

LION



M.D. "A" Edition November/December 2014

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On the cover: Santa celebrates Christmas with Future Guide Dogs.

THE Lion

Welcome to the Nov/Dec Edition of *The Lion*. To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please contact your District Reporter (Pg 26) and please remember to check your camera settings to ensure highest resolution pictures.



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Pride Goes Before A Rise



Joseph Preston
Lions Clubs International
President

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

That's what we as Lions need to do. We need to roar with conviction. We need to put our "paw prints" all over our communities. A roar without conviction is merely a loud noise. Sometimes we Lions sell ourselves short and don't realize how much we can accomplish. Don't settle for mediocrity as a Lion or a club. As Nelson Mandela eloquently said, "There is no

passion to be found playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

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

*Dig down deep, let it go, and ROAR like a Lion,
Tell the whole world, we'll never stop tryin'*

*We are the Lions Club, we can't be denied, no, no, no,
So dig down deep, and Strengthen the Pride.*

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

You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Talk to Lions in other clubs. Read the LION carefully and visit the LCI website. Tips and tools abound. Or use the Building a Better Club method I've developed. It's a

simple, four-step process. Assess your club, establish realistic, measurable goals, put the plan together and then implement the plan.

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

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Who Am I? I'm a Lion

I began carving out my place in the world in my 20s. I was a husband, father, sales manager, musician and artist. Those were my identities. I also engaged in a variety of other hobbies and activities including serving as a Lion. Over time, slowly but then suddenly, being a Lion was not something I did. It became who I was. I saw it as a calling, my way of contributing to society in a powerful and highly effective way. My identity had become intertwined with being a Lion.

In this issue we profile active Lions from around the world. We interviewed these Lions, and we wrote down what they told us. For them, too, being a Lion

is far more than a diversion or pastime. It's how they define themselves and how they interact with their communities. Being a Lion is not merely a way of giving back but also a way of life.

It's fitting we focus on our identity as Lions as the New Year beckons. Identity is never a fixed thing. As filmmaker Steven Spielberg said, "All of us every single year, we're a different person. I don't think we are the same person all our lives." So no matter where you are on the spectrum of Lions—fully engaged, moderately active or disengaged—resolve to become more involved. Based on my own experience, I can assure you that your life will be immensely enriched.

The best thing you can do for yourself is to serve others.

Joni and I wish you health and happiness this holiday season. We thank each and every Lion for your service and look forward to a spectacular, service-filled 2015.

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Gloucester North Lions Club

The members of the Gloucester North Lions Club are pleased to support the HOST program (Help Our Students program) with a \$2000 donation.

The HOST program provides financial support to hard-working high school students who are in difficult financial circumstances and supports them throughout the entire academic year for the purpose of seeing them graduate. Each recipient receives \$100 each month for a total of \$1000. More information is available at www.host-program.org

The Gloucester North Lions Club wanted to develop a bursary program for our local students some years ago. It was very difficult to establish proper

criteria for this endeavour and to meet our budget criteria. Richard Lussier, the president of HOST provided the ideal solution with practical and effective assistance. It is based on financial need and focuses on high school graduation.



Courtice Lions

Through the month of November, Courtice Lions Diabetes Chair Lion **Evelyn Fisher** and her team of Lion Volunteers Lions **Lisa Kozma** and **John Wells** plus other members did 8 hours each weekend at the Courtice Flea Market spreading the word about diabetes. They talked to the market customers about Diabetes, the signs, checking their blood sugars regularly and meals. They also passed out information on Diabetes. They had a very successful month and raised over \$350.00 for the Canadian Diabetes Association.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER, 2014 GOVERNORS' COUNCIL MEETING



MD 'A' Convention Advisory – PCC Al Page advised that planning was well underway for both the 2015 and 2016 MDA Conventions. PID Terry Graham outlined the activities for the 2015 MDA Convention scheduled for May 21-24, 2015 at the Ambassador Hotel in Kingston. The Convention will open with the Stew O'Brien Memorial Golf Tournament on Thursday morning. PDG Grace Kingsnorth announced that 2016 MDA Convention is scheduled to be held on May 26-29, 2016 in North Bay.

International Advisory Committee – PID Carl Young reported that the Committee had recommended inviting International Director Larry Dicus and his wife, Jane, to be the official international guests for the MDA Convention. International Director Dicus has accepted the invitation.

The Lion Magazine – PDG John Daniels advised that the magazine continues to be in compliance for LCI regulations. The Registration Form for the MDA Convention will be included in both the December and February issues.

