

# LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONMAGAZINE.ORG JULY/AUGUST 2013



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Aussie!**

**New President  
Barry Palmer  
and Anne Dream  
Up a Grand Year**

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# A Message From Our President



**Barry J. Palmer**  
Lions Clubs  
International President

## Lofty Dreams Lead to Great Service

Just beyond the modest home I grew up in was the Australian bush, where kangaroos, wallabies and kookaburras roamed amid gum and wattle trees. My father, Jack, was an accountant who took the same train to work and sat in the same seat day after day. I trained to be a wool classer, rotely producing wool. *But I dreamt of doing something more influential.* So I eventually went into real estate and built up my business.

*As a Lion I also dreamt of making a big impact.* So when a young Australian woman spoke to our club about an orphanage she worked at in India, my club dove right in. The parents of many of these children had been

killed by rebels. We helped get them better housing, and from that point many thrived in school.

For years I had another dream I kept to myself. I saw the remarkable ability of Lions to change lives, and I wanted to fully devote myself to Lions. The dream came true a few years ago when I learned I was to be nominated for international president.

*Lions, follow your dreams.* They will not lead you astray. Nearly every great accomplishment began as a wildly ambitious dream whether it was landing a man on the moon, running a four-minute mile or webbing together the entire world through computers. Listen to your heart. Don't ever impede a great idea whose time has come. *To me, dreams are not visions that arise in sleep but plans that don't let you sleep.*

Identify your dream and work to achieve it. It's up to you to decide what your dream is. Plant the seed and let it grow. Find inspiration and guidance from other clubs and from Lions Clubs International. *As I like to say, don't tell me to aim for the stars when there are footprints on the moon.*

Anne and I look forward to you Following Your Dream in 2013-14. Good luck, godspeed and congratulations—great service is the inevitable result of pursuing dreams.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry J. Palmer'.

Barry J. Palmer  
Your Lions Clubs International President



Members of the Candon City Lions Club in the Philippines partnered with the World Outreach Foundation on a medical mission that served 500 children and adults. Clubs can accomplish great things: if they dream it, they can do it.

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14

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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."*

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## Convention Countdown

Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 4-8, 2014



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## NEWEST LIBRARY IS HANDMADE

Little free libraries are what you might expect: small, free-standing, handcrafted structures where people can take and leave books. The Little Free Library organization, based in Wisconsin, has sent out nearly 4,000 official library signs worldwide. One of the latest was built in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, thanks to the Eau Claire Seymour Lions Club. Lions Terry McDougall and Dave Swan built a replica of the unused Little Red School at the site of the nearby rural school. The club donated books to the Little Red School Free Library. The club is working on another free library with an aquatic theme at the municipal pool.



The Little Red School Free Library offers donated books.

Lions clean up after the tornado devastated Moore, Oklahoma.



## OKLAHOMA LIONS SHOW THEIR METTLE AFTER POWERFUL TWISTERS

Members of a small club chartered just three years ago, Carney Lions sprang into action in May when tornadoes devastated their tiny town as well as Moore and other places in Oklahoma. "They were digging people out of the rubble. They were seeking medical attention for them," says Dawn Miller, 3-H second vice district governor.

Lions in Oklahoma City and elsewhere in the state also responded immediately to the tornadoes on May 20 that killed 23 people and injured nearly 400. Lions used their mobile health screening unit as a command post for aid at the Wal-Mart in Moore and later at a central relief station at a high school. They passed out vouchers, made possible by LCIF funds, provided blood glucose screenings and advised storm victims on what to do next. Zone Chairperson Jacque Mooney, who lost her home in the tornado that hit the Moore area in 1999, created a handy checklist of things to do for storm victims.

LCIF approved a \$100,000 Major Catastrophe grant for disaster relief in Oklahoma and also collected donations from Lions. More than \$200,000 is now available from LCIF for Lions in Oklahoma. Recovery plans have not been made yet, but some Lions have suggested helping the schools that were destroyed or damaged. The Lions' contributions, especially in Carney, demonstrated the value of service clubs, says Miller, who formerly lived in Moore and whose home was damaged by the 1999 tornado. "It's testimony to the great need for local clubs familiar with their own communities," she says.



## S.C. LIONS MARCH SMARTLY

Dressed in full Lions regalia, Lions in South Carolina marched down main streets in dozens of towns in March to let residents know of their presence and their service. About half of the 150 clubs in Multiple District 32 took part in the Walk for Sight. Marching Lions shook hands with curious onlookers and passed out club brochures and membership applications. The project culminated with a rally at the South Carolina State House in Columbia. State Senator Mike Fair and Past International Director Gene Spiess spoke at the rally, according to Randy Edwards, project chairperson.

Members of the Abbeville Lions Club take part in the Walk for Sight.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



## 83 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

JULY 1930

For the first time, a club "inducted" a lion. The New York City Lions Club made Gilmore a member. He's shown with his owner, Col. Roscoe Turner (left), and John Kirkland Clark, president.

## BY THE NUMBERS

19

Service groups and businesses at an open house for the visually impaired in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada. Brian Hetherington, who is blind, and his club, the Maple Ridge Lions, organized the event to connect the blind with resources.

336

Hats, mittens and scarves knitted or crocheted last year for U.S. soldiers overseas or needy people in Connecticut by Colchester Lions and volunteers they recruited.

16

New members added within a few months by Willmar Noon Lions in Minnesota by simply asking people to join. Membership now stands at 50.

10

Years after it disbanded that the Newman Lions Club in California chartered again with four members of the original club, begun in 1949. The four are George Vargas, Ed Faria, Jim Lagrutta and Marge Carvalho. The club has 25 members.

72,000

Eyeglasses collected by Harry Thornton of the Lacey Lamplighters Lions in Washington since 2000. He retrieves them from 30 donation boxes in Thurston County.

8

"Sleep kits" with sleeping bags, socks, toothbrushes, books and other goods given to local police departments for at-risk children by Livonia Lions in Michigan in partnership with Sweet Dreamzzz.

3.5

Weight in pounds of a thermal imaging camera, which helps fire-fighters find people in smoke-filled rooms, purchased by the city fire department after a donation from Danbury Lions in Connecticut. The previous camera was lost in a fire.

45

Children displaced by a nine-alarm fire at an apartment complex in Woodbridge, New Jersey, that came to a party with games, entertainment and toys thrown by the Edison Visionary Lions.

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ONE OF US

## RICHARD "TONY" DOYLE

Lately at Spring Branch-Bulverde Lions' events, children are on the lookout for their beloved Lion pirate. After losing his leg in 2005 while serving in Iraq, retired Army Sgt. Richard "Tony" Doyle had toyed with the idea of creating a pirate character to show children there can be a bright side to any hardship in life. Since making that idea a reality last summer as a Texas Lions Camp counselor, Doyle is bringing fun and lightheartedness to Bulverde, Texas, while serving his Lions club and community in a unique, generous way.

### How did you come up with the idea of becoming a pirate?

I had always wanted to be a "pirate" since losing my leg. When I became a camp counselor, I had the opportunity to bring the character to life. I have a prosthetic leg that looks really good as a peg leg, and I bought a pirate costume. The campers loved it, and so did the Lions and camp staff.

### Why did you become a Texas Lions Camp counselor?

I'm a full-time student studying European history and agriculture, and last year a friend at school who was a counselor approached me about it. I thought it would be good to show children that just because you have a disability doesn't mean you can't do things. I'll be the archery activity leader this summer.

### How did you develop an interest in archery?

When I was doing rehab at the Center for the Intrepid, a bunch of us were invited to a U.S. Paralympics training center to try out some sports. I was amazed when I watched a double amputee [one arm and one leg] archer use his hand to hold the bow and draw the string back with his teeth. I tried it and was a natural.

### What do the campers learn from archery?

Last year there was a boy with severe cerebral palsy who didn't want anything to do with archery. Finally we managed to talk him into trying it. He put his hand on my wrist while I pulled the string back. At the moment it released, he had a smile that was beyond ear-to-ear! Words can't do it justice how it felt. Maybe later he'll try something he never would have because of that experience.

### When you're the pirate, do children ask about your leg?

Yes, and I tell them what happened in a simple and direct way. Parents try to keep their kids from asking, but I don't mind. They're genuinely interested in why I'm different. I want them to know that just because you may become disabled, you can still live life. It's a way of serving my community and showing that adversity can be turned into fun.

---

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

Doyle interacts with the crowd between races at the Lions' annual Mow Down Show Down lawnmower races.





A white dress shirt is laid flat on a light-colored wooden surface. A colorful striped tie, featuring diagonal stripes in red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, is draped over the shirt's collar and down its front. The shirt has a pointed collar and visible buttons. The sleeve cuff is folded up, showing the letters 'PFS' printed on it.

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## CLUB OF THE MONTH

FORT VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1955

**MEETING MATTERS:** As the 94 Lions arrive for their weekly lunch meeting, they enjoy piano music played by Lion John Caldwell. At each meeting they learn from guest speakers and have a chance to win an ever-growing jackpot raffle.

**MEMBERSHIP ON THE RISE:** Thanks to the club's social, upbeat approach, more than 25 new Lions of all ages have recently joined through helping with projects and attending fun meetings and open houses. The club's original president, 104-year-old LeRoy DeBast, still proudly serves.

**STAYING ON TRACK FOR THE BLIND:** For the past 35 years, the Lions have held an annual track and field meet for visually impaired youths. More than 100 students convene at the Washington State School for the Blind for the fun competition, pre-meet career talks by visually impaired adults and a post-meet dance.

**FAST FOOD:** Since the Lions started "Walk and Knock" in 1982, it has grown to become the county's largest food drive. Through asking for food donations door-to-door on the first Saturday in December, Lions and other volunteers collect enough food to stock 13 food banks through March.

**ROCK STARS FOR A CAUSE:** The Lions' biggest fundraisers are their eclectic benefit concerts featuring local talent, including themselves. Lions have surprised audiences by dressing in costume and rapping, singing reggae tunes and crooning country oldies. These good sports have raised close to \$100,000 for Sightfirst II and other causes.

**WHY SERVE?** "My boss ordered me to join a community service group. Against my will I joined the Lions because they met at lunch. That was over 25 years ago. Since then, I've learned how good it feels to be a member of a group that helps so many in so many ways." —Roy Pulliam, membership chairperson

Lion Sandy Hammond helps a visually impaired competitor at the annual track meet.



Watch a video of the "Village Lions" performing "LION"—their version of the song "YMCA"—at last spring's benefit concert.

## OVERHEARD

"When you go to work every day, you work hard, fight the fight, chasing the almighty dollar, and that has its place. But you just don't do that with the Lions club. You feel really good after doing what we do."

—Todd Probasco, 2012-13 president of the Orland Park Lions Club in Illinois, in the Orland Park Patch.

"If we want to live in this community and we want to be a good community, we have to take care of the people who live here who don't have the resources."

—Dr. Sally Freeman, grand marshal of a Lions parade in Rincon, Georgia, and an owner of Effingham Eye Care, which provides free eye care in partnership with Rincon Lions. From the Effingham Herald.

"It's definitely like being royalty. And the Lions club gives you free corn dogs!"

—Mendota (Illinois) Sweet Corn Festival Queen Madeline Piller in the Mendota Reporter.

## ON THE WEB

Connect with Lions around the world by using Instagram, a fun and creative way to share photos. Install the Instagram app on your smartphone, and after taking a photo, choose a filter that can transform the shot to look like nostalgic Kodak Instamatic or Polaroid images. Play with color and contrast, create collages and use many other effects to make your Lions' images even more memorable. Find the free app in the iTunes or Google Play stores. Then use the #LionsEverywhere hash tag to get started sharing and following Lions' photos.



# IDEAS THAT ROAR

LIONS CLUBS MAKE A BIG IMPACT WITH SERVICE PROJECTS

## KEEP MEMBERSHIP STRONG

Adding new members to keep your club strong is essential to remaining a viable community force for change.

SERVICE IDEA KEEP COMMUNITY CLEAN



## Litter Patrol Lifts Community's Spirit

West Warwick Lions Litter Patrol volunteers Paul Isenberg (left) and David Legault clean up their community in Rhode Island.

