

# LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONMAGAZINE.ORG DECEMBER 2012

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# The invention of the year is great news for your ears

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Lightweight and Inconspicuous	YES	Some
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Tests and Fittings Required	NO	Most
Affordable	YES	as much as \$5000
<b>Friendly Return Policy</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Rarely</b>

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- Restaurants • Dinner parties
- Outdoor conversations
- Lectures • Sermons
- Meetings

***...and other times where you  
need to turn up the volume***

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December 2012 • Volume 95 • Number 5

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### On the cover:

Lions worldwide share the value of service and share good times when they gather. Meeting up in June at the 95th International Convention in Busan, Korea, were (from left) Jinjiu Xu of the Zhejiang Zhedong Lions Club in China; Rajan Parekh, president of the Bombay Boribunder Lions Club in India; 31F District Governor Randy Kirby of the Whiteville Lions Club in North Carolina; Kimiaki Yamashita, immediate past president of the Kasai Hojo Lions Club in Japan; and Charlotte Malengela of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### WE SERVE

MISSION STATEMENT OF  
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:  
"To empower volunteers to serve their  
communities, meet humanitarian needs,  
encourage peace and promote international  
understanding through Lions clubs."

#### CONTACTING THE LION

Have a story idea or photo? Want to comment on a story or make a suggestion for LION editors? Contact the LION at [lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org) or at 630-468-6909 or 630-468-7023. For change of address, non-receipt of the magazine and other subscription issues, contact 630-468-6982 or [stats@lionsclubs.org](mailto:stats@lionsclubs.org). For all other inquiries call 630-571-5466.

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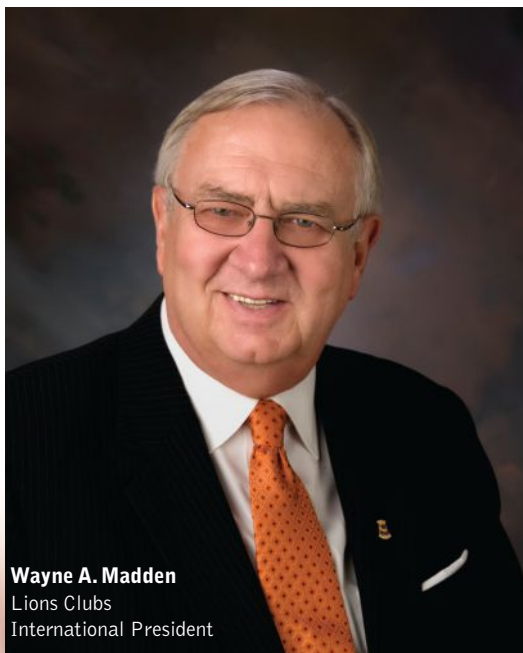


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# A Message From Our President



**Wayne A. Madden**  
Lions Clubs  
International President

## That Old Lions Spirit Never Gets Old

It's easy to get discouraged. Just open up the daily newspaper. It's the shootings, the wars and the abject poverty we hear about. But there is something about the human spirit that always rises above wrongdoing and abysmal situations. People in the worst circumstances can still see a glow in the human heart. Listen to this young girl: "It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." Yes, that was the great Anne Frank.

This special issue is about the human spirit and the Lions' spirit. I've met Lions from all over the world, and honestly, they are mostly like anyone else. Some talk a lot. Others are quiet. Some are careful planners. Others dive right in. What Lions have in common is a desire to serve. They want to make the world a better place. I believe that nearly everyone does. So we are fortunate to have found an association like Lions where we can exercise our deep-seated impulse to help others.

For many, this is the holiday season, a time to reflect, to count our blessings, to make resolutions to do better. I ask you to appreciate the opportunity we have to serve others. We are surrounded by Lions like ourselves who believe deeply in our service mission. Don't look at the TV news to shape your outlook. Just look around at your worldwide Lions' community. The English poet John Keats said it best: Scenery is fine, but human nature is finer.

Linda and I wish each of you the very best during this holiday season. May your hopes and dreams, both as a Lion and within your family, come true in 2013.

A background image showing several hands of different skin tones stacked on top of each other, symbolizing unity and teamwork. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the page, with some wearing watches and bracelets.

*Wayne A. Madden*

Wayne A. Madden  
Lions Clubs International President

Watch a video that captures the international spirit of Lions.





## The MOST DANGEROUS room in your home... the bathroom

*According to The New York Times\*, the bathroom can be the most dangerous room in the home. Hundreds of thousands of falls and accidents happen each year.*

**FACT:** 1 in 3 adults 65+ fall each year, and falls are the leading cause of injury death as well as the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.\*\*

\*BAKALAR, NICHOLAS. "Watch Your Step While Washing Up." New York Times 16, Aug. 2011, New York Edition ed., Section D sec.: D7. Web \*\*CDC - Center for Disease Control and Prevention



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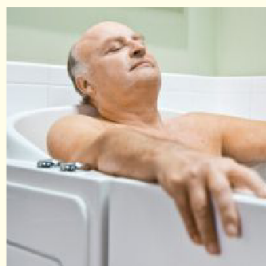
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Watch a video on the creation of the  
Rushmore Lions Nature Park.

# Famous Places, Regular Clubs

by Jay Copp

Throw a dart at a map and it will inevitably land near a Lions club. Lions are everywhere. LION Magazine threw a dart at a few well-known places on earth and found clubs nearby that are not only operating but also thriving.

## UNITED STATES

### Rapid City Rushmore Lions Club, South Dakota

There may be no site more iconic in the United States than Mt. Rushmore. Turns out that the Rapid City Rushmore Lions Club is pretty iconic itself. “Our club has a lot of spirit, and I think it pretty much does what most clubs do,” says Terry Peterson, a retired high school English and journalism teacher. The 45-member club holds a pancake breakfast, cleans up a roadway and rings bells around the holidays for the Salvation Army. Weekly meetings are held at an American Legion hall, and woe to the Lion who forgets to turn off his or her cell phone. The tailtwister demands \$5 for that indiscretion. One of the few traditions the club eschews is singing. “There are not too many of us who can sing,” admits Bill Carey, secretary. The club is proud of its Rushmore Lions Nature Park, built in recent years atop a onetime subdivision ravaged by a flood in 1972 that destroyed nearly 40 homes and killed about 20 people. That’s an iconic story, too, because LCIF’s very first grant in 1972 was for the Rapid City Flood.





