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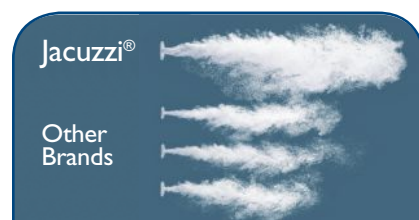


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A Message From Our President



Barry J. Palmer
Lions Clubs
International President

The Family That Volunteers Together ...

A close-knit town of 1,500, Colebrook in Connecticut has a low crime rate, highly ranked public schools and a Lions club that dreams of more members and more service. Members recently met at a YMCA camp to plot their future. They tossed around a lot of good ideas. “What motivates people to serve is their kids,” Ray Winn, a Lion for 27 years, told the *Register Citizen*. Brad Bremer insisted that the club should capitalize on the “brand recognition” of Lions. Shari Gray argued that the public needs to see the club as “a well-oiled machine.” By the end of the day the members established new committees for membership, communications and agenda and left with a renewed purpose to grow the club.

Lions, what is your dream for your club? What programs and projects will attract members of all ages and both sexes?

April is Family and Friends Month for Lions. Invite family and friends to learn, serve and celebrate with your club. Organize a serv-

ice project such as a tree planting or book drive, host an open house or throw a picnic. **Be part of the Lions World Lunch Relay on April 4.** Schedule a lunch that day as a way to connect your family and friends with family and friends of Lions worldwide. Register your event with Lions Clubs International and enter Lunch Relay contests for the most participants, best theme and biggest food drive. The entry form and more information are at www.lionsclubs.org.

Volunteering together as a family is tremendously rewarding. Studies show that it passes on family values to children, helps children pick a path in life, develops new skills for both children and adults and increases interpersonal communication and the problem-solving abilities of family members. Remember that family members can receive a special dues discount when joining the same club.

Throughout the year, clubs need to improve the club experience to attract and retain members. Our own research has shown that Lions remain Lions because they enjoy the experience. They like the service the club does and feel comfortable within the club.

Don't wait. Dream a membership goal and devise an action plan that works for your club. The roar you hear will be your club's.



Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President



Volunteering is a family affair for this Leo family from Germany: Carolyn and Florian Adler and their son, Maximilian. (Leos can be older in some nations.)

Watch a video on the rewards of volunteering as a family.

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WE SERVE

MISSION STATEMENT OF
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:
*"To empower volunteers to serve their
communities, meet humanitarian needs,
encourage peace and promote international
understanding through Lions clubs."*

CONTACTING THE LION

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

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Convention Countdown

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 4-8, 2014







THE BIG PICTURE

No Laughing Matter

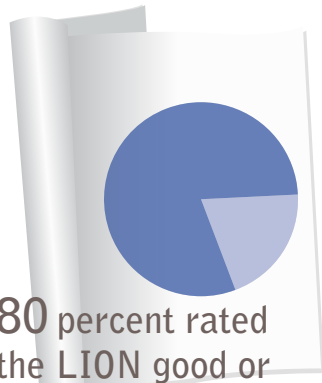
These schoolchildren in Japan are not laughing but instead learning to yell from “the bottom of their stomach” in case of an attack. The all-women Hiroshima Momiji Lions Club in Japan sponsored the self-defense workshops for 4,505 students in 64 schools as a 15th anniversary project. A third-grade boy who took the class later fought off a stranger who tried to grab him on his way home from school in Hiroshima.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

DIGITAL LION GAINS READERS

Thirty-one percent of Lions surveyed read the digital LION compared to just 14 percent a year ago. The survey of 2,282 Lions in 2013 by Lions Clubs International was done to assess attitudes toward the two versions of the LION. Twenty-two percent said the digital LION was excellent and 65 percent said it was good while 33 percent said the print LION was excellent and 55 percent said it was good. The survey found a slight uptrend in readership of the print LION: Lions said they spent 64 minutes reading an issue compared to a survey that found Lions spent 57 minutes a decade ago. Eighty percent rated it good or excellent compared to other magazines. Forty percent of Lions surveyed said they read or plan to read digital magazines in the near future whereas 62 percent of all U.S. magazine readers are or will be digital magazine readers. Forty-nine percent of Lions said they prefer to receive the print LION only, 26 percent prefer both the print and digital, and 25 percent want the digital only. LCI will continue with the print LION and recently developed a digital app for the LION.



80 percent rated the LION good or excellent compared to other magazines.

SERVICE CAMPAIGNS DRAW LARGE NUMBERS

Lions embraced the first two Global Service Action Campaigns for 2013-14. The Engaging Our Youth Campaign in August served 822,112 youths as Lions logged 646,193 service hours. The Sharing the Vision Campaign in October served 1,019,803 people and Lions tallied 394,523 service hours. The number of people served in these two campaigns rose 14 percent from 2012-13. The Relieving the Hunger Campaign took place in December and January, and Lions are encouraged to complete an environmental project in April.

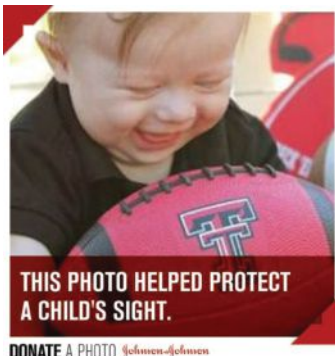


Members of the Aiken Mid-Day Lions Club in South Carolina read aloud on Diabetes Awareness Day. A blue circle is the universal symbol for diabetes.

Photo by Tom Brown

PHOTOS 'DONATED' TO SAVE SIGHT

Lions, who routinely donate time and money, "donated" photos in the fall to save and improve children's vision. Lions Clubs International celebrated World Sight Day (Oct. 10) with Johnson & Johnson by encouraging people to take a picture, preferably an "eye selfie," and download the J&J Donate A Photo app to post the picture. Johnson & Johnson is donating \$1, up to \$30,000, for every photo posted on behalf of Sight for Kids, a program of LCIF and J&J that has provided free vision screenings to more than 17 million children in Asia Pacific since 2002. More than 10,000 photos were donated as of early December. The event ended Jan. 31.



This "donated" photo will help save sight.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

49 YEARS AGO IN THE LION FEBRUARY 1965

Lions Paddy Kerr (left) and George Underhill flew 9,000 miles, spent 84 hours in the air, touched down in 20 towns and survived two dangerous forced landings traveling to and from the international convention in Toronto. The Lions from Burnaby, British Columbia, landed in heavy fog on farmland outside Quebec City, and on their way home a sudden thunderstorm forced a landing at an Air Force base with an unmanned air control tower.



BY THE NUMBERS

5

U.S. Navy vessels named U.S.S. Lexington whose veterans were honored at a ceremony hosted by Lexington Lions in Massachusetts.

1,176

Food items for a pantry collected by the Silver Hill Lions in Maryland during 2012-2013 simply by bringing a few cans or boxes to each meeting.

1,250

Eyeglasses, cell phones, ink cartridges and other recyclable items collected in four months by students of River Ridge Middle School teacher Kim Thorsen for Hanover Lions in Illinois.

86

Units that marched in the Great Pumpkin Parade sponsored by Mohnton Lions in Pennsylvania.

45

Children from Cal Farley's Boys Ranch treated to a shopping spree at Sears thanks to Lions from District 2T1 in Texas.

6

Home appliances purchased by Orangeville Lions in Ontario, Canada, for Kerry's Place Autism Services.

12

Teams that competed in a chariot race, called Race to See, held by Torrington Lions in Wyoming.

2,000

Flower bulbs planted along city streets by San Rafael Las Gallinas Lions in California.

10

iPads purchased with tips from an Oktoberfest fundraiser and given to the Missouri School for the Blind by the St. Charles First Capitol Lions.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ONE OF US

Known as “The Walking Man of Murphys,” Ric Ryan waves to an oncoming motorist.



Photo by Gary Friedman/Los Angeles Times

RIC RYAN

They may not realize it, but when drivers wave a friendly hello to Lion Ric Ryan during his roadside walks in Murphys, California, they’re helping veterans. In 2008 Ryan, a retired iron worker and Vietnam veteran, began walking for exercise and enjoyed how the 8- to 12-mile walks gave him time to think and listen to music. After seeing a moving documentary about UCLA’s Operation Mend—a program that provides free reconstructive surgery to returning U.S. military personnel—Ryan, who lives with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), decided to make a 25-cent donation to Operation Mend for every wave he received during his walks. Thousands of miles and dollars raised later, the “Walking Man of Murphys” is helping veterans heal while healing his own war wounds with every step.

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.

How did you come up with the idea to raise money through waves?

When I watched the news show about Operation Mend, I knew I wanted to contribute. Our veterans need all the help we can give, so I thought I could do something. I started keeping a tally of waves. After each walk I make a deposit at the bank, usually about \$15; then I send checks regularly to Operation Mend.

Did people know what you were doing?

I think the bank tellers were the first to ask what I was up to, and then a news article came out. Word got out, and I started getting bigger donations. I’m surprised how much people have given with the economy how it’s been. A great guy who owns a body shop here handed me a check for \$5,000 on his 50th birthday. A school held a walkathon and raised \$1,500. More than \$50,000 has been raised so far. The people here have just been outstanding.

The walks are also therapeutic for you.

The walks give me time to think and to talk to the man upstairs. I listen to my music—always the Righteous Brothers and country—and sing along, making sure no one can hear my singing voice! It helps with my PTSD and keeps my spirits up—that and the help I receive at the VA. I had to have a knee operation, so I haven’t been able to walk lately. But I’ll be back out there soon.

Do your fellow Murphys Angels Lions wave to you when you’re walking?

Oh yes. They kid me about it too! I’m proud to be part of a group that does so many great things for our community.

It must feel good that your fundraising idea has been so successful.

Our veterans are the future of this country. It feels great to see them coming home and being honored and receiving help. I’m a true believer that when you die it’s not what you have that counts, but what you gave. That’s how I try to live.

To find out more about Operation Mend, visit operationmend.ucla.edu.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

OVERHEARD

"Everyone is waiting for the big game, but for us the main event that day is the big breakfast."

—Ray Sanders of the Faribault Lions Club in Minnesota on his club's 48th annual pancake breakfast, held on Super Bowl Sunday. From southernminn.com.

"From my perspective, I feel that if you live in a community you owe something to that community. The community is not just local. It's much larger than that."

—Bill Rendall of the Madden Lions Club in Alberta, Canada, on his club's support of various local, national and international projects. From the Rocky View Weekly.

"They're like a bag of chips. You can't eat just one."

—Roy DeGrange of the Brunswick Lions Club in Maryland on the club's kinklings, a deep-fried doughnut. From the Frederick News-Post.

ON THE WEB

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.

CLUB OF THE MONTH

CAMERON LIONS CLUB, TEXAS

YEAR FOUNDED: 1923

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS: The 35 Lions meet every Monday at noon and enjoy lunch. Weekly programs and guest speakers keep them informed on the needs of the community as well as the status of Lions' projects such as the Texas Lions Camp. The Lions stay up-to-date on the current LION Magazine, knowing the tail twister will ask the magazine trivia question of the week.

ON THE AIR: The Lions Radio Auction has been the club's fundraising centerpiece since 1965. Over three days Lions auction off more than 600 items donated by local businesses on the local radio station. Bidders can win items such as honey from a local farm, a tool set from the hardware store or baked goods made by volunteers. In recent years the Lions added an online component to the auction, enabling them to extend the auction to 10 days and increase bidders to more than 300. The popular auction raises about \$20,000 for service projects.

A MEMORABLE PROJECT: Last August the Lions endured 100-degree temperatures while installing new playground equipment at the city park. One thing kept them going through the heat: picturing children frolicking and having fun with the new playground. One of the Lions' proudest moments was seeing the playground completed and knowing that the community's children would enjoy it for years to come.

SUNDRY SERVICE: The Lions stay busy throughout the year. Recent and ongoing projects include collecting eyeglasses for recycling, beautifying a gazebo, serving lunch at a summer camp, planting trees and holding the annual holiday canned food drive.

WHY SERVE? "Being a Lion provides the infrastructure to have fun and serve both our local community and the world. Lions always push forward and look for ways to serve."
—Stephen Fuchs



Cameron Lions endure the heat to build a playground for children to enjoy.

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Lending Hands for Literacy

Lions in District 33 K in Massachusetts roll up their sleeves and use their hands so children can read with their hands. On a wintry Saturday morning, a dozen Lions and Leos endured an hour-long bumpy ride on a yellow school bus to Boston to the National Braille Press (NBP), a non-profit that empowers blind children by improving Braille literacy. The Lions spent a day placing stickers with Braille versions of the words in "A Sick Day for Amos McGee," the Braille children's book of the month selection.

"After a few glitches and cries of 'oops!' we got our assembly-line technique down and completed 150 books," says Medway Lion Dawn Rice-Norton. The day of service made for a reflective ride home. "We were all picturing the smiles on children's faces and thinking about the possibilities that literacy will mean for them," Rice-Norton says. The Lions were soon back on the bus for another day at NBP.



Lions place stickers on Braille books for children.



Elizabeth Warren folds dozens of nightclothes recently collected for children.

Pajama Party Queen Reigns Over District

California Lion Elizabeth Warren didn't set out to be the "Pajama Queen" of District 4 L 4, but that's how she's now known for her enthusiastic collection of sleepwear for kids. After reading about a similar project in Texas featured in LION Magazine, Warren, a past district governor, wanted to collect pajamas for local children placed in Child Protective Services because of trouble at home. "I am convinced Lions have the biggest hearts," she says.

