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June 2015

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Photo by Dan Morris

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Photo by John Timmerman

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Lions Clubs International

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7. Japanese
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10. Spanish
11. Swedish





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

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Photo by Daniel Morris

The Feeding and Reading program of the Baggao Lions in the Philippines nourishes the body and mind.

It's a Lions World—And We're Glad for That

It was a privilege to serve as your international president in 2014-15. I mean that sincerely and literally. It was a privilege to visit a school in India run by Delhi Lions for 52 years, a privilege to be at a Lions-sponsored facility in France that conducts important research on gene therapy for rare diseases and a privilege to observe classes for children who are deaf and blind in Turkey. Traveling the world allowed Joni and me to see firsthand how Lions worldwide improve their communities and embrace the spirit of service.

For 98 years Lions have grown stronger, and this year was no exception. In 2014-15 Lions showed that Melvin Jones' vision of like-minded people joining together to help their neighbors continues to resonate across borders and in our contemporary, fast-paced modern culture.

My theme was Strengthen the Pride. My pride in Lions especially was strengthened this year. Thanks to the leadership of club presidents and district governors and the individual efforts of members, we saw solid gains in membership, a very successful start to our Centennial Service Challenge, strong participation in new initiatives such as the Worldwide Week of Service for Children and con-

tinued support for established projects such as the measles campaign.

Joni and I wish to thank all the Lions who were so hospitable to us this year, and we also thank all Lions for their magnificent service. Before becoming president, I thought I had a good grasp of Lions' commitment to service. But the depth and range of our activity are astounding. I look forward to meeting many of you at conventions and other Lions' events and eagerly anticipate our huge centennial celebration in 2017 in Chicago.



Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Doctor *Designed.* Audiologist *Tested.* FDA *Registered.*

Hear Better! *Pay Less!* *Superior* Quality for Far Less America's *#1 Value* Hearing Aid

Reported by J. Page

Chicago: Board-certified Ear, Nose, & Throat physician Dr. S. Cherukuri has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical grade ALL DIGITAL affordable hearing aid.

This new digital hearing aid is packed with all the features of \$3,000 competitors at a mere fraction of the cost. Now, most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear natural sound — in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind — without suffering through “whistling” and annoying background noise.

After years of extensive research, Dr. Cherukuri has now created a ***state-of-the-art*** digital hearing aid that's packed with the features of those expensive \$3,000 competitors — at a ***fraction of the price.***

New Digital Hearing Aid Outperforms Expensive Competitors

This sleek, lightweight, fully programmed hearing aid is the outgrowth of the digital revolution that is changing our world. While demand for “all things digital” caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for thousands of dollars and today can be purchased at a fraction of that price), yet the cost of a digital medical hearing aid remained out of reach.

Dr. Cherukuri knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn't afford the expense of these new digital hearing aids. Generally they are not covered by Medicare and most private health insurance.

The doctor evaluated all the high priced digital hearing aids on the market, broke them down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version — called the MDHearingAid® *AIR* for its virtually invisible, lightweight appearance.

- ✓ Nearly *invisible*
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— Dennis

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— Dr. Chang

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— Ned Rubin

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[The Big Picture

The contest's 23 Merit Award winners are from China, Colombia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Multiple District 300 Taiwan, Philippines, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand and the United States (Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio and Virginia).

See the Merit Award posters and the artists.

Watch a video of the Peace Poster contest.



The Very Best of 400,000



Peace takes work. It has to be built, piece by precious piece. That's the motif of the grand prize winner of the 27th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. The artist is Wei Jin Qian (pictured), a 13-year-old girl from Dalian, China. More than 400,000 students worldwide, ages 11 to 13, submitted posters. Qian received US\$5,000 and appearances at Lions Day at the United Nations in March in New York City and the 98th International Convention in June in Honolulu.

[The Big Picture



A Good Hair Day



The whirl of razors filled the Romeo Lions Field House in Michigan, and swaths of hair fell softly to the floor. Lions hosted the annual shave in March to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation, devoted to children battling cancer. A total of 589 children and adults, including several Lions, had their hair sheared off and raised \$317,000 for the foundation, says Todd Trbovich, president.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD TO SAVE THE CHILDREN

Celebrated for saving and improving lives, Save the Children will receive the 2015 Lions Humanitarian Award at the international convention in June in Honolulu. The charity, based in Fairfield, Connecticut, has greatly reduced newborn and child mortality. Its award-winning literacy initiatives have boosted literacy rates. It also helps children when disaster strikes, and in the United States it supports preschool programs as well as afterschool and summer programs to strengthen academics, increase physical activity and promote nutritious diets. More than 14 million children benefited from its hunger programs in its last fiscal year, and it treated 3 million children for lethal diseases such as measles, pneumonia and diarrhea. Save the Children was begun in 1919 in the aftermath of the ravages of World War I. A \$250,000 grant from LCIF accompanies the award.



Once near death from malnutrition, 2-year-old Saguirou from Niger drinks the fortified milk supplied by Save the Children.



Overheard

"They just sent some guys out in the field to pick some more."

—President Pam Twohey of the Collins Lions after realizing the 800 ears of fresh Iowa corn would not be enough for her club's annual corn feed. From the Ames Tribune.

"Fertilizer. Lots of fertilizer."

—William Huber, 9, explaining how he grew his first-place, 569-pound entry for the Lions Club Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in in Sycamore, Illinois. From the Daily Chronicle.

LIONS CENTENNIAL ITEMS CAN BE PURCHASED

Proud to be a Lion and proud of our upcoming centennial in 2017? The Lions Store at Lions Clubs International (LCI) is selling sharply designed centennial items such as Lions polo shirts, ties, caps, pens, coffee mugs and banners. The items feature the attractive centennial logo. A snazzy large men's polo shirt is \$34.95. A stylish Cross ballpoint pen with a polished chrome barrel is \$54.95, and a durable, 13-ounce mug is only \$14.95. More centennial items will be offered soon. To order, go to lcistore.org.

There are Centennial Polo shirts for men and women.



Club Supplies at LCI has offered a wide array of items in the last 70 years or so. Take a look.

- Ladies Night gifts include necklaces, earrings and sewing kits (February 1952 LION).
- Personalized sport shirts for Lions sell for \$6.95 (June 1959).
- Among the anniversary items are a Golden Anniversary lion, a Zippo lighter and a utility brush kit (November 1966).
- Christmas gifts for Lions include a sporty western hat and "the ever-popular, washable poplin jacket" (November 1981).

CHILDREN DRAW A BEAD ON PEACE POSTER

Displayed at a playground in Sweden's second largest city is an artwork made from 89,000 colored beads—a stunning reproduction of the grand prize poster from the 2012 Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Dozens of schoolchildren at schools or at Positive Park in Göteborg devoted about 150 hours to create the intricate bead work, based on the poster of Trisha Co Reyes of the Philippines.

"We wanted a picture with the theme of peace, so it all started with Google. That's where we found Trisha's picture and contacted Lions [Clubs International] to get permission," says Cecilia Hansson, who works with children at the park. "We actually didn't know about the contest until we saw her beautiful art. It had everything—flags from all over the world, children holding hands, faces of children, cities, the peace sign and a dove."

The children used 99 peg boards and PhotoPearls software to create the art, which advanced the cause of peace. "The children collaborated and met children from other social classes," says Hansson. "When they sit down and work quietly they have nice conversations about different things in their lives."



Watch a video of the bead project.

By the Numbers

18 Young men and women sworn into the U.S. Air Force at a Lake Erie Crushers minor league baseball game in Avon, Ohio, during which Lion Jim Harley, whose son was sworn in, and other Lions collected donations for the Wounded Warrior Project.



525 Winning bid in dollars for a bushel of peaches at the annual peach auction of Porter Lions in Oklahoma.

90,000

Fairgoers streaming into the Twin Falls County Fair in Idaho whose parking was coordinated by Twin Falls Lions.



107,000

Ears of corn roasted and served by New Berlin Lions at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Distance in kilometers of the dog walkathon held by Blacksburg Host Lions and the Delta Gamma Sorority on the Virginia Tech campus to raise funds for the club.

3



VIDEO MAGAZINE DETAILS LIONS' PROJECTS

The current edition of LQ, the Lions Quarterly Video Magazine, showcases two large projects done in a single weekend by nine clubs in Minnesota, reforestation efforts by Lions in Jamaica, the new disaster relief public service announcement and the impact of Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions Clubs. Send your story suggestions to LQ@lionsclubs.org. Be sure to "like" and share LQ on social media. LQ is available on the LCI website, YouTube, iTunes and DVD.

Watch the latest LQ.



This aerial photo shows destruction in a section of the small town of Fairdale, Illinois, after a tornado hit the area on April 9.

TORNADO STORY HAS A TWIST

A powerful EF4 tornado killed two people and leveled Fairdale, a town of 200 in northern Illinois, in April. The homes of three Lions who belong to the Kirkland Lions Club were destroyed or damaged. Donations of goods poured in, and Kirkland Lions, working alongside other volunteers, helped fill 14 semitrucks (as of press time). The club also cleared debris and distributed to tornado victims the \$10,000 collected by Jewel Ward from Washington in southwestern Illinois. Two years earlier a twister had devastated Washington, and Ward found a place to stay in Fairdale. Her brother, Charlie Freeman, is a Kirkland Lion.



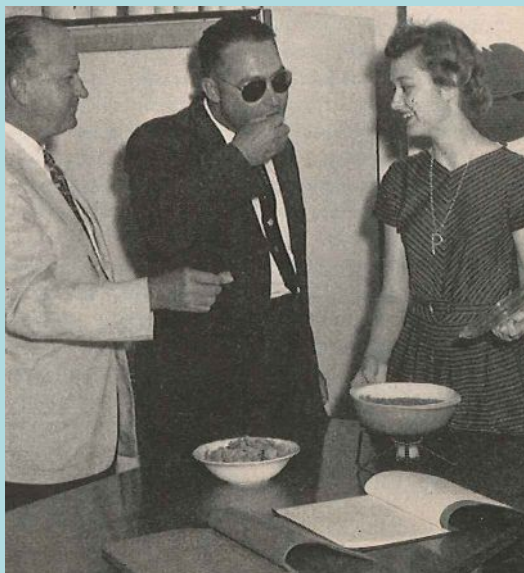
Photo by AMNH/D. Finnin

(Left) Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter tours the Countdown to Zero exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History with exhibition curator Mark Siddall (left) and Donald Hopkins, vice president for health programs at The Carter Center and a member of LCIF's SightFirst Advisory Committee.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT APPEALS TO LIONS

Planning to be in New York City this summer? The renowned American Museum of Natural History is presenting an exhibit with interest to Lions. "Countdown to Zero: Defeating Disease" explores onchocerciasis (also known as river blindness) and other widespread diseases such as polio and malaria. Partnering with The Carter Center, LCIF has helped protect millions from the blinding disease. Through stunning photography, videography and artifacts, the exhibit explores the factors that determine if a disease is eradicable as well as the scientific and social innovations that are ridding the world of ancient afflictions. Running through July 12, the exhibit is presented in collaboration with The Carter Center and is supported by LCIF.