Six past presidents assemble. The Lions are Bill Carey (from left), Past President Bob Audette, Past President Dick Waits and Terry Peterson.

AP Photo







Watch a video on the growth of Lions in China.

## CHINA

### Beijing Xieshou Lions Club

The Great Wall of China kept invading armies at bay but what of the foes of the heart such as loneliness, want and self-doubt? Within a huge population with myriad, complicated social needs there are people who tumble through the cracks, struggling to find their place and be assured of their value. The Beijing Xieshou Lions literally show people that they count, that they matter, that they are alive and carry hopes and dreams. Club members locate marginalized adults and children, take their photo and then immediately give them the portrait, perhaps the first time in many years, if at all, that they have a visible keepsake of themselves. A simple push of a button on a common device touches a soul and lifts it high above mean outward circumstances.

Having a good time at the Great Wall are Yu Liu, Guangping Li, Xu Yang, Hai Bin Dun, Meng Meng Li, Feng Hai, Lu Lu Zheng, Yan Qiong Huang and Hang Qin.



## CANADA

### Streetsville Lions Club, Ontario

This Canadian club near Toronto has a simple formula for staying highly active and robust. “We like our Lions being busy all year and that keeps them in the club,” says Shawn Anderson, president. The 40-member club, founded 60 years ago, runs or helps run a Terry Fox race, a walk for guide dogs, a Gaelic festival, a farmer’s market and a Halloween Spooktacular—and that’s just September and October. Its biggest fundraiser is the Bread and Honey Festival in June; Kraft Foods has a mill in town that makes bread. The 2012 Ceilidh (the Gaelic

festival) was held on the rubber floor placed over the ice rink at the Vic Johnston Community Hall, where the club meets. Mississauga, the city of 713,000 that contains Streetsville, has eight ice arenas, some of which have four rinks. In hockey-mad Canada, the club has its share of connections to the sport. The club meets in a room at the rink, a public/private operation, at a reduced cost. Lions sit on the rink’s board, and the club, which helped build the rink in the 1950s, has pledged \$100,000 to the rink over the next decade.



Lions skate or play hockey at the Vic Johnston Community Hall, where the club meets. Helping the club meet its goals are (from left) Shawn Anderson, president; Christine Simundson, secretary; and Jack Lindsay, treasurer.

# INDIA

## Agra Mavericks Lions Club



Built in memory of his wife, the queen, by a 17th-century grief-stricken ruler, the white-marbled Taj Mahal in Agra is regarded as one of the world's most beautiful buildings. There are beautifully designed objects, human beauty and also beautiful acts. It can get fiercely cold in Agra in winter, and Agra Lions pass out blankets and tea to the downtrodden people who sleep on footpaths and roads. In the searing heat of summer, Lions set up water huts to slake thirst. Club members also support cataract surgeries, blood donations and shelters for the needy. The city of 1.7 million is a hotbed of Lions with 34 clubs. The 77-member Agra Mavericks club was chartered three years ago; all members were in their early 30s. The best is yet to come for the club, says charter President Nitin Kansal, whose father, Yogesh, is a past district governor. The club aims to grow to 100 members soon, and befitting its name, intends to “do some different activities, which will help the needy and improve our society,” says Kansal.

Proudly gathering at the Taj Mahal are (front, from left) Subhash Verma, Dheeraj Agarwal, Ashish Gargh and Rajan Goyal and (back, from left) Vikas Munjal, Ayush Upadhyay, Sagar Jain, Ashish Goyal, Anuj Agarwal, Nitin Kansal, Ashwani Khandelwal and Kinshuk Jain.





## BRAZIL

### Aracaju Nova Geracao Lions Club

Enjoying the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro are (from left) Lions Kleberton Souza, a lawyer; Susi Namary, a teacher; Flavia Teixeira, an administrator; and Jose Iroito Rego Leo.

The Carnival in Brazil is a festive, high-energy celebration of life. It's no place for those old in spirit or lacking gusto and pep. That holds true as well for the Aracaju Nova Geracao Lions Club, a nexus of youthful energy and idealism. Most members are under 35; nine are former Leos. Their service fits their age. After a destructive flood, they used Twitter to obtain pledges in one day for 4,000 disposable diapers. They've also used Twitter to obtain 500 liters of milk for needy children and deployed Facebook and Orkut to encourage students at a private school to donate 1,000 toys to underprivileged children. "We connect young people through the Internet and involve them in voluntary service," says Jose Iroito Rego Leo, a biology teacher. "We give them a real opportunity to develop leadership, friendship and brotherhood. We're preparing them to join the largest school-life." Leo himself has found his place in life as a Lion: "Prior to joining Lions, I always thought something was missing in my life. Today I am a happy person."





## SOUTH AFRICA

### Port Shepstone Lions Club



Lions roam the plains of South Africa—and its schoolhouses, hospital wards, cataract camps and numerous other locales in which people are in need. The 40-member Port Shepstone Lions Club is a very active, highly visible club. Its flagship service project is a leadership retreat for Port Shepstone High School students. Its biggest fundraiser is the Annual Lions South Coast Show, a popular showcase for singers, musicians and comedians. Port Shepstone Lions enjoy being Lions. “We are all incredibly proud to be part of this wonderful organization,” says Past District Governor Denis Meyer, a business owner/web designer.

Visiting the Lake Eland game reserve are (from left) Denis Meyer; Jean Mason, a director for a building contractor; Richard Borradaile, an accountant; Alister Love, a diesel mechanic; Nico De Jong, a transport manager; and Kelvin Hulley, a pharmacist.





## ENGLAND

### Easton Bray and Edlesborough Branch Clubs (Luton Lions Club)/Harrow & Pinner/Milton Keynes Bletchley Lions Clubs

Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. It also happens to be the official residence of Her Majesty, the Queen. Even these Lions from merry Old England could not get the guardsman at the castle to smile: (from left) Peter Arnold of the Easton Bray and Edlesborough branch club of the Luton Lions Club, Lesley Spence, past president of the Harrow & Pinner Lions Club, Rachel Arnold of the Easton Bray and Edlesborough branch club; Past District Governor Andrew Allen of the Milton Keynes Bletchley Lions Club; and Neville Humphrys of Easton Bray and Edlesborough branch club.

