oriented. When there's a need, people jump on board."

CPA Dick Kerdus came to Vinton from Des Moines in 1976 and joined the Lions that year. "My father-in-law was a member. That might have had something to do with it," he chuckles. "I was a guest at Kiwanis meetings. I went to their meetings for a time."

The windows of La Grange Pharmacy display "Go Vikes" in yellow paint during homecoming week. Pharmacist Mike La Grange is rooted in Vinton and in Lions. "We have people in the community who are sight impaired and they shop here. We [Lion] donate to Leader Dogs, so there's a real connection," he says.

Dean Luze runs his vacuum cleaner and sewing shop with his wife and son. Being a Lion was meant to be. "Some of my friends were Lions," he says. "They asked me to join and I've found it worthwhile."

Mark Wilberg taught at the Iowa Braille School for 33 years and raised his two daughters in town. "Our club is really important to the town," he says. "We give a lot of support to the schools: we bought a set of soccer goals, a wrestling mat, volleyball equipment."

Alan Woodhouse's father and grandfather served the town as a dentist and doctor, respectively. Civic groups such as Lions are "maybe the best thing about a small town," says Woodhouse, a dentist.

Julie Zimmer has worked at Kirkwood Community College and the Iowa Braille School and believes Lions and Vinton complement each other. "You don't need a Ph.D. to get involved in a small town and make a difference," she says. "Vinton and the club are do-it-yourself cultures."



liness and overall vitality, seems to be holding its own.

Not surprisingly, Lions are well-represented in the business community. Many have deep roots in Lions and in Vinton. Mike La Grange, whose grandfather began his family's pharmacy in 1922, joined the Lions 15 years ago. ("Dad was a Kiwanian," he says. "I could go to Kiwanis in the morning and Lions at lunch. I picked the Lions. I didn't like getting up early.") Lion Dean Luze, whose dad started his business in 1959, runs a sewing and vacuum cleaner shop. Lion Alan Woodhouse has a lineage that goes back ever further. His grandfather was a doctor in town as far back as 1910; his father was a dentist beginning in the 1940s. Woodhouse himself has told Vintonites to open wide since 1969.


The downtown reveals Lions not only embedded in the community as businessmen and service club members but also as community leaders, both paid and volunteer. Lion Andy Lent is the city coordinator. Police chief Jeff Tilson is a Lion. Lions populate the utility board, hospital foundation board and leadership positions at churches. Dawn Pettengill, the state legislator representing Vinton, also is a Lion. Interlocking leadership roles are common. "Lots of Lions are double and tripling up," notes Dick Kerdus, a Lion who has been a CPA in town since 1976.

Perhaps the most remarkable Lion/community leader works directly across the street from the courthouse, an ideal location for a man of his profession. Attorney Keith Mossman, 89, still practices law. His son and grandson, both Lions, practice with him. That's four generations that span the history of the club: Mossman's father took the oath in 1922, just a year after the club was founded.

Courtly and courteous, Mossman can spin yarns and recount the old days unlike any other Vinton Lion. "In the 30s the Lions had a big holiday dinner before Christmas. This was the Depression, not like the recession we have now. This was before welfare and ADC. The kids were really hungry and no one was coming just to have a good time," he recalls.

Back in the day the Lions (remember many were rough-hewn farmers) gathered for coon hunts. The barking dogs set loose in the woods treed the coons and, pistols drawn, the Lions finished the business. Afterward they lit a bonfire and swapped stories.

From his desk Mossman pulls out a Lions newsletter from 1961. The club was large even back then with 52 members. Lunch was a whopping 35 cents. The humor was still corny—and from a male perspective. *Ed: What makes you think your wife is getting tired of you? John: Every day this week she wrapped my lunch in a road map.*



Residents restored and now run the theater.

“I’ve enjoyed the friendships I made,” Mossman says in summarizing why he values his membership.

“I’ve been able to associate with people I ordinarily wouldn’t have gotten to know. There is the satisfaction of participating in a lot of community activities and contributing to the community. When I was younger I could contribute physical labor—painted the shelter house at the park.”

Mossman won’t bring it up; you have to ask him about this. He’s been instrumental in the founding and expansion of the hospital, a prize for any small community and at one time an institution in perilous straits. “In 1951, I co-chaired the campaign to build the hospital. I co-chaired the expansion 15 years ago. I co-chaired with [Lion] John Anderson the latest expansion,” he relates matter-of-factly. Then, to downplay his own importance, he adds, “I got stuck three times.”

Mossman is entrusted with civic responsibility. One of his duties is to oversee private charitable trusts that benefit low-income children and others in need. He prides himself on being reliable, a straight shooter who doesn’t romanticize the things he cherishes. “I’m sure some people join [Lions] because it’s good for business. It’s a great way to meet people, anyway. It’s a great place for newcomers to get acquainted with people in town. The primary motivation is that people realize it’s a good organization that’s beneficial to the community.”

A couple blocks away from Mossman’s office is the main attraction of the downtown: the

gleaming Palace Theatre. For \$2, patrons can watch a first-run movie. The theatre seats 196 and on a Friday or Saturday a popular movie will sell out well before show time. The theatre building was empty for 30 years, a glaring symbol of the general decline of the Vinton downtown. Then a decade ago residents including Lions launched a \$300,000 restoration campaign for the theater. On the wall opposite the concession stand are dozens of plaques of contributors including one for the Vinton Lions.

Bright and clean but not antiseptic like some multiplexes, the theater relies on volunteers to keep prices low. Residents take tickets, serve at the concession stand and run the projector. Volunteers also oversee the clever seat-saving ploy. For 50 cents, a moviegoer can drape a “seat saver” banner over his chosen seat well before show time, leave for dinner and come back to enjoy the show. Woodhouse, the dentist, conceived the idea. “I thought we’d need money to keep the theater going, to paint and refurbish it,” says Woodhouse, who also is a projectionist. But the theater did fine on its own. Instead, the reservation revenue has been used for \$500 scholarships for graduating high school seniors. In 2003 alone (obviously a banner year for movies), nine scholarships were awarded. So in Vinton you can watch a movie and help pay for someone’s college education at the same time.

The theater boosted the fortunes of the downtown, which needed a lift. In the 1940s and 50s the downtown bustled with people and prosperity. The Iowa Canning Company and other factories, now all long gone, thrived. Vinton boasted five farm implement dealerships, several grocery stores, both a Sears and a J. C. Penny’s. The economic downturn in the 1970s saw the final days of major employers such as Iowa Ham, Hawk Bilt and Prefex. In the 1980s the local economy worsened with the collapse of the farm economy. Stores and restaurants shut their doors. More Vinton residents were forced to find work in Cedar Rapids and Waterloo.

Besides the theater, town leaders found other ways to strengthen its commercial sector. Vinton received Main Street funds to beautify its downtown. Fancy street lights and colorful murals were put in place. Vinton Unlimited, which combines the functions of a chamber of commerce and an economic development agency, worked to improve the town to make it more attractive to residents and business owners. Today downtown Vinton has made a comeback. It’s not what it was in the 1940s but neither has it become neglected and rundown. There are only a handful of empty storefronts. “Our downtown does better than some other communities in the state,” said Dean Close, news editor at the *Vinton Eagle*. “We spent a lot of effort revitalizing it. We made it a priority.”

A calamity that set back downtown and other parts of Vinton was the flooding in 2008. In June the Cedar River crested at 24 feet, nine feet over the flood stage and five feet

higher than the town’s all-time record. One hundred buildings were damaged. Twenty eight homes were soiled beyond repair. The courthouse, power plant and jail were flooded. (Cedar Rapids was devastated by flooding.) Lions were among many residents who filled sandbags. LaGrange,



The flood of 2008 ruined dozens of homes and public buildings.

the pharmacist, relocated supplies to the hospital; as members of the utility board, Lions secured generators from Minnesota to turn the lights back on. Vinton recovered from the flood.

Weeks after the disaster, FEMA officials arrived at a pivotal meeting for residents at the theater. The officials’ memories were still fresh with the social disorder after Katrina. “They said, ‘Hey, you’ve got a theater full of flood victims. Where is all the security?’” recalls Eells with a chuckle.

Play On

Close to the river is the municipal swimming pool and recreation center. The pool features a long, twisting slide worthy of a costly water park. Indeed, the slide, valued at a quarter of a million dollars, was purchased for \$1 from an amusement center elsewhere that closed. Making the slide fit the dimensions of the Vinton pool was another story. But more on that later.

The recreation center features a basketball court, a racquetball court and an exercise room. Vintonites use the center for free. So does anyone else. “We don’t check IDs or anything,” says Duane Randall, director of parks and recreation. His department offers an array of leagues, camps and activities that a big-city YMCA would be proud to claim. There’s volleyball, tennis, wrestling, softball, flag football, pom pom and more.

Randall has the solid build of an athlete and he wears the black and gold of the University of Iowa (the high school actually has the same colors as the Hawkeyes; the colors



Lions helped fit the gigantic slide for the recreation center. Pictured is Duane Randall, director of parks and recreation.

represent the corn fields). Randall arrived in town in 1986 from Clinton. “I thought it would be a four- or five-year stint and move on,” says Randall, whose three children are now in college or graduate school. Cue the standard line. “It’s a great place to raise kids. Everything we need is here in town,” he adds.

Lions, of course, are strong supporters of sports and recreation. The club sponsors the wildly popular Little Vikings wrestling meet, which draws young wrestlers from a 50-mile radius and features five divisions and 50 classes. The pool deck had to be redone to fit the slide and Lions pitched in. Finally, a Lion saved the skating rink from oblivion not long ago. The owner was prepared to close it and sell the property for other uses, a situation that alarmed John and Beverly Anderson. “She said, ‘What do you think we should do?’ recounts Randall. “He said, ‘You know what I want to do.’ He purchased it for us—\$300,000.”

The Miracles

The screen door is open at the tidy frame home on a quiet tree-lined street in Vinton. “Come on in,” says Linda Miracle, who steps toward her living room and then settles into an easy chair. In another chair is her husband, Woody. He taught at the Braille School for 30 years, retiring in 1995. It was a case of the blind teaching the blind: glaucoma at birth stole his sight. Linda had very limited vision in one eye until she was 22. Then a second detached retina left her without any sight. The couple met in Louisville at the Kentucky School for the Blind and married in 1962.

The Miracles respect the Lions. “They support the Leader Dog School. That’s important to me for obvious reasons,” says Woody. “Anything they do, we always support,” Linda chimes in. Woody received his first Leader Dog in 2000. He didn’t want one before that. “He was a cane traveler. He was always a good traveler. He didn’t want the dog at the school [where we worked] just left under his desk,” explains

Linda. His first dog was, er, off the books. “A lady who wanted to retire her dog gave it to me. The standard joke is that I used an illegal dog for three years,” Woody says.

Linda received her first dog in 1988. “It was the greatest thing. I could go out on my own,” she recalls. Being in Vinton has always made it a little easier anyway. “A few times I’ve gotten lost. Got in a panic. I always had someone come to my rescue,” she says. “It’s nice to go to the store. When I go in someone always comes up to me and says, ‘Can I go through with you?’”

Just then a 12-year-old girl bursts into the home. It’s Kyle, one of their five grandkids. The Miracles raised two children. Their son lives in town and drives a food truck. Their daughter is a vocational counselor in West Des Moines. Linda had decided she needed a dog guide soon after her daughter had left for college.

Kyle is here to collect a \$20 donation for the firefighters’ pancake breakfast. Woody will give more. “It’s \$20,” Kyle tells him again. “We’re going to give you \$50,” her grandfather insists. “We’re making a donation.”

The Miracles step outside to get their picture taken. A motor roars. A woman, presumably a neighbor, is cutting the Miracles’ lawn. The Miracles smile for the camera and walk back inside. Strider the poodle leads Woody and Linda’s black lab does the honors for her. Her dog was trained by a woman in Texas who honors the memory of Helen Keller with each dog. The Texan named this lab Ivy Green #7.



Woody and Linda Miracle appreciate what the Lions do for the blind.

Friend of Scouts

Bill Keller fingers his cup of coffee at the Java Alley Coffee Shop downtown. He moved to Vinton from Michigan in 1980 and makes his living selling software to nursing homes and hospitals. He's glad he raised his son in Vinton and glad his son was a Boy Scout. Scouts helped him grow up. Nearly 30 youths each year belong to the Boy Scouts here and it's unusual if there isn't another Eagle Scout every year. It's not easy for Scouts to compete with sports and other activities. But mothers and especially fathers nudge their sons toward the Scouts and like the results.

