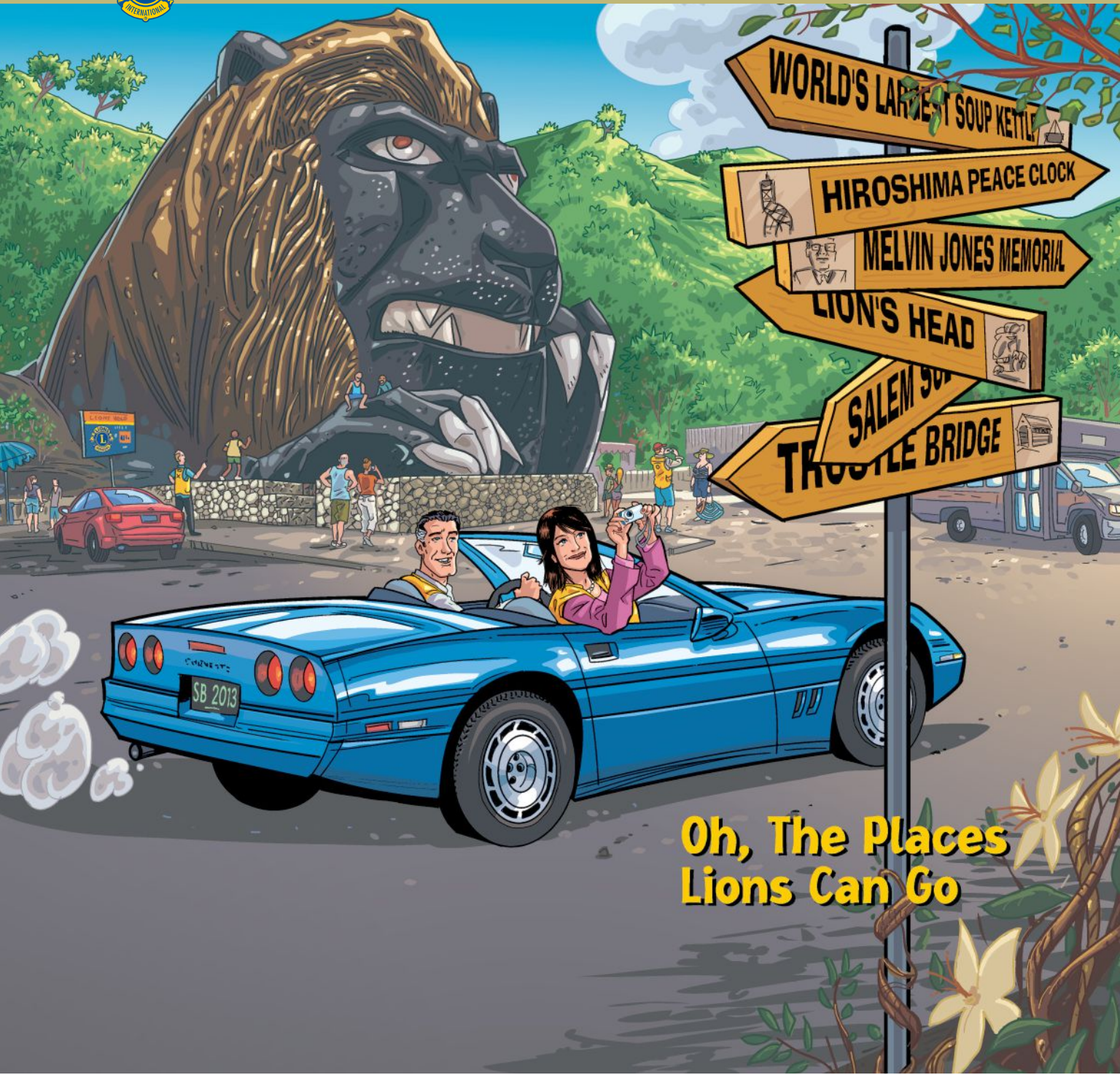


LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONMAGAZINE.ORG MAY 2013



**Oh, The Places
Lions Can Go**

Affordable Hearing Aid

Amazing new digital hearing aid breaks price barrier in affordability

Reported by J. Page

Chicago: Board-certified physician Dr. S. Cherukuri has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical grade **ALL DIGITAL** affordable hearing aid.

This new digital hearing aid is packed with all the features of \$3,000 competitors at a mere fraction of the cost. **Now, most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear, natural sound—in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind—without suffering through “whistling” and annoying background noise.**

New Digital Hearing Aid Outperforms the Expensive Ones

This sleek, lightweight, fully programmed hearing aid is the outgrowth of the digital revolution that is changing our world. While demand for “all things digital” caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for upwards of \$3,000 and today can be purchased for less than \$100), yet the cost of all digital medical hearing aids remained out of reach.

Dr. Cherukuri knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn't afford the expense of these new digital hearing aids, which are generally *not* covered by Medicare and most private health insurance.

SAME FEATURES AS EXPENSIVE HEARING AIDS

- ✓ Doctor and Audiologist designed, Mini behind-the-ear open-fit digital hearing aid
- ✓ Small Size and thin tubing for a nearly invisible profile
- ✓ Multiple channels and bands to provide precise amplification of the human voice without background noise
- ✓ Wide dynamic range compression to amplify soft sounds and dampen loud sounds
- ✓ Feedback Cancellation to eliminate whistling
- ✓ Advanced noise reduction to make speech clearer
- ✓ 3 programs and volume dial to accommodate the most common types of hearing loss even in challenging listening environments
- ✓ Telecoil mode for improved use with compatible telephones, iPhones®, (and other cellphones), and looped environments (churches, etc.)

He evaluated all the high priced digital hearing aids on the market, broke them down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version—called the AIR for its virtually invisible, lightweight appearance.

Affordable Digital Technology

Experience all the sounds you've been missing at a price you can afford. This doctor-approved hearing aid comes with a full year's supply of long-life batteries. It delivers crisp, clear sound all day long and the soft flexible ear buds are so comfortable you won't realize you're wearing them. Using advanced digital technology, the AIR automatically adjusts to your listening environment—prioritizing speech and de-emphasizing background noise.

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Can a hearing aid delay or prevent dementia?

A study by Johns Hopkins and National Institute on Aging researchers suggests older individuals with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. They suggest that an intervention—such as a hearing aid—could delay or prevent dementia by improving hearing!

“Satisfied Buyers Agree AIR Is Best Digital Value”

“I am hearing things I didn't know I was missing. Really amazing. I'm wearing them all the time” —Linda Irving, Indiana

“Almost work too well. I am a teacher and hearing much better now” —Lillian Barden, California

“I have used many expensive hearing aids, some over \$5,000. The Airs have greatly improved my enjoyment of life” —Som Y., Michigan

“I would definitely recommend them to my patients with hearing loss” —Amy S., Audiologist, Munster, Indiana

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A Message From Our President



Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs
International President

Failing To Plan Is Planning To Fail

In “Lincoln,” the award-winning recent movie, President Lincoln verbally spars with U.S. Representative Thaddeus Stevens, idealistic but lacking in practicality. Both want to abolish slavery. But Lincoln believes Stevens’ bullheaded way will backfire. He pointedly tells Stevens that a compass will point you to true north. But it won’t show you the swamps in between, and if you plunge ahead recklessly you will sink in the swamps and never reach your destination.

Lions, we know where we want to go, where we want to be. We want to serve. But to be as effective as we can be we can’t rush forward without planning and preparation. We need to be intentional. We need to map out our path. We need to not just assume our clubs will thrive but take steps to ensure that outcome.

The four “pit stops” I encouraged clubs to take is a proven way to keep clubs strong. Periodically assess your needs, set goals and evaluate your progress. I hope clubs continue this process next Lions year and beyond.

Also embrace social media. Admittedly, I’m part of the generation considered to be behind the curve when it comes to cutting-edge communications. I may never quite catch up to my children and grandchildren, but I am the first international president to have his own Facebook page. I’ve enjoyed many informative interactions with Lions through Facebook.

Lions Clubs International recently surveyed Lions on social media use: more and more Lions are using Facebook and Twitter to connect with one another and to publicize their service. But we need to increase our use of these communication tools. We live in a digital world, and Lions, who always have prided themselves on being part of their communities, must be fully engaged with their communities in every way possible including social media. We belong in the mainstream, and today the flow of communication travels down the digital highway.

Maybe years ago we gathered on front porches and in backyards to meet our neighbors and build relationships. Let’s still do that. But let’s also often talk and share information online to tighten bonds among Lions and to let the wider community know we are here and how important we are. Communication builds community. In a World of Service, we can increase the scope and reach of our clubs by fully embracing the digital world.

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

Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs International President



Clubs that plan can answer the bell when community needs arise.

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Cover illustration by Steve Buccellato



WE SERVE

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*"To empower volunteers to serve their
communities, meet humanitarian needs,
encourage peace and promote international
understanding through Lions clubs."*

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

POSTMASTERS

Periodicals postage paid at Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 and additional mailing offices. Subscription price, US\$6.00 year, US\$12.00 year mailed outside North America; Single copies, US\$1.00.

Send notices of undeliverable copies on form 3579 to LION, 300 W 22nd St Oak Brook IL 60523-8842. "Canada Post Publications Mail No. 40029736 Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: LIONS 2835 Kew Drive, Windsor, ON N8T 3B7."



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Convention Countdown

Hamburg, Germany
July 5-9, 2013



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CANDIDATES SET FOR VICE PRESIDENT

The six candidates for second international vice president are Naresh Aggarwal of Delhi, India; Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon; Phil Nathan of Earls Colne, England; Steven D. Sherer of New Philadelphia, Ohio; Dr. Eugene M. Spiess of Moore, South Carolina; and Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Minokamo-shi, Gifu-ken, Japan. All are past international directors. The election will take place July 9 at the 96th International Convention in Hamburg. The winner will serve as international president in 2015-16.

VIDEO MAGAZINE SHOWCASES LIONS

The April issue of Lions Quarterly (LQ) video magazine includes segments on Lions adopting a village in Indonesia, cultivating healthy eating through the Lions Farm-To-School Garden in Montana, organizing sports events for people with disabilities and working to address hunger, poverty, literacy, gender equality and other important issues worldwide. Share LQ with your club members, project partners and community members. The video is available online at Lions News Network (LNN), YouTube and iTunes. The new LNN page on the LCI website features videos on sight, health, membership, hunger, the environment and more.

NEWTOWN LIONS HELP SURVIVORS

The Newtown Lions Club in Connecticut is raising funds for counseling for the schoolchildren and staff at Sandy Hook School, first responders and families. The club is partnering with the Connecticut Counseling Association to help survivors of the school shooting. Twelve surviving children witnessed the shootings at the 600-pupil school, and 100 police officers, firefighters and EMTs rushed to the school. "The survivors, their families and the first responders experienced a trauma that can require therapy and counseling for decades," Ray Keegan, president of the Newtown Lions Club Foundation, wrote in a letter to Lions appealing for support. The Lions intend to cover uninsured people and counseling not covered by insurance. The club estimates about \$130,000 annually will be needed for 10 years. Visit www.newtownlions.org for more information.

BURN VICTIM GETS DOG

Lions in Texas provided a Leader Dog for Dallas Wiens, who received the first complete face transplant in the United States in 2011. Charley is the new companion of Wiens, who was not able to receive eyes with the transplant. Wiens suffered severe burns when his boom lift hit a power line and after 22 surgeries had been left with a face nearly devoid of features. The Southlake Lions Club raffled off a motorcycle and held a motorcycle ride to raise funds for the dog. "The pain and trauma he went through ... he has a spirit like no other," says Ann Swindell, a past president and zone chairperson.



Watch a video on Dallas Wiens and Charley.

BIONIC EYE GETS APPROVAL

A bionic eye was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The artificial retina will help restore partial vision to people with retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited disease that affects about 100,000 people in the United States. The device includes special glasses outfitted with a video camera and a video processing unit that sends signals to a wireless receiver implanted in the eye, according to news reports. The technology will allow users to detect large objects such as people and cars and recognize large letters and shapes. The device is made by Second Sight Medical Products, Inc. of California.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



77 YEARS AGO IN THE LION MAY 1936

Admiral Richard Byrd, famous for flights over the North and South Poles, plans to show photos of the polar regions at Virginia Night at the upcoming International Convention in Providence, Rhode Island. Byrd is "a bona fide Lion and on his arctic flight dropped a Lions flag on the North Pole."

BY THE NUMBERS

40

Days of Lent during which participants try to lose weight in the Belmullet Erris Lions Club Annual Slimathon in Ireland. Dieters raise funds for the Lions by getting sponsors.

1

Pound (about US\$1.50) pledged by Ilminster Lions in England to journalist Steve Sowden for each day in a year he does not smoke a cigarette. Sowden will donate the proceeds to a charity.

36

Gabe's Chemo Ducks, 12-inch stuffed animals, and the activity book "I'm Still Me" given to pediatric patients at Vassar Brothers Medical Center by Hyde Park Lions in New York.

33

Units in the new housing complex primarily for low-income seniors and people with disabilities built by the Parksville Lions Club Housing Society in British Columbia, Canada. The project received \$4 million in government funds.

23

Students from AJ Smith Elementary School receiving free magazine subscriptions over the last two years thanks to Union Springs Lions in New York.

8

Teams that competed in an adult spelling bee held by Spotsylvania Lions in Virginia to raise funds for community college scholarships. Among the words spelled correctly by the winning team were "septuagenarian" and "furbelow."

260

Moviegoers who came to two free films at Valley Cinema in Little Falls, New York, in an event hosted by Herkimer Lions. The freewill offerings of \$500 will fund a college scholarship.

300

Mile-long laps completed by 28 pro snowmobile racers in the inaugural Kinross Lions Club 300 in Michigan. Proceeds from the event, which also included an antique snowmobile display and an antique sled parade, will support a Lions' playground.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ONE OF US

KELLER JOHNSON THOMPSON

When Keller Johnson Thompson was a young girl in Tuscumbia, Alabama, she wasn't sure what she wanted to be when she grew up. But she knew one thing—she wanted to follow in the footsteps of her great-great aunt, Helen Keller. Thompson, the great-granddaughter of Keller's sister, Mildred, grew up knowing that any obstacle in life can be overcome if one works hard, has faith and strives to make a positive difference. As vice president of education for the Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education, an ambassador for the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and a Tuscumbia Lion, Thompson's great-great aunt would be very proud of how her legacy is being carried on.

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

Keller Johnson Thompson at the historic water pump at Ivy Green where life forever changed for her remarkable great-great aunt.

Do you remember when you first became aware of who Helen Keller was?

There was never a time that Helen Keller wasn't part of my life. My earliest memories are of spending time with my grandmother at Ivy Green, Helen's birthplace. In elementary school almost every report I wrote was about her. By junior high they made me choose someone else to write about!

Did your connection to her grow stronger as you got older?

Yes, I was really drawn to her and her legacy. I wanted to help people, not only those who are deaf or blind, but anyone facing obstacles. I considered being a lawyer or going into politics, but after college I went to work for the Helen Keller Foundation, which my grandmother helped start. I developed a character education program, and we've taken it to schools across the United States.

You've also carried on your aunt's legacy at the AFB.

