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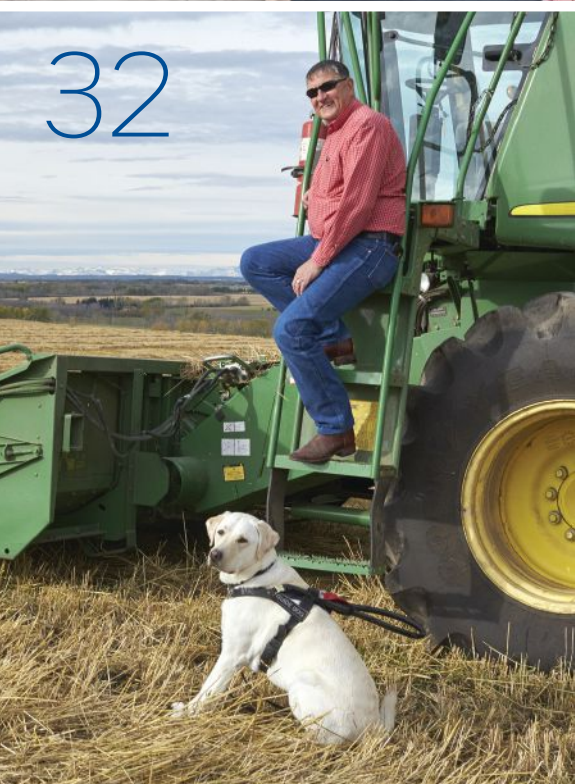
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On the cover:

Bill Miller of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Washington inspects a pair of eyeglasses.
Photo by Darren Miller



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98th Lions Clubs International Convention
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Friday, June 26 – Tuesday, June 30, 2015

WE SERVE

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*“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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Photo by Dan Morris

Many hands make light work: Jesmond Lions in Australia undertake a beautification project.

Mark Our Centennial With a Membership Drive

I didn't know it at the time, but one of the greatest days of my life was the day a work colleague invited me to a Lions meeting. My life changed forever and became infinitely more meaningful because someone had the courage, confidence and foresight to ask me to be a Lion. This month, as part of our centennial celebration, I ask you to ask others to become a Lion.

Our centennial will be a lot of things to a lot of people—a celebration, a remembrance, a call to further service. But it also will be a giant lever to ensure our vitality and service capability by increasing our membership. Strengthen the Pride by adding members and allowing others to discover the satisfaction, even joy, of service.

Our well-conceived Membership Awards program, part of our centennial celebration, began April 1 and ends June 30, 2018. We have a series of incentive awards for Lions and Lions clubs to sponsor new members and new clubs. Lions who sponsor new members or help organize new clubs and clubs that induct new members or sponsor new clubs will receive beautiful limited-edition pins, certificates and banner patches. We know the true reward of advancing Lions' mission of service is the pride and feeling of satisfaction among members. But at the same time we

want to properly recognize Lions for their membership efforts. We relish it when we're thanked for our service. Consider these tokens of appreciation a giant thank-you from Lions Clubs International.

The details on the Membership Awards program are on pages 36 and can be found at lionsclubs.org as well. I know Lions always respond when asked, and I know Lions will do their very best to add to our rolls so we can do even more service. I wish you happy hunting for members!



Joe Preston

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Just imagine if every Lion asked one person to join their club. Watch the "Ask 1" video.

"To you, it's the perfect lift chair. To me, it's the best sleep chair I've ever had."

— J. Fitzgerald, VA

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[The Big Picture



Book a Flight



Reading helps elementary school students in Utah soar to new heights. Cedar City Lions and Parowan Lions distribute charts to tally minutes spent reading to 4,500 students in the Iron County School District. Three months later, in April, students exchange the charts for a kite, book or movie pass. The nylon kites with colorful designs or beloved characters such as SpongeBob float serenely (or shake nervously if winds are high) with the Rocky Mountains as a stunning backdrop. "Oh, it's beautiful," says Mark Nelson, Kite Flight chair. There are prizes for best homemade kite or longest-flying kite. The day includes car seat safety checks, interaction with police and firefighters and free wooden toys to build and paint. The Lions partner with businesses on the event, and the clubs are able to donate nearly \$8,000 to PTAs.

[The Big Picture



Making a Spectacle of Themselves



It's not all work and no play at the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NWLERC) in Washington. Lions and community volunteers have fun with "silly suns," given to children waiting at missions. The busy recycling center has sorted through 1.5 million eyeglasses, reclaiming more than 170,000 pairs for distribution in 40 nations (story on page 22). Pictured are (front row, from left) Past District Governor George Robinson, Donna Monohon, Lion Cindy Robinson and Michi Delaney, and (back) Richard Monohon, Past Zone Chair (PZC) Mel Williamson, PZC Bill Miller, Cheri Ingersoll and NWLERC President Lion Don Schmidt.

GREAT START FOR THE CENTENNIAL SERVICE CHALLENGE

The Centennial Service Challenge is off to a roaring start. Lions clubs had reported to Lions Clubs International (LCI) 20 million people served as of December 2014. Lions served 7.5 million youths, benefited 5 million people through environmental projects, assisted 4 million through vision services and provided food for 3.5 million. The goal is for Lions to serve 100 million people from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2018. The centennial challenge stems from the Global Service Action Campaigns. For the past few years clubs have been asked to Engage Youth in August, Share the Vision in October, Relieve Hunger in December/January and Protect the Environment in April. To qualify, the service must be reported to LCI via the Service Activities Report on the online MyLCI system.



Multan Crescent Lions serve food to the needy in Pakistan in January during Lions' Worldwide Week of Service.

LIONS IN INDIA PROTEST SCHOOL ATTACK

Lions in India organized a peace march in Kolkata in December five days after terrorists killed 145 students and teachers at a school in Pakistan. More than 3,500 marchers including Lions, Leos, students and sports and film stars walked a kilometer to express their commitment to human solidarity. Supported by a Public Relations grant from Lions Clubs International, Lions from Districts 322 B1, B2 and C1 sponsored the demonstration. To publicize the event, Lions visited schools and took out a full-page newspaper ad, and Leos created a Facebook page. The march ended with a prayer at Lions Safari Park, maintained by Lions since 1984. "The citizens of Kolkata parted with a promise to work together to combat the evil force of terrorism," according to a story on the march in a Lions' newsletter. The attack by nine Taliban gunmen on the Army Public School in Peshawar on Dec. 16 was the deadliest terrorist attack ever in Pakistan.

2015-16 PEACE POSTER CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The theme for the 2015-16 Peace Poster Contest is "Share Peace." This international contest run by Lions Clubs International gives youth worldwide a chance to express their vision of peace through art. Students ages 11, 12 and 13 are eligible to participate. The deadline to order a kit for sponsoring clubs is Oct. 1. To order online, search for "peace poster kit" at lionmagazine.org. The kits are available in the 11 official languages. The Peace Poster Contest qualifies for the Centennial Service Challenge—serving 100 million people by 2017. Lions must record the activity online at MyLCI for the activity to count toward the goal. Clubs also are encouraged to post their service on Facebook and other social media sites by using the hashtag #LIONS100.

- "I'm as old as the war, and I hate it," said the inaugural Peace Poster winner in 1989. Read the story on him.
- Watch a creative, high-energy video on the Peace Poster Contest.



Marchers in Kolkata, India, silently protest a terrorist attack on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.

MISS IOWA TAKES THE OATH

At their Mid-Winter Leadership Conference Iowa Lions witnessed the induction of one of their own—Miss Iowa Autumn Weaver. International President Joe Preston of Arizona inducted her as a member of the Ames Evening Lions Club. Weaver spoke to Lions on overcoming bullying as a child. Born deaf, she later received a cochlear implant at the Lions-supported Cochlear Implant Center at the University of Iowa Hospital. “I have a dream of serving and helping others all over the world. I do believe in peace, kindness, harmony, teamwork and love,” she told the LION. Studying criminal justice at Kaplan University, Weaver often visits hospitals to cheer up sick children. She was named Miss Iowa in 2014 in the National Miss American Coed Pageant.



Miss Iowa Autumn Weaver

PSA ON DISASTERS MADE FOR LIONS

Lions Clubs International has created a public service announcement (PSA) that highlights Lions' fast and effective response to disasters. Clubs can provide the PSA, available in 30-second and one-minute versions, to media outlets and share it on social media to raise awareness of Lions. Stations can download a broadcast-quality PSA from the LCI website or Lions can request a DVD from headquarters' Audio and Visuals and Events department. Call LCI at 630-468-6714.

Watch the new PSA on disaster relief.

LCI REDESIGNS WEBSITE

Lions Clubs International has redesigned its website (lionsclubs.org). The new design is more user-friendly, more responsive and easier to read on smartphones and tablets. The navigational tools and new drop-down menus make it easier to find information commonly searched for by Lions. The website also automatically scales and rearranges content based on the screen size of the user. The site went live in February. Feedback solicited from Lions helped guide the redesign. The last redesign was in 2010.



Javier Gonzales

Santa Fe Springs Lion, Whittier, California

As a young immigrant to the U.S. from Mexico, Gonzales learned the value of education, believing in oneself and service at an early age. Now a high school math teacher and Pioneer Leo Club adviser, Gonzales, 51, inspires scores of young people to follow in his path.

Was honored as the 1996 California Teacher of the Year

Appointed to President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

Along with his wife, Lion Gloria, leads Leos in an annual homemade tamale holiday fundraiser



Photo courtesy of Watchara Phomicinda/Whittier Daily News

Tough Transition

Coming to the U.S. when I was 9 with my family—I was one of 12 children—was exciting but difficult. We were used to a farming life and freedom to roam the countryside. In East L.A. we were confined to a one-bedroom house. At school we were ridiculed for not knowing the language and the way we dressed due to poverty.

A Teacher Takes Notice

It wasn't until the ninth grade that I realized I was actually smart. Before that, I was a ghost in school with bad grades. A science teacher took an interest in me and taught me to believe in myself and that I could do any-

thing I put my mind to. I graduated high school with honors and was the first in my family to go to college.

A Magical Mentor

Although I was never a student of his, Jaime Escalante [the subject of the film "Stand and Deliver"] taught at my high school and I would spend time in his classroom after school. While in college majoring in engineering, I got a summer job as a math tutor with Upward Bound, and Jaime was teaching math there too. I would sit in his classroom and observe his magic. It was then that I decided to become a math teacher, and Jaime became my mentor.

Inspiring Future Teachers

Twenty-five years ago I started the Jaime Escalante Summer Math Academy at Pioneer High School. Our tutors, with many Leos among them, serve 300 students every summer. My pride and joy: seeing how many of my former students and tutors go on to become teachers.

Every Student Matters

My classroom walls are completely filled with pictures of my students (photo). Students strive to get their photos on my wall so they can be remembered. And they are—the pictures remind me every day why I come to work and ground me on my mission in life.

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

Medicare covers revolutionary new device that gives seniors freedom from lower back pain

Easy-to-use high-tech back brace is now covered by Medicare. Specialists are manning the phones for the next 48 hours to assist seniors in qualifying to get the new Verta Loc back brace and regain their youth.



The revolutionary new Verta Loc Back Brace is helping seniors everywhere re-discover an active and pain-free lifestyle.

But even better news is that recently approved Medicare coverage means that most seniors with lower back pain can get the amazing Verta Loc – and much-needed relief – at little or no cost.

Qualifying is fast and easy with a free phone call within the next 48 hours to the trained Medicare specialists at The Back Pain Resource Center.

Comfortable, custom fit provides immediate pain relief

If you are reading this, you know that lower back pain can be excruciating and debilitating. Even mild, low-grade back pain, whether chronic or recurring, robs seniors of their golden years and takes the fun out of life.

The Verta Loc was designed by medical technology experts to reverse that situation, instantly. It fits all waist sizes and has no small pieces to fumble with. Your Verta Loc will arrive fully assembled and could not be easier to adjust for a perfectly custom-tailored fit and immediate relief.



Verta Loc's unique two-strap system gives you complete control over the compression you need to feel relief, offering maximum comfort and protection with just the right amount of support.

Not available through retailers or over the Internet

To keep costs down and to streamline and speed up the Medicare qualification process, the Verta Loc Back Brace cannot be purchased online or in stores. It is only available with a free call to The Back Pain Resource Center, and will be shipped directly to your home by our trusted supplier of quality durable medical equipment.

The Center's specialists are trained in Medicare and make it very easy for virtual-

ly all seniors with lower back pain to qualify for the new Verta Loc and obtain one at little to no cost out-of-pocket. The specialists handle all the paperwork in a matter of minutes.

Pain relief and financial relief too

Many people find themselves wearing their Verta Loc for only part of the day to experience relief. Plus, when the pain subsides, many are able to reduce or even eliminate their use of pain medications, which not only eliminates unwanted side effects but also saves money.

