

LION



Lions Clubs International

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Peak Performers

No Sight, No Problem:
The inspiring stories of
five true visionaries



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A Message From Our President



Barry J. Palmer
Lions Clubs
International President

Dream It and Then Do It

Erik Weihenmayer always has looked like the boy next door. He has an open face, a flop of hair and a ready smile. But a fire burned inside him: he didn't move mountains but he did climb them. He's scaled the tallest peak on the seven continents including the mighty Mount Everest. **In fact, he was the first blind person to summit Everest.**

The cool thing about Erik is that he shares his gifts. He works with blind skiers, wounded veterans and abandoned children so that they, too, can leap over barriers and gain the self-esteem and confidence that comes with great or daring feats.

In this issue we examine the remarkable lives of five people who are blind. Their disability does not define them. **What does define them is their courage, persistence and capabilities.** And their ability to follow their dreams.

This year I have urged Lions to Follow Your Dream. We can do so much more than we realize. *We can serve much more remarkably and wonderfully than we do.* I've seen it myself in my travels. On an incredible scale and in creative ways, Lions are enabling the blind, feeding the hungry and attending to victims of disasters. **Anne and I have been given a great gift this year: we've seen with our own eyes the scope and reach of Lions.**

I know that nearly every Lion serves admirably, giving of his or her time and talents. I appreciate and respect all you do. But perhaps you are climbing a hill and you can actually scale a mountain or two. *Go for the summit!* Follow Your Dream into the clouds and beyond where the sun shines with goodness and light and Lions are turning around lives forever.

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

Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President



Erik Weihenmayer reaches the top of majestic Mt. McKinley in Alaska.

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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.

POSTMASTERS

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

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



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Convention Countdown

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 4-8, 2014





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blindlight



THE BIG PICTURE

Love Without Borders

One of the world's foremost blind humanitarians, Sabriye Tenberken teaches Tibetan Braille to a young girl named Kungsang. A German native, Tenberken created a Braille script for the blind in Tibet and cofounded Braille Without Borders. (Full story on page 28.)

THE BIG PICTURE

Meat and Greet

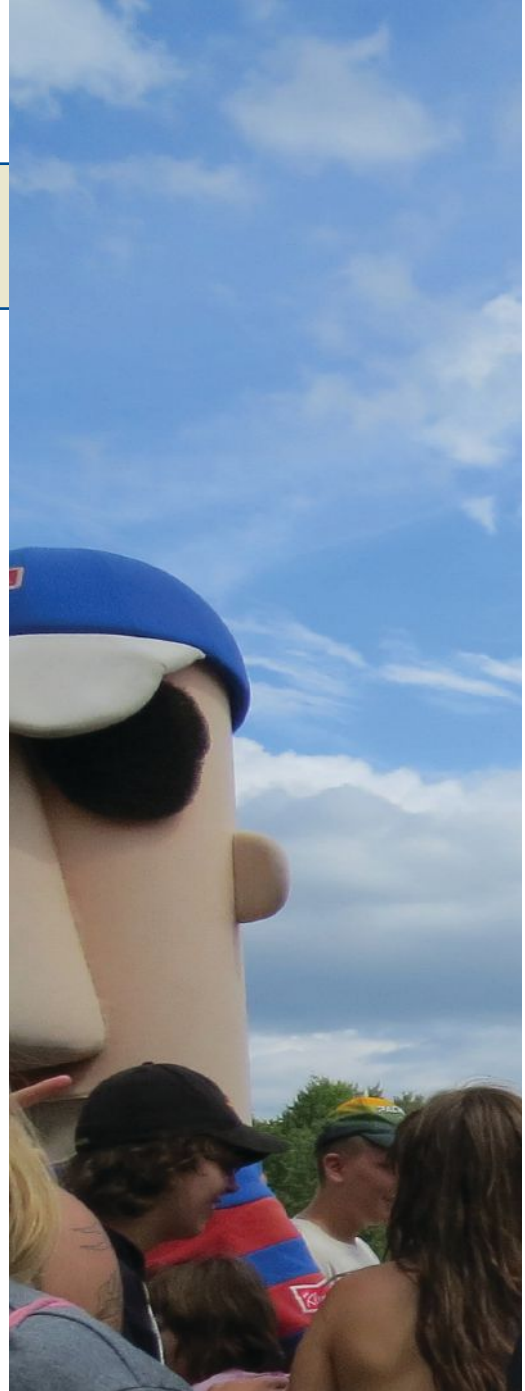
The mascots of the Milwaukee Brewers, the Klement's Racing Sausages mingle with youths at the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt. The camp offers an archery range, a climbing tower, a mud pit, a zip line and a beach for children and adults with disabilities. Campers also enjoy grilled hamburgers and hot dogs—but the racing sausages reportedly made a hasty exit before the coals were warm.

Rabid Ears and Eyes

Children keenly take in the sounds and sights of the Toronto Beaches Lions Easter Parade, a tradition in our 2014 international convention city since 1966. Nearly 50,000 people watch the parade in the Beaches neighborhood, known for its quaint architecture and wide sidewalks. Many community groups take part in the parade. But Lions are the kings of this jungle on parade day: the official parade guidelines stipulate “there is only one Easter bunny” and that is “the one provided by the Beaches Lions Club.”

Photo by Tara Walton/Toronto Star

Parades and Lions have always been a good mix, even as far back as nearly 75 years ago. See how Lions showed their pride in country and club just before World War II (October 1941 LION).





First Roar

NEPALESE BOY WINS CONTEST

Ashish Karki, 12, of Nepal is the grand prize winner of the 2013-14 Lions International Essay Contest for visually impaired youths. Ashish, who will receive \$5,000, will be honored in July in Toronto at the international convention. The contest's theme was "Our World, Our Future." Ashish's essay includes: "What will be in the future? I always ask myself this question. Nobody is responsible for us. The modern era is deeply rooted in self-centeredness, violence, crime and lack of certitude. To eradicate these tendencies we have to bring the light of peace, justice, brotherhood, responsibility and rational human behavior through education." The Kathmandu Ramechhap Lions Club sponsored Ashish. The award was announced in February in New York at Lions Day with the United Nations.



Ashish Karki



The P.S. 127 Middle School Chorus from New York performs at Lions Day with the United Nations.

U.N. DAY FEATURES NOTABLE SPEAKERS

A Nobel Peace Prize winner and a Lion who cofounded a Lost Boys group were among the speakers at the 36th Lions Day with the United Nations in February in New York. Adil Najam, who shared the 2007 Nobel with Al Gore, spoke on environmentalism, and Lion William Mou, who helped found Lost Boys Rebuilding Southern Sudan, reflected on his experiences and the importance of literacy and civic education. Also speaking were International President Barry Palmer; Usman Iftikhar, a sustainable development expert for the United Nations; Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Romania's U.N. ambassador; and Lion Wendi Dwyer of Illinois, who promotes literacy in Sudan. Four hundred Lions and guests attended the day.

CORNEAL TRANSPLANTS SAVE \$6 BILLION

Corneal transplants performed in the United States last year will result in nearly \$6 billion in total net benefits over the lifetime of the recipients, according to a study by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA). With a corneal transplant, a person avoids direct costs of vision loss such as higher routine medical costs and the indirect costs of potential years of lost productivity. Eye disorders are the fifth costliest to the U.S. economy after heart disease, cancer, emotional disorders and pulmonary conditions. More than half of all EBAA-member eye banks were founded by Lions Clubs.

DRUMHELLER SELECTED TO LEAD HEADQUARTERS

The International Board of Directors announced in March that attorney Scott Drumheller will lead Lions' headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, as executive administrator and secretary, effective April 1, 2014. He succeeds Peter Lynch, who retired as senior executive administrator because of health reasons. Drumheller joined Lions Clubs International in September 2003 as its general counsel, and he also served as secretary since 2006. Lynch now is serving Lions Clubs International as chief strategic adviser. "I would like to thank Peter for his dedication and outstanding service to the association and foundation over the past 24 years. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve the association in my new capacity," says Drumheller. Says Lynch, "I can't say enough about how pleased I am, with the board's blessing, to be handing over the baton to Scott. We are all very fortunate to have someone with his great abilities."

I Hate Annuities...and So Should You!

The Soothing Sound of Guaranteed Income

Many investors currently own or are considering annuities. After all, they are sold as safe investments, offering dependable and predictable returns, no matter what the market does. And that sounds very appealing, especially after suffering through the worst bear market since the Great Depression. So what's the problem with annuities?

What You Might Not Know about Annuities Could Come Back to Haunt You

Before you put your hard-earned money into an annuity, or if you already own one, please call 1-800-695-5929 for a special report, *Annuity Insights: Your Guide to Better Understanding Annuities*. It could help save you hundreds of thousands of dollars and untold financial heartache.

The vast majority of annuities are really complicated insurance policies that make it very difficult to fully understand the implications and unintended consequences. And once you buy into an annuity, it can be a very difficult and potentially very costly investment decision to reverse. That's why it is vital you "look before you leap" and ensure that you have "your eyes wide open" before you purchase an annuity. And if you already own an annuity, this free report is just as valuable as it can help you sort out the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of annuities.

What You'll Learn from this Free Report

- The different types of annuities and the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Why annuities can be complex to understand
- What you need to ask an annuity salesman when evaluating his product
- The inflation risk, tax implications, estate planning considerations and typical annuity fees

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This free report could save you from making one of the biggest investment mistakes of your life. And for owners of annuities, the free analysis could be a life saver.

Ken Fisher

Ken Fisher

– CEO and Co-Chief Investment Officer, Fisher Investments

– *Forbes* "Portfolio Strategy" columnist for 29 years

– Author of 10 financial books, including four *New York Times* bestsellers



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Craig Aucoin (right) joins hands with cycling partner Lloyd McClean while they hold their custom-made recumbent tandem bicycle.

Find out more about the ride at craigivesback.ca.

CRAIG AUCOIN

When Craig Aucoin lost his sight as a teenager from retinitis pigmentosa, he fell into a deep depression. Struggling with hopelessness and anger, he gained weight and felt lost. But thanks to some instrumental services and people in his charming waterfront community of Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada—most notably the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), the YMCA and Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind—Aucoin turned his life around. Now 38, he's an independent, accomplished triathlete who can cook up a storm. Last summer, Aucoin jumped at the chance to use his love of bicycling for a fundraising ride across Canada. Although things didn't go as planned, this Pictou Lion continues to inspire as he pedals through life.

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.

What made you turn your life around?

After high school, I was depressed, unhealthy and angry. I went to the school for the blind in Halifax, and things started to change. I met inspiring role models, learned skills and boosted my confidence. The CNIB gave me a laptop, and I could use the Internet. I gained freedom with a guide dog. A new YMCA opened near home. I began exercising, lost weight and was hooked!

You had quite a series of life-changing experiences.

Those organizations and people saved my life. When I finally accepted my blindness, it was like being reborn. I did things I never thought I'd do, like going to cooking school. The CNIB provided a talking scale, an aid and other tools. Now I love to cook healthy food every day.

What was that first triathlon like?

I wasn't sure if I could do it, but my buddy and volunteer at the Y believed I could. I was dead last, but I never gave up. When we crossed the finish line and I heard cheering, I had goose bumps! We did seven triathlons together.

How did the Craig Gives Back-2-Back Cross Canada Bicycle Tour come about?

My friend Lloyd McClean had on his bucket list to ride across Canada. I was really excited that he asked me to join him. We trained for a year! In addition to being a personal challenge, we made the ride a chance to give back to three of the organizations that changed my life.

Unfortunately, you were injured early in the ride.

I had a bad knee injury, and I had to drop out to heal. It was really hard to do, but someone was able to take my place. I rejoined them for the latter part of the ride.

And you were able to give back?

Yes, I'm so glad we raised \$10,000 [US\$9,048] for the charities. I used to be weak, but thanks to the help I received, I'm strong. I want to help other people become strong too.

Watch a video on Aucoin's ride.

A Patriotic Celebration of John Wayne, American Hero

Salute a true American Hero

In his classic Westerns Duke symbolized what an American hero should be. He showed his true colors—red, white, and blue—with every role he played on the silver screen. Now The Bradford Exchange celebrates Duke's patriotism and pride with "Trails of Glory."

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★ American flag evokes Duke's patriotic spirit

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CLUB of the MONTH



The Lions gather in a motivational huddle, paint rollers in hand, at the start of a graffiti cleanup day.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

YEAR FOUNDED: 2012

MANAGING MEMBERSHIP: Membership unavoidably fluctuates along with the student population, so the Lions keep up on recruitment throughout the year to maintain their sizeable club—currently at 108 members—by handing out flyers, networking through Facebook and inviting potential members to fun events.