55 Years Ago in the LION



JUNE 1960

Esther Tips of Texas, a home economics teacher for blind students, developed "Cooking Without Looking," a Braille cookbook. It took her five years to create the book, the only one not adapted from cookbooks for the sighted—which typically included non-helpful instructions such as "cook until well-browned."

A chance remark by her boss, Lion W.E. "Bill" Allen, the blind superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind, inspired her effort. "Be practical in your teaching. Blind people can't learn by observation," he told her. Shown are (from left) Lion Jack Mason; A. B. Tipps, Esther's husband; and a blind student who prepared bean dip from a recipe in the cookbook.

[Read the complete story.](#)

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Craig and Vicki Dyer

Rockford, Illinois

Craig and Vicki Dyer have much in common, far beyond their 48-year marriage. They both enjoy the outdoors, joined the Rockford Evening Lions Club in Illinois 25 years ago and have served as the club's president. Still, when Craig needed a kidney, it was a surprise when Vicki turned out to be a perfect genetic match.



A Match Made in Heaven

Craig: I was diagnosed with IGA nephropathy, a disease in which a certain type of protein builds up in the kidneys. My kidney function had dropped to 13 percent. I needed dialysis or a transplant, and a transplant is better in terms of quality of life and longevity.

Vicki: I volunteered to be tested at Mayo Clinic, where Craig was being treated. It has a "give a kidney, get a kidney" program. The assumption was that I would give a kidney to someone else, and then Mayo Clinic would find a kidney for Craig. As it turned out, I was a perfect genetic match for Craig.

Craig: One of my doctors said, "If you were in Times Square in New

York and picked someone out at random and you were a match—that's about the odds of your spouse being a match."

Gratitude

Craig: At first, I had mixed emotions. Even with all the testing, I was concerned for Vicki. It's a fairly major surgery. But following that was a lot of gratitude. Generally, it's about a five-year wait for a donation from a living kidney donor. I was 68. Once you hit 70, they discourage the surgery.

Vicki: We had the operation in January, and the staff at Mayo Clinic was just amazing. After a month, we came home. Donating a kidney is such a wonderful way

to save a life, whether it's a relative or someone else.

Bouncing Back

Craig: The recovery has gone smoothly for both of us. I'm feeling a lot better than I was a year ago. Our Lions club just had its annual dart tournament in May. Some players have to wear goggles that simulate impaired vision. It's a lot of fun, and dyed-in-the-wool dart players really love it.

Vicki: Our lives are going on pretty normally. However, I have always been a better water drinker than Craig. I keep reminding him, "Take good care of that kidney of mine and drink water. It did enjoy more water than what you're used to giving it."

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.

Flags Fly High

When a project starts small and grows big, Lions know they're doing something—or maybe everything—right. That's what happened when Norwalk Lions in California first gave out a few small American flags in the early 1970s to children. The flags were meant to inspire pride and understanding about how their nation came to be. The number of flags now distributed stands at 770.

"The kids are really excited, but they're not the only ones. So are their parents and staff. This program is just one of our best times as Lions," says Manuel Sanchez, a member since 2009. Lions not only present the children with flags, but also speak to



Photo by Manuel Sanchez

Flag waving is just part of the fun when Norwalk Lions come to school.

them about their country's hard-fought independence and history.

Sanchez estimates that at least 50 percent of Lions' projects focus on the community's children. The club sponsors the peace poster contest in ele-

mentary schools, supports the annual high school student speaker contest and youth sports, awards scholarships and donates to community services for blind and disabled children.

Relieving Hunger One Sandwich at a Time



Susan Munck discusses sandwich making with Frostburg-area Summer Lunch Box program volunteers Hanna Hensel (left) and Martha Polling.

Bill Munck, a Frostburg Lion, says that his club in western Maryland's District 22 W is located in some of the most beautiful country he's ever seen. "It's home to ski resorts, has outstanding boating and fishing and beautiful mountain vistas." But the district has another distinction besides natural beauty, he points out: "It contains Allegany County, the second poorest county in Maryland."

"It used to be a thriving area with coal mines and industry. Now it lacks both," Munck explains. He and his wife, Susan, also a Lion, were developing a program in their church to feed children on summer break when they didn't receive regular school meals. After 16 months, the program grew to a partnership of area Lions, Rotarians, churches and other local organizations. With \$10,000 and 75 volunteers, the Summer Lunch Box program was established in 2013. Volunteers prepared and packed nearly 1,500 lunches and distributed them at two different sites, including a daycare center for low-income families.

The program fed 224 children last year. Volunteers also gave each child school supplies at the end of summer to begin the new school year. "We expect at least a 25 percent increase in the number of children served in 2015," says Susan Munck. Lunches now include yogurt, milk and more fresh fruit along with sandwiches. In addition to school supplies, Frostburg Lions are now donating reading materials and activity books for the children.

Alaskan Lions Donate E-readers to El Salvador

When Fairbanks Host Lion John “Bennie” Benevento made a suggestion about how Lions could help people in rural El Salvador, Tony Gasbarro says, “The idea just hit me like a ton of bricks.” Gasbarro served in the Peace Corps there for two years in the late 1990s and still returns yearly to help the people. He spends about a month helping to administer a scholarship program for students in poor, rural areas.

Benevento suggested Lions donate e-readers to help students study and promote reading by adults in El Salvador. “It seemed like such a practical idea. I wondered why I hadn’t thought of it,” admits Gasbarro.

“I read almost every book on a Kindle,” says Benevento. “I load each one we send to El Salvador with 1,000 to 2,000 public domain books in Spanish that I find online at Amazon.” Textbooks can be downloaded by students attending universities, and kept for a semester at a time.

Fairbanks Host Lions pay \$70 for each e-reader. Lions have sent 20 devices to El Salvador and are arranging for another 25 to be sent with Gasbarro on his next trip in the fall.

The devices are shared among several communities. “The nearest library for the village is about 20 miles away, so there’s very little access to books for kids. The town leader,

who’s like a mayor, keeps the e-readers and gives them out to students as they want them,” Benevento explains. When readers complete a book, they return it to be checked out by another person in the village. While the books are primarily for students in the scholarship program, family members read them, too.

“The purpose of the e-reader program is to make students appreciate the world of books and develop a ‘habito de la lectura,’ or reading habit. I frequently tell them that there are three things they can do in life to guarantee success—read, read and read,” says Gasbarro.



An e-reader opens up a world of knowledge and exploration for a girl in El Salvador.

Q: Is it a chair or a bed?

A: BOTH!

It's a chair, true – but this chair is so much more!

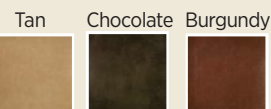
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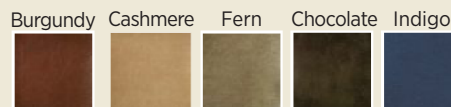


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Summer or Winter, Lions Offer Lakeshore Fun

Camping out on the shores of Deep Creek Lake in Maryland as guests of Lions, four blind children and their families enjoyed five days of unfettered fun last July. For 30 years, Deep Creek Lake Lions have sponsored both summer and winter activities for small groups of blind children from throughout the state. Two years ago, the club partnered with Boy Scout Troop 49 of Morgantown, West Virginia, about 50 miles away. Lion Chris Nichols, assistant scoutmaster of the troop, explains the long distance connection: "I was in the Lions club first, then 'married into' the Scouts. My stepson, Alex, is one of the guides."

The Scouts serve as sighted guides for the blind children and earn service hours required for advancement. They also help Lions set up, maintain and break down the campsite.

Lions provide their own boats to take campers around the lake, and a

local marine service donates a large towable tube for the group to use. "You can tell by the look on some of the campers' faces that they're not sure how it's going to work out when we first get them on that tube," says Lion Craig Hunter, who uses his pontoon boat to tow them. "And then

they all laugh when the tube gets up to speed." Camper Christian Howard, who Nichols says was quiet for most of the week, became his most animated when he dangled his bare feet in a fast-moving river flowing through the park. "It feels like a massage on my feet!" he yelled.



Campers glide through the water on a "banana" pulled by a Deep Creek Lake Lion's boat in Maryland.

Water World No Longer a Mystery

Getting up close and personal with tadpoles, fish and an assortment of tiny critters living in lake water is a teachable moment. For children who participated in a water habitat study sponsored by the Chequamegon Lions Club in northwestern Wisconsin, there were many teachable moments. It was natural for Lions to do so since many of the 43 members of the club are, in fact, retired teachers. "Teachers never stop teaching, even in retirement," says Jan Stapleton.

The event at the Chippewa Flowage, the state's third-largest lake in the center of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, drew 150 third-graders from Hayward-area schools. Lion Case Mazik and students collected water samples from the lake and then identified all of the small water creatures they could by using magnifying glasses and microscopes. There were 10 learning stations set up, all hands-on, where children were able to hold small water creatures, take and test water samples, check water clarity, make fish prints, tie knots and play fish identification games.

Children also learned about soil erosion, invasive species and lakeshore management. Each classroom



Lion Don Lessard gives a short anatomy lesson by dissecting a fish.

recorded its day on digital cameras donated by Lions. The photos were later used in class to help students practice their writing skills by describing what they learned.

The first water study project three years ago was organized by retired teacher and Lion Bob Kondrasek in 2011 in memory of club member Bruce Meyers, a lifelong educator with a passion for the environment. "I want to teach kids about the importance of our earth and its natural resources," Kondrasek explains. "I think that if you teach kids to care about our natural resources, they'll just naturally learn to care about each other."

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AUSTRIA

Lunch Tradition Dates From 1988

When Rudy Reiter lets family or friends know he'll be at lunch—and it's a Wednesday—they know exactly where to find him. He's eaten weekly at the historic Café Landtmann in the heart of Vienna since Aug. 16, 1988. And he's broken bread with thousands of Lions friends, many of whom he's met for the first time.

Reiter, 88, a former zone chairperson, gives new meaning to "let's do lunch." A frequent business traveler before retiring, Reiter often had looked up local Lions and gained new friends and insights into fundraising. Knowing that his city was a crossroads for travelers, he began Vienna's Lions-Luncheon. Since then, 1,360 lunches have hosted 14,000 Lions from 36 nations on five continents.