Recommended by doctors and back pain specialists

Physicians agree that using a high-quality back brace like Verta Loc helps encourage safe movement, teaches good body mechanics, and restricts the motions that cause pain



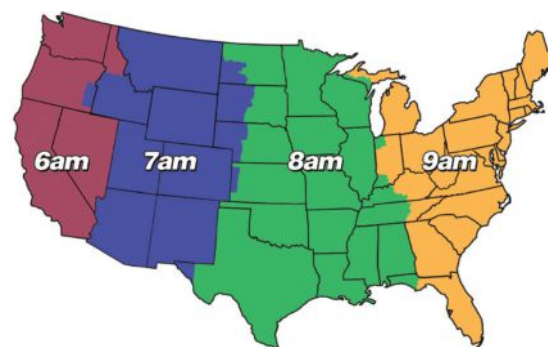
in the first place. Patients are able to maintain their daily activities and learn better back health practices.

Medicare coverage specialists are available by phone for the next 48 hours only. Call today!

Since Medicare is now covering the Verta Loc, the phone lines are expected to be flooded, but if lines are busy, callers are encouraged to keep trying. For the next 48 hours, the goal of the Back Pain Resource Center is to make sure every senior is able to experience the relief and freedom provided by having their own Verta Loc.

To get your Verta Loc please find your time zone on this map and begin calling at the time indicated.

CALL 800-576-9796



Retiring from Work but not from Life

BY STAN HINDEN

In the late 1990s, John W. Rowe and Robert L. Kahn published a book called “Successful Aging.” The book was based on the MacArthur Foundation Study of Aging in America, which showed that with proper diet, exercise and medical care elderly people could remain physically active and mentally alert for many years.

Successful aging, the authors concluded, was based on three characteristics:

- A low risk of disease and disease-related disability
- High mental and physical abilities
- The desire to remain actively engaged with people

I came across these ideas while writing a book: “How to Retire Happy. The 12 Most Important Decisions You Must Make Before You Retire.” I was particularly curious about the third suggestion: “The desire to remain actively engaged with people.” And I wondered what that meant.

I soon remembered that when I retired from The Washington Post a few years earlier, I felt cut off from the friends and colleagues I had worked with for 20 years. One day, I was at work, surrounded by dozens of co-workers and friends—part of an editorial team. And the next day, I was retired, at home alone and wondering where all those friends had gone. Clearly, when I left my job, I also left all those friends behind.

I soon realized that I needed to do something to fill that hole in my life. So I joined the Leisure World Lions Club in suburban Silver Spring, Maryland. Leisure World is a retirement community with several thousand residents and a wide variety of clubs and activities. My goal was to meet new people and, hopefully, to take part in activities that would be useful and rewarding.

I was fortunate. The club members were friendly and welcoming and happy to have another worker who wanted to help the club pursue its goal of raising money for vision-related organizations. Those organizations included the Lions Vision Research Foundation, located at the world-famous Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. It also included Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, Michigan, and Camp Merrick, a summer camp for blind and deaf children located in southern Maryland.

The members of our club raised money in a variety of ways. But mostly, good weather and bad, we stood outside local supermarkets with money jars, appealing to shoppers with the words: “Help the Lions Help the Blind.” I was always pleased when an individual would stop by, put a few dollars in my jar, and say, “You helped my son when he needed glasses in school and we couldn’t afford it.”

Indeed, the Leisure World club often paid for eyeglasses for students whose families didn’t have enough

money. Our members also spent a lot of time collecting the thousands of eyeglasses that people dropped off at local banks and businesses. I hear rumblings that Lions Clubs wants new members, especially younger members. That’s all fine and good. But I know there are an awful lot of folks my age who have time on their hands and know how to get things done.

As a retiree who relished keeping busy, I found that my Lions club widened my personal horizons and, better yet, let me become part of a global organization dedicated to the preservation of eyesight. And what could have been better than that?

Stan Hinden is a former president of the Leisure World Lions Club and writes the Social Security Mailbox column for the AARP website.



[First Roar



Overheard

"When you're suddenly standing up on the stage, knowing that there are 70 million people watching you around the world, it's hard to remember even what your name is."

—Oscar-winning screenwriter Ernest Thompson, recalling his acceptance speech, after a screening of "On Golden Pond" hosted by Mattapoisett Lions in Massachusetts, his wife's hometown. From the Sippican Week.

"That's what I love about these types of organizations. While they can support disasters and charities around the world, they still remember the people that need help right here in our community. Everyday families here in Niagara have their struggles as seen here by Michaela. Well done, Welland Lions Clubs."

—Rebecca W., in a digital post to a story in the St. Catharines Standard on the dog guide given to 15-year-old Michaela Kinnear by Welland Lions in Ontario, Canada, with proceeds from the sale of its hall.

By the Numbers

95

Years of membership in the Seneca Lions Club in Illinois for Stephen Thompson and his late father.



5

Homes painted, cleaned or renovated in recent years by Glenview Lions in Illinois through Rebuild-

ing Together, dedicated to helping people with low income.

30

Children who took part in a workshop on building bird-houses held by Rainier Lions in Washington.



11.5

Height in feet of a molded, iron-frame climbing boulder installed at Lions Park in Great Falls, Montana, by Great Falls Lions.

2,000

Bilingual books donated to a school in Aurora by Elburn Lions in Illinois.

19

Weekends spent by Abington Lions in Pennsylvania to beautify Hillside Park.



3

Levels of difficulty of riding trails at a 3-acre mountain bike skills park built by Chestermere Lions of Alberta, Canada.

18 Years Ago in the LION



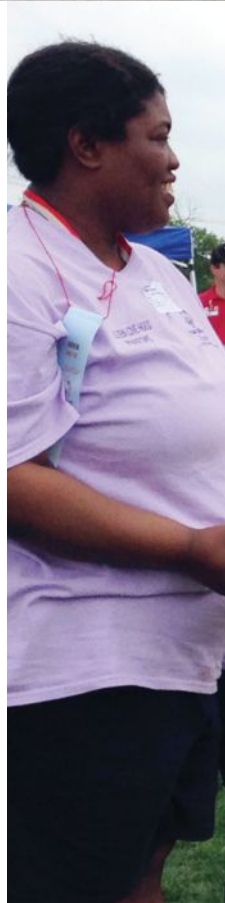
APRIL 1997

SightFirst tallied its 1 millionth cataract surgery. Funded by a \$143 million campaign, LCIF's sight-saving program began just seven years earlier. Pictured is a happy patient from Kenya.

[Read the complete story.](#)



A hard-fought game of basketball rages on in Troy, Illinois.
Photo by Lois Adomite



[Service

Let the Zany Games Begin

More than 2,000 years after the Olympics originated, Lions in Troy—Illinois, that is, not Greece—put their own 21st century spin on the ancient games. Hurling a computer keyboard through the air passes for discus. Instead of launching a mighty javelin, Olympic “athletes” are given three sheets of paper to make airplanes. The one whose plane flies farthest is declared the winner. Archers use rubber bands to shoot at a bull’s-eye. During last year’s games, there were 10 events, each one a quirky test of skill.

The Office Olympics, Lions-style, was the idea of Dan Jackson, who suggested a fun way the club could raise money to help the police department acquire a trained dog for its K-9 unit. The games coincide with Troy’s inaugural Downtown Days celebration to maximize publicity and participation.

“I had three goals,” he explains. “One, we’d raise some money for the K-9 unit. Two, people would have fun. Three, no one would get hurt. We had a couple of skinned knees from figure skating [picking up items scattered on the ground while wearing roller skates], but other than that, we met our goals.”

“It was all Dan’s idea, and people are still talking about it,” says Lois Adomite, whose husband, Bill,

and son, Allen, are also Lions. Allen Adomite is the mayor of the city of 10,000. “He was a pylon during the relay race. People couldn’t stop laughing,” says Lois. Each race participant sat in an office chair and propelled themselves down the street around a “pylon” and back to the start. The mayor-pylon wore a fluorescent yellow vest, hard hat and safety glasses.

Seven teams of six people each from local organizations and businesses competed against each other. Lions were too involved in the games to participate as a team. “We’re a relatively small club so we didn’t have enough members to do everything and field a team,” Jackson says. Money was raised by “weightlifting,” during which each team sold heavy rolls of 2,000 raffle tickets at \$1 each. The winning team, consisting of motivated members of Troy’s police department, sold the most tickets. Although the club raised \$2,500, that amount fell short of needed funds to purchase a police dog. “We’re still raising money. You know Lions. Once we’re committed, there’s not much that can stop us,” Jackson adds.

Help and Hugs for All

Wearing bright yellow shirts and big smiles, members of the new Waco Women's Lions Club in Texas arrived at Connally High School's track and field area ready to hug. It was a breezy, late spring morning, and the sun was shining. Lions were there to cheer on athletes in the Central Texas Special Olympics.

Serving as huggers was suggested by Kim Giles, a hugger since 2008. She wanted Lions to share the same experience, so she suggested it to the 39-member club as its first project. "There were about 350 athletes, and we saw and touched just about every one of them that day," Giles says. "We greeted each one with warm hugs and cold water." Huggers meet participants at the awards line, where each Olympian receives a medal for participation. "You're about worn out by the time you finish hugging. It's a long day but your heart is ready to burst. It feels so good," she adds.

Lions immediately followed up with a second project to support a local program to provide healthy snacks for schoolchildren on weekends. "Many of these kids have no food in the house and come to school starving on Monday—literally," says Giles. Since most of the Lions are working professionals, she says she believes they can become more personally involved by mentoring some of these children who are in the foster system. "They age out of the system at age 18," she explains. "They're given free state scholarships to go to college, but a lot of them can't make it through the mountain of paperwork it takes to get there. So then they just don't go. We want to be there for them a couple of years before they graduate from high school, so we help them get through all that paperwork."

Some of the Lions are CPAs who plan to teach the young people how to write checks, pay bills, sign leases and use credit responsibly. "Many of these kids don't have any adults who'll take an interest in them, so they're thrown into life at 18 without many skills. We want to change that," Giles says.



Lion Mary Needler congratulates Special Olympians on their achievements before hugging each one of them.

Smart Boards, Smart Choices

It took five years, but Brookston Lions in Indiana provided new teaching tools to energize imaginations and engage children from first grade to high school. Lions began their biggest fundraising effort ever at possibly the worst time. "In 2009, the region was in the middle of the economic downturn, and many people in our community had lost their jobs," says Charles Roth. "We decided to dream big anyway and provide every classroom in the elementary school with a Smart Board." Located in the rural north-central part of the state, Brookston is a small town with less than 1,500 people.

Their project eventually gave 26 Smart Boards costing \$61,000 to classrooms in the school district. It was inspired by a single request. Frontier Elementary School first-grade teacher Becky Chitty asked Lions to purchase one of the new devices to enhance her students' learning. Interactive Smart Boards encourage learning by combining a classroom-sized white board with computer-driven graphics. "I use mine multiple times during the day," says Chitty. "The opportunities to engage students are endless. They're really excited to participate in lessons that are so bright and colorful." She calls the new, white Smart Boards "game-changing technology in our small rural school."

Lions may have led the fundraising effort, but many in town pitched in. "One parent told me, 'I have \$5 extra this month, and it's going to help my kids learn,'" recalls Roth. Teachers were involved in five of the fundraisers, including delivering pizzas sold at half price by a local restaurant. Local EMTs, volunteer firefighters, sororities and the middle school honor society were among other groups that supported Lions with fundraisers of their own to donate money to Lions.

In six months, Lions had raised \$42,000 for elementary school classrooms. When junior and high school teachers saw how the boards motivated learning, they asked Lions for Smart Boards for their classes, too. Roth says, "After a brief 'let's catch our breath' hiatus, we bought two boards for the high school." Lions then launched another campaign to raise more money and raised nearly \$20,000 more to equip every high school room with a Smart Board.

Keeping it Green

Nature inspires Hugh Clark, a Jamestown Lion in Pennsylvania. Because he's District 14 F Environmental chair, he's urging other Lions to wade into the environmental effort—even if it means throwing on a pair of rubber boots and literally wading into the water to keep it clean. Jamestown and Greenville Lions have spent several years cleaning up a stretch of the Upper Shenago River to create safe, clean water trails for kayaks, canoes and paddle boats.

Now Lions are using their own green thumbs to nurture the colorful and grandly-named monarch butterfly. Orange wings fluttering, monarchs were once a common sight in the United States but in less than 20 years their numbers have plummeted from 1 billion to 33 million. They need milkweed plants for nourishment and as a place to lay their eggs, but Clark says the use of herbicides and land development have reduced more than 100 species of milkweed by 60 percent nationwide. Lions are trying to repopulate milkweed plants common to their area.

"We set a goal of raising 1,000 seedlings," says Clark. With a donation of 1.5 pounds of seeds, Lions set to work. "D. J's Nursery offered to propagate the seeds, maintain them for a year while they grow stronger roots and give us technical advice on how to plant them." Several Lions were joined by volunteers from a local gardening club when the plants needed repotting.

Usually there's only a 50 percent successful germination success. "We overachieved," Clark points out. "Ours was 90 percent. We now have enough seedlings, 1,470, to fill as many 4-inch pots as we can find." He's philosophical about the abundance of green thumbs in the club. "The leftover seedlings—and there are a lot of them—may become salad at a Lions dinner."

The young plants will be planted this spring. "We're going to give 50 or



Jamestown Lions Hugh Clark (left) and Dean Oyen repot some of the nearly 1,500 milkweed seedlings they helped grow in District 14 F in Pennsylvania.

so to each Lions club expressing interest, to school science classes, Boy and Girl Scout troops and garden clubs," he explains. Milkweed can be planted

in open spaces, private property, gardens or even in flower boxes to attract and nurture monarchs.

