Lions Clubs International

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Do you get discouraged when you hear your telephone ring? Do you avoid using your phone because hearing difficulties make it hard to understand the person on the other end of the line? For many Americans the telephone conversation – once an important part of everyday life - has become a thing of the past. Because they can't understand what is said to them on the phone, they're often cut off from friends, family, doctors and caregivers. Now, thanks to innovative technology there is finally a better way.

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A Message From Our President



Barry J. Palmer Lions Clubs International President

Dream Big to Make a Big Impact

When Sydney hosted the Olympics in 2000, I was privileged to help organize the Paralympic Games in Australia. I'll never forget the opening ceremony. Some of the participants could not walk on their legs, so they proudly paraded around the track on their hands. Nothing could hold back their vibrant human spirit! And that was just a warm-up to the amazing feats of athleticism when they competed. Despite physical limitations, they ran, jumped and swam with incredible fervor, effort, and, yes, superior skill, speed and strength.

This year I am urging Lions and clubs to Follow Your Dream. The disabled athletes taught me that too often we underestimate our capabilities. We shortchange ourselves. In this issue we profile clubs and Lions that dreamed big and achieved great success. Why not you?



Lions from Minnesota on a mission trip to Honduras provided this elderly man with glasses (see story on page 33). By dreaming big, Lions can greatly extend the scope and reach of their service.

You have two choices. You can shrink your dream to fit reality. Or you can stretch reality to fit your dreams. The history of Lions is testament to the validity of the latter. For nearly a century Lions have made dreams come true. *Dreams are our stock in trade*.

Making dreams reality is not magic. You have to work at it. The formula is pretty simple but foolproof. First, name a dream. You need to share the dream with others, to put it out there so it lives and breathes and gathers support and momentum. Secondly, plan to achieve the dream. An action plan will literally force the dream to become real. Do this today, tomorrow or this week or month at the latest. Our communities need our dreams and our passion to serve. Our friends and neighbors await our energetic kindness, our We Serve approach.

We are who we want to be. Let's not be night dreamers who wake up in the morning and can't remember their dreams. The day dreamers are fully awake and alert. They think, what if I were able to do this or try this? They don't just have a dream-they live the dream. Being a Lion is a great gift in itself, a dream life in which we have the perfect opportunity to share our good will and concern for others. So, Lions, Follow Your Dream!

Barry J. Palmer Your Lions Clubs International President

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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.



42 Highway Angels

CONTACTING THE LION

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

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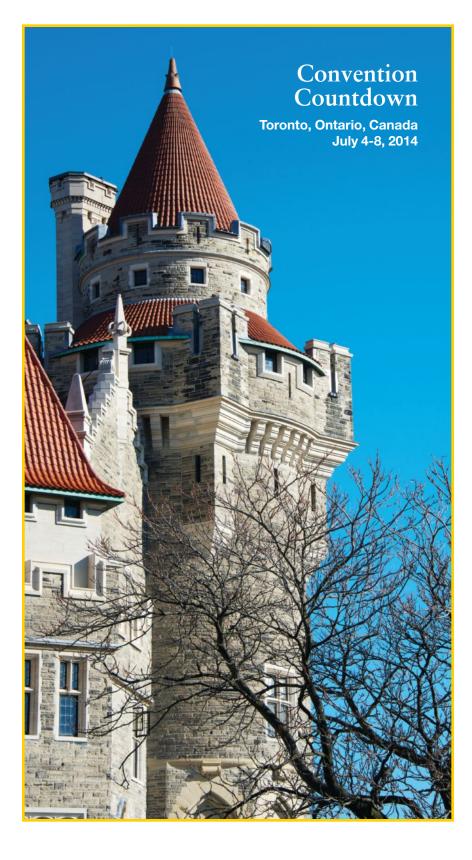
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LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

COUPLE COMPLETE CROSS-COUNTRY TRIP

Lions Mark and Debbie Mansell of Washington completed in July their 10,000-mile, 48-state motorcycle journey to raise funds for Leader Dogs for the Blind. The 24-day ride raised \$40,000, enough to provide a person with a Leader Dog, says Mark Mansell, who was featured on the cover of the June LION for his bicycle ride across the country last year for Leader Dogs. Mansell says the ride revealed to him the various ways Lions serve. "We've seen firsthand the creativity of so many who are following their own dreams and taking action in the many local, regional and international service opportunities we have as Lions," he wrote on Facebook.

A HERO IN THE MAKING

Not yet a graduate of Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) in San Rafael, California, an 18-month-old yellow Lab named O'Neil has already helped saved lives. Out with a supervising trainer and a blindfolded apprentice trainer in June, the trio was walking on the sidewalk when O'Neil suddenly stopped and reared his head back to check behind, sensing danger, Supervisor Todd Jurek then saw an out-of-control car veering backward toward them and got all three quickly to safety. Two other staff members were ahead of the team and also got swiftly out of the car's path as it careened down the sidewalk. "Thanks to very quick reaction times and smart thinking, there were no injuries," GDB staffer Sierra Fish told LION Magazine. In an interview the next day with The Marin Independent Journal, Jurek said that O'Neil's sensitive hearing probably detected the sound of glass breaking before his human companions did as the car smashed a store window.

SHARE THE VISION IN OCTOBER

Lions are asked to "share the vision" in October by fighting blindness. The initiative is one of the four Global Service Action Campaigns of Lions Clubs International (a focus on youth was in August, feeding the hungry in December/January and preserving the environment in April). These are not the only ways Lions can work toward the same goals as other Lions worldwide. The literacy campaign begun under Immediate Past President Madden is continuing as is the planting of trees urged by 2011-12 President Wing-Kun Tam.



Al Murry of the Lebanon Lions Club in Pennsylvania collects donated eyeglasses. The club has collected nearly 29,000 eyeglasses for recycling since 2005.

THE POWER OF THE PENNY

How much is a million pennies? Enough to substantially improve the lives of the blind. The Atlanta Lions Club in Georgia has launched a Million Penny Challenge. The club has placed 250 buckets in car washes, nail salons and other locations around the city. The \$10,000 the club hopes to raise will benefit the Georgia Lions Lighthouse and other good causes as well as raise the visibility of Lions, says club president Scott Rogers.



Penny by penny, the Atlanta Lions are helping those with vision impairments.

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS



56 YEARS AGO IN THE LION OCTOBER 1957

Lions Clubs International surveyed its 600,000 members as part of the 40th anniversary of Lions. The average Lion was 44 years old, worked as a retailer and earned \$12,370 annually (considerably more than the average family income of \$5,000 then). Sixteen percent of Lions owned or operated a farm. Fishing and hunting was the most popular hobby. Most Lions golfed and owned a power lawn mower, and 39 percent agreed they were "handy with a camera." The top three consumer magazines among Lions were Reader's Digest, Life and Better Homes and Gardens. The typical Lion was a member for eight years and nine months and read the LION regularly (the cartoons accompanied the survey story).

BYTHE NUMBERS

121 Felony and misdemeanor arrests made possible by K9 Ajax, a German shepherd for the Emmaus Police Depart-

herd for the Emmaus Police Department in Pennsylvania, before he died after seven years of duty. Emmaus Lions purchased the dog for the department.

300,000

Cost in dollars to businesses from stolen copper in Rogers, Minnesota. To deter further theft, Rogers Lions bought the police department a multicamera surveillance system.

2,000

Peaches used to make homemade ice cream for a fundraiser for Crozet Lions in Virginia.

2,000 Frozen peach daiquiris sold by Palisade Lions in Colorado. 12

Members of the Morris Lions Club in Illinois who drove 80 miles with a large grill and enough food and treats to feed 150 hearing-impaired children at Camp Lion near Bloomington.

Backrests of bus benches in Bradenton, Florida, to be transformed through winning posters from a Graffiti Hurts poster contest for students co-sponsored by Bradenton Lions.

192

Antique engines between 60 and 100 years old displayed at the Mid-Ohio Valley Antique Engine Festival held by Waverly Lions in West Virginia.

680,000

Tabs delivered by Bill Dierks, tab coordinator for the Brookside Lions in Delaware, to the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington.

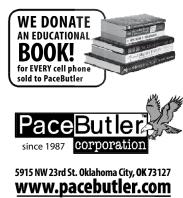


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ONE OF US

LARRY "MAD MAX" MAXWELL

Every time the Parkersburg South High School football team scores a touchdown, its biggest fan bounds across the field, waving the team flag and cheering fervently, bringing the filled stadium to its feet. "Mad Max" knows how to get fans energized he's been the school's spirit leader for 32 years, just about the same amount of time he's served with the South Parkersburg Lions. Although Maxwell retired from his 37-year run as an English teacher at the West Virginia school in 2011, he continues going strong as the local youth's devoted cheerleader—and dedicated pen pal.

How did you become "Mad Max"?

When I was starting out as a young teacher, I wanted to get involved in the school, and I had the opportunity to become spirit leader. I love leading the teams out and getting the crowd fired up at games and pep rallies. When the movie "Mad Max" came out, the students started calling me that because I'm so intense, and it caught on.

Why has building school spirit been so important to you?

When I came back from the Vietnam War, I was one of the forgotten soldiers. I was welcomed home by my dad, but that was it. At that point I thought, if I ever had the chance to show my appreciation for people, I would. Being a teacher gave me an opportunity to be a cheerleader and motivator.

You've also been a cheerleader through writing letters.

I wanted kids to feel appreciated and important, so for about 15 years I wrote each of them at least four times a year. Someone did the math, and it turns out I wrote about 6,000 letters a year! The principal would give me the students' schedules, so I would write them about their classes. I sent them homemade holiday and birthday cards. I don't write as many now that I'm retired, plus postage keeps going up! But if I see a student in the newspaper and I

want to congratulate them for something, $\mathbf{I'}\mathsf{II}$ write to them at the school.

Do you ever hear from students you wrote?

I've had former students tell me later on that they were having a bad day and when they got home, the letter cheered them up. They've said that it meant a lot that someone out there knew they were there and appreciated them.

How's retirement treating you?

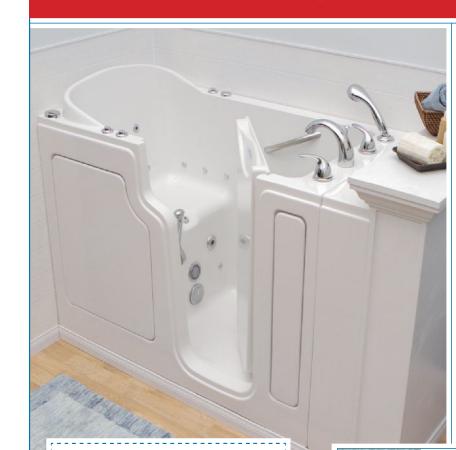
I love it. I'm doing more now than I used to being in the classroom all day. I volunteer at a historic one-room schoolhouse, and I'm an adjunct instructor at a college. I'm doing what I can to help the Lions with the Reading Action Program. I volunteer at schools once a week and read to students. That seemed like a natural thing for me to do.

Do you know a Lion who you think has a great story or deserves a bit of recognition? Email us a brief description of the Lion and the reason you're making the nomination to **lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org.** Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.

In his role as "Mad Max," Larry Maxwell leads the high school football team into a stadium of electrified fans.

Photo courtesy of The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

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LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

WASECA, MINNESOTA

YEAR FOUNDED: 1927

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS: The 41 Waseca Lions gather twice a month for a lunch meeting at the Pizza Ranch Restaurant. Members caught not wearing their Lions vest are fined one dollar, as are those celebrating a birthday or anniversary that month. With ages ranging from their 20s to 90s and professional fields including finance, education, small business and transportation, the Lions bring a variety of talents and perspectives to the club.

WE SERVE, WE FLIP: For more than 40 years the Lions have faithfully flipped pancakes at their annual fundraising breakfast. The Lions team up with the Boy and Girl Scouts to pull off a perfect event and ensure that every attendee leaves with a full stomach and a big smile. Through this and other fundraising efforts, the Lions are able to help support more than 25 charities.

A COLLECTIVE EFFORT: Everyone in Waseca knows to donate their unneeded eyeglasses and hearing aids at any of 10 Lions collection spots in businesses and churches. The Lions also ask participants at their popular golf outing and other events to bring eyeglasses to donate. Thanks to the Lions successfully getting the word out, they were able to collect more than 800 eyeglasses and hearing aids last year.

HELPING KIDS SUCCEED: Each year the Lions give all third-grade students a dictionary, co-sponsor the high school awards banquet and present three scholarships to standout high school seniors. Scholarship applicants need to prove themselves worthy of the prestigious award: they must show that they have served their community, excel academically and write eloquently about their educational and career goals.

WHY SERVE? "I joined the Waseca Lions because of the local and international interests of the group. Since then, I've learned much about the gifts and concerns of the community. It's an organization that makes and supports community leaders." – Lion Nancy Hansen



Waseca Lions and Scouts team up to serve more than 350 guests at their annual pancake breakfast.

OVERHEARD

"This is Bellbrook's finest hour. It's social hour in Bellbrook, a homecoming for everyone who's ever lived here."

-Ben Rader of the Bellbrook Lions Club in Ohio on the annual Lions Club Festival, a tradition for 48 years. From the Dayton Daily News.