She was the first ambassador for the AFB, and I was honored to be named its second. It's so special to be a part of the organization she spent 44 years working for, advocating for the blind. I work with archivists, help with fundraisers, answer questions from children about Helen submitted through our website. Most importantly I help people realize that she was more than just the little girl at the water pump and what she did with her life.

What's something that might surprise us about Helen Keller?

She loved hot dogs and martinis! Also she was a very humorous person. She was serious about her work, but she enjoyed life. She loved gardening; she could smell and feel a flower and tell you exactly what kind it was.

Why do you think history was made when Helen Keller spoke to the Lions in 1925?

She knew that if anyone was going to accept her challenge to be Knights of the Blind, it was going to be the Lions. And was she ever right. I'm just grateful for everything Lions have done for the world, and I'm honored to be a small part of that.

Find out more about Thompson's work and Keller's legacy:

www.helenkellerfoundation.org

www.afb.org

www.helenkellerbirthplace.org



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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 cruise featuring the Panama Canal! 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 and travel the breathtaking Pacific Coast Highway. Visit Santa Barbara and its Camino Real Mission; Wine Country and the Danish Village of Solvang; the Mission of San Miguel and **tour the world renowned Hearst Castle**. Arrive in San Pedro where you will embark the **NCL Star**. Enjoy your *freestyle* cruise as you sail to ports in: Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, Huatulco, with 20 miles of unspoiled beaches and Puerto Chiapas in Mexico; Puntarenas, Costa Rica, with its beautiful rainforests; a scenic journey through the Panama Canal, where you will also see Gatun Lake and the Gaillard Cut and Cartagena, Colombia, full of history and charm. Disembark in Miami, FL where you will depart for your flight home.

*Per person, double occupancy. Price based on inside cabin, upgrades available. Plus \$299 tax/service/government fees. Airfare is extra.

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Departs: September 19, 2013

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

*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Plus \$199 tax/service/government fees. Alternate departure dates available in 2013. Seasonal rates may apply. Airfare is extra.

Autumn Leaves Tour



**"Visits Historical
New England"**

14 Days
from **\$1499***

Departs: September 27, 2013

Arrive in **Philadelphia** and enjoy a sightseeing tour. Then your scenic journey begins offering spectacular and colorful vistas through Amish Country to **Gettysburg**. Travel north with a stop at the Corning Museum of Glass into Ontario and awe-inspiring **Niagara Falls!** Return to upstate New York where you will board a cruise through the **1000 Islands**; drive through the six-million-acre civilized wilderness of the Adirondack region, stop in Lake Placid and then into the forest area of New England: The White Mountains, including Franconia Notch State Park, New Hampshire. Witness the incredible waterfalls at Flume Gorge and enjoy a trip on the Cannon Aerial Tramway. Next drive along the New England coast to **Boston**, with a city tour and visit Cape Cod, exploring Chatham and Provincetown. View the gorgeous Mansions of **Newport**, Rhode Island en route to Bridgeport, Connecticut and tour **New York City** seeing all the major sights of the "Big Apple."

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

IRRICANA, ALBERTA, CANADA

YEAR FOUNDED: 1976

MEMBERS AND MEETINGS: The 31 members who range in age from 20s to 80s hold twice-monthly evening meetings. The first meeting of each month covers club business, and the second meeting includes socializing, guest speakers and welcoming new members. Many members are farmers.

FANCY FOOTWORK FUNDRAISING: The Lions hold three dances that the community counts on for a good time each year. The Halloween Dance (costumes required) and Valentine Sweetheart Dance raise funds for varying community needs. A New Year's Dance gives the Lions a chance to show appreciation to the many non-Lion volunteers who help the club throughout the year—the Lions pick up the tab for them.

THE SPORTING LIFE: The Lions help kick off Irricana's annual community event, Sports Day, by providing a fortifying pancake breakfast before the big parade. The day's festivities include favorites such as sack and egg races, a slow-pitch tournament, equestrian events, a car show and farmer's market. To top the day off, the Lions Community Hall hosts a fun-filled cabaret show.

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GIFT: The Lions' major project to celebrate the town's centennial transformed an empty lot into the Irricana Lions Centennial Park, a state-of-the-art playground and community gathering place. They continue to work on final touches such as a courtyard, information kiosk and picnic area, ensuring that the park will be a gem until the town's bicentennial.

WHY BE A LION? "Our goal is to give what we can to help make Irricana and the surrounding community an even better place to live and grow, because we have a great mix of Lions that reflect our community."

—Thomas Blasetti,
club president

Lions construct Irricana Lions
Centennial Park.



OVERHEARD

"I can't see the computer giving you warm, enjoyable feelings from working with your fellow men and women."

—Brett Flipse of the Holland Lions Club in Michigan comparing social media with service clubs. From the *Holland Sentinel*.

"If you don't have that grave marker, you have no place to honor your fallen. All we have is the sea."

—Jay Jansson, a Navy veteran who lost four shipmates in the Vietnam War, speaking at a Memorial Day ceremony for those lost at sea held by Cayucos Lions at Cayucos Pier in California. From KSBY.com.

"You don't even need a license to use the surf chair. This was a great idea."

—Frank Pickett of the Delray Beach Lions Club in Florida after his club read about a surf chair for those with disabilities in the *LION* and then raised funds for a Rolleez-4 All Terrain Surf Chair. From the *Sun-Sentinel*.

ON THE WEB

The Lions Quest website has a new look and is easier to navigate. Visit the Lions Clubs International Foundation's youth development program's website at www.lions-quest.org to find out about Lions Quest programs, teacher trainings, evaluation tools and grants. Get inspired by videos and stories about how Lions Quest is improving the lives of youths around the world. Stay informed by signing up for the Lions Quest newsletter or following Lions Quest on Facebook or Twitter.



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IDEAS THAT ROAR

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SERVICE IDEA PITCH INTO HELP



Cabrillo Lions spread crushed granite on the pathway.

On the Path to Community Service

It bothered Cabrillo Lion Fil Munoz every time he walked an unfinished path alongside a sports field built at Polo Grounds Park in Aptos, California. He knew Lions could finish the pathway. After much hard work, that's exactly what they did.

"The setting is along a creek edged by coastal redwood trees," says Lion Barbara Chamberlain. "Twenty years earlier, some local groups including Lions built youth sports playing fields on property that was once a polo field used by wealthy San Franciscans on vacation. Lion Fil knew the path stopped because of a lack of funds."

He suggested to Lions, several of whom are retired from the construction trades, that they tackle the half-mile path's completion. Chamberlain says it was the biggest project taken on by Cabrillo Lions since they built a community center 40 years earlier.

"The majority of club members were in their 80s. However, nothing stopped them once they began the project," Chamberlain points out. They obtained the necessary county permits to begin the work and hired a contractor to grade the route and frame the new five-foot-wide pathway.

She credits Lion Steve Irving for his persistence in acquiring donations of 5,100 feet of pressure-treated wood, 200 tons of gravel and 75 tons of a topping mixture called California gold. Even with donations valued at more than \$20,000, Lions spent \$11,000. Most of those funds were raised by the weekly Bingo games sponsored by the Cabrillo Lions and three other clubs in the area.

Lion Tom Garske, a retired building contractor, brought a small tractor onsite to move the materials, and Lion Jay Johnson contributed the use of several other pieces of equipment. "The work crew brought their own shovels," says Chamberlain. "The oldest worker was 90 and the youngest, 50. The average age of the workers was 78." Lions and some of their family members contributed more than 600 hours in volunteer labor. The entire project took seven months from first gathering appropriate county permits to completion.

Lions were not content to rest on their pathway laurels, however. While working, Irving saw picnic benches that had been discarded behind a shed. Lions repaired them and created a picnic grove in the redwoods alongside the path.

GIVE TO LCIF

Keep our foundation strong and ready to meet worldwide challenges and needs by donating a percentage of your club's fundraising profits to LCIF.

PROMOTE YOUR CLUB

Wear your vest and pin proudly during service activities to promote the active role your club plays in the community.

INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN YOU

Invite friends, neighbors and colleagues to join you in service to others; the more we are, the more we can accomplish.

SERVICE IDEA KEEP COMMUNITY CLEAN



Two canoeists paddle by just moments after Athol, Massachusetts, Lions (from left) Rick Misner, David Flint and Joseph Allen cleared out a large number of submerged branches that could have proved hazardous to watercraft on the Miller River.

Photo by Keith Kent

Rolling on the River

Canoes and other watercraft using the Miller River in Massachusetts are able to do so without worry after members of the Athol Lions Club spent three weeks cleaning it of dangerous submerged debris. "We removed 30 trees from the Miller River that collapsed as part of a massive Nor'easter storm when 26 inches of heavy wet snow piled up on the leaves that had not yet fallen off the trees," says Keith Kent. "The end result was a disaster of downed trees and limbs in the region that created significant safety hazards for both civilians and emergency services alike."

"We work diligently to provide safety to local paddlers and nature lovers," says Kent. "Many beavers, eagles, hawks, blue herons, deer, bobcats and more are just as critical to the river as the river is for them for their survival."

A Home for Heroes

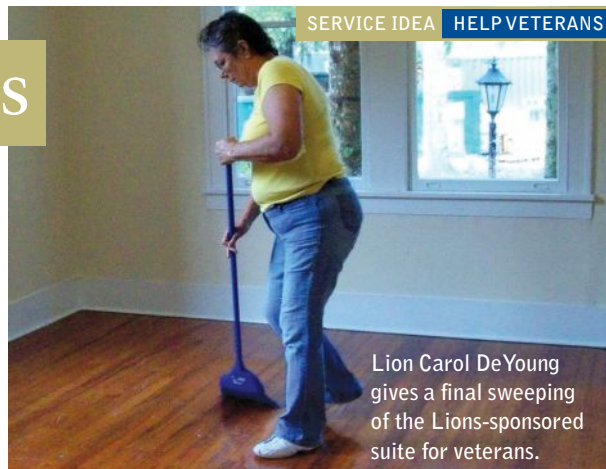
"Home is where the heart is," points out Eloise Jurgens, a member of the On Top of the World (OTOW) Lions Club in Ocala, Florida. Lions should know what makes a home since they helped create one for homeless veterans.

Volunteers of America purchased the former Spanish-style Ritz Historic Inn at a foreclosure auction in 2010 with a matching \$800,000 grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Lions became involved when Estelle Clark learned about the project and urged members to participate. Jurgens says the club "wasted no time getting started." They agreed to sponsor a two-bedroom suite to house two veterans.

"The facility is now renamed the Ritz Hotel Veterans Home and will serve as a two-year transitional housing project for 50 homeless veterans," says Jurgens. "The total project cost is estimated at \$2 million, including renovations." The Lions-sponsored area contains a space for watching television or reading, sleeping quarters, kitchenette and private bathroom facilities.

While Lions were cleaning and painting the residence, they were also combing the community for donations. Lions received furniture, kitchen appliances, linens, gift certificates and other useful items from retail stores and individuals.

SERVICE IDEA HELP VETERANS



Lion Carol DeYoung gives a final sweeping of the Lions-sponsored suite for veterans.

"We weren't really surprised by the generosity of community businesses because they've always been there when our club has needed an extra hand," says Clark. "We will always be a part of this project since there is upkeep and replacement of items when they're no longer usable. We work as a team."

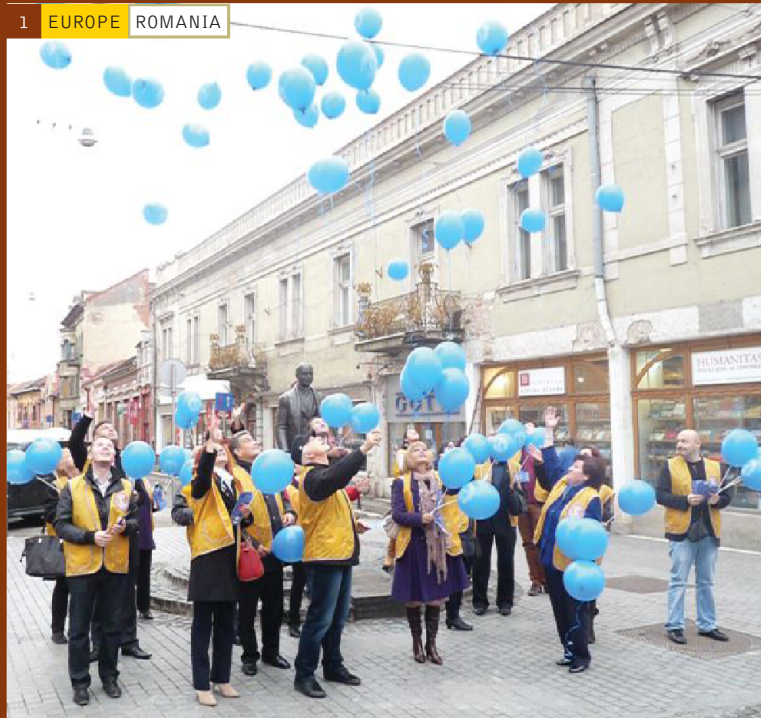
The 32-member club is located in an "over 55" residential community. Other projects include vision and hearing screening of elementary schoolchildren, collecting gifts for around 300 needy children at Christmas, participating in school reading programs, conducting diabetes screenings, planting trees and responding to vision needs.

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1 EUROPE ROMANIA
Oradea Lions launch blue balloons in a historic public square to raise awareness of diabetes.



The camp ends with a carnival attended by campers and camp volunteers including Leos, Scouts and students who had taken part in Lions' educational or recreational programs.

Carefree Camp for Kids Counters Illness

Romanian Lions call it the Wonderful Children's Camp. The young campers with diabetes, who normally feel stigmatized because their disease is little understood, wholeheartedly agree. Camp is an escape, a haven, an interlude of feeling accepted. The youths swim, dance, make crafts and make friends at the camp.

The Oradea 22 Lions Club began the camp five years ago. Founded in the 12th century, Oradea is an elegant city of 183,000. Diabetes in Romania, as elsewhere, is becoming ever more prevalent.

The Lions' camp provides 15 children with gentle instruction on how to manage their disease amid a "relaxing holiday atmosphere," says Past District Governor Rodica Dacin, charter president of the club. "It's a climate in which children feel like they are a part of a family, where they are understood, trained, educated and loved."

The club raises funds for the camp through charity concerts and an annual Lions Ball. Members also sell jewelry, some of it homemade, at a bazaar in the city. Oradea 22 Lions partner with Oradea Lions to raise awareness of the disease by illuminating in blue (the symbolic color of diabetes) historic buildings such as the City Hall and Queen Mary Theatre.

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IN SPAIN, THE SANTIAGO DEL TEIDE LIONS DISTRIBUTED FOOD VOUCHERS TO MORE THAN 40 FAMILIES. THE LIONS HAVE RAISED MORE THAN 10,000 EUROS TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC CRISIS.

Smart Shopping in Hungary

Lions in Hungary seeking support for guide dogs targeted a segment of the population likely to be sympathetic to the cause: pet owners. Members of two clubs in Miskolc, a bustling city of 170,000, brought guide dogs to a popular pet store to explain the role of the dogs and to ask for backing.

Instead of asking for cash, Lions asked pet store patrons to buy dog food, supplies and tools and deposit them in a shopping cart. In six hours close to US\$2,000 in goods was donated.

