

**Sun Fun**  
Honolulu hosts a great  
convention.

**Left Behind**  
The blind suffer a  
technology gap.

# L I N

## **We Like Ike** **And other older Lions** **who built our Lions world**

OCTOBER 2015 [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org)



**Lions Clubs International**





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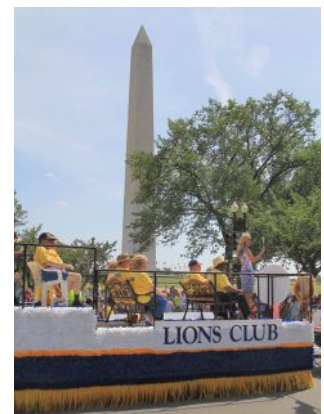
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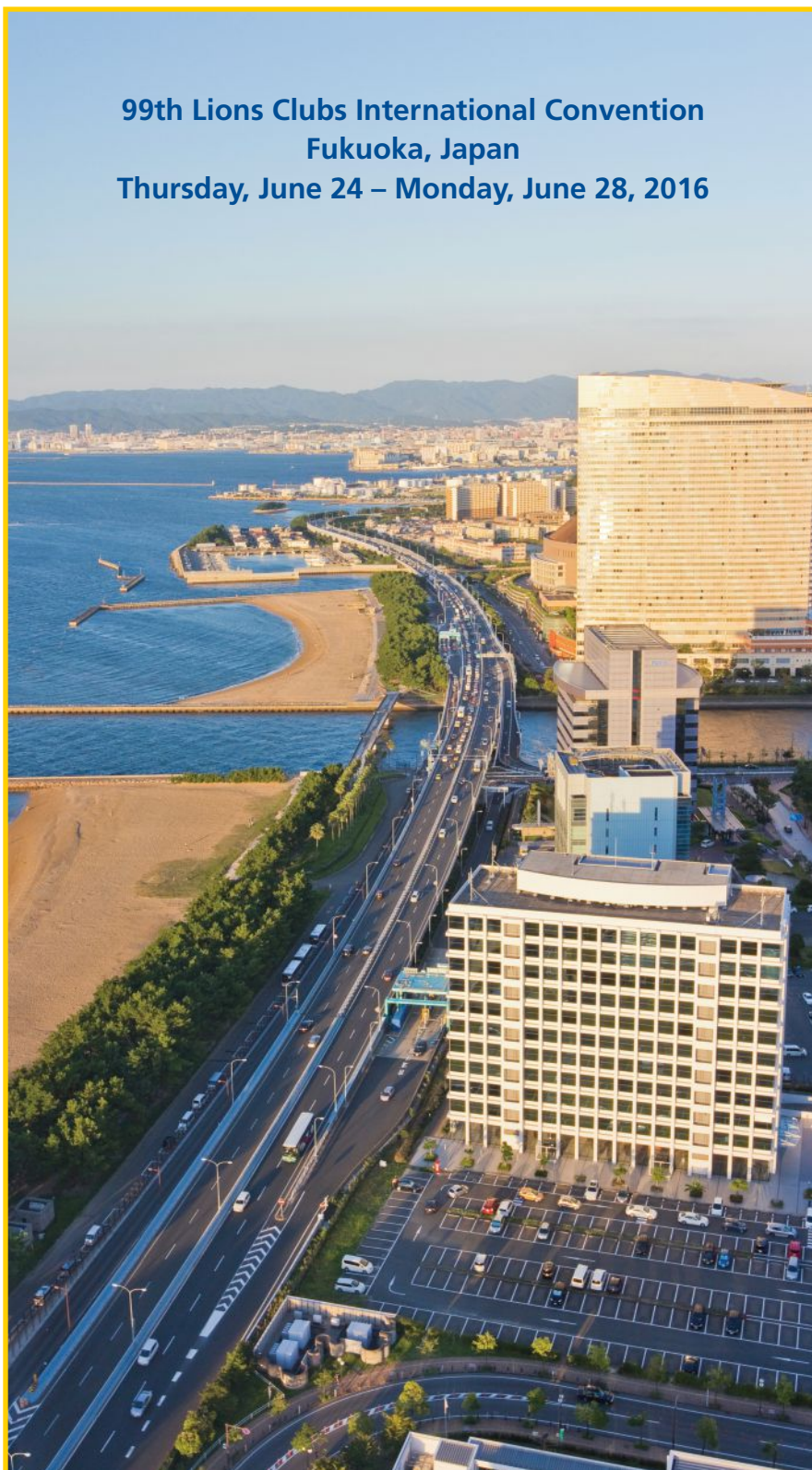
Lions capitalize on popular events, attractions and places.





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#### POSTMASTERS

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

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



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## Embrace the Spirit of Daring

About a decade ago I was privileged to visit the home in Calcutta, India, where Mother Teresa once cared for the desperately poor. Her love for others had a tremendous impact—not only on those she helped but also in inspiring others to follow her example. Mother Teresa was not rich or powerful. She did not hold office. She wielded no army. She owned next to nothing. Yet she changed the world. What a difference one person on a mission can make!

Her life actually is ironic—and instructive—for Lions. We Lions are not lone wolves. We serve together. We join a club because we realize we can accomplish so much more by working together. We realize we are not Mother Teresa. That's OK. We do what we can with our own talents. Our limitations actually can work to our advantage because in joining with other Lions we can accomplish so much more than we can do on our own.

So, Lions, be involved with your club as much as you can. Take part in the initiatives of Lions Clubs International as well. Help fulfill the centennial goals related to hunger, youth, sight and the environment. Support LCIF. Recruit a new member. Join us in beautiful Fukuoka, Japan, next year for the 99th International Convention. There is much more than strength in numbers: there is the opportunity to rebuild society. It's great you are a Lion. Thank you for your service and dedication. But always strive to be part of the worldwide Lions community and fully support our many remarkable initiatives.

It's easy to sit back and do the usual. But now is the time for you to be a Lion who goes outside your comfort zone and makes service more a part of your life. I've heard it said: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all." So be adventurous and daring. Be a Lion.



Exemplifying daring and teamwork, Richard Plante, a zone chairperson and past president of the La Sarre Lions Club in Quebec, Canada, led an expedition that reached the summit of 19,341-foot Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The project raised \$50,000 to benefit a hospital.



山田 實純

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada  
Lions Clubs International President



# Attention Lion Readers

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## [The Big Picture



Everybody Loved This Parade

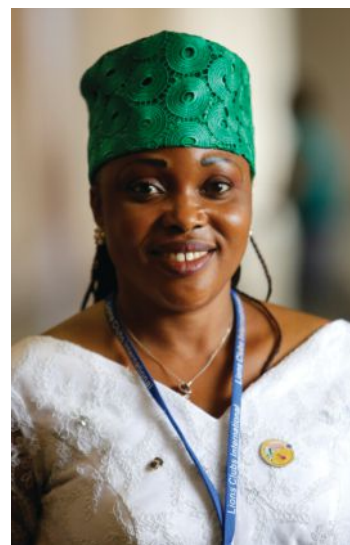




The international parade at the 98th International Convention in Honolulu in June showcases the incredible diversity of Lions Clubs International. (Clockwise) Japanese Lions stroll down the street with potential Leos or Lions. The Mississippi Lions All State Band may not have 76 trombones, but the band's sound is extraordinarily full and robust. The delegation from India prance and dance through Honolulu. A marcher gallantly shields a companion from the sun. A Lion from Arizona gives the shaka sign, a customary greeting in Hawaii. Dutch Lions may prefer skating over skipping, but the latter is the better way to traverse the streets of the tropical city. Leos sing a happy tune.



# [The Big Picture



Here Comes Everybody

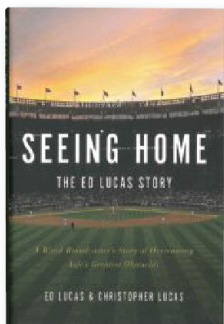




More than 18,000 Lions and guests from 134 countries were in Honolulu for the 98th International Convention. Here are some of them.

## BOOK SHELF

Three recent books offer Lions insight and inspiration.



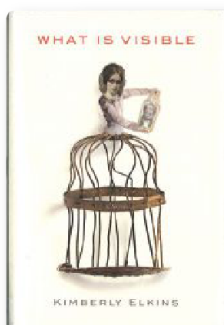
### **"Seeing Home: The Ed Lucas Story"**

**By Ed Lucas and Christopher Lucas**

**Jeter Publishing**

A Lion since 1970, Ed Lucas covered the New York Yankees as a pioneering sports journalist despite being blinded as a boy after being hit by a baseball. Off the field he also battled to overcome perceptions about his disability: in a heartbreaking legal tussle he lost custody of his sons. Through charm and persistence, he hobnobbed with Yankee greats like Phil Rizzuto and spent time with well-known men like Richard Nixon and Bob Hope. Lucas credits Lions for supporting him and the

school for the blind he attended as a child and raised funds for as a staffer. His tale is a tribute to the staying power of faith, family, baseball and Lions.



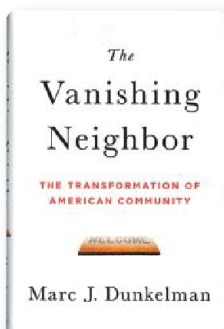
### **"What Is Visible"**

**Kimberly Elkins**

**Twelve Books**

Born in 1829 and becoming blind and deaf at age 2 from scarlet fever, Laura Bridgman was one of the most famous women of her time. She was the first deaf and blind person to learn language. In this extraordinary fictional biography Bridgman meets Helen Keller as a child and encounters Charles Dickens and eminent abolitionists of the time as she forms intense attachments and embodies the grand possibilities of people, despite disability. Bridgman

understands that when people meet her she is "a present to them all from God, to show how little one can possess of what we think it means to be human while still possessing full humanity."



### **"The Vanishing Neighbor: The Transformation of American Community"**

**Marc J. Dunkelman**

**W.W. Norton and Company**

American life has changed irrevocably. Routines that once put doctors and lawyers in touch with plumbers and grocers—interactions crucial to social cohesion and compromises—have gone by the wayside. Journalist Dunkelman deftly explores the evolution of the U.S. societal framework and the erosion of relationships across neighborhoods and socioeconomic classes. The digital revolution has reordered social life. The

book covers some of the same ground as did Robert Putnam's seminal "Bowling Alone," which traced the decline of civic engagement and the reduced role and influence of groups such as the PTA, church groups and volunteer associations. "The Vanishing Neighbor" argues that to put us on the right track we need to adapt yesterday's institutions to the realities of contemporary life.



## Overheard

### **"Hi, Dyllan, I love you."**

—Stephanie VanLeishout, addressing her 10-month-old daughter, who turned her head to the sound. Dyllan, who suffers from hearing loss, received hearing aids from the Lions Club Loaner Hearing Aid Bank for the state of Idaho. From [MagicalValley.com](http://MagicalValley.com).

### **"We can't be leaving everything to the Lions club."**

—From an editorial in the Cowichan News Leader in British Columbia, Canada, after a resident was denied government funding for an insulin pump to manage her diabetes. The Duncan Lions Club paid for the device.

### **"We wanted something new, something different for those who have come out to our event for the past few years. And who doesn't like to laugh?"**

—Tom Milhous, vice president of the Brigantine Lions Club in New Jersey, on adding a comedy show to its annual dinner. From [The Press of Atlantic City](http://The Press of Atlantic City).



## THESE LIONS ARE NO DUMMIES

Seeing is believing when it comes to hearing. Lions in District 20 Y2 in New York trot out "Boomer Bob" and "Audible Annie," two mannequins equipped with sound-level meters and lifelike silicon ears, for vivid demonstrations of the potentially damaging effects of iPods and other noises. Bob and Annie are plug and play: an iPod can be plugged into an ear. Or they can measure the sound in a room such as an aerobics class with loud music. "They're built to test the level of sound," says Sandra Clark of the district's Lions Hearing Conservation Society. "When you listen to your iPad the ear piece goes right into the ear. There is nothing to absorb the sound." Supported by most of the district's clubs, the society raises awareness of hearing loss, recycles hearing aids and loans out amplification devices. Bob and Annie visit clubs, YMCAs and health fairs. Bob is kept by the society, and Annie belongs to the Saratoga Springs Lions, though they sometimes make joint appearances. "Annie has a little more clothes than Bob," jokes Clark.



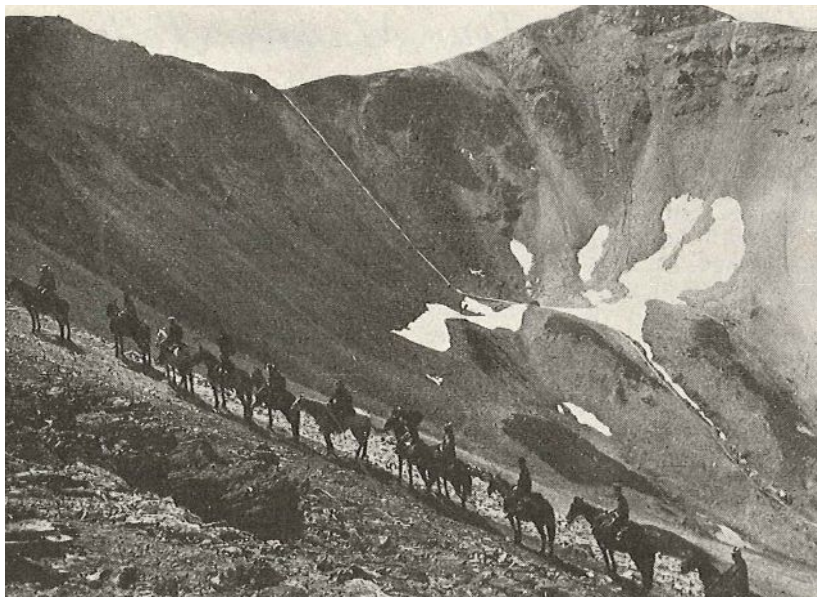
"Boomer Bob" and "Audible Annie" were named by Lions at a district convention.

## LIONS GAIN GREAT PUBLICITY

A well-done, very watchable TV ad for Microsoft featuring spirited Special Olympics athletes recently aired during the network evening news, "60 Minutes," on ESPN, CNN and on other prominent shows and networks. Microsoft worked with Special Olympics on the ad, which relates how Special Olympics uses Microsoft Cloud to manage data for its 4.8 million athletes. For much of the commercial the athletes are seen wearing shirts with the logo of another of its partners: Lions Clubs International. Grateful for Lions' support such as eye screenings, Special Olympics opted to give Lions some free and very positive recognition.

Watch the  
Special Olympics ad.

## 89 Years Ago in the LION



### OCTOBER 1926

Telluride Lions in Colorado rode horses over the mountains to persuade businessmen in Rico, an isolated mining town, to start a club. The adventurous Lions also held a luncheon at Imogene Pass, 13,000 feet above sea level.



## First Roar

### LONG-DISTANCE TRAVELERS REFUEL, LIONS-STYLE

Travelers on Interstate 29 in South Dakota exiting a rest stop near Sioux City this summer chowed down on Lions' pancakes. Vermillion Lions have set up their grills and served patrons for four days in late July or early August for 12 years. The club holds the breakfast in conjunction with the huge Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which draws nearly half a million people. The club accepts a free will offering. "People are more generous on their way to somewhere than on their way back," quips Lion Maxine Johnson, 82, a great-grandmother and a retired high school English teacher. Some give \$50 and others 25 cents. Many return year after year. "They remember us a lot better than we can remember them," says Johnson. The rest stop has several advantages. The vending machine there dispenses only drinks. The nearest McDonald's is six miles away in town. And a friendly local farmer lets the club put up signs for the breakfast on his property off the interstate. "You remember the nice places, and this is a great place to stop, especially in the morning. I'm recharged and ready to get back on the road again," Gary Rhinebarger, headed on his motorcycle to Sturgis from Kokomo, Indiana, told the local newspaper. This year the club made \$3,000, which will help fund the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion, the state's oldest museum. The most heartfelt donation in recent years came from a North Carolinian panhandling his way back home and sleeping for the time under a bridge. The Lions fed him for free a few times and even provided him with glasses. Before he left the area, he gave the Lions, despite their protestations, a bag with \$40 in change.



Bikers are among the patrons of the breakfast at the interstate rest stop in South Dakota.



### ECU-ADORABLE

The Milagro Melvin Jones Lions Club in Ecuador has a pet project: its Lions Pets on Wheels campaign for prosthetics for pets. The 48-member club was chartered in 2012.