"It's like having a no-hitter in baseball."

–Johnny Crow, past president of the Slidell Lions in Louisiana, on the perfect score of a competitor in the Slidell BBQ Challenge, co-sponsored by his club. From nola.com.

"For me, it's just been Esther internalizing the idea she's part of a group that can make a difference."

-Josh Gibb of the Galesburg Lions Club in Illinois on his six-year-old daughter volunteering in a community cleanup as part of SIMBA, the club's youth group. From the Register-Mail.

ONTHEWEB

Have you ever wondered how some clubs have their service projects featured on LCI's Facebook page, blog, Twitter or in LION Magazine? One way LCI headquarters finds out about club accomplishments is through the Submit Your Story page on LCI's website. Using an online form, Lions can enter information such as the project name, goals and results. Add a photo to attract even more attention. Submitting your story may not only help your club receive some recognition, but it could benefit and inspire other clubs. Visit www.lionsclubs.org and search for "Submit Your Story" to find out more and share your experience.

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IDEASTHAT ROAR

LIONS CLUBS MAKE A BIG IMPACT WITH SERVICE PROJECTS

TELL YOUR STORY

Use photos to create a scrapbook your club can display at public events to show how active Lions are in the community.

Lions Partner with Schools

Students and staff in the Windham public schools in Connecticut collected 133 eyeglasses for the Willimantic Lions Club. Included were reading glasses, sunglasses and prescription lenses. "Fliers about this project were written in English and Spanish and given to more than 3,000 students and staff," says Dr. Charles Wynn, 2012-13 club president.

Each school had a coordinator for the collection. "The project theme was Working Together to Help Others See Better," adds Lion Colin Rice. "Each coordinator received a copy of the Lions' DVD, 'New Glasses, New Life,' about a Lions in Sight vision clinic in Mexico."

In addition to collecting eyeglasses for missions to other countries, Lions also support the Lions Low Vision Center, Fidelco Guide Dogs, Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation, a soup kitchen and a hospital. "We raise money by sponsoring three pancake breakfasts a year, a Journey for Sight Walkathon, food booths at local fairs and coin shows, and selling candy in local stores," Rice says.



A student proudly displays some of the eyeglasses she and other students collected for Willimantic, Connecticut, Lions.



Dictionary Gift Defines Lions' Generosity

Dictionaries distributed by members of the Sebastian Lions Club in Florida to students and faculty of the Sebastian Charter Junior High School may cost only \$2 apiece but are proving to be priceless when it comes to challenging young minds. "We had previously shown an example of the dictionary to the school's principal and said that we could provide them at no expense to the school, its students or faculty," says Lion Charles Smits. "Naturally, after examining a sample the answer was a resounding 'Yes, we would love to have them!'" Lions gave 186 dictionaries to students and 19 to faculty members.

Titled "A Student's Dictionary," the paperbacks include not only an extensive dictionary but also contain a copy of the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the Pledge of Allegiance, biographies of U.S. presidents and information on the 50 states.

"There is information about countries and locations from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The book also has a table of weights and measures, facts about the planets and maps of the seven continents. One of the pages shows the alphabet in sign language and one shows the alphabet in Braille," Smits points out. "The back page has the longest word in the English language, and it takes up the whole page."

Smits says Lions' literacy projects include purchasing books in Braille, renewing a subscription to National Geographic for the library and donating books to the school library for parents to read with their children. Leos also pitch in to promote literacy by collecting books for the local Boys & Girls Club. Club members are so encouraged by the enthusiasm students, staff and parents have shown that they plan to expand the project to other schools.

WELCOME NEW INTEREST

Extend a friendly invitation to a new member of the community to visit your club to learn about Lions.

PICK PARTNERS

Unite with other groups on large-scale projects to serve a bigger percentage of the population. Schools, churches, first responders and other clubs are all excellent sources of collaboration for service activities.

INSPIRE AND MENTOR

If your club doesn't already sponsor a Leo club, consider doing so to inspire a new generation of community service leaders.

Restoring a Natural Habitat

The 103 members of the Dewey Beach Lions Club in Delaware looked a bit closer to home recently to find their next big service project. Marshy wetlands, adjacent to the Lions clubhouse, had been long disregarded. The area was a festering stew of rotting garbage, debris and invasive plants choking any remaining natural plant life. "The wetlands had been taken over by phragmites [a reedy plant that can grow up to 15 feet tall]," says Bill Zolper, who helped lead the Lions cleanup campaign. "Debris deposited on the wetlands over many years from storms and trash dumped there posed quite a challenge for our club."

Since the state owns the land, Lions had to first obtain permission for any work on the one-acre lot to proceed. Lion Ron Krajewski helped secure those rights and another club member, Larry Tush, described as "a real hands-on guy" by Zolper, coordinated the club's cleanup efforts. Fifteen years ago, Lions built a playground next to the marshland and still maintain it. "We looked at the adjoining wetlands area as an extension of our playground that would provide an educational park on Rehoboth Bay for children and adults," Zolper explains.

Two years of planning culminated in a two-day clearing last year of the wetlands in order to restore its natural habitat. Members using rakes, shovels and earth-moving equipment they supplied themselves hauled out more than five tons of debris including an abandoned boat trailer, broken glass bottles and old wood. Lions recycled what they could as an added environmental push.

"We installed osprey and duck nesting boxes and bird houses in order to bring back our waterfowl life. The removal and treatment of invasive plants is an ongoing maintenance program," says Zolper. Fiddler crabs are now reproducing in the former blighted lot, and warblers and finches stop by to gorge on seeds thoughtfully provided by Lions. The club invested nearly \$12,000 during the two years prior to the cleanup project, and is now responsible for future annual maintenance costs of approximately \$2,100 paid to local firm Envirotech.

"We're waiting to see how our wetlands recover to its natural state before considering any other future improvements," Zolper adds. "We are now thankful we didn't make any further improvements. They would have been washed away as were other wooden walkways and piers during Superstorm Sandy."

The wetlands now thrive as an educational outreach park for the public to enjoy. Lions also clean and maintain an eight-block beach area and work with the nonprofit Center for Inland Bays, earning last year's Volunteer Partner of the Year Award for their commitment to the community's inland bays.

- by Pamela Mohr



Earth-moving equipment and many helping hands are part of the Lions' wetlands cleanup in Dewey Beach, Delaware.

LIONS ON LOCATION

IN ZAMBIA, THE NDOLA KANSENSHI LIONS WELCOMED SEVEN NEW MEMBERS ON LIONS WORLDWIDE INDUCTION DAY.

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

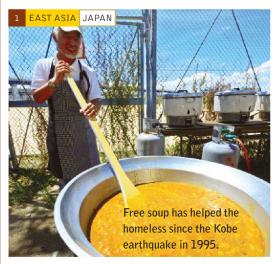
Warm Food for Those Left Out in the Cold

Nearly 20 years after the massive Kobe earthquake in Japan people left homeless continue to use a soup kitchen set up immediately after the disaster. Once a day the appetizing smell of curry cooked in a huge metallic bowl wafts over Minato-no-Mori Park, built to commemorate the city's reconstruction. Volunteers often serve 120 hungry people within 15 minutes after the soup is ready.

Members of the Kobe Minami Lions Clubs have supported the kitchen for eight years. They provide rice and serve the soup.

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, as it is known in Japan, killed 5,500 people and injured more than 26,000. Kobe, which has a population of 1.5 million, was near the quake's epicenter.

Respect and civility are part of the routine of the soup kitchen. Patrons dutifully wash the dishes and utensils they use and return them to their proper spot. Lions and other volunteers, who know the regulars, chat and trade small talk with them. Through the years the number of patrons has gradually declined. "The Kobe Minami Lions don't mind providing service, but they are hoping the number of people needing this service becomes much smaller," according to the Japanese LION.





Care for Children Crosses Borders

Tan Chee Bin, 60, taught English and geography in secondary schools in Malaysia and worked as a federal school inspector for a quarter century. After a lifetime of helping youths, he spends part of his retirement doing the same as a relatively new Lion. Members of his club recently travelled to Cambodia to bestow gifts and goods on disadvantaged children at a school, orphanage and hospital.

"We were able to make a small difference in the lives of these needy and lovely Cambodian children," says Bin, whose wife, Lee Kit Yoke, also is a Lion and retired teacher. "I think we were able to fulfill our club's motto of 'We Serve Without Borders.'"

The Bayan Baru Lions Club has 39 members. Among them are businessmen, factory owners, insurance agents, lawyers, clerks and stay-at-home mothers. The club has undertaken similar charitable missions to Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

The club partnered in Cambodia with the Siem Reap Angkor Wat Lions Club, chartered in 2012. Many Cambodian children endure heartbreaking hardship. Nearly half are malnourished, and one in seven dies before the age of five.

The Lions club wisely worked with established charities with solid track records. They helped a Sanctuary Home for orphaned and abandoned children, run by The Children's Sanctuary; the Chres Village School and Orphanage; and the Angkor Hospital for Children, founded by New York-based Friends Without A Border.

"Our members put their heart and soul into our projects," says Bin. "All of us returned home knowing we had brought cheers and relief to the suffering of poverty-stricken children."



CEANIA NEW ZEALAND

THE GUAYAQUIL KENNEDY LIONS CLUB IN ECUADOR DONATED A WHEELCHAIR TO A WOMAN IN NEED.



THE QUEZON CITY CUBAO LIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE WORKING WITH MORE THAN 2,000 STUDENTS IN FIVE SCHOOLS ON THE LIONS QUEST SKILLS FOR ADOLESCENCE PROGRAM.



IN INDIA, THE NAVI MUMBAI VISIONARY LIONS SUPPORT SIX SCHOOLS FOR 300 CHILDREN IN NEED, PROVIDING THEM WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES, BOOKS AND LUNCHES.

Magic of Hogwarts Banishes Cancer

Dumbledore, known as Past District Governor Tony Clifford to New Zealand Lions, leads his Hogwarts students to class.

The wands, spells and magic potions, even the wise, warm counsel of Dumbledore, could not make the cancer vanish. But 64 children were able to forget about their illness and lose themselves to the charms of fantasy at a Harry Potter camp in New Zealand.

For five days the only element missing from the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft was Harry Potter himself. On the campus of atmospheric Lindisfarne College in Hastings, the children went wizard shopping at Diagon Alley and bought pet owls, frogs and bats. They purchased wands at Olivander's wand shop. They dressed in costumes, made potions (some deliciously edible) and learned sword fighting from members of a medieval society.

Some grownups knew the Potter books as well as the children and strove to precisely recreate the oddities and realities of that fantasy world. As any Potter fan knows, the wizard doesn't select the wand; the wand selects the wizard. The wand shop clerks managed to surreptitiously place stickers with the child's name on the wand he or she had chosen moments before. The immersion in fantasy began the moment children arrived at Woodville Central Railway Station. There they found Platform Nine and Three Quarters and the Hogwarts Express, a venerable steam locomotive. The on-board treats included licorice wands, chocolate frogs and Bertie Botts' every-flavored beans.

"I can honestly say we pulled some real magic on that camp. Some of the things the kids did and saw–I'm sure they are still trying to work out how it happened," says Fay Partington, an organizer of the Camp Quality NZ.

Dozens of Lions volunteered at the camp, cooking, making potions and supervising activities. "It was a very enjoyable day out, but it was more than that. It was heart-wrenching," says Lion Lionel Raven, whose son is a cancer survivor. "To see the bond between the children and their companions–it was something everyone should experience. The volunteers and staff were totally immersed in the children and what they wanted to do. It brought tears to my eyes.

"One 10-year-old girl-she has only one leg-to see her clowning around. It was really something."

LIONS ON LOCATION



SEVERAL LIONS CLUBS IN BIRGANJ, NEPAL, SPONSORED SEVEN SEWING COURSES FOR 464 PEOPLE.

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

Lions and Music Form a Perfect

Where Lions are, music erupts. (Clockwise from top left) Orimattila Lions in Finland brought along popular accordion player Jarmo Kuusisto to perform at a home for seniors. Lions also fired up a barbecue and led seniors in exercise. In Korea, Ulsan Hong Lions threw a party at the Hoge Senior Welfare Center. In Austria, the Sound of Music international youth exchange featured a stroll through tiny Gössl (450 residents) with the youths dressed in dirndls or lederhosen as musicians played traditional Austrian music. More than 60 youths from 20 nations participated. Also in Austria, Wien West Lions served weisswurst, pretzels, and, of course, beer at an Oktoberfest. Club President Dr. Walter Gever showed he could wield more than a gavel or stethoscope as he played the saxophone and keyboards as well as sang.



THE FRAILE MUERTO LIONS IN URUGUAY COORDINATED THE CREATION OF A NEW LIBRARY FOR THEIR COMMUNITY.



IN **COSTA RICA**, THE **SAN SEBASTIAN LIONS** CONDUCTED EYE EXAMS FOR 60 CHILDREN.



IN ECUADOR, THE G2 DISTRICT LIONS DELIVERED WATER, FOOD, CLOTHING AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO VICTIMS OF FLOODING AND A HARSH WINTER ON THE COAST.

