

LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONMAGAZINE.ORG JUNE 2013

Road Roarior

From Sea to Sea for
Those Who Can't See



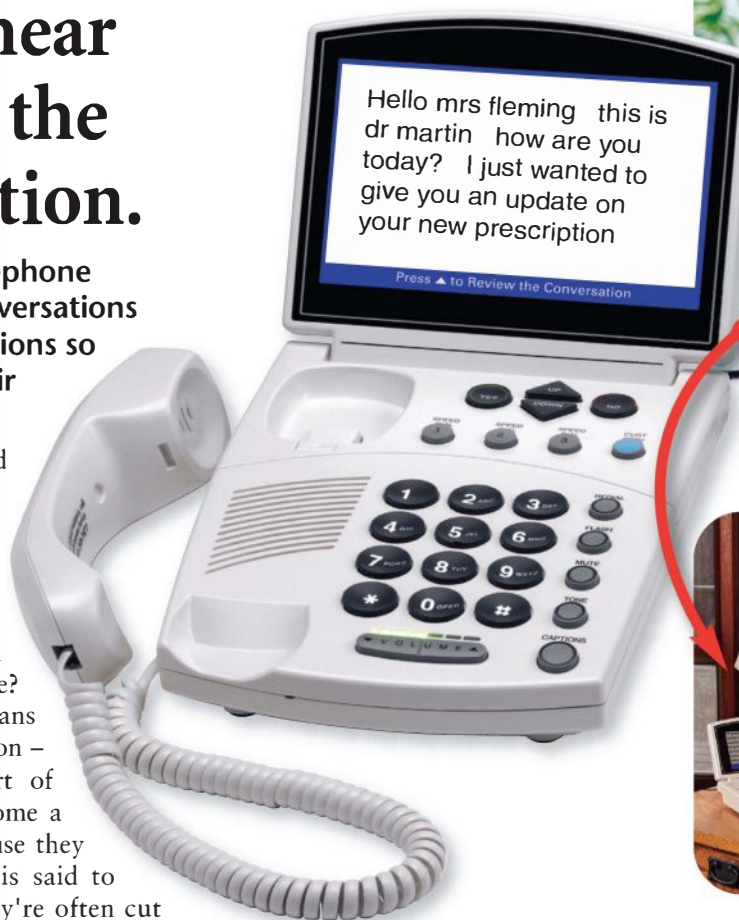
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A Message From Our President



Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs
International President

The Secret of Service: In Giving We Receive

The humanitarian Albert Schweitzer was once asked by a young person at a gathering for his advice on life. He replied, “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” We Lions know that. In my world travels this year I’ve met Lions of all ages, occupations and socioeconomic status. Yet we share a certain inner satisfaction. We find purpose and meaning in helping others. You’ve heard of “runner’s high”? That’s the release of endorphins during physical activity that produce a feeling of euphoria. Well, Lions experience a “helper’s high.” Volunteering is a positive, often joyful activity.

Forgive my feeble attempt at humor, but we did so much volunteering and no doubt experienced so much “helper’s high” that we wouldn’t have wanted the Drug Enforcement Agency looking over our shoulder this past year. Clubs embraced the Reading Action Program. Final numbers are not in, but 14,608 clubs reported 64,507 activities, more than 2.3 million hours of service and 6.3 million people served. Many Lions also took part in the Global Service Action Campaigns focused on youth, vision, hunger and the environment. So far, we served 6.4 million people and tallied 1.9 million service hours in these campaigns. Add to that all the other service we did, and you can see we roared exceptionally loudly in 2012-13.

Linda and I are deeply grateful for the hospitality and warmth of the Lions we met. We are extraordinarily impressed by the dedication and passion of Lions. I know Lions are proud of their own club’s accomplishments. Take pride in being a Lion, continue to serve as a Lion and keep making the world a better place.

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

Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs International President



As part of the Reading Action Program, Lions in Multiple District 300 Taiwan donated books to students in remote areas.

View the three finalists in the Reading Action Program video contest.

St. Marta San Pedro Alejandrino
Lions Club, Colombia

Medan Fine Arts Lions Club, Indonesia

Brussels Cooperation & Da Vinci
Lions Clubs, Belgium

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WE SERVE

MISSION STATEMENT OF
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

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

CONTACTING THE LION

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.

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Connect with Us Online

Convention Countdown

Hamburg, Germany
July 5-9, 2013



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC CLUBHOUSE

A fire in April destroyed the 112-year-old Lions clubhouse in Garnish, Newfoundland, Canada. Formerly a meeting hall for the Society of United Fishermen, the building had been used by Garnish Lions for about 14 years. Lions reportedly recently made a \$10,000 renovation to the building's kitchen. The club lost its banners, historical photos and artifacts in the fire, the cause of which is uncertain. The mayor of Garnish has offered the club temporary use of the town hall. "It's very sad for the town of Garnish," Mayor Reuben Noseworthy told CBC News. "They usually put on a great turkey dinner, I tell you." Depending on how the insurance works out, the club may rebuild, says Enos May, president. He added that the takeout turkey dinner will go on as planned.

DRIVE AND PARK: A MASTER TRADITION

Aussie Adam Scott put on the green jacket, Tiger Woods doomed himself with an illegal drop and Lions raised enough in parking fees to send 175 blind children to camp. That all took place at the Masters Golf Tournament in Georgia in April. The National Hills Lions Club raised about \$16,000 from charging patrons \$20 to park five minutes from the gates of Augusta National. A Pep Boys and Jiffy Lube donated the lot to the club. In return, Lions monitor the lot for the businesses. Some using the lot are Lions, who often give an extra donation, says Past District Governor Cecil Geddings, club secretary. The Lions' parking—a tradition unlike any other—is 23 years old.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee talks with Lion Eric Brooks (right), emergency manager for Island County, during a visit to the site of the landslide.



LIONS RESPOND TO LANDSLIDE

An enormous landslide damaged homes in March on scenic Whidbey Island in Washington. Coupeville Lions helped organize and staff watches from dusk to dawn to prevent looting. Lion Eric Brooks, Island County emergency manager, and Lions Teresa Ellis and Ricardo Reyes, volunteers on the Emergency Management Team, set up the patrols of Lions and other volunteers. Lion Ed Hartin, the fire district chief, also responded to the emergency. Tiltwister Bob Johnson fined Brooks and Past District Governor Bob Clay twice the standard 25 cents for hobnobbing with Gov. Jay Inslee, who visited the disaster scene. A home was destroyed and five others left uninhabitable when hundreds of feet of earth suddenly broke away from a bluff.

POLISH LIONS HOLD SONG COMPETITION

Lions in Poland are seeking talented vocalists with sight impairments to compete in their world song festival in November in Krakow. The First Lions World Song Festival for the Blind will feature a contest among vocalists. Lions clubs and others are asked to help select worthy candidates for the contest, help them record a song and submit it to festival officials as soon as possible. The four Lions clubs in Krakow sponsoring the contest hope that it will launch professional careers for the competitors. For information, visit www.lionsfestival.jordan.pl.

PANCAKE FLAP BECAUSE OF SIGN

A small-town diner in Pennsylvania raised a ruckus by claiming its breakfast was better than the Lions'. The Red Plate Diner in Wernersville posted a sign that read: "Our pancake and sausage breakfast is better then [sic] Lions Club." After one day and nearly 40 irate emails to the owner, which Lion Kevin Snyder was copied on, the sign was taken down. The diner later posted a message saying it supports charity and Lions clubs. The club's pancake breakfast a few days later "served double about what we typically do," says Snyder.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



51 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

JUNE 1962

U.S. President John F. Kennedy privately met with Lions President Per Stahl of Sweden at the White House. Kennedy accepted an honorary membership as a Lion, the first honorary membership he had ever accepted from a civic or fraternal group. Stahl also gave the president the Lions' Head of State medal, an onyx desk set with the Lions emblem and a rare Swedish plate coin from 1726. Kennedy expressed a "keen interest" in Lions' youth exchange program.

BY THE NUMBERS

169

Blood donations made in Strathmore, British Columbia, Canada, at two clinics held in honor of Lion Ruth Ginn by the Canadian Blood Services. Until she died last year, Ginn led the longtime blood drives of the Strathmore Lions.

1,100

Hours of labor expended by the "Bent Nail Company," five Smith Mountain Lake Lions in Virginia, to renovate the Lake Christian Ministries facility. The Lions were Steve Dorr, Rick Carroll, Don Jakob, Tom Scott and Win Tennes.

160

Stepping stones installed at Hamilton Middle School by Long Beach Downtown Lions in California.

180

Tables displayed with Hot Wheels, old board games and other classic toys at the Timber Dan Antique and Collectible Toy Show sponsored by Loveland Lions in Colorado.

48

Hours of operation weekly of the Farmington Thrift Shop in Maine, run by Farmington Lions

6,000

Quarts of clam chowder sold annually by Emmaus Lions in Pennsylvania. The club has used the same recipe for more than half a century.

4

Infant CPR manikins (as well as two automated external defibrillators) donated to Kona Community Hospital by Kailua Kona Lions in Hawaii.

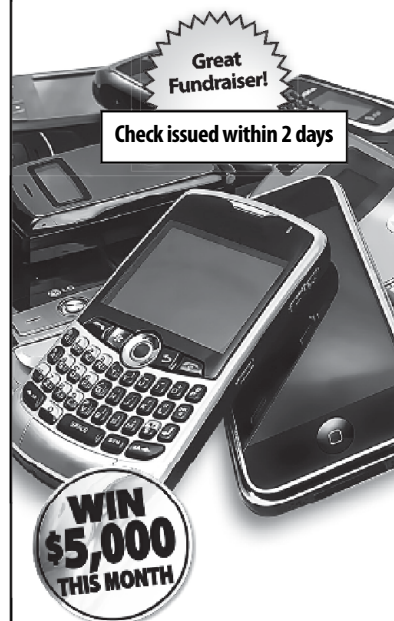
65

Units in the new four-story Jack Nelson Annex seniors affordable apartments, opened by the Sunshine Coast Lions Housing Society in British Columbia, Canada. The Sunshine Coast Lions, government bodies and others partnered on the building, named after a late charter Lion.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ONE OF US

JOHN MACKIEWICZ

In 1978 John Mackiewicz received a phone call that would change his life forever: a friend asked him to be a last-minute replacement clown for his daughter's birthday party. As a middle school special education teacher, Mackiewicz was good with children and quick on his feet, so he sprang into action. "Bongo the Silent Clown" was soon putting smiles on faces every day around the world. This Brookfield, Connecticut, Lion's greatest passion is bringing joy to others because he knows that laughter can help transform lives and heal broken hearts, even in the most tragic circumstances.

How did that first time as a clown go?

When I hung up the phone I ran around and found whatever I could to help me look the part. I put shoe polish on my face for makeup—that was a mistake! At the party I played the simplest games, but the kids loved it. One of the parents even asked me to perform at her child's birthday party!

It sounds like you were a natural.

As a special education teacher, I've always made connections with my students through being funny or doing magic tricks. If they learn something in a fun way, they hold onto it longer. When Bongo performs I just want to help people smile and forget their problems, even if it's just for an hour.

What's the best thing about being Bongo?

I always have balloons and magic tricks in my pockets. If I'm in a store and a child is crying, I introduce myself and make a balloon animal. Almost always, the tears stop. I love being able to do that for people. When parents ask how to thank me, I tell them the child can write me a letter. My P.O. box is like Christmas every day!

What's up next for Bongo?

Years ago I wrote eight children's books and put them away. My big dream now is to have them published. They're all stories based on experiences with my students. Another dream is to open a clown museum. I've collected at least 9,000 pieces of clown memorabilia.

It must be a great feeling to make people happy.

The hard part is when there's nothing I can do. I was with my longtime friend and fellow teacher at my school, George Hochsprung, when he got the news that his wife, Dawn, the principal of Sandy Hook Elementary, had been shot. She was killed while trying to stop the shooter. We had worked together and she was my friend for many years. Words can't describe ... it was and still is a devastating time. Maybe not for a long while, but I'll be there to try to help people laugh and heal in their own time.

Lions may reach Bongo the Silent Clown at bongothesilentclown@yahoo.com.

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

Mackiewicz poses with a small portion of his clown memorabilia collection.

Photo by Laurie Gaboardi / The Litchfield County Times



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

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

SUSSEX, WISCONSIN

YEAR FOUNDED: 1939

MEMBERS AND MEETINGS: When the 94 Lions meet monthly at a restaurant, everyone knows to bring their automatic \$1 fine charged by the Tail Twister. Phones must be turned off, especially the president's. Members call him several times during the meeting, just to be sure.

PRICEY PASTRIES: On occasion the Lioness club visits a Lions meeting to auction off baked goods as a fundraiser. The lively bidding process can be quite lucrative; a lemon meringue pie once went for more than \$200.

SHARING THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE: Each summer, Lions bring friends to a cookout so they may experience the unique camaraderie of the Lions and learn about their service work. They must like more than the hamburgers—the last cookout resulted in five new members.