Nothing stops the West Warwick Lions Litter Patrol in Rhode Island—not even Hurricane Sandy when it came roaring through the East Coast with crushing ferocity. “West Warwick was affected but not as badly as the towns along the coast. We lost power for two days. The Lions Litter Patrol hit the streets three days after the hurricane, the following morning after Halloween. We picked up hurricane debris and lots of candy wrappers,” says Paul Isenberg.

“Since last July, we’ve been picking up trash, pulling weeds, sweeping curbs and disposing of cigarette butts—lots of cigarette butts,” points out Isenberg, 2012-13 club president. The idea for the patrol came about the same month he took office. “I was walking through town and couldn’t believe how filthy it was. How could anyone be proud of where we live and what could outsiders possibly think when they drove through West Warwick?” he asked himself as he took in the litter-strewn sidewalks and streets.

“Something moved me to go home, get four large trash bags and a pair of gloves, drive back to town and spend three hours filling up those bags. It felt so rewarding that the next day I suggested to Lions that we continue this work as an on-

going community service project,” he recalls. The 21 club members agreed, and the Lions Litter Patrol was created, just a year after the club itself was chartered.

“We got permission from the town highway department and we invested in our own tools and supplies to make our work more productive. We got our shirts printed and even got a pickup truck for transporting us and our equipment,” he adds.

Once or twice a week, Lions don their fluorescent greenish-yellow shirts identifying them as members of the West Warwick Lions Litter Patrol and push trash barrels up and down Main Street. And, points out Isenberg, they’ve recently extended their patrol beyond Main Street into other neighborhoods. “I truly feel that the town of West Warwick is now one of the cleanest in the state,” he says. “Local business owners have come out of their stores and thanked us for our efforts. Everyone’s heard of ‘Adopt-a-Spot,’ a program where businesses agree to maintain a small portion of public land. Our Lions Litter Patrol takes that concept one step further and we call it ‘Adopt-a-Town.’ West Warwick has a lot of problems, but looking unsightly and unwelcoming will never be one of them because of the efforts of Lions.”

# IDEAS THAT ROAR

LIONS CLUBS MAKE A BIG IMPACT WITH SERVICE PROJECTS

## SHOW LIONS IN ACTION

A club service or fundraising event provides an opportunity to take good action photos to send to local media or LION Magazine to illustrate your club's community involvement.

## A Community Effort

Lions in Union, West Virginia, number 29 in a town of approximately 700, and their contributions to the community are numerous and ongoing. They've transformed a shabby tennis court into a new basketball court for the community's youths to enjoy. "Last year, our club built a picnic shelter at the same park complex, which includes the town swimming pool," says Lion Ed Via.

"Union is the county seat of Monroe county, population: 12,000. We are rather proud that the county contains

no traffic light and that there is no four-lane highway anywhere in the county," Via points out. "It does boast incredible natural beauty. We rather like our rural environment, and we have no coal. But there are limitations for our youth." Since the only other basketball court was on school property and not readily available to the public, Lions voted to step in and provide another court at the park. The project also provided a "teachable moment," he says.

"Our project director Norb Netzel alerted us to the fact that the Boy

Scouts of America were looking for projects for the scouts attending the National Jamboree in July," says Via. "We submitted the information, and it was approved as a test project to determine the area's readiness to host scout work projects." Officials, expecting 50,000 Scouts, volunteers and staff to attend the Jamboree at its new permanent reserve in West Virginia, wanted to find manageable activities participants could handle. Each Scout attending the 10-day Jamboree spent a day working on a community project.

"These projects are all over southern West Virginia," says Via. "Our project and a couple of others elsewhere in the region were selected as models to test the logistics of having hundreds of Boy Scouts working in communities around the area."

Joining Lions were local officials and residents, representatives of the Boy Scouts of America, the Civilian Conservation Corps, who are helping scouting officials plan the Jamboree projects, and AmeriCorps volunteers. "The AmeriCorps volunteers played the role of Scouts—and did a lot of work," Via says.

Using borrowed bulldozers and backhoes, volunteers removed fencing on three sides, cut and cleared overhanging branches, weeds and vines, patched asphalt cracks and toted out debris that cluttered the courts. Donated goals and backboards will complete the park's new basketball courts. "It's a work in progress," says Via.

SERVICE IDEA PARTNER WITH OTHERS



Lion Norb Netzel and volunteer Tracy Shrader haul fencing away.



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1 EUROPE SWITZERLAND

Lions' bike taxis raised money for troubled girls.



## Huffing and Puffing for Others

Swiss Lions and Leos in Baden pedaled so troubled girls could start new lives. For a day several Lions and Leos transported more than 100 passengers in five bike taxis around Baden, a picturesque town of 18,000 near Zurich known for its mineral hot springs. Proceeds went toward a home in Zurich for girls and young women from abusive homes and for a project in Nepal to lift girls out of poverty.

Members of the Baden Heitersberg Lions Club, including a 69-year-old, and the Baden Leo Club took turns in the taxis, which had weak electric motors that need to be supplemented by pedal power. Among the passengers was a newly married couple. The rides generated 6,000 francs (US\$6,300), which the Lions matched.

## Lions Ease Radiation Fears

Fidgeting with apprehension, hundreds of people come daily to the public health department in Koriyama, Japan, to test their exposure to radiation. Three nuclear reactors in the Fukushima district suffered a full meltdown after the devastating earthquake/tsunami in March 2011.

Lions of District 332-D partnered with Lions Clubs International Foundation to donate two whole-body radiation counters to government authorities. Lions and LCIF also donated the machines to the towns of Kawabata and Ono, as well as four thyroid gland ultrasound imaging units.

"People in Fukushima are on thorns worrying about radiation. We hope these projects will relieve their anxiety even a little so they can live with peace of mind," says Past District Governor Zenkuro Kubota.

Kubota credits Past International Director Jitsuhiro Yamada, then a Lions Clubs International board appointee, for spearheading the donations. A former executive director of the Japan Hospital Association, Yamada worked as a liaison between the hospital association and the Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Support headquarters.

Expectant mothers and children were tested first, and the adults from areas with the highest levels of radiation were tested next.

The lifetime risk of contracting cancer rose slightly for a small group of people exposed to radiation in Japan, according to a report in May by the World Health Organization. But the trauma was worse, WHO warned. Disasters like this cause fear, anxiety, depression, and, in some instances, more severe psychiatric disorders.

2 ASIA JAPAN



A whole-body counter measures a man's internal radiation level in Koriyama, Japan.





THE **BOX HILL LIONS** IN AUSTRALIA HELD AN INTERNATIONAL NIGHT DINNER EVENT FOR A DELEGATION OF VISITORS FROM CHINA.



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# Lions' Irish Eyes Are Smiling



Sean Olohan

A Lion for two years, Sean Olohan does more than tell people about Lions and their importance. The Irish musician sings about his favorite service group. Two years ago he wrote and now often performs “The Lions—We Have the Community in Our Hearts,” a soft, lilting ballad with a catchy melody.

Olohan has fronted the Cantons, a four-piece band that plays rock, pop and traditional Irish music, since he was a school lad. Performing now mostly as AVOCA, the band has toured Europe and the United States, appeared on TV multiple times and recorded a couple hit songs.

Lions clubs in Ireland don't sing at meetings. But Olohan and his mates from the Wicklow and District Lions Club make up for it. They join together on his song while visiting hospitals and nursing homes. He plays it at his band's concerts, too. “It's good to have a captive audience to raise awareness of Lions,” he says with a chuckle. “Generally speaking, the response is fantastic.”

Olohan also will bring out his guitar and strum the song while at a pub kicking back pints of Guinness with Lions. He wrote the song for his club's 25th anniversary. It's a simple but effective declaration of Lions' motives: “As Lions we don't hunt/we don't roar/we never, ever ask for more/what we give is right from the heart.”

Olohan, who owns a music store, uses his talents to promote good causes. He wrote “Saving Lives,” his most popular song, for the Lifeboat Rescue Service. He recently penned a tune about a hospice his town is building with support of Lions and others. That song, as well as the Lions song, will be on a new album of his with proceeds for the hospice.

Watch Olohan perform his Lions' song.

# Clubs Counter Diabetes



Members of the St. Croix and Frederiksted Lions Clubs in the U.S. Virgin Islands march in a Strides diabetes awareness walk.

Getting diagnosed with diabetes 15 years ago led Hugh Sanchez to alter his lifestyle. It also changed his experience as a Lion: as president of the St. Croix Lions Club in the U.S. Virgin Islands he talks about the disease in interviews with newspapers and radio and television stations and helps lead club projects such as a diabetes fair and the Strides walk to raise awareness of the affliction.

He knows diabetes is a stealth disease that flies under the radar. “I always tell my story when I meet people. They say to me, ‘You are not diabetic. You look too good,’” says Sanchez, 66.

After his diagnosis, Sanchez stopped drinking alcohol and started exercising. He also learns as much as he can about diabetes and shares what he knows with participants in his club's blood sugar screenings and other diabetes-related projects.

The joy of sight: watch the reaction of a blind man who can see again thanks to Lions.







# The Palmer Method

## New President Dreams and Then Does

by Jay Copp

Barry Palmer said no, sorry, not able to make it. Lions from Germany were visiting his own club that same night. “Are you sure you can’t be there?” the club president asked him again. She wanted Palmer, then the district governor, to present Melvin Jones Fellowships that night. Her club was an hour’s drive from his home in Hornsby, near Sydney.

“We’d really love to have you,” the club president persisted. District Governor Palmer fidgeted and did some quick mental math about the travel. “Well, I’ll come if you can start the meeting just a little bit early,” he told her. “I’ll do it first, then I’ll have to leave.”

Not wanting to rudely rush away, he lingered at the meeting after he presented the awards. What he witnessed next practically melted his heart. Lions rolled a young girl in a wheelchair toward a four-wheeled contraption with an upright seat in the middle. The Lions gently placed her in the seat of the Hart Walker, and the girl, strapped in a standing position, pushed forward and willed herself across the room. At home the walker empowered her by mitigating her disability, allowing her to set the table for dinner, grab the phone and draw nearer to visiting friends.

The next morning Lion Palmer called the nonprofit in New South Wales trying to provide more children with Hart Walkers. A staffer told him they were seeking donors and a letter had already been written for Rotary. “Have you posted it?” he anxiously asked. “I’m waiting for my boss to sign it,” she replied.

“Well, change one word,” he said.

“What’s that?”

“Change ‘Rotary’ to ‘Lions.’”

That bolt of sudden bravado left District Governor Palmer weak in the knees. “I put the phone down and thought, geez, what have I done. *But we got the money together within 12 months—\$300,000—and from there it just took off.*”

The Hart Walkers now are one of the signature projects of Australian Lions. There’s definitely a method to President Palmer’s madness. Our new international pres-

ident dreams big and then finds a way to realize those dreams. Since becoming a Lion, he’s spearheaded or played a major role in a host of service projects that have transformed lives and the overall direction of Lions in Australia. He set up the Education Builds Bridges program for Lions in Australia to provide downtrodden children in Indonesia with a solid education. He and his wife, Anne, persuaded his club to support an orphanage in India with their help. He represented Australian Lions in preparation for the Paralympics there in 2000 and championed Lions’ generous support of the well-respected Children’s Cancer Institute in Sydney.

People in need, especially children, bring out the Lion in President Palmer. “*Children always bring a tear to his eye,*” says Lion Pauline Henebery, who runs Education Builds Bridges. “He is very much a normal sort of bloke in that sense. He sees a child taking their first steps in a Hart Walker and tears come to his eyes.”

Other Lions who know him well relate similar encounters. President Palmer visited areas in East Timor stricken by the massive tsunami in 2004. “You could see his heart welling as he told stories about what he saw,” says David Thompson of the Hornsby Lions. “He told us what the Lions had done, how the funding was working. It was heartfelt, and he was so proud of what we were achieving.”

President Palmer traces his compassion to his Aussie roots. “Disadvantaged children have always been my passion,” he says. “I guess it’s part of the Australian ethic—[root for] the underdog: those that can’t help themselves and even with sports teams. *If you’re the underdog you come out fighting.* And I think that’s why I’ve always gone for the underdog to help them get up.”

This year President Palmer wants Lions to follow his path—to dream big and to reach out even more to the needy and underserved. He has planned a substantial

Learn more about our new president’s plans for 2013-14.