Harbor Mesa Lion Carol Van Holt explains, "She thought of how traumatized these children are by suddenly being taken from their home or school to be placed in a safer, healthier environment, but sleeping in a strange bed. To have a new pair of pajamas would be so comforting to them."

Warren approached other members of her Rancho-Cucamonga Community Lions Club and they planned a "pajama party" collection that is now an approved district project. When that club disbanded, she was happy to find that members of the Ontario-Upland Lions Club she then joined were equally supportive. The project is now ongoing in two counties and involves three organizations that help homeless and destitute families. Sleepwear ranging in size from infant to teen has been collected and distributed to more than 2,000 children in need. "These kids will have safe and comfy sleep, many for the first time in their lives, and Lions will have a part in that," says Warren.

"Clubs have spread the news in their own communities through newspaper articles and are now taking donations from the public and then bringing them to our district and region meetings," she says. "Some, like La Habra and Pomona Host, are distributing the collections themselves. Occasionally I take donations of money, and the pajamas are then purchased by a 'super shopper' in my club and added to the collection."

The spirit of giving has spread throughout the district, Van Holt reveals. "When the young grandson of a Lion heard about the project, he decided to ask his birthday guests to bring new children's pajamas for the collection instead of gifts for him. His request resulted in a total of 39 pairs for the cause," she says.

At Home in the Kitchen

People who believe that doing something is “easy as pie” have probably never baked one. Chef Frank Zerafa, a member of the Ridgefield Lions Club, is a busy man these days sharing his expertise. He leads a group of volunteer professional chefs at the Washington State School for the Blind in Vancouver who teach students the fine art of pie making—starting from scratch.

Lions sponsor pie-making events, and recently those chefs and 50 students produced 80 cherry, berry and apple pies. The 90-minute free event is open to the public.

Zerafa and his team have so far taught 235 students how to bake a pie, says Lion Robin Espinosa. Each participant also receives a special rolling pin afterward. Other chefs have participated and traveled to schools in California and Pennsylvania, where Lions assisted them.

George Espinosa, Robin’s husband and a past club president, says that initially the club was cool to the pie-making idea. “Frank kept working to bring the idea to fruition. He

went on to persuade a number of chefs to participate and a local member of the carpenters’ union to make rolling pins for each participant. Ridgefield Lions buy the wood.”



A budding pie maker learns under the guidance of a volunteer chef.

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Taking Them Out to the Ball Game

Part of the elite Mexican League, the Sultanes Monterrey baseball team plays in the largest baseball stadium in Mexico. But the ballpark accommodates only eight wheelchairs. So when Lions sponsored a day of baseball for disabled children at the stadium, hundreds of seats were removed for 100 children in wheelchairs.

Chartered in 2012, the Guadalupe La Sierra Lions Club transported in trucks 1,300 children with disabilities for a day of baseball at the stadium. The children mingled with the big leaguers, played a game on the field and then watched the Sultanes club take on the Petroleros de Minatitlan.

The children put on uniforms and hit and fielded the ball with assistance from the major leaguers, Lions and relatives. There are no organized teams in the region for children with disabilities. “Our main goal was to show these children and their parents they could participate in baseball,” says Lucy Reyna Garcia, president. The children enjoyed it—almost as much as their parents. “The children showed a lot of enthusiasm, but their parents were even happier to see their children playing with their friends,” says Garcia.

No one kept score (except perhaps the children themselves in their heads). The children munched on hot dogs while watching the big league game. After the game was over they received a welcome surprise. “Our goal was fulfilled when the mayor committed to promoting sports for disabled children in the Little Leagues,” says Garcia.



Those with disabilities took a swing at baseball.

French Deepen Ties with Essilor

Lions in France partnered with Essilor, the world's largest manufacturer of corrective lenses, on World Sight Day (October 10). Volunteers from Essilor accompanied Lions on information campaigns and free eye exams in dozens of cities.

In 2012 Essilor used avant-garde art on World Sight Day to promote eye health. Urban artist Manfred Stader created an ephemeral, interactive, 3D work on the theme of sight and better vision in Charenton-le-Pont, the Parisian suburb where Essilor is based.

Essilor is a longtime partner of Lions Clubs International. It provides lenses and equipment at no cost to Lions among other contributions to Lions' sight efforts.

Dominique Meslin, director of training at Essilor Academy, assists Lions at a vision screening.



\$100 Loans Change Lives

Kalupahanage Ajitha Vinodani of Sri Lanka was left with no income when her husband died in an accident a few years ago. Others in her situation plunge into destitution. But Vinodani is a thriving entrepreneur. She lives near the beach, where she buys fish, dries it out and sells it for a tidy profit.

Sri Lankan H.W. Renuka Damayanthi turned her life around when she bought a sewing machine. She makes dresses, curtains and blinds that she sells at the local market. The demand for her products is so strong that her son helps her after school.

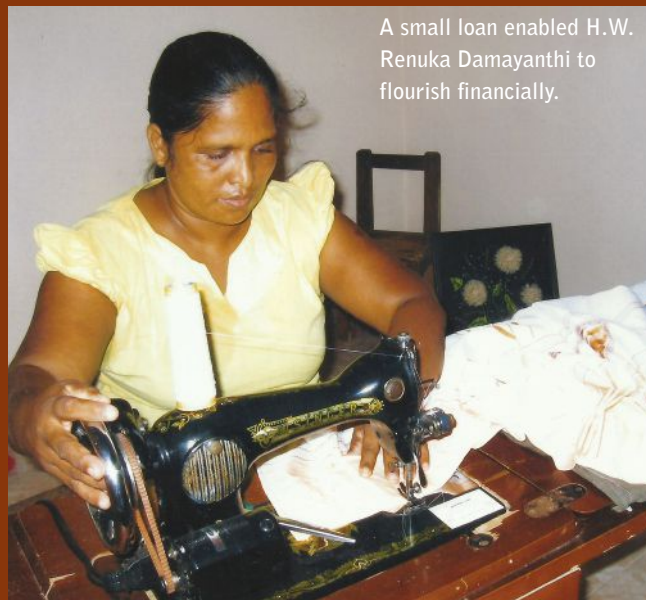
The two women have more in common than business savvy. The Hikkaduwa Lions Club guided their path to self-sufficiency. The Sri Lankan Lions funneled small loans of about \$100 to each of them from Lions in Denmark, who began the microloan program in 2007. Lions have given the interest-free loans to more than 275 poor families.

The Søllerød Lions Club in Denmark began providing small loans to women in Sri Lanka and Nepal and now also partner with Lions in Haiti and Tanzania. Women with families who otherwise likely would be impoverished have used the loans to raise chickens, open street restaurants and expand home gardens.

Often the women are able to hire other women, and their small businesses create an economic mini-boom. Bimala Shrestha of Nepal used her loan to buy wool to make gloves, caps and socks. Three women now work full-time in her shop, and 50 other women either supply her shop or sell her goods to export firms.

International President Barry J. Palmer of Australia is urging Lions this year to engage in microfinancing to stimulate jobs. But Henning Molin of the Søllerød Lions helped initiate his club's microloan foundation after learning of Muhammad Yunus, who in 2006 received the Nobel Peace Prize for his microfinance achievements. Yunus received the 2008 Lions Humanitarian Award.

The Søllerød Lions Club set aside \$50,000 to fund microfinance to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary. Most of the loans, which range between \$100 and \$400, have been repaid timely. The club's funding now exceeds \$60,000.



A small loan enabled H.W. Renuka Damayanthi to flourish financially.

(Below) Kalupahanage Ajitha Vinodani used a loan as working capital to finance her dried fish business.



Buyers Flock to Flea Market

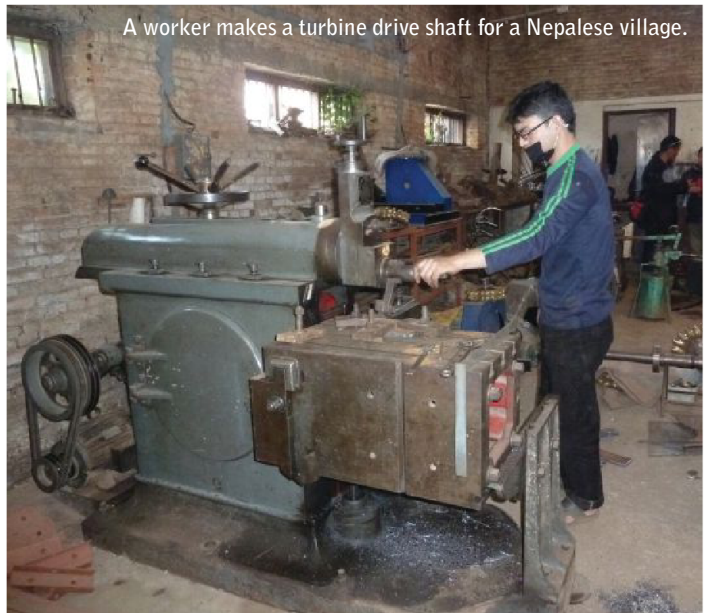
Visitors to the Nyvang Cooperative in Denmark watch farmhands harvest fields with horses, housewives wash clothes on washboards and blacksmiths shape red-hot iron into horseshoes. The living museum showcases the decades-long heyday of the cooperative movement in Denmark—a strong factor in the development of democracy in the nation and an influence today in industries ranging from dairy products to windmill energy.

Visitors to the museum can also often see a facet of Denmark society that came after the cooperative movement but is a hallmark of civic-minded societies—Lions. The Lions of nearby Holbaek partner with the cooperative on a flea market, Christmas celebrations and other events. Four other Lions clubs also sometimes take part.

The recent flea market drew a large crowd. “The results promise a repeat and perhaps a tradition in the future,” says Joergen Nielsen, club president. Profits went toward the pediatric ward at Holbaek Hospital.



The flea market offers an array of goods.



A worker makes a turbine drive shaft for a Nepalese village.

A Powerful Idea in Nepal

Nepalese villagers have husked rice for centuries. Now they produce food much more efficiently in rice mills reliant on small power stations made possible by a Lions club in Switzerland.

The Thurgau Lions Club supports the Nepal Yantra Shala Energy Company in its work in remote Nepalese villages, whose source of energy previously was from wood, dung or agricultural residue. The villages’ water mills, powered by timber water wheels, were not powerful enough to drive rice-husking machines.

Lions gave the energy company a universal drilling machine and a refurbished turning lathe and provided on-site training. The club also underwrote the electrical engineering education in England of the son of the company owner. The end result has been a string of villages with small power stations and communities better able to feed themselves and others.

How a Safe Step Walk-In Tub can change your life

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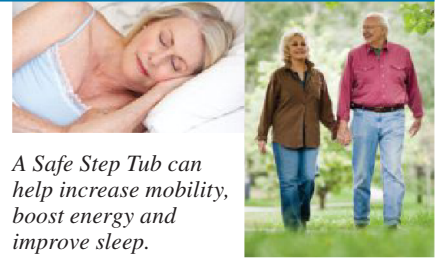
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Back Pain | <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure |

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Toronto Hosts 2014 Convention in July



Cosmopolitan City is 'The Complete Package'

by Jay Copp

O, Canada.

Lions can't stay away from the country for long. Toronto hosted the first international convention outside the United States in 1931. Eleven years later, as war raged in Europe, Lions worldwide returned to Toronto, as they did in 1964. Montreal hosted in 1979 and 1996, and Windsor shared the spotlight with Detroit in 2004. Toronto becomes the center of Lionism again July 4-8 as it hosts the 97th International Convention.

Toronto may not have the glitz and sizzle of other cities. But residents and tourists alike adore its vitality, its cosmopolitan makeup and its innumerable cultural attractions, restaurants and shopping venues. It's attractive but entirely accessible. It's the girl next door who has grown into a beauty. It's MaryAnn, not Ginger. Toronto is exciting and eye-opening yet also is eminently livable and likeable.

The '64 convention was notable for its overall pleasantness. The gathering was "the most friendly" convention in Lions' history, LION Magazine asserted then. The city has not changed.

"Toronto is the complete package," writes Torontonians Shannon Kelly in Fodor's. "Toronto is clean, safe and nice. Torontonians say 'sorry' when they jostle you. They recycle and compost. They obey traffic laws. They're like the boy next door you eventually marry after fooling around with New York or Los Angeles. Why not cut the charade and start the love affair now?"

Toronto has a bustling urban core, incredible ethnic diversity, a dazzling array of cultural riches, an everything-under-the-sun food scene, a patchwork of neighborhoods, ranging from hip and trendy to ethnic and scruffy, and an eye-popping setting, located on grand Lake Ontario. Toronto is not some sleepy outpost, some pale imitation of a world-class city but the real thing, the fourth-largest city in North America, recently overtaking Chicago. "We're a clean, vibrant city—very modern with skyscrapers. You can get an eyeful of them. Lions, especially from America, will have their eyes opened," says Past International Director Carl Young, chair of the Host Committee.