Lions Clubs International Foundation – PDG Dick Peel reported that Clubs in MDA had donated \$18,644.80 to the foundation since July 1st of this year. A total of

4,096 Melvin Jones Fellowships as well as 161 Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships have been issued to Lions in MDA.

Lions Foundation of Canada – PDG Lloyd Clifton advised that to date the Lions, Lioness and Leos of MDA have donated a total of \$98,984.28 to Lions Foundation of Canada which is a 13.22% increase over the same period of time last year. He indicated that he has challenged each district in MDA to increase the number of Dog Guide Walks in their respective districts by two.

Sight Conservation – PDG Peter Hammond advised that a revised Agreement between CNIB and MDA Lions has been drafted. The Addendum to the revised Agreement will list the activities and fundraisers for Lions Clubs to assist and support blind and partially sighted persons in Ontario. The Governors' Council approved the revised Agreement and Addendum, in principle, and instructed that it be sent to MDA Legal Counsel for review and comment.

Hearing Conservation – PDG Allen Snider reported that the official opening of the Lions Martin House in London took place on September 29th.

Opportunities for Youth – VDG John Harvey announced that the pilot CNIB Lake Joseph/MDA Youth Exchange Camp for the blind was a definite success and another camp is being planned for this year. The Governors' Council adopted a motion to provide funding to a maximum of \$6,000.00 to cover the costs for four international visually impaired youth to attend the camp with the multiple district being reimbursed through donations from the Clubs throughout the multiple district. The Governors' Council approved the application from the Fenwick and Fonthill Lions Clubs (A2) to host the 2015 Effective Speaking Final, May 1st to 3rd at the Holiday Inn & Suites in St. Catharines. Plans are underway to hold a Leo Conference. Plans are also underway to hold a Youth Luncheon at the MDA Convention.

Research & Long Range Planning – The Governors' Council approved the Committee's recommendation that reimbursement for gas mileage be increased by \$0.02 per litre effective July 1, 2015.

For more information, questions or concerns relating to these highlights please contact MDA Secretary John Stewart at email: secretary@mdalions.org.

October is Lions Month in Ottawa

A white and yellow flag bearing the Lions logo is flying high above Festival Plaza at Ottawa City Hall.

It's all part of the declaration this past October as "Lions of Ottawa Month" in order to recognize the years of community service provided by the 16 Lions Clubs in the City of Ottawa over the years. It is an initiative which came about at the instigation of the **Stittsville District Lions Club** as it prepared to celebrate its 50th charter anniversary. The clubs 50th anniversary committee managed to arrange this municipality proclamation of "Lions of Ottawa Month" along with a special flag raising ceremony that happened Friday, October 3 at Festival Plaza at Ottawa City Hall.

Representatives of most of the 16 Lions Clubs within the City of Ottawa were in attendance at the flag raising ceremony which included participation of the city mayor Jim Watson. Sunny, warm weather prevailed for the flag raising ceremony which began at 11:30 a.m. when bagpiper Jordan McConnell of Stittsville, grandson of the late **Ivan Warner** who was a member of the Stittsville District Lions Club, led a procession of dignitaries onto Festival Plaza including Lions District Governor **Rick McCauley**, Lions Past International Director **Ernie Moore**, Mayor Watson, and City of Ottawa Councillor, Shad Qadri.

Lions Past District Governor **Bill Dixon** of the **Perth Lions Club**, who served as MC for the event, explained that this ceremony was providing Lions with a great opportunity to proclaim all the good work they do,

noting the hundreds of years of service which the Lions Clubs of the City of Ottawa had provided over the years.

Mayor Jim Watson, in his remarks, commended the 16 clubs in the city for their many years of service, noting that the clubs have done a remarkable amount of work both locally and internationally. The Mayor noted that the Lions have a strong presence in all parts of the city – rural, suburban, and urban, adding that Lions Clubs are front and centre at community events in all of these areas. He thanked the Lions for the work they do, not only in raising funds for community and international projects but also for the lives they touch with their work.

A Proclamation identifying October as Lions Month was read out.

One of the speakers was Lions Past International Director Ernie Moore, now a member of the Perth Lions Club but a charter member and indeed charter president of the Stittsville District Lions Club back in 1964. He recounted how Lions began in 1917 in the United States and became an international organization in 1920 when it spread to Windsor, Canada. He said that Lions, now three and one half million strong, can be found in 207 nations across the world. He noted that the 16 clubs in the City of Ottawa all live up to the motto, "We Serve".

