

# LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONMAGAZINE.ORG APRIL 2013

## Our First-Ever '10 Issue'

Books That Talked and  
Nine Other Service  
Breakthroughs



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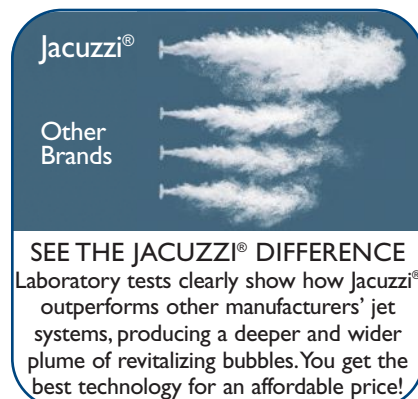
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# A Message From Our President



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

## The Best Team There Ever Was

Traveling the world as I do, there is not a lot of time to watch TV. But I was able to catch parts of a few college basketball games this spring. Played at a high level, basketball is a brilliant display of teamwork. Five players race up and down the court with a collective purpose, as if tied together by an invisible string. I played basketball, as well as other sports, and few things in life match the exhilaration of belonging to a team and working together for a common goal.

A successful Lions club is a good team. Everyone plays a role. Members do their part

not to receive praise and glory but to achieve a common goal. Being a Lion is so fulfilling precisely because we serve alongside people we know and like and share similar values with. Maybe non-Lions assume that service is a chore, something we feel we should do but don't really enjoy. Lions know that's a ridiculous notion. We relish belonging to a club, interacting with members at meetings and then working together for the benefit of others.

We need to share our enthusiasm as members with non-Lions and bring them into the fold. We need more women, more younger members, more minorities—more members. Let them in on the “secret”—being a Lion is not only rewarding, gratifying and fulfilling but it's also really fun.

LCI's website has tools, resources and strategies to add members. Our Global Membership Team, Global Leadership Team, the Women's and Family Development Task Force and multitudes of Lions at the district and club level are devoted to increasing membership. But we cannot reach our potential as an association unless Lions in every club reach out to prospective members. It boils down to this: the future of Lions is in good hands—your hands.

I'm no longer of the age where I can run up and down a basketball court or run the bases in baseball. But belonging to the best team ever is a central part of my life. In a World of Service, let's keep that world spinning decade after decade by retaining and recruiting new squads of Lions.

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

Wayne A. Madden  
Lions Clubs International President



Working together as a team, Multiple District 300 Taiwan Lions hold a walk to raise awareness about saving energy by reducing one's "carbon footprint."

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A memorable convention in Hamburg is taking shape.



### Also Featured

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#### On the cover:

Ned Cox plays a Talking Book recording in 1966. Lions were instrumental in promoting and distributing Talking Books for those with vision impairments.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky.



#### 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

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

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## Convention Countdown

Hamburg, Germany  
July 5-9, 2013



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## LIONS PROMOTE LITERACY

Lions worldwide are encouraging literacy and taking part in President Wayne Madden's Reading Action Program (RAP). Clubs have reported 45,446 activities, 1,908,180 hours of service and 5,221,799 people served. Typical activities include reading to children, donating books and developing after-school reading programs.

## U.N. DAY IS A SUCCESS

Three hundred-fifty Lions and guests attended the 35th Lions Day with the United Nations in February in New York. The day included talks by Nicholas Alipui, director of UNICEF Programmes, and Carl Augusto, president and CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind, as well as a panel discussion by three Lions and three U.N. officials on education/literacy, hunger/poverty and the role of youth in service. Lions and the United Nations share a long history, dating to the earliest days of the latter when Lions helped to formulate the non-governmental section of its charter.

## CALIFORNIA GIRL WINS PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Jenny Park, a 13-year-old from California, was named the grand prize winner of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest. More than 400,000 students worldwide submitted posters for the contest, marking its 25th anniversary. Park's poster features portraits of the Dalai Lama, Barack Obama, Aung San Suu Kyi, Ban Ki Moon, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa and Woodrow Wilson. "These are people from different places and different times, of different faiths, of different races, gender and ages. They share one thing in common: they all found peace within themselves," says Park. The poster also contains a self-portrait. "I wanted to convey that peace begins with any regular individual, just like me and you," she says. "We don't have to be the Dalai Lama or Mother Teresa to be creators of peace." Park will receive US\$5,000 and a trip to a special awards ceremony at the 96th Lions Clubs International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. With her will be two family members and the president of the Northridge Lions Club, which sponsored her local contest. "We knew Jenny's poster was special the minute we saw it," says President Yasin Lakhani, a past district governor. The 23 merit award winners receive a certificate of merit and US\$500. They are from Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Ecuador, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of South Africa and the United States (Alaska, Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon and West Virginia).

Jenny Park wins the Peace Poster Contest.



## NEBRASKAN WINS ESSAY CONTEST

Maura Loberg, 11, of Wayne, Nebraska, is the grand prize winner of the 2012-2013 Lions International Essay Contest for visually impaired youth. Loberg, who will receive US\$5,000, will be honored in July at the Lions Clubs International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. Her essay, titled "Pieces of Peace" includes: "In English class, we learned about homophones, which are words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings. I think of the words 'piece' and 'peace' and realize I am a piece of the peace puzzle. Like a puzzle, our world consists of many types of people that are separated by color, religions, money and many other reasons. It is hard to fit together and live next to each other if not positioned the right way. ... My ideas to help aid world peace include better communication, more respect for each other's differences and the opportunity to dream for a more peaceful planet." Her entry was sponsored by the Wayne Lions Club. The award was announced at Lions Day with the United Nations in February in New York.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



## 54 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

APRIL 1959

A charter member of the Egg Harbor Lions Club in Wisconsin, Chief Roy Oshkosh of the Menomomie Tribe stands next to a hand-carved wooden statue of himself.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**180**

Flame-proof pajamas donated by Brea Lions in California for children placed in protective custody.

**80**

Tables displaying train sets at the train show of the Waynesboro Lions in Pennsylvania.

**50:46**

Winning time among the 3,104 runners and walkers who competed in the 41st Blessing of the Fleet 10-mile road race held by Narragansett Lions in Rhode Island.

**380**

Pocket-size books on the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence given to schools in Fraser, Michigan, by Fraser Lions in partnership with the nonprofit Liberty Day.

**25,200**

Volunteer hours logged by Cave Spring Lions in Roanoke, Virginia, recycling eyeglasses.

**628**

Pavers with engraved names of loved ones sold by Mesa Fountain of the Sun Lions to help finance a new 15-foot-high fountain for the Fountain of the Sun retirement community in Mesa, Arizona.

**25**

"Boo-boo bears" donated by Clarksburg Lions to the Clarksburg Police Department and the United Hospital Center in West Virginia to comfort children.

**385**

Dictionaries given annually by Lacy Lamplighters Lions in Washington to third-graders in 15 classrooms at four schools.

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

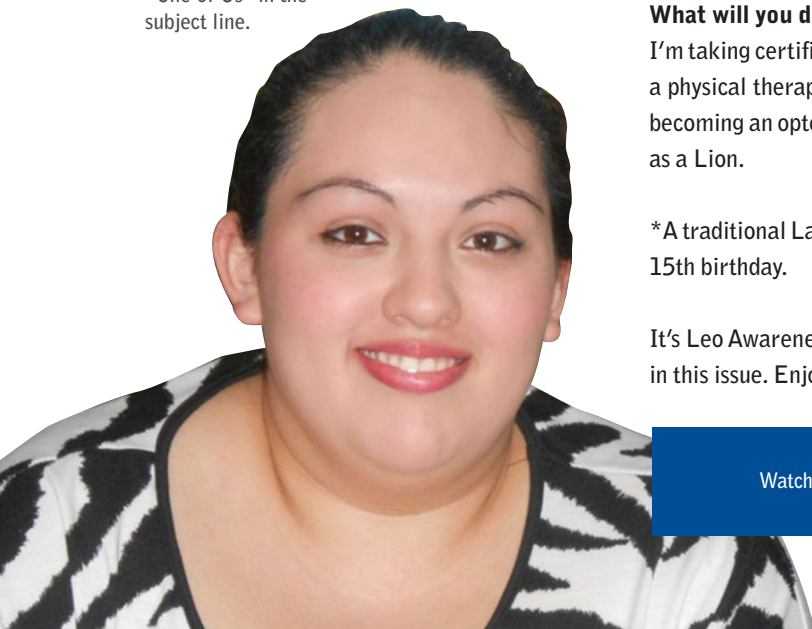
ONE OF US

## OLGA RUBI ACOSTA

Olga Rubi Acosta loves serving her community, and she does it in more than one language. This 18-year-old high school senior and president of the Colquitt County Leos has led everything from literacy projects to a major renovation of a camp. Her infectious enthusiasm about service enabled Acosta to sponsor 35 Leos, and led her to be named as a 2011-12 Leo of the Year. Acosta uses her Latina roots as a translator for non-English speaking community members in a variety of settings, helped launch an organization that assists immigrants assimilate into their new home in Moultrie, Georgia, and volunteers weekly at an English-as-a-second-language course. Acosta humbly gives tirelessly to her community, and she doesn't have plans of stopping anytime soon.

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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](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org). Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.



### **Why did you become a Leo?**

I wanted to become part of a club that is different than all the others and focuses on community service. Since eighth grade I've enjoyed every moment of being a Leo.

### **What has been your favorite Leo project?**

The Leos heard that campers were turned away at the Georgia Lions' Camp for the Blind because they reached capacity. We came up with the idea to turn an abandoned infirmary into a bunkhouse. We were told it would be impossible, but we went there every weekend we could to work on it. It took a lot of time and effort, but now the camp accepts 24 more campers than before. We learned about teamwork and that determination will pay off.

### **Do you enjoy being a translator?**

I started at an early age translating for my parents. It wasn't too fun translating when my teachers would tell my parents something wrong I did at school! But now I know that I'm helping people with a service. I help a family with a baby who was born with multiple disabilities. It's rewarding to see them understanding what the doctors and nurses are saying about their baby.

### **You've also help start a civic organization in your community?**

Latinos United en Moultrie helps newcomers understand their rights in the United States and get involved in society. We hold town hall meetings, post community notices and share messages of cultural and societal concerns.

### **You've served as a "madrina" at an impressive 12 Quinceañeras\*.**

I love being a madrina because it's a position of honor. It's like being a godparent. My favorite event is the dance performance. We start practicing months ahead of time until it's perfect.

### **What will you do after high school?**

I'm taking certified nursing assistant courses which will go toward becoming a physical therapist. But I don't want to stop there. I'm really interested in becoming an optometrist. I'll be able to help people as part of my career and as a Lion.

\*A traditional Latin American ceremony and celebration held to mark a girl's 15th birthday.

It's Leo Awareness Month, and the LION is honoring the great work of Leos in this issue. Enjoy learning more about Leos like Olga throughout the issue.

Watch a video about the inspiring work of Leos.



A white dress shirt with a colorful striped tie. The tie has diagonal stripes in blue, red, yellow, and white. The shirt is laid flat on a light-colored wooden surface. The collar is open, and the tie is draped over it. The shirt has a buttoned placket and a cuff with the letters 'PFS' on it.

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## CLUB OF THE MONTH

### PENBROOK LEO CLUB, PENNSYLVANIA

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 2009

**MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS:** The 21 Leos in this community-based club from several middle and high schools meet twice a month at the borough's community building. Members are encouraged to bring friends to meetings, which include guest speakers on topics that emphasize the importance of education and volunteering. Advisers provide leadership training and mentoring.

**HANDS-ON HELP:** The Leos have used their enthusiasm and energy to hold a carwash for the Northeast Pennsylvania Eye Bank, walk and bowl to raise funds for diabetes research, visit residents at a nursing home and assist the Lions with an Easter egg hunt and Halloween parade.

**FIGHTING HUNGER:** Taking a day of their Thanksgiving vacation to give back, the Leos held a food drive for a food pantry. They piled more than 30 bags of groceries into a trailer and collected donations of more than \$1,600. After experiencing a great sense of accomplishment and reward for preventing those in need from going hungry, the Leos decided to make this an ongoing project.

**GOING GREEN:** The Leos adopted a one-mile section of the Capital Area Greenbelt trail. In addition to keeping it beautiful, they planted 10 trees along the trail. The Leos also maintain a memorial garden at a community park.

**PAYING RESPECT:** The Leos participated in Wreaths Across America, a program in which wreaths are placed at veterans' graves. After placing wreaths at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, they returned a month later to clean up the area.

**ON BEING A LEO:** "Just thinking about all those people who can actually have meals after our food drive makes me smile inside. It really felt good to know that we helped the hungry." – Emily Miller



Penbrook Leos participate in Wreaths Across America.

## OVERHEARD

"For me, going out collecting gives me a very warm feeling. It restores my faith in people when there is so much that is going wrong in the world."

–Dave Panega of the Bolingbrook Lions Club in Illinois on taking to the streets for Candy Day. From the *Suburban Life*.

"Wow, I kind of like this. It feels like you have a family here, because we're not from here."

–Brenda Williamson of the Stafford County Lions Club in Virginia on becoming a Lion several years ago after moving to the area. From *Fredericksburg.com*.

"We like to say we've sent more dogs to college than we have kids."

–Alice LeBlanc, who raises puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind along with her husband, Bill, a Hudson Lion in New Hampshire. From the *Nashua Telegraph*.

## ON THE WEB

Follow LCI on Pinterest to see pictures and videos of Lions and Leos performing service around the world. Pinterest is a virtual bulletin board that allows users to organize and share photo links from the web. Users "pin," or keep track of recipes, home décor ideas, wedding planning or anything they would like to remember or be inspired by. Find your own inspiration by following LCI. LCI's Pinterest boards include documentation of President Madden's travels, the Peace Poster contest, LCIF projects, special programs such as the Lions Reading Action Program and much more. Visit [pinterest.com/lionsclubsorg](https://pinterest.com/lionsclubsorg) to get started.



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SERVICE IDEA LEARN FROM PAST



## Preservation Prevails in Washington

The Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island, Washington, comprises 17,500 acres of farms, historical structures, prairies, state parks, trails and shoreline. The island is also home to the 120 members of the Coupeville Lions, who are motivated to hang on to their hometown heritage by working alongside students and preservationists.

Volunteers have repaired and spruced up an old water tower, built a porch onto the 150-year-old Ferry House and replaced a crumbling chimney. The old house had served as an inn, tavern, home and even a post office in its century-and-a-half existence. They've even rebuilt a porch that was torn off from the structure generations ago in order to restore its original exterior appearance.

"Though identified as a unit of the National Park system—like Yellow-

stone or the Grand Canyon—it [the reserve] is the only one that depends upon local stewardship for protection of its historical and cultural resources," says reserve manager Mark Preiss, a Coupeville Lion since 2007. "The preservation field school program was established in 2008 to help preserve the reserve's nationally significant historic buildings for future generations to enjoy.

"Many of these historic buildings are threatened. More than 30 percent have been lost over the last several years. The Coupeville Lions Club has stepped in to help the Trust Board and National Park Service preserve and stabilize these heritage buildings by providing essential preservation crew volunteer support."

Bob Johnson says that he and other Lions are committed to keeping Coupeville's oldest buildings intact.

Volunteers build a new front porch on Ferry House.

