

LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONMAGAZINE.ORG FEBRUARY 2013

Hamburg Here We Come



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| Perfect Choice HD feature comparison | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Perfect Choice HD | Others |
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| Easy Toggle Switch Adjustment | YES | Few |
| Tests and Fittings Required | NO | Most |
| Affordable | YES | as much as \$5000 |
| Friendly Return Policy | YES | Rarely |

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A Message From Our President



Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs
International President

A Pinnacle Experience: Attending the Convention

If you flip back through old issues of LION Magazine from the 1950s, the articles about the international convention invariably describe them as the “greatest convention ever.” OK, you say, it’s possible the conventions got a little better each year, and the annual enthusiasm was justified. Then in the 1960s you see the same sentiment: “greatest convention ever.” The same goes for stories in subsequent years. I don’t believe this was a case of hyperbole on the part of Lions or the LION acting as a cheerleader. Instead, Lions who attend conventions are so overwhelmed by the experience that they rave about it.

This year I fully expect our 96th International Convention to be hailed by attendees as “the greatest ever.” It starts with the host city, Hamburg, a wonderful venue. The historic, beautiful city has an international flair, delicious food and block after block of stunning Old World buildings. It’s postcard Europe, a

place entirely unlike a modern U.S. city with charms that took centuries to form.

Lions in Germany have been working overtime to make the convention a success. Their admirable efficiency and warm hospitality will ensure that Lions enjoy themselves and get the most they can out of the convention.

Conventions are filled with fellowship, fun and enrichment. You rub shoulders and often share a lunch or a few pleasantries from Lions from more than 120 countries. You can march down the streets of Hamburg during the festive Parade of Nations, attend worthwhile seminars, vote on the association’s future, enjoy outstanding entertainment at the plenary sessions and International Show, and hear inspiring, renowned speakers. If you like being a Lion, you will love being at the convention.

An international convention is the perfect occasion to celebrate our service and our identity as Lions. The week together allows Lions to fully appreciate what it means to be a Lion and what our service accomplishes. You learn about other club and district projects and make personal connections with international leaders and representatives from headquarters. Lions from around the world will feel at home in Hamburg and then return to their homes with a renewed enthusiasm for serving as a Lion.

Linda and I look forward to meeting you in Hamburg. In A World of Service, those who serve the world so magnificently will come together for an unforgettable week that will propel our great association forward with energy and vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne A. Madden".

Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs International President



The Parade of Nations at the convention is fun, festive and unforgettable.

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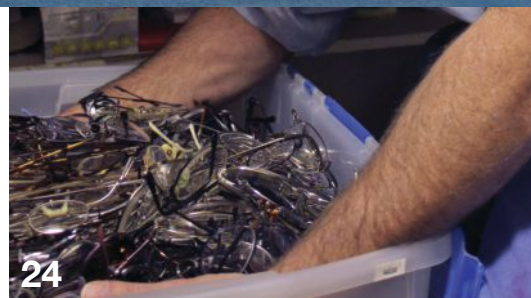
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WE SERVE

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 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. For all other inquiries call 630-571-5466.

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Convention Countdown

Hamburg, Germany
July 5-9, 2013



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



Laura Bush

LAURA BUSH AT CONVENTION

Former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush will be the keynote speaker in early July at the 96th International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. Bush will speak on her involvement with issues of global concern. Upcoming issues of the LION will detail other convention highlights including the Humanitarian Award recipient, other prominent speakers, seminars, entertainment, tours and more. See page 16 for an article on Hamburg and its attractions.

USER-FRIENDLY DIGITAL LION

Lions have responded positively to the enhanced digital LION with its multimedia and exclusive content. Missouri Lion Kimberly Taylor emailed LION editors about how she's using the digital edition. "Today I saw two articles about clubs in my Multiple District 26 that I wanted everyone to know about," she says. "I found the LION on the LCI website and shared links on three different Facebook pages. By the end of the day, my Lions friends will be reading the articles. And I'm certain that several non-Lion Facebook friends will be too." Watch for ongoing LION announcements and story links on Facebook and Twitter.

PAST PRESIDENT KAY K. FUKUSHIMA DIES

Past International President Kay K. Fukushima, 75, of Sacramento, California, has died. He was elected to the association's highest office at the 85th international convention in Osaka, Japan, in 2002, and was a member of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club since 1965.

The owner of a successful insurance agency that grew to 16 branches, Past President Fukushima received numerous accolades as a Lion, community member and businessman. He led California Lions in helping sponsor the new pediatric trauma center at the University of California-Davis Children's Center, the only Level 1 trauma center for children in Northern California.

Past President Fukushima believed in hands-on service. He helped organize raft trips for the blind and student speaker contests, promote recycling to help the environment and build a crosswalk for the blind in downtown Sacramento. He was instrumental in helping Lions build the Sacramento Zoo's Sensory Garden and Fairytale Town's Japanese Tea Garden for children and adults of all abilities.



SOLE POW MADE A LION

Lions in Idaho have made the sole U.S. prisoner of war in Afghanistan an honorary member. U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl of Hailey, Idaho, is now a member of the Wood River Lions Club, which meets in Hailey. Bergdahl was captured by the Taliban in 2009 while serving as an infantryman. Lions approved his membership at the multiple district convention at the suggestion of Past International Director Gary B. D'Orazio, an Idahoan who is a veteran and whose father and eight uncles served in World War II. D'Orazio and Lions in Idaho later held a Walk for Bowe Bergdahl in Boise. "He's an Idahoan. We want him home. He doesn't belong where he is. He made the sacrifice to support his country, and we need to support him now," D'Orazio told local media. The Taliban had demanded \$1 million and release of prisoners in U.S. military custody at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba for his release. U.S. officials had been discussing his release with Taliban representatives but talks reportedly faltered.



Lions and others march in Boise to show support for Sgt. Bergdahl.

Photo by Olie Olsen

Watch a video on Lions helping those affected by Superstorm Sandy.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

NEWTOWN LIONS RESPOND TO SANDY HOOK SHOOTING

Newtown Lions in Connecticut provided coffee and refreshments to the first responders to the Sandy Hook school shooting and will offer more help, probably counseling, in coordination with other efforts. "We're all in shock," said Lion Gordon Williams in late December. "Some wonderful things have happened, too." People moved by the tragedy sent snow-making machines and ice rinks. The roads that pass the school and churches are lined with memorials full of teddy bears, balloons and ribbons. Stopping for lunch after his volunteer stint driving people to medical appointments, Williams discovered his meal was free. A benefactor decided to let everyone eat for free at the restaurant that day. The 66-member club received calls from Lions around the world wanting to help, and the club created a foundation to assist those affected by the shooting. Donations can be sent to Newtown Lions Club, PO Box 218, Newtown CT 06470. Checks can be made to the Newtown Lions Club Foundation, SHEF (Sandy Hook Emergency Fund). Lions Clubs International Foundation also is mobilizing funds for the Newtown Lions to help with hands-on relief efforts. Contact lcif@lionsclubs.org for more information.



48 YEARS AGO IN THE LION FEBRUARY 1965

Lions in Bryan, Texas, aren't in the doghouse—they've climbed into the warming shelters they provided for schoolchildren waiting for buses.

BY THE NUMBERS

250,000

Miles driven by 124 Lions from 29 clubs in central Iowa since 2009 to deliver more than 560 sets of donated eyes to the Iowa Lions Eye Bank for 860 corneal transplants.

16

Youths ages 9 to 11 from families with limited means who took part in the Fishing & Outdoor Camp for Kids at Lake Nipissing organized by Monkton Lions in Ontario, Canada.

4

Peach Queens featured on a billboard on Interstate 65 following the Peach Festival put on by Clinton Lions in Alabama.



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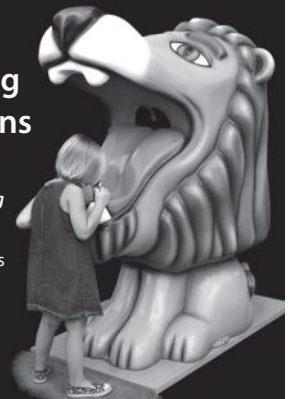
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ONE OF US

BARBARA CHAMBERLAIN

Cabrillo Host Lion Barbara Chamberlain loves a good story. After being an elementary school librarian for 30 years, she now teaches storytelling and creative writing workshops. Chamberlain found some remarkable stories in her family's history, which served as the basis for two historical novels. Her most recent novel is a mystery set in her community. This imaginative Californian brings her creative thinking to the Lions too, and has been described by a fellow member as "pretty much the pulse of anything."

What types of storytelling do you do?

I like folktales, legends and myths. I also enjoy theme programs for holidays and dressing up and becoming the character of Mrs. Claus or the Cat in the Hat. I love telling stories to children. It really helps them get interested in reading and books.

What are your historical novels about?

It all started when my mother did the family genealogy, and I learned the story of my family and their journey from England. They were persecuted because they were Quakers, so they came to America to start new lives.

Did you do a lot of research?

The first book, "The Prisoners' Sword," took me five years to write. I even went to England to do research. The second book, "Ride the West Wind," takes place on the ship Welcome that came to America in 1682, so I learned a lot about that incredible journey.

How did you get the idea for your latest novel, "A Slice of Carmel"?

The owner of the cutlery shop where I have my knives sharpened, Tanya, had read my earlier books and suggested that I could write a murder mystery set in Carmel. I wrote the book but never did anything with it. Tanya kept after me to publish it. Finally, I thought, why not?

What's an example of a lesson you teach in your workshops?

At my last workshop I brought objects from home and had each student pick an item out and tell a story related to it. That's a great way to get started with storytelling.

How do you bring your inventiveness to your Lions club?

I try to offer creative suggestions for projects. Sometimes they work and sometimes they don't, but I think creative change has to be a part of Lions adapting to our rapidly changing world. I also like to make meetings more fun. I started interviewing club members during meetings so we can learn each other's stories. Their lives are pretty amazing.

Visit Chamberlain's website to learn more at www.fantastixstudios.com and find her books at www.amazon.com.

Know a Lion who you think deserves a bit of recognition? Email us a brief description of your Lion and the reason you're nominating him or her at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.

Barbara Chamberlain gets into character for the "North Pole Rap," a holiday story she created for young people.

A white dress shirt with a pointed collar and a colorful geometric patterned tie. The tie features a repeating pattern of triangles in shades of blue, yellow, pink, and green. The shirt is laid flat on a light-colored wooden surface. The cuff of the shirt is visible, showing the brand initials 'PFS' in black.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

LEMONT LIONS CLUB, ILLINOIS

YEAR FOUNDED: 1962

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS:

The 73 Lemont Lions commemorated their 50th anniversary last year, with several 40-year members joining in the celebration. The Lions meet twice a month at the VFW Hall.

COOKING UP FUNDS: The Lions put a lot of work into their three annual fundraising events. More than 100 golfers participate in the Summer Golf Outing; 400 people enjoy the Fall Chili Supper and another 400 chow down at the Spring Community Pork Chop Dinner. The Lions cook the food themselves (the pork chops even have a Lions' secret seasoning) and raise a total of about \$15,000 through the three events.

LUCKY STEAK: Both the chili supper and spring dinner include a "meat raffle," during which participants spin a big wheel to win a package of meat or sausage along with other prizes. This amusing activity brings excitement and additional funds to the Lions' events. Plus winners get to eat their prizes for dinner the next night.

LENDING A HAND: The Lions regularly roll up their sleeves for hands-on service. In recent months they cleaned up and landscaped a park, constructed a wheelchair ramp, conducted two food drives and played softball and basketball with special needs youths.

INDIVIDUAL AID: The Lions have provided ongoing assistance to a legally blind young girl and her family, helping her to receive vision-improving surgeries and other health care.

BRAVE BALLADEERS: The two-night "DandyLions" cabaret show is the Lions' claim to fame. Sellout crowds of 300 enjoy the Lions' lip-synched songs and choreographed dance moves. The Lions go to great lengths to get their outfits, hair and makeup just right. They are great sports for this lucrative fundraiser. But the Lions also leave the crowd wanting more: they only put the show on every few years.

WHY BE A LION? "Where there is a need, the Lions are known to be quick to help. We've been part of the fabric of the community for 50 years, and we show no signs of letting up any time soon." – Lion Tom Drez



Mark Joiner (in the cheerleader outfit) and Tom Malas (in the Lion suit) dance up a storm at the Lemont Lions' popular DandyLions cabaret show.

OVERHEARD

"I tried so many different avenues and everyone said, 'I'm sorry. We can't help.' The Lions club was the only one to say, 'Yes, we'll help you. Sure. That's what we do.' Thank God for the Lions club."

–Dennis Gotcher after the Beaufort Lions Club in South Carolina helped secure cataract surgery for him. From the *Island Packet*.

"If it's a nice warm evening, a Saturday night, I'll go out and pack two or three thousand. I go out and listen to the golden oldies and pack a few. It's peaceful and quiet and the dog comes out."

–Gary Rideout of the Barkers Point Northside Lions Club in New Brunswick, Canada, on packing eyeglasses in his role as the district's eyeglass coordinator. From the *Daily Gleaner*.