A typical lunch serves 15 to 20 Lions. Many are from the Wien Ostarrichi Lions Club, Reiter's club, or nearby clubs. Visitors are introduced, given a certificate and banner, and photographed for the guest book. Occasionally, a district governor or other Lions leader will speak or funds will be solicited for a Lions' cause.

But the event is held for Lions to casually chat while getting to sample the café's delectable Viennese cuisine and distinctive coffees. Founded in 1873, the café has served such notables as Sigmund Freud, Paul McCartney, Hillary Clinton, Burt Lancaster and Marlene Dietrich.

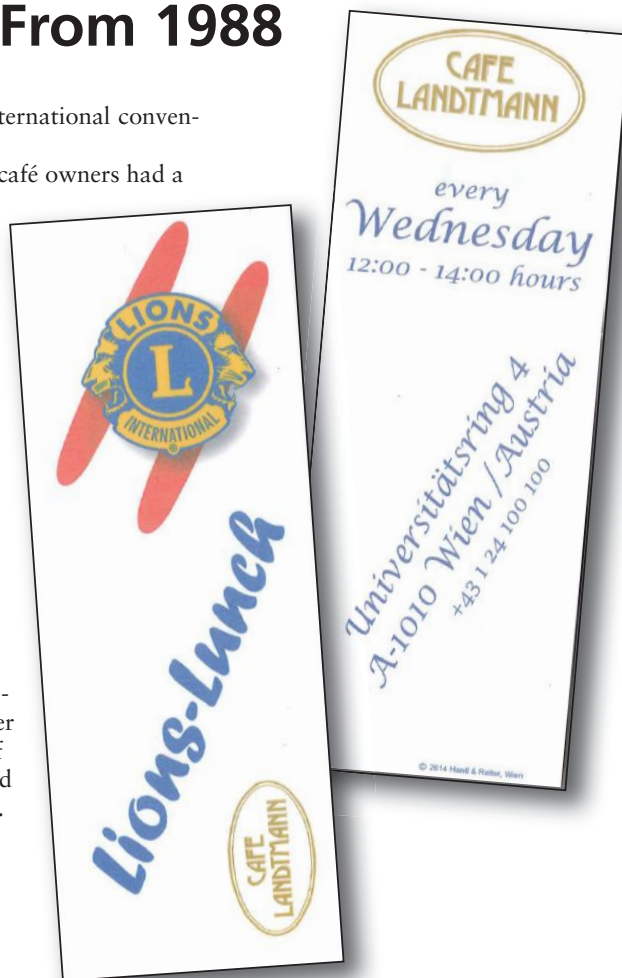
Reiter initially publicized the lunch with stories in various LION magazines and through a sign printed in eight languages in front of the restaurant. Fliers and emails sent to clubs and districts as well as word of mouth keep the visitors coming. Five international Lions presidents have been among the visitors.

The lunch has been cancelled just once: a terrible storm occurred on an Austrian holiday. An unlucky U.S. Lion who showed up at the café left his name and address, and Reiter later

met him at the international convention in St. Louis.

In 2013, the café owners had a giant tart made for the 25th anniversary of the lunch. The lunch shows no signs of slowing down: last year 954 Lions from 11 nations attended.

The retired owner of a plastics company, Reiter says he has "attended 92 percent" of the lunches. Most Lions order a two-course meal. Reiter opts for a bowl of soup, brown bread and a cappuccino.



MALAYSIA

Lions Display Imperial Relics

A Lions club in Malaysia sponsored an exhibition on treasures of China including emperors' robes, seals and snuff bottles. Enticing art lovers to pay the equivalent of \$4 each funded the club's support of cataract operations.

The Penang Komtar Lions Club showcased imperial relics from China from the 1800s to the end of the reign in 1912 of Puyi, the last emperor of China. Lions gathered the artifacts from the collections of local and over-

seas owners. Among the relics were the dragon robe of the emperor's concubine Zheng, a jade pendant of the last empress Tzu Xi and a 1,000-year-old statue of Kwan Yin, the goddess of mercy.

Lions held the exhibition at a cultural center in George Town, the capital of the state of Penang. Admission included talks by experts and screenings of documentaries. The first 500 visitors received a gold-leaf dragon robe calendar card.

Hungarian Lions Roll Out Vision Van

Led by Szombathely Savaria Lions, the first screening was held in conjunction with the Worldwide Day of the

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Aces of Clubs

Whether it's through extraordinary service or exemplary fellowship, these eight clubs are great assets to their communities.

Dysart Lions Club, Iowa

Dysart Lions know what to expect at a meeting. The club has had a pianist ever since it was founded in 1950, and meetings begin with a rousing rendition of “Hail, Hail, The Lions are Here.” Or as members refer to the song: “number 14 from the old book.” Say 51-year member Don Lyons, “We like to think of ourselves as a very traditional club.” That’s another way of saying, “Don’t mess with success.”

The club has woven itself into the fabric of town life. Where there’s a cause, there likely is a Lion or two or three. For decades, the Lions have served hundreds of hamburgers and hot dogs on the 3rd of July. The club sponsors local Scout troops and student athletics. It donates regularly to organizations such as LCIF, the Iowa Lions Foundation, Leader Dogs for the Blind and Camp Courageous, an Iowa camp for children with disabilities.

The club also acts as a cheering section for Dysart itself. Last year the club hosted a free luncheon for more than 200 community volunteers. “Dysart and the Lions work hand-in-hand,” says Lyons. “We’re a great team.” Whenever a major project comes up—such as replacing the community swimming pool the Lions helped build in 1959—the club is there to pledge money and support. “We’re an active part of this community and we intend to stay that way,” says Lyons.

In fact, the Dysart club has become the go-to group for anyone in town who needs help, whether it’s a family trying to rebuild their lives after a house fire or someone with a serious illness who needs assistance with medical bills. The club steps in, offering to cook a meal as a fundraiser and charge only for expenses. “Whatever they raise, they keep,” says Lyons. “Our motto is We Serve, and we live by it.”

Unlike many other small towns, Dysart is thriving. A number of stores promote Iowa artists, and the picturesque downtown attracts visitors from around the state. The town’s vitality is due in large part to the work of the Dysart Development Corporation, which has a Lion as its director and others who serve on its board. “I’d like to think we’re part of the reason our community is what it is today,” says Lyons.

The club itself is an example of brotherly love in action: among its members are five ministers from four different denominations. “We’re never short on anyone to say grace,” quips Lyons. Members also have a very Midwestern way of getting the word out about their club. The club painted its motto, “Spread Good Will,” on a 1930 manure spreader. “We’ve paraded it all over Iowa,” Lyons says with a grin.

Dysart Lions Club

Chartered: 1950

Members: 54

Community: Dysart (pop. 1,400) is a farming community in central Iowa that has reinvented itself as a tourist destination with art galleries, gift shops and restaurants.

Holiday Spirit: During the holidays, the club distributes dozens of “Christmas Cheer” boxes, filled with food and “Dysart dollars” that can be spent at local businesses.



Photos by Alissa Klenk



Dysart Lions open their meeting with "Hail, Hail, The Lions Are Here."

(Left) As far as the eye can see, Mel Campbell, 2015-16 president, and the Dysart Lions "fertilize" their community and sow good deeds of service.

Elburn Lions Club, Illinois

A drive from Chicago takes you through suburb after suburb, a vast sprawl of housing tracts, shopping centers and congested roads. The growth thins after 30 miles and 50 miles west of the city is bucolic Elburn, a bastion of fresh air, open spaces and Lions. The Elburn Lions Club is the largest in Illinois with nearly 200 members and surely one of the most active, vibrant and friendly as well.

“We’re one big family,” says Bob Thomas, president. That can be taken literally. Multiple generations of the same family have joined in the club’s 85-year history. They join and they stay. “We have lots of members who have been with us for 50 or 60 years,” says Thomas. “Even

when people retire and move away, they keep their membership active.” (Currently, the club’s farthest-flung member lives in Alaska.)

Much of the club’s work revolves around the 26-acre Elburn Lions Park. Since Elburn has no park district or other public open land, the park is a vital community resource, with playing fields for local sports teams, a playground, public garden, picnic tables and a variety of shade trees to rest under on hot summer days. Family reunions and wedding receptions are held at its clubhouse and outdoor pavilion. Rental fees help pay for the club’s wide variety of charitable projects: collecting books for

Elburn Days recalls the rural roots of the town and showcases the deep roots of Lions in Elburn.



underprivileged children, arranging eye exams and free glasses for those in need, putting together care packages for a VA hospital and making monthly donations to a local food pantry.

The club also hosts Bingo nights every Friday. “We have something going on every week of the year,” says Thomas. “People see the camaraderie, and that we’re having fun, and they want to be a part of it.”

The club’s major undertaking each year is the annual Elburn Days Festival, a popular three-day celebration every August. “It’s the last hurrah of summer before school starts,” Thomas says. Lions staff the food stands and beer

garden, hire bands and bring in carnival rides and games. “We start planning for it in January, and it takes hundreds of volunteer hours,” says Thomas. The proceeds from the festival help maintain the park and pay for the club’s activities. But the festival is much more than just a fundraiser. “It’s a chance for all of us to come together,” says Thomas. “You see a lot of people you haven’t seen since the last Elburn Days!”

The Elburn Lions Club in Illinois has plenty to celebrate. This year, the club marked its 85th anniversary with a gala dinner whose guests included LCI’s international president and two vice-presidents.



Elburn Lions Club

Chartered: 1929

Members: 187

Community: Elburn has maintained a mostly rural, small-town atmosphere, though bigger businesses—including the first chain supermarket—are moving in.

Fun for All: The club is adapting the park’s playground equipment to make it accessible to children with disabilities. “We’re hoping it brings in kids from all over the area,” says Bob Thomas.



Ponca City Noon Lions Club

Chartered: 1922

Members: 94

Community: One of the largest communities in the region, Ponca City is an oil town that has seen many of its jobs shift from white collar to blue collar in recent years.

Impact: In addition to its many other sight initiatives, the club loans magnification equipment to people in the community who have low vision. "All of a sudden they can read their own mail, write their own checks," Terry Woodruff says.

Jim Kelly and Deb Woodruff are pumped up about being Ponca City Noon Lions: the club was founded by a Conoco oil magnate and the club currently provides needy children with insulin pumps. Photo courtesy of Sasha Heather Photography



Ponca City Noon Lions Club, Oklahoma

Black gold. Texas tea. That's what brought the Ponca City Noon Lions to birth in 1922 when oil magnate (and future state governor) E.W. Marland founded the club. And for decades, the reassuring presence of oil company Conoco in Ponca City meant that the club had a steady stream of members.

