

M.D. "A" Edition  
October 2010

# THE *Lion*

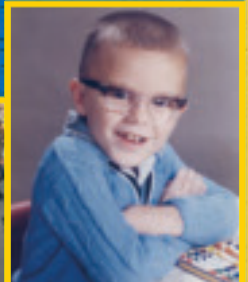


We Serve

## Multiple District 'A' Governors' Council



2010-2011



## The Lion Editor has a scoop



**Lion Ted and Lion Sally cutting the ribbon**

The Lion Editor has a scoop – Lion Ted and Lion Sally Hughes were caught cutting the ribbon and sitting in a new boat that has been donated ‘anonymously’ to Lake Joe.

Lake Joe is the CNIB facility found on Lake Joseph in Ontario’s Muskoka region.

Sorry Lion Ted, we couldn’t keep quiet about this.



**Sally and Ted on the maiden cruise**

## Lions Join With OVIG Members For a Round of Golf

On Saturday September 18, 2010 **Port Dover Lions Bob Pomeroy** and **Walter Rickerman**, **Windham Township Lions Brian Edwards**, **Dorothy Stedman** and **Past District Governor A2 Les Stedman**, **Waterford Lions Gord Vanden Beukel** and **Kerry Bushell**, joined with members of OVIG (Ontario Visually Impaired Golfers) at Woodside Greens Golf Club, west of Simcoe, ON for an informal round of golf. One Lion member joined each foursome for an “18 hole scramble”.

OVIG is a Chapter of the Canadian Council of the Blind that exists to bring blind and visually impaired people in Ontario together to learn and play the game of golf. We believe that golf is a sport/activity in which blind and visually impaired people can fully participate, thereby realizing social, physical and psychological benefits. As a

charitable organization, we organize and subsidize specialized instruction and opportunities to play.

With 2010 being OVIG’s 20th anniversary, awareness of the organization has been a priority. The Lions who participated expressed amazement at the skill level displayed by their visually impaired hosts. Lion Brian Edwards, who along with OVIG member Mike Vrooman and his wife Diane arranged the event, expressed the gratitude of the Lions present for including them in the event.



**Left to right back row - Port Dover Lions Bob Pomeroy and Walter Rickerman, Windham Township Lion Brian Edwards, Diane Vrooman, Windham Township Lions Dorothy Stedman and Past District Governor A2 Les Stedman, Waterford Lions Gord Vanden Beukel and Kerry Bushell, Front Row: Mike Vrooman and President Gary Saxon, Ontario Visually Impaired Golfers**



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**The Amaranth Lions Club wild balloon creation for the A-9 convention parade.**



# THE Lion



*W*elcome to the October Edition of **The Lion**.  
 To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please contact your District Reporter (Pg 30) and please remember to check your camera settings to ensure highest resolution pictures.

**We Serve**

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**Sid L. Scruggs III**  
**Lions Clubs International**  
**President**

## Service at the Forefront for Lions

A few years ago I took part in an eyeglass mission. Some of the elderly people we helped had not seen well in years. Well, you can imagine their joy when their vision was improved. I will never forget one grandmother who eagerly gazed at photos of her grandchildren. Tears rushed down her cheeks. I was choked up myself. When you can see how you have helped someone, there is no better feeling. That grandmother got her sight back, but my eyes were opened, too. I really understood the value of service and the importance of Lions.

This October I am asking Lions to consciously make a service commitment. Certainly, Lions exemplify selfless service. But Lions and clubs can

take their service to another level. We do a great job but we still can do more. Lions are the kind of people capable of expanding the range and depth of their service.

The service commitment complements the global service action campaigns this year. I am urging Lions to provide service related to youth, sight, hunger and the environment during specific times of the year. We serve better the more we serve.

Let's remind ourselves we are all about service. Perhaps the fellowship is what attracted some of us to Lions. We don't want to discount the satisfaction we gain from our Lions friends. But Lions remain Lions because of the satisfaction we get from service. If we weren't making a difference in people's lives, we'd be another social organization such as a dance or travel group. But we are Lions and service is our calling card.

I believe we write our own destinies and craft who we are. So in October I urge each Lion to make a conscious decision to become even more involved in club activities. Please formalize this renewed

commitment by completing the Lions online service commitment pledge. (Go to [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and search for service commitment pledge.) Completing the pledge will give you an extra impetus to become more involved in club activities. The end result will be that someone in your community will have a better life and you will smile or even tear up realizing the difference you have made.

Clubs also should take part in the commitment to service campaign by assessing their level of service, the needs of the community and the steps to be taken to expand their service. They should pay particular attention to their signature service project or implement one if they don't have one. A club should have a project for which it is widely known and admired. Such projects enhance our visibility, increase the pride of members and serve as a rallying point for the club. Signature projects boost our image and our capabilities.

So next month let's be the best Lions and clubs we can be by purposely committing ourselves to service. Let's be who we are – Lions.

Many assume that people of great accomplishment celebrate personal success, but you may be surprised to realize that success without service is often meaningless. Albert Einstein once said, "It's high time that the ideal of success should be replaced by the high ideal of service." Success can't be confined to individual achievement. Albert Schweitzer said, "I don't know what your destiny is going to be but one thing I do know is that those who are successful have sought and found how to serve."

Lions, this year we are shining a beacon of hope by highlighting our service. Let's remind ourselves why we became Lions and why we are Lions today. Do you view your membership as an obligation to attend or as an opportunity to serve and to be a beacon of hope for your community? Let your commitment to serve radiate from your heart and gain personal

satisfaction from having made a difference to someone in need.

In November, December and January, as we celebrate the holidays of various traditions, I am asking Lions to shine the light on feeding the hungry. I've seen how effective Lions can be in this regard. In Amsterdam I met two brothers who were forming a Lions club for the purpose of starting a food bank. In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I met a remarkable woman. Lion Uma and her club feed 100 people a day; some of them are blind and all are poor. I asked her how she got started. She told me, "Well, one day I saw a young boy sifting through a garbage can in search of food for his family." She saw a need and she responded.

We know in nearly every community there are food-related needs. We need to be alert to the need and be willing to respond to meet the need. Your

response to such a need may be to start a food bank or contribute to one. Your response may be to deliver food baskets or even adopt a family for the holidays. Be willing to give from your abundance of time and energy to someone who is lacking. Make our motto of service a meaningful reality each day. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others." As Lions let us always find ourselves serving others from our heart, making our communities better places to live and being a beacon of hope.



**Sid L. Scruggs III**  
Lions Clubs International President

## Greetings from your MDA Council Chair.

For those of you who met 2010-2011 International President, Sid L. Scruggs III, you know of his passion for the Lions and the Lions family of Multiple District "A".

President Scruggs and Judy conveyed the vision of "A Beacon of Hope" in Kingston at our M.D.A. convention and further shared with hundreds at the 93rd International convention in Sydney, Australia.

International President Scruggs has asked us to let the light of service shine brightly, recognizing that Lions are like lighthouses, a beacon of light to those in need.

Your Multiple District council is prepared to work together as we shine a light on challenges and turn these into opportunities. The local clubs: the grass roots of this great Multiple District have amazed us in

the past and continue to work together as "We serve", our communities, our country and the world.

We look to the wisdom of the past. We envision growth, change, care, and compassion, as we move ever forward.

Our Multiple District covers a wide range of climate, geography, history, attitudes and concerns. The first MDA council meeting was a remarkable example of setting aside regional differences and listening and learning and working together for the benefit of our Multiple District.

At that first council meeting in September our Council of Governors was challenged with making decisions that could affect our Multiple in years to come and they responded with thoughtful, careful deliberations and without reservations, all for the

good of MDA. If that meeting is an example of things to come for the next Lions year, this Multiple is in good hands.

Thank you to all the committee chairs who work diligently on our behalf. They gather and disseminate information and data and share the results with all of us.



**Lion John Buchner**

**Lion John Buchner**  
MDA Council Chair 2010-2011  
*We are "A Beacon of Hope"*



**We Serve**

# Highlights of the September 2010 Meeting of the Governors Council

The first meeting of the 2010-2011 Council of Governors was held on September 11th at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Markham. The following represents the topics of general interest raised during the meeting:

**MD "A" Life memberships** - Four new MD "A" Life Memberships were approved.

**MD "A"** - Council directed that MD "A" should proceed with incorporation.

**Camp Liaison** - District Governors support promoting Lions getting behind the Pepsi Challenge voting for Camp Dorset to replace outdated dialysis machines (link - <http://www.refresheverything.ca/familyvacationfordialysispatients>)

**LCIF** - An application has been made to Canada Revenue Agency for charitable status which, when approved, will enable Lions to issue a charitable receipt for donations made here in Canada to LCIF.

**International Advisory Committee (IAC)** - Council endorsed the IAC recommendation to support PID Barry Palmer from Australia as 2nd Vice President LCI for 2011/2012. ID Carl Young will be the International Guest Speaker at the 2011 MD "A" Convention and IAC, once again has agreed to

host the Friday luncheon.

**2014 International Convention Committee** - The following Lions were approved as sub chairs on the 2014 Committee: Transportation - PDG Alex Watson, DGE Seminars - PDG Tom Colton, Publicity - Lion Ted Rypma, Legal Advisor - PID Art Woods, and Chairman successor (in event ID Carl Young cannot complete term) - PDG Stan Durward. PDG Derek Bloomfield had already been approved as Co Chair.

**International Director for Canada** - Reported on the implications of the new relationships between MERL and GMT. The MERL program will continue in MD "A" for the balance of this year. In other multiples the GMT program starts now.

**Lions Foundation of Canada** - MD "A" donations to LFC increased by 71.31% last year over previous years. The Rededication Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday June 4, 2011.

**LION Magazine** - Additional funding was approved so that a 28 page issue can be published in October to reduce the backlog of district submissions. This was brought about by the large LCI content mandated for inclusion in the August edition.

**MERL** - \$1,000 payment approved to each district (\$2,000 for A5) for use in MERL related activities.

The general format for information sessions offered at last year's MD "A" convention will again be implemented for this year. MERL Workshop dates for this year: October 16/17 and May 14/15 both in Markham.

**Sight Conservation** - The I Factor winner at this year's CNIB talent contest was Lucas Haneman from Kanata. 2011 marks the 50th Anniversary of Lake Joe.

**Opportunities for Youth** - The Effective Speaking Contest is scheduled for April 30, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Select in Toronto, Youth Exchange is looking into developing a Winter Camp, the Blind Essay Contest has now been added to the OforY portfolio and coordinated by PDG Ellen Fletcher. More information on the program will be available to districts shortly.

**Lions Quest** - Council approved a 2-year loan of \$70,000 to Lions Quest. Letters to clubs on this topic will be sent shortly. There will no longer be a reference to Thrive.

**For more information, questions or concerns relating to these highlights please contact MDA Secretary Dave Voisey at [dvoisey@rogers.com](mailto:dvoisey@rogers.com) or 613-843-1687**

## Fighting Blindness Through Training

SightFirst is fighting blindness by shining a light on training.

The Korat Public Institute of Public Health Ophthalmology at Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Regional Hospital in Thailand is a leading example of the impact training eye care specialists has on blindness prevention. The program at Korat attracts students from all over Asia. The students receive comprehensive training in eye care service and delivery. Many come from areas with minimal eye health services and with vast eye health needs.

"I decided to learn about refractive error and low vision in this program because it affects many people in my country and around the world," said Wauti Laka of Cambodia, a recent graduate of the Korat program.

The training of eye care professionals has always been and remains a central component to SightFirst's fight against blindness. To date, more than 345,000 ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses, professional eye care workers and village health workers have been trained through funding from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

Since 1993, SightFirst has approved 11 grants totaling US\$1.5 million to the Korat Institute. The program provides training that builds and strengthens human resources, including both national health managers and mid-level ophthalmic personnel, to prevent blindness.

The benefits of the course extend well beyond the borders of Thailand. When the national program managers return home, the trainings are adapted and

implemented into country-level plans. The knowledge needed to impact the fight against blindness reaches more people.

"Korat graduates are all at very key positions in their regions, within the Ministries of Health, as well as in the local eye care institutions," said Dr. K Konyama, director of the Korat Institute of Public Ophthalmology, "In addition, they are all continuing to work for the future success of blindness prevention and eye care system development."

Through SightFirst grants, the program has trained about 300 people from 17 different countries. Students have come to the program from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

LCIF, along with the help of Lions worldwide, continues to prevent blindness and restore sight through the training of eye care specialists who will sustain and enhance eye care services well into the future.



**Korat students screen a boy.**

## Russell Lions Club

In support of the Russell Horticultural Society's beautification program in McDougall Park, the Russell Lions Club provided the society with a \$40K donation enabling them to erect a free-standing stone bridge. The bridge (built without any cement) is the only free-standing bridge in a public park in Canada and has quickly become a focal point for wedding pictures and other family events in the community. Pictured below are some members of the Russell Lions Club on the new bridge.



In June the Russell Lions Club held a celebrity dinner honouring Dr. Gerry Haymans, a local community doctor celebrating 30 years of serving the people of Russell and surrounding areas. The event raised \$33,000 and was donated to the Winchester Hospital for the upgrade of the Ophthalmology unit.

*Submitted by Lion Julius Toth*

## LCIF to Fight Measles with Gates Foundation

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is working with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the Measles Initiative to protect children from measles and increase routine immunizations. Four African countries have been chosen for a special Lions-Measles Initiative pilot program, funded jointly by LCIF and the Gates Foundation.

"Lions have always been committed to saving sight at all levels in communities," said **Eberhard J. Wirfs, LCIF chairperson**. "I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of measles and other diseases, and Lions will play a prominent role in fighting this disease and preventing childhood blindness."

According to the World Health Organizations (WHO), measles is a highly contagious viral disease transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth and throat of infected persons. Although vaccinations are readily available in developed countries, the disease remains a heavy public health burden in developing countries. The disease can be prevented altogether through vaccination. It is also a major cause of preventable blindness, particularly among children, affecting the same underserved populations. There are an estimated 30 million to 40 million cases of measles each year, resulting in nearly 750,000 deaths. During 2001-2008, global measles mortality declined by 78 percent, from an estimated 733,000 deaths in 2000 to 164,000 in 2008, yet the reduction in measles mortality has been leveling off since 2007.

"We are coming to this area to accelerate the vaccination program to reach more people and stop

measles from coming back again and again," said **Lion Dr. Tebebe Berhan**, project chairperson in Ethiopia.

The Measles Initiative is a long-term partnership among world leaders in public health that aims to globally reduce the number of deaths from measles. UNICEF, WHO, the American Red Cross, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the United Nations Foundation are among the organizations supporting these efforts.

To support the Lions-Measles Initiative pilot program, the Gates Foundation awarded a \$400,000 grant to LCIF, and LCIF will contribute an additional \$300,000.

"Mali by itself cannot face this problem because it's not only a Mali problem. This is why partnership is very important. The more people we have, the better it is for us," said **Lion Mama Tapo**, project chairperson in Mali.

Lions will focus on three main areas: advocacy at the local, regional and national levels; direct involvement in social marketing and vaccination activities; and financial support. Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali and Nigeria will host the first four pilot programs. These countries have been identified by WHO and UNICEF as priority countries given the high rate of measles and the need for increased vaccinations and overall strategy to decrease the rate of deaths. Lions' leadership teams in the four pilot countries will coordinate program implementation and documentation of activities through the beginning of 2011.

"Lions have been known for playing a role in the eradication of preventable blindness in Nigeria, all over Africa and the whole world," said **International Director H.O.B. Lawal**, project chairperson in Nigeria. "Now Lions are coming with this Measles Initiative. I feel very, very proud to be part of this moment."



**Children in Ethiopia and three other African nations will receive measles vaccinations through a new LCIF partnership effort with Gates Foundation for the Measles Initiative. Children are most at-risk for the disease.**

## Building a Playground for Amber

by Alecia Dimar

Just one year ago, 7-year-old Amber Farlow was unable to walk and confined to a wheelchair. Today, Amber knows the joy of walking on her own, using a cane that she calls her "magic stick." Her mobility would not have been possible without Lions. A new playground was constructed at Amber's school, supported by **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)** and local Lions of **Multiple District 201 in Australia**.

"Thank you so much, Lions, for what you have done for the school, my daughter and everyone there," said Michelle Farlow, Amber's mother. "It's absolutely amazing. It's made them happy children who enjoy their lives a lot more."

Amber has many medical needs. Born with breathing difficulties, she remained in the hospital for the first 18 months of her life and has survived 55 operations. She still requires assistance from a machine for a majority of the day and night to breathe. Despite all her medical complications, Amber radiates an unmatched spirit.