The Gift of Giving

There's money to be made from having fun, Saddle River Lions in New Jersey have happily discovered. Since 1957, they've raised and given back to the community more than \$2 million. Much of that amount has come from the club's signature fundraiser, a five-day carnival, and a golf tournament. "While it took 42 years to raise the first million, the second only took 14 years," says David Verducci. Fundraising efforts accelerated when Lions began sponsoring the popular golf tournament 10 years ago, helping the club raise and give back \$80,000 to the community last year. "The \$2 million is just the tip of the iceberg of what Lions have done for the towns of Saddle River Valley and for people like me," says Verducci.

Verducci joined the club in 2012 after volunteering at the Lions' carnival with a friend. "I worked a game booth and had a ball. I knew very little about Lions other than that they're service-minded," he says. He joined the club a few months later. And then he discovered a far more personal connection. Failing eyesight had forced him into an early retirement from a career in education and left him feeling "rudderless and without direction," he says. "I had two major eye surgeries in a largely successful attempt to save a significant portion of my eyesight. When Lions found out about my condition, they were right there for me even though they barely knew me." Club members brought him meals and drove him to appointments when needed.

The club's high profile in the three communities it serves—Mahwah, Ramsey and Upper Saddle River near the Ramapo Mountains in northeastern New Jersey—has recently led to a big jump in membership and the formation of two Leo clubs. "We installed eight new members last year, and our carnival raised more than \$32,000," says Jerry Michota, who joined the club six years ago. The club made nearly 100 donations to charity last year.

AUSTRIA

Caring for Animals Improves Children

City students with behavioral problems are learning to take care of themselves and make better decisions by taking care of horses. In Vienna, the Wien (Vienna) Johann Strauss Lions Club supports the Horse Wilderness Project, in which troubled youths clean stables, groom horses and feed their charges.

About 150 children have participated. Most have shown improvement in relationships at school and in academic achievement. Their progress has been so noteworthy that a college of education in Zurich, Switzerland, sent 40 students there to observe the program.

The stables are located at the Lobau, an area of dense scrub and woodlands. A school counselor with a degree in therapeutic/special education runs the program.



Caring for horses has enabled troubled children to improve their behavior.

TURKEY

Blind, Sighted Students Bond Over a Book

A classic children's book and its famous author helped bridge the gap between students at a school for the blind and students at a secondary school. The day of friendship, literacy and learning also was made possible by Lions, a Lion-led foundation for the blind and industrious parents who logged long hours creating an audio version of the book.

Students from Private Evrim School and Veysel School for the Blind, both in Istanbul, spent an upbeat day getting to know one another, chatting about common interests and then trading insights on "Fadis," which the former read and the latter listened to, thanks to a CD recorded by parents of the secondary school students. They also discussed the book with its author, Gülsen Dayioğlu.



Hatice Celik, a blind teacher, meets a student at Private Evrim School.

Students from both schools gained from the social interaction with one another. "For the Private Evrim students it was their first encounter with blind children of their own age. They saw that seeing is not everything in life—you have other senses. They learned to accept and respect diversity," says International Director Oya Sebük, involved in the project. "The blind students were very excited by the visit of the [sighted] students. They were in some way honored to be approached in such a friendly way."

Sebük, president of the Six Dots Foundation, arranged for "Fadis" to be recorded at the foundation's recording library. Istanbul Ulus Lions established the library in honor of charter member Perihan E. Minkari, Sebük's late mother.

Lale Dorusk of the Istanbul Ulus Club, an English teacher at Private Evrim, initiated the RAP (Reading Action Program) project both to promote literacy and to break down barriers that separate the blind and sighted peers. Her partner in the project was Hatice Celik, a blind teacher at Veysel Vardal.

"Fadis" is about the turbulent home life of a girl. Students from both schools had the same urgent question for Dayioğlu: why her book had no resolution. The writer was unfazed: why don't you write one? So students individually at both schools are writing a resolution to the book, and Dayioğlu will select a winner. Meanwhile, the author, inspired by her day with the Veysel Vardal students, is writing her next book on a high-achieving blind child.

SWITZERLAND

Lions Make the Forest More Adventurous

Winterthur is the sixth-largest city in Switzerland with a population of 100,000, but no city in this nation has more woodland. Forty percent of its land is forest. Residents hike the city's many paths of dirt, gravel and wood chips that wind through the trees. Enhancing one of the city's chief attractions, the four Lions clubs and Leo club of Winterthur built an adventure path with 10 activity posts near the town center.



Hurst rode his bike 15,000 miles to raise funds for diabetes research.

- "If Alice hadn't gone to camp, I don't know where we'd be right now," a mother told the LION in April 1989. Read more about diabetes camps.
- Lions in Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania and elsewhere deter diabetes. (April 2010 LION). Learn more.

The clubs undertook the labor-intensive project in conjunction with the celebration of the 750-year anniversary of the city. The four Lions clubs, which have 154 members, and the Leos worked Saturdays to complete the project.

The posts revolve around exercise, contemplation or relaxation. One has a tightrope. Another has a forest "bed," a sloped wooden structure shaped like a bed. Other posts include sound boxes with mallets, a jumping area in which



one's jump can be compared to the leaps of various animals and a shelter with a plaque that briefly explains who Lions are. "Overall, it was a successful project that brought our clubs closer together and allowed each club to work at its own speed," says Daniel Sidler, 2013-14 president of the Winterthur Lions Club.

AUSTRALIA

Hope Springs from Grief

Glen Hurst lost his father to diabetes and his mother is a diabetic. So he attached a boat to his Harley and sped off on a 15,000-mile, 80-day trip around Australia to raise funds for diabetes research. After wearing out three sets of tires, visiting 230 Lions clubs and attending 168 sausage sizzles, he triumphantly rode his bike straight inside a district convention hall where Lions applauded wildly.

Hurst succeeded in raising \$50,000 (US\$44,000) and elevated awareness of the disease and Lions thanks to the Lions logos and diabetes signs on the bike and boat.

"The ride itself was not bad. Long rides can be challenging, but the bikes are extremely comfortable," says Hurst, a computer technician specializing in solar energy. Hurst knew the motorcycle-boat combination would draw attention. After his brother died, he drove a Gold Wing motorcycle, his brother's favorite bike, to tow a boat to deliver his remains home. (His brother was cremated. His remains were stored in the motorcycle, and the boat was filled with camping gear.) Hurst's journey drew lots of stares and inquiries.

Hurst's diabetes ride was to take 60 days. Then it expanded to 79 days as more Lions clubs became interested. He added one more day to parallel the movie "Around the World in 80 Days."

Hurst's Albany Lions Club sponsored the Hope in a Boat ride, and hundreds of clubs helped raised funds or provided accommodations. Accompanying him on the ride were three Lions: his wife, Marina Rurenga, and mates Guy Cook and Raymond Cowcill.

The featured speaker at each club he visited, Hurst became polished and self-assured. One club he visited happened to be also hosting a speaking contest. "No pressure, right? But they told me if they were scoring me I would have won," says Hurst.



Lions build a shelter for their adventure path.

IRELAND

Food Drive in Ireland Makes Spirits Bright

Grocery shoppers who forgot their list need not have worried: Lions were on hand to pass one out. Lions stationed themselves in Tesco stores on two days in December to appeal to shoppers to buy non-perishables such as breakfast cereals, tea bags and tinned goods for those in need.

The holiday collaboration between Irish Lions and Tesco Ireland was hugely successful. Lions and Tesco volunteers collected over 200,000 euros (US\$236,000) worth of food for families in need during the in-store Christmas Food Appeal. The collection in 148 stores amounted to 95,000 meals' worth of food. Tesco topped up the donations by 30 percent.

Lions in Ireland have held the food drive since the 1980s. "Our partnership with Tesco had been most welcome and has enabled us to fulfill our commitment to those in need," says Lion Joe Smith, food drive coordinator. Adds Christine Heffernan, the Corporate Affairs director at Tesco Ireland, "We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and goodwill shown by our customers, not to mention the huge efforts made by all Lions Club and Tesco volunteers."

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Frame and Fortune

So what exactly happens to all those glasses Lions collect? The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Washington has recycling down to a science. Their service changes the fortunes of thousands.

BY STUART GLASCOCK | PHOTOS DARREN MILLER

You might meet them in a main street store, barber shop or church. They are not movie stars or super rich. They are neighbors, active retirees and hardworking community volunteers.

They are the men and women who turned the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, affectionately known as NWLERC, into a regional dynamo. They have sorted through 1.5 million discarded eyeglasses and reclaimed over 170,000 pairs for distribution in 40 nations.

United in a common goal, they transform pile after pile of donated, used, discarded and unwanted eyeglasses. They make perfectly useable eyewear as gifts for the world's poor.

On a modest whiteboard in their office in Olympia, Washington, a few numbers speak volumes. The chart

simply lists two months of eyeglass deliveries reaching seven destinations: Mexico, 498 glasses; Honduras, 900; Dominican Republic, 600; Uganda, 418; Mexico (again), 400; Guatemala, 1,200; Kitsap County, Washington (homeless event), 120; Philippines, TBD.

The simple tallies reveal certain truths: significant need exists for secondhand glasses. Demand knows no borders. People hunger for clear sight. Vision matters. Donated glasses become the good fortune for those with few means.

Most importantly, it takes ordinary people who donate their time—everyday hardworking helpers to make it work. It takes a Lion—lots of them.

For some, like NWLERC President Patricia Baron, the volunteer gig morphed into something profound. Retiring after 30 years as a claims administrator in the state Attor-



(Opposite) Past District Governor George Robinson inspects glasses at the NWLERC for scratches, corrosion or missing or damaged pieces. (Above) NWLERC President Don Schmidt (green shirt) presides over a busy room of Lions and volunteers.

Recycling eyeglasses is a multistep process.



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Past Zone Chair Mel Williamson carries in collected eyeglasses.

ney General's office, Baron caught the eyeglass recycling bug. A natural leader, Baron keeps the troops on track.

"I love it," she says. She's mastered every recycling center duty from cleaning buckets of junked glasses to managing occasional zaniness. "It's just part of me now." Immediate Past President Jeannie Phillips knows the feeling: "Oh my, it's my passion," she says as her inhale becomes slightly audible. "It gets to you."

A Calling

In one sense, if you've met a NWLERC volunteer, you've met them all. True, their personal stories vary. But their intense motivation and heartfelt affection for what they do differ only slightly. Mission coordinator Jean Cook handles requests from individuals and organizations that distribute glasses in developing nation states. A retired CPA, she got involved with NWLERC after seeing an ad for community volunteers in a newspaper. "I was looking for something to get me out of the house," she says. Now, five years later, she is still getting out. "I need the LERC more than it needs me."

Lensometer technician Karen Schrodt, a Puyallup Valley Lion, drives 90 minutes to check prescriptions. "I'm retired," Schrodt says during a break, "but I can make a difference."

Schrodt's task is keen. One after another, she places glasses on a small platform, aligns them and registers a prescription reading. Then she puts the glasses in a plastic bag and notes the prescription. Lastly, she initials the bag for record tracking. At this stage, accuracy is critical.

In the Beginning

Back before they measured a single lens or fulfilled requests from dozens of countries, the Lions who founded the NWLERC faced a major hurdle. "Before we could move ahead, we needed a facility," says retired Army optometrist Dr. Bob Pinson, founder of the center and a longtime member of the Lacey Sunrise Lions Club. "This proved to be a significant challenge."

At first, they scouted out several potential sites: a senior center, expensive commercial areas, even a barn. As a temporary step, they shared space with a plumber. Then, after a year, they caught a break. They landed a five-year lease deal with a local fire department and settled down.

The property perfectly fit their need. The Northwest Lions took over an 11,000-square-foot former volunteer fire station on 1.5 acres of tall, tree-shaded land. When the lease expired, they bought the 1970s-era building with a grant from the nearby Nisqually Indian Tribe. Instead of housing first responders, the former firehouse now hosts another unsung crew: these guys rescue eyeglasses from trash heaps.

It all started with a friendly challenge in 2001. Pinson was urged to create an innovative sight project. He wanted to harness the region's generous volunteer energy.

Being a practical person, Pinson crafted a practical plan. He organized a used eyeglass collection contest. But no one anticipated the outcome; no one expected the incoming eyewear blitz. They were blown away, overwhelmed with glasses, which at the time were shipped to the nearest recycling center in California.

Within a year, Pinson launched a drive to build a full-fledged center in the Northwest.

Jump ahead a few years, and the operation runs tightly. The NWLERC is neat and tidy. From the clearly la-



Schmidt delivers clean glasses to Past District Governor Robinson and community volunteer Michi Delaney.

+



Robinson and community volunteer Cheri Ingersoll inspect and clean the glasses.

beled supply cabinet to the tagged cardboard containers filled with ready-to-ship eyeglasses, everything seems in place.