Photo by Ashley Davis

"Two years before this, it was the Boyer Barn—that took two summers to finish—and before that, there were two historical blockhouses." Blockhouses, similar to small forts with gun ports, were built by pioneers in the 1850s to "block" access to a destination by native tribes or marauders. Lions worked with Island County in the spring to replace rotting logs in the Crockett Blockhouse, one of four remaining on the reserve.

"We do a lot of work, but we have a lot of fun," Johnson explains. Since many of the club's members are retired, "We have the time, but not the strong backs anymore. It's a challenge," he adds.

Project chair Ron Boyer says the "field school" opportunities to preserve Coupeville's history are big reasons that he and other Lions continue their work. "I love this program because I learn from the school. I'm a history buff, and this complements my interest in preserving history for future generations. From previous years, I now know how our ancestors split shakes," he explains. "I look forward to learning about pointing and re-pointing brickwork this year." In Washington, home to some very high-tech corporations such as Microsoft, Coupeville Lions are finding that some very low-tech, hands-on help is just what's needed to preserve their community's past.



#### RECORD ACTIVITIES

A photographic record of Lions in action will help inspire others and promote Lions clubs in your community.

#### KEEP MEMBERSHIP GROWING

Membership retention and recruitment are critical components to the challenges of meeting community and global humanitarian needs.

#### SERVICE PARTNERS

Consider partnering with local agencies, churches or service clubs on a project that will benefit from additional helping hands.

#### SERVICE IDEA BUILD A PARTNERSHIP



Leos entertain the cheering crowd during the annual holiday parade.

## Float Building Bonds Lions and Leos

Lions in El Cajon, California, have spent thousands of hours, used countless reams of gold and blue fringe and maybe even miles of floral sheeting in their decades of building floats for their community's annual Mother Goose parade. Lions have participated every year since it began in 1946 as a small local event. More than 80,000 people now line the streets to view the annual parade, billed as the largest west of the Mississippi.

"We've built 65 floats—some small and several that took the sweepstakes award," says Lion Dick Rogers of the El Cajon Valley Host Lions Club. Luckily for Lions, they have some eager learners in the float building business. All 16 members of the El Cajon Valley High School Leo Club pitched in to not only help build the float but also to dance on the cleverly-named entry, "Mother Goose Goes Footloose," that promoted the parade's Celebration of Children theme.

Lions build a new float to reflect each parade's theme, but Rogers says they get maximum use from their efforts by recycling floats in other area parades throughout the year. In previous decades, he adds, Lions have built float foundations on "dune buggies, trailers, tractors and various trucks—whatever was available that year." Leo Kerry Smith played drums on the float, built on a modified 1969 Dodge pickup truck.

Smith says he's learned more than simply how to help put together a winning parade float since becoming a Leo. "It shows us the importance of volunteering, and we've been taught about commitment. If you're going to do something, then you should follow through without backing out. I know I've actually accomplished something that has made a difference in someone's life," he emphasizes.

In addition to float building, the two clubs have worked on many different activities together as well as independently on projects. "The result of this perpetual Lions' labor of love was the prestigious Governor's Trophy presented to the best float entered," Rogers points out. "Working together on a community project has proven to be an excellent way of integrating new Lions and Leos."

## Planting Time for Lions

#### SERVICE IDEA BEAUTIFY SURROUNDINGS



Lions turn the soil before planting boxwoods.

Lions in Wheeling, West Virginia, are ready and willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work to beautify their community. That's just what they did when Lions and the Leos they sponsor at the Wheeling Middle School planted 45 boxwood trees and replaced a dying dogwood at the school. The two clubs often work together on projects, recently clearing out debris from the Heritage Trail for hikers in Wheeling. Another collaborative effort involved filling and wrapping Santa surprise boxes for the Appalachian Outreach program for elderly residents.

"The Wheeling Lions Club is a partner in education with Wheeling Middle School," says Lion Linda Amos. "The students participate in the Peace Poster contest and Lions provide eye exams, glasses, hearing aids, to students there, as well as all the schools in the county."



## Hearing Dogs: Best Friends, Indeed

When the timer for the tea on the stove sounds or the phone rings, Shep dutifully trots over to Daniel Rawding and nuzzles him on the back of the leg. He'd do the same if the smoke alarm buzzed, perhaps saving the life of Rawding, who is deaf.

Rawding lives with his wife, Inga, in New South Wales, north of Sydney, Australia. He's had his Lions hearing dog for eight years. Shep has made his life a lot easier and safer. "I can't hear anything. He's my ears," says Rawding, who has done bricklaying and landscaping and now does odd jobs.

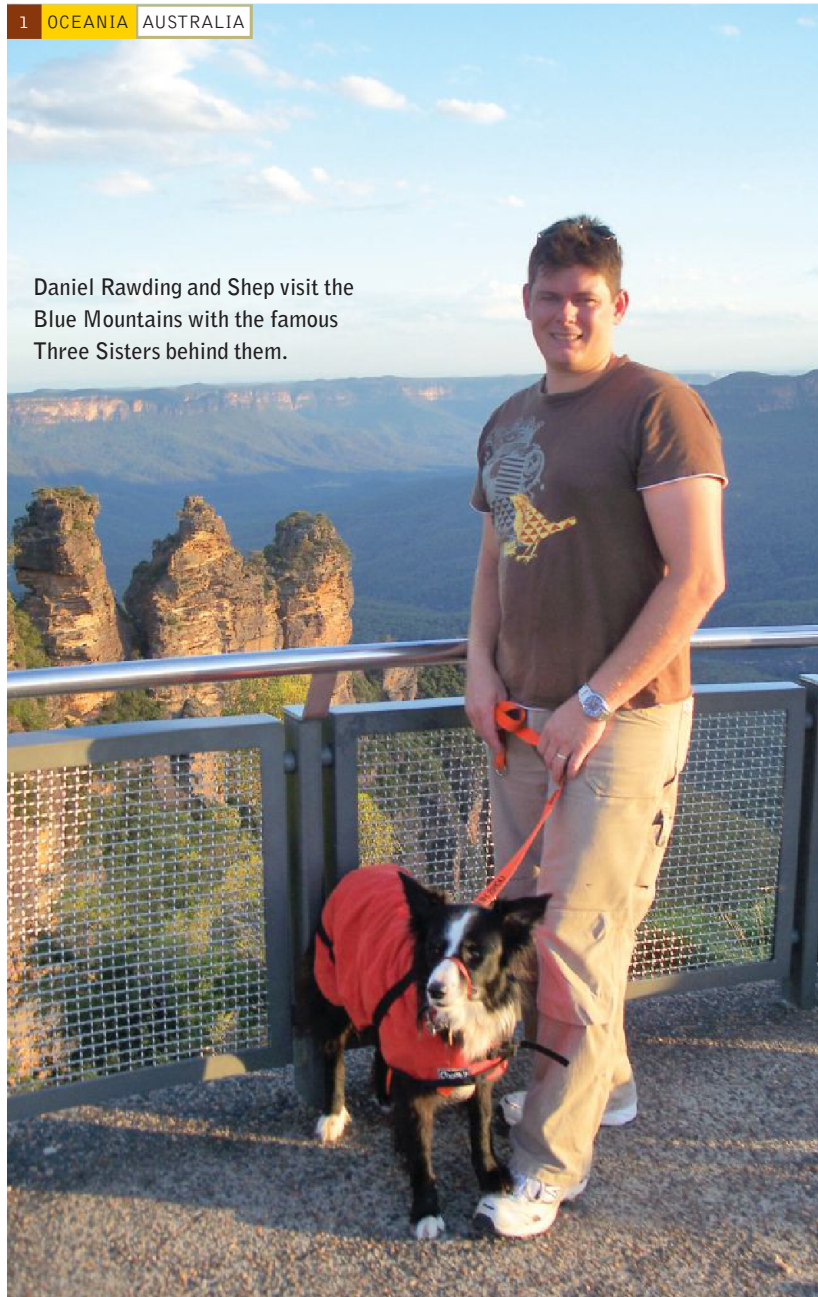
Lions Hearing Dogs in Australia began in 1980. Last year its Hearing Dog Centre in Verdun trained its 500th dog. The dogs typically are mixed breeds obtained from rescue shelters. The six to nine months of training costs nearly US\$30,000. The investment pays off: the dogs have saved lives and "give their owners the confidence to participate more fully in their communities," says Bill Holmes, the center's manager.

Like the other dogs, Shep knows sign language. When Rawding is outside on his 40-acre spread and needs his wife, he signs the command for Shep to go get her. Shep also gives him the sense of security to be home alone without Inga. "When my wife would go out I would feel a little worried. I feel much safer in our house now," he says.

Hearing dogs are not routinely recognized like guide dogs for the blind, and the Rawdings have endured countless tussles with shop owners and others over access. Shep wears a special covering to identify his role, but the Rawdings often still must produce a document they carry on the legal rights of guide dog owners. "People's minds are closed sometimes. If they are not willing to listen, we just go on with our lives," says Rawding.

But most of the time being with Shep is pure fun. He never tires of retrieving sticks or chasing balls. When Rawding fishes, Shep stands regally on the bow wearing a special life jacket. Says Rawding, "When I catch a fish he thinks it's his. No way."

1 OCEANIA AUSTRALIA



Daniel Rawding and Shep visit the Blue Mountains with the famous Three Sisters behind them.





THE **SULTHAN BATHERY LIONS** IN **INDIA** PROVIDED ARTIFICIAL LIMBS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF SEVEN PEOPLE.



THE **ALEXANDRIA APOLLO LEOS** IN **EGYPT** HELPED THE LESS FORTUNATE DURING RAMADAN BY PREPARING 6,900 HOT MEALS AND 2,500 BAGS OF FOOD.



IN **SOUTH AFRICA**, THE **FORT BEAUFORT LIONS** PLANTED TREES AT A HOSPITAL AND SPECIAL CARE CENTER.

## Yesterday's News Turned Into Profit

Malaysians assiduously recycle newspapers, plastics, cans and even clothes. Nonprofits and businesses post banners near markets to draw patrons. So to get a leg up on the competition, Petaling Jaya Metro Lions distribute leaflets to homes in advance of the club's recycling drive.

The club fills a lorry with discarded newspapers, magazines and catalogs. It's done the recycling six times annually for five years. SMK Batu Lapan Puchong Leos help out. Proceeds are given to the National Kidney Foundation. The club gets something out of it, too. "The house-to-house collection has created awareness of Lions," says Lion Shirley Koh.



Lions and Leos in Malaysia gather newspapers for recycling.

## Norwegian Lions Paint a Masterpiece

A talented, hardworking artist who supported a household of six with his paintings, Nawa Subulwa of Zambia noticed his vision worsening a few years ago. A doctor gave him the bad news: only in his late 30s, he had a rare form of cataract. In two years he was blind.

"I couldn't afford the cost of surgery. I couldn't even afford transportation to Lusaka [the capital, where the hospital was]," says Sibulwa through a translator.

His income plummeted to zero. He and his wife could not pay their rent or the school fees for their two children and two nieces. He tossed and turned in bed at night, fearful of the fate of his family.

Lions came to his rescue. Through Lions Aid Norway (LAN), he received free cataract surgeries to restore his sight. He's painting again and has put in a foundation for a new home.

LAN has helped thousands see better in Zambia, Malawi and Uganda. Norwegian Lions support the building of clinics, training of doctors and nurses, and educating the public on health matters.



Nawa Sibulwa proudly displays one of his paintings.



# LIONS ON LOCATION

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



THE PORT OF SPAIN CENTRAL LIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HELD A "FUN DAY" EVENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WHICH INCLUDED FACE PAINTING, A PUPPET SHOW AND CRICKET GAMES.

## Service Takes Many Forms Worldwide

Around the world, Lions assess needs in their communities and serve in a variety of ways. (Clockwise from upper right) Pleasant Point Lions in New Zealand hold a pumpkin growing competition. Used in soups and roasts and for cattle feed, pumpkins are harvested there in March. Dortmund Phoenix Lions in Germany provided a mare so children with disabilities can take part in therapeutic horseback riding. Los Angeles Lions in Chile sponsor a music festival for the blind. Not overlooking the smallest details in good grooming, Jodhpur Marudhara Lions in India organize a nail cutting and health education event for orphans.





# What if Lions could...



...**give** kids the strength to resist drugs  
and alcohol, and make good choices?

...**help** children develop positive skills?

...**bring** parents and communities  
together to support education?

...**help** children develop the skills  
necessary to succeed in the 21st Century?

...**prepare** the next generation of  
volunteers?

**We can,**

and we are doing it every  
day in communities like  
yours – and in 80 countries  
around the world – through  
Lions Quest and Lions Clubs  
International Foundation.



 A Program of Lions  
Clubs International  
Foundation

Learn more by visiting [www.lions-quest.org](http://www.lions-quest.org)  
or email [info@lions-quest.org](mailto:info@lions-quest.org).



## Our First-Ever '10 Issue'

"What's better: bigger or smaller?" a young man in a suit drolly asks a group of giggly schoolchildren in a funny TV commercial. The kids are incredulous. Doesn't this guy know anything? Bigger! We know that, too. That's why we've come up with this "10 Issue." Lions don't do things in a small way. Our service can't be confined to one or even several examples. So take ten and enjoy the multiple ways Lions enrich our world.

Stories by Jay Copp



# 10 Top Lions Towns

Big clubs thrive in small towns.

A tidy cluster of homes and shops surrounded by vast fields of swaying grain, Clearfield is a typical Iowa farm town. But if you peek in the closets and drawers of residents, you'll find a lot of yellow vests and shirts. In a town of just 362, the Clearfield Lions Club has 166 members. That's 46 percent of the population. That's the No. 1 town in North America in terms of concentration of Lions (see list on next page).

Lions can be found here "everywhere you go," says President Gaylan Bell, a retired farmer and cattle raiser. "They're at church, school activities, the bank, businesses." The club is quick to offer membership to newcomers. "We offer them that option. Some take it. Some don't," says Bell.

The club meets in a large, modern clubhouse it rents out for weddings and reunions. "We're a very active club. We support Leader Dogs, the schools, the library, you name it," says Bell.

The membership is a little deceiving since the club draws from throughout Ringgold and Taylor counties, population 11,500. But the Lions want to be Lions. They want to serve—and they want the free parking spot at the

bustling Iowa State Fair. From 8 a.m. to midnight a phalanx of Clearfield Lions drive shuttle buses (actually John Deere tractors pulling trailers) that ferry fairgoers to and from the parking lot. The club receives a big fee from the fair, Lions park for free and the Clearfield Lions get members and the membership muscle to serve two counties and fairgoers statewide.

Leaders of big clubs in small towns say an egalitarian, flexible approach keeps Lions from becoming ex-Lions. "We don't enforce attendance. Everyone gets a say. Anyone can think of a project, run it by the club and try it out," says Eric Kronenberg, president of the Clear Lake Lions in Minnesota (No. 10 on the list). One other thing: traditions are honored but change is not a dirty word. "Something else that makes our club great is that we never hear 'we do it this way as we have for years and there is no need to change.' We change," adds Kronenberg.

Watch an Iowa Public Television video on the Lions' shuttle at the state fair.



Clearfield Lions shuttle fairgoers from the parking lot.