When Lions approached the Gosford East Public School, which Amber attends, about building a special needs activity center, staff enthusiastically accepted their offer. Such a playground was previously a dream for the staff and children. But

through support from Lions and LCIF, it quickly became a reality.

"It's just amazing to see that the work and money from around the world makes a difference all over the world. I never thought it would happen to our little community here," said Graeme McLeod, principal of Gosford. "Lions do make a difference. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing to make a difference. I thank all Lions."

Without funding from LCIF, the dream would have never become a reality for Amber and all the other special needs children at the school. The center cost nearly US\$170,000 to construct, well beyond the local Lions' funding capabilities. That is when Lions reached out to LCIF for support and received a US\$57,596 grant to construct the playground.

"I am just ecstatic about the playground. It's probably beyond my expectation and I've been involved with it right from the beginning. But when you see the kids, particularly the kids in the wheelchairs and walking devices, it's just a fabulous feeling to see the results of our work," said **Jeff Kukura** of the **East Gosford Lions Club**.

Lions are dedicated to helping disabled people. Through the efforts of LCIF, local Lions and the

community, special needs children such as Amber are given the opportunity to experience a playground in the same way her non-disabled classmates do.

Amber's story inspires Lions to continue serving people with special needs. Still, LCIF cannot do it alone. We need your support to make even more sensations happen. Together, we can bring hope to all the Ambers of the world.



**Amber plays in the sensory corner of the activity center.**



# Global Service Action Campaigns Light the Way

Service initiatives and seasons have much in common. **President Sid L. Scruggs III** has issued a call for global service action campaigns—four of them—during his presidential year. Shining a light on service is the goal, and each of these quarterly campaigns will help the Lions' beacon burn a little brighter. For people in need all over the world, these seasonal global campaigns will each focus on a specific need. The world may revolve around the sun, but Lions' projects have always been moved by human need and how to meet these growing challenges.

In August, Lions were urged to *Engage Our Youth* by involving Leos and other young people in service activities. Next month, *Sharing the Vision* highlights our specific goal of helping the world to see, a mandate that has been central to our core foundation since Helen Keller first challenged Lions to become "Knights of the Blind" in 1925. Many Lions clubs have year-round sight activities, but since World Sight Day is held in October, this presents an ideal time to put the spotlight on these pursuits.

The world will be watching as Lions focus attention on preventing blindness and promoting clear vision. Scruggs and his wife, Judy, will take part in a celebration Oct. 7 and 8 in Osaka, Japan, marking the 12th year of Lions' worldwide participation in this global event. One planned activity is helping to inaugurate a new feature at a local zoo with the mayor, a Lion, that will add to the enjoyment of visually impaired and blind visitors. Another is donating equipment to a school for the blind. Several outreach events are also scheduled to

be held at the Nippon Lighthouse for the Blind.

Involve the whole community in your club's efforts to share the vision. Plan an eyeglass collection campaign or an activity to benefit the visually impaired. Sponsor a vision screening or a hands-on service project that helps a blind citizen, such as making home repairs or other useful acts. Recognize and thank all those who help Lions throughout the year with their support and participation in projects that help those in need. Lions do, of course, work year-round on sight projects, but October's service action campaign is a time to recognize and renew that commitment to saving and restoring sight.

In December/January, let's shine our Lions light on *Relieving the Hunger*. With the global economic downturn, more families are finding it as difficult to put food on the table at the end of the year as it is in the beginning. No child should go to bed hungry. It's estimated that more than one billion people live in a constant state of hunger. A total of 15 percent of those suffering live in developed countries.

Malnutrition stunts minds and bodies. It disrupts lives and learning; it destroys the future before children have an opportunity to even know what they're capable of achieving. Plan projects that will help feed those in need. Support hunger relief organizations and local food pantries. Collect food and nourish people today so they can find the strength for a healthier and better future.

*Protecting our Planet* is April's service campaign. Adopt a stretch of highway to clear of debris and litter. Pick a park to beautify. Plant a community garden. Collect laptop and cell phone batteries for

proper disposal and recycling. Many unused cell phones are proving to be lifelines for victims of domestic violence when they are donated to police departments. Check to see if your community has a need for these older devices.

We're known worldwide for our commitment to helping others. These global service action campaigns will change even more lives. Share the vision in October, and keep the Lions light shining brightly on what has always been at the heart of our association: helping others see. With more than 314 million people living with low vision or blindness, Lions continue as a beacon of hope. Each global service campaign is a reminder of how and why we serve.

**For more information and campaign updates, visit [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) or contact [programs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:programs@lionsclubs.org).**



**Valencia El Trigo Lions in Venezuela provide glasses to children after a vision screening.**

## Raising Awareness, Reducing Blindness by Nicole Brown

Doug Martin is a school bus driver, so he was surprised when he failed a visual acuity test at a Lions' screening in Camperdown, Australia. He was immediately referred for a comprehensive eye examination, and the eye doctor determined that he had cataracts in both eyes. After undergoing surgery and receiving glasses, he was able to return to his job.

Martin is not the only one with undetected vision problems. In fact, 153 million people are visually impaired because of near-sightedness, far-sightedness or astigmatism. Yet almost all of them could have normal vision with eyeglasses, contact lenses or refractive surgery.

That's where Lions come in. Lions have long played a key role in preventing blindness, both in their local communities as well as globally. Through SightFirst, Lions develop and implement projects that save sight, raise awareness of eye diseases and educate communities on preventative programs.

Lions are leading these efforts and are having great results. Hundreds of thousands of people have had their eyesight saved or restored at an average cost of US\$6 per person.

The Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) is one example of how Lions raise awareness of eye health and disease prevention in their communities. Begun in the United States, the program also has had great success in Turkey, Japan, Canada, Fiji and Australia.

Launched in 2000, the Australian LEHP program has galvanized Lions. LEHP there has established paid and volunteer management positions, created a wide range of materials in multiple languages and coordinated regular public events. Lions have made the program a permanent, ongoing program of the multiple district. Through LEHP Martin and many others have been screened and had their vision saved or restored.

Lions World Sight Day is another example of Lions' efforts to raise awareness of eye diseases and promote the need for regular eye exams. For more than 12 years, Lions have conducted special sight-related projects during the month of October. World Sight Day has since become an international event of Vision2020 in which other blindness prevention non-governmental organizations also participate. This year's Lions World Sight Day event will be held in

Osaka, Japan. Lions will hold events and provide equipment for the visually impaired at a zoo, a school for the blind and visually impaired and the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Through Lions' SightFirst efforts, such as the Lions Eye Health Program, Lions World Sight Day and other outreach efforts, Lions are raising awareness and reducing blindness on a global scale. By successfully raising more than US\$200 million through Campaign SightFirst II, Lions will remain leaders in eye health promotion and disease prevention.



**Lions in Turkey provide educational materials through the Lions Eye Health Program.**



# I Got my Glasses from Lions...and went on to be a success

Those Thousands of Boys and Girls Who Get Their Glasses from Lions? They Often Grow Up Grateful and Successful.

by Maria Blackburn

Thousands of times every month, Lions clubs provide eyeglasses to people who need them.

It is a small deed with enormous impact. When the Lions give someone a pair of eyeglasses, the gift is bigger than just two lenses and a frame, says George Walter, a South Daytona, Florida, property manager who received glasses from the Lions in 1954. They opened up a whole new world.

"I didn't realize what I couldn't see until I got glasses," Walter says. "All of a sudden things other people took for granted, like bees and flowers, I could see."

It's not a gift that gets forgotten. From a mayor in suburban Illinois to a Russian-born author now living in California to a veteran Chicago journalist, decades later they remember the difference that glasses from the Lions made in their lives.

## **Dale Bowman, Chicago, Illinois**

Dale Bowman's work as a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times has him combing fields, streams and mountains for good stories. One week might find the award-winning outdoors writer hiking through woods to write about fishing in Monster Lake, another week he's chronicling the tale of a forager's massive morel.

Being a good reporter isn't just about writing, it's about listening. The idea is to make a connection with people so they share their stories. Sometimes when they do, the writer has an opportunity to share his, too.

That's what happened 20 years ago when Bowman was working on a profile of Paul Martin, a well-known wrestler and TV personality. The men met over breakfast and during the interview Martin told the reporter he was writing a book about the history of Lions Clubs International. The two started talking about the Lions and the conversation sparked a memory of Bowman's about something meaningful the Lions had done for him a number of decades before.

Bowman was a country kid growing up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the fifth of six children. He had just started first grade and was in tears every day at school. "Nobody could figure out why," he says. "Then my best friend Johnny King figured it out. I'm not sure how. I was crying because I couldn't read the blackboard."

The 6-year-old needed glasses. But his family had no money to buy them. "My father worked in a stone quarry and probably wasn't bringing home much more than \$100 a week at the time," says Bowman, 52. "The cost of glasses was so much there was absolutely no chance we were going to be able to afford them."

The school nurse referred the boy to the **Salisbury Township Lions Club** and before too long, Bowman had his glasses. They were thick with heavy, black rectangular frames. Kids at school made fun of the

way he looked, but he didn't care. He could see.

Soon after he got his glasses, his dad was made foreman of the quarry and Bowman no longer needed help from the Lions. He grew up, finished school and forgot all about his Lion's glasses until his meeting with Martin 16 years later. "He reminded me of where I came from," he says. "It made me realize that I had reached a point in my life where maybe I should probably start thinking about giving something back."

Since then, whenever Bowman encounters Lions selling candy, he searches his pockets for money. Instead of tossing in coins, he tosses in paper bills. And whenever he has one, he'll contribute a \$20. "They always look twice when I drop a \$20 in, but that's my way to pay back."



**Outdoors writer Bowman displays a smallmouth bass he caught near downtown Chicago. Lions provided him with his first pair of glasses when he was 6.**

## **Paul Brads, Lawrenceville, Georgia**

Paul Brads never thought he was poor. Sure there were five kids in his family and his father's work as a Baptist preacher didn't pay much. But growing up in Germantown, Ohio, there was always food on the table, clothes and shoes to wear, library books to read.

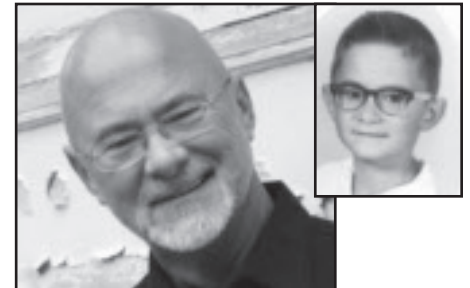
On a warm May afternoon in 1961, the last day of third grade, Brads' father picked the 8-year-old up early from school and drove him 12 miles to Dayton to get his first pair of glasses. The retired phone company manager remembers how exotic it felt to ride the elevator to the optician's office on the 15th floor. And he recalls how sharp and clear the world looked through his new lenses. "It was so cool," he says. "Colors were brighter. The trees weren't just big circles. I noticed the shapes of the leaves. Even the fabric in my Dad's car seemed different."

Brads never asked where his glasses came from: He just assumed that his parents bought them. It wasn't until he was in his 20s that his sister Zola told him that the Lions were behind the purchase. "Why didn't you tell me?" Brads remembers asking his father. "Well, I guess it's just because you liked for things to be better than they were," he was told.

He considered what his father said for a minute and realized that he was right. "I was a happy kid but more than anything I always wanted to fit in," says Brads, now 58 and the father of two grown children. "I would have been chagrined if anyone had

perceived me as poor and I think that's why Dad never said anything. He didn't want me to be embarrassed."

Brads worked for the phone company for 30 years, taught school and now works in finance for a nationwide car dealership. As an adult, he's not embarrassed to be the recipient of glasses from the Lions. In fact, he's so comfortable with the fact that he freely shares it with people he meets and with those who read his blog ([www.rednecklatte.com](http://www.rednecklatte.com)). "Getting glasses as an 8-year-old changed my life completely because I don't think anyone realized how badly I couldn't see until I went to the eye doctor," he says. "I'm humbled to think that someone cared enough to do something that good for me."



**Brads as a young boy and today.**

## **George Pradel, Naperville, Illinois**

As a lifelong resident of Naperville, George Pradel has watched his community blossom from a sleepy country town with 4,500 residents to a bustling city of 147,000 people that regularly ranks as one of the best places to live in the United States.

Pradel is proud of his city, its walkable downtown and excellent schools, and since he became mayor 15 years ago, he's had ample opportunity to share Naperville with people he meets. What truly makes his city special, he likes to say, is the people who live there. That's something he learned more than 60 years ago.

Back in 1947 Pradel was one of 30 students in Naperville's Bronsonville Elementary, a one-room red brick school house. The fifth grader's "lazy eye" vision made the words in his schoolbooks run together, and when his teacher Irene Kocher noticed he was struggling, she told his mother she thought he might need glasses. The news was troubling. "Times were tough and my dad was not making very much money, maybe only \$45 a week," he says. The family of six was growing quickly and Pradel knew they didn't have an extra \$15 for glasses.

But Miss Kocher knew what to do. "I have a friend who is a Lion and we're going to submit your name for glasses," she told him. Within a few weeks, Pradel was wearing his first pair of glasses nonstop. "They weren't real pretty but they were practical," he says of the thick brown and clear plastic frames. "I was so tickled I wore them every chance I got."



Shortly after Pradel joined the town's police force in 1966, his friend Everett Gregory invited him to join the **Naperville Noon Lions Club**. He didn't need to think twice. "Because of what the Lions have done for me I wanted to give back in a big way." During the last forty years, he's raised money for the Lions and participated actively in the club. He has a special affinity for the annual 5K road race the Lions sponsor in Naperville, which drew almost 5,000 runners last year.

While writing about the upcoming race in the city newsletter a few years ago, Pradel shared that the Lions had bought him his first pair of glasses. "I have no shame about that," he confessed. "The Lions club is so friendly to everyone and has done so much for our city, I just wanted people to know how much the Lions mean to me."



**Mayor Pradel welcomes a favorite son of Naperville: Olympics skating champion Evan Lysacek.**

#### **Ray Guin, Midlothian, Virginia**

Ray Guin doesn't remember exactly when or how it happened, but one autumn day in 1954 when he was running or jumping or doing any of the things you might expect a 9-year-old boy to do, his thick, brown eyeglasses snapped right in half.

The glasses were beyond repair, and the Raleigh, North Carolina boy's family couldn't afford new ones. Guin's father, a truck driver, suffered a back injury in an accident and was unable to work full time to support his wife and three sons. "We were living almost in abject poverty, all of us in a little bitty apartment, just barely getting by," he remembers.

In school, Guin, who was nearsighted, had to move his desk next to the blackboard to see. Unable to see well enough to play ball after school with his friends, he spent the sunny Indian summer afternoons indoors. "I basically couldn't do anything," Guin says.

Then someone at school notified the local Lions that Guin and his 14-year-old brother Gaylord needed new glasses. That weekend a Lion came to their apartment and took the brothers to the optician for eye exams and glasses. The gentleman was a stranger, but he made the two boys feel at ease. "We're going to get you some glasses," he told them. His tone was kind and caring and the exchange made a big impression on the young boy. "He went out of his way to make us feel comfortable and not embarrassed by our situation."

Guin never forgot the act of kindness. An optician for more than 40 years, he joined the **Richmond James River Lions Club** in 1998 because he wanted to use his training as an eye care professional to help people in need. Now in addition to providing free eyeglasses at his shop to about 140 people per year who have been

referred to him by the Lions, he volunteers for a week in July as part of a **Remote Area Medical Expedition** to southwest Virginia, the poorest part of the state. Guin works 14-hour days in an Army tent alongside his fellow Lions giving eye exams and dispensing 1,000 pairs of free eyeglasses to people so poor that many of them have never before received medical care.

The days are long and the pace is grueling, but Guin wouldn't trade the experience for the world. "Anytime anyone asks me, 'Why are you doing this?' I tell them it's because someone did the same thing for me once," he says. "I'll never forget that."



**Guin volunteers at the Remote Area Medical Expedition.**

#### **Susanna Zaraysky, Cupertino, California**

Much of Susanna Zaraysky's life has been defined by two things: Her vision problems and her ease at picking up new languages.

Her eyesight was an issue from the beginning. Zaraysky, 33, was born in Leningrad and diagnosed with such severe strabismus or crossed eyes that at the age of two she was placed in a school for retarded children.