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT: For more than 40 years, area residents have eagerly anticipated the Sussex Lions Daze each July. Thousands of visitors flock to the parade, tractor pull, firefighter water fights, softball tournament, carnival rides and fireworks. The Lions log more than 900 hours of work over the three-day event; support from 50 Lionesses and 100 Leos helps ensure it goes off without a hitch.

HELPING ONE MEANS THE MOST: The Lions have raised more than \$1.2 million to support many charities and projects. But perhaps their proudest moment was helping one community member who was losing her sight but could not afford cornea transplants. The Lions held several fundraisers for her and were able to cover the \$40,000 cost to save her sight.

WHY JOIN? "Most prospective members have had some previous experience with our club, and they want to give back to our community. With an almost 75-year history, people know who we are and that they are welcome to join us in service to others." —President Jeff Carlson

Photo courtesy of Sussex Patch.



Families enjoy the carnival rides at the popular Sussex Lions Daze.

OVERHEARD

"We wanted to try something unusual, and we think we've found something unusual."

—Gary Schmidt of the Topeka Lions Club in Kansas on the 5K Blizzard Run held in February. From the Topeka Capital-Journal.

"This is my first time here, and I am impressed by the professionalism. Even if you go to a doctor you have to wait a few weeks for eyeglasses."

—Araceli Barriga on the immediate availability of eyeglasses after vision screenings held in Lake Elsinore by California Lions Friends in Sight. From the North County Times.

"Like my wife says, if I'd save other things like that, we'd be rich."

—Marv Kohlbeck of the Pittsville Lions Club in Wisconsin on his many Lions pins and buttons. From the Marshfield News-Herald.

ON THE WEB

Expand your professional and personal connections with LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network with 200 million members around the globe. LCI has more than 3,000 followers, as well as more than 4,000 members of the official LCI discussion group where Lions are meeting each other, networking, asking questions and offering answers. Get started by clicking on "Join Today" at www.linkedin.com to create an account. Then search for "Lions Clubs International" and join the LCI network.



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

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

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

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



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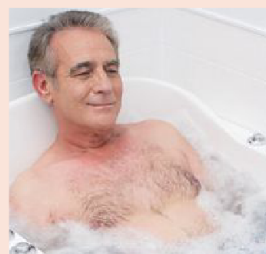
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IDEAS THAT ROAR

LIONS CLUBS MAKE A BIG IMPACT WITH SERVICE PROJECTS

WE ALL SERVE

Working together strengthens Lions' bonds to their clubs and one another as well as their commitment to community service.

Lions are Bull(dozer)ish on Access for All

SERVICE IDEA WORK TOGETHER



Lion Ed Mouw operates his own bulldozer with help from another Lion as the walkway is built.

Muskegon North Side Lions in Michigan believe that every member of their community should be able to move freely around the many recreational areas that dot their city of nearly 39,000. The 64-member club is known for building wheelchair ramps at no cost for those in need and creating pathways at outdoor recreational areas. Working during scorching 95- to 100-degree days, they completed a 500-foot concrete, ADA-compliant walkway at a park near a complex of middle schools last July.

"There was no way for kids to ride their bikes safely to school and for people in wheelchairs to get to the soccer field to watch their kids or grandchildren play," says Lion Michael O'Loneragan. "The idea came from Ron Hansen, who had a small stroke before construction began. He still managed to be there nearly every day checking our progress."

A local soccer club and the school district contributed funds for materials, but Lions used their own equipment, tools and concrete forms. The project took approximately 800 hours to complete. "Many of us are retired, and we took turns on weekdays and weekends with the guys who are still working. We're all pretty active, and we like doing these projects," says O'Loneragan.

Welcome Home, Soldiers

It was 1968 when San Mateo, California, first adopted the soldiers of Alpha Company in the 101st Airborne Division, known as the Screaming Eagles, who were serving in Vietnam. City employees and residents started sending messages of support and CARE packages to soldiers far from home at the request of a local serviceman.

The relationship between the city of San Mateo and Alpha Company has steadfastly continued throughout peacetime and combat, says San Mateo Lion Margaret Baggerly. "The city partnered with the neighboring cities of Burlingame and Hillsborough to commemorate this special relationship by sponsoring a series of events over the 2012 Memorial Day weekend."

Nine clubs in District 4 C4 helped kick off the weekend celebration in an effort spearheaded by San Mateo Lion Michael Chan. Other participating clubs included Burlingame, Foster City, San Carlos, Millbrae, South San Francisco Host and the San Francisco Bayview Hunters Point, Chinatown and Premier Lions Clubs.

The weekend was off to a rousing start when Lions descended on the airport to welcome the 101st Airborne soldiers. The next day, nearly 40 Lions and their families participated in the parade by walking more than a mile through the city's streets. "Crowds cheered as Lions walked past with their Lions banners, flags and welcome home signs," says Baggerly.

SERVICE IDEA HONOR VETERANS



Fereuza Gifford, 94, of San Francisco, recognized in the Veterans Hall of Fame for her military service during World War II, participated in the parade as a Lion's guest.

SHOWCASE YOUR CLUB

Take photos and invite members of the media to observe Lions in action during a community project. Promote your club and show—don't tell—others what Lions do.

SUPPORT LCIF

Keep LCIF in mind during fundraising. The foundation is our global arm of assistance and needs to remain strong to meet many humanitarian challenges.

INVOLVE LEOS

Serve as role models for youth by sponsoring a Leo club. By involving young people in community service, Lions exemplify how a commitment to volunteerism can change lives.

Saving Lives in Sierra Leone

La Farge, Wisconsin, Lion Joan Kent says a donation her club made to resident Lisa Varnes-Epstein “wasn’t much as far as Lions donations go—\$800 to be exact. Ironically, it was about the same amount my husband and I paid for a truck repair.”

“But to the women in and near the town of Kabala in Sierra Leone, West Africa, it could mean the difference between life and death for their babies and themselves,” Kent explains. Varnes-Epstein, a physician assistant who is a licensed midwife and midwifery educator, used the donation to purchase items to complete midwife outreach bags and hand delivered the kits on a recent trip. Nurse midwives use the bags when a birth occurs so suddenly that a woman cannot reach the Nar Sarah clinic in Kabala. The clinic is the only medical facility for health care other than a poorly supplied government hospital that serves 250,000 people.

La Farge, located in the southwestern part of the state, may be tiny with a population of 726, but its 47-member Lions club sent Varnes-Epstein off to Africa with a huge gift in terms of filling a need. “It’s hard to paint a picture of life in a village in the bush of West Africa,” she says. “The logistical issues are mind-boggling. There are no ambulances, no cars; the only transportation is by motorcycle taxi, so it is virtually impossible to transport a woman who is about to give birth.”

Lions didn’t think twice about contributing money to her efforts. “We had a respected member of the community

who has personal knowledge of the conditions and needs in a faraway land,” explains Lion Dave Russell. “We could see that this relatively small amount of money would do a lot of good in a desperate country.”

“According to WHO statistics, the chance of dying from pregnancy complications in Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world, is one in 23,” Kent says. The donation from La Farge Lions helped purchase a neo-

natal resuscitator for babies not breathing at birth, reusable umbilical clamps and drugs to stem postpartum hemorrhage. It also helped pay for more mundane but necessary items like plastic gloves, syringes and high-quality scissors that can be sterilized and reused.

“Rather than use a bag foreign to the culture, she bought tie-dye bags made by Sierra Leone women in the Seeds International Women Against Poverty program,” says Kent. “Two Nar Sarah midwives

received outreach bags to keep at their homes in case they are called when the clinic is closed. A third is kept at the clinic so the midwives do not need to take equipment that might be needed there.” Varnes-Epstein gave a fourth bag to the hospital.

Varnes-Epstein, a former Peace Corps volunteer who went to Sierra Leone with her husband and children, explains her commitment to that part of the world: “Where there is understanding, there is peace.”

SERVICE IDEA HELPING OTHERS

Lisa Varnes-Epstein helps train a midwife in delivery techniques.





THE GWEBI LIONS IN ZIMBABWE DONATED CLOTHING, FURNITURE, EYEGLASSES AND COOKWARE TO AN ORPHANAGE.

Lions Embrace Gifted Pianist



1 EUROPE AUSTRIA
Giuliano Graniti performs in Ischl at a Lions' benefit concert.

Giuliano Graniti grew up under modest circumstances in Italy. He took piano lessons, displaying rare talent. In 2005 he attended the Lions Sound of Music Youth Camp in Austria, where Austrian Lions were bowled over by his virtuosity and humble demeanor. Today Graniti, still studying music in Florence, plays benefits for Lions and Leo clubs in Austria.

"During a visit to Italy, I noticed how difficult it is to finance a university education there or to have the opportunity to perform, which is why we wanted to give him the opportunity to perform in Austria," says Fritz Drobesh, youth chairperson for District 114 M.

Lions of Ischl recently sponsored an evening of piano music in a historic beer hall of the former imperial city. Graniti performed Beethoven's "Sonata Op. 22," "Children's Corner" by Claude Debussy, Prokofiev's "Sonata Nr. 8" and closed with the "Three Preludes" by George Gershwin. It was "a program that demanded everything from the artist," according to the Austrian LION. Graniti was up to the task: he "proved to be at once sensitive, technically brilliant and feeling in both intonation and tempo."

Publicans Take to the Streets

Once a year pub owners and their regulars in Dover take their fun out into the streets. Dressed up in silly costumes and making a racket, they march along the seafront to raise money for the Dover Lions Club in England. The Annual Publicans Walk has been a cherished tradition in Dover, famous for its White Cliffs, since 1974.

A few Lions have been known to frequent the pubs on occasion. But the club holds its meetings in a social club, and members have no special connection to the city's dozens of bars. "As with most Lions' fundraising I think it was just an idea that was conceived and tried. It worked, so we've held it every year since," says Marion Baker.

Walkers raise funds by signing up sponsors. The club uses the funds for a Christmas lunch, including door-to-door transport and entertainment, for seniors.

Last year the first place winner in the group fancy dress category was Old Endeavour pub. Its patrons pulled a replica of the HMS Endeavour, commanded by James Cook on his epic voyage of discovery to Australia and New Zealand in 1769.



Marchers in the Publicans Walk have fun while raising funds for good causes.



THE TABLE VIEW LIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRANKENTHAL LIONS IN GERMANY HAVE DONATED MORE THAN 3,500 HEARING AIDS TO PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

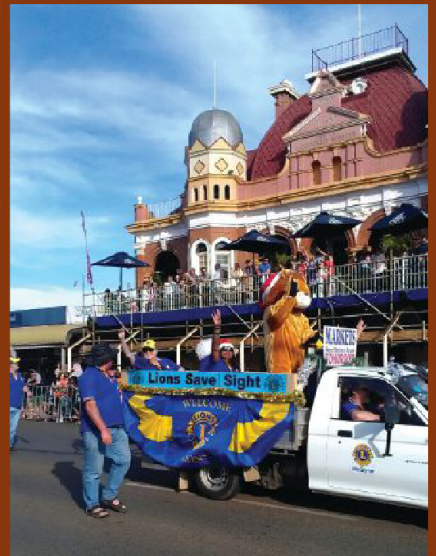


IN INDIA, THE BHUBANESWAR GEMINI LIONS PLANTED 60 TEAK SAPPLINGS.



THE BAYAN BARU LIONS IN MALAYSIA DONATED STATIONERY SETS AND FUNDS TO A SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

Lions on the March



The Lord Mayor's Show in London bills itself as the oldest, longest, grandest and most popular civic procession in the world. But what's a parade without Lions? A large pack of Lions from Multiple District 105 (left photo) joined the newly elected Lord Mayor of London as he left the city for Westminster to swear loyalty to the crown. King John began the ritual as a precaution nearly 800 years ago, but today the tradition is an excuse for a colorful procession of pomp and unrehearsed circumstances. History

also oozes from the streets of Piura in Peru, founded in 1532, making it the oldest Spanish city in South America. Parading down its streets in a Lions parade (top right) were Cubs, a relatively new addition to Lionism. Cubs are children or relatives of Lions. The city of 370,000 has 178 Lions in seven clubs. Lions in Australia also like to come out of their dens: members of the Hannans Goldfields Lions Club took part in the festive St. Barbara's Day Parade (bottom right).



Olive Garden a Labor of Love

A stone sign near a quiet road on Shodo Island in Japan reads: Lions Forest—Shodoshima Lions Club. Each October the forest comes alive with Lions: they gather amid the olive trees to handpick tiny olives. The work is laborious, but Lions find it fulfilling.

“Out of all the activities, this one involves the most physical exercise. I think working together using our hands and bodies helps our club develop the harmony and solidarity that we have,” says President Kohgi Kohno, 41, the youngest in his club.

Kohno owns the land. Lion Masahiro Tamura owns the processing facility where the green olives are brought to remove the bitterness. The end results are prized packages of pickled olives. Since the tasty olives are not mass-produced, buyers are willing to pay a premium for them. A few years ago the club enjoyed a rich harvest and sold about 1,000 packages for 360,000 yen (US\$3,700).



Lions harvest olives on Shodo Island.

The olive forest was planted in 2005 as the club's environmental project. Lions carefully nurtured 100 seedlings through tri-annual weeding and fertilizing, summer watering and winter pruning. The club started to make pickled olives within two years.