The guide dog school in Miskolc supported by the clubs trains half of all guide dogs in Hungary. The additional Lions' support was especially welcome because the government decided to no longer fund the school, and the wait time for a new guide dog has increased to 2 ½ years.

The all-male Miskolc Lions Club has 28 members, and the all-female Miskolci Deborah Lions Club has 12. Peter Koleszar, secretary of the Miskolc club, says he was "infected with the Lions-fever by my father." His father, Lajos, and



Shoppers filled a cart for guide dogs (children not included).

other Lions helped protect the city against flooding years ago. That memory helped prompt him to join. "I realized I have to remember the 'We Serve' family," says Koleszar, 40, a high-tech entrepreneur whose wife, Helga, also is a Lion.



The second-hand book market run by Oslo Lions is so large that books are stored in a two-story former bomb shelter in the mountains, and orchestrating the nine-day event takes "military discipline," according to a member.

The Oslo Berg Lions Club has run the sale, the largest used book sale in Norway, since 1976. Forty-five thousand books, separated in 30 categories, are offered for sale. Thousands of book lovers and professional collectors, searching for overlooked gems, browse the stacks. Many customers return year after year, such as Odd Holter, a retired auto shop manager. He walked away with books on cars and motor-

cycles but did not find the Hardy Boys books needed to complete his collection.

Lions pulled books from their own bookshelves in the first year of the market. Now they rely on regular donors, email campaigns and stories in the media. The government provides the storage facility in the mountains at no cost with the club picking up utility expenses and maintenance.

Proceeds support many causes: guide dogs, Scouts, youth sports, outings for senior citizens, a drug-sniffing dog for federal agents, schools and orphanages in Ghana, and nutrition, health care and female entrepreneurs in Mali.

3 EUROPE NORWAY

Nothing Bigger of Its Kind

Bibliophiles crowd the Lions' sale.



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A Roaring Start

These three new clubs chartered with dozens of members, plenty of pep and promising projects. How did they do it?

by Lauren Williamson

A thousand miles separate Wesley Chapel, Florida, and Tom's River, New Jersey, described as a "war zone" after flooding caused by Superstorm Sandy. The Wesley Chapel Lions Club was chartered just last June. But within nine days of the storm's landfall in October the Wesley Chapel Nissan car dealership overflowed with 200,000 boxes of cookies, 10,000 packages of cold and flu medicine, five tons of chocolate and bales upon bales of sweaters, jackets and hats.

"It looked like a FEMA warehouse," says Troy Stevenson, charter president. Stevenson works at Wesley Chapel Nissan, managed by Tom's River native Glenn Gibson. Stevenson is no rookie regarding disaster relief. He began working part-time for FEMA after Hurricane Katrina washed the Gulf Coast in 2005. He saw firsthand "what it's like when people don't have anything."

Superstorm Sandy was different for him. This time he had a new militia of volunteers to lead. In less than half a year the Wesley Chapel Lions had blossomed into a 60-member team, able and ready to serve.

Stevenson took a no-nonsense attitude from the start toward building the club. "You guys got to keep up with my speed," he recalled telling the 20 people who came to the first meeting after they elected him president. That meant spearheading service projects, inviting guest speakers to meetings and networking with public officials.

But Stevenson doesn't waste much time worrying about how to build membership. "Who knows, who cares?" he says. "We're doing something right." The club's actions speak for themselves, he says. New members come to them, including two who asked to transfer from a nearby club.

On average, 1,675 new Lions clubs charter each year worldwide. During our association's last fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, 205 clubs sprouted in the United States. But it takes people with a certain energy and spirit of generosity to take a club from a fledgling alliance to a trusted, reliable community institution.

Tackling major projects right away, as the Wesley Chapel Lions have, is one key to success, says Tamara Ivetic, manager of membership and new club development for Lions Clubs International.

"This will give members a sense of pride for assisting their community and validate why it is great to be a Lion," she says. "Service projects can be unique and personal, and reflect anything that the members of the club are passionate about."

It also helps to have the mentorship of the two dedicated Guiding Lions, Ivetic says, which the Wesley Chapel Lions found in Claudette Henry and Cathy Walton of the neighboring Lutz-Land O' Lakes Lions.

Henry met Stevenson when she was going from storefront to storefront trying to recruit founding members for a new club. Stevenson admits he wasn't immediately sold.

"I said, 'I'm running a business and you're breaking my chops to join a club. I give you three minutes to sell me,'" he recalls. "Two hours later I became a full-blown Lion."

Twenty people came to the first meeting. Within six months, the group had tripled. Stevenson predicts that his club will grow by more than 100 members by the end of its first year.

David Skillin, immediate past president of the neighboring Lutz-Land O' Lakes Lions, attributes much of the Wesley Chapel Lions' success to Stevenson's charismatic leadership.

"Troy is the kind of guy who throws an idea out there and asks who would like to get involved. 'You run it as you see fit,'" Skillin says. "He doesn't get in the middle of it. It's all that much better for the community because there's just 100 percent participation [in projects]."

Club members range in age from 25 to 58. Many are active in the business community and were already friends before the club formed.

Having the support of local businesspeople has been integral to the club's success, Wesley Chapel Lion Tom Mavor says. The club has become a unifying group for people who want to both network and do charitable work in the community. Because many of the members are entrepreneurs, he said they understand the dynamic—and the importance—of working collaboratively on projects.

Mavor and his wife, who is now the club's Lion Tamer, joined with the goal of networking but also to help bring some light into peoples' lives during this difficult economic time.

"The last five or six years have been tough for everyone," he says. "The group of us thinks if we don't do something, who's going to? That's what's driving us more than anything else."

The list of projects the Lions have tackled in their first few months of existence makes that drive clear. They adopted two-and-a-half miles of highway, now named in their honor after they spent an afternoon gathering 150 pounds of trash from its shoulders. They've also collected

eyeglasses for children, helped feed the homeless and orchestrated a successful fall festival.

The club recently demonstrated how Lions respond to a pressing need, however rare or unfortunate. On the last day of February a sinkhole in nearby Seffner swallowed up a 34-year-old man while he slept in his bedroom. Lion Jeff Powell of Thunderbay Sinkhole Specialists agreed to give the man's family a furnished home for "as long as they need it," he told a newspaper.

Next up for the club is helping to construct a park for children with disabilities. But the ambitious agenda, from Stevenson's perspective, should be a given.

"This is what we do: We serve," he says. "So let's serve and step up to the plate." As Stevenson prepared his team to drive trucks of hurricane relief supplies to New Jersey, he was confident that the club is only going to get bigger and better from here.

"You know 'Fly Me to the Moon' by Frank Sinatra?" Stevenson says. "That's the limit."

Wesley Chapel Lions in Florida show they're ready to dig right in to construct a park for children with disabilities and take on other projects.



Advice for New Clubs

Since teamwork is at the root of all successful clubs, we asked Lions Clubs International Manager of Membership and New Club Development Tamara Ivetic for her tips for building new clubs.

- **Dream big:** While a prospective club must have 20 members to charter, Ivetic says the success rate jumps to 70 percent if it can launch with 25 or even more. It's also important to set goals right from the start. Deadlines and action plans will help keep new clubs on track, she says.
- **Speak up:** "Be proud to be a Lion and don't forget to ask," Ivetic says. "It is the number one reason why people don't join Lions. Someone had to ask you to join—extend the same courtesy for other individuals to provide service." This goes for friends, co-workers, local government officials and even family members. Projects will be even more fun if you're doing them with people with whom you enjoy spending time, Ivetic said.
- **Let service shine:** Lions' core purpose is also one of its biggest selling points. "Invite prospective members to participate in an upcoming service project rather than attend a meeting," Ivetic says. "This will actively engage them and show them exactly what Lions clubs are all about: service!"
- **Get social:** Use social media such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to spread the word about your club across the web, Ivetic advises. Clubs can also create a brochure through a template on LCI's website that showcases service projects to prospective members.
- **Share your success:** "Happy members make for positive PR," Ivetic says. "The best promotion is networking and 'talking up' that great service project/event—with your hairdresser, dentist, butcher, boutique owner, pastor, contractor, bowling team or running buddies. Everyone wants to be part of something exciting, be it giving money or time."



Charter President Troy Stevenson (left) welcomes Jay Rosario, owner of Wesley Chapel Nissan, into the Wesley Chapel Lions.

The Tripp County Lions

The rolling hills of Winner, South Dakota, are famous for the influx of pheasant hunters who ripple through the fields each autumn. But now the Tripp County Lions are working to bring a different kind of fame to this peaceful ranch town.

Chartered a year ago, the club quickly blossomed to roughly 35 members, with about 25 who are regularly active, Secretary Dori Docken says.

The club's diverse membership includes both young and older members, as well as a few people with special needs. This inclusiveness is one of the Tripp County Lions' strengths, says President Genevieve DeMent.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how we mold together with the younger generation moving forward," she says. So far, the youngest members—two high school seniors—are taking very active roles. One serves as the club's treasurer and the other as Lion Tamer.

The neighboring Gregory Lions sponsored the club and have been an invaluable resource as the club grows, Docken says. A few members come to nearly every Tripp County meeting.

In less than a year, the Tripp County Lions have already painted a house for a senior citizen, held a fundraiser at a car show and sponsored a pie-throwing contest with Winner's mayor—a Lion himself—as the target.

"It makes me feel good that we can be helpful to other people and get something done for people that they wouldn't be able to do on their own," Docken says. "It's a great thing to see all we can do for other people."



Pike Road Lions in Alabama discover that the grass is greener as Lions: they got off to a quick start as a new club by landscaping a veterans memorial.

The Pike Road Lions

Pike Road, a small country town on the outskirts of Montgomery, Alabama, is only 15 years old. So the Pike Road Lions Club finds itself in a special position: As the suburb's first civic club, the Lions bear responsibility for shaping the spirit of service for all who come after.

And if the progress the club has made so far is any indication, that shape is going to be a good one. Chartered last March, the club already has 41 members. "The town itself has a lot of momentum, and people wanted to be involved in what's going on here," says President Bill Cornwell.

The club's first member was Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone, who sees the Lions' development as parallel to that of the town, which blossomed from a population of 350 in 1997 to around 6,000 residents today.

"The Lions club is going to continue to be there and look for ways to support the endeavors of the community," he says.

In the months since the club formed, the Lions have laid grass for a veterans memorial, held a pancake breakfast and sponsored a 4th of July barbecue that Secretary Ray Hawthorne hopes will become a signature event. The barbecue team manned the grills from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. to prepare the feast—a testament, he says, to the Lions' commitment to community.

That level of dedication extends to all corners of Pike Road, Cornwell said. "We've become the workforce for the town," he says.

That kind of pervasive service is one of the keys to growing a strong club, says Ivetic of LCI.

"Always highlight what service you have already conducted and ask [prospective members] if they can think of any needs in the community that aren't met," she says. "If the prospective member comes up with an idea for a service project, they may be interested in joining to see this project happen."

Reading Summit Held at Headquarters

Coon Rapids Lions in Minnesota play not Bingo but BANGO with students while visiting elementary schools. Letters printed on flashcards are called out, and students whose tokens form a full row receive a brand new book.

Middletown Township Lions in New Jersey took another approach to encourage reading. They held a literacy event at a school that featured music, dancing, magic, face painters, balloon artists, comedians, and, of course, books and reading. The aim was the same but the means were different halfway around the world in Singapore where Singapore Chatsworth Lions enlisted the wife of the high commissioner to read books by British author Roald Dahl to schoolchildren.

Lions worldwide are embracing President Wayne Maden's Reading Action Program (RAP). So far, 56,627 total activities have been reported, serving nearly 6 million people through 2.1 million Lions service hours.

Building on Lions' enthusiasm for literacy, Lions Clubs International near Chicago is hosting a Reading and Literacy Summit on May 1. Nearly 30 organizations will convene to promote literacy. Participants include the U.S. Agency for International Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, World Vision, CARE, Aga Khan Development Network, Reading Is Fundamental, Reach Out and Read, Scholastic International, the Perkins School for the Blind, the Hadley School for the Blind, the American Foundation for the Blind, Benetech Initiative (Bookshare), Special Olympics, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care and Nokia.

The summit will seek practical, low-cost strategies to promote early reading, improved access to education for marginalized populations and learning environments that meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Participants will focus on several key questions. Regarding global literacy, what has been achieved? What needs to be done? What is the role of civil society?

Regarding early reading and book distribution, what can be done at the community level to promote early reading and what are the most effective means to distribute

low-cost, age- and culturally-appropriate books to children in need?

Questions also swirl around literacy for those with visual impairments and other disabilities. What are the barriers to inclusion and how can vision care improve school performance? Finally, regarding the role of technology, how can e-readers, mobile devices and other innovative tools improve literacy?



Leos in Finland record classic stories and fairy tales to be posted online for visually impaired children.

Regarding global literacy...

What has been achieved?

What needs to be done?

What is the role of civil society?

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Oh, The Places Lions Can Go

by Jay Copp

Wherever you go, you'll find evidence of Lions, who mark their territories with monuments, signs and obelisks. Or sometimes we open museums, erect statues, reclaim ruined buildings or construct kitschy roadside attractions. Some of these sites you may want to be sure to include on a trip; others are worth a visit if on the way to somewhere else. But the end result of so many Lions clubs in so many towns and cities are sites that reveal the ingenuity, enterprise and spirit of Lions. Happy travels.





This massive Lion's Head is near Baguio City, the Philippines.

EAST



The Extra Mile Points of Light Volunteer Pathway Washington, D.C.

This is the only national monument that honors individuals who selflessly championed a better America. Among the legends honored are Clara Barton, Rachel Carson, Frederick Douglas, John Muir, Mar-

tin Luther King Jr.—and Helen Keller and Lions' founder Melvin Jones. President George W. Bush dedicated the pathway in 2005.

Helen Keller Statue United States Capitol Washington, D.C.

A bronze statue of a 7-year-old Helen Keller solving the mystery of language graces the National Statuary Hall Collection. Each state contributed two of the 100 statues. Installed by Alabama, the Keller statue depicts the moment in 1887 when Helen's teacher Anne Sullivan spelled out "water" in her hand while holding it under a water pump. At the statue's dedication in 2010, Alabama Governor Bob Riley said the monument will teach visitors that "courage and strength can exist in the most unlikely places."



The Iwo Jima Memorial Arlington, Virginia

John Bradley served as a Lion for 31 years in Antigo, a small Wisconsin town. He also served his country. A Navy Corpsman in World War II, he was one of the six American soldiers immortalized in the photo of the flag raising on Iwo Jima in 1945. He's second on the right in the photo and in the memorial statue (also known as the U. S. Marine Corps War Memorial) near Arlington National Cemetery. Iwo Jima, a small island 660 miles south of Tokyo, was the last territory that U.S. troops re-



captured from the Japanese. Bradley, who ran a funeral home in Antigo, also ran just about everything else in town: the Lions, Elks, school board and PTA. When he died in 1994, the *Antigo Daily Journal* remembered his everyday valor: "John Bradley will be forever memorialized for a few moments' action at the top of a remote Pacific mountain. We

prefer to remember him for his life. ... Bradley's quiet, modest nature and philanthropic efforts shine as an example of the best of small-town American values."