It doesn't matter what nation a Lion hails from—those Lions moments happen. A project of the Easton Bray and Edlesborough branch club, Rachel Arnold of the Luton Lions Club (in photo) delivered a plate of steaming fish and chips to an 88-year-old man, who was overcome with emotion. OK, the fish was tasty and the chips were mouth-watering, but Arnold knew there was a story behind the tears. Turns out the World War II veteran had been held as a prisoner of war. His guard was a Lion, who kindly made sure he had enough to eat. “The gentleman believed this was what kept him alive,” says Arnold. “Now at this stage in his life where he is old and frail a Lion is bringing him food again.”





## GREECE

### Athens Center Lions Club

A timeless symbol of the birth of democracy, the Parthenon rises gloriously over Athens. The human spirit thrives in a democracy, and isn't service to others a fundamental impulse? Doesn't service flourish in a society in which people are free to associate with whom they choose and direct their lives as they see fit? The Athens Center Lions Club supports a center for blind women and a senior citizen's home, bought a mini-bus for needy children and donated clothes for victims of wildfires. In a land that first cherished the dignity and worth of each citizen Lions are helping people live with dignity and purpose.

Exercising their right of free assembly at the Parthenon are (front row, from left) Eleni Gana, Loukas Dalaclis, President Konstantinos Siozos and Maria Papdopoulou (Thessaloniki Macedonia Lions Club) and (back row, from left) Eleni Metaxa, Ageliki Hioni (Athens Alexandros Papagos Lions Club), Efi Apostolatou (Athens Panathineia Lions Club) and Maditinou Agripina.

Photo by Robert Burns





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# LIONS

## WE SERVE THE WORLD

Water covers 71 percent of the earth's surface and Lions cover nearly the rest of the globe! Serving in 207 countries and geographic areas, Lions are more representative of the world than perhaps any other entity. The United Nations has 193 nations. The 2012 Olympics in London saw 204 nations compete. Chicago businessman Melvin Jones could have hardly realized in 1917 that when he brought people together to serve their communities he was launching what was to be the world's largest service club organization.

**207**  
COUNTRIES /  
GEOGRAPHIC  
AREAS

List of Nations

International Convention  
Venues

List of Past Presidents

**11**  
OFFICIAL  
LANGUAGES





NATIONS OF ORIGIN OF PRESIDENTS  
OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL



NATIONS THAT HOSTED  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS



NATIONS THAT JOINED LIONS  
CLUBS INTERNATIONAL



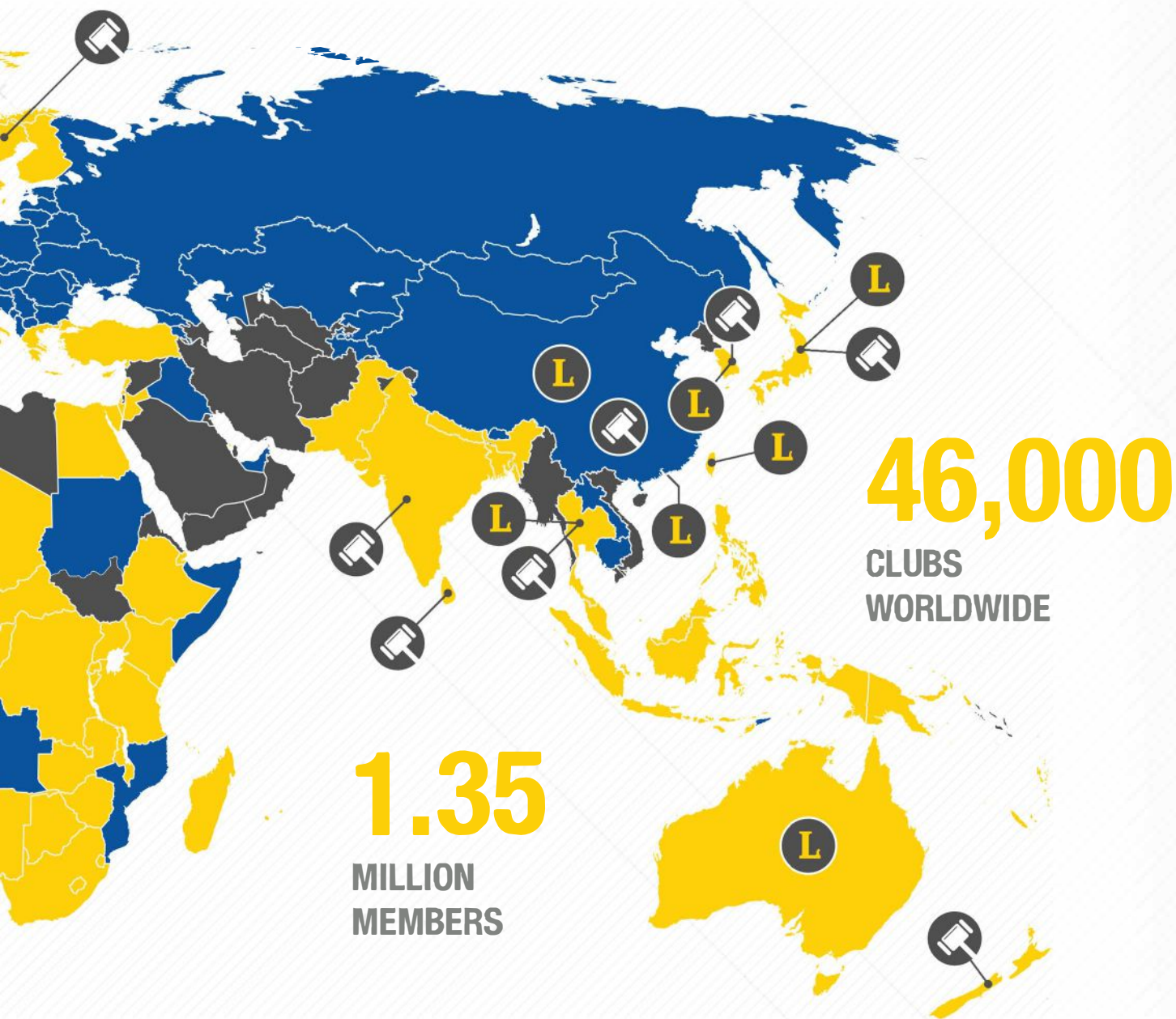
1917 – 1945



1946 – 1988



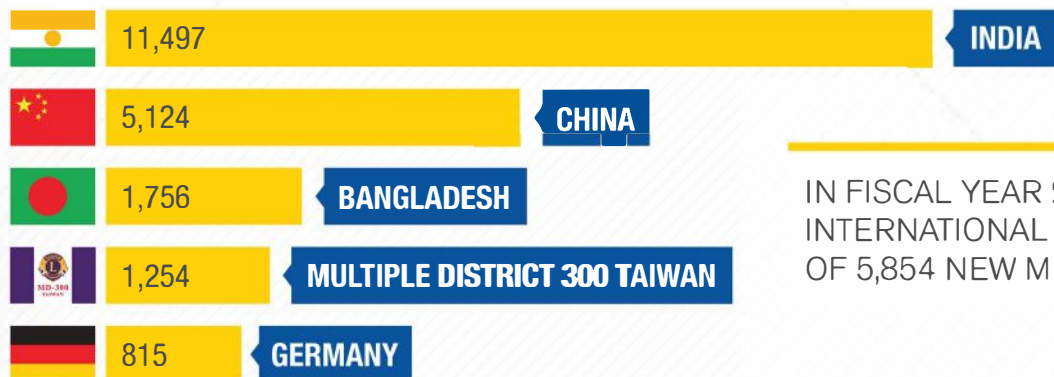
1988 – PRESENT



# LIONS: A WORLD OF SERVICE

Known for fighting blindness, Lions Clubs International embraces both the extraordinary diversity of its worldwide membership and the many forms of service by Lions. United by their shared value of service, Lions respond to needs in their communities and the world community.

Countries with the largest gain in cumulative membership from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012.

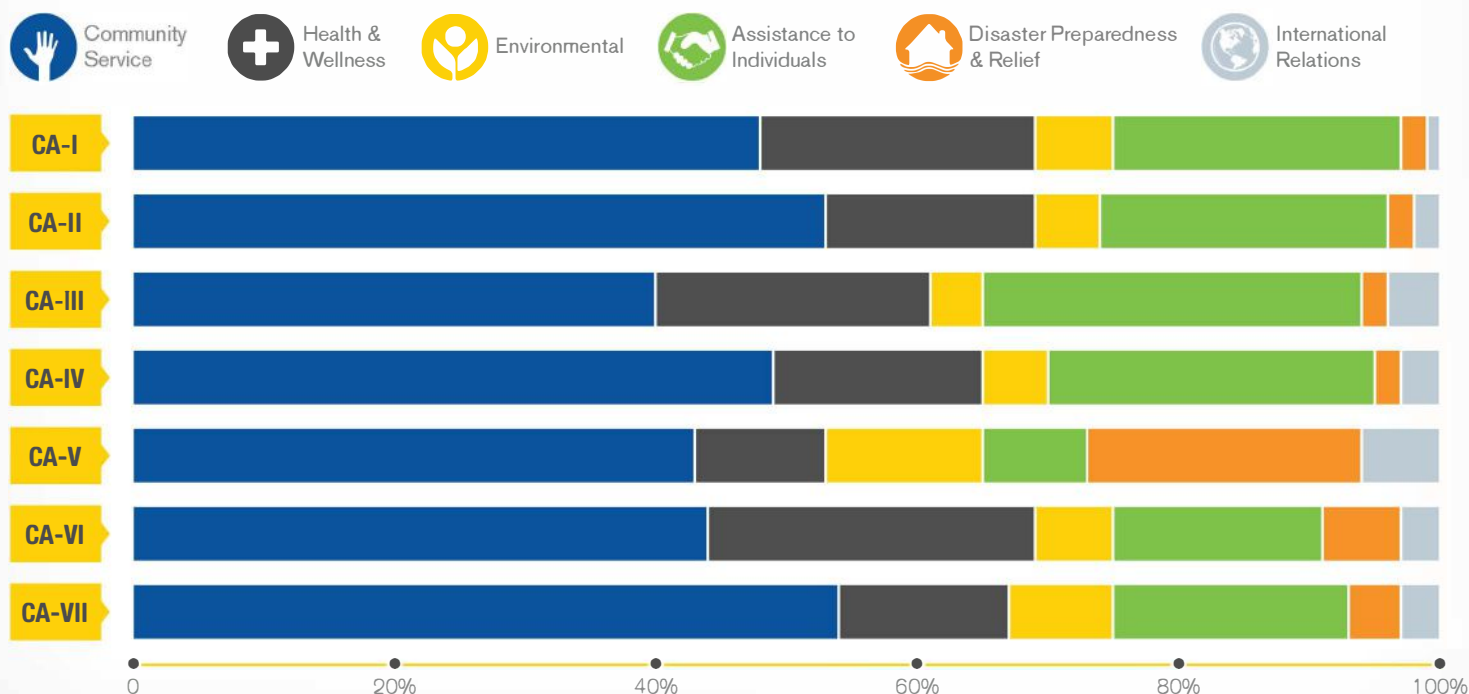


IN FISCAL YEAR 2012, LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL WELCOMED A NET GAIN OF 5,854 NEW MEMBERS.

## THE SEVEN CONSTITUTIONAL AREAS

CA-I	CA-II	CA-III	CA-IV	CA-V	CA-VI	CA-VII
United States of America and Affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas	Canada	South America, Central America, Mexico and the Islands of the Caribbean Sea	Europe	The Orient and Southeast Asia	India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East	Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the South Pacific Islands

## PERCENTAGE OF CLUBS ENGAGED IN TYPES OF SERVICE\*



\*Based on data available as of summer 2012.





**96th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention**  
**Friday, July 5 – Tuesday, July 9, 2013 • Hamburg, Germany**  
**Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form**

**Deadlines**

- **May 1, 2013:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Hamburg.
- **May 1, 2013:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation. • **May 17, 2013:** Deadline to receive a refund for a hotel room cancellation.

