

LION



Lions Clubs International

LIONMAGAZINE.ORG NOVEMBER 2014

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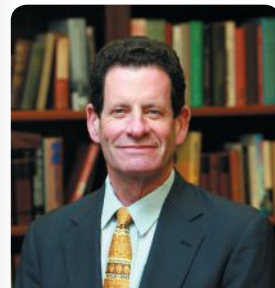
- The different types of annuities and the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Why annuities can be complex to understand
- What you need to ask an annuity salesman when evaluating his product
- The inflation risk, tax implications, estate planning considerations and typical annuity fees

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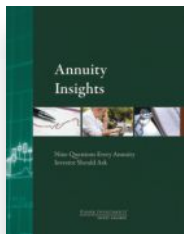
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The Peace Village in Germany heals victims of land mines, wars and accidents.



On the cover:

Cailyn Ross of Whitefish, Montana, proudly displays an onion from the Whitefish Lions Farm to School Program.



WE SERVE

MISSION STATEMENT OF
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

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

CONTACTING THE LION

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

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Convention Countdown

Honolulu, Hawaii
June 26-30, 2015

A Message From Our President



Joe Preston
Lions Clubs
International President

Pride Goes Before A Rise

When I was in Africa I saw something I'll never forget. I came across two lions in the wild, and the male roared. It wasn't a meek, restrained sound but a full-blown, thunderous greeting. Then he continued to stare at us and roared eight or nine times more. He roared with conviction.

That's what we as Lions need to do. We need to roar with conviction. We need to put our "paw prints" all over our communities. A roar without conviction is merely a loud noise. Sometimes we Lions sell ourselves short and don't realize how much we can accomplish. Don't settle for mediocrity as a Lion or a club. As Nelson Mandela eloquently said, "There is no passion to be found playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

My theme song, which I wrote, encapsulates the importance of pride and roaring with conviction:

*Dig down deep, let it go, and ROAR
like a Lion,*

*Tell the whole world, we'll never
stop tryin'*

*We are the Lions Club, we can't be
denied, no, no, no,*

*So dig down deep, and Strengthen
the Pride.*

Here's the key: find the role within your club that best suits you. And discover the project for your club that best fits your community. Soccer star Mia Hamm understood that motivation ultimately springs from deep affection or attachment. "If you don't love what you do, you won't do it with much conviction or passion," she said.

You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Talk to Lions in other clubs. Read the LION carefully and visit the LCI website. Tips and tools abound. Or use the Building a Better Club method I've developed. It's a simple, four-step process. Assess your club, establish realistic, measurable goals, put the plan together and then implement the plan.

This seems like common sense, and it is. But common sense also tells us to make changes and improvements, to Strengthen the Pride, you need to move forward with a plan. Roar with pride before you leap forward but do leap. Success in service is all about mustering our pride and appreciating our capabilities. The writer Henry David Thoreau summed it up thusly: "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Preston".

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President



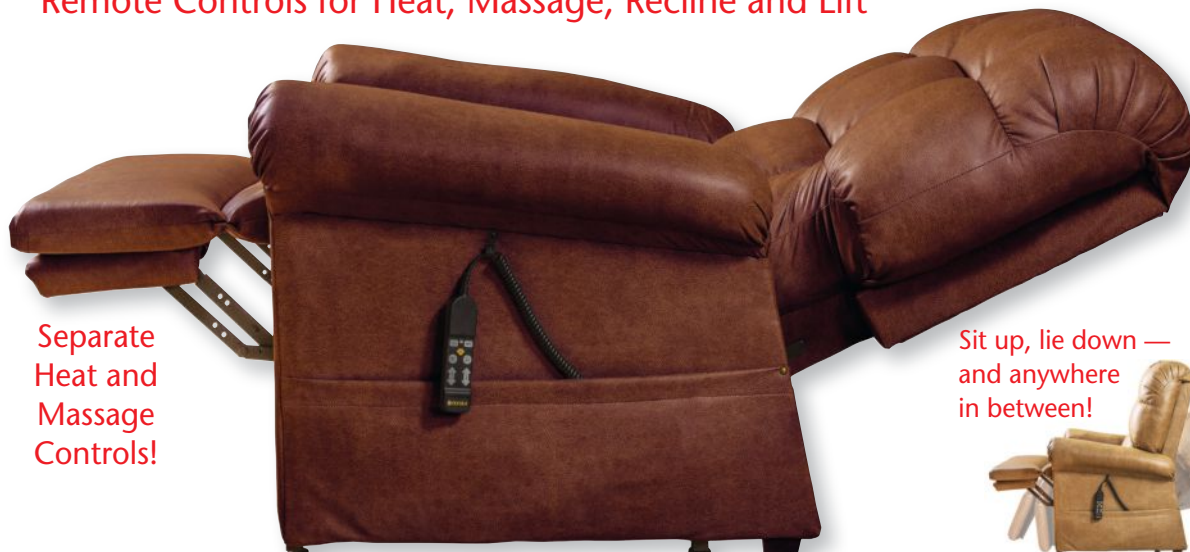
Members of the Salamanca de Monterrico Lions Club in Peru roar with conviction: they distribute food and toiletries to the elderly.

Listen to Preston belt out his
theme song.

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA

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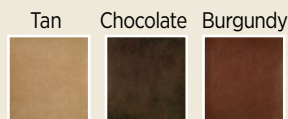
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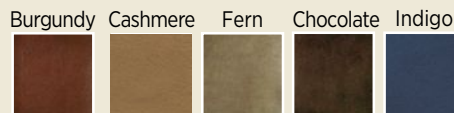


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THE BIG PICTURE

How Does Their Garden Grow?

The answer is ... with lots of help from Lions and with perseverance and hard work. Whitefish Lions in Montana worked with students to create a community garden to provide healthy food for the school cafeteria as well as to teach students work and life skills (story on page 22). Student Grace Scrafford and Lion Darrell Young work together harvesting the garden.





THE BIG PICTURE

Melvin Memorabilia

A decade after Melvin Jones died, Lions Clubs International moved from downtown Chicago to the suburb of Oak Brook. But the office of the Lions' founder has been re-created in the headquarters lobby for visitors to see. **1.** This cumbersome device stamped the seal of Lions Clubs International. (It still works.) **2.** The lion rug was a gift from British statesman Winston Churchill; the lion died of natural causes at the London Zoo. **3.** The bronze portrait of Melvin once hung in the home of a district governor (his name is illegible); his family donated it to LCI after his death. **4.** The globe, which lights up, includes nations or colonies long gone such as Northern Rhodesia in Africa. **5.** Melvin likely purchased this lion bronze himself since it lacks a club or district inscription. **6.** The Grand Master Key, a Lions' honor, was bestowed on Melvin in 1938. **7.** This passport of Melvin's was valid in 1941-42. Melvin is "5 feet, 8 inches." His eyes are "brown," and his hair is "white." Occupation is "executive." The only stamp is for Canada, not surprising for war time. **8.** The snow globe with his name incorrectly pegs him for a year younger, listing his birthdate as Jan. 13, 1880. **9.** Melvin used a black fountain pen. The black ink well to the left just off the mat has the Lions logo. **10.** The agenda for the Chicago Central Lions Club (his first club) of June 17, 1958, includes song, entertainment and, from 8:50-8:55, "founder Melvin Jones' talk on Lionism and its origin." **11.** The lightweight silver coin reads: "The Business Circle [Melvin's original club] Goat Medal" on one side and on the other: "Disposed Of Only By Securing A New Member." **12.** A rawhide memento apparently commemorating a trip to Mexico. **13.** Two exquisite old timepieces. **14.** Unused deposit slips from the First National Bank of Chicago. **15.** Melvin's surprisingly stylish sunglasses. **16.** Lions in 22 B in Maryland gave him the ship bell clock in 1947. **17.** Melvin was a world-class arm twister and conversationalist. **18.** The origin of the bust is unknown. **19.** Melvin's prized pen knife. **20.** His name is etched on his well-worn leather briefcase. **21.** The 100 flags from his office represented the nations with Lions clubs in 1961, the year he died. **22.** The venerable Code of Ethics laid the pathway for Lions. **23.** Melvin was eternally proud of having begun Lions.

First Roar

LAWYERS FORM A NEW CLUB

Lions and lawyers are uniting in Tennessee: the Murfreesboro Downtown Barristers Lions Club held its charter night last winter. The club for law professionals has attracted 73 members. Members are considering doing pro-bono work for those who can't afford a lawyer and mentoring younger attorneys as well as engaging in more traditional Lions' service. The sponsoring club was the Murfreesboro Noon Lions Club, whose 2013-14 president was Barbara LaFevers, a judicial law clerk for Second International Vice President Robert E. Corlew, a Murfreesboro Noon Lion. "It occurred to me that it would be a great idea to have lawyers that could work on community service and develop a network," says Corlew, a chancellor. "The idea was to build collegiality among attorneys." Steve Daniel, a retired judge, was the charter president of the club.

STAFFER RETIRES AFTER 52 YEARS

Fran Carine, a staff member of Lions Clubs International whose 52-year tenure spanned more than half the history of Lions Clubs, retired in September. Carine, 72, started her Lions' career in 1962 as a keypunch operator at international headquarters in downtown Chicago. Later that decade she helped convert membership records from plastic plates to a computer system, and for decades she managed the data control department. Co-workers in Oak Brook, where headquarters is now located, threw her a festive party on her last day. "I loved the conventions [she worked 28]. I loved the people I met. I loved the ambience," says Carine, a Lion and Melvin Jones Fellow. "Lions around the world do wonderful things. The motto is We Serve. That works for the staff, too." She plans to teach her nieces to cook—and take care of some overdue house maintenance. "I need windows, and the house needs painting," she says cheerily.



Waldorf Lions in Maryland co-sponsored this ice bucket challenge for Kimberly Harman, who once worked at Babes Boys Tavern, where the club meets. Pictured are Lion Jim Conroy, the tavern owner, and Anna Kinder, an employee.

LIONS TAKE ICY CHALLENGE

Lions have plunged headfirst into the ALS ice bucket challenge. International President Joe Preston had a bucket of ice water poured over his head while in Fortaleza, Brazil. He challenged Kiwanis and Rotary to do the same, and not long after, the president of Kiwanis also took the challenge to raise awareness of Lou Gehrig's disease—amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. In Maryland, Waldorf Lions co-sponsored an ice bucket fundraiser for a 43-year-old mother with ALS. More than \$42,000 was raised. The Chicago Windy City Lions Club did the challenge outside Lions Clubs International headquarters in Oak Brook, and its video of the event reached nearly 16,000 people. In Connecticut, Beacon Falls Lions have challenged the town to raise a dollar per resident (\$6,000) in memory of a resident who died from the disease.

Watch a short video of President Preston taking the ice bucket challenge.

VIDEO MAGAZINE SHOWCASES LIONS

The current edition of LQ, the Lions Quarterly Video Magazine, includes segments on Lions in Louisiana rebuilding a high school damaged by Hurricane Katrina, a Lions seizure response dog in Canada that helped save a woman's life and Lions in Peru transforming the life of a young boy. Send your story suggestions to LQ@lionsclubs.org. Be sure to "like" and share LQ on social media. LQ is available on the LCI website, YouTube, iTunes and DVD.



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ONE OF US



Ron Derry brings his inspiring GOOD program to an Ohio classroom.

RON DERRY

Sitting on his back porch a few months after going blind from retinopathy in 1995, Ron Derry was struggling with his blindness. He asked himself if he was going to go on with life, or be defeated. His answer is apparent in his character education program called the GOOD program (Going On Or Defeated) that he has brought to schools in Ohio for 19 years. Derry, a former middle school science and math teacher and sports coach, started out aiming to speak to a couple of schools a year about perseverance. Now, the Pataskala Lion visits 100 schools a year and with the help of Ohio's Lions, has distributed 49,000 GOOD T-shirts that serve as rewards and motivators for students who need them most.

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

How did you come up with the GOOD program?

I had always been a very active, happy person and losing my sight threw me for a loop. My attitude had been terrible. I realized that as a teacher my strength had always been as a motivator more than anything. I thought that there might be a lot of things I couldn't do anymore, but I could still talk to kids and help those who are struggling.

What messages do you try to convey to students?

My lessons are about perseverance, trustworthiness, bullying and working together. I share stories about my life, like how I designed my whole house while blind. I tell kids that everyone can make their lives as good as they can based on our attitudes. We can be the best we can be with the circumstances we have.

Are there times you know you have changed a child's life?

After my anti-bullying lesson, a teacher later shared with me that there was a boy in the class who had been relentlessly bullying a girl with a deformed ear. After my presentation, he sobbed and told the teacher that he would never bully the girl again. He asked to apologize to the girl. They cried and hugged, and later became great friends.

Stories like that reinforce that you're making a difference.

That's what keeps me going. I may not see the children's faces anymore, but I can hear the enthusiasm in their voices, and the feedback I receive makes me feel like I'm having an impact.

You're also making an impact as a golfer.

Congratulations on winning the 2014 Guiding Eyes for the Blind Golf Championship.

I had competed for many years but had never really come close to winning. I'm not the best blind golfer in the U.S., but that day I was! I love telling children about it, because they may want to be quarterback or get that great job in the future, but a lot of other people will want the same thing. What can you do? You can outwork the others. My hard work paid off, and that's a lesson for the kids.

Find out more about the GOOD program at goodprogram.org.

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OVERHEARD

"Never question someone when they are giving a donation like that."