The Belskie Museum of Art & Science Closter, New Jersey

A 57-year resident of Closter, Abram Belskie was a talented sculptor and medical illustrator. He helped create a revolutionary line of three-dimensional medical models, unveiled at the 1939 World's Fair in New York and used to teach generations of medical students. After he died in 1988, Closter Lions approached his family and built the museum to house his works and memorabilia. The Lions held fundraisers like beefsteak dinners and did much of the work themselves such as installing the electrical and plumbing systems. The 3,000-square-foot museum, directed by the club and a

couple other groups, now also holds 10 art shows annually. Past exhibits include drawings, prints of baseball legends and travel and theater photos by actress Ellen Burstyn.

Helen Keller Exhibit

American Foundation for the Blind
New York City

Helen Keller's accomplishments ranged far beyond overcoming disability. She was an equal rights activist, an advocate for the blind and a goodwill ambassador. This exhibit, featuring 31 items never publicly displayed, includes artifacts, writings, photos and personal items. Included are the earliest existing words she wrote as a child, the honorary Oscar (photo) she won for the documentary based on her life, her Socialist Party of America membership cards, and a Zulu shield and a silver-encased Bible she received during her travels. Keller worked for the AFB for 44 years, and the exhibit items were culled from the 80,000 pieces in the Helen Keller Archives. Visits are by appointment only. Contact archivist Helen Selsdon at 212-502-7628 or hselsdon@afb.net.



Asa Packer Mansion

Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania

A railroad kingpin who founded Lehigh University, Asa Packer hired noted Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan to construct the 18-room, 11,000-square-foot mansion atop a hill that overlooks downtown Jim Thorpe. The home cost \$14,000 in 1861, equivalent to \$2.3 million today. It's considered one of the finest Italianate Villa homes in the country. The mansion draws more than 20,000 visitors annually—thanks to the Jim Thorpe Lions, who have operated the mansion since 1956. Packer's daughter, Mary Packer Cummings, had donated the building to the borough in 1912, and it sat idly for decades until the club opened it for tours. Lions have kept the home in top shape, installing a new roof, porch and sidewalks, reupholstering furniture and putting in a geothermal heating and air-conditioning system.

Perkins School for the Blind

Watertown, Massachusetts

Perkins opened in 1832 as the nation's first school for the blind. History has happened here ever since. Charles Dickens visited the school during his balmyhoood lecture tour of America in 1842. He graciously allowed the school's print department to produce 250 copies of his new book, "The Old Curiosity Shop," and in "American Notes" he described the school's progress with Laura Bridgman, who was deaf and blind. Years later, Kate Adams Keller read Dickens' travelogue and found hope for her young daughter, Helen. Perkins graduate Anne Sullivan later brought Helen Keller to Perkins. Today Perkins educates students with multiple disabilities as well as the blind. Available by appointment, tours of the museum and the 38-acre campus on the St. Charles River reveal the history of blindness education in the United States.

A Helen Keller Treasure Trove

Rare 1930 newsreel footage of Keller and Anne Sullivan.

Keller speaks out on her greatest disappointment.

Little seen film clips and photos of Keller and Twain, Churchill, Kennedy, Sinatra and others.

1950s documentary on
Keller's daily life (three parts).

Catfish Hunter Museum

Hertford, North Carolina

Jim “Catfish” Hunter won 224 games, led his teams to five World Series titles and gained election to the Baseball Hall of Fame. But he always considered himself just a simple country boy—and a dedicated Lion. “I enjoy being a Lion. This is a good group of men,” he told LION Magazine in 1975. He autographed baseballs for Lions’ fundraisers and once brought Yankee manager Bill Virdon to Hertford to help raise money for the blind. The museum includes a Catfish action figure with a typically dirt-stained uniform, an autographed Oakland A’s pennant, his two *Sports Illustrated* covers and a 1975 profile of him in the LION. The likable pitching ace died in 1999 at age 53 as a result of ALS, the same disease that cut short the life of baseball legend Lou Gehrig.



Jimmy Carter Library and Museum

Atlanta, Georgia

The former president, a Lion, has devoted his post-presidency to humanitarian work, and about a third of the museum explores his efforts to eradicate disease (often in partnership with Lions), resolve conflicts and monitor elections. A touch-screen video table takes visitors to countries where The Carter Center has worked and features people who have been helped. There is plenty here for presidential buffs, too, including huge video screens that present a day-in-the-life of a president: Dec. 11, 1978. On that day Carter grappled with a Middle East crisis and moved forward in relations with China. Other exhibits focus on Carter’s segregated childhood in Georgia, his time aboard a nuclear submarine as a young naval officer and a full-scale replica of the Oval Office.

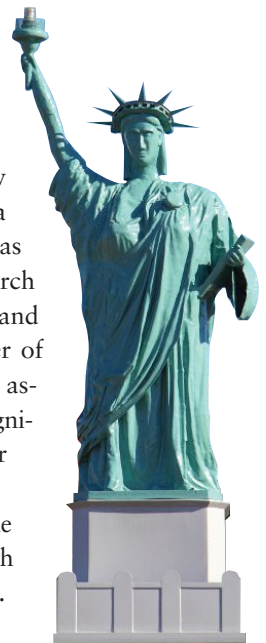


SOUTH

Statue of Liberty Replica

McRae, Georgia

Fanfare and celebrations marked the centennial of the Statue of Liberty in 1986. McRae Lions did most folks one better by building a replica, 1/10 the size of the original. They eschewed costly materials and instead used found or reclaimed material. The head was carved with a chainsaw from a stump pulled from a swamp. Her upraised arm was made of Styrofoam. The torch was made from cork. The hand was made by pouring plaster of Paris into a glove. But don’t assume Lady Liberty is an undignified personage. “We never knew it would be so pretty,” Lion Ray Bowers observes. The statue was refurbished with steel and fiberglass a year ago.



Helen Keller Childhood Home

Tuscumbia, Alabama

Ivy Green is a simple white clapboard home, built in 1802 on a 640-acre tract. Near the main house is an even smaller structure—Keller’s birthplace cottage, originally designed as an office for keeping the plantation’s books. The cottage later became living quarters for Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan. In the house and cottage are Keller’s complete library of Braille books, her Braille typewriter and many personal mementos, books and gifts that she accumulated during a lifetime of travel and lectures in 25 countries. Not to be missed is the actual well pump where the “miracle” occurred: Sullivan placed Keller’s hand under the flow, spelled “water” with her finger in the other hand and tore open the world of learning and knowledge to her. Lions are well-represented at Ivy Green with the Lions Memorial Fountain, a walkway with engraved bricks and a 1,600-pound concrete lion statue. The annual Helen Keller Festival in late June features performances of “The Miracle Worker,” tours, book sales and music.



Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind

Louisville, Kentucky

Since 1858, when it developed embossed books, the America Printing House for the Blind has created products for the blind such as Braille and recorded books, independent living items and educational tools. The museum covers the educational history of the blind, and a plant tour shows how Talking Books and Braille books are created. Don’t miss Helen Keller’s book of Psalms in Braille, embossed at APH in the 1920s.

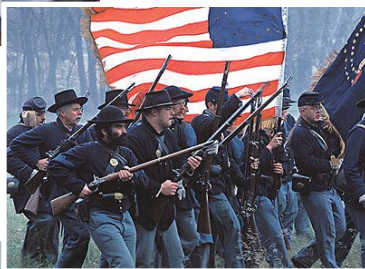


Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

Prairie Grove, Arkansas

On Dec. 7, 1862, a cold frosty Sunday morning, Confederate and Union soldiers clashed bitterly near Fayetteville. It was one of the bloodiest battles west of the Mississippi with 2,700 casualties. The Union held its ground, and Confederate fortunes in northwest Arkansas plummeted. For decades after the war aging veterans held reunions at the park that included baseball games, vaudeville acts and even mock airplane flights. But during World War II the commemorations ceased, and the site decayed until Prairie Grove Lions in the 1950s led a restoration effort for the battlefield. Acreage and historic homes were added. Today it’s nationally known as

one of the most intact Civil War battlefields. The hallowed grounds include a museum, interpretive exhibits, guided tours and stirring re-enactments (photo).



Midland Downtown Lions Club Fire Museum

Midland, Texas

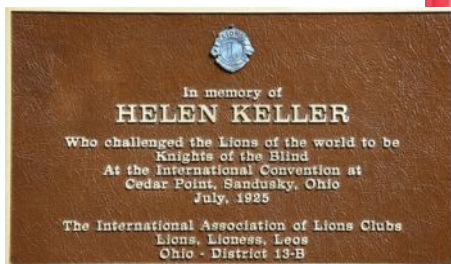
Midland’s first two fire trucks and early fire fighting equipment steal the show here. A visit provides a glimpse into the history of fire fighting as well as a look back on the early days of a Texas city once the home of both President Bushes.

MIDWEST

Helen Keller Plaque

Sandusky, Ohio

Ride the roller coasters at Cedar Point amusement park and visit the site where Keller challenged Lions to be Knights of the Blind. The American legend spoke at the 9th annual convention of Lions in 1925 at a hall once at this spot and inspired Lions to help the blind as their primary mission.



Lawton Heritage Museum

Michigan

Located in the “fruit belt” of southwest Michigan, Lions created the museum that highlights the local wine industry and the days of yore. The museum is part of the Lawton Lions Heritage Community Center. The Lions meet in a cobblestone winery that dates from 1903. The facility also includes a banquet room and gym. Lions bought the building in 1990 when it was in shambles and refurbished it after fundraising and receiving an LCIF grant.

Lions Lincoln Theatre

Massillion, Ohio

Built in 1915, the Lions Lincoln Theatre purports to be the nation’s oldest continuously operating movie theater. The Massillion Lions Club purchased the closed theater in 1982, saving it from demolition and gradually restoring it to its grandeur by rallying the community around the “Grand Old Dame on Lincoln Way.” Classic movies are shown on weekends, and Lions take tickets and sell popcorn. The butter is real.



Lions Den/Train Car

Sweetser, Indiana

Sweetser Lions meet in a parlor car, built in 1933. The mail car is equipped as the club’s kitchen, and standing near the caboose platform is a five-foot fiberglass Garfield. Cartoonist Jim Davis grew up nearby, and the

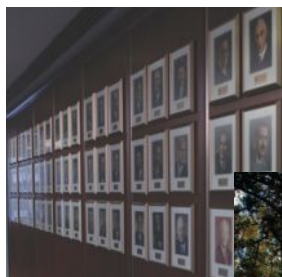


Lions’ caboose is one of the 12 stops on the Garfield Trail, all with statues of Garfield in costumes or situations.

Lions Clubs International

Oak Brook, Illinois

A mecca for Lions, headquarters gladly welcomes Lions world-wide, who snap shots of Lions' mementos on guided tours while 300 LCI employees work hard to facilitate the service of Lions. The two-story, modern office building, opened in 1970, is awash in all things Lions. Flapping in the wind outside are flags of eight nations, rotated daily so all Lions nations are regularly represented. On the west lawn is an arresting statue of a boy leading a blind older man by a stick—an all too common sight in Africa until Lions and the Carter Center curtailed river blindness. In the lobby is the Melvin Jones Memorial Room with his antique rollup desk and a conspicuous, plush lion rug that was a gift from Winston Churchill. The SightFirst Wall of Recognition honors Lions who donated to the SightFirst Campaign in the 1990s. The international president is usually on the road, so you can peek inside his office. The warm teakwood paneling was a gift from the Lions of Multiple District 300, and the stately grandfather clock was given in honor of Past International President Bert Mason of Northern Ireland by Lions of Multiple District 105. Also on the second floor are walls lined with official portraits of all past international presidents and a quarter century of first-place Peace Posters. Whether it's chairs with lion carvings, lion stuffed animals propped on cubicles, a dolly with the Lions logo or a display of a tent used after disasters, you know you are in one of the world's most unusual offices.



World's Largest Soup Kettle

Laona, Wisconsin

Lions don't build roadside attractions just for heck of it: they build community through them. Laona Lions hold a Community Soup on the first Sunday in August. The feeding is held not at the famous giant soup kettle but instead at Silver Lake Beach. Lions cook 175 gallons of beef vegetable in a large cast-iron pot, once used by loggers. Bring your own bowl and spoons! The world's largest soup kettle, a big gray pot suspended from a wood tripod, is displayed nearby in the small logging town.



Caramel Rolls Caricature

Bluffton, Minnesota



District Governor Margaret Van Erp, famous for her caramel rolls, auctions two pans of the sinfully rich treat on her club visits. When husband Pete was district governor, she made sure he also never left home to see Lions without the rolls. A pan once sold for \$240. The drawing was displayed at the Bluffton Community Center, where their club meets, but was recently relocated to their home.

Catlin Lions Veterans Memorial

Illinois

Catlin Lions erected a World War II memorial in the 1940s. In the late 1990s members realized they were overlooking other veterans, and after three years of planning (the first sketch was made on a cocktail napkin) the club dedicated this sturdy, stirring salute to Catlin veterans of World War I and II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm in 2002. Catlin has a population of just 2,100, but, typifying small-town patriotism, the monument contains 509 names.



Grainfield Opera House/Clubhouse

Kansas

Opera was never the main drawing card here: the 1887 limestone beauty typically hosted vaudeville, dancers and even hypnotists. From the 1930s onward it housed a harness shop, hardware store and a tractor showroom before falling into disrepair. Grainfield Lions secured more than a quarter million in grants to fix it up. Now it hosts school and community events and Lions twice monthly.

Johnny Spaulding Cabin

Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Frontiersman “Buckskin Johnny” Spaulding built this rustic, two-story cabin in 1876. The hunter, guide and scout was the first white person to settle in this Black Hills area. Buckskin Johnny hauled his logs from the hills and hand-hewed them. As other settlers moved in, feeling crowded, he moved further west, ultimately to California. In the 1960s,

Belle Fourche Lions fixed up the neglected cabin, shingling the roof, staining the logs and adding a side porch. A building tour allows visitors to see how the pioneers roughed it.



Salem Sue

New Salem, North Dakota

Kitschy attractions dot the U.S. interstates, and few can match the sheer audacity of Salem Sue, the world’s largest Holstein cow. Made from fiberglass, Sue stands 38 feet high and stretches 50 feet. New Salem Lions built Sue in 1974 for \$40,000 to honor the local dairy farmers.



Lions Club Fountain

Boulder, Colorado

The south plaza of the Boulder County Courthouse is an attractive public space that hosts festivals and craft shows, and its centerpiece is the Lions Club Fountain. Built in 1935 by Lions and restored with public funds (and a small contribution from Lions) in 1988, the gleaming-white, terra cotta fountain is an oasis of calm.



Melvin Jones Memorial

Fort Thomas, Arizona

A 50-foot obelisk honors Lions’ founder Melvin Jones at his birthplace. Lions dedicated the memorial in 1965. A museum, open only when Lions gather on Rededication Day in January, contains artifacts related to Jones and innumerable Lions pins and banners. Jones lived here in the 1880s until he was 7. His father was a U.S. Army captain, and Fort Thomas was precisely that—a fortified outpost in the battles against Apache warriors. Young Jones’ earliest years were full of bugle calls, war cries and galloping blue-clad soldiers.