The olives are sold in packages with the Lions logo at a festival or purchased in advance. The proceeds help underwrite a music festival where children on the island perform with homegrown musicians. Funds also help pay for a day trip for children with disabilities.

Lions Day Raises Awareness

Few Italians know who the Lions are. District governors planned a nationwide Lions Day to let their countrymen know about Lions' service in Italy and worldwide.

In Florence, Lions set up a stage at the Piazza della Repubblica, a busy city square near the Duomo (the city's main cathedral). Posters and videos showcased Lions projects related to the environment, children's health, vision and Lions Quest. Lions held a guide dog demonstration, blood donation, an eyeglass collection and vision and hearing screenings. Three concerts took place:

a gospel chorus and blues in the morning, performers from a popular musical in the afternoon, and pop, jazz and rock for the younger crowd in the evening. Florence guides and friends of the museums agreed to coordinate visits to lesser known parts of the city. Leos held a walk to call attention to their service.



Italian Lions used this street logo on Lions Day.

5 EUROPE ITALY





THE QUEZON CITY KATARUNGAN CENTRAL LIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES SERVED DINNER AND GAVE GIFTS TO 300 CHILDREN IN NEED.



THE POLLACHI-LIBERTY LIONS IN INDIA HELD A WOMEN'S HEALTH CAMP WHERE 220 WOMEN RECEIVED MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES.



THE KUALA LUMPUR PANTAI HILL LIONS OF MALAYSIA, MEDAN ANGSA PURA LIONS OF INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE GOLDHILL LIONS VISITED AN ORPHANAGE IN MALAYSIA AND DONATED FOOD, GAMES AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

6 OCEANIA NEW ZEALAND

Walking a Waka



Lions and other volunteers carry the waka shelter to its new home.

Lions in a small New Zealand town literally took matters into their own hands to help preserve history.

Morrinsville Lions learned that the cost to relocate a prized historic waka (a Maori canoe) and its shelter from a closed museum to a new heritage center across town was tens of thousands of dollars. That wouldn't do. "Everyone called a mate," says Lion Grant Jury, chairman of the Morrinsville Lions Civic Improvement Committee. Eschewing a costly crane, about 50 Lions and others hoisted the waka on a truck. Then they carried the shelter 500 meters (about 1/3 mile) along Canada Street to the Morrinsville Heritage Center.

The shelter was "a bit heavier than we thought," says Jury, and the next morning there were a few aches and pains. But the relocation cost was only \$10,000 (US\$8,500), a third of the cost if a contractor had been used.

The 17-meter-long waka was found on a farm in 1901 and then used to transport flax to a mill until the Ngati Paoa people donated it to the Morrinsville Historical Society in 1968. Maori blessed the canoe after Lions relocated it.

Big Brazilian Barbecue

7 SOUTH AMERICA BRAZIL



Tres Lagoas, a city of 100,000 in Brazil, is known for its robust civic spirit: its elaborate festivals and rodeos draw large crowds. The 33-member Tres Lagoas Lions Club also does things in a big way—its barbecue beef party fed hundreds.

Photo by Sebastien Abry

Learning to Be a Lion ... One Mile at a Time

by Mark Mansell

Trust me: it's a big country and a long way from coast to coast. Here I am on Day 27 as I head from Green Bay, Wisconsin, to Ludington, Michigan, a relatively short jaunt of 45 miles that included a ferry ride.



June 16th, 2012 (Day 1) - 2:30 a.m.

The alarm clock glows and I roll over for the umpteenth time. I'm 51 years old with the aerodynamics of a semi-truck, carrying 270 pounds on my six-foot, six-inch frame. I normally put in long hours at my desk at work, where I am a school superintendent. In six hours I will embark on a 3,500-mile bike journey across America. No wonder I can't sleep.

My wife, Debbie, and I belong to the La Center Lions Club in Washington. My half-crazy plan is to pedal from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine, to raise awareness and funds for Leader Dogs for the Blind. OK, I have put in thousands of miles training over the last year and a half alone and logged hundreds of hours planning, prepping and promoting this trip. But up until a couple of years ago my longest bike ride was no more than 10 miles. I'm Everyman trying to do something few have done.

Obstacles likely standing in my way are bad weather, equipment breakdowns, falling off my bike or getting sick. Many Lions are counting on me to be at their events on specific dates and times. I'll have no support vehicle to rescue me if I run into problems. I've done my research and tested my equipment thoroughly, but who knows what awaits me.

I think I'm ready for almost anything. I'll haul camping gear, wads of clothes, communication devices and photographic equipment along with spare parts in a small trailer I'll pull behind my bike. But here's my inspiration: those who founded Leader Dogs for the Blind in 1939 to help a fellow blind Lion faced huge challenges. They persevered and succeeded. Like them, I'll undertake my journey as a Lion—plunging ahead in the service of others.

You see a quieter, more beautiful side of America while on a bike. The Rosebud River in Montana (top left) meanders through gorgeous country. While traveling along the interstate in North Dakota, I passed by a lake where this man had caught an impressive Northern Pike (top right). One of my surprise encounters was a group of boys near Abbotsford, Wisconsin, out early guiding sheep right down the road (middle). I was not sure where they were going, but it looked like they were having an interesting time keeping them headed in one direction. Vermont was one scenic view after another including this church in a small town and a covered bridge (bottom).



June 19th (Day 4) – 8:40 am

I left camp early this morning to get in some miles before the heat of the day. My goal was to settle into a routine. But today I am struggling and feel off kilter. Biking can do that to you.

I basically skipped breakfast and planned to stop in a small town for my morning meal. When I arrived, the only business open was a convenience store. I know that without nutritious food my body could wear down. Turns out I had a more immediate crisis. Hearing a rumble, I glanced in my rear view mirror and spied a double trailer fuel truck, charging up the hill and getting frightfully close. I veered to the far end of the gravel shoulder just as the road curved right. I teetered and struggled to stay upright. The air blast of the semi-tractor pelted my back. I rode through thick black exhaust smoke as the truck roared by. Another rumbling immediately rose up. A second semi cut the corner even more than the first, missing me by precious inches.



I met multitudes of Lions as well as ample reminders of our service. On my way out of Hysham, Montana, I passed Lions Park (top left). Randall Lions in Minnesota made a banner (top right). In Michigan, I spoke about my trip at the installation dinner for 11 A2 District Governor Jim Pettinato (right). In Bluffton, Minnesota, District Governor Margaret Van Erp and her husband, Past District Governor Pete, hosted me for the night: two of the most fun and energetic Lions I met (opposite page).

June 22nd (Day 7) - 6:30 p.m.

My seventh straight day of riding began in the dark at 4 a.m. Exercise is supposed to work like Ambien, but I couldn't sleep because I knew I had a lot of ground to cover. My trip odometer showed 570 miles ridden. To stay on schedule, today I need to ride nearly 100 miles with 4,000 feet of climbing.

Less than two hours ago a sense of accomplishment washed over me as I completed a steep climb out of Idaho's Salmon Wilderness area and over the summit of Lolo Pass to cross into Montana. Now was supposed to be an enjoyable, easy 2,000-foot descent over the last 35 miles into Missoula. Instead, as I crested the summit a stiff headwind nearly toppled me over. Storm clouds brewed on the horizon. Stopping early was problematic. The Lions who awaited me did not know me but they believed in my trip and me. That thought energized me. I pedaled hard, envisioning the Lions cheering me on.



June 29th (Day 14) - 8:45 p.m.

Daylight dwindled as I arrived in the small eastern Montana town of Custer. I needed to find the town's park commonly used by bicyclists for overnight camping. Even though Custer probably has a population of maybe 100 people, I couldn't find this park to save myself. "Hey, do you have enough water?" a man calls out to me. Today I rode more than 100 miles in the most challenging heat and wind conditions I have experienced. Along the way there were few signs of life. The temperature shot past 105 degrees. Any cool water I found to fill my bottles soon turned warm or even hot. No, I did not have enough water.

Ed has lived in Custer most of his life. He often sees bicyclists come through town looking for the park, and he's learned over the years that almost all of them are thirsty. That's why he has bottled water ready to share. He buys it in bulk every time he goes to "the big city" of Billings and puts as many as he can in his freezer. I offer to pay him for

the three ice-cold bottles, but he sternly declines and says it is something he wants to do.

Ed and I chat briefly as the last of the sunlight fades from the sky. His act of kindness impresses me and reminds me of our Lions motto, We Serve. Ed had no motive other than to be kind. He turned a long and exhausting day into a memorable experience. Beyond the water, Ed gives me an even greater gift ... simple directions to the park.

July 6th (Day 21) - 5:45 a.m.

Loud cracks of thunder woke me early. A glance outside my motel window showed sideways rain with regular flashes of lightning. My first thought is relief I chose to stay in a motel rather than in my tent at a campground. I also think that Debbie would not be thrilled if I rode through the lightning. The TV news shows the storm will pass soon, so I head to the motel lobby for breakfast to let the storm pass. With my brightly colored yellow "Cycling for Leader



Dogs” shirt, conversations are usually easy to start. Sue, the motel desk clerk, tells me about her husband, Bob, who actually has a Leader Dog. She tells me how comforting it is to know he can get around safely without her because of his Leader Dog, and she thanks me for doing the ride. Sue helps me realize the multiplying power of our service to others as Lions. Not only does our service help those directly in need but it also helps their families, friends or neighbors.

July 21st (Day 36) – 12:30 p.m.

So far I’ve met hundreds and hundreds of Lions across the country. Surprisingly, I have arrived at every single scheduled event within minutes of when expected. Today’s scheduled event is extra special. I’m riding to Leader Dogs for the Blind headquarters in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

A handful of Leader Dog supporters met me on bikes 35 miles from the headquarters. At 10 miles out, a larger group of 25 riders joined us. On a beautiful sunny Saturday morning, we glide into the parking lot, filled with Lions from around the region and many other Leader Dog supporters. They cheer, clap me on the back and shake my hand. After more than 2,400 miles of pedaling, I am extremely moved.

They made me laugh, too. Time and time again I heard “you have only 1,100 miles to go!” Easy for them to say!

July 28th (Day 43) – 2:30 p.m.

My journey reminds me of that wonderful Bill Murray movie, “Groundhog Day.” Basically, I get up early, eat, ride 50 to 100 miles while munching down what I find along the way and turn in for the night not long after I get off my bike. My mind and body both have acquiesced to this routine. Instead of being worn down and perpetually sore, my body has been resilient and adjusted to the pace.

Burning through 8,000 to 10,000 calories, I am certainly tired at the end of a day. But I eat nutritious food that does its job. This is my life now, and I like it and find it normal.

What distinguishes each day are the people I meet. This morning a convenience store clerk, noticing my Leader Dog riding shirt, asked if I was that “dog guy” riding his bicycle across America. He must have seen the interview I did on a local television station yesterday. Apparently convenience store clerks across America regularly watch the evening news because I am often known in advance. I’ve done more than 50 newspaper, radio and television interviews so far. The people I meet are excited to have me in

their stores, and their enthusiasm never fails to boost my energy and spirits.

Around mid-morning a car passes me slowly and then pulls over ahead of me. The driver jumps out and waves me over to him. Ron is a Lion who heard about the trip through a district governor’s newsletter and then saw me on the news. He tracked me down to personally thank me for doing the ride as a Lion. He handed me a donation and wished me well. Once again, it was gratifying to see how my ride brought out the best side of people.

Later I reached the Erie Canal trail and enjoyed the scenic view. Walkers, runners and a few recreational bicyclists shared the path with me on this beautiful Saturday morning. I rode past a man and a woman who were leisurely riding along on their bikes when the man called out, “Are you doing a charity ride?” We talked a bit. Jamey reached into his wallet and gave me a crisp \$100 bill. Kathy, his companion, told me they were headed to the town of Medina a few miles away to meet their two sons and their girlfriends for their regularly scheduled Saturday lunch. They invited me, and we had a great time.

Back on my bike, I reflected on all the craziness in the world that we hear about daily in the news. Virtually every day of my trip I encounter kind, compassionate people who just want to make the world a better place to live. Driving around the country never gave me these types of opportunities to connect with people. Beyond the bicycle, what makes these interactions even more special is doing the ride as a Lion for such a great cause.

August 5th (Day 51) - 10:25 p.m.

Today I put in more than 100 miles and climbed 5,500 feet. The sun set hours ago. But I kept going. It’s my final day of my seven-week journey across America. I am a mere two miles from Portland, Maine. Today has once again brought heat and humidity as well as a severe late afternoon thunderstorm. All my gear is still drenched, and I am soaked to the bone. But my spirits are high. I am about to complete the promise I made long ago to family, friends and my fellow Lions. They believed in the project and in me.

I’ve covered nearly 3,500 miles, always on schedule. Darkness engulfs me. The dim lights of my bicycle create shafts of clarity. Then suddenly the headlights of passing cars and the periodic streetlight fully illuminate the road before me: a light-filled final sprint. I have met literally thousands of

people and have been helped by the kindness of so many. Nearly \$100,000 has been raised for Leader Dogs, almost three times our original goal. Three Lions back in 1939 simply wanted to help get a fellow Lion a guide dog and they ended up creating an organization that has now provided more than 14,500 guide dogs. They believed, acted and found success. That formula worked for me as well.