**REGISTRANT INFORMATION** *Please type or print name as it appears on passport/photo ID.*

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Lion: Club No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Leo ☐ Lioness

COMPANION: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Lion: Club No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Lioness ☐ Guest

CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**PACKAGE A:** *Includes convention registration for each registrant listed above plus one (1) hotel room serviced by shuttle buses during convention.*

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☐ After December 31: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel  
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 Arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Guests in Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Beds Needed ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3  
 Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

• The Hotel deposit is US\$200 for a standard room and US\$350 for a suite. The hotel deposit is not the rate but reserves the room. Your deposit will be credited to your hotel bill at checkout.

**PACKAGE B:** ☐ NO ROOM REQUIRED *(Registration only for each person listed above.)*

**OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS** *I/we plan to attend the following event(s): (Must be registered to attend)*

EVENT	DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	July 7/ 15:00-17:00	US \$30	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	July 8/ 13:30-15:00	US \$70	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	July 8/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

**PAYMENT:** Full payment is required with this form. • US currency only. Checks and money orders must be drawn on US banks.

- Only Visa and MasterCard accepted. • Contact LCI for wire transfer instructions.

**REGISTRATION FEES**

	Adult	Child (17 and under)
Early (before 31/Dec/2012)	US\$100	US\$10
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# The Brilliant Gate

by Brian Doyle

Good heavens, is service a terrible word for what the Lions do, or what? Service sounds like mandatory afternoon tea with the headmaster, or something you were sentenced to do when you were a teenager for that unfortunate incident with the cat and the catapult. Service sounds polite and nice and formal and thus incredibly mind-bogglingly mind-numbingly boring, something you should do, you have to make yourself do, you bark at the kids to do, something to check off on the to-do list, like laundry and bills and repairing the catapult.

But that's not what it means at all.

It means collecting food for people who have no decent food at all and no prospects of decent food either and when you hand them decent food they look at it like they have never seen anything so beautiful and amazing in their whole lives.

Service is helping a kid get a minor operation on her lip which means she might get to live a life rather than spend a life trapped inside the prison of her face.

Service means teaching a guy age 30 to read, and the first time he sounds out a whole sentence for himself, all by himself, without the slightest prompt from you, he starts to cry, and you cry too, and you say later to your wife I can't believe I cried and then she cries too because that guy's whole life changed in 30 seconds because you patiently led him to the brilliant gate.

Service means moving heaven and earth and calling in every conceivable social chit and favor to get the materials and labor and permits and zoning clearances to build the little ballpark where kids who would never have played a sport in their lives except with weapons learn baseball or basketball and discover that their bodies are extraordinary thrilling vessels of grace and joy, and that meshing with other players is an ancient and glorious delight harking back to the days when we gathered in small tight well-drilled teams to defeat teams of wolves.

Service is making arrangements for little kids to get their vision checked and most of them are fine but every tenth kid is a kid like me who didn't get his spectacles until he was seven years old. When the doctor put my glasses on for the first time I shouted with amazement that the world had edges! And nothing was ever the same for me, and I have been slathered with miracles ever since, and that's what service means, for heaven's sake.

Look, I am not the brightest bulb in the galaxy, but I read the papers and digest the news and I see blood and violence and greed and murder and fear and theft and fouled water and fouled air and a lot of lies about how we all value children more than anything, but we don't—they die like flies, they can't go to school, they can't go to the doctor, they are beaten and worse all day every day everywhere. I see countries at each others' throats, snarling



insults, brandishing missiles, waving their silly flags, shouting in rage that people have the temerity to worship another aspect of the divine than they believe in.

I have dark days, man, black dog days, days when I cannot see how a seething crowded selfish world will ever make it to the brilliant gate beyond which is a sweet wild world where violence is a joke and war a memory, where children are precious and our word is good, where we grin at the dizzying array of ways to celebrate the miracle of this world, and thank the Mercy that imagined it into being. On the darkest of my dark days I turn to little kids and dogs and birds, and especially to cheerful, dogged, irrepressible, irresistible clans and tribes like the Lions.

If there are Lions in almost every country on earth, and there are Lions of every blessed religion and faith tradition you can possibly imagine, and the Lions collectively could not care less who you are but instead care what you do with your gifts and talents and creative energy, and Lions who carve out chunks of their busy days and weeks to help people who need help, without getting paid or getting famous or getting anything at all except a mumbled thanks here and there, then by golly there is hope and light and a chance for the battered world to crawl finally through the brilliant gate—maybe sooner than later, too.

**III** Let's back up to the part where Lions do not get paid for what they do. Did I hear that right? Could it be that there are actually, no kidding, more than a million people in the world, who teach people to read, and feed the hungry, and sprint toward disasters to help the smashed, and figure out ways to help people see and read and hear, and they don't get paid a dime, they don't get promised free beer and kisses in heaven, they don't get slathered in praise in the newspaper, they don't even get cheesy certificates you are supposed to frame but which end up moldering on that spiderwebbed shelf in the garage? No way. This cannot be so. We are a calculating species, we human beings. We do things for reward. That is the way of the world. We want food or money or kisses for our efforts. You have awfully high expectations of human beings if you think there are more than a million people in the world, of every religion and faith tradition you can imagine, speaking any number of languages, people of every shade of skin color from translucent white to brilliant black, who reach out to help people where they live, for no reward at all. Awfully high. Unrealistically so. The world is not like that.

**IV** But the Lions are like that. The Lions are that. The rewards that Lions earn are immeasurable and extraordinary and have finally to do with deep wild astonishing things for which we do not have very good words. We can say joy and amazement and deep personal satisfaction and they are mighty close to being thin words like service. We can say honor and community and ideals and dreams, but we are still on the same thin side of the word fence. But we get closer if we use a smaller word, maybe. Could we say love? Let us say love, and for a moment think not of romance, but of the biggest, widest, wildest meanings of that word. Think of the kid's face when she gets her spectacles. Think of the kid miraculously making a catch in right field and spinning around hilariously in delirious amazement that he finally caught one! "Mom! Dad! Did you see that, did you, did you?" Think of the man who just read the first sentence in his whole life and he looks up at you and there is a look on his face that no writer in a million years can possibly find the right word for. Think of the old man trapped in his room and the thrill in his voice when he says, "Come in!" Think of the tiny lady who, when you wrap her in a blanket at the end of the worst day ever she looks up at you, and again there are no words for the look on her face that I can find except maybe love.