Her parents, both engineers, immigrated to the United States with their two daughters in search of better jobs and by 1985 they were living in San Jose, California. Zaraysky, then 9 and in fifth grade, had a wandering eye and astigmatism and wore round, thick, Coke-bottle glasses. "All the kids made fun of me," she says. When her parents were between jobs and she needed new glasses, they asked her school, Eisenhower Elementary, for help and Zaraysky received a voucher from her local Lions club for a new pair of glasses with an updated prescription. "It was so important that I got them," she says.

Zaraysky's father was not fluent in English and as a child she was often asked to serve as their interpreter. She picked up languages quickly, capable of copying accents well enough to sound like a native speaker. "I felt like the unwilling guide in the Tower of Babel," she says. "I found myself interpreting for others and often being the only person who could understand almost everybody."

As a teen she had surgery to correct her wandering eye and traded in her glasses for contacts. She graduated from college, worked and traveled. Along the way, Zaraysky became fluent in seven languages, never fully understanding why languages came so easily to her. Then at the age of 29 she discovered the answer. Zaraysky realized that she could only see in 2D not 3D, and her limited vision made her hearing very sensitive. That sensitivity, coupled with the realization that she heard language as music not as

words, was the source of her talent. "It's as though my ears are the third dimension that I don't have with my vision," explains Zaraysky.

She has made peace with her imperfect vision and no longer sees it as a disability. Just recently she wrote and published a book, *Language is Music* (Kaleidomundi, 2009), in which she offers advice on learning foreign languages. "I have this ability to listen and to communicate that most people don't have," Zaraysky says. "It's as though I've turned lemons into lemonade."



**Zaraysky poses in 1979 with her older sister and today she has traded in her glasses for contacts.**

#### **George Walter, South Daytona, Florida**

The eyeglasses come in, the eyeglasses go out: Thick glasses with fat Grandpa lenses, delicate readers with glittery wire rims, smart designer specs that look barely worn.

George Walter sees them all. As chairman of eyeglass recycling for the **Ormond By the Sea Lions Club**, it's his job to go around town to collect donated glasses. Walter packages up the glasses and sends them to Orlando for processing, never knowing where they will eventually end up. Once in a while the club gets a letter from a grateful recipient of a pair of glasses from the Lions. "Thank you," the letters say. "I didn't realize what I couldn't see."

Walter knows just how they feel. Back when he was a fifth grader and living in Elverson, Pennsylvania, he wrote a letter like that himself. "Dear Lions Club," it said. "Thank you for the glasses. Now I can read the blackboard."

He explains, "My parents were separated and my mother was raising seven children on my father's military disability income of \$100 a month." When his teacher, Mrs. Macklroy, noticed that Walter was having a problem seeing in class, she told the local Lions. Soon afterward the 10-year-old became the proud owner of his very first pair of glasses.

The glasses, dark maroon with a silver stripe, were small, but their impact was enormous. "When I first put on my glasses everything became so much clearer," says Walter, a 66-year-old property manager for a senior mobile home community. "I could look out the window and see what was going on outside. The glasses opened up a whole new world."

The letters his club receives today are far from fancy. They're short and simple messages of heartfelt thanks. When Walter reads them he gets a warm feeling inside, happy with the knowledge that as a Lion he's had a small part in opening a new world for someone, just as someone did for him. "My little bit of help helps a whole lot of people."



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

### JUNE 23 – JUNE 27, 2010

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1. Reviewed the donation processing in Mumbai, India.
2. Reviewed audit planning with Grant Thornton.

#### **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

1. Denied the second vice district governor election complaint filed in District B-9 (Mexico) and declared Lion Federico Cota Rodriguez as the second vice district governor of District B-9 for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
2. Denied the second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 323-J (India) and declared Lion Bhava H. Kothari as the second vice district governor of District 323-J for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
3. Denied the second vice district governor election complaint filed in District 324-B3 (India) and declared Lion V. Murugesan as the second vice district governor of District 324-B3 for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
4. Revised and reorganized the Standard Form Club, District and Multiple District Constitutions and By-Laws in the Board Policy Manual to provide more clarity and ensure consistency among the standard form constitutions and by-laws, the International Constitution and By-Laws and the provisions of the Board Policy Manual.
5. Revised the Club, District and Multiple District Dispute Resolution Procedures in the Board Policy Manual to include provisions for filing written responses to complaints and maintaining confidentiality.
6. Removed the provision for a fiscal agent in Turkey in the Board Policy Manual since the position is no longer necessary.

#### **CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

1. Approved a housekeeping update to certification procedures.

#### **DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE**

1. The Board accepted and approved the district governor election results and appointments for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
2. Recognized the clubs within the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Belarus as provisional zones.
3. Appointed Lion leaders to serve as Provisional Zone and Region Chairpersons for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
4. Approved the Hangzhou area of China as Provisional District 386 upon reaching 17 clubs and 450 members and the Executive Committee was given the authority to appoint a district governor for the provisional district for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

5. Revised the Club Rebuilding Award requirements to require that the club remain in good standing for 12 months before the award is conferred and since the club must be in good standing for 12 months, the requirement to prepay the semi-annual per capita dues was removed.
6. Removed language relating to the Lioness trademark and club supplies since the trademark policy is already included in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual as the association discontinued selling Lioness club supplies many years ago.

#### **FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE**

1. Approved the 2009-2010 Forecast, reflecting a surplus.
2. Approved the 2010-2011 Budget, reflecting a surplus.
3. The board approved Northern Trust Company as Trustee of the Retirement Income Plan.
4. Modified policy regarding board meetings. The board meeting schedule must be approved by the Board of Directors. The total cost of the October/November and March/April board meetings shall not exceed US\$2 million.
5. Modified companion travel for international director, past international president, past international director, board appointee or official speaker to speaking assignment(s), board meeting(s) or international convention. International president must approve an adult companion, other than a legally recognized spouse, at the beginning of each year.
6. Modified Board Policy for district governor budgets to reflect practice. Policy is as follows:

#### **Budget**

The district governor will be provided a budget annually for district administration. Annual budgets will be based on the average of the highest three years of the last five years. This includes the final approved budget for the immediate past district governor as of March 31, and actual expenses reimbursed for the four preceding district governors. Proposed increases will only be considered for the district governor's location within the district, substantial club growth or redistricting.

7. Consolidated Club Supplies Chapter of Board Policy Manual.
8. Revised policy to allow international president to approve an additional 5,000 miles for past international director's speaking assignments under special circumstances.
9. Approved housekeeping revisions to the

Executive Officer Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy.

#### **LCIF**

1. Changed the foundation's custodian for Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) to Northern Trust.
2. Added a representative for Africa to the LCIF Steering Committee for a two-year term.
3. Appointed a representative to the Bausch+Lomb Pediatric Cataract Advisory Council.
4. Allocated US\$1.9 million from the humanitarian grants budget reserve to provide for grants approved through June 30, 2010.
5. Revised the humanitarian grants spending policy.
6. Approved 32 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totaling US\$1,155,201.
7. Tabled eight grant applications.
8. Renewed the Core 4 funding priority status for the diabetes prevention and control program for one year, until June 30, 2011.
9. Appointed a representative to the Pan-American Ophthalmological Foundation Board of Trustees.
10. Updated signatories at the foundation's Scottrade account, in order to facilitate donations of securities.
11. Revised the foundation's By-Laws, the LCIF Chapter in the Board Policy Manual and the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual in order to implement the LCIF Steering Committee.
12. Updated the sections on banking and investments in the LCIF Chapter of the Board Policy Manual due to a change in the foundation's bank.

#### **LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

1. Increased the duration of the District Governors-Elect Seminar program to four days, beginning with the 2011 seminar in Seattle and added one-day hotel and meals to the DGE Seminar expense reimbursements for district governors-elect and faculty members.
2. Approved a five-day China Lions Training Team Orientation for 15 Lions leaders from China.

#### **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

1. Approved a final plan to phase out the MERL team program and its corresponding four separate chairperson positions by expanding the Global Membership Team (GMT) down to the multiple district and district level and to consolidate the current chairperson positions of Membership, Extensions, Retention (M-E-R) into a single team. The plan also aims to transform the previous function of retention into a much broader focus of "club success" to better address the root causes of low retention.

Additionally, the Leadership function in MERL and its chairperson position will be separated from M-E- and R, and be elevated to its own structure, to be known as the Global Leadership Team (GLT), which will work alongside the expanded GMT in a highly integrated and interdependent way.

Going forward, the interdependent structures of the GMT and GLT will better address regional growth needs while also focusing more efforts on club success and more leadership development at all levels of LCI to enhance our service mission. The year of 2010-11 will be one of transition allowing districts and multiple districts with active MERL teams to keep them in place while planning a transition to the new GMT and GLT structures by 2011-12; areas with inactive or expiring MERL Teams are encouraged to make the transition as soon as they deem possible during 2010-11.

#### MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the Kingdom of Bhutan as the 206th country of Lions Clubs International.
2. Authorized application for Bhutan Civil Society Registration, if appropriate.
3. Changed the level of when the Membership Development Committee reviews and charter applications for approval. The level was lowered

from the fifteen (15) charter applications to ten (10) charter applications in a district in one fiscal year.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Awarded PDS – Flexible International Mailing, a three-year contract for shipping Lion Magazine and Lion Magazine in Spanish to overseas destinations.
2. Rearranged the awards section of Chapter XX of the Board Policy Manual.
3. Amended the criteria for International Director Recognition Award to delete the medal portion of the award.

#### SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Named the recipients of the 2009-2010 Leo of the Year Award.
2. Established a requirement for Lions clubs that wish to cancel Leo club sponsorship and/or receive financial credit to submit a Leo Club Termination Form to the Youth Programs Department at Lions Clubs International.
3. Modified Leo club cancellation policy to require a sponsoring Lions club to determine, by a majority vote, if sponsorship of a Leo club shall be cancelled. In addition, the district governor shall be notified in writing by an officer of the sponsoring Lions club of its intent to cancel its

sponsored Leo club a minimum of 30 days prior to the sponsoring Lions club vote.

4. Deleted language in the Board Policy Manual to clarify that the Procedural Guidelines for Reviewing Leo Club Continuation is to be followed when a Lions club wishes to cancel its sponsored Leo club without the agreement of the Leo club members.

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

## Arthur Lions Club



**Arthur Lions Club on June 9/2010 inducted 4 new members, left to right Phil Wilman, Nathan Meyers, Arthur Lions President Ian Turner, Gail Richardson, & Wayne Horton.**

*Submitted by Phil Williams*

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## Lions Clubs International 2014 Convention Host Committee

The 2014 International Convention Host Committee is currently seeking applications from the Lions of MD "A" to serve as a Committee Chair on the Host Committee in one of the following capacities to take effect as of September 2010.

**Treasurer-Finance Committee:** With Fundraising Chair. Souvenir & Pin Sales, Reporting Directly to the Host Committee Chair.

**Secretary:** Minutes of Committee Meetings, Committee Chair Communications, General Secretarial duties reporting directly to the Host Committee Chair.

**Vice Chair** (4 positions): Vice Committee Chairs to work with and oversee various Committees and their functions, reporting directly to the Host Committee Chair.

**Promotion & Publicity Committee Chair:** In co-operation with Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**Manpower Committee Chair:** Key Areas. Sergeant-at-Arms, Manpower Communications & Website, Crisis Management.

The following Committee Chairs will be open for applications in the coming months as and when the committees become scheduled.

**Parade Committee Chair:** Bands, Judges, Snacks & Refreshments, Band Housing, Floats, Parade Volunteers.

**Transportation & Hospitality Chair:** Transportation for the International Family, Interpreters, Greeters, Host Night, City Hospitality, Host Office & Booth, Shuttles from Pearson International Airport, Shuttle Bus schedules.

**DGE Seminar Committee:** Registration & Gift Distribution, Classroom set-up, DGE Shuttle, DGE Opening Ceremony, DGE Hall Monitors & Runners.

*Applicants for the above committee chairs will be supplied with a more comprehensive and detailed description of the responsibilities for the Committee Chair of their choice upon receipt of their application. These positions are open to the Lions from all Districts of MD "A" and applications should be sent to the Host Committee Chair, PDG Carl Young at: [Carl.Young@ocj-cjo.ca](mailto:Carl.Young@ocj-cjo.ca)*

*or mail to : PDG Carl Young, 73 Westview Drive, The Glen, RR#1, Omeme, Ontario K0L 2W0*



# 93rd International Convention

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2010

## Success in Sydney

### 93rd International Convention Unites Lions from 200 Nations

by Jay Copp

Stretching for miles, the 200-nation Lions parade wove through downtown Sydney. Striding past busy intersections with onlookers lined three or four deep, Oklahoma Lions wore Native American headdresses, Egyptians dressed as mummies, and Londoners rode proudly on a double-decker bus. The Scandinavian Lions sang a lilting melody and Lions from Pennsylvania marched smartly to the strain of bagpipes. All in all, it was an impressive show of numbers and diversity.



**Lions flags flutter in Sydney.**

"I knew about the club near me. But I didn't know Lions were this large," said **Greg Light** of **Sydney**, watching the parade on a long lunch break. Light added that he buys a dozen books from the Lions each year at a book sale and then dutifully returns them next year so the club can resell them.



**An Aboriginal performs at the convention.**

The 93rd International Convention June 28-July 2 brought together nearly 12,500 Lions and guests to revel in decades-old traditions such as the parade, to elect new officers and to hear about the progress and direction of Lions clubs worldwide. Lions also learned new skills at seminars, listened to renowned figures such as **Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Matthai** of **Kenya** and heroic pilot **Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger** and enjoyed the pleasures of a world-class city and the camaraderie of fellow Lions.

The Sydney convention, like those before it, combined cherished rituals such as the flag ceremony, irresistible entertainment such as a dueling piano segment at the second plenary and

small endearing touches that remind Lions of their purpose and value such as the large blue tent in the exhibit hall, the same kind of tent used by LCIF and Lions in Haiti after the earthquake. Lions attending conventions marvel at the scope and range of Lionism. The five days in Sydney were a showcase for the association not just for Sydneysiders but for Lions.

"It's good to see so many people who do good for others. It's inspiring to see people under that same banner," said **Suzanne Foxe** of the **Logan Ladies Business Lions Club** in **Australia**.



**Immediate Past President Eberhard J. Wirfs asks for applause for new President Sid L. Scruggs III.**

For veteran convention attendees, the experience doesn't grow old. "I just love it – the travel, the excitement, the new experiences, the new things to learn," said **John Ochoco** of the **East Kaula'i Lions Club** in **Hawaii**, who has been at 15 conventions. "It never ceases to amaze me all we do. It's inspiring all the things we do for the blind. I just love coming to the conventions. Each one feels like the first time."

At the third and final plenary session of the convention **Sid L. Scruggs III** of **North Carolina** took the oath of office as the new **International President**. Scruggs urged Lions to remain Beacons of Hope (his presidential theme) and his son, Kevin, an accomplished singer, sang the Beacon of Hope song and, in a touching tribute to Scruggs' wife and his mother, Judy, *Wind Beneath My Wings*. Earlier in the day, **Dr. Wing-Kun Tam** of **China Hong Kong** was elected as **First Vice President** and **Wayne A. Madden** of **Indiana** was elected as **Second Vice President**. Seventeen international directors also were elected (see page 17 or visit [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)).

Before a hushed crowd, keynote speaker Sullenberger recounted the calm precision in which his crew landed a passenger jet in the Hudson River last year. Matthai, the activist leader of the Green Belt movement, received the prestigious Lions Humanitarian Award and then expounded on the dire need for education, civic engagement and service.

At the opening plenary session **Outgoing International President Eberhard J. Wirfs** of **Germany** detailed a year of growth and innovation and proudly cited gains in membership including growth in China and Africa, new structures such as the District Governor team, technological advances such as Webinars and improvements in leadership training. Move to Grow was his theme during his presidency and Wirfs saluted Lions for moving the association to new heights.



**Kevin Scruggs sings for his mother, Judy.**

Conventions typically herald new partnerships and programs, and Sydney was no exception. The Pediatric Cataract Initiative will fund innovative, replicable programs to prevent and treat cataract in infants and children and promote early childhood vision screenings. Bausch + Lomb will contribute US\$350,000 in the pilot year to launch the partnership program. Also, Essilor, a leading manufacturer of optical lenses, will partner with LCIF to provide equipment, expertise and exclusive brand-quality lenses through local Lions clubs worldwide to help Lions with their vision projects.