Present Day

Ever since I returned, I hear the same question: “Have you recovered from your bike trip yet?” I understand why people ask me this. By any measure, 3,500 miles is a long way to travel, especially on a tiny triangle-shaped bicycle seat. The person I was before the trip surely would have had a ready-made answer about how tough it was. But the person I am now simply smiles and nods. How can I ever possibly explain the experience that captures how this journey changed my life, as a Lion and a person?

I learned a lot on my journey. Lions are separated from one another; they belong to their own clubs, each distinct. But knowing we are part of something bigger than ourselves brings encouragement and power to our service. It unites us. An everyday Lion like me who had a crazy idea of riding a bicycle across America could have done only so much alone, but it is the connection among Lions that made my journey possible. Our simple acts of kindness bring us together.

My eyes have been opened to what is possible through the power of Lions. Not everyone is able to nor wants to ride a bicycle across America, and that’s OK. Knowing you are part of something bigger than yourself as a Lion, unselfishly being kind to others and trusting in the multiplying power of service to others in need is what is really important—not the project itself. I will carry these lessons with me in my service as a Lion, whether it involves a bicycle or not. Cycling for Leader Dogs has changed my life not because of what the project accomplished but because of what I learned as a Lion through this journey—one mile at a time.

The irony is I’m not finished: I have many more miles to go—10,000 miles in fact. This summer Debbie and I will travel through 48 states in 24 days on motorcycles to again raise funds for Leader Dogs. Wish us luck and good weather. We know for sure that Lions across the country will be there to greet, shelter and encourage us.

My entire journal for the bicycling trip (and my other bicycling adventures) can be found at www.bigguyonabike.com.

View a video on Lions’ runs, walks and rides.



When I returned home, I dipped my bike wheels in the Pacific.



VOLUNTEER OF USO
Membership Identification Card
USO OF PHILADELPHIA, INC.

Place _____

Name Lucy Mangabat

Address Folcroft, PA

Picture _____

Here _____

Signature Lucy O. Mangabat

Lion Lucy Mangabat, whose father and uncles in the Philippines had close ties to the U.S. military, volunteers for the USO at the airport in Philadelphia.

Serving Those Who Serve: Lions and the USO

by Elizabeth Blackwell

As a child growing up in the Philippines, Lucy Mangabat heard firsthand about the sacrifices military service can entail. Her father and uncle both worked as civilian employees at Clark Field, the U.S. Air Force base bombed by the Japanese soon after Pearl Harbor. Another uncle, a lieutenant in the United States Army Forces Far East (USAFFE) under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, endured the infamous Bataan Death March along with thousands of other Americans and Filipinos.

Mangabat's father, who hid his past employment with the Americans after the Japanese invasion, risked his life by

sneaking food into Camp O'Donnell, where his brother and other prisoners-of-war were held for the duration of the war. "He would ride there on his bike, and no one knew what he was doing," says Mangabat.

Mangabat's father and his brothers survived the war, and in 1976 she moved with her husband, Antonio, to the United States, where they joined the Philadelphia Filipino-American Lions Club in 1986. Now 66 and retired from the U.S. Postal Service, she follows her father's example by volunteering at the Philadelphia International Airport's USO Center, Liberty USO.



Mangabat assists a soldier at the USO in Philadelphia.

Veterans Form Club

Lions have been long-time volunteers at several veterans' hospitals in the San Francisco Bay area. Their example has inspired a group of veterans to form the Peninsula Veterans Lions Club, which chartered in May 2012.

The Menlo Park Veterans' Hospital has offered veterans who suffer from mental and physical challenges a second chance to integrate into civilian life. They can live on-site for up to nine months as they go through recovery programs. During their residency, many of them encounter Lions, who regularly host barbecues and other social events. "They have a huge presence on campus," says Kevin Guess, the Peninsula Veterans charter president and a former Army military policeman.

Guess, 54, interacted regularly with Lion volunteers while completing a six-month program at the Menlo Park hospital in 2006. Since then, working with clubs that sell food at Stanford University football games as concession supervisor, he decided that he wanted to build on the Lions tradition of reaching out to veterans. The Peninsula Veterans club has nearly 30 members, all veterans, including five married couples (Guess' wife Tamera served as a Humvee mechanic during Operation Desert Storm). "Being Lions and being veterans, we answer the call when there's a need," he says.

One of the club's first initiatives was to buy and deliver move-in baskets for veterans who are leaving residential treatment programs, providing them with basic necessities such as pots and pans, silverware and cleaning supplies. Members also made a commitment to send personalized Christmas cards to hundreds of veterans during the holiday season. "We have a strong core group committed to being a positive force in the veterans' community," says Guess. "Vets are a proud group of people. You can't be too pushy, but if they like what you're doing, they'll follow you."



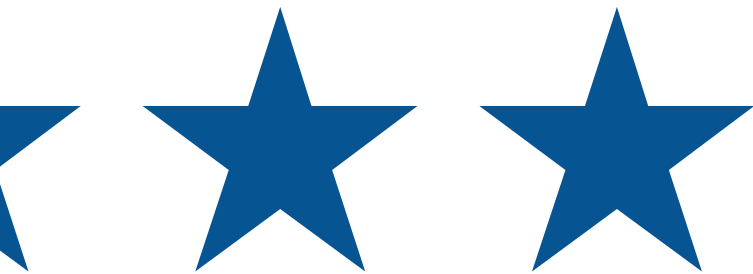
Barbara Bergero volunteers at the USO in San Francisco.

"It's a 24/7 operation," says Mangabat. "There are three shifts, so we have someone there to help all the time. We see to it that everything is in order." On any given day, Mangabat and her fellow volunteers might be making sandwiches, doing laundry for active-duty service men and women, cleaning bathrooms or simply talking. "I've had very good conversations with personnel who served in the Philippines and want to know what it's like now," says Mangabat. "They appreciate our work, and some people even give donations before they leave. And we always thank them for their services to the country."

For Mangabat, appreciation for military service goes hand-in-hand with her work as a Lion. "The key word for me is service," she says. "I have had that commitment to serve since I was a child." Her son, who served in the Pennsylvania National Guard, has since joined the same club as his parents. "For us, Lionism really is a family," she says.

Lions have assisted veterans since the first clubs began in 1917, but more and more clubs in recent years have reached out to veterans as ever larger numbers have returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan amid media stories on their needs. Also spurring the service is encouragement by Lions Clubs International (LCI), which began a partnership with the USO in 2011.

"Lions clubs across the U.S. support the USO's mission to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families through service, donations, fundraisers and activities," says Jennifer Pennock, LCI's manager of government and partnership relations. "Our U.S. clubs volunteer at USO airport locations to support troops traveling to and from service deployments. They host dinners and events for troops and their families. They've even hosted wheelchair basketball games. LCI supports our members' efforts through collaboration with the USO and continues to seek new ways to work together to fortify U.S. military members and their families."



Roger Chinn, 80, a 45-year member of the Foster City Lions Club and past district governor of District 4-C4 in California, served in the Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War. Though he went on to a successful career as an architect—and is still called in as a consultant on projects—he has never forgotten that many of his fellow veterans could use a helping hand.

While on a fishing trip about 10 years ago with a fellow Lion, Chinn thought about the vets at a nearby hospital, many of whom lived on-site as they were treated for addiction and mental health issues. Why not take them out fishing? What started as a one-time outing has since grown into four fishing trips a year, which Chinn oversees through Lions Veterans Charities, a nonprofit group that coordinates district-wide volunteer efforts.

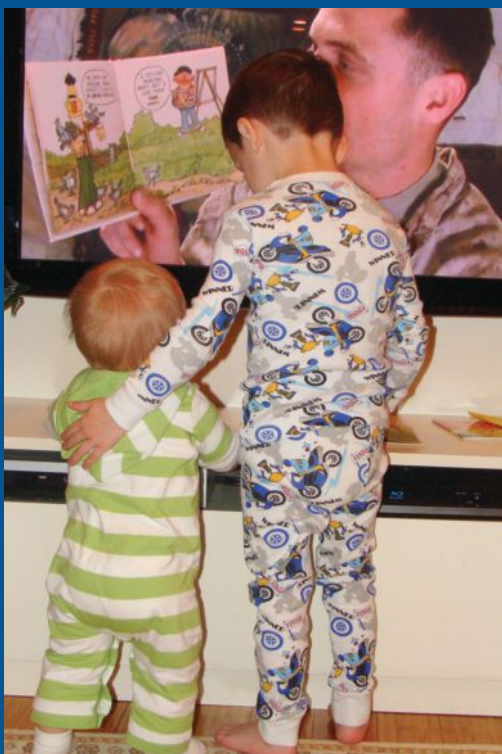
“We’re a small charity, but we’ve got 40 clubs to draw from and ask for support,” says Chinn. That network was

first tested a few years ago, when recession fears caused Starbucks to stop providing free coffee to local USO centers. Chinn and Lions Veterans Charities stepped up, agreeing to provide 50 pounds a month of coffee to the USO at San Francisco International Airport and USO Travis Air Force Base. “I became close friends with the administrator at the airport, and it turned into a ‘what do you need?’ situation,” says Chinn. His group now buys and delivers \$800 to \$900 worth of supplies to the airport every two months, everything from instant noodles and beef jerky to fresh fruit and napkins.

Lions Veterans Charities also ships care packages through the Operation USO Care Package program to troops stationed overseas. “We ask our Lions to collect the mini-shampoos and soaps from hotel rooms when they’re traveling, and we try to include those as well,” says Chinn. “It’s very cost-effective.” Not long ago, he received a grateful letter—as well as a check—from a Lion in the district whose two sons, both serving overseas, had received packages from Chinn’s group.

“When President Roosevelt conceived the idea of the USO, it was his intent to provide a way for the American

Photo courtesy of United Through Reading



The United Through Reading’s Military Program lets far-away soldiers take part in a timeless bedtime ritual.

Help Military Children

Clubs and districts in the United States can promote reading among military children and improve their literacy by supporting the United Through Reading’s Military Program. Through its partnership with United Through Reading®, the USO offers troops stationed at forward operating bases in Afghanistan, ships at sea, or USO locations around the world the opportunity to read a story aloud to their child. Mom’s or Dad’s special story time is recorded on camera, and this priceless DVD and book is mailed home. Children can watch and listen to their parent at bedtime, naptime or anytime. “My girls light up when I put the DVDs on and even try to ‘talk’ to Daddy. Even if for just a few minutes, they have their daddy again,” says a wife of a soldier. For young children, the book and DVD not only encourage reading but also help children remember what a parent looks like during a long deployment.

Lions can make a difference in the lives of military children. Districts or clubs can get involved by organizing a book drive or raising funds. It costs just \$9 to provide one book and DVD package to a military child. For information, contact Lisa Ferrari Carter of the USO at 703-740-4938 or lferrari@uso.org.

people to directly support their military members, to provide for their welfare and morale,” says Jeff Herndon, director of the USO Bay Area. “The way I see it, the USO today is nothing more than an extension of the American people, a conduit through which they continue to show their appreciation and support for our men and women in uniform and their families.”

For Barbara Bergero, 75, a member of the Foster City club and a former social director at a recreational facility, volunteering at the USO at San Francisco Airport is a way to engage with service members and veterans on a personal level. “Our job is to make them feel welcome and at home,” she says. “For the younger ones, I’m there as a mom. We’ll have large groups come through on their way to a language training school, and when they’re all there at the same time, it can get crazy. You never know what you’re going to get.”

Chatting with veterans and new recruits also takes Bergero back to an earlier, not-so-official stint as a USO volunteer. As a high school student during the Korean War, she and her friends used to lie about their age and sneak into USO dances in San Francisco. “We met young men from all over the country and we danced our feet off,” she remembers. “We had a ball!”

While volunteering at a USO center can be a good fit for Lions who enjoy personal interactions with service members, there are other ways to support the USO that can be easily integrated into regular club activities. Over the past two years, members of the Downtown Columbus Lions Club in Ohio have set up letter-writing tables at meetings and fundraisers to encourage members and guests to send messages to troops.

Past club president Tony Ruberg, 32, came up with the idea after talking to his brother, a Marine who served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. “For him, getting a letter was a big deal,” says Ruberg. “He always enjoyed getting something from back home.” When the club held an “Ugly Sweater Contest” fundraiser last December, almost every one of the 100 attendees wrote a letter; the letters were then delivered to the local USO office for mailing.

Ruberg suggests setting up a table stocked with pens and club letterhead and asking everyone to stop off on their way into an event. “It’s a very easy add-on,” says Ruberg. And it is one that can make a real difference in a soldier’s life. “Not all troops have big families, and some get very little mail,” says Ruberg. “We want to them know that they are not forgotten.”



Lions John Ficarra (left) and Roger Chinn deliver donated goods to the USO in San Francisco.

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Don Stevenson hikes through Glacier National Park in Montana on his 1,500-mile journey.



A scenic photograph of a lake with a forested shoreline and mountains in the background. The water is calm and reflects the sky. The shoreline is covered in dense evergreen trees. In the distance, mountains are visible under a blue sky with some clouds.