## MASSSES OF EYEGLASSES

The 15 district governors-elect in California coordinated a Lions Eyes Across California on one day in March. Their goal was to collect 15,000 eyeglasses for recycling. Lions



Inmates at Folsom State Prison help recycle eyeglasses for Lions.

in the state took in more than 50,000. Inmates at Folsom State Prison helped recycle the glasses. Since 1989, inmates there have worked with Lions to record books on tape, create Braille books and maps and otherwise assist the blind.



## By the Numbers

7

Upper-level Spanish students at Hinsdale South High School in Illinois who called families to confirm addresses and other details before Darien Lions delivered meals and gifts.

32,000

Ounces of Georgia peanuts sold by Hartwell Lions of Georgia.



15

Members of the Visalia Pride, Visalia Sunset and Fresno Pride Lions Clubs in California who painted the white picket fence of a literacy center.

8

Duration in weeks of a training session held at the Ferguson Township Lions Club in Pennsylvania to teach independent living skills to people with visual impairment.

300

Hams awarded at the clay pigeon shoot sponsored by Bountiful Lions in Utah.



49

Community groups that received donations at the Cheque Night of the Mississauga Central Lions in Ontario, Canada.

30

Percentage of the holdings of Libby Memorial Library displayed at the clubhouse of Old Orchard Beach Lions in Maine during the library's renovation.

85

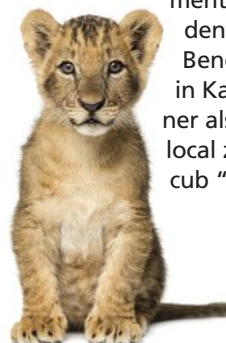
Hours clocked hand-trimming overgrown



bushes, removing old trees and installing new fences and gates at historic Merrill Cemetery in Slabtown, Missouri, by Plato Roby Northwest Texas County Lions and other volunteers.

44

Height in inches of a plush lion given to the winner of a writing contest held for elementary school students by Great Bend Noon Lions in Kansas. The winner also named the local zoo's new lion cub "King Louie."





## Contest Fires Up Firefighters

Racing around an obstacle course carrying a 200-pound mannequin is a tough job, but firefighters give it their all—on the job and off the job—competing in the arduous, often hilarious, annual competition sponsored by Cowansville Lions in Quebec, Canada. Lions and firefighters teamed up five years ago to promote fire awareness and the critical need for smoke detectors. The club has donated more than 1,000 fire and smoke detectors to area fire departments to give to families who can't afford them. "Again last year someone fell asleep while smoking and the result was that a family died, leaving one little boy orphaned," says Michael Wing. "We just want to save lives."

He adds, "The majority of our local fire departments are volunteers, and the competition gives them a chance to have some fun and be together within a non-working environment. It's a family day." Last year, eight teams participated. It doesn't cost much for Lions to sponsor the competition. "It's basically just paying for advertising posters and inflatables

like bounce houses for the children," Wing points out. The winning fire department receives a trophy from Lions, who also give firehouses additional smoke alarms to donate.

"We try to change the competition with different trials as much as we can so firefighters don't get that 'been there, done that' feeling," says

Wing. "One of the crowd favorites is the 'Midnight Call,' where teams have to get into their full bunker suits as quickly as possible. Another trial is to follow a mixed-up water hose while blindfolded. The water brigade trial is fun for everybody. We all love to see the water splash around and a lot of people get wet, including us!"



Firefighters compete in the water brigade event.

## Peace Inspires Hawaii Artwork

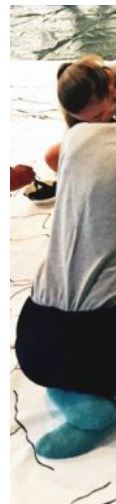
"Aloha in Hawaiian expresses many things," explains Pali Lion and teacher Cecelia Izua of a mural painted by children at St. Anthony School in Kailua, Hawaii. "It could mean hello, goodbye or love." A chance meeting at the 2014 international convention in Toronto between Izua and Nagasaki Lion Sairi Fukushima led to the creation of one of 160 murals that are part of the Kids Guernica International Children's Peace Mural Project. With a colorful "aloha" decorating a flower-stewn beach painted by students, the 11- by 25-foot canvas has now

become one of 160 "Guernica" artworks drawn by children.

The original Guernica was painted in 1937 by Pablo Picasso to show the devastation that war brought to a Spanish city. Nagasaki Lions in Japan supported one of those paintings done by children in their community, and donated the canvas roll to St. Anthony. Under the supervision of an art teacher, 350 children helped create the artwork. First displayed at the international convention center in Honolulu, the mural then traveled to Nagasaki where it was part of an international exhibit.

"We used the word 'aloha' because that word seems to be synonymous with Hawaii," explains Izua, whose husband Clarence, is also a Pali Lion. "When people respect others and their different points of view, they are showing their love to others and we feel that this leads to peace."

Pali Lions helped students mix paints and clean brushes as each class worked. "None of the classes wanted to leave when their shifts ended. Some of them got permission to stay after school and rushed back to paint. Even the 3-year-old preschoolers left their fingerprints in the sand," she adds.







Sebastian Lions in Florida stand victorious after shedding their hair to raise money to fight childhood cancer.

## Shaving Heads to Fight Cancer

Jeanne Diehl says it didn't take much to convince her to have her head shaved to raise money for St. Baldrick's Foundation to fund research into childhood cancers. "I was a special education teacher in Boston for 36 years and saw a couple of the kids I taught fight cancer, so it was really important to me."

Diehl was one of 11 Sebastian Lions, four of them women, who raised more than \$15,000 for St. Baldrick's. "It felt surreal. I'm still rubbing my head, but it was so exciting to have it shaved. There was so much energy there," she says of being buzzed. Lions have participated for two years in a row, but the first time only three of them volunteered for the shaving, performed by volunteer stylists. "Not one Lion hesitated," says Lion Charles Smits. "They just all marched on up to the stage to have it done."

"I was so excited before we went up that I couldn't even eat," recalls Diehl. "It felt really empowering, like I was doing something for a much bigger cause than myself." It does feel odd, she says, to no longer feel the wind blowing through her brown hair as she drives her convertible around. "I just lather some sunscreen on my head now," she says with a laugh. "It's a lot easier to take care of. I can't wait to shave my head again next year!"



Children in Pali, Hawaii, create a painting inspired by Pablo Picasso's 1937 masterpiece "Guernica."

## Heads Up! Zombie Apocalypse Arrives

There's no denying it. Zombies are big. Even without a pulse, they're heating up the big and small screens. Willmar Noon Lions in Minnesota cleverly capitalized on the zombie phenomenon and in the process, raised money and helped charter a new Lions club in the community.

"We were just looking to have a little fun and make some money," says Terry Smith, who came up with the idea of a zombie-infested Halloween haunted house last year with his 15-year-old son, Eli. "I thought it'd be a great idea for teenagers in the area who were too old to go trick or treating, but still wanted to have some fun during Halloween." Smith says that there was just one problem. "We're in the 40 to 80 age range. None of us really knew how to put on a successful haunted house, and not much more about zombies."



Terry Smith and his son, Eli, fight off "zombies."

A group of community actors turned up to help. They not only played zombies, but also showed volunteers how to turn themselves into the scary undead with the skills of makeup artistry. "I had no clue that zombies were so popular here in Willmar," admits Smith.

They set up the Zombie Apocalypse Haunted House in a vacant store in a mall, charging \$10 a ticket for three weekends. "We had a whole storyline involving soldiers and zombies. I was one of the 'good' zombies," says Smith, whose son, Eli, was also "zombified" for the attraction. More than 800 people toured the haunted house.

Lions invited the volunteers to join the club but their noon meetings proved a problem. The answer was the newly-chartered Willmar Nite Lions Club Branch, which this year sponsored the haunted house. "We started small and ended up with much more than we thought we would," Smith says.



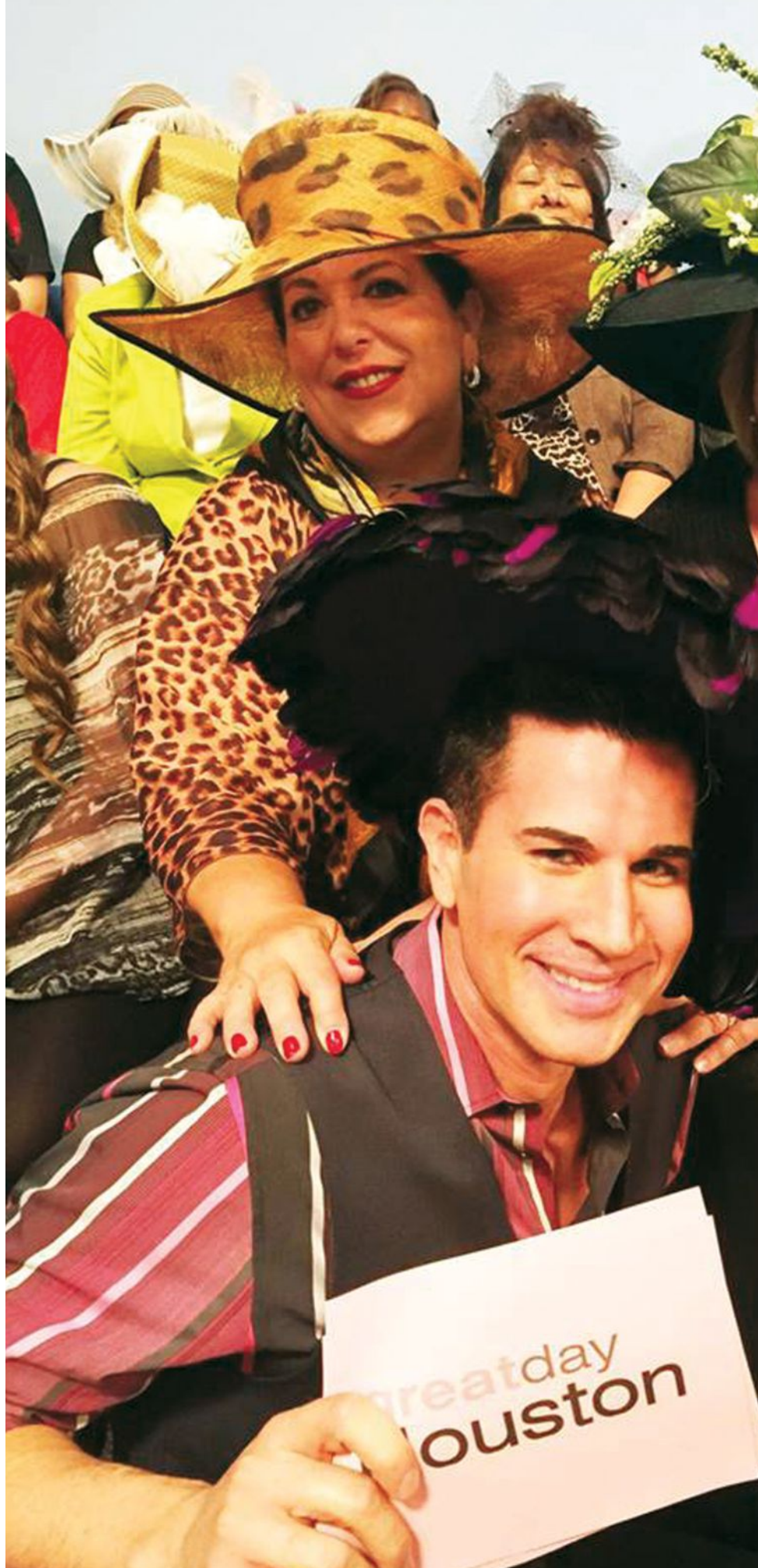
## Hats Off to Texas Club

Less than four months after first attending an informational meeting about starting a Lions club, the 33 members of the Houston Lady Lions Club in Texas raised \$12,000—at their charter celebration, a tea party with a purpose. “We wanted our launch into Houston to be about projects we support,” says Joni Hannigan. More than 100 people attended the “Hats & High Tea” auction and raffle, and most of the men and women did indeed wear hats.

Gifts were awarded for the most original hats. Hannigan didn’t win, but her head was adorned with a vintage 1940s red-felt pill-box. “It was my mother’s. I literally found it in a hatbox in my closet.” In the audience were representatives of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas, Daddy’s Deployed and the Pink Ribbons Project. Proceeds were split evenly between the three groups.

Many of the Lions are professionals. “Most of us are mature and accomplished with contacts that reach far into the Houston community,” says Hannigan. “We know who has the dollars and time. We want to get our hands involved, too, and put our minds to work to find the people who need our resources and time the most.” As soon as the tea was over, the club immediately began collecting donations for a food bank.

Houston Lady Lions Gayla Bentley (left) and Jayne Edison have some fun putting a hat on an assistant at Great Day Houston before being interviewed by television show host Deborah Duncan about the club’s Hats & High Tea fundraising project.







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Get up-close and personal with America's most famous parade. There will be an exclusive dinner with presentation by the Tournament of Roses Committee, a tour of the flower barn to see floats being prepared, then reserved grandstand seats to experience this New Year's tradition in person. It will never be the same on TV again. **Departs December 29, 2015**

\*Prices are per person, double occupancy and do not include taxes & government fees which range from \$159 to \$299 depending on trip. Prices for trips that involve a cruise are based on the base cabin category. Cabin upgrades are available, as is add-on airfare. Seasonal surcharges and single supplements may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

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Lions Club International not responsible for losses incurred.



## Service Comes in Many Forms

Lions Clubs International has members in 210 nations and geographic areas, and clubs help people and improve their communities in innumerable ways. Notwithstanding cultural differences and customs, the common language of Lions is service.



### **SOUTH AFRICA**

Table View Lions provide vision screenings for schoolchildren.



### **THAILAND**

Youths dance at an anti-drug event organized by Chiangmai Wiangping Lions.



### **PAKISTAN**

A girl who is blind holds a white cane given to her by Multan Crescent Lions.







### **MULTIPLE DISTRICT 300 TAIWAN**

Taoyuan Chung Yi Lions provide musical activities for those with disadvantages.



### **GERMANY**

(Opposite) Neu Ulm Campus Lions beautify a children's camp during the Lions' semester break.



### **KOREA**

Senior citizens play gateball. The New Changwon Lions awarded prize money to the top competitors of the tournament, which raised \$6,500 for the club's charitable causes.

### **ARGENTINA**

Ensenada Lions play with young children at their "Children's Day." Children received shoes, toys and school supplies.

### AUSTRALIA

## Sea Lion Crosses the Atlantic Ocean

Alone on the sea in a rowing race across the Atlantic, Andrew Abrahams was washed off his boat. “Basically, the wave just said, ‘You’re not going to sit there anymore and flicked me off like a little bug,’” he recounted later. Climbing back on board Abrahams gashed his leg on the rudder.

The 42-year-old Australian survived that harrowing episode as well as raging storms with 50-foot waves, brutal heat, sleep deprivation, physical and mental fatigue and worrisome encounters with sharks in his 57 days at sea. He succeeded in rowing 2,818 miles from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean. He was the only solo rower to complete the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge, finishing seventh overall ahead of five teams.

A member of the Rochedale Springwood Lions Club, Abrahams donated the \$10,000 raised from his adventure to disadvantaged children. He had hoped to raise much more, but the rough seas broke his satellite equipment, the key to media coverage.

Abrahams is a fitness buff who holds a world record for machine rowing—1 million meters (621 miles) in 119 hours. His background is rich both nautically and charitably. His fourth-great grandfather, Owen Cavanough, rowed ashore with Admiral Arthur Phillip, the founder of the British penal colony that became Sydney, and actually set foot before him, becoming the first member of the Royal Navy to land on Australia. Abrahams named his boat the RV Owen Cavanough.

Abrahams is a founder of the Townsville to Cairns Bike Ride, which has raised more than \$5 million for charity. He works as a handyman.

Like the other race boats, the Owen Cavanough was 23 feet long and 6.5 feet wide and had no sail or motor. A small cabin provided modest protection from the elements. Com-



Andrew Abrahams became the fastest Australian to row solo unassisted across the Atlantic Ocean.

petitors were not allowed to receive food, repairs or help of any kind. Valued at \$80,000, his boat did contain high-tech navigation equipment. But

one of his greatest challenges was loneliness. Visiting pods of curious whales helped him while away the hours.