(Left) The Hart Walkers are one of the signature projects of Lions in Australia.

Photo by Dan Morris



Years ago, President Palmer began an educational program for poor children in Indonesia.

microfinance venture in India and other nations, a worldwide Lions Family Week in April for families and friends to have fun together serving, and a yearlong focus on increasing female membership. But the larger focus will be on the method—following your dream, his theme. (See page 21 for the complete Palmer program for 2013-14).

“I can’t give you what your dream will be,” he says. “It’s up to Lions to decide. It may relate to your club. It may relate to Lions. It may not. It may be something in your personal life. All we want you to do is plant the seed and go with it.”

President Palmer’s goal is ambitious, but longtime friends say don’t bet against him. “He has a very, very sharp mind and a very compassionate heart. And he’s a very hard worker,” says Thompson. “He’s a person who can talk to people to encourage them to do things they don’t think they can do. Very supportive. But he also has the strength to face the challenges that have to be faced. If hard words have to be said, he’s quite prepared to say them.”

Our new president became a Lion almost by accident in 1976. Customers at his retail store near Christmas wanted a particular fruitcake made by Sara Lee. Palmer called Sara Lee; employees would not let him sell the cake and did not tell him why. Now more curious than ever, Palmer did some digging and discovered the company made them under license for Lions clubs.

So Palmer called up a Hornsby Lion and offered to sell 20 cartons of the cake. “They thought I was nuts because I wasn’t going to make any money from it. But they didn’t realize that the cakes were bringing customers into the business,” he says with a smile. The club eventually invited him to a meeting to honor him with a certificate of appreciation. Then the light bulb finally went on, and Lions asked him to the next meeting. “I said, ‘Bill [Atlas], why didn’t you ever ask me to join?’ He said, *‘I thought you were too busy.’*”

Lion Palmer jumped right in, doing repairs for senior citizens, cleaning yards, painting, and, of course, grilling at sausage sizzles, the Australian Lion equivalent of a pancake breakfast. Lions became a way of life for him and Anne as they hosted exchange students, got involved in Lions’ drug education programs and began

## From the Outback to Out and About in the World

Barry J. Palmer is part Outback, part Sydney and all Aussie. “I’m proud to be an Australian because of our culture,” he says. “It’s very relaxed, very laid back, easygoing and friendly. People you’ve known for years, people in the shops, banks, always want to have a chat.”

When Adam Scott hit a key shot at this year’s Masters, he screamed, “Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!” President Palmer understands. “The success of our athletes—we do very well for a country of only 20 million people. And I guess our isolation has been a plus in some ways that we don’t have a lot of problems and troubles or fights and wars. It’s a very peaceful place.”

Lions’ 97th international president was born in the middle of World War II in Hornsby on the outskirts of Sydney. The bush was President Palmer’s backyard. Wallabies hovered near his home. “You’d hear the thump, thump, thump, and you knew there was one hopping down the back fence line,” he recalls.

Young Palmer was one of three children. His dad, Jack, was an accountant. Sylvia, his mom, ran the home. Barry played three soccer matches each week. “I love the team spirit of it. I like the skill of it. It’s fast. It’s open,” he says.

Intending to work in the wool industry, he attended an agricultural high school. He worked in the bush and in wool sheds. He relished the outdoors. “I think it’s important to be in tune with nature—to just sit in the bush for a while and listen to what’s going on and observing the animals, birds and lizards.” But the wool industry slumped, so he found a job at a bank.

Funny thing about the bank business—you see how money can be made. “I was meeting all these customers running their own businesses and doing quite well. So I decided that if I worked as hard for myself as I did for the bank I’d probably make a lot of money,” says President Palmer.



He started buying businesses, improving them and selling them. Then he went into real estate. It went well for him with Remax. "He was pretty much the most successful real estate man around. He was known as the godfather of the industry," says Lion Francesca Parrino, a protégé of President Palmer's in the field.

President Palmer enjoyed furthering the dreams both of homebuyers and employees. "Assisting other people is something I've done for the last 30 years whether it's a client or staff member," he says. "You used to get a sixth sense just by talking to them. I never used to go through a fixed questionnaire when I was employing people. I used to put a pen on the desk and say, 'Sell me the pen.' You could see how they reacted. Some of them couldn't sell me the pen. But at least they tried."

Young Palmer met Anne when she was 15 and he was 19. He was the drummer in a rock 'n roll band, and she came to see him play—over and over. Guitarist Vince Maloney later played with the Bee Gees, but the band fell apart. Barry and Anne were just beginning. Both quiet and reserved, they grew up and matured together as a couple. "Yeah, we hit it off. I couldn't put my finger on any one thing. It was just a progression of growing up and wanting to share my life with her," he says.

The Palmers have three children and eight grandchildren. He kicks the soccer ball around with the younger ones. "Anne was desperately keen to be a grandma. But if someone's calling me grandpa then I'm getting old. So they call me poppy," he says.

In Hornsby, the Palmers have the best of two worlds. "I enjoy living in Sydney but on the fringe. I don't like the hustle and bustle," he says. "It's good to be at home where it's quiet and the birds are the noise you hear." Downtown Sydney is a 50-minute train ride away. "We would go there for the theater, for musicals, visiting bands. There are a lot of things to do there. I love going to Chinatown."

It's the world of Lions that will occupy them for the next year. "Look at the projects and the variety of things we do around the world," President Palmer says. "What I've seen so far just blows me away as to what we can achieve."



The bush was President Palmer's boyhood backyard.



The Palmers met as teenagers and have been inseparable since.



President Palmer loves the outdoors.



Photo by Dan Morris

The president is devoted to his 97-year-old mother, Sylvia.

Learn more about the life story of President Palmer.



President Palmer is no stranger to sausage sizzles.

traveling and meeting Lions nationwide and worldwide as Barry took on more leadership roles.

The day he truly became a Lion was when he saw the effect the Hart Walker had on children. “I feel very emotional to know a child’s life has changed,” he says. “There was a case I remember very clearly with a little boy who refused to walk [in the Hart Walker]. The doctor said, ‘Oh, this sometimes happens.’ So as a reward his parents bought a puppy. They brought it into the room and just held it near the door. *And this kid just took off and walked and grabbed his puppy.*”

President Palmer’s challenge as president is not with one child or even a nation of disabled children but to effectively lead Lions of more than 200 nations. “What makes a good leader is somebody who is not afraid to surround themselves with people better than they are,” he says. “Too many leaders go the opposite way and surround themselves with people who are not as good as they are. The last thing I want is ‘yes men’ or ‘yes women.’ I want people who will challenge me and throw their thoughts out there for us to think about. That’s my basic philosophy on leadership. It’s as simple as that.”

His goal is to translate dreams of Lions—even his own—into reality. A year from now he will stand on stage at the international convention in Toronto and know in his heart to what extent dreams came true. “My dream is that I’m going to hand over to Peter Lynch [senior executive administrator at Lions Clubs International] an envelope with my dream written in it. I will ask him to open it and read it in Toronto to see if we got my dream. But basically my dream will be for everybody in Lions to achieve their dreams for the year.”

# Get Up-to-Date on Down Under



A service club’s membership restrictions led to the founding of Lions in Australia. In the mid-1940s, Bill Tresise served as national president of Apex, a community service organization of young adults in Australia. About to turn 40, the age limit for Apex, he was rebuffed when he tried to extend the limit.

Traveling overseas, Tresise, a builder, met a Lion entirely by chance, and when he returned to Lismore he began the first Lions club there in 1947.

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## Australia has 27,251 Lions in 1,249 clubs.

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Australian Lions are particularly devoted to youth, and one of their most prominent activities is the Youth of the Year program. Many high-profile Australians have taken part in the program in its 46 years.

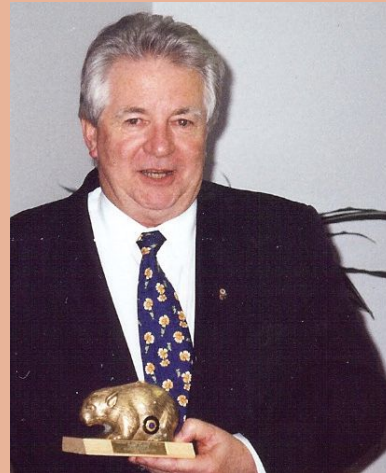


Aussie Lions like to fire up the barbie. The sausage sizzle is a time-honored fundraiser.





Typifying their carefree, casual attitude, Australian Lions marching in a parade often sing "Waltzing Matilda," a bush ballad or country song regarded as the unofficial national anthem. The title is slang for travelling by foot with one's goods in a "Matilda" (a bag) slung over the back.



President Palmer's nickname among Lions' friends is Wombat, a native Australian animal with short legs and a rotund build. President Palmer says the name fits for this reason: "It's a stubborn individual you'd never back into a corner because it will come out fighting. Otherwise it's a very placid, easygoing animal."



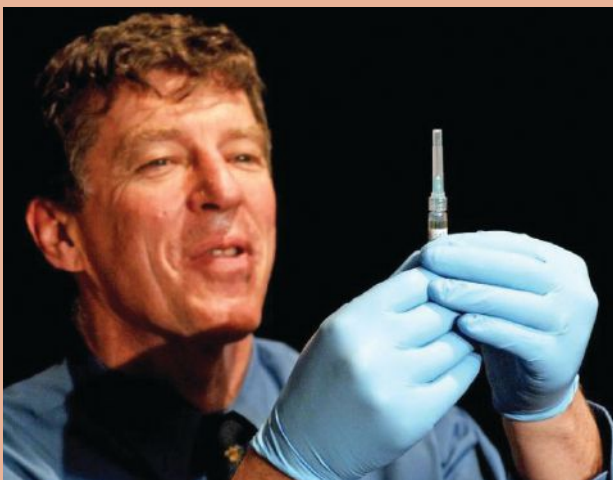
Aboriginals played the didgeridoo, a conical wind instrument, in 2010 in Sydney at the 93rd International Convention and were also scheduled to perform in July at the 96th International Convention in Hamburg.

In 2005, Barry Palmer received the Australian Medal, the second highest honor accorded to civilians, for his service particularly as a Lion in and outside of Australia.



Australian Lions are immensely proud of Palmer as president and predict great things. "I think he is a visionary. He can see things as how they should be, not as they are," says Nigel Jenny, LCIF coordinator for Multiple District 201.

Adds Lion Helen Sham-Ho (pictured), the first Asian-born member of Parliament in Australia, "I think he'll be a great international president. He's very, very much a person who can motivate people, who is gentle and who can impress people and drive them to do the right thing."



The most famous Australian Lion is Ian Fraser of the Brisbane Inner West Lions Club. A clinical immunologist, he was named the 2006 Australian of the Year after creating a cervical cancer vaccine.

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## Follow Your Dream

"If you can dream it, you can do it." -Walt Disney-

Martin Luther King did not say, "I have a goal." Or "I have an aim."  
The most powerful words in his famous speech were "I have a dream".

A dream embraces our most cherished longings. It embodies our very identity. We often won't feel fulfilled as human beings until we realize our dreams.

The innovative and gifted Danish architect Jorn Utzon had a dream – to build a structure that would be renowned not only for its aesthetic design, but also one that would define its surroundings while defying the principles of modern architecture. In 1957 he got his chance. His design for the Sydney Opera House was selected from over 200 entries. There were many naysayers, and more than a few famous architects who said it couldn't be done.

Work began in earnest in March 1959. Through both trial and tribulation, the opera house shell began to take shape. Finally, after 14 years, the opera house opened to the public in 1973. Today, it stands as a world-wide symbol for Sydney, and Utzon's dream lives on as both an architectural marvel and a perfect example of "if you can dream it, you can achieve it."

We all have hopes and dreams. We all go through times in our lives when we come up with ideas of things that we would like to accomplish in the years ahead. It's a natural human tendency to come up with an ideal that we would like to fulfill in our future.

Everyone should have a dream – a vision – a goal, and something as unique as our very DNA. The challenge is really twofold: first identify your dream, and then work to achieve your dream, for there is nothing more disheartening than a dream unfulfilled.

**It's never too late to find your dream.  
Have you found yours?**





## **SERVICE.**

### **It's More Than A Dream, It's Our Identity**

We exist to serve others. It sets us apart and really defines us as an organization. It's why we can make the claim "The Global Leader In Humanitarian Service."