**V** The only way the world will heal is if we heal it. No one will save us but us. No guru or prophet or hero will save us. Only we can save us. Only we reach for each other one by one and say I see you, I am here for you, I witness you, I give you me. Only we can defeat the savage and greedy among us, in each of us. We will win the war by surrendering what is best in us to those who need exactly what we have. Every hour you give from your heart is a thousand hours in another. Beneath all religions, all nationalities, all ethnicities, all politics, all history, there is only us, always children, always struggling to shuck the selfish and sing the generous. Every hour you give from your heart is a hammer ringing against the ancient greedy bloody wall that obscures the brilliant gate. The Lions are hammering down the wall, every day, every hour, all of the world. Someone ought to pause, here and there, and bow, and say, quietly, while beginning to weep with gratitude for the millions of children you made smile, and say thank you. So I do. Thank you.

Brian Doyle is the editor of Portland Magazine at the University of Portland in Oregon. He authored the essay collection "Grace Notes."

# Service—Here, There and Everywhere

Across borders, in tiny hamlets and noisy cities, Lions speak different languages, practice different customs and worship in diverse ways, but our service is recognizable and irreplaceable and life-altering.

## Multiple District 300 Taiwan ▶

The days can drag on forever and be drained of human contact and warmth for seniors who are alone and relegated to small, sparse rooms in big institutions. Lions in Multiple District 300 Taiwan set aside precious hours each week to deliver smiles and small talk and a pure, unblemished message of heartfelt care for elderly people at a home. At the end of the visit it's hard to tell whose hearts—the Lions or the seniors—have expanded the most.



## India ▶

Cataracts in developed nations are mostly a nuisance. Outpatient surgery quickly restores vision. But distance, money and lack of facilities can be insurmountable barriers in poor nations, and cataract is the world's leading cause of blindness. So Lions, often backed by SightFirst grants, conduct eye screenings, as at this Lion eye camp in District 322 E in India, and support cataract surgeries, done inexpensively but with precision and success. The Knights of the Blind march in with passion and commitment and march out leaving behind the gift of sight.







## Switzerland ▲

The majesty of the mountains and the glories of untamed, unstructured wilderness are typically closed off to those with physical disabilities, precisely the people who can benefit from an excursion outdoors. Lions in District 102-W donated two Joellettes, specially designed off-road wheelchairs, to the Just for Smiles Foundation. The rugged “mountain wheelbarrows” allow the disabled to venture off the beaten path and forge their own paths to happiness and self-satisfaction.



## Mexico ►

Ghastly river blindness begins with the bite of small flies that insert parasitic worms whose offspring swarm the body. All it takes to ward off the disease are annual or bi-annual doses of ivermectin. That's where Lions come in. Among other roles, they publicize the treatment, as these Lions in Mexico are, and reassure people of its efficacy and necessity. The free medication, donated by Merck, prevents untold suffering and allows parents to work, children to stay in school and villages to remain functional. That's something to shout about.

## Korea ▼

Small acts of kindness can lift the heart and spark the inner glow of dignity and self-worth. Sometimes all it takes to salvage a day and set off on the path of fulfillment is a new coat or a haircut. Members of the Cheongju Moklyeon Lions Club provide a beauty-shop experience for elderly at the Joong-Pyung Sambo Elderly Welfare Center. Hair today, face the world on stronger terms tomorrow.







## Australia ▲

Keeping children prone to trouble busy with their hands can keep them on the straight and narrow. Even better, an adult mentoring them one-on-one lends more stability and guidance. Duncan MacLennan, president of the Coolangatta-Tweed Heads Lions Club, does some woodworking as part of club's volunteering at the Shed, which also offers boys and girls planting, worm farming and cooking. Building lives can be as simple as building shelves.

*Photo courtesy of the Daily News*

## ◀ Thailand

The tsunami in 2004 in Asia shattered livelihoods as well as lives. How can you put your life back together when the tools of your trade or your workplace have been obliterated? Lions helped revive local industries by replacing fishing boats and nets, giving people job skills by establishing vocational centers, and, as pictured in Thailand, enabling villagers to work as seamstresses at a facility built by Lions. Putting people back to work was all in a day's work for Lions.

## Germany ▼

A severe drought and crop failure in Tanzania in 2011 brought death, disease and suffering. German Lions dispatched 41 PAUL water filters, medical supplies and box after box of aid packages for seven hospitals and clinics. Helping to unload the supplies in Africa was (left) Past Council Chair Dr. Jörg-Michael Kimming. The German Lions provided aid quickly by slashing through red tape, and made sure some of the aid reached remote regions, where otherwise people would have been left on their own and many undoubtedly would have died.



## ◀ France

Wildfires often threaten beautiful wooded lands near Pays-de-la-Sainte-Baume Lions. So the club raised funds to place a large cistern in a remote area accessible by emergency helicopters. When fires erupt, the choppers take flight in an aerial ballet to contain the conflagration.

## Japan ▶

Walk in the shoes of another to learn what it's like for him or, if the case may be, ride in his wheelchair. Students at Toshima Ward Konan Elementary School played wheelchair basketball after athletes from the Tokyo Wheelchair Basketball Association displayed their prowess. The Tokyo Toshima Nishi Lions Club sponsored the event at the school and also support the wheelchair association. The nimble play of the wheelchair athletes humbled the students, who struggled to make baskets. "Normally, you feel sorry or pity for disabled people," says Makota Stukahara, school president. "This was true learning for our children."







# Lion-hearted

No matter the nationality, age or gender, Lions share a deep desire to serve. We asked Lions from several parts of the world to share their story of service.



Dean Žigon stands at the old town square in Koper that includes a university where the club meets. Behind him is the 15th-century Loggia, the only preserved Gothic town hall in Slovenia. The Loggia's popular café is where Žigon was asked to become a Lion. "If the café could talk, we would hear many stories of what makes Koper special," he says.