The iconic CN Tower, until recently the world's tallest freestanding structure, is the city's most well-known landmark. Visitors also flock to the Royal Ontario Museum and its stunning Chinese and aboriginal peoples collections, the splendid Art Gallery of Ontario, the first-rate theaters and the pulsating club scene. Befitting a city where winter can be long and brutish, subterranean Toronto offers a dazzling network of shops and restaurants. The world's largest underground shopping complex, PATH is 29 kilometers of pedestrian tunnels running beneath the downtown office

towers. For a quieter, peaceful day, marvel at the skyline while taking a short ferry ride to Toronto Islands, where cars are prohibited and beaches are popular.

Canada often is stereotyped as the home of hockey, lumberjacks and caribou, a cold frontier populated by tough, modest, plain-speaking people. Toronto is anything but monolithic. Half its residents are immigrants. The city is home to 120 cultures. Toronto almost out-Lions Lions Clubs. Lions who descend on the city from all points of the globe will bump into Torontonians who speak their language and eat the same foods. Each hotel reserved for Lions will include a welcoming Lion who speaks the language of guest Lions. The convention's steering committee had no problems finding Lions fluent in a range of languages: Lions from Canada speak 62 languages.

Part of the charm of visiting Toronto is meeting Canadians, not "Americans-lite" at all but possessing their own culture and predispositions. In the Toronto Trilogy book series, Doug Taylor includes a scene where a young boy



recalls his father's rant on the characteristics of Canadians. They are possessed with the seasons and never stop talking about them. In a crowd, they want to be invisible. They insist they are the only people in the world who speak English without an accent. They are passive by nature, loathe of making a fuss and prefer to keep their opinions private. They strive to see both sides of an argument. However, if a Canadian's favorite hockey team fails to make the playoffs, don't dare to disagree with him when he declares, "Well, there's always next year."

Yes, hockey. Lacrosse is officially the national sport, and Canadians claim to have invented football. But hockey remains an all-consuming passion among Canadians—their equivalence of mother and apple pie. Lions won't be able to skate outdoors in July (the weather likely will be warm and sunny). But they can visit the interactive Hockey Hall of Fame and call a playoff game, pretend to be a goalie and pose with the Stanley Cup. Another appeal to this hockey mecca is that its focus is international including exhibits on the "Miracle on Ice" U.S. Olympic squad, national teams like the Finns and even women's hockey.

Toronto is both cosmopolitan and distinctly Canadian and yet, at least for Americans, reassuringly familiar, too. "We drive on the same side of the road. It's the same telephones, the same TV, the same theater. And it's not football here either—we call it soccer," says Young.

There won't be any culture shock, either, in encountering Canadian Lions. "What you do in America we do here," says Young, mentioning pancake breakfasts (though their maple syrup typically is genuine), walkathons and sight activities. "We're all about service. It's often hands-on."

The close relationship between U.S. and Canadian Lions is reflected in the seven joint multiple districts. Lions from border states in the United States traditionally traveled across the border for district enclaves and Canadians often returned the favor. Many Canadian clubs are located in a narrow belt along the 4,000-mile boundary with the United States.

One difference between U.S. and Canadian Lions is that the latter is more democratic. "We have more elections for officers. We tend to use the ballot box more," says Young.

Because of the nation's robust national health insurance, Canadian Lions also differ from their U.S. counterparts in raising funds for eye-related procedures. While encouraging tissue donations, Canadian Lions, for example, generally don't need to solicit financial support for surgeries at eye banks.

Unlike before Sept. 11, Americans now need passports to enter Canada. Canadians, on the other hand, typically already have passports. Torontonians often use theirs to shoot down to Buffalo, a short jaunt away. The Argonauts are the hometown football team, but the Bills are beloved as well. "We bleed for the Bills," says Young.

Canadian Lions are hard at work preparing for the in-

flux of their yellow-vested comrades. "They're rolling out the red carpet. The dedication and energy level is a real eye-opener," says Kathryn Wakefield of the Toronto Convention & Visitors Association.

Future issues of the LION, particularly the April issue, will detail the speakers and entertainers at the convention. Or check LCI's website soon. The parade in particular promises to be celebratory and memorable. Its downtown route includes The Hospital for Sick

Children (Canadians pull no punches in naming things.) In a nice touch, Tim Hortons, the iconic coffee and doughnut shop, will be on hand at the parade with a food truck. Even better, Canadian Lions are asking hospital officials to allow their patients to see the festivities. Everyone loves a parade, especially sick kids.

The convention registration form is on page 46.



The influential Toronto International Film Festival won't be running during the convention, but who's to say if Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall or other stars are around.

Toronto has always been a great venue for conventions.

- Toronto was different and yet the same in 1964 (June 1964 LION)
- 1964 convention was the "most friendly" (July/August 1964)
- 1931 convention displayed pomp and circumstance (June 1931)

Toronto

1 City
9 Ways

Whatever pleases you the most—food, sights, culture, history, fashion, adventure, sports, getting a deal or delighting your children—Toronto can deliver the goods.

- 1 Sightseer
- 2 Culture Vulture
- 3 Fashionista
- 4 History Buff
- 5 Adventurer/
Outdoorsman
- 6 Sports Nut
- 7 Foodie
- 8 Frugal Traveler
- 9 Parents With Kids

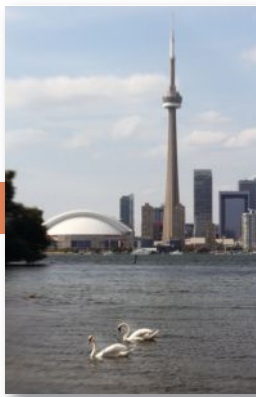
Sightseer



BREAKFAST

Tim Hortons

Join the hordes of Canadians in getting energized for the day by ordering a "double-double" (two cream, two sugar) and a box of Timbits (donut holes) at this popular chain.



MORNING ACTIVITY I

CN Tower

You aren't allowed to leave Toronto without visiting its most iconic site, a 1,815-foot spike. Ride the glass elevators and bravely step onto the glass floor.



MORNING ACTIVITY II

Harbourfront Centre

Once the home to Toronto's grimy docks, the sprawling cultural, social and children's hub teems with gleaming performing arts areas, art galleries, jogging and cycling trails and eateries.

Culture Vulture



MORNING ACTIVITY I

Art Gallery of Ontario

Among the 89,000 works of art are masterpieces by Rembrandt, Picasso and Rodin. The glass and titanium façade is a work of art in itself.

MORNING ACTIVITY II

Underpass Art

When can a walk through an underpass be a mesmerizing experience? When you stroll through the Dufferin underpass and see its amazing mosaics.



MIDDAY SNACK

Dufflet Pastries

(multiple locations) Diets die here. The cheesecakes, cupcakes and tarts are beyond memorable.

Fashionista

BREAKFAST

Caffe Bacio

Cute as a button, family-owned Caffe Bacio boasts to-die-for mushroom and spinach omelettes and one of the city's very best Americanos.



MORNING ACTIVITY I

Holt Renfrew

The city's showcase high-end department store is a temple of Armani, Gucci and Karan. You may run into a celebrity or two here. Or maybe not—the famous reportedly have private shopping suites.

MORNING ACTIVITY II

Bata Shoe Museum

Shuffle your feet past Elton John's boots, Marilyn Monroe's red leather pumps and more than 10,000 other shoes and shoe-related fashions.



History Buff

BREAKFAST

Sunset Grill (seven locations)

As good as granny's, Sunset offers wholesome food and great service. The bacon, eggs and home fries never disappoint, and even dainty eaters wolf down the granola with yogurt and honey.



MORNING ACTIVITY I

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Some of the city's best-known denizens are at rest here including classical musician Glenn Gould, former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie, Titanic survivor Arthur Godfrey Peuchen and Canada's beloved "Voice of Hockey," Foster Hewitt, who coined the phrase "he shoots, he scores!"



COFFEE BREAK

Balzac Coffee Roastery

Espresso connoisseurs treasure this atmospheric gem, a revamped brewery house.

LUNCH

Future Bakery

(multiple locations)
Fuel your body and please your taste buds with a big bowl of beef borscht or a schnitzel sandwich on dark rye with mashed potatoes.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

Casa Loma

The mock medieval castle is actually a gaudy 98-room mansion built in 1913 for the extravagant Sir Henry Pellat, a financier who became wealthy by providing Toronto with electricity. Gape in awe at the furnishings but it's OK to gloat a little too: Sir Henry later lost everything in land speculation and was forced to move out.

DINNER

Buca

Stylish yet traditional, Buca offers rustic Italian cuisine based on fresh, seasonal ingredients. The beautifully understated main dining room features soaring high ceilings, exposed raw brick and iron beams.

EVENING ACTIVITY

The Theater

Toronto trails only London and New York as a theater center. The top venues are the Canon Theatre, the Princess of Wales, the Royal Alexandra and the Toronto Center for the Arts. Whether it's big, brassy Broadway musicals or avant-garde productions, Toronto has it.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

World's Biggest Bookstore

The name says it all—64,000 square feet of books on every subject imaginable.



DINNER

Crush Wine Bar

Be safe and not sorry at all by ordering halibut, a rib eye or a pork chop. Or take a chance and be delighted by bacon-wrapped Ontario rabbit or wild boar ragu with in-house testaroli pasta.

EVENING ACTIVITY

Bell Lightbox

The home of the renowned Toronto International Film Festival, the gorgeous cinema complex includes five state-of-the-art theaters, three gallery spaces and a restaurant and bar. A cinematic-like feature of its exterior are glass panels that catch the shadows of people moving within.



MIDDAY SNACK

Summer's Ice Cream

Torontonians count down the days until Summer's opens. Act like a local by grabbing a homemade scoop (or two) in a just-made waffle cone.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY I

Eaton Centre

You can find nearly anything at the block-long complex. Prices are conveniently tiered: the first floor offers lower cost goods, the second has mid-level prices and the third is for expensive items.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY II

Mjolk

The shop that carries lovely Scandinavian furniture and exquisite Japanese handicrafts poses the classic shopper's dilemma: you're tempted to blow the budget in one stop.

EVENING ACTIVITY

Windsor Spa

Shopping all day can be brutal so take the edge off—and your clothes—at the swanky Windsor Arms Spa.



MORNING ACTIVITY II

Historic Distillery District

Step back in time wandering through a 13-acre cobblestone site with dozens upon dozens of cinema-ready, 19th-century buildings.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY I

Redpath Sugar Museum

Dating back to 1854, the working sugar refinery includes a small museum on what we all very much crave in our diet.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY II

Police Museum & Discovery Centre

The police headquarter's museum showcases historic equipment, uniforms, vehicles and crime-related paraphernalia. "CSI" comes to life as you can learn how to trace a murderer's DNA from a cigarette butt.



DINNER/DRINKS

Hemingway's

Hemingway's—a no-nonsense type like the acclaimed author—is a neighborhood pub with a friendly vibe.

Adventurer/Outdoorsman

5

MORNING ACTIVITY I

Scarborough Bluffs

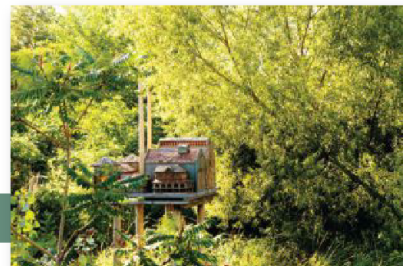
The glacial lakeshore cliffs offer stunning views across Lake Ontario.



MORNING ACTIVITY II

Spadina Quay Wetlands

The self-sustained ecosystem, full of heath plants and poplar trees, is also alive with frogs, birds and fish. Keep your eyes out for monarch butterflies, mallard goldfinches and red-winged blackbirds.



Sports Nut

6



MORNING ACTIVITY I

Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum

See the original Stanley Cup, a replica of the Montreal Canadiens' locker room and collections of goalie masks, skates and sticks.



MORNING ACTIVITY II

Maple Leaf Gardens Site

Alas, one of the cathedrals of hockey is gone, but in Loblaws grocery store are a red dot on the floor marking the original center ice location and a giant maple leaf made out of old blue seats.

Foodie

7

MORNING ACTIVITY

St. Lawrence Market

Stock up on local and imported specials especially fresh shellfish, sausage and cheese at one of the world's best food markets.



LUNCH

All the Best Foods

A food cognoscenti destination replete with gourmet foods, artisan cheeses and hard-to-find breads.

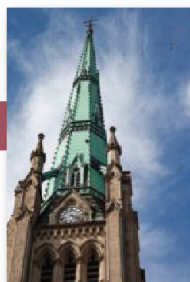
Frugal Traveler

8

MORNING ACTIVITY I

St. James Cathedral

This Gothic Revival landmark has the tallest steeple in Canada. The city's best free burst of sound comes after the 9 a.m. service on most Sundays as the bells ring.



MORNING ACTIVITY II

Toronto's First Post Office

Established in 1833, this working post office allows you to live like your pre-computer ancestors: write a letter with a quill and ink, seal it with wax and send it postmarked "York-Toronto 1833" for a small fee.

LUNCH

Dumpling House Restaurant

Watch the dumplings being rolled in the window and then feast on steamed or pan-fried meat and vegetarian entrees. You'll be fatter—as will your wallet.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY I

Edwards Garden

Nature tamed and tied up in a neat bow: colorful floral displays, rock and butterfly gardens and picturesque bridges.