Inside the main work area—where fire trucks once awaited life-saving deployments—abundant light bounces off the gray cinderblock walls. In fact, one of the first things you notice inside is the brightness. Two dozen 5-foot-long fluorescent tubes shine overhead. Halfway up the side walls, wall-mounted fluorescents brighten the lens technicians' stations. Desktop lamps cast even more light. Seeing well—clarity—is important here. So is cleanliness: most volunteers wear gloves.

At any given time, a dozen volunteers stay busy. Collectors bring in boxes and buckets of donated glasses, gathered from pick-up locations near and far. Sorters, cleaners and inspectors dive into their chores. Lens technicians examine prescriptions. A site manager oversees the workflow, and a quality assurance manager double-checks the finished products. Finally, packers prepare the packages of cleaned and tagged lenses and frames for shipping. The system chugs along both methodically and brilliantly.

All kinds of environments exude a signature taste and sound—even an eyeglass recycling hub. The NWLERC's "taste" would be glazed donuts—seemingly the favorite volunteer fuel source. Its "sound" would be the constant purring of the restaurant-quality dish machine that cleans the glasses.

The basic "language," of course, centers on the serious business of juggling people's schedules, the supply of glasses, and requests for glasses. The telephone rings, coffee brews and friendly conversation floods the site.

That commercial dishwasher, by the way, sanitizes an entire load of eyeglasses in 2.5 minutes. The high-temperature, energy-conserving machine recently replaced a trio of old residential dishwashers that took 40 minutes per load. (Lions positively gush about its high output: "Hey, I'd love to have one of these at home.")

An Army of Helpers

While the recycling operation impresses with its production line elegance, volunteers perform the magic. Retired military are well represented, especially because of nearby Joint Base Lewis-McChord, a giant installation supporting 55,000 active duty and civilian workers. Olympia, the state's capital, is about 60 minutes south of Seattle. Not far away, Mt. Rainier rises 14,410 feet. You can't see it because trees block it; the entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park sits 50 miles east.

Site manager Bill Miller clutches his yellow and blue Lions coffee mug like it contains precious materials, which is funny because he functions as a miner. He digs through piles of old glasses, sniffing out gold in granny glasses. He sorts glasses, separating single view and multiple view lenses, and tosses the scratched and corroded to be recycled. All the while, he hunts for gold-plated or gold-filled frames.

Miller and the other sorters scan for gold and separate them out from other glasses. All the precious metal glasses are shipped intact to two different refineries: gold-filled glasses go to a small shop in Wisconsin, while gold-plated and all other precious metals go to a refinery in California. Pricing varies depending on frame size, but can be as high as \$7 or \$8 each, Baron says. A box of 350 gold-filled frames recently brought a check for \$2,800. Proceeds from the small gold bits help keep the lights on.

A former aerospace engineer and Lacey Sunrise Lion, Miller takes pride in providing perfect glasses. "No scratches," Miller says. His blue NWLERC shirt and blue Lions cap match his ever-present Lions caffeine dispenser.

Another NWLERC regular, Roberta Fender, grew tired of retirement at home, so she got involved; now she's not home alone much. She packs and labels glasses at least two days a week. The eyeglass-handling tasks don't demand much physically, but they require focus and insight.

The NWLERC harbors another secret weapon: Lacey Lamplighters Lions Club member Harry Thornton. An 88-year-old, he obsessively gathers used glasses. So obsessed, he has collected over 80,000 pairs. Thornton maintains 30 donation boxes in Thurston County—at eye clinics,



Williamson and Lion Cindy Robinson determine the prescription of the glasses.

+



The lensmeter ensures patients ultimately get the glasses they need.

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libraries, thrift shops, schools and doctors' offices. The octogenarian manages all the pickups personally.

NWLERC gets its glasses from throughout the state of Washington and parts of western Idaho. To the north, Canadian glasses stay in Canada. To the south, Oregon Lions have their own recycling operation. Washington Lions Clubs monitor a network of 400 collection boxes. Lions clubs in Washington also manage 15 "satellite" centers around the state where glasses are preliminarily sorted before going to the NWLERC.

The supply of glasses isn't exactly constant, but there's never too many. "Absolutely, unqualified, no, we never have too many glasses," Baron says. The economic downturn has lessened supply. People are buying new glasses for fashion statements less often.

Look inside the NWLERC's monthly newsletter FOCUS and you'll find the names of many more Lions who keep things running: John Kirry, Roberta Pinson, Cliff Brandsma, Jacqueline Pratt, Ed Kane, Don Hayden, Pat Bucknell, Michael Petty, Iris Young, Terry Wright and Brian and Claire Thompson, among others.

Ask anyone and they will insist the center focuses on quality. Their incoming-to-reusable eyeglass ratio runs about 10-to-1. In other words, for every 10 pair of glasses donated, only one fits the requirements for frame quality, lens quality and range of prescriptions requested. Glasses failing quality measures are sold for materials. Nothing gets wasted: even some of these recycled glasses end up being recycled.

Glasses with broken or missing parts are sent to a reconditioning and recycling company in Los Angeles called Respecs Restoration & Recycling, which restores some glasses for resale. It salvages as much as possible. Leftover materials such as plastic and metal frames, screws and hinges are recycled. Glass and plastic lenses are not recy-

clad. Profits from sales to Respecs support the LERC's operating expenses.

Scratched lenses are the biggest reason that sorters reject glasses, followed by poor-quality, broken or cracked frames. Style sometimes enters into it. A display board in the main work area features several oversized, round glasses, sometime called "owl" glasses. "The mission people have found that people reject these super-big glasses. Nobody would wear them," says Baron. "Little skinny glasses are very popular."

The Future

Looking ahead, changes loom. For example, state lawmakers in Washington recently passed a bill providing immunity from liability for nonprofit groups that provide used eyeglasses for charitable purposes. While there haven't been problems, charity groups have feared litigation. The new law hasn't been tested, but it would allow groups to set up clinics and dispense prescription eyeglasses without the threat of being sued.

Nationally and internationally, eyeglass recycling remains extremely popular among Lions clubs, says Marilee Kadar of Lions Clubs International. "The program is very popular; it's known around the world," Kadar says. "Lions collect glasses in almost every community."

In total, Lions' centers recycle over 7 million eyeglasses every year. There are 18 Lions recycling centers worldwide. "There is a demand for sure," she says. While not the oldest or the largest, Washington state's center has a "good reputation for always being well run," she adds.

Another recent development signals major changes. Some Lions recycling centers are beginning to manufacture their own glasses, Kadar says. They have the space, facilities and ability to raise money to start their own manufacturing labs. Several centers are looking into what other types of services they could offer. "How ideal it would be for a person in need to receive a brand-new pair of glasses," Kadar says. "That's difficult now, but it is an approach we'd like to take."

Meanwhile, back in a quiet corner of the former fire station, quality assurance manager Jack Ford plays backstop. He checks one last time before the secondhand glasses

"The Eye Train," a documentary by Cielo Pictures Inc. in Canada, tells the story of a remarkable woman in Manila who created an eye clinic out of an old train car. Lions in Canada recycle eyeglasses for her clinic. Watch the movie.



The boxed eyeglasses are ready for a Lions' mission.

are sealed for transport. Ford has worn glasses since his junior year in high school. He values correct prescriptions. He also spent 21 years on the front lines of the aerospace business. "I've lived with specifications all my life," he says, matter-of-factly.

The eyeglass recycling business is not about rocket science, aerospace or astrophysics. It is not sexy or glamorous.

In endearing ways, it is all about ordinary people—the kind you might bump into in a family-run hardware store—such as the volunteers who built and operate the NWLERC.



Bill Miller, NWLERC District C director, displays the first and 1 millionth glasses received by the center.

From Washington to the World

Last October, four western Washington Lions distributed eyeglasses while on a large humanitarian operation in Jamaica. They transported frames and lenses to the birthplace of reggae singer Bob Marley and the headquarters of the Jamaican Bobsled Team on the island's north coast.

Several organizations organized the trip including iCARE, Great Shape! Inc., Sandals Foundation, Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH), the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NWLERC), and the Jamaican Ministry of Health.

Nearly 3,000 Jamaicans endured long lines in hot weather at a clinic in Priory, St. Ann, to receive free health care and new eyewear. The volunteers achieved their goal of providing free eye care to Jamaican youth and elders: mission accomplished.

Scenes like that repeat dozens of times every year. Eyeglasses processed by NWLERC volunteer Lions are dispersed to humanitarian groups traveling to developing countries. These groups often include Lions traveling and operating as part of the Lions SightFirst program, VOSH, World Vision, EyeCare WeCare Foundation, optometry college groups, military civil assistance groups and numerous church groups.

Sometimes the recycled glasses are distributed on large missions, collaborative efforts orchestrated by several humanitarian organizations. Other times the missions are led by a small church group or a handful of volunteers, often doctors, many of whom are Lions.

In short, the recycling center has no shortage of clientele. In fact, their inbox often overflows with requests for eyewear, says NWLERC President Patricia Baron. "We are only able to fill a portion of every mission request we get," she says. "What keeps us up at night is thinking about getting the word out to people not to throw their old glasses away."

Humanitarian groups all over the United States submit applications for NWLERC's recycled glasses, says Jean Cook, NWLERC mission coordinator. Many are Lions or affiliated with Lions, but not all.

Church groups dispatch many delegations to developing countries. But because some countries don't allow religious organizations, some missions are organized strictly as medical missions. One mission group is taking NWLERC glasses into North Korea.

Most church groups send mission groups only once a year. "It's a big undertaking to do this," says Cook. In every case involving prescription lenses, Cook says, an eye care professional, an ophthalmologist or optometrist, has to be present on the mission trip.

Smaller groups often ask for 400 to 800 pairs, and they'll carry those as checked luggage. Large groups often take thousands of glasses and ship those to the destinations in advance. Large mission groups often ask for glasses from several different LERCS, seeking enough glasses to fill their needs.

Whether large or small, the traveling groups pay for shipping. Nearby humanitarian groups pick the glasses up at the recycling center headquarters. For all the rest, a local UPS store is owned by a Lion, and he handles confirming shipping details with the recipients.

NWLERC gets a lot of repeat business because their glasses are cleaner than others, Cook said. She credits the center's focus on quality for the popularity of their glasses among humanitarian organizations. "We definitely get more requests than we can fill," she says.

While the supply of donated glasses and the demand for recycled ones cycles up and down, the Lions at NWLERC are always seeking more glasses. Their monthly newsletter always encourages members to corral more glasses.

"We have to keep asking," Cook says. "We're not working at capacity. That's never happened. We can handle more."

CROSSING PARTY LINES

Don't look now but clubs often partner with Rotarians and Kiwanians on ambitious service projects. They roll up their sleeves and work together—in between the inevitable kidding and put-downs.

BY ELIZABETH BLACKWELL

Sometimes a coincidence is so striking that it can hatch the most unlikely plans. Past District Governors Danny Stribling and Floyd Golan of the College Station Noon Lions Club in Texas were listening to Gordon Hartman, a San Antonio real estate developer and philanthropist, speak about Morgan's Wonderland, a fully accessible amusement park he built in honor of his disabled daughter. Stribling, a former educator who now runs a real estate business with his wife, was struck by the image of children of all abilities playing together. Wouldn't it be great if College Station had a place like that? And wasn't it just the type of project Lions should be involved in?

The club set up a meeting at the town's Parks and Recreation department to discuss the idea, only to find out the local Rotary club—by pure coincidence—had recently proposed the same thing. Was it a sign? Clearly, there was a need and desire for an all-accessible park, but it was also an extremely complicated, expensive undertaking, one that might be too much for the Lions or Rotary to take on alone.

Lion David Gerling, 56, the city's former recreation supervisor, met with Werner Rose, the president of the Rotary Club of College Station. "We hit it off instantly," he says. "The more we visited, the more the project grew from a simple playground unit to an entire park area. A place where you were welcome to play and meet others, no matter what your ability was."

"The goal of bringing this playground to reality forced historic and natural competitions to the side," says Rose. "New friendships have developed, and I feel such great personal satisfaction being a part of it."

With the help of Ward Wells, a Rotarian and professor of architecture at Texas A&M University, landscape architecture students began drawing up potential plans including features such as slides for children with limited mobility, ramps for wheelchairs and sensory experiences for those with autism. Gerling and Rose, as co-chairs of the playground's Steering Committee, are now working alongside parks officials

Lions and Rotarians in Texas found common ground and a common purpose in collaborating on a playground to be built for children with disabilities. Lion David Gerling of the College Station Noon Lions Club and Werner Rose of the Rotary Club of College Station are co-chairs of the project.

Photo by Michael Kellett, College Station Noon Lions Club







Michigan City Lions in Indiana and local Rotarians compete to see who can raise the most funds for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. The rivalry crosses family lines: that's Lion Harry Bausback and his father, Rotarian Jon Bausback.

Photo by Karen Lyness

to get the \$2 million project started. The College Station park district has pledged \$500,000, but the rest must be raised by donations.

"We brought the proposal to the City Council last year, and they voted unanimously to fast-track it," Stribling says. "The story was on the front page of the local paper the next day, and immediately we had the Kiwanis Club calling us and wanting to get involved." Other local Lions and Rotary clubs joined in as well. The Fun for All Playground has become a truly community-wide effort, with all the organizational challenges that entails.