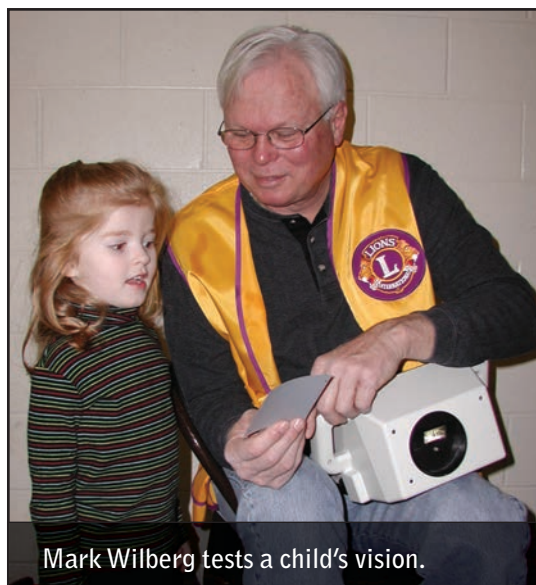
"It's neat to see them grow up from a little critter to someone who can flip a canoe on their back and doesn't think twice about it," says Keller. Not long ago a group of Scouts canoeing got caught in a sudden windstorm. The canoe "was submarined" but the boys kept their wits. "They saw it as a challenge and not something to be fearful of. I don't know how you teach that to kids," he says.

In 1932-33, the Vinton Lions put on a corn and poultry show. They dispensed aid to destitute families. And they sponsored a troop of Boy Scouts. The club has sponsored the Scouts every year since. Lions also contribute when a need arises. "A couple of years ago we went to the Boundary Waters in Minnesota. The video we have is kind of funny. One scout is a wrestler, a real tough kid. He comes to the portage with a 109-pound canoe on his back and he's really struggling," says Keller. Youths need hills to climb but maybe not mountains. So the Lions promptly purchased four 68-pound lightweight aluminum canoes for the troop. "They're truly good representatives of the community. They're just nice folks," says Keller, drawing a final swallow of his coffee.

School on a Hill

A University of Iowa teacher once brought his class to the Iowa Braille School to study and admire its architecture. Built in 1862, a decade after the school's founding, the mammoth structure stretches across a hill, dwarfs the leafy trees that guard it and looms as an irrefutable symbol of a durable commitment to aiding the blind.

Inside its walls are earmarks of a complete community. There are sleeping quarters, a cafeteria, a swimming pool, an auditorium, underground tunnels, a playground for the blind



Mark Wilberg tests a child's vision.

with tactile equipment called Woody's Cove (named after retired teacher Woody Miracle) and, of course, scores of administrative offices and classrooms.

Dianne Utsinger has been a Lion for 15 years and at the school for a quarter century. "Our focus is the same as before. We educate children who are blind. We're a little like Lions. You find Lions in every community in Iowa. Today you find blind children in every community in Iowa," says Utsinger, school administrator.

Decades ago, at least Monday through Friday, the blind children were here. Today eight children, who often have multiple handicaps, live on campus and 400 are served across the state by the school's staff of 100,

60 of whom live and work outside Vinton. The school also holds in-service programs for children. The school teaches not only Braille literacy but also daily living skills, recreation, safe travel, use of adaptive technology and other skills.

Maybe adults unaccustomed to being around blind children assume they need to be handled with kid gloves. That blind children can't achieve. That they need to be coddled and pitied. The school looks with a hard eye on such condescension. Lion Mark Wilberg taught for 33 years at the school. "It was like teaching public school students," he insists. He taught industrial arts and students operated table saws. "It does sound dangerous. It can be dangerous," he says. "There are different techniques for safety. You use your hands instead of your eyes. Some of them as adults use table saws and other tools."

Wilberg tours a section of the building where history is recreated. A classroom contains old-fashioned desks, a tactile map and early Braille equipment. A dormitory room displays a lumpy, rickety bed and quaint light and nightstand. Down the hall is a room with old band uniforms and in the hall are class pictures more than a century old. Blind kids came here, learned to read and write and to fend for themselves.

Lions were with the blind students every step of the way. They threw (and still throw) a Christmas party for students. They gave them a Braille typewriter at graduation (now they provide to ninth-graders a Braille computer or other sophisticated adaptive device). They took them to symphony concerts, bought uniforms for the Girl and Boy Scout troops at the school and transported their parents to the school for visits. "Our club has always had this advantage: we can see the results of our service. We can see

the need for our service,” says Utsinger.

The blind are not as omnipresent at the school. Instead, there is a different kind of energy. Vinton won the derby to be a training site for Americorps. Mostly ages 19 to 23, 140 Americorps trainees hunker down at the Braille School to learn the ins and outs of community service before heading out to Midwestern towns large and small. Vinton was the smallest town to vie to be the host city. The first batch of volunteers arrived in 2008. “The town lobbied hard to get them,” says Eells. “These are mature, enthusiastic, idealistic young people. You couldn’t ask for a nicer group of kids to come to town.”

Getting Younger

Kiddie corner to the Palace Theatre, the Pizza Ranch serves pizza, chicken and lots of Lions. The club meets weekly at noon. Many Lions work a block or two away and just walk on over. The flip side is that as Vinton has become more of a bedroom community—many wage earners now work in Cedar Rapids or Waterloo—joining the club is problematic for commuters.

The club has supported at least 29 organizations in the last four years to the tune of \$50,000. It supports the hospital, youth camps and leader dogs. It sent shoes to kids in Afghanistan, gave the police department a portable defibrillator and backed the American Legion’s traveling memo-

rial wall. Lions screen schoolchildren in town for vision problems and work with optometrist Mike Martin, a Lion, to provide eyeglasses.

Vinton Lions freely admit they are not a perfect or even a typical club. They don’t wear vests. Some don’t wear their pins. They could do a better job of adding women as members and getting more involved in district projects and meetings. They also are not big supporters of LCIF or the Iowa Lions Foundation. Eells explains by cupping his hands and mock-shouts, “There’s always an old guy in the back who yells, ‘Is it local?’ ”

Yet the club has been successful in maintaining membership and even staying relatively young. “For a small town we’re doing phenomenal,” says Woodhouse, the dentist. “We’ve had 10 to 12 younger members in the last year, The assistant principal [who joined] was in my daughter’s class. That helps a lot.

“The Lions club and Kiwanis do a lot of good things. Maybe that’s the best thing about a small town. My kids are not involved. I’m involved. I’m not saying that to pat myself on the back. People are so busy they don’t do service clubs like they used to. I think it’s harder in a larger town to get service clubs going. Here people know each other. There’s the chance to give back to the community. The advantage to being in small town is that you see someone on the street and say, ‘Hey,



From its earliest days the Vinton Lions Club has helped build and support the town.

we have a Lions club. Why don't you try it out?"

The Kiwanians inevitably come up when Lions talk about themselves. Kiwanis is down to one club in town instead of two. The Lions respect the Kiwanians-but that doesn't stop them from figuratively poking them in the ribs."I tell the Kiwanians your trial period is over. It's time you joined the Lions," says Kerdus, the CPA. Says Mossman, the attorney, "Kiwanis is a good club. For a while they could kid us: we were the old man's club. But we've picked up a lot of younger members. Last year or so more members are younger. We don't have kids but we have members between 30 and 50."

with kids but there is that gap of college-educated adults in their 20s. "We're probably not doing any better than most. For kids to come back from college, there just aren't those kinds of jobs," he says.

He does agree that a small band of people can make a difference. "It's true. You see that a lot. People see there's a problem—they make improvements. There not a lot of red tape here. That's part of our culture. You see people come together." A Lions club helps channel community activism and build solidarity. "Speakers came to Lions meetings to speak in favor of the school improvement. One of the goals of groups like Lions is to get people acquainted with



(Left) The Lions meet weekly at the Pizza Ranch.

(Right) The funnel cakes at the Lions trailer are a reliable source of funds.

The Lions are not clannish. They mix and cooperate with other groups and sometimes even throw a few dollars their way. Eells is forever grateful to the Kiwanians for a \$100 scholarship he received. A few years ago he repaid them and then some with a \$1,000 donation.

Small Towns

By sheer coincidence, NPR today is airing a report on the "hallowing out of small town America." A professor from the East lived in a small Iowa town (not Vinton) to study the sad development. Young people, the best and brightest, go off and get educated and don't return. Small towns, the professor say, are in danger of losing their vitality. Callers phone in. Many agree. Some offer counter evidence. One caller doesn't argue with the basic premise. But, she says, the advantage of being in a small town is that it doesn't take a large group of people to affect change. A small community can be shaped by a core group of committed citizens.

As a newspaperman, Dean Close prides himself on seeing things as they are. Don't shoot the messenger. "We're still recovering from a couple of decades ago when industries closed," he says. Vinton may be full of families

people trying to make change," adds Close.

Pat Lyons, 48, writes a column for the newspaper. He's part owner of the paper and part owner of Ideal Industries, a manufacturer that is the largest private employer in Vinton with 45 workers. "We're very fortunate most of what our community has done for the economy is develop our infrastructure," says Lyons. "It's things like school that attract people."

Like others, Lyons moved away, in his case to Des Moines and elsewhere. Now his two children attend high school in Vinton. "Folks my age are really interested in making sure this is a good place to raise your kids," he says. A Lions club serves that purpose. "A small community needs a conduit for community service," says Lyons, a Lion. "You need an organization in town for individuals and groups looking for support and help. You need a contact point that can help sharpen the focus of these efforts.

"In Iowa we're conservative. I don't mean that in a political sense. We're not necessarily huge risk takers. We're not a hotbed of entrepreneurship. We see something needed, we get it done. If you look at Iowa in general it still hasn't cut its agricultural connection. It still has that mentality: just do it yourself. Just get it done. When you live on a farm, that's what you do. That's how a Lions club makes a difference. When you see a need you don't wait for someone else to do something about it." ■

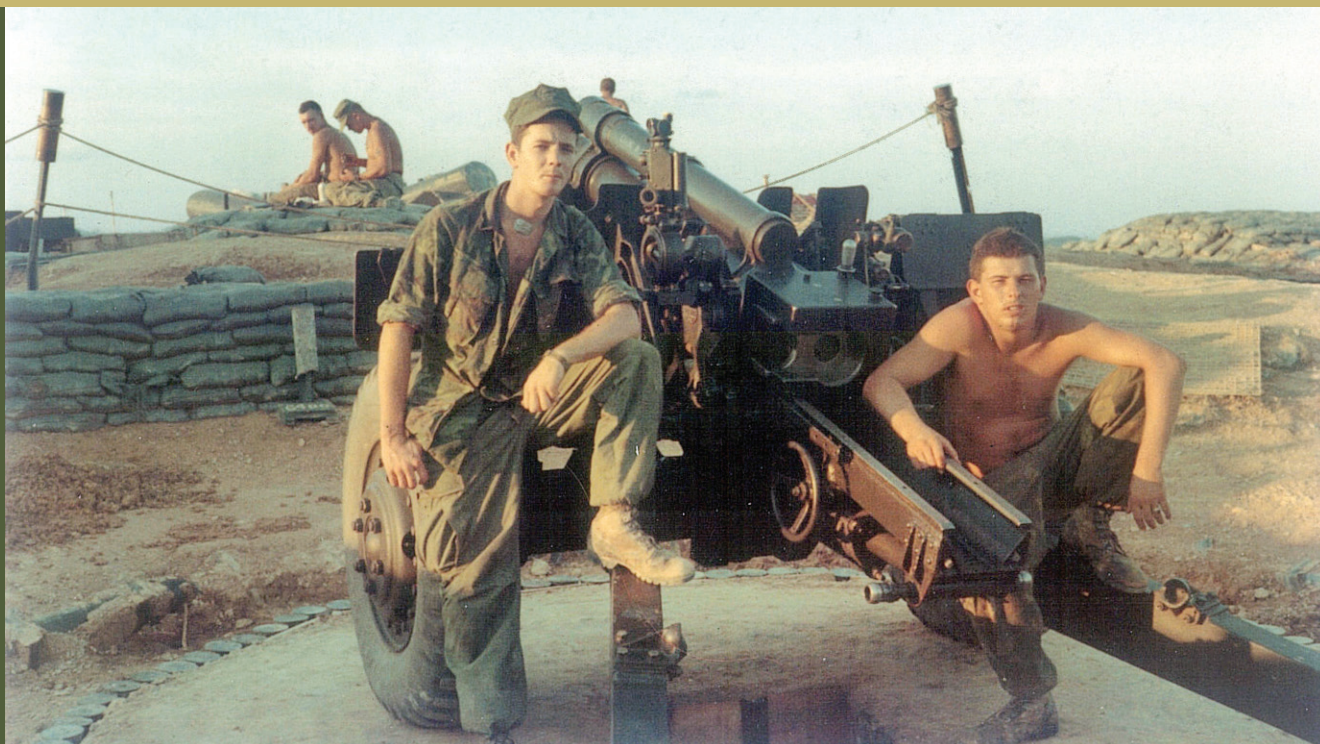


Second Tour of Duty

Forty years ago, when Bobby Daniels guarded a mountaintop in Vietnam called LZ Russell, a deadly firefight broke out. Daniels was seriously injured after he was shot in the knee and shrapnel ripped into his hips from a hand-grenade.