—Lion Daniel Guzzi, mayor of Rockwood, Michigan, when a business owner donated \$1,000 to the club's candy cane sale after bad weather forced Lions off the road. From the News Herald.

"If you're from Tilden, you know how to play sheepshead when you were three years old."

—Julie Brenner on the card game sponsored annually by Tilden Lions at an Oktoberfest in Wisconsin. From The Chippewa Herald.

"The man's wife asked if we had found the snake they had seen in the front bedroom. Thank goodness we were finished because I don't like to deal with snakes."

—Ken Hall of the Monterey Lions Club Disaster Response Team, which helped rip up carpets and empty rooms of furniture after homes near Nashville, Tennessee, flooded. From the Herald-Citizen.

"It's my mom's dress."

—A shivering Connor Hoffman, 22, who wore a gown with a plunging neckline while taking part in the Olcott Lions Club's Polar Bear Swim for Sight in New York. From the Buffalo News.

BY THE NUMBERS



40

Roses replaced and replanted at the 14,000-square-foot Lions Club Rose Garden, tended by Charles City Lions in Iowa.

697

Dictionaries given to third-grade students and teachers in 33 classrooms by St. Charles Lions in Missouri.

108

Canadian flags sent to a Canadian military cemetery in Italy by Central Saanich Lions in British Columbia. The cemetery is near Ortona, where 1,300 Canadian soldiers were killed in a battle with German soldiers.



1954

The year Rupert Pineo started playing bridge and other card games nearly every year in the annual card marathon held by Shubenacadie Lions in Nova Scotia, Canada. He's had 11 partners since he began.

63,716

Eyeglasses collected in the last decade or so by James Jacks of the Chambersburg Evening Lions in Pennsylvania.

2,190

Michiganders who joined the Michigan Organ Donor Registry thanks to the efforts of Lions and Lionesses during the 2014 Donate Life Day.

28 YEARS AGO IN THE LION



NOVEMBER
1986

U.S. President Ronald Reagan greets International President Sten A. Akestam of Sweden at the White House. The presidents discussed the fight against drug abuse.

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CLUB of the MONTH



The Lions gear up for the Bear Paw Festival Parade, one of the many community events that bring a sense of fun and service each year.

EAGLE RIVER SLEEPING LADY MOUNTAIN LIONS CLUB

COMMUNITY SERVED: Chugiak-Eagle River and Anchorage, Alaska

YEAR FOUNDED: 1992

MEET AND GREET: Social time rules at the first of two Monday meetings each month. The 41 Lions meet at the Eagle River Clubhouse in a 40-acre park for dinner (provided on a rotating basis by members) and discussion. Potential members are often in attendance and hear from each Lion why they love Lionism.

JUST ASK, IN ACTION: In addition to continuously inviting friends and colleagues to join, the Lions hold a fall membership drive during which each member is asked to bring one to three prospective members to a meeting. The Lions recently welcomed four new members who are shaking things up—they are the first men to join the previously all-women professionals club.

A FLURRY OF COMPETITION: The Lions make winter more fun—and lucrative—by holding a raffle to guess the date of the season's first snow. The winner receives half of the proceeds, and the other half goes toward club business. When

the Lions see it snowing in the nearby mountains and know it will soon reach their city, the excitement builds.

MAKING HOLIDAYS HAPPY: About 100 families in need have a merry Christmas each year thanks to the Lions' Tree of Giving program. They gather, wrap and distribute donated presents and provide holiday meals. The Lions receive the best gift after putting much work and time into this project: the look on parents' faces when they realize their families will have Christmas after all.

NONSTOP FUNDRAISING: The Lions fundraise year-round, from the February Sweetheart Dinner to a popular face painting booth at the 3rd of July festival. They cater weddings and organize a pie-throwing game (with a good sport district governor as the target). These efforts and more help the Lions fund their vision screening program, high school scholarships, a massive Easter egg hunt, senior center Bingo and many other projects.

WHY SERVE? "The heart of a Lion is not defined by who we are, rather, our desire to help people within our community and provide a place where all are welcome to join this effort."
— Lion Karen Burns



Mandy Wick, foreground, volunteers doing cement work.

Pooling Together for the Community

Known as the “Gateway to the Rocky Mountain Front,” Choteau, Montana, sits at the base of some of the most gorgeous natural landscape in the United States. Abundant in natural beauty, Choteau, however, is not abundant in population with only around 1,700 residents. The Choteau Lions Club was chartered in 1927, and in 1934 Lions helped build a community swimming pool along with the Civil Works Administration (CWA). At that time, Lions raised \$2,000, approximately half of the final cost. The pool lasted for 79 swim seasons, coaxed along by steady repairs and maintenance performed by Lions.

It became clear to Lions 10 years ago that continuous pool patching wasn’t going to be an option much longer. They started a vigorous fundraising

campaign but realized in 2012 that it was time to throw in the [swim] towel. The old pool was finally demolished to make room for a new, smaller one with fun features like spouting water jets.

Nearly \$1 million and more than 8,400 hours of labor by Lions and other volunteers paid off when the new pool opened last year. It wasn’t easy, says Lion Jack Conatser, mayor of Choteau, who points out that many Lions serve their community in various official capacities. “In most rural communities, volunteers are the lifeblood of the town. Choteau isn’t an exception, nor are the Lions,” he says.

“Using jackhammers, a wrecking ball, pouring concrete, doing all the carpentry work—we literally did it all,” he points out. There were lots of laughs, too, as the new pool started taking

shape. “We had wheelbarrow relay races against some of the high school football players, and we held our own,” he says proudly.

It seems that Choteau Lions can even defy gravity. “We installed all the plumbing. Water can run uphill with a Lion blowing on the end of a hose,” he jokes. As a mechanical contractor who knows many of the craftsmen in town, Conatser installed all of the gas piping and boilers. “In a small town, helping contractors finish jobs when they need help and going on your way without thinking about it or worrying about getting paid is almost an everyday thing. So when we went looking for help, we started with the people we had helped over the years. Good memories are invaluable.” Family members pitched in. Conatser’s son Tim did electrical work. Mandy Wick, whose husband is a Lion, helped pour concrete.

Lions raised \$300,000 by selling bricks and plaques with donors’ names. They held dinners with special themes like wild game dinners. They sponsored auctions and casino nights. Lions made personal calls to potential donors. About the only fundraiser Lions didn’t sponsor was a bake sale. “We would have eaten the stuff instead of selling it,” Conatser admits. “Our knees are still healing from all the begging we did to get material donated. Literally, we built it with blood, sweat and tears—and two ER visits.”

—Pamela Mohr



Weatherly Lion Terry Younker shows a youngster how to launch a model rocket.

Up, Up and Away in Pennsylvania

Weatherly Lions in Pennsylvania believe the sky's the limit—literally—when it comes to community service. They sponsor a weekly class during the summer to introduce residents to the science of model rocketry. Paula Hoffman credits another member of the club, Terry Younker, with its popularity. “He’s very patient with the young people, yet they have no trouble complying with the limits he sets for them. It must be his military background!” she says.

Younker, who spent 36 combined years in the Navy and the Army, chuckles at that suggestion. He says it’s just rocket science. Class members are so intrigued that he doesn’t have to remind anyone to pay attention during the two-hour classes. “They just can’t wait to get them into the air. It’s the same with the parents. Each person gets a rocket, but one rule is that first-timers only get a small rocket. A lot of them come every year, so the repeats get bigger rockets since they’ve done it before. Small rockets can go as far as 500 feet after that initial launch. There’s a four-second delay after they’re about halfway up. Then the fuel ignites and they shoot higher,” Younker says. Since everything that goes up must come down, so, too, do the rockets with the aid of a built-in parachute.

Parents usually stay for the class, too, which helps Younker and other club members. “It’s hard to watch the kids when they’re using Xacto knives to cut and spray painting their rockets. We’ve had some pretty creative rockets.” That includes an 8-foot rocket with an American flag design.

“Some of the moms wanted to send one off decorated with sequins,” he adds. Younker, who doesn’t usually comment on designs, gave a bit of advice. “I talked them out of it because those sequins would have added too much weight.” No one has been injured during the classes but some egos have been slightly bruised by rocket mishaps.

“This year every rocket survived but last year we had a few close calls,” says Hoffman. Two rockets landed in a tree and couldn’t be reached and a third went missing. A homeowner found it in his yard and made a little boy happy by giving it back to Lions to return it to him. Lion Christine Embrick, a borough employee, was able to convince workers in a bucket truck to pick the other two lost rockets out of the treetops. “It was hard watching one little boy trying so hard not to cry when he thought he lost his rocket,” says Hoffman. “He was so happy when Christine gave it back.”

Santa's Elves are Actually Leos



The tree is almost fully decorated with items to keep other children warm.

Leos in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, don their elf caps a little early each holiday season. While most students their age are thinking about Halloween in October, Leos are planning ahead to help the Neighborhood Santa Program keep kids warm in the winter. They display posters throughout local schools to collect cold-weather gear for families in need. The items are not only practical “decorations” for the trees displayed in each school’s lobby but also serve as visible reminders to bring donations. Leos collected 124 hats, gloves and scarves to the program last year.

Craig Merkey, the Leo adviser and a member of the sponsoring Baron Stiegel Lions Club, says, “In the beginning of each December, Leos gather all the items off the trees, count them and bag the hats, gloves and scarves to be delivered to the Neighborhood Santa Program.” Lions also support the 6-year-old program.

Originally begun as an outreach program of the Ephrata police department, the Neighborhood Santa Program is now a joint effort of businesses and community and civic groups overseen by two residents. The Ephrata Area Social Services Agency identifies families who may need assistance for inclusion in the holiday project. Excess clothing donations are given to the agency, which distributes pieces as needed throughout the winter.

The families enjoy a Breakfast with Santa to receive their gifts. Children are given not only practical items to keep them warm but also an abundance of toys. “You see the smiles on the kids’ faces and you just feel warm inside. You realize one act can change lives,” says Leo Kat Sandell.

Flour and Fruit Lead to Cash in Canada

The fruitcake, that occasionally maligned and misunderstood candied fruit holiday treat, seems to divide people into “love it” or “hate it” groups. North Battleford Bonaventure Lions in Saskatchewan, Canada, obviously fall into the “love it” category. They should. In the past 30 years Lions have been making and selling them, their fruitcakes have raised some serious cash for the club. And that’s nothing to laugh about.

Selling fruitcakes has enabled Lions to build a skateboard park, buy bedding plants for three nursing homes and give \$20,000 to build a community athletic and arts center. “After churning out more than 600 cakes every year, we hit the malls and a craft market to sell our product,” says June Newsham. “We have a lot of repeat customers and we also get busy phoning for sales. We’re usually sold out in a month.” The actual baking is much shorter than prep time, Newsham says — only about two hours since they use a commercial bakery once owned by a Lion. The current owner supports the club’s efforts by allowing them use of the facility.

“Our preparation starts two days earlier with the assembling of all the ingredients — 150 pounds of flour and over 325

pounds of mixed fruit and almonds and 73 dozen eggs,” she explains. The finished product weighs nearly 2 pounds and sells for \$10 each.



Lion bakers are a precision team in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Ski Legends Partner with Lions



Rosi Mittermaier and Christian Neureuther meet with Zimbabweans.

ZIMBABWE—Rosi Mittermaier and Christian Neureuther are skiing royalty in Germany. She was a double gold medalist at the 1976 Winter Olympics, and he won six World Cup races. Married in 1980, their son, Felix Neureuther, is a World Cup ski racer for Germany.

But it's not the cold slopes of Europe but the hot plains of Zimbabwe where the couple now make their mark. They partner with Lions of Germany and Christopher Blindenmission, a nonprofit, to provide healthcare for the needy there.

"If we can help, it's the only logical thing to do. We're at the age where we are more settled. We don't need a vacation house in Majorca or whatever," Mittermaier told the German LION. "We know this is 100 percent good, and the money gets to where it's supposed to go."

Added Neureuther, "It doesn't matter whether we're in Africa or Nepal. In the end, it's about supporting projects that allow you to give back and where you can trust that the money is being spent as promised. That's the decisive factor. You need to have the confidence that no one's trying to pull a fast one with the money that's being donated—even if it's 10 or 50 euros."

Cleanup Preserves Lake's Luster



Students clear the lake of excess algae.

it is affectionately known, often shows the glimmering reflection of majestically snow-capped Mt. Bandai.

Yet the lake has been degraded by eutrophication—excessive plant and algae growth caused by industrial pollutants. The more than 100 students recruited by the Inawashiro Lions Club filled crate after crate with algae. "We never could have done a volunteer project on this scale with only the students," a teacher told the Japanese LION. "We could not have provided the tools and equipment needed. This is huge victory not only for the lake but for their future as well."

The club had a prior connection with the junior high school through its sponsorship of the Peace Poster contest. "We learned a lot about volunteerism today," a student told the Lions at the lake.

JAPAN—Junior high students from Aizu-Wakamatsu with rakes and pitchforks descended on the beach of Lake Inawashiro,

located in the Fukushima Prefecture. The fourth-largest lake in Japan, it's admired for its clean water. "Heaven's Mirror," as

Women Run the Show

NEW ZEALAND—Two years ago Robyn Walker served as the 202 K district governor (DG). Christine Ford succeeded her, Marian Andrews serves as DG this year and Deidre Bridge will follow her. That's right—four female governors in a row.