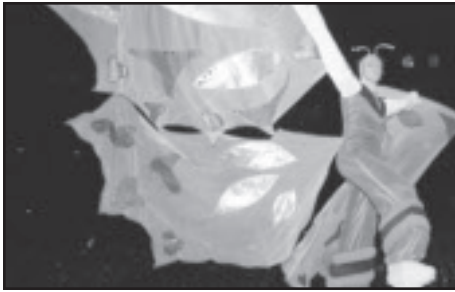
Music was a predominant element of the convention—from the first-ever Global Youth Music Competition and the International Show featuring Men at Work front man Colin Hay to the Lion Music Around the World video montage at the third plenary and the chanting, singing and marching bands at the festive parade. Music to Lions ears, too, were the words of gratitude spoken at the plenary sessions by beneficiaries of Lions service.

Lions from nearly 200 nations in the convention hall cheered proudly for those sentiments; they acted in unison as well when exchanging mini-flags of nations placed on their chairs or roaring in approval when Matthai and Sullenberger took oaths of membership. The unity of purpose drew Lions from disparate places close to one another in Sydney. "We're all so different but we are all alike," marveled first-time convention attendee **Lion Joanne Parrott** of **North Carolina**.



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*A "butterfly" dancer is part of the flag ceremony.*



*A contestant displays her talent in the Global Youth Music Competition.*



*Lions putter around at the exhibit hall.*



*Hip-hop dancers perform during the opening plenary session.*



*Youths find fun in the exhibit hall.*



*A Brazilian Lion enjoys the moment.*

## Parade of Nations Marches Through Sydney



*Lions from Peru dance down the street.*



*Three women from the Netherlands put their best feet forward.*



*Marchers fill the street and music fills the air.*



*Egyptian Lions salute their ancient heritage.*



*Oklahoma Lions stride down the street.*



*A dance troupe razzles and dazzles.*



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## Speakers Uplift Lions

Heroic pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger gave the keynote speech at the convention. Here is a brief excerpt as well as excerpts from other speeches at the convention.

### **Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger**

All of us on that airplane and our families have had almost a year and a half now to think about this event. And I’ve had time to answer for myself a question: “What was it about that extraordinary event on that remarkable day that has made people around the world feel the way they do about the event, about the crew, and about me?”



### **Keynote speaker, heroic pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger.**

I think the answer must be that it happened at a time in our world’s history when we felt as if we were in crisis. People were worried. They were actively looking for good news and searching for reasons to feel hopeful again. They wanted quite frankly to be reassured that the things that we hold dear and say that we believe are still true. Some had begun to question our collective competence, wondering if good was still possible to be done, if people could do the right thing or if ultimately human nature was mostly just about self-interest and greed. And then along came a group of people who on that day and that place made it their mission in life to see that good was done.

It was life affirming. People did feel hopeful again. It served as a reminder when we very much needed a reminder of the potential for good that still exists, not only in the world but within each of us. It was also a reminder that cultivating seemingly ordinary virtues can prepare one to face extraordinary challenges and to perform extraordinary acts.

As soon as I made that one announcement in the cabin: “This is the captain. Brace for impact!” I heard almost immediately even through the hardened cockpit door the two flight attendants in front, Donna and Sheila, begin shouting their commands in response to my announcement. Together repeatedly they said “Brace. Brace. Heads down. Stay down.” I knew then that we were on the same page. I felt

comforted by that knowledge and encouraged by it. I knew then that if I could find a way to deliver the aircraft to the surface intact my crew could evacuate the passengers and the rescue could begin.

[Crew members] Jeff, Donna, Sheila, Doreen and I never stopped working together to solve the problems that we faced. We never gave up. We never lost faith in ourselves or in each other. In a similar fashion, for each of you no matter how dire your circumstances might become know that further action is almost always possible. And, when you are a member of an effective team your chances of success are much better than when you are not.

None of us knows what tomorrow may bring. Each of us has the responsibility to prepare ourselves well. At the end of our lives I doubt that we will be counting our money or cataloguing the things that we managed to accumulate. Instead I think it’s more likely that we may simply ask ourselves a question. Did I make a difference? My wish for each of you is that the answer to your question will be “yes.”

### **Wangari Matthai, Lions Humanitarian Award Winner**

Because the environment has been there since time immemorial we have learned to take the environment for granted. And we have an attitude that these resources are limitless. Well, we know now that there is a limit. You can only take so much from the environment before the environment is unable to give back. And so we find that people who destroy the environment eventually get trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and under-development. And the Green Belt movement set out to break that cycle.



### **Nobel Prize winner, Wangari Matthai.**

It is not just a matter of planting trees, it’s also a matter of empowering people and making them understand that if we really want to develop ourselves, if we really want to move forward, we must embrace some of the best values that I know that the Lions have – the values of honesty, integrity, accountability and responsibility. These are very, very important values in any community that wants to go forward.

Africa usually is presented as a very poor

continent. But Africa is not a poor continent. It is endowed with a huge amount of people and many resources including oil, minerals and forest. It is a very, very rich continent. You can’t have such a rich continent and have very poor people. Something is drastically wrong. And the reason is very complex. It deals with history, technology and knowledge. But the most fundamental principle is good governance. She has been unable to raise leaders who work for them rather than tread on them.

Sometimes we feel we can’t forever give aid, we can’t forever give handouts, we can’t forever give charity. And so we must get involved in some of the political and economic policies that are responsible for the poverty and the misery in the world. And I know it is much easier to give charity than to worry about the politics and economic policies. But sometimes those of us are in the position to raise their voices – even though at their own risk. We need to because that’s the only way sometimes to break that cycle and make sure that these people are freed and liberated from the chains of economic and political subjugation.

Now you can get overwhelmed. And especially the Leos here: don’t get overwhelmed. But even some Lions may be overwhelmed. So it is very important to tell you: do not feel overwhelmed.

### **Eberhard J. Wirfs, 2009-10 President**

In spite of global economic hardship, we have achieved a year of historic firsts in growth and innovation. Lions worldwide have embraced the call for the change and indeed they move to grow in many, many different areas.



### **Outgoing President, Eberhard J. Wirfs.**

We took great care formulating our strategy to be used in Africa. The prevailing idea was that the continent of Africa is transitioning from simply surviving to being in charge of its own development, from receiving charity to being in charge of its own investments. The challenge for Africa is to become its own constitutional area by reaching 30,000 members. Africa has a strong potential, a viable potential for growth within the association, and I am



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proud to report that Africa with its 21,000 members is continuing to charter new clubs in order to grow. The time for Africa is now!

But perhaps nowhere has our growth been more impressive than in China. Who would have thought that in one short year we would welcome six full-fledged districts and three provisional districts. Lions, I am so proud to announce that we have right now 7,865 members in China and Hong Kong.

During one of my many travels, we visited a monastery in Asia. The abbot asked us to follow him to the courtyard. I could not believe my eyes. A 2,000-year old ginkgo tree rose above us with mighty crowns, thousands of leaves providing shade. It was a magical moment that I will never forget. Never before did I ever feel so humbled, especially when it took eight of us, arm in arm, to encircle this tree.

Lions, this majestic ginkgo tree represented to me a living symbol of growth, resilience and adaptability. When people surrounded it, it reaffirmed that something great can occur when people serve together.

## 2010-11 President Sid L. Scruggs III

Fifty years ago just last month, I stood with the graduating class of the United States Naval Academy. At that time I took my commission and I took the oath of office to defend my country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Many years later, I would stand as an international captain for American Airlines and I would pledge in my preparation both physically and mentally to be able to carry my passengers to their safe destination when they had entrusted their lives to me.

I pledge to you today to bring our great association safely on the next leg of its journey. I also pledge to you to defend it against those common enemies of apathy and bigotry, and together we will be a light of hope to those in need around the world.

Along the coast of my home state of North Carolina, there are seven large lighthouses. Probably the most famous of those and the largest in the United States is the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Cape Hatteras has been there as a sentinel. It's a symbol to those out on the seas because every seven and a half seconds, as the beacon oscillates around, no matter where you stand you will see a light, a guiding light. The thing

that is interesting about that is every seven and a half seconds somewhere in the world there is a need, and a Lion is meeting that need. They are providing that ray of hope.

If we are going to be a beacon of hope and let the light within us shine out, then we have to realize that, yes, we are *individuals* and we have to offer that needed service. That way people will truly know we are an organization made up of individuals, willing, ready and able to offer needed service. If you do that then you will truly be our beacon of hope.



2010-11 President Sid L. Scruggs III

## International Contest Results



Curtis Murray of the La Crescent Lions Club in Minnesota won Best of Show (Grand Prize) for his photo of an eagle gliding in for a frozen lake landing.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST

#### Best of Show (Grand Prize)

Curtis Murray  
La Crescent Lions Club, Minnesota

#### Best of Category: Urban or Natural Landscape

Dennis Foster  
Moses Lakes Lions Club, Washington

#### Best of Category: Animal Life

Curtis Murray  
La Crescent Lions Club, Minnesota

#### Best of Category: Plant Life

Robert Clary  
Cheyenne Noon Lions Club, Wyoming

#### Best of Category: Weather Phenomenon

Paivi Markkanen  
Lions Club of Helsinki Park, Finland

#### Best of Theme: Move to Grow Green

Verdie Thompson  
San Francisco Ocean Ingleside Lions Club,  
California

### GLOBAL YOUTH MUSIC COMPETITION

**First Place:** Brian Jeremy Allen, Indiana, representing the United States, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas

**Second Place:** Sophie Rosa, United Kingdom, representing Europe

**Third Place:** Aaron Chan, China, representing the Orient and Southeast Asia

### INTERNATIONAL GINKGO AWARDS

#### Lion Who Best Exemplifies "Move to Grow"

Lucienne Canali  
Guadeloupe Doyen Lions Club, District 63  
Guadeloupe West Indies

#### Outstanding Service Project by a Lions Club

Shouson Hill Lions Club, District 303  
Hong Kong Smart Teens Anti-Drug Rap Authors and Karaoke Song Authors Competition  
Hong Kong, China

#### Outstanding Service Project by a District

District 355 A, Republic of Korea

Vehicle Donation and Club  
(District Governor Hee-Chae Park)

#### Most New Club Web Sites Added by a District

District 324 E2, India  
(District Governor Thazhathuveettill Krishnan)

#### Largest Donation to LCIF by a Lions Club

Camarillo Somis Pleasant Valley Lions Club,  
California

#### Largest Donation to LCIF by a District

District 334 A, Japan

#### Most Women Members Added by a Lions Club

Korba Lions Club  
District 323 C, India

#### Most Women Members Added by a District

District 323 H 1, India

### INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER (BULLETIN) CONTEST — CLUB

**First Place:** Burnaby Lougheed Lions Club, 19 A, Canada

**Honorable Mention:** George Town Mutiara Lions Club, 308 B 2, Malaysia

**Honorable Mention:** Pinerolo Acaja Lions Club, 108 IA 3, Italy

**Honorable Mention:** Sydney Chinese Lions Club, N 5, Australia

**Honorable Mention:** Vancouver Pacific Lions Club, 19 A, Canada

*continued*



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER (BULLETIN) CONTEST — DISTRICT

**First Place:** District 107 D, Finland  
**Honorable Mention:** District 107 G, Finland  
**Honorable Mention:** District 107 M, Finland  
**Honorable Mention:** District 300 G 2, MD 300, Taiwan  
**Honorable Mention:** District 307 B, Indonesia

## INTERNATIONAL TRADING PIN CONTEST — CLUB

**First Place:** Andres & Boca Chica Lions Club, Dominican Republic  
**Honorable Mention:** Takayama Lions Club, Japan

## INTERNATIONAL TRADING PIN CONTEST — DISTRICT

**First Place:** District 24 D, Virginia  
**Honorable Mention:** District 14 P, Pennsylvania

## INTERNATIONAL TRADING PIN CONTEST — MULTIPLE DISTRICT

**First Place:** MD 25, Indiana  
**Honorable Mention:** MD 19, Washington

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP BANNER CONTEST — CLUB

**First Place:** Chesapeake Southside Lions Club, 24 D, Virginia  
**Honorable Mention:** Ringebu-Favang Lions Club, 104 C, Norway

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP BANNER CONTEST — DISTRICT

**First Place:** District 14 H, Pennsylvania

## INTERNATIONAL WEB SITE CONTEST — CLUB

**First Place:** Hong Kong Central Lions Club, 303, Hong Kong, China  
**Honorable Mention:** Bolton Lions Club, District 33 A, Massachusetts  
**Honorable Mention:** Sydney Chinese Lions Club, 201 N5, Australia

## INTERNATIONAL WEB SITE CONTEST — DISTRICT

**First Place:** District 307 B, Indonesia  
**Honorable Mention:** District 2 S3, Texas  
**Honorable Mention:** District 105 EA, England

## INTERNATIONAL WEB SITE CONTEST — MULTIPLE DISTRICT

**First Place:** MD 35, Florida  
**Honorable Mention:** MD 18, Georgia

## INTERNATIONAL PARADE RESULTS

### Division I Contests Floats

**First Prize:** MD 108, Italy "Sicilian" Float

### Bands: Category I — High School Bands

**First Prize:** MD 201 — Australian/Norfolk Island/Papua New Guinea (MD 201), Millennium High School Band

### Bands: Category II — All-State Bands

**First Prize:** MD 30 — Mississippi, Mississippi Lions All State Band

**Second Prize:** MD 10 and MD 11 — Michigan, Lions of Michigan All State Band

### Uniformed Marching Delegations

**First Prize:** District 352, Egypt  
**Second Prize:** MD 330-37, Japan  
**Third Prize:** Lions of Scandinavia, Aland Islands/Denmark/Faroe Islands/Finland/Greenland/Iceland/Norway/Sweden

### Division II Contests Bands

**First Prize:** MD 354 & 355 — Korea, Hunter School of Performing Arts High School Band  
**Second Prize:** MD 321-324 — India, Woollooware High School Band

### Precision Demonstration Units

**First Prize:** MD 321-324 — India, Blacktown City Pipe Band  
**Second Prize:** MD 105 — British Isles & Ireland, Hawkebury City Pipe Band No. 1

## Killaloe & Area Lions Club Soap Box Derby



Lion Ambrose Mullin, the 'play-by-play' announcer, gives instructions to some of the younger racers; the racer in the foreground is one of the Lions vehicles.

On July 1st, the Killaloe & Area Lions Club held its annual soap box derby as part of Killaloe's Canada Day celebrations. To enhance participation, the Lions have three soap-box racers which young people can use if they haven't got their own vehicle.



Race organizer Darwin Brohart presents prizes to racer winner Augustin Thurston (on the left), silver medalist Tylor Elesor (middle), and bronze medalist Erich Goodwin (right), in front of the Lions registration and hot dog BBQ tent.

## Changing of the Guards

Past District Governors honoured their colleagues who served the association extremely well during year 2009/2010 and welcomed the new team and its leader PDG Eric Buss. At the MDA Convention in Kingston we had our meeting and were fortunate to have none other than **International President Sid L. Scruggs III** attend as guest speaker. He gave a rousing talk about what he considered to be a role to which we should commit ourselves as experienced managers who held the highest position in our respective districts. He stressed the fact that he was counting on us to perform that role, at a time when the complexity of governance at that level had increased, as a result of changing demographics and competing demands on time.

### Message from Association Chair PDG Lion Eric Buss

I would just like to review what the 'PDG Association' is all about and who we are. Immediately after your Governor has completed his or her year, several things happen. Your Governor becomes an 'Immediate Past District Governor' and, at the same time, their initiation is paid to the Past District Governors Association by the sitting

Governor's Council. Each District has a representative, selected by their District, on the PDG Association Board of Directors, which is made up of an Immediate Past Chairperson, Chairman, 1st vice Chairman and a Secretary/Treasurer. The Immediate Past Chair, Chairman and 1st Vice hold these offices for just 1 year. The Secretary/Treasurer is usually appointed.

At the present time your **Immediate Past Chair** is **PDG Kathy Daoust**, **Chairman** is **PDG Eric Buss**, **1st Vice Chairman** is **PDG Jim Hilt** and the **Secretary/Treasurer** is **PDG Russ Mitchell**.

Every year around the first week-end in October, we have our annual PDG Luncheon and on the Thursday just before the MD 'A' Convention we have our PDG Dinner followed by the Annual General Meeting with a Directors meeting the next morning.

ANY and ALL PDG's are welcome to attend any or all of the above meetings as well as the regular Board of Director meetings held at the same time and place as the Governor's Council meetings.

Please check our PDG Website available on the MD 'A' Lions website - The purple button on the left.