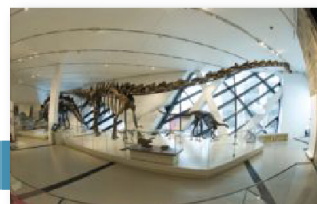
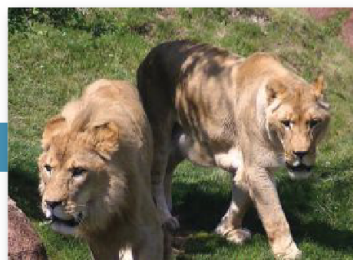
Parents With Kids

9

MORNING ACTIVITY I

Toronto Zoo

See some lions from the animal kingdom as well as gorillas, giraffes and polar bears at this 710-acre site that places animals in familiar environments. If your dogs are barking, relax on the Zoomobile, which zips between pavilions.



MORNING ACTIVITY II

Dinosaur Gallery (Royal Ontario Museum)

More real than Jurassic Park, the gallery is home to 50 dinosaur specimens including 30 complete or nearly complete skeleton and 30 fossil mammal skeletons.



LUNCH

Grilled Cheese

The city's only restaurant dedicated to the decadent sandwich, Grilled Cheese serves 10 versions of the kiddie classic—cherished by kids and adults of all ages.

LUNCH

Pearl Harbourfront

Enjoy a great view of Lake Ontario while feasting on dim sum, Peking Duck or braised lobster.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

Niagara Falls

Less than a two-hour drive from Toronto, you can experience the famous waterfall from the Canadian or American side.

DINNER

Canoe

Splurge at one of the city's finest restaurants, located on the 54th floor of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower. The real-man portion of the menu includes prime cuts of Nunavut caribou, rare breed porkers from Manitoba and cattle from Alberta.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY I

Polsen Pier

Whack the dimpled balls at the driving range here.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY II

Bicycling

Bike rental shops can allow you to pedal the spectacular flat route along the city's lakeshore.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY I

Kensington Market

Just about every food on the planet can be found at this lively outdoor market.

TEA BREAK

Red Tea Box

Select your tea from the antique Chinese medicine chest. Try the tea-flavored Maccha cheesecake.



EVENING ACTIVITY

Major League Baseball

The Blue Jays play the Brewers on July 2 and then leave town. So watch sports at Loose Moose over a Barking Squirrel craft beer or head to Wayne Gretzky's Restaurant to see the skates he wore as a two-year-old.



DINNER

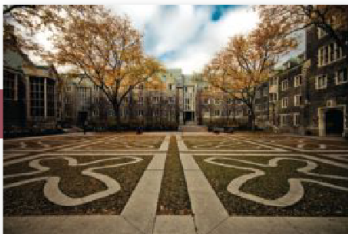
Nota Bene

One of the country's top restaurants features contemporary Canadian cuisine. The duck salad and sticky toffee pudding are incomparable.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY II

Trinity College

New students wear robes to meals at this throwback college. Pick up a self-guided tour pamphlet and ramble through the quad and the dignified Anglican chapel and then look especially serious as you do the Philosopher's Walk, a leafy ramble on the east side toward the Alexandra Gates.



DINNER

Gourmet Burger (multiple locations)

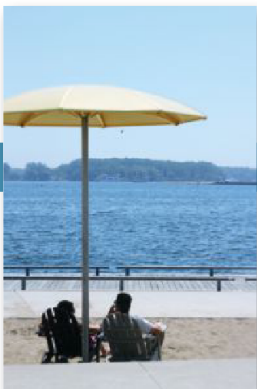
Named the city's best burger under \$10. Be adventurous the second time and order the Aussie Burger, topped with fried egg, pineapple, beets, bacon, and regular cheddar.



EVENING ACTIVITY

Honest Ed's

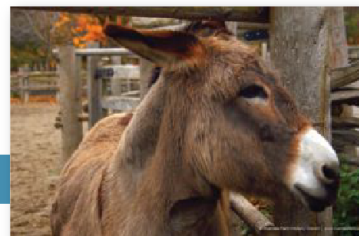
Bargains galore abound at this kitschy, beloved institution.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY I

Toronto Islands

Lounge on the beach as your kids quickly spend your Canadian dollars at Centreville, a children's amusement park with more than 30 rides and attractions including a restored 1890s merry-go-round.



AFTERNOON ACTIVITY II

Riverdale Farm

Children can shadow a farmer as he does his chores or gaze at the pens of geese, pigs and goats at this quirky but fun working farm/museum.

DINNER

Duff's Famous Wings

What's worse than death? Armageddon. Try the wings with either of those two super-hot sauces while the kids munch on burgers and dogs.



Photos by Fay Wallin

Hearts Over America

A record-breaking foot of snow fell a few days before, and a cold rain that day crusted the snow covering. After taps came a reverential silence at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. Then as the 2,000 wreaths were laid on the veterans' tombstones, the sharp crunch of boots and shoes was the only sound.

"It was very respectful, very quiet," says Fay Wallin of the Red Wing Lions Club. "Everyone realized we were in a special place."

Red Wing Lions and other groups laid the wreaths

in December 2012, a ceremony undertaken in the holiday season to underscore the notion that the sacrifice of veterans is not forgotten even at Christmas time.

The ceremony was part of Wreaths Across America, held in every state and 20 overseas cemeteries. The tradition dates to 1992 when Morrill Worchester, the owner of a wreath company in Maine, placed surplus wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery. The practice caught on nationally after a photo of the decorated graves went viral.

(Opposite) Lions and other community groups laid 2,000 wreaths on veteran's tombstones at Fort Snelling. The volunteers focused on sections of the cemetery that receive relatively few visitors: veterans from the Spanish-American War and World War I.



A son of a member of the Minnesota Patriot Guard, who participated in the event, holds a flag.



A member of the Minnesota Civil Air Patrol takes part in the ceremony.

Nearly 100 volunteers placed the wreaths at Fort Snelling. The Red Wing Lions Club, which meets at the American Legion, sponsored 45 of them.

Wallin's late father was a World War II veteran. A champion ski jumper, Clint Dubois was slated to compete in the 1944 Winter Olympics. But the games were canceled because of the war, and Dubois served as an anti-aircraft gunner. Wounded in an air raid, he wore a cumbersome back brace the rest of his life.

Dubois didn't talk about the war. But Wallin, 67, knew how he felt about his country. At parades,

"he stood up and saluted the flag," she says.

Buried in Kingman, Arizona, her father still was a presence at Fort Snelling. "I wish I could have laid a wreath on his grave," Wallin says.

This past December Lions put a wreath on the grave of Howard Perkins of Red Wing. His widow, Evie, sent the club a check for the wreath. Howard, who died in 1984 at the age of 62, fought under Patton in Germany. He lost his foot and part of his leg when he charged into a home that was booby-trapped.



A young man is alone with his thoughts at the wreath ceremony.

After the war, Evie met Howard in Red Wing, a small town, and they married in 1948 and had five children. He worked in an office for a tannery. His crude plastic prosthetic was difficult to wear. Despite the pain, he “tried to live like everyone else,” says Evie. Knowing he loved to skate, friends once bought him “a beautiful pair of skates,” recalls Evie. Bad leg and all, surprising even himself, he glided down the ice with his pack of friends.

Evie regularly decorated his grave with flowers until she learned the cemetery removed them when the grass was mowed. She didn’t plan to be there for ceremony, but she says she’s “extremely pleased” to know the wreath honors his sacrifice.

—Jay Copp



Prison Puppies

After inmates raise them, the puppies' good behavior will lead to a new life on the outside as Leader Dogs. The blind are not the only ones given a new lease on life.

by Jennifer Hemmingsen

On a dreary day in Iowa, the cluster of squat cement buildings that make up the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility seem to fade into the steel-gray sky. Icy sleet falls on the buildings and covers the bare cornfields surrounding the electrified fence.

The Fort Dodge facility is one of Iowa's largest prisons, housing more than 1,000 men serving sentences for serious crimes. They've been sent here for taking what they had no right to take: property, a sense of community security, a human life. In here, their lives are reduced to bare essentials and subject to strict routine.

In a long, pale corridor, corrections officer Brenda Birchard breezes past inmates dressed in regulation jeans, T-shirts and sweatshirts. With the easy familiarity of a woman who knows where she's going, she passes a set of plate-glass doors and enters the prison's sparsely furnished library, where more than a dozen inmates sit on straight-backed chairs. Under each chair, calm, alert and quite possibly the last thing you'd expect to see here: puppies.

Lions Clubs International's dedication to sight programs and services is world renowned. For generations, Leader Dogs for the Blind programs have given the gift of independence to those who are blind, visually impaired or deaf and blind. But less well-known is the decade-long partnership between the Leader Dog program and Iowa Prisons.

Since 2002, select inmates in a few Iowa prisons have raised Leader Dog puppies for Leader Dogs' certified trainers in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Inmates have cared for hundreds of pups, teaching them basic commands and preparing them for specialized training and the life of a service dog. The Fort Dodge Correctional Facility has been a part of Leader Dogs since late 2010, giving inmates an opportunity to give back by helping others.

"Their crime doesn't mean diddly to me," says Birchard, Leader Dogs coordinator for the prison. "The

name of this place is Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, not Fort Dodge Discipline Facility." Raising Leader Dog puppies helps inmates practice skills—like responsibility, patience and putting others' interests before their own—that will help them be positive members of society when they're released.

A Litter of Six

The first partnership between Leader Dogs and Iowa Prisons was at the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City when staff member Randy Kirkbride, a Lion, approached then-warden Jim McKinney with the idea.

Leon, an elderly inmate who so far has served nearly 50 years of his life sentence for murder, was one of the first inmates to participate. "I said it would be good, under the circumstances, to pay back a little—not nearly enough—but to do something good for somebody else," says Leon, who asked we not print his last name.

The prison started out with a litter of six. Inmates cared for and socialized the puppies, teaching them 16 basic commands—such as sit, down, come, stay—preparing them for more extensive training from Leader Dogs School's certified trainers. The partnership was such a success that it since has branched out to Iowa prison facilities in Newton and Fort Dodge. Hundreds of puppies have received their initial training—supporters liken it to puppy kindergarten—behind Iowa prison walls.

The Fort Dodge program started in 2010, with five older puppies that "outside" handlers had found difficult to train, says Birchard. In many ways prison life is ideal for puppy training. Inmate handlers at Fort Dodge have plenty of time to devote to their dogs, who accompany them nearly everywhere. If an inmate does have an appointment or work duty where dogs aren't allowed, there are plenty of "puppy sitters" to offer some relief.





Inmate handlers at Fort Dodge Correctional Facility teach Leader Dog puppies 16 basic commands such as stay, heel and down—when the handler wants the puppy to lie flat on its belly.



Inmate handlers Brent Stitzer (left) and Thomas Mann pose with puppies Myles and Izzo.

“They work and work with those dogs,” says District 9-NC Leader Dog Chairwoman Lois Jones of the Iowa Falls Lions Club. In fact, puppies raised in Iowa prisons are more likely than other puppies to graduate and become Leader Dogs, she says.

Today the Fort Dodge facility has 73 dogs in training and one cat, Max. (“He thinks he’s a dog,” inmate handlers say.) Max helps acclimate the dogs to other pets. The puppies arrive when they’re 5 to 8 weeks old, and they stay for about a year.

The program is strict. Handlers must have clean disciplinary records and go through a series of puppy classes before they can be assigned a puppy. It’s also self-sufficient: all the puppies’ blankets, scarves and leashes are made in the prison. Sponsorships and donations pay for puppy food, vet visits and other supplies.

“It’s tons more work and responsibility than having a dog outside,” says Thomas Mann, 32, serving a 50-year sentence for his part in the murder of a high school-aged drug informant. “It’s not a pet. It’s basically like having a kid.”

When they’re working, the puppies each wear powder blue bandanas that say Future Leader Dog. The bandanas are meant to represent a blind handler’s harness. Only

when the bandanas come off is it OK to play. Even then, there are rules: games of fetch and tug of war are forbidden. Puppies have to sleep in their own beds.

“There are a lot of ‘do’s and don’ts,’” says 33-year-old handler Tony Vang. “There’s no way of cheating it if you want your dog to succeed.”

Life Lessons

Vang, who expects to serve 14 more years for a first-degree robbery conviction, says he wasn’t sure at first if he wanted to be a Leader Dogs handler. He didn’t know if he’d be able to care for a dog without breaking one of the big rules about prison—you have to project a tough persona in order to survive.

It’s hard to be gruff with an adorable little puppy as your constant companion, an animal that trusts and accepts you for who you are. As one inmate says, “A dog doesn’t care who I am or what I’ve done.” The inmates develop close attachments to their puppies, which lasts even after the dogs have grown. When the inmates talk about their puppies, it’s as if they’re describing a close friend or member of their family.

“When the dog goes, they break down and cry,” Jones says. Handlers write monthly updates to their puppy’s

sponsors. Jones, whose family has sponsored several puppies, read from one whose author was preparing for his puppy to leave: “I love her a lot,” he wrote. “But I know she’s going on to bigger and better things.”

Inmate Brent Stitzer, 28, says that it feels really good to give back and to know his work eventually will help someone else live a freer and more independent life. Being a puppy handler has taught him the value of putting someone else’s interests before his own, he adds. He hopes to continue as a trainer when he’s released soon after serving four years for vehicular homicide. “I’ve just enjoyed doing it,” says Stitzer. “I think it will help keep me out of trouble when I’m out of here.”