Photo courtesy of Iowa Public Television



## Top 10 Lions Towns\*

	Club	Members	Population	Percentage of Population
1.	Clearfield, Iowa	166	362	46
2.	Grygla, Minnesota	85	221	38
3.	Good Hope, Ohio	76	234	32
4.	Westphalia, Missouri	120	388	30
5.	Dewey Beach, Delaware	98	341	29
6.	McGregor, Minnesota	90	391	23
7.	Fenwick Island, Delaware	80	379	21
8.	Bear Creek, Wisconsin	88	451	20
9.	Wardsville, Missouri	221	1,517	15
10.	Jamestown, Pennsylvania	87	613	14
10.	Clear Lake, Minnesota	78	551	14

\*75 or More Lions in the Club



Clearfield Lions are the No. 1 club in terms of concentration of Lions in one town.



## Ten Largest Lions Clubs

		Members
1.	Ahmedabad Karnavati, India	914
2.	Mumbai Sol, India	855
3.	Mumbai Andheri North, India	659
4.	Tirupur, India	408
5.	Bombay Boribunder, India	405
6.	Ahmedabad Rajnagar, India	346
7.	Lubbock, Texas	328
8.	Rourkela Vedvyas, India	315
9.	Jalandhar, India	313
10.	Calcutta, India	308

## Ten Largest Lions Clubs in North America\*

		Members
1.	Lubbock, Texas	328
2.	Conroe Noon, Texas	307
3.	Narragansett, Rhode Island	284
4.	Lufkin Host, Texas	278
5.	Dumas Noon, Texas	237
6.	Wardsville, Missouri	221
7.	Bay City, Michigan	215
8.	Longview Pioneer, Washington	210
9.	West NY Leones Cub De Hudson, New Jersey	201
10.	Wimberley, Texas	196

\*The largest club in Canada is the Elmira Lions Club in Ontario with 104 members.



# 10 Brilliant Breakthroughs in Service

The world has changed a lot in the last 100 years. Lions have roared loudly in making it a better place.



## At Your Service

When Lions Clubs began in 1917, service clubs were all the rage. But few actually were about service. They were businessmen's groups where the unofficial motto was "I'll scratch your back and you scratch mine." Service was an afterthought or it was window dressing. The self-serving motives of these groups made them an easy target for Sinclair Lewis in his wildly successful novel *Babbitt* in 1922. Lewis penned his satire before Lions Clubs became a game-changer. Lions' founder, Chicago insurance agent Melvin Jones, established a service club organization truly dedicated to service, an organization that prohibited financial self-interest. Jones and other early Lions put the "service" in service clubs and forever altered the role of community-based civic groups.

From its first days Lions Clubs focused on helping others, not themselves.

In 1930, members of the Seattle University Lions Club in Washington enjoy a song by children at the Theodora Home "for dependent mothers and their children" after barbers in the club gave haircuts.



## Cane Mutiny

A user of the white cane, Kenneth Jernigan was a longtime leader of the National Federation of the Blind.

Blind people used canes for centuries. But it took a Lion to make the canes safer and recognizable as a symbol of the blind. George Bonham was president of the Peoria Lions Club in Illinois in 1930 when he noticed a blind man with a black cane trying to cross a busy street. The man tapped his cane over and over, but the drivers, oblivious to his disability, continued to speed past him. Bonham decided what was needed was a white cane with a wide band of red. His club painted canes and distributed them to the blind, and the Peoria City Council swiftly approved a law giving the blind using a white cane the right-of-way. By 1956 every state had passed White Cane safety laws.

## An elderly blind man enjoys a Talking Book in this undated photo.

### Reading With the Ears

"The faces of the sightless people of Milwaukee are shining with pleasure these days," the *Milwaukee Journal* reported on Feb. 7, 1935. The reason for their happiness? They could "read" books—Talking Books provided by the Library of Congress. Milwaukee Lions had donated to the Milwaukee Public Library a Talking Book machine produced by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB). Within a couple of years the Milwaukee Library had more than 100 Talking Books including parts of the Bible, Greek plays and works by contemporary writers such as Edna Ferber, P.G. Wodehouse and even Walt Disney.

The Library of Congress first produced Talking Books in 1934, and Lions clubs quickly worked with both the AFB and the American Printing House for the Blind to get the books and machines to the blind. The technology was cumbersome: a new needle was required each time a record was played. But the sound quality was good, and the blind couldn't get enough of the newfangled device. The Milwaukee Library reported a Talking Book circulation of 28,526 in 11 months in the late 1930s. E.E. Seebach, the head of the Talking Book department at the library, was oddly prescient: "The talking book is of greatest importance to those with defective vision as well as to the blind. Eventually, I think most of us will do our 'reading' in this manner."

Photo courtesy of the American Foundation for the Blind



#### Listen to historic Talking Book audio clips:

Washington Irving's "The Sketch Book." Read in 1936 by George Patterson, longtime radio and TV host in Louisville, Kentucky.

Oscar Wilde's "The Happy Prince." Read in 1943 by Eva LeGallienne, an English actress and director.

Louise Dickinson Rich's "We Take to the Woods." Read in 1943 by Terry Hayes Sales, an actress and singer.

Armstrong Sperry's "All About the Arctic and Antarctic." Read in 1958 by George Walsh, a sports announcer.

Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." Read in 1970 by Angelou.

Clips are courtesy of the American Printing House for the Blind ([www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)) and the American Foundation for the Blind ([www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org)).



The first class at Leader Dogs consisted of (from left) William Joyce, a law student from Wayne University with Leader Dog Neitzie; Earl Morrey, a Detroit native with Baron; Dr. Glenn Wheeler with Hilda; and Paul Brown, a conductor/musician from Toledo, Ohio, with Van.

Photo courtesy of Leader Dogs for the Blind

### Leading the Way

In 1938 three members of the Uptown Lions Club in Detroit were crestfallen after their club's failed attempt to enroll a fellow member, Dr. Glenn Wheeler, in the only U.S. school for guide dogs. The Seeing Eye in New Jersey accepted contributions but not sponsorships of individual students. So Charles Nutting, Don Schuur and S.A. Dodge, destined to become international president in 15 years, founded the Lions Leader Dog Foundation. Their quest included one memorable misstep. As they assessed a farmhouse as a possible headquarters, the rotting kitchen floor collapsed and two of them plunged into the basement. Undaunted, the trio founded their school in another farmhouse and housed the first four dogs in a dilapidated barn. Today, Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester is one of the most prominent guide dog schools. One of the very first of its kind, it helped popularize guide dogs worldwide.

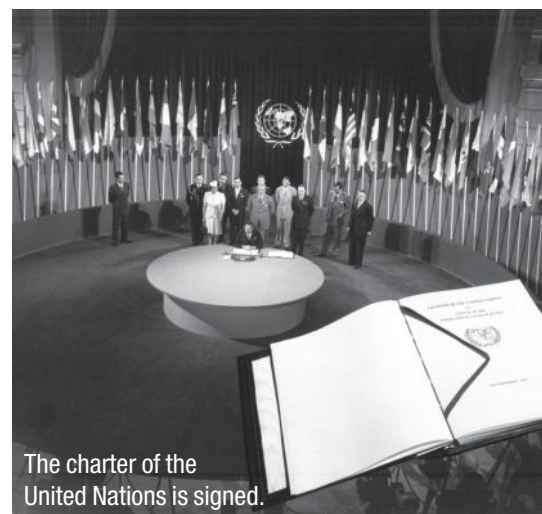


## Eye Bank Era

By the 1940s surgeons knew how to successfully transplant the cornea of the eye, but transplants were rare. The problem lay in securing donor's eyes. People either weren't aware of the possibility or were reluctant to approve using a deceased relative's eyes. Clergymen's views then didn't help either: they considered using eyes for transplant a desecration of the dead.

A Lions club in New York, headed by a determined, savvy lawyer, helped change attitudes. Born in Italy in 1886, Ralph Cerreta came to the United States when he was 10 and worked as a reporter in New York before becoming a prominent, wealthy lawyer. While yet in his 20s Cerreta displayed a fierce concern for the disadvantaged and the ability to muster resources: he established the Italian Welfare League and the Young Men's Italian Educational League. During World War II he learned of the difficulty in completing corneal transplants. A chemist who had served in World War I was scheduled for a corneal transplant at a Manhattan hospital, but the death sentence of the would-be donor, a convict at Sing-Sing prison, was unexpectedly commuted. Donor tissue was luckily obtained from a deceased infant, but Cerreta had found a new cause for Lions. His Central Staten Island Lions Club established the Sight Restoration Society in December 1944 for Lions to promote corneal transplants.

The world's first eye bank, the Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, was founded nearby on Dec. 15, 1944, at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, by young ophthalmologist Dr. R. Townley Paton and others. It's unclear whether the Lions' Restoration Society preceded the Eye-Bank and also uncertain is the exact initial relationship between the two (Lions have supported the Eye-Bank for many years). But Lions were henceforth instrumental in launching the eye bank movement. In 1945, the Buffalo Lions Club in New York founded the world's second eye bank, the Buffalo Eye Bank, and today Lions sponsor 55 of the world's eye banks, restoring sight to thousands of people and furthering research on cures for eye disease.



The charter of the United Nations is signed.

## World Body Roars From The Get-Go

As World War II raged, leaders of the Allied nations looked beyond the end of the conflict and held talks on a world body for preserving peace—an entity that would be stronger than the toothless League of Nations. Lions rallied behind the idea. In 1943 in Cleveland at their international convention Lions endorsed a House resolution calling for an international peace-keeping mechanism once the fighting ended. In February 1945 Lions' founder Melvin Jones and another Lion gathered with leaders of other national groups to meet with Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. and Assistant Secretary of State Archibald McLeish to discuss a United Nations. In April Lions headquarters asked clubs to hold a United Nations week to show support for the initiative. The U.N. charter was signed in June.

Jones, International President D.A. Skeen of Salt Lake, Utah, and future international president Fred Smith of Ventura, California, helped to formulate the non-governmental section of the U.N. charter. Two years later in 1947, in recognition of the importance of Lions Clubs to its mission, the United Nations gave Lions consultative status with the U.N. Economic and Social Council, committed to the welfare of people worldwide. For 68 years Lions and the United Nations have shared many common goals and worked together to further peace and prosperity.

Shown in 1950, the original Eye-Bank cornea laboratory was at Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital. The lab moved to Wall Street in 1997.

Photo courtesy of the Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration Inc.



## Service in a Place of Exile

Kalaupapa in Hawaii is famous as the home of those with Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy. For decades those with the illness were banished to the village. Despite its isolation, Kalaupapa was a thriving community with churches, musical groups, a historical society, a theater—and a Lions club. The Kalaupapa Lions Club chartered on April 28, 1948, with 31 members.

Kalaupapa Lions were leaders of the settlement: the administrator, medical director, sheriff and business manager. The club kept the community vibrant and active. It paid for the travel of entertainers (who donated their time) such as Red Skelton, Shirley Temple and Art Linkletter to perform at the community hall. Lions held hobby and craft shows, bingo nights, fishing tournaments and picnics. They built picnic benches and rain shelters at Judd Park. Using large rocks and coral, they constructed a seaside pavilion.

No job was too big for the club. Lions put up street signs and directional markers with the Lions logo in their 12-square-mile area, created an orchard by planting trees with com-



Photo courtesy of the Ed Kato Collection, Kalaupapa National Historical Park Museum Collections/NPS

Lions at Kalaupapa helped build Kalawao Park, now known as Judd Park, named for Lion Lawrence Judd, former governor of Hawaii and then administrator of the Kalaupapa settlement.

memorative plaques after visits by Lions and prominent people, and recycled the wire from unused overhead electric power lines by “bushwacking” their way through thick undergrowth up a treacherous 2,000-foot-high mountainside. The outside world might have pitied them, but Lions were too busy to notice. They used Kukui nuts and shells to craft leis, jewelry and novelties, and they gener-

ously supported the Hawaii Lions Eye Foundation, the Salvation Army and the programs of Lions Clubs International.

Hawaii abolished its isolation laws in 1969, many years after medicine was developed to control and cure Hansen's disease. Seventeen people remain in Kalaupapa; eight are Lions.

## Vision Quest

Papyrus texts from ancient Egypt describe the bitter toll of trachoma: blindness brought on by eyelashes that turn inward, not only excruciatingly painful but also permanently scarring the cornea. What the Egyptians did not know was that the underlying culprit was a bacteria, spread by flies, and that the disease was prevalent in overcrowded conditions marred by poor hygiene. Modern researchers sought antibiotics to thwart the age-old disease, and in the 1950s Melbourne Lions in Australia made possible the Lions Research Unit of the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and underwrote the salary of gifted pathologist Dr. H. Courtney Greer. Building on the research of Professor Ira Mann, Greer perfected an antibiotic in the early 1960s that saved countless Aborigines from blindness.



Supported by Lions, researchers in Australia developed antibiotics to curtail trachoma.

Watch a video on Lions' success in curtailing trachoma.



## Ann Landers, Dear Indeed

At the height of her popularity columnist Ann Landers reached 90 million readers of more than 1,200 newspapers. She was the national water cooler: her advice rippled out across the nation. Lions shrewdly capitalized on her renown in 1987. International President Sten A. Akestam of Sweden wrote to her: “Dear Ann Landers: I know that you are very much interested in educating your readers on matters concerning health. In fact, the medical community considers you its No. 1 (and most effective advocate). Please print this letter.” Akestam then went on to describe the warning signs of diabetes, a disease still in the shadows. He also provided the phone number for Lions’ headquarters. Landers replied in her column: “I am delighted to print it. It will save lives.” Ever practical, Landers closed, “I hope you have a good number of trunks on that phone and many volunteers who are willing to man it. And please keep in mind that my West Coast readers are two hours behind you. Don’t close up at 5 o’clock.” She was right: the phones rang for weeks. But Lions Clubs was ready, quickly mailing out thousands of preprinted diabetes brochures.



A patient in China undergoes an eye screening supported by Lions.



## Seeds of Democracy

The Guangdong and Shenzhen Lions Clubs chartered in May 2002—the first voluntary membership groups in China since the 1950s. Making inroads in the world’s most populous nation is good for Lions Clubs International (LCI). Today there are 489 clubs with nearly 13,000 Lions in China. But Lions are also good for China besides the obvious service reasons. LCI is non-political, but political commentators have argued that NGOs such as Lions contribute to the democratization of China. Political scientist Chen Jie wrote, “Lions have helped transform official and popular attitudes toward NGO activity by operating in China. There is the Lions own democratic structure, with the members from the Shenzhen and Guangzhou branches reportedly inspired by its annual presidential elections, participatory mechanism, equality among leaders and members, dedication and transparency.”

# 10 Projects Too Good to Ever End

These projects are so popular or needed they may last forever.

## Fair Thee Well

In 1949, a handful of Berlin Lions in Connecticut generously put up their businesses as collateral. The club boldly purchased 120 acres and threw up a few tents. Just like that, the Harvest Festival, an agricultural fair that ran from 1882 to 1919, was back in business. The fair grew each year, and the Lions constantly improved their property to accommodate the larger crowds and added attractions. They dropped in sewer lines, paved access roads and constructed nearly 20 permanent buildings, some with complete kitchens. Today the area's farms are mostly gone, but the gargantuan Berlin Fair has been of the state's largest for many years.