EVENTFUL MEETINGS: Every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., auditorium doors open for Lions to mingle until the meeting start time of 6 p.m. After hearing Lions' news items, answering Lions' trivia questions and receiving the weekly "Lions Mission"—goals ranging from having lunch with a fellow Lion to taking part in that week's fundraising event—the Lions participate in an ice-breaker activity to build community and boost energy for the meeting.

SYMPHONY OF SERVICE: Putting their many musical talents to good use, Lions perform regularly at nursing homes. The Lions Orchestra inspires their senior citizen audiences to clap, smile and dance as they perform crowd-pleasing melodies.

KEEPING AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL: The Lions conduct restoration projects at a creek a couple of times each semester.

They also clean up unsightly graffiti around town, plant trees at the university's tree nursery, pick up litter at a lake and tend to vegetables and plants at a small farm on campus.

SERVICE WITHOUT BORDERS: The Lions raise awareness and funds for global causes through Operation H.E.R.E. (Help Establish Relief Everywhere). Last year they raised more than \$1,000 through a bake sale, fried rice lunch sale and a volleyball tournament for Sower of Seeds, which fights human trafficking in Asia.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: On any given weekend, energetic and eager Lions can be found caring for animals at a shelter, helping refugees with job searches, tutoring children or serving lunch at a soup kitchen. These busy Lions logged more than 2,000 service hours last semester alone.

WHY BE A LION? "There is one word that lies at the threshold of being a person with good intent, and being a true Lion: action. It's taking what you have to give, and actually doing something about it. That is what it means to be a Lion."
— Lion Jennifer Chavarria

Watch an entertaining recruitment video created by the University of Texas Lions.

OVERHEARD

"I hear it!"

—Jeremy King, 6, blind since birth, just before pouncing on a blue, beeping Easter egg in a hunt sponsored by Smithfield Lions Club in Virginia and 23 other clubs in District 24. From the Daily Press.

"Yeah, we threw about \$27,000 into the Conococheague. When that happens, people are bound to get interested."

—Dave Rotz of the Chambersburg Lions in Pennsylvania on the large turnout for his club's annual trout derby. From the Chambersburg Public Opinion.

"I think if you're the type of person who wants to join the Lions it's because you're the type of person who wants to do it. Either you're a Lion or you're not. There is no in-between."

—Faye Mirr, zone chairperson and member of the Wauwatosa Lions in Wisconsin, in the Wauwatosa Now.

BY THE NUMBERS



32

Years that Bedford Township Lions in Michigan have met at Erie Restaurant. Last year members dined on fried chicken for \$6, the same meal and price as 30 years ago.

55

Residents who attended a candidates' forum co-sponsored by Benson Lions in Arizona.

Place of Advait "Adi" Patel, 9, of West Virginia among 5,300 competitors, the largest in chess history, in the Super Nationals in Tennessee. Logan Lions near his home then helped pay for his travel expenses to the World Youth Championship in the United Arab Emirates.

2



8

Youths with disabilities who learned to "sit ski" thanks to skis made possible by Whitefish District Lions in Ontario, Canada.

15.5

Height in feet of a two-sided clock tower donated to the borough by Hasbrouck Heights Lions in New Jersey.

10

Energy-efficient flat screen computer monitors donated to the library by Augusta Lions in Kansas.



150

Seniors treated to a turkey dinner and live music at the annual winter event of the Millbury Lions in Massachusetts.

2

Batting cages for youth baseball teams donated by West Salem Lions in Wisconsin.

68 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

MAY 1946

Will Terry, a past international director, and his wife accept the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, for their son, Seymour, killed on Okinawa a year earlier. The Army lieutenant ran through a hail of bullets to destroy five pillboxes with grenades and then singlehandedly successfully assaulted another enemy position before a mortar shell killed him.

[Read the full story.](#)



Thank You, Veterans of Many Wars



Photo by Jake Morgan

Visitors to the veterans' memorial in Toledo, Washington, view the names of those who've served their country.

Brick by brick, Lions in Toledo, Washington, are showing their appreciation for the military service of men and women who have served their country. Jake Morgan, who joined the club in 2011 and whose father, Mike, is president, says, "I see a lot of familiar names when I visit our veterans' wall, including three Morgan family members who served in World War II.

"When I see the more than 300 names on our wall of honor, it reminds me that every veteran who served our country is important, just as any brick wall is more than the sum of its bricks."

Lions are passionate about honoring those who've served. "We Lions feel that our veterans need more praise and feeling of reconnection," points out Bob Schmid, who served in the Navy in the 1950s. He and his brother Ron, of California, both have purchased engraved bricks.

Lions built the freestanding wall without the help of state, federal or grant funds. They cut and sold firewood, manned fireworks stands, held a three-day Cheese Days festival, and are still selling bricks at \$100 each. Lion Kendall Richardson volunteered his time and construction company to help build the wall and landscape its surrounding area. "This wall will withstand anything, including high flood waters," Richardson says. It's built to last, and the reinforced

foundation wall will support more weight as additional bricks are added. The names of living or deceased honorees, dates of service and insignias of the appropriate military branches in which each served are laser-inscribed on each medium-red brick.

The names cover a lot of history and many conflicts. A soldier named Norman Burbee is recognized for fighting in the Washington Indian Uprising of 1855. One honoree is a Civil War Union soldier named Brigham Buswell. Another is a local man who disappeared in Laos in 1968. "I've found that the reaction of people seeing their own names or the names of loved ones is somber. Some place their hands on the brick, some stare and some walk around reading the writing on the bricks, enjoying the history that comes with them," Schmid points out.

While the wall has room for 2,000 bricks eventually, so far there are only a few hundred in place. The entire wall cost approximately \$20,000 to build in the city's centrally located Kemp Olson Memorial Park. Schmid says Lions do most of the maintenance and landscaping work themselves, so it's an ongoing project. "The Toledo Lions love building projects," adds Morgan. "It's our way of saying thank-you to all veterans, past and present." For further information, visit www.toledolionsclub.org/veteranswall.html.

Trees to Stand Tall Again

Once among the most prolific trees growing throughout the eastern part of the United States, American chestnut trees have dwindled from many millions to a few thousand because of a fungal blight that first began in the early 1900s. When members of the Frederick, Maryland, Lions Club were asked to participate in a tree planting effort coordinated by the Appalachian Laboratory, part of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, they immediately agreed.

American chestnut trees, as tall as 100 feet, were once desired as a top lumber source, and the chestnuts were prized as a nutritional treat. Environmentalists are now trying to reintroduce the species, once known as the “Redwood of the East,” to its native habitat. “The geographic area in which District 22 W Lions are was once the heart of the American chestnut range in Maryland. The seeds and seedlings used for this particular project come from four surviving trees in Maryland,” says Frederick Lion Joe Foster. Other district clubs also participated.

The Citizens Restoring the American Chestnut project is designed to learn how seedlings and seeds survive in a variety of terrains. “Semi-annually, the new tree owners, about 140 strong, will let the Appalachian Lab know when the first leaves are seen, when they change color and when they drop. Other physical characteristics will be recorded with the location of each tree mapped on a global view computer network,” Foster explains.

Foster and his local church joined forces to plant four seedlings and four seeds on church grounds. “The hope is to come up with a blight-resistant American chestnut. There was no cost to participants for the trees and seeds,” he says. “The project depends on ‘citizen-scientists’ to monitor the trees for growth and endurance.”

To learn more about efforts to promote American chestnut trees, visit www.acf.org.



Photo courtesy of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)

A towering American chestnut tree in Jackson County, Tennessee, is marred by blight on its trunk.

Angling for Fun



A little girl happily shows off her catch of the day.

Since Lions are the only service club organization in the small community of Falls, Pennsylvania, John Headley says members keep extraordinarily busy either planning projects or carrying them out. Most focus on children. They sponsor an Easter egg hunt and Halloween and Christmas parties, but for the past four years a fishing tournament has been one of the most eagerly-awaited events. Just as many girls as boys bait their hooks and throw in their lines.

“We started by stocking trout in a local creek but decided to hold the event at a pond,” Headley says. They moved the tournament when they learned some parents wanted the shift for safety. Last year, 54 children and their families fished and enjoyed free hot dog lunches served by Lions. “During the four hours of the tournament there was a constant line of kids at the measuring station,” Headley says. Since Lions stocked the pond with hundreds of bluegills and largemouth bass, the youngsters were jumping as much as the fish. Many of the children quickly released their catch back into the pond, but several took their catch home to be cooked by parents.

The kids’ screams of excitement may have scared some fish away, but Headley says parents’ admonishments to cast their lines quietly had no effect on the enthusiastic anglers. “At the rate they were pulling in fish, the chatter and bantering became contagious enough that it quickly involved parents, too.”

Lions Work with Inmates

NEW ZEALAND: Inmates honed their carpentry skills, a Lions club raised funds for its charities and a family received a fanciful wooden playhouse. Those were the benefits of a three-way partnership between Manawatu Prison in New Zealand, the Feilding Lions and a school in Rewanui.

Inmates whose release is near built the A-frame playhouse in a construction course at Manawatu Prison. Members of the Feilding Lions Club, a 29-member club chartered in 1961, then partnered with Rewanui Kindergarten to auction the sturdy, Gothic-style mini-house.



Helen Allen and her grandchildren, Ella and Finlay, show off their new playhouse with Allan Muir, a prison construction lecturer.



Diana Chinello can't wait to take her princess home.

Clubs Help Babies Survive

ROMANIA: Clara Maria weighed just 800 grams (1.75 pounds) when born at 29 weeks on Feb. 3 to Diana Chinello, 34, of Romania. Her baby's precarious health was particularly heart-wrenching to her because she suffered a miscarriage of twins two years ago.

Fortunately, little Clara Maria was one of the first beneficiaries of a sophisticated ventilator donated by Lions to the maternity ward at Timisoara County Hospital. The hospital had lacked key equipment to keep babies alive until Lions recently donated state-of-the-art medical equipment. The ventilator alone cost 18,000 euros (\$25,000).

Clara Maria remains under medical care. But her weight is up to 1,250 grams (2.75 pounds), and her outlook is promising. "We take it one day at a time. I can hardly wait to hold her in my arms and go home with our princess," says Chinello, who runs her own company.

Two Lions clubs in Timisoara, a city of 320,000 in western Romania, raised thousands of euros from a charity ball to help purchase medical equipment both for the Timisoara County Hospital and the Louis Turcanu Children's Hospital in Timisoara. The all-male Timisoara Lions Club counts 36 members, and 21 members belong to the all-female Timisoara Iris Lions Club.

In its 20 years the Timisoara Lions Club has saved or improved vision for many people. It financed a mobile vision van to do screenings and hand out eyeglasses in the countryside and sponsored a guide dog for a teacher at a school for the blind. The club also supports a senior home and feeds the hungry.

Both the clubs have doctors as members. "We contacted the hospital about their needs. It was a difficult choice because other projects were submitted to us, but we are convinced we made the right choice," says Misca Tomas Remus, president.



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



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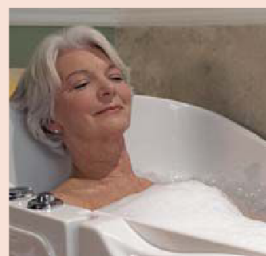
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Lions and the blind picked grapes all day to make wine.

HUNGARY: Two dozen blind people picked grapes for a day at a prestigious French-owned winery in Hungary's famed wine region, and the end result was 350 bottles of first-rate wine. Sales of the wine will buy tools and devices to make everyday life easier for the blind.

Peter Koleszar, vice president of the Miskolc Lions Club, has not drunk the wine yet, but the winery's winemakers have. "They told us: it was perfect," says Koleszar.

Forty-five Lions from five clubs labored in the Disznokó vineyard alongside the blind people including Lions from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. A Lion is the director of the vineyard, located in the Tokaj region in northeastern Hungary. The wine region was recognized as a World Heritage site in 2002.

The crew proved to be adept at their task, picking 700 kilograms of grapes (1,543 pounds) with a harvesting scissor. "It was very hard for them to work with the scissors. But our blind friends learned to use the tool very fast," says Koleszar.

Children who have endured long stays at hospitals designed the wine bottle labels as a pleasant artistic diversion. The wine will be sold at an auction. A bottle is expected to sell from \$15 to \$30.

Perhaps the best part of the Lions' project was the opportunity for the blind to enjoy the outdoors. "They enjoyed the day very well," says Koleszar. "Some of them smelt the fresh grape for the first time in their life."



A pleased entrepreneur stands aside her booth at the exhibition held by Lions.

Entrepreneurial Spirit Is in Fashion

SWEDEN: It was no accident that the Ostersund Brunkullan Lions Club ran a trade show for female entrepreneurs. Many of the 33 members of the all-women's club run their own businesses.

Twenty-eight companies involving interior design, jewelry, flowers, health foods, ceramics, fabrics, beauty products and the arts participated. "The turnout was more than we had hoped for. The exhibition was very successful," says Past District Governor Annica Nordell, who runs her own deli and catering business.