# Lions Elect Leaders in Sydney

Delegates to the 93rd international convention in Sydney, Australia, in July elected the Lions leaders for 2010-11. **Sid L. Scruggs III** of **North Carolina** was elected **International President**. **Dr. Wing-Kun Tam** of **China Hong Kong** was elected **International First Vice President**. **Wayne A. Madden** of **Indiana**, was elected **International Second Vice President**. **Immediate Past President Eberhard J. Wirfs** of **Germany** became **Chairperson of LCIF**.

Delegates also elected 17 international directors — two from the India/South Asia/Africa/Middle East constitutional area, one from Australia/New Zealand/Papua New Guinea/Indonesia/Islands of the South Pacific, three from Europe, three from Orient/Southeast Asia, one from South America/Central America/Mexico/Islands of the Caribbean Sea and seven from the United States/U.S. affiliates/Bermuda/Bahamas. The directors serve for two years. (The names of the second year directors are on page 3.)

Visit the Web site of Lions Clubs International for biographies of the new directors as well as biographies and photos of the four international officers and second-year directors.



**Yamandu P. Acosta,**  
Alabama, United States



**Douglas X. Alexander,**  
New York, United States



**Gary A. Anderson,**  
Michigan, United States



**Narendra Bhandari,**  
Pune, India



**Janez Bohorič,**  
Kranj, Slovenia



**James Cavallaro,**  
Pennsylvania, United States



**Ta-Lung Chiang,** Taichung,  
MD 300 Taiwan



**Per K. Christensen,**  
Aalborg, Denmark



**Edisson Karnopp,**  
Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil



**Sang-Do Lee,**  
Daejeon, Korea



**Sonja Pulley,**  
Oregon, United States



**Krishna Reddy,**  
Bangalore, India



**Robert G. Smith,**  
California, United States



**Eugene M. Spiess,** South  
Carolina, United States



**Eddy Widjanarko,**  
Surabaya, Indonesia



**Seiki Yamaura,**  
Tokyo, Japan



**Gudrun Yngvadottir,**  
Gardabaer, Iceland

## Gong and Gavel

The word 'gong' is thought to be of ancient Malaysian origin and refers to many different varieties of objects made of a bronze alloy that would resonate when struck. While the meanings of use for a gong are varied, we might deduce that a sound so different than the normal sounds around us will get our attention. As an auditory symbol we also recognize the sound with some measure of reverence owing to the many spiritual uses.

It is thought that the bell shaped gong that Lions use to begin, punctuate and close some proceedings has some of the same meaning. We cannot unfortunately take any credit for it as it appears we merely adopted the accepted norm of fraternal organizations and service clubs that came before us. From the time our current Lions Emblem came into being in 1920, Lions International have been using our copyright for a wide assortment of Lions regalia such as pins, banners, signs and gongs which were all for sale through licensed vendors much as it is today.

Many were inscribed for newly chartered clubs or as gifts for the fulfillment of higher offices and their appearance and size are mostly unchanged. Many of us will understand the esteem of the gong with which we are steeped in; but what would a gong be without something to strike it or for that matter someone to perform the action?

The gavel (as a ceremonial mallet) is in many

ways a greater visual symbol of authority for the manner in which we receive it and pass it on. This continuity becomes legend in some clubs but is always regarded with the utmost respect due to our obligation to conduct our affairs with parliamentary procedure.

**Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised** provides guidelines on the proper use of the gavel in deliberative assemblies.

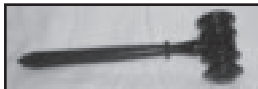
For instance, the chair is never to use the gavel in an attempt to drown out a disorderly member; rather, the chair should give one vigorous tap at a time at intervals.

The chair should not lean on the gavel, juggle or toy with it, or use it to challenge or threaten or to emphasize remarks.

The prohibited practice of a chair cutting off members' right to debate or introduce secondary motions by quickly putting a question to vote before any member can get the floor is referred to as "gaveling through" a measure.

**Demeter's Manual** notes that, in addition to an optional light tap after a vote, there are three other uses of a gavel:

1. To attract attention and call a meeting to order. In most organizations, two raps raise and one rap



seats the assembly; in others, two raps raise and three raps seat it.

2. To maintain order and restore it when breached in the course of the proceedings. (Rap the gavel once, but vigorously.)
3. To be handed over to successors in office or to officiating officers as ceremonials, etc. (Always extend the holding end.)

Below is a picture of a gong that resides in **MD "N"** with **PDG Larry Barton**. This was presented to the first **Canadian Lions President Harry Newman**.

The inscription on the gong reads;

Presented To  
Harry A. Newman  
President of  
The International Association  
Of Lions Clubs  
at the 9th Annual Convention  
Cedar Point Ohio  
June 30 - July 2 - 1925  
By  
Lion John M. Klimler  
Central Lions Club Chicago  
President of the Russell Hampton Co.



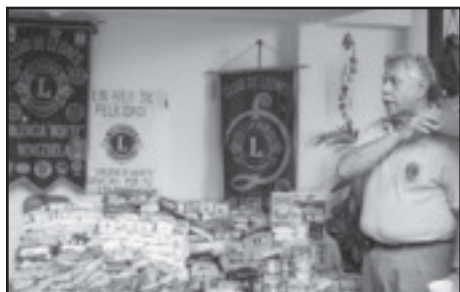
For the good of Lionism,  
Ray Charbonneau

# Make a Difference in Fight against Hunger

Keeping pantries filled for those in need is a top priority for Lions. The number of malnourished men, women and children in the United States and around the world is rising, according to the United Nations. Poverty and global conflict are the two biggest reasons families go to bed hungry.

**International President Sid L. Scruggs III** believes strongly that Lions need to send out a Beacon of Hope during December and January to the more than one billion people in the world who suffer from hunger or starvation. In the United States alone, the U.S. Department of Agriculture declares that as many as 16 million children go without enough nourishment every day. We can make a difference in their lives by supporting international assistance programs as well as food banks in our own communities.

Start small and aim big. If your town doesn't have a food pantry, organize one. That's what **Broadview Heights Lions** in Ohio did in 1987 when they established the **South Hills Lend-a-Hand Food Bank**. They feed more than 120 men, women and children from 45 families who need assistance.



*The Valencia Norte Lions Club in Venezuela collect food for the needy.*

**Club President Keith Gaydosh**, who manages the food bank, says he's seen a 30 percent increase in need in the last year as a result of the downturn in the economy. "We're in a fairly affluent community, and to see so many people who need help now is really shocking. They've lost jobs and are having trouble feeding their families."

The food bank is located in an annex of the city hall, and volunteers are mostly Lions who keep shelves stocked and serve families in four towns. "It takes a lot of volunteers and a lot of time," he says. The club also supplies most of the funding and buys school supplies for children in the feeding program.

Gaydosh, 31, says Lend-a-Hand is now serving as a model for other local community organizations that want to establish food banks. "We were shadowed for a month by another group trying to learn how we do it," he points out. And that's fine with Broadview Heights Lions. "A lot of people are in need now," Gaydosh explains. "That's why we're here."



*Seneca Lions in South Carolina prepare hearty meals for shut-ins. The food delivery to homes also includes the morning paper and extra bread. Pictured are (left to right) Dean Garland, Bill Metcalf, Tom Smith and Jim Atkinson.*

## 20 Project Ideas for Relieving Hunger

1. Sponsor a community food drive to replenish a local food pantry.
2. Volunteer to deliver prepared meals to elderly citizens.
3. Organize a feeding program at a local school to provide healthy, nutritious meals.
4. Prepare and deliver food baskets to families in need.
5. Serve meals at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
6. "Adopt" a family struggling to put food on the table. Take them shopping for fruits and vegetables.
7. Organize an event to benefit the food bank in your community; use cans of food as admission.
8. Sponsor a hunger walk and use proceeds to buy food for an orphanage or shelter.
9. Create snack packages to be distributed to children in need.
10. Collaborate with other area service organizations to take turns hosting a meal for people in need.
11. Partner with local restaurants or food markets. Pick up donations of fresh food items for a women's or children's shelter.
12. Create a cookbook of inexpensive, easy-to-make recipes.
13. Start a food cooperative to serve as a resource for healthy food at a more affordable price.
14. Help plant a community garden so local residents can harvest their own food supply.
15. Collect infant formula and baby food for an organization serving young mothers at risk.
16. Provide a healthy snack or meal for a group of needy children who are in an after-school program.
17. Work with healthcare professionals to provide free classes on nutrition and food preparation.
18. Provide apples or another type of fruit as a healthy snack for children in childcare facilities.
19. Provide transportation for elderly residents so they can shop for groceries.
20. Teach children to bake a loaf of bread that they can take home to their families.

## Gananoque Lions Club



*Lions Jim Boltin, Gord Trimble, Murray Roantree and Cal French at RibFest 2010*

The **Gananoque Lions Club** in conjunction with the **Gananoque Rotary Club** held the annual RibFest in Gananoque July 1st to July 4th 2010. **Lions Rob Janke, Brian Brooks, Murray Roantree, Paul Tierney, Jim Boltin, Ed Ball** and **John Peter** along with Rotary counterparts helped co-ordinate the event along with several volunteers. The weather co-operated this year with sunny skies and no rain. The RibFest

brought in approximately \$7,000 to the Lions Club. The Lions Club also held a shore breakfast on Sunday July 4th at the RibFest grounds netting \$1,300 which will go to local charities. This was the second time the two service clubs worked together so it looks like it will happen again next year.

*Submitted by Lion Bruce Logie*



*Sign at food & beverage tent*

## Scenic City Lions Club



*Scenic City Lions Lenora, Kate, Diane and George celebrating Owen Sound Heritage at the A-9 convention.*

*Submitted by Phil Williams*

# Fixtures of Fun

## Decades-old Projects Unite Communities While Putting Lions Front and Center

by David McKay Wilson

### **Peach Festival**

Back in 1931, when orchards spread over the hills of Romeo, Michigan, **Katrina Schumacher's** grandfather rallied the peach growers. They agreed to hold a community celebration to promote their industry at harvest time during Labor Day weekend.

The Peach Festival caught on, and by the 1950s the **Romeo Lions Club** was running the three-day event. Schumacher has since taken over the family peach orchard, and she's looking forward to the 79th annual Peach Festival this September. Nearly 300,000 people from across the region will descend on the town of 3,500 to eat peach pie, drink beer, play soccer, ogle classic cars, ride the Ferris wheel and watch the Floral Parade come marching down Main Street.

"The Lions are the inspiration," says Schumacher, whose company bakes 1,000 deep-dish peach pies for the weekend. "It's a crucial part of our community. Nothing brings our town together like the Peach Festival."

Lions net an estimated \$150,000, which represents 75 percent of the money they raise during the course of the year. It serves as the foundation for the good works supported by the Romeo Lions.

"It's incumbent on us to keep it going," says **Gary Schocke**, the former township supervisor who has served as **President of the Peach Festival** for 20 years. "We couldn't survive without it. And it's how the Lions Club here has kept alive."

Clubs throughout the United States and America sponsor decades-old popular events such as the Peach Festival that years ago became something much more than a fundraiser or project. The events often are the biggest single gathering of the year for area residents. They help define the place for community members and stand near the center of the community's collective identity and memory.

For Lions, their project enables them to become woven into the fabric of the community. By tapping into a vital community need, they become an essential part of the public life of the community. They not only raise funds and provide service but also raise their visibility and the spirits of their neighbors.

### **Speech Contest**

Longtime projects unite the Lions through volunteerism – both within their clubs and across an entire state. In **California, Multiple District 4's** annual Student Speakers Contest involves up to 1,500 students from the state's districts as they compete for \$103,000 in college scholarships.

"The Lions made a commitment to the high school students of our state," says **Al Ohrmund**, who for the past five years has served as **President of the Student Speaker Foundation of the Lions of California**. "The youth of today are the future leaders of tomorrow."

When District 4 in California was split into five sub-districts in 1937, **Fred Smith**, who later became **President of Lions Club International**, still wanted to stay connected to other Lions throughout the state. So that year the Student Speakers Contest was born. Clubs across the state held contests on the topic of Americanism. Benjamin Hoover of Modesto High School won a \$100 savings bond for his college education.

The winner today receives \$21,000 in a competition that progresses with six levels, beginning at individual Lions clubs and working its way up through area competitions. The 15 district winners each receive \$4,500; the four area winners receive \$6,500. They compete for the grand prize scholarship of \$10,000.

The 2009 winner, Eric Brewster of Long Beach Polytechnic High School, delivered his first of six speeches on "Water – Will California Be Left High and Dry?" at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, where the **Downtown Long Beach Lions Club** meets each Friday at noon. He gave the 10-minute speech a final time in June at the Council of Governors Joint Meeting held in Cathedral City, where he delivered it with passion and clarity.

"Giving us the chance to speak, to communicate, lending us an ear – it is perhaps the greatest gift you can offer," Brewster told the Lions.

This year, in keeping with the national debate on health-care reform, students are grappling with the topic, "Universal Health Care – How Would It Affect Us?"

**Kitty Kramer**, a member of the **Woodlands Reveille Lions Club**, chaired the event at her club. She recruited the three judges, which included the local newspaper editor. Lions served as door monitors and timers. Students are judged on a 100-point scale that scores them on originality, delivery, sincerity, persuasiveness, enunciation, cohesiveness and overall effectiveness. "It's amazing how calm, cool and collected the students were," she says.

### **Changing with the Times**

Since 1937, Lions in California have sponsored a statewide competition in speech for high school students. Here are some of the topics.

2010 – Universal Health Care

2009 – Water – Will California be left High and Dry?

2008 – Immigration – My Solution

2007 – Global Warming – Fact or Fiction

2006 – The Internet – Hero or Villain

1995 – The Media – Do They Go too Far?

1990 – What the American Flag Means to Me

1985 – Television – Master or Servant?

1980 – Taxpayer's Revolt – Where will it Lead?

1975 – America's Future – Where Now?

1970 – Generation Gap – Fact or Fantasy?

1965 – Maturity – Its privileges and Responsibilities

1960 – People to People – Key to World

Understanding

1955 – Safety through Sane Living

1950 – Education in American Ideals – Basis for

International Understanding

1945 – What My Parents Mean to Me

1940 – The Will to be Free

1937 – Americanism

### **Elburn Days**

Forty-four miles west of downtown Chicago, Elburn is a small farm town with corn fields stretching for miles. For three days in late August, its population of 5,000 welcomes tens of thousands of visitor. The Lions club's Elburn Days is a high point of summer and a fixture on the calendar since 1929.

The festival is a family-friendly weekend, with musical entertainment, recreational events and an ear-splitting tractor pull that draws hundreds of spectators. On the main stage, teens compete in the Elburn Idol contest, strutting their stuff before a panel of local judges while top regional bands come on later in the evening.

Saturday morning dawns with a five-kilometer road race from the Elburn fire station and the annual Elburn Boys Scouts pancake breakfast at Lions Park. Downtown Elburn comes alive with sidewalk sales, a flea market and rummage sale. There's a used-book sale at the library, a craft show sponsored by the Elburn Chamber of Commerce and an antique tractor show of prized farm equipment from bygone days. On Sunday morning, there's a community worship service on the Main Stage and local farmers bring their summer harvest to sell.

"We have never called it Lions Day – it's called Elburn Days and we can only pull it off with the complete cooperation of the entire town," says **Gordy Dierschow**, an **Elburn Lion** who has volunteered for 34 years and last year was in charge of the event's 36 "porto-potties" and four 30-yard Dumpsters.

Kids cavort at the carnival while their elders play bingo. When it gets too hot, patrons cool off watching an ice-cream eating contest or settle in at the beer garden down for a cool lager on a steamy August evening. Members of the local 4-H clubs bring their livestock – pigs, steers, cattle and sheep – and the animals get auctioned off on Sunday.

The event takes place on the 27-acre park owned by the Lions. It's a mighty volunteer effort by the 175-member Elburn Lions, the state's biggest club. **Al Lee**, treasurer of the Elburn Lions, says about 130 members are capable of working, and they all volunteer for at least three days. Proceeds of the annual event fund Lions charities for the visually impaired, those with diabetes and several local charities.

"We have a good time with whatever we do," says

Lee. "I volunteer because I want to make life better for someone who is less fortunate. We're fortunate that so many volunteer."

He runs the beer tent, so he's setting up for several days before it opens on Friday. In 2009, they drained 50 cases of Mike's Hard Lemonade and 105 half-barrels of Miller High Life and Miller Lite. With 160 cups of beer per barrel, that's close to 17,000 servings of beer during three days.

"We have eight taps, and from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and we hardly ever turn off the tapper," says Lee.