That changed a decade ago when Conoco moved 700 jobs out of the town. "We were going to lose about 30 members out of close to 100 total," says Terry Woodruff, past president and past district governor. "We immediately started doing a very, very effective membership drive. We had a membership director who had a real vision, and he divided us into teams and gave incentives to those who brought in the most new members. It was a year of outstanding enthusiasm. And we finished the year with a net gain of members."

Not ones to rest on their laurels, the club then decided to reach out to potential members who might not be able to meet at noon by starting an Internet branch club, the Northern Oklahoma E-Lions. "That's brought in several new members, even from outside our community," Woodruff says proudly. Then, too, the main club has cultivated future members by organizing service outings for "Cubbies," i.e., kids ages four to 12.

Of course, it's one thing to gain new members; it's another thing to keep them. The Ponca City Noon Lions hang on to their members, says Woodruff, by having plenty for them to do. "The difference with our club is the diversity of projects that we're involved in," he says. "It gives everyone a chance to pick and choose and participate. Some clubs have just a few members who take the lead on projects, like 'Hey, we've got it, don't worry about it,' and then new members don't feel needed. We give that opportunity to feel needed."

Among the club's many projects: a support group for people with low vision, free eyeglasses to those in need, vision testing for all children in the community, blood glucose screenings and medical supplies for children with insulin-dependent diabetes.

Why that last one? Because, Woodruff says, "We have identified a lot of families who fall into a gap. They don't qualify for Medicaid, but they don't have insurance or the funds to take care of deductibles. So we have children whose diabetes is going untreated, and we know what that causes. So we have partnered with Diabetic Solutions of Oklahoma to set up a fund that they will administer for us, so they can help children in our community get the supplies that they need—even an insulin pump, if necessary."

Western Harnett Lions Club

Chartered: 1998

Members: 75

Community: Sanford, known as the brick production capital of the United States, sits in central North Carolina, not far from Fort Bragg, a major military base.

Fun: The club recently turned an abandoned horse barn into an indoor miniature golf course at North Carolina Lions Camp Dogwood, a camp for the blind and visually impaired.

Whatever the era, some clubs have been remarkably effective.
[Learn more.](#)

- Club in Montana “unifies a community” (May 1932 LION).
- California club ensures that “kids don’t have time for mischief” (December 1966).
- Minnesota Woodlands clubs are particularly strong at fellowship (May 1996).
- Illinois club helps build a town (January 2007).

Western Harnett Lions Club, Sanford, North Carolina

In 2002, the Western Harnett Lions’ future seemed dim indeed. Though only four years old, the club was experiencing such low membership levels that keeping the club going seemed hardly worthwhile.

“At that time we had about eight or nine members in the club, and they were talking about turning in the charter,” says Vince Schimmoller, who was then a new member. “We were more or less a social club—meeting for a meal and then going home, without really giving back to the community.”

In an attempt to boost membership, the club started seeking out service projects. Schimmoller’s first: helping build a home mobility ramp for a blind, wheelchair-bound member of the community.

“When we got finished, the joy on his face was just unbelievable,” recalls Schimmoller, now a past district governor. “He said that was the first time he was able to leave his house without being carried down the stairs. That was the first project I was involved in. That’s what got me hooked.”

Judging by the numbers, a whole lot of others got hooked, too. “Once we started coming up with different things for people to do so they could feel good about what they did, I think that’s what turned it around,” Schimmoller says.

Thirteen years after nearly surrendering their charter, the Western Harnett Lions have seen their ranks swell to 75 (including six original members), and their service projects include repairing bicycles, picking up trash, providing food to needy schoolchildren, painting Habitat for Humanity houses, planting trees, volunteering at a food pantry, performing vision screenings and renovating a camp for the blind and visually impaired.

Oh, and then there’s the lion—the real one. At each meeting, members who’d like to share news of a good event in their lives must put money in a “brag cup.” Those funds go to support a lion at the Aloha Safari Zoo, a sanctuary for rescued animals, in Cameron, North Carolina. “This lion was a passion for one of our former club presidents, who died a couple years ago,” explains Virginia Barney, president. “We saw how much this tradition meant to her, and that memory keeps it alive.”

In fact, it’s that kind of passion, Barney says, that has made the Western Harnett Lions so successful and active in general: “When there’s so much demand on everybody and so many challenges, it’s hard to keep folks motivated and involved unless you can tug at their heartstrings.”

To clubs that might be struggling with their membership levels, Barney suggests, “Say to folks, ‘Do what is your passion. Don’t do something because you’re feeling mandated to do it.’ Without sounding too cliché, it takes a village to make a club successful, and that’s why we’re successful—because we value everybody’s talents, and we try to find the role that works for you.”

Vince Schimmoller and Travis Sherrill, who is blind, play a round on the indoor miniature golf course built by Western Harnett Lions in an abandoned horse barn at Camp Dogwood.

Photo by Shea Alexander



Denver Five Points Lions Club, Colorado

From the 1930s to the 1950s, Denver's Five Points area was known far and wide for one thing—jazz. In those days, legends such as Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis and Nat “King” Cole regularly performed in the dozens of bars and clubs that dotted the first predominantly African-American neighborhood in Denver.

The days of hot licks and hepcats may be over, but thanks to the Denver Five Point Lions, this historic neighborhood is now associated with something else just as exciting—at least to the schoolchildren who receive them: school supplies.

Each August for more than 22 years, the club has distributed much-needed backpacks full of notebook paper, folders, pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, glue, scissors and more to kindergarteners, high schoolers and all children in between as part of its annual Community Appreciation Day. And we're not talking a couple of dozen kids, either. Last year, more than 500 children showed up to receive supplies.

“When we get there in the morning, sometimes there's people already in line waiting,” says Willa Townsend, president. “My favorite moment is seeing the children's faces when they get the school supplies and seeing how thankful they are for what they're getting. We start at 11 o'clock and we usually stop around 3, and some of the kids are there all day, just playing and having a good time. We do games, hot dogs and chips, face painting, balloons.”

If it sounds like the Five Point Lions know how to let loose and have fun, it's because they do. “We eat at every meeting we have,” Townsend laughs. Each year, the club holds three fundraisers, all food-themed: two fish fries, one in February and one in October, and a barbecue dinner in May.

And then there are the parades. “We do just about every parade that there is,” Townsend says, from Martin Luther King Jr. Day to St. Patrick's Day to the Colorado Black Arts Festival.

“Our motto is to have fun, and that's what we do,” Townsend says. “And when we go places, we go as a large group. It's kind of like going someplace with your family.”



Torrington Lions Club

Chartered: 1925

Members: 33

Community: A close-knit, blue-collar community in the Naugatuck River Valley, Torrington is a former mill town and the birthplace of famed abolitionist John Brown.

Philosophy: “Pick something that you feel really impassioned about, that you really want to solve,” Margaret Tucker says. “It doesn't have to be a big thing. Just changing one person's life is worth it.”



Linda Hamm (left) and Carmela Sanzo wish happy birthday to 96-year-old Edna at her nursing home.
Photo by Rob Stango



Denver Five Points Lions Club

Chartered: 1987

Members: 57

Community: Denver's historic Five Points area developed a rough reputation in the 1970s, but recent commercial and residential development is sparking hopes for revitalization.

Reach: Each June, the club hosts an inter-club picnic for Lions from all over the Denver area.

Willa Townsend (from left), Charles Johnson and Matilda Jones of the Denver Five Points Lions Club gather at the former site of a famed jazz club in their historic neighborhood.

Torrington Lions Club, Connecticut

Cancel Halloween. That was the sad solution that the town of Torrington was contemplating a few years ago when so much snow fell in October that it wasn't safe for trick-or-treaters to roam the streets.

"Then the mayor called us and said, 'Is there anything you can do?'" recalls Margaret Tucker, club president. "We said, 'Yeah, let's do a trunk-and-treat at the high school; it's plowed.' We decorated the backs of about 10 cars and dressed ourselves up, and we had about 1,500 kids come. It was a mob scene."

The popular event quickly turned into an annual tradition on a prime location on Main Street. The day includes 30 cars, hay rides, games—and a whole lot of happy families, trick-or-treating in a safe, positive atmosphere. That's just one example of how this small but scrappy club has made a habit out of turning adversity into adventure.

For example? When the club realized that few students at one of the town's poorer elementary schools had ever been to the theater, it arranged for each graduating class to take in a children's play.

About 10 years ago, when a club member realized that many people in a local nursing home had no one with whom to celebrate special occasions, the Torrington Lions began visiting there monthly to bring balloons and sing to

residents having birthdays. "They love it; their eyes light up," says Dan DiVirgilio, past president.

Perhaps most impressively, when the Torrington Lions learned of a local blind youth who needed a guide dog, the club raised \$20,000 to get him one—in a single year.

"It was just incredible, the transformation of this young man," Tucker says. "He got a job, got a girlfriend, and moved out of state. Having a guide dog completely changed his life."

That's on top of awarding four four-year college scholarships annually, donating smoke alarms to elderly community residents, giving eyeglasses to those in need, buying an emergency defibrillator for the local fire department, holding vision screenings at several kindergartens and preschools, organizing a coat drive, giving personal hygiene supplies to a homeless shelter and providing a hospital with blankets for post-operative heart patients.

All the more impressive when you consider that the Torrington Lions number just 33. "Most of our club is over 50, and our oldest member is probably about 82," Tucker says. "We are a seasoned club—not well done yet, just seasoned. I will put up some of my members against any young person nowadays."

Zionsville Lions Club, Indiana

When people in Zionsville get together to celebrate, it's the Zionsville Lions who often bring the festivities to life. The town's annual Easter Egg hunt, 4th of July celebration and three-day Fall Festival are all run by the club. The events have something else in common: they're held at the club's beautifully maintained 22-acre park in the center of town.

Lions Park is also the site of countless everyday activities that enhance the quality of life in this historic suburb of Indianapolis: family picnics, Little League games, summer strolls along the walking paths. "If you live in Zionsville, chances are you've taken your kids to the playground or walked your dog there or come to an event," says Mike Heffner, president. "The park makes us visible, which is a big advantage."

Zionsville is relatively small. "We don't even have a mayor," notes Heffner. But it's growing. Its population jumped to 25,000 from 14,000 in a few years. The club has kept its numbers up by drawing from newer residential developments. About half the membership is aged 60 or over, yet that is balanced by an influx of younger husbands and wives joining together. Heffner credits Tara Worthley, the working mother of a young child and former membership chair, for reaching out successfully to young families. One big selling point for newcomers is that the club is such an integral part of community life. "Nothing happens in Zionsville without a Lion being involved," says Heffner.