[Watch a video on the race across the Atlantic.](#)

### SINGAPORE

## Seniors Get Fed, Set a Record

Thanks to Lions, 5,000 seniors enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and lavish entertainment, celebrated their nation’s 50 years of independence and set a record for the Singapore Book of Records.

Thirty-eight Lions clubs treated seniors from homes for the elderly or living alone in small flats and reliant on Lions’ aid to an eight-course Chinese lunch at a hall in Singapore. Lions sang and danced for the seniors. “The day was a success. The volunteers enjoyed serving the seniors, and the seniors enjoyed singing along, clapping their hands, even dancing,” says International Director Charlie Chan of Singapore.

The seniors entered the record book when they made 4,000 rice dumplings simultaneously. They brought home some dumplings as well.

About 800 Lions and another 1,200 volunteers staffed the event. Lions arranged for 200 buses to transport the seniors to and from the hall. The clubs alerted Lions Clubs International to the project, so it could be counted toward the Centennial Service Challenge.





**99<sup>th</sup> Annual Lions Clubs International Convention**  
**Friday, June 24 – Tuesday, June 28, 2016 • Fukuoka, Japan**  
**Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form**

**Deadlines**

- **May 1, 2016:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Fukuoka
- **May 1, 2016:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation and a refund for a hotel room cancellation

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Lion: Club No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Lion ☐ Lioness

COMPANION: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ Before January 8, 2016: Reservation in delegation hotel

☐ After January 8, 2016: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel ☐ if my delegation hotel is not available, next choice/preference \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

EVENT	DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	June 27/ 13:30-15:00	US \$70	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	June 27/ 20:00-22:00	US \$125	_____	\$ _____
LCI 2016 Convention Smart USB		FREE	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The LCI 2016 Convention Smart USB replaces the brochures, handouts, DVDs and more that you would normally carry back home. Enjoy this environmentally smart solution to easily organize and share information.

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

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

**REGISTRATION FEES**

		<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child (17 and under )</b>
Early	(before January 8, 2016)	US\$130	US\$10
Regular	(January 9 through March 31, 2016)	US\$180	US\$10
Late	(April 1, 2016 – onsite)	US\$200	US\$10

**Package A:**

Registrations: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ticketed Events: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Deposit: US\$ 225.00

Total Due: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**Package B:**

Registrations: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ticketed Events: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security code (3 digits) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form and payment to:** Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA • Allow 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery of your confirmation. **Credit Card and Bank Transfer Payments can be faxed to: (1-630) 571-1689 (If you fax, please do not mail original) • Questions? Email us: [registration@lionsclubs.org](mailto:registration@lionsclubs.org) . Please note:** Lions Clubs International will be documenting the international convention for promotional purposes. Your participation may be filmed or photographed at this event. Your registration is your consent for use of these images by Lions Clubs International.

# Lions At Home Amid Honolulu's Aloha Spirit

BY JAY COPP

The sun shone steadily on palm trees, bronzed surfers gracefully rode the waves with Diamond Head as a stunning backdrop and hula dancers swiveled their hips at evening shows on Waikiki Beach. Honolulu lived up to its advance billing as a tropical getaway as it superbly hosted the 98th International Convention in the last week of June.

Lions are an adaptive species, exemplified at convention. Eschewing the customary suit, International President Joe Preston wore a casual Hawaiian shirt, as did many fellow board members, conventioners and LCI staff. A Hawaiian kicked off the parade of nations with a traditional native blessing and ceremoniously blew into a shell. Leos enjoyed themselves at a luau, and Preston took to the stage at a plenary session carrying a surfboard customized with the Lions logo. "There's no truth to the rumor I surfed to Hawaii," he cracked wise.

OK, so you didn't make it to Hawaii for the convention. The next best thing is to watch a lively video of the convention highlights and read the inspirational talks.

Tim Shriver of Special Olympics tells about an episode that he believes led his uncle, President John F. Kennedy, to appeal to Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Kirk Caldwell, mayor of Honolulu, invokes the wars of the past and hails the diversity of Lions in heralding better times ahead.

2014-15 International President Joe Preston explains how two tragic airplane crashes involving a basketball star can motivate Lions.

2015-16 International President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada describes how Lions can learn from the teamwork of cranes.

Our Humanitarian Award winner pledges to help the beleaguered children of war-battered Syria.

Lions from Africa enjoy being part of the parade of nations in Honolulu.







"It always seems IMPOSSIBLE  
until it's DONE"  
- Nelson Mandela





# Lions in Honolulu

The top 10 nations represented in Honolulu were:

1. Japan	4,154
2. United States	3,579
3. China	1,743
4. India	1,358
5. Nepal	993
6. Nigeria	678
7. Korea	632
8. Sri Lanka	519
9. Bangladesh	287
10. Multiple District 300 Taiwan	272

“A-lo-ha!” the genial Kirk Caldwell, mayor of Honolulu, welcomed Lions at the packed first plenary session. Lions responded but Caldwell greeted Lions a second and then a third time. “A-lo-ha!” Lions thundered back finally to his satisfaction. Caldwell knew Lions were in a responsive mood; the prevailing sentiment at the convention was gratification. “How many of you are thinking now, I wish I had bought a one-way ticket?” the high-spirited Preston joked at the second plenary session.

More than 18,000 Lions and guests from 134 countries descended on Honolulu, which hosted the 83rd convention in 2000. The electric undercurrent at the convention was the connection Lions sought and found with flesh-and-blood fellow Lions as well as the warm, open-armed spirit of service. “You see people you see at convention,” said Ken Reed, a member of the Ackley Geneva Lions Club in Iowa since 1974 and a veteran of about a dozen international conventions. Reed’s trip to Hawaii meant he had visited all 50 states, and he was on a mission at the convention to collect 14 more state pins from 2015 to give him a complete set.

On the other end of the spectrum were Lions such as 31-year-old Mariessa Maughan, who joined the Salt Lake City Red Butte Lions Club in 2013. Her grandfather was a Lion, and she works as an eye care specialist. “I feel very blessed to be a Lion,” said Maughan, who is club president despite being a relative newcomer. “I’m here to learn as much as I can.”

The convention underscored the connections among Lions and with Lionism. Scott Quinlan of the Huntington Beach Host Lions Club in California says his blindness is no impediment to service. “I think I can serve as an inspiration to others in the community,” he said in the convention hall, where multitudes of Lions chatted with LCI staff, browsed exhibits, traded pins or sat down for lunch with Lions across the world. Judy Mensforth of the Helensvale Lions Club in Australia was determined to track down Ole Engedal, a district governor-elect from Denmark

A disco party erupts before the closing plenary session.





whose daughter she befriended when the daughter was a Lions' exchange student in Australia. "I just love getting to know Lions and learning more about them," said Mensforth.

Preston served as the host of the convention. On his penultimate day as president, during a rendition of "Already Gone" by an Eagles tribute band, he abruptly and comically walked onto stage carrying a beat-up suitcase, signifying both his extensive travels and the end of his term as president. A singer and songwriter, Preston grabbed a microphone and finished the song, and then he and the band ably performed "Strengthen the Pride," his catchy theme song.

Preston took a more serious turn during his farewell speech. He saluted Lions for their service and membership success and exhorted them to redouble their efforts. "Lions, we need to roar with intensity, roar with conviction. We need to tell the world who we are, what we're doing, why they should support us and why they should join us," he said. "And that is not something that we just have to do this year. It is something we need to do, year after year."

Preston's talk was bookended by the speech of Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan, whom Lions elected as the 2015-16 international president. The neurosurgeon took charge of the festivities in the third and final plenary. Delivering his speech in Japanese, Yamada emphasized teamwork. "We are all the crew of a ship in the ocean," he said. "We can only steer in the right direction when all crew members are united under a mission. The ship moves smoothly only when each member of the crew fulfills his responsibility by using his special talent."

The keynoter was Tim Shriver, a Lion who is chairman of Special Olympics. One of the first races in the history of Special Olympics in the 1960s exemplified what the organization was all about and still provides lessons for today. A runner had stumbled as he neared the finish line. "The one in second who could see the finish line—maybe for the first time have a chance to be cheered and what does he do?" Shriver related. "He stops and turns around. He picks up his fallen friend, puts his arm over his shoulder and crosses the finish line. In what, last place, right? Wrong!

"I think the athletes of Special Olympics teach us that you could win by who you beat. And you could also win

by who you help. Winning isn't where you finish. It's how you finish, too."

After his address, Shriver and the LCI executive officers signed a memorandum of understanding to take the partnership between Lions and Special Olympics to a new level. Besides supporting Opening Eyes, screenings and eyeglasses for athletes, Lions also now will support Unified Sports, which involves sports training and competition both for those with intellectual disabilities and those without. Lions also will expand membership opportunities for athletes in Lions clubs and promote health through hearing programs.

Other convention highlights included the presentation of the Humanitarian Award to Save the Children and its work among Syrian children, battered by war; a segment on the Lions centennial by Past International President J. Frank Moore III of Alabama and the election of 17 first-year international directors and Naresh Aggarwal of India as second international vice president. Aggarwal will succeed First Vice President Chan-

cancellor Bob Corlew of Tennessee as president in 2017-18.

LCIF Chairperson Barry J. Palmer of Australia detailed the successes of the Foundation in saving sight, meeting humanitarian needs, providing disaster relief and supporting youth. Palmer also praised the tremendous support of Lions for LCIF; prior to Honolulu donations topped \$38 million in fiscal year 2014-15. The generosity continued at the convention. Past District Governor Aruna Oswal of India announced during a plenary that the Oswal Trust will give \$1 million to LCIF for 40 medical vans. That gift and other donations made at the convention boosted total giving past \$40 million.

Lions pride ourselves as being agents of change, and Caldwell, the mayor, recognized how the world has changed and how Lions play a part in that. He pointed out that the anniversaries of the battle of Okinawa, the atomic bombing of Japan and the start of the Korean War had just occurred or would occur soon. "So much hate in the world, and you are so much about love and service," he said. "Aloha means hello and goodbye, and it also means love. ... Go back to your homes with that aloha and show your love to your community."



New International President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, his wife, Dr. Toshiko, and their family wave to Lions after he took the oath of office.

**Honolulu has been a wonderful host before for Lions. In 1976, Lions were wowed by humanitarian Dr. Jules Stein, former ambassador Clare Boothe Luce, actor Cary Grant and "Hawaii Five-O" star Jack Lord (July/August 1976 LION).**

# Honolulu Hullabaloo



1



2



3



4

Convention is five days of festivities. And quieter moments that touch the heart. 1 A Special Olympics athlete exults after a bocce ball competition. 2 Dorie Leitten of New York thanks Lions for saving the life of her daughter, Bri; a routine eye screening led to the discovery she had cancer. 3 Pop star Kenny Loggins performs one of his many hits at the International Show. 4 Polynesian dancers let their hair





5 6



7 8



down at a plenary session. 5 Joe Preston, 2014-15 international president, lets Lions know he is "Already Gone," as an Eagles tribute band plays the rock song. 6 A disco dance at a plenary session recalls the music, dances—and hairstyles—of the '70s. 7 Participants in the Strides class, held to raise awareness of diabetes, point the way to better health. 8 A ukulele player strums "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" during the memorial segment of a plenary session.





## Lions Clubs International

### Lions Elect Directors in Hawaii

Delegates to the 98th International Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, elected 17 new international directors to serve a two-year term. Visit the Lions Clubs International website for biographies of newly-elected directors and to also view the biographies and photos of the four international officers and 17 second-year directors who lead the association.



**Melvyn K. Bray**  
Whiting, New Jersey  
United States



**Howard R. Hudson**  
Santa Barbara, California  
United States



**Pierre H. Chatel**  
Montpellier, France



**Sanjay Khetan**  
Birganj, Nepal



**Eun-Seouk Chung**  
Gyeonggi-do, Korea



**Robert M. Libin**  
Rego Park, New York  
United States



**Gurcharan Singh Hora**  
Siliguri, India



**Richard Liebno**  
Westminster, Maryland  
United States





**Gabriele Sabatosanti Scarpelli**  
Genova, Italy



**Helmut Marhauer**  
Hildesheim, Germany



**H. Jerome Thompson**  
Moulton, Alabama  
United States



**William L. "Bill" Phillipi**  
Marysville, Kansas  
United States



**Ramiro Vela Villarreal**  
Nuevo Leon, Mexico



**Lewis Quinn**  
Anchorage, Alaska  
United States



**Roderick Paul Wright**  
New Brunswick, Canada



**Yoshiyuki Sato**  
Oito, Japan



**Katsuyuki Yasui**  
Asahikawa-shi, Japan



# 2014-15 International Contest Results

## **Newsletter (Bulletin)**

### **Lions Club**

#### **First Place:**

Fitzgerald Lions Club, Georgia

#### **Honorable Mention:**

Orrville Lions Club, Ohio

Prescott Noon Lions Club, Arizona

Baguio City Lions Club, Philippines

Forest Hills Lions Club, California

### **District**

#### **First Place:**

107 D, Finland

#### **Honorable Mention:**

District 18 O, Georgia

District 300 A2, MD 300, Taiwan

District 107 L, Finland

District 5 M9, Minnesota

### **Website**

#### **Lions Club**

#### **First Place:**

Ijsselstein-Lopikerwaard Lions Club,  
Netherlands

#### **Honorable Mention:**

Juvignac Herault Lions Club, France

Vantaa/Helsing Lions Club, Finland

### **District**

#### **First Place:**

District 107 L, Finland

#### **Honorable Mention:**

District 107 D, Finland

### **Multiple District**

#### **First Place:**

MD 16, New Jersey

#### **Honorable Mention:**

MD 107, Finland

MD 411, Kenya

## **International Parade**

### **Division I, Category A (Float)**

**First Place:** Australia/Norfolk Island/Papua New Guinea-District 201 (Roo the Float)

**Second Place:** India—District 321 (Float of India)

### **Division I, Category BII (All State Bands)**

**First Place:** Mississippi All State Band

**Second Place:** Michigan All State Band

### **Division I, Category C**

#### **(Precision Demonstration Unit)**

**First Place:** Hong Kong/Macao, China—District 303 (Chinese Drum and Fan Dance)

**Second Place:** India—District 321 (Indian Dance Troop)

### **Division I, Category D**

#### **(Uniformed Marching Delegation)**

**First Place:** Nigeria—District 404

**Second Place:** Scandinavia—Districts 101, 104, 106, 107 and 109

**Third Place:** Indonesia—District 307

### **Division II, Category A (Bands-Youth)**

**First Place:** India—District 321 (James Campbell High School Band)

**Second Place:** Korea—Districts 354-356 (Kaiser High School Band)

### **Division II, Category B**

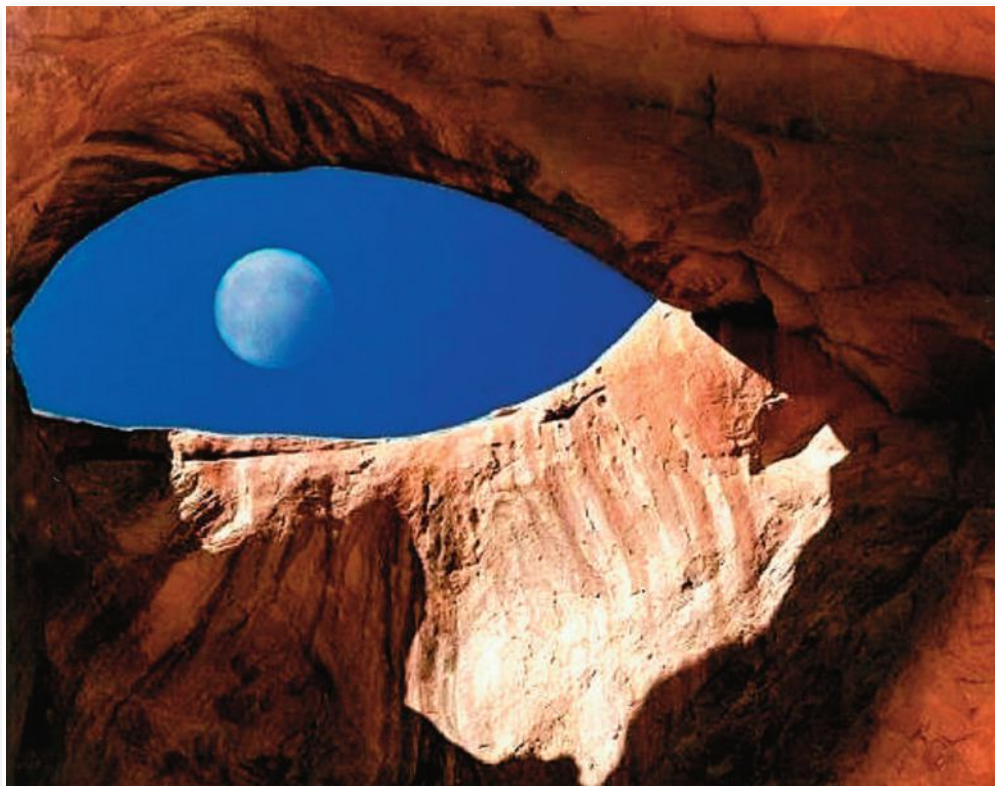
#### **(Precision Demonstration Unit)**

**First Place:** British Isles & Ireland—District 105 (Celtic Pipes & Drums)

**Second Place:** Japan—Districts 330-337 (Ryukyukoko Matsuri Daiko)



# Environmental Photo Contest Winners



Environmental Photo  
Contest Best of Show  
(Grand Prize) winner  
Jacque Mooney,  
Midwest City Lions Club,  
Oklahoma

## **Best of Show (Grand Prize)**

Jacque Mooney, Midwest City Lions  
Club, Oklahoma

## **Best of Category:**

Weather Phenomenon  
Deb Mosier, Orrville Lions Club, Ohio

## **Best of Category:**

Urban or Natural Landscape  
Jacque Mooney, Midwest City Lions  
Club, Oklahoma

## **Best of Theme**

Ben August, Token Creek Lions Club,  
Wisconsin

## **Best of Category:**

Animal Life  
Te-Sheng Chiang, New Taipei City  
Lions Club, MD 300 Taiwan

## **Best of Category:**

Plant Life  
Lola Martinez Piñero, Benidorm Lions  
Club, Spain



# LEFT BEHIND

The visually impaired lag far behind in use of computers and smart phones. Lions are determined to close the gap.