“It’s taught me patience,” says James “Big Swede” Merical, 40. “A little foresight before I make rash decisions.”

That’s something that didn’t come so easy for Merical, who is serving a 50-year sentence for robbery and kidnapping. He is massive and muscular, with a bald head and bushy brown beard. He cuts an imposing figure, sitting with legs planted firmly on the outsides of his chair. “Without the animal, I didn’t have to deal with anything

I didn’t want to,” he says. As a handler, that’s all changed. “People want to interact with your dog, so you have to be more social,” says Merical.

Helping Hands

As much as they are able to do, the puppy programs at Iowa prisons rely on help from outsiders, too. The inmate handlers at Fort Dodge Correctional are quick to list the people who are central to its success: sponsors, donors, trainers in Michigan, other volunteers. “I think we all realize we’re just a small part of the big picture,” Birchard says.

Past District Governor Randy and Past Council Chairperson Carol Kirkbride of Ankeny log thousands of miles each year, driving dogs to the vet, giving them a taste of life outside of prison. They deliver young pups to the prison for training and load them into their own vehicles to make the 700-mile journey to Rochester Hills for training and partnering with a blind handler.

Jones travels throughout her district, giving about two presentations about the program per month and soliciting sponsorships and donations.

Among the volunteers is a special group of fourth-grade students at Rock Run Elementary School in Iowa Falls. The students help puppies gain important experiences they can’t get “inside” such as children, traffic, crowds and public places.

Their teacher, Jones’ daughter-in-law, Susan Jones, got her class involved as part of the character curriculum back in 2003. That first class hoped simply to raise enough to sponsor a single Leader Dog. Since then, they’ve sponsored nearly three dozen dogs and learned important lessons about community spirit along the way.

It might seem at first like an odd alliance—school-children, Lions clubs, prison inmates—all working together to help make life better for the visually impaired. But the disparate elements achieve a harmony of purpose.

“It all ties together,” Lois Jones says. “It works.”

Or as Tony Vang put it from the other side of the prison wall: “You can tell the worth of a program by how far it reaches.”

Watch an inspiring video on the prison puppies.

Leader Dog puppies wear blue bandanas while they’re “on duty” to represent a blind handler’s harness.





Smart Growth

A California club has discovered an innovative way to attract and keep younger members.

by Jay Copp



The Cupertino DeAnza Lions Club successfully mixes different generations. Shown are (from left) Norm Eliason, Jeff Ludlum, Kent Vincent, Jennifer Erickson, John Smith, Amy Reeber and Al Knox.

On a warm California day, Carl Erickson, 42, strides to a green patch of lawn, faces dozens of Lions and family members and takes the mike for karaoke. The afternoon party of the Cupertino DeAnza Lions Club is in the backyard of Jim Gould, 2012-13 club president. A 12-foot lemon tree, bursting with pebbled fruit, flanks Erickson. His wife, Jenni, holds their 3-year-old son against her hip and, like her husband, wears a cartoonish cardboard Lions mask tilted up on her forehead. To the tune of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," the Ericksons sing of the separate evening monthly meetings of the club's younger members at a pizza-and-beer joint.

"In the Lions, the PM Lions/The children run the show./We start up late when we congregate/We gotta work tomorrow ya know!"

Then the Ericksons, both teachers, turn their wit on the older Lions in the club, who meet weekly in the morning at a restaurant. The eatery normally opens at 7 but allows the Lions to gather at 6. The so-called AM Lions run more formal meetings and then have the leisure to whack a dimpled ball over manicured grass.

"In the Lions the AM Lions/Traditions are affixed./They get things done and they have some fun/With golf and beer till six."

The dozens of Lions and friends laugh and roar. But the Ericksons aren't finished. They want to poke fun but also pay tribute to a club where they feel at home. Most of their peers are serial volunteers, taking part in a cancer walk or heart disease bike ride, but declining to join a service club. In Silicon Valley, forget about the midnight oil—computer screens glare deep into the night. Careers demand time; children crave attention. The Cupertino club has found a way for working adults with younger children to be Lions. "In the Lions De Anza Lions/We are a diverse crew/We work together to make things better and enjoy each other too," sing the Ericksons.

A few blocks from Gould's home is De Anza Boulevard, a broad, busy thoroughfare lined with restaurants, shops, cream-colored homes and, occupying a long stretch, the gleaming corporate headquarters of Apple. Hovering over Cupertino are the jagged Santa Cruz Mountains. Twenty-two miles away is the frothy ocean. Just beyond the moun-



tains is the fertile San Joaquin Valley that "feeds the world," as locals like to say. Practically everything and anything will grow here, and what grows in the valley also grows without coaxing or care in backyards, a bounty often taken for granted and neglected by indifferent property owners. One of the proposed projects of the Cupertino Lions, a club truly rooted in a time and place, is to gather the backyard oranges, peaches, kiwi and much more and distribute the fruit to the hungry.

Al Knox, 73, an elder statesman Lion, once ran a firm that provided security for Apple. Sporting a trim white beard reminiscent of a wizened sea captain, Knox remembers the days when Apple was a fledgling newbie that relied on seat-of-the-pants inspiration. "Steve Wozniak [an Apple co-founder] used to rush around the building and hand out \$100 bills to people who he thought were doing a good job. I said to him, 'I think you might want a security person to walk around with you,'" Knox recalls with a grin.

Knox, a Lion since 1981, first understood Lions as a bunch of horse@\$\$%&, and he was perfectly fine with that. A friend invited him to a project. "The club had to clean out a horse stall. I was a CEO. It was therapeutic to work with my hands. I was sold," he says.

For years the Cupertino Lions operated as a typical club. They provided eye exams and glasses for school-children, supported nearby bucolic Camp Costanoan for children with disabilities and sponsored a student speaker contest. The projects were successful. The problem was the time and energy the projects required as the club aged.

Knox retired early 20 years ago when he sold his business to his daughter. He relishes the long trips on Harleys he takes with his wife—when he's not busy with the Lions. He understands that a service club takes commitment. "For me, it's God, family, church, then Lions. I'm busy as a Lion. For a while, I thought I'd go back to work so I can relax," jokes Knox, the club treasurer and a longtime officer for the club's foundation.



The older Lions like to meet early and then golf while the younger Lions meet over pizza and beer after work in the evening.

The Lions painted the dormitories and spruced up the grounds. Or they fixed up homes and yards of the elderly and disabled. “We did a lot of physical

work,” Eliason says. Leos have helped provide tireless manpower as well as fresh idealism and new ideas. Three years ago Kent Vincent used a close connection he had with a local high school—his wife, a teacher on staff then—to start a Leo club. The Leo club at Monte Vista High School now counts more than 100 members, and Leo clubs at Lynbrook High School and De Anza College are flourishing as well. The Leos serve patrons at the club’s epic crab feed and carry golf clubs at the Lions’ annual fundraising tournament.

The benefits of Leos are not only helping hands but also smiling faces. “Leos have a lot of energy. At the crab feed they do an exceptional job of waiting tables. People who attend our fundraiser associate their [cheerful] attitudes with our club,” Vincent says gratefully.

Another factor boosting the club are the wives and friends of Lions who regularly volunteer their time without formally joining the club. Knox’s wife, Nancy, not a Lion, wears a Lions shirt at the golf outing and works as hard as anyone else. Ellen Ratner, also not a Lion, takes charge of the eyeglass recycling. So it goes. Why not induct them? “She’s [Nancy] busy with the church,” explains Knox. “We don’t like to mess with something that works.”

Many clubs sponsor Leos or welcome the participation of spouses and the involvement of children. What distinguishes the Cupertino DeAnza Lions are the AM and PM groups. That peculiar arrangement was the brainchild of Norm “Eli” Eliason, 72, a retired high school physical education teacher. He also coached basketball, football and track. Eliason joined the Lions nearly 30 years ago after a brief conversation with his principal at the school that had recently hired him. “You’ll be teaching here, so I think you should be in the Lions,” he was told. Eliason nodded and within a short time he was sporting a Lions pin.

Eliason and his fellow Lions, younger and able, took on hands-on projects that required strong backs and unflagging energy. Camp Costanoan was a focal point.

work,” Eliason says.

The community needs seemed to grow, but the Lions were growing older. Eliason saw the writing on the wall several years ago. “I was sitting with Jeff Smith at a meeting and remember saying, ‘Look around. We’re all gray-haired. Most of us are retired. We have to do something or our club will be dead.’”

Smith nodded, remembering an encounter in 1988 he had with a Lion from Wales when he was a Lion in England. U.S. servicemen who stayed on in Wales after World War II had a large, active club in Cardiff, the capital. But the president told him the club was faltering. “He told me it would die within the next five years because they had failed to connect with younger members. Any prospective younger member would look around the room and see a sea of gray and white hair and decide he or she did not belong. This made a great impression on me,” says Smith.

Shortly later Smith, Eliason and Ray Lancon happened to visit the Redwood Shores Lions Club, a club with Filipino members who brought their children to meetings, which were informal and lighthearted. “The kids were playing on the floor. People brought food. It was great,” says Eliason.

Right off the bat, Eliason knew four young adults who would make good Lions: his two daughters and their husbands. Jill Eliason (she kept her name) was married to Scott Ludlum, and Jenni Erickson, married to Carl, was his second daughter. His daughters were not a hard sell. “My kids grew up around Lions. They understood and enjoyed what we did,” he says.

In 2007, Eliason invited about a dozen or so young adults to a meeting about the Lions at an athletic center. His two daughters brought their husbands. The others were related by family or job. Young adults who joined later, such as Amy Reeber, now 36 and a teacher at the same school as Carl Erickson and Jill Eliason, also had a personal or work connection.

Amiable and low-key, Jeff Ludlum, 46, now runs the Lions' PM meetings. His brother, Scott, is married to Jill Eliason. Jeff occasionally brings his 2-year-old to the meetings. "All the Lion ladies want to be around her. It's like a bunch of grandmothers," he says approvingly.

Service has been part of Jeff Ludlum's identity since he chaired his fraternity's philanthropy committee at Santa Clara University. After college, he forged a career in sales and marketing. Several years ago his job began to gnaw at him. Maybe, he thought, he'd be happier working at a non-profit, shooting for a societal good instead of seeking profits. Then the Lions came along. "The Lions scratched my itch—the philanthropy angle," he says.

Being a Lion makes him an outlier in his circle. "I don't know anybody else in my life who is a Lion except for the people I knew in the club when I joined," says Ludlum. "They do some service through their church or work. My friends tease me, 'You're a Lion? I thought that was for older people.'"

Cupertino is not like an established Midwestern town where people have known one another's families for decades or at least share the same ethnic or religious backgrounds. The digital industry attracts a slew of newcomers. Nearly two-thirds of Cupertino residents are Asian. Mobility is an aspiration. People change jobs and addresses frequently. The composition of Lions clubs often is determined by geography. Cupertino is more spread out, a community with a sense of dispersal. "You can't get that hometown feel here. Lots of our members don't even live in Cupertino," says Knox.

Even before he joined, Carl Erickson had been volunteering at the Lions' crab feed and other projects. Working as a line cook had helped him pay for college. "I liked that kind of work," he says. "I didn't see it as a kind of obligation [to his father-in-law]. It was something I wanted to do."

Yet for the most part, the prospective members knew little of Lions. Their fleeting knowledge led to some wild assumptions. Reeber heard bits and pieces of information and formed a premature conclusion. "Lions? I thought it was a train thing. There was Lion Al. I thought it was Lionel trains," she says. Ludlum was similarly puzzled. "I knew the name—Lions. There were Lions, Elks, Rotary. I thought it was social. I didn't know it was a service organization," he says.

The young adults liked what they learned about Lions and agreed with the idea of meeting separately in the evenings, a much better fit for their working hours. They became full-fledged club members even though they met separately. "We borrowed from the concept of a branch club. It's kind of a hybrid branch club," says Knox.

Ludlum and the others discovered that Lions tapped into their desire to reach out in benevolence to the wider world. One of the guests at their meeting a few years ago was a Lion from India visiting his daughter in the area. Neelkanth Byakod of the Ambikanagar Lions Club told the younger Lions of his club's eye camp. The Cupertino Lions

agreed to partner on the cataract surgeries. "Lions for me are community and camaraderie. I value doing service locally but you can do more worldwide, too, because Lions are in every country," says Ludlum.

Friendly and spirited, Reeber jumped right in, volunteering to organize the golf tournament. The course the club used is owned by NASA, so easy access to the grounds, given security issues, was problematic. Reeber called each of the 102 courses in the area and prepared detailed spreadsheets on their pros and cons. The long hours of service she logged did not deter her. "I don't have kids. I love what I do. I want to

give back in my time away from work as well," says Reeber, whose husband, Bernie, is also a teacher and a Lion.

The younger Lions view the club not as an obligation but as an opportunity to get out of the house and be with like-minded peers. "Everybody just recruited their friends," says Reeber. "When we give back, we're having fun. We're doubling our pleasure. It's like hanging out all day on a Saturday with your friends. We're laughing, joking, but we're doing good for others."

Ludlum points out that the San Jose area is large and diverse with more than 1 million people. The power of the experience as a Lion acts like a magnet, drawing members to meetings. "Who are you connected to? Your neighbors, maybe your family if they're nearby. This creates another layer of community," Ludlum says. "The church I grew up in—people came from all over. I only saw them on Sunday. It's the same thing with Lions. When we get together, we are like neighbors."