Harmony



Bam! Pow! Lions!

Holy costume extravaganza, Batman! The caped crusader and his young sidekick overran the town of Market Rasen in England. The Batman and Robin race, organized by the Market Rasen Lions, drew more than 100 runners masquerading as the famous Gotham City crime fighters.

Thanks to Hollywood movies, Batman is popular in England. But the charity race actually was inspired by an episode from the English sitcom "Only Fools and Horses" in which the characters incongruously dressed up as Batman and Robin for a fancy party. The Lions' event was called the Only Fools, No Horses Run.

One team of runners stylishly arrived for the race in a Reliant Robin, a small, three-wheel car. After the race, which raised more than US\$1,000, Lions awarded prizes for the best costumes. As for the competition, the Batmans and Robins came in all shapes and sizes, but savvy age generally still trumped youthful enthusiasm. "The Robins flew around the course, but as much as they tried they could not catch the Batmans," reports Lion Graham Parish.



Happy Days in Hamburg

Lions enjoy a great convention stuffed with stars and spectacle.

by Jay Copp

He gently closed his eyes, slightly raised his olive-hued forehead and then delivered a stunning performance of "Ave Maria." Andrea Bocelli's powerful, lightning-bolt voice stilled the 13,000-seat arena in Hamburg. When he finished, Lions sat hushed for a nanosecond and then rose as one and burst into applause. Lions at convention take pride in being part of something that spans the world; after Bocelli finished and gratefully bowed his head Lions instantly understood they had witnessed a world-class performance.

> Bocelli awed the convention crowd after Lions Clubs International presented him with its prestigious Humanitarian Award for his foundation's work to help the blind and needy. His performance was one highlight among many at the hard-to-top 96th International Convention in early July. Lions enjoyed five days of oratory, exhortation and performances by the well-known and the well-regarded. Former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush praised Lions for their literacy efforts. Basketball legend Yao Ming of China, taking the stage as an ambassador for Lions' partner Special Olympics, downplayed his status as a superstar and deftly deferred to Special Olympians and Lions as true stars. The venerable but ever-youthful Up with People sang and danced with buoyant optimism for two high-wattage hours at the International Show.

> > A clean, prosperous city, freshly adorned for a week with Lions flags and logos draped on or over poles, buildings and

Andrea Bocelli proves he can sing as well as he can do good deeds as a humanitarian.

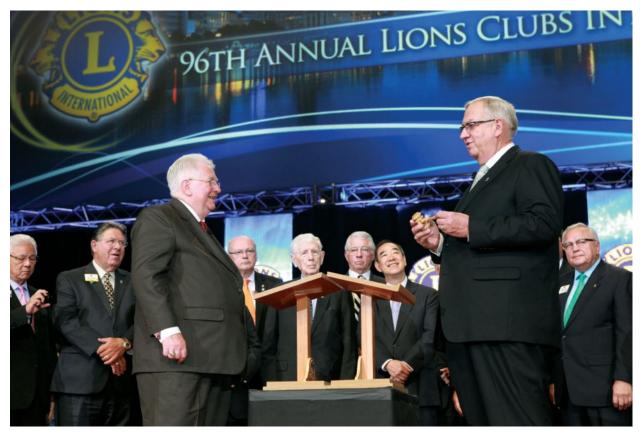
ships at the Old World city center and along the busy Elbe River, Hamburg was awash in Lions. Nearly 25,000 Lions and guests from 136 nations registered, far more than a typical convention. Germany led the way with 5,918 registrants, followed by Japan with 3,725, the United States with 2,099, France with 1,336 and China with 1,298.

Thanks to the organizational skills of German Lions, events proceeded with clockwork efficiency. The shuttle buses whisked away the 10,000-plus at the plenary sessions almost as soon as the Lions exited the hall.

The emphasis on efficiency did not detract from the dazzle and excitement typical of conventions. The parade on the convention's second day was particularly memorable. Lions did a one-mile lap in downtown Hamburg around gorgeous Binnenalster Lake. Mounted police officers led the parade followed by Lions executive officers in horse-drawn carriages and then tens of thousands of flagwaving, folk-singing, ethnically-garbed Lions. Afterward marchers filed into a sprawling Lions Market to devour grilled bratwurst and learn about Lions' projects at stalls and booths.

Traditions and spectacle also filled the other days of the convention. The popular flag ceremony respectfully and colorfully showcased the flags of the Lions' 200 nations. Outgoing International President Wayne A. Madden of Indiana and new President Barry J. Palmer of Australia delivered well-received speeches to motivate and inform Lions.







Convention is not all play and no service: Lions provide vision screenings for Special Olympics athletes.

Madden recounted the rousing success of the four-part Global Service Action Campaigns as well as the overwhelming impact of his signature project, the Reading Action Program (RAP). Lions assisted more than 6 million people in completing 73,000 RAP Projects in 2012-13. He also announced that the Lions' board of directors extended RAP for a decade and before an audience of assenting Lions at the first plenary signed a collaborative partnership with Scholastic, the world's largest children's book publisher, to promote literacy.

2012-13 President Wayne A. Madden presents the official gavel to 2013-14 President Barry J. Palmer moments after Madden administered the oath of office to Palmer.

Watch a video of the convention highlights.

Madden administered the oath of office to Barry Palmer, who then unveiled his four dreams this Lions year. He will help Lions begin microfinance programs to take women and children out of poverty, establish programs and projects to attract members of all ages and both sexes, reach for a "dream goal" of 1.4 million members and raise the visibility of Lions through social media.

Leadership succession was a prominent element of the convention. Lions elected Past International Director Jitsuhiro Yamada, a Japanese neurosurgeon, as second vice president, and Joe Preston of Arizona was duly elected as first vice president, meaning Preston will lead Lions as international president in 2014-15 to be followed by Yamada. Lions also elected 17 first-year directors from the seven constitutional areas for the board of directors, and just before the convention ended the incoming 757 district governors took their oath of office.

Happy to be in Hamburg

One of the traditional functions of the convention is to showcase and further partnerships-with the ultimate goal to extend Lions' service. Hamburg was no different. LCIF committed an additional \$7.8 million toward its partnership with Special Olympics (see page 45); Lions provide vision screenings and eyeglasses for Special Olympics athletes. LCIF also pledged to raise \$30 million to protect children in poor nations against measles and rubella. Lions are partnering with the GAVI Alliance on the initiative, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK's Department for International Development pledged to match Lions' commitment, meaning GAVI will receive \$60 million to protect 700 million children in 49 nations by 2020.

Like other conventions, Hamburg proved to be a beguiling bundle of entertainment, enlightenment and enrichment. Lions came to enjoy themselves but also came with a sense of responsibility. They voted for new directors and officers. They crowded seminars to pick up new ideas on service and club operations. They arrived knowing that when they leave they expect to be better able to serve their community. The bonus they received in Hamburg was an unusually rich experience of fellowship and festivity. Lions in Hamburg realized that, similar to doing service, they received more there than they gave at convention.

"This is an inspiration. Everyone here is so friendly," said John Mundt of Meridian, Indiana, as he watched a German band play sing-along folk songs outside the exhibit hall. "It's a shame that the world can't do what happens here. We disregard all our differences and just be together to celebrate life." **GEMÜTLICHKEIT**, the mood of amiability cherished by Germans, is found in abundance in beer halls and at family gatherings. But for five days in Hamburg Lions and others happily found themselves in a sphere of good will and good times. Attendees agreed that the international convention succeeds in bringing out the best in people and motivating them to put more into service when they return home.

"Everyone is friendly. It makes you that way. If you ever come to a convention, you will want come back."

-Praveen Chandra Sharma (with his wife, Tara), 322-E district governor from Patna Bihar, India

> "It's really impressive. We have people from communities from all over the world. It's called Lions International. You can feel it ... people from all over the world." -Christian Leupold (with his wife, Kirstin), president of the Freising Lions Club in Germany.

"We really like the Lions Market [stalls selling food or showcasing Lions' projects held after the parade]. It's brilliant. It gets people in a Lions environment. It should be replicated each year."

-Mike Baldwin (with his wife, Janet), a past district governor from Milton Keynes, England.

"Everyone is so friendly. That's the way it should be. Everyone is just happy and friendly."

Esther Huber of Lake Zurich, Switzerland

"You miss a lot not being here. Every Lion should experience this."

-Lee Eisenhard, 14-T district governor from Mont Alto, Pennsylvania

"You meet so many people and they all have the same thing in common-service."

-Sandy Eisenhard, his wife.



Fabio de Almeida São Paulo, Brazil



DICUS CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES



ROBERTO FRESIA Albissola Marina, Italy



ALEXIS VINCENT GOMES POINTE-NOIRE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO



CYNTHIA B. GREGG PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES



BYUNG-GI KIM GWANGJU, KOREA



ESTHER LAMOTHE MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES



YVES LÉVEILLÉ QUEBEC, CANADA



TERESA MANN HONG KONG CHINA



Raju V. Manwani Mumbai, India



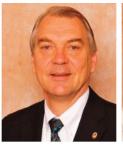
WILLIAM MCKINNEY ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES



MICHAEL EDWARD MOLENDA MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES.



JOHN PETTIS JR. MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES



ROBERT RETTBY NEUCHATEL, SWITZERLAND



OYA EMINE SEBÜK ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Lions Elect Directors in Hamburg

Delegates to the 96th International Convention in Hamburg elected 17 international directors-two from the India/South Asia/Africa/Middle East constitutional area, one from Canada, three from Europe, three from the Orient/Southeast Asia, one from South America/Central America/Mexico/Islands of the Caribbean Sea and seven from the United States/U.S. affiliates/Bermuda/Bahamas. The directors serve two-year terms.

Visit Lions Clubs International's website for biographies of the new directors as well as biographies and photos of the four international officers and second-year directors.



HIDENORI SHIMIZU GUNMA, JAPAN



DR. STEVEN TREMAROLI NEW YORK, UNITED STATES



Digital LION Exclusiv

Wise Words in Hamburg

2012-13 International President Wayne Madden, at the first plenary session

"I chose as my theme this year In A World of Service. Honestly–those were just words on paper at the beginning of this year. Lions brought those words to life. Lions changed people's lives with their dedicated service. And Lions made Linda and I feel welcome wherever we traveled. Thank you Lions. You made my year as international president memorable and meaningful. You inspired me with your service and I will always carry with me in my heart countless scenes of unselfish acts of kindness."

Yao Ming, basketball star, at the second plenary

"I believe that the superstar here today is our Special Olympics athlete Ben Haack. Every time I see Special Olympics athletes, I am touched. Their stories give us strength, the strength that is not from body but from soul. Not from muscle but from spirit."

Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, at the second plenary

"Remember that literacy is about people, not just about gaining skills. It's actually quite simple: imagine your average day and think of all the things you do-shopping, banking online, taking the bus, working in a company, reading to your children or grandchildren. Now think of the same activities but knowing you cannot read. I don't know about you, but I'd be lost. I'd feel insecure, stupid and worthless."

2013-14 International President Barry J. Palmer, at the third plenary

"I think we actually need to change to way we think about Leos. We get it wrong. What do you hear over and over: Leos are our future. That's discounting all they do. That's like saying we value children because they may become caring adults one day. No, we value Leos for want they are now–great volunteers, full of energy and passion and compassion. Leos are the present. They are a vital part of the Lions family."

Lion (and former Leo) Jocelyn Nisnisan of Texas, speaking at the Leo Lion Summit

"You do not have to join an older group of Lions. You and your fellow Leos can form a Lions club on your own, just like you founded a Leo club. Not only will you be starting something new with friends and peers, you will now be the ones 'calling the shots' as a Lion."