The club still held its traditional fashion show as part of the event as well as a display of the work of three artists. Lions called their daylong event Beautiful Sunday. Proceeds went to the Lions Cancer Research Fund at Umea University.



Bicyclists burn fat, not fuel.

Pedaling the Wheel of Health

INDIA: Before the dawn light hundreds of bicyclists hit the streets near Mumbai. Lions and traffic police lined the route to ensure the riders' safety or to encourage the riders. Altogether, more than 1,200 cyclists took part in the event, called Burn Fat, Not Fuel, and Drive the Wheel of Good Health.

The 16.4 kilometer ride (10 miles) was organized by the 176-member Juhu Lions Club, one of the most active clubs in the area. More than 100 Lions volunteered for the event, which raised funds from corporate sponsors, and an estimated 1,000 spectators watched the cyclists.

The Juhu Leo Club also recently caused a stir by sponsoring a movie for needy children in a multiplex. Nearly 200 children watched "Phata Poster Nikla Hero." The youths "munched popcorn and sipped that Pepsi," according to the club bulletin. "The children were dancing with complete joy after the movie."

The bike ride raised the visibility of Lions—a longtime concern of clubs. Learn how a Lions international president weighed in on public relations in the LION in 1965, the era of "Mad Men."

Irish Music Legend Aided Lions

Photo courtesy of Janet Dowd



Mick Lavelle

IRELAND: Friends and peers raised a pint to Mick Lavelle. He was a gifted musician and singer of traditional Irish music, a charming raconteur of boisterous stories and a loyal friend always ready with a word or two or three of advice or encouragement.

The local musical legend also was a friend of charity. For nearly 20 years he donated the proceeds of his tapes and CDs to the Westport Lions Club in County Mayo. After he died last year, the club held a night of music, dance and storytelling in his honor at Matt Mulloy's pub, where he sang and told stories nearly every night.

"We could have filled the room twice. But to keep it nostalgic we held it in the pub that Mick loved," says Joan Collins, president of the Westport Lions.

In his 80s when he died, Lavelle was most famous for his recording of "The Lotto," a song about a man who dreams he won the lottery. He often performed on television and radio in Ireland. Befitting his renown, he was crowned Ireland's King of the Culchies (country people) at the national Culchie Festival in 1991.

Westport Lions themselves travel in well-known circles. The club has co-sponsored the Mayo International Choral Festival and the International Rose of Tralee Festival, which gathers young women of Irish descent.

Matt Mulloy's is owned by the Chieftans, a well-known Irish band. The tribute to Lavelle drew more than 20 performing groups. The night ended at 1. "That was early by our standards, but it was held midweek," says Collins.



Bocelli says the obstacles he has overcome can inspire others.

True Visionaries

For five gifted people, being blind has not been a barrier to blazing new trails, serving others and forging hard-earned insights on the interconnection of all people.

by Katya Cengel

Andrea Bocelli

“What is given and taken is written in the book of Heaven,” insists Andrea Bocelli.

What was taken from him was his sight at age 12. What was given to him was a voice so extraordinary Celine Dion once compared it to how God might sound were he able to sing.

Bocelli long ago accepted both what he considers his gift and his loss with equal grace, using the former to propel himself to fame in both the classical and pop world while not allowing the latter to hold him back. At just 55, Bocelli has both a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for simultaneously capturing first, second and third place on the U.S. classical music charts. He has sung for the Pope and at Ground Zero, received numerous awards and honors and standing ovations that last as long as 20 minutes. His voice is so compelling that it is often described as a separate entity, as if it exists apart from the man. But if his full and powerful timbre was made for the stage, his persona is the perfect accompaniment: a thoughtful and well-spoken artist wrapped in romantic tragedy.

He is fond of saying that the way he lives his life can serve as an example of overcoming difficulties. “This is what I try to do every day, falling and getting up, a thousand times,” he told Ability magazine.

Born in Tuscany, Italy, Bocelli was raised on a farm surrounded by vineyards. He started playing the piano at age 6, later adding the flute and saxophone and finally his famous voice. Despite suffering from congenital glaucoma, he was able to see, albeit badly, until he was hit in the head by soccer ball when he was 12, and his world suddenly went dark.

Yet, as Bocelli explains, darkness is a visual sensation perceivable only by those who can see. “A non-seeing person cannot see ‘the darkness,’ just like a deaf person can-

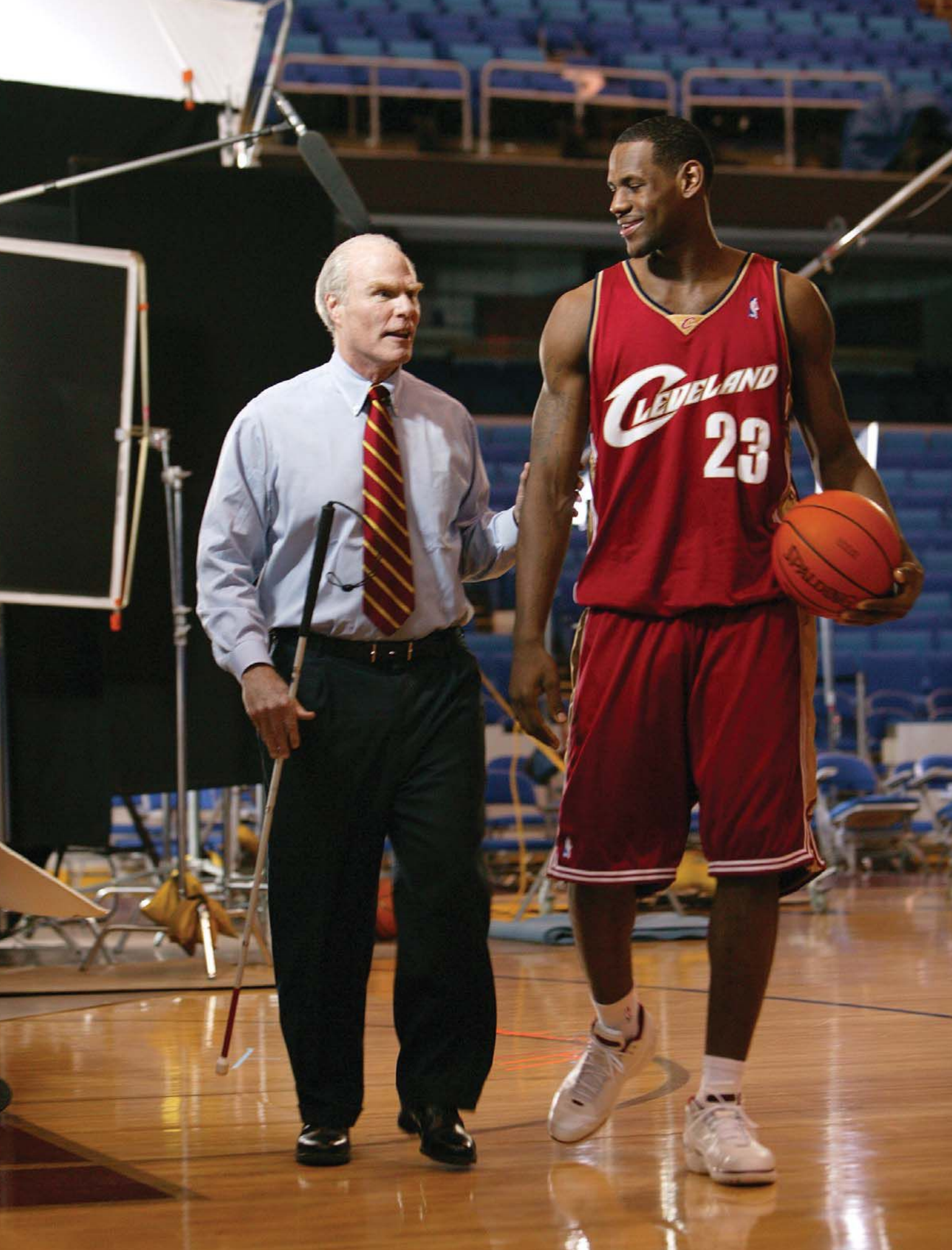
not hear the silence which is an auditory sensation as opposed to noise,” he says.

In some ways, lacking sight has made it possible for Bocelli to see more fully. For there is more to seeing than just what the eyes show you, he says. Ocular vision provides an overview, while touch and hearing offer individual selections. A concept that is sometimes hard for the sighted to comprehend, the image in our minds is the outcome of both physical and metaphysical input, he explains.

When you are blind everyday life means finding alternative ways to do simple tasks that sighted people can do without much thought. Accordingly, Bocelli says he feels a great solidarity with those with vision impairments. “I think I understand the stumbling blocks they have to overcome,” he says. Yet his good will also extends to the sighted. We are all human, he says. “I believe that we should all—blind and sighted—have a special affinity as human beings.”

The work Lions already do for the vision impaired—from research to prevention to providing services—is of “great importance,” says Bocelli. His goal with the Andrea Bocelli Foundation is to give back to blind people full and independent lives by helping them overcome the limits of their disabilities. Lions furthered the work of his foundation last summer in Hamburg at the international convention when Bocelli received the Humanitarian Award and its \$250,000 grant.

His own life has been far from empty. He studied law and briefly practiced it. He married and had two sons, and has since separated and had another relationship and daughter. And of course he sang—and still sings: the great arias mixed with popular music for which his albums are known. He performed in the opera the “Merry Widow” in 1999, at the New York Philharmonic in 2006 and at the Metropolitan Opera in 2011. “Singing is for me a sweet privilege, a medicine, a way to give lightness to life,” he says.



Gordon Gund

Gordon Gund, the former principal owner of the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers, has been around his share of prominent people including basketball superstar LeBron James. But it is another encounter that stands out in his memory—the one with Yannick Duwé. Duwé isn't a famous athlete, artist or leader. He isn't even an adult. He is a boy from Belgium who plays soccer, reads the blackboard at school and rides a bike—feats Gund calls “amazing.” Amazing because they are all things Duwé could not do before receiving gene therapy that helped restore his sight, therapy developed in part thanks to funding from the Foundation Fighting Blindness. As one of the founders of the nonprofit, Gund, who is 74, helped establish the world's largest private funder of research into treatments and cures for blinding retinal diseases.

Duwé was patient number six in the gene therapy trials Gund's organization helped fund. Meeting him was “really symbolic of what it's all been about,” says Gund. Being CEO of Gund Investment Cooperation, co-owning the San Jose Sharks professional hockey team, building a Cleveland arena—none of these accomplishments compare to restoring a child's sight. Since its founding in 1971, a year after Gund went blind from retinitis pigmentosa, the foundation has raised more than half a billion dollars, a majority of which goes toward funding research around the world.

More than 10 million people in the United States are affected by inherited retinal degenerative diseases that lead to blindness like the one from which Gund suffers. But when Gund was in his mid-20s and began to lose his sight, little research was being devoted to the topic. The foundation was a way for him and his wife, Llura, to transform his loss into something positive.

“The important thing about losing any sense ... is to remember it isn't the end of the world, it's the end of a certain part of it for you,” says Gund.

Instead of focusing on what you can't do, Gund believes you have to look at what you can. And there is a lot Gund can do. In addition to his business, sports and charitable endeavors, Gund is also a father of two, grandfather of six and successful sculptor. His pieces have been displayed at the Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey, the sculpture garden of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Cleveland Clinic. Sculpting allows Gund to be in touch with the world externally, to take things out of his head and put them in three-dimensional form. His animal figures capture the creatures at an instant in time: a dog stretching, a bird in flight, a fish in a circle. They are moments he recreates not from sight, but feel, something he is helped in by taxidermy samples provided by a local university near his home in Princeton, New Jersey.

Much of what Gund accomplishes is the result of collaboration with others. When you are blind you become dependent on those around you for even simple things such as moving around. You have to trust the people you are with to help you avoid unexpected obstacles. It is the same in business and philanthropy: you need a group to stand behind you. Gund's philanthropy troop includes close to 300 Lions clubs. Of the 52 fundraising walks the foundation holds around the country, Lions clubs participate in 33 of them. “It's a great pleasure for me to work with other people,” says Gund.

(Opposite page) LeBron James once was on Gund's payroll, but the former owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers is more impressed by the feats of the blind than by slam dunks.

Erik Weihenmayer

When he lost his sight at 13, Erik Weihenmayer's biggest fear was not going blind, but missing out on life. He imagined being swept to the sidelines and forgotten, eating Ramen noodles in the dark, forgoing experiences and relationships. "Nobody wants that," says Weihenmayer, a 45-year-old adventurer who lives in Golden, Colorado. "But blind people often times get derailed and that's their life."