Berlin counts 20,000 residents, and the fair seems to have that many attractions: blue-ribbon livestock, apple pie

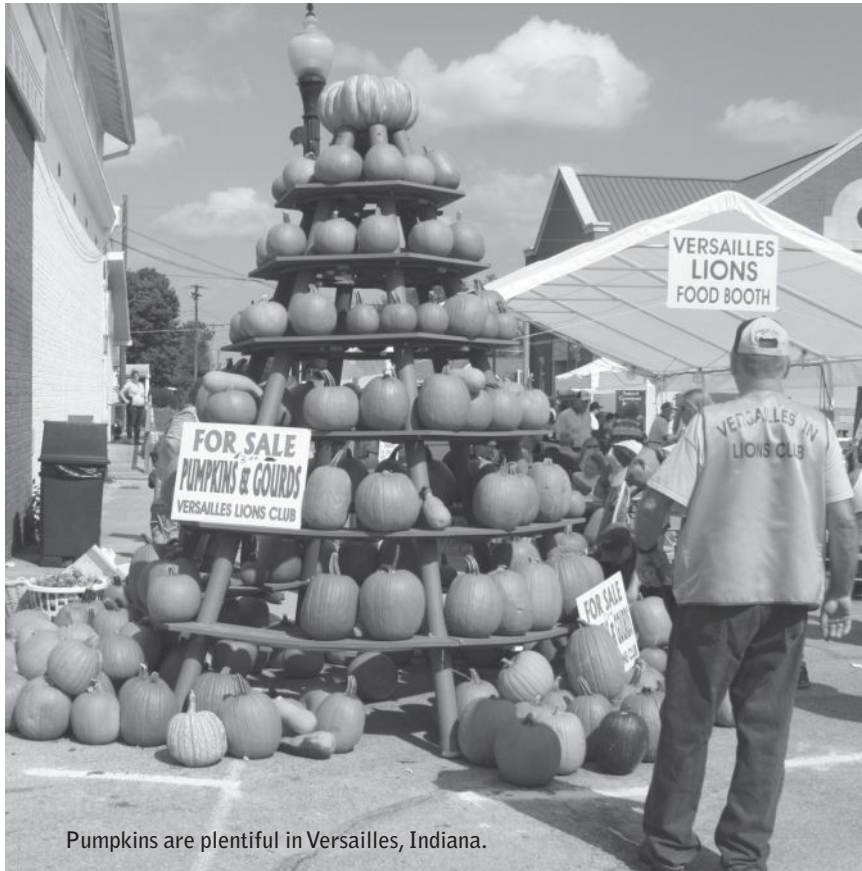
contests, quilting contests, frog jumping displays, baby contests, nail driving contests, tractor pulls, pig races, bull riders, mountain bike stunts, comedy and juggling acts, concerts and midway rides. The three-day fair is such a big deal in town that schools close the Friday it begins. Ministers pray for sunny skies because churches and groups such as fire departments and veteran's groups sell food or goods that generate a good chunk of their annual fundraising take.

Everybody in Berlin seems to visit the fair. "It's like a reunion. College kids see their old friends. You expect to see people you know," says Diane Jacobson, club president. The 140-member club begins meeting weekly for the October fair in April. "Most everybody [in the club] helps," adds Jacobson.

Fairgoers in the 1960s buy their tickets in Berlin.







Pumpkins are plentiful in Versailles, Indiana.

## 110-Year-Old Pumpkin Lovefest

There's something about a pumpkin. Not the tastiest fruit, nor the most adaptable for baking or cooking, often irregular, squat and splotched, they nevertheless seem to demand our allegiance. The sturdy orange sphere conjures up the alluring fall season and its mercurial but not-yet-frigid weather. A pumpkin is something to rally around. Versailles in southeastern Indiana has been doing that since 1902. The Versailles Pumpkin Show attracts a bustling crowd of 15,000 on a fall Saturday; Versailles has a population of just 2,100.

The Versailles Lions Club chartered in 1942, and Lions have run the festival since the 1940s. Versailles is a country town, but pumpkin farms are not abundant. So in years past Lions grew pumpkins and gourds to decorate the festival. Last year local Amish also grew pumpkins that Lions bought.

The five-day festival is a panoply of eye-popping pumpkins. There are the pumpkin prince and princess, the pumpkin pie eating contest, a pumpkin baking contest, a pumpkin decoration contest and the 90-minute parade, a procession of floats, bands and, of course, pumpkins. The big attraction, pun intended, is the Giant Pumpkin contest. Lions use a crane to hoist the contenders on an industrial scale borrowed from a factory. The pumpkins weigh as much as 760 pounds.

Lions run a food booth at the festival. Items include pumpkin cupcakes, pies and rolls. The club now will run the festival from its new clubhouse. Well, like the festival itself, "new" does not exactly apply. Securing a grant, the club purchased a building more than a century old that formerly housed a drug store.

## Chicken, With a Side of Lincoln

What do you get when you cook more than 2,000 chicken halves on four huge grills? A false alarm. Five years ago Elizabethtown Lions in Kentucky rose before dawn and fired up the charcoal grills at American Legion Park for their venerable chicken barbecue. Residents saw the billowing smoke wafting in the trees and called the fire department. The folks who dialed 911 must have been newcomers. Elizabethtown Lions have held their barbecue fundraiser for 70 years. The thousands of dollars raised support more than 40 local groups.

The Lions can cook 840 chicken halves at one time. They know what they're doing. "The key is to cook it on the rib side, the bone side. That won't affect the meat. You don't want the breast to dry out," says John Zeitz, a past district governor. "The wings are tricky. You want to turn the wing under from the top, to make it come off the breast."

Elizabethtown is not just any town. Thomas and Nancy Lincoln lived in a log cabin here, and in 1809 their son, Abraham, was born a few miles away. Honest Abe turned out to be a picky eater: Mary Lincoln scolded the president for not finishing his dinners at the White House. But he did like chicken-fricasseed chicken, cut up in small pieces, fried with nutmeg and mace seasonings and served with a chicken-drippings gravy. Should the Lions serve up fricasseed chicken one year? Zeitz laughs. "We've tried variations over the year. But the public lets us know they won't stand for any changes," he says.

# Eggs Roll, History Unfolds

Osawatomie Lions chartered their club in January 1938 and decided an Easter egg hunt in April would go over well. They were right. This spring will mark the 75th year for the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt. Osawatomie in far eastern Kansas has less than 4,500 residents, but nearly 200 children ages 2 to 10 will dash out on a green lawn at the high school and scoop up 3,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy. The children get to satisfy their cravings for sweets; needy families get to eat. Lions ask families taking part in the hunt to bring a canned food item for the Osawatomie Food Pantry.

The request for a food item is historically apt. The hunt began during the Great Depression, a time when candy was a luxury, and families were asked to bring hard boiled, colored eggs to the hunt. "They found some in the park days later. You can imagine what had happened with them," says Doris Ware, secretary. The child who found the most eggs received a live Easter bunny; the second place winner took home a softball.

The egg hunt is not only old but downright historical. For years the hunt was held at John Brown Park. Yes, that John Brown. John Brown's cabin stands a half block from the high school. Abolitionists battled pro-slavery forces in Osawatomie in 1856, and when it was over the latter looted and burned Osawatomie, which was left with only three buildings. In 1910, President Teddy Roosevelt came to Osawatomie to unveil his New Nationalism and government protection of human welfare and property rights. In 2011, President Barack Obama visited Osawatomie and spoke on the role of government.

The Osawatomie Egg Hunt has rolled for 75 years.





The Christmas baskets bring the joy of the season to those in need in Corbin.



## Christmas in Corbin

Corbin Lions in southeastern Kentucky have been giving Christmas baskets to the needy for so long that the baskets once held live chickens. Lions handed over clucking fowls to the poor in 1949. Those gave way to frozen turkeys. Now because the turkeys wouldn't thaw in time for a Christmas Day feast, the club delivers hams on Christmas Eve along with heaps of fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, drinks and even toys.

Last year Lions and other volunteers delivered 250 baskets. The crew typically gathers at 6 a.m. for a free breakfast at David's Steakhouse, owned by Lion David Keck. Then they pack the boxes, load their cars and pickups and drive through Corbin, a hamlet of 7,000, and outside town onto dirt roads that snake through wooded hills.

It's in giving that Lions understand the need. One year Mike Pawula, a past district governor, made a stop with his wife and son at a crude block house with a dirt floor. Six or seven

children huddled near four couches pulled together in the center of the room. "There was no noise from any of them. We pulled out the toys, but their eyes were fixed on the milk. You just knew their bellies were empty," says Pawula. "We left and when we were three or four steps away from the door, we heard, 'OK.' Then we heard a bunch of hollering. My son said, 'I don't care if I get a toothbrush for Christmas—I will appreciate it.'"

Another time Pawula noticed a swirl of odd marks in the snow outside

a very modest home with a coal stove. "I saw something hide under a bed out of the corner of my eye. A mouse?" Then he figured it out. "It was chickens. They had to bring them in so they didn't freeze."

Many Lions and volunteers have delivered the baskets for years. Those who served as children now take part as adults. Pawula has put in 25 years. "It's not Christmas Eve until we deliver the baskets," he says. "We do our Christmas shopping as a family after that. You're in a real good mood."

## Fish Wish

A dot on the map, Catlin, Illinois, counts 2,000 residents. Drove of them come out for the Catlin Lions fish fry the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. "It's the town's social event," says Jesse Mitsdarffer, 2011-12 president of the 24-member club. "We typically sell 300 pounds. People love their fish."

The fish fry began in 1944, just four years after the club chartered. The club has tried changing the menu, offering pork chops or barbecue as the main entree. But residents wanted fish. Fishing is a popular pastime in the area. Old strip mines now hold water and fish. The club works with Neptune Foods, which supplies the processed fish and even cooks it, assuring its uniformity and quality.



The concession stand at the rodeo does brisk business.

## Roping In Customers

Cowboys ride bareback, wrestle steers and ride bulls at the Elk City Rodeo. For 74 years the oil fields and farms of this western Oklahoma town of 15,000 empty out for three nights, and 15,000 roaring spectators pack the Beutler Brothers Arena. For most of the rodeo's history Elk City Lions have staffed the busy concessions beneath the grandstands.

The club first worked the concessions either in 1949 or 1950. Five years ago, as the rodeo grew, its organizers brought in a half-dozen new vendors, worrying Lions that their sales would slump. That didn't happen. In fact, last year Lions had their best year ever. The 29-member club even had to recruit Canute City Lions and Elk City Lionesses to guarantee the 50 volunteers needed for its three stands at the arena.

Rodeos make people hungry: last year Lions served 1,664 hamburgers, 1,650 bags of cotton candy, 1,000 boxes of popcorn, 904 hot dogs, 400 funnel cakes, 281 foot-long corn dogs and 260 barbecue sandwiches. Also dispensed were 81 pounds of nacho chips slathered with 32 gallons of nacho cheese, 42 pounds of Fritos mixed with six gallons of chili for Frito pies and 20 gallons of dill pickles. Patrons washed down the food with 8,566 bottles of water/cans of pop.

Lions may be behind the counter but Lionism is front and center. A paper-mache lion stands regally atop a concession stand, and oversized Lions' emblems are affixed to the others. The visibility among people heartily enjoying themselves can't hurt recruitment. "We've had eight new members in the last four months," says Lion Quenton Elliott, who runs the stands and as a boy attended the rodeo with his grandfather-Lion.

## Wheels Keeps on Turning in Overland, Missouri

As a boy Andrew Julian hung out at the bustling fair of the Overland Lions Club near St. Louis in Missouri. "I was there for the rides, the food, to hold the hands of girls on the Ferris wheel," says Julian, 28. He still rides the Ferris wheel, but he's mostly solidly planted on the fairgrounds running the show as its chairperson. The Overland Lions Community Fair is 73 years old and counting. Julian predicts it will be around for its centennial. "I think so. I've got a lot of fairs to go," he says.

The club's biggest fundraiser, the four-day fair has it all: carnival rides, games, contests, concerts and a variety of foods. This past year a 48-vehicle car show was added to liven up an afternoon. "If you see a sign for a car show around here [in Missouri], it's like bugs to a light bulb," says Julian.

The town's name is historically ironic. Aviator Charles Lindbergh once lived in town not far from Norman Myers Park, the fair's site. "Maybe he did a flyover," jokes Julian.

Lions work closely on the fair with Mayor Mike Schneider (a Lion), churches and businesses. Last year the club recognized the importance of its partners by changing the name of the event from the Overland Lions Club Fair to the Lions Community Fair. The club also recognized the value of social media by taking real-time cellphone photos of the fair, posting them to the club's website and linking them to Facebook and Twitter.

The fair may be a septuagenarian, but some things never change. The kids still hang out in packs at the rides, and the adults gravitate to the libations. "The running joke is, 'How's the beer garden?'" says Julian. "They give their kids money for the rides, and they don't see them again until they come back for more money."



A boy takes a joy ride at the Overland Lions Community Fair.



## Showstoppers Keep Show Going

The performances were from shows years ago, but people in Carthage still remember Chet Stout singing “Elvira” seated on his “commodeola,” a stage prop made from a commode seat and guitar neck, Bubba Clinton telling a tale about Mrs. E.B. Morrison, who was not pleased when she heard about it at church on Sunday, and M.P. Baker, a college president with an everyman’s sense of humor, ceremoniously tearing off toilet tissue when a joke bombed so the Rotarians had a cheat sheet to use the bad jokes in their own show. Since 1946, the Carthage Lions have put on the best little variety show in Texas. Produced and performed by Lions with an occasional assist from family and friends, the Lions Clubs Show is a blend of music, skits and joke-telling that packs the house year after year.

The secret to the show’s success is that there are few secrets in a close-knit town of 6,000. This year’s show included a few good-natured barbs about the mayor’s hairstyle. One of the show’s Walk on Ads (skits performed by Lions about a business) lamented the fate of

Big Tex, the iconic statue at the state fair that burned down; the skit pointed out that his demise could have been averted if he had patronized an air conditioner business. Throughout the show well-known community members show another side to them. “You get the local banker dressing up like he’s someone else—something not in character with a bank. People like that,” says Lion Jerry Hanszen, the longtime show director who hosts a local talk radio show.

The closer to home the subject, the better. Carthage was the setting for the 2011 movie “Bernie,” where Jack Black plays a funeral director who murders an elderly woman. In this year’s show three church choir directors, imitating Black in the film, sang “Love Lifted Me” while on stage ...well, you had to be there to appreciate it. But the show succeeds because while it approaches the line of bad taste it stays firmly on the other side. “If you could hear it at

Sunday school, then it’s OK for us,” says Hanszen with a smile. And the show always ends in the same rousing fashion—with the crowd on its feet as the cast belts out “God Bless America” and “The Star Spangled Banner.”



## Dancing Queens—and Kings

Four bucks gets you a seat at a lengthy session at the Chilliwack Lions Club Music and Dance Festival in British Columbia, Canada. The spectacle is, well, spectacular. Over 45 days nearly 5,000 youths from ages 6 to 21 compete. They dance everything from classical ballet to street-style hip-hop. The music competition features the piano, violin, strings, brass, woodwinds, bands, vocal and choirs. The stakes are high: top performers advance to provincial and national competitions.