The PM meetings are looser and family-oriented. Members' younger children attend. The children ring the

"We don't have to pick between spending time with our friends and spending time doing good for the community because we get together with friends and do good for the community all in one."



Carl and Jenni Erickson entertain Lions at the party at the home of Jim Gould (far right).

Eli Erickson, son of Carl and Jennifer, helps Ludlum move along the meeting of the PM Lions.

bell, lead the flag salute and then Ellen Ratner supervises arts and crafts for them while the Lions conduct business. “Bernie and I joined Lions after going to one PM meeting because we felt so positive when we left,” says Reeber. “I would say what holds us all together is we like each other. We don’t have to pick between spending time with our friends and spending time doing good for the community because we get together with friends and do good for the community all in one.”

Reeber says she doesn’t quite agree with the notion that the club is not like a typical club in a small town. “I see other Lions at the grocery stores. Many travel together multiple times in the year. Many play golf weekly. We’re generally friends, regardless of age. Bernie and I have gone wine tasting with the Ratners, who are much older than us.”

Some AM Lions come to the evening meeting and vice versa. (“We enjoy pizza and beer as much as anyone,” says Vincent.) Board members attend both meetings, and a club listserv enables members to stay current and trade information and opinions. The unusual arrangement works because members, younger and older, are like-minded in their laser-focus on service. “We want to give back to the community. There is no other agenda,” says Vincent. “Everyone gives 100 percent. There are no ulterior motives.”

That AM Lions are kindred spirits to the PM Lions also contributes to the club’s harmony and effectiveness. The AM Lions are older but not stodgy or hidebound. “We make it fun. No matter what we do, we make it fun,” says

Clubs in the past have found their way and become more active. Read how Massachusetts Lions discovered the key to revival (July 1942 LION).

Vincent. “We tend to make a party out of every event.” For the golf tournament, the club is divided into three groups. The group that gains the most sponsors (Apple typically makes a sizeable donation) are served by members of the other two groups at the next barbecue. “They get bragging rights as well,” adds Vincent.

The AMers and PMers meet separately but otherwise mix and mingle at projects and events, whether it’s a Habitat for Humanity build, beautifying the grounds of the Pacific Autism Center for Education or Project Linus, which involves making blankets for disaster victims and the homeless. With \$400 of fabric and wielding scissors, AMers, PMers and Leos worked side by side to create 63 blankets in 110 minutes. Leading the blanket project was Leslye Noone, a PMer on account of her job. “Leos are so quick,” says Noone, who has three grown children and wears fashionable blue glasses. “One of them, a big, burly guy, was walking around with the blanket he made on his shoulders. ‘OK, you have to turn that in and get back to work.’”

Not everything works perfectly with two separate meetings. “Communication is an issue,” admits Eliason. “We have to work hard to make sure people know what’s going on. There haven’t been any fights or conflicts. We just have to work hard to maintain communications.”

Overall, the influx of younger members has been a great success. “They dive right in. They can do physical work and mental work. Their technological skills are unbelievable,” says Eliason. “We need them. We need their muscle. We need their skills.”

After the karaoke at the backyard Lions’ party at Jim Gould’s home came the awards. Knox takes the microphone. “You want to see the past? Come to the AM meeting. Want to see the future? Come to the PM meeting,” he declares. A Lion at a table shouts out, “We’re in trouble.”

Ludlum receives an award for his leadership. Other Lions are praised. A Rotarian who helps coordinate the crab feed receives a Melvin Jones Fellowship. The Rotarian grabs the mike. “I was told to come to a Tailtwister party. I was not even sure what that was,” he says sheepishly.

Noone, who works at a college and became a Lion in 2009, takes it all in. “We raised our kids to be involved in the community. This is a natural progression for me,” she says. Nodding toward the children with their Lions parents and grandparents, she says, “How could you not love it with the kids here?”

Show Must Go On, *and On and On and On*

Revue packs them in for 71 years
and brings life—literally—to an Ohio city.

by Anne Ford

Funerals, of course, are solemn occasions. So when mourners arrive for visitations at the Massillon, Ohio funeral home where Lion Glen Dumoulin works, they wait a few respectful minutes before surreptitiously asking him, “You going to be in the show this year?”



The crooning Harmonaires sang the hits of the day in the 1949 show of the Massillon Lions Club in Ohio.

Such is the appeal of the massive, rollicking musical revue that the Massillon Lions Club has put on annually for 71 years. For all those decades, the show has consistently drawn sellout crowds who come from miles around every March to watch the Lions sing, dance and crack jokes, usually while wearing less-than-dignified apparel, over the show's six-night run.

To give you an approximate idea of the goofiness level involved: Last year's version, "Don't Stop the Music," featured a zillionaire who hires scientists to help him visit 1960s England to prevent the British Invasion. A malfunctioning time machine, a leprechaun, cross-dressing go-go dancers and several Beefeater costumes were thrown into the mix.

"We've dressed the guys like raisins, and we've dressed 'em like clowns," says Lion Rudy Turkal, who's been involved with the show for 49 years, 33 of them as director. "They've been rubber duckies. They've been break dancers. They've been ballerinas. We're a service club, and what a way to do service—sing and dance and make a fool out of yourself."

But the show brings much more to the community, and to the Lions themselves, than just a few nights of laughter. Through ticket sales and program ads, the show raises about \$30,000 annually for sight screenings at local schools, eyeglasses for the needy, guide dogs for the blind and the like.

Then there are the innumerable non-monetary benefits, not the least of which is the camaraderie the show instills among the Lions. While some clubs have difficulty attracting and retaining new Lions, particularly among the younger crowd, the Massillon Lions include members in their 20s, 80s and every decade in between. And all of them are expected to participate, if not as performers in the show's skits and musical numbers, then as ticket-sellers, ticket-takers, ushers or set-builders.

Massillon is a small city of 32,000 in eastern Ohio 50 miles south of Cleveland. Lions begin working on their show the first Sunday after New Year's Day and continue until opening night in mid-March. "All these guys give up three months of their lives," says Lion Bob Russell, the current director. "Every Tuesday night and Sunday afternoon, the whole crew is in there rehearsing for the show."

It's that rigorous commitment that Dumoulin credits with keeping the Massillon Lions so vigorous. "Many service organizations have declining membership or have disbanded, but ours is the strongest. I know it's because we have our own show," he says. "Every member of the club is part of it in one way or another. We have a common sense of purpose."

As Turkal puts it: "The show is the glue that holds us together."

To get a grasp of just how long the Massillon Lions' show has been going on, consider that the same year the



Practice made for a perfect show in 1949.



The 1966 show mixed country slapstick with barbershop tunes.

first one kicked off in 1943 Duke Ellington played in Carnegie Hall, a new musical called “Oklahoma!” opened on Broadway and a young American serviceman named John F. Kennedy rescued himself and his crew after their PT boat was sunk by a Japanese destroyer.

Despite the deprivations of World War II (still two years away from ending), the Lions’ first show raised \$1,500—the equivalent of \$20,000 today. With success like that, small wonder that the club decided to continue it on an annual basis. In the following years, the show, held at the local high school, was so popular that audiences started lining up for tickets at 4:30 in the morning, according to an account compiled by local historian Margy Vogt.

One vital early member of the crew was Paul “Pop” Ringley Sr., the grandfather of current Lion Tim Ringley. “My first show was in 1958, when I was four years old,” Tim Ringley says. “My brother and I did a song called ‘Side by Side.’ My dad, Paul ‘Junie’ Ringley Jr., was the musical director, and my grandfather’s job was to pull the curtain.” Ringley is now one of only a few remaining third-generation Massillon Lions.

Another early participant was Turkal, who joined the fun in 1964 in hopes of meeting some of the young local women whom the Lions recruited as dancers. It worked: He married one of them. Though the marriage didn’t last, his commitment to the show did. Perhaps his biggest mark on it came in 1976, when, upon becoming director, he insisted on one major addition—scenery.

“Originally, our stage consisted of a green curtain behind

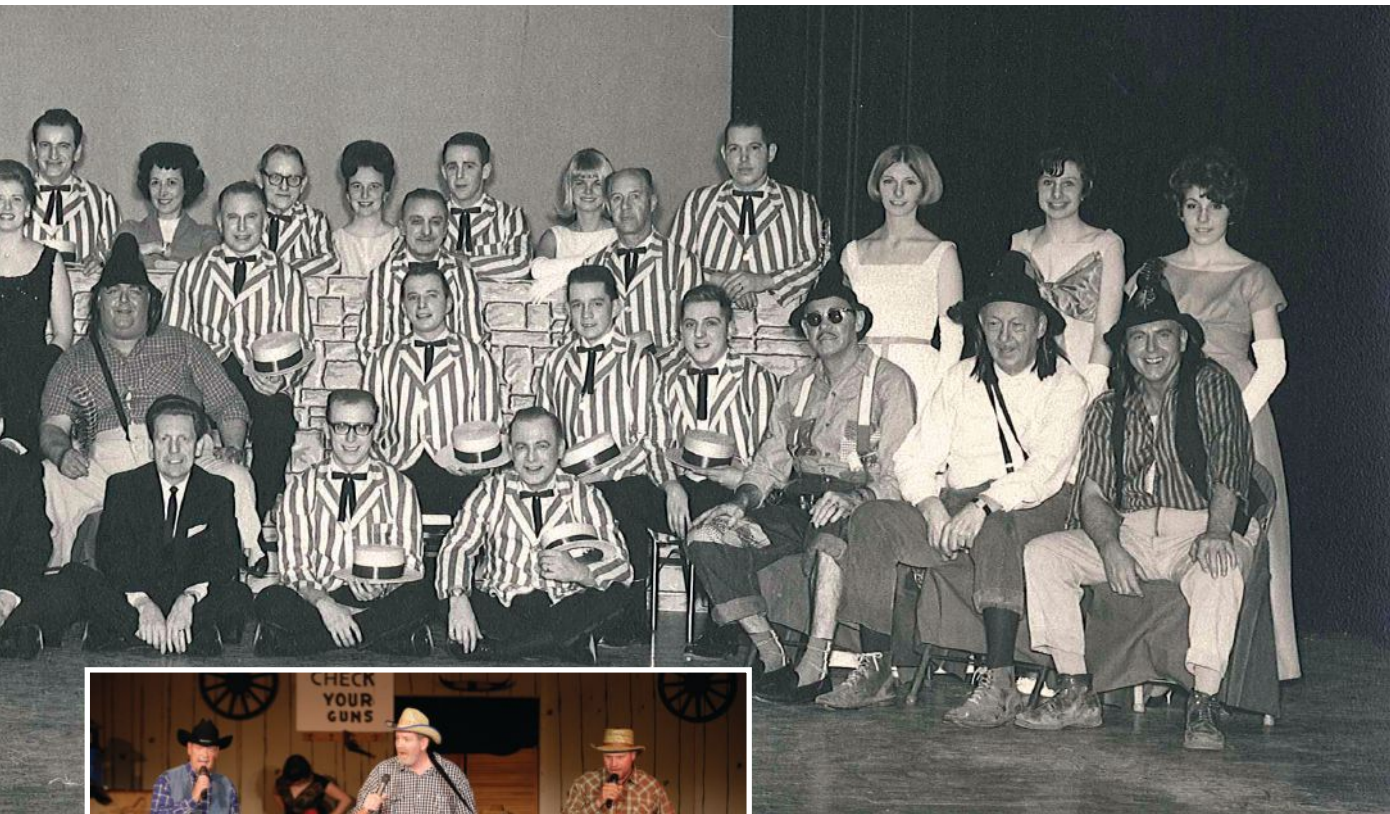
us, with maybe a cardboard sign,” recalls Turkal. “When I became director, the show’s theme was ‘River Boat,’ and we built a boat on stage. I remember the smokestack was a carpet roll we painted black. I put a bunch of white thumbtacks in it to make it look like boiler plate. My thumbs were bleeding by the time I got done, but it looked great.”

In 1982, the Massillon Lions purchased and renovated the local Lincoln Theatre, an old movie playhouse that had fallen into disrepair. It’s been the show’s (and the club’s) home ever since. Located on Massillon’s main street, sporting an old-time marquee and hosting various forms of live entertainment year-round, the theatre is one more sign of the Lions’ commitment to the community.

These days, there’s no more smoking or poker games backstage before shows, Turkal has turned the director’s chair over to Russell and ticket sales are down slightly. That’s a result, the Lions agree, of big chain stores buying up the small shops that once were some of the club’s biggest supporters and ticket-sellers.

But the theater still fills up with nearly 500 people a night, the audience still laughs and Lions who perform are still routinely recognized and complimented on the street. “People come up to you and say, ‘We love the show,’” Dumoulin says. “And then some of them add, ‘When my kids were little, the Lions club helped them out with glasses.’”

Lion Shaun Doherty, 34, grew up attending the show and began performing in it seven years ago, first in the chorus and then in the highly coveted role of “end man,” telling jokes and stories between musical acts. One of his favorite



In 2012, the clothes were modern, but old-fashioned country songs still played well with audiences.

aspects of the show is the way that it encourages everyone to join the fun, regardless of talent or infirmity. “It gives some of the older Lions who might not be able to do much physically the chance to still participate,” he points out.