It certainly hasn't been Weihenmayer's. In 2001 Weihenmayer became the first blind person to summit Mount Everest. He has climbed the tallest peak on each of the seven continents, competed in Primal Quest, known as "the most arduous adventure race in the world," and starred in ABC's "Expedition Impossible," a group race across Morocco's varied landscape. A former middle school teacher, Weihenmayer has led blind children and wounded veterans on daring expeditions and is currently training to kayak the Grand Canyon. He credits his accomplishments, the feats that have saved him from the life of a shut-in, not to his own will or skill so much as to those who have stood by him along the way.

"I had a great team. I had a great family—that was my team," declares Weihenmayer.

If there is a captain of that team it would be his father, Ed Weihenmayer. A former Marine attack pilot and football captain, Ed helped equip his youngest child, who was born with retinosis, with the mindset needed to view his blindness as a challenge to be overcome and not a barrier to stand in his way. After Weihenmayer's mother was killed in a car accident when he was 16, his father pulled the family together by taking Erik and his siblings on adventures in places like Machu Picchu, West Irian Jaya and Pakistan. He encouraged his son to wrestle at his high school in Connecticut and stood by later as he took on paragliding, ice climbing and parachuting.

"He has spent his years having a dream, thinking that's possible even for a blind person and then trying to figure out how to do it," says Ed.

When Weihenmayer was told it was too dangerous to ice climb without being able to see the ice, he taught himself to determine its quality by listening to the pitch when he struck it. Even then he wouldn't have been able to ice climb if others hadn't supported his efforts, helping him plan, maneuver and carry out his escapades.

His whitewater rafting team includes Rob Raker, a filmmaker and Weihenmayer's kayak instructor; experts from a British company that designed specialized radios for them; and Weihenmayer's family: his wife, Ellen and children, Emma, 13, and Arjun, 11. With his teammates strategizing and supporting him, Weihenmayer can tackle things even sighted people shy away from. It is a system not unlike the one Lions use to battle blindness.

"I think Lions clubs in a lot of ways is that very team I'm talking about," says Weihenmayer. "You kind of come together in a collective vision that connects the team, glues the team. That in a way is like the fuel that drives the team forward."

Weihenmayer recognizes that not everybody is lucky enough to have family and friends as supportive as his own. Through the No Barriers organization he tries to create team environments for groups as diverse as wounded veterans and abandoned children so they too can summit mountains.

Recently he worked with a young boy who had been left in a trash can at birth. His own challenges paled in comparison to the boy's, Weihenmayer realizes. "I think that's probably the biggest deficit in your life, when you're born and from day one you see the world in a trash can," he says. "You don't trust the world, you don't believe in the world, you don't believe in the goodness of people, you have a feeling that you can make zero impact in the world. And that's a way, way bigger disability than just being blind."



Always ready for a challenge,
Weihenmayer (right) competes in an adventure race.





Runyan once could run with the swiftest.

Marla Runyan



When she ran professionally, Marla Runyan couldn't tell how many competitors were in front of her. Six? Twelve? Once the pack had spread out she lost track. In the United States it didn't matter. The two-time U.S. Olympian was usually in front. When she wasn't she could rely on the English-speaking announcer to call out placements. But in larger international races it was different. She wasn't always leading, and the announcer wasn't always speaking English.

Then she really was running blind, the first legally blind person to compete in the Olympics. She finished 8th in the 1500 meters at the 2000 Olympics and earned a gold medal in the same race at the Pan American Games the year before. She is also a three-time U.S. national champion in the 5000 meters.

Although she lacks central vision, Runyan has peripheral vision and can see things on her sides, above and below. She can see the ground she's running on. She just doesn't see it the way everybody else does. It is a concept sighted people often have trouble understanding, she says.

"In general if you say 'I'm blind' they know what that means," says Runyan, who is 44. "But they don't know what low vision means. They don't know what it means to have some vision."

Before she retired from running in 2006, journalists held fingers up, asking her how many she could see. People couldn't conceptualize her vision status and wanted to define what she could and couldn't do based on what she could and couldn't see, she says. That has never gone over well with Runyan, a fierce competitor who began losing her sight at age 9 to Stargardt disease, an inherited form of macular degeneration. For Runyan function and vision are separate entities.

"Because what you do and how you function is based on your own intrinsic motivation, it's based on how you concentrate, your skills and how hard you're willing to work—not how many letters you read or didn't read on an eye chart," she says.

The doctor who diagnosed her as a child in California informed her parents she wouldn't be able to do well in school, she wouldn't be able to compete in sports and she wouldn't be able to attend college. Runyan decided then and there she was going to prove him wrong. It was no longer enough to do well—she had to outperform her sighted classmates in the classroom and beat them on the field.

"I had been given this challenge. I kind of took it on and said, 'I'm going to show you. I'm going to prove to you that I can do this,'" says Runyan.

And she did. She obtained two master's degrees, competed in two Olympics and was the top American finisher in three marathons. In 2002 she married her coach, Matt Lonergan, and in 2005 gave birth to a daughter, Anna Lee. She now lives in Massachusetts where she teaches at Perkins School for the Blind, an institution whose famous former student Helen Keller challenged Lions to tackle blindness.

Runyan's own education was helped immensely by the closed circuit television a Lions club gave her in the fifth grade. It was her first visual aid and it made it possible for her to read her books again.

"I remember it pretty well," said Runyan. "At 10 years old I knew what Lions was."

Sabriye Tenberken

The hand was dirty and small. But it pushed into Sabriye Tenberken's own and led her where no one else in Mumbai, India, would: to the address she needed to find but could not see. The boy waited while she was inside. He was a street child who couldn't read or write, but he had taught himself perfect English by listening to a tiny radio a tourist had given him. Later Tenberken tried to give him something as well, to thank him. But he refused to take anything from the blind woman, telling her "you're one of us." It wasn't the first time a street child in a developing country had helped Tenberken. And it wasn't the first time a street child had refused payment.

"It was very sweet," recalls Tenberken, one of the world's foremost blind humanitarians. She now resides in southern India.

Street children relate to her because of their own marginalization: "not being in the mainstream of society, which actually is a beautiful way to bond," she says. Tenberken, who is 43, has a way of turning things on their head. Where others see the difficulty of traveling in developing countries—no chirping crosswalks or sidewalk ramps with tactile clues—she notes the ease of contacting people and the abundant non-visual indicators such as smells.

"Sometimes it smells like a public toilet," she says. "But then also there are smells of temples. There are smells of incense. There are smells of lots of flowers which are just given as a sacrifice. This is something that makes the whole surrounding very rich."

Tenberken was 12 when she went blind from a degenerative retinal disease. She was 22 when she developed a Tibetan script for the blind and 26 when she embarked on a solo trip to Tibet. Instead of being discouraged by obstacles, she is energized by them.

Upon discovering there were no tools to aid the blind in studying Tibetan, she created a Braille script which became the official writing system for the blind in Tibet. It took her two weeks. Later, when humanitarian organizations in her native Germany informed her she wasn't suited for work in developing countries she founded her own organization.

"It's always good to be forced to find new ways," she says. "I sometimes pity people for not having these pinching points, these barriers to overcome."

Her Centre for the Blind in Tibet was the first of its kind, offering education to blind children, long shunned in Tibet due to the belief that blindness was a punishment for the wrongs of past lives. It was in Tibet that she met her boyfriend and business partner, Paul Kronenberg. Together

they formed Braille Without Borders, which now encompasses the Tibetan program and Kanthari, an institute in Southern India which provides leadership training for innovators with ties to marginalized communities. In Tibet the program has expanded to include a massage clinic, a Braille book production center, a farm, a bakery and a music program all designed to educate and employ the blind.

"It is wonderful to work with a partner that also doesn't think in 'borders,'" Kronenberg wrote in an email. "This provides a very fertile ground for finding solutions fast and efficiently."



And with Tenberken those solutions, and the results, are bound to be surprising. One of the stories she likes to tell is that of a little boy in Tibet who one day declared how happy he was to be blind. His reasoning was that he was the only one in his family who could read and write, the only one in his village who could speak three languages fluently and the only one in the region who knew how to use the Internet, all things he had learned at the center where he went because he was blind.

For Tenberken blindness has its rewards as well. It improved her concentration, communication and ability to solve problems. “Blindness has a different life quality,” she

says. “And from my perspective I’m very, very grateful for everything that happened.”

That is the main message she wants the sighted world to understand, including Lions. From the beginning Lions clubs have supported her work financially, and she is grateful for all they have done. But Tenberken, typically blunt, also has a little advice concerning the program name “SightFirst.” “Sight first is a wonderful thing. But the blind are not last. We should never forget the blind,” she says. Still, she admires and respects Lions who have supported her efforts “again and again.”

Tenberken is one of the world’s foremost blind humanitarians.



From Cafes to Cubicles: A Bittersweet Look Back at the Lion Mint

by Kate Meadows

People visit Winterset for lots of reasons. The small Iowa town has more than a dash of glamor. Visitors gawk at the boyhood home of John Wayne, marvel at the covered bridges (Winterset is located in *the* Madison County and Clint Eastwood filmed here) and shop at a quaint quilt store owned by “two of the world’s best-known quilters,” according to the town’s website.

But when native Sheri Holliday was young she made a beeline to the nondescript Northside Café. She rummaged through her pockets, plucked down a quarter or two and clutched a roll of Lion mints, displayed on the counter by the register.

The mints were easy to spot, packaged in shiny paper that bore the Lions Club logo. A colored stripe indicated the flavor—green for wintergreen and blue for peppermint. The dozen nickel-sized candies had a distinctive taste, too: a zesty zing of mint and sugar, flavors easily welcomed on the tongue.

Holliday, now 49 and a proud Winterset Lion, was not the only one buying Lion mints back in the day. In the 1990s annual sales topped 10 million rolls. For years the candy was—pun intended—on a roll. The mints probably were the No. 1 candy product used by Lions worldwide to fund projects.

Things are different today. The mint is still a bestseller. But it’s sold differently and it’s no longer sold by one of its manufacturers. Times change. The mint remains popular,

but Lions have rolled with the punches, part of which involves an apparent decline in honorable behavior. Lions have made do, flexibly adapting to a changed membership, market and morality.

Holliday now is a seller, not a buyer, of mints. She works as a technology systems manager at Principal Financial Group in downtown Des Moines, a short car ride from Winterset. A counter? She doesn’t need no stinking counter to sell mints. She sells them hand over fist from her cubicle. Within one two-month span, she raked in more than \$100 in mint sales, and two of her co-workers now buy mints from her by the box.

Other Lions find similar success in peddling the mints. Gary Fry, the state secretary in Iowa, always travels with a roll or two in his pocket. Many of Iowa’s 350 Lions clubs are still involved in the mint program and do quite well, Fry points out. He says he has noticed an increase of mint orders at the Iowa state office.

The little mint powers important service. From sales of Lions mints alone, the Texas Lions Foundation boosted its bank balance by thousands of dollars in the mid-1980s. In Illinois, proceeds from street sales of the Lions mints during the annual Candy Days have boosted the funds of local clubs for decades. In Australia, mint sales generate \$15,000-\$35,000 per year.

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Daniel Osborne and his grandparents

Love Worth a Mint

Young Daniel Osborne, now a college freshman, eagerly squeezed the door handle as his family's car neared its destination and then rushed from the back seat when it finally stopped. Pa and Nana would be patiently waiting—invariably sitting outside their home on lawn chairs. Osborne knew his grandfather would take him to the pond to fish and to his woodshop to build wooden swords, shields or birdhouses. He adored Pa. "He invested his time and love to every person he interacted with. Most of all he gave me Green Mints," Osborne wrote in his senior essay in high school—the one he read at Pa's funeral a little more than a year ago.

Pa was Jim Bates, who marched home from the battlefields of World War II and worked from dawn to dusk as a home-builder and contractor. He and Rosemary lived in Indianapolis, and in 1969 he joined the Ben Davis Lions Club. He approached community service with the same gusto he applied to his job. "He worked hard for the Lions," recalls Rosemary.

The Green Mints were part of his identity—a way he showed his affection. Osborne cherished the ritual of seeing his grandfather. "As the hugs and kisses were exchanged, Pa would reach for my hand and place Lions Club's Green Mints inside," he wrote.

In perfect health, Bates, 88, died in his sleep Jan. 8, 2013. Club members "have been very helpful to me in the days since Jim's sudden passing," says Rosemary. At the funeral home, Lions placed heaps of Green Mints in bowls.

His widow was the last to say goodbye at the casket. She embraced him a final time and felt an odd bulge in his shirt pocket. She reached toward her husband and pulled out a package of Green Mints. His grandson had quietly placed it there. "It was the last package his Pa had given him," says Rosemary. "He put it there to go on to heaven with him."

—Jay Copp

The mints do much more than raise funds. "The purpose ... is to make a little money," acknowledges Van Stone, the executive director of the Lions of Illinois Foundation and member of the North Aurora Lions Club who heads up the state's Candy Days. "But more importantly, [Candy Days] is a way to keep the Lions organization and the Lions name visible."