Simply finding a time to meet can be difficult, Stribling admits. "Both our clubs are so community-minded that we have a lot of people who are also involved in other organizations," he says. Another potential difficulty was how to pool all the money raised by different groups. It was decided—amicably—that all donations will be held by the Rotary's nonprofit foundation, in a dedicated fund. "The Lions and Rotary are considered the founding members," says Stribling, "but we're all in this together. We're not fighting over who gets credit; we just want to get the job done."

"Everyone will get their recognition, but we are



stronger as a group than any one club or organization alone,” says Gerling. “This community has a very long history of working across borders and boundaries. We’re just continuing that tradition.”

Whether they’re taking on outsized projects or reaching out in fellowship, many Lions clubs find they can get more done—and sometimes have more fun—working alongside other service clubs. Clubs whose plans perhaps are more ambitious than their membership rolls or fundraising capabilities have discovered that partnerships with other service groups allow them to serve in new and expanded ways.

Near Dallas, the members of the Terrell Noon Lions Club don’t just cooperate with local Rotarians, they share a headquarters. When the Business and Professional Women’s Organization, a longtime local club, disbanded three years ago, its surviving members decided to donate its clubhouse to another organization in the community. The building is now owned jointly by the Terrell Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, who share the proceeds from rentals.

All three clubs come together to organize annual events such as a holiday party for teenagers at the Terrell State Hospital, an inpatient psychiatric hospital. “We have a Santa come in and bring presents, and we make sure everyone gets something,” says Lion Darrell Boltin, president. Every summer, they host college students who bike across the United States as part of a fundraising drive for the organization PUSH America. “We feed them lunch,” Boltin says, “then we go to the state hospital where they spend the afternoon playing basketball and mingling with the kids.”

Boltin says he’s gotten grateful feedback from the hungry riders. “They look forward to that lunch,” he says. “They get good chicken-fried steak, and they eat a lot of mashed potatoes. They need those carbohydrates!”

The Terrell Lions and Rotary clubs also run a joint flag program. For a fee of \$36 a year, club members put flags in subscribers’ lawns on July 4, Flag Day, Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day. Currently, there are about 400 subscribers, with the money going to college scholarships. Rotarians and Lions also place flags on highways and major roads during funeral processions for service members who died overseas. “It’s not something we like having to do, but we’re glad to be able to,” Boltin says. “We’ve gotten letters thanking us for that service.”

Just because the Lions, Rotarians and Kiwanians share a building—and even include links to each other’s clubs on their websites—doesn’t mean ribbing is off-limits. “We’ll tell Rotary to call if they need any help, because we know they have a lot of older men who can’t get around,” says Boltin. “Of course, they say the same to us! I’m real good friends with one of the Rotary members, and I keep telling him if they want to start serving good chili at their fall supper, just give us a holler and we’ll help them out.”

Luring a newcomer to one club or the other can also bring out a sense of competition. “If we get a new member, they’ll accuse of us finding out before they’d even moved

to Terrell and grabbing him first,” Boltin says. “We have a lot of fun with each other.”

In Michigan City, Indiana, the holidays ring in a season of fellowship—and friendly rivalry—for the local Lions and Rotarians. Every December, the two clubs compete to see who can raise the most during a Saturday of bell-ringing for the Salvation Army’s kettle campaign. Last year the Lions won, with \$18,000. “We set a record for the largest one-day contribution ever,” says Henry Bausback, 47, an optometrist and 20-year member. Like the Old Oaken Bucket that passes between the Purdue and Indiana University football teams, “there’s a Salvation Army bell that travels back and forth between our clubs,” a prized symbol of victory, he says. The clubs also compete to see who can get the most donations for Operation Bookworm, an initiative that gives new books to needy children at Christmas. In recent years, the Lions and Rotary have each donated about 300 books. “We have a good bit of pride, and so do they,” says Bausback. “We want to show them who’s best, but it’s all for the good of the community.”

For more than 20 years, the two clubs have held a joint meeting on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving that includes holiday-themed entertainment. In the past few years, the Lions have performed customized Christmas carols with lyrics by Lions Dan McNabb and DeNita Ton, who worked for the Salvation Army for 40 years and is the group’s honorary leader. As the “DeNita Tones,” they put on their Santa hats and perform their take on classics such as “We Three Kings”:

*We the Lions of M.C. are
Bearing kettles, we travel afar
Bells and mufflers, boot and mittens
Following Lieutenant’s car
Oh...
Lions of wonder, Lions of might
All with wondrous visions so bright
DeNita leading, all are ringing
At the mall and other sites*

“The songs elicit a few chuckles—more than a few, if I’m singing!” Bausback admits. “When I had to sit with a plastic red nose while they serenaded me with ‘Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,’ my cheeks were probably as red as that nose. But I went with it. The songs get the group all fired up.”

The joint meetings also provide plenty of opportunity for good-natured kidding. “One member of Rotary approached me and said he couldn’t find a handicapped spot in the parking lot because the Lions had taken them all,” Bausback says. “We always get those jokes about being the older service club.”

“In all my work throughout the years,” says Gerling of the College Station Noon Lions, “I have found that any perceived boundaries of a group can easily be removed if honesty and respect can be agreed upon first thing.” And when Lions show respect for what other clubs can help accomplish—and vice versa—wonderful things can happen.

(Opposite) Terrell Lions near Dallas, Texas, share a headquarters, as well as hijinks, with local Rotarians. Lion Darrell Boltin and Rotarian Robert Lee show their affection for each other.

Photo by Vickie Reed

BLIND BUT UNBOWED

BY BRIAN DOYLE

March 12 last year was a Tuesday. A lovely late-winter day on the high plains of Alberta. “You could see the snow-capped mountains to the west, and hear birds singing,” says Mel Foat, a 63-year-old farmer. “Chilly day, but clear, and you could smell spring in the air, you know? You could feel it coming.” He climbed into his pickup truck after breakfast and headed into Calgary to the hospital—routine eye surgery, for the removal of a cataract. He remembers that he saw cattle, of course, and deer, perhaps a magpie.

Those were the last things he saw of his beloved high plains. Something went wrong in surgery; his left eye began to hemorrhage; a quiescent virus in his optic nerve awoke; and soon his left eye had to be removed. The virus somehow slid into his right eye, too, and so a few weeks after Foat had driven humming into the city for routine eye surgery, he had lost one eye and was almost completely blind in the other. The chances of such an outcome after such a routine surgery are infinitesimal. But it happened to Foat.

He finally went home. His wife, Gwen, and their two children and four grandchildren were waiting for him. The grandchildren were scared and rattled by Poppa’s blindness. He had to walk into and around his house by memory for the first time in his life. He learned to count steps, to figure distances. He learned to depend on his ears thrice as much as before. He learned to use a stick for balance and exploration.

But he refused to be bitter or dark about his sudden blindness: “I realized I could either pity myself or take the high road, and I’ve always liked to try the high road.” He refused to be housebound; his first great adventure was walking down the road to a Tim Hortons doughnut shop—“exactly 3,070 steps,” he says cheerfully; perhaps a quarter of a mile.

Was he scared, walking down the road blind, with cars and trucks whizzing by?

“Terrified,” he says.

Did he ever think, “Why me? This is so unfair!” Did he have dark hours and long nights of despair?

“I tried to think of it as just a frost boil in the road,” says Foat gently. “I tried to remember how lucky I am to have such love in my life, to have so liked farming, to have such friends. I tried to laugh about how now I wouldn’t have to pick rocks on the farm, or build any more fences. When I did have dark moments I tried to remember that I have an endless supply of sweet moments. There were hard moments, sure. There still are. Farmers have dirt running through their veins instead of blood and there are times every season when I want to see that startle of new greenery in a field, *see* the ripple of wheat in the wind. But I can still smell, and my wife Gwen understands me very well indeed, and she’ll take me out in the fall to smell the fresh-mown hay. I miss seeing the land and the crops the most. The dirt in my veins, you know... .”

Foat had been president of the Chestermere Lions Club in Alberta, and no one knew better the extraordinary work that Lions clubs do all over the world to fight blindness, and work with the blind. Now that darkness had descended on Foat, he turned to his brothers and sisters in the Lions for help. The Lions helped him acquire technology, a program called ZoomTech, by which he can read, slowly. Lions gave him a speech-to-text program called Dragon to enable him to write. But best of all was their assistance in allowing him to soon become the best of friends with a Labrador dog named Walker, who can be found, when not working, sprawled on Foat’s feet, or within reach of his left hand, or wriggling between him and Gwen on the couch.

“Why I was chosen for this ... journey, I don’t know,” says Foat in his forthright fashion. “But I figure stuff happens, and when darkness comes you work harder for light.

(Opposite) Mel Foat gave up full-time farming but retained his positive attitude after becoming blind.



Foat's wife, Gwen (center), his children and grandchildren have stood by him in good times and bad.

I am a lucky man—I love being a farmer, I have a glorious family, and I am more thankful than ever before for the way so very many people are so kind. The Lions, my neighbors, my family—so many people are so quickly and easily and thoroughly kind, and we don't celebrate that enough.

"Being bitter just takes too much time, I suppose, and I don't have the time for it. I help out where and when I can on the farm. We have 320 acres in wheat, canola and hay. That's 14,000 bushels of wheat, 6,000 bushels of canola, and 480 tons of hay every year. I've turned the farm over to my son and daughter, but I keep an eye, so to speak, on grain prices and markets for them, and I can do a lot of little things here and there, sure I can. And I try to maintain a sense of humor about it all. For example, my left eye is a prosthetic, you know, and I wanted to put a John Deere advertisement in it somehow. I have a *lot* of respect for John Deere products. I have to take that eye into Calgary once a year to get it cleaned and refitted, and I discovered this year that the same woman who worked on my eye worked on my father's prosthetic eye! *He'd* lost an eye while cutting cable."

"My faith helps enormously, too," he concludes. (He's an evangelical Christian.) "But I suppose the best I can explain my attitude is to say that I have always tried to walk on the high road, and if ever there was a time to make that effort, this would be the one. And maybe I would never have known, like I do now, how wonderfully kind and helpful and generous people are, if you pay close attention. So much of what we talk about in public is awful, but so much of who we really are as people is gentle and wonderful. *That's* something I see more clearly now than I did before. That's something I hope to talk about more in public."

Is Foat just putting on a brave front? You can't fool those close to you. The two women in this world who know Foat best—his wife and his daughter Karalee—both say, with something like awe, that they are startled and moved to find an even deeper grace in the man they love.

"It's not what we would have chosen," says Gwen, "but it's turning out to be a beautiful journey. My husband of 40 years, whom I thought I knew so well, has shown me an even deeper aspect of himself. Such courage and strength, such faith—he's an even better man than he was before! He inspires so many people now—his family, his doctors and nurses, neighbors, friends—not a day goes by that he doesn't meet someone inspired by his grace and openness. This isn't what we envisioned for our later years, but through it I think we are a stronger and closer family, and even a closer community. And not a day goes by now that we are not thankful for the beautiful life we share. We treasure every day."

"My dad was always a gracious and compassionate man," says Karalee, "but his dignity and gentle humor through all of this is just astonishing. He *exudes* grace. Not once has he ever complained, although he surely has dark days. And he's a master of the wry remark. He always wanted a dog, and during all this he said gently one day, 'I guess I can get a dog now,' which sent us into hysterics. I am amazed by him every day.

"Here's a recent moment: We drove him through the



fields, my mom *talking* the farm to him, in a manner of speaking—telling him where we were, and what was growing, what she saw. To see the look on his face, as he saw it all in his memory."

So try to not to focus on the blindness, but the man, as Foat does with his own life. Picture him grinning as he



drifts through the scents of the farm he loves, in company with the people he loves. Here is grace under duress, defiant courage against all evidence and sense, and smiling tenderness rising up through distress like a vibrant, green shoot forcing its way through an adamant pavement. This is the best of who we are, and what Lions strive to be, and here

for us is a positive life force that can elevate and heal the bruised, blessed world.

Brian Doyle is the author of many books of essays and fiction, most recently "Children & Other Wild Animals."



Centennial Celebration Membership Awards Announced

Conroe Noon Lions in Texas rang in 2015 with 18 new members, boosting its membership to 299. The club found people who wanted what the club offered. “Helping folks in need” was the answer a new Lion gave when asked why she joined. “Getting to know the good people in the club” was another response. “Service is my passion,” said a third.

The hope is that other clubs experience the same success in adding new members as Lions Clubs International’s centennial in 2017 approaches. Lions Clubs International is not leaving membership growth to chance. The Membership Awards Program in conjunction with the centennial has begun. From April 1 to June 30, 2018, Lions and clubs that bring in new members or sponsor clubs will be recognized with attractive pins, certificates and banner patches.

“This is a great opportunity to serve by increasing our ability to serve,” says International President Joe Preston of Arizona. “I encourage every Lion and club to be dedicated to enhancing our capability to serve by recruiting new Lions and starting new clubs.”

A Lion who sponsors a new member between April 1, 2015, and June 30, 2018, will be recognized as a centennial sponsor and will receive a limited-edition pin and certificate. A Lion who assists in chartering a new club between April 1 and June 2018 also will receive a limited-edition pin and certificate. Multiple Lions can be credited with chartering a new club.