Stepping Up Against Blindness

The average American takes 5,117 steps a day. For someone like Lion Don Stevenson of Washington, that's child's play, baby steps, an easy walk in the park. Stevenson averaged 36,000 steps a day over 12 weeks last summer. The "Pacing Parson," as he is known, walked from Rugby, North Dakota, the geographical center of North America, to the Pacific Ocean near Seattle. That's 1,508 miles, part of which he did without seeing where he was going. When someone joined Stevenson—often a Lion—he gripped his white cane, covered his eyes with a blindfold and soldiered on.

Stevenson is 77. His latest jaunt was not even close to his longest or toughest. In 2000 he strolled 4,000 miles from Tijuana, Mexico, to Anchorage, Alaska, to raise funds for multiple sclerosis. Four years later he hiked blindfolded across the steep Cascade Range for charity. In 2007 he hoofed it from Seattle to New York City, and, not content with this little jaunt, ambled all the way back. He meandered on back roads and didn't take a straight route, so he logged 13,000 miles. Ever since his father-in-law died of Alzheimers and he honored his memory and raised awareness of the disease through a 3,000-mile cross-country trek in 1998, he's covered more than 45,000 miles on 18 walks, enough to circle the globe almost twice.

His stride is fast and purposeful. "When someone walks with him, they usually slow him down," says Janet Emig, a fellow member of the Bonney Lake Lions. Emig and her husband, Bruce, accompanied Stevenson for 12 days. Bruce sometimes walked alongside him. Stevenson proved to be a minor celebrity in towns where newspapers had published advance stories or residents (including Lions) provided dinner or a place to stay. "People recognized him. They're very impressed by him, especially considering his age," says Emig.

Stevenson has had a colorful life. He joined the Marines after dropping out of school. He later completed high school, studied theology and pastored several churches. He also drove 18-wheelers, fought fires, saved lives as an EMT and wrote self-published inspirational books. He started walking around town to improve his health and spiritual life. Years ago his older brother died while battling multiple sclerosis, and his sister has the disease, too. So it was always easy to find a reason to walk for causes.

Stevenson's wife, Loretta, drove a support van for his latest walk, which was done to honor Nicholas Premo, 12, the son of friends of Stevenson. Nicholas was born blind. The walk didn't raise as nearly as much money as Stevenson had hoped for his club, which sponsored his journey. But he was able to present nearly \$8,000 to the Eye Institute at the University of Washington. As Stevenson knows better than anyone, it's the small steps forward that lead to substantial gains.

—Jay Copp

Adept Adaptation

Club finds its niche in a Wyoming outpost

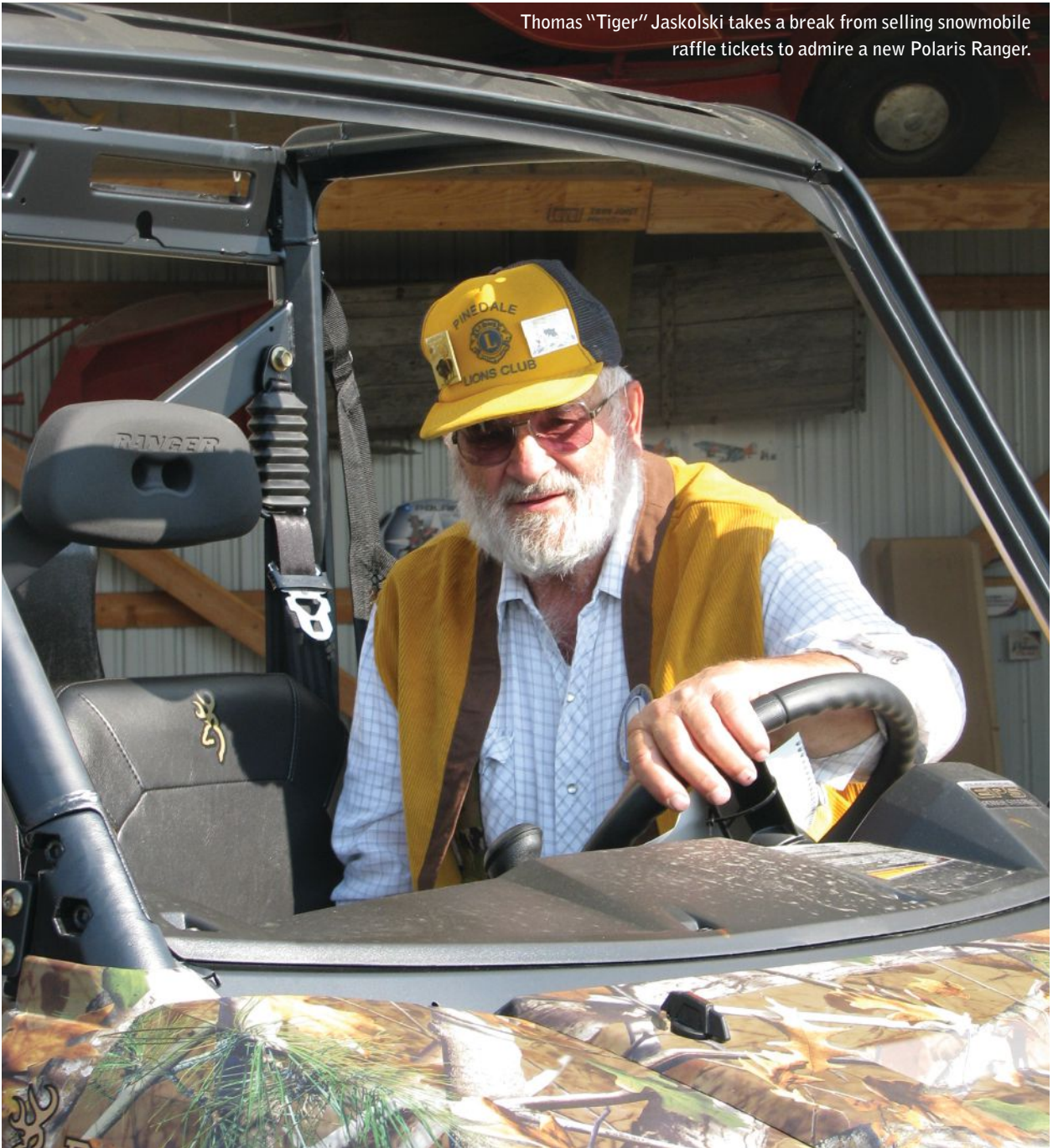
by Kate Meadows



Pinedale bustles with a western vibe.

Thomas "Tiger" Jaskolski takes a break from selling snowmobile raffle tickets to admire a new Polaris Ranger.

Photo by Kate Meadows



On a crisp, cool Saturday in Pinedale, Lion Thomas "Tiger" Jaskolski hawks \$50 raffle tickets outside of Bucky's Outdoors, a Polaris snowmobile and ATV dealership in the Wyoming town. The drawing for a 2013 Polaris snowmobile is still a couple of months away. As he does every year, Jaskolski gets an early start on ticket sales.



Moose forage in American Legion Park.

Photo courtesy of the Town of Pinedale

The biggest fundraiser of the Pinedale Lions, the raffle typically nets \$20,000. The club uses the funds to buy eye-glasses and support two high school scholarships. Jaskolski, the brains behind the original idea, has headed up the event for 23 years.

“Once you’re committed to being involved in the community, everything just falls into place,” says Jaskolski, 77, who joined the club in 1980 four years after it chartered.

This is the Pinedale Lions Club: a hearty group of 32 members who hold Easter egg hunts in spring snowstorms, feed perfectly grilled pork tenderloin to half-marathon runners and host eye exams at the local elementary school, at times discovering eye problems in children that parents never knew were there.

It’s a club that’s creative, capitalizing on the unique characteristics of the community—its snowmobile culture and rural lifestyle—to thrive.

“Pinedale is a small town,” says Ric Stott, a repair shop owner who has been with the club for more than 20 years. “It’s isolated, and therefore it’s very close-knit. People pretty much work together.”

Nestled high in the Rocky Mountains about 70 miles south of Jackson Hole, Pinedale only recently topped a population of 2,000. The nearest Wal-Mart is 100 miles away, as is the nearest railroad. There is one high school, one grocery store and no stoplights. The names of local

businesses cater to a hardened western, outdoor-oriented culture: the Cowboy Shop, the Cowboy Bar, Stockman’s Restaurant, the Wrangler Café, a fly fishing emporium, the Great Outdoor Shop.

Pinedale is an odd, charming mix of civilization and backwoods ruggedness. Mountains peer over it, and sage brush creep around it. Moose often wander harmlessly in its parks and sometimes down main streets, forcing pedestrians to run when the beasts get frisky. Ranch hands and roustabouts roam a downtown marked by western facades and knotty pine.

The Lions club is the place where residents turn to get plugged into the community. It was true of Jaskolski 32 years ago, then a newcomer to town who was looking for a way to fit in. It was true 20-plus years ago of Stott, who says he wasn’t a real big joiner but wanted to participate in an organization that served people. And it’s true of the club’s new president, Jon Gibson, who moved to Pinedale just three years ago and was immediately impressed with the club’s community involvement.

“The people are fantastic,” says Gibson. “The kids have a strong work ethic. Pinedale’s a first-class town.”

According to Robin Blackburn, the half-marathon’s former director, the Lions club is not only a joy to work with but it also plays an essential role in upholding the morale of the community. “The most important thing is

Lion Mindi Crabb waits at the finish line of Pinedale's annual half-marathon race.

Photo by Kate Meadows



that when the Lions say they're going to get involved in something, you get a wholehearted commitment," says Blackburn. "It doesn't matter what it is, they're ready to get involved 110 percent."

Blackburn easily picks up on one of the club's hallmark strengths: its undying enthusiasm. "They all have a huge smile on their face [when they're volunteering]," she says. "They do some fabulous things."

On the same day Jaskolski sells raffle tickets outside the Polaris dealership, First Vice District Governor Mindi Crabb is at the other end of town, near the finish line of the half-marathon race. Lions slow-cook pork tenderloin to feed hungry racers once they finish.

Crabb, who became the first female president of the Pinedale club in 2010, describes herself as "a chronic do-gooder." She recently returned from Florida, where she gave a presentation on how Lions clubs can remain relevant in their communities.

The key is diversity, says Crabb. That means attracting young people, more females and both long- and short-time residents of the community.

"We don't want to be just a bunch of old white guys," she says. "Even one person can help revitalize a club."

Crabb alone has brought in 12 new members to the Pinedale club. She says the trick to roping in new members is, first, to simply ask. "More importantly," she says, "it's to share your passion for what you believe Lions can do."

Crabb likes to get to know a person, develop a rapport and then suggest specific Lions projects that might appeal to that person based on his or her interests.

For the most part, members choose which projects and events to be involved in based on their own strengths and interests, says Gibson. That just might be the key to the club's vitality when it comes to service: members serve in areas that excite them.

As president, Gibson says he tries to discern the club's strengths and weaknesses. "We want to build on the strengths and eliminate the weaknesses," says Gibson, a retired pilot who moved to Pinedale from California after falling in love with the town's deeply embedded fur trade history.

Coordinating communication is also a focus for the president, to ensure volunteers show up when work needs to be done. "It's not about the meetings," he says. "It's about the projects and the outreach we do."

Member Randy Belton agrees, emphasizing that the meetings—which occur twice per month, one at 7 a.m. and

one at noon, to accommodate working parents — are one-hour long. “We get in. We get out,” Belton says. “The most important thing is being out in the community and doing.”

Belton, who has served in numerous leadership roles as a Lion since joining in 1997, knows firsthand the values of hard work and service. He was a Marine for 20 years before landing in Pinedale, where his wife’s family lives. His No. 1 love is karate, but he turned down an opportunity to teach that art so he could stay in the Rockies. He now owns a Carquest store, which he named Rebel Auto Parts.

This is a club that prides itself on being a bunch of doers.

“We don’t usually get time to sit down and watch community events,” says Belton, “because we’re too busy working them.”

In a community of only a couple thousand people (in what was once the nation’s least-populated county in the least-populated state), it’s easy to be apprised of what’s going on around town. Often multiple events are scheduled for a single weekend, and there’s a good chance the Lions club has its hand in all of them.

Still, keeping a club strong and working in a rural area doesn’t come without its challenges. Even with its new blood, it seems it’s those few faces that have been with the club for decades who continually fill the leadership positions. Belton has served as president three times. “We’re always pushing to get new members into leadership roles,” he says.

But it’s not easy. Crabb fears the Lions club as a whole is aging, and she’s determined to do her part to fix that.

In Pinedale, Jaskolski, Stott and Belton are regarded as the club’s icons. Everyone knows Jaskolski is the face of the annual snowmobile raffle. When he and his wife moved with their four kids to rural western Wyoming from California 30-plus years ago to open an auto parts store, it was hard to miss the local flair for snowmobiling. That’s what gave Jaskolski the idea to talk to a local snowmobile dealer, cinch a steep discount on a new machine and sell raffle tickets for the give-away. All these years later, he’s still hard at work.

Stott, who has lived in Pinedale since the 1960s, has found his niche as the local representative for the Lions of Wyoming Foundation. Belton, who in his off time is a volunteer EMT and firefighter, has started organizing a new annual high school basketball tournament.