The experience of Mike Sweeney, 53, typifies how Lions and Lions Park take a central role in the community. "I played softball in the park as a young adult. I brought my kids to the swings there when they were little and for Little League when they were older. The park is always very neat and well-kept, and I want to keep it that way. I'm sure I'll be bringing my grandchildren there one day, too," says Sweeney, who joined the club two years ago. "I always thought of the Lions as people in yellow shirts who seemed really happy to help, and I'm proud to be one of them."

Meetings, like the club itself, are a mix of fun and substance. There's usually a speaker, often from a local non-profit group, and regular theme nights. The club even gets glamorous once a year, when it hosts a dinner for the contestants in the Miss Indiana beauty pageant.

While the club is an integral part of its community, its work also touches families who live well beyond Zionsville. The first night of the town's annual Fall Festival is designated "VIP Night," the VIPs being children with physical and mental disabilities. Last year, the evening drew 1,000 families from throughout Indiana—and even out of state—to enjoy the rides and activities for free. "I try not to volunteer for anything that night, because I like to walk around and see the parents and children having fun," Heffner says. "It's probably the coolest thing we do all year."



Photo by Keith Shepherd

The Easter Egg hunt is one occasion among many that draws crowds to Lions Park in Zionsville.

Zionsville Lions Club

Chartered: 1930

Members: 140

Community: A prosperous suburb of Indianapolis, Zionsville is known for its highly-rated schools and historic, brick-paved Main Street, lined with shops and restaurants.

Pump It Up: "Energizer" meetings are held before each major event to get members current on logistics and excited about what's to come. After the event, a post-mortem meeting allows everyone to share what worked and what can be improved next time.

Virginia Beach Town Center Blind Lions Club, Virginia

About half the members of the Virginia Beach Town Center Blind Lions Club have some form of visual impairment. Not being able to see doesn't mean not being able to serve, of course. Members find a way to contribute. "When we look at projects, we want something all our members can do," says Bambi Martin, president. "That's what we're always on the lookout for."

Says Beth Stevens, a past president who went blind due to retinal degeneration, "When you lose your vision, you feel like your world is falling apart. You don't feel you can be a contributing member of society anymore. Our members are there with encouragement, and we're out there in the community. We're role models."

Members with low or impaired vision sort and clean donated glasses, bag food at the local Salvation Army food pantry and hold the Spot vision screener during screenings at local schools. But their greatest contribution is their knowledge and expertise, which they use to help others who are struggling with losing their sight. The club hosts regular demonstrations of new technology such as "talking" sensors, which tell what color a piece of clothing is so a blind person can easily coordinate an outfit. "We want to make these tools available so people can try it all out in one place," says Martin.

The club publishes an annual Resource Guide with information on local services, support organizations, products and recreational activities for those with vision impairments—an all-inclusive handbook that the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired distributes throughout the state. "Not all people who are low vision need to be served," says Stevens. "Some of us are just waiting for the opportunity to serve alongside you as a fellow Lion."

The club also collects food for needy families, puts together care packages for the USO and raises money for the Special Olympics and other local nonprofits. Martin says they'd never be able to keep up such a busy schedule if their gatherings didn't have a sense of fun. The club's annual Tractor Rodeo in April puts everyone in the same, non-sighted boat: the driver of a ride-on lawnmower (who is either blind or blindfolded) has to pop balloons guided only by a partner riding on a trailer behind—the partners uses reins to pull left or right. Teams can't make any sounds to communicate, but there's plenty of laughter from the audience. "It's hysterical," says Martin.

Another club project is an audible Easter egg hunt for visually impaired children; the plastic eggs emit a beep that children follow in order to find them. "They're so excited to search for the eggs on their own, with no help," Martin says. "We encourage adults to join in at the end, because some of them never had the chance for a real Easter egg hunt when they were children. It's absolutely wonderful."

Stories on Dysart, Elburn, Virginia Beach and Zionsville by Elizabeth Blackwell. Stories on Western Harnett, Denver Five Points, Ponca City and Torrington by Anne Ford.

Virginia Beach Town Center Blind Lions Club

Chartered: 2012 (from the merger of the Hampton Roads Blind Lions Branch Club and the Virginia Beach Town Center Lions Club)

Members: 72

Community: Virginia Beach, population 450,000, is the largest city in Virginia and a popular tourist destination. Club meetings are held in Norfolk at a center that provides independent living services to people with disabilities.

Spreading the Word: The club's visually-impaired members developed a Low Vision Awareness Training Program, which demonstrates the best ways to assist those with vision loss. The program has been presented to more than 400 people at doctor's offices, movie theaters, hospitals and other Lions clubs.

Virginia Beach Lions hold traditional sight-related projects such as selling brooms and also host unusual events such as a tractor rodeo.





The Wide— and Wonderful— World of Lions

Kenya: A Lion plants one of the 11,000 trees that were planted in a single day. Lions and partners will plant 15 million trees in Kenya by 2018.

One of the cool things about belonging to a Lions club is that a club can do its own thing. And clubs do just that—service takes innumerable forms. It's as varied as the world itself.

Brazil: A Lion tests a child's vision.



Italy: Certosa di Pavia Lions admire a tactile display for the blind made possible by their club.



India: Kaylan Lion dramatize the dangers of drugs and alcohol for schoolchildren.

Multiple District 300 Taiwan: A Tzu Tsai
Lion entertains a disabled child.



Croatia: Vukovar Lions hold a
dart tournament for the blind.



Arizona: A Tucson Downtown Lion screens a child with special needs.



Peru: Trujillo Armonia Lions distribute
scarves and gloves to the elderly.





Photo by Wayne Martin

Bowling and other sports provide a big emotional boost for those with intellectual disabilities.

LET *the* GAMES BEGIN

A club dedicated to Special Olympics athletes is helping stage the mammoth 2015 Special Olympics Summer World Games in Los Angeles.

BY KATYA CENGEL

Lion Ron Copley bends to hug Sarah Noonan. At 6 feet 7 he is a giant of a man. And Noonan is a wisp of a young woman.

"How's my girl?" Copley asks Noonan at the recent annual awards ceremony for Special Olympics athletes in Southern California.

He doesn't expect a verbal answer, and Noonan doesn't give him one. But she smiles. In a month Noonan will be 30, a birthday she will celebrate with a trip to Disneyland, like so many of her previous birthdays. Noonan has intellectual disabilities and mild cerebral palsy. She knows she is different. But when she takes part in Spe-

cial Olympics, a global program that provides training and competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities, she fits in and can be herself, says her appreciative mother, Jill Wall.

"Nobody's looking at her," says Wall. "She's just one of the athletes, which is a good place for her to be."

This summer, when the 2015 Special Olympics Summer World Games is held in Los Angeles, Wall and Copley will be among the Lions helping out. Some 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries will gather in Los Angeles from July 25 to Aug. 2, making it the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015.

Special Olympics athletes compete in a multitude of sports thanks to Lions. That's Lion Dean Crowley offering basketball tips.



But unlike many of the other volunteers lending a hand, Copley and Wall will continue serving Special Olympic athletes long after the games are over. Both belong to the Whittier Special Olympics SOLA Lions Club (SOLA). The club is exclusively devoted to supporting Special Olympics athletes, holding competitions for them and raising money for their programs.

Having the World Games in its own backyard is a momentous occasion for the club. SOLA's 50 or so full and associate members are so excited about helping that SOLA President Steve Nichols says he has had to "pull in the reins a bit."

In the few years since the club was chartered many members have matured from knowing relatively little about Special Olympics to being robust champions of the athletes.

Copley admits he knew little about the organization when he and fellow Lion, Elisa Roche, were tasked with establishing the service club in 2009. "I thought they [the athletes] were kids," says Copley, 75, a member of the Whittier Host Lions and an affiliate member of SOLA. "But they're not."

Although Special Olympics athletes can begin competing at age eight, the program is for adults as well as children. Copley was not the only local Lion who lacked knowledge about Special Olympics. Before he joined the club, Nichols was unaware how many special needs athletes there were in the community, even though he spent years working as a deputy sheriff. "I was out there on the streets every day; I should have known," says Nichols.

The subject might have been unfamiliar to Copley and Nichols, but the relationship between Lions and Special Olympics is not a new one. Since 2001, the Lions Clubs International Foundation has helped fund the Opening Eyes Program, which provides eye care to Special Olympics athletes around the world. In addition to the financial support—more than \$13 million—Lions clubs provide volunteers who have helped test 350,000 athletes. Eye care is just one component of Opening Eyes; Lions have also helped with the free health exams offered through the Lions and Special Olympics partnership.

The link between the two service organizations extends to service clubs such as SOLA. There are about a dozen or so Champions Lions Clubs worldwide that serve those with intellectual disabilities. Some include Special Olympics athletes (SOLA does not).

Copley remembers being asked to form the club during a Lions convention in Fresno, California, in 2009. Then Lions Clubs International President Al Brandel asked Copley and Roche to "see if you can't carve out a Lions Club then and write a model for the rest of the world," says Copley. The club was chartered and held its first event the same year, with Copley serving as the Guiding Lion.

Although he knew little about the athletes, Copley knew quite a bit about Lions, having been a member of the Whittier Host Lions Club since retiring as manager of a flour plant in the late 1990s. Both his father and father-in-law were longtime Lions, maintaining perfect attendance during their respective 50- and 60-plus year memberships. His wife, Carol Copley, serves as SOLA's treasurer.

"We always wanted to give back," says Copley. "Life's

good."

It is a phrase he often repeats, and one the athletes help him remember. Their joy at living and positive attitude are infectious, Copley says. Nichols uses similar language when describing the athletes' enthusiasm: contagious. "It's like everything they do—they're hitting a home run," says Nichols, 62.

Nichols knows a bit about having fun. He makes his living building outdoor playgrounds and putting together indoor playground displays for stores like Costco. He got involved with Lions after donating leftover playground parts to a friend in the Whittier Host Lions Club, an all-male club in the city of Whittier, about 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. The friend invited Nichols to a meeting and next thing he knew he was a member. When SOLA formed, it was a natural fit.

"Our sole purpose is to support these athletes and that's what we do. We fundraise. We put on events, and it's an absolute blast," says Nichols.

At a baseball competition where he served as an announcer, Nichols says the athletes got so involved they gave themselves nicknames, as they had seen competitors do on television. The competitions, he says, draw them out of their shells and help build their confidence.

A few of the Southern California area athletes the club serves have been selected to compete at the Summer World Games, an international competition held every four years. When L.A.-area athlete Destiny Sanchez, 16, learned she would be running in the 100- and 200-meter races she was speechless. "Everyone she meets now, she's so happy that she tells them," says her coach, Amber Morales.