New Zealand is relatively progressive: two women have served as prime minister and many large businesses are headed by women. Lions, on the other hand, are still playing catch up: just 29 percent of Lions in New Zealand are women.

So what gives? The women come from strong Lions backgrounds, giving them a familiarity and ease with Lions. Strong leadership training also smoothed their way to the top.

"Women have been encouraged to take on leadership roles. Attending training opportunities in the district has helped," says Andrews, 68, whose husband, Keith, has been a Lion for 30 years. Ford, 50, a onetime Leo whose father was a Lion and mother a Lioness (and later a Lion) while she was growing up, attended leadership institutes as well.

Walker, 57, a bank officer, joined Lions when invited by a work colleague in 2000. "Lions have great training programs in place to assist you in the direction you want to take," she says. The partner of Bridge, 53, is a Lion, as was her late husband. She also attended leadership seminars.

The women say their gender has little to do with their style of leadership. District leaders have a history of collaboration but "this is more related to having effective district plans in place rather than just because we are a team of women and this style of leadership can continue regardless of the gender of the DG," says Bridge.

How have male Lions reacted? "There have been some grumblings, but the standard answer even from the men is 'If you're not happy you need to put up your own hand for the role,'" says Bridge. "Some members still do not like having women in

the organization, but mostly there has been only encouragement," says Andrews.

Gender has no role at all in the satisfaction the women receive from service. "I love being a Lion," says Andrews. "I've had opportunities I never thought I'd have. Being able to help those in need is wonderful."



Serving at a high level in District 202 K New Zealand are (from left) Past District Governor (PDG) Robyn Walker, PDG Christine Ford, DG Marian Andrews and DG-elect Deidre Bridge.

Swedes Aid Iraqis

IRAQ—Swedish Lions sent 900 tents to northern Iraq to shelter refugees fleeing the violence of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). Lions are working with the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency, part of the Ministry of Defense, on the project.

Seema Panboon of the Skelleftea Lions Club traveled to Iraq to help distribute the tents. A former IT worker, he became a carpenter partly to be able to volunteer for humanitarian missions abroad.

Liberian Clubs Fight Ebola

LIBERIA—Four Lions clubs in Liberia are fighting the Ebola virus. The clubs have distributed disinfectants, soap, gloves, buckets and other preventative supplies to schools for the blind and deaf, a senior citizen's home, a hospital and other facilities.

The outbreak of the virus in Liberia began in March. At least 871 people have died there. The virus has claimed the lives of at least 2,100 people in five countries.

"Not one blind person has fallen to the virus," says Lion Anthony Wisseh. "All the places we went, providing awareness, food and non-food items—and if not for God—those places could have been affected."

The clubs involved are the Greater Monrovia, Monrovia Ducor, Greater Buchanan and the Cape Mesurado clubs. Davidetta Kotty, president of the Cape Mesurado club, told AllAfrica.com that the aid was Lions' "own way of identifying with the visually impaired and other less fortunate Liberians."

Field of Greens

In a Montana resort town, the Whitefish Lions turned a baseball diamond into a community garden that feeds schoolchildren while teaching them valuable lessons.

by Ryan T. Bell

The baseball field on the corner of Pine Avenue and 7th Street had never seen a game of catch like this. Eighth-grader Laurel Davidson stood in the infield, arms outstretched, sizing up a buttercup squash that hurtled toward her. With the agility of a shortstop, she caught the squash, pivoted and under-arm tossed it to second base. Fellow eighth-grader Ellie DeWan nabbed the pop-fly vegetable and set it in a wheelbarrow laden with freshly-picked produce.

The crowd, well, it did not go wild. At least, not for the squash double play. Scattered across the diamond, clusters of middle school students were digging up root vegetables, “eew-ing” at worms and spraying each other with water hoses. Thanks to an innovative project, the Whitefish Lions Farm to School Program, harvesting counted as gym class for these middleschoolers.

The story of how a baseball diamond was turned into a vegetable garden brings to mind the movie “Field of Dreams,” but in reverse. Instead of an Iowa farmer ploughing under a cornfield to build a ball field, the Lions rototilled a baseball diamond to plant a garden.

“Maybe there are ghosts of old baseball players out there playing at midnight,” says Lion Greg Schaffer, “who knows.”

If ghosts do play at night, they’d have a hard time running the bases. Sprinting down the first base line, they high step through a labyrinth of zucchini plants. Rounding second, they hop-scotch over squash. Huffing past third (assuming ghosts breathe), they smell onions. And on the slide into home, they tangle in the tentacles of a cantaloupe patch.

The project was born six years ago, when the Whitefish Lions set out to create a legacy project. In 2008, the newly-founded club was just starting to take root in the mountain town. The Lions knew they wanted to create a program to benefit children’s health. Greg Schaffer suggested sponsoring a community garden. Perhaps they could donate the produce to a good cause, like a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Growing up, Schaffer worked in his mother’s garden and credited it with the healthy meals she put on the table.

“Gardening is in my blood,” Schaffer says. “My mom would make cooked carrots, pickled cucumbers and zucchini bread—the kinds of foods you don’t like as a kid, but come to appreciate as an adult.”

At the time, fellow Lion Josh Branstetter was assistant principal at Whitefish Middle School (he’s now principal). He knew that the district’s

food services director, Jay Stagg, had been trying to develop a healthy foods initiative for the cafeterias. Maybe the Lions could build a garden to supply the schools with organic produce?

The Whitefish Lions didn’t know it then, but farm to school programs were a fast-growing trend in the U.S. According to figures compiled by the National Farm to School Network, some 2,500 school districts use locally grown, organic produce to serve healthy meals in more than 10,000 school cafeterias. These programs, the network explains, create self-sustaining cycles beneficial to small communities: farmers and gardeners sell produce to the schools; cafeterias use organic ingredients to prepare nutritious meals; school kids eat healthier, reducing instances of childhood obesity and diabetes; and everyone learns about agriculture and enjoys physical activity outdoors.

The Lions voted in favor of a Farm to School garden. They raised \$1,000 selling raffle tickets for grass-fed beef. A car dealership donated a vacant plot of land, and a local farmer brought the equipment to till it under. By the end of that first summer, 20 people had volunteered more than 100 hours to build and plant the garden. As far as volunteerism goes, the Lions discovered that gardening made for fun work. What-

ever a person's specialty, there was something for them to do in the garden: watering, building beds, installing sprinklers. Some Lions even liked weeding.

"At the end of an 8-hour business day, working in the garden is good mental relaxation," says Schaffer.

But the greatest satisfaction was delivering the first crop of vegetables to the school district's kitchen. With some 8,000 pounds of produce arriving at the loading dock, it was no small feat for Stagg to manage the food's processing. His team of cooks sliced, diced, bagged and froze the vegetables so they would keep throughout the school year. And they created recipes that kids would enjoy: vegetable pizza, zucchini bread, squash soup, salad and baked potato bars.

The garden's third harvest, in the fall of 2012, should have been a time when the Lions could celebrate their legacy project's having come to fruition. Instead, back-to-back blows threatened to cripple the Farm to School Program. First, an early frost killed the entire cucumber crop, and turned the vines and leaves of the other plants black. Then, the car dealership withdrew its land donation. Business was good, they said, and they needed the land to expand their lot. Nobody could blame them. And so, when the last vegetable was picked, the Farm to School Program was in jeopardy.

In "baseballese," the winter of 2013 was like the bottom of the ninth, the Lions were down and had two outs. With bases loaded, they stepped to the plate for the game's final at-bat. To win, they needed to find a new location for the garden.

Branstetter had a grand slam of an idea: what about converting the abandoned "Rock Pile" baseball field into a garden? The infield was overrun with weeds and the outfield grass was overgrown. That Whitefish had such an eyesore wasn't because of urban decay. Quite the opposite. The town's population was on the upswing, thanks to a robust tourism economy fueled by Whitefish's

Zach Brandt learns at Whitefish Middle School not only how to spell "potatoes" but also how to grow them.

Photos by Ryan T. Bell



Lions have a longstanding interest in community gardens and farms.

- California Lions work with students on a community garden (June 1976 LION).
- Georgia Lions help farmers transition from cotton to grasslands (February 1975).
- A North Carolina club creates a "miracle farm" in a single day (October 1950).

Also watch an interesting video on the Whitefish Farm to School project.



The garden takes teamwork and hard work. Adelle Gascoigne, Megan O'Dell and Emma Binstein (from left) brush up on their gardening skills. Zach Ade hoses down the yellow summer squash, and Julia Esakoff (opposite) has a barrel of fun.

popular ski resort. The school district had built a snazzy new multi-sport complex on the outskirts of town. The Rock Pile, as locals affectionately called it, languished behind its chain link fence. Branstetter learned that the baseball field sat on school district property. In February 2013, he successfully petitioned the school board to make it the new home of the Whitefish Lions Farm to School Program.

Like ballplayers gearing up for a doubleheader, the Lions went to work building a second garden. But this time

they benefited from the hard-earned lessons of their previous outing. They knew cucumbers didn't grow well in Whitefish, but that potatoes, when planted at the right time in the spring, would be ready to harvest at the same time as the zucchini and squash. And thanks to feedback from the school cooks, they planted more fruits (melons, strawberries, apple trees) to add variety to the lunch menu.

The community rallied to their cause with even greater donations of time, money and equipment than

before. The rental store loaned a rototiller. A fencing contractor dismantled the foul-line fences and reassembled them to enclose the infield garden. An architecture firm redesigned the dugouts into greenhouses. And an organic fertilizer company donated organic nutrients to improve the soil. The Lions also enjoyed an outpouring of volunteer help. Employees at the local fitness club chipped in to fulfill a community service requirement. And the parks and recreation department used the garden to conduct a youth summer gardening club.

To make the garden a more effective learning experience, Branstetter devised a new curriculum where gar-



dening became a grade-specific activity. The seventh-graders planted the garden in the spring. Come fall, when those kids became eighth-graders—a coming-of-age moment—they returned to pick the garden. By harvesting the

fruits of their labors, the students learned about agriculture, plant biology, the environment and the payoff of hard work.

A surprising outcome of the new garden was that it became something of a community center. The previous garden was located on a business strip, but the Rock Pile sat in the heart of a residential community. There's a church across the road, a retirement home down the street and a daycare around the corner. Members from these various walks of life stroll through the garden. With the foul-line fences taken down, the outfield is now an open space where kids play soccer and fly kites.

At the fall 2013 harvest, when the last squash was tossed and washed, the eighth-graders went back to school for lunch period while the Lions put on a donor-appreciation luncheon. A row of banquet tables were set up along the diamond's backstop and adorned with white tablecloths and fresh-cut flowers from the garden. Donors took turns in a buffet line, the highlight of which was a zucchini

sweet crisp made by Jay Stagg, a Farm to School original recipe using produce from the garden.

Seated around the table, the Lions told a favorite story from the summer that said a lot about the Farm to School Program's success. One evening, Lion Gabe Howman stopped by the garden to do some weeding. Pinned to the chain link fence, he found an envelope with \$3 and a thank-you. A grandmother had taken her young granddaughter for a walk among the vegetables. The girl had picked a zucchini, which the woman paid for with her donation. The Lions didn't mind because there was plenty of zucchini to go around.

The note was proof that the Whitefish Lions Club had taken root in the community. Thanks to their legacy project, the Lions Farm to School Program, that little girl will grow up eating healthy food at school. And come the seventh and eighth grades, she'll take her turn planting and harvesting zucchini plants in the Lions garden. Just as well she starts practicing now.



The fruits and vegetables end up being consumed in the school cafeteria.



Searching for Melvin

Who was our founder? Why he matters today.

by Jay Copp

We'll begin at the ending, the very end. Melvin Jones rests in peace at Mt. Hope Cemetery near Chicago. His impressive marble slab sits on small hill shaded by trees. The familiar Lions logo is engraved between the third and fourth lines of the inscription, which is simple but surely poignant for the visitors who come from across the United States and as far as India and Australia.

Melvin Jones
1879-1961
Founder
Lions International

The cemetery is mostly for ordinary folks with mundane markers, but on one side of Melvin's hill is a massive four-columned crypt, the size of a suburban garage. "Swift" is emblazoned across the facade. That's Swift as in the titan who built a meatpacking empire. Melvin built the world's largest service group. Thankfully, befitting a man of service and not a captain of industry, Melvin's marker, 5 feet wide and 3 feet tall, is dignified but not ostentatious.

The cemetery makes no bones about its famous dead. Affixed to a rail on the cemetery's front gate are a colored Lions logo and a placard that says "Site of Melvin Jones Memorial." A rail on the other side bears the Rotary logo and a sign with "Paul Harris," the founder of the service club also based near Chicago. Incredibly, two legendary figures, who spearheaded the spectacular growth of two service clubs more similar than different, now rest for eternity eerily close to each another. Asked who gets more visitors, a cemetery office worker chuckles and merely smiles.

By all accounts, Melvin was larger than life, especially in the earlier half of his life as he grew Lions. Affable and gregarious, he convinced men from disparate businessmen's groups to unite and call themselves Lions. Even more remarkable, Melvin turned the concept of a businessmen's

club upside down. Melvin was a genuine maverick.

The general facts of his life are well-documented. We also know about his vibrant personality and his achievements. We know far less about his character and motivation. He is something of an enigma. What sort of thunderbolt struck him? What kind of man was he to radically rethink a staple of American society?