Yet mint sales today hover around 3 million rolls, less than one third of the sales in their heyday.

One factor is that retail countertop displays are not as prevalent. The retail market has become increasingly more competitive, and shelf space is at a premium. At the Northside Café, for example, the mints rest not on the counter but on a shelf beneath the cash register, largely out of sight.

The trays were often poorly manned, meaning the mints disappeared with little money being collected. In short, it seems the "on your honor" philosophy was no longer working. That's why the mints are no longer sold in Mitchellville, a bedroom community of about 1,400 people outside Des Moines. The Mitchellville Co-op was at one time the local hotspot for Lion mint sales, catering to area farmers. "I think we did a poor job of monitoring it," Fry says.

Moreover, candy doesn't cost what it used to. Where people might drop in one dime or one quarter for a roll two decades ago, they won't as easily drop in two or three quarters now. "I remember the nickel candy bar," says Stone. "And now you're paying a dollar and a quarter for a candy bar."

The Lion Mint may seem like an all-American product but its origin is Australian. In 1976, Australian Lion Jim McLardie proposed conducting a multiple district project around a special peppermint candy to be made by Life Savers Australia Limited. A year-round fundraiser, members of the Australian clubs realized, would allow them to focus more on service and less on numerous fundraising activities. Bud Goodwin, secretary of the Michigan Lions, helped bring that idea, along with the mints, to the United States in 1986. Since then, the Michigan-based candy company Saykly's has been the exclusive supplier of the Lion mint in the United States.

The mints are a good bargain—both for the customer and Lions. Saykly's sells the mints to clubs by the case. Each case costs \$135 and contains 576



Lorraine Conway (right) and Mary Lynn of the Manistee Lions Club in Michigan sell boxes of Lion mints.

rolls. That means clubs can purchase the mints for just under 24 cents a roll. The suggested retail for a roll is 50 cents. The average Candy Day donation is \$2 per roll, according to Saykly's.

A single mint also is available in an individual package. The suggested sales price is 5 cents. But clubs commonly use the mint drops for parades and special events, or the clubs sell them by the case to hotels, restaurants and funeral homes for their candy dishes.

The Lion mint remains the No. 1 candy product used by Lions clubs worldwide, says Chad McCann, the director of the Lions Foundation of Michigan who works directly with Saykly's. Currently, 1,100 Lions clubs in 39 states sell Saykly's Lion mints. And the Michigan company has been inundated with calls and orders from clubs around the country in recent months. That's because a competitor that also made Lions mints ceased production.

In the 1980s, the Chicago-based manufacturer F&F Laboratories, best known for its private-label cough drops marketed under the brand Smith Brothers, started producing its own private-label candy, the Lions (plural) mint. F&F Laboratories was bought out of bankruptcy in 2010 by a private equity firm and renamed F&F Smith Brothers. Now backed by some healthy investments, the Smith Brothers brand is being revived. Part of that reviving, though, comes with a decision to stop manufacturing the Lions mints last October.

The two mints were not exactly alike. McCann calls Saykly's Lion mint the "big mint," nearly twice the size of the F&F's mint. Over the years, both the singular and plural versions of the mint chiseled out their geographic niches. The F&F mints were popular in the western and southern states, with Texas, Montana, Nebraska and South Carolina being notable customers.

The sales of the Saykly's mint historically were concentrated in the Midwest, McCann says, with the exception of Illinois, which supported the F&F mint. Saykly's also counted big sales in the more heavily populated western states, including California and Arizona, and East Coast states.

The main reason mint sales have declined is the drop in membership or the aging of members in clubs that sold them, argues McCann. Also likely at work is the different ethos of volunteering of newer, younger members. They prefer a more hands-on approach to civic involvement, says Fry. Young people also don't foster the same giving spirit as those of older generations, who often are the face of local Lions clubs.

But Saykly's, for one, sees a future for the mint. It is now selling two newer flavors, fizzy fruit and sugar-free, which have helped bump sales. Maybe it's also a matter of simply making the mint available.

"I still think [placing the mints in local establishments] is important," Holliday says. "It gives the Lions notoriety. If nothing else, hopefully people will associate the Lions with the mints. They don't always see us, but they know we're there."

"It's good publicity," she adds. "It's fun publicity. And it's a taste-good publicity."

Holliday thought the Lion mint was becoming a thing of the past. But now, with her recent activity at work, a different—and exciting—picture is emerging. "I have all kinds of people from different departments coming to my desk to get them," Holliday says.

"I think it's all about the venue," she says. "If you can find the places where people want them and will look for them, then they're as popular as they've ever been."

Notes on Blindness

In 1983, after years of deteriorating vision, the writer and theologian John Hull lost the last traces of light sensation. For the next three years, he kept a diary on audio-cassette of his interior world of blindness. A film directed by Peter Middleton and James Spinney is a dramatization that uses his original recordings.

by Peter Middleton and James Spinney



In May 2011, we received a parcel containing a dusty box of eight C90 cassettes. Amid the analog crackle of the first tape, we heard a now-familiar voice: “Cassette one. Side one. Notes on Blindness.” It was the first time the recording had been played for almost 25 years.

We had met John and Marilyn Hull six months earlier while filming a short documentary about the blind experience of snowfall. Among the many first-person testimonies we had encountered during our research was John’s book “Touching the Rock.” We were immediately struck by the depth of his observation and the power of his account. Naturally, we were eager to discover whether the diary tapes upon which the

book was based were still in existence and were honored when John was generous enough to share them with us.

John developed cataracts at the age of 13, which left him blind for months at a time. The restoration of his sight was followed by a series of retinal detachments. After a number of operations, in 1980 at age 45, John’s vision was so poor that he was registered blind. He and Marilyn were newly married and she had just given birth to a son, Thomas. John was working as a lecturer at the University of Birmingham, England, and he recalls that this initial period was dominated by the practical challenges of adaptation, which left little time for reflection.

View the film “Notes on Blindness.”

It wasn't until 1983, when John had lost the final traces of light sensation, that he began to confront the enormity of this loss. "I knew that if I didn't understand it," he now recalls, "blindness would destroy me." In June of that year John made his first diary recording.

"The world into which I am being dragged with my loved ones will engulf us. There will be no return. Blindness is permanent and irreversible. ... My life is in crisis."

Over the next three years John recorded over 16 hours of audio diaries, excavating the interior world of blindness. They document a purging period of grief, but eventually of renewal, in what John describes as the discovery of a "world beyond sight."

Throughout this time, the diaries are characterized by a restless, searching gaze. And here our phrasing becomes problematic—insight, gaze, observation. One of the great tensions of the work is that it is constantly working at the limits of expression, straining language dominated by visual referents and imagery. Yet it is at these moments that the account is at its most poetic: The Los Angeles Times, in its review of John's book "Touching the Rock," described his "talent for—in the words of the blind poet John Milton—making the 'darkness visible.'" As filmmakers, too, we found that approaching this material in a visual medium was a partly paradoxical enterprise.

John's original audio recordings form the narrative backbone of the film. We also hear Marilyn's voice, taken from a BBC interview from the early 1990s. These documentary sources are supported by cinematic interpretations using actors, visual metaphor and textured sound design. The audio recordings are employed in several ways: as straightforward narration, as dialogue and in certain instances as verbatim speech, lip-synced by our cast.

In combining documentary and dramatic elements, we hope to follow a recent trend in creative approaches to the documentary form such as Sarah Polley's "Stories We Tell" and Joshua Oppenheimer's "The Act of Killing." These are films that interrogate the distinctions between "real" and "performed" within the documentary framework.

"Notes on Blindness" was conceived as three distinct chapters, each exploring a central theme of the diaries. The first of these focuses on the role of the visual in memory and the construction of the self. The second explores John's struggle with acceptance and the question of whether he'll ever be able to truly find peace with blindness. The final chapter is a celebration of sensation—John's first glimpse of the "riches" of blindness and the nuances of nonvisual perception.



John's description of blindness as "the borderland between dream and memory" informed our aesthetic approach, and much of the key imagery of the film is rooted in his testimony. Throughout the diaries John recounts vivid "technicolor" dreams, his "last state of visual consciousness," which he compares to watching films. In particular, the water imagery that recurs in the film—visions of surging waves; of being dragged into the depths of the ocean—is derived from John's account.

While John and Marilyn's voices form a central part of the soundtrack, we avoided direct use of visual archive material on screen. In a passage where John describes "trying to remember memories of photographs" in order to recall the faces of his children, we carefully recreated images from the Hull family photo albums using our actors.

Drawing both from the diaries and from research interviews carried out with John and Marilyn, the second chapter of the film condenses a number of distressing instances of panic-induced asthma attacks. John had suffered severe breathing problems since childhood, and these became particularly intense during the first few years of total blindness, an acutely physical manifestation of his sense of isolation. Perhaps not coincidentally, elsewhere in the diaries John compares the mind of the recently blinded, longing for optic stimulation, to lungs starved of oxygen, gasping for air.

The final scene of "Notes on Blindness" hints at the larger narrative of the tapes, across which John registers a sea change in his outlook. By the close of the diaries, John finds that increasingly he has to remind himself of the existence of the visual world. Indeed, in an entry from 1986 he even defines blindness as "a dark, paradoxical gift," around which he will come to redefine his life.

Now in his late 70s and still working as an honorary professor at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham, John in 2012 was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to Literature on Blindness by the Royal National Institute of Blind People.

John's responses to the diary extracts used in "Notes on Blindness," listening from a distance of 30 years, accompany the film in text and audio form. It has clearly been painful for him to revisit this time. Just last week, John mentioned to us that while drafting these responses he had to telephone Marilyn from his office to ask, "Why am I doing this?" She replied, "For other people."

Peter Middleton and James Spinney are London-based filmmakers. Their Op-Doc "Notes on Blindness" is an official selection of the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. They are currently developing a feature-length version of the film.

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John Hull Reflects on His Blindness

John Hull recently reflected on his diary entries in the film, dwelling on his memories of sight, alarm at the onset of darkness and his eventual discovery of beauty.

Part I: Memory

It is strange going back to these memories after more than 30 years. It's like ... like reopening an old wound. Perhaps disability is like that. At one level, of course, you get used to it. You heal. You forget. But then something like this comes along and it is as if there is a running sore far beneath that has never been healed.

My children, of course, are grown up now. They're all young adults living their own lives in different parts of the country. I don't really wonder what they look like; it never occurs to me. And yet these memories, they do somehow tempt me back into the world of sight. Would I have got to know them better had I seen them all these years? I can't resist the temptation now of wondering.

Imogen, those beautiful big solemn brown eyes she had as a young child. Thomas, has he still got that cheeky grin? Gaby and Joshua, what are they like? Fine young fellas? Lizzie, is she now a beautiful young woman? And yet, these temptations are foolish, aren't they? I don't need to see them. I don't think I would have known them any more if I could have seen them. My life with them has been a life of, of conversation, of stories lived together, of passing days.

After all, being human is not seeing. It's loving.

Part II: Panic

The feelings of panic have long since subsided. My blind skin has ... has got thicker. I have become less aware of the darkness. Ah, as the light has faded and the memory of the light has faded, then the awareness of darkness has also faded. So, I don't feel as if I'm in the dark. Ah, I don't go round thinking I'm blind. I just live my life and I love it.

Of course the asthma which I had so seriously in those days contributed to the feeling of panic. So that's another reason why it's

not so bad today. And yet, now and again, sometimes, I do get a kind of a feeling of claustrophobia. Of being oppressed by the darkness, which becomes alive for me again. I don't quite know what brings it on. It's sometimes the feeling, the sudden feeling, of being abnormal, of suddenly being aware, of being surrounded by sighted people. And then I can feel hemmed in somehow by an overwhelming cloud of darkness. Like an entanglement around me.

I don't know if sighted people ever feel dazzled or panicked by an excess of sight. An excess of light? Do sighted people sometimes feel naked in front of the all-seeing world? If not, then why should blindness panic me? Well, when the normality of being blind is removed—when one suddenly feels acutely different—then the presence of other blind people can be strangely comforting.

Part III: Rainfall

I'm not sure whether there is really beauty in blindness or whether it's just the fragments of life which are restored to you when so much is lost. The world does return to you. Somehow more precious because it's a remnant. But then you forget that it's a remnant, and you start to enjoy those formerly scattered fragments in themselves.

I suppose blindness lowers the threshold of your awareness so that you start to notice things that otherwise you wouldn't have noticed. The wind in the trees. The crunch of dry leaves on the front drive. Human voices. Sunshine on your face. And even smaller things: the smell of a new book, the beautiful smooth edge of a table, human hair, the first sip of red wine. Of course I know that sighted people also enjoy these things, but perhaps there is a kind of an intensification that blindness brings to these experiences which somehow makes them, in a way, more beautiful?