The World Games will take place at USC and UCLA. Around 30,000 volunteers are expected to help out during the nine-day event, including many Lions. Copley estimates that as many as 200 clubs from four districts could get involved. SOLA in particular is "taking a major lead," says Eloise Crawford, regional director of Special Olympics Southern California. Along with other Lions, SOLA members will staff the hearing and vision clinics of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program.

SOLA members and other Lions also helping to coordinate the lodging and transportation of athletes as well as organize activities for them. SOLA's special responsibility are 117 athletes from Macao in China.

Copley is working with Leos on a wristband initiative. Leos will sell the wristbands for \$5 at high schools in Southern California, helping to spread awareness about Special Olympic as well as giving students attending the competition another incentive to cheer on the athletes. The "Fans in the Stand" program is part of the special positive atmosphere of a Special Olympics event.

The club is used to putting on its own events and holds four competitions a year: softball, swimming, basketball and bowling. "It's just a unique partnership," says Crawford. "We're very fortunate it's in our backyard so we're able to help support all these athletes."

While none of the events SOLA organizes are as big as the World Games, it doesn't seem to matter to the athletes, says Nichols. When they dance at the holiday party it's like they are on the television show "Dancing with the Stars,"

he says.

It was at the holiday party four years ago that Cristina Sanz, 25, and Angel Callahan, 23, met. The young couple have been inseparable since. “Me and her, we always stick together,” says Callahan.

They play on the same Special Olympics basketball team and at the most recent party they were rarely apart. During dinner, Callahan placed a napkin on Sanz’s lap and pushed in her chair. When it came time to dance, Callahan was the only one gracefully twirling Sanz on the floor. The event was a chance for other friends to catch up as well, and soccer teammates Courtney Qualmann and Colin Garcia, both 24, exchanged high fives before the main meal. Playing in the World Games would have been the perfect birthday present for Garcia, who celebrates his birthday around the same time as the games. But their team will not be competing. Fellow athlete Cindi Nardi also will not be taking part, but she is a regular at the local competitions and familiar with Lions. “I love how they help out,” says Nardi, 48.

Wall, the mother of Noonan, was impressed by SOLA members’ dedication, noting how they would arrive at six in the morning to help with a softball tournament and stay until three in the afternoon. “They really, really love the athletes,” says Wall, “something you can tell because they get all choked up.”

But it was the fact that few members have Special Olympic athletes of their own that really convinced her and her husband, John, to join the club. “I think that’s what really did it for us,” says Wall. “They just do it out of the love of their heart.”

Wall’s daughter, Noonan, is an “honorary member” of the club. At the holiday party she helped in the kitchen alongside her mother and stepfather, a role the family performs each year. She wore jeans, a SOLA shirt and a necklace with a charm shaped in the American Sign Language hand signal for “I love you.” It is the same sign she tries to make with her hands in post-competition photos. Wall says her daughter’s behavior immediately improved after she began taking part in Special Olympics events in 1996. Being physically active, being involved in something and being just like everybody else all played a role in making her more patient. As for Noonan, she loves to show off the dozens of medals she has won in track and field over the years.

“She’s got them in her backpack, hanging in her room, at her dad’s, at her grandpa’s— they’re everywhere,” says Wall.

Her favorite medal, says Noonan, is “gold.”

An affiliate member of SOLA, Wayne Martin is “tickled” Special Olympics is showing off the abilities of athletes like Noonan. A quiet man with a white mustache, Martin is in charge of the SOLA newsletter and website, something



Photo by Wayne Martin

SOLA Lions such as Jeff Martin help the competitions run smoothly.



Special Olympic athletes Cristina Sanz, 25, and Angel Callahan, 23 (above), and Maria Luksetich, 24, dance at an annual awards ceremony for the athletes.

he is “having a ball” doing. Martin is retired now, but the 73-year-old spent almost 50 years teaching special needs children and views SOLA as a nice extension of his work. Unlike the Whittier Host Lions Club, to which he belongs, Martin feels SOLA members are closer and more affectionate. And no matter how much or how little you do for them, the athletes are guaranteed to remember your name, he said.

Rosa Masterson knows this well. In addition to holding competitions, raising money and volunteering at events, SOLA members also take individual athletes shopping for sports-related clothing and equipment. A few years ago Masterson took a swimmer shopping for a new bathing suit. After trying on several suits, the swimmer, a young woman in her early 20s named Candice, settled on a black one. Later, when Candice spotted Masterson around town, she shouted her name and hurried to greet her.

“When I walk through Whittier, wherever I go, this young lady will always remember my name,” says Masterson.

A petite cosmetologist, Masterson joined SOLA for a poignant reason. Her only child, Gary Wiggins, a deputy sheriff, was killed on a charity motorcycle ride in 2005. After his death, Masterson and her husband Jerry, both now 68, wanted to keep his memory of community service alive and find a way to distract themselves from their loss. When friends suggested joining SOLA, they saw it as an opportunity to do both, and to remind their grandson, Garrett, about the service to which his father dedicated his life.

“It’s been a really loving, caring experience,” says Masterson. “And the best way to keep my son’s spirit alive.”



Photos by Katya Cengel

[Watch a video on Special Olympics.](#)

[Watch a video on an inspiring Special Olympics athlete.](#)



Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2015 International Convention. Our 98th International Convention will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, United States. It begins at 9:30 a.m. June 26 and ends June 30. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president and 17 members of the International Board of Directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Hawaii is a fantastic setting for our convention. 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, Hawaii boasts incredible natural beauty. The Hawaii Convention Center is a worthy counterpart to the outdoor charms. The remarkable facility includes tinkling waterfalls, serene fish ponds and attractive courtyards.

The five days will feature renowned speakers, first-class entertainers, native music, dance and food, and, of course, Lions' convention traditions such as the grand parade, the swearing-in of the new international president and three plenary sessions that demonstrate the amazing range and scope of Lions' service. Tim Shriver, the chairman of Special Olympics, will give the keynote address, and Save the Children will receive the 2015 Lions Humanitarian Award. Another highlight is the announcement of the Peace Poster and Essay Contest winners.

The international show features soft-rock star Kenny Loggins, Mickey

Thomas of Jefferson Starship and Steve Augeri of Journey. The entertainment at the plenary sessions includes a lavish "Lion King" production, a Hawaiian show and an exuberant disco dance party.

Convention Week is a splendid, memorable experience packed with fellowship, fun and learning. The Lions of Hawaii will warmly welcome their visitors with the spirit of aloha. I strongly

encourage you to Strengthen the Pride by joining thousands of your fellow Lions in Hawaii.

Warmest regards,

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

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Lions Ease Terrible Suffering of War Refugees

BY JAY COPP



Einar Lyngar puts socks on a boy. (Opposite) Children in the refugee camps lack warm clothes for the frigid weather.

A Lion from Norway, Einar Lyngar encounters abject misery among shivering Syrian war refugees in crude, crowded camps in a mountainous region in Lebanon. Living in a makeshift hut, a sleep-deprived grandmother looked after her two disabled grandchildren. Their parents died in a bombing in Aleppo. “I do not want to live anymore,” she told Lyngar, who escorts deliveries of relief supplies from Norwegian Lions.

A father who lost his leg told Lyngar his children were starving and one son, wounded in the war, was in so much pain he could not sleep. Mothers who see Lyngar arrive run toward him with outstretched arms. “I am ashamed to do this. The war makes us beggars,” one mother told him. “I had a good job and nice home. Now my life and family is in ruins, and we have no future.”

Lyngar gave a winter coat, shoes and wool socks and a sweater to a boy about 10. “He stretched out his hands and gave me a wet kiss on the cheek and a long hug,” says Lyngar, a retired journalist and a Ringsaker Lion since 1974.

Partnering with Lebanese Lions, Norwegian Lions have delivered 14 truckloads of clothing for refugees—enough for 60,000 children, says Lyngar. Food and medicine are sparse in the camps. Many children walk barefoot in the snow. The huts, often framed with plastic or tarp with soil floors covered by a blanket, are unbearably cold. “On Twitter I saw pictures of three children in Arsal [camp] who died of the cold before we could get our clothing there,” says Lyngar.

Led by the Ringsaker and Skudeneshavn Lions Clubs, about 100 Lions clubs and 1,000 Lions in Norway have aided the refugees. They and Lebanese Lions also have provided school supplies to begin several schools in the camps. Amine Hacha, president of the Beirut Downtown Lions Club, says the school-in-a-box kit they gave to refugee children was inspired by a similar learning tool he discovered at the Lions Day at the United Nations.

Nearly 120,000 refugees are in camps scattered in or near Arsal, located close to the Syrian border. Complicating the relief—and making it dangerous—is the nearby military activity of the Islamic State.



Amine Hacha of the Beirut Downtown Lions Club comforts a father whose son was shot in the stomach near Damascus. The father had no medicine and no money.

“It’s dangerous. We’re maybe less than a mile from the war zone,” says Hacha. “Only myself and Einar are with the trucks distributing the goods—we don’t want others in the unsafe area.”

Syrian planes drop bombs, and 10 Lebanese soldiers were killed in Aarsal the day of a Lions’ delivery, says Lyngar. Lebanese Lions have good relationships with government officials, who help facilitate aid. Lebanese assist Lions in navigating the uncertain roads and getting the trucks through guarded checkpoints. One Aarsal man who helped Lyngar “gave me a big hug and kiss on the cheek when I first met him,” he says.

Lyngar and Norwegian Lions often rush to help disaster victims or ease great hardship. They treated children who survived the Dubrovka Theater hostage crisis in Moscow to a relaxing holiday, established a cancer center for children after the Chernobyl nuclear accident and organize a Christmas delivery of goods for African children. His trips to Lebanon make his wife and children particularly uneasy. The Islamic State has taken Westerners hostage and beheaded them. Lyngar happens often to wear orange clothes. “The security is not good in the camps. My family does not like to see me in orange,” he says.

The arrival of the aid trucks from Lions once caused a near panic. “People fainted and shouted. It was terrible to see and hear,” says Lyngar.