## Dean Žigon

**Club:** Ankaran Istra Lions Club in Koper, Slovenia. Joined in 2009.

**Bio:** Married, 40, with two children, Ela, 10, and Jan, 8. Works in sales department and heads a union at TELEKOM, the national telecommunication company. Lives a few miles from Italy in historic, scenic Koper, which borders the Adriatic. The city's 12th-century Cathedral of the Assumption has one of the oldest bells in Slovenia.

**Why a Lion?** Even before I became a Lion I was living the philosophy of Lions. I started a Christmas gifts project before I joined Lions. Every Christmas there is an obsession in the air, people looking for the right gift. People who I care about don't need a new cap for their teapot or new socks. I went to a social center to find families in need. I got four letters to Santa and went to a store and bought gifts ac-

cording to their modest wishes. I was able to make their parents proud on Christmas morning and make my kids understand what Christmas is really about.

**Lions' activities:** Every December I collect letters to Santa from socially disadvantaged kids and every club member gets one or two.

**What else?** The Lions Olivetum—our Lions olive grove [done with other Lions clubs]. We planted the first olive grove in Slovenia. Profits from the sale of the olive oil will be for charity. We are planning a similar project: renting a salt field and making our own salt.

**Fitting in:** All the members were happy with the Christmas project. That was a key factor in making me feel accepted by other members. They quickly became my good friends. ... Only members that know each other well are able to join together in good service. Working with each other is the best way to make a stable and powerful organization.



## Karen Joy Bahatan-Umila

**Club:** Baguio Everlasting Lions Club, chartered in 1994. The club's 27 members live in Baguio City, the "summer capital" of the Philippines, nestled in the mountains more than 5,000 feet above sea level. The all-women club focuses on helping youth through projects like Lions Quest and Sight for Teens.

Bahatan-Umila stops along a trail in downtown Baguio City's Botanical Garden. In addition to towering pine trees, stunning flowers and works by local artists, the Botanical Garden (also called the Igorot Village) features traditional Cordilleran huts of the Igorot people.



**About:** Bahatan-Umila, 31, is an English professor. She is married to Benny Umila, a lawyer, also a Lion. The couple met in college while involved in campus activities including the Leo club. They have an 8-year-old daughter, Nisha Anne. Bahatan-Umila grew up in Banaue, Ifugao, where famous, picturesque rice terraces are; she makes the six-hour trip home regularly to visit family.

*Continued on page 32*

## 2013 CALENDAR

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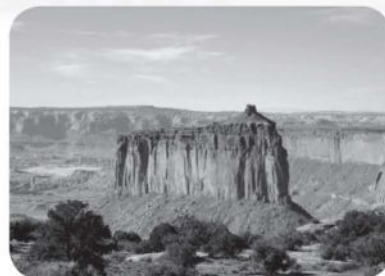
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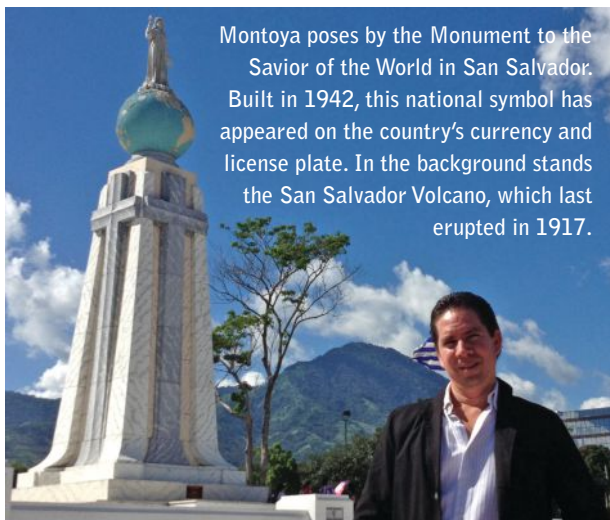


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Montoya poses by the Monument to the Savior of the World in San Salvador. Built in 1942, this national symbol has appeared on the country's currency and license plate. In the background stands the San Salvador Volcano, which last erupted in 1917.

## Dr. Otto Jaime Montoya Tobar

**Club:** San Salvador Decano Lions Club in El Salvador, chartered in 1942. The club's 48 members hail from the country's bustling capital city, the cultural and financial center of the country.

**The Basics:** Montoya, 38, a general and laparoscopic surgeon, is married to Michelle Renee Calderón, an attorney. They have a son, Otto, 12. When not dividing his time between hospital emergency surgery and his private practice, Montoya can be found with his family, heading to the nearby beach whenever they have free time.

**Why a Lion:** When I was younger I often volunteered, but later as a professional, I had always wanted to contribute in some way and help others. I was lucky to be invited to a Lions club for a medical talk led by Dr. Milton Salguero, who later sponsored me. I realized that the Lions' ideals were closest to my beliefs about giving back.

**SightFirst Success:** Thanks to our Lions' hard work, we received an LCIF SightFirst grant a couple of years ago to treat retinopathy in premature babies, an illness that causes up to 35 percent of blindness in our country. We provided surgical equipment to a hospital including a photocoagulation laser and a surgical microscope. More than 100 children have already avoided blindness because of this project.

**Up Next:** We're devoted to the development of a low vision clinic so we can treat children who experience side effects after their surgeries. I'm so proud to be part of the team helping to fulfill this need and to be a part of the impact Lions are making on visual health in El Salvador.

**Club Camaraderie:** My favorite part of being a Lion is the work! The work becomes easy when you do it among friends, and at my club, we're all friends.

## Chamberlain Z. "Zama" Gebeda

**Club:** Umtata Lions Club, Mthatha, Republic of South Africa; chartered in 1973 with a current membership of 24 Lions. The community is a city of about a million people surrounded by vast rural areas.

**Why be a Lion?** My wife, Pat, and I were invited by friends and colleagues to join the club in 1998. We have never looked back. At our club, we always add a little fun or humor in whatever we do—meetings, fellowship, projects and serving! Through Lions, I have made lots of friends at District 410 D conferences and multiple district conventions.

**At Home:** I've been happily married for 42 years and blessed with three children and four grandchildren, who all work and live in Johannesburg. I have two wonderful Kenyan sons-in-law. I retired in 2005 as a professor of education at the University of Transkei and have co-authored several educational books plus books of poetry in my home language of IsiXhosa.