"I don't know. Scientifically, there has to be an explanation. I just don't know what that is."

–Alex Martin, 19, a physics major, on the UFOs—bright dots of light moving erratically in the sky—high above the New Freedom Lions Club Carnival in Pennsylvania. From The *York Daily Record*.

ON THE WEB

LCI has more than 74,000 fans on Facebook! "Like" LCI and get connected daily to stories about Lions around the world. Click on news links that interest you and stay up-to-date on LCI announcements. Submit your own story or photo too. Search for "Lions Clubs International" to find the page and join the interactive conversation. Be sure to click on the "New Visitors" button at the top of the page to make the most of your Lions' Facebook experience.

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The U.S. Money Reserve Vault Facility today announces what could be the final release of U.S. Gov't-Issued Gold Coins previously held in The West Point Depository/U.S. Mint. For a limited time, U.S. citizens will have the opportunity to purchase these \$5 Gov't-Issued Gold Coins for the incredible "at-cost" price of only \$180.00 per coin. An amazing price because these U.S. Gov't-Issued Gold Coins are completely free of dealer markup. That's correct — our cost. This may be your final opportunity to buy U.S. Gov't-Issued Gold Coins "at-cost." Gold, which recently skyrocketed past \$1,700/oz., is predicted by experts to have the explosive upside potential of reaching up to \$10,000/oz. in the future. Please be advised: Our U.S. Gov't Gold inventory will be priced at \$180.00 per coin while supplies last or for up to 30 days. These coins may sell-out. Call today! U.S. Money Reserve will release these U.S. Gov't-Issued Gold Coins "at-cost" on a first-come, first-served basis. Orders that are not immediately received or reserved with the order center could be subject to cancellation and your checks returned uncashed. Good luck. We hope that everyone will have a chance to purchase this special U.S. Gov't-Issued Gold at this price because it could be going to \$10,000/oz. Order immediately before our vault sells out completely! Special arrangements can be made for Gold purchases over \$50,000.



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Vision for Vietnam

Fairfax Host, Virginia, Lion Marcia Selva admits that she wouldn't have joined the 64-member club in late 2011 if the sole focus of Lions' service didn't reach far beyond the community. "Although I live in Fairfax, I spend a great deal of my time in Asia—Vietnam and Burma," says Selva, an international travel agent and founder of the Global Community Service Foundation (GCSF). "We've been working with people with disabilities for over a decade in Quang Tri Province in central Vietnam and GCSF recently completed a new school for the visually impaired. I'm a real believer in 'hands-on' involvement." She established the foundation to create community-based, sustainable programs to better lives through improved health care, education and income-generating activities for the Vietnamese people.

"This is where some of the fiercest fighting took place [during the Vietnam War], where the DMZ was located and even today, is polluted with the effects of Agent Orange. Major eye-related disease and medical problems are glaucoma, cataract and trachoma," says Fairfax Host Lion Dennis Brining, who was first approached by Selva for GCSF assistance. Selva found herself joining the club. "I know that the Fairfax Lions Club walks the walk. They don't just talk the talk. They do serve," she says.

Working in cooperation with GCSF, Brining and 2011-12 District 24 A Governor Dennis Kelly, a Springfield-Franconia Lion, obtained a \$10,000 LCIF International Assistance grant to bring improved sight and health to the men, women and children throughout Quang Tri Province.

Selva, Brining, Kelly and his wife, Cheryl, also a Lion, joined 15 other volunteers including GCSF personnel, an optometrist, University of Virginia medical staff, alumni and students. Lions received rigorous training to learn equipment and eye examination procedures. Local Vietnamese medical schools provided additional manpower during the mission.

The team conducted eye screenings, distributed glasses and helped villagers with hygiene and medical needs. Lions brought with them more than 1,100 pairs of recycled eyeglasses that were donated by the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia.

After witnessing blind employees at Vin Linh Blind Center making items for sale to the public, Brining gave a \$1,000 grant from the Fairfax Host Lions to help build the center's handicraft business. Kelly also pledged funds from his club to make repairs to its clinic. — Pamela Mohr

SERVICE IDEA BEYOND BORDERS



New glasses are a life-changing gift for one little boy.

Photo by Dennis Brining



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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1 SOUTH ASIA MALAYSIA



The journey to Rejoi was not easy.

Hike Brings Village Into 21st Century

Located in a remote, wooded, mountainous area of Malaysia, Rejoi is known as the “village above the clouds.” After an arduous, five-hour hike there, Lion Derbe Tang prefers to call it “the village of never-ending steps.”

Kuching, where Tang lives, is a modern city of 1 million. Rejoi is a rural, simple village with few modern conveniences. The people do have electricity, but the supply is so limited that when the schoolchildren turned on the computers given to them by the Lions all other devices run on electricity had to be turned off.

Tang's club, the Kuching Emerald New Century Lions, donated scores of items to schoolchildren in Rejoi including a diesel generator, three computers, 23 books, 22 English dictionaries, 15 paintbrushes, 10 watercolor sets, 10 scissors and 20 soccer shirts. Six porters helped carry the materials to the village over narrow, swaying bamboo bridges and up and down endless rocky hillsides.

The donated goods, commonplace in Kuching, enabled the school to expand its scope and reach. The art materials led to art classes. The generator allows for classes at night. The color scanner/photocopier/printer means teachers can duplicate materials instead of forcing students to copy everything by hand.

The technology also connected them to the wider world. Previously, because the distant trip to the nearest town was undertaken just once a week, a child had to wait a week if a birth certificate or other important document needed to be copied.

Lions partnered with the Batik Boutique Hotel on the school project, which also involved a trip to Kuching for the schoolchildren. “For many it was their first visit to a city and a cinema, museum and beach,” says Tang, a lawyer who is a zone chairperson. “It was a really fun and educational experience for them.”



Lions used porters to help carry the goods.



THE UJJAIN UNIQUE LIONS CLUB IN INDIA CONDUCTED AN EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND DIABETES FOR MORE THAN 800 STUDENTS.



THE ST. VINCENT SOUTH LIONS ON THE ISLAND OF ST. VINCENT PROVIDED FUNDS FOR A TEENAGE GIRL WITH SPINAL MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY TO TRAVEL TO TRINIDAD TO RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE.



IN THE BAHAMAS, THE FREEPORT LIONS DONATED A NEW WHEELCHAIR TO A PERSON IN NEED.

The donated items expanded the world of the students in Rejoi.



Lions gave athletic shirts for Futsal, a variant of soccer with five players on a side.

2 EUROPE SWITZERLAND

An Alpine Mountain Rescue Team springs into action.



Buy an Ornament, Save a Life

The swirling snow, bitter cold and sudden avalanches of the Alpines in Switzerland have claimed many lives over the last century, but the Alpine Mountain Rescue team has saved 57 people, often despite perilous conditions and under spine-tingling, TV movie-of-the-week circumstances. The Oberes Toggenburg Lions raise money for the rescue workers through a Christmas market in Lichensteig. The fundraising is not dramatic or heroic, but Lions take great pride in enabling others to save lives.



Music Contest Offers Video Component

Last year 40 talented youths gathered in Sicily for a Lions' classical music competition. The Agrigento Chiaramonte Lions Club will sponsor the contest again this May, but this time competitors unable to travel to Italy also can enter a separate video contest.

The purpose of the 2nd Lions IncontraArti Music Awards 2012 is to further the arts among youths. The video component is for classical and ethnic music. Videos, not to exceed 20 minutes, can be posted on YouTube. First prize for the video competition is 500 euros. The contest deadline is May 5.

"We need Lions to support young musicians because music requires expenses that not all talented young people can afford. The instruments are expensive, the training is expensive and the extra classes are expensive," says Lion Natalia Di Bartolo, a lyric opera singer, painter and theater critic. Her husband, Giuseppa Vella, was 2010-11 club president.

For information, email lionsincontrati@hotmail.com.



A musician performs in the Lions' contest last year.

Race in Germany Makes Waves

Rubber boats raced, cardboard boats earned raves and fun boats drew laughs. The Argenab Boat Regatta in Wangen, Germany, raised funds for the Wangen-Isny Lions Club and entertained hundreds of people.

Among the 27 teams racing were the Old Town Rowers, the Swimming Roosters and the Hot Stones. Crossing the finish line first were the Herzmännser Sea Dogs, sailed by Olaf, Niclas and Wolfgang Mittmann.

Twenty boats were made of cardboard, and drawing the most attention was one that featured a mini golf course. It took 300 hours to build the boat. "All right! It's not sinking," yelled exultant shipbuilder Freddy Keller.



A boat speeds to the finish.



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Heavenly Hamburg

The lovely German city will showcase the beauty of Lions' service at the upcoming 96th International Convention

by Roger St. Pierre

Surprisingly green and architecturally beautiful, Hamburg is admired for its enormous port, historic, lovely downtown and village-like neighborhoods. It's a city full of quaint cobblestone alleys, centuries-old churches and vibrant nightlife. The city also will be full of thousands of Lions for a grand week in July as it hosts the 96th International Convention.

Hamburg will not be just a venue for Lions. The city will embrace Lions and integrate its charms with convention traditions. The Parade of Nations will start at the majestic Rathaus, the town hall and the city's symbolic heart, and then snake its way around the Binnenalster, an artificial lake bordered by a stunning array of buildings. At the march's end Lions will spill into a "market of nations,"

where 30 pavilions will serve international foods and highlight Lions' service around the world. The parade will not just display the diversity of Lions but also celebrate the diversity of our service.

The convention runs July 5-9. Future issues of the LION will detail the speakers and attractions. Here is what you need to know about Hamburg and why it's a wonderful place for Lions to gather to celebrate their service and move the association ever forward.

Berlin may be the capital of Germany, but Hamburg, the nation's second-largest city, resolutely refuses to accept a provincial label. It proudly sports all the airs and graces of a major player on the world stage, not just in commerce but also in culture, the arts, sport, the media and tourism.



The views are grand at Alster Lake in Hamburg.

Hamburg feels like a capital in all but name—a fact reflected by the unusually large number of foreign consulates it hosts and the truly cosmopolitan make-up of its population.

A linchpin of the solid German economy, Hamburg is a thriving manufacturing center. Its role in the global aircraft industry rivals that of Seattle and Toulouse. Airbus employs 13,000 people here. The city also is a major banking center while tourism generates close to 10 million overnight stays annually and provides 175,000 people with full-time jobs.

As Germany's busiest port, Hamburg has always been an outward-looking city, its horizons stretching far beyond the broad, winding River Elbe to the big wide world beyond. It's an open-hearted place—quintessentially German yet a melting pot of many other cultures.

In earlier times a free city powerhouse of the Hanseatic League (the potent medieval trading precursor of the European Union's common market), Hamburg straddled the late 19th and early 20th centuries as one of the key gateways to a new life far away across the great Atlantic pond for millions of Central, Eastern and Northern European emigrants. These hordes may simply have been in transit, but they left an indelible mark on Hamburg. That story is brought to life at Ballinstadt, Port of Dreams, an emigration museum that evocatively carries visitors back through the mists of time.

Today the bustling port is a haven for gigantic cruise ships and for cargo vessels of all shapes and sizes. Europe's second most important port after Rotterdam and the ninth busiest in the world, Hamburg handles nearly 150 million tons of goods annually. Though located 68 miles from the yawning estuary of the Elbe, the docks have enough depth of water to accommodate large oceangoing vessels—and to build them, too at the renowned Blohm + Voss shipyards. The primacy of water and boats extends to the entire city. Extensive canals crisscross Hamburg, and no less than 2,300 bridges span this city of waterways.

Once you have your bearings, getting around is easy. Bus, rail and ferry companies are all independently owned and operated, but they sensibly operate a joint ticketing system under the HVV or Verkehrsverbund (Hamburg Transit Authority) banner, and recognize one another's tickets. The U-Bahn, the underground railway system, the S-Bahn and its nine mass transit rail lines, 600 different bus routes and the six ferry services plying the Elbe allow tourists to reach the main sights as well as the city's nooks and crannies.

On the other hand, if you like to amble, Hamburg is an eminently walkable place. There's simply so much to see you'll be constantly lured into exploring further down the street you're on and beyond. The harbor may be one of the world's largest, but most of the city's main places of interest are fairly close to the city's center.

However, to ensure you don't miss out on any of the major sights it's a good plan to kick off with an open-top sightseeing bus tour. Or head for the harbor and its 700-meter long floating dock that serves as Hamburg's floating boat station and take a rather slower paced guided boat tour along the river and canals, passing the massive red brick warehouses of the Speicherstadt district, once abandoned relics of a pre-container ship past, now transformed into chic—and very expensive—loft apartments.

It's hard to believe that this now thriving area and much of the rest of the city was levelled by the all-consuming fire storm created by the Allied "Operation Gomorrah" 1,000-bomber air raid of July 1943, when the heat was so intense that the waters of the canals reached boiling point. More than 42,000 civilians perished in a raid so devastating that Hitler refused to visit and never set foot in the city again.