It might be that the more years of service you put in, the bigger and more meaningful the payoff is.

Sitting around a table at one of Pinedale’s two locally owned coffee shops, Belton and Stott swap smiles over what was for them one of the club’s more memorable projects. In the 1990s, club members raised the money to purchase a custom motorized cart for a paralyzed little boy. Pinedale was poorer then, and getting the money was difficult. But the club persevered, ultimately giving the boy the gift of a lifetime: a way to get around.

Jaskolski recalls a more recent event, one of the club’s first opportunities to use its state-of-the-art eye-testing machine. The club was sponsoring free eye exams at the elementary school when a second-grader came in. He was nearly failing his classes. His parents had scolded him for being lazy and turning in poor work. But his eye exam told a different story: he simply could not see. He received a pair of glasses from the club, and quickly turned into an “A” student.

In a town where winters are long and familiar faces are easy to come by, the Pinedale Lions Club has staying power. It has established itself as a creative group of doers who aren’t afraid to get dirty, stand in the cold or step up to the plate. Here is rural living at its best: a small town where, in a hearty club of service-oriented men and women, big ideas take root.



Ric Stott mans the grill that is slow-cooking pork tenderloin for runners of the half-marathon.

Photo by Kate Meadows



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COWBOYS

FOR A

DAY

Texas Lions saddle up those who too often stand on the sidelines.

Photos by Howard Eilers

For three raucous days, thousands packed into the grandstands roar, cackle and clap as cowboys, cowgirls and clowns showcase their talents and charms at the Bryan Breakfast Lions Club PRCA Rodeo in Texas. For 41 years the 20-member club has entertained eastern Texans with top-notch bronc riding, roping and barrel racing. But what sets the rodeo apart is the part of a day devoted to children and adults with disabilities. Children with disabilities often miss out on playing with peers on baseball fields and sharing the stage at school musicals, but at the rodeo they get their boots dirty, riding ponies, roping rocking-horse steers and cavorting with the Catalena Cowgirls. "They never get to see a rodeo or be a part of a rodeo. Just to see them smile makes this all worthwhile," says longtime Lion Sammy Catalena, who owns a rodeo company and helps make the Lions' event possible. "There are a lot of smiles. You know you are making their day," says Lion Frank Elliott.



This cowboy shows off his prowess with a rope.

Face painting is an escape, an excursion into fantasy, a dreamy adventure.



"Now you got it!" Lion Mike Hering encourages a participant.

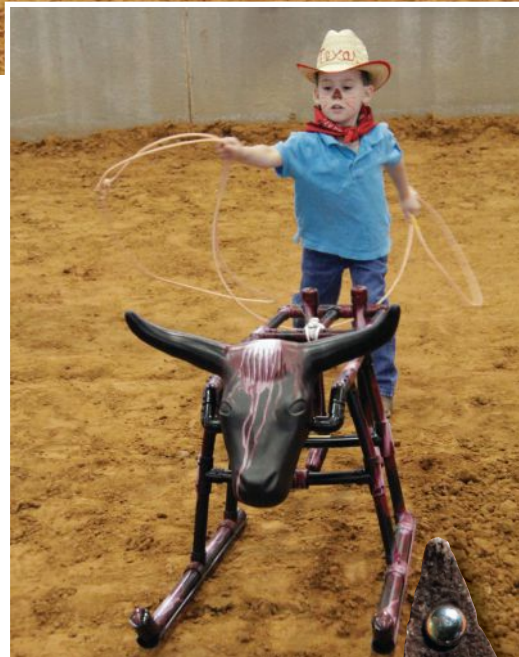


A participant rides a horse with élan.

It's a furious race to the finish line.



It's never too early to groom a cowboy.



This steer is no match for this cowpoke.





Sometimes the best part of the day is making a friend.



Rodeos make you want to dance.



Some cowboys have all the luck.

COWBOYS

FOR A

DAY

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SightFirst Saves Sight in Eastern Europe

by Allie Stryker

When communism fell in Eastern Europe and Russia, health care systems were thrown into turmoil. Training eye care specialists became problematic. Lions and SightFirst stepped into the breach.

Tucked into a corner on the campus of Vinohrady Teaching Hospital Eye Department at Charles University in Prague, the Lions Ophthalmology Educational Center (LOEC) has introduced ophthalmologists to a public health care approach for eye care in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the former Soviet Union.

The LOEC was constructed and equipped through a SightFirst grant awarded to local Lions in 1998.

Ophthalmologists attend teaching programs at the LOEC that address causes of avoidable visual impairment and blindness. Since 2002, 1,120 ophthalmologists from 20 countries have been trained by leading eye care specialists, who often volunteer their time.

“The Lions Center is a shining example of a successful continued collaboration of local Lions and the

Vinohrady Teaching Hospital Eye Department,” says Dr. Ivo Kocur of the World Health Organization. “There have been a number of dedicated people engaged in developing this institute. The outcome of this collaboration has been one of the most impressive examples of the Lions’ contribution to the communities in the European region.”

A program of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), SightFirst works to save sight and prevent blindness. This center is a unique project for LCIF: it is only one of four stand-alone eye care training institutions constructed by SightFirst. The other three are located in Barbados, India and Paraguay. The LOEC facility also has been supported through partnership funds from Charles University and the Christoffel Blindnen Mission (CBM), a German eye care organization.

In the Republic of Moldova, low vision rehabilitation is a new field. When ophthalmologist Tatiana Ghidirimski had the opportunity to attend low vision courses at the LOEC, she could not pass it up.

“I am very lucky that I had this opportunity to attend these courses,” she says. “The knowledge gained is very important for my practice and, most importantly, I can better help our patients who have lost hope!”

Dr. Ghidirimski says that the knowledge gained through the LOEC courses improved methods of examining patients for low vision and prescribing low vision aids, as well as improving the exchange of information where she works.

“At these courses, we can meet colleagues from different parts of the world and discuss interesting topics. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Lions for their involvement with this center and giving us the chance to attend the LOEC courses,” says Dr. Ghidirimski. “I would recommend this center to others, and I would also like to express my gratitude for the specialists who presented us with very useful information.”

For Bosnian ophthalmologist Amra Nadarevic, visiting Prague meant following in the footsteps of Bosnian doctors who have attended classes at the LOEC. In December, she and a colleague attended a course on ocular inflammatory diseases.

“I liked the fact that during two days we could ask anything about ocular inflammatory disease,” says Dr. Nadarevic. “The experts had a lot of patience to answer all of our questions. The knowledge they give you is very precious. They talked about their experience and what really matters.”

For Dr. Nadarevic, the experience at LOEC was invaluable. “Dr. Kocur inspired me and gave me a lot to think about when I returned to Bosnia. If we have a will, we can do almost anything



A SightFirst grant will provide students at the Lions Ophthalmology Educational Center in Prague with courses on pediatric ophthalmology, low vision and other topics.



An ophthalmologist in Romania screens a child for visual impairment.

to prevent blindness in our country. I am very thankful for this opportunity," she says.

None of this would have been possible without Lions. Since 1996, the Prague Hartig Lions Club has been the primary collaborator with Charles University. The club helped develop the original LOEC project proposal, construct the facility and prepare the programs. Club members have also closely worked with LOEC to promote Lions clubs to the participants and give advice on possible projects. Together, they have been filling a great need.

"You must remember that the center was established in an era in European history when political transition was taking place in the countries of Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union," says Dr. R. Pararajasegaram, a former consulting ophthalmologist with the World Health Organization and member of the SightFirst Advisory Committee. "The transition also affected medical education including ophthalmology."

Since being founded, funding for the training courses has been supplied by CBM, and students have been supported by the university or corporations. Now, SightFirst will assist the center through a grant providing courses on pediatric ophthalmology, low vision, uncorrected refractive error and diabetic eye disease. This summer, 27 students will benefit from these courses. LCIF is now working with LOEC and Lions to develop a system in which Lions from around the region are formally a part of the training process.

"The Lions Center has promoted the concept of a public health approach in eye care planning and provision," says Dr. Kocur. "It has been instrumental in addressing the major causes of avoidable visual impairment. It has created an unprecedented platform for exchanging experience and networking for the whole generation of junior eye care professionals."

Ophthalmologist Lucia Gogorova, a second year resident at the Faculty Hospital Kralovske Vinohrady in

Prague, attended three courses at the LOEC and looks forward to more. "Although I have a chance to work with really good doctors, sometimes I am not able to consult cases with them because they are very busy. On the other hand, I need to learn quickly, to make important decisions by myself," she says. "The LOEC helped me with that in a perfect way. The courses organized by the LOEC are the best opportunity to discuss, compare and improve my skills. I can communicate with other young people who have similar questions, goals and attitudes as me."

Those trained at LOEC agree that the experience is both priceless and unique. "I can say LOEC is helping me to become a good doctor and to do my best," says Dr. Gogorova. "I am grateful for that to all who participate on this and support young doctors."



**Lions Clubs International
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Extend the Reach of Lions' Fellowship

Hold a Friendship Night

In January the Freedom District Lions in Maryland had a very special meeting—they inducted 16 new members. Finding this crew of new Lions didn't take a fancy strategy or a lot of work; it just took being friendly. Led by membership chair Lanny "Doc" Palmer, every member invited friends to a relaxed evening of interesting presentations, heartfelt stories and a glimpse at Lions' fellowship. Inspired and charmed, the guests were hooked. A "friendship night" like the one the Freedom District Lions held is an easy endeavor any club can try, and it just might turn friends into Lions.

"A friendship night is a Lions club event to which selected members of the community are invited and informed about Lionism and the community service activities of the club," says Beltsville Lion Ted Ladd, who has conducted training sessions on friendship nights for Maryland's District 22-C, Multiple District 22 and at the 2012 USA/Canada Forum. Since Ladd's club began holding annual friendship nights in 2002, membership has steadily grown from 26 members to 44, despite losing some members. "We have lost 22 members to death or moving since 2002, but the friendship nights have more than offset those losses," explains Ladd.

Set the Stage

A successful friendship night begins with the invitations, which Ladd recommends offering in person. Myron Horn of the Freedom District Lions concurs. "Every Lion asked somebody. Some invited quite a few. We had 35 potential members show up," Horn says.

The setting and tone are also crucial to pulling off a great friendship night. After years of disappointing results holding the event at their meeting location, the Freedom District Lions tried an effective new idea of convening at a restaurant. The South Carroll Lioness Club in Maryland infuses fun into their friendship nights by having a theme such as a Hawaiian luau. "We played Hawaiian-themed games, wore Hawaiian clothes and ate Hawaiian food. The atmosphere was fun for the guests, and it was a chance for our club to have some fun and show prospective members what we're all about," say President Ellen O'Malley.

[View a sample friendship night agenda.](#)



Make a Plan

For the South Carroll Lionesses a friendship night is simply a time to pleasantly introduce Lionism to new people, but other clubs may prefer to have a set agenda. A typical agenda might include speakers on club history, service projects, meetings, management, a Q & A and testimonials. "The most important part of the agenda is when members share stories about significant moments from their time as Lions. In my opinion, these testimonials are the most effective in bringing in new members," says Ladd.

Follow Up

Remember those new friends by quickly bringing them into the Lions fold. Ladd suggests keeping in touch by inviting them to the next meeting, service activity or fundraiser. The South Carroll Lionesses follow up individually with the friends they each invited. Although some guests may want to join on the spot, the Freedom District Lions ask them to attend one club meeting before finalizing their membership. "This gives the membership a better opportunity to know the guests," says Horn.

Added Bonus

Although the primary intention of friendship nights is building membership, Ladd points out that there is a surprise benefit for existing members as well. "Going over the history of Lionism, reviewing the club's service accomplishments and hearing testimonials from fellow Lions promotes morale, and in an unexpected way, generates member enthusiasm for continuing to bring in new members."

— Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Help Where Help is Needed

Community Needs Assessment Will Point the Way

Lions recently were asked “How does your club choose projects?” on the LCI Facebook page. Of the 21 responses, 15 Lions commented that their clubs determine projects based on community needs. Lions are skilled at finding and addressing pressing needs in their communities. But what if community members have needs Lions aren’t aware of? Lions can answer that question by using the LCI Community Needs Assessment (CNA) questionnaire. The CNA helps Lions find out how you’re doing, reveal new service projects ideas and gauge the community awareness of your work.

“Our club is over 40 years old with a stable, but aging membership. When the opportunity to look at ourselves and have the community tell us what and who they think we are came along, we jumped at it,” says Lion Jan Bassett of Elk Rapids, Michigan. Like many clubs, the Elk Rapids Lions are engaging in LCI’s Club Excellence Process (CEP), a workshop during which clubs can improve by examining their community’s needs, analyzing their membership experience and developing action plans. A component of that process, the CNA enables clubs to survey the community to find out what services are needed, what projects are important to them, whether current projects require modifications and which needs are being met by other organizations. “Clubs need to hear what the needs of the community are—from someone other than club members,” says Sue Doell, a Medina Dale Readfield Lion and CEP facilitator in Wisconsin.