The awards program includes progressive levels of recognition. If a new member or new club remains in good standing for a year and a day, the responsible Lion (or Lions) will be recognized as a Silver Centennial Lion and receive another limited-edition pin. A Gold Centennial Lion will be likewise honored if a new member or club remains

in good standing for two years and a day. Diamond Centennial Lions are honored for new members or clubs in good standing after three years and a day. Good standing means international per capita taxes are paid in full and there is no outstanding balance of \$50 or more that is 90 days past due.

Silver Centennial Lions also will have their name displayed on LCI’s website. Gold centennial Lions get their name displayed and will be recognized at area forums and at district and multiple district conventions. Diamond Centennial Lions will receive the same recognition as well as be listed in the LION Magazine.

Clubs also can achieve various levels of recognition for adding to membership. A Premier Centennial Lions Club is one that inducts at least three new members during 2015, 2016 or 2017. The new members must remain active for two years and a day. Or a Premier Centennial Lions Club is one that sponsors a new club during 2015, 2016 or 2017. The new club must remain active for two years and a day.

Once the new club has been active for two years and a day, Premier Centennial Lions Clubs receive a banner patch, recognition on the LCI website, a virtual banner recognition and recognition at the international convention, area forums, district and multiple district conventions.

A World Class Centennial Lions Club is one that inducts at least three new members each year in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and sponsors a new club during 2015, 2016 or 2017. World Class clubs receive the same honor as Premier clubs but also receive a special award presented by the district governor and a special custom pin for each active club member and will be listed in the LION.

Complete details are listed on the LCI website.



A Lion who sponsors a new member between April 1, 2015, and June 30, 2018, will be recognized as a centennial sponsor and will receive a limited-edition pin and certificate.



A Lion who assists in chartering a new club between April 1 and June 2018 also will receive a limited-edition pin and certificate. Multiple Lions can be credited with chartering a new club.



Membership Awards



THE SPIRIT OF ALOHA TO PERMEATE HAWAII CONVENTION



WELINA MAI KĀKOU!

That's the expression Hawaiians use in warmly greeting a friend. Lions who attend the 98th International Convention June 26 to June 30 in Honolulu will no doubt feel very welcomed. The five days will feature renowned speakers, first-class entertainers, native music, dance and food, and, our course, the full-range of Lions' convention traditions such as the grand parade, the swearing-in of the new international president and unexpected moments of solidarity between Lions of different cultures but with the same commitment to service and fellowship.

Tim Shriver, the chairman of Special Olympics, will give the keynote address at the first plenary session. Special Olympics serves 4.4 million Special Olympics athletes in 170 nations. Lions partner with Special Olympics to provide eye screenings and eyeglasses to Special Olympics athletes through the Opening Eyes program. Working with world leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Shriver has helped transform Special Olympics into a movement that focuses on acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. "The most powerful hope of humankind is that we believe that everybody counts and everybody matters," Shriver told Lions when he spoke at the 96th International Convention in Hamburg, Germany.

The entertainment lineup in Honolulu is both diverse and superlative. Soft-rock star Kenny Loggins headlines the International Show. Also playing their hits will be Mickey Thomas from Jefferson Starship and Steve Augeri from Journey. Conveniently, the International Show, plenary sessions, exhibit booths and convention seminars all will take place at the Hawaii Convention Center (HCC).



Soft-rock star Kenny Loggins headlines the International Show.

Convention + Networking = Service

Sure, it can get crowded at times at convention. But with crowds come chance encounters. And with chance encounters come service, at least among crowds of Lions.

Caught in a bottleneck near an escalator at the international convention in Toronto last summer, Raija Rosenthal of Toronto made small talk with Dr. Charles B.R. Ibingira, a Kampala Central Lion in Uganda. Rosenthal, past president of the Toronto Finlandia Lions Club, quickly realized Ibingira served in a country with far fewer resources than his. "How can we help?" he asked. "There's a tremendous need for eyeglasses," responded Ibingira, a surgeon and dean of the School of Biomedical Sciences at Makerere University. Rosenthal did not hesitate. "Would 3,000 pairs help?"

The upshot was that the Toronto Cathay Lions Club announced in January it would purchase 3,000 reading glasses and pay for their shipment to Uganda.

Peter Andre of the Dyckesville Lions in Wisconsin also can attest to the value of networking at conventions. A past district governor, he met Shambhu Ghimire, then a district governor in Nepal, at the international convention in Hamburg in 2013. Last year Andre's son-in-law, a native of Nepal, told him he and his wife were taking a vacation to his homeland. Andre decided to accompany them. But first he let his old pal Ghimire know that he could bring along his new eye screening camera.

At a school in Nepal, Andre met up with three optometrists, assorted Lions and dignitaries and 257 children waiting to be screened. He gave the families the test results. The only problem—a big one—was revealed to him when he returned home. "I don't think the children will ever get glasses," his son-in-law told him. "Their parents can't afford them." So Andre secured glasses from the Wisconsin Lions Foundation with the exact prescriptions needed and shipped them to Ghimire for distribution. The best part is that Ghimire was so impressed with the screening that his club is looking to purchase three cameras of its own.

—Jay Copp



Tim Shriver, the chairman of Special Olympics, is the keynote speaker at the first plenary session.

Each of the three plenary sessions also will feature entertainment. The preshow at the first plenary will be a lavish “Lion King” production. The second plenary will offer a Hawaiian show, and the third begins with an exuberant disco dance party. Dancing shoes are optional for attendees.

While dishing out dollops of fun, the plenaries also are the “meat and potatoes” of the convention plate. International President Joe Preston of the United States will inform Lions of where the association is at in his farewell speech, and 2015-2016 President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan will let Lions know where we are headed in his inaugural address. The plenaries also provide Lions a comprehensive overview of our international service prowess. In the second plenary LCIF Chairperson Barry J. Palmer of Australia will detail the success of our Foundation in tackling worldwide maladies.

As a natural setting, Hawaii can’t be topped. From the soaring cliffs of

the Napali Coast on Kauai to the fiery glow of Kilauea Crater on the slopes of Mauna Loa on the island of Hawaii it’s non-stop beauty. Fortunately, the HCC is a worthy counterpart to the outdoor charms. The remarkable facility includes tinkling waterfalls, serene fish ponds and attractive courtyards. Lions, too, are encouraged to blend in: Hawaiian shirts are encouraged!

Where Lions gather, service happens, and attendees can take part in the Lions Care 2015 project to benefit the Palama Settlement, a social service agency. Lions can donate toiletries, canned goods and socks at a collection area at the HCC.

The HCC also will be a focal point for social media. Lions can post their photos on the Lions Selfie Wall. Lions from the S.M.i.L.E. team will be at the HCC to assist Lions who are uncertain on how to use popular social media tools.

Another convention highlight is the announcement of the Peace Poster

and Essay Contest winners. The contest winners are recognized during the first plenary session, and a presentation and reception are held later. The humility and joy evident in the young winners are memorable moments.

The dozens of seminars at the convention run the gamut—from the latest information on popular Lions programs such as Lions Quest and Youth Exchange to tools and strategies to increasing membership and strengthening clubs. The seminars enable Lions to return to their clubs with knowledge and skills to take their club to a new level of service.

This year’s tours are especially appealing. They include the Arizona Memorial and City Tour, A Tale of Two Palaces Tour, the Star Wild Dolphin Watch BBQ and Snorkel Tour, the Explore the Famous North Shore Adventure, the Natural Highlights of Oahu, the Diamond Head Crater Adventure, the Grand Circle Island with Dole Plantation Tour and the Waikiki Starlight Luau.

Expect the Lions Clubs’ centennial to be part and parcel of the convention. Expect Hawaii to meet or exceed expectations. Expect the 2015 convention to be a big party, a pinnacle of fun and fellowship and a gathering of Lions like no other.

- Get a complete list of the convention’s seminars and tours.
- Lions Clubs founder Melvin Jones urges Lions to attend the convention in Chicago (June 1937 LION). Read his appeal.
- Watch a cool promotional video on the Hawaii convention.



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USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum: Lions Make a Grand Return to Michigan

BY PAMELA MOHR

Once was not enough for Lions. They liked Grand Rapids so much the first time around, they're coming back. Michigan's second-largest city originally hosted the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in 2007. This year's return visit, Sept. 17 to 19, promises to be bigger and better. The forum is jam-packed with nearly 90 seminars, new speakers, useful information and entertainment. Learning leadership skills to successfully steer members through the club, district, multiple district and global levels of Lions Clubs International is a once-a-year experience that no member should miss.

There's a reason—not just one, but too many to list, actually—that Grand Rapids and Michigan's "Gold Coast" were together named as Lonely Planet's 2014 top U. S. travel site. Grand Rapids has experienced a renaissance, of sorts, as a tourist destination in part because of its surging arts and creative community. The Gold Coast is a 300-mile stretch of beach towns beginning just 30 miles from Grand Haven northward along Lake Michigan.

Another title Grand Rapids wins (two years running) is one of the Top 10 Best Cities for Beer Lovers—no surprise here since the craft beer business is booming. The city is home to at least 12 breweries. Try Founder's Brewery (foundersbrewing.com) on Route 131. How can you not appreciate a place that hawks Curmudgeon Old Ale as one of its best sellers? If you're not feeling curmudgeonly, head over to Brewery Vivant (breweryvivant.com), housed in an old chapel with gorgeous stained glass windows and high-peaked ceilings. Whether you want casual or fine dining, the "farm to fork" movement is abundantly visible. Family farms in west Michigan produce locally-sourced food from produce to dairy to free-range beef, and diners reap the tasty, healthy rewards.

The Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park (meijergardens.org) is ranked in the top 100 art museums worldwide by Art Newspaper. More than 200 large and small sculptures, some by acclaimed artists Picasso, Rodin and Degas, are located on the 158-acre grounds and inside the museum on permanent display. The adult entrance fee is \$12; for visitors over 65, \$9.



Michigan's only president is honored at the downtown Gerald R. Ford Museum (fordlibrarymuseum.gov), a 54,000-square-foot educational and cultural facility on the banks of the Grand River at 303 Pearl Street NW. You can view permanent displays like the 1970s-era exhibit and view a 6-minute-long documentary on the Watergate crisis that led to Ford's ascension to the presidency. The museum shop has a great assortment of bobble heads, including many former U.S. presidents, and even Rosie the Riveter, Uncle Sam and Winston Churchill, for those who'd like to see world leaders nodding in agreement, or just plain nodding. They sell for \$24.95.

This city is simply sensational—and sensationally easy to navigate. There are 120 daily nonstop flights arriving and departing from Grand Rapids. For drivers, there's reasonably priced parking around DeVos Place, the convention center, but bus transportation is also available. A five-minute walk from the center leads you to a 2.5-mile river walk, four museums, numerous restaurants and pubs, and more than 40 shops. Average daytime temperatures in



September hover around the mid-70s in Grand Rapids. Beginning with the first seminars on Thursday morning, the forum promises three exhilarating days with Lions from all over North America. Intriguing, informative new presentations are offered. Learn about the ethics of social media, how to find your “aha” moments, handle conflict resolution, become a better speaker and how to apply for an LCIF grant. There’s also a seminar about one of Michigan’s most valuable resources—Lions leader dogs.

Thursday’s Fun Festival, featuring Buckets ’n Boards, a musical with lots of laughs, closes out the evening until seminars resume on Friday at 8:30 a.m. Former child star Lisa Whelchel, who played Blair on the popular ’80s sitcom “The Facts of Life,” and is now an author, will address Friday’s luncheon guests. Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, slated to lead Lions as the association’s 98th international president during 2015-16, will share his theme and program at Saturday’s luncheon. Saturday evening’s closing presentation includes speaker Wayne Brock, chief executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

Meet international Lions leaders and discover how you can play an exciting role in the future of the world’s largest service club organization. Expanded from two days of training to three this year, there are many other changes designed to maximize your forum experience. These include new mobile apps to make it more interactive, a new Lions Club handbook for every attendee, topical seminars and the first Lions Fun Festival.

You’ll also see the premiere of “We Serve On,” a documentary detailing Lions’ service for the 100 years in anticipation of our Centennial Celebration in 2017. “These are just a few of the dynamic changes we’re making,” says General Chairman Mark Miller, a Jasper Lion in Georgia. “The core remains the same. Having hosted our forum and the international convention before, Michigan Lions have shown us what Pure Michigan is all about.” Simply put, Pure Michigan is pure fun. To learn more or to register, visit lionsforum.org.

Watch a promotional video on Grand Rapids.

Shelter Helps Free Children from Labor

Balaji was still a small child when his parents sent him to work in a mechanical shop during his summer holiday. Soon after, the same systemic poverty and domestic strife that led him to become a victim of child labor practices also forced him from his home and the company of his parents and older brother. Balaji found himself a ward of the state.

But Balaji's story doesn't end there. Not long after coming into government custody, Balaji was admitted to the Home for Abandoned Children in Tiruvallur in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Now safe at the shelter, Balaji is free from the threat of child labor and has a stable envi-

ronment in which to focus on his studies. He's in the 8th grade now, studying every day, regularly attending classes and—most importantly—has the chance to focus on the one thing children should focus on: being a kid.