The renaissance of Hamburg since the war has been remarkable. Today it boasts the highest per capita GDP in all Germany. That success can be put down to the resilience and industriousness of its citizens—people who work hard and play hard. This is, after all, the city renowned as the nation's sporting capital, the jewel being the Hamburger SV soccer club. A guided tour of their massive 60,000-seat stadium and its trophy room and related facilities is a revelation. FC St. Pauli has now joined Hamburger SV in the league's first division.

The twin man-made Alster lakes, created by damming the river, are prime strolling grounds both for first-time visitors and longtime residents. Prestigious homes and imposing hotels like the Atlantic Kempinski and the Vierjahrezeiten line the lake's banks. An air of solid prosperity wafts over the

nearby leafy avenues, and the Jungfernstieg is justly renowned as one of Europe's great promenades.

It's an easy walk from the lakes to the Altstadt—the old town. Its charming 16th-century ambience is somewhat illusory because this was another of the areas totally flattened in the war. In the first wave of Hamburg's post-war rejuvenation this pleasant little district was faithfully rebuilt.

Buildings from various architectural eras were similarly recreated throughout Hamburg. The diversity of styles, many of them executed in a grand manner, should encourage passersby to look upward rather than just at often glitzy shop window displays. Fine examples of empire art nouveau, art deco and 21st-century style abound.

Culture vultures are drawn to the city's magnificent State Opera House, 31 theaters, 10 cabaret rooms, six music halls and more than 50 museums and art galleries—both publicly and privately funded.

Another site worth a look is the Miniatur Wunderland, the world's largest model railroad. Its seven miles of tracks are laid out in an old warehouse near the Landungsbrücken bridge.

The Reeperbahn thoroughfare in the St. Pauli maritime district is one the world's most famous red-light districts. Beware, some of the side streets are decidedly not family-friendly. The main street is a thriving entertainment district with pubs, bars and dance clubs, in many respects no bawdier than the French Quarter in New Orleans.

The Fischmarkt is an easy five-minute stroll from the St. Pauli waterfront. At each end of the market's jam-packed hall there's a stage on which bands play their raucous sets seamlessly, rock giving way to funk to old

The Rathaus (town hall) is the symbolic heart of the city.

school rock ‘n’ roll to garage, to hip-hop to jazz. In the middle, a host of stalls offer all manner of food for eating on the hoof between swigs of well-chilled local beer. Holsten is the locally brewed “hair-of-the-dog” favorite. On chilly mornings, throat-burning schnapps find favor, as the smells of exotic herbs and spices float through the air. Outside the hall are stalls selling clothes, tourist trinkets and mementos of Hamburg’s hippy past.

Hamburg has always imported and exported people as well as goods. In the early 1960s the city’s booming club scene drew certain mop-topped lads from Liverpool. The Beatles performed at clubs on Reeperbahn, famously honing their skills and emerging as the band that energized rock ‘n’ roll and an entire generation. John, Paul, George and original members Peter Best and Stuart Sutcliffe played night after night at the fabled Star Club, which burned down in the 1980s. The Beatles live on. At Reeperbahn and Grosse Freiheit streets are stainless steel sculptures commemorating the band. Feel free to hum your favorite Beatles song here.

Hamburg is a magnet for the country’s movers and shakers—and for the international set too, so it’s no surprise to find an abundance of world-class upmarket shops and first-rate restaurants, from the chic and funky to Michelin-starred havens of haute cuisine. There’s truly a global gourmet cookbook at play here.

Consequently, the smell of the city is a mix of taste-tempting aromas. Turkish kebabs, Thai noodles and Italian pizzas are as much a part of the local culinary scene as such tasty local delights as matjes (salted North Sea herring served on a bread roll), hearty fish stews and labskaus, a traditional seafarer’s hash made with minced beef, chopped herring, leek, celery and other vegetables and topped with a

5 Must-See Sites

Rathaus

Hamburg’s imposing city hall was built in neo-Renaissance style between 1886 and 1897 and remains iconic. The lofty tower looks down on the Old Town while its ornate exterior and 647 rooms carry many references to the city’s proud maritime traditions.



St. Michaelis

St. Michaelis

There’s been a church on this site since 1649, while the current edifice dates from 1907-12. In a city of churches and towering spires, St. Michaelis nevertheless dominates the skyline. Undergoing a lavish restoration, the interior features a grandiose 65-meter-high neo-Baroque altar.

Cap San Diego

The world’s largest museum ship still occasionally puts to sea but is usually found docked by the Überseebrücke. Launched in 1961 to ply the Hamburg-South America routes as a cargo vessel, she offers permanent displays and seasonal exhibitions and guided tours of the bridge, the living quarters and the engine room.

Planten und Blumen

“Plants and Flowers” is an apt name for this delightful and tranquil retreat from the city bustle. A superb rose garden, a Japanese garden, masses of other seasonal blooms, water features and summer concerts all add to the charm. Clever planting ensures the gardens emit touches of color year-round.



A red powder puff at the Planten und Blumen

Hamburger Kunsthalle

Hamburg has more than 80 first-rate museums and galleries. This massive collection doesn’t come with fries but does offer the varied styles of a range of great artists, from the great masters to the modernists. Northern Germany’s most important collection since 1817 became a gallery open to the public in 1869. The four-story extension is an excellent piece of modern architecture.

fried egg. The dish's distinctive and attractive red hue comes from the addition of cooked beetroot.

Look for *birnen, bohnen und speck* on the menu. No, it's not a firm of German lawyers but another unusual dish that's worth seeking out. It's an odd-sounding but delicious combination of pears, beans and speck ham.

In season, sharp-tasting kale is the local veg of choice, along with the ubiquitous potato, which is the anchor of classic North German cuisine. Tiny North Sea shrimp are another staple. For a genuine local dessert, try *rote grütze*—red forest berries simmered in red wine and served up with cream or a silky smooth vanilla sauce.

On the street, taste buds are tempted by sizzling *bratwürst*, *currywurst* and other styles of sausage plus the hamburger-like *fricadelle* patties and *bratkartoffeln*—the German-take on sautéed potatoes, prepared over an open flame in pans that can measure three-feet across.

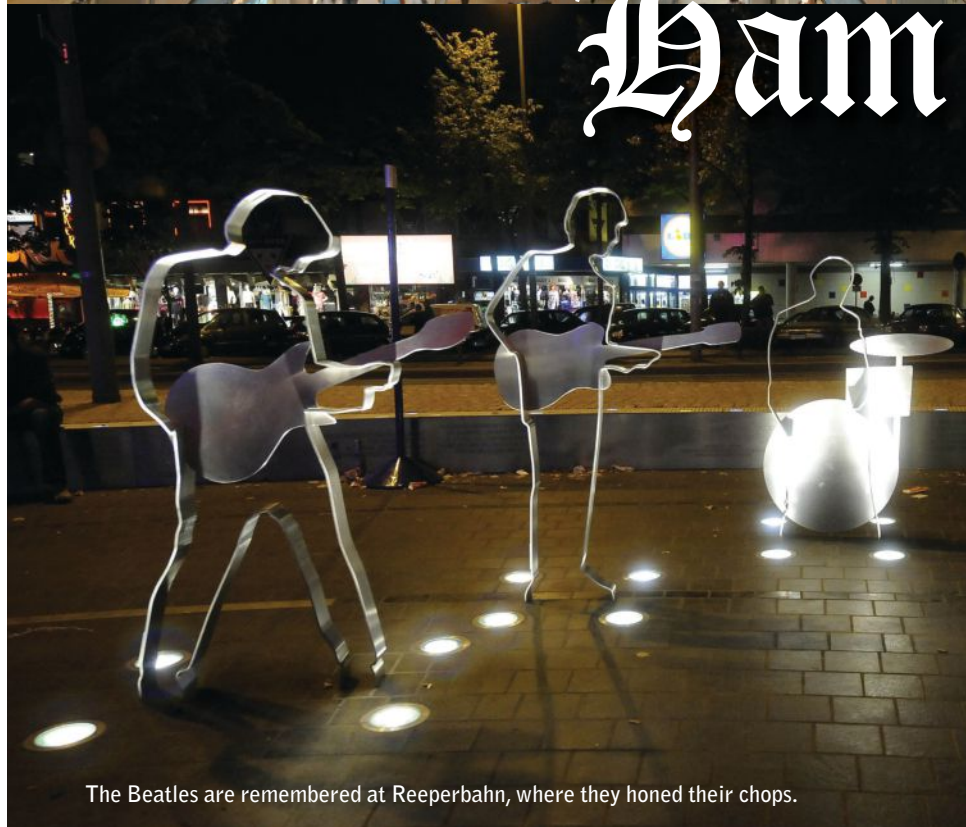
Load up on the cuisine—there's so much to see and do you'll need the calories. Try to explore beyond downtown so you can sample some of Hamburg's residential and working suburbs, which make the city more a collection of strung-together comfortable villages than an unwieldy, amorphous big city. The Neue Stadt, Altona and HafnCity are all ready to bid you welcome, while Bremen, Hanover and even Berlin are but a short express train ride away.

London-based travel writer Roger St. Pierre has travelled in 130 countries and all 50 U.S. states but confesses to being a confirmed Europhile and has been a frequent visitor to Hamburg.

Europa Passage is the largest shopping mall in the city center with 120 stores on five floors. Located between Jungfernstieg and Mönckebergstrasse, it also offers view of Alster Lake.



Ham



The Beatles are remembered at Reeperbahn, where they honed their chops.

Watch videos on
Hamburg and last year's
convention in Busan.



"Tarzan,"
a musical,
was a hit in
Hamburg, which
offers a variety of
cultural attractions.

burg



5 Dining Destinations

Rickmer Rickmers

Landungsbrücken, Pontoon 1a. 49 040 3 19 59 59.

www.rickmer-rickmers.de

You will not be served any culinary masterpieces—snack-type meals being the order of the day—but what an atmospheric setting: between decks on an old, three-masted sailing ship that's permanently anchored beside the harbour promenade. For many years a Portuguese training ship, she has now been lovingly restored.



A detail of the
Rickmer Rickmers
ship

Fairmont Vier Jahreszeiten Hotel

Neuer Jungfernstieg 9-14. 49 040 3494 0.

www.fairmont.com/vier-jahreszeiten-hamburg

Afternoon tea in the plush Wohnhalle or cocktails in the famous Doc Cheng bar—this is the place to see and be seen. When it's time to eat you take your pick of the in-house restaurants and opt for classic French, exciting Euro-Asian fusion or traditional North German fare. The food is divine, service impeccable and ambience breathtaking. One of the world's great addresses.

Daniel Wischer

Spitalerstrasse 12. 49 032 52 58 15.

www.danielwischer.de

Looking for an authentic taste of Hamburg and great value too? They've been frying straight-from-the-boat fish here in the Old Town since way back in 1924. There's a range of species available and portions are generous. Lovingly house-produced potato salad makes a welcome change from fries.

Old Commercial Room

Englische Planke 10. 49 040 36 63 19.

www.oldcommercialroom.de

A longtime tourist favorite in New Town, this is a good place to savor labskaus, the tasty fisherman's hash, or hearty meat dishes served with dumplings and red cabbage. The plush décor is unashamedly traditional in its style.

Schönes Leben

Alter Wandrahm 49 040 18 04 82 680.

www.schoenes-leben.com

Head toward Speicherstadt and the docks for the original of this busy three-venue German equivalent to a French brasserie. It's open for breakfast, there's a lunchtime buffet and you can dine late when calorie-laden cakes and strong coffee are specialties.



Schönes Leben



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.*

☐ Before December 31: Reservation in delegation hotel
☐ After December 31: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel
☐ Prefer hotel based on: ☐ room rate of _____ ☐ location near convention center

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)*

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>DATE/TIME</u> | <u>FEE</u> | <u>QUANTITY</u> | <u>AMOUNT DUE</u> |
|--|---------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 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 | _____ | \$ _____ |

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

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| | | <u>Adult</u> | <u>Child (17 and under)</u> |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Early | (before 31/Dec/2012) | US\$100 | US\$10 |
| Regular | (1/January through 31/March/2013) | US\$130 | US\$10 |
| Late | (1/April/2013 – onsite) | US\$150 | US\$10 |

Package A:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
 Hotel Deposit: US\$ 200.00

OR

Package B:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Bank transfer/deposit (copy must be attached to this form) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Your name as it appears on the card _____ Credit card **must** be in the name of the registrant.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security code (3 digits) _____

Signature _____

Mail form and payment to: Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

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Questions? Email us: registration@lionsclubs.org

- Allow 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery of your confirmation.

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Join other LIONS on a Dream Vacation!

Elegant Danube River Cruise

Alpine Beauty & Bohemian Highlights

14 Days from **\$2948***

Departs: September 2 or 16, 2013



Start in Munich, Germany for one-night. Then travel to Schwangau and a guided tour of the famous Neuschwanstein (Disneyland) Castle and Rothenburg o.d. Tauber, an enchanting, fully preserved medieval town for an overnight stay. The following day you will leave for the Czech Republic stopping in Plzen, where Pilsner beer was created; followed by Bohemia and Prague, where you will see Charles Bridge. The next day travel to Passau and spend the day sightseeing before you embark on the 4-star **TUI Melodia**. Your cruise includes the Danube's highlights including Melk and Vienna, Austria (the classical city of music); Esztergom and Budapest Hungary; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Linz, Austria; before returning to Passau. Travel back to Munich with additional sightseeing and included traditional Bavarian dinner, before flying home. Your "brand new" ship the **TUI Melodia**, constructed in 2011, offers a state-of-the-art, experience! **On the September 16th departure date, enjoy a guided tour of Oktoberfest and dinner at a local brewery.**

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Price includes French Balcony, upgrades available. Add \$300 for September 16th departure date. Airfare is extra.