Daniels returned to Vietnam this spring to mark the anniversary of his service atop Landing Zone Russell. He traveled with a group of veterans intent on connecting with that forlorn piece of land in Southeast Asia.

Daniels' journey, however, extended beyond his desire to return to the place near the Demilitarized Zone where he came of age during



Daniels (on left in both photos) was seriously wounded while serving in Vietnam.

This Time Vietnam Vet's Duffel Bags Were Stuffed with Eyeglasses

by David McKay Wilson

wartime. He traveled to Vietnam with his still-sharp memories and three duffel bags brimming with 2,400 pairs of eyeglasses from the Georgia Lions Lighthouse in Decatur.

He was returning to a village near the mountaintop, called Landing Zone Russell, or LZ Russell, where the Marine Corps's 105th Hollister Unit was stationed to serve as the staging ground for assaults into the jungle as well as a place where the artillery unit fired ordnance up to 6.5 miles into North Vietnam.

A member of the Jones County Lions Club, Daniels decided to bring the glasses as a goodwill

gesture for a country, like many in the developing world, which lacks glasses for tens of thousands of citizens who suffer from near-sightedness, far-sightedness or astigmatism.

“Once we decided to go, I said, ‘Let me take some glasses,’” recalls Daniels, 59, now retired, who worked as an inspector for 36 years at Robins Air Force Base in Robins. “The question then became: how many could I get in three duffels?”

He ended up with 2,400 pairs, and the Jones County Lions Club paid the \$50 charge per duffel to take them on the plane. Once in Vietnam, Daniels with swarmed with Vietnamese who wanted a pair.

He even gave a handful to a government agent who

efforts to improve vision care around the world.

The World Health Organization estimates that 153 million people have uncorrected vision problems that can be addressed with glasses. The Lions Club, which began collecting eyeglasses more than 80 years ago, has 17 eyeglass recycling centers around the world, including 9 in the United States, which has collected more than 6 million pairs of used eyeglasses in the past year, says Marilee Kadar, department manager of health and children’s services at Lions Clubs International. An estimated 2.5 million were distributed to mission teams and sent to permanent clinics in the developing world.

In addition, local clubs have their own used eyeglass collection efforts, with an estimated 20 million pairs recycled annually. The eyeglasses that Daniels brought to Vietnam came from the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, which was founded 60 years ago by Atlanta Lion George Bingham, a blind man intent on sharing the gift of vision that he would never experience.

“We prepared the glasses, and washed them,” says Lighthouse Associate Director Victoria Jordan. “Like I tell every volunteer, that one pair of glasses that they wash is going to help one person somewhere in the world who really needs them.”

Daniels and the Jones County Lions have helped support the Georgia Lighthouse for many years, with part of the proceeds from the annual Jones County Fair. The fair, which raises about \$25,000 each year, also supports the local Lions program that provides free glasses and eye exams to residents who can’t afford them.

Daniels says he’ll never forget the expression on the faces of the Vietnamese children whose world became clear when they first looked through corrective lenses.

“Before, they’d look out at a tree and it would be a blob of green,” says Daniels. “Then they put on the glasses, their face and mouth and eyes all lit up. It was unreal. It’s an experience everybody ought to see.”

Many of the glasses for children were given out at a kindergarten in the village of Dongha that was built with contributions from the LZ Russell veterans group. They had arranged for an optometrist to be on hand when they arrived in the village, which was at the base of the mountain. During the war, Daniels stayed atop the mountain and never ventured down into the village.

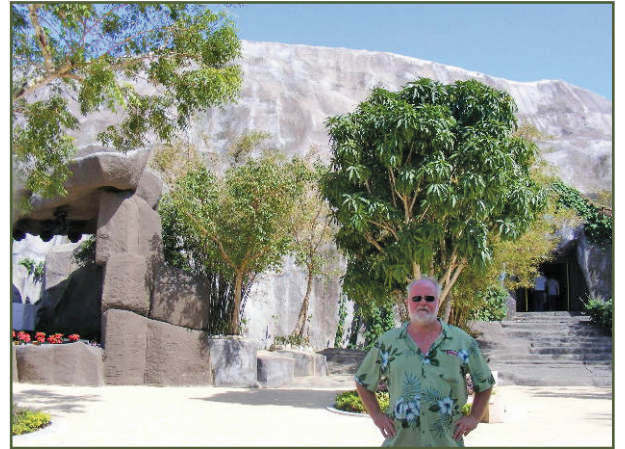


detained him for two hours as he patiently waited to make it through customs.

In fact, at their hotel in Ho Chi Minh City—formerly Saigon—the demand was so great that he set up shop in the lobby to dispense 1,000 pair there before setting off for the village near LZ Russell where the LZ Russell veterans have raised money to build a kindergarten.

“The people hugged my neck, shook my hand, and bowed to me,” says Daniels, a former president of the Jones County Lions Club. “Pretty soon, there was a line going out the hotel door.”

Daniels’ decision to take the glasses to Vietnam was just one of thousands of such forays each year in the Lions’





By the time Daniels and his party arrived, they still had 1,400 pair of eyeglasses. The party was well received – both for the glasses they brought and for their service in the country four decades earlier.

“Those kids were happy to see the glasses,” he said. “I had several older men thank me for trying to help them. The people in Viet Nam couldn’t have been nicer to us.”

After dispensing the glasses, Daniels had one more mission to accomplish—to make it back up to LZ Russell and revisit the mountaintop battleground that had been ringed with concertina wire to keep the North Vietnamese at bay.

They’d worked with the government to have guides take the three American veterans to the top of the mountain, where they planned to spend the night.

It was an arduous climb, taking the group four hours to ascend 1,200 feet. Daniels would walk 10 or 15 feet, gasp for air, rest, and do it again. At one point, the trail got so steep that one guide was in front of Daniels, pulling him up, while another was behind him, pushing to get him up the incline.

After making it to the summit, Daniels found the parapet where he was standing when the grenade exploded. They took pictures, and laid out a tarp down by the spot where they’d slept so many months in their hootches – make-shift lean-tos made from ammunition boxes and sandbags. Then the guides broke out a bottle of rice wine. They passed drinks around, with the Americans and Vietnamese communicating as best they could.

“They spoke in broken English and hand motions and asked us lots of questions,” says Daniels. “The three of us talked about the good times we had up there. We didn’t focus on the bad times. There were too many of them.”

Then Daniels took out his cell phone to call his wife of 30 years, half a world away in Georgia. The reception was clear—unlike the garbled voices he recalled hearing on the ham radio sets 40 years ago.

“I intend going back, and next time my wife is coming,” says Daniels. “If I can get them, I’ll be bringing glasses again too.” ■

(Photos) Daniels brought eyeglasses to those in need and discovered Vietnam all over again. (Top row, from left) Daniels visits a classroom to distribute eyeglasses. Drivers motor by the U.S. embassy. The kindergarten near LZ Russell was built by contributions from veterans. (Second row) Daniels enjoys a ride, poses at a tourist site and oversees the distribution of eyeglasses in a hotel lobby. (Third row) This monument is in Nha Trang. Daniels visits a church and tours a cemetery via an ox cart. (Fourth row) This village stands at the bottom of LZ Russell. Residents of Ho Chi Minh City grab eyeglasses. Villagers mingle at the bottom of LZ Russell.

MARCHING

INTO HISTORY

Blind Marching Band Part of Roses Parade

by Cliff Terry

Dedicated college football fans probably know that when Ohio State plays its home games, the marching band spells out "Script Ohio" to the tune of "Le Regiment de Sambre et Meuse." The crowd roars when a musician dots the i. But at other times in Columbus, another marching band employs a similar spelling drill. The unique difference is that it's called "Script Braille Ohio."



Band members, helped by marching assistants, put on a memorable show at halftime.

That's because the students are members of the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band—the only blind marching band in the country and, undoubtedly, the world.

Playing only since 2005, the band has been featured in newspapers and national network TV programs, and, incredibly, marched in the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena this January, the first blind marching band to do so. The trip was financed in large part by various Lions clubs in Ohio—another instance of Lion involvement with issues concerning eyesight.

Other “Marching Panthers” engagements in 2009 included Ohio School for the Deaf football games, the Millersport Corn Festival Parade, the Wellston Coal Festival Parade and the Circleville Pumpkin Show Parade.

They also performed at an Ohio State Skull Session (football pep rally) in 2008 before an audience of 12,000 Buckeye fans.

Carol Agler, music director at the Ohio State School for the Blind (kindergarten through high school), who is sighted, co-directs with technology instructor Dan Kelley, blind since birth. After starting a regular band program in 1998, Agler initiated the marching band in 2005 at the invitation of the Ohio School for the Deaf, also in Columbus. The school was reviving its football program after a 33-year hiatus. The marching band performed half-time shows at home games. “I jumped at the opportunity,” she says. “Our staff thought it was really cool. I’m not sure what other people thought about a blind marching band. I mean, I certainly thought, ‘How am I going to do it?’ ”



The marchers began with 13 members, and this year there are 34, with three alumni. Seven of the high school musicians and one alum are sighted, and the rest are totally blind.

Asked about people's initial reaction, Kelley answers, "Some humorous, some amazement: 'How can you do that?' 'How do you keep them from running into each other?' But it's been pretty positive for the most part. I really wasn't dubious because I marched in a high school band, and I wanted our kids to have that experience."

All right, so how *do* you keep them from running into each other? "Right away I realized we needed volunteer marching assistants placed beside or behind the members to avoid collisions," Agler says. "It was tough at first because the kids were hanging onto them instead of playing. I explain to the assistants that they'll have to guide them by putting hands on their shoulders, and if the kids really get independent, just hold onto loops on their band jackets."

The number of marching assistants varies. They include two grandparents, Agler's husband and daughter, a retired band director and even the man who directs the buses where to park at Ohio State football games.

"This is really a feel-good story, just such a wonderful thing," says Rondia Sexton, second vice president of the Millersport Lions Club. "The band makes people realize that we've come a long way since a blind child was locked away in a mental institution. It's just such a big honor for these kids to say, 'Wow, I'm involved in something like this.' They have such challenges in life anyway, and for them to get this extra opportunity, it shows the world that handicapped doesn't mean disabled."

Lou Mazzoli, retired superintendent of the Ohio State School for the Blind and a member of the Columbus Northeast Lions Club, agrees. "The stereotype is that you can't imagine blind kids playing in a marching band. So this really puts them on a level playing field with everybody else. It gives them a sense of self-pride and confidence."

"When people see us perform, they're amazed," says Sam Shepherd, a junior who plays trombone. "They're very proud of how hard we work. It's keeping me very busy throughout the year. I'm keeping in shape by being on the track team because the Rose

Parade is six miles long. The best thing is interacting with other band members. The hardest thing? Trying to keep my head still when I'm marching."

"It's given Sam more of an upbeat attitude," says his mother, Paula Shepherd. "Absolutely. He greatly values his participation in extracurriculars. It's a very good motivator to keep his grades up and stay on the straight and narrow. When people see the band for the first time, it brings them to tears. It also forces them to not knee-jerk react and say, 'Oh, a blind person can't do this.' It's also good for the marching assistants, especially the teenagers. They tend to be pretty self-centered, and the band causes them to be grateful for their own good health and sound eyes. This experience should instill a lifelong service commitment."

Misty Hatcher, a senior who plays trumpet, admits the best thing is "getting to be famous! And I don't want to let the rest of my friends down. It shows we can be sort of role models." Adds her mother, Annette Lutz, "Misty is very outgoing, so she just loves the whole thing. She says, 'We're like celebrities!' She's always had trouble not sticking to activities, but she really has given this 110 percent."