“Before joining this home, I didn't attend school regularly,” says Balaji. “Now I am going to school every day. And with the help of other children my age, I am motivated to study well. Goodbye child labor!”

Balaji's isn't the only story of hope and triumph that has come from the Home for Abandoned Children. Since it was opened in 2011, the home, a joint effort between the

Poor Indian beggar girls on the street eat a piece of watermelon. Supported by Lions, the Home for Abandoned Children in Tiruvallur is a safe place for such children.



Klein-Brabant Lions Club in Belgium and the local Perambakkam Lions Club, has provided shelter for children whose difficult family situations have forced them from their homes.

The home was made possible by a US\$14,000 International Assistance Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in 2007. Since then, it has been managed by the Integrated Rural Community Development Society, an NGO, in cooperation with Side by Side India, Lions from Belgium and India and with financial support from the Indian Government.

With a maximum capacity of 40 children, the Home for Abandoned Children isn't intended to be a permanent home. Instead, the shelter aims to provide a safe living environment and constructive, educational experiences for

children in need until their domestic situations stabilize or they reach an age where they become independent.

While at the home, children receive the love and attention they need to grow into healthy, independent adults. This includes safe and sanitary living conditions, access to education, a balanced, healthy diet, health care and extra educational assistance for children with learning disabilities.

In 2014, construction began on an expansion to the first floor of the shelter. The added living space and bathrooms will allow for the home to better serve its inhabitants. Lions volunteer at the home as well as donate funds, food and even board games.

To find out more about LCIF International Assistance Grants, visit www.lcif.org.

New School Provides Opportunity

BY CASSANDRA BANNON

Valuing education but lacking resources, parents in Kemba in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) built a one-room schoolhouse with mud and straw. Those raw materials proved to be less than ideal. The walls crumbled. The school lacked windows, desks, chairs and bathrooms. Rain poured through the holes in the roof. Its 140 students learned amid dismal conditions.

Aware that the literacy rate is about 30 percent in the DRC and illiteracy dims work prospects and limits even access to health care, the Acqui Terme Host Lions Club in Italy set out to help Kemba parents. The club teamed up with the Kinshasa Bondeko Lions to build a new primary school.

The Acqui Terme Host Lions drew up plans for a school that would encompass four buildings: two with 12 classrooms each, one to house four staff offices and a library, and a separate building for restroom facilities. The Lions held a gala to raise funds to support the project and received help from other local Lions clubs. The Acqui e Colline Acquesi, Cortemilia e Valli, Nizza-Canelli and Carpentras Comptat Venaissin clubs donated time, money or materials.

The Lions then turned to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) for a US\$35,750 Standard Grant to raise the remaining funds needed to build and equip the school. LCIF's most common grant, Standard Grants provide matching funds from US\$10,000 to US\$100,000 for large-scale Lions humanitarian efforts. Standard Grants

generally provide capital funding for equipment and infrastructure needs. Typically funded are mobile health units, hospices, medical equipment, blind and disabled centers, eye clinics and schools in developing countries.

Drawing up the plans proved to be the easy part of the project. Located approximately 137 miles southwest of the capital city of Kinshasa, Kemba does not have a strong roadway system. Most Kemba residents get around on foot, so the streets are not equipped to handle heavy vehicle traffic. The main thoroughfares in the area are rivers, but there isn't a river close to Kemba. So building materials were brought downriver by boat and then taken via trucks to their final destination.

The Lions persevered and the new school is now up and running, providing a safe place for students and teachers alike. Lions expect this new school to serve up to 240 students when children from nearby villages start attending. The roof does not leak and the floor is made of concrete, not dirt. There are wooden doors and shutters on the windows. Students and teachers now have desks and chairs.

The work of the Acqui Terme Host Lions did not end once the school was built; they have pledged to send books, notebooks, pencils and other supplies to the school for the next five years. Thanks to Lions, Kemba now has one more tool to use in the fight against illiteracy and poverty.

To find out more about LCIF Standard grants, visit lcif.org and search for "standard grants."

Make Headlines with an Improved Club Newsletter

All healthy clubs take pride in having top-notch communication. The club newsletter—that reliable workhorse that shows up in Lions’ mailboxes like clockwork—takes a leading role in fostering an informed membership. At its best it can also inspire, connect and create good humor, ultimately contributing to a stronger, more united club.

What’s Behind the Best Bulletins

How is a winning newsletter crafted? Three editors of newsletters that have been honored in the LCI International Contest weigh in.

The Panel

Kenneth Gantz, Prescott Noon Lions Club, Arizona
Honorable Mention, 2013-2014
Retired architect, photography and publishing program enthusiast

Jack Morris, Loomis Lions Club, California
Honorable Mention, 2013-2014 and 2011-2012; First Place, 2012-2013
Author of 10 e-books

Rich Polanek, Mont Clare Elmwood Park Lions Club, Illinois
Honorable Mention, 2013-2014; First Place, 2011-2012
Retired Chicago Tribune advertising artist and graphic designer

The Purpose

KG: With more than 100 members, the newsletter is important in helping everyone stay informed, especially those unable to attend a meeting. It recognizes new members and members’ contributions, which helps with retention and club growth.

JM: It attracts people to Lionism and shares service ideas. A club’s newsletter doesn’t have to be limited to club activities. Our newsletter goes international—we include what Lions are doing across the globe.

RP: I focus on club activities and show how we use donations to benefit our community. Sharing service images and stories of club members inspires those in and outside the club.

The Look

KG: The newsletter is fun, interesting and informative while also having a creative and well-designed look. I have a basic master page that I alter to keep it interesting.

RP: I try to create an interesting cover to entice members to open it up. I use as many member service images as possible. The graphics are the newsletter’s strength—they pull readers in.

The Content

KG: Some important items are the Board of Directors’ minutes, the President’s Message, speaker schedule, special anniversaries, the district report and Lion of the Month. I frequently include new member bios and a club history item.

JM: Every issue offers a health article, a Loomis historical note, a member interview, a troop report by a Scout and a cartoon. Our foreign readers send me club news to include.

The Delivery

JM: My email list is more than 2,000. Monthly it’s sent out as a PDF and posted on Facebook.

RP: It’s delivered quarterly via emailed PDF and posted on our website.



The Panel's Top Five Tips for a Better Newsletter

1. Take ideas from your favorite magazines and apply them.
2. Be creative—don't be afraid to change the format and experiment to keep it fresh and fun.
3. Set a high quality standard. Never send an edition out unless it's been checked for grammar and accuracy.
4. Take and include lots of great photos of Lions in action. Balance them with complementary text.
5. Make tough decisions when editing. An overly crowded newsletter isn't reader-friendly.

Calling All Notable Newsletters

Does your club newsletter deserve recognition? Entries for the 2014-2015 International Contest are due May 1. Find the official rules at lionsclubs.org.

View sample newsletters:

- Loomis, Mont club
- Clare Elmwood Park club
- Prescott Noon club

Makeover Made Easy

Even design novices can try out an updated look for your newsletter. Find a variety of templates in Microsoft Publisher. Apple users can find templates in the Pages App or at iTunes.

28th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Share Peace

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

Start now. Purchase a 2015-16 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2015, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



CALL 1-800-710-7822

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



April is LEO CLUB AWARENESS MONTH!



April marks the annual observance of Leo Club Awareness Month. Lions are encouraged to raise awareness of Leo clubs and share information about this important youth development program.

Get involved by sponsoring an Alpha Leo club, organizing a joint service project with Leos, or including Leos in any special events planned for Family and Friends Month.

Leo Club Program Department
leo@lionsclubs.org • 630-571-5466
facebook.com/leoclubs



Be a Part of #Lions100

Excitement is building quickly for Lions' centennial celebration, and clubs are putting that excitement into action by joining the Centennial Service Challenge. Get connected to the projects serving 100 million people throughout the world by posting photos and project results to social media sites along with #Lions100. With the hashtag #Lions100, your photos will join the stream of posts on sites such as Twitter (below) and Facebook, giving your projects a broader sense of impact and inclusion to the vast centennial service efforts.



Tudela Golden Lions, Philippines @TudelaLionsClub we just fed 150 children & gave 186 reading glasses <http://ow.ly/Bani5> #Lions100 #weserve



Salami Shehu Adebayo, Nigeria @Enugieru Ilupeju Lions Club celebrated Melvin Jones' Birthday (Relieving the Hunger Campaign) #lions100



Bridgewater Academy Lions Club, Massachusetts @BwaterAcadLions 954 pairs donated glasses washed/sorted + Melvin Jones Birthday Party. 21 Lions (5 clubs)+5 volunteers. #LIONS100



Lions Club Porbandar, India @lionsclubofpbr Lions club porbandar relieving the hunger to the blind #LionsClub #lions100 #centennial



Facebook Feedback

In February we asked Lions who have been to Hawaii or plan to go for the upcoming international convention what's on your "must do" list. Here are a few of your top tips:



Terry Tosch I can't attend, but have to tell everyone to see the Cultural Center and Pearl Harbor. If you're there long enough, do some island hopping. I would love to click my heels 3 times and be there.



Ulrich Walter Definitely take a trip to Haleiwa Town on the north shore, and if you have time, you may take a boat trip for whale watching. Walk up to Diamond Head on a bright morning. The Bishop Museum and the Aloha Tower are also on your map, as well as Iolani Palace and the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The Honolulu Zoo is also quite exciting and the Pali Highway will take your breath away. Enjoy! Aloha.

Watch for the next Facebook and Twitter question on April 7: *Have you ever collaborated with other service or community groups in a project for your Lions Club? What was the experience like? Tell us what you did and how your groups worked together to bring the project to fruition.*

Find it at lions100.org

Get ready for the Worldwide Week of Service coming up May 16-22 by making use of the many tools and resources available online. Your club won't want to miss this opportunity to join fellow Lions around the world help children in need for this

Centennial Service Challenge. Download the event flyer, a press release, project ideas and social media tips. Find out how to report your service to earn a Centennial Banner Patch for your club.

Lions Worldwide Week of Service in May (May 16 - 22)

Print The Lions Worldwide Week of Service in May is a special Centennial Service Challenge event designed to strengthen our communities and help us reach our Centennial goal of serving 100 million people. This year, International President Joe Preston has made serving children in need one of our international service goals, so consider feeding a project to help children in your community. No matter how you choose to serve, be sure to join us for this special international event!

Connect with Us Online: lionsclubs.org/web

Email us at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org to submit a comment or make a story suggestion for our editors.

Join the Lions Worldwide Week of Service May 16-22!

Join us for this special Centennial Service Challenge event to strengthen our communities and help Lions reach our Centennial goal of serving 100 million people.

Looking for a great way to serve? Consider hosting a project to help children in need in your community. No matter how you choose to serve, be sure to join us for this global event!



Getting involved is easy!

- ✓ **Host a service** project that benefits youth, vision, hunger or the environment during the week of **May 16-22**
- ✓ **Share your project** with local media and on social media to showcase your club
- ✓ **Report your project** on the MyLCI Service Activity Report and earn a Centennial Banner Patch for your club



Start planning your Worldwide Week of Service in May project today!

lions100.org

Club News

The **Lions of MD 36 in Oregon** launched the Acts of Kindness program, encouraging Lions to say thank you for acts of kindness they see in their communities. The program involves giving out custom-designed pins attached to business cards that ask recipients to help the Lions celebrate Acts of Kindness month and to share the card with someone doing a good deed.

In **Michigan**, the **Lansing Delta Lions** helped provide 2,867 local students with backpacks filled with food last year.

The **Salt Lake City Lions Club in Utah** sponsors an annual golf tournament to raise money for eye exams and eyeglasses for low-income and homeless people. Last year, Lions helped 202 people with the proceeds from the tournament in which nearly 100 people played. Local businesses sponsor holes and prizes are donated.

The **Macon Lions Club in Georgia** purchased a Perkins Braille for a recent graduate of the Georgia Academy for the Blind High School. The device will help Mariya Vasileva reproduce textbook pages in Braille as she takes college courses.

The **Collbran Lions Club in Colorado** delivered more than 50 backpacks to a local school to be given to students in need. Lions have distributed the packs, filled with an assortment of supplies for the school year, for several years.

The **Valsayn Lions Club in Trinidad and Tobago** has been giving grants to students to attend university for the past three years.

Sarasota Lions in Florida provided free diabetes and glucose screenings to members of a church during their annual health fair. Lions regularly test people at community events.

Members of the **Natoma Lions Club in Kansas** built a wheelchair ramp for the local library.



Lion Rip Sartell was one of several **Gold Canyon Lions in Arizona** who screened children's vision at a local elementary school. Lions schedule screenings in at least two schools every year and pay for eyeglasses when needed.

Saskatoon Centennial Lions in Canada gave CAD\$800 to an English/Cree Native American bilingual language school to buy new books for each of the 358 students to take home with them as part of a literacy project. Children range in age from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

The **Sherborn Lions Club in Massachusetts** donated \$200 to Baypath Humane Society to help the shelter's recent work with visually impaired dogs. In addition to finding loving homes for 358 dogs and 517 cats last year, the shelter also helped several blind dogs to find new homes.