A gentle breeze wafts through the trees at the cemetery and flutters their leaves. Clumps of mourners dot the distance. Fresh flowers adorn grave after grave. This cemetery is as much for the living as for the dead. So it is with Melvin, still relevant. The past is not dead; it's not even past, declared Faulkner. Lions Clubs International (LCI) has continued to grow and flourish in the more than half-century since he passed. Perhaps in discovering who Melvin Jones really was and what motivated him Lions can better understand their role and more adroitly chart their future.

We've come to Flossmoor, just south of Chicago. A half dozen Lions are milling about a driveway of an attractive, contemporary home on a tree-lined street. Melvin moved to the suburb in the 1940s and transferred his membership from Chicago Central to the Homewood Flossmoor Club. There is an extra urgency to the visit. The story we've heard is that Melvin's home will be torn down soon and replaced with a nicer home.

But confusion reigns as to what home was Melvin's. Next door to the attractive home is a dilapidated home with the precise address listed as Melvin's in LCI's records. The Lions spoke to the younger man who lived there and he said, no, he didn't know of a Melvin Jones having lived there.

The owner of the attractive home, a businessman dressed for work, is huddling with the Lions. Though he has to leave for work, he's supremely gracious. He'll get to the bottom of this. He talks to his wife. He gets on his cell to call his neighbors. Finally, he figures it out. "My home was built in 1969. Melvin did live here, but his house was torn down." Our hearts sink. A clue to Melvin's identity, a link to him, has dried up.

Then a public works van happens to drive by. "Hey, Kevin," a Lion hails him. The Lions explain the situation to him. "I'll see what I can find out," Kevin shouts and then drives away.

(Opposite) By 1928, 11 years after he founded Lions Clubs, Melvin Jones had left his insurance agency to run the service association.

Melvin's grave is a few miles from where he lived and 22 miles from Lions headquarters.





Homewood Flossmoor Lions gather at the older home believed to be Melvin's.

Longtime staffers at Lions headquarters in Oak Brook outside of Chicago have met elderly Lions either at headquarters or an international convention who once met Melvin. The encounters were basically the same: Melvin visited their club, briefly spoke, chatted amiably, inducted a member or two and vanished. It was a thrilling, memorable moment that came and went.

The paper trail of Melvin is scant. A copy of the "Last Will and Testament of Melvin Jones" sits in a file cabinet in Oak Brook. The simple, two-page document left his assets "to my beloved wife, Lillian M. Radigan Jones." Supplementary pages named nine surviving relatives. Besides Lillian, the survivors were a sister, three half-sisters and four nieces and nephews. All are long dead or believed to be dead.

The past can be dauntingly elusive. Open a historical door and out pops—nothing. Melvin's original club was the Chicago Central Lions Club. Alas, its records could not outlast the march of time. In the 1970s its club room was part of the Illinois Athletic Club in downtown Chicago. "Unbeknownst to club members, the Illinois Athletic Club undertook a renovation project in which all of Chicago Central's records, supplies, charter, artifacts and files were destroyed," reports Secretary Richard Carlson in an email.

But Melvin did leave a few things behind at LCI; we can actually rummage through his drawers—his desk drawers. In his desk were well-thumbed magazines and books, surely a solid indication of his interests. There are multiple copies of Reader's Digest, Magazine Digest and Photo Facts, yet another monthly roundup of current issues and concerns. Melvin, a busy man, took it upon himself to be well-rounded and up-to-date. Broad social issues and citizenship also concerned him. His books include "America and the Refugees," "Doctors, Dollars and Disease," "How Good Are Our Colleges?" and "Making Americans."

Befitting someone called upon to make frequent speeches and to be an oracle, Melvin owned a booklet of

aphorisms. "CID Says" was penned by insurance executive C.I.D. Moore in 1927. Among the hundreds of sayings, Melvin put check marks next to a dozen or so including "nothing is so efficacious in interesting others in what you have to sell as your own enthusiasm" and "the man who knows how to work does not know want." He checked and underlined a single maxim: "simplicity, sincerity and naturalness are elements in every great character."

Melvin also left behind his check ledger from 1957. He bought his shirts from Marshal Fields, subscribed to six newspapers, purchased seeds for his garden and supported the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army and a local church and college.

But this was a man whose life revolved around Lions. He paid dues for six Chicago-area Lions clubs, bought 10 tickets for \$1 apiece for the pancake breakfast of the Matreson Lions, kicked in \$25 for the Park Forest Lions barbecue and shelled out \$200 for raffle tickets for a Cadillac to benefit the Homewood Flossmoor Lions. Melvin clearly was not a man who raided the till and or took advantage of his Lions status. He paid \$11.28 for an ash tray from LCI, parted with \$282.75 for 400 Christmas cards from LCI and even paid \$32 for two couples for a charter night dinner, where he presumably was the guest of honor.

His checkbook also discloses his LCI salary. He took home \$10,300 after taxes, the equivalent of \$87,000 today, not pauper's wages but hardly a princely sum either considering who he was. If Melvin were an executive today for LCI or most large nonprofits, he'd want to demand a hefty raise.

A person's checkbook is a measure of character. Still, who was he? Melvin lived in the era before modern, long-form journalism in which habits are described, character traits revealed and personalities assessed. Newspaper and magazine stories reveal few telling details. Articles portray him as a stock figure. A Time piece in 1958 can't avoid stereotyping him as a cheerleader, a shiny, happy man leading shiny, happy people: "Jones injected a cubbish mood by teaching the boys to sing such rousing tunes as the official 'Roar, Lion, Roar' at almost any meal."

Most known photos of Melvin show an elderly man with white hair, bookish wire-rim glasses and a wry smile. Those who met Melvin and remember him are now seniors themselves. Chuck Lantry, a Homewood Flossmoor Lion, sometimes attended his father's meetings as a boy of 4 or 5. His father even drove Melvin home occasionally. "I just remember him as a very distinguished gentleman," says

Searching for Melvin

Lantry, a silver-haired attorney. With a smile, he adds that the Lions' meetings did not exactly render him alert and observant for the ride home. "I was usually half-asleep by 8 or 9 o'clock," he says.

Lion Morris Kugler, 75, is a surgeon in Sparta, Illinois, a short jaunt from St. Louis. History has had a way of intruding into his life. His backyard backs up onto an airfield from which Charles Lindbergh once regularly took off and landed.

Kugler met Melvin when he was a 14-year-old Boy Scout. Kugler's father, Morris, was an international director from 1954 to 1956, and Melvin stayed overnight in their modest home. "That's how it was back then. There were no hotels, no highways," says the loquacious Kugler. "My dad was all over southern Illinois helping to start clubs." The Kuglers weren't rich by any measure, but his

father ran an independent phone company and traveled in circles with notable people like the Illinois governor. The young Kugler knew little about Lions but quickly understood that a special guest lodged with them.

"I knew this was a significant event for my family. It was like having a U.S. senator or governor at our house," he says. Melvin, though probably exhausted, was pleasant at the breakfast table. "He was friendly," says Kugler. Making more of an impression were his distinctive looks. Maybe it was because Melvin was a celebrity of sorts, but the young Kugler identified their guest with two actors he saw, one in the movies and one in advertisements. "There was this benign German guy who was in movies, and there was Smilin' Ed McConnell, who pushed Buster Brown shoes. It must be the similarities—the heavy jowls, the curly hair, the round specs," he says.

Unlike businessman's groups, Lions emphasized service. In 1933, Dr. A.P. Wilkinson of the Detroit North End Lions Club in Michigan shares a treat with Emma Lark and John Museall, both 10, at a Lions' luncheon for orphans.



Searching for Melvin

All these years later, Kugler himself is curious as to what motivated Melvin. The talk gets around to his death and his funeral services at a Chicago church. That strikes Kugler as significant. "So what denomination was he?" For the record, services were held for Melvin at the Chicago Temple, a United Methodist church. No one remembers if Melvin attended church regularly or got down on his knees at night in prayer, and Lions Clubs is strictly non-sectarian. But it's worth knowing that his denomination has a long record of concern for the downtrodden.

Melvin is a riddle but Chicago in 1917 can be easily conjured. Life was often hellacious. Overseas, tens of thousands of peach-fuzzed men were madly charging from trenches to their deaths. In the city, impoverished immigrants lived cheek to jowl. Children toiled in factories. The blind and those with disabilities were shunned or shunted aside. Racial tensions flared. Social reformer Jane Addams had opened Hull House to give the poor a lifeline to a better life. Her efforts to uplift the poor were so impressive—and social conditions so abysmal—that she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Reformers, preachers and novelists blasted the nation for shortchanging its citizens, and businessmen's groups particularly endured scorn. Writer Sinclair Lewis memorably satirized the self-serving, pompous members of a businessman's club in "Babbitt," published five years after Melvin founded Lions in 1917. Lions were too small and unknown to be the particular target of Lewis. And Melvin's purpose was in direct opposition to the self-absorbed glad-handers mocked by Lewis.

Melvin was 31, married and headed his successful insurance agency when he joined the Business Circle in Chicago in 1913. Ordinary was the best way to describe him. "Melvin Jones was probably the last man in the world anybody would have picked out as a crusader, reformer, up-lifter or organizer," wrote Robert Casey and W.A.S. Douglas in 1949 in "The World's Biggest Doers," a book copyrighted by LCI and surely vetted by Melvin.

In 1913, across the city and throughout the nation, accountants, bankers and hardware men were eating, meeting and trading business and referrals. Even so-called service clubs paid scant attention to helping others and instead typically made some token donations to charity while paying utmost attention to members' business gains.

The Business Circle was upfront about its purpose. Its motto was "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." The group was a respectable, routine tool for self-enhancement. The only problem was that it was losing steam. Members were defecting to more active clubs. Its membership of 200 had plummeted to 39. Melvin took it upon himself to revive the club and within months was elected secretary. Attendance picked up. Enthused with his leadership role, Melvin put more time into it, drawing the ire of his wife. "You're working yourself to death for somebody else without pay," she complained. Still, Melvin spent even more hours on building the club. An idea began to take shape that would distinguish the Business Circle from other businessman's clubs and enable it to join forces with clubs far and wide.



The Brook Lions Club in Indiana begins in 1969. New clubs sprouted during Jones' lifetime and afterward.

Searching for Melvin

Eight flags wave near the entrance of Lions headquarters. The flags are rotated daily to ensure all 209 Lions nations are represented periodically. Melvin remains a visible presence at headquarters. His office at the former downtown Chicago location of LCI has been re-created in Oak Brook. Off the main lobby, behind glass, are his rugged desk, a too-realistic lion rug and assorted artifacts.

In the early 1920s, Melvin gave up the Melvin Jones Insurance Agency and devoted himself full-time to Lions. Every weekday and sometimes on weekends he was at Lions headquarters, overseeing the continued expansion of Lions. Lions clubs proliferated in the 1920s. By the end of the decade every state had one, as did nearly every province in Canada. Mexico and China also had clubs. Membership stood at 80,000, and Lions' headquarters in downtown Chicago employed a staff of 33.

Stories of Melvin still linger in the air at headquarters. Staffers with 30 or 40 years under their belt once worked with staffers who worked at headquarters for 30 or 40 years—back to the time of Melvin. He apparently had—brace yourself—flaws. He could be ornery, imperious and vainglorious. Of course, these are stories that have been passed on through multiple people. It's like the game of telephone—stories tend to change the more they are told. And what head honcho, or any leader, for that matter, is not subject to the most exacting standards? To lead is to draw critical appraisal.

One thing that is certain is that Melvin was not afraid to innovate and take risks. Chicago Central Lions retain a speech to the club in 1946 by a founding Lion and onetime Business Circle member. It reveals Melvin's genius for blazing new trails. Maury Blink told how "there was no show of fellowship" at the meetings of the Business Circle, which were humdrum affairs. As secretary of the resurgent club, Melvin "asked for suggestions" to liven up the gatherings. A former choir member, Blink volunteered to lead singing. Thus was born, eventually anyway, the singing Lions.

Curiously, Melvin never served as international president. But he was held in high honor, demonstrated most convincingly in 1958 when convention delegates affectionately conferred upon him the title "secretary general for life," and he wielded considerable influence in the affairs of LCI until he died.

Melvin Jones knew the men killed in the gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, and he was outraged by the shooting. "Neither Ike Clanton nor his brother Billie nor Frank and Tom McLowery had killed anyone or robbed any stage. As officers of the law the Earps had no legal right or excuse for killing them the way they did," Melvin Wiley Jones furiously wrote.

Melvin Jones' uncle, Melvin Wiley Jones, was a peace constable who knew the participants in the famous gun battle of 1881. Melvin was 2 then. Yet, like his namesake uncle, he indeed was part of the Old West. He was born in Fort Thomas, Arizona, and his father was Calvin Jones, who fought in bloody battles against Native Americans. Melvin's boyhood memories were of horses and blue-clad troopers, bugles and war cries, wagon trains and impoverished settlers. Melvin's father commanded scouts under General Nelson Miles, a famous Indian fighter. Melvin was born just three years after General Custer's troops were routed. Cochise and Geronimo and their braves clashed with troops during his boyhood.

When Melvin was 7, his father was transferred to a new post far from the fighting, and his mother later moved to St. Louis with Melvin and her other children and then Quincy, Illinois, for better schooling. What effect did growing up in war-like conditions have on Melvin? He sometimes talked about his mother's fears about the fighting so close to their home and her children. One would like to think that even at a young age Melvin sensed the advantages of banding together and looking out for one another. Years later, while many of his business colleagues were hell-bent on pursuing their own interests, something in Melvin may have nudged him toward reaching out to others in solidarity instead.