Read the full speeches:

- Keynote of Former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush
- Yao Ming Remarks
- Andrea Bocelli Remarks
- Farewell Address of President Madden
- Inaugural Address of President Palmer
- Tim Shriver Speech
- Keynote Speech of Leo Lion Summit

International Contest Results

NEWSLETTER (BULLETIN)

Lions Club First Place: Loomis Lions Club, California District First Place: District 25 C, Indiana

WEBSITE

Lions Club

First Place: Licking Valley Lions Club, Ohio Honorable Mention: McGaheysville-Massanutten Lions Club, Virginia Honorable Mention: Broadview Heights Lions Club, Ohio **District** First Place: District 321 A2, India Honorable Mention: District 16 B, New Jersey

Honorable Mention: District 16 B, New Jersey Honorable Mention: District 16 C, New Jersey Multiple District

First Place: Multiple District 201, Australia Honorable Mention: Multiple District 13, Ohio Honorable Mention: Multiple District 16, New Jersey

PARADE

Division I Contests

Floats: British Isles and Ireland, MD 105 British Royal Mail Van and Mini Car from British Embassy

Bands

Category II—All State Bands First Prize: Mississippi Lions All State Band, District 30 Second Prize: Michigan All State Band, MD 10 and MD 11 Precision Demonstration Units

First Prize: Indonesia Traditional/National Costumes, District 307 Second Prize: Sphinx Float, Egypt

Third Prize: Mexico Traditional/National Costumes, District B

Division II Contests

Bands

First Prize: Show-Brassband Heikendorf, Division 330-337 Second Prize: British Isles and Ireland (MD 105), Division 105

ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST

Best of Show (Grand Prize) Scott Johnson Cary Lions Club, Illinois Best of Category: Urban or Natural Landscape Scott Johnson Cary Lions Club, Illinois Best of Category: Animal Life Marty Lameirão Rio de Janeiro Carioca Lions Club, Brazil Best of Category: Plant Life Marion Collins Bradford Lions Club, Ontario, Canada Best of Category: Weather Phenomenon Ron Estes Spring River Lions Club, Arkansas Best of Theme: Beauty of the Rural Environment Lyell Clark Lacey Sunrise Lions Club, Washington

WORLD OF SERVICE PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Lion of the Year Zeran Su China Shenzhen Yin Hu Lions Club, China Leo of the Year Sato Pamilo Helsinki Unlimited Leo Club, Finland **Best Youth Engagement Project** Project Name: Lions Sister Schools Scheme 2012-13 District 303, China Hong Kong Best Hunger Relief Program or Activity Project Name: Care of Poverty People District 303, China Hong Kong Outstanding Service to the Blind or Visually Impaired Project Name: We Serve Virginia Beach Town Center-Blind Lions Club, Virginia **Outstanding Environmental Impact Project** Project Name: The Electronic Waste Project Istanbul Kalamis Korfez Lions Club, Turkey **Best Long-Term Reading Action Project** Project Name: Children Who Read, Think and Dream Istanbul Pera Lions Club, Turkey **Best Reading Action Program RAP Video** Project Name: Macroscope Medan Fine Arts Lions Club, Indonesia



The Environmental Photo Contest Best of Show award-winning photo was taken by Scott Johnson of the Cary, Illinois, Lions Club.



Lions Parade in Style

It was a great day to be a Lion on the second day of the 96th International Convention in Hamburg. More than 15,000 Lions from 130 nations marched through the streets of downtown Hamburg. Often wearing native dress, the Lions dance, sang and high-fived charmed spectators. After the parade, they descended on a Lions' Market, where 30 booths showcased Lions' service and served international foods. The food was exceptional, the scenery was spectacular and spirits were high. Did we say it was a great day to be a Lion?

(Left) Everybody was kung-fu fighting when the Chinese Lions made their appearance.





The delegation from India sports ethnic dress.

LIO

(Inset) A Lion from India humbly responds to well-wishers.



1

Memorable Moments



The 7-foot-6-inch Yao Ming stood next to 2012-13 LCIF Chairperson Wing-Kun Tam upon being introduced at the second plenary. Lions broke out in laughter as Tam smiled good naturedly.

Gently led by her mother, 11-year-old Maura Loberg of Nebraska, the grand prize winner of the Lions International Essay Contest for visually impaired youth, shyly made her way across the stage at the plenary hall to receive her award. Recognizing Maura as an embodiment of Lions' service aspirations, the more than 12,000 Lions in in the arena rose to shower her with warm applause.





The themes of the three plenary sessions were, respectively, peace, love and understanding, and the first plenary opened with long-haired, hippie-like singers belting out popular tunes from "Hair" and other 1960s classics. Former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush tut-tutted her favorite ex-president for leaving his socks strewn about the house.





With a lull in the parade, Lions from Israel joyously danced in a circle on the streets of Germany, and spectators joined their hands to become part of the impromptu folk dance.



1

Lions in the plenary halls gasped as Past District Governor Aruna Oswal of India and her husband, Lion Abhey Oswal, pledged \$5 million to LCIF, the singlelargest donation made to LCIF.



Jenny Park of California, the Peace Poster contest winner, decided to donate her \$5,000 prize to her sponsoring club, the Northridge Lions Club, which set up a fund to provide eyeglasses for children in need.

Lions Club's executive officers including Wing-Kun Tam, LCIF chairperson, joined Up with People on stage to sign and dance to "YMCA."



Normally a bustling place with a din, the exhibit hall took on the quieter dignity of a concert hall as the German Lions Symphony Orchestra filled the spacious room with lovely classical music, and Lions stopped what they were doing to wander over and listen in wonderment.



their youth, the Hamburg

Gospel Train Choir sang

plenary session.

"Circle of Life" at the last



Outgoing President Madden, a die-hard Hoosier sports fan, received from Indiana Lions, in addition to a check to start a literacy foundation, a basketball signed by Coach Bobby Knight, an Indiana basketball jersey and an honorary membership in the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Classy but also endearingly down-toearth, Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands spoke of her 9-year-old son at the second plenary session in a way every parent and every Lion could relate to. His favorite animal is a lion. When she told him she was speaking to Lions and what they do, he told her, "You see, Mummy! I told you that everyone should have a lion. Then everyone would be happy like me."

Hamburg Messe und Congress New President Barry Palmer choked up in front of thousands of Lions in telling about Leo Taylor Heersche of Kansas, who wished to be in Hamburg but died of cancer in the fall. 2012-13 President Madden also poignantly saluted Taylor at the Leo Lion Summit, attended by many of her Leo friends from Kansas, by taking off his suit coat and revealing a "Taylor's Gang" T-shirt.



Questions? Email us: registration@lionsclubs.org

97th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention Friday, July 4 – Tuesday, July 8, 2014 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada <u>Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form</u>

Deadlines

REGISTRANT INFORMATION Please	e type or print name as it appears	s on passport/photo ID.			
First Name	Family (Last) N	Family (Last) Name		Badge/Call Name	
Address				Province	
Postal Code					
Daytime Phone					
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COMPANION: First Name	Family (Last) N	lame	Badge/	Call Name	
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CHILD: First Name	Family (Last) N	lame	A _E	ge 🗆 Alpha Leo	
CHILD: First Name		lame		ge 🗆 Alpha Leo	
□ This is my/our first LCI convention. □ I □ Letter of Invitation (If a visa is required The plenary sessions are presented in Engl	for your country of origin) [Club	number must be provided a	-	hip]	
PACKAGE A: Includes convention regist	ration for each registrant listed a	bove plus one (1) hotel roon	n serviced by shuttle buse	es during convention.	
	my delegation hotel notel based on: 🛛 room rate of			s Needed 🗆 1 🗖 2	
Special Requirements: Non-smoking] Wheelchair Accessible 🛛 Othe	er			
• The Hotel deposit is US\$225 for a standar your hotel bill at checkout.					
PACKAGE B: D NO ROOM REQUI	RED (Registration only for eac	h person listed above.)			
EVENT	/we plan to attend the followi D	ng event(s): (Must be regi ATE/TIME		UANTITY AMOUNT DUE	
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Allow 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery of your confirmation.

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

Dreamers and Doers

Ordinary clubs are taking on extraordinary projects, fulfilling International President Barry Palmer's vision of dreaming big.

by David McKay Wilson

Lawrie Garrett and other Malcolm Lions oversee the busy harbor in British Columbia.



Canadian Club Keeps Harbor Afloat

On a tiny island off the coast of British Columbia, the Malcolm Island Lions Club runs the island's busy harbor, where a ferry boat runs six times daily to the mainland, a commercial salmon-fishing fleet is docked and up to 150 recreational boaters visit on summer coastal cruises.

Among the town's 800 year-round residents, 20 are Lions. The harbor is the community's connection to the outer world, and the engine for its local economy.

"Our community has basic needs, we're a service club, and the Lions have responded," says Lawrie Garrett, 59, a business analyst for rural economic development organizations, who moved here in 1996.

The club, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013, decided to take on the harbor management in 1989 by establishing the Malcolm Island Lions Harbor Authority, a public agency independent of the Lions club, and similar to other harbor authorities along Canada's coast. Garrett is among four Lions who sit on the board of the nonprofit organization, which has four employees, and pays the club an annual management fee of \$18,000.

The harbor heats up in July and August during salmon-fishing season and summer vacation. Sailboats and recreational fishing boats pay the Harbor Authority \$1-per-linear-foot a night, so a 40-foot boat pays \$40 a night for a slip at the dock. The Authority collects the fees and maintains the docks.

"We can get filled up in the summer," says Garrett. "We get very busy."

The Malcolm Island Lions Club's involvement at the docks sets the stage for its further investment in the community. The harbor income then gets passed along as the Lions support Malcolm Island community organizations. The club funds youth recreational programs, subsidizing the tuitions for island youths at a weeklong soccer camp in the summer. It runs the island's summer regatta, shoots off the Halloween night fireworks and rents out its spacious cabin by Mount Cain to youth groups for ski weekends.

When residents decided to launch a \$250,000 project to renovate its old community hall, the Lions club stepped up with a grant of \$10,000 to help shore up the hall's foundation.

Individuals in need also turn to the Malcolm Island Lions. The club's Friends in Need Now program–called FINN–harkens back to the community's early Finnish settlers. It comes in handy for Malcolm Island residents, who are often strapped for cash and require health care services on the mainland. Garrett says about six residents share up to \$6,000 each year to defer healthcare costs.

"If you are not that well off financially, and need help with medical equipment or travel or accommodations near a health care center, the Lions are there," says Garrett. "We try to help out."



Florida Club Runs an Eye Clinic

The Bonita Springs Lions Club in southwest Florida opened its volunteer-run eye clinic in 2008. How's that for a club project? The Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic served up to 600 patients a year–for free. Routine and serious eye problems were detected. Lions saved sight.

But great projects don't always mean everything is great. The need for eye care in the community remained. There weren't enough hours in the day or space at the clinic to account for people's need.

So Bonita Spring Lions dreamed of a larger facility.

Reality, of course, has a way of stifling dreams. Some questioned whether the Eye Clinic could pull off the expansion because Lions had to raise money both for construction costs and operation of the expanded facility. The turning point was receiving a \$75,000 grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation, which the clinic had to match.

"When we got the grant, there was no turning back," said Steve Blad, 66, a Bonita Springs Lion since 2003 and executive director of the Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic, an independent organization located in the club's downtown complex.

The expansion enabled the clinic to double in size to more than 2,000 square feet. The old clinic had two exam rooms and an administrative station. The new clinic has four exam rooms, two waiting rooms and two administrative areas. The clinic served 1,500–more than double its former patient load–when it expanded in 2012.

About 70 percent of its low-income clientele are Latino or Haitian immigrants who suffer from pressing vision problems. To qualify for treatment, patients must have no Dr. Howard Freedman, the clinic's volunteer medical director, examines a patient. (Inset) The expansion of the clinic has allowed Lions to more than double the number of people treated.

public or private health insurance, and have income within 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

Patients are given comprehensive eye exams. Some just need glasses. Others are treated for pterygium, caused by excessive exposure to strong sun. Yet others have debilitating diseases, such as glaucoma, which can led to blindness. About once a month, an uninsured patient walks in with undetected glaucoma. These patients may be treated with eye drops or surgery. Others are referred to a local ophthalmologist, who provides frames and glasses for less than \$40, or the local Lenscrafters outlet, which has a program to provide free glasses to the indigent.

"Right now we're serving patients from a five-county region," says Blad. "And we do it without any marketing."

The clinic is run by a nonprofit that's independently incorporated. Lions play central roles in the clinic's management and its volunteer staff. Lions help with fundraising and volunteer at the clinic. The Bonita Springs Lions Club membership has remained steady at about 125 members.

The clinic attracts volunteers from other associations as well. The ladies of Delta Gamma Fraternity have adopted the clinic as one of their community projects, and its members now comprise about half of the clinic's volunteers.

The extra exam rooms required more doctors–both paid and volunteer–to conduct the exams and prescribe treatment. Blad oversees an administrative staff of three part-time employees, and a staff of contract physicians, who supplement the pro bono service provided by several local physicians, who either see patients at the clinic or perform procedures in their offices. Volunteers include a core group of retired doctors, whose ages range from their late 60s to 90.

The current annual budget is about \$110,000. This year, the clinic set a fundraising goal of \$150,000 to provide a financial cushion for future years. By mid-July, near the beginning of the 2013-14 fiscal year, the clinic already had pledges for \$85,000. Lions contributed \$40,000 in 2012-13, and local foundations are generous donors.

"It's a great challenge to run a small business with volunteers," says Blad. "We don't charge for services, but we need money to operate, just like other businesses. It's a constant effort: recruiting new volunteers and maintaining our fundraising."



Clubs Collaborate on Camp Lodge

When Mark Durnford became district governor in 2010 for a region that covered the province of Nova Scotia in Canada, he wanted to a launch a major project to elevate the Lions' image across the district and provide a long-lasting contribution to the island's betterment.

The project was ambitious: the construction of a lakefront camp lodge for children with chronic illnesses at the Brigadoon recreational facility on Aylesford Lake in Annapolis Valley. The Nova Scotia Lions needed to raise \$250,000, and Durnford hoped to find support from most of District N2's clubs to do so.

Lions like to dream big.

"There hadn't been a district project that made a difference for a long, long time," says Durnford, a member of the Colebrook N2 Lions Club. "We needed something big to bring everyone on board, to convince the ordinary Lion that this was the right thing to do. It was for the long haul, and that building would be around for 50 years."

In 2011, the project was approved at the district convention in Yarmouth. Under the agreement, the Brigadoon Children's Camp Society would fund the lodge's construction while Lions pledged to raise \$250,000 by 2018 to pay for the facility.