The club began the festival in 1947, the year it was chartered. Twenty years ago the festival was tottering, and the club considered shutting it down. But the event regained its footing, and its move to the new Chilliwack Cultural Centre a couple of years ago steadied it further.



Dancers rehearse for the Lions’ dance festival in Chilliwack.

The renown of the festival’s judges boosts the allure of the competition. Among the judges have been Jeff Hyssop, who starred in “Phantom of the Opera,” and Michael Wood of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival orchestra.

Staging the festival requires 550 volunteers and 16 festival personnel

putting in more than 4,000 hours. Lions make it all come together. Many of the competitors have gone on to careers as performers and arts teachers. But for most excited participants and nervous but proud family members the moment in the spotlight, generating a lifetime of precious memories, matters most.

Photo by Jenna Hauck





# 10 Outside-the- Box Successes

Not afraid to be innovative, these clubs tried something different. They were happy they did.

1

## Toying with the Police

Stouffville Lions in Ontario, Canada, found a way to ease the pain of a parking ticket while helping the needy. Vehicle owners who received a ticket on a snow-clearing route in part of December in Whitchurch-Stouffville could avoid the \$50 fine by donating a toy to the town's Toys for Tickets program with Lions and a food bank distributing the sanctioned payola.





2

### Verse Fights Adversity

Poetry and prostate cancer? Well, why not? Boyne Lions in Australia held a breakfast fundraiser for a prostate cancer foundation during which poets read their works. Centuries ago the Bard knew that no measures should be discounted in fighting serious illness: "Diseases desperate grown/By desperate appliances are relieved,/Or not at all."

3

### Perfect Planter Project

Montclair is an attractive, hillside, tree-covered neighborhood in Oakland, California, and Oakland Montclair Lions contribute to the good vibes with a Halloween parade, Easter Egg hunt and restaurant walk. But a modest project also subtly enhances the community. The club recruited a local artist to create intricate mosaics that include a Lions Club logo for planters scattered throughout the neighborhood.

4

### Windows to the Past

Birthdays are tough—what do you give to a centenarian? The city of Duncan in British Columbia, Canada, celebrated 100 years, and Duncan Lions decided to give murals. A local artist painted four panels depicting the city's past and present amid the four seasons. One panel shows Gil Thom, charter president in 1958, strolling downtown with a mother and child. The murals are displayed in the windows of a seniors center.

5

### Kindness Amid Sorrow

Before Lions stepped in, some parents who lost an infant through stillbirth or very early in life shoved their various keepsakes and mementos in a paper or plastic bag before leaving the hospital. Now the grieving families at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Canada place the precious items in an attractive, handcrafted memory box made possible by Barrhaven Lions. Social workers say the boxes can help create new memories that lead toward healing.

6

### Online Shopping

The auction of Alberni Valley Lions on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada, is broadcast live on TV. But what sets apart the event is that the more than 300 items up for bid can be viewed two weeks prior on a website. The items once were displayed at a mall, now closed.

7

### Lions, Tigers and Cougars, Oh My

Louisburg Lions in Kansas make an annual donation to the Cedar Cove Feline Conservatory and Education Center. On a group outing Lions watched tigers devour whole raw chickens and slab of ribs. Members say it was just a coincidence that their club president accompanying them was Kitty Koonse.

8

### No Laughing Matter

A set of goggles called Fatal Vision simulates the visual effects of being drunk. Put them on and walking a straight line or touching a pencil tip becomes nearly impossible. Wilton Lions in New Hampshire donated the goggles to police to use for impaired driver prevention sessions. Lions tried them on, and the results were funny but ultimately sobering.

9

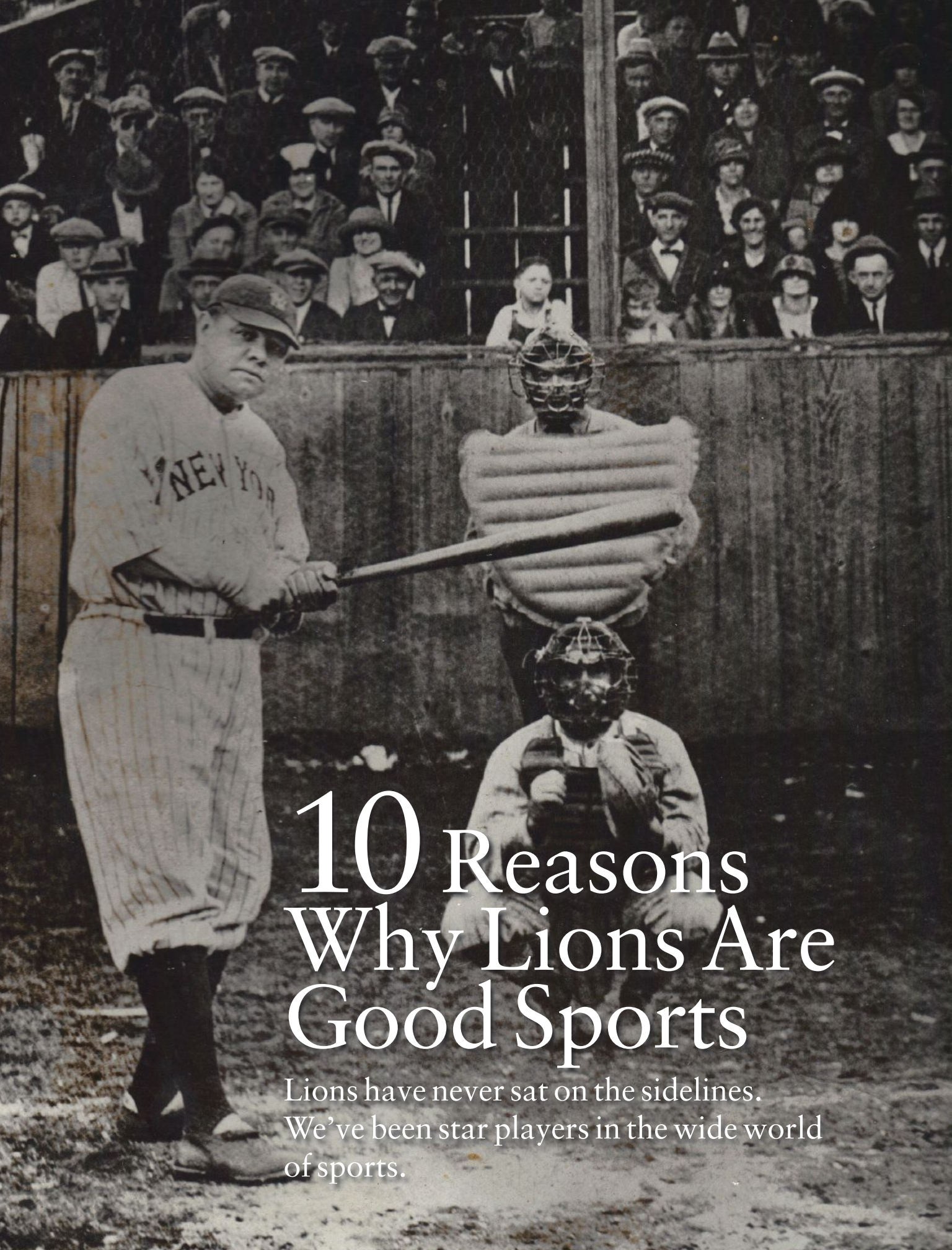
### Serving but Protected

Police dogs expose themselves to grievous harm in carrying out their duties. Broken Arrow Lions in Oklahoma reduced the risk by raising funds for four doggie bulletproof vests.

10

### No Cheating Allowed

Bicycling and baseball may have their frauds and cheats, but New Portland Lions in Maine run a whistle-clean Frog Jumping competition with iron-clad rules. Contestants may not feed frogs Tabasco or other hot sauce prior to the event. Touching the frog means instant disqualification. Frogs must be at least four inches long and have a name. None of these rules prohibit enthused, spur-of-the-moment support: frogs can be blown on and shouted at, and rooters even can jump up and down.



# 10 Reasons Why Lions Are Good Sports

Lions have never sat on the sidelines.  
We've been star players in the wide world  
of sports.



## The Babe Homers for Lions

Through the years Lions have sweet-talked countless pro athletes to work with them on fundraisers. But the biggest coup of all was the day the Sultan of Swat visited a small California town at the behest of Lions.

In 1924 Babe Ruth was the indisputable colossus of the sports world. One year after leading the New York Yankees to their first World Series title, Ruth slugged 46 home runs and batted .378 in palatial Yankee Stadium. On Oct. 22, he traveled by train to rustic Dunsmuir Ball Park in California for an exhibition game. With him on the barnstorming tour was Bob Meusel, also part of the Yankees' famed "Murderer's Row."

Ruth required a \$1,000 fee to play a seven-inning game. The Dunsmuir Lions couldn't cover that, so they convinced local businessman Frank Talmadge to put up \$700. Local players filled in the two rosters. Nearly 1,000 people jammed the park. The Yankee great told the awestruck pitcher to throw strikes. "The people didn't come here to watch me walk," he crowed. Ruth socked two homers as his team won.

Ruth enjoyed his few hours in the frontier-like town. He later wrote a letter to residents: "When it comes to beautiful girls, wonderfully fine fellows and the real two-fisted spirit of California—little old Dunsmuir gave us more laughs, more hospitality, more thrills and more things to remember than any place between Broadway and Shasta." Lions made Ruth an honorary member—and made an impression on him. He returned to Dunsmuir two years later to fish with Lions.

Time marches on. Yankee Stadium met the wrecking ball. The Dunsmuir Lions disbanded. But Dunsmuir Ball Park remains. A weather-beaten monument near its wooden grandstand recalls the day Ruth roared into town.

(Left) Babe Ruth faces a local pitcher at Dunsmuir Ball Park in 1924.

## Glory Days Never End

Pads pop, and quarterbacks rifle footballs to fleet receivers at the annual all-star football game in Scranton. That's quite a change from the first all-star game when players in leather helmets grinded the ball down the field from the single wing. That's because the Scranton Lions Club All Star Dream Game in Pennsylvania began in 1935, making it the nation's oldest continuous high school all-star game.

In Pennsylvania, high school football is king, and Lions long ago sunk their claws into a project that draws fever-pitch interest. As many as 15,000 fans pass through the turnstiles in a matchup of city versus county all-stars. They've watched a lot of very good players and some great ones: Jimmy Cefalo of Penn State and the Miami Dolphins, Mike Ruddy of Notre Dame and the Miami Dolphins, Mike Fanucci of Arizona State and the Washington Redskins, and Chris Snee of Boston College and the New York Giants.

John Mesko, the Lions' coordinator of the Dream Game, played in it as running back in 1970. "I remember what a privilege and honor it was," says Mesko, who played at Temple. "I went to it as little kid. We all did."

A decade or so ago college coaches awarded a couple of scholarships at the end of the game, which then included Division I prospects. But NCAA signing rules and the college coaches' fears of injury ended that. But some things never change with the Dream

Game: thousands of exuberant fans, star players and, most importantly, funds generated from the game given to the Lackawanna Country Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind.







## No Blood is Shed

The Camel Cup draws 5,000 fans to watch the “ships of the desert” race in Alice Springs, Australia. Run by Lions since 1971, the nine-race spectacle grew out of a quarrel between two Lions. “They were getting a bit moody after a couple of drinks, and they decided guns, knives, bare hands or camels,” says Lion Ian Rowan of the Alice Springs Lions. “They decided on camels, and the rest is history.”

## An All-Star Among All-Star Games

Nine players at college basketball’s Final Four last year shared at least one thing in common: they had once played in the Kentucky Lions All-Star Basketball Game. Top high school players from Kentucky and Indiana, adjoining states passionate about high school hoops, square off in the annual contest. Begun in 1940, it is one of the longest running all-star games in the nation.

For the players, the game is an opportunity to test their skills against other elite players. Fans flock to the game to watch in person athletes they soon will watch on TV at the college level and in the NBA. For Lions, the game generates huge support for the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation. The foundation has received more than \$2 million from proceeds. Funds support eye banks and clinics, a vision van, a Kid Sight program and eye research. More than 20 doctors at the University of Louisville Department of Ophthalmology currently are doing eye research at the Kentucky Lions Eye Center.

Retired New York Knick Allan Houston, New Orleans Hornet Eric Gordon and oft-injured former Portland Trail-blazer center Greg Oden are among the game’s alumni. The basketball showcase features slam dunks, brilliant



The caliber of play is high at the all-star game.

passes and, often, heartwarming back stories. In 1967, Jim McDaniels, a rugged power forward who went on to play in the ABA and NBA, gratefully recounted how Lions gave him eyeglasses when he was a small child living in poverty.

More than 11,000 fans crowd Freedom Hall in Louisville, the former arena of the University of Louisville, to see the all-star classic, which includes an Indiana/Kentucky girls matchup as well. The Louisville Downtown Lions Club ran the event until the 1980s when it turned it over to the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation. Lions sell tickets, hawk programs, and, like everyone else, gawk at the above-the-rim play.





Customers are plentiful for Lions in Odessa.

Photo courtesy of Dick Bourne

## Football and Food

Friday night lights in Odessa, Texas, means evening football. For Lions it means thousands of hot dogs, nacho plates and Frito pies, adding up to hundreds of thousands of dollars for good causes. Lions run the concession stands at 18,000-seat Ratliff Stadium, ranked by ESPN as one of the top 10 high school football venues. It's often packed. Odessa was the setting for the book "Friday Night Lights," which led to the movie and TV show. "Football is like a religion down here," says Dr. Javier Morales, president. The 89-member Odessa Downtown Lions Club has run the football concessions since 1970. The stadium opening in 1982 opened the floodgates for additional revenue. Seventeen stands with 81 workers operate when the stadium is full. Concessions also are sold during soccer and track—180 events annually. The \$60,000 annual profit funds the club's free eye clinic.

## Bike Warriors

Mike Layman spends a lot of time on his bike; he's pedaled more than 50,000 miles in the last 30 years. He's also put in untold hours as a Lion in Maryland since 1993. His hours on the road gave him time to think. His club then, the Aberdeen Lions, was aging, and fewer members were able to work their Christmas tree project. "All the time I spend on my bike—there has to be a better way," he thought to himself. Thus was born the Maryland Cycling for Sight Lions Club in 2010.

Members cycle so others may see. The club stages two rides a year and solicits donations from the hordes of cyclists that join them. In the fall the club teamed up with the Warrior Brotherhood to raise funds for Fisher House, which provides lodging for veterans receiving medical treatment. The Warriors rode their motorcycles 75 miles, and the bicyclists covered 22 miles. The club also supports the Maryland School for the Blind.

Only about half of the club's 18 members cycle. "It's not about the bike," says Layman, retired U.S. Army. "People see the cycling and they think the goal is to ride. The goal is to help others." Lions on bikes call attention to the service of Lions. "Cyclists attract a lot of attention with the colorful jerseys. We create a buzz," says Layman, whose wife, Dee, and two sons, Dave and Don, are members.



Mike Layman (in yellow shirt) and other bicyclists raise funds for veterans by riding.