I open the bathroom window early in the morning. There's a touch of frost on the windowsill. An owl hoots. In the distance a morning train rushes by. I close the window. In the stillness I know that life is beautiful.

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Home Sweet Homes *for* Haitians

The shacks in Blanchard fell to pieces during the massive earthquake of 2010. Crudely constructed from wood, mud or irregular concrete blocks, the homes in the small community on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince were no match for the ferocity of the earth's upheavals.

Photos by Swoan Parker



Mimose Joseph stands in front of her new home as her grandchildren and daughter-in-law enjoy the cool shade of the porch.

Cite Soleil, which adjoins Blanchard and is commonly described as one of the world's worst slums, took a softer blow. The quake destroyed no sewers or stores in the impossibly crowded slum because there were none to destroy, and the piles of rotten garbage strewn about remained undisturbed. But in quieter semi-rural Blanchard, where residents stoically eked out a living farming small plots, home after home was left shattered.

The homes had been spare and modest—dirt floors, often without windows, frequently covered partly in taro leaves to keep the rain out. But they were homes where often three generations ate together, slept and lived out their days as family.

Four years later, dozens of families at last reside in modest but new, comfortable and clean homes. Among them are Mimose Joseph and eight relatives including four grandchildren. Her husband died eight years ago. Her son, a factory worker, kept the family from starving. Her family now lives in a two-room, four-window, concrete-block home sturdy enough to withstand an earthquake. Joseph even had a say in her home's exact location, its floor plan and the color of its brightly painted walls.

Amazed at her good fortune, Joseph stands regally on her front porch and reflects on her former home. "There is no comparison. Every day I pray to the Lord to say thank you for helping me put my family here," she says.

Where there is help, there is hope for her community. "It has always been poor, but with support it is changing. I hope they will find ways forward for the children and develop our area," she adds.

Lions of Norway recently finished building 50 homes in Blanchard. Each home cost just US\$7,500. Lions employed local laborers to stimulate the economy. Other nonprofits in Haiti sometimes neglected to adequately consult with residents on their needs, built shoddy shelters with little durability or watched in dismay as projects failed to be completed. Norwegian Lions took precautions. They worked closely with Haitian Lions and with Ferdinal Joseph, a respected longtime resident of Blanchard.

Joseph was a pivotal figure. He identified those with the most need, helped families with required paperwork and documentation, responded to their concerns and smoothed disputes that arose among contractors, workers and families. He also kept things moving forward on the

Construction workers use string to measure layers of block, ensuring homes are straight and strong.





Bernadette Octavius and her grandson stand outside their former home, damaged by the earthquake and now used for storage.



Octavius lived with her family in this tent in her garden after the earthquake.

construction sites. Today, whenever he strolls through the community, residents flock to him to shake hands or update him on their lives. “This is the first time such a project came to our area,” he says. “Everyone is happy. It’s a good project.”

An improvement over what they had, the Lions’ homes account for ventilation, privacy and waste management. “We just asked that people be given a little dignity,” says Pierre-Richard Duchemin, the project leader for Haitian Lions.

Many Haitians who lost homes in the earthquake still live in “t-shelters,” temporary shelters built from plywood. These are likely to become permanent as NGOs pull up stakes and apply resources to more recent disasters.

Compared to the period after the earthquake, daily life in Blanchard is remarkably more upbeat. Cows and goats graze contentedly. Children on bicycles raise clouds of dust. Edriemps, Joseph’s brother, is high up in a coconut tree, releasing the fruit with a sweep of his machete.

“There are many problems in Port-au-Prince,” concedes Mimose Joseph. “But there is only hope for the future. The fear is behind us now.”

Down the road Bernadette Octavius, a fiery 52-year-old with a deep, easy laugh, has just returned from the fields where she raises goats, chickens, cows and pigs. She ambles by a small hut, partially destroyed, that now contains feed. That was her home before the earthquake. Nearby is the tent she subsequently shared after the disaster with her husband and three grandchildren. Fevers raged within her when the tent was home. The illness is gone now that she lives in a Lions’ home. “It’s very beautiful,” she says of her home. “Every day I’m busy raising animals and working in the gardens. I love it.”

—Adapted by Jay Copp from a story in the Norwegian LION

Improving Students' Sight in India

by Allie Stryker

If S. Bhavani sits in the front of the classroom, it's because he wants to—not because he has no choice. But that wasn't always the case.

A student in Hyderabad, India, Bhavani once had problems seeing the board. He had to squint and got headaches. Bhavani is nearsighted, and his condition could have gone unnoticed if not for the Sight for Kids program.

With 12.8 million children visually impaired due to uncorrected refractive error (URE) in Southeast Asia, it isn't surprising that S. Bhavani was diagnosed with nearsightedness, a form of URE. That is why the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care (JJVC) partnered to create the Sight for Kids program in 2002.

Sight for Kids provides desperately needed eye-health education and school-based vision screenings for underserved children across Asia. The program also provides referrals to professional eye care for eyeglasses and surgery. This is an important service; poor vision can often go unnoticed in children and can impede the ability to read and learn.

Bhavani received his vision screening through Sight for Kids and the follow-up care he needed at the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, including free eyeglasses provided through Sight for Kids. Today Bhavani can see the board, reads well and participates in extracurricular activities.

"I am so happy and confident. Now with this pair of spectacles, I am able to do all my activities without any dif-

ficulty. My thanks to you," says Bhavani. With his improved vision, Bhavani has great aspirations for his future. "I will become a doctor, helping my parents and society," he confidently adds.

Through Sight for Kids, more than 19 million students like Bhavani throughout Asia have received vision screenings with more than 322,000 treated for vision problems and more than 197,000 provided with eyeglasses.

In Kerala, India, Mary Sebastian, an assistant administrator at the Little Flower Hospital and Research Center, has been working closely with Sight for Kids since it launched in her region in 2005. Her hospital's ophthalmology department is dedicated to protecting children's vision. It's immensely gratifying for her to see Lions provide students with eyeglasses and vision-correcting surgery through Sight for Kids.

"It is a highly rewarding and satisfying experience to provide vision correction to students whose problems would have remained undetected but for the Sight for

Kids program," says Sebastian. "With Lions clubs, we are visiting unrepresented areas. If not for Sight for Kids, most of the cases would have gone unidentified because of lack of awareness."

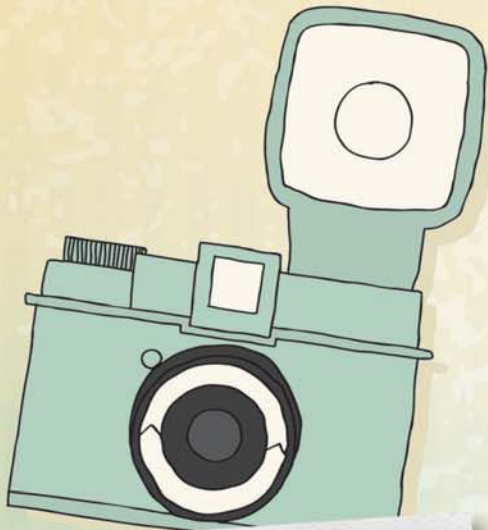
Together, Lions clubs, LCIF, JJVC and partner facilities are making a big difference for students in need through Sight for Kids. Learn more online at www.lcif.org/sfk.



In Kerala, India, students sign up for free vision screenings through the Sight for Kids program.

Have LION, Will Travel

No matter where they roam, some Lions stay current with Lions' happenings.*



MILROY WAS HERE Milroy, Minnesota, population 252, is corn and soy bean country, so Milroy Lions board members feel at home reading the LION in the fields. Shown are (from left) Donna Hensel, Remi Rohlick, Vicki Pals, a lion, Mike Appel and Carrie Shofner.



ANIMAL KINGDOM Mickey at Walt Disney World in Florida is all ears as Dawn Rice-Norton of the Medway Lions in Massachusetts shares her LION.



*Of course, the digital LION can be read on the road even if you leave the print version at home. Go to www.lionmagazine.org, where the free LION app can be accessed.



READ AT THE RED DRAGON Jay Matsler of the Murrieta Lions in California reads in Chinatown in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.



Want to be in the LION? Just send us a photo of you with the LION, whether you're at the pyramids in Egypt, a café overseas or even an interesting location close to home. Send the picture to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org.



STORY HOUR Jan Larin of the Yakima Lions in Washington reads the LION to her grandson Skylar Adams and her twin granddaughters, Ruby and Abbi, at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum in Union Gap. Titan the poodle looks on.



FETCHING PHOTO Raised through the Lions Project for Canine Companions thanks in part to Murrieta Lions in California, Elaina sinks her teeth into the latest Lions' news.

Should Lions Get More Visible?

All Signs Point to Yes

Gary De Fayette had an epiphany in a parking lot. The Wilmington Lion and District 13 J public relations chair arrived at his Ohio district's winter retreat and looked around. "I noticed several vehicles with Lions decals. Lions were expressing their pride in tangible ways. The more vehicles I saw, the more I realized what an impact this could have if it was multiplied by thousands," De Fayette says.

How many new members would join if every Lion had a car decal displaying the Lions logo? It is hard to say, but one thing is for sure: awareness of Lions would rise. "Signage is a simple, inexpensive and effective way to get Lions noticed. Signs alone might not invite someone to join, but they can open a conversation to spark interest in becoming a Lion," points out De Fayette.

Lions everywhere can get the word out by building visibility in inventive yet easy ways. Visibility lets the community know who Lions are and the great work you are doing. "Lions struggle to get recognition in their own communities. Adding one visibility component to your already planned service project could make all the difference," says MD 27 Past Council Chair Karla Harris. "Set up a portable Lions sign outside the school as you do vision screenings. Put Lions logo magnets on the side of your car as you distribute mints," suggests Harris, a South Milwaukee Lion in Wisconsin.

Harris also recommends being creative and having fun in attracting the attention of your community. The Oak Creek Leos are doing just that—with multitudes of pink flamingos. Over the past four years, hundreds of residents in their Wisconsin community have woken in the morning, probably thinking they were still dreaming, to front yards full of

plastic pink flamingos—along with a colorful Leo sign that includes contact information. Called "flocking," this fundraising prank has snowballed in popularity in the community and fostered a reputation of fun and service for the Leos. "The flockings have created more recognition in the city for us, and new Leos have joined because of the fun we have," says Dawn Eberhardt.

A couple hundred miles away, the Trempealeau Lions are busy for months preparing for their signature event, Cat-

fish Days. With 15,000 people attending the three-day event that includes music, a bicycle tour, a fishing tournament, a parade and much more, the Lions have the perfect venue to make themselves known. They took a chance on a new strategy that has paid off in many turned heads and waves: wrapping an entire Suburban SUV with vinyl advertisements for the event. The truck became an eye-catching mobile billboard, complete with prominently-placed Lions logos. "We've had a hugely positive response everywhere we've taken the Suburban," says Lion Larry Kopp. (Find photos of the vehicle on the

Trempealeau Lion's Facebook page.)

It doesn't matter whether it's flamingos or SUVs; the key is to add Lions identification to everyday events and service. Harris adds, "More visibility will bring more members, and more members will result in more service for those in need. Lions, let's get visible!"

—Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt



A street sign, like this "Lions Way" sign installed in honor of the Randolph Lions Club in Massachusetts, can increase visibility as well as club pride. Club President Peg Needre enthusiastically shows off the sign.

Find a selection of removable and permanent Lions decals, signs, vehicle accessories and more at the LCI store at www.lionsclubs.org.

A Real Shaggy Dog Story

With a regal name like Winston Niles Rumfood, it's a given that he would also have an equally regal bearing. And yet, Winston puts on no airs. All four feet are planted firmly on the ground as he helps the Lake St. Louis Lions in Missouri raise funds wearing his yellow-and-blue "vest" and lion headpiece. Winston's owner, John Ratcliff, says that people are so taken with his 2-year-old dog that when he's around, his presence has sometimes raised four times as much money when Lions collect for Candy Day.

Winston is a golden Pyrenees, which is a cross between a golden retriever and a Great Pyrenees. Ratcliff acquired him as a rescue pet when he was only 6 weeks old. Well-mannered but with no special training, Winston promotes the club while wearing a lion mane Ratcliff made from a giant stuffed animal. His wife, Terry, a past club president, created the apron vest.

"I am generally uncomfortable with fundraising events that involve just holding out a cup and asking people to donate," Ratcliff says. "People have busy lives, and nowadays many people don't even carry that much cash on them. When you stand outside a store, cup in hand, many people avoid eye contact and move quickly past. But with Winston by my side, the tables are turned.