Durnford traveled the province for more than two years, speaking about the project and seeking support.

Having a big dream, like the Brigadoon lodge, made it easier to ask for help. The project generated loads of publicity with reports on local television and newspapers as well as nonprofit newsletters.

Over time, the Nova Scotia Lions stepped up to back to project. Fifty-five of the province's 70 clubs got involved, with \$202,000 either raised or pledged including a grant of \$37,500 from the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

The lodge was completed in the fall of 2011. The 2,500square-foot lodge opens on the lake, with large windows on its spacious common room opening up on the spectacular view. Five bunk rooms and four bathrooms accommodate 28. The year-round facility serves up to 24 kids for a few days or as long as a week.

"The project put us on the map," says Durnford. "It helps to think big. Big lasts for a long time, and once we're paid off, we are still connected."

When first conceived, it was a seven-year project, with the Lions agreeing to pay off the \$250,000 construction project by 2018. The outpouring of support has been so strong that District Governor Wayne Little, District N2, expects the Lions will reach the goal in 2014.

"Our clubs are all about youth, especially kids with disabilities," says Little of the Colebrook N2 Club. "We took it on as a seven-year project, and it looks like it will be wrapped up in three."

Oregon Club Does What It Can

When you redeem 360,000 bottles and cans a year, the nickels sure add up.

They add up to about \$18,000 a year for the Brookings Harbor Lions Club in southern Oregon, where the club has several containers around town that get emptied twice a day and brought to the redemption center on Friday.

"We had a celebration for our one millionth can," said Areta Schock, 77, of Harbor. "We're trying to keep these bottles and cans out of our landfill. And we get to raise money to help our local children and community."

The project began with a receptacle on Route 101, the major state road that runs through Brookings Harbor. There are now six more receptacles around town for returnable bottles and cans for water, soda, and beer–at the Elks Lodge, two fire stations, two grocery stores and a local park. Businesses participate as well.

The Lions collect about 7,000 bottles and cans a weekalmost 60 a year for each of the 6,300 residents of Brooking Harbor.

"My husband, John, and I have the big run when we go down to the port of Brookings, where there are two restaurants, an RV park, and plywood mill that save their cans for us," Schock says.

The 32-member Brookings Harbor Lions Club keeps busy with the collection project. Each day, a different Lion has responsibility for all the receptacles, which they stop by twice a day to collect the plastic bags filled with empties. They store the bags at home, and then bring them on Friday mornings to the Fred Meyer Recycle Center to redeem. Up to 14 Lions arrive at 7:30 a.m. to process the returnables. They are usually done by 9 a.m. On one Friday this spring, they finished at 10:30 a.m.

"It depends on how much is donated," says Schock. "We had a lot this week."

The project has made Lions well-known in their community. "People appreciate what we do," she says.

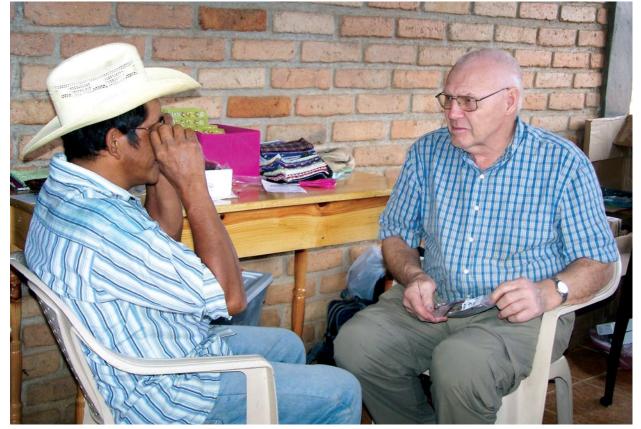
The monthly income helps support the Lions philanthropic program in their community, with most of the proceeds benefiting the region's youth, with summer camp scholarships and a vision screening program in the local schools.

The club has its own vision screening equipment, so the club screens schoolchildren from first grade through high school, as well as those who are home-schooled or in Christian schools. If students need glasses, and their family qualifies under income guidelines, the Lions purchase them for the students. About a dozen students a year receive glasses.

"The Lions are always looking for projects," she said. "We do whatever we can do, especially for our youth."

Areta and John Schock collect some of the 1,000 bottles and cans the Brookings Harbor Lions gather weekly.





Retired dairy farmer Orville Trettin of Minnesota helps a Honduran with his new glasses.

Lions' Vision Brings Sight

For years dairy farmer Orville Trettin and his wife, Elvera, traveled from Stewart, Minnesota, to Honduras to deliver food, hand out clothing, bring walkers and otherwise help those in need. A decade ago, their volunteerism took on a new dimension. At a minister's home one night, a woman asked Orville if she could borrow his glasses to read her Bible. The next day, he bought her a pair of glasses. As he looked around, he realized that few rural Hondurans wore glasses. That's when the Lion in the Trettins roared.

By 2007, Trettin and Elvera, both past district governors, had founded a non profit organization, Vision Honduras. For the past six years, the Trettins have led a group of volunteers to Honduras for four weeks with support from 40 Minnesota Lions clubs. The Eyeglass Recycling Center of the Wisconsin Lions provides thousands of eyeglasses.

Bob Wacker, the Trettin's son-in-law and also a farmer, also played a key role in the yearly trips and now in Vision Honduras, as do other volunteers. "We're family who are friends and friends who are family," says Kay Wacker, Bob's wife. "That's how we make this work."

Trettin's group needs to raise about \$5,000 each year to finance the trip, for which volunteers pay about \$600 for airfare and another \$900 while in Honduras for a month.

"It takes stepping outside the box and doing something for somebody else," says Trettin, 77, now a retiree who has been a Lion since 1968. "We come home each year so tired, and say, 'Never again. That's enough.' But after a couple of months, this thing works on you, and you start planning for next year. And that's what I'm doing right now."

Last February, the nine-member Vision Honduras team flew south with 6,100 pairs of glasses and an autorefractor. That's the machine that can measure the proper eyeglass prescription for individuals, which Trettin and others on the team have been trained to operate. The group travels in a van to remote villages, where they hand out up to 125 tickets a day for people who need glasses. The clinic opens at 9 a.m. The line typically starts forming at 7:30 a.m.

"Finding the right pair of glasses can take five minutes or it can take a half hour," says Trettin. "The Hondurans don't care so much about the color of the glasses frame. They just want to be able to read or sew. Some people haven't read for 40 years."

He likes the small towns in the mountains of northwest Honduras, where people stream into the clinic from the hinterlands. They are grateful when they can see again.

"It's such a great experience," he says. "There are lots of hugs, so many thank yous."

Or sometimes the silence speaks volumes. One man donned his new eyeglasses and teared up gazing at the distant mountains that he had been unable to see for years.

Watch a video on the Honduras vision mission.

A Lion in Winter

In a tiny Colorado town, Don Colcord defines the spirit of Lions—even when no one is asking.

by Todd Schwartz



Nucla, Colorado, population maybe 650 and falling, is a town where more than one dream has flowered, grown and then died on the vine, from utopia to uranium. Today, you could make the case (although Don Colcord himself never would) that one man holds the place together. The man who owns the only pharmacy for thousands of square miles around, who fixes everyone's eyeglasses for free, who is certified to use the town's defibrillator, to use the old micrometer to care for the town's 50-year-old bowling lanes, to shoot off the town's Fourth of July fireworks show on Nucla Hill. The man who ran the local Health Fair for 27 years and is the PA announcer at Nucla High's Friday night football games. The man who people from near and far trust with their medical questions and, often, their personal lives. The man who 33 years ago became the youngest member of the local Lions club, and who still is.

* * *

On the sparsely settled southwestern edge of Colorado, not far from the Utah border and halfway between the skitown glitz of Telluride and the tourist meccas of Moab and Canyonlands, Nucla began life more than a century ago as another of the hopeful utopian communities that were springing up here and there around the West. As the name suggests, its founders hoped Nucla would be the nucleus of a new community dedicated to socialism rather than capitalism, to cooperation rather than competition. The founding project was an 18-mile irrigation ditch that would bring water from the San Miguel River to the valley that held Nucla and its sister town, Naturita.

By 1904, the founding project held water, but the founding dream didn't. Socialism and shared labor gave way to capitalism, such as it was. By the 1950s, uranium mining was sustaining the bulk of the local economy, even providing a bit of a boom. But after the Three-Mile Island accident in 1979, the nuclear industry melted down, taking Nucla's fortunes with it.

Don Colcord was born on the Fourth of July in Nucla in 1951. He grew up in nearby Uravan, another mining town, where his mother was a clerk in the pharmacy. By the age of eight, after spending hours fascinated by watching the druggist, Colcord had a career plan. He married his high school sweetheart, Kretha, when they were 18, then went off to the University of Colorado and pharmacy school, where he became a star marksman on the rifle team. For many years he held the range record for standing shooting at the Air Force Academy. Today Colcord is a loyal NRA member and still thinks of shooting as meditation.

But before you put him in a box, note the other ingredients in the prescription: he's one of the very few people in this region who vote Democratic. He sells cigarettes in his pharmacy because he believes people have a right to do unhealthy things. In a world of pickup trucks and Country-Western, Colcord listens to Andrea Bocelli and drives a Lexus. He calls himself a druggist, not a pharmacist, and he doesn't wear a white coat, because he doesn't want to separate himself from his customers. "People around here," Colcord says, "want to talk to someone who looks like them and talks like them, and is part of the community. A druggist is the guy who fills your prescriptions, answers your questions, puts you at ease—and repairs your watch and your glasses. A pharmacist is the guy who works at Wal-mart."

And in a rural town like Nucla, a druggist is the person who answers a lot of questions that a doctor normally would, including calls at 3 a.m. describing symptoms and asking Colcord if an ambulance should be called for the trip to the nearest hospital—two hours away. Just about everyone in the valley knows him and trusts his judgment completely. He remembers the time a Mexican immigrant family of eight with a sick child appeared in his driveway one evening. A local clinic had diagnosed the child as dehydrated, but Colcord felt a distended belly that was hot to the touch and told the family to hurry to the emergency room 90 miles northeast in Montrose. From there the child was airlifted to Denver, where physicians later told Colcord the boy would have died if the family had waited any longer.

When Colcord returned to his hometown and opened his business, The Apothecary Shoppe, in 1980, the Lions club had only been rechartered two years before. Inspired by his father, who had always made a habit of volunteer work, Colcord at 29 became the club's youngest member.

"I was immediately drawn to the mission and the work and the spirit of the Lions," he remembers. "We had a couple dozen members and it was such a wonderful club. We didn't 'meeting' ourselves to death, we just saw what needed doing and did it. My dad always taught me that if you live in a community, you give back to that community. You help people; that's just what you do. I've never met a Lion who didn't get that."

So began more than three decades as a Lion. Colcord and the club were a big part of the San Miguel Basin Rodeo and the Nucla's Water Days celebration every July 4th, where he became the town's certified fireworks expert. On Nucla Hill, he could see the distant fireworks of Telluride and Moab—but usually more so the eerie glow of his own show.

"I always had my head down, lighting the fuses and setting them off," he says. "But it was always a great feeling. We had terrific crew of Lions. We did the barbecue ourselves, raised all the money for the fireworks, and enjoyed a beer at the end, looking out over our little town. We were proud to be a part of it. We were a bunch of guys who just liked to help and get things done, and at the core of it all, for 32 years was our amazing club secretary. Probably the best Lions club officer ever." Colcord is talking about the local dentist, John Nelson.

Colcord, Nelson and the Nucla Lions took on several projects each year, from hosting street dances to raising money to help people buy the eyeglasses they needed. He was president of the club a couple times over the years, and always devoted many hours a month to Lions' efforts in the same spirit that motivates him to front the prescriptions that some of his customers need but can't fully afford. He writes off several thousand dollars in losses each year, and his profit margin is so small that more than once he has had to put in his savings to keep the Apothecary Shoppe afloat. Colcord was befriended by a reclusive elderly newcomer to town a few years ago, who he helped with everything from his blood pressure meds to his frequent moves from modest house to modest house. When the time came, Colcord helped him find a hospice nurse. When the man died at age 91, it was discovered that he was a long lost scion of a wealthy East Coast family. In his will he had left Colcord \$300,000—just about the amount that Colcord had "loaned" to the people of Nucla over the years. Some might see that as payback, but not Colcord. For one thing, he had never asked to be paid. For another, as a druggist, a Lion and a human being, it's all just part of the fabric of a true community.

But now that fabric is wearing thin as the upholstery on the stools in the Apothecary Shoppe's Pepsi fountain. More people move away each year, the local schools are down to





Colcord looks for a medication in a back room (clockwise from top), speaks on the phone with a customer, and repairs eyeglasses.



four days a week, and there is just one restaurant, one bar and one druggist left. And the Nucla Lions Club, after three decades and more, has disbanded for lack of members. The few who remain are growing old. Even Colcord can't give the time and effort he used to, as his wife's longstanding health problems are worsening. But the spirit of the Lions is still strong in his heart.