The cost of the trip to the Tournament of Roses Parade was estimated at \$115,000, covering new summer uniforms and expenses for band directors, members and marching assistants. Of that, the Lions pledged to raise \$80,000. A parent teacher-student organization at the school also raised money. (As a state agency, the school itself cannot ask for donations.) One club involved was Millersport Lions, which held an "Easter Bunny" breakfast and a district-wide spaghetti dinner and silent auction in April and set up a game booth at the annual Miller-sport Sweet Corn Festival in September.

Mazzoli was prominently involved in the fundraising efforts. "The school and the Lions have been working together for at least the



The discipline and hard work builds self-esteem, says band members and parents.



The stars of the game congratulate the stars of halftime.

last 15 years,” he says. “The Lions held district meetings at the school. When they heard the band was invited to the parade, it was a natural relationship. The Lion Foundation is a special fund that was set up to support the trip, with clubs throughout the state doing different projects.”

“I went to our governing board in the state, and requested that a subcommittee be set up to raise dollars to help the band,” says Ron Robbins, a member of the Dublin Lions Club in the Greater Columbus area and past district governor for District 13-F. “From that, we formed the Ohio Lion Foundation. I think this will certainly give clubs an opportunity in the future to assist the band. Maybe the kids will need five grand for instruments or whatever. So I see this definitely as an ongoing opportunity.”

“The Lions’ support has been wonderful,” says Agler. “The majority of our kids come from very poor families.

We simply couldn’t have done it without the Lions.” Adds Kelley, “The Lions certainly have done a lot to support us. They do a lot of work across the boards. When I was playing Beep Baseball [for the blind and visually impaired], the Lions around here would do a lot to help us out.”

Kelley conducts by focusing on the band’s drummers. “Two of them can see well enough so they can catch my tempo,” he says. “But I really don’t do a lot of conducting visually. I work on that stuff in rehearsals. Then pretty much all I have to do on the field is get them started, tell them what’s coming up next.”

When Kelley directs, he uses a computer program on his laptop called LIME, which allows him to play each part individually or play them altogether. He hooks up the computer to a Yamaha keyboard, so the youngsters can hear it. The musicians learn the music by using another

computer program, SmartMusic. The score is entered into FINALE, from which SmartMusic files are created. (FINALE is a music production software suite that allows one to produce a score in an electronic format.) The students can listen to their parts—the flute, the trumpet, whatever—or the entire band’s, slowing down the tempo as much as they want. They can also select sections to listen to over and over.

Agler says SmartMusic allows them to learn three times the amount of music in one week that it used to take three months to learn.

The parade opportunity happened when the Tournament of Roses was looking for unique marching bands and found the Ohio ensemble via

Google. The band submitted a video, and a Tournament representative told Agler, “I can’t promise you’ll be in it, but we’re curious to see what you do and how good you guys are.” They’d never had a blind marching band. “They’d never even *heard* of one,” Agler says, laughing. “The kids really rose to the occasion. I honestly thought, ‘How can they *not* choose us?’”

When they were selected, Agler was initially sworn to secrecy. Later, she arranged for an all-school assembly in the gym, allegedly to get everyone to sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” for a national certification project. “I had my cell phone hooked up to the sound system. It rang and everyone could hear the Tournament of Roses president saying, ‘I’m calling to congratulate you for being accepted to march in the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade.’ Well, the band members jumped to their feet, yelling and screaming. There were a lot of tears as well as cheers. It was fantastic.

“The band is important for our school, because of the school spirit it inspires, because of the unifying factor. There’s *nothing* like the power of a marching band—even a small marching band. Beyond that, it has expanded our blind and visually impaired students’ worlds. It has brought them to communities where they never would have been be-

fore. They have learned to negotiate all sorts of new settings and new people. They’re constantly with different marching assistants, they’re learning social skills, they’re learning to work together. They’re also learning to tie their shoes tightly, and they’re learning how to hang up band uniforms—which is a *real* challenge. They’ve got to learn to be organized, to put their things away so they can find them the next time.

To keep all their stuff together, and not get mixed up with somebody else’s so don’t have somebody else’s shoes on.”

“There’s a lot to be gained from this,” notes Kelley. “It’s not just playing music and marching. These kids are going to learn a lot of learning life skills doing this activ-



Band members cried when they discovered they were headed to the Roses Parade.

“The band is important for our school, because of the school spirit it inspires, because of the unifying factor.”

ity—team building, working with other people, self-discipline and time commitment, things like that. Things that they need to know to be successful when they get out of here. That’s my big-picture thinking: Laying down some foundations for later on. That being said, there’s a lot of responsibility on Carol and me and the kids to put a product out there that’s sharp, looks crisp and sounds good.”

“It’s influenced me because if you want to want to get something out of what you like to do, then you have to work for it,” says Macy McClain, a recent graduate who plays flute and piccolo.

“We want to be the best we can, and seeing that we’re blind, it puts more pressure on us to do good. Because a lot of people have a bad conception about blindness. So this is a way of changing their attitudes.”

One thing doesn’t change: the band plays the university’s signature song. Kelley explains: “We spell out ‘Ohio’ in Braille. Everybody comes out from the sidelines, turns out into lines and individually starts coming across. You have players in positions for the dots representing each Braille letter, like 3 for the H and 2 for the I.” Then, emulating their Ohio State counterparts, the tuba player marches over and, bowing, “dots” the i. The crowd roars. ■

‘Day I Became a LION’

Special Moments Make Membership Meaningful

by Pamela Mohr

Tom Harpst of Illinois recalls eating at a big round table in 2002 and sitting next to Cory, one of the participants at Camp Lions for the visually and hearing impaired. Cory had it tough. His vision was slowly getting worse, and he knew he'd never be able to get his driver's license. But he turned to Harpst and said, "Thank you, Mr. Lion. Thank you for letting me come to camp."

Harpst was stunned. "I have been a member of this organization since 1979 but that was the day I became a Lion. It made all the Candy Days, fish fries in the cold, pork chop sandwich sales and all the other projects I have worked on to help support our foundation and my home club worthwhile," says Harpst of the Mahomet Lions Club and 2008-09 District 1-E governor.

Many Lions discover the day they are inducted is not the same day they genuinely understand or appreciate what it means to be a Lion. For some, it takes years. For others, it's the first time they are thanked or the first smile on a child's face at a service project.

LION Magazine asked a few Lions to share their experiences on the day they truly became a Lion. It was the poet T.S. Eliot who once lamented that "we had the experience but missed the meaning." These Lions understand that service changed them as surely as it helped those they served.



When not enjoying all things related to Lions, Tom Harpst and his wife, Martha, ride motorcycles.



Jerry Loney shows why JR Juggles the Clown is a big draw.

Jerry Loney of Kansas was a clown before he was a Lion. Loney's alter ego is JR Juggles the Clown, who was "born" in 1983, 15 years before he became a Lion. But the laughter had died inside of Loney when he was devastated by his divorce. Then a friend asked him to come to a Lions meeting. Lions entered his life at a time when he really

needed to connect with people.

His "aha" moment as a Lion came on a service mission to Honduras in 2003 through VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity). The poverty was appalling. Loney stepped up. Not only did he help deliver and fit eyeglasses, he entertained at schools, medical clinics, daycare centers and orphanages. The kids "knew about clowns but had never actually seen one, and they were all over me, touching me to see if I was real or a cartoon character."

"This was the first time that I truly became a Lion," says Loney of the Topeka Sunflower Club. The visit "is the key to why I am a Lion and what it means to me to be able to help someone, or others, in need, whatever circumstances they find themselves in."

Loney uses his clown talents for Lions' purposes locally as well. He taught his balloon-twisting skill to members of his club, who since 2004 have morphed balloons into animal shapes as a fundraiser for Campaign SightFirst II. Held on the first Wednesday of every October, "Balloons Around the World," incidentally, is the designated date globally to raise funds for a charity of people's choice.

Clowning around as JR Juggles is "certainly a stress reliever," Loney says. He needs to balance his job at the Kansas Department of Revenue with being an advocate for divorced fathers, a part-time preacher and a full-time Lion. "Sometimes I think I do more volunteer service work than my regular job. I love it!" he says.



Pam Nichols and members of the Manchester Leo Club restock the shelves of a local food pantry after Leos organized a community drive.

When **Nick Landy** of New Jersey was a boy, he recalls walking with his mother and encountering people in yellow blazers with buckets asking for donations to help the sight impaired. Every contribution netted the donor a little white plastic cane, and Landy pestered his mom for loose change.



Nick Landy (center) stands with twins Tiago (left) and Rafael Viana, both recent college graduates who have been learning about community service by helping Landy and the Harrison Lions Club since they were seventh-graders.

In high school Landy was asked by a teacher to pick up a check from the Harrison Lions Club. The check was a donation from Lions so that Landy could attend a camp. While working a summer job, Landy met Augie Martinez, a Harrison Lion. He helped sell the club's raffle tickets for him. Martinez became his sponsor in 1992 when he inevitably joined the Harrison Lions. "I had finally come to realize what a great organization this was and how it helped so many people." Landy's membership, a long time coming, was a defining moment for him as he realized he could give back to the community what it had given him.

Landy has served as president of the Harrison Lions four times. A high school teacher and coach, he interprets his experiences as the Lions "circle of life." One of the greatest rewards comes "when I see the excitement of the students when they have done something good for their community. I have seen many kids step up and help with no questions asked." Not only is he guiding students into service as many of them assist Lions with fundraisers, he's also recruiting faculty. Amy Nicosia "has started her own little middle school army of students who help us on many occasions." And colleague Patti Gerris, the teacher who sent him to pick up that check so many years ago is now a Lion, recruited by Landy.

Some Lions jump in headfirst; others prefer to wade. **Pam Nichols** is a jumper. When asked to become a member of the Manchester Lions Club in Vermont last September, "I jumped at the chance," she says. Just a few months later, she was asked to become club secretary. "I crazily agreed to do so not realizing what I was getting myself into," she jokes.

The club hadn't been involved on the district level for a while but Nichols wanted to learn all she could so she invited president Garry VanSiclen to attend a district meeting. They drove an hour and a half to Plymouth, where they met the new 2008-09 district governor, Patrick McWilliams. "He very quickly asked

me questions about my goals in Lionism, and truthfully, I really didn't have any," she admits. "I just wanted to be a good secretary and learn all I could about it and the Lions. After all, I had only been a member for 10 months so what did I know about goals?"

The meeting was a turning point for Nichols. "I quickly began to realize that it didn't matter how much experience I had or what I had done in the past. I could be a good Lion, and after listening to District Governor Patrick, I realized I could go where I wanted to in the Lions club."

One of his goals was to have Leo clubs active in Vermont. "I didn't even know what one was," she says.

"But Governor Patrick did and he said he could help me find my path." Since she worked at the local high school, Nichols knew a lot of teens and understood how organizing a Leo club could be helpful not only to the students but also the community. That path she took led straight to chartering the Manchester Leo Club, the only one in Vermont. Nichols gives credit to McWilliams for her immersion and rapid involvement in Lions. "I was supported all the way." She does, in fact, admire him so much that she says she plans to pattern her Lions "career" after his and one day serve as governor.



Mel Samplawski shows off some of the pins he donated to the Calhoun Museum.

Melvin “Mel” Samplawski may be a little fuzzy on a single moment that defined his service, but that’s to be forgiven. After all, how can you choose a single illustration from a history of volunteerism stretching back 56 years? “There have been so many times I was proud to be a Lion that I can’t recall just one,” he says. The reason he did become a member, however, is that he was inspired by the Lions’ mission to help the visually impaired. His twin brother was blinded by shrapnel during World War II, and when he learned about the Lions’ dedication to sight, he was quick to join.

A member of the Chetek Lions Club in Wisconsin, he is a near legend for his vast collection of Lions pins—numbering between 6,000 and 7,000. They stand as reminders of all the Lions he has met and all the good that Lions do in the world. He admits that it may be time to slow down his pin collecting and trading now that he’s 86. He recently donated 400 pins to the Calhoun Memorial Museum in Chetek even though he was initially reluctant to part with them. His devotion to his club and community service has earned him another moniker around town: Mr. Lion. ■

Respite Camp Offers Families Peace of Mind

by Alecia Dimar



Kelsey poses with her counselors.