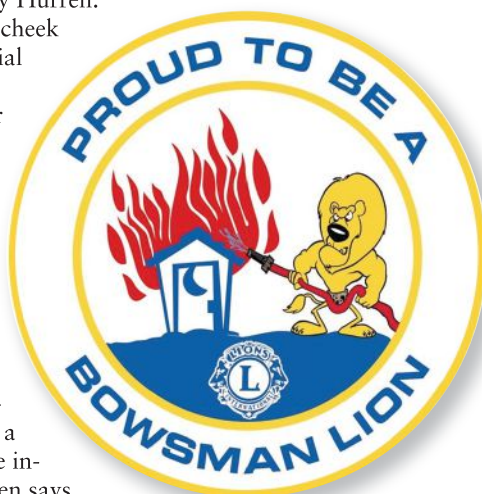


How to Help Your Club Steal the Show

If you're in charge of media for your club, you've probably received an abundance of tips for generating publicity: Give awards. Hold a contest. Network. Get to know reporters. This is all great advice, but there are unique approaches as well. Here are some ideas that can give your club extra time in the spotlight:

Market the odd or humorous. The Bowsman Lions Club in Manitoba, Canada, did some research about the "Biffy Burning"—the burning down of a local outhouse on New Year's Eve in 1966. "It's Bowsman's claim to fame," said Past President Corey Hurren. Townspeople did it as a tongue-in-cheek gesture to start the town's centennial celebration in 1967—and to commemorate the arrival of new sewer service to the area.

For reasons nobody really knows, the burning outhouse is even included in the Bowsman Lions Club's logo. When Hurren posted some funny details and photos about the Biffy Burning on the club's Facebook page, it caught the attention of Frank Fieber, editor of *Northroots* magazine. "We discussed this event and a few other subjects that he might be interested in using as articles," Hurren says.



Try blogging. Do a Google or Bing search to find blogs that cover subjects such as impaired vision, feeding the hungry, dog guides, school supplies for disadvantaged children or other causes in which your club is involved. You'll probably come up with dozens of websites. Then get in touch with the author(s), and ask to do a guest blog. Bloggers are always looking for fresh content, so they'll probably appreciate it. You also can start your own blog—it's not hard to do. Just try a site like WordPress to get started (it's free). If you enjoy writing, you might even find it therapeutic. While you're at it ...

Interview other people. Talk to civic leaders, politicians and folks who specialize in causes you care about. "By featuring interviews with other people on your blog or website, you can tap into their audience, as most people like to promote their own interviews," notes writer Dave Navarro of Small Fuel Marketing (smallfuel.com).

Share the spotlight. The Ponchatoula Lions Club in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, uses its Facebook page to publicize not only its own events but also the events of other nonprofits in its parish, as well. The club also adds community news and other local tidbits.

"We use it generally to help promote the many wonderful things occurring or existing in our town," says Joey Drude, a member of the club's board of directors. "It's been really good. I have people that are calling us and asking about events." Drude says the Facebook page, not even a year old, has made a tremendous "splash" in the community.

Consider club twinning

The International Club Twinning Program is a way for Lions clubs in different countries to "link up" with each other. (More information is available at lionsclubs.org.) How can this help you get noticed? You can:

- Put out press releases about joint endeavors with your twin club (for example, a fund-raiser for Oxfam or the American Red Cross).
- Generate more interest in your website by posting photos and details about your twin club.
- Ask your twin club about publicity efforts that have worked for them.
- Share your Facebook posts with your twin club (whose members might pass them on to friends worldwide, or even in your neighborhood). In this age of global communications, you might even gain a new member from it.



Find it at LionsClubs.org

The International Club Twinning Program is a way for clubs in different countries to support each other, swap ideas and even share projects. Lions and Leos can participate; however, twinning must occur between like clubs (i.e., Lions with Lions, Leos with Leos). Would you like to learn more about “twinning up”?

Visit the Lions Member Center at <http://members.lionsclubs.org>. Click on “Serve!” then “Global Outreach.”

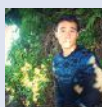
Helping Kids Take a Peep at Life

Lions Clubs International has teamed up with the World Health Organization to fight childhood blindness in Argentina. Read more at lionsclub.org (search for blog and argentina and scroll down to Lions, Leos and LCIF blog).



Facebook Feedback

In April, we asked Lions how they are using social media to generate interest in their clubs. We received many wonderful responses! Here are a few:



Miguel Chagas I use it to share the humanitarian projects Lions constantly do in the entire world. At the same time, I hope that Lions in my region get more and more ideas to help the community. I have grown very fond of Lions Club members. They really make the difference in the world, and that's exactly what we need in times like this.



Carl Van Blerk, Edens Lions Club, George, South Africa I decided to see if it would be possible to start new clubs through social media marketing. I selected my focus area, Plettenberg Bay (South Africa), and went looking for as many community-based Facebook pages I could find—and there were many. ... I was amazed at how quickly people started to respond after posting my ads on Facebook—in no time at all I had great interest. ... In the next week, we should be chartering the club with between 20 and 30 new members. (All this can take place in under a month.)



Sajee Singh, Bhopal Fiza Lions Club, Madhya Pradesh, India We have created Facebook pages, groups, a website and e-clubhouse, and also branched out to many other social channels such as Twitter, Instagram, Google +, YouTube, WhatsApp. ... Everyone has their social platform of choice. ... The key is keeping it up to date with relevant and engaging content that will attract new members and highlight the club with the existing membership.

Watch for our next Facebook question in May!

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.

Street Children in Mumbai Get a Second Chance

BY CASSANDRA BANNON

Mumbai, the glittering capital of Maharashtra, is the wealthiest city in India. With a population of 18.4 million people, Mumbai is home to more millionaires and billionaires than any other city in India. Yet the metropolis suffers from widespread abject poverty and entrenched unemployment, and public health services are lacking for those who need them most. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Lions in India are taking giant steps to aid those in need.

For nearly 30 years, the Lions Nirman Health Center has offered consultation and treatment in the specialties of ophthalmology, gynecology, dentistry, pathology and physiotherapy to hundreds of lower- and middle-income families. The Lions of District 323-A3 were recently awarded a US\$30,000 LCIF Standard grant to provide equipment to the Lions Nirman Health Center in Mumbai. The center is owned and operated by the Versova Lions Club. Thanks to LCIF and local Lions, the center will be able to help even more people with faster, more modern technology.

Aside from the lack of access to health care in Mumbai, homelessness is also a major social problem. The Lions of District 323-A2 are working with the Samatol Foundation, a non-governmental organization that aids street children, to care for homeless and runaway children who are loitering at train depots or on the streets.

Until recently, Lions had nowhere to take them for rehabilitation. Now, Lions have received an LCIF Standard grant of US\$26,822 to establish a home for street children. This grant allows local Lions to expand the partnership with Samatol

Foundation to continue to provide vital services to the children who need them most.

Six times annually, street children are picked up at train stations and taken to a rehabilitation camp at the home, where they receive food, shelter, counseling and medical care in a structured setting. The goal of the camp is to reunite the children with their families. If that is not possible, the children are placed with organizations that can provide long-term

assistance such as vocational training. Either way, the camp aims to keep children from returning to the streets. The camp serves more than 240 children each year.

LCIF and local Lions are actively working to improve access to quality health services and social supports for disadvantaged youth in and around Mumbai. For information on how your Lions club can apply for an LCIF Standard Grant, visit lcif.org.



A young boy receives medical treatment at a Lions Nirman Health Center clinic near Mumbai.

Club News

Lions in **Colorado** and **Wyoming** are raising \$1.3 million to equip a new and expanded building to house the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute. Originally opened in 2001 in Aurora, Colorado, in cooperation with Colorado University Hospital, the institute served more than 74,000 people last year. When fundraising is complete, it's expected that the Lions' donation will fund the building of 10 rooms and specialized diagnostic equipment.

The **Leo Legends Club** in Vancouver, **Washington**, helped a 95-year-old World War II veteran by cleaning up his lawn and flowerbeds during a recent work party. The club is sponsored by Fort Vancouver Lions.



Pomona Host Lions Bob Stuard, a professor of sign language, and Bryan Esparza use sign language during a Flag Day presentation their California club presented to elementary school students. Signing was the idea of Lion Wendy Stuard, who wanted to not only try to teach children about the importance of the country's flag, but also show children the importance of including those with special needs in their activities.

Photo by Gil Smith

Members of the **McKeesport Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** schedule twice-yearly work parties to pick up trash and debris from a stretch of highway.

Elgin Lions in **Illinois** sponsor a yearly food drive in conjunction with an elementary school. A Lion spoke before a school assembly asking students to bring in canned goods to

help feed people in need and the club provided containers. Last year, more than 2,100 items were collected.

The **East Baton Rouge Lions** in **Louisiana** sponsored a middle school art class for the International Peace Poster contest. After the contest in Multiple District 8, Lions held a pizza party for the students.

Long Lake, New York, Lions sell calendars with citizens' anniversary dates and birthdays as an annual fundraiser. The calendars feature scenic photographs of the area, located in the middle of the picturesque Adirondack Park.

Satellite Central Lions in **Nigeria** renovated and refurbished a nursery and primary school.

Members of the **Vereeniging Lions Club** in **South Africa** paid US\$2,000 to build a bus shelter to replace one that burned to the ground several years ago. It is frequently used by domestic workers who take public transportation to their jobs.

The **NY Financial District Lions Club** in **New York** regularly raises funds for the USO "United Through Reading—Always at Your Side" program. The project videotapes deployed parent soldiers as they read a book donated to their child and then mails the DVD and book home to the child in the United States. Each book and DVD packet costs \$10.

Members of the **Harrison Lions Club** in **New Jersey** donate both time and money to Camp Fatima for the developmentally disabled. Lions spent more than 700 volunteer hours last summer during the two-week camp sessions.

The **Sarasota Lions Club** in **Florida** provides free diabetes screening at a flea market every month.

The Lions clubs of **Windermere District**, **Fairmont**, **Wasa Lake** and **Golden United** in **British Columbia, Canada**, joined together in a

walk to raise funds for a hospital's ophthalmology unit. The clubs donated CAD\$8,675 to the unit.



Comax Valley Monarch Lions Steve Morey and Ken Hand measure twice and cut once while working on handrails for the ramp Lions built for a 29-year-old man who has multiple sclerosis in **Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada**. A local hardware store donated all materials, and Lions volunteered their labor to first clean the site and then build a long access ramp.

The **Franklin Lions Club** in **Indiana** donated \$1,000 to help cover costs of a pancreas transplant for an insulin-dependent diabetic resident.

Amherst, Nova Scotia, Canada, Lions made a donation to MADD, which encourages people to drink and drive responsibly in their community.

The **Juneau and Juneau Mendenhall Flying Lions Clubs** united to sponsor an eyeglass collection campaign in **Alaska**.

Pinchot Park Lions in **Pennsylvania** donated \$100 to Hope International to help people in underdeveloped countries learn a craft or how to operate a business in order to support themselves.

Stuttgart Lions in **Arkansas** collected eyeglasses at a production of "The Miracle Worker" held at the civic center.