## Ice Water in Veins—Eventually

Frozen ponds, backyard rinks and doting fathers lead to ice hockey greatness. Just ask Wayne Gretzky. The Great One also learned—the hard way—about handling himself off the ice from Lions. His first speaking engagement came as a 10-year-old when Lions in Brantford, Ontario, recognized the prodigy for scoring a ridiculous 378 goals in a season. Young Gretzky tripped over his skates at the dinner, so to speak. Especially nervous because his idol, Gordie Howe, sat at the head table, he mumbled a thanks and cried before speeding back to his seat. Lions, not wanting him to feel ashamed, applauded warmly. Gretzky eventually became a polished speaker and a classy player on and off the ice. Assist, Lions.

(Left) Wayne Gretzky—long after a speech before Lions left him in tears.

(Below) Runners dash to the finish line in the Lions Meet of Champions.



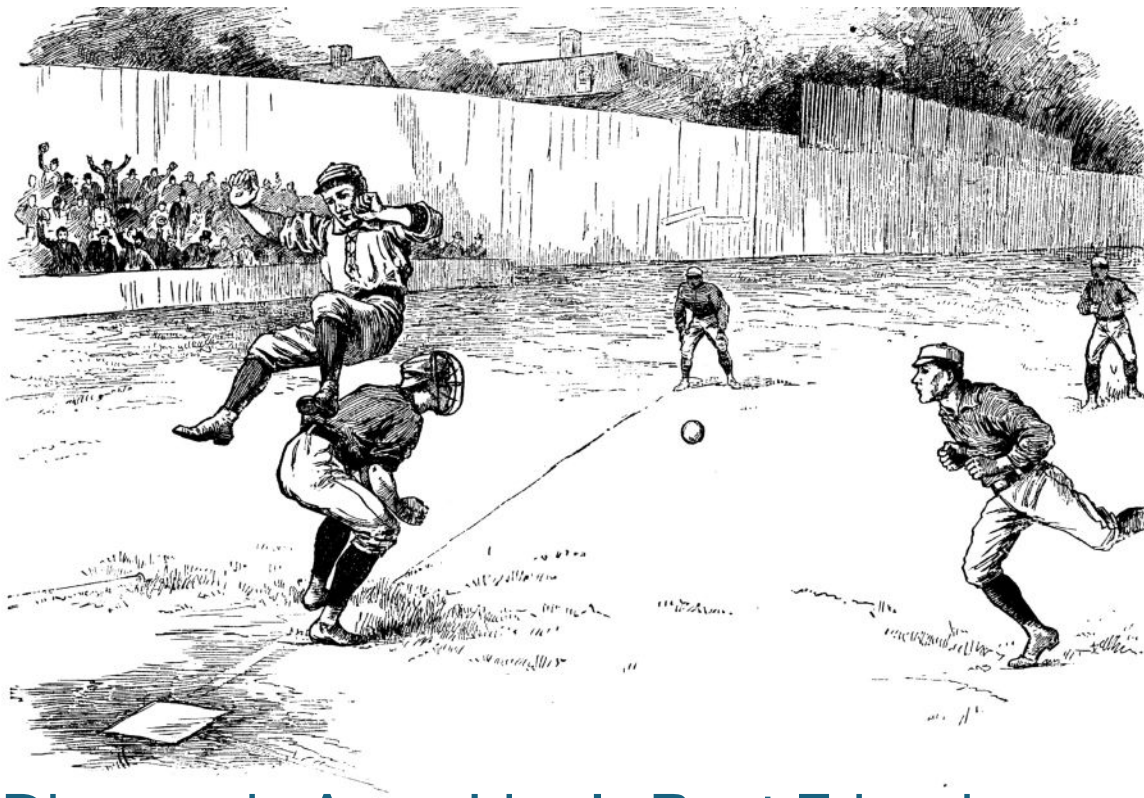
## Running a Running Race

More than 1,400 high school cross country runners streamed into the quiet town of Alexandria in western Minnesota this fall. The Lions Meet of Champions is one of the state's premier cross country races. Alexandria Lions have run the meet in their town of 11,000 since 1973 when a teacher at Alexandria High School who was a Lion proposed that his club run the event. This year 23 schools competed. Some from southern Minnesota traveled as far as 200 miles. Ten of the state's top 15 girl runners competed as did six of the top 15 boys. Also among the runners were two children of Ron Branch, treasurer. The meet is held at

the Arrowwood Resort, where the rooms quickly fill up. Lions mark the course, set up the bleachers, work the race and pay for the trophies. The event raises no funds for the club but generates a lot of good will. "It's just an exciting day. For the schools it's one of the highlights of their year," says Lion Jerry Hansen.

Watch a video on a highly successful Lions' Turkey Trot in Illinois.





## Diamonds Are a Lion's Best Friend

Baseball is a big deal in little Monroe City, Missouri, population 2,500. More than 400 youths play baseball or softball on the three diamonds owned and maintained by Monroe City Lions, who run the leagues, staff the concession stands, umpire games and often coach teams on which their own children play. So after the town supported various fundraisers by Lions over two years to improve the fields, Lions thanked residents by staging a vintage baseball game in 2009.

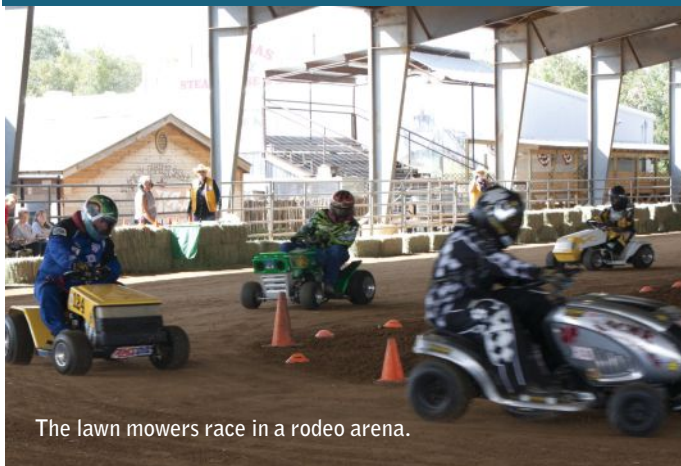
A vintage baseball team from St. Louis took on a Monroe City team before a large crowd. As in the 1860s, fans sat in the outfield, and outfielders, known as “scouts” in

the early days of baseball, dodged spectators while chasing fly balls. The “hurlers” tossed the ball underhand to the “behind,” the catcher. The “strickers” had to use thin wooden bats less than 2.5 inches in diameter. Home plate was a circular iron plate.

The rules and customs of the time—many of them family-friendly—were strictly followed. There were no gloves, no sliding, no spitting and no cursing.

The St. Louis team was the reigning world champ in vintage baseball. No matter. “We kind of stacked our team. We destroyed them,” says Mayor Neal Minor, a Lion who played in the game.

Watch a video on the Mow Down Show Down lawn mower race.



The lawn mowers race in a rodeo arena.

### “Geez, Honey, I Asked You to Mow the Lawn!”

The roar of engines, the speeding around a track, the possibility of a crash—that is all part of the race day of the Spring Branch-Bulverde Lions Club in Texas. But these aren't race cars circling the 1/4-mile track—they're lawnmowers. The club holds its Mow Down Show Down at a rodeo arena. Don't assume this is all for laughs (though spectators often sport wry smiles). The souped-up machines go as fast as 50 miles per hour, and drivers who finish first pump their fists in triumph. For younger tykes who prefer to ride a machine and not watch others have all the fun, just outside the arena the club runs the Blue Lion Train, a 100-foot-long, water-barrel tractor-train.

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# Bocelli, Bush and the Beatles: A Memorable Convention Takes Shape

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Lions attending the international convention in Hamburg can get down with Up With People, be serenaded by the world's most popular classical singer and bask in the vibes of Peace, Love and Understanding. And that's just what's on tap at the plenaries and International Show.

The 96th International Convention, July 5-9 in Hamburg, Germany, is shaping up to be one of the more memorable conventions. Registrations had shot past 19,000 by press time, a "phenomenal" figure according to convention officials at Lions Clubs International. Conventions are rarely held in Europe (because of the relative lack of sizeable venues and hotel space). A large number of Europeans have registered. Lions from elsewhere apparently are drawn by the opportunity to visit an Old World city, full of history and the charms of other ages, yet cosmopolitan and modern, too. Whatever the reasons Lions are coming, the large pool of Lions in Hamburg will result in a convention representative of the worldwide character of Lions Clubs International.

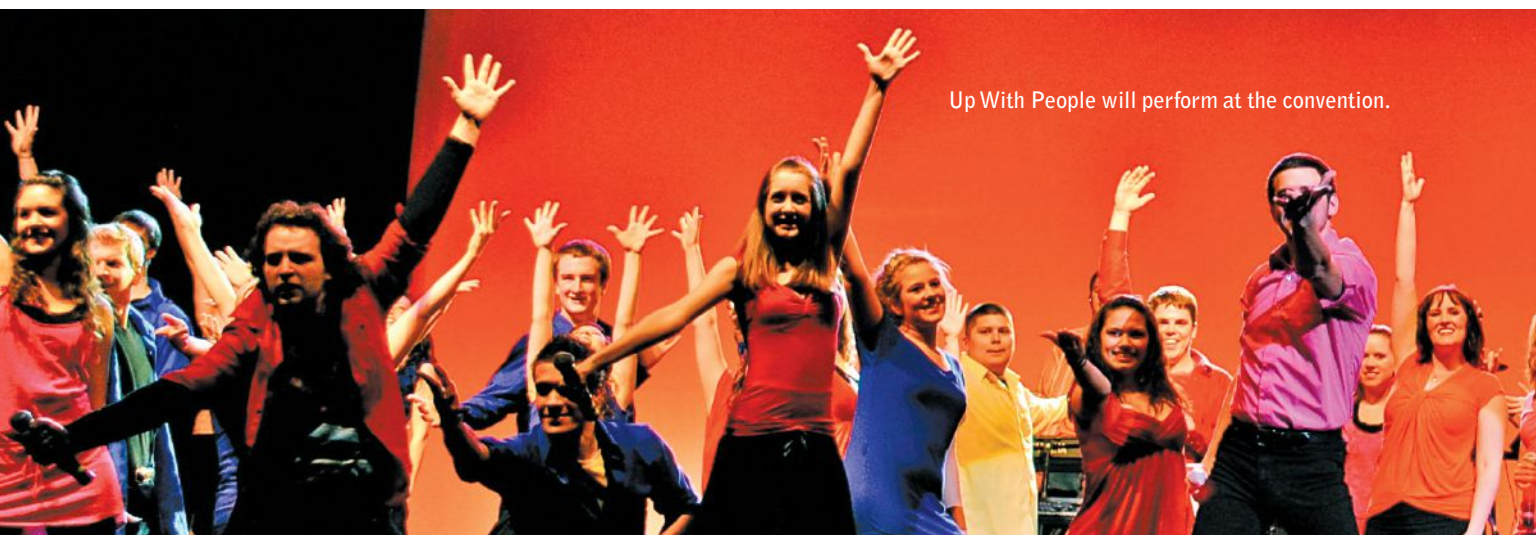
The convention experience is unlike any other for Lions. Lions rub shoulders and often share a lunch or exchange pleasantries with Lions from more than 120 countries. They march through the city during the festive Parade of Nations, attend worthwhile seminars, vote on the association's future, enjoy outstanding entertainment at the plenary sessions and International Show, and hear inspiring, renowned speakers.

The convention's most anticipated performer undoubtedly will be Andrea Bocelli, the Italian tenor whose record sales top 80 million. The power of his singing and the richness of his voice have awed audiences, critics and fellow entertainers. "If God could sing, he would sound a lot like Andrea Bocelli," Celine Dion said. Bocelli will sing at the third plenary.

Bocelli's eponymous foundation supports researchers at MIT and Northeastern University who are developing wearable devices for people who are blind or have low vision. The singer will receive the Lions Humanitarian Award. "I strongly believe that love does justice. We are all responsible for building a better world," says Bocelli, who suffered from poor vision as a child because of congenital glaucoma. He then lost his sight after being hit in the head during a soccer game when he was 12.

Former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush will be the keynote speaker at the convention. She will speak on her involvement with global issues. The plenaries also include speeches by candidates for international director and officer and by the current and new international presidents.

The plenary sessions showcase Lions' service—in some instances through song or dance. In a nod both to Hamburg being where the Beatles came together as a band and to the fundamental wellsprings of service, the themes of the plenaries are peace, love and understanding. The music at the sessions include songs from the Broadway hit "Hair," a



Up With People will perform at the convention.



Beatles cover band and a children's gospel choir from Germany.

The always entertaining International Show, an eye-opening display of singing and dancing from around the world, features Up With People. For 48 years, this group of young people from many nations between the ages of 18 and 29 has sung, danced and promoted international understanding. Its latest show is "Voices"—"a unique performance featuring both original and popular music and a dynamic blend of featured soloists, full-cast production numbers, fast-moving choreography and colorful costumes," according to a press release.

At the exhibit hall Lions can obtain information and strategies on membership, leadership, public relations and more from staff of Lions Clubs International. Several special events are sprinkled throughout convention week at the hall. The Strides Walk has morphed into a Strides Dance, where Lions can get in some exercise while raising awareness of diabetes. The symphony orchestra of the German Lions will provide a stimulating soundtrack. Hands-on social media training will enable Lions who know little about Twitter and Facebook to understand the basics and teach Lions with more experience advanced techniques. The Presentation Stage will be a useful forum for Lions to share success stories.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Peace Poster contest, and Lions in Hamburg can meet past grand prize winners as well as the 2012-13 grand prize winner, Jenny Park from California. The contest winners will be recognized during the first plenary. Afterward, a presentation and reception will be held in the Hamburg Messe und Congress from 3 to 3:45 p.m. and a poster signing event will be from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

More than 10,000 Lions are expected to take part in the parade. It will start at the majestic Rathaus, the town hall and Hamburg's symbolic heart, and then snake its way

around the imposing Binnenalster, a man-made lake. At the march's end the Lions will spill into a sprawling "market of nations," where 30 pavilions will serve international foods and highlight Lions' service worldwide.

As always, the convention's seminars, led by experts and leaders, run the gamut—from the latest information on popular Lions programs such as Lions Quest and youth exchange to tools and strategies to increasing membership and strengthening clubs. Lions who attend seminars return to their clubs with knowledge and skills to take their club to a new level of service.

Finally, while in Germany, be sure to actually experience Germany, to see the sights, taste its foods and enjoy its culture. Lions tours are offered on foot, in smooth-moving boats and on comfortable coaches. Cruise the lovely canals, view stunning buildings and walk in the steps of the Beatles. Hapag-Lloyd in partnership with Beeftea Live is offering Lions and their guests specially priced escorted local tours. Based in Germany, these travel outfits are experts on Hamburg; they've chosen the "best of the best" tour options for Lions to enjoy during convention week. The hardest decision will be choosing which tours to take.

Avoid having your favorite tour sell out by reserving your space today using the secure online link. Search "Local Tours" from the LCI home page to access the booking link and detailed tour descriptions. Hapag-Lloyd/Beeftea Live will have a Tour Desk at the Hamburg Messe (HM) convention center. All of the tours are fully escorted with an English-speaking guide and offered at special Lions prices. If interested in designing a custom local tour for your group or if you have questions, email [Lions.Reisen@TUI-LT.de](mailto:Lions.Reisen@TUI-LT.de).