The **West Plains Lions Club in Missouri** won a \$250 first prize award two years in a row with its float entry in the community's Christmas parade.

The **Spokane Central Lions in Washington** sponsored 87 service and fundraising activities and volunteered more than 4,100 hours last year. The club also donated \$53,199 to worthwhile community causes.

Wellsville Lions in New York gave a check for \$5,000 to a public library for improvements. The club has raised money by hosting a trout

derby for 25 years and a variety show for the last 70 years and by selling gumballs.

The **Durand Lions in Michigan** purchased Braille books for a local visually impaired girl after hearing of a letter she wrote to Santa asking for a book.

The **Morden & District Lions Club, Manitoba, Canada**, collected 3,125 pairs of eyeglasses that were sent to the Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre.

The **Green Bay West Lions Club in Wisconsin** donated an iPad to improve the reading skills of a middle school student who has a form of albinism that impairs her vision.

Lions in **Multiple District 25 in Indiana** partnered with the Haiti Environmental Support Program to provide eye exams and eyeglasses to more than 1,200 residents of Pilate, Haiti.



Elkhart Lions (l-r) Larry Morr, Hugh Gruver and Karin Frey in Indiana are among several members who participated in the cleanup of a community park, trimming, clipping, raking and hauling away overgrown vegetation.

The **Cave Spring Lions Club in Virginia** has adopted a small park for light maintenance involving the use of only small garden tools.

The **Dell Rapids Lions Club of South Dakota** gave \$1,000 to a graduating senior. The presentation marks the 21st year that Lions have contributed to a local student's continuing education.

The Chico Breakfast Lions Club celebrated its 60th birthday by donating proceeds from its annual northeastern **California** high school all-star softball and baseball games to the Challenger Little League program. The league gives youngsters with physical and mental challenges opportunities to play baseball.

The Lions of **Petersburg, West Virginia**, have provided more than 700 free breakfasts annually for 4-H and Future Farmers of America participants in the Tri-county Fair for the past six years.

Five **Southwestern Kansas** Lions clubs, **Dighton, Ransom, Scott City, Ulysses** and **Utica**, joined together as the Lions-West Vision Alliance to purchase a PediaVision SPOT Screener. Each club will use the device to screen young children for seven eye problems that need early correction.

Members of the **Arkadelphia Lions Club** in **Arkansas** sponsored a raffle to raise funds to promote organ donation through Donate Life's sponsorship of a float in the Rose Bowl parade. The raffled boat was donated by Alumacraft, enabling Lions to donate all funds directly to Donate Life.

The **Atwood Lions** in **Ontario, Canada**, sponsor an event that brings 2,000 visitors to their small community each July. A long parade, games, a baseball tournament, Bavarian gardens, a pork barbecue and vendors' booths are all part of the fun.

The **Montpelier Lions** in **Indiana** gave four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors.

The **Nacogdoches Breakfast Lions** in **Texas** sponsor an annual free event called Sports Day Out. People with disabilities and their family and friends participate in fishing, yard games, live music, a petting zoo and pony rides.

In **Wyoming**, members of the **Green River Palisades Pride Lions Club** volunteered at a cancer benefit and hosted a blood drive.



Akron Host Lions in Ohio sponsored and served as guides and chaperones at an annual day at the zoo for sight-impaired children, who were treated to specially-designed stations where they could ride a carousel, touch and feel mammals, reptiles, birds and other animals, visit the farmland petting area and enjoy a free lunch with their families.

Lions from **MD24** and **MD22** participated in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington D.C., which attracted hundreds of thousands of spectators.

The **Indian River High School Leos** in **Delaware** participated in a beach cleanup, helped their sponsoring Fenwick Island Lions at a Halloween parade, assisted at a party for the visually impaired and helped Lions with several fundraisers.

The first **MD 14 Pennsylvania State Leo Rally** was held at Beacon Lodge, bringing together 111 Leos from 16 clubs in nine districts, 16 Leo advisers and 10 chaperones. They attended anti-bullying seminars and programs in Lions Quest, Leader dogs and Leo-to-Lion.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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APRIL 2015

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90 Years: Burlington, ON, CAN; Dunnville, ON, CAN; Lake Worth, Fla.; Malden, Mo.; Medford Host, Ore.; Millersburg, Pa.; St Louis Carondelet, Mo.

85 Years: Dimmitt, Texas; Everson, Wash.; Philadelphia Roxborough Manay, Pa.; Pleasanton, Calif.; Saxton, Pa.

80 Years: Alto, Texas; Bowmanville, ON, CAN; Clifton Forge, Va.; Etna, Calif.; Gatesville, Texas; Grand Coulee Dam, Wash.; Jonesville, Mich.; Llano, Texas; Macclenny, Fla.; Orwigsburg, Pa.; Panama City, Fla.; Rolla, Mo.; Schuylkill Haven, Pa.; Seminole, Okla.; Sheridan, Mich.; Tifton, Ga.; Winona, Minn.

75 Years: Algonac, Mich.; Bunkie, La.; Catlin, Ill.; Fort Worth Riverside, Texas; Gardiner Reedsport, Ore.; Kosciusko, Miss.; Leonardtown, Md.; Mansfield, La.; McMinnville, Ore.; New Boston, Texas; Oakdale, La.; Oakmont, Pa.; Richmond, Mich.; Salem North East, Ore.; Salome, Ariz.; St. Louis Alma, Mich.; Thomaston, Ga.; Ubly, Mich.; Wesson, Miss.

50 Years: Auburn, Kan.; Bradford, Ill.; Brownsville, Wis.; Burstall District, SK, CAN; Cudworth, SK, CAN; Elkhorn, Neb.; Ewa Beach, Hawaii; Franklin Lakes, N.J.; Freeport, Minn.; Hampstead, N.H.; Hanover, Ill.; Herscher, Ill.; Hilmar-Irwin-Stevinson, Calif.; Honolulu Diamond Head, Hawaii; Laramie Plains, Wyo.; Lehigh Acres, Fla.; Loganville, Ga.; Merrifield, Va.; Monticello, Ill.; Osgood, Ind.; Ponca City After Five, Okla.; Rockton, ON, CAN; Salisbury, Mo.; Sheffield, ON, CAN; Stow, Mass.; Wanette, Okla.; Wawota District, SK, CAN; Whitelaw, Wis.

25 Years: Brevard Davidson River, N.C.; Desert Center Chuckwalla Valley, Calif.; Gonzales Breakfast, Texas; Horseheads Southern Tier Retired, N.Y.; San Diego Golden Triangle, Calif.; Skidmore-Tynan, Texas

Anniversaries are based on the official records of Lions Clubs International. The recorded charter date at LCI sometimes differs from local club records.

The Higher Key Awards are listed here.



Delegate Form Instructions for the International Convention

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

If yes, please complete the attached form and return the top half of the form to Lions Clubs International Headquarters, to the attention of the Member Service Center before **May 1, 2015**.

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

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

The address to mail the form is:

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

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

- A government issued photo ID with your signature.
- Please be sure your club number is clearly printed on the delegate form for quicker processing.

If you have any questions regarding this certification request, please contact the Member Service Center via email at stats@lionsclubs.org or by phone 1-630-468-6938 or you can fax your form to 1-630-706-9295.

ALLOWABLE CLUB DELEGATES

AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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

Membership.....delegates allowed

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



LCI COPY

(Mail to LCI before May 1, 2015)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2015 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Club Identification Number:

District:

Number of allowable delegates:
Members:

Club Name:

Address:

See previous page for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: ☐ DELEGATE OR ☐ ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

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



Signature of Club Officer

Mail the above to LCI (Member Service Center) before May 1, 2015. After that date, bring it to the convention.
Lions Clubs International • 300 W 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

EN

DELEGATE/ALTERNATE DELEGATE COPY

(Bring this copy to the Convention)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2015 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA



Club Identification Number:

District:

Number of allowable delegates:
Members:

Club Name:

Address:

LCI stamp for
Alternate
Delegate
certification

See previous page for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: ☐ DELEGATE OR ☐ ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

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



Signature of Club Officer

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STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Scott Drumheller
Managing Editor: Dane La Joye
Senior Editor: Jay Copp
Associate Editor: Pamela Mohr
Assistant Editor: Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt
Graphics Manager: Connie Schuler
Graphic Designer: Christina Jacobs
Graphic Designer: Lisa Smith
Production Manager: Mary Kay Rietz

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ADVERTISING SALES

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

East Coast
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914-827-0015
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Central US
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720-524-4859
tom.rickert@rickertmedia.com

Pat Rickert
Rickert Media, Inc.
6710 Garfield Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55423
612-861-1991
pat.rickert@rickertmedia.com

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[Roar of Approval

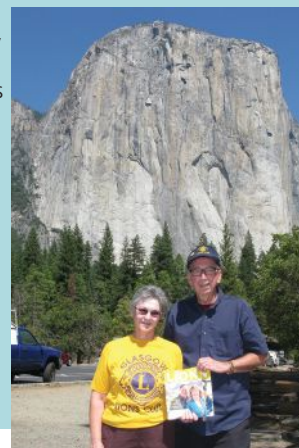
Dr. Tebebe Yemane Berhan of Ethiopia, a past district governor and a member of the Lions Clubs International steering committee representing Africa, has been honored with the Pushkin Medal. Berhan, a member of the Addis Abbaba Host Lions Club, was presented with the award by Vladimir Putin, president of the Russian Federation, in a ceremony at the Kremlin. He received the award in recognition of his contribution to the popularization of the Russian language, Russian culture, humanitarian activities and promotion of medical science in Ethiopia, particularly in the field of neglected tropical diseases.

Annapolis Lion Virginia Carpenter celebrated her 100th birthday recently in Maryland. She became a Lion in 1987 when the Annapolis Lionesses became a Lions club. A Melvin Jones Fellow, she has held several positions of responsibility in her club.

[Read LION

Reading About Service after Services

Past District Governor Shamir Andrew Ally (right) of the Indian Trail Lions in North Carolina reads the magazine after attending Sunday morning services. Lucille and Ed Short (below) of the Glasgow Lions in Delaware pull out the LION while at the El Capitan rock formation in Yosemite National Park in California. Celebrating 25 years of marriage with a trip with her husband to Ireland, Angela Tarr (right, below) of the Summit Lions in Pennsylvania feels at home in Kinsale. Want to be in the LION? Send a picture along with your name, Lions club, hometown and photo description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org.



Information

For the Record

As of Jan. 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,381,034 members in 46,394 clubs and 755 districts in 210 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

Correction

The North End Lions in Oklahoma annually grill food for teachers and school staff. The LION regrets the error.



Travel with other LION Members!

European Highlights

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Departs September 17, 2015. Fly to the exciting city of Barcelona (2-nights). Enjoy a city tour including the Sagrada Familia Church, iconic La Rambla; with plenty of shopping opportunities and spend a day at leisure



before boarding **Norwegian Cruise Line's Epic**. Experience the best of Freestyle cruising and many onboard amenities as you sail to the historic Spanish ports of: Cartagena and Malaga; Lisbon, Portugal and Southampton, UK. After you disembark, travel to London and spend a half day sightseeing that will include Big Ben and Buckingham Palace - home to the Queen. Then enjoy a high-speed train trip on the famed *Eurostar* to Paris (2-nights). Marvel at Notre-Dame Cathedral; the Eiffel tower and sample some authentic French cuisine before returning home.

*PPDO. Based on inside stateroom, upgrades available. Plus \$299 tax/service/government fees. Add-on airfare available.

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Departs September 18, 2015. Start in Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation and enjoy a sightseeing tour. Then your scenic journey begins offering spectacular and colorful vistas through Amish Country to Gettysburg. Travel north with a stop at the Corning Museum of Glass into Ontario and awe-inspiring **Niagara Falls** for two nights! Return to upstate New York where you will board a cruise through the 1000 Islands; drive through the six-million-acre civilized wilderness of the Adirondack region, stop in Lake Placid and then into the forest area of New England:



The White Mountains, including Franconia Notch State Park and New Hampshire. Stop at Flume Gorge and witness the impressive waterfalls and beautiful fauna, then continue east on Kancamagus Highway with breathtaking scenery to York county, Maine. Next drive along the New England coast to Boston, with a city tour; visit Plymouth, founded by the Pilgrims and **Cape Cod** for two nights, with time to explore the history and art scene. Then on to Newport, Rhode Island, including a tour of one of the famous mansions en route to Bridgeport, Connecticut. Lastly tour New York City seeing all the major sights of the "Big Apple."

*PPDO. Plus \$159 tax/service/government fees. Alternate September - October departure dates available. Seasonal charges may apply. Add-on airfare available.

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Photo courtesy of The Enterprise Bulletin

Grip and Grin

Leah Bryan of Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, hugs Nox, her autism assistance dog provided to her through the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Nox has helped Leah handle situations that previously overwhelmed her, Kim Bryan, her mother, told The Enterprise Bulletin. Leah tried to bolt from a room when her routine at swimming lessons was disrupted, but, tethered to Nox, she stayed put and calmed herself by petting him.



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PL	AMBER		
SB	BLUE STRIPE		
8A	SLATE		
MP	MAIZE		
S5	MAROON		
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FY	AQUA		
09	WHITE (not shown)		
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