BY ANNE FORD

About eight years ago, Aaron Carroll, now 47, began losing his sight to a disease called sarcoidosis. His rapidly diminishing vision led to the loss of his position as a customer-service worker—and with it, some of his self-esteem.

After working with the Chicago Lighthouse to regain his computer skills and learn adaptive technology such as screen readers, Carroll was recently hired at a health clinic call center. “Working will definitely put me closer to regaining my independence,” he says happily. “When you lose your vision, you become dependent on other people to help you do things. Going to work, that’ll really help my self-confidence, knowing that I can take care of myself.”

There are countless other stories you’ll hear from just about any computer instructor of the blind or visually impaired: the student who solved his transportation problem by learning to order groceries online. The deaf-blind man who can now navigate his town, thanks to a GPS with Braille display. The person who started crying when he successfully learned how to stream a radio sports broadcast from his hometown. The attorney who thought her career ended with her sight, until she learned how to use a computer again and began practicing law once more. The grandfather who learned how to take a photo of himself with his smart phone and send it to his daughter in another state, who hadn’t seen him in years. “We see success stories

every day,” says Ian Stenseng, a computer and assistive technology training manager for the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind.

The success stories typically are the result of intense computer training, excellent assistive technology and a knowledgeable and persistent instructor. But many of the 21 million Americans with some form of vision loss aren’t so fortunate. Far too often those who are blind or visually impaired do not understand or use computers and other digital technology. The sighted world enjoys the technology of 2015. Those with visual impairments often lag years or decades behind.

That’s why Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) recently granted the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) \$125,000 to develop a training and awareness program that will enhance technology literacy and competency among the blind and visually impaired. With the help of an advisory committee, whose members include Lion Dr. Tracy Williams, a low vision specialist, the AFB will use the grant for a one-year planning, research, and training pilot that will seek to answer the question: exactly what must be done to bridge the technology divide for the visually impaired?

The results will be shared with Lions Clubs International, university programs for teachers of the visually impaired and others stakeholders. It’s a help-the-helpers



strategy. Train or educate those who assist the visually impaired to maximize the mastery of technology use and shrink the technology gap.

\*\*\*

Statistics on computer use among the blind and visually impaired do not exist. But those who work with the blind know the technology gap is sizable. “Our belief is that most people who are blind or visually impaired either are not using a computer-accessibility strategy such as screen-access software or speech recognition, and that those who are using them probably are not using them all that well,” says Paul Schroeder, the AFB’s vice president of programs and policy.

And we’re not talking about gaining just the ability to play games and share pleasantries. Fewer than 40 percent of visually disabled Americans ages 21-64 are employed (as compared to the general employment rate of about 65 percent), and more than 30 percent live below the poverty line. In this digital age, computer skills are crucial to gainful employment, social connection and even routine daily activities.

“If you don’t have computer access, you really fall behind the general populace,” says Peter Tucic, an assistive technology specialist at the Chicago Lighthouse for People who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, a social services agency that assists people with low or no vision. Tucic, who is blind, staffs the Lighthouse’s computer assistance hotline, taking calls from anyone with vision loss who needs help interacting with assistive technology.

“Generally the people I encounter aren’t very informed about how to use computers, smart phones, and similar devices,” Tucic says. “They might know, for example, that the iPhone can talk, but they don’t know how to get the most out of it. People who didn’t get on that first wave of computers—they’re not one step behind, they’re three or four steps behind. If you don’t learn how to use an iPhone today, well, in five years your whole home could be on Wi-Fi. It’s kind of like going from shooting a musket to operating a cruise missile. There are a lot of homebound blind people, and they’re

becoming sequestered and marginalized.”

For years, AFB has encouraged mainstream computer companies such as Microsoft to make their products compatible with assistive technologies and reviewed these technologies in its magazine, *Access-World*. Now, Schroeder says, the LCIF grant has equipped AFB to begin tackling what he calls “the training problem.” A huge part of the reason that computer literacy levels among the blind are so low, he says, is that their teachers simply don’t know the technologies well enough themselves.

“Whether it’s teachers who teach kids with blindness or counselors who teach adults with vision loss, there’s a

well-documented gap in instructors’ own comfort level with the technology,” he says.

Mary Abramson, an instructor in the Chicago Lighthouse’s office skills training program, has long known that training for computer instructors of the blind is not what it should be. In fact, most instructors in this field learn on the job.

Why should that be? Well, formally training trainers is a costly endeavor, she points out, since most computer instruction in this population takes place one-on-one rather than as a group. “If we tried to have an entire computer class for visually impaired students, we’d never get a class together, because everybody’s at a different place skill-wise and learns



Unlike most of his peers, Aaron Carroll, though blind, is adept at using a computer. He’s shown working at a health clinic call center in Chicago.

in a different way,” Abrahamson says. “One-on-one is, of course, not the most cost-efficient way to do this, but it seems to be the most effective.”

“A one-size-fits-all solution doesn’t always work,” agrees Stenseng of the Seattle Lighthouse. “Something that might work for somebody who has low usable vision is not going to work for someone who’s a hearing-blind person or someone who’s deaf-blind. We’re constantly struggling between solutions that are as universally accessible as possible but also meet these very specific and diverse needs.”

And then there’s the fact that in order for people with vision loss to use computers, they must understand its workings in much more depth than someone who’s fully sighted. Whereas a sighted person can simply click an icon, for example, someone with low or no vision must “learn what those icons are and where they are and how they really work, because we use the keyboard commands instead of the mouse,” Abramson points out. Thus a computer instructor for the blind must be even more knowledgeable than a computer instructor for the sighted.

For now, “there’s no formal training for people to do what I do—sit down and dig into the visually impaired person’s abilities, needs, desires and skill level, and make sure that they’re getting what they need,” she says. “I think the AFB is right. There’s a great need for this. We could have a lot more visually impaired people employed.”

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Luke Scriven doesn’t quit easily. As an assistive technology specialist at the Chicago Lighthouse, he teaches those with sight loss to use computers. And while his students face many potential obstacles—complex software, low confidence, general discomfort with technology—computer literacy is just too crucial a skill for him to give up on any student. Even one as challenging as William.

“William [name changed] was a veteran,” Scriven recalls, “and as well as having vision issues, he had a bad memory.” Scriven introduced William to CDesk, a computer program for the visually impaired. But at first, it seemed too difficult to master. “He’d try to use speech recognition commands, but he’d forget the commands, or he wouldn’t speak very clearly,” Scriven says.

Then Scriven showed his student computer games such as hangman and solitaire. “I showed William how to play them, and he completely took off on them,” he remembers. “He actually learned how to navigate CDesk so he could get to these games, and he learned where the keys were on the keyboard. He’d call me up all the time and tell me his high scores. It kept his mind active, and it helped him learn how to use the computer. By the time I finished my training with him, he could do word processing and use email.” And there was a bonus: “The veterans here all share their email addresses and send each other inspirational stories or jokes, so he was able to participate in that community.”

It’s people like William LCIF aims to ultimately help through its grant to the AFB. Of course, this is far from the first time that LCIF has supported a large-scale program aimed at those with vision loss. In 1990, it launched Sight-First, which initially provided funding for programs that addressed the leading causes of preventable and reversible blindness. “We devoted a tremendous amount of resources

to cataract surgeries, pills to ward off certain tropical eye diseases, training of eye care personnel and building and equipping eye hospitals—all designed to reduce the number of people who were blind or visually impaired,” says Philip Albano, LCIF Sight Programs department manager.

Now SightFirst has expanded its mission to include programs for the blind or irreversibly visually impaired. “That set the stage, so when AFB came to us seeking interest in and support for their technology and training awareness program, we were in a position to fund it,” Albano says. “AFB is a well-known advocate for the blind, and the goal of AFB and the goals of Lions are naturally in alignment.”

“We want to develop a testable training strategy that we replicate,” Schroeder says.

“At the end of the year, we hope we’ll have something that’s been proven to be useful, and that we can show that we’re capable of growing with additional funding. It’s a huge undertaking. We’re a relatively small organization trying to tackle a big mission across a lot of areas. But it’s hard to overstate the importance of access to technology for people who are blind. Sometimes I bristle when people say, ‘Technology’s only part of the answer.’ Yes, but it’s a huge part of the answer.”







*STATISTICS ON  
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(Above) Technology such as the iPhone money identifier can be immensely useful for those with vision impairments.

(Left photo) Peter Tucic (right), an assistive technology specialist with The Chicago Lighthouse, demonstrates a refreshable Braille display to Juan Suarez, an intern with The Lighthouse's Chicagoland Radio Information Service program.



# DEN OF EQUITY

Salem Lions in South Carolina hunker down in a cave-like room to refurbish computers for needy students, unfairly hampered by not being able to afford one.

BY CRAIG BRANDHORST

Two hundred bucks. That was the initial request.

When Jim Jacques told his Salem Lions Club in 2004 of his novel plan to refurbish discarded computers to be given to underprivileged youth, a couple hundred bucks seemed like more than enough. It wouldn't cost much, he figured, to clean up a few junked CPUs, load them with basic educational software and distribute them to a few children in need.

The need definitely existed. Located in a rural corner of the Upstate region of South Carolina, just below the Blue Ridge Mountains, Oconee County attracts plenty of upper middle-class retirees who come to the foothills for the mild weather and scenic beauty, but the region is also home to some of the worst poverty in the state. The county's unem-

ployment rate in 2004 was 7.4 percent and climbing. After the financial collapse in the fall of 2008, it peaked at 13.3 percent and didn't fall to single digits until 2012.

It's perhaps no surprise, then, that the club's philanthropic effort didn't just catch on. It went positively viral after one school, Keowee Elementary, took an interest. Word of mouth spread among parents at church, at Little League ball fields, in line at the Bi-Lo supermarket: "Did you know your kid can get a free computer through the Lions club?" "What's the catch?" "No catch, you just have to qualify."

To keep up, Jacques and his fellow Lions reached out to area businesses, applied for grants and recruited non-Lions with technical expertise as additional volunteers.



They also levied the support of the superintendent of the School District of Oconee County, who gave them the basement of the old Walhalla High School to use as a volunteer center and storage facility.

"We started out really small," says Lion Ray Bramble, who has been a part of the initiative from day one and who took the reins after health issues led Jacques to step down. "Nobody had any idea we would climb to the point where we are now."

Just what point has the once-humble Computers for Kids program reached? Over the past 11 years, it has provided approximately 3,700 refurbished computers to elementary and high school kids as well as to GED students throughout the area, which is kind of funny, considering that Computers for Kids began as a way to address an altogether different problem.

"It started out as an environmental issue," says Bramble. "At that time, we didn't have recycling in this part of the Upstate, so when Jim saw all this electronic equipment sitting in the dumpsters—monitors, computers, keyboards,

Cleaning up all that hardware and installing all that software gives the program's 15 volunteers, many of whom come in each Monday year-round, plenty to do. In fact, the group averages about 2,300 volunteer hours a year.

"That's a lot of hours," says Bramble. "We shut down for the major holidays, and that's it. But you see some of these kids getting these computers and how happy they are—if that doesn't put a smile on your face, nothing's going to."

Brosnan agrees. As the self-described "morning man," he spends the first half of each Monday out front, meaning he gets to hand out the refurbished machines when kids show up waving authorization sheets from their schools.

"The satisfaction of helping children makes it all worthwhile," he says. "You see these little moppets come bouncing in here with Mom, and they're going, 'That's my computer! I got a computer!' They are so excited."

Numerous studies have shown that having a computer available for home use provides a significant advantage in school achievement and job opportunities. If you don't be-

## *'If you don't have a computer or computer skills, you're not going to make it in this world today; there's no way.'*

everything—he tried to figure out, "What can I do to keep these things from going into the landfills?"

That's hardly a question anymore. Visiting the Computers for Kids headquarters, which the club now rents for \$1 a year from a local 501(c)3 that bought the downtown Walhalla school from the school district, it can seem like every defunct desktop PC in Oconee County winds up in their laps.

Thanks to donations from companies such as Michelin Tires of Greenville, which gave the group its first large-scale donation, totaling more than 1,300 computers, and the School District of Oconee County, which donated its old machines when it upgraded to newer models three years ago, the basement space is stacked wall-to-wall with CPUs, monitors, hard drives, keyboards, you name it.

If a component is beyond repair, Lions and volunteers tear it down and reuse what they can in other machines. What they can't use they sell in bulk to a recycling center in nearby Livonia, Georgia. After all, when operating a charitable organization on a shoestring budget, every penny counts.

"You know keyboards have gold in them. Not much, but some," says Lion Dee Brosnan, a retired sales rep from the railroad industry who, like Bramble, has been involved from the get-go. "We get about 10 cents per pound for keyboards. Last time we went to the recycling center we had about 4,000 pounds of stuff and we got about \$1,300 for it. That all goes back into the program."

Meanwhile, thanks to a deal with Microsoft's Registered Refurbishing program, Computers for Kids is able to put Windows 7 on computers destined for high school and GED students for \$7 a copy. Computers earmarked for elementary and middle school kids get loaded with a free software package.

lieve a second-hand computer can have such a positive effect, stop by Westminster Elementary some afternoon after recess. Nearly 65 percent of the students at the small rural school near the South Carolina-Georgia state line qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, which means their parents don't typically have the money to buy high-ticket items, no matter how much they might want to.

"We do the backpack for kids program," says computer science teacher and 32-year public education veteran Debbie Levasseur. "We send home food so they have something to eat over the weekend, so you can imagine when they hear they're getting a computer just how excited they are— 'It's mine? I get to take it home with me?'"

In fact, when the fourth- and fifth-graders at Westminster learn that a reporter is coming to campus to do a story on the free computer program, they clamor for a chance to talk. And while they exhibit the usual pre-adolescent shyness—manifested mostly in giggles, especially among the fourth-grade girls—it's obvious just how much the program means, not just to their academic success but to their happiness.

Take best friends Jasmine Guthrie and Aaron Shed in fifth grade.

"I like going on the Internet, but the best thing is being able to do PowerPoint," says Jasmine, who calls math and science her favorite subjects. "I do a lot of PowerPoints for extra credit, like I did one for science class about cell biology. And sometimes I just do them for fun."

Aaron also claims that math is his favorite subject. "Well, math and computer science," he says with a grin when called out by Levasseur. But his own favorite research project wasn't about either. It was about U.S. history.

"I did a PowerPoint in January for social studies on westward expansion," he says. "It was about when the



(Left) Salem Lions are able to do the computer program despite being located in a rural area with few well-heeled corporations.

Lions such as Ray Bramble (below) collectively volunteer more 2,000 hours each year to refurbish the computers. The average cost of the repair and parts is \$35 per computer.