Download for free Andrea Bocelli's "Love in Portofino" from his new album.

View the Grand Prize Peace Posters.

See the complete list of the convention's seminars and tours.





# 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 \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Lion ☐ Lioness

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

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

CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Alpha Leo

CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Alpha Leo

☐ This is my/our first LCI convention. ☐ Not my first convention, I've attended \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Letter of Invitation (If a visa is required for your country of origin) [Club number must be provided above to verify membership]

The plenary sessions are presented in English with simultaneous translation Will you require a headset? ☐ No ☐ Yes

#### 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

Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

EVENT	DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
Leo Lion Summit	July 5/ 10:00-16:00	US\$70	_____	\$ _____
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	July 7/ 15:00-17:00	US \$30	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	July 8/ 13:30-15:00	US \$70	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	July 8/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

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

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

#### REGISTRATION FEES

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

Credit Card and Bank Transfer Payments can be faxed to: (1-630) 571-1689 (If you fax, please do not mail original)

Questions? Email us: [registration@lionsclubs.org](mailto:registration@lionsclubs.org)

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

**Please note:** Lions Clubs International will be documenting the international convention for promotional purposes. Your participation may be filmed or photographed at this event. Your registration is your consent for use of these images by Lions Clubs International.



# Lions Quest Expands In Eastern Europe

Students of all ages face the same challenges that are echoed around the world: bullying, peer pressure, substance abuse and other detrimental behaviors. However, there is a solution that Lions have provided: Lions Quest, a life skills program from Lions Clubs International Foundation that offers a whole-school approach to the social and emotional well-being of youth.

The benefits of Lions Quest are numerous. Yet to properly impact students, training is needed. That is why the Lions Quest Bulgaria Foundation hosted the 2013 Lions Quest European Meeting in January. This annual gathering shares knowledge and best practices of Lions Quest. Representatives from 18 European countries attended.

Past District Governor Petar Malamov, chairperson of the Lions Quest Bulgaria Foundation, has championed Lions Quest since 2010, building a strong partnership between Bulgarian Lions and the Ministry of Education. By the end of April 2013, Lions Quest teacher-training workshops will have been conducted in eight cities across Bulgaria.

The growth of Lions Quest also continues in Turkey. What began as a small club project in Istanbul has expanded into a program with growing national support. During the first year, Turkish Lions coordinated the training of 200 teachers through eight workshops. The program has impacted an estimated 100,000 children.

“When a child is confident enough, then he or she can be successful in other social development. Emotional development and mental skills come together. The children who have Lions Quest training are happy children,” says Sima Sunder, a Lions Quest training coordinator and member of the Mavi Halic Lions Club. “The teachers are doing their normal curriculum work in better conditions because they have very little problems in the classroom.”

An evaluation of the program in Turkey completed by the Bosphorus University Peace Education Application and Research Centre confirms Sunder’s observations: it found that Lions Quest fosters a peaceful classroom environment and results in positive decision-making.

Macedonia (FYROM) is the newest country to have a Lions Quest presence. In December 2012, the first workshop trained 36 teachers on program implementation for grades nine through 12, with plans for growth to more grade levels. Lions Quest will strengthen the school’s service-learning program, which currently has all students complete at least 10 hours of community service annually.

This recent expansion of Lions Quest builds upon past LCIF grants. In 2002, the U.S. State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement partnered with LCIF to promote and expand Lions Quest in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

In many countries, the program has taken root. The Lions of Lithuania received more than \$500,000 to expand the program nationwide. In 2012, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) partnered with LCIF to combine the Lions Quest program with the UNODC’s existing family-based life skills work in Central Asia and Southeastern Europe, initially piloted through Serbia and Montenegro. And LCIF has approved a grant to expand the program to Slovenia as well.

With the 59th annual Europa Forum being held this fall in Turkey, Lions will have the opportunity to present their success with Lions Quest, showing how this program has impacted more than 12 million students worldwide.



Students such as this one in Turkey are benefiting from the expansion of Lions Quest.



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**

# USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum:

Follow the Leadership Road to Your Dreams

by Pamela Mohr



It's no wonder that Dorothy so fervently clicked the heels of her ruby slippers together trying to return home to Kansas after landing in Oz. The Emerald City may be a nice place to visit, but it can't beat Kansas.

Luckily for Lions, they don't have to follow the yellow brick road to reach the 37th USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum ([www.usacanadalionsforum.org](http://www.usacanadalionsforum.org)) in Overland Park on Sept. 19 to 21. Set nearly in the very middle of the United States, all roads lead to Overland Park. This year's forum destination offers everything that Dorothy, or any Lion, could ever want.

If you drive, parking is free at all Overland Park forum hotels and the Overland Park Convention Center hosting the three-day event. Some flights are direct to the Kansas City International Airport, and for train buffs, the entire region is a national railway hub. The Kansas City Southern line, established in 1887 and headquartered in Kansas City, operates throughout the central part of the country. For RV travelers, there's also the Rutlader Outpost RV Park ([www.rutladeroutpost.com](http://www.rutladeroutpost.com)). Built to resemble an Old West town, the pet-friendly Rutlader's is near a state park on the Kansas/Missouri border.

No matter how you arrive in Overland Park, be sure to bring the family for some forum fun in America's heartland. More than 2.3 million people visit every year to experience its abundance of fine shopping, dining,

Overland Park will host the 37th USA/Canada Leadership Forum.



attractions and 15-minute proximity to downtown Kansas City. Overland Park is so popular, in fact, that it was named the top Favorite Kansas City Area Destination in last year's Visitors' Choice Awards.

The 237,000-square-foot Overland Park Convention Center will be hosting the 2013 forum, "Follow the Leadership Road to Your Dreams." It promises many new and exciting features for the expected 2,000 attendees, says Chairperson and Past International Director Doug Lozier of Indianapolis, Indiana.

"We are taking advantage of new technology in presentations and plan shorter seminars and keynotes," he points out. Lozier has attended 26 forums previously. "I attend to 'recharge my batteries,' " he explains. "I leave motivated to accomplish more and become inspired to be a better person and a better Lion."

There will be more than 60 seminars, four professional speakers and a dynamic luncheon presentation from current First Vice President Barry Palmer of Australia about his 2013-14 presidential program. Honorary Chairperson, Second Vice President Joe Preston of Dewey, Arizona, explains that while leadership development is the forum's focus, "It doesn't touch on how much fun the forum is, the networking that goes on, the friendships that are made or renewed, and just how impactful the three days of the forum can be."

Take the "Bring One" challenge. Lions who bring a "first-timer" to the forum will receive a special pin bearing the word "Mentor." New attendees should provide the names of those Lions who invited them on their registration form in order for the mentor to receive credit. There's also a "First Timers" orientation session on Thursday for newcomers.

## Visit Downtown Overland Park

Historic Downtown Overland Park has an abundance of small town charm for this big city of 175,000. Steam trolleys used to ferry shoppers around, but nearly a century later, the 25-block downtown radius boasts a vibrant shopping and restaurant district featuring over 300 locally owned and operated venues. Located just off Metcalf between 78th and 83rd streets, this shopping and entertainment district is a designated "Main Street" city.

There are more than 250 restaurants in Overland Park alone, including dozens of barbecues and brewpubs. No visit to Kansas is complete without trying its barbecue. Chicken, pork or beef—slow-cooked and slathered in sauce or simply seasoned—is a signature dish. Try the great Jack Stack Barbecue; one of its four locations is conveniently

located in Overland Park on Metcalf Avenue.

Gates Bar-B-Q, one of Kansas City's best known, has several locations in the metro area. Like many other BBQ restaurants, it bottles up its sauce and seasonings for sale to patrons who want to bring home a taste of KC. Visitors can enjoy a whole spectrum of dining choices, from cheap eats to the expensive J. Gilbert's for steak and seafood.

There are many restaurants that offer lighter fare, such as the UrbanSpoon.com-recommended Shahrazad Café (also on Metcalf Avenue), or Elsa's Ethiopian Restaurant. Both feature medium-priced vegetarian, vegan and international cuisine. Just like in any big metropolitan region, you can find any meal to suit your taste, dietary needs or budget.

Downtown you'll find several art galleries, antique shops, boutiques and intriguing specialty shops. This area is a foodie's paradise with its eclectic array of cafes, coffee shops and restaurants. If you like to cook, step into the splendidly scented air of Penzey's Spices or the Tasteful Olive, specializing in a global assortment of olive oils and vinegars.

Outside the downtown district, you'll find numerous shopping malls that if combined would offer miles of shopping adventure. Oak Park Mall, an indoor shopping mall with 185 stores, Town Center Plaza, Hawthorne Plaza and Corbin Park are just a few.

If you have a bigger appetite for art than barbecue, visit the nationally recognized Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at the Johnson County Community College. You may not even have to leave the Overland Park Convention Center, however, if you want to set eyes on beautiful works of art. More than 60 regional artists, some of whom have exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum and the Museum of Fine Art in Boston, display their creations there. Prepare to be dazzled by the amazing, rainbow-hued, 30-foot blown glass chandelier created by artist Vernon Brejcha that dangles from the atrium ceiling.

Visit the forum's website to learn more and register for an exciting adventure following the Lions leadership road to Overland Park. You'll leave the forum enlightened, entertained and energized as a Lion. Just as Dorothy loved Kansas, so will Lions. Leave the ruby slippers at home, though. Once you visit, you won't want to leave.

Watch a video showing Overland Park's exciting attractions .

# Plant the Seeds of Service

## Cub Program Can Grow Clubs and Future Lions

At the Cadillac Lions' meetings, there's something different about some of the attendees leading the pledge of allegiance, collecting tail twister fines and drawing the winning 50/50 ticket—they're under 11 years old. Known as Cubs, the youngsters in this Michigan club have not only been an integral part of the club since 2009, they have helped the club grow and gain a new vibrancy. Thanks to the Cubs, the Lions have received positive attention in their community, increased fundraising and gained new members, sometimes a whole family at a time.

The Cub program is LCI's initiative to involve children ages 12 and under in Lions clubs. With no minimum number of Cubs and no cost to get started, it's an easy investment to make for a club's future. When Cadillac Lion Tim Anderson found out about the program, he knew he wanted to bring the concept to his club. "Instead of letting being a Lion take me away from my family, I brought my family into the Lions," Anderson says.

Within a few months the club had welcomed five Cubs, a number which has since doubled. To make the program successful Anderson knew that it needed to be more than just a name. "The whole idea had to be tangible. The first thing I did was design a Cub logo and T-shirt. Next, I wrote a simple induction script. The Cubs also receive a certificate, activities book, patch and incentives task sheet." Anderson was confident the program was going to work was when his daughter was sworn in. "Rachael was beaming as she was met with a round of applause and handshakes from the Lions," Anderson says.

The Cadillac Cubs are immediately given age-appropriate responsibilities in which they take pride. During the less

engaging times at meetings, the children grab books, crayons and puzzles out of a pre-filled tote bag with Lions rotating supervision of them. "Remember that these are children and sometimes they will get restless. But I'm sure we all have one or two Lions in our clubs that do the same thing once in a while, right?" jokes Anderson.

Anderson helped launch a Cub program for the nearby White Cloud Lions, and Becky Strong has been one of the program's champions. "As Cubs they can belong to some-

thing that does good for our community that they can see for themselves," says Strong. Without the Cub program, Strong may not have become a Lion. "I work and attend school full-time so even though I believe in volunteering, I wanted to do it with an organization that would accept my children so we can spend time together," explains Strong. Now, Strong is witnessing firsthand the improved self-esteem, confidence and satisfaction in serving that her children are experiencing.

Families like the Strong and Andersons are revitalizing their clubs and creating a brighter future. "When we started

the Cub program, 95 percent of our members were 55 or older, but now 50 percent are in their 40s or younger," says Anderson. The Cub program is opening doors for new members, as well as for meaningful moments. When Anderson was contacted by a woman who wanted to join but would not be able to get childcare for her daughter for meetings, he told her about the Cub program. Anderson says, "She started to cry when she realized they could be Lions together. They became Lion and Cub at that night's meeting."

— Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt



[See the Cadillac Cubs induction script.](#)

[See the Cadillac Cubs incentives sheet.](#)

[See the LCI Cub Program Activity Guide](#)



# Make History

## Trace Your Club's Roots and Learn for the Future

When Lion Brian Fox of Pickerington, Ohio, opened up a footlocker that had been stored for years in a back room of a senior center, he wasn't sure what he would find. The Lions knew that it contained memorabilia about their 67-year-old club, but it was so full that no one had attempted exploring it. Eventually, Fox could no longer resist his curiosity. He discovered that the container was "not only full of plaques and proclamations, but also a number of historically significant items such as old newsletters, minutes and reports. It truly was a historical goldmine." Determined to document and preserve the club's rich history, Fox embarked on an 18-month project that resulted in creating a beautiful club history book.

Every Lions club has a unique history full of victories, humor and hard work. Chronicling that past will help current members build connections with their club's pioneers, develop a deeper understanding of their role in the community and help navigate a course for the future. It may take some patience, organization and commitment, but piecing together club history will bring with it great—and sometimes unexpected—rewards.

### Get Organized

Developing an organizational system is key to making the process enjoyable and manageable. Fox began his project by categorizing the materials in stacks and took careful notes as he reviewed documents. Admitting it was a lot of work, Fox explains, "It wasn't overwhelming because, believe it or not, the minutes were really well-written and interesting."

The Lions in Salem, Illinois, have had the foresight to have a club histo-



A guest at the Salem Lions' 75th anniversary event peruses the extensive collection of club memorabilia.

rian. Frank Davidson keeps the club's materials organized on an ongoing basis, which paid off in spades when preparing for their 75th anniversary celebration.

### Seek Help

Don't forget the collective history current members have, either in scrapbooks or in their memories. Once Fox knew what was missing, he went to club members to fill in the gaps. "They supplied me with lots of other historical information such as newsletters, photos and newspaper clippings," he says. Community partners may be great resources as well. The Salem Lions discovered that the local hospital they helped found had valuable historical materials on hand.

### The Finished Product

Using tools available at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Fox created a hardbound book full of photos and narrative. The Pickerington Lions shared printed copies with the library and historical society and kept one for the club's

archives. The Salem Lions opted to print a brief history in their anniversary luncheon program, create a PowerPoint presentation and display historical items. "We discovered more memorabilia than we anticipated. We needed three tables to display all of it," says Salem President Jeannell Charman.

What can learning about club history mean for today's Lions? For the Pickerington Lions, Fox says he feels a stronger bond with his club now that he knows the struggles and triumphs of his predecessors. There are also some practical uses, such as including a "This Month in History" article in their newsletter. And unexpected "aha" moments have emerged: "One of the great things I learned was that within the first few months of the club's existence, the club president handed out blank slips of paper to the members and asked them to write down ideas for what the club should concentrate on. I think that all clubs should do this periodically to make sure that their service is still relevant to their communities."

—Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

# Lions Find Secret Formula for Success



La Vale Lion George Gilmore sprays special seasoning onto the chickens while they're grilled.

Lions in La Vale, Maryland, know how to grill up some tasty chicken. They should. After serving up hundreds of thousands of chickens, possibly even numbering a million after four decades, they've become the ultimate "go-to" grill masters. Mary Hostetler, a member of the club's "Lionettes" auxiliary, points out, "Anyone can barbecue chicken, but only the La Vale Lions use a secret formula recipe in spray form that makes the chicken unique and special." If the secret is, indeed, in the sauce, then Lions have a lock on this hometown specialty.