Growing into a man, Melvin zigzagged his way through school. He took a course at a business college. He studied law for a while and considered a career in music. "I couldn't decide to be a lawyer or a tenor. My voice had made me pretty popular in school," he was quoted in a story in the LION published after his death. He decided against law and music and instead got a job at Johnson & Higgins in Chicago. By 1913 he was the sole owner of the insurance agency.

In 1909, Melvin had wooed and married a pretty Chicago woman. If Melvin intended to make a name for himself, he had a ways to go to catch up to the renown of his wife. Rose Amanda Freeman was a spectacular golfer. She capped her career by winning the National Women's Open Title in 1925. A search of newspaper databases in the 1920s, when Lions clubs exploded, show far more stories on Rose than Melvin. How did her fame affect the psyche and drive of Melvin, especially in an era where women stayed home and stayed out of the spotlight?

The two remained married until she died in 1954. Two years later, Melvin married his neighbor, a cultured woman named Lillian Radigan. His second marriage went well. But Melvin never put aside his memories of Rose. In his desk at LCI were tattered newspaper clippings from the 1930s detailing her exploits.

Honor Melvin's Birthday

January 13 is Melvin Jones' birthday, and International President Joe Preston is asking Lions to honor his birthday by performing an act of service. Preston filmed the video appeal about our founder's birthday at the Melvin Jones International Memorial in Fort Thomas, Arizona, where he was born in 1879. Preston is an Arizona resident.

[View the short video.](#)

Under Melvin's leadership, Lions Clubs grew by leaps and bounds. Membership stood at 117,000 by 1940 and more than doubled to 279,116 by 1946. Service clubs were no longer mocked, but they weren't exactly taken seriously. Media stories focused on members' sociability. The Time story in 1958 on the Chicago convention began: "Lions are the friendliest people, enthused Harvey ('They call me Cookie') Cook. ... Everybody had a name tag on them. You look and see the name and greet him, say, 'Hi ya doin!'" Cook's extra big 'Keep Smiling' button flashed gaily from his purple and gold vest."

Despite the impulse to stereotype, the Time reporter actually got it right. He nailed what Lions were about in hailing the 79-year-old Melvin for getting the ball rolling: "In those days the luncheon club was primarily a meeting place for businessmen who wanted to meet businessmen. Rotary's pin was reserved for the town's leading man in each line of business; second-ranking Kiwanis, later tagged 'the grey flannel suit boys' by Lions, used 'We Trade' as its motto and admitted only two members from each recognized local enterprise. Old Monarch Jones opened his new clubs' rolls to anybody a chapter voted to invite, made community service rather than business the organization's avowed goal."

Even the backslapping Cookie understands what Lions are about. The Time story ends with this observation of the merry Lion from Beechview, Pennsylvania: "One human being helping another—that's Lionism. Service to humanity—that's Lionism. It makes you feel good."

Still, the Time article missed the larger story. The sad truth is that profound social events can go almost unnoticed and unreported. Consider the great migration of Southern blacks to Northern cities, which transformed the North and South. That occurred over a span of decades without denting the national consciousness. So it was with the explosive growth of social organizations in the first half of the 20th century, argues sociologist Robert Putnam. Social groups such as Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary, as well as the PTA, church and political groups and even bowling leagues, created "social capital," community bonds that uplifted families, communities and society. By joining together people did much more than enrich their social lives; they enriched their entire way of life. Democracy and wealth were enhanced when people organized around common bonds and interests.

Melvin could not have guessed he was a leading part of a rising wave of societal participation, of course. He was preoccupied with the nuts and bolts of building a new association. His first bold idea was to unite the Business Circle with other businessman's clubs. He wrote hundreds of letters to clubs nationwide asking them to form a national association. Interest grew. On June 7, 1917, 20 delegates representing 27 clubs from different parts of the United States met at Hotel LaSalle in Chicago.

On hand were representatives from the Optimists, the Reciprocity Clubs, the Wheels, the Concordia Club of Omaha, the Business and Professional Men of St. Paul, the Cirgonians of Los Angeles, the Vortex from St. Louis and Detroit, and the Royal Order of Lions of Indiana, an association of 27 clubs. At Melvin's urging, the various representatives agreed to unite.

Searching for Melvin

The sticking point was a name; each group favored its own. Anticipating this roadblock, Melvin had done some shrewd cloakroom campaigning. He knew he had to forgo keeping the name of the Business Circle if he expected other groups to give up their names. He lobbied for “Lions.” That group in Indiana was not only a large faction, but to Melvin the lion stood for courage, strength, fidelity and vital action. On a secret ballot the “Association of Lions Clubs” won out. Everyone was happy but the Optimists, who walked out in a huff.

Melvin’s other crucial decision was to dedicate the association to service. The Lions Objects and Code of Ethics, drafted months later at the first convention in Dallas, Texas, on Oct. 8, prohibited the pursuit of self-interest. Object #6 holds that “no club shall hold out as one of its objects financial benefits to its members.” The #5 code in the Code of Ethics reads: “To hold friendship as an end and not as a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.”

The Business Circle was kaput. In a few years Melvin would quit his insurance business. The gifted salesman would dedicate his life to channeling the desire of people to serve their communities. “He was a skillful organizer, imbued with a deep sense of duty he probably inherited from his soldier father,” concludes Glenn Kittler in “The Dynamic World of Lions International,” published in 1968. Kittler interviewed headquarters staff and Lions who knew Melvin well. “It had irked him to be part of a group which, however select, convened merely for the purpose of personal profit. He found himself thinking, ‘What if these men, who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were put to work helping improve the community?’”

We’re still waiting in the driveway in Flossmoor, wondering about Melvin’s home, when Kevin Long, the foreman of the village’s public works department, returns. He’s waving a paper. “I think I found what you need,” he says. He’s photocopied a permit to build a garage signed by Melvin Jones on Aug. 8, 1941. The address is the dilapidated home. Within minutes the owners of that home

The Old Monarch received his due in 1958 in Chicago at the 41st International Convention.



The LION has secured rare footage of Melvin. He’s shown at the 1942 convention in Toronto and on a side trip to Hawaii from the 1947 convention in San Francisco.

Searching for Melvin

drive up. “This was his [Melvin’s] home,” confirms Rosalie Havens. She and her husband, George, purchased it in the 1960s after he died. “We couldn’t figure out what was going on at first. We had people from India and all over stop here. ‘Why are they at our house?’” she recalls.

The home is on its last legs. It’s large but ordinary and could never have qualified as opulent. The home is further evidence that Melvin did not get rich from Lions. In the back, affixed to a wall, Rosalie shows the Lions an ironic plaque they found at a flea market: “On this site in 1897 nothing happened.”

The Havens are quite familiar with Lions. Turns out that Rosalie’s relatives were members of the Flossmoor Club. The Lions chat amiably about mutual friends, old Melvin and the club’s projects. Not far away is the library, a frequent beneficiary of the club, and the community pool built by Lions. One of the checks Melvin wrote in 1957 was for the pool.

In one sense, Melvin would likely be astonished by the current makeup of Lions. “I think he’d be surprised by a woman like me,” says Sue Larsen, 2013-14 club president. He’d also be gratified by the expansion of Lions. “I think the international scope of it—it met his dream,” says Michael Schassburger.

Does the good people do live after them?

Kugler, whose family hosted Melvin overnight, is certain the Lions’ founder did not encourage him to become a Lion when he grew up. But here he is—a Lion. The opportunity was there, and he seized it. He also recently helped invite 45 ophthalmologists and optometrists in southern Illinois to join Lions. Melvin may not have asked him to consider Lions, but Kugler’s so convinced of the value of membership that he doesn’t hesitate to add to the rolls.

Lantry, who fell asleep in the back seat when his dad drove Melvin home from meetings, wasn’t allowed to doze his way through childhood: as a boy he worked alongside his father and other Lions in doing maintenance and painting at the pool. Melvin never pitched him on Lions, but just the same he became a Lion. Since 1982, he’s cooked pasta, fried steaks, sold pickles on a stick, rose at an ungodly hour on Candy Day to catch the earliest commuters at the train station and targeted the right people and filled out the necessary forms for dram shop insurance or other paperwork needed for club projects. Melvin receded in Lantry’s distant boyhood memories, yet his grand idea helped shape his adult life. “Lions kept me involved in the community. Our club has definitely made an impact,” he says.

So do you believe in ghosts or spirits? What exactly do we mean by the “spirit of service”?



Angel D’Souza is inducted by then International President Wayne Madden as her father, Terry, proudly watches.

We’ll end where we began—at Melvin’s grave. Two years ago Angel D’Souza, in her early 20s, stood at the plot with her father, then District Governor Terry. They came for a ceremony with then International President Wayne Madden of Indiana. Brief speeches were made. Heads were bowed. Thoughts percolated.

Melvin began building Lions Clubs in the age of discovery and adventure, an era where the Poles were explored. But he ventured inward, toward the heart and soul. He understood that people were about more than just self-interest. Times change. People? Not so much.

“Young lady, has anyone ever asked you to be a Lion?” Madden asked Angel, who shook her head no. So nearly atop the grave of Melvin, Angel, nearly shaking with excitement, took the oath.

Melvin was a frequent contributor to the LION, often ruminating on the ideals and practices of Lions or exhorting members to rally behind a cause.

- Melvin congratulates a Chicago-area club on doubling its membership (November 1922 LION).
- Melvin expounds on the value of singing at meetings (April 1927).
- “Victory shall be ours” predicts the Lions’ patriarch as World War II begins (January 1942).



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Centennial Service Challenge!



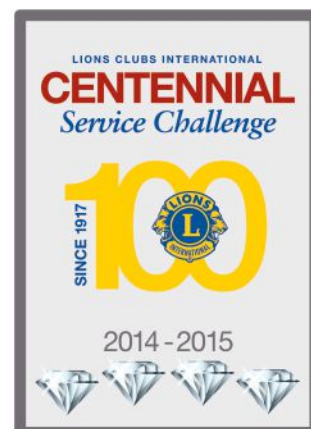
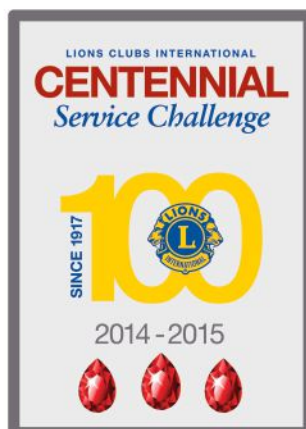
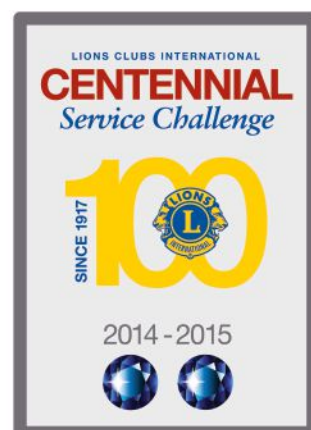
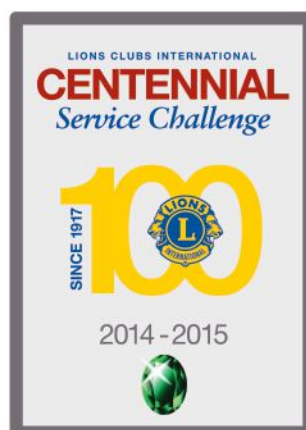
Host a hunger-related project in December and January for our Relieving the Hunger campaign!

The Centennial Service Challenge encourages Lions around the world to serve 100 million people to celebrate our Centennial in 2017. Your club can play a part in reaching our goal.

- **Host service projects** that impact Youth, Vision, Hunger or the Environment
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A Short History of

43 Facts You Should Know About Blindness

by Jay Copp

- 1** In most early civilizations blind men are sold into ship galley slavery and blind women are sold into prostitution or the blind survive as beggars.
- 2** The first Pharaohs around 3000 B.C. command that blind infants be left to die.
- 3** By 2500 B.C. Egyptians treat eye disease and educate the blind.
- 4** A blind Pharaoh about 700 B.C. forcefully regains his throne after a foreign invasion.
- 5** The blind poet Homer of Greece presumably authors both the “Iliad” and the “Odyssey” in the 9th century B.C.
- 6** Roman healers in the first century use a needle to crudely push a cataract lens out of the visual field.
- 7** Some Roman cities limit infanticide, requiring, for example, the consent of five neighbors before a newborn could be killed.
- 8** Similar to the guilds of the era, brotherhoods of the blind organize in Europe in the Middle Ages to advance their interests.
- 9** The English poet John Milton writes the masterpiece “Paradise Lost” after becoming blind around 1652.
- 10** Taught with letters of wood in 1676, Esther Elizabeth von Waldkirch, the daughter of a rich Swiss merchant, becomes the first known blind person to learn to write.