Since Kelsey was born in 1992, Dave Ring has led the life of a special needs parent. He wakes up early to bathe, dress and feed his daughter, now 17, before he gets himself ready and off to work. The day-to-day needs of caring for his daughter can be wearing. However, Ring has found a renewed sense of hope through Eden Wood Center's respite care program, which gives him an occasional break and sense of normalcy.

"What I love is that the staff knows this is a break for me and do not call unless there is an urgent need! The staff at Camp Eden Wood are trained well, have processes in place, and a fairly extensive history on my child—all before we show up," says Ring. "They know how to react to emergencies and they *do* call, but they take the necessary actions as needed. This is tremendous peace of mind for me as a parent."

Through support from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and local Lions, Eden Wood Center is able to host up to 30 special needs participants for overnight weekend stays and serves up to 900 campers annually. Eden Wood Center, established in 1925 in a southwest suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota, serves children and adults who have mental or developmental disabilities because of autism, cerebral palsy, brain injury, Down's syndrome, Tourette's syndrome and other medical conditions.

The camp is appreciated not only by caretakers but also

by the campers, of course. Eden Wood gives the special needs participants a fun-filled weekend away from home. Campers enjoy high-ropes courses, take nature walks, and create arts and crafts, in addition

to many other activities.

The recently renovated dormitory at the camp was funded through an LCIF grant. The dormitory had been inaccessible to people in wheelchairs and had no disabled-accessible restrooms.

"Before the dormitory was remodeled, with the help of LCIF, it was difficult to provide enough year-round housing and programs for people with disabilities," Ring says. "Now I need not have concern about having room for Kelsey in their program on weekends and at camp."

Eden Wood Center is part of the larger organization, Friendship Ventures, which has two other camps in the central Minnesota area that serve people with disabilities, Camp Friendship and Camp Hope. Friendship Ventures has a long history of support from LCIF, having received four grants totaling \$275,000 to support growth and expansion in the past decade.

Together, LCIF and local Lions are combating disability through continued support of Eden Wood Center and Friendship Ventures.



World Sight Day Celebrated

"It is to the credit of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Lions clubs around the world that Lions is the first service organization or non-governmental organization to take up the challenge of childhood blindness on a global scale," said Eberhard J. Wirfs, international president. "That's why we are spotlighting the need for screening children at a very early age."

There are 1.4 million blind children in the world, but the sight of many of these children could have been saved through early detection and timely treatment. To demonstrate the importance of early vision screening, Wirfs and his wife, Margit, joined Lions in Prague, Czech Republic, to screen 125 kindergarten children during the international event for Lions World Sight Day.

Czech Lions partnered with Prima Vizus and local ophthalmologists to provide the free screenings to children in two schools in Prague. Prima Vizus is a non-government, non-profit organization that provides free vision testing for preschool-aged children in the Czech Republic. With SightFirst funding from LCIF, the partnership program is continuing beyond Lions World Sight Day, with the goal of screening 7,794 children over the next year.

For the last decade Lions clubs have marked World Sight Day in October with sight activities in cities around the world. Recent international Lions World Sight Day events have been held on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, Mali, Bosnia and Sri Lanka.

This year the Bridlington Lions Club in England set up a community display highlighting Lions work internationally through SightFirst. They also organized England's largest blindfold walk. A total of 930 Lions clubs around the country as well as thousands of others donned a blindfold for the walk to experience what it's like to be blind.



Lions in St. Petersburg, Florida organized a community meeting to discuss new community sight programs such as eyeglass recycling, screenings, partnering and special needs. Representatives from the Florida Lions Camp, Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research, Southeastern Guide Dogs, Paws for Patriots and the Lighthouse of Pinellas at

Watson Center participated.

In Ghana, the Tema Lions Club conducted eye screenings for students of the Methodist University College and held seminars on emerging threats to sight, such as glaucoma. Several Lions clubs in Cameroon partnered to provide 100 pairs of eyeglasses to individuals and provide equipment to the Laquintini Hospital. Lions handed over the equipment during an official ceremony with the Minister of Health.

Lions in India created a special postal cancellation, and the Lions Club of Madras Temple Bay, in collaboration with Sankara Nethralaya and Scope Aid, organized a free eye camp for residents of Muthukadu and nearby villages with a special emphasis on women and children. Eleven cataract operations were also funded. The Singapore National Eye Centre teamed with local Lions to screen 200 people.

"We set up tables at two different stores and handed out information regarding Lions work with the visually impaired," said Marie Valliere of the Meredith Lions Club in New Hampshire. To promote the event, Lions sent a story to three local newspapers as well as the statewide paper, all of which published the story. The club is already making plans for Lions World Sight Day 2010.

Through SightFirst, Lions have restored sight to 7.6 million people through cataract surgeries, prevented serious vision loss for 30 million people and improved eye care services for hundreds of millions.



Activity Reports: Every Number Tells a Story

It's no secret that Lions are active in their communities. But because of the online activity report results submitted by 15,579 clubs for 2008-09, Lions now know just how busy they are performing a multitude of good works all over the world. And they are, indeed, staying active in a number of ways. Club secretaries are helping share valuable information not only about their activities, but also about the Lions who give so freely of their time to help others.

The numbers tell a stunning story of service: the average Lions club gave 819 volunteer hours in the community. That's more than a month's worth—34 days—of members' time given. An estimated worldwide total of 37 million hours of volunteer service was rendered by 45,645 clubs in 2008-09.

Recycled eyeglasses have helped millions of people see clearly. The clubs providing information indicated that their combined collections allowed 11,687,646 used eyeglasses to be put into use in areas of need around the world. Additionally, more than 7,000 hearing aids were collected and recycled.

Perhaps one of the most revealing discoveries is how many men, women and children benefit from Lions clubs activities. More than 353,096,667 million people have been positively affected by the reporting clubs. A total of 757,831 Lions participated in 165,338 reported service projects. Multiply this number several times and imagine the impact Lions are having worldwide.

The most common denominator shared by all clubs, however, is community service. Nearly 30 percent (49,058) of all clubs reported that hometown projects were the top activity, with youth services second at 22.5 percent. The reporting clubs stated that more than 37,300 projects were youth-related.

Projects involving sight awareness were the third most popular activity among clubs submitting online reports. A total of 27,732 activities, or 16.7 percent, were related to sight, showing that Lions still remain true to Helen Keller's plea to be "Knights of the Blind."

As the reports show, some activities, such as eyeglass recycling, are more popular in the United States. Lions are indeed thinking locally when responding to community needs, while also actively pursuing the larger mandate of sight awareness on every level—community, country and internationally.

Top Regional Projects

US & Affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas (5,746 clubs reporting)

- Eyeglass collection: 63%
- Vision screening: 44%
- Aid to the elderly: 41%
- Scholarships: 41%
- Food bank/food distribution/crop planting: 41%

Canada (726 clubs)

- Aid to the elderly: 53%
- Food bank/food distribution/crop planting: 52%
- Eyeglass collection: 51%
- Recreation/sports: 51%
- Aid to the disabled: 46%

South America, Central America, the Caribbean & Mexico (1,686 clubs)

- Aid to the elderly: 61%
- Vision screening: 46%
- Aid to the disabled: 38%
- Citizenship: 34%
- Assistance to a school: 32%

Europe (1,465 clubs)

- Aid to the elderly: 46%
- Aid to the disabled: 38%
- Culture/arts: 30%
- Scholarships: 27%
- Recreation/sports: 27%

India, South Asia, Africa & the Middle East (1,239 clubs)

- Tree planting: 40%
- Vision screening: 38%
- Aid to the disabled: 36%

- Aid to the elderly: 33%
- Education/literacy: 32%

Orient & Southeast Asia (3,658 clubs)

- Blood donations: 70%
- Community clean-ups: 59%
- Recreation/sports: 43%
- Drug awareness: 36%
- Aid to the disabled: 36%

Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia & the South Pacific (1,059 clubs)

- Aid to the elderly: 63%
- Disaster relief/Lions ALERT: 46%
- Recreation/sports: 44%
- Assistance to a school: 43%
- Cancer: 43%

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Vienna is the Venue

LIONS DAY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS 2010

Vienna, Austria, is the venue for the 32nd Annual Lions Day with the United Nations. The event will be held on Friday, March 26, 2010 at the United Nations Vienna International Centre. For three decades, the Lions of Vienna have organized an annual Lions Day with the United Nations event to celebrate the 65-year relationship between the two international organizations.

Lions International President Eberhard J. Wirfs of Germany invites Lions and guests to experience Lions Day with the United Nations in Vienna. "Vienna is one of the busiest cities in Europe with extremely attractive points of interest including music and shopping," said Wirfs.

Ranked among the best cities for quality of life, Vienna is the former home of musical composers Beethoven, Brahms, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Strauss. Today, the Austrian capital has more than 100 art museums. The city center is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage site.

The Vienna International Centre is located north of the Danube River. The modern complex houses the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Postal Administration.

Lions Day with the United Nations is an annual reminder that Lions leaders were invited to help write the non-governmental charter of a new organization to be known as the United Nations. Since 1945, the association has remained affiliated with United Nations humanitarian agencies through consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Each year the Lions international president appoints a Lion to represent Lions at United Nations offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. This year, all three of President Wirfs' appointees to the U.N.—Past International



Photo courtesy of the United Nations

President Joseph L. Wroblewski (New York office), Past International President Professor Dr. Giuseppe Grimaldi (Geneva) and Past International Director Ernst Musil (Vienna) – will attend Lions Day with the United Nations.

At 2 p.m. on March 26, Wroblewski, the event chairperson, will officially begin Lions Day with the United Nations 2010. Throughout the afternoon Wirfs and United Nations speakers will share insights about humanitarian service. The program will include a presentation to both the grand prize winner of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest and the Austrian contest winner. A musical performance is also planned.

Attendance at Lions Day with the United Nations is limited to the first 330 registrants. Pre-registration is required by United Nations Security. The registration form with payment information appears on the Lions Web site: www.lionsclubs.org. Special hotel rates are available. For information, contact: ldun@lionsclubs.org.

Kid Stuff

Tips For Managing A Club With Children



If your club roster is chock-full of families with children, give yourself a pat on the back. Your recruiting efforts are paying off, and you're probably having quite a bit of fun, as are Sheila Markham and the Brown Hills Lions Club in North Dakota. "It's loud and busy, sometimes downright crazy before we start our meeting and get things squared away," Markham says.

Children can offer a club loads of enthusiasm, but they also require plenty of attention and a different approach to how a club handles its business. Luckily, a few modest changes to a club's operations can make the experience a good one for all involved. The Membership Programs department at Lions Clubs International offers a Family Lions Cub Activity Guide that's perfect for learning how to work with youngsters, but here are a few key points to keep in mind for taking on kids in your club.

- **Be Patient.** Fresh from a sugar high of cereal snacks and juice and ready to take on the world, children can be a bustling and raucous bunch. Just remember—they're kids! Don't expect youngsters to be perfect little Lions, and prepare yourself for noise, laughter and a bit of disruption to the old routine. Just remember to go with the flow, smile and laugh along.

- **Plan Ahead.** Nary a child will be interested in the budget forecast for your club's public relations campaign, so make sure there's something to keep them engaged and interested while club members are handling business. Invest in school supplies—pads of paper, crayons, markers, glue, tape, string, popsicle sticks—and have a Lion volunteer to supervise a regular time for kids to create crafts. If you sense

right away that the energy level is a bit too high for focusing on crafts, consider a game involving physical activity like "Duck-Duck-Goose."

- **Get Them Involved.** While they may not be able to handle the responsibilities of an adult, get children involved and encourage their development by assigning reasonable tasks with realistic goals. "We had the kids do turkey drawings of their hands and let them help put together items for our Thanksgiving basket handout," says Anne Northrup, a member of the Windy City Lions Club in Chicago. "We wanted the project to be family friendly, so we invited the children of all the club's members." Encouragement and positive reinforcement are the keys. Setting and clearing dinner tables, organizing bingo cards and helping with cleanup projects are all activities that will build confidence and help your club at the same time.

- **Be Safe and Smart.** Every parent knows that without a routine or supervision, children can get into a bit of mischief. "We had a member's little boy come early to help set up for our meeting, and little did we know, he went off and accidentally locked the entrance to the community room," says Brad Miner of the South Laredo Lions Club in California. Keep in mind that some children might have special needs or medical or dietary restrictions. Speak with parents in advance of any activities isolated away from the regular club meeting, and get a written list of special needs and restrictions, if any, for each child before beginning.