Mt. McCoy Cross

Simi Valley, California

In the early 1800s Franciscan friars erected a wooden cross atop this 1,325-foot peak as a guide post for travelers trudging the dusty trails from mission to mission. In 1941,

Simi Valley/Moorpark Lions replaced a wooden cross, placed in 1921 by a Sunday school teacher, with a concrete one. “It was an old wooden cross that had rotted out. It was a lot of work, but we thought we’d done some good,” Lion Newt Heflin told the *Los Angeles Times*. Today the 12-foot-high cross remains a well-known landmark and a destination for day hikers in the scenic region. An old dirt road from the summit leads to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

Photo by Wally Gobetz



Gigantic American Flag

Redding, California

Mounted on a 120-foot flag pole, the flag has flown over Redding since Sept. 11, 2002. The Enterprise Lions Club has seen to it that it will fly in perpetuity thanks to a \$150,000 endowment fund. Each day an estimated 15,000 vehicles on Interstate 5 pass the 30- by 60-foot flag.



Cottonwood Farm and Ranch Museum

Cottonwood, Idaho

Cottonwood Lions own and maintain this interesting museum that includes a replica of a McCormick reaper, a 1887 threshing machine, a 1910 Harvester and other farm devices that modernized agriculture.

[Watch a video on Melvin Jones.](#)

[Watch a video on the North Pend Oreille Train Tour.](#)

North Pend Oreille Valley Train Tour

Washington

Pend Oreille County contains some of the most beautiful land in the West, and North Pend Oreille Valley Lions capitalize on that, sponsoring a thrilling train ride. Don't worry too much about the steep, narrow route: the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad actually operates the train. Lions sell tickets and souvenirs, confirm reservations, direct parking, help passengers safely board and disembark, and answer riders' questions. The train passes through two tunnels, crosses a 1910 trestle with views of the Box Canyon Dam and winds along cliffs 100 feet above the river, where elk graze. The route is dotted with apple trees—rail workers once tossed their apple cores onto the ground. Expect to be “robbed”—a gang of desperadoes from a local theater group will clamber aboard at some point during the 20-mile round trip.



Lions Globe Marker

Palmer, Alaska

Yes, Lions pride themselves on being part of a worldwide group, which is why this marker resonates as entirely appropriate. Topped by a metal globe, the marker lists highway distances to cities in North America and air miles to cities worldwide.

Markham Museum



Joel Stone Heritage Park



"Freedom Train" Clubhouse



Gastown Steam Clock



Lions Heritage Park



Arkona Lions Museum



The Legacy



Joel Stone Heritage Park

Gananoque, Ontario

The War of 1812 hardly registers with Americans, but for Canadians the conflict helped forge a national identity. Exactly 200 years later Gananoque Lions developed the heritage park that includes a bronze diorama, an amphitheater and three cannons. The dedication included a re-enactment of the first battle of the war, which took place in Gananoque and in which militiaman Joel Stone, the town's founder, valiantly defended his village.

Markham Museum

Markham, Ontario

Step into the past at this 25-acre site. Among the 30 historical buildings are houses, barns, a train depot, a schoolhouse, a general store, a church, a blacksmith shop, a harness shop, a saw mill and a cider mill. One of the oldest buildings is the Hoover House, built in 1824 by a Mennonite family. Markham Lions helped begin the museum, which features exhibits on the club, the benefits of volunteerism and Helen Keller.

Lions Heritage Park

Palmerston, Ontario

A weed-strewn, abandoned, 18-acre railroad yard contaminated by oil spills and coal use is now a lovely park, thanks to Palmerston Lions. The club restored the station to its original grand 1900 look, installed a restored locomotive engine at the park's entrance and fixed the sweeping pedestrian bridge that offers a commanding view of the park.

Watch a video on the Lions Heritage Park in Palmerston.

Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre

Ontario

Arkona may seem to be a sleepy village, but great geologic events transpired here. A million or so years ago the Wisconsin Glacier piled up great mounds of earth. After the glacier retreated, a monumental earthquake forced the bedrock 80 meters into the earth, creating a stunning gorge and valley and eventually revealing an astonishingly rich fossil bed. Arkona Lions opened a fossil museum in 1971, and today, now at a new location, the museum draws droves of geologists, paleontologists and curious Joes and Janes to see brachiopods, trilobites, crinoids, horned corral and other rare fossils.

The Legacy

Ponoka, Alberta

The 32-foot-high monument is the world's largest saddle bronc horse and rider. Dedicated in 2004 for Ponoka's centennial, it's built to last: constructed of birchwood, steel and urethane foam, encased in fiberglass and finished in Endura paint. A tribute to the strength of pioneer families, the sculpture was made possible by Ponoka Lions.

"Freedom Train" Clubhouse

Squamish, British Columbia

The Freedom Train toured America twice: in the late 1940s when millions stepped aboard to gape at original versions of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and in 1975-76 to celebrate the Bicentennial, when cultural artifacts such as Dorothy's dress from the "Wizard of Oz" and the Rev. Martin Luther King's pulpit were displayed. The Squamish Lions bought the car in 2000 for the town's railway heritage park, which offers guided tours. The Lions use the car as a clubhouse.

Gastown Steam Clock

Vancouver, British Columbia

Time heals all. A century ago Gastown was the center of the city, but by the 1960s it was skid row. Now the neighborhood is booming again, and its renaissance is symbolized by the world's first steam-powered clock, a two-ton wonder that emits a piercing whistle each hour and sounds the Westminster Chimes each quarter hour. Vancouver Lions, timeless civic boosters, helped sponsor the clock.

OVERSEAS

Itabun Lions Club Marker

Brazil

The first Lions club in Brazil was chartered in 1954 in Itabun, a city of 210,000 known for its huge cocoa production, and 50 years later Lions commemorated the anniversary with a hefty obelisk.

Melvin Jones Monument

Madrid, Spain

Melvin Jones was a larger than life figure, as evidenced by this made-to-last tribute to him in stone by Spanish Lions.

Juliet Statue

Verona, Italy

See how she leans her cheek upon her hand! O that I were a glove upon that hand, That I might touch that cheek! Romeo's love for Juliet as conceived by Shakespeare was immortal and timeless, but the lovely bronze sculpture of Juliet in the courtyard at the 13th-century home designated by tourist officials as Juliet's residence dates from the beginning of the 20th century. Sculptor Nereo Constantini created the statue, and Verona Lions donated it to the site.

Phone Booth Book Store

Frankenberg, Germany

Frankenberg-Eder Lions operate perhaps Germany's smallest book store—inside an old phone booth the club bought on eBay. Patrons determine the book's price and leave the cash in a money box. So if you're tooling around central Germany after the convention in Hamburg in July pick up a literary souvenir at Neustädterstraße 1.

Abbot Statue

Harsefeld, Germany

Just a few kilometers southwest of Hamburg stands a monastery founded in the early 12th century. Five years ago Harsefeld Lions, proud of the contribution of the monks to learning and civility, donated the statue of a long-ago abbot.

Tawau Monument

Tawau, Malaysia

Lions worldwide erect markers to proclaim their presence. Tawau Lions sponsored this towering concrete landmark in their city of 370,000.

Lion's Head

near Baguio City, Philippines

Lions mark their territory. Rising 40 feet into the air, the popular, massive tourist attraction was built from limestone and wood by Baguio City Lions in 1972.

Wine Barrel

Te Kauwhata, New Zealand

Te Kauwhata & District Lions reconstructed this historic wine barrel in 2005 to mark 50 years of Lions in New Zealand. The wood was taken from rotting, empty barrels of wine that Germany had sent to New Zealand as reparations after World War I. The barrels of wine had been happily emptied over the years by workers at a horticultural research station in Te Kauwhata.

Totem Pole

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's most popular park, expansive Ueno Park is famous for its many museums and cherry blossoms. Its broad variety of attractions is a deliberate imitation of parks elsewhere in the world. That's why the totem pole, normally found among Native Americans in North America, fits right in. Tokyo Ueno Lions placed the seven-foot-high pole in 1964. Carved by Misaka Koh'ichiro of the Japan Art Academy, it features a lion, a monkey and an elephant—all found at nearby Ueno Zoo.

Peace Clock Tower

Hiroshima, Japan

One of dozens of monuments at the somber Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, the clock twists unnaturally—symbolizing the agony of the victims of the atomic bomb. Hiroshima Rigo Lions built the tower in 1967. The plaque reads: "Uniting the wide world with one heart, the role of Lions Club members in establishing peace is big. ... The chime of the clock tower resounds every day at 8:15, the time when mankind received its baptism of the atomic bomb for the first time, calling out to the world for 'no more Hiroshima.'"

Digital LION - More sites on following pages.



Itabun

Melvin Jones



Juliet Statue

Phone Booth



Abbot Statue



Tawau Monument



Lion's Head



Wine Barrel



Totem Pole



Peace Tower

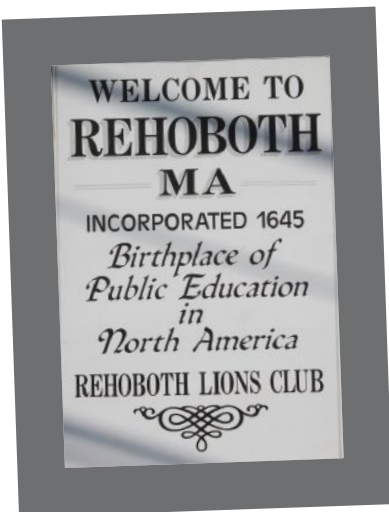


Photo courtesy of Raymond Medeiros

Birthplace of Public Education Plaque Rehoboth, Massachusetts

This year Lions are promoting literacy. Years ago Lions of Rehoboth paid tribute to the importance of schools and reading by proudly installing this plaque. Rehoboth was begun in 1643 as a part of the famed Plymouth Colony when parents paid for whatever education their children received. A church in Rehoboth voted in 1643 to support a teacher through taxes: the de facto birth of public education since church and state were nearly inseparable then. Today, Lions are deeply involved in schools here by supporting scholarships, the high school marching band and vocational programs; Lion Raymond Medeiros taught for 35 years here and Russ Latham, a Lion for 48 years, was an assistant superintendent.

Belmont Train Station/Clubhouse Massachusetts

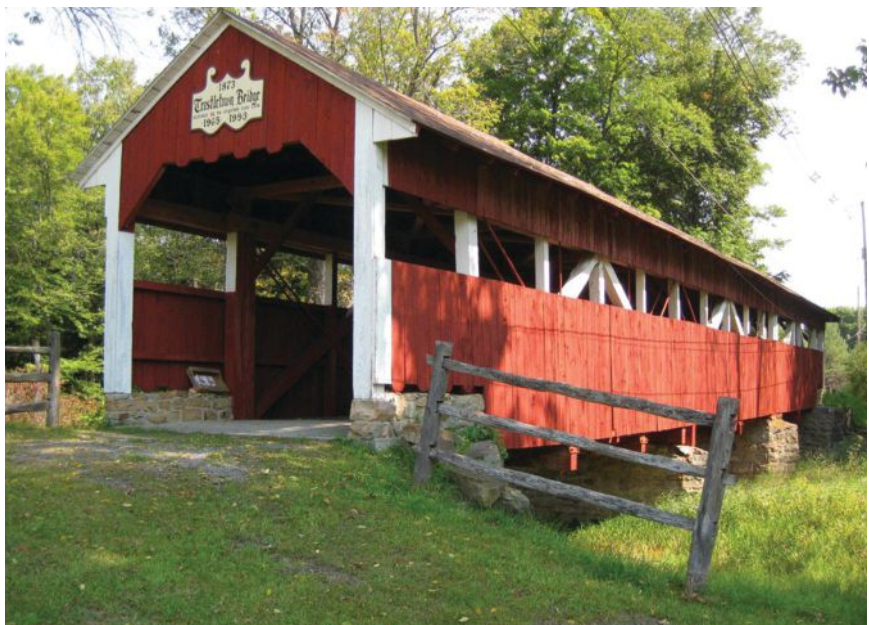
Train whistles often punctuate the meetings of the Belmont Lions, who bought the picturesque old train station and stone arch underpass for \$100 in 1995 after ridership on the train line declined. The club uses the ticket office as its bar area.



Trostle Bridge Stoystown, Pennsylvania

Built in 1873, the charming covered bridge was named after the family that owned a nearby grist mill. Stoystown Lions bought the tattered bridge in 1963 and painstakingly repaired it, and when the main beams began to rot years later, teamed with the Amish to once again restore the 94-foot-long echo of the past.

Photo by Deborah Warden



MIDWEST

Goodwill Monument Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

The twin city of the Michigan town also is named Sault Ste. Marie, right across the border in Canada. The International Bridge joins the two communities, and in 1950 on the U.S. side Melvin Jones and Lions Clubs International President Walter Fisher of Queenstown, Ontario, dedicated a monument marking the friendly relations between the two nations. The marker was lost for years, found in a garage and rededicated in 2011 by Lions from both Sault Ste. Marie clubs.



Wizard of Oz Pins Kansas History Museum Topeka

See the Wizard, Dorothy and five other exquisite Oz pins, released by Kansas Lions in 1983. The pins were part of the “150 Things I Love About Kansas” exhibit, now closed. A curatorial fee is now required to view them.



Lions Monument Bundang, Korea

Outside the busy Moran subway station is this Lions monument, sponsored by 16 clubs in District 354-B. “We set up the statue and the monument in one of the busiest areas to promote Lions to the public and to encourage members,” says Past District Governor Jae-Suk Yoo.



OVERSEAS

Out of the Den, Into Social Networks

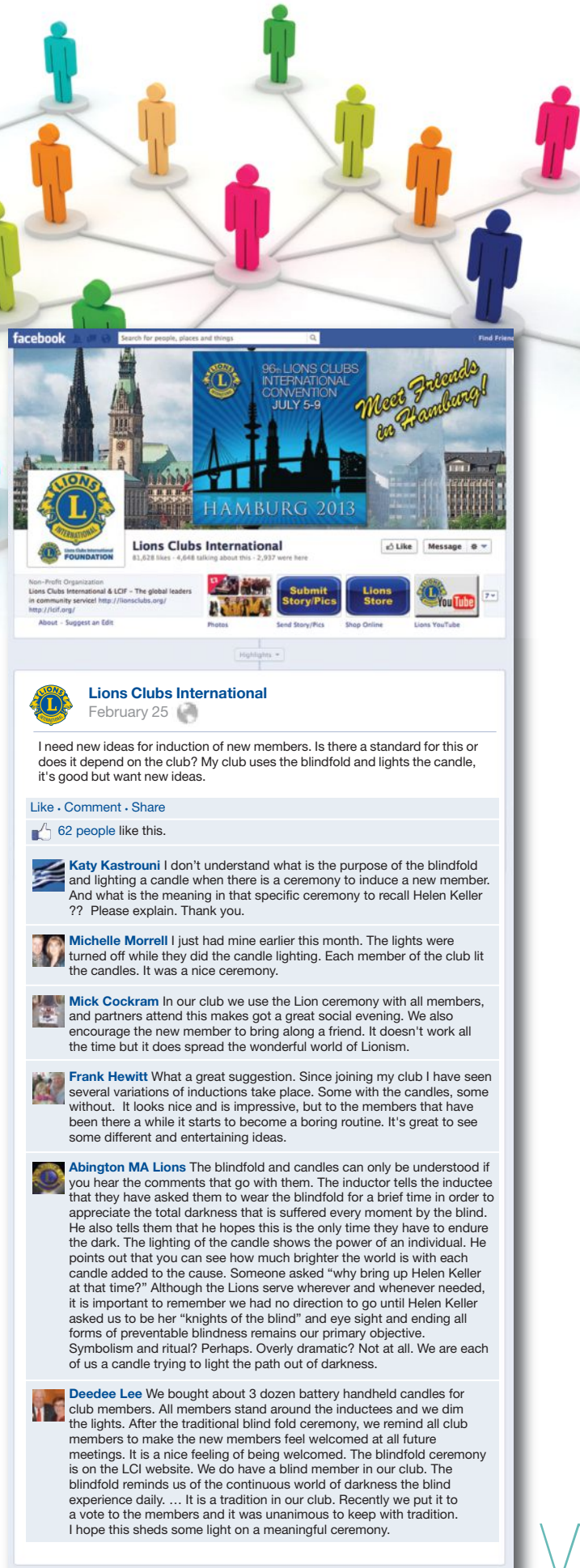
Lions are posting, tweeting, uploading and pinning. Here's a snapshot of Lions' recent social media activity. But don't just sit there: start typing. It's that easy to add your voice, advice and insights to the online community of Lions. Or maybe you just want to browse. The world of Lions awaits your roar or perhaps just your eyes.