The tractor pull, which features massive, roaring rigs from the Illini State Pullers Association, attracts a big crowd, many of whom drive their pick-ups along the course, and hangs out all day watching the massive machines strain with their heavy loads along a 100-yard dirt course as plumes of smoke fill the air.

An added attraction in 2009 was the Mud Volleyball Tournament, played on the rutted course after the tractors had torn up the dirt track. The track gets flooded with water, creating a mud pit that provides a soft landing for volleyball players diving for blazing spikes. "It got pretty wild," says Lee.

### **Santa Parade**

When **Robert Mahannah** was a child in the late 1960s, he'd come with his sister, Margaret, down to the **Georgetown Lions Santa Claus Parade** in the early afternoon in mid-November in the suburban Ontario town about 30 miles west of Toronto. They'd line the sidewalk on blustery November afternoons, watching their grandfather lead a team of horses from their dairy farm pulling a festive float down Guelph Street to the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

The parade, which will celebrate its 80th anniversary this November, signaled to local children – and the merchants readying their wares for the holiday marketplace – that Christmas was near. "It was time to pick out your favorite toy," recalls Mahannah. "We couldn't wait."

On the 75th anniversary, the Georgetown Lions veered from tradition and decided to hold the parade at night. **Al Watt**, club president, says the change has infused new energy in the parade, as the floats are now lit up with thousands of lights as they parade through the town's main commercial corridor.

As darkness settles on the town, families gather along the sidewalk. They wrap themselves in blankets sitting in lawn chairs, on tailgates or in makeshift shelters to shield themselves from the cold. Merchants set out free hot chocolate and coffee along the way as the spectators await the parade, two hours of holiday magic.

First comes the police cruiser, followed by blaring, flashing fire trucks from the Georgetown Fire Department. The Georgetown Lions Color Party leads the parade. Twenty Lions, dressed in the club's black winter coats and red Santa's hats, carry flags from Canada's provinces, the United States and the Lions Club International.

They march to the drone of the Georgetown Pipe Band, the town's bagpipe ensemble that plays Christmas carols as they march by in kilts. Then come the floats: St. Andrews United Church with its choir singing about the birth of Jesus and the Brampton Fall Fair Float, with 12,000 lights aglow. The final float, built by the Georgetown Lions, ferries Santa Claus along the parade route.

The parade is the town's biggest event, and an estimated 10,000 revelers lined the streets in 2009 to watch and listen as 66 bands and floats come by. "It has been going 79 years, and we aren't going to stop," says Watt, a Lion for 30 years. "It's one of the most fun things that we do."



**Santa greets residents in the Georgetown Lions Santa Claus Parade in 1949.**

*Photo courtesy of the Esquensing Historical Society*

Mahannah and **Shirley McCallum** helped build the float for the Brampton Fall Fair, which features several reindeer and a multi-colored Rudolf, led by reins that appear to be moving as the lights blink on

and off in sequence. The 20-foot-long wagon is pulled by 1947 McCormack tractor, which was used to till the fields of McCallum's great-grandfather. Three 7,000-watt generators power the lights.

"I love the nighttime parade," Mahannah says. "We've had snow, we've had rain and one night it was so foggy you could barely see. The lights illuminated the fog and it was really like we were in a dream."

**Georgetown Lion Doug Welden** stuffs a few pillows under the Santa costume, dons a fake beard and rides the Lions float, as he has done for the past 15 years. He sits atop the Georgetown Lions float, waving to the children, calling out the names of those he knows as he passes by. On cold November nights, he's certain to don several layers of long underwear and sweaters to keep him warm in the late November chill. "It's as much fun for me as it is for the kids," says Welden. "I get them singing Jingle Bells and Let it Snow as we go along."

### **Colorful Carnival**

For 85 years, the **Dunville Lions Club** has attracted fun-seekers to this small town at the mouth of the Grand River for its annual carnival in southern Ontario, about 50 miles west of Buffalo, New York. This year's carnival coincided with the town's sesquicentennial, so the celebration had added meaning to the townspeople and those who came to visit in early August.

At one time, the carnival covered the entire Lions Park, and teens from across the region would descend on Dunville for three days of merrymaking. Today, the carnival is geared more toward younger children, with pony rides, a climbing wall, amusement rides and a mini-rodeo, with cattle roping.

For the adults, there's bingo, a food concession and an exhibition of classic cars. This year, the Lions scheduled a display of raptors as well as a demonstration of fire safety procedures by the Ontario provincial firefighters, who erected a smoke-house and taught how to survive a blaze.

To spark interest in the fair and draw more visitors, **Hank Hultink**, first vice-president of the Dunville Lions Club, says the club seeks corporate

### **Tips for Cultivating Volunteers**

Annual events can stress a club with huge demands for volunteer help to pull it off for yet another year. How do you avoid burnout and encourage volunteers to come back for another year?

**Al Lee**, a longtime volunteer at Elburn Days, says a key to success is providing special perks for the hard-working volunteers. At the main festival location, volunteers eat and drink for free in a private hospitality room. Strong leadership is essential as well, so the volunteers clearly know what they are expected to do. "You need a strong, intelligent leader who is fair," says Lee. "You can't have a figurehead and hope that the event pulls itself off."

Recruitment of new volunteers is essential. While a core group of organizers may come back year after year, Lions say bringing in new blood is key to a successful event. **Bill Evers**, 96, of Dunville, Ontario, has seen volunteers come and go during the past 40 years he has volunteered at the **Dunville Lions** annual carnival. Evers says Lions shouldn't be shy in soliciting help. "All you have to do is ask," says Evers. "That's the way you have to do it."

Many of the Lions festivals include help from other organizations. Some Lions tap nonprofit groups that will benefit from donations raised at the event. It's a way for Lions to expand their reach and find the staff to help with the myriad jobs that need attention.

At the Peach Festival in Michigan, the Lions pay the local Boy Scouts to help clean up after the masses depart. "They are like ants," says **Gary Schocke** of the **Romeo Lions**. "They do a great job."

Having fun at the event is a sure-fire way to attract volunteers. That's the attitude at the Lions Follies, the satirical show put on each year since 1936 by the **Temple Founder Lions Club in Texas**. "Success breeds success, and people want to be a part of it," says **Lion George White**. "It's a way to help people and have fun too. Even though it takes time and effort, you get that real Lions feeling – we are doing this because the money we raise is going to help a lot of people."

sponsorships, which allows free pony rides or free use of the climbing wall for a few hours. “Word spreads darn fast if it’s free,” says Hultink. “We get more people there, we sell more food and we pick up a buck or two.”

The club makes money for its charitable donations at its food operation, which serves onion rings, hot dogs and a banquet burger – a hamburger with bacon and smothered in cheese. “There’s wonderful camaraderie in that kitchen,” says Hultink. “Through all the moaning and groaning, we have lots of fun.”

### Lions Follies

Since 1936, the **Temple Founders Lions Club** has brought townspeople together to laugh and share jokes about the town located 130 miles south of Dallas. The show, which began in depths of the Depression, was called the Minstrel Burlesque and

held at the Municipal Auditorium. Seventy-four years later, the show, now called the Lions Follies, plays to packed houses at the 487-seat Cultural Activities Center. It’s the club’s biggest fundraiser, netting about \$20,000.

“The whole community feels like they are in on the inside jokes,” says **Lion George White**, who has collaborated on writing the scripts for the past 27 years with **Dr. Gary Gosney**. “If you come from out of town, you won’t quite get it. They might need an interpreter in the audience.”

In 2009, the show was the Temple Lions version of The Honeymooners. That year, Gosney played Ralph Cramden, the character popularized by Jackie Gleason. This year, 29 of the club’s 100 members were in the cast for a show that was a spoof on the hit television classic, The Andy Griffith Show, with Gosney playing Aunt Bee. The show also includes a

segment called News Botch, which is a take-off on the local TV station’s News Watch program. The station’s News Strong motto becomes News Wrong in the Follies.

Each year, the Follies deliver a message. This year, it focused, in a humorous way, on the need for an arts district in downtown Temple. “You throw it out in a funny way, and you make people think,” says White.

Any event in town is fodder for the Follies. When bats had infested the local football stadium, White and Gosney went to work. When the bats suddenly disappeared, the owner of the local Tex-Mex restaurant was poked in the ribs on stage. “We reported that the restaurant was having a White Wing Special, and asked, ‘Coincidence? We think not,’” says White. “It’s all in good fun, and the whole community looks forward to it.”

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## Pedal Power

### Quirky Go-kart Trip Across Continents Completed to Raise Awareness of Vision Loss

by Cliff Terry

During his two-year pedal go-kart trip through Europe and Africa, **José Geraldo de Souza Castro**—a Lion from Brazil—experienced extreme challenges, from problematic roads, blistering desert temperatures, malaria and multiple flat tires to snakes, scorpions, robbers, would-be kidnappers and pirates.

On a strange, toy-like but oddly functional contraption, he tirelessly pedaled his way from Paris to Johannesburg. He traversed France, Spain and Portugal, then took a boat across the Strait of Gibraltar to pedal through Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa.



Joe’s “children’s tricycle” pulled a trailer containing a tent, sleeping bag, clothes and spare parts.

“Zé do Pedal” or “Pedal Joe,” as he is known, met scores of interesting people and avoided numerous dangers. But his most memorable episode happened one night in Ivory Coast.

“I didn’t have a place to sleep in a small community,” he recalled. “I saw a light on in a house and asked the mister if I could put my tent in his back yard. At 2 a.m., he woke me up to say that a daughter was just born. He said that morning I had brought

happiness to their home. And he named the girl Josephine in my homage. That was my greatest moment.”

The adviser for the environment in **District LC 12** and for the **Vicosa Lions Club** in Minas Gerais, Brazil, **Pedal Joe** started his 17,000-kilometer “Extreme World” trip in Paris in May of 2008. He finished this June in Johannesburg, South Africa, in time to attend the World Cup as an avid fan for his beloved Brazilian soccer team. (Alas, the mighty Brazilians fell in the quarterfinals to Netherlands.)



After reaching South Africa, Joe visited a school for special needs children sponsored by the Kimberley Lions Club.

When the World Cup was scheduled for Africa, Joe decided he couldn’t miss it and that he’d give his journey a “social slant.” The objective was to raise awareness of two of the most serious problems affecting vision, especially children’s vision, in less developed countries: cataracts and glaucoma.

He dedicated his journey to SightFirst, started by Lions in 1989 to battle preventable blindness by supporting cataract surgeries, building or expanding eye hospitals and clinics, distributing sight-saving medication and training eye-care professionals.

“I find it fantastic that for the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes and two cans of beer, the Lions Club is able to provide a cataract operation,” Joe said. “If people knew this, I am certain that every single day

there would be many more donations. That is why I embarked on this journey — because I believe in peoples’ good hearts. My little grain of sand is being added to the construction of a more humane and just world. I hope everyone will do his/her part because somewhere on this planet, several children are becoming blind — one child a minute — and they cannot wait.”

He was supported financially by contributions from “small partners.” Along the way Lions welcomed and assisted him.

“In July 2009, I had met him at a commissioning of an eye-care clinic built by our Lions club,” said **Kwabe Opoku**, past president of the **Tema Lions Club in Ghana** and a Melvin Jones Fellow. “He took lots of pictures he needed to upload onto the Internet, so I took him to my house where I had the necessary gadgets he needed. From there, we became friends and I offered to let him stay with me. I then got my club to put him up in a hotel for a few days because I had taken him to a medical lab, where they detected that he had malaria parasites in his blood. I bought him some malaria drugs and some vitamins. He stayed for about five days in Tema, then felt it was all right to move on.



Joe lent his support to sight efforts in South Africa.

“We talked about environmental issues and how Lions could help reduce pollution and other

problems in our world. He also talked about recycling plastics and other products. I felt that he had good ideas, and has a good heart.”

Pedal Joe, 52, is divorced and has one son, one daughter and a granddaughter, who follow his exploits. “I have a great support from all, and I’m happy for that,” he said. “My son is my greatest fan. I love it.”

And what have been reactions from people around the world? “Well, everything. Some call me ‘crazy.’ They do not understand how you can travel 17,000 kilometers on a toy. But most of the people encourage me to go on, and I just listen to those ones.”

His vehicle has been called, correctly, “a children’s tricycle.” The Dutch manufacturer, Berg Toys (www.bergtoys.com), makes outdoor toys for children. The specially-prepared Offroad Go-Kart was equipped with highly durable tires, polyethylene rims, armored transmission chain, torque bar, steel frame, seven gears, headlights, ergonomic seat, LED lights, rear-view mirror and odometer. The kart pulled a small trailer in which he carried “a tent, sleeping bag, clothes, spare repair parts—and, of course, a lot of dreams.”

“The kart is very strong and until now I just have had a problem with the chain, which broke two times,” he said in one of several intermittent e-mails. “But the manufacturer sent me replacements very quickly. Another small problem is the flat tire. I have had more than 20 so far.”



**Pedal Joe encountered many challenges on his ride from Paris to Johannesburg including mines in the Sahara.**

Joe averaged about 50 kilometers per day, depending on the conditions. The most he did in one day was 110 kilometers. “It was in the Sahara

Desert—on a flat road, of course. Also, the wind was in my favor.”

Not unexpectedly, he stayed in some unusual places such as police stations. “The most crazy place I’ve slept was in a cemetery in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The biggest nightmare was also there. I also slept in a jail and a lot of bats flew around all night long. Sleeping in a tent under bridges has also been common. When the night fell, sometimes I didn’t have many choices.”

He endured various difficulties, even dangers. “Sometimes it was very hard to find a visa. For example, in Angola I waited 10 days to get one. And scorpions and snakes were constantly on the road. There were narrow roads in some countries in Africa like Namibia, where there are so many lorries [trucks] on those roads. And some border authorities and, sometimes, the police asked for money, gifts, etc. But crossing the Sahara was the most difficult leg. There were too many long distances with nothing around and, unfortunately, in some parts of the desert—principally the last 400 kilometers, until the border with Mauritania—on both sides of the road there were personnel mines along the road.” Fortunately, he escaped serious injuries—just a sprain of the right foot.

In August, 2008, Joe was robbed in Gibralfón, Spain, a small village on the road to Seville. “During the night, an old man invited me to sleep at his house, and people emptied my trailer. I did not take care of a lot of the things because I never imagined there would be a theft in a rural area.” Besides money, the thieves took a tool box, small video camera, tripod, replacement parts and other personal objects. Said Joe at the time: “I regret only the behavior of the police of Gibralfón, who did not even bother to register what happened.”

As for the challenges of nature, the rainy season caused bad roads, and there was mountainous terrain in Angola and Namibia. He had terrible weather crossing the Pyrenees mountains, where the rain was very cold. After that came extreme weather in the Sahara, where the night temperature can drop near freezing.

The leg of the trip from Dakar to Lagos was particularly difficult. “First, in Senegal, I rode on

nearly 300 kilometers of dirt roads, I was 12 days in the dust and spitting brick.” High temperatures were a constant in Mali. Arriving in Ivory Coast, he passed through an area controlled by rebel militia. Later came the rainy season, with showers at least five days per week. With the rain, mosquitoes also arrived.

The trek from Lagos to the end of Nigeria was the most difficult of all because of the lack of security. “When I was in Lagos, clashes between police and members of a radical Islamic, pro-Taliban sect spread throughout the region north of the country.



**Joe made friends everywhere he went including Morocco.**

He also faced danger in Nigeria, especially in the state of Delta, where extremist groups opposed to oil exploration by Western companies use kidnapping to intimidate workers. “They request sums of money to buy weapons and maintain the troops. The really bad situation was that the Nigeria-Cameroon border was closed because of heavy rain and I needed to take a boat on a 100-mile journey. Pirates asked for money from every passenger. Fortunately, the crew collected the money [about \$15 per person]. I had luck, because if the pirates had collected it, I would have had big trouble. I was the only white person on the boat, which means a good opportunity for kidnapping because they know white people work for a helicopter or petroleum company.”

Assaults on the road were another constant danger, and Joe twice experienced attempted robbery in Nigeria. “The first time people passing in a passenger bus realized that something was wrong and stopped and the robbers went away. The second time, a police car came by and I rushed to it.”

Along the way, Lions and others arranged press interviews. Usually, he asked the Lion members to

### **Meeting Lions**

Along his remarkable “Extreme World” journey, **Pedal Joe** encountered many Lions who assisted him. “In July 2009, José Sousa Castro called me to say he wanted to meet the **Lions of Benin**,” said **Mileny de Souza, President of the Cotonou Les Palmiers club** there. “I invited him to stay at my home for one week and he could meet the presidents of our region and the zone of Benin. We then went to the national television station so he could give a press conference to explain his mission. And several articles were written in regional newspapers.