Our Global Service Action Campaigns of engaging youth (August), working with the blind and visually impaired (October), feeding the hungry (December and January), and working to improve the environment (April) solidify our reputation for service, providing clubs and districts with yet another opportunity to effect positive change – to make life better for our neighbors. Each year our Global Service Action campaigns account for over 200 million hours of service, with a direct impact on 16 million people.

In addition to these campaigns, I'm also challenging the Lions of the world to focus on reducing poverty through actions such as micro-financing and low-cost technologies that can improve lives and allow more people in need to break the cycle of poverty and realize their fullest potential.





As impressive as our impact is globally, our local programs – at the club and district level – really connect us to our respective communities.

With now over 46,000 clubs around the world – in urban centers, suburban areas, and small towns that dot the rural landscape, our tradition of service has established Lions clubs as the very fabric of the communities in which they serve. Last year alone, with only half our clubs reporting through the new service activity reporting system, we know we completed over 450,000 service projects, representing 500 million service hours, benefiting over 200 million people.

It's the local Lions club that sponsors youth athletic activities; that builds a community park or provides a scholarship to students. It's the local Lions club that furnishes meals directly to needy families, or keeps food on the shelves of a hometown food bank. When someone needs a pair of eyeglasses, it's the local Lions club that provides a voucher. We plant trees. We participate in activities to improve literacy rates. We sponsor youth exchange programs and youth mentoring programs. We assist the elderly, and so much more.

Lions dream big and take action to accomplish their dream. In the past several years, for example, Lions responded overwhelmingly to the challenge to improve reading and increase literacy rates through the Reading Action Program, and have planted millions of trees around the world to better our environment. Both the Reading Action Program and tree planting efforts are, of course, continuing as association programs. Together with the Global Service Action campaigns they help extend our reach by expanding our service footprint and increasing public awareness of who we are and what we do. When others see Lions in action, they want to share our dream of service for all.







## **FRIENDS AND FAMILY Can Share The Dream of Serving Others**

Survey after survey indicates a significant interest in volunteering. But with more constraints placed on people's time, available volunteer hours are at a minimum. Volunteers want to see immediate results and quick gratification if they are to invest free time serving others. In other words, it is no longer acceptable to simply attend a meeting or raise money for a cause. Volunteers want to roll up their sleeves and participate in a hands-on community service project. They want to see firsthand that at the end of the day, they have made a significant difference.

Volunteers want to belong to an organization dedicated to good – Lions clubs. They want an organization with experience – Lions clubs. They want an organization with global reach, but local impact – Lions clubs. They want to belong to an organization that nurtures a family atmosphere and fellowship. Again – Lions clubs.



We are a perfect fit for most people that are inclined to volunteer at the community level. So introduce your family, friends and neighbors to your Lions club.

I'm asking Lions during the month of April to sponsor "Friends and Family" events. Invite your family and friends to participate in a club service activity, open house, or casual gathering like a picnic or barbeque. There is no better way to introduce Lions to those who may be less than familiar with the organization you have come to know and love.



**“A dream you dream alone  
is only a dream.  
A dream you dream together  
is reality”**

- John Lennon

## **SHARE THE DREAM**

Lions Clubs International represents a global network of responsible Lions club members. Individuals who are dedicated to service, committed to creating a world without suffering, and whose relentless pursuit of their own dreams, help others to realize their dreams. We are a team. We share the Lions dream. Each of us is responsible not only for our fellow members, but for our association's future as well.

District Governor teams work The Global Membership Team (GMT) and Global Leadership Team (GLT) and others to stimulate membership growth through service and engagement, and identify and develop inspired, effective Lions leaders. They take focused action so that our dream of a better world can be kept alive and thriving.

Good leaders do not function in a vacuum. Good leaders know the value of working together, and achieving success through teamwork. The first step down the path to effective leadership is to have a team around you that can help achieve a shared dream.

As you follow your dream, it's important to initiate action, promote teamwork, generate momentum and embrace risks. Share your dream with others. Engage every resource available to make your dream come true. Work hard, learn valuable leadership skills, develop confidence, and strengthen the foundation for our future by taking advantage of our variety of web-based and instructor-led training and development opportunities. Visit the online Leadership Resource Center for ideas and suggestions as you construct your dream.



## The three R's – RESPONSIBILITY, RECOGNITION AND REACH

As Lions, we all have a strong sense of awareness for the needs of others and a strong sense of RESPONSIBILITY in our continuing quest to make our communities better. We all know that responsibility means taking care of others, being accountable and being trustworthy.



Responsibility also means ownership: owning what needs doing, then finding a way to get it done. It means committing ourselves – to lead, to create, to solve problems – and then following through. It involves taking risks and working hard.



I think of responsibility as seizing what's in front of you, exerting choice, and taking control and having the ability to respond and take action. It's going out and creating what you want through personal choices. It is important to be aware of where our responsibilities end and where the responsibilities of others begin. We must let others be responsible for their own challenges, and yes – their own dreams, if they are to grow, and encouraging their dreams by recognizing their achievements.





RECOGNITION is a key component of member satisfaction.

Recognition is a behavior deeply rooted in the Lions heritage and tradition of service. It should be implemented on a regular basis. Timely recognition of the achievements and contributions of all members keeps club life fresh, and members motivated.

I have created the Dream Achiever Awards to recognize district governors and their teams, as well as awards for zone and region chairpersons. These awards are timely – with opportunities to earn awards each quarter, and they also require the cooperation and success at the club level. Criteria for the awards can be found on the LCI website.

Clubs can be recognized for achievement by fulfilling the criteria for the Club Excellence Award, and of course district governors can earn the District Governor Team Excellence Award. Both recognize excellence in service, management, leadership development and club growth.

But what about the individual club member? The one that can always be counted on to take an active role in service projects; the one that always calls when a club member is sick; the one that is always first to congratulate others for their achievements; and the one that no matter what, the club can always count upon. You know who they are. Don't forget to recognize THEIR achievement. Sometimes just a simple “thank you” or a handshake will do. Or why not create your own club awards – like a certificate for “unsung hero.” Recognition and praise go a long way toward keeping morale high and adding to a positive club experience for members.

Member satisfaction is key to our ability to retain our members, and also key to expanding our service capacity and global REACH. Lions know what it means to reach out to other people. We've been reaching others through service since 1917.

Although all of us have individual dreams and aspirations, all Lions do share at least one dream – a world that knows no suffering. But community needs continue to escalate. We must extend our reach and expand our capacity in order to address those needs.

Reaching out to others is embedded in our heritage and our history. To understand the meaning of being a Lion and serving others, one need look no further than the Lions Clubs International Purposes and Code of Ethics. Consider the following excerpts:

#### FROM OUR PURPOSES

**TO CREATE** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

**TO TAKE** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

**TO ENCOURAGE** service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward

#### FROM OUR CODE OF ETHICS

**TO SHOW** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

**TO HOLD** friendship as an end not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

**ALWAYS** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor, and means.

**TO AID** others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.



I often have to refer myself back to some of those phrases to remind myself how important it is to share our dream of service with others and extend our reach.

The best way to expand our reach is by increasing our membership. The more members we have, the more service we can provide. You see – we don't work for membership growth simply to increase numbers. The aim of membership growth is to increase our capacity to serve and maintain our position as the world's greatest provider of humanitarian service. Each act of service brings us one step closer to our dream.

By inviting new members – women, young people, family, friends – and by focusing on member satisfaction through an improved club atmosphere, we can retain more members and increase our capacity to serve others.





## 1 In 5 Keeps Our Dream Alive

Members join for a number of reasons:

- To serve their community
- To be involved with a specific service or cause
- To serve with friends or family
- For the opportunity to become a leader

Members leave because many of those reasons are not fulfilled. It is critical that new members are made to feel welcome, and that their opinions are sought. It's equally important to involve all members in club activities, and that activities are meeting the needs and desires of club members. This might mean finding new ways to serve; updating club traditions; starting new traditions; and being open to new ideas. It may also mean ensuring that all members are given an opportunity to lead – either as a club officer or chairperson of a club project. Retaining our members is incumbent upon all Lions.

Although we enjoy a very high level of recruiting, I wonder how many more members we could recruit and retain, and how much better we can make their volunteer experience with the proper care, creativity, and dedication to providing a meaningful experience?

Recruiting new members has never been a major problem. Each and every year, we recruit on average 200,000 new members. But at the end of the year, when final numbers are tabulated, our net gain is a small portion of that. Why? We simply are not retaining enough of our members. Over the past 5 years, if we had reduced the percentage of members who left by 20%, our membership today would stand at nearly 1.5 million, with positive net growth in every constitutional area. In other words – if we had

retained just 1 out of every 5 members who left over the past 5 years, our membership would have increased significantly, thereby helping us keep pace with the growing needs of our communities.

A positive club atmosphere and meaningful service activities are the most important factors in member satisfaction. The primary tool available to clubs to ensure overall success is the Club Excellence Process (CEP), available on the LCI website. It amounts to a comprehensive guide to a more meaningful club experience. Two items in the Club Excellence Process checklist pay particularly big dividends – the *Community Needs Assessment* and the “*How Are Your Ratings?*” survey. Completing both of these items has the potential to re-energize a club's atmosphere and improve member satisfaction.

Ultimately, we want to retain each and every member and see our clubs continue to flourish, allowing us to continue to provide the service our communities have come to expect from the global leader in humanitarian service.





## **A 50/50 Proposition To Achieving Our Dream**

Since 1987 when the first woman joined Lions Clubs International, women are underrepresented in our membership ranks, but increasing. Women now represent 24.5% of our membership worldwide, even though women comprise just over half of the world's population. So we are only halfway to our full potential. My dream is to increase the percentage of women members by an additional 5.5% in the next 12 months, taking us to 30% by the end of 2013-14. In addition, I want to achieve a 50/50 parity of men and women joining our association by our centennial year.

A recent study found that:

- 83% of participants reported that they acquired, improved or developed their leadership skills due to volunteer participation, and 78% reported improvement in their communications skills.
- Some 50% of participants have been involved as volunteers for more than 5 years, and 22% for more than 10 years.
- Nearly 40% of participants started volunteering before they were 16 years old, and over 55% were volunteering by the time they were 30 years old
- Over 90% said they volunteered because it gave them a sense that they were doing something to improve the lives of others.



That study was conducted by Womens Way magazine, and all the respondents were women. Surprised? You shouldn't be.

In 2010, Lions Clubs International began a Women and Family Task Force to assess the needs of women in our organization. There have been many findings of the task force, and one thing was very clear – women volunteer for the very same reasons men volunteer. And women join Lions clubs for the very same reasons men join Lions clubs – TO SERVE.

We are making progress. There are more women filling leadership roles in our organization – at the club, district and international level – than ever before in our history. That's positive. But we can do better. We need to continue making significant progress toward achieving our ultimate goal of 50% women membership. Just remember – women join for the same reasons as men, and leave for the same reasons as men. All members want a satisfying volunteer experience.

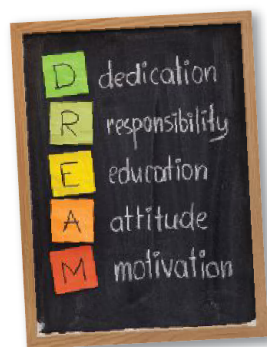
To assist us in sharing our dream of service with others – men, women and young people, I am pleased to announce the association has developed a new tool – *“Just Ask! – New Member Recruiting Guide For Clubs.”*



## Community New Club Extension

One of the best ways Lions have been able to expand global reach is to open new clubs.

New clubs create more opportunities for community and service-minded individuals to be involved in projects they care about. Forming new clubs allows Lions to identify and meet the needs of underserved areas within their communities. New clubs also create diversity by attracting new members, including more young adults and women.



There are many success stories – too numerous to mention – whereby new clubs were formed to serve a particular need. New clubs infuse new ideas and bring new ways of providing service. More importantly, they allow us to reach new members, providing them with an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

As we try to accelerate our effort to extend new clubs, it is important to keep in mind that charter size matters. A recent LCI study shows that clubs that charter with at least 25 members are staying active longer. The higher number of charter members improves the club viability and vitality. My dream is to get new clubs to charter with 25 or more members, thereby improving their long-term success rate.