Facebook

Yep, Lions hang out with the popular crowd. The Lions Clubs International page has 79,792 likes and rapidly counting. Lions' posts

on Facebook run the gamut. Fort Belvoir Lions in Virginia recently shared inspiring photos of home improvements done for low-income families, Lions in India displayed a sizzling video of a flash mob used to raise awareness of diabetes, Lions offered tips on starting sponsorship of a Peace Poster contest, and Easton and Wilson Lions clubs in Pennsylvania told about an inspiring teenager and her guide dog. Hour after hour on Facebook, Lions share their successes, showcase their projects and discover inspiration and guidance.

A screenshot of the Lions Clubs International Facebook page. The top section shows the cover photo for the '96th LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JULY 5-9' in Hamburg, 2013, with a banner that says 'Meet Friends in Hamburg!'. Below the cover photo is the page name 'Lions Clubs International' with 81,628 likes and 4,848 talking about this. The page is dated February 25. The main content area shows a post from February 25 with the text: 'I need new ideas for induction of new members. Is there a standard for this or does it depend on the club? My club uses the blindfold and lights the candle, it's good but want new ideas.' Below the post are several comments from members like Katy Kastrouni, Michelle Morrell, Mick Cockram, Frank Hewitt, Abington MA Lions, and Deedee Lee, all discussing the blindfold and candle ceremony. The page also features navigation links like 'Like', 'Comment', 'Share', and '62 people like this.' at the bottom of the post area.



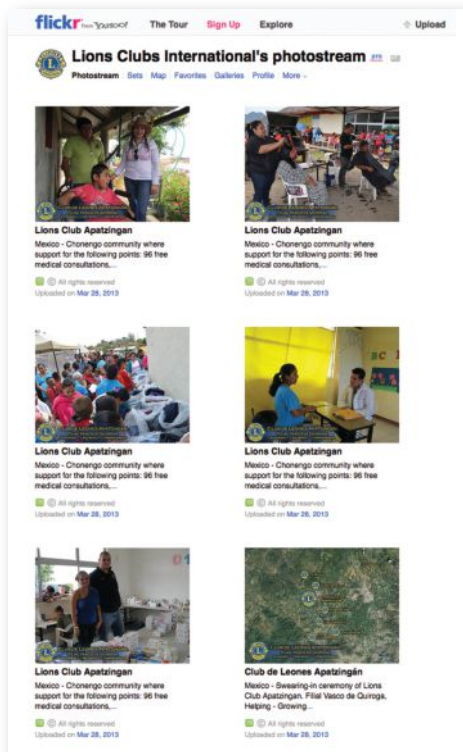
Twitter

You can buy attention through advertising or plead for attention through public relations. Or you can engage millions for free in 140 characters or less. The Lions Clubs International Twitter page has 34,216 followers. Be the 34,217th. Or, even better, tell Lions and others—short and sweet only permissible, of course—what's happening in your den.



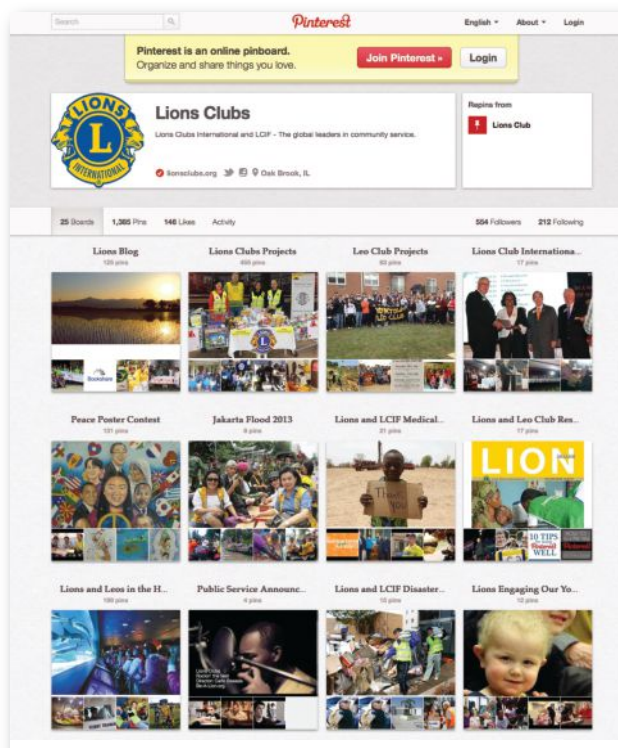
Flickr

If a photo is worth a thousand words, Flickr is worth 6,142,000 words to Lions. Lions have uploaded 6,142 photos to the Flickr page of Lions Clubs International. View them chronologically or via sets on the international president, missions, Hurricane Sandy relief, literacy projects and much more. Don't bury your club photos in a dusty photo album. Post them for the world to admire.



Pinterest

Pictures and videos of Lions, Campus Lions clubs and Leos performing service around the world are posted daily here. Pinterest was the fastest site ever to break through the 10 million unique visitor mark. See what the fuss is all about.



After the Horror

Japan Slowly Recovers from the Tsunami

It took minutes for the tsunami and earthquake on March 11, 2011, to devastate Japan. Two years later communities remain in tatters. Three clubs were particularly devastated. Eleven of the 70 members of the Rikuzentakata Lions Club died. Almost all 36 members of the Minami Sanriku Shizugawa Lions Club lost both their homes and workplaces. All 30 members of the Iitate Lions Club remain in evacuation facilities. The Lions are bravely carrying on, taking care of their families, re-establishing their workplaces, rebuilding their towns and continuing to serve as Lions.

Rikuzentakata Lions Club, Iwate

On the 11th of every month, Lion Seiichiro Kanno and his wife bring a can of Coke and flowers to what remains of the once-imposing Rikuzentakata post office, where their only son, Hiroyuki, worked. To his father's delight, Hiroyuki took after him in many ways. He preferred soda

to alcohol, for example. For Kanno, all of that seems more than a lifetime ago.

The city finally is tearing down the post office, which only had its exterior walls left. Seeing the building come down makes Kanno reflect on his son's final moments: "What was Hiroyuki thinking as the water bore down on



him?” Little things remind him of his son, and his eyes moisten. Well-meaning but blunt people have told him, “Don’t let it get you down for so long.” But, for Kanno, remembering his lost son is the one thing he can do for him.

Rikuzentakata is now famous in Japan for its Solitary Pine Tree of Miracle, the single tree left standing in a forest of 70,000 trees. Last September, to preserve the tree, the city carefully uprooted it. In November the city demolished the Civil Gymnastic Hall, where terrified residents fled. The hall, an official evacuation site, was believed to be safe. Only three of the 100 or so people there survived.

The city is moving forward. All public buildings are slated for teardown soon. The city’s reconstruction plan includes creating a bank 12.5 meters high and a memorial park by the shore. The business district will be elevated five to eight meters higher than before. The construction company owned by Lion Shu Kinno, which resumed its operation sooner than any other company after the disaster, is heavily involved in debris removal. “We need to hurry. We have to clear up the land soon and move on. Otherwise, recovery will be forever out of our reach,” says Kinno, club president.

But the rebuilding is fraught with tension. Some residents want to preserve buildings as abiding memorials. Rikuzentakata Lions formerly met at the Capital Hotel, which offered gorgeous views of the pine forest. Demolition was halted after citizens protested.

Initially, members of other Lions clubs visited Rikuzentakata to help. After about a year, Rikuzentakata Lions realized that it was impossible to continue hosting Lions eager to help. They needed to focus on reviving their businesses and politely told other Lions financial help was most appreciated.

Lion Satoru Sugawara opened a makeshift gas station just a month after the tsunami. He called it “ganbaro,” which means “let’s hang tough.” Last November he began construction on a permanent building. Sugawara is eager to move ahead so his employees can return to work.

Matayoshi Kumagai, 2011-12 president, welcomed his son back to his water supply company a year ago. The son received training in Tokyo before returning to greatly help the business recover. But neither Kumagai nor his company can do anything about the lack of housing. None of his employees have a permanent home yet.

For years the Rikuzentakata Lions Club held a youth speech contest. This year they hosted a speech workshop in which schoolchildren expressed their hopes for the future. One group of children unveiled detailed, ambitious city dioramas and appealed to adults to rebuild their beloved hometown.



(Above) The downtown of Rikuzentakata was almost completely washed away without a trace.

(Left) The first meeting for Rikuzentakata Lions after the tsunami was held last November in a temporary office.

Salmon are brought to the Shizugawa fishing port.
The recovery of the fishing industry in the Miyago
area is crucial to economic development.





(Left) A sign made to look like a kiriko stands on the site where Lion Shinichi Sato's photo studio existed. A kiriko is a traditional Shinto altar decoration created by cutting out Japanese papers.

(Right) Lion Yuichi Abe reopened his bakery. He says he wants to "bring smiles to the faces of the residents in the town with my cakes."

Minami Sanriku Shizugawa Lions Club, Miyagi

The torrent of water washed away precious recipes for his cakes, breads and pastries. A year ago, working strictly from memory, Lion Yuichi Abe reopened his cake shop in a temporary strip mall. He wakes at 4 each morning and works far into the night. A long night's sleep is a luxury. As club president, he spends many hours networking with Lions from other towns who offer aid. He says he struggles between feeling grateful for the support and the stress of meeting his responsibilities as a shop keeper and a Lions leader.

After a nine-month delay, the club held its 50th charter celebration last April. The club invited Lions from throughout Japan who had traveled to their town to help. Nearly 300 Lions attended. The tsunami was sadly ironic for the Lions: the club was initially organized to provide assistance to Chile after a terrible earthquake and tsunami there.

Abe, the baker, escaped from the tsunami with two young employees. One eventually quit her job after giving birth, and the other left because of her emotional distress over the disaster. Abe hired two employees in their 50s. Other stores in the strip mall face the same problem of finding young workers. The town's population was 18,000 before the disaster and perhaps less than 12,000 now. Businesses can't afford high wages. Young parents have moved away.

Lion Shinichi Sato, president of the Shizugawa Primary School PTA, sees the same problem. With housing in short supply, enrollment dropped from 450 to less than 50.

In the year after the disaster residents, though heartbroken, were determined to show a strong resolve. As time passed by, harsh reality sunk in. What was best? Sell their property in the flood zone or exchange the land for property in an elevated area?

A beat ahead of the deadly torrent of water, Sato had hustled out of his photo studio with a camera bag and other tools of his livelihood. He resolved "to keep a photographic record of the town until the day it achieves full recovery." Vowing to stay the course, he reopened his photo studio in a temporary shopping mall.

But even Sato will have to decide on relocating. The town's plan is to keep the mall open for five years. Residential plots of land will be developed in three locations on elevated ground, and the flat land in the town's center will exclude residences. That's problematic because before the disaster most of the store owners used their business premises as living quarters as well.

For now Sato continues his documentary work. He traveled through Japan to exhibit his images of the town's post-disaster situation. He also visited London last year in August during the Olympics. Sato proudly displayed his photos at an event held to show Japan's gratitude to the world for the aid that poured in.



Lion Sakae Akaishizawa has reopened his popular noodle shop.

Iidate Lions Club, Fukushima

Thirty-five years ago, after painstakingly learning his craft as a cook in Yokohama and Yokosuka, Sakae Akaishizawa opened a noodle shop in Iidate with money saved from a second job as a driver. The restaurant he built in the middle of rice paddies became an immensely popular community fixture. The tsunami rubbed out the restaurant in a flash. Akaishizawa was heartbroken. Making things worse were the required evacuations. Akaishizawa and his wife, along with his 82-year-old mother and pet dog, relocated to rental housing. He kept busy as a fire department leader, providing drinking water and goods to residents.

Iidate is a small village in a scenic mountain valley that counted 6,000 residents before the disaster. The village motto is “madei,” which means “with thoughtfulness” or “in a courteous manner.” Life in the farming village, endowed with rich natural resources, had always been calm and peaceful. Like Akaishizawa, their club president, the other Lions in Iidate considered themselves fortunate. Retired from a government job, Hiroshi Kanno contentedly grew vegetables in a sizeable field. Seiichi Shiga practiced an eco-friendly lifestyle. Using his skills working with sheet metal, he fashioned a handmade wood burning stove out of a recycled gas tank.

After the earthquake, Iidate accepted approximately 4,000 evacuees from the coastal area. That turned out to be a terrible mistake. Authorities soon realized that the



Iidate Lions now meet at this restaurant, which led to the owner becoming a Lion.

whole village was heavily contaminated with radiation from the nearby Fukushima nuclear plant. All residents had to leave.

Lions relocated far and wide. Three club officers got busy keeping in touch with the widely scattered members. Lions in Japan donated funds to the club, and Lions Clubs International waived dues. Somehow the club continued on. The first club gong after the earthquake was heard in January 2012. Members commiserated with one another. “I can say with full confidence that our club is a firmly united, friendly club, and we can say anything to each other,” says Akaishizawa.

A meeting was later held in Fukushima, and some members traveled more than two hours. Before the earthquake, members had met at a restaurant and ate “botanabe,” or boar’s meat hot pot. Now the food was not the focus. Lions spoke of the fear of nuclear contamination projects. “We became more knowledgeable than the experts,” a Lion half-joked.

Authorities reorganized their once idyllic village into three sections: “area preparing for evacuation order release,” “habitation restriction area” and “difficult to return area.” According to the government, decontamination will be completed by March 2014.

Akaishizawa, the noodle shop owner, wonders if his village will ever recover. Will only the elderly come back?


Even if people return, the days of collecting mountain vegetables in the spring, wild mushrooms in the autumn and growing vegetables in the backyard may never come again.

Yet there are spots of light in the darkness. Akaishizawa has reopened his noodle shop in a temporary building. He cut the menu in half because of sparse kitchen equipment. But business is good. Longtime customers travel great distances just for his signature “Kohaku” ramen, the rich noodle soup filled with crispy pork and piles of vegetables. When he sees his customers hunched over their bowls or chatting with one another, content and satisfied at least momentarily, Akaishizawa can half-believe the days to come may equal the days that went before.

Adapted from a story in the Japanese LION.