Cliffs of Moher

Best of Ireland Tour

12 Days
from **\$1598***

Departs: July 11, 2013

Your vacation to the "Emerald Isle" starts in **Dublin** with a city tour including St. Patrick's Cathedral (the largest church in Ireland). Travel to **Cork**, stopping at the Rock of Cashel and Cobh along the way. Then visit Blarney Castle, Woollen Mill and Muckross House & Gardens en route to **Killarney**. Drive the "**Ring of Kerry**" offering spectacular scenery, tour Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, built in 1425. Visit the Cliffs of Moher, **Galway**, the Connemara region, Kylemore Abbey and the Bundoran area. Enjoy a guided tour of Belleek Pottery, visit Ulster American Folk Park, & explore "**The Giant's Causeway**." Finally take a sightseeing tour of **Belfast** that includes the impressive Parliament buildings plus you will visit the newly opened "**Titanic Belfast**." **Tour includes 16 meals.**

*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare is extra. Alternate departure dates available June - September 2013. Seasonal rates may apply.



**Plus...Vancouver,
Victoria & Seattle**

Canadian Rockies Tour

14 Days
from **\$1958***

Departs: August 2, 2013

Experience unique and beautiful landscapes on this incredible tour. Start in **Seattle**, and head east to "The Big Sky Country" of Montana and visit **Glacier & Waterton Lakes National Parks**. Continue northbound along the Icefields Parkway and in the heart of the Canadian Rockies you will visit **Banff National Park; Lake Louise**, experience a "**snow coach**" ride onto **Athabasca glacier, Jasper National Park, Yoho National Park; Revelstoke** and the **Lake Okanagan region**. In **Whistler** you will board the **Rocky Mountaineer** train for an unforgettable, breathtaking rail journey to Vancouver. Then enjoy two relaxing ferry trip's to Vancouver Island, where you will visit the capital city of **Victoria** and back to Port Angeles, where you will travel to **Olympic National Park**.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare is extra. Alternate departure dates available June - September 2013. Seasonal rates may apply.

****Lions Clubs International not responsible for losses incurred.**



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A man with a mustache, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, is leaning over a large white plastic bin filled with a large pile of old, broken, and discarded eyeglasses. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In the background, there is a shelf with various items, including a red cloth, a white electronic device, and some clear plastic bins. One bin has a label that says "MINUS SINGLE VISION" and another has "PLUS S VISION". A yellow cloth is also visible on the shelf. The setting appears to be a workshop or a storage area in a prison.

Doing Good While Doing Time

California inmates 'rehabilitate' eyeglasses

by Katya Cengel

His nickname is Hillbilly. He says he is a former Marine who can teach people how to do two things—shoot and march. When asked why he is in prison he doesn't offer an explanation—just an answer.

“I killed my wife.”

Mike LaFaver looks like he walked out of central casting for a gritty crime saga with his handlebar mustache, bald head and the sinewy arms of a manual laborer. He is 48 and has been in prison for 21 years, the last three at California Medical Facility-State Prison in Vacaville.

Despite his past, he works on behalf of the blind. His current prison job is recording audio books for the blind including children. He has processed innumerable donated eyeglasses, too, as part of the prison's nonprofit Volunteers of Vacaville Blind Project. LaFaver sees his work for the visually impaired as a sort of retribution for the murder he committed. “I can't make up for that, so if I can give back in some little way and maybe say, ‘look, I'm trying,’ then that's all I can do,” he says.

Before he went to prison, LaFaver had never heard of Lions clubs. Then he took the job processing used eyeglasses donated to Lions in Sight of California and Nevada. The work got under his skin. While reading the prescription of the donated eyeglasses, he fixated on the idea of Lions leading the blind out of darkness. He translated this image onto paper in the form of a blind boy holding onto the mane of a lion. He created his painting using instant coffee grounds and presented it to members of Lions in Sight of California and Nevada. “That's an inmate who knows the true meaning of what we're all about,” says Past International Director Bill Iannaccone, chief operating officer of Lions in Sight of California and Nevada, which processes and distributes used eyeglasses to those in need in developing countries.

The painting hangs in the kitchen of the foundation's Vallejo warehouse about 30 miles from the prison. It is here the eyeglasses go before they are sent to the prison and here they return afterward. The majority of recycled eyeglasses collected and sent from individuals, companies

and Lions clubs in the West Coast end up here, says Iannaccone. Once they arrive they are sorted, cleaned and neutralized (determining the prescription) before being sent out to the foundation's vision clinics that provide free basic eye care and eyeglasses. Since its founding by the late eye doctor Wayne Cannon in the 1980s, the nonprofit has conducted more than 190 clinic missions in 31 countries, serving over 193,000 people.

In a typical year the warehouse processes around 700,000 to 800,000 pairs of eyeglasses. In the last six months of 2011 they shipped out 300,000 pairs, leaving the

150-by-50 foot warehouse complex almost empty, says Carl Langhorst, the warehouse's unofficial distribution manager. His definition of empty is relative though, and on this day there were still rows of boxed eyeglasses stacked half a dozen high near the entrance, several huge garbage bags of eyeglasses in a back corner and plastic tubs of eyeglasses along the walls. Lions staff the warehouse most weekdays, sorting, packaging and readying boxes of eyeglasses for shipment to the 10 to 12 mission clinics they conduct yearly.

In addition to serving as treasurer of his club, Langhorst spends 35 to 40 hours a month volunteering at the warehouse. A retired quality assurance chemist, he joined the Lions in 1975 after being diagnosed with astigmatism following an episode in which he nearly ran a car off the road at dusk because he couldn't see it. When he started helping out at the warehouse in 2002 it was a maze of boxes. Now the majority of the boxes are in a back warehouse and the front warehouse has space for local volunteers to sort new arrivals, separating out the broken eyeglasses and also the more valuable ones. Certain metal and gold rimmed glasses are melted down, and Lions in Sight uses the proceeds from these to help cover operating expenses.

Those that are kept, about 60 percent, are cleaned by another group of volunteers, usually Leos. Cleaning is a fast interactive process that allows volunteers to chat and socialize while drying the glasses that have been dipped en

“That's an
inmate who
knows the true
meaning of
what we're all
about.”

(Left) Inmate Mike LaFaver processes eyeglasses for Lions at the California Medical Facility-State Prison in Vacaville.

masse in cleaning tubs. In two hours, 100 volunteers can clean around 9,000 pairs of eyeglasses.

Neutralizing is a solitary process that requires careful attention and patience as glasses are placed under a lensometer, a device which resembles a microscope. Each lens is held under the lensometer so the device can read the level of correction. Then the worker must determine whether the prescription falls within the range Lions in Sight accepts and next label and package the eyeglasses in individual plastic bags.

It's hard to find volunteers willing to perform the tedious task. But prisoners are happy to oblige, says Lion Wayne Hoffmeyer, who brings eyeglasses to inmates at California State Prison, Los Angeles County, one of three prisons with which Lions in Sight currently works. Neutralizing eyeglasses provides them not only with a safe work environment away from the general population; it also gives them a sense of self-worth, says Hoffmeyer. Last year the inmates sent Hoffmeyer Christmas cards thanking him for the opportunity to give back.

"So I in turn sent them a Christmas card telling them that without them we couldn't do the job that we do," says Hoffmeyer.

It isn't an exaggeration. Without the inmates, Lions in Sight would only be able to do one or two clinics a year instead of the 10 to 12 they do now, says Iannaccone. "It's invaluable what the prisons do for us," he says.

The Vacaville Blind Project is clearly a two-way street. A more than 50-year-old partnership between prison staff and inmates, the project is the one place in the prison where there really is rehabilitation going on, says Patrick Sahota, the correctional officer in charge of the project. Inmates learn valuable life skills while fulfilling their work requirement in relative comfort. Securing one of the 20 sedentary jobs in the air-conditioned Blind Project offices is considered "cushy" compared to the usual mopping and cafeteria details, says Sahota.

To join the project inmates must have a GED or high school diploma, have at least three years left in prison and be disciplinary-free for a year. Those who have committed



Inmates repairing Braille writers are (from left) Nathan B., Lyle Bird, Thomas R. and Michael Wallace. (Some inmates requested not using their last names.)



Carl Langhorst stands next to a painting created from instant coffee grounds and given to Lions in Sight of California and Nevada by inmate LaFaver.

Without the inmates,
Lions in Sight would
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Langhorst, unofficial distribution manager of the Lions in Sight of California and Nevada's warehouse in Vallejo, boxes eyeglasses by their prescription.



Mohammad Ali uses a lensometer to determine the prescription of eyeglasses at the prison.



A toy stuffed lion guards the boxes of eyeglasses ready to be shipped from the Lions' warehouse to mission clinics.

sexual crimes or those who have had drug or violence issues while incarcerated are not eligible. Qualified inmates who pass two rigorous interviews are hired to neutralize eyeglasses, record books on tape, transcribe books into Braille or repair Perkins Braille Writers. The eyeglass detail pays about 18 cents an hour while the other jobs pay up to 95 cents.

Before he transcribed books into Braille, José Sandoval spent two years neutralizing eyeglasses. One of the reasons he stayed with the job so long was a story that visiting Lions in Sight members told him. The men told Sandoval about an African woman who was able to see the face of her child clearly for the first time after receiving a pair of eyeglasses. Sandoval, who is 38 and has been incarcerated 19 years, says the story helped him realize the extent to which he was aiding the needy through his work with Lions.

"There aren't many jobs in prison where you're able to do something positive and give back to society," says Sandoval, who is serving 30 years to life for first-degree

murder. "Helping the visually impaired gives you that opportunity to at least begin to make amends and repay that huge debt that I know I owe to society."

Mohammad Ali is under no illusion that he will ever be able to make up for the two lives he took. A small man with graying hair, Ali looks like he belongs in a university. Instead he is serving two 25-year, first-degree murder sentences.

"You can't pay back a debt like that," said Ali, who is 51 and has been in prison since 1982.

All he can do is try to give back to society, and by neutralizing eyeglasses he is able to both give back and learn skills that he can possibly use outside one day.

"I look forward to coming to work," he said. "I would rather be here doing something positive than not having something to do."

Watch a video on a Lions' recycling project at Folsom.

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What Matters to Me

It wasn't long ago that we endured election season. Politicians and pundits weighed in endlessly on what mattered. Well, Lions know a few things about what matters in our communities. We asked six Lions to tell us what matters to them—not on political concerns—but on issues related to being a Lion. Lions may not be able to save the world all by ourselves, but we think Lions can offer some insight on making the world a friendlier and better place.

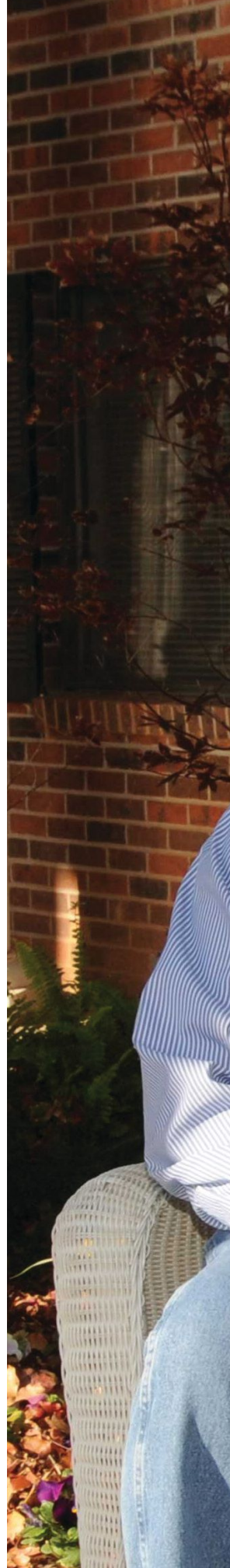
Old and (Should Not be) Forgotten

Paul Anderson

Stillwater Noon Lions Club, Oklahoma

My second-grade teacher told me more than once that if I “didn’t straighten up and fly right” she would call my mom ... at home! That was 1953. My mom now resides in an assisted living center near my home in Stillwater. She is occasionally admonished by the staff to “chill” or they will call her son ... at home! I do know the entire staff at her facility on a first-name basis. Role reversal of parent and child is interesting, to say the least.

My mom has her ways. Despite firmly attached labels and colored signage attached to helium balloons, she still aims the portable phone at the TV. She still talks to the channel changer. Yet I believe she has better luck than I do at home with my overpriced electronic multimedia device, which to my surprise occasionally opens my garage door.





Anderson videotapes the stories of seniors residing at assisted living facilities.