## Leos and Lions – Sharing The Dream of Service

Do you remember when you were 16, 18, 21? Do you remember your first date, homework, studying for college finals? Do you remember starting your first job, or balancing your budget while balancing your career and home life with a young family? That's the life of a Leo. And yet, in spite of an inordinately busy period in their lives, Leos find time to volunteer – often putting others before their own needs. Leos want to give and make a difference. Let them be young and experience volunteering on their own terms. Their Leo experience will go a long way in determining whether at some point in the future they will follow their dreams and continue their volunteer experience as Lions.

Our Leos are making a significant contribution. They have as much to teach us, as we have to teach them. We can learn from their enthusiasm, innovation and ingenuity, and we can continue to act as mentors to provide guidance, encouragement and recognition.

Their service is unique and inspiring. Embrace it, and continue accepting them as members of the Lions family.





## Are You Dreaming In New Ways?

There are many ways to attain our dream of increasing our service capacity. One way is through effective public relations.

At the turn of this century, Lions Clubs International invested several million dollars using traditional public relations outlets. We reached an external audience of 8 million people per year. In 2011, we invested only US\$300,000, yet reached an audience estimated at nearly 30 million people. That's a considerably higher return on our investment. How did we do it? Social media.

The widespread use of social media has fundamentally changed how people communicate and share information. Facebook now accounts for 12.3 percent of the time spent online versus just 7.2 percent in 2011.

PR is no longer left to the PR professional. Each and every one of our 1.35 million members now has the potential to increase public awareness of who we are and what we do – to tell the Lions story with passion and conviction – through websites and social media. But we have a long way to go. Currently, not enough of our clubs have websites and social media pages. We can do better. Through our e-clubhouse, every club can establish an online presence. I am pleased to announce that we have developed an automated e-clubhouse page for new clubs. Beginning this year, when a club receives its charter it will also be provided with an e-clubhouse site. It's a great way for new clubs to share their story as they begin their dream of service.



An improved online presence through social media and websites will allow us to communicate faster and easier, and reach a larger audience. And with an improved social media presence, no one will be able to claim we are “the world’s best kept secret,” because we can share our story and our dream with millions of other people.

Some of our best success stories result from the work we do through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Through LCIF, we are making dreams a reality.

Since its founding in 1968 LCIF has strived to sustain Lions’ humanitarian service goals throughout the world, awarding over 11,000 grants totaling more than US\$811 million, in the four key areas of sight, youth, disaster relief and other humanitarian efforts.

In order to continue to make dreams possible for others, LCIF relies of the generous support and collaborative efforts of partner organizations such as The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Clinton Global Initiative, WHO, and governmental agencies. But most of all, LCIF relies on the continued support of Lions. Together, we can keep dreams alive for millions of people around the world.



**Identify your dream. Believe in your dream.  
Share your dream. And most of all - "Follow Your Dream"**

## Dream On

Many years ago, Anne and I had a youth exchange student from Indonesia stay in our home. Her name was Meita. One day I asked her what she wanted to do with her life. She replied, "I want to be a doctor and work with the poor in my community." We did not see or hear from her again for over 25 years. When I became an international director, I had the opportunity to speak at a Lions convention in Indonesia. I inquired if any Lions knew her as we were in her home town. The next day, Anne and I were walking through the lobby of our hotel when a young lady approached us with a gentleman and two children. She asked, "Are you Barry Palmer?" When I replied I was, she said, "I am Meita!" We were overjoyed to see her again, and not a bit surprised that she had achieved her dream of becoming a doctor and working with the underserved of her community.

Although it was difficult, and there were many obstacles placed in her way, she didn't give up. She did not listen to naysayers who said she would never achieve her dream.

Don't let anyone steal your dreams, or try to tell you your dreams are impossible.

We face many challenges. Even as we dream of a world where no need goes unmet, our dream stands in stark contrast to reality. But dreams are not achieved overnight. Dare to dream, and then work hard to achieve that dream.

In the end, remember that dreams give us reasons to be better than who we are. It doesn't matter whether you have more or less skills, charisma, or talent than someone else. It doesn't matter at all whether you come from a poor or wealthy background. Dreams know no boundaries, no demographics and no socio-economic standing. What matters is daring to have dreams and working hard to achieve them.





# Discover an affordable YMT Vacation with other LIONS!

## Rose Parade Packages

**Departs: 12/29/13**

### Grand Canyon Sunrise 11 Days & Red Rocks Tour from \$1249\*

Begin in the "City of Angels" that includes a tour of Los Angeles, Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Attend a VIP presentation on the history and traditions of the Rose Parade, plus an exclusive, pre-parade, after public hours, float building and viewing at the Rosemont Pavilion with included dinner. Then on Wednesday, January 1, 2014, observe the **125<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade from your reserved YMT grandstand seats!**

On Thursday, January 2, depart for Las Vegas (two-nights). The following day, travel to the **Grand Canyon** for your overnight stay in the park with an opportunity to marvel at the ever changing colors during the *sunset* and *sunrise*, with included breakfast. Then depart to another astonishing landscape - the **Red Rocks** of Sedona. You will also visit Montezuma's Castle enroute to Phoenix and Scottsdale where you will spend your final two nights with an included city tour.

**5 Days**  
from **\$699\***

Enjoy five days in Los Angeles (same itinerary shown above) and depart for home on Thursday, January 2.

\*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$159 tax/service/government fees. Airfare is extra.

### Save on this Repositioning Cruise!



### Transatlantic + Mediterranean Cruise Plus...Italy Tour

**24 Days from \$1999\***

**Departs: 4/26/14**

**Norwegian Cruise Line needs to get the  
NCL Epic from Miami to Barcelona!**

Fly into Miami (one-day and night) and enjoy a city tour before boarding the newest and largest ship in **NCL's** fleet, the **Epic**. Discover a variety of dining options and world-class entertainment as you sail to ports in: **Funchal, Madeira**, a mountainous isle with beautiful beaches; historic and vibrant, **Barcelona, Spain**; **Marseilles, France**; the popular summer vacation resort of **Palma de Mallorca, Spain** and **Naples, Italy**. Disembark in **Civitavecchia** where you will begin your journey through Italy. Visit **Rome** (two-nights), including Vatican City; travel the region of Tuscany to **Florence** followed by the amazing city of **Venice** and see the Grand Canal. Then head inland to **Verona**, offering examples of Medieval and Renaissance art and architecture; **Lake Garda**, Italy's largest lake and **Milan** where you will depart for home after seeing all the city's highlights.

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



### New Orleans & Western Caribbean Cruise

**11 Days from \$1399\***

**AIRFARE INCLUDED FROM OVER 50 CITIES**

**Departs: 2/14/14**

Your vacation begins in fabulous New Orleans! Enjoy a city tour and discover 'The Big Easy,' including the French Quarter, colorful Bourbon Street, the Ninth Ward, devastated by Hurricane Katrina; and travel on St. Charles Avenue, following the Mardi Gras route. You will also visit the museum "Living with Hurricanes: Katrina and Beyond Exhibition," plus tour two area historical mansions and plantations.

Relax and unwind on board **Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas**, for your 7-night cruise of the Caribbean. Take advantage of the many onboard amenities as you sail to the ports of: **Falmouth, Jamaica**, noted for being one of the Caribbean's best preserved Georgian towns; **Georgetown, Grand Cayman**, with crystal-clear warm waters and stretch out on the radiant white sands at 7-Mile Beach and off the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, **Cozumel, Mexico**.



\*Per person, based on double occupancy. Price based on inside cabin, upgrades available. Plus \$299 tax/service/government fees. Alternate departure dates available in 2014. Seasonal rates may apply. Air supplement from some airports.



### Grand Alaskan Tour & Cruise

**12 Days from \$1749\***

**Departs: 6/12 & 8/7/14**

Discover the awe-inspiring Frontier State on this memorable adventure. Visit the **Iditarod Headquarters** where you will learn about the famous annual sled dog race and **Talkeetna** (made famous in the TV show *Northern Exposure*). Explore **Denali National Park** on a history tour that provides insight on the diverse native and early pioneer influences in and around Denali. See Alaska's wildlife up close at the **Wildlife Conservation Center** and enjoy sightseeing tours in **Anchorage, Seward, Vancouver, BC** and **Seattle**. Your vacation also includes a seven night **Holland America Line** cruise on board the 5-STAR **ms Oosterdam** through the Gulf of Alaska and picturesque inside passage. Travel impressive **Glacier Bay** passing glaciers galore, abundant wildlife and scenic beauty unique in all the world. Stop in **Juneau**, the state capital of Alaska; **Haines**, that borders 20 million acres of protected areas of wilderness, the world's largest and the fishing village of **Ketchikan** which is also home to the world's largest collection of Native American totem poles.



\*Per person, based on double occupancy. Price based on inside cabin, upgrades available. Add \$250 for 8/7 departure date. Alternate departure dates available in 2014. Plus \$299 tax/service/government fees. Airfare is extra.

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



**For reservations & details call 7 days a week:**

**1-800-736-7300**



Bruce Dixon's morning chats with Ann Allen, a clerk at this mini mart, inspired him to help her after her son died tragically.







# Why I Became a Lion

A fallen soldier, a ransacked house and a rebuilding day—how fate and a desire to serve rescued a stricken family.

by Bruce Dixon

About a block away from my place is a Chevron station and mini mart. I'd stop for coffee on my way to work as a house painter. Ann Allen, 55, was always at the counter. We'd chat. She was a nice lady. This was 1990 in Berkeley, California. For nine years we were friends at the mini mart.

Then I didn't see her for a while. Turns out she fell and broke her hip. She could not get up the four stairs into her house in Albany, so she stayed in a rehab facility while she healed. She was a borderline diabetic, so she was a bit slow to heal. There were complications, and it took a second surgery to get her straightened out.

Eventually she was able to get back to work on a part-time basis. Almost in tears, she told me, "I can get into my house now but I can't live there. They ruined my house!"

So I went out there to take a look at it with my friend Mike Charnoky. Wow! While she was away, homeless people broke into it. They totally trashed it. They took all the clothes out of her closets and piled them in the living room. There were "nests" where they burrowed in for warmth. They left the doors open and there was scat from mice, rats, feral cats, raccoons. It was completely uninhabitable.

Mike and I were appalled. I went to local businesses and got a nine-yard dumpster donated. We began to clear the house. It took a second dumpster and a few dump runs before the place was in any condition to even start assessing the damage.

This was when I learned about her tragedy. Her son had been a naval aviator. He was the best of the best. A flight instructor, Lt. Commander Logan Allen III stood over six-feet tall, huge for a pilot. His call sign was "Lurch." He was a good family man with a wife and two children.

Allen was instructing in the F14-model A off the Virginia coast when his plane went into a flat spin. Allen shouted, "I can hold it! I can ..." The commander he was with ejected both of them. Taken by surprise, Logan slammed against the canopy. His body was never recovered.

There was a somber military funeral: the 21-gun salute, a "missing man" formation flyover and a coffin filled with bricks and covered by four-by-six-foot American flag. They folded up that flag and gave it to Ann, along with his flight suit.

Ann lived with her grandson, her daughter's child. Here's what I never had the nerve to tell her: while these people were trashing her house, as near as I can figure, they dragged her grandson's bed out back and used that flag to start it on fire. I simply told Ann that the flag was stolen. I cleaned up the charred remnants of the Stars and Stripes. It moved me to tears. I was livid.

I have a confession to make. The story about Ann makes me look good. Well, I needed to do some good. I knew I had bills to pay, mistakes to make up for. I grew up under tough circumstances. My mom was legally blind. My dad abandoned us when I was in the second grade on the Oregon coast. You can probably guess I was a handful and the kind of trouble I got in. There were drugs, an alternative high school, scrapes with the law.

It took time, but I eventually pulled out of my downward spiral. I'm not sure exactly why but I know when things turned around. My best friend's mom, dying of bone marrow cancer, gave me her 1982 Nissan Maxima. Humbled by the gift, I vowed to do the best I can, to do good for others. Someone had believed in me. That was the nugget of help I needed to climb out of the hole I was in.

So before Ann's predicament, I had been doing volunteer work for a couple years with an organization called Christmas in April. They have since changed their name to Rebuilding Together. They provide home repairs to elderly, disabled and low-income homeowners. I helped Ann apply with them.