Lions Clubs International Foundation mobilized more than US\$21 million for Japan relief efforts thanks to LCIF grants and donations from Lions worldwide. Among other projects, LCIF helped Lions provide equipment and supplies to support victims who were relocated to transitional housing; major medical equipment for hospitals including a full-body radiation detection unit, ophthalmology equipment and an x-ray machine; and assistance for an economic revival project.

After years of hardship in Africa, Mursal Ismail Isa relocated to snowy Sweden.



Giving Back and Going Back

by Jay Copp



Isa poses with Lennart Pettersson of the Borlänge Lions Club.

When Mursal Ismail Isa stares at his face in a mirror he thinks he looks older than he is. He knows that's an odd thought: he does not actually know how old he is: 38? 39? That's about right. The nomads he roamed with in northern Somalia as a youth once offhandedly mentioned he was born in the dry season either in 1975 or 1976. But how could they be sure?

Maybe he always looked older than he was. Maybe as a boy of 13 he looked 16. He doesn't know. There are no photos of him, no mementos at all, of his past in Somalia.

Isa's mother never told him his age. She died when he was young. A nomad told him once that his father was believed to be in Mogadishu in the South. Isa was fairly certain he at least had cousins in that city.

So he waved goodbye to the nomads and set off toward Mogadishu. He owned nothing but the clothes he wore. Maybe he'd find his father. Perhaps his cousins would welcome him. One thing was certain then: his journey was dangerous. A 1,200-mile journey in Somalia was and remains perilous. There is no central government, no law and order. Somalia is a failed state, one of the poorest and most violent in the world.

Day after day, Isa trudged great distances. He ate sparingly. One day he waved at a truck rumbling toward him. The truck stopped and he climbed aboard—pure luck. That was the end of his good fortune. Further down the road, gunmen waved their arms for the truck to halt. They may have been guerillas or perhaps just random bandits. Without provocation, they shot the driver and then killed a kind man Isa had befriended. Before more shots were fired, a quick-thinking passenger grabbed the wheel and the truck sped away. Isa stared ahead numbly.

Isa reached the north after 45 tense days. He located his cousins but they shrugged when he asked for help. So he traveled further to the noisy city of Mombasa and found a job as a dishwasher in a cramped kitchen. The open fields and clear skies of his nomadic days were long behind him. He worked 13 hours a day, seven days a week, for less than a dollar a day. He ate little, just enough to retain his strength, and slept with friends to save money.

Isa was not quite sure if this could actually happen but he clung to the notion that an education would deliver him from his mind-numbing drudgery. He met a kind man, a teacher, who

patiently taught him English at night. Proud of his progress but stuck where he was, Isa was now the rare dishwasher in Mombasa who could read and write.

Isa never missed work, until he became violently ill. He returned to work after three days, and the owner promptly fired him. Isa was crushed—and free to pursue his future. He knew it was time to leave Somalia, time to leave Africa. He knew English. England was a land of work and opportunity. There he would make a new life for himself.

For reasons he never understood, the authorities refused to let him travel to England. But he discovered Sweden would accept him. At last, in 2003, he arrived in Sweden, somehow ending up in the very northern part, in a small town named Kiruna. Fluffy white flakes fell from the sky and landed on his ragged sneakers. He brushed off the white stuff, cold to the touch but oddly non-harmful, almost endearing.

Up and down the street, people with light skin and blonde hair went about their business. Isa crossed his arms to ward off the chill. He wore a thin raincoat over an old T-shirt and shivered uncontrollably. But inside he was smiling. Nine years ago he had left the nomads. He admired the tidy homes people lived in, their orderly lives, their businesses, churches and clubs. He was done washing dishes. He would join their society and work with his mind, not his hands.

Isa moved to Borlänge, the home of many other Somalis. Suddenly he was the one who could teach and help lift others out of a rut. He worked for an adult education group and became a go-to guy for Somalis. He took them on doctors' appointments, talked to government officials for them and explained local customs.

Isa met a woman he liked. The two married and had children. People in Borlänge knew Isa. He earned respect as a solid citizen, different for sure and yet the same.

Part of his new identity was a fixed birthday. Swedish immigration officials had asked him his date of birth. He blurted out: Oct. 22, 1981. In Somalia, birthdays are not celebrated. It was a different story in his new homeland. Last Oct. 22 Isa opened his email and read birthday greetings from 50 friends.

Isa was settled in. But something tugged at his heart. His current life was a wonder. He turned a knob and fresh, clean water, as much as you wanted, rushed out. He believed Somalis deserved the same conveniences, the same chance at health and well being. Among his friends were members of the Borlänge Lions Club. He instinctively understood they were his best bet to reach across continents and change lives in his homeland.

Here was the problem: Somalia once had Lions clubs. But the civil disorder shattered routine social bonds. The last Lions club disbanded in 2007. Isa was undeterred. He asked around. Talk to Manoj Shah, a past international director from Kenya, he was told. Isa was confident of

success. In a developed society, among a group such as Lions, good intentions and connecting with the right people resulted in progress.

Isa contacted Shah and then traveled back to northern Somalia to meet with doctors, university teachers, educated people. They were interested but puzzled.

"What are Lions?" they asked. Isa told them Lions would help people help themselves. He gave them a goal: start a club to build a water well in Puntland, where children die young and an elderly person is someone who is 40. The well would serve 18,000 people. Half would come from Puntland. The other 9,000 would be nomads.

The Armo-Puntland Lions Club chartered last year with 12 men and nine women. The Borlänge Lions will support them in building a well. Lion Isa serves on his Swedish club's committee for the water project.

Borlänge is an arts community. The club asks artists to sell their work for the club's benefit at an annual exhibition. At Christmas, the club holds a market to raise funds. Isa volunteered at the market, part of a holiday season once unknown to him, in a town and country where he once was a stranger and for a service club he had never heard of most of his life. Residents scooped up gifts and goods, a way to brighten their holiday season, a kind of pipeline to deliver water in a distant land.

Isa finished his shift at the market and wandered out the door toward home. The snow fell on his overcoat, and he smiled.



The Armo-Puntland
Lions Club gathers.

26th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Our World, Our Future



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

How the Contest Works

Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest in a local school or organized youth group. The contest is open to students 11-13 on November 15, 2013. Participating students are asked to create posters visually depicting the contest theme, "Our World, Our Future."

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

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

Awards

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

- **International Grand Prize Winner** receives a trip to the award ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations (subject to change). At the ceremony he/she will receive a cash award of US\$5,000 (or local equivalent) and an engraved plaque. Two family members (one being the winner's parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring Lions club president or a club member (as designated by the club president) will accompany the winner to the award ceremony. The award ceremony is scheduled for March 2014.
- **23 Merit Award Winners** each receive a cash award of US\$500 (or local equivalent) and a certificate of achievement.

**Mail or fax your order to: LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
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PR 785 11/12

How to Enter

Lions clubs must order a Peace Poster Contest kit from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters. Available in all 11 official languages, it costs US\$10.95, plus shipping, handling and applicable taxes. Each kit contains everything your club needs to sponsor one* school or organized, sponsored youth group:

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

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



The Lions International Essay Contest entry form is included in this kit and on the LCI website.

Kits are available January 15 – October 1, 2013.

Purchase your kit early to allow adequate time for shipment and contest planning.



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

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

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Sales Tax:

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

Break the Mold

Creativity Will Help Clubs Grow

When Haddonfield Lions Karen Ressler and her daughter Kendyl donned new, sunny, yellow T-shirts with “ASK ME ABOUT THE LIONS” printed on them front and center for their New Jersey community’s 4th of July parade, they were just following through on a new idea of their club’s membership chair, Shen Shellenberger. Ressler was pleasantly taken aback by the reaction. “We had just started walking to the parade when a lady appeared and asked, ‘How do I join?’ She had been thinking on and off about joining, but the T-shirt reminded her and she felt comfortable approaching me,” says Ressler.

Creative ideas are all around, and they can be as simple as wearing a T-shirt. Lions are having success, and having fun, testing out new ways of building recognition and attracting new members with out-of-the-box approaches. Here are a few more inventive ventures to help get the creative juices flowing.

Quick Courtship

The Missoula South Side Lions in Montana were intrigued when they were invited to participate in a “speed dating” event for area volunteer organizations. Speed dating was originally developed for singles to meet a larger number of potential mates in a short amount of time, but the concept took on a slightly different meaning in this case. Community organizations set up tables, and attendees were invited to visit each one for five minutes. A bell ringing indicated it was time to rotate. Judy Lehman thought it was a fun and relaxed way to introduce Lions to a wider audience. “It can be hard to get the word out about Lions clubs because we work behind the scenes. This was a chance to show what we do out and get our message out,” says Lehman.

Fertile Ground

The Brookfield Lions developed a community garden to provide a meaningful service that also built community (Sept. 2009 LION). It took a lot of hands-on work, both in the dirt and out, but five years later the Brookfield Lions Community Garden is going strong. With 75 plots on a lovely historic Connecticut former farm, project chair Lion Lyn Lyon says the outcome of the Lions’ hard work couldn’t be better. “The best thing is the real sense of community. Everyone helps each other when they can, and they share items they have an abundance of with others and the town food bank. Some



Haddonfield Lions Kendyl and Karen Ressler get in the spirit of the 4th of July—and the spirit of Lions—by wearing special T-shirts.

good friendships have developed through working side-by-side,” Lyon says. New members have stemmed from those friendships: almost a dozen have joined after getting to know the Lions through the garden. That makes dealing with that pesky woodchuck caught munching on vegetables (and humanely removed) well worth it.

What a Bargain

The 4th of July parade was coming up, and the South Elgin Lions in Illinois wanted to catch the attention of the many spectators. So they passed out coupons to play Bingo, rent the Lions’ clubhouse or receive a free beverage upon attending a meeting. The Lions enjoyed interacting with community members while passing out the flyers and received great feedback. “We’ve continued to use the coupons at other community events, and we’ve gained two members so far,” says Linda Scham. What’s the next resourceful endeavor for the South Elgin Lions? They’re going to bus tables at a restaurant to raise awareness—and some money—for their growing club.

—Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Deployment Ceremony Celebrates Soldiers and Families

Sending loved ones off to serve in a country rife with conflict hits military families hard. When more than 100 members of the Alabama National Guard's Charlie Company (1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment) were called to deploy to Afghanistan for a year, Cullman Lions helped host an all-day party to celebrate their commitment to service. The club spent more than \$1,500 on party provisions for 700 attendees. Lions were also part of a Charlie company celebration when soldiers returned from Iraq in 2008.

"Two members of our club have been to Afghanistan in the past two years," says James Howard, a retired National Guard officer. The soldiers' send-off was especially moving for him. "What really brings things down to earth is seeing these young soldiers holding their babies in their arms," he explains.

Howard says things fell into place for the send-off party very quickly once word spread around town. The 112-member Cullman Lions Club raises money for the community by sponsoring the annual agricultural fair and selling mops, brooms and peanuts, "plus any other quick way to raise a few dollars," he points out. "The community projects we help fund are mainly family-oriented."



A soldier enjoys playtime with his baby girl.

Computers for Kids in Nevada

Members of the Reno Cigar Lions Club in Nevada are distinguished from other clubs in their community by two things. One is their name. President David Dehls explains, "Some of us like to enjoy a nice cigar as we plan our programs. The strategy seems to be working pretty well."

The second reason is the ambitious project that the 27-member club is recognized for throughout the Reno area—refurbishing used computers for use by kids in need. So far, more than 1,250 computers and monitors have been given to kids and the organizations that serve them. Each computer is pre-installed with the Linux open source operating system, browser and office productivity software.

Lions have established several drop-off centers for businesses and individuals to donate their unwanted equipment. Begun as a branch of the Reno Host Lions Club, tech-savvy Reno Cigar Lions have focused on getting computers into the hands of children as a learning tool. "Our program is directly in line with Lions' sight programs," says Dehls. "In today's environment, a child without a computer is greatly impaired in his or her ability to succeed, both academically and recreationally."

Lions Ira Victor and Paul Reed have also found a way to raise funds to keep the program strong. They established a partnership with Google that generates funds whenever any Internet user in the world uses www.lionssearch.org as their

search engine. Google donates a certain amount to the club based on the number of clocked banner ads. Reed says Lions make about \$110 every three months from Google for this joint venture. Every bit helps to fund the computer giveaway. "We give about 25 a month, except in December when it's 60," adds Reed.

Lions realize it's not enough to simply put computers into the hands of disadvantaged kids—they need to know how to use them. Recipients receive training and snacks during a two-hour session at a local public access television station.



A child beams as his adoptive father carries his new computer.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

The **Pinetops Lions** in **North Carolina** held a raffle for donated items including a riding lawn mower, gas grill and recliner chair, raising \$9,300 for those in need.

The **Bedford Township Lions** in **Michigan** welcomed the mayor of Hofu, Japan, as an honored guest at a meeting in May. Mayor Masato Matsuura, a Lion in Japan, wanted to visit a Lions club during his three-day stay in Michigan.

In **Ohio**, the **Doylestown Lions** held their 34th annual Lions Safety Village for children. More than 2,700 students have completed the program which includes lessons from firefighters, emergency medical technicians and police officers.

The **Salt Lake City Lions** in **Utah** celebrated the state's Pioneer Day with a luncheon shared with the royalty of the annual parade.

In **Delaware**, the **Indian River High School Leo Club** held its first annual book drive. Homerooms competed to collect the most books; the winning classroom won a free breakfast.

In **Tennessee**, the **Southside Lions Club** held its 5th annual Drive for Sight golf scramble. The Lions have raised more than \$20,000 over the five tournaments.

District 37 L Lions in **Alberta, Canada**, distributed 2,300 child identification stickers for children attending the Edmonton Heritage Festival. This effort helped all reports of lost children over the three-day event to be resolved within 15 minutes.

The **Piney Woods Leos** in **Texas** performed two puppet shows and read to children at a library as part of LCI's Reading Action Program.

Lions from **District 23 C** in **Connecticut** undertook a one-day eye-glass processing project. At the end of the day they shipped 15,320 pairs of eyeglasses to the New Jersey Eye-glass Recycling Center for further processing and distribution.

The **Whiting Lions** in **Indiana** sponsored the "Battle of 119th Street" football trophy, which honors the winner of the 78-year-long annual high school football battle. The Lions also made a donation to the fire department to purchase new defibrillator training mannequins.

The **Onaping Falls Lions** in **Ontario, Canada**, made a \$5,000 donation to the Sam Bruno PET Scan Fund. The Lions are also donating 5 percent from all of their fundraising projects to the local charity.

In **Pennsylvania**, the **Ephrata Lions Club** provided a donation to a hospital toward 25 car seats for low-income families with newborns.

The **Amherst Lions** in **Nova Scotia, Canada**, honored a Little League team by presenting them with medals and treating them to hot dogs.

During an annual parade, the **Monrovia Lions** in **Indiana** turned a convertible into an eye-catching lion float with a mane, eyes and a tail.

For more than three decades the **Washington Island Lions** in **Wisconsin** have hosted a Fly-In Fish Boil with more than 200 planes arriving for the event. In 2012 more than 600 pounds of whitefish were served.

ANNIVERSARIES MAY 2013

95 Years: St. Paul Downtown, Minn.

90 Years: Attleboro, Mass.; Bangor, Maine; El Paso Downtown, Texas; Fayetteville, Ark.; Malad City, Idaho; Morgantown, W.Va.; Murray, Utah; Salisbury, Md.; The Bronx, N.Y.