Photo courtesy of Ken Helt Photography

The stiff-upper-lip mantra of us “pre-Boomer” sons and daughters passing one another in the hallways of assisted living centers that house our aging parents is: “It could always be worse!” The mother of one such newly commissioned “role reversee” would toss channel changers in the trash along with used tissue when she had finished adjusting her television. For a solution, my friend bolted her channel changer to a table. When that became unworkable, he adjusted the TV to her favorite channel, super-glued the TV controls and explained how to plug and unplug her TV to an electric outlet. Problem solved!

Yogi Berra supposedly said, “It’s amazing all the things you can see when you take the time to look.” Many untold stories lie silently and desperately in the hallways of assisted living centers. These untold stories fascinate me. I moderate a “Talk Soup” session for a group of men every Wednesday morning in a local assisted living facility. The men’s ages range from 80 to 100. We discuss current events, but we share old stories. I videotape those stories for family members.

My mom once lived in another assisted living facility before we moved her closer to our home. When I visited her, I was always welcomed by a huge man who was also a resident. He spent most of his days in the common living areas greeting people as they arrived. I did not know much about him because sadly I wasn’t looking. I researched his life for his memorial service.

He was 89 years old when he died. He was born in West Texas as the ninth child of 11 brothers and sisters. He learned how to break horses and play a guitar equally well. He played football for Baylor University but withdrew from college to volunteer for WWII. He became a well-known singer and story teller in the Pacific Theater, and in the 1940s he was featured in lead article in *Colliers Magazine* which called him “The Troubadour of The Pacific.”

He won the Bronze Star. After the war he played and sang with Hank Thompson throughout the United States. He returned to Baylor, obtained his teaching degree and taught special needs children for 33 years. He worked as a horse wrangler for 32 seasons at special needs children’s camps in Arizona. He also became a Lion because “We Serve” was more than a slogan for him: it was purpose in life. In the final years of his life he moved to Stillwater. His granddaughter, whom he had raised as a child when she was abandoned by her parents, quietly cared for him.

I believe our assisted living and nursing facilities house are now homes for many forgotten men and women who still have a heart for Lionism. We should listen to their stories. They did not stop being Lions because of their present inability to attend meetings. Although their earlier accom-

plishments are mostly unremembered, they still retain hearts for service. We should be creative enough to design meeting formats and service projects so our former senior, inactive and perhaps forgotten Lions can once again experience the pride of serving others. That’s right—a genuine role reversal!

I believe our assisted living and nursing facilities house are now homes for many forgotten men and women who still have a heart for Lionism. We should listen to their stories. They did not stop being Lions because of their present inability to attend meetings.

These men and women still have a desire to once again be a part of the greatest organization in the world if in turn we are willing to create innovative methods for them to re-join us. That might look like a newly created membership status within such facilities. It might look like something different but in a more accessible format. I challenge you to decide in each community. Are you ever too old to become a Lion? I don’t think so.

The big man who greeted me in mom’s former assisted living center was known simply as “Red.” But he was so much more. I wish I would have seen more when I looked. I wish when I looked at him I had seen the “Texas Troubadour of the Pacific.” He was a role model for his family. He was so very special to those he encouraged and inspired during his lifetime. But in the final stages of his life, sadly unremembered, he lived quietly and anonymously in a nursing facility. At his memorial service, four rows of family members sat in an otherwise empty funeral chapel. They tearfully clapped in cadence to an old 1945 recording of his favorite Hank Williams song “Jambalaya.” To every unsuspecting person he greeted, he was simply the big man known as “Red.” But the real Albert L. “Red” Cheek was a spirited and generous troubadour with the heart of a Lion.

Past Council Chair Anderson, an ordained minister, serves as a chaplain for Image Healthcare Services in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He and his wife, Linda, have two adult sons.



Pinto steps carefully where she fell and lost her eye.

‘Donate, Donate, Donate!’

Diana M. Pinto

Cape Coral Lions Club, Florida

I trip over things all the time. I should have been more careful, especially now that I’m 71. But last June as I moved a portable podium from my shed I stumbled on the doorway track. The next thing I knew I was laying on the ground with blood pooling around me. I wasn’t sure what had happened to me, but my throbbing left eye felt like it was dangling from its socket.

Like in a movie, I screamed, “Help, help.” Bolts of pain surged through my face. In the distance I saw my elderly neighbor, John, on his golf cart getting his mail. I screamed louder. He saw me, hopped out of his cart and hurried toward the unit of the nearest neighbor, Marie, like his pants were on fire. Despite my pain I almost started laughing. Jeanne, another neighbor, happened to be driving by. Marie shouted at her, “Get to Pinto’s. She’s down.”

The emergency room doctor studied my face and told me I would lose the eye. My gosh! I am a widow with four children, 12 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. I know life and what it can bring. But this floored me.

I saw Dr. Paul Raskauskas, who had been monitoring my dry macular degeneration. He referred me to Dr. Nadia Kazim, who scheduled me for surgery to remove my mangled eye.

My Lions’ friends, Past District Governor Paul Nash and his wife, Lion Rae, of the North Fort Myers Noon Club, kindly went with me to see Kazim. Paul fixed his eyes on me and asked, “What do you think about donating your eye?” Being a Lion, I should have been more aware of this possibility but I wasn’t. I asked some questions and briefly mulled it over. Yes, why not? My friends called the Tampa Eye Institute of Research and Development. Someone from the center would be there the day of surgery to pick up my eye. They told me it was their first “live eye” donation in about 20 years.

My prosthetic eye is made from coral (ironic, of course, given the name of my club). I can drive, read and otherwise do what I have done before. At times I feel unbalanced. But I am grateful. I’ve moved past the “pity party” stage I had wallowed in. I broke my eye. It couldn’t be fixed. I’ve put on my big girl pants and gotten on with life.

Thankfully, my appearance is normal. People who see me a lot and know me well ask, “What eye did you lose?” I’ve gained a new perspective. I can’t believe the number of people

who find out about my loss and say, “I have one, too.” Prosthetic eyes are much more common than I realized.

My heart swells when I think of the friends and family who supported me during my ordeal. I can’t name them all but there are the Nashes, who opened their home to me, and my loving daughter, Diana Sarah Nelson, who made sure I took my medications on time and drove me to my many appointments. The doctors, such as Gregory T. Anerino, an anaplastologist, have been terrific, too.

Here’s what’s neat: my eye is in California for research

on macular degeneration. If they make progress, I will raise my hands as high as I can and let out a whoop. But I’ll do some shouting now anyway. I’d like to scream this from the top of rooftops: if your eye is injured and damaged beyond repair, donate it, donate it, donate it. You never know what researchers may discover to cure an eye disease thanks to a “live eye” donation.

Past District Governor Pinto, who lives in a retirement community, spends a lot of time with her large family.

My Lions Lifeline

Debbie Whittlesey

Lebanon Host Lions Club, Missouri

As a young woman I dreamt of falling in love, getting married and living happily ever after. I did fall in love and got married, but it was that last part where things went terribly awry.

Years ago when I was dating and then engaged I considered his extreme jealousy, possessiveness and isolation from my family and friends flattery. I mistook all of this “attention” to be his great love for me. It wasn’t long after we were married that his explosive temper emerged. At first his anger was directed at objects that were important to me. He smashed a vase from my big brother, shredded a new outfit, broke the dishes and punched a hole in the wall.

He was always sorry and promised it would never happen again. But it always did and gradually grew worse. It evolved into a shove or push. He blocked the doorway, threw me down and kicked me while I was asleep. The constant name calling and criticisms made me feel worthless and unintelligent. My self-esteem vanished. Fear was a huge part of my life. I felt alone, ashamed and embarrassed that this was happening to me.

Finally after a trip to the hospital after a beating I learned about a place in town called COPE, a resource center and shelter for battered women. I contacted them and they helped me make a plan. COPE went to court with me so I would not be afraid and helped me get an order of protection. I have had to have several issued over the past nine years, but I no longer live in fear.

Eight years ago I began looking for ways to give back to my community. I read about the Lebanon Host Lions Club in a brochure from the local Chamber office. I read how they supported children needing glasses, the schools, the library with large print and audio books, parks and much more. But what really stood out was they supported COPE. I knew then that this Lions club was the perfect club for me.

Since becoming a Lion my life has been augmented with amazing friends, awesome social gatherings, quality leadership training and exciting travels. I became the first female president in my club’s 75-year history. I became district governor in 2010-11 and trained under the late Past International Director Harold “Ott” Otter. Near the end of my term, Joplin was hit by a devastating EF-5 tornado. I was so scared! But I remembered what Ott had said: “As governor when the challenges come your way you can choose to sit or you can choose to lead.” I chose to lead. I am so very proud of what we have been able to accomplish together and continue to accomplish in Joplin.

You see, the girl that lived in fear, self-doubt and insecurity not so long ago has transformed. Since becoming a Lion I have been encouraged and made to feel like there is nothing in this world I cannot accomplish. Not only do Lions serve those in need but they also serve their members and enhance their lives. I will never be able to repay the Lions for all they have given me.

After my divorce I thought my world was ending and my dream of happily ever after was gone forever. What I found out was that this was really the new beginning to my life, not the end. Thanks to the fabulous Lions Clubs International, I am now confident and happy and able to make life better for so many others through service. I love my new beginning and I love being a Lion! Life is good.

Past District Governor Whittlesey is vice president of Central Money Services, Inc. in Lebanon, Missouri. She has three grown daughters and four grandchildren. She recently was one of 11 Lions honored by the White House as a Champion of Change.



Whittlesey relates how Lions helped Joplin recover after a tornado at last year's international convention in Busan, Korea.

A Family That Roars

Dr. Robert Massof

Baltimore Brooklyn Lions Club, Maryland

In 1985 I was a junior faculty member trying to make my mark at the Wilmer Eye Institute of the Johns Hopkins Medical School in Maryland. My research focused on visual impairments caused by inherited eye diseases. The institute director was Dr. Arnall Patz, a world-famous ophthalmologist yet generous, modest and humble. In the 1950s he had proved that high levels of oxygen given to premature newborns in hospitals caused blindness. Helen Keller personally presented the Lasker Award, the highest honor in American medicine, to Dr. Patz for his landmark discovery that saved countless newborns from blindness.

Dr. Patz always had strong empathy with his patients, most of whom had irreversible visual impairments by the time they were referred to him. He was saddened and frustrated that he could do little to help them return to active, independent lives. Consequently, Dr. Patz made it his mission to create a vision rehabilitation center at the Wilmer Institute dedicated to conducting much needed research and developing effective clinical services for patients with chronic disabling visual impairments, a condition more commonly called low vision.

My research on visual impairments was oriented toward understanding the eye diseases that caused them rather than their effects on daily living. Nevertheless, my research came closer than other types of research at the Wilmer Institute to addressing the problems of low vision. So Dr. Patz tried to persuade me to redirect my interest in visual impairment research and devote my career to finding ways to help people with low vision.

That advice gave me pause. Although I had the greatest admiration and respect for Dr. Patz, the stakes were high for a young faculty member to accept such a challenge. Securing peer-recognition and research grants are crucial to career development in academic medicine, if not outright survival. Very few people in the world were doing health care-related research on low vision and there were no obvious sources of low vision research funding. I felt I was being asked to look academic death in the face.

Then Dr. Patz told me an inspiring story. When he was trying to obtain funding for a clinical study to test his idea

that the oxygen led to the blindness, the funding agency returned his grant application. Written across the cover page in large red letters was REJECTED – DO NOT FUND. PROPOSED RESEARCH IS UNETHICAL. Shocked and disappointed but undeterred, he persuaded his family to fund the initial study. This crucial pilot study was successful, and the rest is history.

The message for me was that to build a low vision rehabilitation center, I would need the support of family.

Dr. Patz already had a family in mind: a family that roars. Personally inspired by Helen Keller at the Lasker Award ceremony more than 30 years earlier, he invited the Lions of Multiple District 22 to partner with the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute to tackle the largely ignored problem of low vision. The 8,000 Lions of MD 22 responded enthusiastically by adopting us into their family. They created and funded the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, which serves low vision patients throughout Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. This close and successful partnership has continued for more than 20 years with many accomplishments. The Lions' love for Dr. Patz is enshrined in the Arnall Patz Fellowship, an honor that can be bestowed by Lions on others with a \$2,500 contribution to the MD 22 Lions Vision Research Foundation.

Time has passed quickly. I am no longer a young researcher. But much has changed for the better. Low vision rehabilitation has become an important part of health care. When asked what matters to me professionally, I say it is the strong working partnership we at the Wilmer Eye Institute have with the MD 22 Lions and being a member of the Lions family myself.

Massof is a professor of ophthalmology and neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute. He recently was one of 11 Lions honored by the White House as a Champion of Change.



Photo by Mike McElwaine/Johns Hopkins University.

Robert Massof grips an Automated Visual Impairment Assessment System, an instrument he developed that is used to map out blind spots in central vision.



Santos logs long hours eliminating graffiti from his neighborhood.