Blindness

- 11** In 1714, English engineer Henry Miller patents with the queen as an aid to the blind a mechanical writing machine—the precursor of the typewriter.
- 12** In 1749 the acclaimed French encyclopedist Denis Diderot arouses a spirited public debate after publishing a letter arguing that the blind could be educated.
- 13** Inspired by an appalling scene in a Parisian café where blind men wearing dunce caps and cardboard glasses entertain diners by playing out-of-tune on violins, Valentin Haüy founds the first school for the blind in 1784.
- 14** Around 1800, French army captain Charles Barbier invents a way for soldiers to communicate silently in the dark through raised dots and dashes on cardboard.
- 15** Blinded in an accident as a boy, Louis Braille, a student at the school founded by Haüy, learns of Barbier’s “night-writing” system when the ex-soldier visits the school, inspiring the precocious 15-year-old to develop Braille in 1824.
- 16** The first residential school for the blind in the United States, the New England Asylum for the Blind (now called the Perkins School for the Blind) opens in 1829.
- 17** In 1862, Herman Snellen, a Dutch eye doctor, invents the Snellen chart to test visual acuity—letters or numbers of varying sizes arranged in rows.
- 18** Helen Keller is born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in 1880.
- 19** Anne Sullivan gives Keller an understanding of language in 1887.
- 20** Greatly improving upon writing Braille with a slate and stylus, Frank Hall of the Illinois School for the Blind introduces the Hall Braillewriter in 1892.
- 21** Keller becomes a worldwide celebrity when “The Story of My Life” is published in 1903.
- 22** New York state makes education compulsory for blind students in 1911.
- 23** Melvin Jones, a 38-year-old Chicago insurance executive, forms Lions Clubs in 1917.
- 24** After World War I, Germans, impressed how dogs located soldiers and led rescuers on the battlefield, train dogs as guides for men blinded in combat.
- 25** Although almost completely blind, French impressionist Claude Monet paints his famous “Water Lilies” mural in 1919.
- 26** Keller beseeches Lions to be “Knights of the Blind” at their international convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, in 1925.
- 27** Learning of guide dogs while living in Switzerland, Dorothy Harrison Eustis returns to America and establishes in Nashville the first U.S. dog guide school, the Seeing Eye, in 1929.
- 28** George Bonham of the Peoria Lions Club in Illinois begins a campaign in 1930 that leads to every state passing White Cane safety laws by 1956.
- 29** The American Foundation for the Blind develops Talking Books in 1932.
- 30** The U.S. Congress passes the Social Security Act, which includes the Aid to the Blind rehabilitation program, in 1935.
- 31** Three Detroit Lions establish Leader Dogs for the Blind in 1938.
- 32** Dedicated to equality and integration, the National Federation of the Blind is formed in 1940.
- 33** The Buffalo Lions Club in New York founds the world’s second eye bank, the Buffalo Eye Bank, in 1945.
- 34** The U.S. Congress passes the first law requiring public schools to accept handicapped students in “the least restrictive environment” in 1975.
- 35** Raymond Kurzweil creates the Kurzweil reader, a prototype translator of printed material into synthesized speech, in 1976.
- 36** A study shows that only 31 percent of working-age adults with vision loss work compared to 72 percent of the entire U.S. working-age population in 1976.
- 37** Lions Clubs International launches its SightFirst program in 1989.
- 38** SightFirst celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2004 with a symbolic 24 million candles on its birthday cake: the number of people saved from serious vision loss or whose vision was restored.
- 39** Lions raise more than \$200 million by 2008 for Campaign SightFirst II to save sight.
- 40** The Centers for Disease Control predicts in 2009 that diabetic-related blindness among working age Americans will triple within six years.
- 41** Thanks in part to Lions, 39 million people are estimated to be blind in 2010, a 14 percent drop in five years.
- 42** Lions, The Carter Center and Pfizer mark the 100 millionth dose of Zithromax® distributed to prevent trachoma, a blinding disease, in 2013.
- 43** In 2013, the FDA approves a special camera that transmits electrical impulses to electrodes implanted in the eye that help some blind people regain part of their sight.

Sources: The American Foundation for the Blind, the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults, and “The Legacy of the Past” by Regi Enerstvedt.

Village of Hope

Land mines, shootings in wars and accidents maim impoverished children. The Peace Village in Germany heals them.

by Rhea Wessel



Twelve-year-old Rosaria from Angola carries a wide scar along the length of her right femur. It rises softly above her healthy skin, like a small ridge appearing on the horizon.

The scar is a visible sign of what she suffered and what she can overcome. Doctors in Germany stitched up Rosaria after surgery for a bone infection, or osteomyelitis. It's an ailment seldom found in developed countries anymore. Now, two days after Rosaria was released from the hospital, she is smiling and in good cheer as nurse Bärbel Arens applies an anti-infection cream along the site of the incision.

Rosaria is one of 500 children a year who is receiving medical treatment through a charity called Peace Village. Near Oberhausen, Germany, not far from the Dutch border, the organization might better be called the Village of Second Chances or the Village of Hope. It is here that children are brought from the world's crisis zones for reconstructive surgery. They're children whose noses or limbs have been blown off by bombs or landmines; their hands are without fingers due to congenital defects, or their faces were completely scarred by fire.

Wolfgang Mertens, a Peace Village spokesperson, says Rosaria and her playmates are among the lucky ones. "The

children here at the Peace Village don't need our pity, they need our money. We have to remember that millions of other children out there have no chance of recovering from their wounds."

When Rosaria returns to Angola, she will definitely have a story to tell about her scar. It will be a tale about a land where lots of people wearing white robes hovered over her with shiny instruments trying to make themselves understood in German or Portuguese, a language still taught in Portugal's former colony. She will tell about the friends she made among the other Angolan girls and how they all slept in bunk beds in a dormitory, warding off nightmares together.

The story behind Rosaria's initial injury remains blurry. The doctors in Germany only know that osteomyelitis set in after Rosaria fell off a wall, and a concrete block landed on her legs. She was taken to the hospital but was not operated on.

In the case of 7-year-old Shabir from Afghanistan, doctors know he suffered from a gunshot two years ago in the province of Maidan Wardak. He arrived at the Peace Village in February 2013 and has not left the hospital since.

Insurgents started a gunfight in Shabir's village, and he was shot in his right lower leg. Shabir's parents took him to a hospital in Kabul and paid US\$100, a small fortune for them, for his medical treatment. However, the injured leg was not treated properly. His fractured leg remains inflamed.

"In the fewest cases do we have a full understanding of the origin of the problem," nurse Arens says. For Arens, it hardly matters why the child suffers. Her main focus is to reduce that suffering. Every day she is confronted with tragic wounds and heart-wrenching scenes: kids playing table tennis without hands or kicking soccer balls with prostheses instead of legs. Yet Arens still manages to often smile and laugh—spreading hope is part of her job description.

A Labor of Love

About 100 people work daily and full time at or around the Peace Village. Some receive the equivalent of full-time salaries and most earn reduced wages; hundreds more volunteer on a regular basis. The Peace Village operates on 3.5 to 4 million euros a year (US\$5.2 million) and spends much of that money on logistics, including chartering aircraft to pick up and drop off children in crisis and impoverished areas.

Funding comes from individuals and foundations, and German Lions are a key sponsor. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) also has been a huge help by working with German Lions to fund five projects including a 1.8 million euro donation to build four badly needed dormitories and to repair the heating system. In 2012, LCIF



A child at the Peace Village does arts and crafts.
(Right) Soccer is universally popular at the Peace Village.

Chairperson Wing-Kun Tam visited the Peace Village to meet its children and see the latest facility modernizations that the Lions helped fund. LCIF and German Lions clubs most recently paid for renovations of the façade of the physical therapy center and the installation of a new surface on the kids' basketball court.

"Without the Lions, we would have a big problem," Mertens says. "German Lions clubs contribute roughly 300,000 euros a year."

Growing Up with the Peace Village

Mertens has watched the Peace Village grow and transform itself since it was founded in 1967. He began his association with the charity as a 19-year-old conscientious objector to the mandatory military service that Germany had at the time.

Now 58, Mertens looks somewhat like an aging rock star with bright grey-bluish eyes. By the way Mertens talks, and the amount of time he takes, one can see how deeply he cares about the Peace Village.

Over the years, Mertens has witnessed the ups and downs and the full circle of impact. He keeps in touch with a Georgian woman named Anni who was treated on her leg as a girl. She grew up to become a doctor and visited Mertens in April to catch up.

And he is in contact with Gezaluddin, now working in Kabul, Afghanistan. Gezaluddin suffered from a bone infection and was treated at the Peace Village. He fulfilled his lifelong dream to become a surgeon to give back to others in the same way.

Mertens is watching another "cycle" impact the Peace Village, too. This year, the Peace Village is behind on fundraising because many of the individual donors who had supported the organization over decades are, to be frank, dying off. Apparently, their children are not continuing to donate.

Mertens draws only a small salary and runs an events business on the side to support his own family. He says, "I dream of the Peace Village being able to operate without worrying about money."



(Above) An injured boy receives treatment. (Below) The prosthetics some children arrive with are often crude.

Watch a moving Lions' video on the Peace Village.



A Healing Mission

Children typically stay at the Peace Village for six months to one year. Days are spent receiving physical therapy, getting treated in the hospital or playing on the grounds of the charity. The criteria for being selected for care are strict, given the limited capacity.

Since the focus is on reconstructive surgery, AIDS and cancer patients are not treated, for instance. Children are considered as patients only if they cannot be treated at home and only if the child has an earnest chance of recovery. So if the nose or ear cannot be reset or reconstructed or skin cannot be transplanted, the child may be passed over. It is not a requirement that children come from war-torn countries, though many do.

Repatriation is another point that organizers consider in choosing who to help. At present, 10 nations are represented at the Peace Village: Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Cameroon, Gambia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. This allows children to find a group of playmates who speak their own language, know their own stories and can comfort one another when homesickness sets in.

Experience has shown that by keeping cultures intact and avoiding integration in Germany the Peace Village makes it easier for the children to return home to



their parents. This is one reason—besides the complicated logistics that would be involved—why the children do not attend school while at the Peace Village. Many children learn German fast from soaking up their environment. But some do not, and teaching the language is not part of the program. The Peace Village is bound by contracts with the parents to bring the children home. Parents are not signing away their children when they agree to medical treatment in Germany; instead, they're signing up for their child to have a second chance upon return. For this reason as well, the Peace Village actively avoids letting the children adapt too much to life in Germany.

(Above) The children receive intense physical therapy. (Below) An African girl is on the road to recovery.

Because it is so difficult for children to be separated from their parents and to keep costs down, the Peace Village is working to build infrastructure around the world so that many more children can be treated near their homes. It has built Peace Villages in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Romania, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan. It also supports projects in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Cambodia. The German Peace Village provides financial and logistical support and brings supplies to the various sites.

Staying Homesick

Sometimes it's difficult for Peace Village employees and volunteers to avoid falling in love with the children. When little Karomat from Uzbekistan welcomes visitors with a drawing and a giant smile and then asks to be picked up and spun around, it's hard to say no. Karomat, 5, is having the stubs on her hands separated so she can better grasp objects. Her left hand is bandaged, so she holds a rolled-up drawing in her right hand between her stubs and her only full-length finger, her pinky. That drawing, a sketch of a ship, suddenly becomes a pirate's looking glass for examining the visitor.

Karomat was born with deformities to both hands, and her right lower leg was missing. She is receiving surgical

treatment at St. Willibrord hospital in the city of Emmerich to allow better use of her hands. (The Peace Village has roughly 400 beds available to it at hospitals across Germany, most of them nearby.) In Germany since August 2012, Karomat also has a new prosthesis on her leg. When she arrived, she wore one made of plaster that was very heavy. "We were surprised how she was able to walk, since the prosthesis was heavy for an adult to lift," says Anna Duleczus of the Peace Village.

Karomat's bright eyes and the optimism she and the others exude—despite their situation—make it hard for all the staff to stay detached, including the surgeons who operate at hospitals kilometers away from the village. Some doctors have been known to want to take the children home for the weekend, to spoil them with attention and gifts. But, Mertens says, this just makes the job of repatriation harder. The Peace Village intentionally keeps the children from seeing too much of the material wealth of German society. Toys at the village are simple—a ball or a doll, a deck of playing cards or a sack of marbles.

"We want to keep the children homesick to a certain degree," Mertens says. "Children start to get ideas if they begin to compare their home to that of the surgeon who has a pool in the back yard."

Children help others to the dining room.





Meal time is full of chatter as well as heaps of food.

One volunteer, an Italian woman named Manuela Rossi, says that working with Peace Village children definitely makes her thankful for the comfortable life she lives and the good health of her own children, who are 10 and 11.

“I always call it my therapy. I love to come here and be with the kids and to play with them. When I go home, I feel really enthusiastic. You realize what’s important in life,” she says.

Rossi’s job at the Peace Village focuses on bringing schools and other groups to the village to learn about the work and help. She says, “I have another concept of education now. When you come here, you learn from these kids. You’re thankful that you’re alive and live in a country without war.”

A Protected Environment

Though school classes and groups from churches and charities visit regularly, the Peace Village is extremely careful about allowing television teams and reporters access to the children. Over and over again, the media seems to want to put the children’s pain on parade. Mertens says, “If I had children from Syria, now that there’s a war there, I could have a TV team here every day.”

Mertens adds, “A German TV show once called me about bringing children to their studio, but they wanted to have really sick children, those that were constantly crying



The beginning of healing most often starts with a bitter farewell—a boy headed to the Peace Village is kissed goodbye.

or those who were desperately ill. The children here aren’t suffering. They live and laugh and have fun. They squabble. They need to squabble.”

Individual TV celebrities have a different approach sometimes. Several have adopted the Peace Village project and become “ambassadors” for it, including German actor Günter Lamprecht, who lived through World War II.