The Elk Rapids Lions distributed CNA questionnaires to friends, organizations, the village council, the chamber of commerce, schools and religious leaders. “Getting the questionnaires out was a great way to get people talking about us—and maybe learning why they should join us,” says Bassett. The De Pere Lions in Wisconsin also distributed surveys to schools, businesses and churches. “This opportunity became available to us at just the right time in order to identify new opportunities for our club,” says President Dave Gibson.

Both clubs hoped for higher than the 15 to 20 percent response rates they had; however, they found the input they did receive valuable. A personal approach may improve the results, says Gibson. “Another club received a high response rate because they took time to personally visit each participant and talk about the assessment.” The clubs are in the



De Pere Lions install new playground equipment at a park. The Lions conducted a Community Needs Assessment to determine ways they can serve their city.

process of creating action plans and developing long-term goals based on the CNA and CEP process. For the De Pere Lions, that may include starting a new project. “The schools that responded stated there is a need for a clothing drive,” says Gibson.

The Elk Rapids Lions discovered something unexpected from their CNA. “We found out the community likes us, but few know what we do. We want to be known for finding needs and providing solutions with our service. At the top of our goal list is to become more visible,” stresses Bassett. Finding out the community’s familiarity with Lions is a common result of the CNA, explains Doell. “If anything, clubs will learn how well the Lions are recognized, or not, in the community. They may need to look at their public relations efforts.”

The findings of conducting a CNA may be surprising, but they are always insightful. “It is very easy to get complacent and do what we have always done. The CNA gave us an opportunity to grow individually and as an organization,” says Bassett.

—Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

View the Lions Clubs Community Needs Assessment.

Find out more about the Club Excellence Process at www.lionsclubs.org (search for “CEP”).

Carving Out a Community Park

Most people in Jonesburg, Missouri, know who the Lions are. In a town with less than 700 people, the club's 64 members represent almost a tenth of the population. During an expansion of Lions Park, they cut down a large maple tree, but the stump remained. That unsightly stump was turned into a work of art last year by a chainsaw artist. The intricate design of a lion and the Lions Clubs International logo together is now a much-admired showpiece of the park.

"The artist did 100 percent of the work with a chainsaw," says Heath Sellenriek. "No smaller tools were used during the carving, and it only took him one day from start to finish."

Lions own and maintain the park, which is the only one in town, says Sellenriek. "We installed a large new play structure plus a border around the entire playground and put in new pea gravel. Over a very hot weekend in July when temperatures were over 100 degrees, we installed the equipment ourselves," he points out.

"We were totally blown away by the generosity of the people in our town. Our club approved \$20,000 of improvements, with us expected to raise \$10,000 and the other \$10,000 coming from our savings," he says. Donations far exceeded expectations. "Even before we had the playground finished, we had people asking what our next project was going to be," Sellenriek adds. Lions intend to build a pavilion and install new lighting soon throughout the park.

"One thing we have found is that success breeds success," Sellenriek explains. "Doing such a visible project like this has really helped our membership recruiting. We have added over 25 new members in the last four years, which for a town our size, I think, is pretty impressive." The town of Jonesburg may be on the small side, but the Lions think big when it comes to community service.



Stacey Robinson uses a chainsaw to create a carving for Lions.

Tools for School in California

Every year when school starts again, children and their parents in Harbor Mesa, California, find themselves searching for the essential supplies that will help them receive a quality education. Some families can't afford even basic items like pencils, paper, scissors, note cards and glue—things that first-graders all need to begin their schooling. Lions step in to help them by giving 200 boxes filled with all the necessary provisions they'll need. First-grade teachers give a list of necessary provisions to Harbor Mesa Lions, who purchase not only supplies but also plastic boxes in which to hold them.

"The cost of the project varies year to year as the amount of boxes needed varies," says Lion Carol Van Holt. In 2012 the cost was approximately \$5 per box. "We try to buy in bulk or at sales, but purchase the brands that teachers prefer and not the generic type," she explains. "The kids who receive them are for the most part shy and overwhelmed. Teachers tell them they're going to get school supplies from Lions to prepare them, but when they see the boxes stacked and they're handed to them, it's obvious they're very excited. The look on their faces speaks volumes."

Lions identify every box as a gift from Harbor Mesa Lions with a label that shows a picture of a lion. Club members then personalize each one with a child's name before they're distributed. "Several children said it was like Christmas," Van Holt adds. Lions are also collecting books for school libraries and plan to begin reading to students.



Volunteers help children put their names on individual school boxes.

You Want Fries with That ...?



Exchange students (from left) Francisca Fernandez of Chile, Atittan Songpattanasilip of Thailand, Valeriya Golybeva of Russia, and Charlotte Baar of Germany offer containers of fresh-out-of-the-fryer, hot French fries to fair patrons lining up for their purchases.

Lions in Quarryville, Pennsylvania, know the secret to making French fries that sell out faster than they can make them. They should be experts by now since they've been making and selling fries for 50 years at the Solanco Fair in their rural agricultural community. In 2012, Lions netted \$15,000 from the three-day event.

"We turned last year's annual event into a 'world's fair' in Quarryville," says Lion Roxanne Todd. "Exchange students from four different countries helped dish up some of the 10,800 pounds of potatoes that we turned into French fries. The students were in the United States as part of the AFS [American Field Service] exchange program." A volunteer who also helps a local church group suggested the students lend a hand to Lions and the teens were eager to help.

"The Solanco area is mainly a rural community located in southeastern Pennsylvania adjacent to northern Maryland," explains Todd. "We do the 'normal' things like support our local blind association, pay for eyeglasses and computer software/hardware for those who are sight impaired and support a local fuel fund to help the poor.

"While there are commercial exhibitors at the fair, there are no commercial sales allowed. That's why the Quarryville

and Wakefield Lions clubs have fundraising stands there. The two clubs work closely together and even share a refrigerated trailer so we can both better serve our community."

Lion Robert Black says he was "stunned by the girls' willingness to help. What an honor to have a team from four different countries help serve our community." He wasn't the only one to take away something from the students' international service. Atittan Songpattanasilip of Thailand says she, too, learned something by volunteering with Lions. "It's a new experience. I really enjoyed it."

She also took away a taste for the chicken strips sold by Wakefield Lions. "They tasted the best," she declares. Russian Valeriya Golybeva disagrees: "I like the French fries." She adds that she enjoyed the whole fair experience. "It's small, but you can meet a lot of friends here. You feel like you're a part of this," she explains.

And by the way, the secret to those hundreds of pounds of tasty French fries? It's pre-frying them first in peanut oil. "We have many, many people tell us that the only reason they come to the Solanco County Fair is because of the Quarryville Lions' French fries," Todd declares.

Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2013 International Convention. Our 96th International Convention will be held in Hamburg, Germany. It begins at 10 a.m. July 5 and ends July 9. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president and 17 members of the International Board of Directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

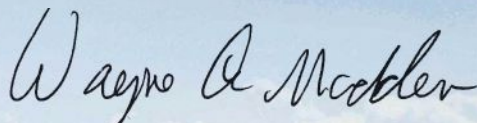
Hamburg is a historic, beautiful city with an international flair, delicious food and stunning Old World architecture. Germany's second-largest city is a major player on the world stage in commerce, culture, the arts, sports and tourism. It's a wonderful, vibrant city Lions will enjoy and cherish.

Convention Week is an unforgettable experience filled with fellowship, fun and enrichment. Lions will enjoy many decades-old traditions such as the stirring flag ceremony, the festive international parade and the highly entertaining multicultural international show. The lively plenary sessions include a keynote speech by former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush, the presentation of the 2013 Humanitarian Award to the legendary Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, who will sing for us, and the installation of the 2013-2014 international president and district governors.

The Lions of Germany have been working diligently to make the convention run smoothly. Their admirable efficiency and gracious hospitality will ensure that Lions enjoy themselves and get the most they can out of the convention. In a World of Service, our convention is a pinnacle experience that makes Lions better able and more enthused to fulfill our service mission. I strongly encourage you to join more than 20,000 Lions in Hamburg for a memorable convention.

Signed by me at Oak Brook, Illinois, United States of America, this 9th day of May 2013.

Warmest regards,



Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs International President



Candidates for Second Vice President

As of press time, there were six candidates for Second International Vice President. The election is scheduled for July 9 at the 96th International Convention in Hamburg. The winner will serve as international president in 2015-16.



Naresh Aggarwal

Past International Director Naresh Aggarwal of Delhi, India, was elected to the international board of directors at the association's 81st International Convention in 1998. An entrepreneur with several business holdings, he has been a member of the Batala Smile Lions Club since 1974. In addition to his service as a GLT constitutional area leader, he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and the recipient of many professional and Lions awards.



Salim Moussan

Past International Director Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon, has been a member of the Beirut St. Gabriel Lions Club since 1988 and served on the international board of directors from 1997-1999. Twice a board appointee and group leader, he is currently GMT Area Leader. He was chairman of several forums and regional conferences and has attended 25 international conventions and more than 50 area forums worldwide.



Phil Nathan

Past International Director Phil Nathan of Earls Colne, England, has been a Lion since 1982 and is a charter member of the South Woodham Ferrers Lions Club. He served on the international board of directors from 1999 to 2001. A stockbroker and director of a company, Nathan was president of the 2006 Europa Forum and has been recognized by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with an MBE, Member of the British Empire, for his service achievements.



Steven D. Sherer

Past International Director Steven D. Sherer of New Philadelphia, Ohio, has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980. He is a licensed public accountant and the finance officer/CFO of New Philadelphia City Schools. An international director from 2006-08, he also served as a GMT area coordinator from 2008 to 2012, is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received numerous Lions awards as well as professional accolades.



Eugene M. Spiess

Past International Director Eugene M. Spiess of Moore, South Carolina, is a retired college administrator and instructor. A member of the Spartanburg Lions Club since 1981, he was elected to serve a two-year term on the board of directors at the association's 93rd international convention in 2010. The recipient of numerous Lions awards and professional honors, he is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.



Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada

Past International Director Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Minokamo-shi, Gifu-ken, Japan, has been a member of the Minokamo Lions Club since 1985. The director of a hospital and a doctor of neurosurgery, he was elected to serve a two-year term on the international board of directors in 2005. He is a Melvin Jones Fellow, is active in many community and professional organizations and served as an adviser to the governor of Gifu Prefecture.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Myrtle Beach Socastee Lions** in **South Carolina** support the Storm Eye Center and Leader Dogs for the Blind, provide eyeglasses for children and help families in need during the holidays.

The **Amherst Lions** in **New York** operate more than 60 eyeglasses collection sites in their community.

The **Clarkston Lions** in **Washington** sponsor a large Christmas star on a hilltop overlooking their community. Each year the Lions replace its 460 light bulbs and maintain the star throughout the holiday season.

In **Colorado**, the **Bayfield Lions** launched a three-year campaign to purchase their namesake, Lions Hall. Although the Lions leased and maintained the property for decades, thanks to the "Save the Lions Hall" fundraising campaign, they now own it outright.

As part of LCI's Reading Action Program, the **Laveen Lions** in **Arizona** presented 350 backpacks filled with all required school supplies, a book and water bottle to students at a "Back to School" night.

The **South Carroll Lioness Lions Club** in **Maryland** donated \$2,000 to LCIF, enabling two members to become Melvin Jones Fellows. They also collected 3,300 books for children for Make a Difference Day and made 31 blankets for pediatric hospital patients.

The **Boise Bench Lions Club** in **Idaho** held its 16th annual "Hit the Jackpot" golf tournament in Jackpot, Nevada, enabling the club to donate \$20,000 to the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

The past 60 years have been busy for the **South Cobb Lions** in **Georgia**.

Highlights include operating Little League ball fields, supporting local schools, providing scholarships, purchasing eye screening equipment, supporting a hospital with donations and equipment and chartering a Leo club.

The **Hartford Diversity Lions Club** in **Connecticut** held the benefit dinner and dance, "Lions for Lorenzo," to assist the family of a physically disabled boy in purchasing equipment to ensure his safety and mobility at home.

The **Cecilton Lions** in **Maryland** teamed up with fifth-graders to prepare care packages for deployed military.

The **Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club** in **British Columbia, Canada**, raised \$33,350 in support of the Lions Measles Initiative.

The **Southeast Florida Venezuelan Lions Club** held its annual dinner gala and presented an award to the mayor of Doral, Florida, for his support of the Lions.

In cooperation with the Viridi Eye Clinic, the **Davenport Host Lions** in **Iowa** provided free eye exams for 52 people over two days. The neighboring **Rock Island Evening Lions Club** in **Illinois** worked with Lenscrafters to provide eyeglasses at no charge.

After storing items throughout the year, the **Coupeville Lions** in **Washington** hold a garage sale each summer which raises \$30,000 for local charities.

During election season the **Greenfield Lions** in **Tennessee** held a non-partisan "Meet the Candidates" event, inviting all candidates for local and state offices to give brief speeches and meet with community members.



Official Notice

2013 International Convention, Hamburg, Germany

The following proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2013 International Convention.