Mr. Moore noted it was Helen Keller who urged Lions Clubs to become advocates for the blind and working to help the blind and visually impaired has

16 City of Ottawa Lions Clubs		
	Year of founding	Years of service
Ottawa-Vanier	1922	92
Ottawa West	1950	64
Navan	1951	63
Ottawa South	1956	58
Metcalfe	1959	55
Richmond	1964	50
Stittsville	1964	50
Cumberland	1967	47
Gloucester	1968	46
Orleans	1970	44
Kanata Hazeldean	1977	37
Osgoode	1978	36
Barrhaven	1980	34
Manotick	1984	30
Greely	1988	26
Gloucester North	1995	20

been a longtime mission of Lions Clubs. The Lions guide dog program in Canada has trained a total of 2,194 dogs including seeing eye dogs, hearing dogs, service dogs, seizure dogs and autism /diabetes dogs. He said that Lions Clubs support many causes in their local communities such as supporting playgrounds, sport teams and helping people afflicted with disease or needing help. He noted that Lions Clubs not only support needs in the local community but are also involved in global initiatives as well.

A group including Mayor Watson, Councillor Qadri, District Governor Richard McCauley, Mr. Moore and Stittsville District Lions Club members **Beth Lewis** and **Al Zoschke** formally cranked the Lions' flag up the tall flagpole to the sound of applause.

Of the 16 Lions Clubs in the City of Ottawa, several are marking milestone anniversaries this year. Both the Stittsville and **Richmond Lions Club** are marking their 50th anniversary year this year, both founded in 1964. The **Metcalfe Lions Club** is marking its 55th anniversary year this year – founded in 1959. The **Manotick Lions Club**, 30 years and the **Gloucester North Club** its 20th

anniversary year. The presence of Lions Clubs in the City of Ottawa goes back to 1922 when the first Lions Club in the area, the **Ottawa-Vanier Club**, received its charter. It now has 92 years of service to its credit.

Altogether these 16 Lions Clubs in the City of Ottawa have a combined 752 years of community

service under their belts. What a record of community service!

This article first appeared in the Stittsville News and was written by Lion John Curry of the Stittsville District Lions Club. Some slight modifications were made by Lion Gordon Mac Isaac, then further modifications for the Lion magazine.