And then there are the performers who, in other clubs or communities, might be excluded or overlooked entirely, not just from the show, but from day-to-day life. “We’ve had a couple guys who were developmentally slow,” Turkal remembers, including a man he befriended through a local church. “I said, ‘Jeff, come on in. We’re going to make you a star.’ He’d learn all the songs before everybody else, and he’d say, ‘Rudy, somebody saw me on the street, and they knew who I was!’”

Then, too, the show keeps the club itself strong by encouraging attendance. “If you want to be in the show, you have to come to the meetings, because practice follows the meetings,” Dumoulin points out. The show is so popular that some Lions have joined the club just to have the chance to perform. It helps that during each show the director talks about Lions and its goals. “So it’s not just a show; it’s an educational tool as well,” he adds.

The revue also is famous for its role in the city’s social life: innumerable marriages, babies, jobs and friendships have come about as a result of the show. Turkal not only met his first wife through it; he also met his second (she was a friend of one of the other performers). And in the early ‘90s, Ringley discovered that that year’s show lineup included a tall, striking female singer. “I told a guy backstage that one of these days that lady’s going to be my wife,” he says. “He thought I was nuts. Well, in 1999, I married that woman, and she’s been in the show many times. It’s a wonderful thing when you can share something like that with someone you love.”

Some Lions have found, too, that performing in the show affects their lives in even more unexpected ways. Turkal remembers casting a shy, mild-mannered man in several of the show’s skits over the years. “He comes up to me a couple years ago and says, ‘Rudy, I just want to thank you. All those skits you put me in, it gave me so much confidence and self-assurance,’” Turkal says. “It helped him in his personal life; it made him speak up at work. That made me cry then, and now too. It helped this guy’s life, and how many more that we don’t know about?”

“The show’s not going to last forever,” he finishes. “But they might have said that 50 years ago, too.”

Theater productions have been good to Lions. Read how Kentucky Lions staged a Broadway hit (August 1951 LION).

Helping Out After Typhoon Haiyan

by Allie Stryker

Sometimes words fail.

Survivors say if you weren't there when Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, it would be almost impossible to understand the fear, the sense of helplessness or the despair that followed. Looking at the aftermath, it is hard to believe that anyone could survive a storm of such force.

"The scene on the ground is grim and heartbreaking, especially in Tacloban. There is no place there that has a roof—schools, churches, malls, government buildings. The city has lost practically everything," says Council Chairperson Em L. Ang of Lions Multiple District 301 in the Philippines after a visit to the most devastated areas of the Philippines as part of the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Committee. "We have seen entire villages obliterated. I have no words to describe what is left."

Typhoon Haiyan, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, was estimated to have been the strongest storm ever to hit land. By looking at the resulting devastation, that estimation is easy to believe.

As early reports of the typhoon's destruction filtered in from the Philippines, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) made \$130,000 available to Philippine Lions to provide immediate relief. That amount quickly increased to \$500,000 through donations from Lions in neighboring countries and around the world. Within a month, LCIF had surpassed \$1 million in donations and commitments for disaster relief efforts including the shipment of tents and water filtration units, or jerry cans.

"After visiting the most affected area, I can now understand and sympathize with the desperate needs of the victims. Short-term, they need food, water and medical supplies. Then they will need assistance in cleanup, reconstruction and rebuilding. And we Lions will be there with them all the way," says Ang. "The tents and jerry cans will greatly help the affected families as they slowly pick up the pieces of their lives shattered by Haiyan. Thanks to LCIF, the local Lions are better able to help the victims rise above the debris and destruction. I extend my sincere thanks for all the support that LCIF has brought our countrymen in these very difficult times."

The Philippines has 12,600 Lions in 380 Lions clubs. Four clubs are in the capital city of Cebu in the hardest-hit province, and one is in the hardest-hit town of Tacloban City.

Immediately after the storm was over, the Lions went to work providing relief.

"I was humbled by the immediate and generous support of our Lions worldwide," says LCIF Chairperson Wayne Madden. "When I visited the Philippines, I saw the damage that the typhoon had done. Though buildings and communities are damaged in the Philippines, the Lions' spirit is not. It is moments like these that demonstrate the large scale of Lions' compassion and dedication to service and humanitarian needs."

The typhoon's impact has been throughout the Philippines. "Although my family and I were not directly affected by the super typhoon, in a way we have been, because we feel the devastation," says Lion Lina Manacap. "All my gratitude goes toward those who have helped, big or small. You have eased a little of the victims' pain. I cannot thank you enough."

To learn more about relief efforts, visit the LCIF website. To donate, visit www.lcif.org/donate. To see more photos taken by Lions in the Philippines search for #LionsRelief on Facebook.



Lions provide supplies in buckets to residents in Roxas City who lost everything.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**



A shipment of supplies arrives in Dumangas Port for Lions' relief efforts in Capiz.

In Barangay Liong, Lions pass out supplies on the roadside because the typhoon demolished the village's buildings.





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

Deadlines

- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Toronto.
- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation. • **May 16, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a hotel room cancellation.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION *Please type or print name as it appears on passport/photo ID.*

First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____
 Postal Code _____ Country _____
 Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ **Lion: Club No.** _____ **Membership No.** _____ District _____ Title _____ ☐ Lion ☐ Lioness

COMPANION: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

PACKAGE A: *Includes convention registration for each registrant listed above plus one (1) hotel room serviced by shuttle buses during convention.*

☐ Before January 10, 2014: Reservation in delegation hotel

☐ After January 10, 2014: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel

☐ Prefer hotel based on: ☐ room rate of _____ ☐ location near convention center

Arrival date _____ Departure date _____ Number of Guests in Room: _____ Number of Beds Needed ☐ 1 ☐ 2

Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other _____

• The Hotel deposit is US\$225 for a standard room and US\$350 for a suite. The hotel deposit is not the rate but reserves the room. Your deposit will be credited to your hotel bill at checkout.

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

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

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT DUE</u>
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	July 6/ 15:00-17:00	US \$25	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	July 7/ 13:30-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	July 7/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

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

- Only Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover cards accepted. • Contact LCI for wire transfer instructions.

REGISTRATION FEES

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Child (17 and under)</u>
Early (before 10 January, 2014)	US\$110	US\$10
Regular (11 January through 31 March, 2014)	US\$150	US\$10
Late (1 April, 2014 – onsite)	US\$170	US\$10

Package A:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
 Hotel Deposit: US\$ 225.00

OR

Package B:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

- ☐ Check ☐ Bank transfer/deposit (copy must be attached to this form) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Your name as it appears on the card _____ Credit card **must** be in the name of the registrant.

Card Number - - - - - Exp. Date - - Security code (3 digits) _____

Signature _____

Mail form and payment to: Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

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

Questions? Email us: registration@lionsclubs.org

- 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.

Stuck in a Rut?

Build Club Bonds through Team Building

Lions know what Aristotle meant when he said that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Club members rely on one another to carry out stellar service projects, pull off prosperous fundraisers and run efficient meetings. When a Lions team is at its best, it's an unstoppable force. But it's not unusual for some bumps in the road to arise, creating challenges for club members to stay connected, feel valued or communicate effectively. At times like these, Lions may want to have an arsenal of team building activities to draw from to boost club morale and productivity.

Many Lions have experienced team building activities, perhaps at a forum, convention or retreat. Team building activities are sometimes silly, sometimes difficult, but always put participants a little out of their comfort zones with the goals of improving problem solving, communication, leadership or other team-related qualities. While team building will at a minimum be fun to engage in, there are a few things to keep in mind to create a lasting and meaningful impact on club dynamics.

Know Your Goal

"Before starting any team building activity, you have to identify your goals. Success comes from your goals," says Leslie G. Ungar, founder and president of Electric Impulse Communications, Inc. (www.electricimpulse.com). Ungar, who has worked with organizations across the country, says that groups must have a clear idea of what the team building is intended to improve or change. "A team building activity cannot change anything itself. But with attainable goals and an honest eye on your group's strengths and weaknesses, team building can make a weak area stronger, or a strong area even stronger," says Ungar.

Choose the Right Activity

Whether the goal is enhancing communication, decision-making or attitudes, the activity should be strategic to that aim. "What does your group need to do more of? Do they need to strengthen leadership? Do they need to be able to disagree while remaining friendly? Choose activities that will match the specific needs of the group," says Ungar. Also remember to consider the group's comfort levels and capabilities. "A physical activity may not be fun for everyone. You have to make sure that the activity is inclusive and fun for all," Ungar points out.

Make it Count

At the conclusion of an activity, give time for discussion. This reflection gives the group the opportunity to process their



experience as well as apply what they learned to everyday club functioning. "When members feel that there is a safe environment in which to participate, they will share ideas. Everyone should share in assessing success and offering feedback for moving forward," says Ungar. What happens after that is up to the club. Ungar adds, "The good news is that it's just an exercise. The bad news is that it's just an exercise. It won't necessarily change anything long term, but it can be a foundation for change."

—Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Team Building: Try It

To improve communication:

Blind Numerical Order

Blindfold all the participants. Whisper a number to each of them (do not allow other participants to hear). Once every participant has a number, instruct them to arrange themselves in numerical order without speaking or the use of sight.

To improve teamwork:

Human Machines

Have small groups create machines out of humans by imitating the appearance and action of the machine. Examples include becoming a blender, lawn mower, copy machine or washing machine.

To build trust and communication skills:

Back-to-Back Drawing

Divide the group into pairs sitting back-to-back. Give one person in each pair a picture of a shape, and give the other person a pencil and paper. Have the people holding the pictures give verbal instructions to their partners on how to draw the shape. After they've finished, ask each pair to compare their original shape with the actual drawing and discuss.

Find more activities in LCI's "Ice Breakers, Team Building Activities and Energizers" guide.

Lions Have a Doggone Good Time

Lions in Colchester, Connecticut, have a serious case of puppy love. Why wouldn't they? For the last 17 years, their fall Pumpkins 'n' Pooches festival has been the single biggest one-day fundraiser they sponsor. "Our net earnings average around \$5,500 each year," says Charlene Picard, who began organizing the event only a year after she joined the club.

"Charlene is passionate about Lions and her dogs, and she and her husband, Paul, [also a Lion] have raised 11 dogs for guide dog schools since 1993, including her current puppy, Wanda, from Freedom Guide Dogs in upstate New York," Marie Salpietro points out. "Not only does this event raise a significant amount of money for our charitable efforts, but also the exposure for our club is incredible. It's held on the town green and residents of Colchester look forward to it year after year."

Lions display brochures and information about their 103-member club as well as promoting other district activities. "We had representation from Freedom Guide Dogs, Independence Guide Dogs and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Search and rescue dogs were there as well," says Salpietro.

Lions operate two food concession stands. "We make money on vendor fees and food sales," explains Picard. Last year, there were 70 vendors selling commercial goods as well as arts and crafts.

There are costumed and non-costumed categories for dogs, who happily wander the grounds with their owners. "Pumpkins 'n' Pooches is a celebration of our relationships with dogs. Although you may occasionally hear dogs barking, people are really good about keeping their dogs under control, and we've never had an all-out altercation," she emphasizes. There are contests for the best-costumed pooch and best kisser, waggiest tail, furriest, biggest ears, best trick and smallest and largest. There's even a Frisbee and freestyle contest that Picard describes as "dancing with your dog."

The contests aren't without a bit of doggie drama. "Sometimes a dog gets stage fright and the handler is doing his or her darndest to get their dog to kiss them or wag their tails." One year, Picard recalls, "a man with a yellow lab squatted down to get ready for his dog's smooch. The dog jumped up, gave him a hug and knocked him to the ground, covering his face with kisses. He was the winner hands down—no question!"



A contender for the "Best Kisser" award gives it his all.

The Wheel Story

Bedford Township Lions in Michigan sleep better at night knowing that because of their actions children and babies are sleeping safely in their own beds. They support a local program that has so far donated more than 2,000 twin beds or cribs since a single mother asked a church 12 years ago for a bed. After fulfilling that first request, the church established a program to help other children in need sleep securely.

The nonprofit Bed Race to Aid Children began six years ago to help buy beds for Monroe County children in need. It costs \$200 to register a bed for the competition. The organization provides discarded hospital beds, usually decorated by contestants for maximum spectator amusement. Last year, Lions beat more than 40 other teams to the finish line with a time of 45:87 seconds. Lion Garnet Francis, wearing a rented lion costume, rode atop the decorated conveyance pushed by Lion Toby Sass and three friends.

Francis is game to keep competing. "I've always ridden on the bed in costume. I got the honor because I'm the small-



Lion Garnet Francis hangs onto the Bedford Township Lions Club's entry in the bed race while being pushed to the finish line.

est Lion in the club," she says. The race, chaired by Lion Kim Hooper, raised more than \$30,000 in 2012. "It's hard to believe there are children in our community who are sleeping on the floor. Our club donates \$3,000 annually to this bed program," says Francis, club treasurer.

27th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Peace, Love and Understanding



Encourage the youth in your community to express their feelings of peace, while gaining exposure for your club. Participate in this year's Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

Start now. Purchase a 2014-15 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2014, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



CALL 1-800-710-7822

To order online visit the Lions Store (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit) at www.lionsclubs.org or download the order form (PR-785).

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Fort Wayne Central Lions** in **Indiana** continued their more than 80-year holiday bell ringing tradition for the Salvation Army.

The **Avon Lions** in **Ohio** raised \$1,025 through bell ringing for the Salvation Army. The Lions also sponsored a field trip for young adults with developmental disabilities to the Cleveland Aquarium.