Curious, fun and full of imagination, children can bring a spark of excitement to your club. Make a few simple adjustments, and the youngsters will be on their way.

All-Star Football Game Scores for Community Charities

by James Schweitzer



photo by Arnold Leos

The South offense prepares to run a play against the North defense.

More than 6,000 people were in the stands on a breezy summer evening along the Pacific Ocean to watch the exciting 50th Orange County North-South High School All-Star Charity Football Classic. Held at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California, fans saw an exciting offensive show in which the South Rebels easily rolled over the North Yankees, 38-21. The game was carried nationally on ESPNU and aired several times.

Sponsored by the 87-year-old Lions Club of Brea, California, the 2009 game raised \$45,000. The proceeds will be distributed among several designated charities including several for children. In the five decades since Brea Lions started sponsoring the all-star game, they've been able to distribute approximately \$2.3 million to organizations such as Services for the Blind, Blind Children's Learning Center, Little School of Touch and Sound, Orange County Special Olympics and Help for Brain Injured Children.

The game was originally the idea of Brea Lion Dick Tucker back in the late 1950s, a coaching legend at Brea Olinda High School. Lions were searching for a signature

fundraising event and Tucker suggested a high school all-star football game (to compete with the already established California Shrine Game), pitting the north schools against those in the south part of the county to raise funds for local youth charities as well as honoring the finest graduating seniors each year.

The 50th anniversary game honored some of the players from that first 1959 game in a pre-game ceremony. Lions also supplied a special 50th commemorative patch for all the players and coaches, an expanded and special game program and a unique line of caps and T-shirts. Fans were also treated to an intriguing coaching match-up: John Barnes of Los Alamitos High School and the winningest football coach in Orange County history, competed with his son, Brian of Tesoro High School, at 27 already one of the top head coaches in Southern California. The game marked the third time that the elder Barnes had coached the North squad. For his son, it brought back fond memories of serving as the ball boy for his dad in the 1989 game and playing in the game when he came of age in 1997.

Snack Stand a Hit — and Not Just with Humans

When Independence, Kansas, Lions took over a concession stand at Riverside Park and Zoo, a 124-acre park owned and operated by the city, they vowed to give visitors the best food they could as well as keep them coming back for more. Five years after taking over the abandoned building, now named the Lions Den, their strategy has worked so well that one of their best repeat customers is a peacock who lives at the park.

Lions sell reasonably-priced food including hot dogs, nachos, cotton candy, snow cones, ice cream, soft drinks, peanuts and the peacock's favorite, popcorn. The monkeys who live next door at Monkey Island are "particularly fond of the peanuts," Lee Cain points out diplomatically.

Humans, too, seem to be partial to Lions' food. Last year the club made \$12,300 after expenses and the stand has steadily been a profit-maker for Lions, who had to invest considerable effort to get it into optimal shape before taking over its operation. Members of the 87-year-old club take turns volunteering there so funds can be directly recycled back into the community instead of paying staff. For the past four years, Lions have helped support a local dentist's mission to Jamaica by providing a new dental chair, medical and dental supplies and even books for schoolchildren there.

Kiddyland, a fairy tale-themed playground for toddlers and tots at Riverside Park, was built by Lions in 1961. A favorite place for children's birthday parties and field trips at the end of the school year, it features 45 separate concrete, fiberglass and stone structures. The large castle complete with moat and bridge is probably the hands-down favorite for kids, says Tom Henrichs, who with wife, Karen, and a Lions work crew helps paint and keep Kiddyland's attractions in top condition.

And it's not just the little ones whose shouts of joy can be heard as they race around the playground. Peals of laughter are plentiful from parents and grandparents, who often thank Lions for helping make more happy memories for another generation of children.



Tom Henrichs feeds the park's peacock after its customary stop for leftover popcorn at the end of the day.

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The International Association of Lions Clubs
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - GENERAL FUND
 June 30, 2009
 All Figures Shown in U.S. Dollars
 (thousands)

ASSETS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 21,329 |
| Accounts Receivable | 99 |
| Other Current Assets | 3,084 |
| Marketable Securities | 62,007 |
| Property and Equipment, Net | 8,992 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Total assets | \$ 95,511 |
|---------------------|------------------|

CURRENT LIABILITIES

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Accounts Payable | \$ 3,503 |
| Interfund Payable | 17,202 |
| Accrued Expenses | 5,492 |
| Accrued Post-retirement Benefits | 298 |
| Other Current Liabilities | 300 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Total current liabilities | \$ 26,795 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Self-insurance Reserve | \$ 6,567 |
| Accrued Post-retirement Benefits | 1,606 |
| Pension Liability | 19,332 |
| Other Non-current Liabilities | 133 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total non-current liabilities | \$ 27,638 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|

NET ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning of Year | \$ 59,382 |
| Revenue over Expenditures | (5,840) |
| Pension Liability Adjustment | (12,464) |
| End of Year* | \$ 41,078 |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 95,511 |
|---|------------------|

* Does not include constitutionally restricted Emergency Reserve Fund balance of \$48,673
 The Lions Clubs International audited annual report is available upon written request.
 Contact us at e-mail: finance@lionsclubs.org, fax: 630-706-9187
 Mail: 300 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523

The International Association of Lions Clubs

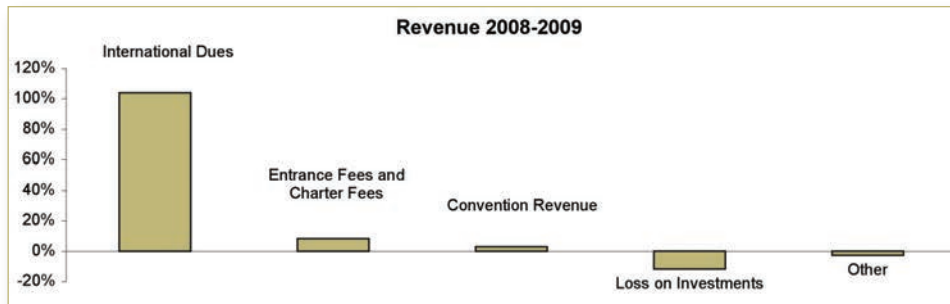
Revenue and Expenditures - General Fund Year Ended June 30, 2009

All Figures Shown in U.S. Dollars (thousands)

Revenues declined by US\$10.3 million as compared to prior year, primarily due to poor investment results, loss on currency exchange and lower convention revenue. The General Fund and Emergency Reserve Fund posted investment losses of (9.1%) and (16.71%), respectively, for the year ended June 30, 2009. The Association's investment performance exceed funds with similar size and objectives.

REVENUE 2008-2009

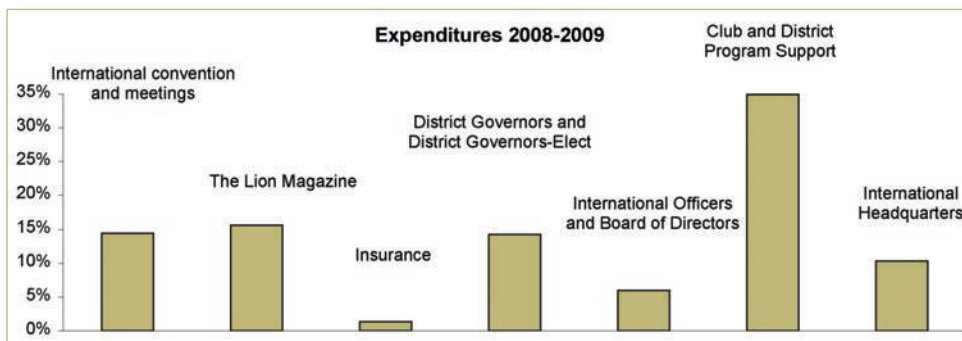
| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| International Dues | \$ 50,693 | 104% |
| Entrance Fees and Charter Fees | 3,982 | 8% |
| Convention Revenue | 1,317 | 3% |
| Loss on Investments | (5,761) | -12% |
| Other | (1,391) | -3% |
| Total | \$ 48,840 | 100% |



Expenses exceeded prior year by US\$222,000 due to increased program support and increased allowance for bad debt, offset by decreased general liability insurance. The general liability insurance reduction reflects favorable experience.

EXPENDITURES 2008-2009

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| International convention and meetings | \$ 7,870 | 14% |
| The Lion Magazine | 8,504 | 16% |
| Insurance | 714 | 1% |
| District Governors and District Governors-Elect | 7,751 | 14% |
| International Officers and Board of Directors | 3,256 | 6% |
| Club and District Program Support | 20,371 | 37% |
| International Headquarters | 5,613 | 10% |
| Uncollected Dues | 602 | 1% |
| Total | \$ 54,681 | 100% |



23rd Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Vision of Peace



Sponsor a Lions International Peace Poster Contest and join clubs worldwide in sharing children's visions of peace with your community.

How the Contest Works

Lions clubs sponsor the contest in a local school or organized youth group. The contest is open to students 11-13 on November 15, 2010. Participating students are asked to create posters visually depicting the contest theme, "Vision of Peace."

One winner for each contest sponsored by a club is chosen to advance to the district governor for judging. On the district level, one winner is selected to go on to the multiple district competition and from there one winner is forwarded to International Headquarters for the final judging. Entries are judged at all levels on originality, artistic merit and portrayal of theme.

During the final judging, 23 merit award winners and one grand prize winner are chosen to represent the many entries submitted from around the world.

Awards

Artists of posters advancing to the final international judging are recognized as follows:

- **International Grand Prize Winner** receives a trip to the award ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations (subject to change). At the ceremony he/she will receive a cash award of US\$5,000 (or local equivalent) and an engraved plaque. Two family members (one being the winner's parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring Lions club president or a club member (as designated by the club president) will accompany the winner to the award ceremony. The award ceremony is scheduled for March 2011.
- **23 Merit Award Winners** each receive a cash award of US\$500 (or local equivalent) and a certificate of achievement.

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How to Enter

Lions clubs must order a Peace Poster Contest kit from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters. Available in all 11 official languages, it costs US\$9.95, plus shipping, handling and applicable taxes. Each kit contains everything your club needs to sponsor one* school or organized, sponsored youth group:

- **Official Club Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Participant Flyer** may be duplicated and given to each participating student to take home
- **Sticker** to place on back of winning poster
- **Certificates** for contest winner and school or youth group

**Clubs can sponsor more than one contest in either the same or multiple school(s) and/or youth group(s) by purchasing more than one kit. Clubs will send one poster per each contest sponsored to the next level of judging.*



Kits are available January 15 – October 1, 2010.
Purchase your kit early to allow adequate time for shipment and contest planning.

To order the Peace Poster Contest kit (PPK-1) submit the form below, order through the online Lions Store (Item search: Peace Poster Kit) or call Club Supplies at (630) 571-5466 or (800) 710-7822 (U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada only).

Visit www.lionsclubs.org for more contest information, deadlines, to send a Peace Poster e-card and view past finalists' posters.

Ship order to:

Name _____

Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Zip Code _____ Country _____

Daytime Phone # (Required) _____

E-mail Address _____

Postage/handling Charges:

United States - Postage/handling charges will be added at the time of processing your order. An additional charge will be added if second day service is required.

Overseas - Postage/handling charges will be added at the time of processing your order. Additional charges for duty/taxes may be required upon receipt of your order. We are not responsible for any additional charges imposed by customs.