"Nearly every single person entering or leaving the store stops to pet him. It brings a smile to everyone's face as he

calmly wears his lion's costume and soaks up the attention from adults and children alike. Many people stop to take his picture and most of those people also make a donation as well. It engages the public. It makes it more fun for them. It makes it more fun for me because I'm basically providing entertainment. Everybody falls in love with him; he's just a sweet dog."



Winston is a friendly focus of attention for adults and children.

A costumed dog is one way to draw attention. Learn more tips on public relations strategies (April 2011 LION).

Ducks Deliver as Fundraiser



Hundreds of rubber ducks released into a river raise money for youth groups in Cannington, Ontario, Canada.

When it comes to fundraising, Lionesses in Cannington, Ontario, Canada, have all their ducks in a row. That is, until the little rubber ducks begin their river water scramble downstream. Cheering, screaming crowds watch the action and wait for a winner. The excitement comes from buying a ticket and hoping a duck's number is lucky.

The 25-year-old race benefits approximately nine or 10 local youth groups, says Debbie Robinson. The Lioness club does have help from volunteers and Lions. "Cannington Lions help us out each year by setting up the finish line, judging for the first-, second- and third-place finishers and collecting the ducks from the shallow river so we can clean and put them away," Robinson explains.

Some Lionesses and their daughters also jump right in—literally. "They walk down the river behind the ducks to encourage them along and catch any strays. This can be a fun but dangerous job as there are many deep holes in the river, and it's not always that warm," Robinson says. Trailing the rubber duckies may be hazardous, but it apparently has some perks, too. She adds: "They always seem to be laughing by the time they get to the end of the race."

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center** launched a one-year pilot program called NJ CURE in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania to provide new, low-cost eyeglasses to those in need.

The **North Rose Lions** in **New York** presented a computer reading device to a 13-year-old visually impaired boy.

The **Pierson Lions** in **Florida** hosted a spaghetti dinner in honor of a high school volleyball team that finished the season with a 22-2 record.

The **Manassas Lioness Lions Club** in **Virginia** held a book drive and donated 4,000 books to 16 local schools.

In **Pennsylvania**, the **Bensalem Lions** purchased a steam table for the food service at the Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The **Nestucca Valley Lions** in **Oregon** sponsored an Easter egg hunt where 150 children gathered more than 1,400 plastic eggs filled with candy, toys and donated gift certificates.

In **Puerto Rico**, the **Ponce Lions** donated basketball and volleyball equipment to a psychiatric services organization.

In **Florida**, the **Ellenton-Parrish Lions** participated in White Cane Days, volunteered at a community Easter event and assisted at a fundraiser for the Florida Railroad Museum.

The **Sparta Lions** in **North Carolina** hosted a Thanksgiving meal for visually impaired people, offered free mobile vision screenings and adopted a stretch of highway.

The **Little Beaver Lions** in **Pennsylvania** enjoy their roles as Lion Listeners at an elementary school. The Lions provide one-on-one support while students read aloud to them.

The **Johor Jaya** and **JB Taman Gaya Lions Clubs** held a KidSight eye screening event at a primary school for 2,822 students in **Malaysia**.

The **Sag Harbor Lions Club** in **New York** held its annual St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner, raising \$2,000 for service projects.

In **Michigan, District 11 A2** celebrated its 50th annual Past District Governor's Night, with 22 of the past 30 district governors in attendance.

The **Berlin Lions** in **New Jersey** sponsor Leo clubs at two schools for special needs students. The Leos and Lions joined forces to plant cherry trees at a veteran's memorial and a park.

A Global Leadership Team from **Districts 16 B** and **16 C** held a Club Officer Leadership Training in **New Jersey**.

In **Sri Lanka, District 306 B1** established a trust in memory of Past International Director Lion Chuck Wijenathen. The trust will administer leadership trainings for Lions and Leos.

The **Fraser Lions** in **Michigan** delivered 380 pocket U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence books to all fifth-grade students along with DVDs and lesson plans.

After 50 years of service, the **Maplewood-Oakdale Lions** in **Minnesota** continue providing college scholarships to high school students, supporting the Lions Eye Bank and giving donations to many local causes.

After the **King City Lions** in **Oregon** received the donation of a microfiche reader, they found a home for it at a public library.

INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Lawrence A. "Larry" Emerton has died. A Lion since 1959, he was a member of the Goffstown Lions Club in New Hampshire. Emerton achieved the rank of master sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, received a college degree and became the owner of a real estate appraisal firm. He was elected to serve a two-year term on the international board directors in 1984.

FOR THE RECORD

As of February 28, Lions Clubs International had 1,368,987 members in 46,281 clubs and 757 districts in 208 countries and geographic areas.

CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

2014	Toronto, Ontario, Canada July 4-8
2015	Honolulu, Hawaii June 26-30
2016	Fukuoka, Japan June 24-28
2017	Chicago, Illinois June 30-July 4
2018	Las Vegas, Nevada June 29-July 3

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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).

INFORMATION

CALENDAR

2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNIVERSARIES MAY 2014

95 Years: Ada, Okla.

90 Years: Chillicothe Evening, Ohio; Des Plaines, Ill.; Lebanon, Pa.; Lewisburg, Pa.; Strathroy, ON, CAN; Winters, Texas

85 Years: Angleton, Texas; Big Spring Downtown, Texas; Colusa, Calif.; Converse, Ind.; Goldthwaite, Texas; Henryetta, Okla.; Jamestown, N.D.; Kenmore, N.Y.; La Grande, Ore.; Middletown, Conn.; Parkston, S.D.; Sedan, Kan.; Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; Tempe, Ariz.; Washburn, N.D.

80 Years: Cape Charles, Va.; Chester, S.C.; Clarksville, Ga.; Clayton, Ga.; Lyons, Ill.; Peekskill, N.Y.; Washington Court House, Ohio; Wilmington, Ohio

75 Years: Bedford Hills, N.Y.; Berlin, Pa.; Clifton, Colo.; Closter, N.J.; Confluence, Pa.; Dover, Pa.; Faison, N.C.; Juneau, Wis.; Mandan, N.D.; Morris, Minn.; Mount Pleasant, Mich.; New Bethlehem, Pa.; New Carlisle, Ind.; Ottumwa Noon, Iowa; Parkhill, ON, CAN; Rolling Prairie, Ind.; Sparta, Ill.; Tallassee, Ala.; Tenafly, N.J.; Trenton, ON, CAN; West Earl, Pa.; Winterset, Iowa

50 Years: Bristol Goodson, Va.; Byron, Neb.; Clarendville, NL, CAN; Hollis, Okla.; Hooksett, N.H.; Hubbell, Neb.; Hutchinson Breakfast, Kan.; Kensington, Minn.; Kodiak, Alaska; Pierz, Minn.; Sidney, BC, CAN; Sterling, Va.; Walton, N.Y.; Winfield, AB, CAN

25 Years: Arlington, Neb.; Brooklyn Farragut, N.Y.; Moneta, Va.; Painted Post, N.Y.

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 JANUARY 2014

Imperial Key (450 Members)

- Lion S. Palanivelu, Salem Melvin Metro, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Douglas Russell, Syracuse Host, New York
- Lion Zahid Waqar, Karachi New Metro, Pakistan
- Lion P. M. Ambali, Bijapur, India
- Lion Ashok Surana, Kolkata Vista, India
- Lion Ar Balbir Singh Sahni, Ujjain Friends, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Anne Ryan, Reston, Virginia
- Lion Ben Kleinenberg, Big Lake Aurora, Alaska
- Lion Benny Antiporda, Pasay City Host, Philippines
- Lion Aftab Nagori, Karachi Sea-port New Century, Pakistan
- Lion Puttagunta Venkata S. Kumar, Hanuman Junction Global, India
- Lion Ashok Surana, Kolkata Vista, India
- Lion Vinod Poddar, Malad Borivli, India
- Lion Ar Balbir Singh Sahni, Ujjain Friends, India
- Lion D. Vasantha Kumar, Tirupur Melvin Jones, 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.

MAY

STRENGTHEN MEMBERSHIP MONTH

RECYCLE FOR SIGHT MONTH

May 1:

Deadline to cancel with refund of convention registration

Deadline for advance convention registration and hotel room requests to be received

Deadline for International Contest (Newsletter and Website) entries to be received by the Public Relations and Communications Division

May 11-17:

White Cane Week

May 15:

Annual Leo Club Officers and Membership Report Form (Leo-72) due

Deadline for filing Officer Reporting Form (PU101)

May 17-19:

Advanced Lions Leadership Institute – Constitutional Area V: The Orient and Southeast Asia (Beijing, China)

May 19:

Application deadline for SightFirst grants to be reviewed at the August 2014 SAC meeting

May 19-20:

Executive Committee Meeting (Oak Brook, Illinois, USA)

May 24:

Deadline date for convention hotel deposit refunds for individual cancellations

ROAR OF APPROVAL

The Leonardtown Lions Club in Maryland offers the **Raymond Stone** Memorial Technical Awards to vocational or technical students in memory of Raymond Stone, a beloved Lion and tradesman.

In South Carolina, the River Hills Lions Club proudly presented its 2013 Lion of the Year Award to **Nick Rounds**. A board member and committee secretary, Rounds' hands-on approach includes helping to set up the club's Christmas tree lot, maintaining the club's website and constructing custom eyeglass donation boxes.

Edmonton Northgate Lion **Carol Moeller** in Alberta, Canada, was presented with the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee in recognition of her 38 years of dedicated service to the community.

More than 75 years after he was sponsored as a member of the Soperton Lions Club in Georgia by his father, Jim L. Gillis Sr., **Jim L. Gillis Jr.** is still serving his community as an active Lion. At 98 and with a 70-year perfect attendance history, he says his favorite part of being a Lion is "helping people." He recalls when Lions were collecting donations in buckets and a man told him his personal connection with the club as a young boy. "He said Lions gave him his first pair of eyeglasses, and how he had needed them for a long time before then. He was probably 85 or so." A banker, timberman, cattleman, farmer and business owner, Gillis has found plenty of time to weave together political life with his Lions life. He has also served on the Soperton city council and as mayor.

The Great Falls Electric City Lions in Montana honored deceased member **Kenny Pahrman** by singing two hymns out of the Lions Songbook. Legally blind, Lion Pahrman was a Lion for 33 years with perfect attendance.

The Hartsville Lions in South Carolina congratulate Lion **Ellis Parsons** for his 64 years of service. Parsons, 97, continues to be an active member and regularly attends meetings.

In California, La Mesa Lion **Ernest Shaw** has a knack for bringing in new Lions. More than 60 members have joined after learning about Lionism from Shaw, a 92-year-old retired doctor who loves serving and sharing his love of Lions with others.

Holyoke Lion **Mark Meusborn** has been enjoying helping out at his club's ballpark concession stand. Meusborn, who is blind, spent 33 years running snack bars as part of the Colorado Business Enterprise Program, which gives blind people priority to operate food and vending services in government facilities. While operating concessions at the state capitol and other locations, Meusborn used Braille and talking cash registers. Prior to that, he had to rely on the honesty of customers; he says that they were trustworthy for the most part.

Change of Address

We need 5 or 6 weeks to change your address. Please give us your old address as well as your new, attaching a label from a recent issue of LION in the space shown.

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LION Magazine

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Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

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Date of Change _____

Club _____



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 4, 2014

1. Milan, Italy, was chosen as the site for the 2019 International Convention.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Revised the Standard Form District Constitution, Article VI, Officers and District Cabinet, Section 2, Page 5 of the Board Policy Manual to correct a typographical error.
2. Amended the Board Policy Manual, Chapter XIX, Paragraphs B.1. and B.2. appointing Scott Drumheller as Executive Administrator & Secretary of The International Association of Lions Clubs.
3. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2014 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws, Article VIII by adding a section that will provide the council of governors with authority to remove a council chairperson.
4. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2014 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 4 to allow a current district governor or past district governor to serve as council chairperson.
5. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2014 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 1 to revise the duties of the council chairperson.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Amended the Excellence Awards requirements to encourage more training and club development, as well as to recognize the district GMT and GLT Coordinators.
2. Decided that Lions leaders recommended by local Lions from provisional districts be appointed to serve as district governors for the provisional districts for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.
3. Resolved that Lion Guri Janmeja be appointed to serve as district governor for District 321-C1, for the remainder of this fiscal year.
4. Determined that the District Governor of 315 B3 be dismissed.
5. Discontinued the position of Coordinating Lion for Provisional District 301 A3, due to the positive development of the DG Team.
6. Revised the status quo policy and added a new priority status that would apply to weak and struggling clubs to provide greater support by the District Governor Team.
7. Recommended an amendment to the International By-Laws to outline procedures for removing a council chairperson.
8. Recommended an amendment to the International By-Laws to allow current district governors to serve as council chairpersons.
9. Recommended an amendment to the International Constitution and By-Laws to clarify the Multiple District Council Chairperson position.
10. Requested that the Board Policy Manual and the Standard Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws be amended upon approval of previous requested constitutional amendments by the delegates attending the 2014 International Convention.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved FY 2013-14 Third Quarter Forecast reflecting a surplus.
2. Approved the preliminary cost projections for FY 2015-16 two regular board meetings and charging the executive officer's airfare to their travel budgets effective FY 2015-16.
3. Approved modifying the policy so it no longer required that the hotel bill be in the district governor's name.
4. Approved changing the phrase, "Rules of Audit" in Chapter IX to "District Governor reimbursement policy."
5. Modified policy so that the review of the five-year projections by the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee will be done at the final regular board meeting, instead of the October/November board meeting.