There were questions about the house deed. Ann had inherited the house from her mother. Her sister was named on the deed and had to formally renounce interest in the property. Finally, it was decided that Ann qualified. "But

who in their right mind would be the house captain for such a large project?" they asked. They really said that.

It may be debatable as to whether or not I am in my right mind but I stepped up. I was given a budget of \$5,000. And 501(c)(3) donation forms to use. About then I started to realize just exactly how far over my head I was.

The first thing I requested were volunteers to sterilize the place. An entire sorority came down. Thirty highly motivated young women scrubbed that place from top to bottom. It was the middle of January. I needed to finish the project by National Rebuilding Day, the last Saturday in April. Did I mention I was holding a full-time job?

I discovered that the plumbing was trashed and the wiring was substandard. The fuse box consisted of a couple of two-by-fours pounded into the ground and held together by a few one-by-sixes. Screwed into the one-by-sixes, this assembly was physically touching the gas main. I don't know a whole lot about electrical engineering and I don't know a lot about natural gas. I do know that it is a bad idea to mix the two.

So I went to our local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to explain the situation.

After they had assessed the property they made it a project for apprentices, who upgraded the service and rewired outlets.

The Rebuilding Together office found a donation of 1,200-square-feet of pristine, extra-thick, cream-colored carpet. All I had to do was round up three guys, tear it out of the penthouse it was in and transport it. That was a bear.

At least I had help. Allan Maris, the vice mayor of Albany, was assigned as my first mate. His job was to call the volunteers after they were assigned to my site. Still, it was getting overwhelming. The Rebuilding Together office suggested that I go to local service groups to ask for help.

I located the Albany Lions Club and went to a meeting. I told them the situation just as I have told you. Wow! Those guys took it to heart. Bill Johnson, a great man and a great Lion, made certain that, besides my unskilled volunteers, I had at least half a dozen highly skilled guys complete with tools on every work day. Things got a lot easier after the Lions got involved.

The connections of Lions also helped a lot. Allan Maris's son, Peter, lived with Spencer Ferguson, whose father, Steve, is a Berkeley Lion. He owns the local Mr.

I had at least half a dozen highly skilled guys complete with tools on every work day. Things got a lot easier after the Lions got involved.





This car donated to Dixon by his mom's best friend lifted his spirits and helped turn his life around. (right) Lt. Commander Logan Allen III.



Rooter franchise. Day after day, they fixed the plumbing, including installing a brand new water heater. That was just after I discovered, to my chagrin, that it takes a certain very specific skill set to successfully install a water heater. Yikes! What a mess that was.

While all this was going on I had been on the phone with the Navy's Funeral Honors Division. A lot of questions had to be answered. All told I was on the phone with them for almost 50 hours.

On the National Rebuilding Day we started with 50 volunteers. We painted, fixed the floors, did every last little thing to get the home move-in ready. Over the course of the day other sites sent me their extra people. They created a beautiful backyard garden. The number of volunteers swelled to 100 by noon.

I had managed to keep it from Ann that I was talking to the Navy. At noon we were out front eating lunch. Ann was thanking the volunteers on the front porch when an officer in his crisp dress whites came around the corner. He presented Ann with a replacement flag: "On behalf of a proud Navy and a grateful nation ..." Ann cried like a baby. It was beautiful.

I had basically lived and breathed this project for six months. Mind you, this was before 9/11, back when it was not popular to be pro-military in Berkeley. On average, before and after my job, I put in 20 hours a week, every week for six months. Lions and others were tremendously generous with their time. On a \$5,000 budget we completed home repairs worth more than \$75,000.

Bill Johnson asked me to join the Albany Lions. How could I say no? So that is how it came about that I joined the Albany Lions Club in 2000. To this day it remains one of the most positive things that I have done in my life. My troubled youth stayed with me well into my adult years. It was hard to shake the feeling I was no good. Being a Lion helped heal me. Serving others has been a salve for my inner wounds.

To this day, neither Allan Maris nor I can talk about this time in our lives without getting a bit misty. It was a powerful experience. Ann is still alive though not in the best of health. To the best of my knowledge, she still believes the flag was stolen.

# An Active Club Makes Its Case

Chicago Mont Clare/Elmwood Park Lions are not a shy bunch. When they visited seniors at a retirement home they made a grand and noisy entrance playing “Seventy-Six Trombones” on kazoos. Members know how to get area residents to pay attention to the club and support its projects. On Candy Day some members take to the streets wearing a lion mane or full lion costume, and the club’s biggest fundraiser is a taste of the exotic: a wild game dinner. Even a presumably straightforward initiative such as securing discounted eyeglasses comes with a twist. The club’s longtime partner is Randy “Vision Man” Schultz, whose optical store contains an electric train that ceremoniously delivers glasses to customers.

The club’s penchant for publicity has paid off. Last year the 42-member club nabbed two first places in the International Contest at the convention in Busan, Korea: best newsletter and best website. A few months ago, the club filled a bookcase with memorabilia at the Elmwood Park Library. “Check us out” was the unspoken message of the display—because we serve, we have fun and we are everywhere in the community.

1. The club mascot dangles a Lion yo-yo.
2. The water bottle of District 1A Governor Austin D’Souza
3. A poster advertises the club’s biggest fundraiser.
4. Trophies used in the district hospitality room
5. A print advertisement that says “Now is a good time to become a Lion”
6. A Chili Cook-Off banner
7. A Chili Cook-Off flyer
8. A Chili Cook-Off hat and table decoration
9. A Lion yo-yo
10. Club banner
11. Gabe Caporale and Larry Zucker distributing pies to nursing home residents at Thanksgiving
12. Darlene Hrankaj receiving the 2013 Lion of the Year award from President Joe Corna
13. Logo
14. Birthday party of longtime member Rocky Lepore
15. Food pantry sign
16. QR code to access club’s website
17. Collection of Lion Convention Circus medals
18. U.S. and Lions flags
19. Vintage Lions Candy Day hat, candy and container
20. Club newsletter page
21. Sign promoting Thanksgiving Pie Day
22. First-place awards from Lions Clubs International for newsletter and website
23. An “I Told You So” plaque from Past District Governor Steve Anton and Gail Anton, who insisted the club enter the LCI competition
24. Cover of the winning newsletter
25. Sign advertising the annual Christmas Food Baskets
26. Hearing van sign
27. Certificate honoring longtime member Seymour Keer
28. Mascot
29. Candy Day items
30. A Lion sells candy at the train station.
31. Story on international awards
32. A vest
33. An eyeglass collection box. A plastic sleeve on the side holds club brochures.
34. A club cartoon showing Curiosity, the Mars rover, discovering a Lions collection box and reporting signs of Lions life on the Red Planet





Julie Plucinski and Larry Zucker flank their club's library display.

Photo by Rich Polanek





# Maine's Oldest Club Gets Younger

College students revitalize  
the 90-year-old Portland Lions Club

by John R. Platt



## Portland lions young and old

(Left) Bruce Roullard, president of the Portland Lions Club, sits with Nate Cadorette, first vice president and a University of Southern Maine student.

Photo by John Platt

Leo Gould, Maine Lions' vice district governor in 2012-13, has some bad news for the members of the Portland Lions Club. "Lions membership in Maine is down this year," he tells them at a recent meeting. The state has lost 60 members, mostly due to age. Four clubs shuttered their doors.

Gould and his entourage of fellow Lions from the Whitefield club (they didn't let him make the 120-mile round trip alone) have been sharing this information with clubs throughout the state. In Portland, he looks over his glasses and encourages the crowd to redouble their efforts to recruit new members.

But the Portland club happens to be already way ahead of him. Not only is the club growing in size, it is also getting younger.

### From 70 to 40

"We just dropped our average member age from 70 to 40," Bruce Roullard, the 2012-13 president and president since 2004, tells me. We're in the parking lot of the Iris Network, a nonprofit that helps people with visual impairments. The organization's offices are just a few blocks away from two sports arenas and the Portland Lions sell parking spaces in the lot before each game. The funds go to the Iris Network and to buy eyeglasses for people in nearby communities. Last year they raised more than \$40,000.

As Roullard, a mortgage manager with Bank of America, collects \$5 bills from incoming sports fans, he tells me about the club's recent growth. The Lions started an initiative with the University of Southern Maine (USM) campus in Portland. They invite students to join. Older members often volunteer to pay their dues. The students are interested not only because they can serve the community but also because they gain leadership experience by shadowing the current officers and project leaders. Roullard smiles as he tells me that the club has bought in 11 new student members since the initiative began in 2011.

### Service as A Way of Life

Back at the club's meeting I meet Nate Cadorette, a 22-year-old finance major with close-cropped black hair and long sideburns who is already serving as the club's first vice president, a position that had been vacant for 20 years. Unlike some of the older members in attendance, who wear the familiar Maine uniform of flannel and fleece, Cadorette is dressed in a blue button-down shirt and tie. A member

of the service-oriented Sigma Nu fraternity, he was already aware of the Iris Network through participating in their white cane walks every year. "I take service very seriously," he says.

Fellow USM students Tyler Boothby and Tyler Junkins also belong to Sigma Nu and joined the Lions with Cadorette. As the meeting begins, they hop up out of their seats to guide two of the club's blind members to open chairs. It's an easy, practiced move. "We have a friend at USM who is visually impaired," Boothby tells me.

Also a 22-year-old finance major—although he looks even younger—Boothby serves as the club's second vice president. He first met Iris Network executive director James Phipps at one of the white cane walks. Phipps, like the clients he serves, is blind. "Jim Phipps is an unbelievable man," Boothby says. "To overcome what he has to become who he is now, it's inspiring. When I'm out there parking cars it's not for me, it's for people like that to help them out."

### A Club with History

The new blood has brought energy to the club, says 71-year-old Realtor Leonard Scott, who recently celebrated his 50th anniversary as a Lion. "I was one of the youngest



Lion Duane Dreger parks cars at the Iris Network for a Maine Red Claws basketball game; funds are given to Iris Network, which helps the blind.



Portland Lions took part in a white cane awareness walk.

members of the club when I moved to Portland 14 years ago,” he recounts. He remembers often hearing about the glory days of the club in the 1940s when it held noontime meetings at Portland’s famed Eastland Hotel and membership capped out at 125.

Membership had dropped to about 50 people by the time Roy Koster joined in the 1970s, the 64-year-old Lion tells me by phone from his office at Central Maine Power more than 50 miles away. “Slowly but surely, the numbers dwindled,” he laments. He says the members, mostly business leaders who commuted into Portland, started working through their lunch hours, so the club switched to evening meetings. Even that cost them members, as some people wanted to go home at the end of the day.

“The aging membership made it harder to raise money. None of us particularly wants to hawk stuff on the sidewalks,” Koster says. “We did Bingo before there was a smoking ban. I’d come home and my wife would make me take my clothes off on the porch. That was a tough way to make some bucks.”

The parking, which the club started eight years ago, solved many of those problems. “It’s not much work, and it’s been a great way to raise funds,” Koster says. But membership continued to age and decline, making it harder to get enough people to work the events. “The kids have definitely helped turn that around,” he says.

The growth comes at an opportune time. The oldest club in Maine and the first north of Boston, the Portland Lions celebrated their 90th anniversary in March. “There’s a lot of history here,” Roullard says. “I think the USM initiative is another piece of history for this club.”

## Growth and Opportunity

Roullard sees the initiative as a benefit both to the club and the students. “It’s a really good opportunity for students to experience community involvement,” he says. “We hope that when they graduate from USM they will stay Lions. Even if they move elsewhere, their memberships will stay with them.”

Cadorette, who works full-time as a junior accountant while going to school, says there’s nothing he likes more than finishing a day’s work and going out to raise money for the club’s causes. He looks forward to possibly taking over as president from Roullard in a year or two. “I didn’t know I had this kind of potential,” he says with a smile.

Meeting and working with the older members has also been a life-defining experience for Cadorette. “These guys give their entire lives to helping people,” says Cadorette. “It’s something I hope I can do for the next 40 years.”

*Platt is a member of the Boothbay Region Lions Club in Maine.*



# Connecting the Dots through Massage in Turkey

by Allie Stryker

Growing up in a small Turkish village and not able to see, Seyfullah Aktaş had no idea that he would want to become a massage therapist as an adult. His options in life seemed very limited. But when given the chance to learn massage therapy through the Six Dots Foundation for the Blind, Aktaş took the life-changing opportunity.