Americans settled out west, the wagon trains and the transcontinental railroad. That was really fun.”

The other students chime in, reporting their own experiences with the free Lions club computers. One uses free software to paint horses and snowmen, another plays math games, a third practices her typing.

“It means a lot just for them to get comfortable with the computer,” says Levasseur. “And then the parents are relieved that there’s something they can give their kids that otherwise they couldn’t afford.”

Chashe Hunnicutt, for example, wanted to buy her daughter Annmarie a computer as a combined Christmas-and-birthday present two years ago, when Annmarie was

in second grade. But then Hunnicutt was laid off from her job at the county tax assessor’s office. Her big surprise had to take a backseat.

“So then we got a letter from the school that said our daughter was eligible to get a computer from the Lions club,” she says. “My husband and I went back and forth. Was it really something we wanted to do? But we knew the Lions were a very reputable organization so we finally decided to go see what it was all about.”

What it was all about, she discovered, was simple, honest philanthropy—a bunch of people donating their time so that a bunch of kids don’t get left behind.

“The people when we went to get the computer were just over-the-top nice,” Hunnicutt says. “They let my daughter pick what kind of monitor she wanted, so I think she felt like she had some ownership. Then they talked to her about the programs they had already put on there and what she could do with the computer once she got home.”

And that was only the beginning. Over the next two years Annmarie didn’t just take to the computer; she became hooked, particularly by the math games.

“It made it so that she wanted to do better; she wanted to get to 100 points,” says Hunnicutt. “She’s in fourth grade now, and I strongly believe that being able to do those math games is one reason she tested into the gifted program for math this year.”

Back at the volunteer center, Bramble loves to hear individual stories like the Hunnicutts’, but he and the rest of the volunteers are ultimately more focused on the bigger picture.

“You know, we saw a need out in the community and we decided to do something about it,” he says. “And stop to think about it. If you don’t have a computer or computer skills, you’re not going to make it in this world today; there’s no way.”

And so they continue to plug away, week after week. During the school year the Lions and volunteers complete approximately a dozen refurbishments each Monday, even when winter temperatures in the unheated school basement drop to uncomfortable levels. In the summer, cooled by a single donated window unit air conditioner, they get ready for the next wave of requests come fall. It’s a lot of work, but no one’s complaining.

“This project was actually one of the reasons I got involved with the Lions in the first place,” says Salem club secretary Ernie Mayberry, who joined the Lions at the invitation of his Keowee Key neighbor George Blanchard in 2004. “I just like the idea of helping these kids become computer literate.”

A retired electrical engineer with computer experience dating back to the days of main frames and punch cards, Mayberry now spends his volunteer hours in the windowless area referred to as “the geek room,” where he performs some of the more technical repairs. In his spare time he plays tennis. Asked if he wouldn’t rather be out hitting balls, though, he just shrugs. “Hey, I’m good. Most of us only spend four or five hours in here a week,” he says. “I’m retired. I can play tennis four days a week. I can come do this for one.”



# Still Roaring

Sixty-year members made Lionism what it is today—and often still pitch in on projects.

BY JENNIFER MARTIN

1955 was a memorable year.

The Brooklyn Dodgers won the World Series, the first pocket transistor radios were sold, and the polio vaccine was successfully tested. It was an era of middle-class mobility, rock ‘n’ roll music and an awakening of the civil rights movement in America.

1955 was a grand year for Lions, too. Eleven new nations joined including Greece, Egypt and Ireland. Membership in Lions’ 44 countries rose by 5 percent to 523,450, making Lions by far the world’s largest service club organization.

Lions of that era represent our very own “greatest generation.” They came of age when Lions were flourishing and took Lions Clubs to greater heights. Lions Clubs now counts nearly 1.4 million members in 210 nations and geographic areas.

The LION talked to nearly 20 Lions who became members in 1955 or earlier. Sixty years is long ago. Gas is no longer 22 cents a gallon. New cars cost a bit more than \$1,900. Rock ‘n’ roll is no longer seen as a threat to youth. But the more Lions seem to change, the more Lions stay ... well, read on.

Eddie Munger, 100 (on Oct. 10)  
Lion since 1951  
Houston Heights Lions Club, Texas

Eddie Munger led his first meeting as president of the Houston Heights Lions Club in July. It didn’t matter that he was nearly 100 years old. “He did great and was very polished,” said his daughter, Lion Winnie Eads. She adds with a laugh, “Most of his life, he’s been the boss.”

But beneath his strong exterior lies a soft heart. Members know him as “Lion Daddy,” ever since Eads mistakenly used that moniker when calling on him at a meeting years ago. “Everybody calls him that,” she says. “We have many people in the club over 65, but he is ‘Lion Daddy.’”



A past district governor and a Melvin Jones Fellow (MJF), Munger served as president of the Lions Eye Bank of Texas, and donors now receive an Eddie H. Munger Fellowship pin and plaque. “It’s a great honor for me, and it’s helped keep the Eye Bank alive,” Munger says.

In 1991, Munger launched the Lions Foundation for Sight, which has provided more than \$400,000 in grants for eye-related medical research. And he’s been president of the Texas Lions Camp for children with disabilities. “It kept me busy. I liked how people appreciated what we were doing,” he says.



Part of his success in philanthropy may have come from his business background: Munger started out working at a laundry, then eventually managed it for a decade and later opened four dry-cleaning plants. But Munger remains characteristically humble: "That's a lot of suds," he says.

His three daughters have planned a big birthday bash for him. Munger just plans to keep chairing the meetings. Son-in-law Paul Eads, a Lion, tells him: "Do a good job, and we'll keep you on for another year."

**F. Phil Saverino, 100**

**Lion since 1947**

**Grosse Pointe Lions Club, Michigan**

Phil Saverino is a past district governor and past president of the Grosse Pointe Lions Club as well as an MJF. But if you ask him what his favorite Lions achievement is, he's likely to name serving as chair of the Leader Dog Kick-off Luncheon, an annual event that raises money to pay for guide dogs. Incredibly, Saverino chaired the event from 1950 to 1999, stepping down when he was 84 due to health issues. The event has raised more than \$1 million for guide dogs. Says Saverino: "Blind people need a little help. That's why we contribute so much. We figured that was a very important need in life."



Photo by John Minnis, Grosse Pointe Magazine

Saverino has firsthand experience with the disability: he lost his sight in 1994 due to macular degeneration. "I can't read, write or watch TV, but I can see light," he says. "I see figures and shadows. I walk with a cane." However, Saverino has never asked for help from his club: "I wanted to be a giver," he explains.

Saverino also has the help of his wife, Aline, whom he met as a young Marine while on a 72-hour pass from Camp Pendleton. The two danced at a USO club just before Saverino was deployed to the South Pacific during World War II. "I said, 'You know honey, I really like you. If I come back in one piece, can we get together?'" She said, "OK." They corresponded for over a year and a half while he was overseas. When he came back, they got married. "In June, they celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary."

Saverino counts his family and the Lions among his greatest gifts. "The Lord has been really good to me," he says. "I figure I have to give something back."

**David J. Waterbury, 94**

**Lion since 1950**

**Kentville Lions Club, Nova Scotia, Canada**



David Waterbury still is an active participant in meetings of the Kentville Lions Club. "It's a life-giver. I'm pretty much an old standby and observer," he says with a laugh. "I'm amazed by the activities of the Lions club here. They're going all the time."

A past district governor (1964), Waterbury was proud of his well-attended district events and fundraisers. The Kentville club once had 100 members. "It was an enthusiastic club," he says. "Our first major project was for a young man who had lost an eye. We sent him to Boston to get an artificial eye. We raised the money by gathering paper and selling it for recycling."

While most projects were successful, a few were more of a learning experience. At one multiple district event, the Kentville Lions thought they might raise money by selling liquor (the event was on a Sunday, when liquor stores were closed). Waterbury and his young pack of Lions bought a large stash of alcohol and stored it in their hotel room. Nothing about it was illegal. "But we miscalculated," Waterbury says. "People brought their own liquor with them to the event. So for about six months, we were drinking all this liquor we didn't need. We finally got rid of the stuff."



R. Edwin "Ed" Brown, 99  
Lion since 1942  
Monocacy Lions Club, Maryland

Not long after he joined the Rockville Lions Club in 1942, Ed Brown left for World War II, serving with the U.S. Air Force in England. "I was in charge of the utilities at the Air Force base. It had nothing to do with my training or education as a lawyer," he says with a grin. But at least one part of his experience "stuck": Brown met an English girl named Winsome and married her.

Brown returned with her to the United States, where he set up a law practice and transferred his membership to the Monocacy Lions Club in 1946. "It was a really good civic organization," he remembers. "The Lions have done a lot of good things over the years."

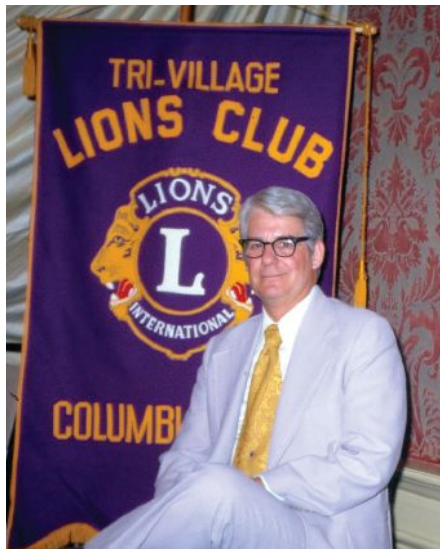
Brown, an MJF, has served in many club leadership positions including treasurer, which he says kept him busy—perhaps too busy. Once, he forgot to pay the gas bill for the town hall they used. At an evening meeting, business went on as usual, until the Lions' wives started to make the post-meeting meal and discovered that the stove had no gas. "We went up to a steakhouse instead, and I paid for dinner," Waterbury says with a chuckle. "I'll never forget that."

Don Keitz (right photo), 89  
Clyde Tipton, 93  
Tri-Village Lions, Ohio  
Lions since 1953

With exceptional resolve and commitment, Lions Don Keitz and Clyde Tipton helped grow a small, local nonprofit into a great gift for those with low vision. In 1960, Pilot Dogs, Inc., based in Columbus, was a fledgling group that trained a few dogs every year to assist blind individuals in maintaining their independence and safety. Pilot Dogs had received contributions from a few local Lions clubs including the Tri-Village Lions, but it was struggling to grow.

In 1960, Tipton, then the president of the Tri-Village Lions, spoke at a state convention and made an impassioned plea to assist Pilot Dogs. The assembly adopted the organization as one of its recognized philanthropies, and Pilot Dogs has grown to serve about 150 people per year. It receives financial support from more than 500 Lions clubs nationwide.

Keitz and Tipton both served on the board of directors for Pilot Dogs. "It was a good feeling," says Keitz, who served as president of the Tri-Village Lions in 1963. "These are very smart dogs. They could have been a Labrador, a German shepherd, a Doberman. A few years



ago they started using a full-bred poodle. These dogs worked out very well."

As for the occasional dog that didn't finish the program, Tipton and his wife took them in as pets. "They were lovely dogs. It was just that they had wandering minds," Tipton says happily.

Both men are retired and living in Ohio. The memories of helping Pilot Dogs will always stay with them. "We were all young, and this idea of helping the blind just fit the spirit of what we were all about," says Tipton. "It was a great experience."



Freeman Boyer (right photo), 94  
Lion since 1951  
R. Spencer Purvis, 97  
Lion since 1941  
Coupeville Lions Club, Washington



On the surface, Freeman Boyer and Spencer Purvis don't have much in common. A farmer, Boyer can give you advice about shearing sheep. ("They don't particularly enjoy it. Hire a professional.") An accountant, Purvis can speak about longevity. ("My niece is actually older than I am. It might run in the family.") But both men agree that serving as Lions is among the most worthwhile activities they've undertaken.

Purvis was nudged into the Seattle Central Lions Club as a young man, where his uncle was the secretary. "He said, 'It wouldn't hurt you to become a Lion. You'll meet some good people.'" He transferred his membership to the Coupeville Lions Club in 1978, where among other projects he coordinated a major garage sale for 15 years.

Both clubs have been a great gift to him. "All the friendships and the things that we did together over the years, it's been most gratifying," he says.

Like Purvis, Boyer has been involved in many projects including the garage sale. He joined the Coupeville Lions at age 24, when the club was meeting at the Methodist church he attended. "It was sort of a package deal," he jokes. After marrying the same year, Boyer eventually ran a 300-acre farm. His wife, Opal, joined a Lioness club, and both stayed busy while raising three children.

Boyer, an MJF, advises young people to stay on the straight-and-narrow, and to join a service club like the Lions. "I managed to stay out of jail," he jokes. "I think being honest is great. I go to church and I belong to a Lions club, which is a good group to be with."



Harry Pinkham, 87  
Lion since 1953  
Boothbay Region  
Lions Club, Maine

While stationed near Seoul in the Korean War, Harry Pinkham rose from a company clerk in the U.S. Army to a section clerk, overseeing daily reports from four companies. When he came home to Maine in

1952, he took his experience with him and helped launch the Boothbay Region Lions Club. Pinkham served as club secretary for 18 years and assisted with numerous fundraisers and projects. He did all this while working as emergency management director of his town for 48 years, an on-call firefighter and policeman for more than 40 years, a member of the Water District Board for 53 years and a participant in many other civic activities.

"He rarely misses a meeting," says Karen Nickerson, secretary. "And he remains active in our service activities."

Pinkham, an MJF, speaks modestly of his service but advises young adults to consider joining the Lions. "Come to the club, and see what we do," he says. "If you want to belong, it's a good fellowship."

John Garvin, 102  
Lion since 1954  
West Mansfield  
Lions Club, Ohio



District 13-E Governor Micheal Gibbs has a cherished memory of John Garvin. "One time, I visited his club when he was only 99 years old," Gibbs recalls. "He stood up and made an impassioned plea for names of people who would make good Lions. He told people he would go out and make the contacts, and do all he could to get them to join."

That enthusiasm has marked Garvin's life as a Lion. "One year, we made a concerted effort to gather used eyeglasses," says Garvin, an MJF. "We gathered over 1,000 pairs within a few months."

Garvin also supports his club's annual Turkey Raffle. "This last November, 101-year-old Lion John was all over, helping out where ever he saw a need," Gibbs says. "We even got him to spin the wheel a few times and call

## STILL ROARING

a couple numbers in between his clearing tables and opening the door, helping to sell tickets and other things.”

Garvin, a former grocery store owner, says being a Lion has always made him proud. “I felt I was of service to my fellow man, locally, nationally and internationally,” he says. “I always liked that. I think the world of the Lions Clubs.”

He has a sense of humor as well. Asked about the secret to longevity, Garvin says, “I just keep breathing.”

**Merlin Carstenson, 96**  
Lion since 1949  
Northeast Tarrant Lions, Texas

Merlin Carstenson was midway through college when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. The same week, he was at the Coast Guard recruiter’s office. The new recruit’s career was short-lived, however, as the Coast Guard discharged him to go to work at an aircraft plant, making a new plane for the Navy, the PB2Y3. “The captain at the Coast Guard told me, ‘If they need you, that’s where you go,’” Carstenson remembers.



That sense of duty has pervaded his life—an ideal quality for a Lion. After three months of hard work on the new plane, plus a stint in the U.S. Navy, he settled down with his wife, Eileen, in Falls City, Nebraska. A few years later, during a busy life as a hog broker in the farming sector, Carstenson joined the Maryville Lions Club in Missouri and later transferred to the St. Joseph Host Club before moving to Texas.

Among numerous fundraisers and projects, he helped Lions partner with the local Lighthouse for the Blind to sell brooms, mops and lightbulbs. “Super-salesman Merlin Carstenson was in the middle of it all,” says Jerome Davis, secretary of the Northeast Tarrant Lions.

Carstenson said he loves the uplifting effect of Lions. He recalls a blind man who told his fellow Lions that his life had been nearly meaningless before he had joined the Lions. “He said, ‘Now, when I walk down the street, I can tell people who are in the Lions club by their voice. I can just converse, and it’s wonderful to be alive,’” Carstenson remembers.

An MJE, Carstenson served as zone chairman and district governor. He still attends Lions meetings, enjoying the camaraderie and sense of service. “They do a lot for people because they really want to do it,” Carstenson says. “That says a lot about them. They’re the best in the world.”