85 Years: Auburn, Ind.; Cherokee, Okla.; Cincinnati-Western Hills, Ohio; Colfax, Calif.; Eldorado, Texas; Houston East End, Texas; Iowa Park, Texas; Longview, Texas; Olney, Texas; Pond Creek, Okla.; Sonora, Texas; Stillwater, Minn.; Wharton, Texas

80 Years: Helena, Mt.; Kingsville, ON, CAN; Old Greenwich, Ct.; Hillcrest-Mission Valley, Calif.; Toccoa, Ga.

75 Years: Cedar Vale, Kan.; Chillicothe, Mo.; Clay County, N.C.; Cullterville, Ill.; Delavan, Wis.; East Kauai, Hawaii; Ferndale, Calif.; Fort Bragg, Calif.; Fredericktown, Ohio; Holton, Kan.; Huntington Beach Host, Calif.; Jasper, Texas; Lacombe, AB, CAN; Lincoln Bethany, Neb.; Littleton, N.H.; Magrath, AB, CAN; McComb, Miss.; Mount Forest, ON, CAN; Nashville, Ill.; Noble, Ill.; Randleman, N.C.; Woodburn, Ind.

50 Years: Alma, QC, CAN; Centennial, Ore.; Colfax, Ind.; Comfrey, Minn.; Forrester, Ill.; Galt, Calif.; Macomb, Ill.; Mesa Thunderbird, Ariz.; Mineral Springs, Ariz.; Payson, Ariz.; Prince Rupert, BC, CAN; Sackville, NB, CAN; San Manuel Oracle, Ariz.; Southwest San Diego County, Calif.; Spiritwood, SK, CAN; Spokane Shadle, Wash.

25 Years: Brooklyn Central, N.Y.; Dysart & District, SK, CAN; Elizabeth Peruvian, N.J.; Grapeland

Noon, Texas; Los Angeles Evergreen, Calif.; Mission Viejo, Calif.; York Mount Dennis, ON, CAN

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 JANUARY 2013

Monarch Key (400 members)

- Lion S. Palanivelu, Salem Melvin Metro, India

Key of Nations (100 members)

- Lion Satish Madhok, Delhi Delhi Greater, India

Key of State (75 members)

- Lion Pramod Sapra, Delhi North, India
- Lion Anil Kumar Jha, Rajbiraj Tilathi, Nepal

Grand Master Key (50 members)

- Lion Bempally Reddy, Alwal Sahara, India
- Lion Pramod Sapra, Delhi North, India

Senior Master Key (25 members)

- Lion Robert Kemp, Poplar Grove, Illinois
- Lion Joe Taylor, Bradford, Tennessee
- Lion Eddie Hui, Edison Metro, New Jersey
- Lion Cathy Tilton, Wasilla Racing, Alaska
- Lion Bempally Reddy, Alwal Sahara, India
- Lion Sanjeev Sood, Ludhiana Goodwill, India
- Lion Janak Mathuradas, Mumbai Nariman Point, India
- Lion Sunilkumar Jain, Ahmedabad Karnavati, India
- Lion Sanjay Gugale, Pune Golden City, India

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



LOITERING WITH THE LION ON THE LAKE

Pat Bailey of the Moneta Lions Club in Virginia catches up on the latest Lions news while kayaking on Smith Mountain Lake. 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.

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11 issues published yearly by
Lions Clubs International
300 W 22nd St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842
(630) 571-5466 / Fax: (630) 571-8890
lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org
<http://www.lionsclubs.org>

(ISSN 0024-4163) (R-124397233)
(PRINTED IN U.S.A.)

Official publication of Lions Clubs International. Published by authority of the Board of Directors in 21 languages—English, Spanish, Japanese, French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Polish, Indonesian and Thai.

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INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Rafael A. "Pepin" Justiniano of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, has died. A Lion since 1957, he was elected to the International Board of Directors in 1987 for a two-year term. In addition to his many Lions, civic and community activities, Past Director Justiniano served in the Puerto Rico State Guard as Brigade Commander, achieving the rank of colonel.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Lions in recent months have been victimized by scams. One member fell for an email scam and lost \$2,700. Another received a check supposedly from Lions Clubs International (LCI) that looked legitimate and even included correct routing numbers. Since she wasn't expecting money she called LCI and discovered it was a scam. A common scheme is when a perpetrator, pretending to be a Lion, phones Lions to solicit a donation.

Unfortunately, victims of scams often are unable to recover the money. If you want to donate, do so through your local club or visit <http://lcif.org/donate>. If you suspect a scam, email LCI at helpdesk@lionsclubs.org or call 1-630-468-6800.

FOR THE RECORD

As of February 28, Lions Clubs International had 1,354,208 members in 46,177 clubs and 753 districts in 207 countries and geographic areas.

SIGHTFIRST

As Lions' flagship sight program, SightFirst is changing millions of lives. Launched in 2005, Campaign SightFirst II has mobilized more than \$200 million thanks to the efforts of nearly 8,000 volunteers and generous contributions from individuals, clubs and districts worldwide.

Your support to Campaign SightFirst II allows projects that:

Control and Eliminate
the Major Causes of
Avoidable Blindness



Providing Trachoma treatment for Chuluun in China.

Combat
Newly Emerging
Threats to Sight



Screening Dylan and Sierra for Low Vision in Kansas, USA.

Provide
Vision for All



Supporting Myka with Education and Rehabilitation services in the Philippines.

Together, we are saving sight around the world.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

To learn more or to make a donation, visit www.lcif.org.

THANK YOU
for your support!

ROAR OF APPROVAL

MJF Honors Veteran's Service

Sandy Spring, Maryland, Lions honored one of their longest serving and oldest members recently with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Lion Bob Van Druff, 92, joined the club 50 years ago and has continuously served his club, district and community as a proud and active Lion. His most amazing service, however, may have been to his country on Dec. 7, 1941. As a young Navy 2nd Class Fire Controlman he was aboard the destroyer USS Aylwin while it was in port at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese air strikes began. From his lofty position on the ship's turret, he operated the artillery and reportedly three minutes after the deadly attack began, the USS Aylwin was returning fire. Three warplanes were downed by the ship that day. Although a bomb did explode 75 yards off the USS Aylwin's starboard bow, it remained intact.

The Crystal Falls Lions in Michigan recently welcomed 31-year-old **Eric Strong** as a new member. Strong, who has autism, became a regular fixture at Lions' meetings and events thanks to his Lion grandmother, **Joanie Hietela**. When he was invited to become a Lion, Strong accepted without hesitation and has become a valued member who always lends a helping hand for Lions' service.

In Yuba City, California, Lion **Larry Munger** was honored and humbled when he learned that a park he had been instrumental in upgrading would be named after him. The Sutter Lions, who had all worked on the park improvements, surprised Munger with the news.



Delegate Form Instructions for the International Convention

Are you serving as the Delegate or Alternate Delegate for your club?

If yes, please complete the attached form and return the top half of the form to Lions Clubs International Headquarters, to the attention of the Club & Officer Record Administration Department before **June 1, 2013**.

Bring the bottom half of the form to the convention and present it when you arrive to certify at the Credentials area in the convention center.

Before sending the form, be sure a club officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer) signs both halves as indicated on form.

The address to mail the form is:

Lions Clubs International
300 W. 22nd Street
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

In order to certify for the election, you will also need to bring:

- Passport, Lions Membership Card, Visa or Master Card (charge card), Driver's License, Social Security Card, National Identification Card or some other acceptable identification showing your signature.
- Please be sure your club number is clearly printed on the delegate form for quicker processing.

If you have any questions regarding this certification request, please contact the Club & Officer Records Administration Department via email at stats@lionsclubs.org or by calling 630-468-6938 or you can fax your form to 630-706-9295.

ALLOWABLE CLUB DELEGATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Membership.....delegates allowed

1-37.....1	213-237.....9	413-437.....17	613-637.....25
38-62.....2	238-262.....10	438-462.....18	638-662.....26
63-87.....3	263-287.....11	463-487.....19	663-687.....27
88-112.....4	288-312.....12	488-512.....20	688-712.....28
113-137.....5	313-337.....13	513-537.....21	713-737.....29
138-162.....6	338-362.....14	538-562.....22	738-762.....30
163-187.....7	363-387.....15	563-587.....23	
188-212.....8	388-412.....16	588-612.....24	

Delegate count is based on the club's membership as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding the month in which the convention is held as provided in Article VI, Section 2 of the International constitution and Chapter XVIII – Membership, Paragraph B.3., of the board Policy Manual.



LCI COPY

(Mail to LCI before June 1, 2013)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2013 Hamburg, Germany

Club Identification Number:

District:

Number of allowable delegates:
Members:

Club Name:

Address:

See reverse side for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: ☐ DELEGATE OR ☐ ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

The undersigned hereby authorizes that the above named person is an active member and a duly selected Delegate/Alternate Delegate of said Lions Club to the stated Convention of The International Association of Lions Clubs.



Signature of Club Officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer)

Mail the above to LCI (Club Officer & Record Admin.) before June 1, 2013. After that date, bring it to the convention.
Lions Clubs International • 300 W 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

EN

DELEGATE/ALTERNATE DELEGATE COPY

(Bring this copy to the Convention)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2013 Hamburg, Germany

Club Identification Number:

District:

Number of allowable delegates:
Members:

Club Name:

Address:

LCI stamp for
Alternate
Delegate
certification

See reverse side for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: ☐ DELEGATE OR ☐ ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

The undersigned hereby authorizes that the above named person is an active member and a duly selected Delegate/Alternate Delegate of said Lions Club to the stated Convention of The International Association of Lions Clubs.



Signature of Club Officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer)

THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Able to See the Light

Shortly after adopting three-year-old John Paul (JP) from China and bringing him home to New Jersey two years ago, Faye and Michael Corman noticed that JP was having trouble with his vision. When doctors discovered that JP had a retinoblastoma tumor in his right eye, the Cormans made the painful decision to have the eye removed. Although they could breathe a sigh of relief that JP was now cancer-free, he was left with a dense cataract and micro pupil in his left eye. Another surgery was needed, this time to create an artificial pupil. Doctors were able to save some vision in JP's left eye, but the eye was extremely sensitive to light, causing pain for JP when outside. The gift of aphakic sunglasses from the Haddonfield Lions solved that problem and allows JP to play happily outside like any other little boy.



Q&A: Faye Corman, JP's Mom

LM: Magazine: How is JP's vision?

FC: Faye Corman: He can see light, some colors and even identify some letters up close. His remaining eye is fragile, and he's not a good candidate for a lens implant or contact. His artificial pupil is not reactive to light, so his eye is very, very sensitive, especially to sunlight.

LM: Does JP wear glasses?

FC: JP wears glasses with very convex lenses. He can't wear a clip-on, so until we received the Lions' gift we had to make the decision to remove his glasses and use regular kid's sunglasses when he went outside. They would alleviate the pain that sunlight causes, but he couldn't see anything.

LM: What difference do the aphakic sunglasses make for JP?

FC: We used to have to make the choice between JP being able to see or experiencing pain when going outside. Since the aphakic glasses are both prescription and provide sun protection, now we don't have to make that choice! He's really happy to go outside now.

LM: How did the Haddonfield Lions find out about your need?

FC: First we met the Barrington Lions at a community event, and they encouraged us to contact the Haddonfield Lions because they have a low vision fund at a local clinic. The Haddonfield Lions told us they wanted to provide JP with the sunglasses. We went to the clinic and had the new sunglasses in a couple of weeks. It was so quick, it was amazing!

LM: The Haddonfield Lions really came through for you.

FC: We're really so grateful. The sunglasses have improved JP's quality of life, and that's such a blessing.

JP Corman beams while wearing his aphakic sunglasses outside.

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

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LEO TO LION PROGRAM:

A New Way to Grow Membership

It's almost the end of the school year, and your Alpha Leos may be graduating!

By recruiting graduating Leos as new members, you gain fresh, youthful ideas for activities and increase hands to do more service projects. Former Leos are already dedicated to making a difference in their local, national and international community. Encourage Leos to become Lions and bring new energy and diverse skills into your club.

Help renew Leos' lifetime commitment to service by inviting them to become Lions.



Visit www.lionsclubs.org and search "Leo to Lion" for more information.

Lions Clubs International • 630-203-3846 • leo2lion@lionsclubs.org



LAST ROAR



Photo by John Wagner/Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

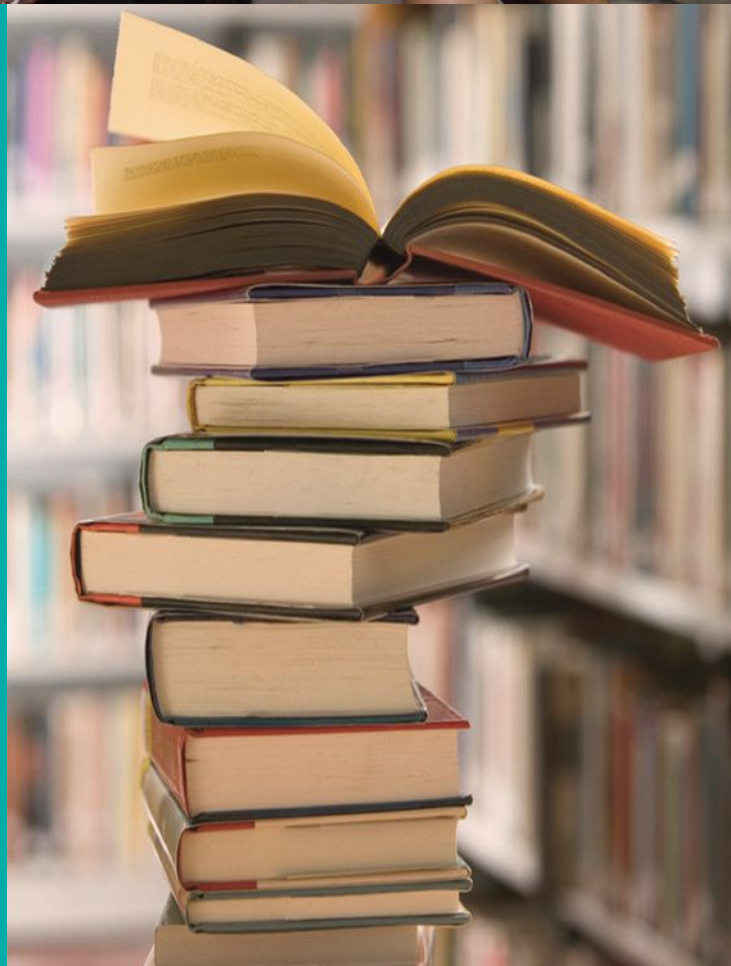
CATCHING SPRING FEVER

Major League Baseball started in April, but May is a prime time for the sport in Fairbanks, Alaska, when the temperatures average 48 degrees (18 degrees warmer than April) and daylight lasts 17 hours (compared to 13 ½ hours in April). Mike Rotter, past president of the Fairbanks Goldstream Valley Lions Club, warms up on a diamond at the Goldstream Valley Ballfields, built and maintained by the club.



Photo by Dan Morris

*“Thank-you Lions!
We have now
surpassed 60,000
Reading Action
Program activities.”*





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