Thirty **West Covina High School Leos** modeled the latest in teen fashions during the club's 12th annual

The **Williamsport Lions Club** in **Maryland** recently distributed \$16,000 in donations, including funds to a building campaign for the Boys and Girls Club, a community band, the town of Williamsport, the Salvation Army, a free clinic and a hospice program.


Sedalia Lions in Missouri deliver “care bags” to hospitalized children. The bags include age-appropriate books, puzzles and games for children and their parents. After forging a partnership with a literacy group, Lions received more books to add to the large yellow cloth tote bags that sport the Lions logo.

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A white handheld device with a stylized face on the screen, labeled 'plus young'. The device has a white body with a black screen displaying a simple face with large eyes and a wide smile. The screen is framed by an orange border. The device has a handle on the left side and a small orange button on the right side. The text 'plus young' is visible on the side of the device.



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Candidates for Second Vice President

As of press time, there were seven candidates for second vice president. The election is scheduled for June 30 at the 98th International Convention in Honolulu.



Naresh Aggarwal

Naresh Aggarwal of Delhi, India, an international director from 1998 to 2000, is a leader in business and philanthropy. A Life Member of the Batala Smile Lions Club for 41 years, he has been a board appointee and group leader three times. He has served in many leadership positions including as a GLT Constitutional Area Leader and is a recipient of the Ambassador of Goodwill Award and 21 Presidential medals. He is a major lead gift donor and a Humanitarian Partner of LCIF.



Philippe Gerondal

Philippe Gerondal of Brussels, Belgium, is a Life Member of the Gembloux Lions Club, a former university professor and an honorary lawyer and judge. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Gerondal served on the international board of directors from 2000 to 2002, and has been a board appointee, a Campaign SightFirst II sector coordinator and a Major Donor. He received the Ambassador of Goodwill Award and 15 presidential awards. Fluent in four languages, Gerondal has been an LCIF multinational coordinator since 2008.



Patricia 'Patti' Hill

Patti Hill of Edmonton, Canada, is a psychologist and a member of the Edmonton Host Lions Club. An international director from 2007 to 2009, she has been a committee member of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, a multinational coordinator for Campaign SightFirst II, a past director of the Lions Eye Research Institute of Northern Alberta and a presenter at multiple forums and conventions. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and the GLT Constitutional Area 2 Leader, Hill received the Inspiring Woman Award and is active in many professional and community organizations.



Rosane Teresinha Jahnke

Rosane Teresinha Jahnke served on the international board of directors from 2008 to 2010. A member of the Jaraguá do Sol Lions Club in Brazil, she was a teacher and is a lawyer. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Helen Keller Knight of Sight recipient, she has participated in 18 international conventions and 13 FOLAC forums. Active in many community and professional groups, Jahnke promotes the rights of children with special needs and cancer prevention awareness.



Salim Moussan

Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon, served as an international director from 1997 to 1999. A member of the Beirut St. Gabriel Lions Club, he has twice been a board appointee and group leader, and has chaired several leadership forums. He is fluent in three languages, has visited 91 countries and has attended 27 consecutive international conventions, 62 area forums and more than 40 regional conferences.



Phil Nathan

Phil Nathan of Earls Colne, England, has been a Lion since 1982 and is a charter member of the South Woodham Ferrers Lions Club. He served as an international director from 1999 to 2001. A stockbroker and director of a company, Nathan was president of both the 2006 and 2014 Europa Forums. He has been recognized by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with an MBE, Member of the British Empire, for his service achievements.



Steven D. Sherer

Steven D. Sherer of New Philadelphia, Ohio, has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980. A licensed public accountant and the finance officer/CFO of New Philadelphia Public Schools, he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received numerous Lions and professional accolades. Sherer served as an international director from 2006 to 2008 and was a GMT area coordinator for four years.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, HONOLULU, HAWAII, USA

The following proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2015 International Convention.

- ITEM 1:** A RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE COMPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REALLOCATE REPRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS BY DECREASING USA DIRECTORS BY 3 AND INCREASING ISAAME DIRECTORS BY 2 AND OSEAL DIRECTORS BY 1 OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That, effective beginning with the 2016-2017 year, Article V, Section 3, second paragraph, of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

In each even-numbered year, seventeen (17) directors shall be elected, consisting of three (3) from clubs in India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; one (1) from clubs in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Islands of the South Pacific; three (3) from clubs in Europe; three (3) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; one (1) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea; and six (6) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective beginning the 2017-2018 year, Article V, Section 3, third paragraph, of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

In each odd-numbered year, seventeen (17) directors shall be elected, consisting of two (2) from clubs in India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; one (1) from clubs in Canada; three (3) from clubs in Europe; four (4) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; one (1) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea; and six (6) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective beginning the 2018-2019 year, Article V, Section 3, second paragraph, of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

In each even-numbered year, seventeen (17) directors shall be elected, consisting of four (4) from clubs in India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; one (1) from clubs in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Islands of the South Pacific; three (3) from clubs in Europe; three (3) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; one (1) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea; and five (5) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

- ITEM 2:** A RESOLUTION TO REINSTATE THE POSITION OF THIRD VICE PRESIDENT *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That the International Constitution and By-Laws be revised to reinstate the office of International Third Vice President beginning with the 2016-2017 term as follows:

Article V, Section 1 of the International Constitution shall be amended by inserting the phrase "third vice president" following the phrase "second vice president."

Article V, Section 3, of the International Constitution shall be amended by replacing the phrase "first and second" with the phrase "first, second and third."

Article II, Section 1 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by inserting the phrase "third vice president" following the phrase "second vice president," and replacing the phrase "and first vice president" with "first vice president and second vice president."

Article II, Section 2 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "SECOND" with "THIRD."

Article II, Section 2.(a) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "second" with "third."

Article II, Section 2. (a) (4) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "second" with "third."

Article II, Section 2. (b) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the phrase "only a club member who has served in the office of third vice president may be elected to the office of second vice president," following the phrase "Except in the case of a vacancy in an office which shall be filled under the provisions of these by-laws or constitution."

Article II, Section 4.(a) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "second" with "third."

Article VI, Section 3 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the phrase "first and second" with the phrase "first, second and third."

- ITEM 3:** A RESOLUTION TO RENAME THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article IV, Section 1(f) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by inserting "Development" after "Leadership."

- ITEM 4:** A RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE PAYMENT OF DELINQUENT DUES AT LEAST 15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE CLOSE OF CREDENTIALS AT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That effective July 1, 2016 Article IX, Section 3 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the phrase "at any time" with the phrase "up to fifteen (15) days" after the word "acquired."

- ITEM 5:** A RESOLUTION TO AMEND REDISTRICTING PROCEDURES. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article VIII, Section 3 of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the first paragraph in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

"Any single district which desires to be a multiple district or any multiple district which desires to add one or more sub-districts thereto or otherwise change one or more existing sub-districts shall submit to the International Board of Directors a redistricting proposal approved by a majority vote of the convention of the respective single or sub-districts that have 35 clubs and 1,250 members and the multiple district. Any multiple district which desires to consolidate one or more sub-districts of which one or more sub-districts have fewer than 35 clubs and 1,250 members shall submit to the International Board of Directors a redistricting proposal approved by a majority vote of the convention of the multiple district."

LION

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Anniversaries

JUNE 2015

95 Years: Cheyenne, Wyo.; Fort Madison, Iowa; Laramie, Wyo.; Newark, Ohio; Owensboro, Ky.; Sioux City, Iowa; Sterling, Colo.

90 Years: Anson, Texas; Clarksville, Ark.; Coquille, Ore.; New Philadelphia, Ohio; Paducah, Texas; Redlands District, Fla.; Seattle Ballard District, Wash.; Tuckahoe Eastchester, N.Y.

85 Years: Bridgeport, W.Va.; Forest City, Iowa; Newport, N.H.; Potosi, Mo.; Rainelle, W. Va.; Rochester Northside, N.Y.; Saltsburg, Pa.; Wakefield, Mass.; Weiser, Idaho.

80 Years: Carthage, Texas; Grenada, Miss.; Mount Holly, N.C.; Sanford, N.C.; Wamego, Kan.; Woodbury, Tenn.; Aiken, S.C.; Bedford Host, Va.; Boise Host, Idaho; Jerseyville, Ill.; Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

75 Years: Bayard, N.M.; Bellevue, Mich.; Berlin, Wis.; Cabo Rojo Luis Carlo Aymat, P.R.; Carthage, Miss.; Commerce, Ga.; Danville, Calif.; Findlay, Ohio; Golden, Ill.; Harrisville, Mich.; Jeannette, Pa.; Keytesville, Mo.; Littlefield, Texas; Lorimor, Iowa; Mendon, Ill.; Newcomerstown, Ohio; Rexburg, Idaho; St. Elmo, Ill.; St. Paul Midway, Minn.; Washington, Ga.

50 Years: Baton Rouge Evening, La.; Burwell, Neb.; Granville-Tolland, Mass.; Hemet Breakfast, Calif.; Las Marias Pedro Avila Figuero, P.R.; Nipawin, SK, CAN; Normal, Ill.; Norris Point, NL, CAN; Riviere Du Loup, QC, CAN; Simsbury, Conn.; Stillwater Noon, Okla.; Twin City, Texas.

25 Years: Big Bear Lake Sunset, Calif.; Crestview, Fla.; Danville Area, W. Va.; Fort Worth Trinity, Texas; New Bern Twin Rivers, N.C.; Phila Wills Eye Hospital, Pa.; Prince George Foothills, BC, CAN; St-Edouard Region, QC, CAN.

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

Watch a valuable webinar from
LCI: "Lessons in Fishing: How to
Reel in Younger Members".

View the Higher Key Awards.

Continued from page 51

Bristol County Lions in Rhode Island participated in what is believed to be the oldest Fourth of July parade in the United States. Established in 1785, the televised parade now attracts as many as 100,000 people. Lions entered a float that featured a hip-hop dancing Lion and a giant eyeglass collection box to promote recycled donations.

More than 400 pair of eyeglasses were collected by **Springfield, Pennsylvania**, Lions. The club maintains seven drop-off locations in the community and regularly picks up donations from the packed collection boxes.

The **Francis Scott Key Lions Club in Frederick, Maryland**, participated in a ceremony that concluded the War of 1812 bicentennial celebration in Frederick.

The **Conway Evening Lions Club in Arkansas** supported a program for more than 150 students that supplements their meals on weekends when they're not receiving breakfasts and lunch provided by the school system.

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To order online visit the Lions Store (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit)
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Photo courtesy of Merle Laswell/The Register

Super Swallow

Quincy Foster, 10, shows what he hopes the fish will be doing at the Youth Fishing Derby hosted by the Pleasant Hill Lions Club at Copper Creek Lake Park in Iowa.

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| | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|----|-----|
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