"I always relished the joy of doing a good job," Colcord says. "The satisfaction of helping out in your community lots of young people don't seem to get that these days. So no one is taking up the slack right now. Lions everywhere all serve for the same reasons I did, understanding that there's no greater reward than helping, and that *getting* will never match *giving*. I still do what I can, but with the Lions club disbanded, a big part of my life feels gone. It was one of the hardest days of my life when the club closed."

The nearest Lions club is now 100 miles away, but what it means to be a Lion is working behind the counter at Nucla's Apothecary Shoppe and announcing the parade on Main Street and still doing the fireworks show with the last of the town's once-and-always Lions. They still care; they still give.

As for Colcord, if his wife's health and his business allow, he's considering joining the Junction City Lions Club. What's a hundred miles between friends? "I still consider myself a Lion," he says, "and so do the rest of the guys who were in the club. And I see an upswing in retired people joining service organizations, so maybe someday the Nucla Lions will be officially back." Unofficially, Colcord still pulls out his box that contains parts from 300 eyeglass frames to offer free repairs. He still lives for strengthening the connections between people. He and his longtime friends still live the mission of the Lions, official or otherwise. Their final act as a club was to donate what was left in the coffers to a person in town who needed eyeglasses but couldn't afford them.

A year-and-a-half back, Nucla and Colcord were the subjects of a stirring profile by Peter Hessler in The New Yorker. The article ended with Colcord on top of Nucla Hill on the Fourth of July. The fireworks done—for now—the last of Nucla's Lions share a beer as the headlights of the community recede down Main Street. The numberless stars of western Colorado arc overhead. But this article will end simply with Don Colcord, a Lion with much more remaining to give, a Lion for the moment in winter—but still in heart and soul planning the service of spring. For a true Lion, the fireworks are never really done.



Colcord stands atop Nucla Hill, where he set off fireworks for his Lions club each Fourth of July.

HELEN KELLER REIMAGINED

LAB

A new graphic novel shows the trials of young Helen Keller and her teacher.

by John R. Platt



In 1887 Anne Sullivan made history when she traveled to Tuscumbia, Alabama, to become Helen Keller's life-changing teacher. Their relationship is dramatized in the movie "The Miracle Worker" and countless books and narratives over the years. It's a story that many Lions practically know by heart.

But in many ways Keller's story really started more than a decade before she was born when Sullivan herself was a half-blind, illiterate, angry child growing up in a Massachusetts poorhouse. Those experiences shaped young Annie, just as they shape the narrative of "Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller," a new graphic novel about the famous duo by cartoonist Joseph Lambert.

The powerful, new hardcover book tells intertwining stories about the lives of Keller and her teacher, starting soon after the two met but also flashing back to the defining moments in Sullivan's childhood. Lambert, an exciting, innovative cartoonist, uses bold drawings, sharp dialogue (often drawn from the heroines' own writings) and at times surreal artwork to bring us deep inside the women's lives and minds. The \$17.99 graphic novel, released by Disney/Hyperion in 2012, is available from booksellers everywhere.

Lambert originally set out to focus on Keller's life, but the more he read about Anne Sullivan, the more he knew she deserved an equal focus. "It was Annie that really anchored the story for me," the slender, confident 28year-old artist says from his studio in White River Junction, Vermont, where he lives with his wife and dog. Lambert's research led him to dozens of books written by and about Helen Keller including Keller's collected letters, the famous "Miracle Worker" play and its lesser-known sequel, a 1933 biography of Sullivan and newspaper accounts from the 1880s. "It wasn't until I really learned about Annie's life and where she came from before she met Helen that I became emotionally invested. I could relate to Annie and her struggle to overcome the identity that was created for her by her circumstances," Lambert says.

BRINGING ANNE TO LIFE

In 1874 Sullivan and her brother Jimmy were abandoned by their widower father at a poorhouse in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. There, surrounded by the dying and the dead, they were forced to find what little joy they could in the worst circumstances. Jimmy died at the poorhouse. Young Annie herself only found salvation after she was transferred to the Perkins School for the Blind in 1880. Dr. Michael Anagnos, the school's director, took the young woman under his wing and directed her anger toward self-improvement. After she graduated, he would ask Sullivan to become Keller's teacher. Unlike many books about Keller, the graphic novel brings Sullivan's dark and painful past to the forefront. "I think a lot of people were surprised that at least half of the book was dedicated to Annie's childhood," Lambert says. "Helen should be celebrated because she accomplished so much, but I think a lot of the time Annie gets overlooked." He hopes readers will come away from the book with understanding the symbiotic nature of their relationship. "They both contributed to what we see as Helen, the iconic figure that she became," he says. Providing greater context on Sullivan's childhood also serves to illuminate how and why she fights so hard to succeed with Keller. "Her relationship with her brother is crucial to how she relates with Helen," he says.

Deborah Ford, director of library outreach for the Junior Library Guild, says Lambert's focus on Annie is overdue. "This book introduces aspects of the Sullivan-Keller story that we haven't gotten before," she says. "Helen struggled with her physical problems, but her teacher also had the same kind of physical and emotional struggles. Between the two of them, they did miraculous things."

DRAWING BLINDNESS

Annie's story shaped the book's narrative, but Lambert says the chance to visually depict Helen's world was what first attracted him to the assignment. "I knew the story would present a lot of challenging visuals," he says. "That got me excited as a cartoonist." The artist's visually stunning drawings and stories have appeared in numerous comic books and anthologies, multiple volumes of "The Best American Comics" and fine art prints. In 2011 he released "I Will Bite You," a series of dream-like short stories.

Lambert uses the first three pages of the graphic novel to show us the world though young Helen's point of view. The child lives in a world of darkness, surrounded by indistinct shapes that she does not understand. Frustratingly, she is not alone in the darkness. Unknown hands—later revealed to be Annie's—reach out to her, forcing her to do tasks she can't even begin to comprehend. It is a world of anger, pain and loneliness.

As the book progresses Lambert takes us further inside Keller's head. While she learns, the indistinct shapes become clearer. In addition, sign language symbols and words —taught to her by Sullivan—become a part of the art. This narrative device shows us that young Helen is beginning to understand the world around her: that the substance she feels on her hands is water, or that the wooden structure beneath her is a chair, or the difference between "small" and "very small." It's an effect that could only have been achieved through the visual medium of comics. "Comics can express ideas and emotions in ways that are unique and memorable," says Peter Gutierrez, the spokesperson on graphic novels for the National Council of Teachers of English. "The graphic novel allows readers to trace Keller's changing consciousness—including her relationship to Sullivan and her very conception of self—by noting the gradual effect that her education has on the content and complexity of the artwork."

At just 80 pages, the graphic novel can't tell the entire life stories for either Keller or Sullivan. Keller is just 11 years old at the end of the book, so we don't get to see her graduate from college, become politically active or challenge Lions to become the knights of the blind. "There's just so much in both of their lives," Lambert says. "Helen lived until she was 80. You could go decade by decade and write one of these books for each period."

STRUGGLES, THEN TRIUMPH

The graphic novel is the fourth in a series of historical biographies published by Disney and produced by the staff, alumni and, in some instances, the students of the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction. Founded in 2004, the center is the only accredited college-level program devoted entirely to comics. Lambert, who has been drawing since he was a child, graduated from the school in 2008 with a master's degree in fine arts. He was actually still a student there when the school's founder, cartoonist James Sturm, gave him the assignment.

Now a full-time artist, Lambert says his experiences at the school helped to define his approach to the novel. "I've had a handful of really strong teacher-student relationships over the years. They definitely informed the story," he says.

It actually took Lambert four years to complete the graphic novel, much longer than planned. "I had a really hard time getting the ball rolling early on," he says. "I would report to my editors, who were also my teachers. There were days when I would walk into their office with not as much done as I had planned." The frustration he felt in himself ended up strengthening his storytelling. "I realized I had that same kind of frustrated, disappointing feeling that Annie had when she just could not break through to Helen," he says.

The hard work paid off: the book landed on "best of 2012" lists from School Library Journal, the Junior Library Guild and other groups.

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



Lambert uses bold drawings and concise dialogue to tell the story.

Highway Angels

A modern-day Pony Express, cornea couriers in Iowa answer the bell at all hours.

by Laurie Winslow Sargent

7:30 a.n.

The bedside telephone rings. Gordy, my husband, startles awake.

He was sleeping in after a tiring business trip. "Hello, this is Gordon," he mutters, half-asleep.

I'm jarred awake too, although neither of us are actually surprised. We were called last night to make sure Gordy could be on call to help transport corneal tissue to the Iowa Lions Eye Bank in Iowa City.

Gordy reaches for a pen as we hear through our speakerphone "... two are available in Ames. Here's your contact's phone number. It's five one five ..."

He scribbles down the number. His conversation is efficient and concise. The schedule will be tight to get the tissue 145 miles from Ames to Iowa City via three transport volunteers by 10:30 a.m. Gordy hangs up and quickly dials his contact. "This is Gordon from the Lions transport. Are you able to meet?"

"I'm ready-where?"

They opt for a state office parking lot in Ankeny about 35 miles away. Gordy looks out our window. "I'll need a bit more time than usual. It's pretty snowy in our neighborhood," he says on the phone. "I can be there in about an hour and fifteen."

The tissue transport system in Iowa functions like the Pony Express that delivered the U.S. mail years ago. Multiple, dedicated volunteers work like a relay team to make sure the tissue arrives quickly in Iowa City. The volunteers share the cost of gas and time. Lions in Iowa took on this duty in 2009 from the Iowa State Patrol. It's a duty that must be fulfilled, rain or snow, holiday or weekend. The Eye Bank program runs 365 days a year. More than 100 Lions volunteer. Gordy put in about 1,000 miles last year on 14 trips, but many Lions, located more distantly, drive more. Central Iowa Lions Transporters have driven more than 950 trips to transport corneal tissue.

We both jump out of bed to get ready. I don't always go along, but will this time. We have to be out the door in 10 minutes, so there's no time to make coffee. But I want my husband to be an alert driver. As we get dressed, we discuss swinging quickly through the drive-through Starbucks near the hospital. Gordy suggests, "Shall we split a Venti —five shots?" I grimace. He sure does need a jumpstart.

At age 57, Gordy Sargent is a youngster in his Lions club; many members are retirees. Gordy works full time as a regulatory & compliance manager for BASF (formerly Becker Underwood). As immediate past president of the Ames Noon Lions Club in Iowa, he joins members for lunch once a week to host guest speakers and plan fundraising events including their infamous biannual turkey dinner, which brings in busloads of retirees in the Story County area. Gordy transports corneas for the eye bank once or twice a month.



Corneal Transplantation Facts

- Anyone can be an eye donor. Age, cancer, poor eyesight, diabetes or cataracts will not prohibit eye donation.
- Corneal transplant operations are more than 95 percent successful in restoring the recipient's vision.
- A cornea transplant is typically performed within two to five days following the donation.
 Successful outcomes for the recipients rely on timely transplants.
- Register to be an eye, organ and tissue donor at www.DonateLife.net

Gordy Sargent prepares to transport the corneas. Photo courtesy of Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames, Iowa Eye Donor Kit

1121

1 MO

Watch a video a video on the sight services of Iowa Lions.





chamber until the time of transplant.

7:40 8.6.

Outside all is grey from the menacing sky to the dirty curbside snow. I grab the handle inside and above the passenger door of our dark grey Sequoia and swing myself up into the seat. Pulling out of our driveway, Gordy brakes tentatively to check for black ice. We're reassured by the good traction.

Between home and the hospital we quietly gather our thoughts. Knowing that for every donor there is a grieving family is sobering. We have no idea who the donors are. Privacy laws restrict what we can be told. But I lift up a prayer and feel grateful for the families whose gift we are to gently transport. By saying "yes" to donating their loved ones' tissue, the gift has already begun its journey to the person who will receive new sight.

7:55 8.0.

We've quickly picked up Gordy's mud-in-a-cup and are already parked near the emergency room door at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames. Gordy leaves the engine running and runs in to the front desk to show his Lion's badge. "I'm here with the Lions club for the tissue transport," he announces.

He's quickly handed two very lightweight, white Styrofoam coolers about the size of soccer balls. Nestled inside each cooler are chambers with solution where the corneas gently float, a blood sample for mandatory serological testing and ice.

The cornea is the transparent, dome-shaped window covering the front of the eye. It works, in addition to the lens, to provide focusing power to the eye. If the cornea becomes opaque, swollen or scarred, vision is compromised and a cornea transplant may be necessary.

Gordy signs the paperwork, loads the coolers gently onto the back seat of our SUV and off we go again. As we begin our trip from Ames to the Des Moines area, we naturally battle over car temperature as we have for 33 years of marriage. The 6-foot-1 Gordy is a lifelong weight lifter with biceps the size of cantaloupes and perpetually warm. I'm a sedentary writer, perpetually cold. We compromise.

Adam Stockman, a certified eye bank technician and director of laboratory operations, performs a slit-lamp evaluation on a cornea recovered from an Iowa donor and intended for transplant.



We hit a bump in the highway, and I reflexively check the coolers in the back seat to make sure they are still secure. To camouflage the rumble Gordon channel surfs on the radio, flipping between a country music station, a kitchen remodeling show and a news broadcast on Seizure Assistance Dogs. The latter intrigues me because Gordon's Lions club also sponsors Leader Dogs for the Blind.