**Ralph Fukumitsu, 94**  
Lion since 1950  
Kona Lions Club, Hawaii

Ralph Fukumitsu remembers his first day as a Lion. “There was an initiation we had to do,” he says. “We were blindfolded and the guy told us we were eating earthworms. I opened my mouth and someone put noodles in there. It was slimy and wiggly. I think I spit it out.”

Fukumitsu says laughingly that he’s pretty certain the Lions “don’t do that anymore.” But what today’s clubs still have in common with the clubs of 65 years ago is a great commitment to service. “We did so many things—built benches for the parks in Kona, did so many projects for the children,” he says proudly. “We must have collected 4,000 to 5,000 pairs of eyeglasses every year that we shipped out to other countries.”



**Wendell Hanson, 96**  
Lion since 1951  
Sioux Falls Downtown  
Lions Club, South Dakota

As a pilot flying a B52 bomber in World War II, Wendell Hanson had many close calls. On missions over China, he flew as low as 150 feet—“below the treetops.” Furious anti-aircraft fire was constant. “I wrecked three airplanes landing them because they had so many holes in them,” he says. On his last mission, he lost hydraulics and lights but managed to crash-land safely with no wheels down.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and numerous other medals, Hanson finally came home from the war, married and had children. He didn’t dwell on his brushes with death. “I just felt like, ‘The war is over; let’s get to work,’” he says.

He started a successful career in real estate. Hanson also joined the Sioux Falls Downtown Lions Club and never looked back. He helped launch the club’s annual Pancake Day, which draws more than 15,000 people to the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Lions on 11 grills flip 10,560 pancakes per hour to keep the line moving.

The fundraiser supports many causes including one of Hanson’s favorites: a project to send doctors to Mexico to assist those struggling with blindness or low vision. “We collect thousands of pairs of eyeglasses and fit people with them in various parts of Mexico,” he says. “It solidifies a person’s desire to stay in the club and help any way they can.”



Fukumitsu, an MJF, is now retired and living in Honolulu. He said being a Lion has been an honor. "Helping your local community and people in other countries who were in need ... that's a good feeling," he says.



**Roy Kern, 92**  
Lion since 1947  
Upper Lehigh Lions Club, Pennsylvania

Roy Kern remembers his early days as a Lion as a time of fun and fellowship with "young fellows like myself." He says cheerfully, "We got interested and joined in with the old people—the ones who were 40 or 50 years old. In my time, that was 'old people.'"

The club grew through a network of relationships. Kern, a foreman in the trucking business, had friends in many professions such as doctors and ministers. "Most of us knew each other. And we had a couple of good salesmen, enticing people to join," he says.

He contributed to projects such as a festival and craft show, breakfast fundraisers at the Schnecksville Fire Company and food trailers at high school football games. There's also the annual Schnecktucky Derby, a live viewing of the Kentucky Derby on a giant TV, with some good-natured betting. "It's a fun night," Kern says. "If your horse wins, you win some money."

All of the club's profits are given to those in need—a rewarding feeling for Kern, an MJF. "It's something different, something interesting," he says. "We all like to work together."

**Willard Keddy, 90**  
Lion since 1951  
Mahone Bay Area Lions Club,  
Nova Scotia, Canada

Willard Keddy was just 19 years old when he crossed the English Channel with the U.S. Army's 66th Infantry—the Black Panther Division—on Christmas Eve, 1944. While the troops were en route to Cherbourg, a German torpedo ripped apart one of their transport ships, killing 14 officers and 748 enlisted men. It was one of the most

tragic and significant losses of the war. "I was one of the fortunate few who survived," Keddy says.

But Keddy didn't let the haunting memories hold him back. Settling in Long Island after the war, he joined the Selven Lions Club and quickly went to work on a colorful array of projects. An annual raffle of a Ford sedan raised money for eyeglasses. "If any of the kids in the schools needed eyeglasses, we were there," says Keddy, president in 1956.

The Selven Lions also provided Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to those in need, receiving names and addresses from local churches. One year, he says, "We went to the wrong house by accident, and when the woman opened the door, we said, 'We're from the Lions club and we would like to present you with a Christmas basket.' She wasn't expecting it, and she cried. She just fell apart. As it turned out, she was a single mother with two little children there. The kids were joyous. It was the best moment of my life."

In 2000, Keddy moved to Nova Scotia, his hometown and transferred his membership to the Mahone Bay Area Lions Club. He's grateful for the opportunity to continue as a Lion. "I look forward to coming to the meetings," he says. "I like being able to help ... to serve others."

**Bruce Kelley, 88**  
Lion since 1952  
Orono Lions Club, Minnesota



Bruce Kelley joined the Lions because, he jokes, a friend was looking out for him. "I was young and foolish, and a friend of mine said, 'We're starting up a Lions club. You'd better join,'" he says. "So I did."

Kelley took part in every fundraiser including an annual variety show called Fearless Frolics. "We did singing and dancing, all that dumb stuff," says Kelley, who once dressed up as Peter Pan to do a send-up on a popular commercial for a peanut butter. "We did have lots of fun."

A past president and treasurer and an MJF, Kelley found that Lions gave him room for creativity. One day, when his granddaughter came home from school, she mentioned that she got a gift certificate for ice cream

because she had been reading every day. Kelley's wife, Irma, also a Lion, said, "We can do better than that."

Working with the Orono Lions Club, the Kelleys created the R.E.D. (Read Every Day) Lions Challenge 14 years ago. First-graders in the Orono School District who read for 20 minutes every day during February receive a \$25 gift card to a bookstore. The program has been so successful that other Lions clubs throughout the nation have replicated it. The Kelleys also organized Orono Reads, which provides reading tutors for second-grade students.

Kelley and his wife treasure the impact of the Lions. "It's always been important to us that we give back to our community," he says.

Bill Teslik, 90 (on Oct. 5)  
Lion since 1954

Conrad "Babe"  
Lederer (photo), 100  
Lion since 1956  
Brandywine Lions  
Club, Maryland

Besides the fact that they're fellow Lions and MJFs, Bill Teslik and Babe Lederer have something in common: blood. Teslik has been organizing Lions' blood drives for 33 years, and Lederer always showed up to donate until some recent health struggles. Teslik says he always appreciated Lederer's



donations. "Blood is so important. They don't make it, you know," Teslik quips.

Teslik's blood drives occur every two months at a local firehouse. Typically, about 50 donors participate. "It's just like a big family affair," he says. "Through the year, we collect around 300 units of blood."

Both Lederer and Teslik carry an ironclad commitment to community service. Besides assisting with Lions fundraisers, Lederer also coached his Lions club's Little League team. His son, Bill Lederer, remembers, "He'd want to have a fundraiser for his baseball team, and the Lions club would step in and say, 'Come on, Babe, we'll help you do that.' He always appreciated that."

"He was quite a baseball player," his son adds. "One time, when he was about 9 or 10, he hit two or three home runs during a game. Someone said, 'Conrad, you hit the ball like Babe Ruth.' And the name 'Babe' stuck."

While Lederer was running a turkey farm, Teslik ran a combination farm and landscape nursery, with which he is still involved. He stays busy. He recently returned from a family reunion in the Czech Republic. "Would you believe I was the oldest descendant there?" he says. Teslik was thrilled to revisit the old family home, which has been standing since 1410. "There were 122 relatives at the party," he said. "They came from all over Europe. You can't imagine how exciting it was."

Teslik said his parents emphasized the importance of education, a value they share with Lions. "When my parents came to this country, they could not read, write or speak English, and they survived by education," he says. "It's something they always stressed, and it's something I passed on to my sons and grandsons. If I ever have a great-grandchild, I hope they will pass this on to their children."

## Honorable Mentions

Minnie Kranzler, 106  
Lion since 1994  
Lehr Lions Club, North Dakota

Minnie Kranzler became a Lion at age 85. "In the first place, I like the people," she says. "I know them all, and they're very nice." Kranzler was following in the footsteps of her husband, John Kranzler, a longtime member of the same club who passed away in 1978. Once in the club herself, Kranzler took a keen interest in its activities. In 2011, she made vegetable soup for a fundraiser to benefit the victims of the Japan tsunami.

"She really enjoys the meetings, the people, the projects," says her daughter, Linnea Veeder. "It's an important part of her life." Kranzler has since relocated to be near her daughter, but has maintained her membership in the Lehr Club. "It's a worthy club," she says. "We help whenever it's needed."

Virginia Carpenter, 100  
Lion since 1987  
Annapolis Lions Club, Maryland

Virginia Carpenter started out as a Lioness in 1987, and when that club folded, she joined the Annapolis Lions Club. Carpenter, who still lives independently, doesn't let age hold her back. "She is a very feisty lady," says Lion Carol Kellner, a longtime friend. "She was an active Lion until a year ago, and she was still driving a car. We live in Annapolis and the meeting wasn't too far away for her to drive."

Carpenter helped organize the club's annual sale of bushels of Florida fruits. "She'd be the person that people would call about that," Kellner says. Today, Carpenter enjoys spending time with her daughters. "They come and pick her up to go do things. She really is self-sufficient. She has a very good attitude toward life."



## Honorable Mention

Ike Fitzgerald, 88  
Lion since 1960  
Midland Downtown Lions Club, Texas

Ike Fitzgerald is multitalented. An aficionado of the bass fiddle and guitar, Fitzgerald joined the Midland Downtown Lions Club “mainly to play in the club band,” says Lion Marshall Cooper, a longtime friend. Fitzgerald is also a paramedic, a real estate investor and an automobile mechanic. He could master large amounts of information and possessed a keen memory. So when he got involved in the club’s eyeglass recycling efforts, he set to work learning how to “read” the prescription level of donated lenses.

“He would pump the doctors for every bit of knowledge he could get from them, then write all this stuff down and save it,” Cooper says. Fitzgerald then shared the information with local doctors, who accompanied club members on trips around the world. “He trained doctors who have gone overseas in how to ‘read’ the recycled glasses to fit kids who need them,” Cooper says. “Ike put a lot of time, energy and money—his money—into this.”

With the help of Midland optometrist Norman Gould, Fitzgerald went on to launch the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, one of the largest centers of its kind. Fitzgerald’s passion for providing the gift of sight, especially to children, is reflected in the first half of his email address: eyeglasslike. “To this day, when he joins us at meetings, he is interested in getting the children’s programs throughout the world,” Cooper says. “He knows if they can’t see well enough to get a good education, they’re not ever going to succeed. Ike is a person who really cares about others.”



Photo courtesy of Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Ruth Olsen, 100  
Lioness/Lion since 1983  
Murrietta Lions Club,  
California



Ruth Olsen became a Lioness in 1983, then a charter member of the Murrieta Lions Club in 1992, where she served as secretary. She worked on the club’s constitution and by-laws for several years, and served as chair of the Scrapbook Committee. Olsen lives in Maine now, but still maintains her membership with the Murrieta Lions Club. “Everything about the Lions Club, I love,” she says. “It’s really a wonderful club.”

Cal Spivey, 97  
Lion since 1969  
Rogers Lions Club, Arkansas

Cal Spivey rarely let anything keep him from a meeting. “He was our song leader for years,” says Jim Secker, a past president. “He was president and tail twister, and has done quite a bit.” Each Christmas, when the club sold fruit and meat baskets, Spivey broke records. “He was always our sales leader,” Secker says. “He was really good.”

Spivey, a retired real estate agent, was attending meetings until this year when he had health problems. His friends in the club know he’s with them in spirit. “If he were able,” Secker says, “he would be there every time, for every meeting.”



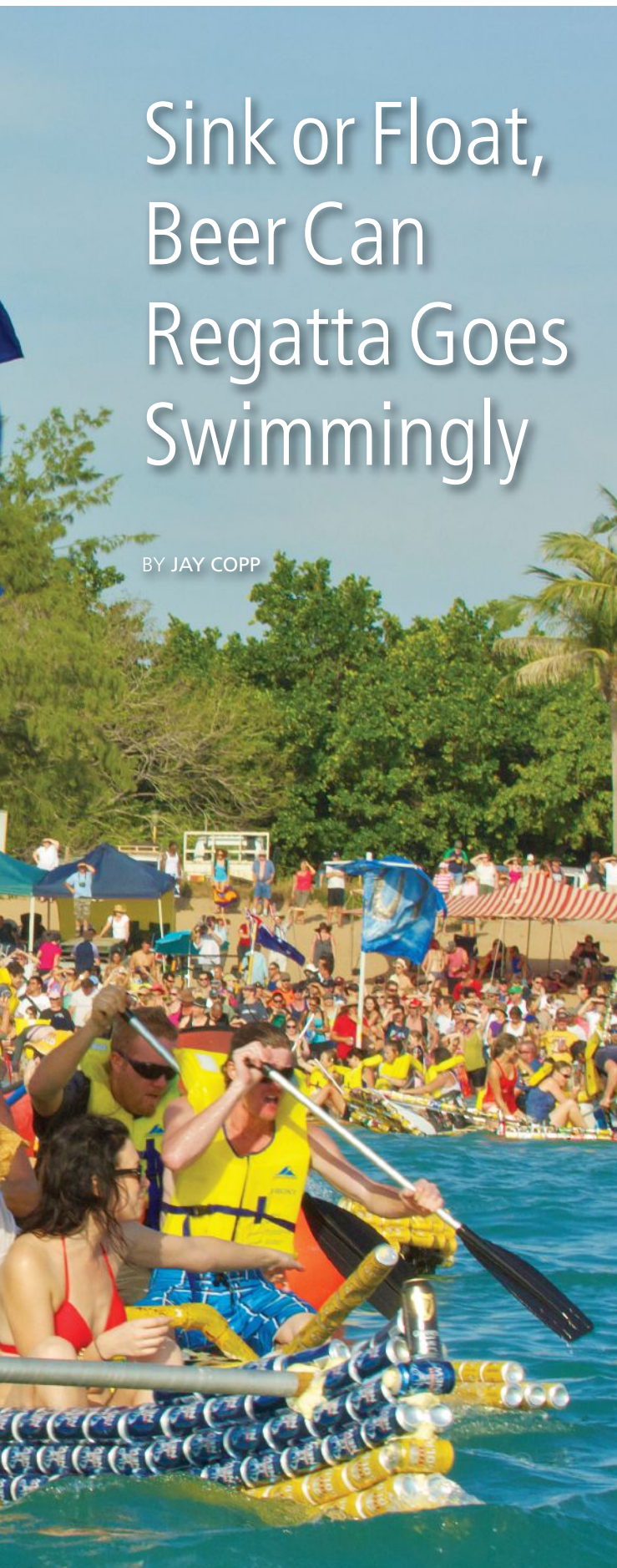


The Beer Can Regatta features large, extravagant boats made from cans and then many smaller, less ambitious crafts like these.



# Sink or Float, Beer Can Regatta Goes Swimmingly

BY JAY COPP



At the Darwin Lions Beer Can Regatta some win, some lose but everyone gawks. Among the vessels was the 600-can "Croc of Ship," roughly resembling a crocodile with a crew sporting nifty crocodile hats. A red boat named the "London to Darwin Celebrity Bus Tour" featured large smiling mugs of Barack Obama, Brad Pitt and George Clooney—posters poking out the top deck. Made from 40,000 cans and able to hold dozens of passengers, the mammoth "Grogmonsta" had a bow decorated with a metal crocodile's face, its mouth spewing a rubber human arm.

Some 15,000 spectators, many with beer in hand, come to watch the 12 to 15 vessels that ply the waters off Mindil Beach on Australia's north coast. The two Lions clubs of Darwin have run the wacky fundraiser since 1978, taking it over from two-suds loving locals who began it four years before to promote tourism and discourage littering.

The regatta is more of a happening than a race. It's equal parts costume party, beach party and love affair with water. Beer cans duct-taped to chests are not uncommon. Loud music roars from boats. Sailors on ships spray high-pressure hoses at approaching jet ski riders, who shoot back. Passengers on one ship, attired nattily in white polos and white shorts, held tennis rackets, which they swatted at one another from either side of a net on an Astroturf-covered barge.

The rules are strict—well, not really. Boats must be made from beer or soda cans, milk jugs, PVC pipe or whatever falls under the command: "thou shall build thy craft of cans." Those who flout the rules are free to sail anyway but are not eligible to win a cash prize in one of several races.

The other "10 can-mandments" of the regatta reinforce the madcap tone of the day. The strictures include thou shalt not drown, thou shalt not take the name of the craft in vain (any craft bearing signs or lettering that may be offensive will be barred), thou shalt not protest too much and thou shalt not commit adultery—"nothing really to do with the Regatta, but it gives us an air of responsibility and respect."