Sales Tax:

We are obligated to charge sales tax in Illinois and Canada.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA
SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 4, 2009

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the June 30, 2009, Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation Audit Reports.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Approved use of “one adult companion” or other appropriate variations to replace “spouse” in the association’s policies, procedures and practices, effective immediately, and to be implemented as soon as administratively feasible and to the fullest extent possible.
2. Authorized the General Counsel & Secretary to file legal action and continue defense with respect to a liability claim.
3. Approved housekeeping revisions to Chapter XV, Exhibit A of the Board Policy Manual.
4. Approved revisions to Chapter XV, Exhibit G of the Board Policy Manual to include Leo club members in the Privacy Policy.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Established a Leo registration fee for the 2010 Sydney convention of US\$10 for Leos 12-17 years of age and US\$80 for Leos 18-30 years of age.
2. Established the per diem allowances for the 2010 Sydney convention.
3. Modified the time preference for the start date of future international convention bids.
4. Modified the days the convention hall is required for international conventions.
5. Revised the certification process by discontinuing the mailing of Delegate/Alternate Delegate forms to club secretaries and, in its place, publishing the form on LCI's Web site, including the form with convention registration confirmations, and publishing the form in the February and April editions of the Lion Magazine. The second vice district governor was added as an authorized signer on-site at the international convention.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Canceled the Guayaquil Urdesa Norte Lions Club with regret.
2. Appointed Past District Governor Joaquim Gasper de Melo Albino to fill the District Governor vacancy in District 115 CN Portugal.
3. Recognized Qingdao China as a new provisional district at the close of the 2010 International Convention.
4. Appointed Coordinating Lions for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
5. Approved the redistricting proposals submitted by Multiple District 5 (Canada, USA), Multiple District 355 (Korea), District 307-A (Indonesia) and District 301-B (Philippines).
6. Changed the Service Award to the Club Rebuilding Award to recognize Lions who bring a club out of status quo, suspension, cancellation or rebuild a weak club that has fewer than 15 members to become active and viable with more than 20 members.
7. Provided a certificate of merger upon request when a club merges.
8. Expanded the role and responsibility of the second vice district governor to underscore the need to assist clubs in financial suspension.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the 2009-2010 1st Quarter Forecast, reflecting a surplus.
2. Approved The Charles Schwab Trust Company as the custodian of the Retirement Income Plan for Employees of the International Association of Lions Clubs and The International Association of Lions Clubs 401(k) Savings Plan assets.
3. Requested Constitution and By-Laws Committee draft a resolution to move the dues from the International Constitution to the International By-Laws to present to the 2010 International Convention for adoption.
4. Modified the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee objectives, requisite and duties.
5. Modified board policy regarding the opening of new bank accounts.
6. Modified board policy to require that five-year budgeted projections be reviewed annually at the October/November board meeting to determine if a dues adjustment may be necessary.
7. Approved minor clarification to board policy regarding a day of rest.

LCIF

1. Revised the asset allocation for LCIF funds held to support charitable gift annuities and permanent endowments.
2. Approved a re-programming of activities for a grant awarded to The Carter Center for Onchocerciasis Elimination in Program in the Americas (OEPA). At the request of The Carter Center, rescinded a grant for trachoma control in Mali and Niger.
3. Renewed a three-year contract with the World Health Organization for SightFirst technical services in the amount of US\$1,481,430.
4. Approved a grant in the amount of US\$1,000,000 to extend the Lions-Special Olympics Opening Eyes program.
5. Approved 46 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totaling US\$2,180,468.
6. Tabled six grant applications.
7. Revised the seed grant program criteria and regulations.
8. Adopted resolutions required for the filing of a “branch office” application and for seeking necessary approvals of the Reserve Bank of India for the operations of the foundation’s Mumbai, India office.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. Approved the schedule and curriculum for the 2010 District Governors-Elect Seminar.
2. Approved the group leader for the Chinese-speaking classroom group of the 2010 District Governors-Elect Seminar.
3. Approved the group leader for one of the Spanish-speaking classroom groups of the 2010 District Governors-Elect Seminar.
4. Shifted responsibility for approval of proposed District Governors-Elect Seminar faculty appointments and any subsequent changes from the International Board of Directors in June/July or October/November to the Executive Committee in August.
5. Removed the section of the Board Policy Manual related to the Regional Faculty Development Institute program, which was discontinued in July 2009.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Modified the structure and process for appointing a China Affairs Coordination Committee.
2. Modified the structure of the Lions Exploratory Steering Committee for Cuba.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Established a process for existing Lion members to update their member type to Leo Lion. A copy of the Leo Completion of Service Certification (LEOCMC) and Student Member and Leo to Lion Certification Form (STU-5) must be submitted.
2. Eliminated the position of Club Branch Coordinator and Vice Coordinator and created the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. Approved club branch president to serve on the parent club board of directors.
4. Approved the requirement of five members to establish a club branch.
5. Approved the requirement of clubs to be in existence a year and a day before an extension award is presented to club organizer(s).
6. Approved the issuing of the District Governor award for new club formation to the Immediate Past District Governor after June 1 following their year of service.
7. Approved the Rules of Audit for the 2009-2010 Global Membership Team to reflect the change in the North American airline reservation procedure.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Added US\$150,000 to public relations budget for advertising outside the United States.
2. Increased Presidential Medals to 1,125 and increase Leadership Award Medals to 1,280.
3. Eliminated the Photography Contest and the PR Idea Contest.
4. Encouraged official editions of Lion Magazine to reflect the new brand and enforce compliance of administrative and editorial policies.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Named Leos and Lions who shall serve as members and alternates of the Leo Club Program Advisory Panel for fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

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

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**, members of the Petit Juan and San Juan/Barataria Lions Clubs visited three facilities early Christmas morning. Wearing Santa hats, Lions filled five cars with members to visit a home for the elderly, an orphanage and a group home for mentally impaired women. Putting their own holiday celebrations on hold for several hours, Lions brought with them loads of gifts and holiday treats.

In **KILLEEN, TEXAS**, Noon Lion and optometrist Dr. John "Doran" Deapen helped a boy born without a left eye receive surgery to improve his physical appearance and comfort. Turned down by state agencies for corrective surgery, the youngster's family turned to Dr. Deapen and Lions. Dr. Deapen found a reconstructive surgeon in Austin who agreed to perform a successful procedure free of charge.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PHILIPPINES, Lions rushed to the rescue of 200 men, women and children who lost their belongings when flooding struck the area. Some of the most eagerly anticipated gifts were clothing and bedding since residents fled their homes with only the clothing they were wearing and were forced to seek shelter in emergency evacuation centers.

Several Lions were among 1,000 volunteers from across the United States who helped build a memorial chapel on the site where four youths lost their lives in 2008 in Little Sioux, Iowa, when a tornado ripped through a Boy Scout camp. Organized by the New York Says Thank You Foundation, the group organizes a project each year as a way for New Yorkers to show gratitude for the help the city received after 9/11.

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Download Strides publications on the Web at www.lionsclubs.org



strides
LIONS WALK FOR DIABETES AWARENESS

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, Lions sponsor a project that does double duty in the community. Local elementary school students who donate aluminum cans for recycling receive books for their assistance. Lions have collected more than one million cans for recycling as they help foster the joy of reading in the decade-long program.

Multiple District 31 in **NORTH CAROLINA** sponsored its annual Lions VIP Fishing Tournament in October, during which 550 blind and visually impaired people participated in the three-day event on the Outer Banks. More than 250 Lions and volunteers helped out at the tournament, which originally started 29 years ago with Lions hosting 12 children.

SAUCON VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA, Lions organize three blood drives annually to coincide with other community projects they sponsor in order to maximize blood donations and promote the club.

The **GALENA, ILLINOIS**, Lions Club sponsored an Oktoberfest attended by more than 2,000 people—and 54 dogs. The festivities included “wiener dog” races, polka lessons, German food and drink, live music and a raffle for a trip for two to Germany. Lions used some of the proceeds to donate \$3,000 to an area food pantry.

CARLSBAD DOWNTOWN, NEW MEXICO, Lions place flags on several routes in their community on all nine national holidays as a fundraiser. For a \$30 annual fee, flags can be contracted to be displayed at businesses and residences. Lions put up, took down and stored flags for 350 locations in 2009.

SOUTH ANNE ARUNDEL, MARYLAND, Lions sponsored their annual campfire for the deaf and blind, complete with s’mores and popcorn cooked over an open fire. The event started in 1998 with six campers but grew in 2009 to include 42.

Hundreds of people attended the 12th Senior Living Expo sponsored by the **APPLETON NOON, WISCONSIN**, Lions Club. Visitors were able to receive free health tests as well as attend seminars to learn about Social Security changes, health care and preventing identity theft and scams. More than 60 booths offered information regarding “life after 50.”

AKAKA FALLS, HAWAII, Lions sponsored vision screening for 38 children between the ages of three and four who were enrolled at a daycare facility. One child who was tested by Lions in 2008 was referred to an eye specialist and was retested successfully this year because of early intervention.

INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director **E. Robert “Bob” Lastinger**, who served on the International Board of Directors from 2003-05, has died. A Plant City, Florida, Lion since 1970, he served as president of both the Florida Lions Camp and the Florida Lions Foundation. In addition to serving on all levels of the association, Past Director Lastinger was also involved in many other civic and professional organizations.

Past International Director **Donald K. McGee**, of Bella Vista, Arkansas, has died. A member of the Davenport Breakfast Lions Club in Iowa when he was elected to serve on the board from 1991-93, he was the recipient of numerous community and Lions awards. In addition to his Lions responsibilities, Past Director McGee had also served as a member of the Davenport City Council.

Past International Director **Hans Jürg “H. J.” Schlaefli**, who served on the International Board from 1991 to 1993, has died. He was founding president of the Berne-Grauholz Lions Club in Switzerland, owned a management company and was active in many community and civic organizations.

NEWS FOR LEOS

The LeoMMR is now live. This new monthly membership Web site just for Leos provides the option for Leo clubs, districts and multiple districts to maintain Leo membership data and run monthly reports. It also allows International Headquarters to communicate directly with Leos. For further information about the LeoMMR, contact the Youth Programs Department at leommr@lionsclubs.org.

A new Facebook Fan Page just for the Leo Club program has been created. Become a fan—you’ll have access to frequent updates from the Youth Programs Department as well as the opportunity to communicate with other Leos from around the world.

MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR CONVENTION

Lions Clubs International does not provide medical insurance coverage to its members for travel to and from or during the international convention. Please carefully examine your own situation, and that of family members, to be sure you have sufficient medical insurance coverage.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All visitors to Australia (other than New Zealand passport holders who will normally be issued a Special Category visa on arrival, provided they meet health and character requirements, and permanent residents of Norfolk Island, who may be granted a Permanent Resident of Norfolk Island visa on arrival) must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia. The passport you hold determines whether you can apply online or if you need to submit a paper-based application. For details, visit the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/>.

HIRED BANDS, BAND HOUSING AND FLOATS

If your delegation wants to hire a band, requires band housing or information on floats, please contact and complete arrangements directly with: Hired

Bands: PDG John Fullarton, (jandrfullarton@ozemail.com.au); Band Housing and Floats: Allan Drew (adrew@allandrewfunerals.com.au).

GUIDE DOGS

Import conditions for disability assistance dogs vary depending on the country of export. The dog and handler must meet eligibility criteria and the dog must accompany the disabled person into Australia.

All dogs entering Australia require an import permit to be granted by the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS) prior to export, which can be submitted electronically. The application form is made up of three steps:

- Step 1 requires importer and exporter details
- Step 2 requires animal and transport details
- Step 3 requires supporting documentation and importer declaration.

On Arrival in Australia an AQIS officer will check all documentation and examine your dog. If the documentation is incomplete or if the dog is showing signs of disease, the AQIS officer may order the dog into quarantine or order the dog to be exported.

For application forms and information, visit <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/cat-dogs/assistance/info-sheets>

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 |

FOR THE RECORD

As of October 31, 2009, Lions Clubs International had 1,327,473 members in 45,696 clubs and 743 districts in 205 countries and geographic areas. There were 301,816 Melvin Jones Fellowships and 54,452 Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships as of that date.

Join Other Lions Departing July 22, 2010

Waikiki & Maui

8 Days from **\$879***

Join other Lions this summer in paradise! Start on the island of Oahu; stay on the beach in Honolulu on the most famous beach in the world, Waikiki! Spend 4 nights, and from walking distance of your deluxe hotel enjoy the fabulous beaches, exciting nightlife, great cuisine, exceptional shopping, and captivating cultural sites. Included is a guided tour including the Iolani Palace, Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor. Your escort will transfer you to the airport for your short flight to Maui. Stay three nights in a Kaanapali Beach condominium resort; close-by is the whaling village of Lahaina. Included is a guided tour of Maui, including the Iao Valley. Includes escort, deluxe hotels, interisland flights, escorted sightseeing and baggage handling. *Add \$149 tax, service, gov't. fees. Airfare is extra.

Join Other Lions in the Cooler Mountains Departing July 14, 2010!