**Service as a Lion:** Our club loves to give out food parcels to cataract patients, the indigent and the sick. We give candy to hospitalized children. We love to plant trees at local institutions. One way we raise money is by holding a Wine and Cheese evening. My wife and I had the pleasure of hosting two exchange students from Finland last July. What joy!

**Other Interests:** I serve on church committees and volunteer at the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and as a board member of the national organization. I believe in speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves. I love spending time with my family, traveling, reading, writing and sports. I have traveled far and wide and enjoyed all the pluses/minuses of the 14 countries I have set foot in. The highlands of Scotland are lovely to gaze at and Switzerland is beautiful. Closer to home, the wide desert landscapes of Egypt and Namibia are something to be admired, too.



Chamberlain Z. Gebeda stands in the Nduli Nature Preserve on the Eastern Cape of South Africa near his home and the community he serves.



# LION

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## Dr. Vilma B. Alejandro

**Club:** Baggao Lions Club, chartered in 2011 in Baggao, the Philippines. The club's 29 members, who are mostly in their 30s, are part of a quiet farming community at the foot of the Sierra Madre Mountains where education is highly valued as the key to success.

**Bio:** Known as "Bing" among friends, Alejandro, 40, is a pediatrician and is married to Danilo R. Alejandro, an internist and club president. They have three sons, Juan, 9, Luis, 6, and Santiago, 3.

**Why a Lion:** It actually wasn't exactly my choice. It was my husband who attended the orientation, but then both of us became charter members. When I was appointed as club secretary, I didn't have any idea about LCI. But I became curious and, as they say, the rest is history.

**Club Dynamics:** Our club is like a family. Every member is one among equals. We often bring our kids to service activities, because we believe that exposing them early to our activities will help them understand the value of caring for others. And we're busy—during our charter year we had 47 service activities!

**Signature Project:** It all started as a simple distribution of posters to educate people about Dengue fever. We had an outbreak during our last rainy season of this virus transmitted by mosquitoes. A good-hearted individual donated several test kits for rapid detection of the virus. We helped many people receive early detection and prevented complications that can arise from the virus. The feeling of joy and camaraderie our club feels from a project like this is my favorite part of being a Lion.

Watch videos on Lions explaining the appeal of Lions.



Karla Harris,  
USA



Gloria Lassey,  
Ghana



Kjerstin Owren  
Myre,  
Norway

## Judith DeBono

**Club:** Mdina Lions Club of Malta. Located in the center of the Mediterranean Sea, Malta comprises 122 square miles. Lions twin with other clubs, do health screenings and recently helped purchase ultra-light wheelchairs for disabled athletes.

**Bio:** A Lion since 2003, she has been married 27 years to Ray and they have two children. Keith recently became a doctor and Karina is a college student. DeBono is the administrator of a domestic violence shelter supported by the 40 women members of her club.



**Greatest Club Accomplishment:** I proposed that instead of donating funds to various charities we concentrate on a fixed project where hands-on help was needed. We first helped the shelter by providing new furniture, curtains and upholstery and refurbishing the bathrooms and kitchens. Lions do more than simply provide a safe haven. We interact with the children by organizing craft lessons and giving them homemade birthday cakes and presents at Christmas. We organize outings for mothers and children.

**Why be a Lion?** My mission as a Lion is to improve the quality of life in the Maltese community and to be of service to others. I believe that when a mother and children leave their home and go live in a shelter, an adequate place should be provided. I joined because a friend of mine spoke highly of Lions and the work they did. She was the one who proposed my membership in the club. But before joining, I researched Lions clubs on the Internet and read various Lion Magazines.

**Fun Stuff:** I am an athletic individual and have been active in a number of sports, mainly basketball and tennis. I coach basketball and was in charge of one of the girls' youth basketball teams in my hometown. I love to swim and water ski; the Mediterranean Sea stays very warm. My favorite travel destination is the Scandinavian countries. I have visited many of them.



The Mediterranean Sea provides a colorful, calm vista for Judith DeBono.

## Yuanita Herman

**Club:** Charter member of Jakarta Monas Green Lions Club in Indonesia, 2010. Herman is president of this 26-member club that focuses on environmental improvement and helping mothers and children.



**About:** Herman, 58, studied Japanese literature at the University of Indonesia and now works in human resources at an oil and gas services company. She and her husband, Herman Agus Dermawan, a dentist and a Lion, have two adult daughters. Herman is about to become a grandmother.

**Making Meetings Fun:** We make sure meetings don't get boring by combining them with an activity like visiting the beach, going camping or batik painting. We bring our spouses and children along, so you can imagine how fun our meetings are!

**Why a Lion:** It's a chance to serve, to help people, without seeing skin color, religion, age or social conditions. And when we work together, the more we can accomplish and the better we can do it.

**Cultural Ties:** We love our traditional culture, so as a charity event we conducted a cultural performance called "Wayang Orang" using the Javanese language. It was a huge success. Almost 1,000 people attended, and we donated our profits to a school for the blind.

**Women and Children First:** We're renovating a building that will be used for women's and children's activities. We also provide classes for women on gardening, cooking and reading. For children we coordinate monthly medical checks and early education classes. It means so much to see them smile.

*Continued from page 29*

**Starting Young:** As a Leo in college, I used to tag along with the Lions to help during medical missions. I really enjoyed traveling to distribute relief goods and assisting doctors. These gratifying experiences made me realize that I could be of service to others and commit even more to Lionism; I became a full-fledged Lion in 2010.

**Ending an Epidemic:** There has been a big increase in diabetes among Filipinos, primarily because of low awareness. Both of my parents are diabetic, and my aunt died a few years ago because of complications from diabetes. Our club is addressing this pressing need through diabetes screening, education and projects like our

Lions Strides—Walk & Run for Diabetes. More than 250 people participated last year.

**Why a Lion:** I get to help people, meet different people and inspire others to do the same. It has always been my passion to use my time to serve humanity. Service requires no age,

gender, status nor race—it only requires time.

**Growth Potential:** Aside from the fun, adventure and fulfillment, I enjoy the endless opportunities where I can develop my leadership skills, learn and showcase my abilities.

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