One of the water competitions is all about speed: the first to the finish line wins. The Battle of Mindil, on the other hand, is about everything else: flour bombs, water sprays and any other relatively safe strategy to prevent other boats from being the first to find an object hidden in the water on the course.

Organized revelry also is featured on shore. Boats that fail to float can race in the Henley on Mindil: how fast can a crew race down a beach? Also popular are a tug of war contest, the best novelty hat competition and a kids sand castle competition. And we've barely said a word about the men's and ladies thong throw (don't ask).

Read about past Lions' regattas.

- "Anything goes" in the Springville Lion Regatta in New York (November 1985 LION).
- Regatta in Louisiana draws a crowd 10 times the size of the town's population (November 1942 LION).

## Recipe for Social Media Success

According to Sree Sreenivasan, chief digital officer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, technology journalist and social media authority (sree.net), there's no big secret to social media success. Creating impactful posts that your club's audience will notice, remember and act upon just requires at least one—even better, more than one—of a baker's dozen of characteristics. Before you update that status, Tweet or otherwise post for the world to see, make sure it's:

- helpful
- useful
- informative
- relevant
- practical
- actionable
- timely
- generous
- credible
- brief
- entertaining
- fun
- occasionally funny

## Ready, Set, Blog

Is it time for your club to get on the website bandwagon? Or does your site need a facelift but you're not sure where to start? Consider starting a club blog! Maintaining a blog is an easy way to have an online presence while keeping Lions and community members in the loop. Even the least tech-savvy person can be a blogger, especially when using one of the top free blogging platforms out there.



### Blogger.com

Use a customizable template and have your blog up and running in just a few minutes. Add multiple editors so a team of Lions can update the blog.



### Tumblr.com

A pioneer in "mico-blogging," Tumblr is a cross between blogging and a Twitter feed. Tumblr offers an informal, streamlined approach for those who want to make short but frequent posts.



### WordPress.org

The most popular blogging platform, WordPress offers thousands of themes and plugins created by community volunteers to customize your blog in endless ways.



## Next Best Thing to Being There

Did you miss the convention live stream? You can still catch the action with videos of plenary speeches, election results, the Leo Luau, parade marching bands and more at [youtube.com/lcicon](http://youtube.com/lcicon).



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# Kentucky Children Gain Better Vision

BY CASSANDRA BANNON

Every child in every Head Start program in Kentucky—that’s the new target population for the KidSight program in Kentucky.

Children in Head Start often do not have access to eye health resources. Yet Head Start requires that every child receive a vision screening within 45 days of enrolling in the program. The Lions of Kentucky hope the expansion will fulfill this requirement for 20,000 children. Lions will screen children living in Kentucky’s coal mining communities, from migrant farmworker families and those in impoverished inner city areas.

Lions of Kentucky are being assisted by an LCIF Standard grant for \$92,312. The screenings will be done in partnership with the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation, the Louisville Downtown Lions Club and the Kentucky Head Start Association.

The Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation initiated its KidSight program in 2003. Since then, the program has screened the vision of more than 80,000 children throughout Kentucky.

Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children under the age of five by enhancing their social, emotional and cognitive development. Children enrolled in Head Start programs reside in low-income households; to qualify for Head Start, a family of four’s annual income may not exceed \$23,850.

Typically, vision screenings for Head Start children in Kentucky are performed by local health departments with vision charts. While these charts may be adequate for older children without language or medical barriers, local Lions are concerned about their accuracy in screening infants and children with developmental delays. According to program data, 12 percent of Head Start children have disabilities that impede traditional vision screenings and up to 32 percent have language barriers.

Much of the grant funding was used to purchase non-invasive photoscreening devices. Many Lions clubs use these cameras to conduct their screening outreach activities. The cameras boast a 95 percent accuracy rate and provide immediate results. These devices are useful in detecting nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, lazy eye and other conditions that can be easily corrected if detected early.

Local Lions are visiting Head Start centers throughout Kentucky to conduct screenings for children who might otherwise not be able to obtain them. All children whose

screenings indicate the need for follow-up care are referred to eye health professionals. Head Start staff work to find, secure and coordinate the follow-up care, ensuring that assistance does not end with a vision screening.

During a pilot program in western Kentucky in 2011, 618 Head Start preschool children received vision screenings. Fifteen percent were found to need prescriptive eyeglasses and 5 percent were found to have a serious eye disease.

Felicia Elliot, a nurse and a former Head Start program specialist, says, “This pilot proved to be of great value. I, along with the parents of all 618 of those screened children whose vision was saved are extremely grateful to the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation, the KidSight program and all its wonderful volunteers.”



Lions clubs across the country, like this one in District 14 T in Pennsylvania, host vision screenings for children.



The Lions of Kentucky expect to screen all Head Start children in the state by the end of 2015, after which local clubs will use the cameras for community-wide screenings at churches, health fairs and day care centers.

Information on how clubs can apply for an LCIF Standard grant is at [lcif.org](http://lcif.org). U.S. clubs and districts can visit [KidSight USA.com](http://KidSightUSA.com) to get involved in screening children.



Lions in Austria and Guatemala worked with LCIF to build a new school with classrooms and a sports area.

## LCIF Brings Access to Education to Children in Guatemala

BY ERIC MARGULES

Lions work tirelessly to bring dignity to the world's underserved populations. It's in their nature. So when Lions in District 113-M in Austria learned that children in Rio Blanco—a town in Guatemala's Joyabaj municipality—were attending school in desperate conditions, they pounced on the opportunity to serve.

In 2011, the building constructed to house Rio Blanco's elementary school was intended to be temporary. With little ventilation, the ramshackle structure of wooden planks and corrugated metal struggled to accommodate its 100 students, and offered only one toilet for students and staff to share. Three years later, despite government promises to construct a new building, the shack was still in use.

Dr. Franz Mostegel, district governor of 113-M, knew something had to be done. Working with clubs in his district and the local Guatemala Quiche Lions Club, Mostegel secured a US\$51,000 Standard Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) for construction of a new school building.

The new school includes four classrooms, a sports area, functioning restrooms and a storage room. Situated on land donated to the municipality of Joyabaj, the people Rio Blanco own the school.

To cover remaining costs, the Austrian Lions ran a successful fundraising campaign, raising more than US\$110,000, far exceeding their own expectations. With the necessary funds in place, construction began in November, 2014. Despite inclement weather and the opportunity to earn higher wages elsewhere, many locals pitched in to ensure the building was finished as quickly as possible.

Six months later to the day, with construction completed, Austrian Lions arrived in Guatemala to meet with local Lions, leaders and schoolchildren for the school's opening ceremony.

"I appreciate the generosity of Lions for financing that primary school for our students here in Rio Blanco. The Lions make education possible, and education means hope for a future. We are very proud and thankful," said Mayor of Joyabaj, Sr. Florencio Carrascosa during the ceremony.

Excess funds raised by the Lions that weren't used for construction were put into a scholarship fund to help the school's top graduates attend secondary school in the provincial capital.

For Margarita Escobedo, a teacher in Rio Blanco, the new school means the fulfillment of a dream for her students. "It's like a dream. Now I can teach students in a proper classroom with chairs and desks. And what a wonderful sports field outside. I am so thankful."

The need for education is great, especially in rural areas of Guatemala. But through their service and generosity, Lions have once again proven that where there's a need, there's a Lion.

For more information on Standard grants and to find out how your Lions club can apply, please visit [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org).

## Club News

The **All Nations Lions Club** in **Budapest, Hungary**, cooked and served meals to 300 low-income men, women and children. The president of the Hungarian Chefs Association joined Lions with a team of professional cooks to help cook the pasta dinner that Lions served to their guests. For the past 10 years, the 25-member club has supported a food pantry and organization that finds housing for families in need. The club's efforts to provide free eyeglasses, clothing and food to those who live in poverty cost approximately US\$6,500 annually.



Happy first- and second-graders at Lewiston elementary school in **Michigan** wave their gift certificates for free ice cream given to them by **Lewiston Lions** and **Lionesses** to celebrate the end of school. "We wanted to say thanks for a job well done, enjoy your summer and your ice cream!" explains Lion Jodie Newsome. A total of 228 certificates were distributed to students, faculty and staff.

To honor veterans and commemorate the 70th anniversary of Iwo Jima, the **Fairhaven Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** sponsored floats in their town's Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades. Lions were assisted by volunteers from a high school and Marine Corps League detachment who helped design and operate the float during both events.

Members of the **Poulsboro Lions Club** and **Poulsboro Evening Pride Branch Lions Club** partnered with a Rotary club and U. S. Navy personnel from the Bangor Submarine Base in **Washington**. They collected more than 6,400 pounds of food and \$2,465 in donations at five local supermarkets. The funds and food were donated to the North Kitsap Fishline food bank.

**Rockaway Lions** in **New Jersey** held a holiday party that attracted more than 200 families in need. Guests received a free dinner, and each child received a gift from Santa.

**Chilliwack Mt. Cheam Lions** in **Canada** spend \$4,000 to provide breakfast for needy elementary school students. The students were identified by school staff and now receive nutritious food before school begins.

In **Iowa**, the **Newton Lions Club** donated \$500 to a senior center, profits from a pancake breakfast Lions sponsor.

The **Baton Rouge Lakeshore Lions Club** in **Louisiana** raised \$3,000 by sponsoring a women's tennis tournament. Each player was given a prize drawing ticket for participating, but also received a second ticket by donating a pair of used eyeglasses. More than 150 pairs of donated glasses were collected from participants and attendees. Other significant fundraisers include a spring skeet shoot and poinsettia sale.

The **Odessa Downtown Lions Club** in **Texas** cleared and removed more than 53 bags of trash from a vacant property that had been used as an unsightly dumping ground.

**Marrero Lions** in **Louisiana** have honored first responders on World Service Day by treating them to a lunch of red beans and rice, salad and dessert. Lions served 125 meals to police officers and firefighters.



A teacher helps a table of preschoolers at a daycare facility supported by Lions. When **Henderson Lions** in **Tennessee** learned the school for children from low-income families was facing closure, they rallied to save it along with the city, churches and other organizations. They all united to give the school a new look and support its efforts to provide quality care and learning opportunities for children whose parents have few options. "Everyone in Hendersonville came to the rescue," says Lion Charlie Joseph. "Bobby Fentress, a Lion for 35 years and a painting contractor, sent in his crew and they painted all 11 of the daycare's rooms for free." It would have cost \$10,000 had Fentress not volunteered his time and materials.

**Sebastian Lions** in **Florida** donated \$7,000 to the Indian River County Special Olympics. Lions have so far donated more than \$25,000 to the program in five years by sponsoring "poker runs" in which bikers and bicyclists visit several locations to receive random playing cards. The participant with the best poker hand wins.

The **Phoenix Phil-Am Lions Club** in **Arizona** raised money by preparing and serving a simple porridge called lugaw, described by Lion Macbeth Torno as a "symbol that reminds us there are a lot of people out there who are crying out for help. Lugaw tells us that poverty is very real." Lions expected to make only \$2,000; they quadrupled that amount.



The **Perkasie Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** refurbished a mailbox into a blue and gold eyeglass receptacle that now is prominently displayed in front of the borough hall building. Borough employees helped Lions anchor the receptacle after it was obtained from another club in Philadelphia no longer using it.

In **Illinois**, the **Sandwich Lions Club** gave a \$1,200 donation to Fox Valley Older Adults Services to help the facility replace a leaking roof.

The **Foresthill Lions Club** in **California** partnered with the 4-Wheelers Club to sponsor a pancake breakfast to raise money to bring an allergy alert dog to a 3-year-old who suffers from life-threatening nut allergies. The event was attended by 200 people and raised more than \$6,000.

**Peoria Sunset Lions** and the City of Peoria in **Arizona** united to collect donations from the community and send hundreds of packages to troops stationed overseas. Shipping costs for the goodie-filled boxes cost more than \$5,000.

**Georgia Gwinnett College** has its first Campus Lions club, organized by the **Lawrenceville Lions**. The new club was chartered with 26 members.

The **Bayse-Bryce Mountain Lions** of **Virginia** have helped families in need for 15 years by donating Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. In 2014, food baskets valued at \$9,000 were distributed to nearly 100 families.



**Centerville Lion** Steve Sheckles of **Indiana** helps with a children's game at the club's annual Halloween party for children. Lions and Leos, dressed in costumes, provide treats and games to entertain youngsters and their families at a school gym. Lions have sponsored the party since 1960 with an average attendance of 200 children, says James Resh. "We give out prizes for best costume, and the kids play a lot of games. Their favorite is always the cake walk."

Continued on page 55

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
June 21-25, 2015

### AUDIT

1. Reviewed the audit planning details for the June 30, 2015, financial statement audit for LCI and LCIF presented by representatives from Crowe Horwath, LLP.
2. Reviewed the memorandum covering a review of the Service Organization Report for Paylocity, the Donor Services Audit and a memorandum covering new procedures for the termination of temporary employees.

### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Denied second vice district governor election complaints filed in District 108-LA (Italy), District 308-A1 (Singapore) and District 322-E (India) and declared the following as second vice district governors in their respective districts for the 2015-2016 fiscal year:
  - a. Lion Fabrizio Ungaretti—District 108-LA (Italy)
  - b. Lion Jerrick Tay—District 308-A1 (Singapore)
  - c. Lion Veena Gupta—District 322-E (India)
2. Upheld one second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 324-A8 (India), declared the second vice district governor election in District 324-A8 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year null and void and of no force and effect, declared a vacancy in the office of second vice district governor for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and that the second vice district governor vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the International and District Constitutions and By-Laws, and declared that the filing fee less US\$350 shall be refunded to each of the Complainants.
3. Censured District Governor V.S.B. Sunder for his unlionistic behavior and made him ineligible for a District Governor Team Excellence Award. Rejected the dispute filed in District 324-A1 (India) under the Constitutional Complaints procedure related to the 2015-2016 fiscal year district elections as improper.
4. Removed District Governor S. Arumugam from the office of district governor in District 324-B4 (India) for failure to comply with the International Constitution and By-Laws and policies of the International Board of Directors. Declared that S. Arumugam shall not be recognized in the future as a past district governor by Lions Clubs International or any club or district, and that he shall not be entitled to any privileges of such title.
5. Declared the conciliator's report filed in District 324-B4 (India) as inconsistent with the International and District 324-B4 Constitutions and By-Laws and therefore invalid. Affirmed the elections of the district governor, first vice district governor and second vice district governor held on April 26, 2015 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.
6. Declared the decision of the conciliators to declare the second vice district election in District 301-D2 (Philippines) null and void

inconsistent with the International Constitution and By-Laws and Board Policy and therefore invalid. Recommended that the yes/no ballot contained in the Standard Form District Constitution be utilized by District 301-D2 in the 2015-2016 year elections. Declared the conciliators' decision related to the removal of the Respondent inconsistent with the international constitution and by-laws and board policy and therefore invalid. Upheld the decision of the conciliators that the Respondent violated the Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws.

7. Revised the definition of Good Moral Character in Chapter XV of Board Policy Manual to prohibit membership to individuals who have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude.
8. Revised the secret ballot process in Chapter III of Board Policy Manual to allow the process to be initiated by the presiding officer.
9. Revised the District Governor Suspension Policy in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual to remove a redundancy in the policy and to amend the number of clubs required to request a review under this policy.
10. Revised the Standard Form District Constitution in Chapter VII of the Board Policy Manual to correct a typographical error and update internal references.
11. Established a new Neutral Observer Policy, effective July 1, 2016, in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual.

### DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Appointed Past District Governor Michael Bierwagen to serve as Coordinating Lion for District 123 (Russian Federation) for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Past District Governor Mirela Grigorovici to serve as the Coordinating Lion for the Republic of Serbia on October 11, 2015, for the remaining months of the fiscal year and Past International Director Kalle Elster to serve as Co-ordinating Lion for the Republic of Latvia and assist Past District Governor Fabian Ruesch during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.
2. Amended the DG Team Excellence Award application to require that districts also adhere to the association's constitution and by-laws and policies in addition to meeting the requirements of the award.
3. Revised Chapter V of the Board Policy Manual to place less emphasis on strict club meeting attendance and more emphasis on meaningful involvement in club activities.
4. Revised Chapter VII, Exhibit B. of the Board Policy Manual to also place less emphasis on strict club meeting attendance and more emphasis on meaningful involvement in club activities.
5. Amended Chapter IX of the Board Policy Manual to allow a Coordinating Lion to be appointed when a potential new Lions country is identified instead of waiting for two clubs to be chartered.