U.S. + Canadian Rockies

14 Days from **\$1299***

New and improved for 2010! YMT's revised tour of the US and Canadian Rockies begins in Denver, Colorado! Drive through Denver, then head north on US 25 through northern Colorado to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Travel through the Black Hills of South Dakota to Rapid City. Visit Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorials and more of the Black Hills on this full day of sightseeing. Next, Billings, MT via Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane's Deadwood, and Custer's Battlefield at the Little Big Horn. The next two days finds you in Yellowstone National Park where you'll see geysers, hot springs "Mud Volcano" and famous "Old Faithful." From West Yellowstone, you'll take a scenic drive through the US Rockies and Montana into Canada. In Alberta en route to Calgary, you'll visit Lethbridge, Ft. Macleod, "Heads-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump," and Waterton Lakes National Park. Calgary is in the heart of the Canadian Rockies where you'll see it all! You'll visit Banff National Park, Banff town site (one night), Lake Louise, Bow Falls, Jasper National Park, Jasper town site (one night), The Columbia Ice Fields, and take a sno-coach ride over a glacier. Cross over the Continental Divide, to British Columbia, travel through Yoho National Park to Golden, BC. Visit the Radium Hot Springs at Kootenay National Park and travel down the western slope of the Canadian Rockies into Washington for a night in Spokane. Your last night will be in Seattle, and on the way, you'll visit The Grand Coulee Dam and Dry Falls before the scenic drive through the Wentchee Mountains to Seattle. Wow! *Price per pers., dbl. occ.; plus \$149 tax, service, gov't fees. Airfare is extra. Extend your flights by one or two days in Denver or Seattle free!

Join Other Lions Departing October 3, 2010

Ancient Egypt

10 Days from **\$1399***

Tour Cairo (city tour); visit the Egyptian Museum; explore Giza; the Pyramids of Giza, Sphinx, the Great Pyramid and Memphis, Sakkara, and more. Take a first class sleeper train to Aswan, plus a 4-day Nile Cruise aboard the *ms Crown Jewel*. Visit temples at Kom Ombo, Isis, Osiris, cross the locks on the Nile in Esna, and sail to Luxor. Visit the West Bank, Thebes, Karnak area, and stay at a Hurghada beach front resort on the Red Sea. Spend your final night in Cairo for a last day of shopping or sightseeing before your flight home from Cairo. 18 meals included. *Price per pers., dbl. occ., plus \$317 tax, service, visa & gov't fees. Airfare is extra.

Lions Clubs Int'l. not responsible for any losses incurred. Friends and family welcome.

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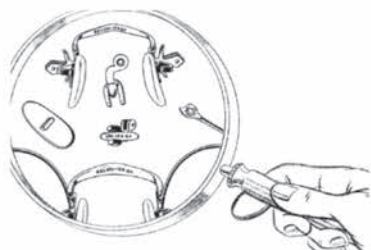
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DONOR PROFILE

Name: Kristinn Hannesson, District

Governor, 109 B (Iceland)

Lions since: 1986

Profession: Electrician

Member of: Mosfellsbæjar Lions Club

**How did your club become a Campaign
SightFirst II Model Club?**

"I asked them as a CSFII Sector Coordinator to do it and they agreed. Originally, our club agreed to donate US\$400 (per member), and then the fundraising went well, and they decided to do more. Our total donation was US\$52,000 – more than US\$2,000 per member."

How did you and your club feel about this?

"Very proud. We are also very proud of being the second highest club in Europe for CSFII – by our per-member average."

**How did you and your wife make large
contributions to CSFII through your clubs?**

"Being a CSFII coordinator (2005 – 2008), I realized how great LCIF is. That's also when I decided that I would not have a party for my 50th birthday. Instead, the



Kristinn Hannesson and his wife,
Dagny Finnssdottir

estimated cost of that party would go to LCIF marked for CSFII, so in late August 2007 I donated US\$17,000 in my club's name. When [my wife] Dagny [a member of the Mosfellsbæjar UA Lions Club] turned 50, she decided to have a party. She invited a lot of people and told them that she didn't need any gifts but there would be a CSFII 'moneybox' at the party. In 2008 she donated a total of US\$3,470 in her club's name."

CALENDAR

2010 UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

EYE DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

JANUARY 1

New Peace Poster kits available through
Club Supplies Sales

JANUARY 9

Application deadline for Winter 2009
Standard, Core 4 and IAG Grants

JANUARY 10-16

LCIF Week

JANUARY 11-14

Executive Committee Week Meetings
OAK BROOK, IL

JANUARY 13

Melvin Jones' birthday

JANUARY 15

Deadline for districts to submit a single
Lions Environmental Photo Contest
entry to the multiple district

JANUARY 19-23

FOLAC Forum
SALTA, ARGENTINA

JANUARY 22-25

Faculty Development Institute/Australia,
New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, In-
donesia and Islands of the Pacific Ocean
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 1

Senior Lions Leadership
Institute/ISAMME
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1

International Peace Poster Contest win-
ners will be notified on or before this date

FEBRUARY 10

Standard, Core 4 and IAG grant
application deadline for review at
the April 2010 board meeting

FEBRUARY 12-15

Faculty Development Institute/Europe
BERN, SWITZERLAND

FEBRUARY 19-22

Faculty Development Institute/USA, Affil-
iates, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Canada
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

ANNIVERSARIES OCTOBER 2009

85 Years: Richmond Noon, IN; Hays, KS; Marietta Noon, OH; Bloomfield and Montclair, NJ; Tillsonburg, ONT., CAN.

80 Years: Haleyville, AL; Northwood, IA; Odon and Spencer, IN; Thurmont, MD; Ridgewood-Glendale-Middle, NY; Wakita, OK; Wellsboro, PA; Wautoma, WI; Ravenswood, WV; Plainview, TX.

75 Years: Dawson, GA; Chicago Englewood, IL; Benton Harbor Fairplain, MI; Mount Desert Island, ME; Falls City, NE; Huntington, NY; East Greenwich, RI; Carrollton Host, TX.

50 Years: Fresno Breakfast, CA; Danville and North Aurora, IL; Rockville, MO; New Lothrop, MI; Stephen, MN; Morrisville, NY; Pemberton Township, NJ; Pinchot Park, PA; Providence Silver Lake, RI; Terrace Downtown, BC, CAN; Kennebecasis, NB, CAN; Metcalfe District, Marathon, Sioux Lookout and Vermilion Bay, ONT., CAN.

25 Years: Miami Managua, FL; Ponchatoula, LA; Dawson, MN; Wheeling Island, WV; Elgin Evening, TX.

DECEMBER 2009

85 Years: Palestine, IL; Forsyth, MT; Coatesville Area and Stroudsburg, PA; Atlantic Highlands and Nutley, NJ; Port Washington, NY; Thermopolis, WY; Buckhannon, WV; Seaforth, ONT., CAN.

80 Years: Cut Bank, MT; Seiling, OK; Lovelock and Winnemucca Host, NV; Brownfield, TX; Panguitch, UT; Montgomery, WV.

75 Years: New Bedford, MA and Logan, UT.

50 Years: Romey, IN; Dixie Inn, LA; Cashtown Community, PA; Springtown, TX; Prescott District, WA; Leader, SK, CAN.

25 Years: Prescott Valley Early Bird, AZ; Holiday Polonian, FL; Flatwoods, KY; New York Cuban, NY; Versailles, IL; Gray New Gloucester, ME; Pillager & Area and Wannaska, MN; Dallas Indian and Marble Falls Noon, TX; Ashland, WI; Sweaburg & Dist., ON, CAN; Bowsman & Dist., MB, CAN.

JANUARY 2010

85 Years: Murphysboro, IL; Germantown-Mount Airy Ch and West Chester, PA; Decatur and Victoria, TX; Stratford, ONT., CAN.

80 Years: Trumann, AR; Indianola, IA; Jetmore and Washington, KS; Hamilton, MT; Red Cloud, NE; Waverly and Harrison, NY; Tremonton, UT; Marinette, WI; Milton, WV.

75 Years: Winter Haven, FL; Buena Vista, GA; Dunkirk and Gaston, IN; Altavista, VA; Washington Island, WI; Toronto Beaches, ONT., CAN.

50 Years: West Covina, CA; Orchard Mesa, CO; Maple Park, IL; Shell Lake and Jim Falls, WI; North River Community, MA; Granville, NY; Slaton and San Angelo Southside, TX.

25 Years: Show Low, AZ; Clutier, IA; Ashmore,

IL; Cormorant and Greenbush-Badger, MN; West Charlotte, NC; Cuba, NY; Deshler, NE; Wausau Big Bull Falls and Lake Wisconsin, WI; South Junction and Area Pin, MB, CAN.

HIGHER KEYS MARCH 2009

Ambassador Key (150)

- Lion Herbert Stevens, Paoli Meridien, Indiana

Key of State (75 Members)

- Lion Robert Haskell, Rapid City, South Dakota
- Lion Bijoy Agarwal, Tinsukia, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Sheikh Riaz Mahmood, Multan City, Pakistan
- Lion Donnie Rife, Clintwood, Virginia
- Lion Milton Kuehn, Fall Creek, Wisconsin
- Lion S. K. Verma, Faridabad Metropolitan, India
- Lion Dr. T.V.S.R.K.V. Prasad, Piler, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Sheikh Riaz Mahmood, Multan City, Pakistan
- Lion Ben Mayer, Lena, Illinois
- Lion Orlando Pecora, Golden District, B. C., Canada
- Lion Chang Uy Hong, Port Coquitlam, Tri City Korean, B. C., Canada
- Lion William Coffman, Woodstock, Virginia
- Lion Brady Justice, Indianapolis Downtown, Indiana
- Lion Fred Lafever, West Plains, Missouri
- Lion Esther Louie, Las Vegas Summerlin, Nevada

- Lion Danilo Sanchez, Balagtas Metro Bulacan Sunrise, Philippines
- Lion Dr. Sayed Hussain, Karachi Homeo, Pakistan
- Lion Arshi Naqvi, Karachi Clifton, Pakistan
- Lion Noorus Sayam Noor, Karachi Laureates, Pakistan
- Lion Rajenda Gupta, Allahabad City, India
- Lion Harish Agarwal, Indore Planet, India
- Lion Rajnikant Shah, Jaora, India
- Lion S. Britto Amalraj, Dindigul, India

HIGHER KEYS SEPTEMBER 2009

Ambassador Key (150 Members)

- Lion Herbert Schneider, Sheboygan Evening, Wisconsin

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Abdul Bhatti, Sialkot Al-Kamal, Pakistan
- Lion R. P. Pandey, Kharghar, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Al Satake, Berkeley, California
- Lion Judith Ma, Los Angeles Chinese, California
- Lion James Muscoreil, Wilson, New York
- Lion Isabella Azze, Miami Cuban, Florida
- Lion Paul Baber, Winchester, Kentucky
- Lion Binod Barnwal, Durgapur, India
- Lion S. Swaminathan, Coimbatore Noble Hearts, India
- Lion Bharat Dhungel, Lalbandi, Nepal

Because of early publication deadlines, LION Magazine does not include the most current list of Higher Keys. To view the most current list, search for Membership Key Award Program at www.lionsclubs.org.

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LAST ROAR



AP Images

FROST SMITTEN

The air was arctic and the costumes were wacky in Scotland for the Aberdeen Lions Club's "Nippy Dipper" in the North Sea. The whimsically dressed participants raced to the shoreline and raised money for charity.

Truly Unique



Time travel at the speed of a 1935 Speedster?

The 1930s brought unprecedented innovation in machine-age technology and materials. Industrial designers from the auto industry translated the principles of aerodynamics and streamlining into everyday objects like radios and toasters. It was also a decade when an unequaled variety of watch cases and movements came into being. In lieu of hands to tell time, one such complication, called a jumping mechanism, utilized numerals on a disc viewed through a window. With its striking resemblance to the dashboard gauges and radio dials of the decade, the jump hour watch was indeed "in tune" with the times!

The Stauer 1930s Dashtronic deftly blends the modern functionality of a 21-jewel automatic movement and 3-ATM water resistance with the distinctive, retro look of a jumping



True to Machine Art esthetics, the sleek brushed stainless steel case is clear on the back, allowing a peek at the inner workings.

display (not an actual jumping complication). The stainless steel 1 1/2" case is complemented with a black alligator-embossed leather band. The band is 9 1/2" long and will fit a 7-8 1/2" wrist.

Try the Stauer 1930s Dashtronic Watch for 30 days and if you are not receiving compliments, please return the watch

for a full refund of the purchase price. If you have an appreciation for classic design with precision accuracy, the 1930s Dashtronic Watch is built for you. This watch is a limited edition, so please act quickly. Our last two limited edition watches are totally sold out!

Not Available in Stores

Stauer 1930s Dashtronic Watch

\$99 +S&H or 3 easy credit card payments of \$33 +S&H

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Please mention this code when you call.

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