Every Day is a Day for Service

Santos Alvarez*

Tucson North Tucson Lions Club, Arizona

What matters to me is being useful. Every day I volunteer. During the week I scrub graffiti off street light poles and paint over the markings on walls and bridges in my neighborhood. I raise money on White Cane Days by standing for seven hours at grocery stores. Sometimes I do this three days in a row—Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Sundays I usher at my church and keep their lawn nice and neat. In the spring I put on my Easter Bunny costume and see kids at the hospital. That cheers them up.

I think I can help others because I know what it's like to be poor. I grew up in Mexico. It was me, four brothers, my mom and dad in a single-room adobe house. It was really small with a dirt floor. My dad was a barber. There's not a lot of money in that. The other kids in school may not have had much. But they had more than me, and they teased and bullied me. When you are poor in Mexico, school is not something you do for a long time. I made it through fourth grade.

My sister-in-law encouraged me to come to the United States. I came here when I was 17. In the 1960s I moved to Nogales in Arizona and worked with glass. I was good with glass. I cut it, polished it and put it in cars and houses. I finished up grade school by taking classes and learned English at night from Mr. Baker, a volunteer professor.

I'm 73 and retired. So I have a lot of time. Last year I worked 500 hours removing graffiti. It's my neighborhood, and I want it to look good. I work with the city on this. For stop signs, I have to cover the letters with masking tape, and then I spray paint it. It takes two hours to clean a sign. For walls I have to use sandpaper. It gets you tired. But it's worth it when you see a clean wall.

When I collect money for Lions at the store I get to talk to everyone. "How are you today?" "That's a nice dress!" "Where do you go to school?" I know lots of people. I tell everyone about Lions. We help out on disasters. We help the blind get around. Someone has to let people know who we are.

Two years ago I was driving to Mexico for my club. We were giving people \$1,000 for a new medical clinic. I got hit by a semi-truck. I've had problems getting the money from my insurance company. So I still don't have a car. I'm saving up for one. It's OK. I walk or take the bus. I had to take three different buses to get to our Lions meeting. It took me three hours. It's a little easier now because a Lion gave me a bicycle. If it's not too far, I bike.

I really like being a Lion. I think there must be about 40 plaques and awards I got in my home. It's a nice display. But it's not about what others think. God put me on this planet for a reason. I want to be useful.

A widower, Santos and his late wife raised four sons.

*As told to Jay Copp

Love Those Leos

Tucker Casanova

Virginia Beach Aragona Pembroke Lions Club, Virginia

Why Leos? Why indeed? We've seen the future of Lions, and we're worried about our aging membership. It's worrisome but not hopeless. I'm reminded of a song from back when music was pressed into grooved vinyl. I'll spare you all my tone deaf performance, but the first two lines went like this: "I believe that children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way."

Seems a little clichéd doesn't it? If you're as cynical as I can be you might even call it trite, but that doesn't mean it's not true. The next generation of Leos are here now, and it's up to us to make sure they're going to be here to have this conversation when we're all gone.

The truth is all things pass. That's the unstoppable constant of the universe, but is that so bad? It doesn't have to be.

The Lions' story has always been a generational one, rife with legacies and heritage. It's this era's duty to mentor the incoming Lions, just as the previous generations mentored us.

Understand that this is a street that runs two ways. If I look at any room full of Lions what do I see? Solutions. Professionals. Decades of experience and the willingness to share that knowledge.

Unfortunately, people my age and younger have been misled by the promise of "social networking" and they lack the talent of "real networking." Don't get me wrong, Facebook and its kin have a place, an important one. What young people may not understand is nothing is as effective as actual interaction. You can't Google "success." Well, you can but all you'll get is definitions, maybe some stories, or guides, not *real* knowledge. The ins and outs of building a career don't come in an email, or a text, and certainly never come in under 140 characters.

There is real value, value beyond dollars, in what we have to share with our successors. If we teach them these skills they will have a wonderful advantage over their peers. We can't give them an easier path; nothing of worth ever came easy. What they'll get is greater mileage out of their efforts. We'll give them the tools not just to be great Lions

but great people—trendsetters, entrepreneurs, captains of industry.

What do we get in return? Dynamic youthful energy. *Stamina*. When was the last time you've seen a broom sale going door to door? I didn't even know that had been done until a customer mentioned it in passing. I heard the other day some clubs are selling Christmas trees to their third generation of customers. That's something of which to be sincerely proud. But who's doing the selling? *That first generation of Lions*. Highly motivated people selling to the grandchildren of the men and women whom they first served decades before.

Other than strong backs, what else can they offer us? Well what about *relevance*? Non-Lions often don't know what we do. That two-way street I mentioned? I may have sounded dismissive when I spoke of Facebook, but that's the future. It may be the key to answering the question, "What's the world's greatest secret?" And who holds that key? The young. That's absolutely terrifying. Sometimes that's the way the truth is—completely, utterly, frightening.

Why are we afraid? Because new technology is, by definition, alien. How many people have a younger relative they call when they have a computer issue? Most of the time how long does it take to fix? Five minutes? Less? Why couldn't we just do it ourselves? *Fear*. Because it's unfamiliar. We're scared something will be broken or lost or erased. It paralyzes us, forces us into inaction.

That fear will vanish with the understanding shared with us by our young Lions. Just as we'll spend our time showing them the *right* way of doing things, they'll show us the *new* way. Let them teach us as we have taught them. They won't just be our future but the means to establish our legacy and make it last forever.

Casanova is the hospital and community education coordinator for the Lions Medical Eye Bank of Eastern Virginia in Norfolk. He and his wife, Tanya, have two young children.



Casanova holds a model eye he uses in presentations on the eye bank.

Lions Author Literacy Success

by Jay Copp

Could we exist without books? Well, yes, biologically, it's possible. But life would be infinitely less rich. "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The person who never reads lives only one," declared author George R.R. Martin. Books please us and satisfy us as a fat wallet or a full shopping bag never can. "There is no enjoyment like reading. How much sooner one tires of any thing other than of a book," proclaimed the peerless Jane Austen. Books magically transport us into new realms and toward new understanding of the mysteries of other people's lives. "Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul," asserted writer Joyce Carol Oates.

These lovers of books actually understate the case for reading and literacy. Those who cannot read probably cannot work or at least advance in the workplace, cannot fully take part in society, cannot avoid the traps and pitfalls in life that literate people seamlessly avoid. Children who read poorly and fall behind their peers will likely forever be playing catch-up and fail to realize their potential.

Recognizing the importance of literacy, International President Wayne A. Madden is encouraging clubs to be part of his Reading Action Program (RAP). Lions can develop after-school reading programs, read to children or tutor them, donate books or otherwise help children and adults improve their literacy. Lions this year have responded:

- Laveen Lions in Arizona gave to needy students 350 backpacks filled with school supplies and a book.
- Protection Island Lions in British Columbia, Canada, opened a library in a former lighthouse keeper's cottage, now a community center.
- Canton Lions in Connecticut placed a half-dozen collection boxes in the area to collect books for Santa to distribute to children.
- Indian River High School Leos in Delaware set out to collect 1,000 books for elementary school students.
- Lions in Chino, California, help sponsor the annual Family Festival of Books, which includes author visits, celebrities reading books and a read-a-thon among schoolchildren.
- The first Braille Reading Center in Liberia was launched by the Greater Monrovia and Cape Mesurado Lions.
- One of the most innovative literacy projects was the sidewalk poetry contest in Minnesota. The Falcon Heights Lauderdale Lions partnered with the City of Falcon Heights on the competition. The winning poem will be stamped on a city sidewalk. The short poem, "Embedded Walk," is:

Walking along,
Glancing down,
Eye the words:
Poetry in motion.

Lions also are encouraged to make a RAP video about getting children to read and to submit the video to Lions Clubs International through the LCI YouTube channel. The top video will be played at the international convention in Hamburg, and the club will receive a special award.

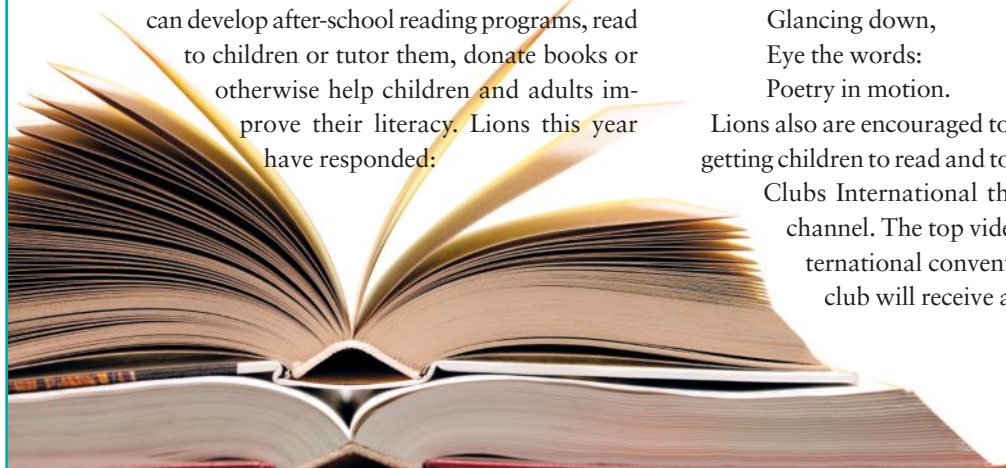




Photo by Brian Wingert

Turkey

International President Wayne A. Madden and his wife, Linda, read to schoolchildren at a school in Turkey. Madden promoted literacy while in Istanbul in October for World Sight Day.

“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.”



Photo by Edward Lang/Boonville Daily News

Missouri

A third-grade student in Boonville, Missouri, looks at his new dictionary, given to students by Boonville Lions. Members Carol Nauman, Gene Cummins, Paul Henry and Pete Rodman distributed the dictionaries.

Alaska

Sally Garris, president of the Mt. McKinley Lions in Alaska, reads to students at Taku Elementary School, to which her club donated hundreds of books. Mt. McKinley Lions also partnered with the Lower Kuskokwim School District, volunteers from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Carlile Transportation Services, College Station Noon Lions in Texas and the Central Texas Orphan Mission Alliance to send 2,000 pounds of books to schoolchildren in Kenya.



Photo by Cindy Criswell Ducker



Alabama

Using a Talking Book, Karl Wade, who is blind, shares a book with patrons of the Prattville Library in Alabama as Bill Gillespie Jr., mayor of Prattville, turns the printed book's pages. Prattville Lions Cindy Criswell Ducker, president; Melvin Ehrlich and Harold Hammond also read monthly to children at the library and a community center.

India

(Left) Imphal Leimarol Lions in India read to children with HIV.



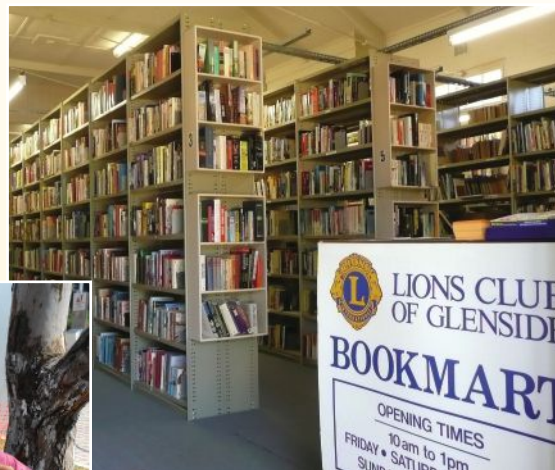
Phillipines

Baggao Lions read to students at Bagunot Elementary School. Besides screening children for vision problems, feeding them and planting trees, Lions also showed an educational video on the English alphabet, held a spelling bee and donated books.



Australia

The Bookmart of the Glenside Lions in Australia is a haven for book lovers and an ally of champions of literacy. More than 30,000 books typically are displayed.



Mexico

A youth in Mexico sizes up the donations collected during a book drive of the Corregidora de Queretaro Lions.

Watch a video on Lions' literacy efforts.

Opening Eyes in South Africa

by Allie Stryker

This past October, athletes from 13 African nations participated in the 2012 Special Olympics Africa Regional Unity Cup in South Africa. The three-day soccer tournament was the first Special Olympics Africa regional event. The tournament wasn't just about soccer. It was also about connecting with others.

"Participating in social programs like Special Olympics is great because raising a child with intellectual disabilities alone is very hard," said a parent of a Special Olympics athlete.

The tournament featured a Healthy Athletes screening and a Family Health Forum for the athletes and their families. As with most opportunities to provide service, Lions were there.

"In a World of Service' there is one name that stands out among the others – Lions Clubs International," says District 410-B Governor Ivan du Plooy. "Our motto is 'We Serve' and that is what we did."

Humanitarian service is at the heart of the Lions Clubs International Foundation, and Lions often work to empower people with disabilities. For more than 12 years, LCIF has been partnering with Special Olympics in the Opening Eyes program. The partnership provides vision screenings for Special Olympics athletes with the support of optical industry partners Essilor International and Safilo, SpA. Athletes receive free eyeglasses if needed, allowing them to participate more fully in Special Olympics events like the Unity Cup and to see more clearly every day.