The landscape we pass looks bleak-acres of flat, snowcovered land. (The summer view is of waving corn stalks and rippling soybeans). We pass no less than 11 cars in ditches marked with yellow tape for tow-trucks to retrieve. I hope we don't join them.

8:45 8.0.

We made good time after all, and are even a bit early. As we pull into the designated parking lot, we see a car already waiting. The driver quickly leaps out, and within a minute has already carried the coolers to his running car. I persuade him to step out for a quick photo with Gordy before he drives off to meet the next volunteer.

His drive will be a bit longer-about 50 miles to Grinnell. The third volunteer will drive the last 70 miles to Iowa City.

10:30 s.n.

By now the tissue should have arrived on time in Iowa City at the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, the only eye bank to provide eight tissue preparation services to surgeons locally, nationally and internationally. Certified eye bank technicians evaluate each cornea with specialized microscopes to ensure that the tissue meets and exceeds required organizational criteria for transplantation. Each cornea is labeled with a unique identification number to allow the eye bank to track the tissue from donor to recipient. The corneas normally are ready for transplant within two days of their arrival.

Gordy and I are back at home. We're a bit tired but happy to know we played a small but important part in helping someone see.

> Watch a video about a young eye transplant patient.

Mission Inclusion LCIF Expands Partnership with Special Olympics

by Allie Stryker

Officially diagnosed with an intellectual disability at the age of 16, Ben Haack found it tough going in school and in sports. That changed when he joined Special Olympics Australia to play cricket and soccer.

"Before Special Olympics I didn't have any meaning in my life and really didn't have a life. I went through a lot of bullying and mistreatment in both school and mainstream sports ... Then I found Special Olympics and through Special Olympics I found a life. Special Olympics has given me and my family hope, support, respect and meaning," explained Haack in a speech in July at the 96th International Convention in Hamburg.

Past International President Wing-Kun Tam announced in Hamburg the expansion of Opening Eyes, Lions Clubs International's partnership with Special Olympics. Former NBA star Yao Ming, a Special Olympics board member; Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics chairman and CEO; and Haack shared testimonies and inspirational stories. Haack, a longtime Special Olympics participant and a leader for Special Olympics Australia, has witnessed firsthand the contributions of Lions clubs in Australia toward the health and inclusion of athletes. "Lions Clubs have done so much and continue to do so much for Special Olympics athletes across the world ... thank you!" said Haack. "I have seen Lions Clubs help my fellow athletes, giving them eyeglasses and a chance to develop as an athlete and a person. I have seen them have fun together. That is the most important thing."

Since 2001, Special Olympics and LCI have screened more than 325,000 Special Olympics athletes, and have provided more than 100,000 athletes with high quality prescription eyeglasses with the help of global suppliers Essilor International and Safilo Group.

"I think it is almost impossible for words to capture what the gift of vision is to [the athletes]. For so much of their lives, they are told not just that it might not be important for them to see, but it just isn't important for them to be," said Shriver. "We have never had a more significant partnership in the history of the Special Olympics movement than the one we share today with Lions Clubs International."

The partnership expansion includes creating leadership opportunities for Special Olympics athletes, increasing the health work of Special Olympics, conducting outreach to families for additional support and allowing for both organizations to reach more young people through inclusive sports



LCIF Chairperson Wayne Madden shares an athlete's excitement over new glasses at an Opening Eyes screening.

and advocacy programs. The goal is full acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

"Lions already joined the Opening Eyes project, helping Special Olympic athletes receive proper vision care. We are excited to do even more health programs, sports programs and family activities, and together, we can even make them better," said Yao.

This expansion is also designed to highlight LCI's global and community leadership.

"Thank you Lions Clubs for your continued support, but more importantly for your belief in people like me," said Haack. "Your support will allow us to reach more young people and empower our athletes to be leaders. These actions will help build understanding and break down barriers and bullying and will create communities of acceptance everywhere."



Watch a video on Lions and Special Olympics.

Just Ask, Then Involve

Engaging New Members Is Part of the Recruitment Process

In 2012, the Elk City Lions Club's membership was dangerously dwindling. "The best way to describe it is that we were being backed into a corner to the point that we might lose our club," says Lion Quenton Elliott. Facing this pivotal point, they rallied to invite new members to join and former memcause we didn't have enough members to run it," says Elliott.

Clubs should get a handle on the different talents and desired commitment levels of newbies as soon as they join. One way to get things off to a strong start is using the New Member Questionnaire in LCI's new publication, "Just Ask! New

Member

Recruiting

Sunnyside

Guide for Clubs." The

questionnaire provides

an easy way to ask new

members about what

they want to get out of

being a Lion, skills they

can offer and ideas for

Lions in Washington

also recognized the need

to help new members

become fully engaged.

Lion Patricia Combs

has given special atten-

tion to assist in finding

the right fit for their

skills and personalities.

"One of our new mem-

bers was quiet and did-

new service projects.

The

bers to rejoin. With eight new members joining in just a few months and more to follow, this Oklahoma club has made a complete turnaround. "We came out of that corner swinging," says Elliott.

The Elk City Lions came through in a pinch and welcomed several new members, revitalizing their club. But they knew strengthening their club went beyond numbers—they also had to help the new members feel a sense of belonging right off the bat. "The best way for



Frazee Lions in Minnesota trick-or-treat for eyeglasses and hearing aids on Halloween. Help new members get involved in fun and meaningful activities like this to ensure a long Lions life.

everyone to feel welcomed and feel like part of the club was to get them involved quickly. In the past our club wasn't always like that. People would join and then in a few months they would quit because they weren't given enough of a chance to help out," explains Elliott.

As the Elk City Lions learned, getting new Lions involved is just as, if not more, important as gaining their membership. When new Lions feel valued and are able to contribute they will stay, so less time can be spent on recruiting and more time can be focused on serving. With the encouragement of their Lion mentors, the new Elk City Lions dove right in to take charge of or help out with activities that interested them. "One new member joined a committee to remodel a building that had been given to us on the grounds where we hold our rodeo. Another became head of a fundraising committee. One member took it upon himself to get our mobile health screening unit out—something we hadn't done in years ben't want to have to be on the 'front line' or be in front of a crowd. So I introduced her to Leader Dogs and off she went with enthusiasm! Another new member was a nurse; I got her involved with our diabetes program," says Combs.

It's up to clubs to create an experience for new members that will turn them into longtime Lions. Combs stresses, "If new members aren't helped to take ownership of the club, then they will never feel they belong. They want tools to make a difference, a place to have fun among kind people, a way to exercise their talents and to be appreciated. The attitude of the club will determine its growth and the longevity of new members."

-Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

View the New Member Questionnaire in LCI's "Just Ask! New Member Recruiting Guide for Clubs."

Lay the Groundwork for Long-term Fundraising: Start a Club Foundation

After the last audience member filed out of their sold-out "Laughs for Lions" comedy benefit, the Kamehameha Lions in Honolulu, Hawaii, basked in the success of this first-time fundraiser. As they began looking toward the next year's event, they also began thinking about how to maximize their fundraising efforts. It seemed like the right time to explore the possibility of creating a club foundation.

There are close to 2,000 Lions club, district and multiple district foundations around the world. Creating a foundation is a way for Lions to expand fundraising capabilities, offer donors tax-deductible contributions and receive tax exemptions. It may seem like a no-brainer to establish a foundation, but taking this leap requires answering a few key questions.

Is It Right For Our Club?

Not every club may have the fundraising demands or need for a foundation. The Kamehameha Lions felt a foundation could give them an edge with donors in an increasingly competitive charitable giving environment. Explains Jim Bryan, "Although our club had been well-established in the community since 1948, by establishing our 501(c)3 founda-

tion, we will be able to give our donors peace of mind that they will be dealing with a legally documented entity with public accountability."

The Darien Lions in Illinois have been operating their foundation since 2001. "We wanted to assure perpetuity of funding for the needs of our community," says Jim Kiser, president. The Lions also wanted to become more attractive to business donors. Kiser points out, "Businesses are much more likely to donate to a 501(c)3 because of the tax advantages."

Can We Commit?

The Kamehameha Lions learned about the requirements for launching and maintaining a foundation. "It takes an enormous amount of tedious work and detailed dedication to properly establish a foundation and make it a credible entity," says Bryan. "There is no 'quickie' way of doing it. It has to be taken just as seriously as any business."

Clubs must complete the LCI requirements of submitting an application, resolution, bylaws and articles of incorporation. Lions also need to navigate IRS and state regulations and have enduring volunteer dedication for a foundation's ongoing and changing needs. "There are all kinds of new regulations at both the federal and state levels," Kiser warns.

How Do We Get Started?

An absolute necessity when forming a foundation is to seek legal counsel. LCI can connect clubs with its partner, CT, an industry leader in legal services, for assistance. Or clubs can find counsel independently, as the Kamehameha Lions are doing. "None of us had any prior experience in starting a foundation, so we brought in outside legal and financial assistance to ensure we're getting off on the right foot," says Bryan.

Clubs should budget at least \$3,000 to start a foundation and plan for ongoing legal and financial guidance, but can save on fees if they have members with expertise or can re-

> cruit community members to help. When the Darien Lions began working on creating their foundation, they smartly put members in charge who could apply their relevant expertise: a CPA, attorneys and government officials.

> All of the hard work can pay off when a foundation boosts donations to help Lions serve. A foundation can also bring Lions some welcomed peace of mind, Kiser notes. "The biggest advantage is knowing that we will always have the dollars to help those in need."

> > -Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Contact the LCI Legal Division (630-203-3847 or legal@lionsclubs.org) with questions about foundation requirements. Find sample documents and application materials in the Member Center at www.lionsclubs.org (search for "Legal").

A Trek around the Track

Walking in silence on their first lap around the track on the grounds of Lamar University in Beaumont, more than 200 people raised \$10,000 for the Texas Lions Camp. They quietly circled the track to remind people that diabetes is a silent killer, explains Robert Blackburn, Strides Walk co-chair and a member of the Beaumont Breakfast Lions Club.

Lions dedicated the second lap in honor of all veterans and those currently in the military. "Most of the participants made four to 12 laps while some made many more. One guy did 25 laps. The track is a little more than a half-mile around and it took around 3 minutes to make a full lap. The youngest were in strollers and walkers ranged from ages 5 to 72," says Blackburn.

Lions from 18 clubs in District 2 S1 in southeast Texas promoted diabetes awareness at the track and medical professionals were present to answer questions and perform health screenings. Raised funds helped enhance the summer camp and educational programs for children with diabetes.



A mother stops to carry her daughter around the track to complete their fundraising goal for the Texas Lions Camp.

Smile Boxes Keep Kids Happy



The Grapevine Lions Club in Texas may be considered small with only 13 members, but the club's commitment to growing and helping others remains strong. "We're trying to rekindle and be attractive as a service organization to prospective members," says Laura Higgs. "I started researching local charitable organizations and found Emily's Smile Boxes (www.emilyssmileboxes.com) and thought the concept was wonderful."

Emily Olson is a young Texas girl whose baby brother Jude suffered a massive brain bleed in utero. Jude is unable to walk, talk, is legally blind and tubefed, and has been hospitalized on and off since being born in 2008. Emily, 10 years old when Jude was born, devised a clever box filled with fun activities to keep kids amused and occupied during tedious hours spent at medical centers.

Among the items Lions purchase are crayons, coloring books, activity pads, puzzles, small stuffed animals, beanie babies, favorite children's card games like Go Fish and Old Maid and sticker sets. In the four years since the project began, more than 5,000 boxes have been distributed to children. Smile boxes are now donated to children's hospitals, orphanages, shelters and pediatric urgent care centers. Higgs says each box the Grapevine Lions Club completes for donation bears a Lions sticker.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Murray Lions** in **Kentucky** screened the vision of 1,065 children in two months after purchasing two new screening cameras. One of the cameras was purchased with a matching grant from LCIF.

The **Poquoson Lions Club** planted 15 trees at a soccer park in **Virginia**. The Lions, who adopted the park in 2011, have a 10-year plan for park improvements.

The **St. Petersburg Lions** in **Florida** assisted participants in the 8th annual White Cane Day walk.

The Nancy Island Lions in Ontario, Canada, helped donate more than 2,400 pounds of food to a food bank.

The **Cullman Lions** in **Alabama** made a record donation of \$9,000 to the local newspaper's food drive. The donation equaled 63,000 pounds of food.

The **Spokane Central Lions** in **Washington** packed more than 700 bags of Thanksgiving groceries for families in need.

The **Sebastian Lions Club** in **Florida** held a "Special Riders for Special Olympics" poker run, with more than 100 motorcyclists participating.

The **Bridgewater Lions** in **Massachusetts** held their second Election Day Eyeglass and Hearing Aid Collection event, collecting 364 pairs of eyeglasses and 17 hearing aids.

For the third year, the **Key Penin**sula Lions in Washington provided dictionaries to all third-grade students in their community.

The Fort Payne Lions Club in Alabama provided vision screenings at a health fair at a Walgreens. The **Pierceton Lions** in **Indiana** donated \$1,000 to an elementary school to purchase playground equipment and contributed \$1,000 to the LCIF Superstorm Sandy Relief Fund.