In **Wisconsin**, the **Washington Island Lions** helped a school basketball team travel to a tournament.

The **Spokane Central Lions** in **Washington** held their annual holiday dinner for 30 children from Big Brothers Big Sisters and provided gifts and groceries for 13 families in need.

For the past 19 years the **Kingston Nova Scotia Lions** in **Canada** have served a Christmas Eve breakfast to the community to show appreciation for their support. Last year they served 705 people and raised \$2,715.

The **Wood Ridge Lions Club** in **New Jersey** hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for 350 residents from a neighboring community whose homes were flooded and severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

The **Whiting Lions** in **Indiana** held their 29th annual Christmas party for ill and disabled children.

In **Virginia**, the **Cave Spring Lions** planted 50 white pine seedlings at an elementary school.

The **Smithton Lions** in **Illinois** purchased a scanning and reading machine for a blind individual. They also sponsor eye screenings and glasses for schoolchildren.

The **Milwaukie Lions** and partners in **Oregon** provided holiday food and toy baskets for more than 620 families.

Over the past seven years the **Lake Tomahawk Lions** in **Wisconsin** have collected and processed 84,000 pairs of eyeglasses for distribution to developing countries.

The **Sun Prairie Lions** in **Wisconsin** are reading monthly to kindergarten students.

The **Dover Noon Lions** in **Ohio** had a successful annual food drive, collecting enough food to provide 1,000 meals.

The **Columbus Southeast Lions** in **Ohio** have been supporting a community learning center for 20 years to help fight illiteracy.

The **Barre Lions** in **Vermont** have been active in their community since 1938. The club raises an average of \$17,000 annually to help the deaf and those with vision impairments. They donate funds and equipment to a medical center, school for the deaf, summer camp and many other causes.

In **Texas**, the **Alamo Heights Lions Club** and the recently chartered San Antonio University of Incarnate Word Campus Club worked together to staff concession stands at a high school football game and coordinate a rummage sale.

The **Burgeo Lions** in **Newfoundland, Canada**, held a special Bingo fundraiser for an 11-year old boy with a neurology disorder to help with medical expenses.

The **Miami Managua Lions** in **Florida** held a blood drive with 25 people donating blood.

The **Kreutz Creek Valley Lions** in **Pennsylvania** erected a new Lions club sign.

The **Lionville Lions Club** made a \$1,000 donation to the **Pennsylvania**

Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The **Tioga-Nichols** and **District 20 E2 Lions** in **New York** provided books to 350 elementary school students.

The **Solvay-Geddes-Camillus Lions** in **New York** held their 54th annual Palm Sunday pancake breakfast.

CALENDAR

2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

MEMBERSHIP FOCUS: WOMEN

Feb. 1:

International Peace Poster contest winners will be notified on or before this date

Feb. 2-5:

Faculty Development Institute – Africa (Tunis, Tunisia)

Feb. 3-5:

Advanced Lions Leadership Institute – Africa (Tunis, Tunisia)

Feb. 6-9:

Africa Forum (Tunis, Tunisia)

Feb. 8-10:

Advanced Lions Leadership Institute – Constitutional Area IV: Europe (Budapest, Hungary)

Feb. 15:

36th Annual Lions Day with the U.N.

Feb. 28 - March 4:

Board of Directors Meeting (San Diego, California, USA)

INFORMATION

2012-2013 LEO OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Leos are an inspiring bunch of young leaders with the enthusiasm and determination to serve tirelessly. LCI is proud to honor 23 Leos in 13 countries with the 2012-2013 Leo of the Year Award. These youths use outstanding leadership skills, lead successful service projects, demonstrate the highest ethical integrity and participate in community and school causes beyond their Leo clubs. Congratulations to these exceptional Leos (listed by name, club and country/state) for their superior achievements and dedication to serving.

Tanjung Arum, Malang Arrow, Indonesia; Guy Bailey, Hillsboro, Ohio; Dalton Cesar De Oliveira, Uberaba, Brazil; Sangam Deep Srestha, Biratnagar Central, Nepal; Cagatay Ersahin, Barbaros, Turkey; Ami Ishii, Kimitsu, Japan; Evan Jenkins, Seal Beach Host, California; Arjuna Kapila Mahadeva, Wattala, Sri Lanka; Shinya Kawakami, Nagoya East, Japan; Katharine Lange, Lebanon, Connecticut; Nohemy Margarita Gutierrez Monroy, Colima Juventus, Mexico; K. Nikita, Visakhapatnam Greater, India; Satu Pamilo, Helsinki Unlimited, Finland; Norbert Racz, Oradea Veritas, Romania; Denis Roberth Dos Santos, Bastos, Brazil; Leah Seader, Bethlehem-Center High School, Pennsylvania; Jace Skalicky, Piney Woods, Texas; Savannah Steinly, Catocin High School, Maryland; William Thomas, Richard Hardy Memorial School, Tennessee; Deon Van Wulven, De Tyger, South Africa; Bobby Wong Cheng Yung, Singapore Alumni, Singapore; Matthew Zaborowski, Bloomfield, New York; Katherine Zhao, Edison-East Brunswick, New Jersey.

Watch a fun video on Leos in Portugal who give out free hugs.



DESSERT STORM

Cathy Flook, 2012-13 president of the CouderSport & Area Lions Club in Pennsylvania, takes a break at the dessert table at her club's Chili for Charity, which raised funds for a food bank, a senior center and Wounded Warriors. Want to be in the LION? Just send us a photo of you with the LION, whether you're at the pyramids in Egypt, the Great Wall of China, a café or street scene overseas or even an interesting location close to home. Send the picture along with your name, Lions club, hometown and photo description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org.



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THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Friends Are a Heartbeat Away

When 40-year-old John Adinolfi suddenly went into cardiac arrest in 2010, four minutes passed until he was resuscitated. Doctors initially thought he had experienced a heart attack. Until that moment Adinolfi, a heavy crane operator in Valparaiso, Indiana, had been a picture of perfect health. Genetic tests revealed that he had Brugada syndrome, a life-threatening, incurable heart rhythm disorder. Tests on his children showed that his son, Zack, also has the rare syndrome. While John had a defibrillator implanted, 4-year-old Zack was too young for the procedure and needed an external defibrillator, which the family could not afford. John now lives with brain damage and is unable to work, and his wife Janis had to quit her job to care for her family. When Janis shared her story with the Valparaiso Lions, they made sure that Zack received his urgently needed portable defibrillator. The Adinolfis still live with stresses and struggles, but the Lions' gift has provided them with some comfort and peace of mind.



Q&A: Janis Adinolfi

LION Magazine: How is Zack doing?

Janis Adinolfi: He's doing great. Although cardiac arrest can happen at any moment, he hasn't had any incidents yet. We try to keep things as normal as possible for him. He always has his defibrillator, and someone trained to use it with him. He's able to go to grandma's house and play with other kids, and he started kindergarten this year.

LM: Does Zack understand his condition?

JA: We've told Zack he has a heart box because sometimes his heart doesn't feel good. We want to be honest with him but only tell him what he needs to know or asks. We don't want him to live life worried or paranoid, but to be a normal kid and have the best life he can.

LM: Does having the defibrillator relieve some of the stress for you?

JA: Yes, definitely. As a mom, it's your job to protect your kids. But when you have a situation like this, it adds so much stress and can wear you down. Knowing the defibrillator is always there just in case could literally be life-saving. If anything happens there's only a three-minute response time, but I just know in my heart that Zack is going to be OK. I am forever grateful to the Lions.

LM: It feels good to have friends like the Lions.

JA: With both my husband and son being very sick and incurable, you find out fast who your friends are. Someone told me your true friends will stay with you through it all. The Lions are those kinds of friends. I can't ever repay them, but I'll tell them thank you over and over for as long as I can.

To learn more about Brugada syndrome, visit www.brugada.org.

John and Zack Adinolfi are both living with Brugada syndrome.

Photo courtesy of Jon L. Hendricks/The Times Media Co.

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

ROAR OF APPROVAL



Past International Director **Floyd Miller**, a member of the Twin Falls Lions Club in Idaho, received the Governor's Brightest Star Award for "improving the lives of children and families" from Idaho Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter. Shown with Idaho's First Lady Lori Otter (left) and Boise Vista Lion Deanna Rostock, Miller was honored for his role in initiating a youth horseback riding project and an adventure program in addition to helping promote Leo clubs.

Stafford Lion **Dr. Vernon Roubush** serves beyond his own community as a member of the Arizona State Parks board. Because of his proposal to include Braille narratives on more public exhibits, a 2-feet by 3-feet Braille map of the state has been molded into bronze and placed on display at Kitchener Cavern State Park, 45 miles southwest of Tucson. Major cities, highways, mountains, rivers and the territorial boundaries of California, Utah and New Mexico are identified in Braille and scaled for accuracy. Roubush says the effort took two years and cost several thousand dollars, but that the map has been "very well received" by both sighted and non-sighted visitors to the park.

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Continued from page 53

Bensalem Lion **Al Miguez Sr.**, owner of Al's Sewing Center, donated more than \$3,000 worth of sewing machines, notions, craft supplies and eyewear accessories to the Bucks County Association for the Blind in Pennsylvania.

Loranna Tate was honored with a Membership Award pin for recruiting new members for the Lake Wales Lions Club in Florida. In 1993 Tate was one of the first two women inducted into the New Cumberland Lions in West Virginia by Tate's late husband, Jack Harris. Harris, a district governor at the time, tragically died in a car accident in 1996 while the two were headed to a district conference. Tate carried on her husband's legacy, and the Lions helped her through that difficult time. Tate now divides her time between the New Cumberland and Lake Wales Lions.

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INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY 2014

95 Years: Okmulgee, Okla.

90 Years: Ashland, Ky.; Biloxi, Miss.; Christopher, Ill.; Daytona Beach, Fla.; Eugene Downtown, Ore.; Gunnison Valley, Utah; Harrison, Ark.; Nevada, Mo.; St John, Kan.; Tampa Downtown, Fla.; Utica, N.Y.; Venice Marina LAX, Calif.

85 Years: Angola, Ind.; Coolidge, Ariz.; Fremont, Ohio; Greenwood, S.C.; Junction City, Ore.; La Grange, Ga.; Maysville, Ky.; Mount Vernon, Wash.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Tiffin, Ohio; Walla Walla Downtown, Wash.

80 Years: Charlestown, Ind.; Lavenia, Ga.; Libertyville, Ill.; Pocomoke City, Md.

75 Years: Bayamon, P.R.; Bennington, Vt.; Borden, Ind.; Casey, Ill.; Chandler, Ariz.; Conroe Noon, Texas; Dandridge, Tenn.; Delray Beach, Fla.; Fulton, Miss.; Goldsboro Host, N.C.; Greenville Host, N.C.; Hatfield, Penn.; Johnson City, Texas; Kinston, N.C.; Madison County, Va.; Madisonville, Tenn.; Napanee, ON, CAN; New Lexington, Ohio; Parker, Ariz.; Pompano Beach, Fla.; Robbinsdale, Minn.; Rockwell City, Iowa; Sevierville, Tenn.; Sussex, Wis.; Waterloo, Iowa; Whitewater, Wis.

50 Years: Bellflower Noon, Calif.; Cleveland, Mo.; Cochrane, AB, CAN; Miami Lakes, Fla.; Montmartre Dist, SK, CAN; Mountain, Calif.; Phoenix Biltmore, Ariz.; Post Falls, Idaho; Redding Breakfast, Calif.; Richmond District, ON, CAN; Ridgedale, Ohio; Serena, Ill.; Sherman County, Ore.; Smithers, BC, CAN; St. Joseph, Minn.; Sulphur Springs, Ind.; Villa Nevarez, P.R.; Wingo, Ky.

25 Years: Brookville Area, Ind.; El Reno Canadian Valley, Okla.; Gre-sham Supper, Ore.; Hanover Town-ship, Pa.

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 OCTOBER 2013

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Les Walker, Seminole, Okla-homa

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Maurice Dosdall, Pay-nesville, Minnesota
- Lion Donald Zimmerman, Sykesville, Pennsylvania
- Lion Betty Wilsey, Mansfield, Washington
- Lion Norma Callahan, Volusia County, Florida
- Lion R. K. Scovil, Umatilla, Florida

- Lion Ronald Gorman, Oak Flats, Australia
- Lion S. M. Hafiz Al Ashad, Dhaka Green Earth, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Hm. Haque, Dhaka Moti-jheel Orchid, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Jitendra Singh, Agra Adhar, India
- Lion Navneet Seth, Qadian Action, India
- Lion R. Murugesan, Chennai Golden Valasaravakkam, India
- Lion R. Christopher Jeyaselan, Melur Supreme, India

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

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LAST ROAR

Photo by Whitney Miyahira



SOCKS FOR SISTERS

Samantha Fukushima (from left) of the La Pietra Leo Club in Hawaii, Leo Adviser Teresa Bryan of the Kamehameha Lions Club and Christine Nguyen of the Sacred Hearts Leo Club feel uplifted about collecting socks for girls in Afghanistan. Three Leo clubs began the Socks for Sisters program after the Leos learned that schools are unheated in Afghanistan. This photo should have run on page 25 in the January issue in the story on how female Lions and Leos help women and girls. The LION regrets the error.



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