LCIF has provided \$13.4 million for this program and more than 16,000



A vision screening is provided to a Special Olympics athlete at the Unity Cup through the Opening Eyes program.

Lions have volunteered in the screenings worldwide. To date, more than 255,000 athletes have had their vision screened through Opening Eyes.

The health needs of those with disabilities are often overlooked. During the Unity Cup events, Lions helped provide more than 150 athletes with vision screenings. The Opening Eyes program also trained six new clinical directors from the region.

Additionally, Lions assisted during the event's Family Health Forum. As a recent initiative of LCIF and Special Olympics, Family Health Forums provide information to help families and caregivers overcome the challenges that athletes and their families face and facilitate better access to health care, education, social services and inclusion in their communities.

At the Family Health Forum, du Plooy spoke on behalf of the Lions

Clubs of South Africa. He also was honored by Special Olympics International Chairman Tim Shriver.

For DG du Plooy, the Unity Cup symbolized "togetherness and assistance with caring." Participating in the event "was one of the highlights of my year! I was so proud to be affiliated to Lions Clubs International. It was indeed an honor to be there and experience it for myself. ... I was in awe of what they did and stood for."

On hand to cheer on the athletes and congratulate them and their families were Aida Noma, the UNICEF country representative; Mmemogolo Semane Molotlegi, the Queen Mother of the Bafokeng Nation and Dikembe Mutombo, a former NBA All Star and Special Olympics global ambassador. Thanks to these efforts, the Unity Cup's title could not be more fitting.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

Lions Ramp Up Blindness Fight

by Allie Stryker

Count to 60—that's how much time a child somewhere in the world has left before going blind. A child goes blind nearly every minute, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). What's even sadder is that about 40 percent of childhood blindness can be prevented or treated.

Adults are increasingly at risk of blindness because of diabetes, which is on the rise. WHO estimates that diabetic retinopathy accounts for nearly 5 percent of the world's 37 million blind. WHO also estimates that 6 million people worldwide are blind due to trachoma, an infection of the eyes that can result in blindness after repeated exposure. More than 150 million people are in need of treatment for trachoma.

Lions are not sitting by idly, of course. Lions Clubs International signed a cooperative agreement with WHO in 2011 to aid global efforts to fight preventable blindness and focus on emerging threats to vision health. This includes renewed efforts against childhood blindness, diabetic retinopathy and trachoma.

"Lions Clubs International has been supporting WHO for more than 20 years in the fight against avoidable blindness, and we have accomplished a great deal to help reduce the rate of blindness," Wing-Kun Tam, 2011-12 president of Lions Clubs International, said during the announcement ceremony. "However, the pattern of blindness is changing in the world due to aging populations, the alarming rise of diabetes and diabetic eye disease, and also from increases in visual impairment affecting children for a variety of reasons. We are honored to increase our financial support of the World Health Organization to help the world tackle these challenges."

By focusing on major causes of blindness and working with partners like WHO, the SightFirst program of the Lions Clubs International Foundation has played a key role in helping to reduce global blindness since the program's inception in 1990.

In an effort to save children's sight, LCIF has partnered with WHO since 2001 on the Project for the Elimination of Avoidable Childhood Blindness. Together, LCIF and WHO have delivered eye care services for 121 million children through child-friendly Lions eye care centers worldwide. As part of this recent agreement, LCIF is investing an additional \$3 million to help develop 26 new child-friendly eye care centers in developing countries.

LCIF is also working with WHO to prevent and control diabetic eye disease. Through the new agreement, LCIF is giving \$400,000 to support the training of health care work-

ers in developing countries to better detect and treat diabetic eye disease. LCIF is also increasing Lions vision screening programs to raise awareness of the condition.

Finally, as part of the partnership agreement, LCIF is working to eliminate blinding trachoma in China as a public health problem. LCIF gave two SightFirst grants totaling \$3.35 million to support a survey and assessment effort in provinces where trachoma is known to be an issue. The results will help develop a plan to eliminate trachoma in China by 2016.

By working with partners like WHO, Lions are showing what can be done in saving sight. Learn more about LCIF's SightFirst program and Lions' efforts to improve or restore vision at www.lcif.org.



A child in Vietnam who received vision care completes a picture. Childhood blindness will continue to be addressed by LCIF in partnership with the World Health Organization.

Mad About ‘Mad Men’?

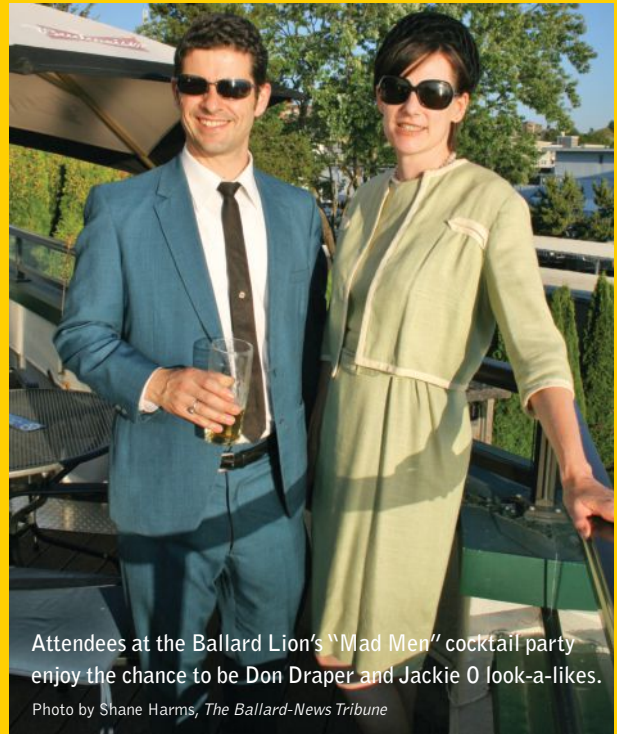
Attract a Younger Crowd with a Trendy Event

It has been said that what’s old becomes new again. That sentiment could not be more true when it comes to the renewed popularity of retro 1960s style, thanks to the hit show “Mad Men.” With painstaking attention to detail in everything from fashion to furniture, “Mad Men” has made kitten heels, martinis, beehives and skinny ties cool again—largely with people who may have not even been born when those styles were in fashion the first time. Noticing this trend, Seattle Ballard District Lion Maggie Mallett in Washington came up with the idea for the Lions to have a “Mad Men” themed party to attract younger members. Although the Lions had never held an event like this before, they gladly went with it, knowing they needed to try something new if the club were to thrive.

Many Lions clubs have their tried-and-true signature events—pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, 4th of July barbecues—that recur like clockwork each year. These events raise funds, community members count on them and the Lions carry them out like well-oiled machines. But when it comes to gaining the notice of new audiences, including potential new members, some Lions clubs are having success stepping outside of their comfort zones and trying something completely different.

“I just wanted a theme that a younger demographic could relate to, as we need fresh ideas and members who can physically help our membership with club activities,” Mallett says. Facing an aging club, Mallett stresses that the goal for the event was to “get the word out about the Lions to a group of energetic people.” The Ballard Lions got to work on their Mad Men party, reaching their audience by promoting the event on Facebook and keeping costs down by finding a free venue and preparing the appetizers themselves.

The response to the event was strong, with many hip young people excited to sip classic cocktails while decked out in fedoras and vintage cocktail dresses. The Lions mingled and chatted with attendees about what Lions do, although only a couple of Lions were in attendance so as not to bombard attendees with a hard sell, Mallett explains. The strategy worked: “We have had three members join, and two to three more that want to help on a part-time basis,” says Mallett.



Attendees at the Ballard Lion's “Mad Men” cocktail party enjoy the chance to be Don Draper and Jackie O look-a-likes.

Photo by Shane Harms, *The Ballard-News Tribune*

By keeping an eye on pop culture, searching the Web for the latest trends or even simply asking young people what they’re interested in, your club can brainstorm an event that you’re comfortable with and that will catch the attention of people in your community who may not have noticed you before. And who knows, the Lions just may get a kick out of dressing like Mad Men themselves—or whatever the next big thing might be.

— Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Read about Lions’ attitudes on Lions’ traditions.

Hot Dog! Wieners Run Wild

Photo courtesy of Paul Garcia Photography



Ears flopping in the wind, wiener dogs race down the track.

Just because their legs are short and stubby, don't write the dachshund off when it comes to winning a race. With a field of hundreds competing, these peppy little dogs are the heroes of Buda, Texas, every year during the Wiener Dog Races and Country Fair sponsored by the Buda Lions Club. The event features a barbecue cook-off, live music, an arts and crafts sale, food vendors and lots of laughs, provided by the low-to-the-ground, floppy-eared and fierce competitors loping down the track being cajoled and cheered on to victory. Winning may not be everything, but in Buda, it's certainly nothing to sniff about—at least for the dogs. There's a gift basket of doggie treats for the wiener champ, a trophy and a \$500 check for the owner.

"I don't know whose idea this was 15 years ago to make this a fundraiser, but boy, am I glad they did," says Paul Garcia, the owner of three dachshunds who has attended every race. "The event is always filled with hundreds of spectators."

The race first began at the suggestion of Lion Diane Krecji, explains Lion Nancy Handrick. "After laughing and poking fun, the club agreed to this project," Handrick recalls. It turned out to be the club's biggest fundraiser. "After we pay all expenses, we walk away with about \$15,000," says Handrick. The funds primarily help support local youth activities and provide scholarships. "The first year we had a mere 35 dogs racing. We now race around 400 dogs on a two-

day weekend—contestants and fans traveling from all over Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, Missouri, Colorado, Connecticut and Ottawa, Canada, to attend," adds Handrick.

There are seven slots on track. "Each dog is given a colored collar which distinguishes it from other dogs because they never run in straight lines," she points out. "Those short legs move very fast through those 70 feet!"

No matter how hard owners try to entice them, some still tend to wander because they're curious creatures. "It's fun to watch the owners with their squeaky toys yelling for their dogs to get to the finish line first," she says. First- and second-place winners from each race then move on through a series of qualifying races to participate in the finals.

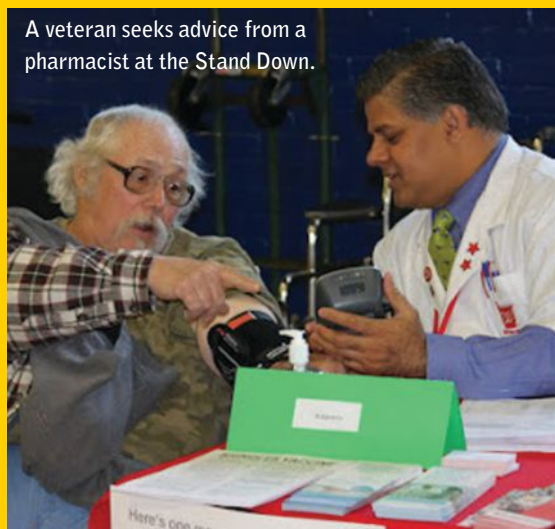
The race is so famous that it has been the subject of two documentaries (one titled, "Lord of the Wiens: A Dachumentary") and several YouTube videos.

[Watch a video on the wiener dog race.](#)

[Read about putting the fun in fundraising.](#)

A veteran seeks advice from a pharmacist at the Stand Down.

Photo by Kevin Purcell



Stand Down is a Stand-Up Project

Torrington, Connecticut, Lion Phil Dzurnak, was familiar with the term “Stand Down” from his four years of service in the military. It means ceasing military action. Putting that term to use in his own community, however, was a new concept, but one that he and other members of his Torrington Lions Club readily embraced when it came to standing up for those who’ve served their country honorably. Created by veterans to assist their fellow veterans in need, a Stand Down is an intervention to help them within their own communities. Sometimes jobless, homeless or beset with medical and other problems, they may not know how to find appropriate local services.

Lions had previously donated \$1,000 to FISH, an agency that provides food and shelter for people in need. At the suggestion of District 23 B 2nd Vice District Governor and Torrington Lion Dan DiVirgilio, the two decided to join forces to sponsor a “Stand Down” event to provide state, federal and private sector services including health screenings to veterans. More than 400 veterans attended, and many were shuttled by transportation arranged by Lions to and from neighboring towns. Some were homeless or staying at the FISH shelter and required medical services. Others needed jobs and help finding other assistance.

Veterans were given goodie bags filled with toiletries and basic necessities and encouraged to choose clothing and other donated articles such as books and book bags, stationery and what Dzurnak says was the most popular choice—razors.