The Willow Street Lions in Pennsylvania created a "What Do Lions Do?" brochure to help build awareness and interest in their club's work.

The **Flemington Lions** in **New Jersey** distributed \$26,000 to state and local organizations generated through fundraisers such as a raffle dinner dance and poinsettia and wreath sale.

In **Illinois**, the **Lansing Lions Club** distributed 38 Thanksgiving food baskets to families in need in cooperation with a food pantry.

Lions in Oxnard, California, assisted with vision screenings at a health fair during which 414 people were screened and 371 received eyeglasses. Clubs involved were the Oxnard/Channel Islands Lions Club, Oxnard Noontimers Lions Club, Simi Valley/Moorpark Lions Club, Ventura Downtown Lions Club, El Rio Educators Lions Club, Hemet Breakfast Lions Club, Calimesa Breakfast Lions Club and Cucamonga District Host Lions Club.

The **Meadville Lions** in **Pennsylvania** held their first blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross, collecting 33 units of blood.

The **Britt Lions** in **Iowa** toured the newly opened National Headquarters of the Family Alliance for Veterans of America.

In **Indiana**, the **Grass Creek Lions** braved the winter weather on New Year's Eve to build a wheelchair ramp for a resident who could not go home from the hospital until she had a ramp.

Does your club have an accomplishment to share? Email your announcement to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Club Briefings" in the subject line.

INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director **Henry D. Wofford Sr.** has died. He joined the Johnston Lions Club in South Carolina in 1940 at 19, and served on the international board from 1977 to 1979. He rose to the rank of captain serving in the Flying Tigers of the 14th Army Air Force. A 70year Monarch, Wofford was active in his club, community and state.

Phil W. Sterker, who served on the international board of directors from 1971 to 1973, has died. He joined the Basalt Lions Club in Colorado in 1959 and in 1999 moved to Hawaii where he became a member of the East Kauai Lions Club. He was a president of the Colorado Lions Foundation and served as a presenter, moderator and member of the planning committee for the USA/Canada Forum.

Carlos Bugmann Spielmann, a member of the Temuco Lions Club in Chile who served on the international board of directors from 1983 to 1985, has died. A business leader, he was also the co-owner of a professional soccer team and active in many civic and professional associations.

INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES OCTOBER 2013

90 Years: Chicago Northwest, Ill.; Hazleton, Pa.; Lombard, Ill.; McAllen, Texas; Pontiac, Mich.; Waterbury, Conn.

85 Years: Clendenin, W.Va.; Crockett, Calif.; Durango, Colo.; Farmington Evening, N.M.; Glen Ullin, N.D.; Hebron, N.D.; Hyrum, Utah; Lake Mills, Iowa; McCormick, S.C.; Moose Jaw, SK, CAN; Mott, N.D.; Myrtle Point, Ore.; New Salem, N.D.; Newberry, S.C.; Roseburg, Ore.; Royal Oak, Mich.; Slidell, La.; Sparta, Ga.; Urbana, Ohio

80 Years: Adel, Ga.; Chesterton, Ind.; Emmett, Idaho; Glenrock, Wyo.; Norfolk Ocean View, Va.; Somerville, Mass.; Susquehanna, Pa.

75 Years: Atascadero, Calif.; Barre, Vt.; Bountiful, Utah; Burks Falls, ON, CAN; Crozet, Va.; Cuero, Texas;

Dauphin, MB, CAN; DeKalb, Miss.; Hemet, Calif.; Knox City, Texas; Liverpool, Pa.; Milton, Pa.; Naples, Fla.; Neepawa, MB, CAN; New Bloomfield, Pa.; Oconomowoc, Wis.; Peru, Ind.; Pleasant Grove, Utah; Powassan, ON, CAN; Powers Spalding, Mich.; Randolph, N.Y.; Remus, Mich.; Rochester Host, Minn.; Seaboard, N.C.; Thief River Falls, Minn.; Thomasville, N.C.; Wapato, Wash.; White River Junction, Vt.; Williamsburg, Iowa; Zillah, Wash.

50 Years: Allendale, Mich.; Carlyle District, SK, CAN; Hershey, Neb.; King City, Mo.; Kipling District, SK, CAN; Mankota District, SK, CAN; Moultonboro, N.H.; Oscoda, Mich.; Shorewood, III.; Southside, Tenn.; Standish, Mich.; West Torrance, Calif.; Valhalla, N.Y.; West Grant, Wis.; Windsor, N.C.

25 Years: Hilton Head Island Noon, S.C.

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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 JUNE 2013

Key Of Nations (100 Members)

• Lion Sunil Patel, Nadiad, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Ve Ron Moore, Berea, Kentucky
- Lion Ramautar Agarwal, Meerut Samrat, India
- Lion Rashmi Gupta, Indore Ahilya, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

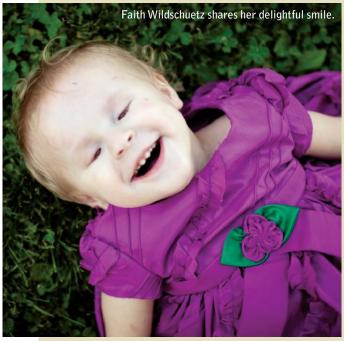
- Lion Angel Rodolfo Soto Galindo, Antigua, Guatemala
- Lion Allen Granger, Lawton Northeast, Oklahoma
- Lion Allen Chesley, Crookston, Minnesota
- Lion Sten Bergqvist, South Florida Maritime, Florida
- Lion Edgar Roa, Miami Managua, Florida
- Lion James Simpson, Fort Thomas, Kentucky
- Lion Mladen Kajganic, Nasice, Croatia
- Lion Santosh Kumar Nandi, Chittagong Khatunganj, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Vijay Paul, Delhi Melvin Jones, India
- Lion Abbas S. Contractor, Mumbai Love India, India
- Lion Chandrakant Shah, Bombay Kalina, India
- Tiruvannamalai Maha Deepam, India
- Lion K. Thangadurai, Madurai Thamil, India
- Lion Sanaa El Serougy, Cairo Cleopatra, Arab Rep. of Egypt

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.

THANK YOU THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Keeping the Faith

Expecting their first child, Bridget and Mike Wildschuetz were full of excitement and anticipation at the 19-week ultrasound. When the doctor discovered that the baby's eyes had not developed—a condition called anophthalmia—they were heartbroken. Once the news sunk in, they had many questions but were having difficulty finding answers. That changed when they found out about the International Children's Anophthalmia Network's (ICAN). They began to receive the guidance and support they needed. That became even more important when at 3 months old doctors determined that baby Faith's anophthalmia was part of a rare genetic mutation called SOX2. The Wildschuetz's knew that traveling from their home in St. Louis, Missouri, to an ICAN conference in Chicago last summer would be invaluable; a Lion friend recommended they turn to the Wildwood Area Lions for assistance. The Lions covered the cost for the Wildschuetz's to attend the conference, and they've helped Faith become the thriving 4-year-old she is today.



Q&A: Bridget Wildschuetz

LION Magazine: What is the SOX2 mutation?

Bridget Wildschuetz: It is a rare mutation-one in 250,000—that was identified in just the last 10 years, so there are a lot of unknowns. As a result of SOX2, Faith struggles with hearing loss, breathing difficulties, gastrointestinal and feeding issues, neurological issues and has global developmental delays.

LM: How has ICAN helped you?

BW: A genetic counselor with ICAN was the first person we talked to who finally understood what Faith's condition was. She gave us insights, helped us with what to expect and put us in contact with other families dealing with the same challenges. ICAN has been an amazing resource through this journey.

LM: How was the conference?

BW: It was inspiring to spend the weekend with families and professionals who know life as we live it. We talked with other families about what's working, how to overcome obstacles. There were great speakers on new research and coping strategies. Faith was evaluated by a team of specialists. We got some new ideas, have some next steps in place and feel rejuvenated!

LM: How is Faith doing?

BW: There have been many challenges, but she's reached a point where she's getting much more enjoyment out of life. Her first couple of years were basically building resiliency. She is smiling more and is more in tune with what's around her. She loves music and horse therapy. Our goal for her is to be healthy and happy, and everything else is a bonus.

LM: Did you enjoy meeting the Wildwood Area Lions?

BW: We went to a meeting, and they were so eager to learn more about how to help find ways to give Faith the best life possible. It was clear they understood that we couldn't miss the ICAN conference if we want to give Faith the best chance. And they got to see her beautiful smile!

Learn more about ICAN at www.anophthalmia.org. Follow Faith's journey at http://superbabyfaith.com.

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

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Includes: quality hotels, inter-island flights, baggage handling, tour director, special events and escorted sightseeing on all four islands.

Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$199 tax/ service/government fees. Alternate departure dates available in 2014. Seasonal rates may apply. Airfare is extra.



The Forbidden City Credit - China National Tourist Office

Departs: May 2, 2014

Fly into **Beijing** and following your arrival, enjoy a day to explore on your own, then see all the highlights on a guided sightseeing tour that includes: Tiananmen Square; the Forbidden City, home to more than 20 emperors; Summer Palace and 'Birdsnest' Olympic Stadium. Visit a section of **The Great Wall of China** at Mutianyu where you will take a short chair cable ride up to the wall itself, offering stunning views of the surrounding hillsides and valleys below. Next, fly to the city of **Xi'an**, home to the world famous Terracotta Army, then **Chongqing** with an included city tour, and see Giant Pandas at the zoo. Then you will board the 5-star **M/V President 8** for your three-night **Yangtze River Cruise** in a balcony stateroom. See spectacular scenery including the Three Gorges and its 1 1/2 mile wide dam, plus three included shore excursions. Disembark and fly to the global city of **Shanghai** (twonights). Enjoy a full city tour and trip to the top of the Jin Mao tower. **Also includes daily breakfast, seven lunches and six dinners.**

'Price per person, based on double occupancy. Plus \$299 tax/ service/government fees. Alternate departure dates available in 2014. Seasonal rates may apply. Airfare is extra.



Transatlantic + Mediterranean Cruise Plus...Italy Tour

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Departs: April 26, 2014

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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.



Departs: May 23 & July 11, 2014

Explore the beauty and history of majestic Alaska. Enjoy a seven night Alaska cruise on the <u>NCL</u> Jewel through the scenic Inside Passage. Visit **Ketchikan**, "The Salmon Capital of the World;" Juneau, the capital of Alaska; **Sawyer Glacier**, that calves constantly, shedding huge chunks of ice with incredible colors; **Skagway**, where the Gold Rush began and **Victoria**, **BC**, Canada's Garden City on Vancouver Island.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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DIRECTORS

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ROAR OF APPROVAL

Recently awarded with a 50-year membership pin, **John Rasmusson** has been an integral member of the Dell Rapids Lions in South Dakota. Rasmusson rolls up his sleeves for everything from pancake breakfasts to a park shelter project.

Mark Saposnik, the first member of the Oroville Ophir Lions Club chartered in 2011, was honored as Lion of the Year for California's Multiple District 4. Saposnik has served as vice president, treasurer and membership chairperson, helping his club get off to a strong start.

West Muskingum Lion **George Figgins** constructed an oak case to display the American flag at the Ohio township's park. Building the case took more than 40 hours of labor.

Leos Janine van Wulven, 20, and her brother Deon van Wulven, 24, are already old timers when it comes to Lionism. Janine became a Leo at age 12 and Deon at 16, and they have both served as district presidents while members of the De Tyger Leo Club in the Republic of South Africa. They recently hosted a Leo leadership conference and have encouraged many young people to serve their communities.

In January, the Wardensville Lions Club and Lions **Lorrie and Henry Krautwurst** in West Virginia were honored to host International Youth Exchange student Meylin Tan from Lima, Peru, for five-and-a-half weeks. Meylin attended club meetings, visited the Smoke Hole Caverns, spent a day at a local high school and toured Washington, D.C.

Lion **Harper Handshaw** received the Monarch Chevron Award for 70 years of service to the Harrisburg Lions Club in Pennsylvania. Harper recently celebrated his 102nd birthday.

When **Blair Currie** was installed as president of the Edenton Lions Club in North Carolina in 2000, he became the first kiltwearing president to assume the club's highest office. Born in Sanquhar, Scotland, in 1929, Currie's proud Scottish heritage is evident long after he and his family immigrated to the United States in 1961 aboard the R.M.S. Queen Mary. An author and poet, Currie says one of the biggest honors in his life was being selected to recite the Declaration of Independence at the Courthouse Green in Edenton on July 4th, 2005—his 76th birthday.

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LAST ROAR



SUNRISE, SUNSET?

Lion Lyell Clark won first place in the Special Theme category (Beauty of the Rural Environment) in the Lions Environmental Photo Contest in July at the international convention in Hamburg. Did he shoot the end or the beginning of the day? Hint: Clark belongs to the Lacey Sunrise Lions Club. Better hint: his club is in the state of Washington. See the Best of Show winner. LCIF DREAMS OF A WORLD WHERE NO CHILDREN DIE FROM MEASLES.

Lions can help eliminate measles and rubella as a health threat worldwide with the GAVI Alliance, and leading partners the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).





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