Hostetler says that Lions originally grilled chickens in borrowed tents on the grounds of the local fire department. They eventually purchased property and built the Lions Den. They erected three giant, charcoal-fueled barbecue pits behind the structure; a fourth one was built two years ago to keep up with demand. They sell the chickens only during three long weekends a year. A half-chicken and a roll costs \$6, and sides like baked beans and soda go for \$1 each.

The 88-member club has gone from 2,000 half-chickens to 40,000. Hostetler explains, "Lions light the pits around 5:30 on a Friday morning and keep them going from Friday morning until Sunday afternoon—or until all the chickens are sold. Each pit holds 15 racks. Customers stop by on their way to work to purchase their chicken lunch and we make deliveries to some schools and businesses. It's quite an operation."

During the three days of each barbecue, Lionettes work the kitchen, baking beans and stuffing rolls into bags that will eventually hold the chicken. Volunteers from a local college have helped both in the kitchen and in the front sales room. Firefighters from the La Vale Volunteer Fire Department help load and unload chicken in the pit area and also work the sales windows. Help comes from another surprising source. Hostetler reveals: "Inmates from a local Federal correctional facility who are ready for parole or release help with much of the heavy lifting."

Lion Edwin Glass says the barbecue does more than raise money. "Volunteers, including potential members, are invited to participate in the barbecues to get to know us, and a lot of members have joined as a result. We're a well-oiled machine." Lions have to be. "The logistical aspect is tremendous," Glass points out.

The chicken is such a hit that one chicken-craving soldier returning home from a Middle East tour of duty was disappointed he'd missed the spring barbecue sale by a week. Most La Vale Lions were at a District 22 convention, but Hostetler says when the few who were home discovered the soldier's craving, they cooked up a batch especially for him.



# Recycling Cash Back into Community

Homosassa, Florida, Lions have found a good way to raise money and help the environment. Recycling old items into “new” finds at indoor yard sales several times a year nets the 77-member club an average of \$200 to \$250 each event. Dealers pay a fee for sales tables and Lions sell donated items, snacks and beverages. In addition to yard sales, the club averages \$18,000 a year by recycling newspapers, says Lion Sue Marchetti. Lions have placed 20 recycling bins throughout the community.

Profits from recycling newspapers, clothing and household goods are poured back into the community. Funds are used to buy back-to-school supplies and clothing for children in need. “We had 22 children and spent \$100 each for school clothes and shoes. When shopping was done, we had to get them each a backpack filled with school supplies.”



Indoor yard sales attract a crowd of buyers and sellers each time they're held.

Marchetti points out that Lions went over budget, but the children, aged 4 to 11, were thrilled. “What a fantastic experience!” she says.

The club also does screenings. “Our club has trained screeners for both vision and glucose,” she explains. “We hold glucose screenings at area events as well as at our yard sales to make people aware of any potential diabetes problems. In addition, we partner with the county school system to offer free vision screenings for preschool and special needs students.” Lions purchased a PediaVision scanner on which members are trained to screen children. “It takes all day to do the testing, but it’s well worth it,” Marchetti says enthusiastically.

Vision screening does not replace a complete eye examination by a vision care specialist. This material, trademarks & property are copyrighted 2013 by PediaVision Holdings, LLC. All rights reserved.





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# THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Leos

## Helping to Weather the Storm

As Hurricane Sandy approached the East Coast in October, Rosemarie Cantelmo and her neighbors at the Colonial Gardens Co-op in Staten Island, New York, were preparing to wait out the storm. Although the apartment complex was just more than a mile from the beach, it was not considered to be in the flood zone, so the residents were not too worried. They had no idea what Sandy had in store. By the end of the storm the basement apartments were under five feet of water. A great deal of cleanup was required to restore life back to normal. When the Yorktown Leos heard that help was needed, 58 of them traveled 70 miles from their hometown to Colonial Gardens and spent a day pitching in, much to Cantelmo's delight and surprise.



The Yorktown Leos help clear out debris from the hurricane-damaged apartments at Colonial Gardens.

## Q&A: Rosemarie Cantelmo

**LION Magazine:** When did you realize that the storm was going to be worse than you expected?

**Rosemarie Cantelmo:** Since we hadn't had major flooding issues in the past, we were more worried about the power going out than anything. We were even having a little hurricane party in a neighbor's apartment to wait out the storm. But when a neighbor left to visit her sister down the street, she came back hysterical that she couldn't get there because of the flooding. I looked outside and couldn't believe it as I watched the water rising, then saw the ocean surge.

**LM:** What was the extent of the damage?

**RC:** By the next morning the water had receded, but the basement apartments were ruined. They had to be gutted and the residents couldn't stay there. They're still not back in their apartments. We didn't have electricity for 17 days.

**LM:** Did you know the Leos were coming to help?

**RC:** No, a week or two after the storm, the Leos just showed up. I couldn't believe it! I thought it was amazing that they came all the way here to help.

**LM:** What did the Leos do?

**RC:** They worked all day clearing out the apartments, and it wasn't easy work. It was also sad. Residents were emotional about the belongings they lost, but the kids were just amazing. They never once complained, and their cheerful spirits really moved our residents.

**LM:** Has the Leos' service had a lasting effect?

**RC:** That these kids stepped up renews my faith in our future generation. I'm a 6th-grade teacher, and I told my students all about it. It's opened up a dialogue about the importance of service. We still have work to do, but it helps that on our darkest day the Leos were our ray of sunshine.

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](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org). Please include "Thank You" in the subject line.



## INFORMATION

### IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Theodore "Ted" Fusco has died. A Lion for nearly 55 years, he was a member of the Northeast Philadelphia Lions Club and served on the International Board of Directors from 1989-1991. A builder and land developer, he was active in many community and professional activities.

### ANNIVERSARIES APRIL 2013

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

**85 YEARS:** Carlsbad Downtown, N.M.; Eureka Host, Calif.; Fairview, Okla.; Fort Stockton, Texas; Grass Valley Host, Calif.; Greenville, Ala.; Gypsum, Kan.; Midland Downtown, Texas; Spencer, W.Va.; Weyauwega Fremont, Wis.

**75 YEARS:** Aguadilla, P.R.; Belton, Texas; Cobden, Ill.; Coral Gables, Fla.; Downieville, Calif.; Eden, N.C.; Folsom City Host, Calif.; Halstead, Kan.; Jacksonville Beaches, Fla.; Key West, Fla.; Lawndale Bay City, Calif.; Liberty, Mo.; Lowell, Ind.; Manhattan, Kan.; Marshall, Texas; North Wilkesboro, N.C.; Pontotoc, Miss.; Reading, Mass.; Sallisaw, Okla.; Siler City, N.C.; St. Joseph Host, Mo.; Stafford, Kan.; Wauwatosa, Wis.; White Haven, Pa.

**50 YEARS:** Ames Evening, Iowa; Cashion, Okla.; Chadwick, Ill.; Colchester, Vt.; Echo, Minn.; Lamar, Mo.;

Continued on page 52

## Plan your next Vacation with other LIONS Today!



### Northeast Cruise & Tour

**15 Days**  
from **\$1998\***



**Departs: September 24, 2013**

Travel the picturesque Northeast this Fall from your luxury cruise ship and comfortable motorcoach. Visit the "Big Apple," **New York City** with opportunities to see Times Square and Central Park; **Newport, Rhode Island**, where you will tour of one of the city's famous mansions; **Cape Cod, Boston** and the intriguing "**Shaker Villages**" in Massachusetts. Enjoy a scenic trip through the **Green Mountains** in Vermont to **Rutland** and drive along the St. Lawrence River to the incredible city of **Montreal**.

Relax on board the **Norwegian Dawn** for your seven-night cruise and sail to ports in: **Portland, ME; Halifax, Nova Scotia**, the world's second-largest natural harbor; **Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Gaspésie** and **La Baie** in **Quebec**. Disembark in Quebec City, one of the first settlements in North America with remaining fortified city walls and enjoy a city tour.

\*Per person, based on double occupancy. Price based on inside cabin, upgrades available. Airfare is extra.



### Rose Parade & Coastal California Tour

**10 Days**  
from **\$1408\***



**Departs: December 29, 2013**

Enjoy the best New Year's Eve and New Year's Day you have had in years with YMT at the Rose Parade plus an exciting adventure up the California coast to San Francisco! Begin in the "City of Angels" that includes a tour of Los Angeles, Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Attend a VIP presentation on the history and traditions of the Rose Parade, plus an exclusive, pre-parade, after public hours, float building and viewing at the Rosemont Pavilion with included dinner. Then on Wednesday, January 1, 2014, observe the **125th Rose Parade from your reserved YMT grand stand seats!**

On Thursday, January 2, depart for Central California. Visit the beach community of Santa Barbara and its Camino Real Mission; the Danish Village of Solvang; tour the world renowned Hearst Castle, with its considerable collection of art and antiques and travel the scenic Big Sur and famous Highway One, to Monterey. Your last stop is **San Francisco** with a city tour including a trip over the Golden Gate Bridge and back, plus a ferry trip and tour of Alcatraz Island.

\*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

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



For reservations & details call 7 days a week:

**1-800-736-7300**

Continued from page 51

**50 YEARS:** Lampman District, SK, CAN; Lexington, Ala.; Meadow Grove-Tilden, Neb.; National Hills, Ga.; Norman Sooner, Okla.; Salmo, BC, CAN; Santa Maria Noontimer, Calif.; Shelburne, NS, CAN; Simonds, NB, CAN; Snowflake-Taylor, Ariz.

**25 YEARS:** Baccalieu, NL, CAN; Centerville, Pa.; El Segundo Sunshine, Calif.; Franklinville Machias, N.Y.; Glen Elder, Kan.; Houston Greenspoint, Texas; Lorain Harbor, Ohio; Skykomish Mountain, Wash.; Winchester, Ill.

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 DECEMBER 2012

### KEY OF STATE (75 MEMBERS)

- Lion Hitesh Kothari, Rajkot Aavkar, India
- Lion Joe Di Duca, Los Gatos, California

### GRAND MASTER KEY (50 MEMBERS)

- Lion Orville Collins, Port Huron Host, Michigan

### SENIOR MASTER KEY (25 MEMBERS)

- Lion Donald Smith, Plainview, Texas
- Lion Raymond Hammersley, Los Banos, California
- Lion Neil Fruechte, Waseca, Minnesota
- Lion Curtis Bailey, West Penn Township, Pennsylvania
- Lion Maria Yuet Mei Boey, Singapore Culture, Singapore
- Lion Radha Surampally, Nagarkurnool, India
- Lion Harish Puthran, Mulki, India
- Lion Avinash Poddar, Surat Parle Point, India
- Lion P. Jawahar, Perambalur, India
- Lion J. Asaithambi, Kallakurichi, India
- Lion A. Veerarajan, Salem Metropolitan, 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](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

# CALENDAR

2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL

### LEO CLUB AWARENESS MONTH

### PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT GLOBAL SERVICE ACTION CAMPAIGN

#### APRIL 12-15:

Emerging Lions Leadership Institute – Constitutional Area VI: India, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East (Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India)

#### APRIL 13:

Lions Worldwide Induction Day

#### APRIL 16-20:

Board of Directors Meeting (Marbella, Spain)

#### APRIL 22:

Earth Day

#### APRIL 26-29:

Advanced (Senior) Lions Leadership Institute – Constitutional Area III: South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea (Caracas, Venezuela)

Faculty Development Institute – Constitutional Area V: The Orient & Southeast Asia (Taipei, Taiwan)

#### APRIL 30:

Standard, Core 4 and IAG grant application deadline for review at June board meeting



## A READERS CLUB

Despite fasting for a month for religious reasons, members of the Jakarta Monas Green Lions Club in Indonesia stayed busy feeding orphans, renovating a children's play area and holding a bazaar to benefit the needy. But they weren't so busy they didn't have time to read the LION. 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 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](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org).



# LION

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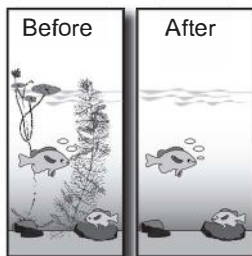
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# APRIL IS LEO CLUB AWARENESS MONTH!



Leo advisors and chairpersons: Spread the word about the Leo Club Program—work with your Leo clubs, districts, or multiple districts to organize a joint Leo-Lion community service project.

- **START A TREE PLANTING PROJECT**
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- **ORGANIZE A RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Leo clubs prepare young people for a lifetime of leadership. Visit the **Leo Zone** for more information at [www.lionsclubs.org/leoclubs](http://www.lionsclubs.org/leoclubs).

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# CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Blythewood Lions Club** in **South Carolina** chartered its second Leo club in less than a year. Together, the **Blythewood High School Leos**, **Westwood High School Leos** and the Lions have collected children's books, coats and canned goods, planted trees, performed eye screenings, distributed Christmas stockings, participated in Relay for Life and raised thousands for charities.

In **Michigan**, in recognition of the **Almont HOPE Leo Club's** service project to help a high school student with bone cancer, the club received the International President's Certificate of Appreciation Award. Their project included a raffle fundraiser and bowl-a-thon.

The **Morris Hills Leo Club** in **New Jersey** sponsored a Special Olympics event for elementary school children. Nearly 150 Leos, students and other volunteers helped at the event for 75 athletes.

The **Sebastian Leo Club** in **Florida** held a collection drive for items for a homeless shelter.

During halftime of the last football home game of the season, the **Smithfield Lions** in **Virginia** presented a check for \$1,000 to the **Smithfield High School Leo Club** president to support the school's band.

Shortly after Hurricane Sandy, the **Massapequa Lions** brought inspiration and hope to their community in **New York** by inaugurating the **Massapequa Alpha Leos Club**.

In **Hawaii**, the **Kalani High School**, **La Pietra Hawaii School for Girls** and **Sacred Hearts Academy Leos**

organized an awareness event and fundraiser, "Leos Against Bullying." The event, originally intended to be a charter night dance party, was held in response to a fellow student committing suicide due to bullying. Proceeds from the event will be used to create an anti-bullying scholarship fund.

The **Cecil County School of Technology Leos** in **Maryland** set a club record of raising \$4,000 last year for local agencies serving children and families. The Leos also collected more than 60 pairs of shoes to send to those in need in Africa.

The **Long Beach Leos** in **New York** visited a geriatric rehabilitation center and delivered Valentine's Day cards to the residents.

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# LAST ROAR



Photo courtesy of Kristine O'Brien

## HI ON THE WIRE

Fancy meeting you up here: Nikki Arn (left) and Cassie Johnson of the Mesabi East Leo Club say howdy on high wires set up at a Leo leadership conference in Annandale, Minnesota. Leos are moving up in the Lions world: 6,214 Leo clubs are active in 138 countries.



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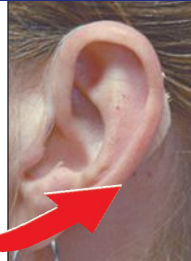
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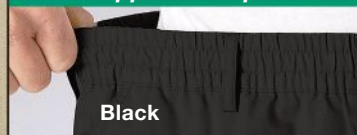
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