As a child, Aktaş attended a primary school for the blind, but received his high school education in a local school. Aktaş did not receive needed skills to use a computer, find a job or even walk freely with his white cane.

Unfortunately, Aktaş situation is not unique. That is why the Lions Clubs of Istanbul and District 118 established the Six Dots Foundation for the Blind in 1972.

The Six Dots Foundation for the Blind educates, rehabilitates and creates awareness for the blind and visually impaired in Turkey. There is clearly a great need. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, 75 percent of people with visual impairments and blindness in Turkey were unemployed in 2010.

Aktaş began attending the foundation's rehabilitation center in 2005. Located in Istanbul, the center is an impressive place. Receiving support from Turkish Lions, it provides free vocational training, education, swimming lessons, eye screenings, sports facilities and a digital library that lends audio books throughout Turkey.

The rehabilitation center's goal is to provide people who are blind with the tools needed to overcome any obstacles encountered in life. Turkish Lions have received Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) grants, allowing them to assist with this goal. This support means a lot to Aktaş.

"I achieved mobility and developed daily living skills. After six months, I could walk freely with my white cane in the crowded streets of Istanbul," says Aktaş. "Reading is my hobby. LCIF's grant for a recording room enriched the voiced library, increasing my reading pleasure."

The real benefit for Aktaş, however, was massage therapy training, a program started in 1998. Program graduates are highly sought for employment in hospitals, nursing homes and spas.

Originally, the massage training unit could only accommodate five massage therapy students annually. So, through an LCIF grant, the Six Dots Foundation for the Blind and the Lions Clubs of District 118-T expanded the program in 2010. The center now has seven beds used as student training stations and work stations for practicing graduates, including Aktaş.

"This was a great opportunity. I am married and have a child. With the enlarged capacity, I earn more money and can provide my family with better living standards," says Aktaş. "You have changed not only my life, but the lives of many blind people in Turkey. My friends and I have become productive, and this is a wonderful feeling."

For Aktaş, the Six Dots Foundation for the Blind, Lions and LCIF made his dreams come true. "You have made me a free person; you gave meaning to my life," he says. "I read more now and I work with more motivation because I have a modern work place. Thank you."



Seyfullah Aktaş's life was changed after receiving massage training for the blind in Turkey.



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**

# Asking the Tough Questions

## Exit Interviews Provide Insights Into Retaining Members



**FORMER MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you leave our Lions club? \_\_\_\_\_

How long were you a member of our Lions club? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you leave our club or Lions as an organization? \_\_\_\_\_

What club service project was most important to you? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What club service project was least important to you? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What changes in our club would have encouraged you to remain a member? \_\_\_\_\_

What activities would you have liked our Lions club to be involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

What ideas do you have to improve our Lions club experience? \_\_\_\_\_



Exit interviews can help clubs learn how to keep members happy, like these Marmaris New Century Lions in Turkey (in costume for a children's play they performed).

Saying goodbye to members is something Lions never want to do. But when a member does leave, Lions often wonder why. "After a member left our club, he told me he did not feel that it was necessary to explain his reasons. He was unhappy with something, but how do we correct the problem if we don't know what happened?" asks Lion Rosa Branco of Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Some answers can be found by conducting exit interviews with departing members. The Cumberland Lions had casually attempted this through speaking with those leaving, but the results were lackluster. After trying out a written exit interview this year, Branco has found that former Lions are likely to be candid and specific. "I think by using a written format we can get better insights. People need to have time to really think and then put their comments in writing. Plus, the written responses can be reviewed as needed because there is a paper trail," says Branco.

With the goal of improving retention, Token Creek Lion Tara Vraniak has been mailing exit surveys for Wisconsin's District 27-D1 since 2009. With a 30 percent response rate, this centralized method is working well for the district. "I get a lot of written responses because I am an independent source. People can put their true feelings down on paper," she says. Vraniak, a Global Membership Team member, compiles and shares the findings with clubs, which can then take necessary action and incorporate this vital information into the Club Excellence Process.

Along with the survey, Vraniak includes a letter stressing its importance and a postage-paid return envelope to make the process simple for respondents. "Make it easy to fill out and return. And make sure you are diligent in getting the surveys out quickly," Vraniak advises. Clubs can design their own survey or use LCI's Former Member Questionnaire, which poses not only questions regarding reasons for leaving but also invites opinions about the club's service projects, ideas for improvements and suggestions for changes that may have retained the member.

No matter how critical the feedback is, it must be welcomed, says Vraniak. "Take this feedback in a positive way. People are unhappy with their clubs for many different reasons and we can't change unless we understand the mistakes we are making. It is then important to take action on those problem areas." Branco concurs. "Criticism is constructive and we can learn how to make improvements by knowing exactly what we are doing wrong, instead of just making educated guesses."

— Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

View the Former Member Questionnaire in LCI's new Member Satisfaction Guide.



Volunteers work together on the Sea Bright, New Jersey, seashore playground.



## Lions Support Playground Project

The Lavin family in New Jersey has public service in its blood. Out of 11 kids, three boys became firefighters like their dad, and Pat Lavin, now 61 and retired, was a career police officer and is a member of the Howell Township Lions Club. The Sandy Ground Project: Where Angels Play brought together Pat and his brother Bill, president of the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, in an opportunity to build 26 parks in memory of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and to restore shoreline devastated by Superstorm Sandy in New Jersey, Connecticut and New York.

Pat Lavin says Lions were “very responsive, eager to help” when they learned of the ambitious project. The first playground in Sea Bright was completed in March in memory of Anne Marie Murphy, a Sandy Hook teacher. Firefighters, police officers and volunteers including Lions worked together to construct a new playground where one had been destroyed during the storm. “This will surely put smiles on the children’s faces and at the same time, give some comfort to the victims’ families,” he says.

Bill Lavin says firefighters are grateful for Lions’ participation. “Lions from Howell, Farmingdale and Neptune, New Jersey, have participated by raising funds, attending ground-breaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies and providing photographs and documentation of the project. Our goal is to raise \$3 million and complete all 26 playgrounds by December 13, the anniversary of the tragedy.”

Howell Township Lions have also pledged 20 percent of funds raised from the club’s annual golf outing to the playground project. Last year, Lions raised more than \$4,000 to pay for vision and diabetes care in the community as well as support for breast cancer survivors.

To learn more, visit [www.thesandygroundproject.org](http://www.thesandygroundproject.org).

## Apples, Apples Everywhere...



Photo courtesy of Chris W. Nelson-Heritage Newspapers

Lion Ray Lowery gives a high five to a little girl during Apple Daze.

Heralding the arrival of fall, Lions in Dexter, Michigan, celebrate apples in all their tasty forms. Apple cider, apple pie, apple doughnuts, apples plain or coated in caramel—Lions’ Apple Daze doesn’t lack for apples. Or people, either. One of the biggest fundraisers Lions sponsor, second only to the club’s Christmas tree sale, Apple Daze last year raised \$4,000. Profits are put back into the community by Lions, who give scholarships, donate eye-glasses, screen schoolchildren, and support Leader Dogs and Paws with a Cause, which trains assistance dogs.

“Despite the chilly weather, we had a lot of people. I bet I was the warmest person there!” says Lion Ray Lowery of wearing a furry lion costume to publicize the club. “It’s a lot of fun interacting with the kids as well as the teens and adults. The kids’ faces just light up.”

In addition to apples, there were hayrides, a bounce house, miniature golf, arts and crafts booths, a classic car show and one of the biggest hits, a pie-eating contest. Nineteen daring residents gobbled up apple pies without using their hands. “Anyone from 6 to adult can participate,” says Lowery. It was, he declares, “rather messy.” Winners received gift certificates for ice cream and a pie of a different sort—pizza.

# 26th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

## Our World, Our Future



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

### How the Contest Works

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

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

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

### Awards

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

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

**Mail or fax your order to: LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL  
CLUB SUPPLIES SALES DEPARTMENT, 300 W 22ND ST.  
OAK BROOK IL 60523-8842 USA; Fax 630-571-0964**

Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. @ US\$10.95/each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Language Required \_\_\_\_\_ Tax \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Available in all official languages.) Postage & Handling \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Lions Club Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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The protection of your payment data is important to us. Your credit card\* purchases of Lions merchandise must be made directly online at [www2.lionsclubs.org](http://www2.lionsclubs.org). Please do not include your credit card number in any written communication or correspondence. \*Visa, MasterCard, Discover.

PR 785 11/12

### How to Enter

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

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

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



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

**Kits are available January 15 – October 1, 2013.**

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



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

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

### Ship order to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (No P.O. Boxes) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone # (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Postage/handling Charges:

United States/Canada - Postage/handling charges will be added at the time of processing your order. An additional charge will be added if second day service is required.

Overseas - Postage/handling charges will be added at the time of processing your order. Duty/taxes may be required upon receipt of your order. Lions Clubs International is not responsible for payment of these duties or taxes.

### Sales Tax:

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





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### MARBELLA, SPAIN

### APRIL 16-20, 2013

1. Selected Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, as the site for the 2018 International Convention.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. Accepted the report of the Audit Committee without resolutions. The report outlined: the plan for the annual audit as presented by the organization's audit firm, an update on the critical process review of the district governor expense reimbursement process and a comprehensive review of the organization's independent auditors.

#### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Revised the District Dispute Resolution Procedure and the Multiple District Dispute Resolution Procedure in Chapters VII and XV of the Board Policy Manual to clarify with whom a complaint may be filed in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor or council chairperson, respectively.
2. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2013 International Convention to amend the International Constitution and By-Laws to reinstate the title of "Executive Administrator" and add the title of "Senior Executive Administrator" as administrative officers in order to distinguish the titles and responsibilities of administrative officers from the title and responsibilities of international directors and revised the Board Policy Manual accordingly.

#### CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Revised policy regarding the dates of the International Convention limiting the time frame to no earlier than the third Friday in June and no later than the first Friday in July.

#### DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Cancelled the Busan Seonu Lions Club due to its failure to solve club disputes and failure to fulfill the obligations of a chartered Lions club.
2. Approved the Lion leaders recommended by provisional districts to serve as district governors for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
3. Approved the Lion leaders recommended to serve as Coordinating Lions for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year.
4. Approved the redistricting proposal submitted by 404 A (Nigeria) to take place at the adjournment of the 2013 International Convention.

#### FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved modifying the target return for the General Fund and Emergency Reserve Fund Investment Policy Statements.
2. Approved the 2012-13 Third Quarter Forecast, reflecting a surplus.
3. Approved a bank resolution required by the Allied Irish Bank.
4. Approved a modification to the board meeting schedule.
5. Approved removing specific banking resolutions from board policy. Resolutions will continue to be approved by the board; however, it was decided it was unnecessary to include the language in board policy.
6. Approved a modification to board policy that allows for reimbursement of taxi and shuttle bus expense with proof of payment, as opposed to the reimbursement based on mileage.
7. Approved the removal of a staff travel policy item in board policy.

#### LCIF

1. Revised the general endowment asset allocation as follows: 45% equities, 35% fixed income and 20% alternatives.
2. Revised the humanitarian spending policy.
3. Approved a contract in the amount of US\$102,000 with Service Learning Life Skills Network for consulting services related to Lions Quest for a one-year period.
4. Approved the transfer of US\$3.9 million, in unobligated funds, to next fiscal year's spending cap for SightFirst.
5. Selected Dr. Serge Resnikoff to fill a vacancy as a voting member of the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC).
6. Nominated three individuals for the 2013 Humanitarian Award, with the final selection to be determined by the International President.
7. Approved 67 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totaling US\$3,042,941.
8. Denied two grant applications.
9. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual to revise the Investment Policy Statement to reflect changes in the general endowment asset allocation and humanitarian spending policy, and revise the standard grant criteria and regulations.
10. Revised Chapter XVI of the Board Policy Manual to update the humanitarian grants spending policy.

#### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. Approved the "Faculty Development Excellence Series" pilot program for development and implementation.
2. Revised the GLT District Funding Program. Beginning in 2013-2014, the program will provide funding support in an amount up to US\$500 per district, per year, to support district level training of zone chairpersons and Club Excellence Process (CEP) facilitators.

#### MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Conditionally approved the country of South Sudan as a new country of Lions Clubs International, contingent on the fulfillment of the remainder of the criteria in Chapter X, Paragraph E of the Board Policy Manual.
2. Conditionally approved the country of Sao Tome and Principe as a new country of Lions Clubs International, contingent on fulfillment of the remainder of the criteria in Chapter X, Paragraph E of the Board Policy Manual.

# INFORMATION

## ANNIVERSARIES JULY 2013

**95 Years:** Corsicana, Texas

**90 Years:** Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Meeker, Colo.; Mishawaka, Ind.; Palestine, Texas; Pottsville, Pa.; Suffolk, Va.

**85 Years:** Bridgeport, Texas; Kaufman, Texas; Yoakum, Texas

**80 Years:** Dickson, Tenn.; Huntingdon, Tenn.

**75 Years:** Coamo, P.R.; Franklinton, N.C.; North Adams, Mass.; Perkasia, Pa.; Scottsboro, Ala.; Spring Valley, Ill.; Utuado, P.R.

**50 Years:** Akaka Falls, Hawaii; Jonesboro University Heights, Ark.; Mentor, Ohio

**25 Years:** Chilliwack Stellers Jay, BC, CAN

## ANNIVERSARIES AUGUST 2013

**90 Years:** Bryan, Texas; Crockett, Texas; Greenwich, Conn.; Groesbeck, Texas; Lowell, Mass.; Newberry, Mich.; Williamsport, Pa.

**85 Years:** Ballinger, Texas; Blanchard, Okla.; Coleman, Texas; Giddings, Texas; La Grange Noon, Texas; Milltown, N.J.

**80 Years:** Bruceton, Tenn.; Dunn, N.C.; Hummelstown, Pa.; Philadelphia Northeast, Pa.; Virginia Beach Host, Va.

**75 Years:** Canton, N.C.; Conover, N.C.; Decatur, Ala.; Eagle, Colo.; Fort Kent, Maine; Gibbstown, N.J.;

Grayville, Ill.; Highland, Colo.; Hillsboro, Ore.; Hood River, Ore.; Lake Orion, Mich.; Long Point, ON, CAN; Morgan Hill, Calif.; Newton, Miss.; Port Dover, ON, CAN; Renton, Wash.; Rio Piedras, P.R.; Seaside, Ore.; Sunbury, Ohio; Vallejo Host, Calif.; Waterford, ON, CAN; Watertown, N.Y.

**50 Years:** Ashland Evening, Ohio; Cherokee Village, Ark.; Hammonton, N.J.; Howard Community, Mich.; Kingman Mohave, Ariz.; Poulan, Ga.; Weaubleau, Mo.

**25 Years:** Brooklyn Stuyvesant Heights, N.Y.; Norwood Young America, Minn.; Corydon, Ind.

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 MARCH 2013

### Ambassador Key (150 Members)

- Lion Piyush Chaddha, Allahabad Ganga, India
- Lion Daya Shankar Jangid, Nawalgarh, India

### Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion A. F. S. Royees Ahmed, Dhaka Dipika, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Siva Prasad V.S.V.D., Visakhapatnam Vizag, India
- Lion S. P. Goel, Delhi Pitampura South, India
- Lion Munish Mehta, Jalandhar Pooja, India
- Lion Prithvi Jairath, Ludhiana Skipper, India
- Lion Mohinder Luthra, Rajpura, India

### Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion David Crow, Atlanta, Texas
- Lion Wilmer Johnson, Sterling, Colorado
- Lion Richard Ramseyer, Bluffton, Ohio
- Lion Janet Ordway, Waterloo, Indiana
- Lion Michael Aldridge, Cynthiana, Kentucky
- Lion Mohammed Fakhruddin, Dhaka Glory, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Rafiqul Islam, Dhaka Tejgaon, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion M. A. Mubin Khan, Dhaka Presidency, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Mohi Uddin, Dhaka Golden City, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Poola Siva, Punganur Noble, India
- Lion K. G. Aggarwal, Faridabad Green, India
- Lion Swarn Singh, Sultanpur Lodhi Gaurav, India
- Lion Manoj Bhajanka, Gauhati, India
- Lion Ramesh Surana, Bombay Churchgate, India
- Lion Khemchand Varyani, Mumbai Sol, India
- Lion Rajesh Malpani, Pune Viman Nagar, India
- Lion Mohan Chaturvedi, Bharatpur Paradise, India
- Lion R. Chandran, Attur, India
- Lion C. Mani, Salem Impact, India

## HIGHER KEYS ISSUED DURING APRIL 2013

### Key of Nations (100 Members)

- Lion Shiv Chaudhary, Ghaziabad Senior, India

### Key of State (75 Members)

- Lion Alice Wahito Ndegwa, Nairobi Langata, Kenya

Continued on page 55



spot

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## New Tool to Keep Members Satisfied!

A happy Lion is a loyal Lion. That's why it's important to consider the experience of being part of your club. If club members feel welcome, comfortable and involved in community service, they will remain part of your club for a long time.

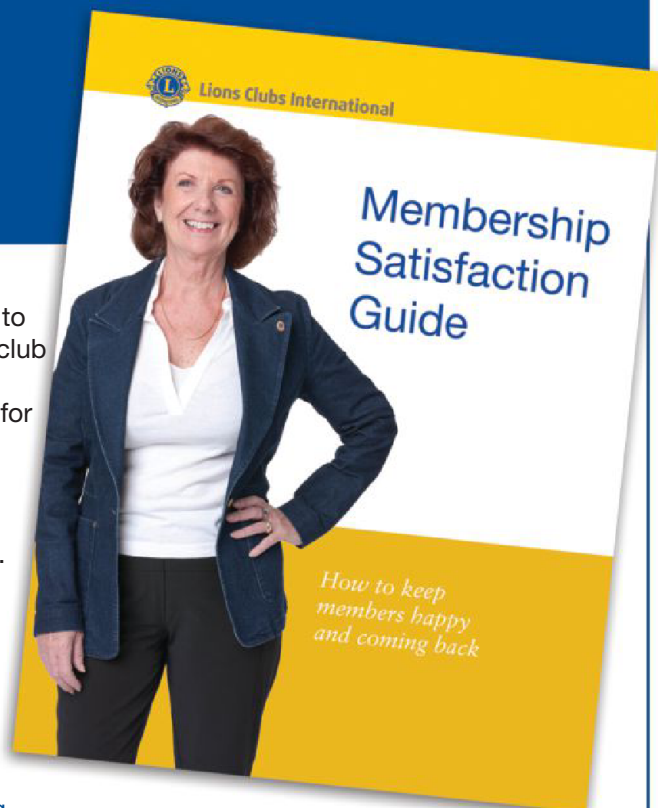
**Want happy members?** Download the new *Membership Satisfaction Guide* from the LCI website.

Visit [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and search "Membership Satisfaction."



**Lions Clubs International**

630-203-3846 | [memberprograms@lionsclubs.org](mailto:memberprograms@lionsclubs.org)



# LION

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Mary Kay Rietz, Adv. Mgr.  
LION, 300 W. 22nd St.  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842  
(630) 468-6880  
Fax: (630) 706-9234  
marykay.rietz@lionsclubs.org

### East Coast

Stephanie Bernbach-Crowe  
RB Advertising Representatives  
195 Cleveland Drive  
Croton on Hudson, NY 10520  
914-827-0015  
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Rickert Media, Inc.  
1745 Wazee Street  
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720-524-4859  
tom.rickert@rickertmedia.com

Pat Rickert  
Rickert Media, Inc.  
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Minneapolis, MN 55423  
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pat.rickert@rickertmedia.com

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3. Revised the transfer charter members form to include a reason for members being dropped, and the signature of the current club secretary or the current club president.
4. Revised the current new club protest policy to include the stipulation that a complaint not be considered if a new club was formed through a Lions Clubs International Extension initiative or a new club development initiative.
5. Revised the October Growth Award be changed to the Membership Growth Award based on growth in October and April, effective in the 2013-14 fiscal year; that the Year Round Growth Award be issued for clubs with net growth for the fiscal year; and that the President's Retention Campaign Award be changed to the Membership Satisfaction Award.
6. Revised the club branch program, effective immediately, to give more autonomy to club branches in the area of funds, dues, dissolution, member invitation and club attendance requirements.
7. Revised the chevron policy to add the wording "appropriate time and place."

## PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Discontinued billboard advertising and reallocated funding to online banner advertising beginning in fiscal year 2013-14.
2. Awarded a three-year contract to PDS Inc. for mail distribution of LION Magazine (Spanish and Headquarters editions) outside the United States.
3. Approved stipend of US\$2,000 to area forums to conduct public relations seminars.
4. Approved placing Past International Presidents immediately after International Vice Presidents in the Order of Precedence.

## SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Named the 2011-12 Top Ten Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Award recipients.
2. Revised board policy to state that each Lions club sponsoring a Leo club shall receive a flat annual billing of US\$100. Payment of this levy may be made in U.S. dollars or its equivalent in the respective national currency.
3. Revised board policy to state that credit for a terminated Leo club shall be given only if a signed Leo Club Termination Form from the sponsoring Lions club, addressed to the Youth Programs Department at International Headquarters, is received by October 31. Credit shall be given only for the current fiscal year.
4. Revised board policy to eliminate pro-rated Leo levies associated with the organization of Leo clubs.
5. Revised board policy to provide that the Service Activities Committee periodically review the annual Leo levy/fee to all Lions clubs that sponsor an active Leo club to ensure that the amount being billed is adequate to maintain pace with the ongoing growth and development of the Leo Club Program.
6. Revised board policy related to Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs) to focus on LERC formation and compliance.

For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI website at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) or contact the International Office at (630) 571-5466.



# INFORMATION

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## Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Dalles Schroeder, Windsor Heights, Iowa
- Lion Om Prakash Bulani, Amritsar Regency, India
- Lion Sunilkumar Jain, Ahmedabad Karnavati, India
- Lion Harjeet Arora, Jabalpur Help, India

## Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Michael Spencer, Ukiah Host, California
- Lion Carol Glenn, Leadville, Colorado
- Lion Sergey Kislov, Moscow Cosmopolitan Lions, Russian Federation
- Lion N. Premarajah, Colombo East, Rep. of Sri Lanka
- Lion Mohammed Alamgir, Dhaka Banasree Garden, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Bulu Dutta, Asansol Puspantjali, India
- Lion Motilal Sekhani, Ahmedabad Karnavati, India
- Lion Satish Bansal, Ajmer West, India
- Lion George Melozona, Chennai Golden Bharath, India
- Lion P. Puthukan, Chennai Moovarasampet, India
- Lion K. Selvaraj, Tirupur, India
- Lion Yacoub Kaissi, Beirut Metropolitan, Lebanon
- Lion Ene Mkpang Cobham, Calabar Tinapa, 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](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

## IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director **Billy E. Hanel** of Michigan, has died. A Lion since 1959 and a life member of the Lansing Host Lions Club, he served on the board of directors from 1989-91. He was active in many civic and community organizations, including the Salvation Army and Red Cross, in addition to his Lions activities.

Past International Director **Nelson Díez Pérez** of Ascuncion, Paraguay, has died. He was a member of the Asuncion Barrio Vista Alegre Lions Club and had been a Lion since 1965. A constitutional lawyer, he was a past recipient of the Outstanding Youth Award from the Paraguay Youth Chamber of Commerce for his dedication to community service.

Past International Director **Rui Taveira** of Oeiras, Portugal, has died. A member of the Lisbon Host Lions Club since 1972, he was elected to serve on the international board of directors in 1987-89. He was a retired military officer, director of several sports clubs and also involved in an international exchange program.

Past International Director **A. Chuck Wijenathen**, who served on the international board of directors from 1985-87, has died. A Life Member of the Colombo North Lions Club in Sri Lanka, one of his many achievements was helping rebuilding efforts after his homeland was struck by a devastating tsunami in 2004.

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Date of Change \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

# LAST ROAR



Photo courtesy of Marshall Wolff/MetroWest Daily News

## ODE TO JOY

Summer fun at a carnival has been served up for 51 years by Holliston Lions in Massachusetts. The exhilarating cadences of the summer season owe a great deal to the mind, the memory and the imagination, as this boy can attest.





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