Another is the Japanese TV personality Chizuru Azuma, who has written two books about her experiences at the Peace Village. Her work to make the Peace Village known in Japan and to collect donations has paid off: Young Japanese must first go on a waiting list before getting the chance to volunteer for a year at the Peace Village in Germany.

For Mertens, it’s easy to see why Japanese volunteers are eagerly lining up: “We make the world a better place. I’m convinced of this.”

A Recruiting No-Brainer

Former Leos Are Primed to Become Devoted Lions

Kelsey Norton caught the service bug earlier than most. Growing up helping out on projects with her mom's Medway Lions Club in Massachusetts, Norton learned what it felt like to help someone. She never wanted to lose that feeling. "It's like it's in my blood to help people," says 18-year-old Norton. When her high school chartered a Leo club, she proudly became its first president. After graduating, Norton couldn't imagine not being a part of the Lions family anymore. Joining the Lions club she grew up with was an easy choice. "It was a natural transition for me," Norton explains.

Many Leos like Norton are out there, ready and willing to continue serving if only asked. Leos come with the already established love of serving, knowledge of Lionism and ability to lead. With the right combination of inclusion and encouragement, Leos can make a seamless shift to Lions clubs lucky to have them.

Build the Relationship

The seeds for future Lions are planted while they are still Leos. Sponsoring a Leo club will help young people learn to love serving and want to continue their work as adult Lions. But don't stop with just sponsorship—think partnership. Stephanie Napier, a 19-year-old Colchester Lion in Connecticut, has fond memories of working together with Lions when she was a Leo. "We worked closely with the Lions at most of our events. I would always volunteer for Leo and Lions events because I would look forward to the people. Working together was the best mentoring," says Napier.



Kelsey Norton (right) and other Leos gladly handle some heavy lifting at the Lions' Christmas tree sale.

Respect Their Experience

Remember that former Leos bring with them experience with leadership and hands-on service when they are inducted as Lions. Winster Ceballos, 34, now a Passaic-Clifton Lion in New Jersey, grew up with Lions in the Dominican Republic. After tagging along with his Lion grandfather for years, Ceballos became charter president of the Santo Domingo Miraflores Leo Club. "My time as a Leo helped me learn to talk to an audience, plan and administer projects and work with people. We worked with the Lions in an orphanage, a project that was close to my heart," says Ceballos.

Since he had already been working with the Lions before joining, he had a mostly easy transition. But the Lions' view of him as a youngster was sometimes hard to move beyond. "I was sometimes seen as a kid and not taken too seriously. It's important to let the formers Leos express themselves and share ideas. New ideas are always good for a Lions club," says Ceballos.

Encourage Leadership

Leos-turned-Lions might be prepared to take on leadership early on, so be ready to know when the moment is right. "Global Leadership Team (GLT) members were asking me what sort of seminars young Lions might like, and then they invited me to join the GLT. I appreciate that they realize what potential I have to offer," says Norton. Napier took on duties as meeting program chair and Lion tamer assistant. And believed to be the youngest council chair (Multiple District 16) in the world, Ceballos is taking the groundwork he laid as a Leo to uncharted heights.

Bring Leos into the Lions fold, and welcome a new generation of Lions leaders. Norton points out, "I'm met with looks of surprise when Lions from other clubs realize I'm a Lion. They're amazed, but they shouldn't be. They should be asking, 'How do we get more like you to join?' Young people care, and we want to serve. We just need opportunities."



Photo by Don Martin

First-graders recite a poem to Lions in gratitude for their new Lions Literacy Loft (background).

Loft Love Leads to Learning

Peek into teacher Angela Kaastra's class at Wauwanesa School in Manitoba, Canada, and you'll see first-graders everywhere. "If you were to walk into our classroom on any given morning, you'd see students reading on the carpet, in their coat cubbies, on the couch, writing on clipboards under my teacher desk, listening to stories on iPods by the door or sitting side by side reading to a friend," Kaastra says.

The school supports an independent learning style that engages students in meaningful literacy tasks. "Children are scattered all over my classroom, working quietly. Yes, even 6-year-olds can do this!" she says enthusiastically. "I wanted to create spaces that make our little ones want to curl up with a good book or make them salivate to write in the 'author's chair.'"

Kaastra found a helpful partner in the Wauwanesa Lions Club. Beth Smale and Margaret Martin were looking for a project in 2012 that members could do that would have real value. It didn't have to be huge—but they wanted "something that would make a lifelong impact," says Smale. As it turns out, the project they chose was both. The pair suggested reading to Kaastra's class and the teacher gratefully accepted the offer. Kaastra then suggested Lions go a step further in their efforts.

The room's new Lions Literacy Loft, a raised platform with a reading area and space below for cozy, comfortable

tale telling, cost the club \$3,000 (US\$2,700) and provides just the special space Kaastra had hoped to give her students. A few design tweaks makes it even sturdier, and the loft was professionally installed by a manufacturer last year with Lions helping. Plexiglass sides make it fun to look out safely from the platform over the classroom. Above or below the loft, first-graders have an opportunity to choose a well-worn old favorite to curl up with or try a new reading adventure. After reading together in a group, each Lion takes time to tread lightly up the short flight of stairs to the loft, where two or three children receive individual attention. Lions sit patiently and help them read stories. Friendships are blossoming while books are read.

Kaastra explains, "The most beautiful thing that has come out of the Lions visiting the grade-one classroom every week is the relationship that has grown between our Lions and my students. Some of my more affectionate students welcome them with hugs. When our Lions—and yes, we do consider each Lion who visits us as 'ours!'—come to read, the benefits are many. They bring books that they love, exposing us to stories that we may not otherwise have noticed." One of the best things, she adds, is the "personal stories" Lions share when reading together. Children feel free to share, too. "It's all about making connections and building a relationship," Kaastra points out.

Running Fun for All Ages

Attorney Jackie Gaillard remembers clearly the night her husband Richard, a 10-year member of the Cornwall Lions Club in New York, came home from a club meeting and excitedly told her that Lions planned something new. “Guess what? We’re going to sponsor a new Lions fundraiser, and you can help,” he said.

There was a slight problem, however. No one really knew how to stage a race. “As an avid runner for many years, he just assumed I would know what to do,” Gaillard explains.

She didn’t, but quickly threw herself into the job. “I started entering every local event to see what I liked and didn’t like about how they managed their runs. I began learning how to organize an event,” Gaillard reveals. The Cornwall Lions Annual Fall Harvest Race began in 2008. “That first year, we planned a 5K in less than two months and had about 150 participants. I got the word out to all my local running friends, placed the event on the local race calendars—and people showed up and loved it,” she says. “Every year I learned more, and the run has continued to grow.”

Last year’s event had 860 runners and several hundred spectators. Proceeds from the race help Lions contribute \$5,000 yearly to Guiding Eyes for the Blind. In addition to



Runner Anne McGuirk Duignan embraces her son Dan after he completes the Kids’ Fun Run in Cornwall, New York.

the run, there’s also a 7.5 mile scenic challenge run and a children’s one-third mile (528 yards) “fun run.” Participants are encouraged to bring canned goods to help stock the shelves at a community food bank. For their donation, they’re given a free raffle ticket for goods donated by local merchants.



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Lions Quest Makes the Grade in Turkey

by Allie Lawrence

Students worldwide confront bullying, peer pressure and a day's worth of anxious moments that impact their health, academic performance and well-being. In Turkey, these challenges—and their outcomes—are even more consequential because of a highly competitive school system with limited opportunities for post-secondary education.

"Turkey has a very young population. Only one-third of the kids can go into university. There is a lot of competition. The kids are always under stress," says Past District Governor Nilgun Erdem Niord of the Mavi Halic Lions Club.

This is where Lions Quest comes in. Through this Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) program, students are learning valuable life skills and discovering how to make positive choices through social and emotional learning. The program is now in public and private schools across Turkey.

Since 2009, Lions in Multiple District (MD) 118 have been given more than \$275,000 in LCIF grants for Lions Quest, working with the Turkish Lions Foundation. For the Lions of Turkey, these grants helped make change possible. "My club has always been active in education. When we knew that we could get help from LCIF to start Lions Quest, it helped us to push the button and start," says Niord.

Currently, Lions Quest is the only social and emotional learning program available in Turkey, where it has the support of the Ministry of Education. An evaluation of Lions Quest in Turkey is being conducted through Bosphorus University, with results forthcoming. However, Lions and educators already can see the value of social and emotional learning.

"I got involved in the program because the training was so impressive to me," says Mine Guven, a professor of early childhood education at Bosphorus University. "The challenges are the same all around the world. By using Lions Quest we manage to have peaceful classrooms."

More than 1,000 teachers in Turkey have been trained to use Lions Quest in the classroom, reaching thousands of

students. "Educating—giving some skills to one teacher means you're reaching hundreds, thousands of children in a lifetime," says Fatos Erkman, a professor of education, a trained clinical psychologist and an administrator of the Bosphorus University Peace Education Application and Research Center. "We're very excited to be in alliance with Lions clubs because one of the aims of our center is for peace education at all levels. The Lions Quest curriculum for all grade levels is very fitting in our ideals."

Updated Lions Quest materials addressing modern is-

suues and challenges facing our children will be available in early 2015. Through grants, MD 118 will translate, adapt and update the curriculum to reflect Turkish culture. The goal is to create an environment in which students can focus and get more out of their classroom experience. So far, it seems to be working.

"Peace starts in the individual, and this is what Lions Quest is doing," says Niord. "We are teaching the children how to be peaceful within themselves, how to be peaceful within their societies. And this will bring a peaceful world."



Lions Quest is helping students in Turkey learn how to handle tough situations in a positive way.

KidSight USA Launched to Save Sight

by Eric Margules

For many children in the United States with vision issues, the problems aren't diagnosed until they experience trouble learning or paying attention in school. By then, it could be too late. Studies show that unless vision problems are detected and corrected early, they risk becoming permanent by age 7.

That's why Lions KidSight USA was formed.

KidSight USA is a new coalition that brings together KidSight programs and Lions around the United States to screen the vision of children between 6 months and 6 years of age. Lions already screen more than half a million kids annually through state and local programs, so KidSight USA aims to expand on that success by supporting the development of new programs to reach underserved areas of the United States.

"Vision affects a child's ability to see the world, but it also impacts a child's ability to learn," says Dr. Ed Cordes, an optometrist and the chairperson of Lions KidSight USA. "Experts say that up to 80 percent of learning is visual, so we need to screen all children to identify any vision issues that can get in the way of learning. And we need to screen children early to identify vision problems while they can still be corrected."

KidSight USA has established three levels of sample screening programs designed to meet the needs of all clubs and districts. From basic community-level screenings to programs spanning multiple districts, programs can evolve over



Photo by Daniel Morris

By just pressing a few buttons, Lions help save the vision of children in their community.

time to meet the needs of individual clubs and communities. Experienced Lions screening programs will work with new clubs and districts to help get their screening programs up and running. All U.S. Lions are encouraged to participate in the initiative.

"KidSight USA is an important national initiative that will help families protect the health of their children," says International President Joe Preston. "It builds on our proud history of saving sight and our belief that all children deserve to see the world clearly. And with the help of Lions, we hope they will."

To help support new screening programs, grant funding up to US\$100,000 is available for qualifying service activities through Lions Clubs International Foundation, which has already awarded

more than US\$2 million to support children's eye screening programs in the United States. Screening device manufacturers, Plusoptix and Welch Allyn, have also partnered with KidSight USA to provide financial support for the development of the program.

It only takes a few minutes of training for any Lion or volunteer to learn to screen children's sight. Every child deserves to learn and see the world clearly, and with an estimated 4 million children who will require professional follow-up care after their screenings, it's easy to see that the need is real.

For information and to get involved in Lions KidSight USA, visit e-district.org/sites/kidsightusa.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Pasadena Lions** in **Texas** hosted their 11th annual Walk for Sight fundraiser. Approximately 1,000 students and teachers participated, helping raise more than \$30,000.

The **100 Mile House Lions** in **British Columbia, Canada**, held their annual dinner auction. A highlight was the bidding of a pair of Lions' briefs worn by the town mayor. The lucky Lion bidder won the briefs at \$80.

The **Phillips-Strong Lions** and the **Western Mountain Leos** in **Maine** teamed up for their 4th annual auction. The Leos helped with setting up the items and serving as runners during the auction.

The **Fort Worth Southeast Lions** in **Texas** raised money for the Texas Lions Camp by selling tickets for events and sponsoring a garage sale.

The **Riverside Lions** in **Minnesota** held a pancake breakfast to raise funds to help purchase a service dog for a woman with type 1 diabetes.

When the **Atmore Lions** in **Alabama** heard that 115 high school students had signed up for a new beginning band class but had no instruments, they held a pancake supper and raised \$3,000 to go toward purchasing instruments.

In **West Virginia**, the **New Cumberland Lions** held their annual 3-mile walk to raise funds for the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation.

After assisting with a dentist's Halloween candy buyback project, the **Niswaga Lions** in **Minnesota** shipped 149 pounds of candy to Operation Gratitude, an organization that sends care packages to U.S. soldiers.

The **Oregon Lions Club** in **Illinois** sorted and packed 3,600 pairs of glasses at the Lions of Illinois Foundation Center. The foundation ships approximately 300,000 eyeglasses to countries in need each year.

The **Boise Capital Lions** in **Idaho** served breakfast to guests and staff at their local Ronald McDonald House.