ITEM 1:

IN ORDER TO DISTINGUISH THE TITLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS FROM THE TITLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS, THIS RESOLUTION WOULD REINSTATE THE TITLE OF "EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR" AND ADD THE TITLE OF "SENIOR EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR" AS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ADOPT.)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article V, Section 1 of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the phrase "executive director, treasurer, secretary (the executive director, treasurer and secretary shall constitute the administrative officers)" and substituting the phrase "administrative officers."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article V, Section 8 of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the phrase "executive director, treasurer, secretary" and substituting the phrase "administrative officers."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 3 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase "executive director" and substituting the phrase "senior executive administrator and/or executive administrator."

ITEM 2:

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE ONE-TIME FEE PAYABLE BY LIFE MEMBERS TO US\$650. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT.)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article XI, Section 7 of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the phrase "US\$500" as it appears in this section and substituting the phrase "US\$650."

INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES JUNE 2013

95 Years: McAlester, Okla.

90 Years: Butler, Pa.; Farmville, Va.;
Manchester, N.H.; Mena, Ark.

85 Years: Arlington, Wash.; Bethel,
Conn.; Bowie, Texas; Canton, Kan.;
Chillicothe, Texas; Graham, Texas;
Guymon, Okla.; Jacksboro, Texas;
Las Cruces, N.M.; McLean, Texas;
Pecos Downtown, Texas; Perryton,
Texas; Sherman Noon, Texas; Spear-
man, Texas; St. Joseph, Mich.; The
Forest Kala Sampath, Ill.; Trinity,
Texas; Turkey, Texas; Union, Miss.;
Uvalde, Texas

80 Years: Murfreesboro, Tenn.;
South Kingstown, R.I.

75 Years: Aberdeen, N.C.; Arecibo,
P.R.; Biscoe, N.C.; Concordia, Kan.;
Elko, Nev.; Florence Downtown,
Ala.; Garland Host, Texas; Kings
Mountain, N.C.; Lansdale, Pa.;
Marksville, La.; Mexico Host, Mo.;
Mount Airy, N.C.; North Hollywood,
Calif.; Trenton, Mo.; Troy, Ill.; Wing-
ham, ON, CAN

50 Years: Cleveland, Wis.; Country
Club, Calif.; Frenchburg, Ky.; Lake
Villa Township, Ill.; Marne, Mich.;
Richvale, ON, CAN; San Clemente
Host, Calif.

25 Years: Coupeville Central Whid-
bey, Wash.; Detroit Hispanic, Mich.;
Jeffersonville, Ind.; Johnsbury, Ill.;
La Grange Bluebonnet, Texas; La
Grange Breakfast, Texas; Lyman
Duncan Wellford MidTy A, S.C.; Troy,
Mo.; Wellborn, Texas

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 FEBRUARY 2013

Ambassador Key (150 Members)

- Lion L. M. Ramakrishnan, Erode,
India

Key Of Nations (100 Members)

- Lion Pramod Sapra, Delhi North,
India
- Lion R. S. Khetan, Birganj Greater,
Nepal

Key Of State (75 Members)

- Lion M. A. Rashid Shah Shamrat,
Dhaka Greater, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Bempally Reddy, Alwal Sa-
hara, India
- Lion Sanjay Khanna, Sirsa Star,
India
- Lion Shiv Kumar, Ghaziabad Sen-
ior, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Marvin McKenzie, Mont-
gomery, Texas
- Lion A. N. M. Patoary, Chatkhil
City, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Deepak Tuteja, Delhi Karol
Bagh, India
- Lion Shiv Kumar, Ghaziabad Sen-
ior, India
- Lion Bharat Soni, Ahmedabad
Rajnagar, India
- Lion M. Raghavan, Rasipuram,
India
- Lion Samir Abou Samra, Beirut St.
Nicolas, Lebanon

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Rafael Alvarado, Chicago,
Illinois
- Lion Susan Sarver, Durand, Illinois
- Lion Joellen Zabel, McKinney,
Texas
- Lion Jay Feibelman, Garden
Ridge, Texas
- Lion Ronald McAfee, Henryetta,
Oklahoma

Continued on page 52



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First year directors

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INFORMATION

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- Lion Richard Woodring, Coopersburg, Pennsylvania
- Lion Donald Shelhammer, Houston, Missouri
- Lion Kathryn Fisher, Anchorage Racing, Alaska
- Lion Willis Patterson, Big Lake Aurora, Alaska
- Lion A. K. M. Shafiqul Alam, Dhaka Lalbagh, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Abdus Samad Mollah, Dhaka Poribagh, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Venugopal Sarda, Sedam, India
- Lion Bheemidi Reddy, Hyderabad Stalwarts, India
- Lion Bhaskar Reddy Pattubala, Bangalore Canberra, India
- Lion Ajeya Bhardwaj, New Delhi Green Park, India
- Lion J. S. Goel, Delhi Sadbhawna, India
- Lion Vijay Gupta, Delhi Monarch, India
- Lion Rajeev Kumar, Delhi Advocate, India
- Lion S. N. Saxena, Rewari, India
- Lion Rajendra Gupta, Delhi A One, India
- Lion Arun Puri, Delhi Vikram, India
- Lion Rakesh K. Trehan, New Delhi Prerna, India
- Lion A. K. Singh, Lucknow Rajdhani Anind, India
- Lion Ashok Aggarwal, Dehradun Aastha, India
- Lion Yogesh Jindal, Baraut Chetna, India
- Lion Krishnaprasad Chatterjee, Suri Greater, India
- Lion Meher Gazdar, Mumbai Galaxy, India
- Lion Bhaskar Shah, Bombay Girgaum, India
- Lion Bharat Soni, Ahmedabad Rajnagar, India
- Lion Jaiprakash Agrawal, Korba, India
- Lion Ramesh Shah, Pune Pearl, India
- Lion Om Jangir, Jhunjhunu, India
- Lion Rashmi Gupta, Indore Ahilya, India
- Lion Yogendra Runwal, Ratlam Active, India

INFORMATION

- Lion V. Kaliyaperumal, Thiruvaiyaru, India
- Lion K. Kalichamy, Coimbatore Kurinji, India
- Lion Doctor V Thangam Murthy, Kadayannallur Golden Breeze, India
- Lion Shamusideen Koleosho, Lagos Isolo, Nigeria

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Kenneth E. Lautzenheiser, who served on the International Board of Directors from 1985-1987, has died. A U.S. Army veteran, career educator and a Lion for 60 years, he was a charter member of three Lions clubs in Michigan. He was the recipient of numerous civic, professional and Lions honors.

Farice Bruce Jr., who served on the International Board of Directors from 1981 to 1983, has died. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he had a 34-year career in the savings and loan industry before establishing his own financial services company. First a Lion in Liberal, Kansas, where he served as mayor, Bruce moved to Colorado and became a member of the Fort Collins Lions Club.

FOR THE RECORD

As of March 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,363,315 members in 46,322 clubs and 753 districts in 207 countries and geographic areas.

CALENDAR

2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

JUNE 1:

Leo of the Year Award applications (Leo-LOY) due

Helen Keller Day

JUNE 5:


World Environment Day

JUNE 20:

Deadline for 2013-2014 Charter Applications

JUNE 30-JULY 4:

International Board of Directors Meeting (Hamburg, Germany)



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THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

A Giving Tree

As the devastating tornado of May 22, 2011, tore through her house in Duquesne, Missouri, Shawna Kirk fearfully huddled in the bathtub, protecting her five dogs. Miraculously, she was in the one room of the house that survived the storm. But as she emerged to see the destruction wrought by the deadliest tornado in the United States since 1947, she knew life would never be the same. Reunited with her husband, Bill, the Kirks began to slowly face their catastrophic losses and begin to rebuild. When the Joplin Host Lions showed up in May 2012 with red maple trees—two of the 200 15-foot trees the Lions planted in her community—Kirk was beside herself with joy. Now, whenever she gazes at her beloved, thriving trees, Kirk is reminded of the Lions' kindness and the preciousness of life.



Lions and volunteers plant one of the Kirk's treasured maple trees.

Watch a video about Lions' disaster relief in Joplin.

Q&A: Shawna Kirk

LION Magazine: How bad was the damage from the tornado?

Shawna Kirk: It was completely devastating. In seconds, my house was gone. My dogs and I were trapped in the rubble for three hours. When we got out, I somehow only had bruises and scrapes. I still have nightmares, and I panic whenever it storms. But I was grateful that my family was spared and that we were able to rebuild. There were a lot of people who lost a lot more than I did.

LM: How did the rebuilding process go?

SK: Thanks to a great contractor, it took only seven months to move back home. When I walked in for the first time, it felt like a stranger's house. We gradually made it feel like home again. But our front and back yards were bare. I missed all of the trees and thick grass, but we couldn't afford to do much planting.

LM: How did you feel when the Lions brought you the trees?

SK: So completely blessed. There's just no way to tell them enough what it meant to us. I had actually always dreamed of having a maple tree. When they brought the trees we were so excited! They worked really hard in the heat to plant them.

LM: How are the trees doing now?

SK: They're beautiful. I was amazed that the Lions came back several times to check on the trees. I just hope they know how much I appreciate what they did—not just giving us the trees, but the time and care they put into them.

LM: Why does a tree mean so much to you?

SK: It's not just a tree to me. It's helping us make new memories and heal. My dogs lay under the trees. I sit and read under them and watch them bloom from the deck. They're uplifting. I don't take them for granted, and I don't take life for granted.

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.

ROAR OF APPROVAL

A North Salem Lion in New York, musician **Daniel Koch** released an inspirational light rock album entitled HOPE. Koch is donating all profits to charities such as Hurricane Sandy relief and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Find HOPE (under Koch's professional name, Daniel George) at www.danielgeorgemusic.com.

Lion **Albert D. McCoy** was awarded the Aurora Noon Lions Club's first Lion Lifetime Achievement award. McCoy, a 49-year member and former mayor of the Illinois city, was honored for his dedicated service, leadership and fundraising skills.

Murrieta, California, Lions **Jon Hansen** and **Jay Matsler** are proudly raising their 10th puppy for Canine Companions for Independence. For 18 months, Hansen and Matsler will be responsible for teaching her 30 commands and providing socialization. Although it is difficult to say goodbye, Hansen and Matsler know it is all worth it when they attend "graduation" and the special dogs go on to provide a remarkable service for their new companions.

Nanaimo Hub-City Lion **Peter Thomas** in British Columbia, Canada, received the Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Medal for his 40 years of dedication to community service.

Chuck DeLongchamp recently logged 55 years and 1,200 meetings as a Miami Springs Lion in Florida. DeLongchamp has served in every club office and helped build the first cabin at the Florida Lions Camp for the Visually Handicapped in 1974.



MOUNTAIN LION

Dennis Eves of the Kimberton Area Lions Club in Pennsylvania takes a ski break at the foot of the Matterhorn in Zermatt, Switzerland. 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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LAST ROAR



TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING

Jacksonville Lions in Illinois mount 150 or so flags on the Fourth of July to create an Avenue of Flags in their city of 19,500. The flags go up in the morning and come down in the evening six times a year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day. Lions sell signs for each flag to individuals and businesses to raise funds.



Photo by Dan Morris

*“Thank-you Lions!
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surpassed 60,000
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And Your **LAST CHANCE** at Only **29⁹⁹** per pair

Our shoe buyer got a little frisky, knowing that next month prices would go up. So he bought plenty, & the rafters are bursting!

To make room, we are offering this Last Chance Low Price *plus* **FREE Shipping!** You still get the full Dr. Scholl's® treatment:

Tri-Level Comfort® insoles with 3 layers cushioning. Soft Genuine Leather uppers & smooth manmade trim with breathable mesh details.

- Padded ankle collars
- Hand-stitched mocc toe
- Twin elastic gores
- Updated TPR outsole with excellent traction



Twin Gores for Security & Ease!

Copper Brown



Tri-Level Comfort® INSOLES

EVA contributes to energy return

Fabric aids in moisture control

Latex padding helps with shock reduction

Perfs at the forepart promote better air circulation

Heel cup enhances foot positioning

EVA inserts in heel and forepart for added shock absorption

TPR outsole for lightweight, flexible comfort

Order Now!

LAST CHANCE at this **LOW PRICE** and **FREE SHIPPING** to boot!

Haband!



D & EEE Widths!

Black

Pewter Grey

Tan



GENUINE LEATHER LOAFERS

29^{99*} per pair

BUY MORE & SAVE! 2 pairs for 55.97 3 pairs for 80.95

☐ **Haband!** Card # _____ Exp.: ____/____/____
☐ **BLAIR CLASSIC** Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
☐ Visa Address _____ Apt. # _____
☐ MC City & State _____ Zip _____
☐ AmEx Phone/Email _____
☐ Discover® I enclose \$ _____ purchase price, and only ~~\$5.99~~ shipping & handling.
☐ Network In GA add tax. **FREE SHIPPING!** Imported
☐ Check

On-Line Quick Order
72P-42J82 WHAT SIZE? WHAT WIDTH? HOW MANY?
D6 COPPER BROWN
01 BLACK
6B PEWTER GREY
02 TAN

Men's D Widths:
 7 7½ 8 8½ 9 9½ 10 10½ 11 12 13
Men's *EEE Width
 (\$5 more per pair):
 8 8½ 9 9½ 10 10½ 11 12 13

When you pay by check, you authorize us to use information from your check to clear it electronically. Funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed or Full Refund of merchandise purchase price.

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