“His noble mission is very important in Africa, where cares about some illnesses are nearly non-

existent and no changes are foreseen. Only those who have the means can make it. It is necessary that the Lions of Africa, with the active involvement of the governments, install subsidized eye-care clinics to allow the disinherited population to receive the same care as the most affluent.

“I suggested to him that my club set up a mobile medical vehicle to go into the villages’ schools and diagnose the children who have eye illnesses. I have a dream that we will be able to achieve this one day if we have financing. And this idea is thanks to the ingenuity of Zé do Pedal.”

**Tiete Santos Costa of District 115 CS in Lisbon, Portugal**, said that Joe stayed in a hotel in central Lisbon, paid by the **Lions Club Lisboa Centro**. “He

toured the whole country with the help of Portuguese Lions. We talked about everything—global environmental issues, the love between people and Lions in general. He is a person with a huge heart, very friendly and very generous, a great communicator who aims to help the next person and who, above all, promotes the programs of the Lions.”

**Elizabeth Wilkie of District 410A Lions, South Africa**, happened to run into Joe in central Namibia. “He is truly an inspiration to all of us,” she said. “We exchanged contact details, and I presented him with the District Governor’s collectors’ pins [one for him and one for his DG in Brazil].

### Past Trips

This year's "Extreme World" was not Pedal Joe's first trip.

In 1981, he left Rio de Janeiro to travel "for fun" to Seville, Spain, riding on a bicycle to see the Brazilian football (soccer) team play in the 1982 World Cup. Turns out the local police initially wouldn't allow him to enter the United Kingdom because he had been in Argentina, which at that time was at war with the UK about the disputed ownership of the Falklands.

In 1983, he undertook another bicycle journey—a four-year, 56-country trip through Africa and Asia to call attention to cancer. He also traveled in Japan on a very small child's kart ("to call attention to the children of Ethiopia") after which he flew to the 1986 World Cup in Mexico City, where Brazil lost in the quarter-finals to France.

In 1987, it was another bicycle odyssey, this time a Brazilian one, to bring attention to the politicians on the children of the northeast of Brazil, suffering from extreme poverty, hunger and

neglect. ("It became my worst project. I was caught by a policeman at a gas station who took me for a bandit, and hit me mercilessly, then I was spat upon by passers-by. Worst, the northeast children remain forgotten today.")

That was the end of Joe's travel until 2002, again in Brazil, when he went from Três Marias, Minas Gerais, on a pedal boat on the Velho Chico river to the estuary of the river São Francisco on the Atlantic coast. The Velho Chico, he discovered, was heavily polluted. His objective was to educate the world on the importance of protecting the waters of the planet and other ecosystems.

Then, in 2004-2005, aboard a fiberglass pedal catamaran, he intended to voyage from the Statue of Liberty to Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio "to promote awareness about the necessity of maintaining clean rivers, lakes, oceans and, above all, springs." Unhappily, the boat was totally destroyed in Mexico, in 2005, by Hurricane Rita.

Undaunted, Joe made two attempts in 2007 to cross the Bay of Guanabara in Rio de Janeiro on a

pedal boat constructed entirely with plastic bottles "to attract as much attention as possible to the effects of global warming, principally in Third World countries." On the first attempt, the boat's pulley broke, ending the project. Next try, though, despite strong wind and waves, he made it in just under three hours. He had chosen Guanabara because it was the most polluted bay on the Brazilian coast.



**In 2007, Joe tried to cross the polluted Bay of Guanabara in Rio de Janeiro on a boat made of plastic bottles.**

join the interview because he wanted local people know how the Lions clubs in their communities work.

Asked what were the most important things he learned on his tour, he said: "Africans have had big problems of centuries of war and colonization, but they also have such solidarity. They never let you 'fall down.' They always have their hands out to put you up. And this is great. The most beautiful thing about Africa is their people—a people who suffer, but face every day with a search for happiness.

"You cannot make a better world if we do not care for their inhabitants. And there is, again, the work of Lions. That's why on my next project, in 2011, I will walk 9,000 kilometers through Brazil pushing a wheelchair in order to bring awareness to people

about the hardest problems for disabled people such as architectural barriers. And I'm sure the Lions all over the world will be walking with me. Disability is another target of Lions clubs. The one-year journey also will be an important opportunity to 'sell' the work of Lions as a service club. In some areas, even in the United States, people do not know what we doing.

"Every day, the world has problems, including the environment. I think at least a portion of the solution is to begin work with the children at school. Those children will grow up with another vision of the environment and have the purpose to change it.

"When I visit schools, I tell the teachers to put out more information about the problem and call the children to help, to not throw garbage the streets, to

not garbage the planet. And Lions clubs play a very important role in the solution of the problem. The environment is the most important part of this faith for a better world, and the Lions all over the world are pushing for a positive change."

### Soccer Kid

Pedal Joe is hardly the only Lions' connection to the World Cup. When the Australian team trotted onto the pitch to take on Ghana, Aldan Jackson, 7, accompanied them as an official players' escort. Aldan plays soccer for the **Cherrybrook Lions Club**. He became an escort after completing a comic story about sportsmanship in a contest sponsored by McDonald's.

## Participation Lodge



**Governor Ron** accepting a picture of the residents at Participation Lodge and a plaque for his continued support of the lodge. Pictured with him are **Vevey Loveday, Bonnie Seeley** and **David Millican, Scenic City Lions Branch Club** members.

*Submitted by Phil Williams*

## Marmora Lions



**Marmora Crowe Valley Lions**, at their annual June Jamboree, presented **Lion Murney Carman** with a bike helmet and appreciation for selling the most tickets on a Blue Ridge guitar. Also shown are Ticket Chair **Lion Charlie Murchison** and **Lion President Kevin Roy**. Proceeds from the ticket sales - \$1,603.05 - for Lions projects.

*Submitted by Lion Wilma Bush*

## Renfrew Lions Club



Renfrew Lions Club hosts a Bar-B-Q as a fundraiser for the spring dog walk in Renfrew.

*Submitted by Lion Bill Guyea*

# Lions on Location

## Lions Help a Widow

Pekka and Pirjo Hämäläinen retired a decade ago and moved to their summer cottage after some financial reverses. After enduring a typically cold Finnish winter, they began building a cottage with heat. The construction went slowly. “Don’t worry,” Pekka reassured his wife in March. “I come from a family who lives to an old age.”



**Hämäläinen walks near her new cottage.**

The next day Pekka, 66, died of a heart attack.

That’s when **Lion Tomi Junnonen**, a former neighbor of the Hämäläinens and a friend of Pirjo since childhood, stepped in. Junnonen manages his own construction company in Imatra. Situated on top of a hill, the cottage was half done. “I promised her then that we would finish the construction,” said Junnonen. “I would not charge for work. The company would provide the tools, and the family’s son, Juha, would help with the construction. The family would provide the building materials.”

Friends and former co-workers of Hämäläinen picked up hammers and saws. So, too, did members of the **Imatra Lions Club**. The home was finished before the cold arrived.



**Lions cutting the wall boards are (from left) Reino Miikki, Kari Manninen, Juha Hämäläinen (Pirjo’s son), Tomi Junnonen and Petri Lammi.**

“I’m glad that I have been able to do such a service for a great neighbor and at the same time show respect to my friend Pekka’s memory. I’m also very grateful to all the people who have helped with the work,” said Junnonen.

## Massive Eye Mission in India

For two weeks the lines of men, women and children at the orphanage in Amritsar, India, stretched out the door. Some 20,000 people eventually had their vision checked. **Lion Carlo Wagner**, an ophthalmologist from Koblenz, Germany, was one of two dozen eye specialists who brought the gift of vision to the poor.



**A patient in Amritsar is treated.**

The days were long and arduous. Food and water were minimal. Yet Wagner, the charter president of the **Sophie von la Roche Lions Club** in Koblenz, was energized by volunteering.

“It was such a wonderful experience,” he said. “The gratitude that we experienced made us forget any of the challenges we

faced. There wasn’t any screaming or cheering, just a quiet, almost religious gratitude that deeply moved me.

“They were thankful for our help even if we couldn’t completely fix their problem. It meant a lot to them that we did our best and took their concerns seriously. Often it’s the poorest of the poor who are completely on their own. They were just grateful that we showed them we cared about them — they really felt it.”

A leading eyewear designer and manufacturer, the Luxottica Company organized the mission to Amritsar, located near the Pakistani border and known for its stunning temples. Nearly 130 volunteers took part including high school and university students. Local Lions also volunteered their time. The volunteers had access to 45,000 glasses, donated by Luxottica, and also could make glasses on the spot to fit any prescription.



**Wagner poses with a happy patient.**

The medical team performed several cataract operations. They also treated people whose vision was extremely poor. “What we saw there was truly

unbelievable. We saw one woman who had a diopter reading of negative 18 and had never worn glasses. This must be a totally new life for her now,” Wagner said.

The patients were not the only ones deeply affected by the mission. “It’s hard to go from seeing how people over there live and how they manage to get through life with their heads held high to coming back and hearing people complain about the little things,” Wagner said. “It’s just something I can no longer understand.”

## Fine End to a Book Sale’s Soggy Start

A burst pipe threatened a club’s book sale, but Lions organized a salvage operation and the show went on.

The **Christchurch Breakfast Lions** in New Zealand stored thousands of books for their annual book sale in the clubhouse of the **Waimairi Lions**. A heavy frost caused a pipe to burst. Lions estimated that water had been seeping through the ceiling into the room with the books for six days before the problem was discovered.



**Lion Paula Hemingway moves books from the water-damaged room.**

Hundreds of sodden books were ruined, but most were saved. The club sold 5,000 books on the first day of the sale and grossed \$6,500. The flood “didn’t affect us much. We just kept going,” said **Graeme Crozier**, club president. Funds went toward a replacement saddle for a Riding for the Disabled group, which lost its saddle in a burglary.

## Trinidad TV Time



**Eduard Louwe (center) and Richard Sirjoo of the Chaguanas Lions Club in Trinidad and Tobago appear on national television to promote the club’s hosting of World Day of Prayer and Action for Children.**



## Oakville Lions involved in fundraising initiatives in aid of the Haiti disaster



MICHAEL WANIN / OAKVILLE BEAVER

**HELPING HAITI:** Above, from left, Oakville Lions Club members Peter O'Leok, Doug Flowers, and Lionel McAssey help at a two-day fundraiser, at Hopedale Mall in February. Below, from left in back, Oakville Lions Bill Allison, Al Telatsnik, Fred Oliver, Jim Robinson and Don McGowan, and (in front) Paddy Townson, Karen MacKenzie-Stepner, Ron Gamble, Surinder Sharma, Olena Lytosh, Orkar Rai present a \$5,000 cheque. The Oakville Lion's Club and its partners in the fundraising event, EMS of Oakville and Halton Canine and Oakville Trafalgar Lions Club, are donating the funds to Team Canada Healing Hands for prosthetic care in Haiti. Seen at right, Allison (top) and MacKenzie-Stepner (below) with prosthetic devices.



## Cannington Lions Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



In May of 2010 the **Cannington Lions Club** held their annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner to celebrate the many volunteer organizations in the Cannington area. Pictured here are members of the Cannington Lions Club and representatives of the many organizations they celebrated.

*Submitted by Lion Donald McGovern, PRC*

## Belleville Lions Club



Belleville Lions Club members, along with some of their partners, climbed aboard the BIG BIKE with its 29 seats to help the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The Lions enjoyed a hearty barbecue after their ride through the city's downtown core and were informed the effort had raised over \$3,000 for Heart and Stroke Research.

*Submitted by Wilma Bush*

## Killaloe Hosts Romeo



**Organizers - Lions vice-president Cathy Pearson and Skye Faris - join Lions president Jim Homer to congratulate two of the actors - Garrett Quirk as Tybalt and Artem Barry as the Count of Paris**

On August 8th, the **Killaloe & Area Lions Club** hosted a performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet by the Salamander touring theatre of Ottawa in the Killaloe Lions Hall. Not only was this the first time Shakespeare was performed in Killaloe by a professional company, but the sold-out audience meant that the Lions could contribute \$500 to area youth programs. In addition to putting on the play, the Salamander players put on an acting workshop the following day for local young people.

*Submitted by Tony Pearson*



**Actor William Somers (Romeo) leads a group of local young people in a visualization exercise in the Lions Hall**

## Royal City Lions Club Presents Awards



**Lion Wayne Keefe** accepts the Rookie of the Year award from Royal City Lion Chief **Bill Hocken**.



**Lion Ed Hollett** displays **Lenny**, the Royal City Lions' mascot, sporting a new vest that commemorates the more than 50 years of Lions service by the late **Lion David Martins** with clubs in Guyana and Toronto. The gift vest will be displayed with Lenny at club functions and at the banner parade for District A-15 conventions.



**Lion Bob Rutter** accepts the Lion of the Year award from District A-15 Governor-elect **Todd Wilson**.

## Helen Keller Fellowship



The **Lions Club of Petrolia** honoured **Lion Cheryl Schleihauf** with a Helen Keller Fellowship on June 7, 2010. Presenting the Fellowship is **Past District Governor Joe Madacsi**.

*Submitted by Marilyn Madacsi*

## Londesboro & District Lions Club

On May 29, 2010 the Londesboro & District Lions Club members volunteered their services to be waiters at the Londesboro United Church Women's Bridal Show fundraiser. The club has always had a close working relationship with the UCW as is such in any small community.

**Those participating were Lions (front L-R) - Ian Hulley, Don Allen, Bill Bromley, John Hoggart. (back L-R) Sam Dougherty, Dan Gilbert, Keith Allen, Ron Kassies, Mike Boven, Kelly Boven, Luke Bolinger.**

*Submitted by Phil Williams*



## Toronto Central Lions Presentation



Club President **Dan Wigglesworth** presenting the "Harry Newman Diabetes Award" to **Lion Sandy Air** at a Toronto Central Lions Lunch Meeting in the Arcadian Court.

## Melvin Jones Awards



**Linwood & District Lions Club President Jerry Sherrer** presents **Charter Lion Frank Friedmann P.P. & P.Z.C** The Melvin Jones Award recognizing his dedication and service to the **Linwood Lions Club** and the Community. Congratulations Lion Frank.

*Submitted by Lion Tom Kleinknecht*



On the left is **Lion R.J. Smith** of the **Sunderland Lions** who many years ago sponsored **Lion Paul Bryan**, on the right, and R.J. is proudly presenting him with his Melvin Jones Plaque.

*Submitted by Stan Durward*



**Ed Goerstenkorn** of the **Paradise & District Lions Club** receives the Melvin Jones Award, presented by **Club President, Janet Pfaffinger**

*Submitted by Lion Annette Kuhn*

## Formosa Lions Club



*Caralynn Kamerman (L), Jim Lamont and Marianne Batte of the Formosa Lions Club decked out for the A-9 convention parade.*

*Submitted by Phil Williams*

## Leukemia Fundraiser



Over the weekend the local Beer Store as well as Beer Stores across the Province were accepting bottle/can returns with the funds going to Leukemia research. The local store had over \$600 in returns donated to the project. Pictured are left store manager **Doug Hart** and right **Cassidy Finn** with Westport Lion member **Kevin Northcott** in the centre.

The **Westport Lions Club** has supplied members to assist with this worthwhile project the last few years.

*Submitted by Lion Sandra Baldwin*

## New Hamburg Lions



The New Hamburg Lions Club members **Jim Arkell, Bob Starr, Gavin Williams, Shawn Wagler** and **Paul Mackie** present a cheque for \$7,500 to Wilmot Mayor Wayne Roth in April. The money is part of a \$75,000 pledge from the club to the Wilmot Recreation Complex.



**Gavin Williams, Bob Starr,** and **Jim Arkell** present Ken Seltzer, of the New Hamburg Citizen's Band with a cheque for \$3,500. Combined with a grant from Wilmot Township, the band will be sporting a new look soon.

*Photos by Lion Jim Bishop  
Submitted by Paul Mackie*

## St. Marys Lions Club

St. Marys Lions Club hosted the **District A-15 Convention** in Stratford Ontario at the River Garden Inn April 16-18, 2010. This years theme was, "Everyone's a Star and Deserves the Right to Twinkle" (Marilyn Monroe).

**District Governor Karen McNeight** challenged all convention goers to dress as their favourite "Movie Star"! Below are some of the "stars" that attended this fabulous event! As you can see, "EVERY LION IS A STAR".