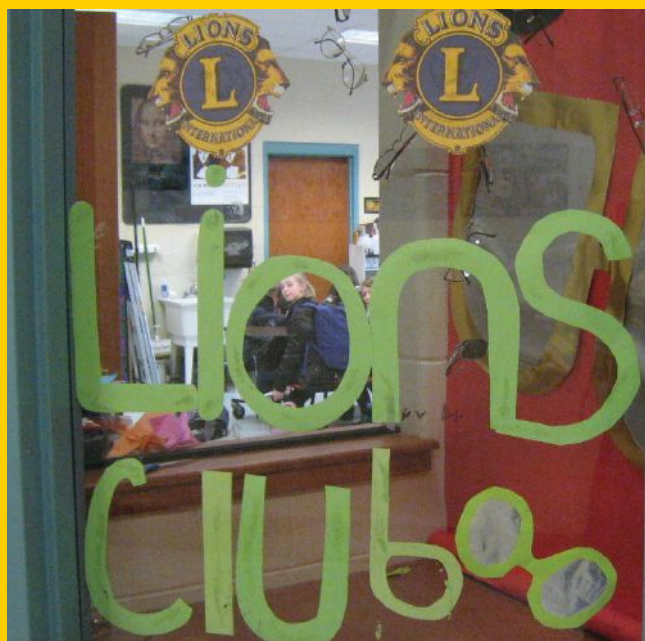
Kids Support Community Service

Nancy Craker-Yahman says it wasn’t until her oldest son reached eighth grade that she learned about the generosity of Lions in Hadley, Massachusetts. Lions had been giving dictionaries to sixth grade classes at Hadley Elementary School since 1979. When her second son reached 6th grade, “I knew we needed to do something to thank the Hadley Lions,” she emphasizes.

She thought that the best way to show appreciation to Lions was to support them. In 2011, Craker-Yahman and teachers created a service-learning program for sixth graders. Students embraced the project by collecting 400 pairs of glasses for Lions.

“They’ve continuously sorted the glasses and kept count of donations we’ve received,” she says. “They’ll soon be active participants in sorting, cleaning and packing them. We’re learning about Lions’ missions and decorating and placing handmade donation boxes in convenient locations around town to encourage further eyeglass donation.”

“We have a long history of helping the school system here with scholarships, lighting, band trips, sports programs and, of course, eyeglasses and exams for those students in need,” says Lion Richard Milardo. “We spend \$25 for each dictionary, which has a recipient’s name and the Lions logo inside the front cover. This is the first time, however, that students have collaborated with our club.” Craker-Yahman was, in fact, so impressed with what she learned about Lions that she’s now a new member of the Amherst Lions Club.



Sixth-graders promote their eyeglass collection for Lions at school. They have now collected more than 1,000 pairs.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the 91st Annual **Multiple District 16** Lions Convention in **New Jersey**, 300 attendees received pine tree seedlings. The New Jersey Lions also voted to make Challenged Children's Charities and The Helen L. Diller Vacation Home for Blind Children an approved state Lions project.

In **Idaho**, the **Parma Lions Club** raised more than \$9,700 to purchase a PediaVision wireless screener.

The **Princess Anne Lions** in **Maryland** worked with two county forestry boards and the American Chestnut Foundation to plant 51 seedlings in the new Princess Anne Lions' American Chestnut Grove at Pete's Hill.

In **Virginia**, the **Charlottesville Thomas Jefferson Lions Club** worked more than 32 events and raised \$16,000 for charities last year.

The **Lansing Lions** in **Illinois** planted trees in honor of past Lions.

The **West Chester** and **Avon Grove Lions** in **Pennsylvania** worked together to help make a disabled woman's life easier by building a concrete ramp at her home.

The **Cicero-Mattydale Lions Club** in **New York** presented an injured soldier with an iPad to help him enjoy his favorite pastime of reading.

In **Florida**, the **Sarasota Lions** conducted a free diabetes screening event.

The **Westbank Lions Club** in **British Columbia, Canada**, held the third annual Fifties Concert and Dance to raise funds.

The **Irving Noon Day Lions** in **Texas** have partnered with an elementary school for several years. The Lions made a donation to the school library in honor of the retiring principal, which enabled the school to purchase a full set of encyclopedias.

The **Princeville Lions** in **Illinois** worked with elementary school students to hold a tree fundraiser, selling 470 trees. Students and Lions planted 47 of the trees on school grounds.

The **Howard Area Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** worked with partners to erect and dedicate a memorial to WWII Medal of Honor recipient.

The **Tumbler Ridge Lions Club** in **British Columbia, Canada**, awarded \$3,000 each to three graduating high school seniors to further their educations.

Fifteen **Stephenson Lions** in **Michigan** moved playground equipment from a closed school to a park. The job of disassembling, moving and re-assembling the equipment took 300 hours.

The **New Horizons Lions Club** in **Texas** has been a driving force in making its community a great place to live over the past 25 years. The club's projects include vision and hearing screenings, blood drives, awarding scholarships, sponsoring a Leo club, supporting numerous youth programs and providing eyeglasses to children and senior citizens in need.

The **Leduc Lions** in **Alberta, Canada**, donated a \$20,000 family care suite to a hospital. The suite provides a comfortable place for family members of long-term patients to rest or eat meals while staying nearby their loved ones.



OPEN ROAD, OPENED MAGAZINE

Jess Larison of the Baxter Springs Lions Club in Kansas gets his kicks on Route 66 by reading the LION. Larison, 17 S first vice district governor, dismounted his bike at the Marsh Arch Bridge, a popular spot for snapshots in Kansas.

Want to be in the LION? Just send us a photo of you with the LION, whether you're at the pyramids in Egypt, the Great Wall of China, a café or street scene somewhere overseas or even an interesting location close to home. Send the picture along with your name, Lions club, hometown and photo description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org.

INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY 2013

90 YEARS: Bellflower Family, Calif.; Collinsville, Ill.; Gastonia Evening, N.C.; Russellville, Ark.

85 YEARS: Atlantic, Iowa; Atmore, Ala.; Bath, Pa.; Jasper, Ala.; Paradise Township, Pa.; South Portland, Maine; Wetumpka, Ala.

80 YEARS: Carlisle, Pa.; Carrollton, Ga.

75 YEARS: Big Rapids, Mich.; Central Richmond Hill, ON, CAN; Centre, Ala.; Coalinga, Calif.; Delmar, Del.; Donna, Texas; Ellore, S.C.; Hebron, Md.; Hueytown, Ala.; Hurlock, Md.; Kerman, Calif.; Leland,

Miss.; Little River, Kan.; Marquette, Kan.; Menlo Park Host, Calif.; Moorefield, W.V.; Moundridge, Kan.; Newport, Pa.; Rockville, Md.; San Germán Alfredo Vivoni Acosta, P.R.; Seaford, Del.

50 YEARS: Cheadle, AB, CAN; Cupey, P.R.; Kingston, Wis.; Lac du Bonnet, MB, CAN; MacGregor, MB, CAN; Milton, ON, CAN; Randolph, Utah; St. David's and District, ON, CAN; Waitsburg, Wash.; Wasaga Beach, ON, CAN

25 YEARS: Edmonton the City of Champions, AB, CAN; Fairbanks Choice, Alaska; Greely, ON, CAN; Visalia Charter Oak, Calif.

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

HIGHER KEYS ISSUED DURING OCTOBER 2012

KEY OF NATIONS (100 MEMBERS)

- Lion K. S. Kannan, Chennai Padi Heaven City, India

GRAND MASTER KEY (50 MEMBERS)

- Lion John Morgan Jr., Detroit Northwest, Michigan
- Lion Yancey Watkins, Murray, Kentucky
- Lion Starlene Buie, Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee

26th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

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Start now. Purchase a 2013-14 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2013, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



CALL 1-800-710-7822

To order online visit the Lions Store (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit) at www.lionsclubs.org or download the order form (PR-785).

CALENDAR

2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

SENIOR MASTER KEY (25 MEMBERS)

- Lion Jack Welch, Copperas Cove, Texas
- Lion L. Allen Fors, Memphis Southern College of Optometry, Tennessee
- Lion Salvatore Velardi, Hammon-ton, New Jersey
- Lion Saiful Islam, Dhaka Daffodil, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Dipak Sao, Purulia Manbhum, India
- Lion Anilbhai Jain, Godhra, India
- Lion Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Barwani City, India

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.

FEBRUARY

FEB. 1:

International Peace Poster contest winners will be notified on or before this date.

FEB. 1:

Lions Day with the United Nations

FEB. 2-5:

Advanced (Senior) Lions Leadership Institute - Africa (Oran, Algeria)

FEB. 2-5:

Faculty Development Institute - Africa (Oran, Algeria)

FEB. 15:

Standard, Core 4 and IAG grant application deadline for review at the April 2013 board meeting

FEB. 22-25:

Advanced (Senior) Lions Leadership Institute - Constitutional Area I: USA, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas (Oak Brook, IL, USA)
Advanced (Senior) Lions Leadership Institute - Constitutional Area II: Canada (Oak Brook, IL, USA)

INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Hans Hermann Sturm, who served on the international board of directors from 1978 to 1980, has died. He became a Lion in 1957 and was a member of the Dusseldorf Hofgarten, Germany, Lions Club. A businessman, he also served as the association's liaison officer to UNESCO.

FOR THE RECORD

As of November 30, Lions Clubs International had 1,361,802 members in 46,672 clubs and 753 districts in 207 countries and geographic areas.

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ROAR OF APPROVAL

In 1982, Gettysburg Lion **Robert Zellner** spearheaded the creation of the Pennsylvania Lions All-State Band. He has been the band's director ever since. Over the years the band has performed at state and international conventions as well as other events in places such as Multiple District 300 Taiwan, Hawaii and Colorado.

Windsor Locks Lions Club President **John Boscarino** aced the 197-yard second hole, a par three, in the annual President's Golf Tournament in Connecticut, winning the \$10,000 prize. A portion of the funds raised at the tournament went toward reading programs at local schools. Boscarino has promised to fund the insurance cost for next year's tournament.

In Virginia, the American Red Cross held a blood drive in honor of Winchester Host Lion **Charles Zuckerman** to celebrate the 38 gallons of blood he has donated in his lifetime. Zuckerman, 88, gave blood for the first time in 1949 at a Lions' bloodmobile in Winchester. The Red Cross calculates that one pint can save three lives, meaning Zuckerman has potentially saved 912 lives. Although falling just short of his goal of giving 40 gallons due to a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosis, he is doing his part to encourage others to donate. Zuckerman has been a Lion for 60 years.

The Smithfield Lions Club in Virginia inducted its youngest members ever, **Rachel Letchworth**, 19, and **Sean Catley**, 18. Both were charter members of the Smithfield High School Leo Club.

LION

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THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

A Nourishing Donation

The Montville Social Services Food Pantry has been a precious resource for residents in times of need for decades. But when Hurricane Sandy hit this Connecticut town in October, the food bank was depleted and the situation was dire. The local newspaper ran a brief article to get the word out, and that was all the Lions needed to get in gear. District 23C Governor Jan Miller—who had just received an LCIF \$10,000 Emergency grant—got on the phone with Montville Mohegan-Pequot Lion Ken Tucker, who in turn spearheaded a coordinated effort among his club, the Montville Lions and the Eastern Connecticut Asian and American Lions. Four days after the newspaper article appeared, the Lions were stocking the food bank's shelves with 1,542 pounds of food, while Kathleen Doherty-Peck, director of Senior and Social Services for Montville, fought back tears of gratitude.

Photo courtesy of E. Santiago/Montville Patch



A crew of Lions from three clubs efficiently unload more than 1,500 pounds of food in assembly line formation.

Q&A: Kathleen Doherty-Peck

LION Magazine: How difficult was it to keep up with demand in the weeks following Sandy?

Kathleen Doherty-Peck: We had already seen an increase in need with the state of the economy, but we had so many more people in need after the storm. Wonderful people would bring a bag or two of groceries in, but the food would go out just as fast as it came in.

LM: How did it feel when you learned the Lions were going to help?

KDP: Knowing how many people are in need in our town and how we struggle to meet those needs—to have the Lions rise to the occasion was really heartwarming. I can't adequately describe the relief and appreciation I felt for this help.

LM: How did the delivery go?

KDP: It was wonderful. All three clubs really pulled together. The Lions arrived with trucks and they formed an assembly line and loaded everything into our storage area. It was a sight to see and an emotional experience.

LM: You must have a lot of emotional days.

KDP: I've seen grown men cry because they have to come here. People will drive around the parking lot until everyone leaves so no one sees them come in. Asking for help is a hard thing to do, but we're here when they need us.

LM: Did the food go a long way?

KDP: They brought great staples like peanut butter, tuna and pasta. We normally provide about 3,000 meals a month, and what the Lions brought supplied at least that.

LM: Do you think the Lions realize their impact?

KDP: You know, the Lions don't get to see what I do: the thank-you cards, the hugs when people receive their food. I just want the Lions to know how much we appreciate everything they do.

Lions: have you heard from a beneficiary or a recipient of your kindness, service or charity? Tell us about the feedback you receive from those whose lives you've changed for the better. Email a brief description of your correspondence to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Thank You" in the subject line.

LAST ROAR

Photo by Eric Reed



SUITABLE SERVICE

Los Angeles County Fire Department and San Bernardino emergency service personnel train with dry suits on a frozen Jackson Lake in the Angeles National Forest near Wrightwood, California. The Timberline Lions Club donated the suits to Wrightwood-area first responders.



WE PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF

Whenever and wherever disasters strike, Lions are often among the first to offer aid, with support from Lions Clubs International Foundation. When Superstorm Sandy struck the Caribbean and East Coast of the United States, LCIF was able to respond quickly using the disaster relief fund, helping Lions immediately serve their communities in their time of need.



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