LCIF

1. Selected Perry Capital Management/Callan Associates as LCIF's independent investment advisor effective April 1, 2014.
2. Nominated three individuals for the 2014 Humanitarian Award, with the final selection to be determined by the International President.
3. Awarded a grant of US\$200,000 to support a microenterprise pilot with the Chaudhary Foundation and the Lions of Nepal.
4. Approved a plan to expand the LCIF development function in India, and included funding in the amount of US\$184,000 in the LCIF budget to support these activities.
5. Approved funding in the amount of US\$147,158 for Multiple District 107 (Finland) to support an evaluation study of Lions Quest in Europe.
6. Selected Dr. Yuichiro Ogura to fill a vacancy as a voting member of the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC).
7. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual to update voting privileges for the technical members of the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC).
8. Approved 79 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totaling US\$3,771,227.
9. Tabled six applications, and denied one application.
10. Approved a Core 4 board-directed grant of US\$66,000 for the mammography center at the M.P. Shah Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.
11. Approved the following actions with regards to the control of grant funds:
 - Requested Districts 317-E, 323-G1, and 325-A1 to submit required grant reports to LCIF by June 30, 2014. Failure to do so will result in a moratorium on the consideration of all LCIF grant applications from the district that will go into effect until a satisfactory report is received or the disbursed grant funds are returned.
 - Extended the deadline for the satisfactory transfer of grant 10907/321-C2 be extended to June 30, 2014.
 - Requested Districts 305-S2, 315-A2 and 322-D to return emergency grant funds in the respective amounts of US\$5,000, US\$5,000, and US\$7,305 by June 30, 2014. Failure to do so will result in a moratorium on the consideration of all LCIF grant applications from these districts that will go into effect through Dec. 31, 2016.
 - Requested Districts 323-B, District 316-H and District 323-E1 to submit satisfactory final reports or return the emergency grant funds in the amount of US\$5,000 each by June 30, 2014. Failure to do so will result in a moratorium on the consideration of all LCIF grant applications from the district that will go into effect through Dec. 31, 2016.
12. Revised the deadline for the current moratorium on the consideration of all grant requests from District 318-B to Dec. 31, 2014.
13. Amended the LCIF Bylaws with housekeeping revisions in the officers and committee sections.
14. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual as follows:
 - Housekeeping revisions in the officers and committees section to include language on the Assistant Treasurer position.
 - Additional language in fiscal planning section to reflect current practice for foundation expenses.
 - Revised language in the records and files section to be consistent with the record retention policy.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. Revised policy, effective 2014-2015, related to Faculty Development Institutes to allow qualified applicants who are district governors to be considered for participation only on a space available basis.

- Modified the GMT and GLT structures. Effective beginning in 2014-2015, the positions of GMT multiple district coordinators and GLT multiple district coordinators will exist only in those multiple districts assigned to a GMT/GLT area or special area comprised of two or more multiple districts. In multiple districts assigned to GMT/GLT areas or special areas comprised of less than two multiple districts, the GMT/GLT area leaders or GMT and GLT special area advisors will fulfill related responsibilities at the multiple district level.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Granted conditional approval for U.A.E to become a new Lions country pending submission of written approvals, charter applications, fees paid and completion of country registration.
- Amended Chapter XVIII, Paragraph C.4 (XVIII-7) of the Board Policy Manual by adding, "The designated head of household is not eligible for other dues discount programs." at the end of the paragraph.
- Replaced "Membership & Club Growth Team," with "Membership and New Club Growth Team" in Chapter X, Paragraph I.(3.) (X-16), Item I.3., of the Board Policy Manual.
- Added "The International Family and Women Coordinator will work with the GMT and GLT Coordinators and support women's and family committees, at the direction of the international president, and district and multiple district specialists." to Chapter X, Paragraph I.(3.) of the Board Policy Manual; also amended Chapter IX, Paragraph O.(2.) (a.) of the Board Policy Manual by adding "and International Family and Women Coordinator" following "International Coordinator."
- Resolved that the Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws Article III, Section 4, Paragraph (1), read, "(1) Submit regular monthly and other reports to the international office of the association containing such information as may be called by the board of directors of this association."

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Increased the annual donation to Lions Float, Inc., to US\$50,000, and increased the donation to Lions Float, Inc., for fiscal year 2016-17 to US\$100,000.
- Amended the Order of Precedence to place Regional LCIF Coordinators and GMT/GLT Leaders immediately after past international director, and to place multiple district chairpersons and coordinators (including LCIF, GMT and GLT) immediately after immediate past district governor.
- Changed the first-place prize for the international website and international newsletter contests from plaques to certificates.
- Modified Chapter XX of Board Policy to reflect previously eliminate International Contests.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- Named the 2012-2013 Top Ten Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Award recipients.
- Modified board policy related to the composition and nomination criteria for the Leo Club Program Advisory Panel to alleviate chronic vacancy issues.

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

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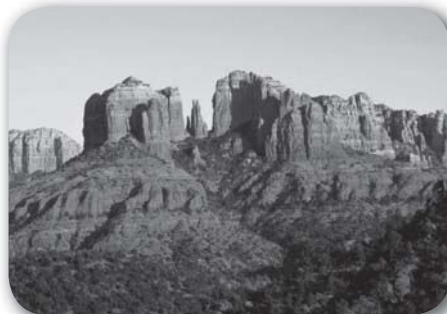
Departs October 28, 2014. Fly into London, **England**. Spend four-nights exploring this fascinating city with a guided sightseeing tour including Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. You'll also spend a full day in Oxford and Windsor with a visit to Windsor Castle. Then you will board **Royal Caribbean's Adventure of the Seas** for the next 14-nights. Onboard, enjoy many amenities, relaxation, fine dining, and beautiful ocean views. Sail to ports in: Funchal, Madeira; Tenerife, Canary Island's; Philipsburg, **St. Maarten**; Basseterre, St. Kitts and Charlotte Amalie, **St. Thomas**. Disembark in **San Juan**, Puerto Rico, where you'll spend two-nights at a beachfront resort and an included sightseeing tour of historic Old San Juan before flying home.



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Then on Thursday, January 1, 2015, observe the **126th Rose Parade** from your reserved YMT grand stand seats! The following day, depart for Las Vegas where you'll spend two exciting nights, followed by the **Grand Canyon** for your overnight stay in the park with included breakfast. Then depart to another astonishing landscape - the **Red Rocks of Sedona**. You will also visit Montezuma's Castle enroute to Phoenix and Scottsdale where you will spend your final two nights with an included city tour.

**PPDO. Plus \$159 tax/service/government fees. Add-on airfare available.*



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INFORMATION

AUSTRALIA INVITES CANADIANS

The Lions of District 201 V2 in Victoria, Australia, invite Lions living in Canada to participate in their Operation Friendship. One Lion and his or her partner are invited to spend up to four weeks as the district's guests. Host families provide lodging, and local Lions take care of travel while travel costs to Australia and other costs are borne by the guests. The visiting Lion and partner will give a short presentation at the district convention in early November. Applications are due June 30. For information, contact Bob Lion Badham at opfriendv2@gmail.com.

ON THE WEB

Strengthen your membership savvy by joining monthly membership webinars. Learn about LCI's latest membership programs, gain recruitment ideas and solve membership woes while hearing from Lions leaders and staff. Access the archives and find past webinars such as "Women and Family Development," "Achieving Your Club Dream through Club Excellence" and "Chartering Special Interest Clubs." Coming up on May 22 is "Membership Planning for Next Fiscal Year." Search for "monthly membership webinars" at www.lionsclubs.org and register today.

CORRECTION

The Santa Flight Christmas project for children in South Africa in which volunteer pilots take them on flights is run by several service clubs including the Eden Lions Club and the George Lions Club. The LION regrets the error.



Delegate Form Instructions for the International Convention

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

If yes, please complete the attached form and return the top half of the form to Lions Clubs International Headquarters, to the attention of the Club & Officer Record Administration Department before **June 1, 2014**.

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

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

The address to mail the form is:

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

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

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

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

ALLOWABLE CLUB DELEGATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Membership.....delegates allowed

1-37.....1	213-237.....9	413-437.....17	613-637.....25
38-62.....2	238-262.....10	438-462.....18	638-662.....26
63-87.....3	263-287.....11	463-487.....19	663-687.....27
88-112.....4	288-312.....12	488-512.....20	688-712.....28
113-137.....5	313-337.....13	513-537.....21	713-737.....29
138-162.....6	338-362.....14	538-562.....22	738-762.....30
163-187.....7	363-387.....15	563-587.....23	763-780.....31
188-212.....8	388-412.....16	588-612.....24	

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

LCI COPY

(Mail to LCI before June 1, 2014)



Lions Clubs International Convention – 2014 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Club Identification Number:

District:

Number of allowable delegates:
Members:

Club Name:

Address:

See reverse side for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: ☐ DELEGATE OR ☐ ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

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



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

Mail the above to LCI (Club Officer & Record Admin.) before June 1, 2014. After that date, bring it to the convention.
Lions Clubs International • 300 W 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

EN

DELEGATE/ALTERNATE DELEGATE COPY

(Bring this copy to the Convention)



Lions Clubs International Convention – 2014 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Club Identification Number:

District:

Number of allowable delegates:
Members:

Club Name:

Address:

LCI stamp for
Alternate
Delegate
certification

See reverse side for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: ☐ DELEGATE OR ☐ ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

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



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

THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Uplifting an Adventurous Spirit

Whether it's riding a horse, cross-country skiing or speeding around on a roller coaster, 13-year-old Grace Grell is game to try it. This creative, hard-working seventh-grader exuberantly takes on any challenge that comes her way. Grace doesn't mind that she may sometimes have to work a bit harder than her peers to meet her goals. Neurofibromatosis, a genetic condition she was born with, caused small tumors to grow on her optic nerves. She was diagnosed as blind at age 3.

When Grace miraculously recovered some of her sight, her parents, Charles and Polly Ann Grell, were astonished and grateful. Recently, their gratitude extended to the Cold Spring, Richmond, Rockville and Cold Spring Home Pride Lions clubs in their Minnesota community. A desktop magnifying device has enabled Grace's grades and confidence to soar, and she's more unstoppable than ever.

Grace Grell draws with the assistance of the magnifying device.

Q&A: Charles Grell

LION Magazine: You never thought Grace would regain any vision. How did that happen?

Charles Grell: She underwent 18 months of chemotherapy to stop the tumors from growing. There was never any expectation that she would see again. Six months later, we were driving and she said something about seeing a bird in the sky. I didn't think she actually saw anything. But the next day the doctor confirmed that she could see. We consider it a miracle. The doctors can't explain it.

LM: What is Grace's vision like?

CG: She's legally blind, but she has pockets of vision. We think it's something like having a piece of cardboard with a hole in it in front of you that you have to move around to see everything. She knows she has a disability, but it doesn't slow her down. She serves as her own advocate, and her positive attitude impresses everyone around her.

LM: What difference did the magnifying device make for Grace?

CG: It's just amazing to me that Grace maintains over a B average. She studies really hard and loves to read, write—she received the highest grade in her class for a short story! And it all started with the device the Lions gave her. As soon as she started using it, her grades went up. She started truly enjoying reading. She was able to use it both at school and at home, so her overall learning improved so much.

LM: And that helped boost her confidence?

CG: Yes, it's helped her feel she can do anything. She is a talented artist, loves to swim, plays piano—we can barely keep up with her! She has such strength and courage. One of her teachers recently told me that she's the first student with a disability he's ever had who has never used it as an excuse. I couldn't be more proud.



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.

LION

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Editor-in-Chief: Peter Lynch
Managing Editor: Dane La Joye
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Associate Editor: Pamela Mohr
Assistant Editor: Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt
Graphics Manager: Connie Schuler
Graphic Designer: Christina Jacobs
Graphic Designer: Lisa Smith
Production Manager: Mary Kay Rietz
Circulation Manager: Troy R. Jewell

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

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

Official publication of Lions Clubs
 International. Published by authority of the
 Board of Directors in 20 languages—
 English, Spanish, Japanese, French,
 Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean,
 Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese,
 Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi,
 Indonesian and Thai.

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
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Photo by Susan Lee Vick

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