*Submitted by Marianne Ferguson*



*Donna Loucks as "Maid Marion" and PDG Dr. Jim Loucks as "Friar Tuck"*



*Lion Evelyn Leek as "Dorothy", District Governor Karen McNeight as "The Wicked Witch", Lion Bill McNeight along with Lions Georgina and Bob McGregor as the "Three Amigos"*



*President Larry McClelland as "Fred Astaire" and Lions Audra and Derek Kew as "Wilma and Bernie"*

## Cannington Lions Canoe-A- Thon



The Canoe-A-Thon has been run by the **Cannington Lions** for over 35 years and this year we had 35 canoes

entered or about 80 people. We made \$1,800 which goes to various worthy causes such as a large contribution to the Port Perry hospital for their new Endoscopy facility, awards for local high school grads, a defibrillator for the fire department, Junior hockey, figure skating and so on. We also put on a spectacular Canada Day party every year in Macleod Park with bands, kids rides, BBQ and fireworks. This is not run as a profit maker and we usually have to subsidize it. For more info check our web site: [canningtonlionsclub.ca](http://canningtonlionsclub.ca)

*Submitted by Lion Donald McGovern, PRC*

## Amaranth Lions Club



*The Amaranth Lions Club donated \$7,000 to support Creative Partners on Stage Players, which is a collaborative drama program involving Theatre Orangeville and Community Living Dufferin.*

*Submitted by Phil Williams*

## Fundraiser for Lorissa

**Royal City** and **Ariss Lions** are working with Lions and Lioness in Guelph and Fergus to aid a Guelph family deal with a rare brain cancer that has struck their 13-year-old daughter.

The clubs have set a goal of at least \$10,000 to help offset costs associated with treatment at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Not all the medical treatment is being covered by OHIP, said family friend and spokesman **Lion Larry Wainwright**.

A trust fund is open at Meridian Credit Union and the Lions in partnership with Price Choppers supermarket in Fergus held a barbecue May 29. There was also a draw for a series of prizes offered by Guelph and Fergus businesses which took place on July 3. First prize was a 42-inch plasma television donated by Sears Canada. Other prizes

included two rounds of golf and gift cards at several local businesses and restaurants.

Lorissa is one of a handful of patients identified and the first to be treated at Sick Kids for this type of cancer.

"This is the only time doctors in Toronto have seen this type of brain tumor," said Wainwright.

"It is so rare, it doesn't even have a name. And because there are few known to have it around the world, doctors are consulting as they go to determine the next course of treatment. They don't always have definite answers to our questions."

Lorissa has undergone two major surgeries on the frontal lobe of the brain, tests and months of chemotherapy.

Funds raised will be used to offset the costs of

transportation, day care and incidental costs.

Lorissa lives in Guelph with her Mom, Dad, two younger sisters age 6 and 5 and a new baby brother born in January.

The family acknowledges the grateful assistance of the Canadian Cancer Society and the Community Care Access Center.

Anyone wishing to help can contact Larry Wainwright at 519-843-4516 or by email at larryw6838@yahoo.com.

## For The Record

As of June 30, 2010 Lions Clubs International had 1,338,803 members, in 46,168 clubs and 743 districts in 206 countries and geographic areas.

## Effective Speaking

Another successful year was finished with the Effective Speaking team, culminating at the MD "A" Convention in Kingston June 4, 2010. Many hours were spent by the District Chairs in having Zone, Region and District contests in order to provide the best speakers in MD "A". The results were fabulous. Four of the six speakers were at the MD "A" Convention and spoke on many varied topics.

The Effective Speaking program has been in effect since 1947, that is 63 years and is the longest continuous program in MD "A". This program has

affected many of our youth to become leaders in our society. If your club isn't involved in Effective Speaking, contact your District Chair. Your Club President or Secretary can help you to contact him/her, and he/she will be glad to give you materials and advice. In fact, the District Chairs are willing to visit your club and make a presentation.

This year, the winners are:

**Junior English** - PDG Ralph Foden Trophy, David Watts, District A-5

**Junior French** - PCC Dale St. John Trophy, Élodie Paquin, District A-4

**Intermediate English** - PDG Alf Crichlow Trophy, Morgan Wase, District A-15

**Intermediate French** - PDG Stan Darling Trophy, Stéphanie de Haas, District A-4

**Senior English** - PDG Brent Rickard Trophy, Stephen Kemp, District A-3

**Senior French** - PDDG Ferne Alarie Trophy, Geneviève Pilon, District A-4

*Submitted by John Thompson, PDG*



CC Al Page presenting the PDG Stan Darling Trophy to Stéphanie de Haas, District A-4



CC Al Page presenting the PDG Alf Crichlow Trophy to Morgan Wase, District A-15



CC Al Page presenting the PDDG Ferne Alarie Trophy to Geneviève Pilon, District A-4



CC Al Page presenting the PDG Brent Rickard Trophy to Stephen Kemp, District A-3

## MDA Directory Information

### Council of Governor's Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting: November 13, 2010 – Markham, ON
- Council Meeting: March 5, 2011 – Markham, ON
- Council Meeting: May 26-29, 2011 – Ottawa, ON

### District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	London, Four Points Sheraton	April 8-10, 2011
A2	St. Catharines, Quality Inn Parkway Hotel	March 25-27, 2011
A3	Kingston, Ambassador	April 15-17, 2011
A4	Ottawa, Hampton Court Inn & Conference Centre	April 15-17, 2011
A5	Sudbury, Holiday Inn	Apr 15-17, 2011
A711	Mississauga, Delta Meadowvale Convention Centre	Apr 15-17, 2011
A9	Palmerston	Apr 29-May 1, 2011
A12	Gravenhurst, Taboo Resort	April 15-17, 2011
A15	Elmira, Elmira Lions Hall	May 6-8, 2011
A16	Haliburton, Pinestone Resort	April 29-May 1, 2011

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MDA Convention

2010/11	Ottawa	May 26 - 29, 2011
2011/12	Niagara Falls	May 31 - June 3, 2012

### International Conventions

94th	Seattle, WA	July 4 - 8, 2011
95th	Bosan, Korea	June 22 - 26, 2012
96th	Hamburg, Germany	July 5 - 9, 2013
97th	Toronto, Canada	July 4 - 8, 2014
98th	Honolulu, Hawaii	June 26 - 30, 2015

### USA - Canada Forum

Sept. 2011	Anchorage, Alaska
Sept. 2012	Tampa Bay, FL
Sept. 2013	TBD



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# October is Service Commitment Month

A Lion since 1986, **Joanne Parrott** sold raffle tickets each year to support Camp Dogwood in North Carolina. This spring, for the first time, she visited the camp for the blind. For four days, she sorted eyeglasses, washed chairs, sealed boats and painted lines in the parking lot.

The campers had not yet arrived for the season, but she saw how accommodating the setting was for them. The room numbers were in Braille. Flagstones on the paths indicated the direction for hikers with canes. There was a peaceful sensory garden and museum with tactile displays.

"It was just amazing. I could see why we were raising the money," she says. "It's like being near the Grand Canyon. It's indescribable. You have to go there."

She says she will rearrange her work schedule to volunteer at the camp when it's operating. She's also sure she'll sell more than her share of raffle tickets next year. "I know I'll work harder to sell them. I feel like I know why we do what we do," she says.

Parrott has learned that doing service has compelled her to do even more service. She is not tired or complacent or fully satisfied. She finds herself reinvigorated and wanting to do more.

This Lion year **International President Sid L. Scruggs III** is encouraging Lions to follow the example of peers such as Parrott and commit themselves to service more than ever. He designated October as service commitment month and is asking Lions to sign an online service commitment pledge. (Go to [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and search for service commitment pledge.)

The pledge is non-binding. No one will check in subsequent months to see if a Lion who has signed the form has indeed increased his or her service. But the pledge serves as a kind of oath or promise for a Lion to be the best Lion they can be and not be satisfied with a routine commitment. Lions can print the pledge and place it in their wallet or purse, affix it to a wall in the club house or otherwise display it at a club meeting.

"Lions are all about service. We do a terrific job in serving our communities. But we can do better. We need to do better. There are so many unmet needs, and governments at every level and in nearly every part of the world are able do less. Lions are the beacon of hope for our communities," says Scruggs.

October is traditionally Growth Month in which Lions are asked to recruit new members. That emphasis on growing the association remains. But Lions also are being asked to commit themselves to service to strengthen their clubs and the association.

The commitment to service is part of Scruggs' general emphasis on service, particularly hands-on or direct service. Four special service events are slated for the Lion year. In August, Lions were asked to shine a beacon of hope on youth by planning programs in conjunction with the United Nations World Youth Day. In October, Lions are asked to prevent blindness in conjunction with Lions' World Sight Day. Around the holidays, the emphasis is in alleviating hunger and in

April, in support of Earth Day, the focus is on environmental projects.

Scruggs also is encouraging clubs to join in the commitment to service. A club may choose to assess its level of service and determine the best way to strengthen its community service. A highly successful strategy is to adopt or expand a signature project, a club activity for which it is known and admired.

"My club is very involved in the **VIP Fishing Tournament**. Our members love going there. We bring a lot of joy to people with disabilities and we have a great time doing it," says Scruggs.

Indeed, studies have shown that volunteering amply rewards volunteers. Service improves volunteers' problem solving skills, ability to connect with others and overall sense of self-satisfaction. Service even results in numerous health benefits, according to the Washington-based Corporation for National and Community Service. Volunteers have greater longevity, higher functional ability, lower rates of depression and less incidence of heart disease.

Of course, Lions' first concern is for those being served. Lions know the smiles or hugs they receive indicate the positive result of their service. But sometimes beneficiaries put in words what the service means.

Some participants in the VIP event ride a bus for as much as 12 hours to get there. They often know no one. They can't see. They are trying a new skill. They walk on a pier that shakes. **District Governor Gwen White of North Carolina** recalls **Lion Don Henry** patiently explaining procedures to a participant, describing the ocean and pier and then softly telling her to not be afraid. "I'm not frightened," she replied. "I've got God on my right hand and a Lion on my left."



**Jack Stewart of the Fulshear-Simonton Lions Club in Texas straightens a headstone in the historic Black Cemetery in Fulshear.**  
*Photo by Mariann Heath*

# Procedure To Get Your Address Changed

## Lions

When you need to change your address or make corrections at the LIONS HQs databases your club secretary can



- 1 Use the WMMR website application or
- 2 By the Monthly Membership Report (snail mail )
- 3 If there are multitude of address changes, your secretary can e-mail them to **stats@lionsclubs.org**

***The Lion Magazine can not do this for you as we do not have access to LCI's Data Base***

*Editor The Lion*

# MD "A" Lions Resource Centre Website

The "MD 'A' Lions Resource Centre" website is available for your use. Its goal is to provide a "one-stop-shopping" website for Lions resources, ideas and tools in all aspects of Lionism, including recruiting new members, keeping the members we already have, revitalizing clubs, fundraising ideas and club and district operations. The MD 'A' "Lions Resource Centre" website may be viewed by going to the MD 'A' website at [www.mdalions.org](http://www.mdalions.org) and clicking on the "Lions Resource Centre" button.

Lion James Johnston,  
MD "A" Membership Coordinator 2009-2010  
Tel: 613-589-2092,  
Email: [james.johnston@magma.ca](mailto:james.johnston@magma.ca)

## HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## District Reporters

This year we have appointed District Reporters for the Lion Magazine. Their job is to assist the Magazine Editor and you the Lions. Their job is to collect new photos with stories, anything that you would like to submit to the Magazine for consideration. Please be aware anything for the Magazine should now go to the District Reporter in your District as follows:

Please remember when sending your articles to your Reporter to indicate if it is for the Governors District Newsletter of the Lion Magazine.

*Lion John Daniels, Editor Lion Magazine*

<b>A1</b>	Lion Shawn Davison	email: <a href="mailto:shawnd@yahoo.com">shawnd@yahoo.com</a>	<b>A711</b>	Lion Jean Walcott	email: <a href="mailto:jeanwal@rogers.com">jeanwal@rogers.com</a>
<b>A2</b>	Lion Bob Townsend	email: <a href="mailto:bobtownsend@sympatico.ca">bobtownsend@sympatico.ca</a>	<b>A9</b>	Lion Al Leach PDG	email: <a href="mailto:adleach@hotmail.com">adleach@hotmail.com</a>
<b>A3</b>	Lion Wilma Bush	email: <a href="mailto:wilma.bush@sympatico.ca">wilma.bush@sympatico.ca</a>	<b>A12</b>	Lion Nick Poulakis	email: <a href="mailto:nixter@rockinbird.com">nixter@rockinbird.com</a>
<b>A4</b>	Lion Sandra Baldwin	email: <a href="mailto:slbaldwin@rogers.com">slbaldwin@rogers.com</a>	<b>A15</b>	Lion Tracy Brant	email: <a href="mailto:branttron@quadro.net">branttron@quadro.net</a>
<b>A5</b>	Lion Liam Brennan	email: <a href="mailto:lebrennan@hotmail.com">lebrennan@hotmail.com</a>	<b>A16</b>	Lion Donald McGovern	email: <a href="mailto:mcgovern48@hotmail.com">mcgovern48@hotmail.com</a>

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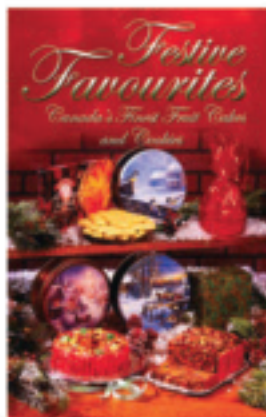
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## Grand Valley Lions Club

At the Grand Valley Lions' Duck race on May 29, 2010, all 2,000 ducks were sold for the race. The weather was excellent, everyone had fun and lots of people attended the duck race. This is becoming a Community Event as the day started off with the Grand Valley Lions Community Breakfast, the Horticultural Society held their annual plant sale, the BIA held an Amazing Race and the Anglican Church held a Spaghetti Supper, plus numerous garage sales throughout Grand Valley. In

addition, at the Duck race, there was entertainment, face painting, a bouncy castle, food and refreshments plus the Grand Valley Fire Department, Emergency Management Program people and Ontario Early Years were on hand to provide information and safety tips. A great day was had by all organizations involved.

*Submitted by Phil Williams*



## Marsville Lion Cub

This photo was taken by popular demand. Adele is our Marsville Lion Cub travelling to events with her Opa and Oma, **PRC Lion Neil** and **Lion Elly Hoogendoorn**. Adele is an avid volunteer, most recently showing her helpful hand at the **Fergus Lions Walk for Dogs** and at the Breslau Memorial Service, where this photo was requested. Adele has been a grateful recipient of the **Lions Quest Teddy Bear** from 2010/2011 **Governor Lion Todd Wilson**.

*Submitted by  
PRD Lion Neil Hoogendoorn*



## Lions Club of Ingersoll



Every year the Lions Club of Ingersoll participate in the Project Pride and distribute Canada flags to the grade one students at local schools in anticipation of Canada Day. Once more the flags went out, but this year we increased the size of the flags to the delight of the children. 170 flags were hand delivered to the grade one children in six schools in our area. Above is a photo of the Westfield grade one kids with their flags presented by **Lions Mary Ann Ward** and **Lion Dawn Mills**.

*Submitted by  
Lion Mary Ann Ward*

Agreement Number is:  
41805020\*

## Camaraderie in Lions

Camaraderie has always played a huge part of Lionism, along with selling draw tickets, October fest, Outdoor Farm Show, working a Bingo, Car Show, tending a bar at a function, taking a person to a scheduled appointment, or flipping burgers. Having fun while enjoying any community project is also very rewarding, and as you can see these lions are all have a good time.

The best part is that when members of two districts work alongside each other time goes fast.

On Canada Day 2010, the Hacock family from St Jacob's made a visit to the Hacock family in Cardiff, near Apsley. Lion George had previously committed time to work at the Lions food booth. **Lion Phil Hacock** said he

would be glad to assist, at The Lions Club Park in Apsley. Lion Phil's first project was cooking burgers with his Dad. Lion Phil, met many of the Apsley Lions and they made him feel right at home, he even got his first burger free!

The inset picture is **Lion George Hacock**, recently from the **Woodstock Lions Club** (A-15) now a member of The **Apsley & District Lions Club** in A-3. A picture was taken with **Lion Gary Northey** (in the yellow shirt) from George's new club in A-3, with a new member (June 2010) **Philip Hacock** (in the apron) from the **St. Jacobs Lions Club** in A-15.

A point of interest is that since 1976, there has been a Hacock in A-15.