6. Made a housekeeping revision to correct a reference error in Chapter IX, Paragraph O.2.d. so the correct paragraphs were referenced.

### FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the FY 2015 4th Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.
2. Approved the final budget for FY 2016 with a deficit of US\$2,842,672.
3. Approved amending The Retirement Income Plan for Employees of the International Association of Lions Clubs (Plan) to offer terminated employees having vested benefits under the Plan the opportunity to withdraw their full Plan benefits in a lump sum in calendar year 2015.
4. Approved a change in board policy effective July 1, 2015, which requires district governors obtain approval from the Travel Department prior to ticketing any fare in excess of US\$1,000. Airfare less than US\$1,000 should be booked at the lowest logical standard or discounted fare by the most direct route for the authorized class of service and period of travel.
5. Approved a change in board policy effective July 1, 2015, to provide eligible past international directors a minimum budget of US\$1,200 annually.

### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. Approved policy empowering the International President to fill GMT and GLT Coordinator vacancies at the multiple district, single district and sub-district levels, when said vacancies are the result of the appointment body's inability to come to consensus on a suitable appointment.
2. Approved policy prohibiting endorsed and certified candidates for international office from serving as GMT International Coordinator, GLT International Coordinator, Family and Women International Coordinator, GMT or GLT Constitutional Area Leader, GMT or GLT Area Leader and GMT or GLT Special Area Advisor.

### LCIF

1. Approved the report of the LCIF Finance Committee.
2. Amended the articles of Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws of Lions Clubs International Foundation, to reflect the revised LCIF Board of Trustees structure.
3. Deleted Chapter XVI of the Board Policy Manual, due to its redundancy to the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual.
4. Amended the Operations and Policy Manual of Lions Clubs International Foundation to reflect the revised LCIF Board of Trustees structure and other necessary housekeeping changes.
5. Approved the 2015-2016 voting members of the Board of Trustees of Lions Clubs International Foundation.
6. Increased the humanitarian grants budget for the current fiscal year by an additional



US\$3.5 million.

7. Approved 54 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totaling US\$3,071,671.
8. Tabled one grant.
9. Extended the Core 4 funding priority status of Lions Quest until June 30, 2018, and Core 4 funding priority funding status of LCIF's diabetes prevention and control program until June 30, 2017.
10. Approved a Core 4 disability grant in the amount of US\$750,000, representing a portion of funding for the Lions-Special Olympics Mission Inclusion program in Brazil.
11. Approved the renewal of the Lions Quest community partnership grants program in the amount of US\$200,000.
12. Approved US\$125,000 in funding for an evaluation of Lions Quest in Finland.
13. Approved a grant in the amount of US\$5,000 for a joint LCIF/MD 111 low vision project in Cuba.

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Approved the formation of a 2015-2016 Family and Women Action Committee, of up to 10 members, as appointed by Vice President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada and recorded with the LCI Executive Committee at their August 2015 meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the formation of Branch Lions Clubs in Cuba and Myanmar, contingent upon receiving approval from appropriate authorities in each country.
2. Approved a working group of Lions and/or Leos to work with the Membership Development Committee and staff to explore concepts and strategies to involve "episodic volunteerism" in Lionism.
3. Approved adding recent policy changes to policy manual, including the processing fee of US\$100 assessed to club charter applications not approved by LCI, and requiring advance payment of US\$30 for adding any additional charter members.
4. Approved policy where any district Lions Clubs International has identified with a prior misapplication of the student membership program, and has more than 5 percent of total membership comprised of student membership, will have all campus clubs in that district, and all traditional clubs in that district with 25 percent or more student members will be placed in status quo, immediately after 45 days of the date of communication informing them of this review.
5. Approved the designation of MD60 under Constitutional Area I, effective July 1, 2015.
6. Approved board policy changes that place less emphasis on strict meeting attendance requirements, allowing for more flexible participation in club activities.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Reduced the number of print editions to four per year for all official editions of LION Magazine beginning January 2018.
2. Eliminated the Order of the Lion medal.
3. Replaced the current awards section of Chapter XX of the Board Policy Manual with Exhibit A to the public relations report.

## SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Selected the 2014-2015 Leos of the Year.
2. Approved a revision to the Board Policy Manual transferring youth programs that are non-Leo related from Chapter XXIII to Chapter I.
3. Approved a revision to the Board Policy Manual Chapter XXIII deleting outdated information on the purposes of the Youth Programs Department.
4. Approved a revision to the Board Policy Manual Chapter XXIII renaming the chapter title from "Youth Programs" to "Leo Club Program" to reflect the current structure.
5. Approved a revision to the Board Policy Manual Chapter I changing all variations of "Youth Programs Department" with "Service Activities Division" to reflect current structure.
6. Approved a revision to the Board Policy Manual Chapter XXIII changing all variations of "Youth Programs Department" with "Leo Club Program Department" to reflect current structure.

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

## Leo of the Year Awards Recognize Superior Service

The following 31 Leos have been recognized as 2014-15 Leos of the Year for their many achievements including their outstanding leadership skills, integrity, participating in school causes beyond their own Leo clubs and the ability to successfully lead in service activities. They are listed by name, club and state/country:

**Emily Moseley**, Lago Vista, Texas

**Alex Lee**, Diamond Bar High School, California

**Kjerstin Williams**, Salsa, South Dakota

**Shaili Kothari**, Pickerington, Ohio

**Brad Pier**, Fort La Boeuf, Pennsylvania

**Marifel Gabriel**, Phoenix Phil-Am, Arizona

**Marah E. Williams**, Catocin High School (CHS), Maryland

**Kendra Beaver**, Danbury High School, Connecticut

**Emily Carrancho**, Stafford High School, Virginia

**Chad Tyson**, Piedmont, North Carolina

**Adela Cano Del Castillo**, Jesus Maria, Peru

**Francisco Diego de Aquino Alves**, Fortaleza M Jones, Brazil

**Dieter Mateus Hennig**, Igrejinha, Brazil

**Sara Amelia Peña Garcia**, La Vega Nueva II, Dominican Republic

**Annalisa Turi**, Massafra Mottola Le Cripie, Italy

**Bruno Silva Soares**, Trofa, Portugal

**Ana Hristova**, Kabadaya, Macedonia (FYROM)

**Frankie Wong Yin Fei**, Queensway, Hong Kong China

**Loke Wai Yew**, Ipoh Unity, Malaysia

**Ryotaro Sakumura**, Toyama Jinzu, Japan

**Maskai Nakamura**, Kyoto Green, Japan

**Wafa Zainab**, Islamabad, Pakistan

**Abarnah Kirupananda**, Colombo Circle, Sri Lanka

**Md. Amzad Hossin**, Dhaka Mouchak North Star, Bangladesh

**Aayush Bagla**, Calcutta Park Avenue, India

**C. Durai Raj**, Tiruvarur Car City, India

**Roshan Barnwal**, Kathmandu Eureka, Nepal

**Akinwale Oluwatosin Dupe**, Ikorodu, Nigeria

**Zied Jerbi**, Bizerte La Galite, Tunisia

**Joel Pattinson-Cashman**, Tropical North, Australia

**Dora Lawrenceia**, Jakarta Kairos Gracia, Indonesia

Watch a video on Leos.

# LION

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11 issues published yearly by

Lions Clubs International

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Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

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http://www.lionsclubs.org

(ISSN 0024-4163) (R-124397233)

(PRINTED IN U.S.A.)

Official publication of Lions Clubs International.

Published by authority of the Board of Directors

in 20 languages—English, Spanish, Japanese,

French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish,

Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese,

Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi,

Indonesian and Thai.

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Yasui, Hokkaido, Japan.

## Anniversaries

### SEPTEMBER 2015

**95 Years:** Akron Host, Ohio; Cleburne, Texas; Fresno Host, Calif.; Lufkin Host, Texas; McKinney, Texas; Youngstown, Ohio

**90 Years:** Argo Summit, Ill.; Barrington, Ill.; Calumet, Mich.; Commerce, Texas; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Martinsville Noon, Ind.; Melrose, Mass.; Minden, La.; Mooresville, Ind.; Princeton, Ill.; Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; Seymour Evening, Ind.; Springfield, N.J.; Wadsworth, Ohio

**85 Years:** Ayer, Mass.; Caldwell, Idaho; Ellsworth, Wis.; Ferguson, Mo.; Lebanon Host, Mo.; Manchester, Ohio; Mason + Dixon, Pa.; Minneapolis, Kan.; Romney, W.V.; South Whitley, Ind.; St. Thomas, ON, CAN; State Center, Iowa; Traer, Iowa; West Des Moines, Iowa; Westfield, Ind.

**80 Years:** Canton, N.Y.; Elwood, Ind.; Gouverneur, N.Y.; Grangeville, Idaho; Lexington, Mass.; Massena, N.Y.; Newton, Texas; Salem Host, Va.; Twin Falls, Idaho

**75 Years:** Crane Noon, Texas; Cushing, Texas; Ellwood City, Pa.; Elsie, Mich.; Estes Park, Colo.; Glenwood, Minn.; Griffith, Ind.; Mount Airy, Md.; Pekin, Ill.; Perryopolis, Pa.; San Antonio Alamo Heights, Texas; Scenery Hill, Pa.; Sherbrooke, QC, CAN; Waynesburg, Pa.

**50 Years:** Cable & Area, Wis.; Central City Centralia, Ill.; Dighton, Kansas; La Crescent, Minn.; Marathon, Wis.; Olympia Capitol City, Wash.; Sartell, Minn.; Seminole, Fla.; St. Jacob, Ill.

**25 Years:** Cambria Heights Jamaica Linden, N.Y.; Corpus Christi Industrial Noon, Texas; Highland Park Phil Am, N.J.; Los Angeles Builder, Calif.; Valley View Tri-Valley, Pa.

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

See the Higher Key Awards.

## Information

### For the Record

As of July 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,370,673 members in 46,509 clubs and 743 districts in 210 countries and geographic areas.



## Club News Continued

Continued from page 51

The **Sonora Lions Club** in **California** collected more than 1,900 pairs of used eyeglasses for recycling. Elementary schools donated 1,100 pairs to collection.

The **Chester Lions Club** in **New Jersey** distributed \$20,000 during last holiday season to area churches and synagogues and other organizations that help people in need.

The **Irving Noon Day Lions Club** in **Texas** made several contributions to community organizations, including a food bank, a veterans group, the Texas Lions Camp and the Lions Sight and Tissue Foundation.

The **Maryville Pride Lions Club** in **Missouri** gave \$500 to the Nodaway County Historical Society to help pay for the heating costs of its museum so

that it can remain open during winter months.

**Dayton Noon Lions** in **Texas** give an annual donation to the foster care agency in their community to buy holiday gifts for foster children.

**Cullman Lions** in **Alabama** united with a local newspaper to sponsor a food drive that provided more than 190,000 pounds of food for families in need. Lions raised \$20,207 for the drive, the equivalent of 141,500 pounds of donated provisions.

**Fenwick Island Lions** in **Delaware** have screened an average of 500 children for vision problems in local schools for the past 20 years.

**Manila Divisoria Lions** in the **Philippines** collected books and encyclopedias for children in a day care facility for families who live in poverty.



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## Club News

Exclusive to the Digital LION

The **Geneva Lions Club** in **Nebraska** pledged \$5,000 to a local Boy Scout troop for its camp building fund.

The **Hardin Lions Club** in **Texas** was offered 20 new girls' bikes by a Walmart store. After Lions picked up the donations, the bikes were distributed among low-income families in the community.

**Dallas Lions** in **Pennsylvania** gave each of two graduating high school seniors a \$500 "book" scholarship to help pay for learning materials during their college studies. The club also donated trees to plant at two elementary schools to celebrate Arbor Day.

**Ledyard Lions** in **Connecticut** distributed \$40,000 to community organizations during a "Night of Giving" celebration.

The **Whiting Lions Club** in **Indiana** donated nearly \$1,000 to a food pantry. Lions collected the funds during a parade.

The **Maryville Pride Lions Club** in **Maryland** gave \$1,000 to a food pantry for meals for low-income children during the summer when they were not able to receive regular school lunches.

**Knowlton Lions** in **Quebec, Canada**, purchased a cake and served more than 400 pieces to residents during a Canada Day celebration in a park. They also gave a \$5,000 donation to a hospital to purchase new ophthalmic equipment.

**Millsboro Lions** in **Delaware** gave two scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

**Falls Church Lions** in **Virginia** awarded five seniors each a \$1,000 college scholarship.



Members of the Caradoc school band play instruments provided by the **Mount Brydges Lions** and **Lioness Clubs** in **Ontario, Canada**. This year, they gave \$3,000 to the band to purchase new instruments; in 2012, the clubs contributed nearly \$9,000 for the same purpose.

In **South Carolina**, the **Pawleys Island Lions Club** gave \$7,500 in scholarships to three graduating seniors.

The **Nicholasville Lions Club** in **Kentucky** gave 100 red, white and blue patriotic caps to residents of a home for veterans.

**Lowell Lions** in **Indiana** gave a \$350 donation to a library to purchase audio and large-print books for visually-impaired patrons. Past donations from Lions, who keep an eyeglass collection box in the main room of the library, include a magnifying reading machine with a 20-inch screen.

**West Salem Lions** in **Wisconsin** sponsored a "Stuff the Bus" campaign to acquire school supplies for low-income families. Included in donations were backpacks, paper, pens, crayons, notebooks and other classroom staples.

The **Natoma Lions Club** in **Kansas** sells annual community calendars for \$5. The calendars list birthdays and other events; 217 were sold in advance for 2016.

**Cal-Mum Lions** in **New York** purchased a \$1,900 heart defibrillator for the Caledonia police department. The life-saving device will be installed in a patrol car.



A 5K Run for Sight sponsored by the **Northridge Lions Club** in **Ohio** raised more than \$1,500.

The **St. Augustine Lions Club** in **Florida** gave \$4,000 to an organization that matches at-risk teens with volunteer mentors to keep them in school.

**Steamboat Ski Town Lions** in **Colorado** donated \$5,000 to help relief efforts after an earthquake struck Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Seal Beach Lions** in **California** covered a 60-foot wall with new paint after graffiti artists "tagged" it. Since 2010, members have covered up more than 3,000 tags in their community as part of their Lions against Graffiti campaign.

Members of the **Perkasie Leo Club** in **Pennsylvania** have a monthly "Service for Others" project in which they package pot pies for a food pantry to donate to families in need.

**Batavia Lions** in **New York** partnered with police and a community organization to sponsor five bike safety programs for children.

**Dexter Lions** in **Michigan** gave each of seven graduating high school seniors a \$1,000 scholarship and a \$500 scholarship to a graduate entering a skilled trades program.

In **India**, the **Siliguri Lions Club** in partnership with Siliguri Metropolitan Police planted 1,000 saplings on and near the police offices.



Thirty students from 17 countries who participated in the 36th annual Youth Exchange Program of District 24 D in **Virginia** say farewell on their final night in the United States. The young people capped off their stay by performing in a talent show sponsored by the **Warwick Lions Club**.

Nearly 1,500 children's books were donated by Lions, Lionesses, Leos and guests attending a **Multiple District 22** convention. The books were later distributed to schools, bookmobiles and libraries in the **District of Columbia, Delaware and Maryland**.

The **Chapel Hill Lions Club** of **Indiana** gave six scholarships totaling \$9,000 to six deserving high school graduates.

**Lions in District A-9 in Canada** collected 500 used bicycles for "Cycle Recycle" to provide transportation and possibly employment for South Africans in need. Members of the Tiverton and District Lions Club packed them into a shipping container. The shipping cost of \$6,000 was also donated by Lions and clubs throughout the district.



Lions from the **Camden, Lexington and Mt. Horeb Lions Clubs** in District 32 D in **South Carolina** united to help build a wheelchair ramp for a woman who broke both legs and was confined to a wheelchair. In addition to several Lions, church members and others completed the project in a day.



## These Boots are Made for Serving

Mark Roth, first vice district governor for 2 S2 in Texas, ordered personalized Texas cowboy boots in anticipation of serving as district governor during the Lions' centennial. He's been a member of the Houston Heights Lions Club since 2004.



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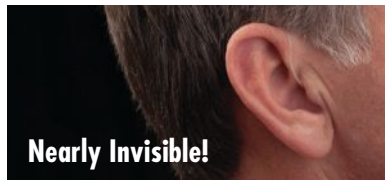


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