In **Washington**, the **Ephrata, Moses Lake and Soap Lake Lions** purchased a Spot Vision Screener for children's vision screenings in their county.

The **Stanwood Lions** in **Washington** provide sight and hearing testing for more than 2,700 students each year at area schools.

The **Lions International Trading Pin Club** presents an annual \$2,500 Youth Scholarship Award. The club is raising funds for the scholarship through a challenge to 100 pin traders to donate \$100 each. Each member who donates receives a special pin.

The **Humboldt Lions of Tennessee** gave away 125 Christmas baskets.

The **Salem Lions** in **South Carolina** delivered toys to the United Way and donated \$1,675 to a hospice in memory of longtime Lion George Bradshaw.

In **Bhutan**, the **Druk Thimpu Lions** refurbished a residence for 50 blind students at the National Institute of the Visually Impaired.

The **East Dubuque Leo Club** in **Illinois** installed a bench and planted a tree outside of their school in remembrance of a classmate who was murdered. They raised money by selling bracelets with the words "Shine On" imprinted on them.

For the fourth year, the **Chillicothe Evening Lions** in **Ohio** helped families in need for the Christmas season, providing them with gifts and food.

District 4 C1 Lions in **California** received a grant for a new PediaVision digital vision screening camera. They have screened more than 3,000 elementary schoolchildren. With the advancement of the program, the Lions were approved for another grant and received three additional PediaVision cameras.

CALENDAR

2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

MEMBERSHIP FOCUS: FAMILY

LIONS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

Nov. 13-16:

OSEAL Forum
(Incheon, South Korea)

Nov. 14:

World Diabetes Day

Nov. 15:

Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning Peace Poster (per contest) to the district governor

Top Ten Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Award applications (YCE-110) due

Annual District/Multiple District Youth Camp and Exchange Activity Report (YCE-1450) due

Leo October Membership Growth Award nominations due

Nov. 20-23:

Faculty Development Institute—Constitutional Area VI: India, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East (Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India)

Nov. 21:

Application deadline for Lions Quest grants to be reviewed at the January 2015 Lions Quest Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting

Nov. 30:

Deadline for Family Membership Certification Forms

INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES NOVEMBER 2014

95 Years: Decatur, Ill.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Guthrie, Okla.

90 Years: Binghamton, N.Y.; Cambridge, Ohio; Cedar Falls, Iowa; Davenport Host, Iowa; Gillette, Wyo.; Upland Host, Calif.

85 Years: Canton, Okla.; Dodge City, Kan.; High Point, N.C.; Kanab, Utah; Madrid, Iowa; Napoleon, N.D.; Ogden, Iowa; Racine, Wis.; Somerset, Pa.; Stratford, Conn.; Takoma Park, Md.; Waynesboro, Pa.

80 Years: Charlottesville Host, Va.; Edison, Ga.; Flomaton, Ala.; Grapevine, Texas; Lachute, QC, CAN; St. George, Utah

75 Years: Anahuac, Texas; Arthur, ON, CAN; Atkins, Ark.; Augusta, Wis.; Dick

Dowling, Texas; Fort Edward, N.Y.; Henderson, Ky.; Independence Host, Mo.; La Fontaine, Ind.; Liberty, Texas; Moscow Central, Idaho; Pullman, Wash.; San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Shade, Pa.; Speedway, Ind.; Waterford, N.Y.

50 Years: Covington, Okla.; Ellensburg, Wash.; Hyland Lakes, Wis.; Killeen Evening, Texas; Lake Grove, N.Y.; Marion Noon, Iowa; Mustang, Okla.; New London, Mo.; Whitesville, Ky.; Yellowknife, NT, CAN

25 Years: Dime Box, Texas; Kearney, ON, CAN; Las Vegas Los Prados, Nev.; Los Angeles Chinese, Calif.; Somerset Pioneer, Calif.; Sudbury Suomi, ON, CAN

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 JULY 2014

Emissary Key (350 Members)

- Lion T.V.S.R.K.V. Prasad, Piler, India

Universal Key (300 Members)

- Lion T.V.S.R.K.V. Prasad, Piler, India

Global Key (250 Members)

- Lion T.V.S.R.K.V. Prasad, Piler, India
- Lion Ashok Mehta, Bombay Sion, India

International Key (200 Members)

- Lion T.V.S.R.K.V. Prasad, Piler, India

Key Of State (75 Members)

- Lion Annapareddy Kotireddy, Bezawada, India
- Lion Satya Baruah, Jorhat Dissoi Valley, India
- Lion Sunilkumar Jain, Ahmedabad Karnavati, India

Lions Clubs International has a huge goal in sight.
And Plusoptix is committed to helping meet it.

Lions Clubs International and Plusoptix have partnered to promote the new Lions KidSight USA initiative to ensure all kids in the US between ages six months and six years receive a vision screening and follow-up care.

Plusoptix can help your Lions club obtain the necessary tools to run a successful program and help reach this goal. Their validated screening technology delivers the most accurate and reliable results to assure the proper follow-up care is recommended.



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INFORMATION

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Bob Reily, Colorado City, Texas
- Lion Sten Bergqvist, South Florida Maritime, Florida
- Lion Syed Iqbal, Ongole Citizens, India
- Lion Swarn Singh, Sultanpur Lodhi Gaurav, India
- Lion Satya Baruah, Jorhat Dissoi Valley, India
- Lion Sunil Patodia, Mumbai Heritage Galaxy, India
- Lion N. Kalusulingam, Akshaya Chatrapatti, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Louis Blanchard, Magnolia, Arkansas
- Lion Herbert Worthy, Ecorse River Rouge, Michigan
- Lion Roger Sowers, York Springs, Pennsylvania
- Lion Daniel Funke, Goddard, Kansas
- Lion Art Ruben, Everett Central, Washington
- Lion Russell Watson, Chilliwack Dogwood Monarch, British Columbia, Canada
- Lion Howard McFadden, Rising Sun, Maryland
- Lion Jack Voigtschild, Bedford Noon, Indiana
- Lion Annette Cooke, Salem, New Hampshire
- Lion Biljana Tusevski, Osijek Turda, Croatia
- Lion Trisnawati Djuhari, Surabaya Padma, Indonesia
- Lion K.V. Subbaraju, Visakhapatnam Kurmannapalem, India
- Lion Bala Gopala Reddy Ch., Mylavaram, India
- Lion M. Manmadha Rao, Chodavaram, India
- Lion K.M. Marappa, Bangalore J.P. Nagar, India
- Lion Chandranath Chakraborty, Asansol Philanthropy, India
- Lion Jyotsana Jaiswal, Ahmedabad Perfection, India
- Lion Ranjana Mahawar, Raipur Capital, India
- Lion L.N. Mehta, Jaisalmer, India
- Lion G. Chandrasekar, Arakkonam Crown, India
- Lion P. Rajamanickam, Chennai Siksha, India
- Lion K. Jaganathan, Gurusamy Palayam Tamizhan, India
- Lion N. Kalusulingam, Akshaya Chatrapatti, India
- Lion Shambhu Prasad Ghimire, Kathmandu Ramechhap, Nepal

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

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with abundant wildlife to Icy Strait Point, **Hubbard Glacier**, that routinely sheds massive blocks of ice into the sea; Juneau and Ketchikan. Disembark and travel to Seattle for an overnight stay before flying home.



*PPDO. Based on inside stateroom, upgrades available. Plus \$299 tax/service/government fees. Alternate June - August 2015 departure dates available. Seasonal charges may apply. Add-on airfare available.



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A Novel Gift

Jessica McFadden wants to use the power of words to uplift those who don't believe they can have dreams, let alone achieve them. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a toddler, 18-year-old McFadden, legally blind, also has had lifelong mobility challenges. To cope with the stress of feeling like an outcast throughout her childhood, in seventh grade she began writing stories. She discovered that escaping into her fictional worlds not only helped her but that she loved writing. As a freshman at Denison University in Ohio—with a new iPad and a scholarship from the East Knox Lions—she's on her way to realizing her dream of becoming a novelist and serving as an inspiration for others with disabilities.

Q&A: Jessica McFadden

How did you get started writing?

Growing up being blind and wearing a leg brace singled me out and made me different, something every kid dreads with a passion. Books had been my escape, and then I began writing stories and working on a novel. I was able to infuse all of the chaotic emotions I felt into the story plot, giving me an excellent outlet to express myself. It helped me embrace what made me different, and my social life at school improved.



What do you like to write about?

I'm most interested in paranormal romance set in the medieval or Victorian eras. My current novel is set in 1800s Transylvania and involves witches and vampires.

How is the iPad helping you at college?

The iPad is extremely helpful with my poor vision. I use the VoiceOver feature, and it also has a dictation feature that records lectures. The iPad has made doing Internet research, writing and emailing my professors so convenient and easy. I also love how easy it is to work on my novel in my free time.

How is college going so far?

I've always had horrible vision, so I don't really know what I'm missing, which I'm grateful for. But I do have a slightly more difficult time orienting to new places and navigating new surroundings. It's been an adjustment, but I've been so excited for my classes and the social opportunities on campus.

And as an English and creative writing major, you're able to pursue your dream.

The extremely challenging obstacles I've faced in life are what inspired me to become a writer. If I become successful, I want my example to be an inspiration to those with disabilities who doubt their strength and self-worth because of the hand they've been dealt.

Jessica McFadden (left) learns how to use her new iPad and downloads accessibility apps with the help of an Apple store employee.

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.



A FIRED-UP READER

David Stedman of the Fort Atkinson Lions Club in Wisconsin took his LION to the battlefields of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. Not unlike the cover subject, Betty Sue Harris of the Canton Lions in Michigan did some climbing of her own on the Galapagos Islands. Kit Craighead (left) of the Colfax Lions and Past District Governor Rich DeCuir of the Sacramento Embarcadero Lions in California check out the LION while taking a break on White Cane Day. Want to be in the LION? Send a picture along with your name, Lions club, hometown and photo description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org.



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INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director **James S. "Jim" Cameron**, of Syracuse, Indiana, has died. He was a member of the Urbana and Syracuse Lions Clubs since 1962 and served on the international board of directors from 1988-90. He led more than 40 Lions eyeglass missions to developing countries and founded an organization to help children around the world. Cameron received the Volunteer Action Award from U.S. President George H. W. Bush and Indiana Governor Evan Bayh in 1992 for his dedication to helping people in need in Central America.

Past International Director **John G. Justice**, who served on the board from 1982 to 1984, has died. A member of the Nashville Downtown Lions Club in Tennessee since 1964, he served aboard the USS Wasp aircraft carrier during World War II and later supported Magic Carpet operations for returning troops. He was active in many community and civic organizations, and served as a Sunday school teacher and deacon.

FOR THE RECORD

As of Sept. 30, Lions Clubs International had 1,369,608 members in 46,543 clubs and 755 districts in 209 countries and geographic areas.

CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

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
2019	Milan, Italy July 5-9

ROAR OF APPROVAL

Ennis Brooks, a member of the Edison Lions Club since 1937, celebrated his 100th birthday in September. Brooks is a retired postmaster.

The Columbus Lions in Georgia bid a sad farewell to members **Gloria** and **Clotar Truppel**. Clotar, a sergeant major in the Brazilian army, was stationed at Fort Benning for two years. Already Colider Lions in Brazil, the Truppels brought their enthusiasm and generosity to Columbus, helping out on many service projects within and outside of Lions.

Thanks to a Christmas Santa program that Sour Lake Lion **Floyd Harkins** started in Texas, many families are having happier holiday seasons. Harkins donated a side of beef for a raffle, organized raffle ticket sales and visited with school counselors to identify needy families. After speaking with each family, he purchased food, clothing and household items with the \$25,000 raised. A caravan of volunteers led by Harkins delivered the gifts and spread a lot of joy.

In Maryland, longtime Perryville Lion **Luther Vaught** has collected more than 1,000 eye glasses and 51 hearing aids for refurbishing during the past four years.

Lion **Archibald "Buddy" Macewen** joined the Kensington Lions Club in 1961. Now 89 years old, the resident of Prince Edward Island, Canada, is still very active. Macewen has held every office in the club, chaired many events and served as deputy district governor.



After the Crystal River Lions helped **Ted Tierderken** receive a guide dog, he decided to return the favor. Struggling with macular degeneration, the 71-year-old Florida resident happened upon a Lions' table set up at a shopping center. The Lions told him he might be eligible for a guide dog. After returning from the training program a year later with his new dog, Popi, Tierderken came across the Lions again at the same shopping center. He is now giving back to the Lions and the community as a new Lion.

The Yarmouth Lions in Maine recently wished 45-year member **Espen Christiansen** a happy 98th birthday. Christiansen was a member of the 82nd Airborne during World War II, landing behind enemy lines in Normandy. After participating in several battles from Italy to Cologne, Christiansen received the Purple Heart and a Presidential Unit Citation. As a Lion, he was active in every fundraiser for decades and still attends nearly every meeting. When asked his secret to leading such an active and noteworthy life, Christiansen responded, "Stay busy and look out for others."



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18. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

(Signed)
Dane La Joye, Managing Editor

LAST ROAR



BATTER UP!

Chuck Schonberger, a member of the Brush Lions Club since 1983, cooks pancakes at the club's breakfast, a tradition in the town of 5,500 in northern Colorado. The 28-member club holds vision screenings, collects eyeglasses, awards scholarships, sponsors an Easter egg hunt, cleans a highway, helps out at the Brush Rodeo and handles traffic control at a run/walk.

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