A Short History of Blindness

43 Facts You Should Know About Blindness

by Jay Copp

- In most early civilizations blind men are sold into ship galley slavery and blind women are sold into prostitution or the blind survive as beggars.
- The first Pharaohs around 3000 B.C. command that blind infants be left to die.
- By 2500 B.C. Egyptians treat eye disease and educate the blind.
- A blind Pharaoh about 700 B.C. forcefully regains his throne after a foreign invasion.
- The blind poet Homer of Greece presumably authors both the Iliad and the Odyssey in the 9th century B.C.
- Roman healers in the first century use a needle to crudely push a cataract lens out of the visual field.
- Some Roman cities limit infanticide, requiring, for example, the consent of five neighbors before a newborn could be killed.
- Similar to the guilds of the era, brotherhoods of the blind organize in Europe in the Middle Ages to advance their interests.
- The English poet John Milton writes the masterpiece “Paradise Lost” after becoming blind around 1652.
- Taught with letters of wood in 1676, Esther Elizabeth von Waldkirch, the daughter of a rich Swiss merchant, becomes the first known blind person to learn to write.
- In 1714, English engineer Henry Miller patents with the Queen as an aid to the blind a mechanical writing machine—the precursor of the typewriter.
- In 1749 the acclaimed French encyclopedist Denis Diderot arouses a spirited public debate after publishing a letter arguing that the blind could be educated.
- Inspired by an appalling scene in a Parisian café where blind men wearing dunce caps and cardboard glasses entertain diners by playing out-of-tune on violins, Valentin Haüy founds the first school for the blind in 1784.
- Around 1800, French army captain Charles Barbier invents a way for soldiers to communicate silently in the dark through raised dots and dashes on cardboard.
- Blinded in an accident as a boy, Louis Braille, a student at the school founded by Haüy, learns of Barbier’s “night-writing” system when the ex-soldier visits the school, inspiring the precocious 15-year-old to develop Braille in 1824.
- The first residential school for the blind in the United States, the New England Asylum for the Blind (now called the Perkins School for the Blind) opens in 1829.
- In 1862, Herman Snellen, a Dutch eye doctor, invents the Snellen chart to test visual acuity—letters or numbers of varying sizes arranged in rows.
- Helen Keller is born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in 1880.
- Anne Sullivan gives Keller an understanding of language in 1887.
- Greatly improving upon writing Braille with a slate and stylus, Frank Hall of the Illinois School for the Blind introduces the Hall Braillewriter in 1892.
- Keller becomes a worldwide celebrity when “The Story of My Life” is published in 1903.
- New York state makes education compulsory for blind students in 1911.
- Melvin Jones, a 38-year-old Chicago insurance executive, forms Lions Clubs in 1917.
- After World War I, Germans, impressed how dogs located soldiers and led rescuers on the battlefield, train dogs as guides for men blinded in combat.
- Although almost completely blind, French impressionist Claude Monet paints his famous Water Lilies mural in 1919.
- Keller beseeches Lions to be “Knights of the Blind” at their international convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, in 1925.
- Learning of guide dogs while living in Switzerland, Dorothy Harrison Eustis returns to America and establishes in Nashville the first U.S. dog guide school, the Seeing Eye, in 1929.
- George Bonham of the Peoria Lions Club in Illinois begins a campaign in 1930 that leads to every state passing White Cane safety laws by 1956.
- The American Foundation for the Blind develops Talking Books in 1932.
- Dedicated to equality and integration, the National Federation of the Blind is formed in 1940.
- The U.S. Congress passes the Social Security Act, which includes the Aid to the Blind rehabilitation program, in 1935.
- Three Detroit Lions establish Leader Dogs for the Blind in 1938.
- The Buffalo Lions Club in New York founds the world’s second eye bank, the Buffalo Eye Bank, in 1945.
- The U.S. Congress passes the first law requiring public schools to accept handicapped students in “the least restrictive environment” in 1975.
- Raymond Kurzweil creates the Kurzweil reader, a prototype translator of printed material into synthesized speech, in 1976.
- A study shows that only 31 percent of working-age adults with vision loss work compared to 72 percent of the entire U.S. working-age population in 1976.
- Lions Clubs International launches its SightFirst program in 1989.
- SightFirst celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2004 with a symbolic 24 million candles on its birthday cake: the number of people saved from serious vision loss or whose vision was restored.
- Lions raise more than \$200 million by 2008 for Campaign SightFirst II to save sight.
- The Centers for Disease Control predicts in 2009 that diabetic-related blindness among working age Americans will triple within six years.
- Thanks in part to Lions, 39 million people are estimated to be blind in 2010, a 14 percent drop in five years.
- Lions, The Carter Center and Pfizer mark the 100 millionth dose of Zithromax® distributed to prevent trachoma, a blinding disease, in 2013.
- In 2013, the FDA approves a special camera that transmits electrical impulses to electrodes implanted in the eye that help some blind people regain part of their sight.



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

Lions Quest Makes the Grade in Turkey

by Allie Lawrence

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

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

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

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

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

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

More than 1,000 teachers in Turkey have been trained to use Lions Quest in the classroom, reaching thousands of students. “Educating—giving some skills to one teacher means you’re reaching hundreds, thousands of children in a lifetime,” says Fatos Erkman, a professor of education, a trained clinical psychologist and an administrator of the Bosphorus University Peace Education Application and Research Center. “We’re very excited to be in alliance with Lions clubs because one of the aims of our center is for peace education at all levels. The Lions Quest curriculum for all grade levels is very fitting in our ideals.”

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

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



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

LCIF

KidSight USA Launched to Save Sight

by Eric Margules

LCIF

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

That's why Lions KidSight USA was formed.

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

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

KidSight USA has established three levels of sample screening programs designed to meet the needs of all clubs and districts. From basic community-level screenings to programs spanning multiple districts, programs can evolve over time to meet the needs of individual clubs and communities. Experienced Lions screening programs will work with new clubs and districts to help get their screening programs up and running. All U.S. Lions are encouraged to participate in the initiative.

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

To help support new screening programs, grant funding up to US\$100,000 is available for qualifying service activities through Lions Clubs International Foundation, which has already awarded more than US\$2 million to support children's eye screening programs in the United States. Screening device manufacturers, Plusoptix and Welch Allyn, have also partnered with KidSight USA to provide financial support for the development of the program.

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

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



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

Photo by Daniel Morris

Village of Hope

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

by Rhea Wessel

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

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



A child at the Peace Village does arts and crafts

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

Wolfgang Mertens, a Peace Village spokesperson, says Rosaria and her playmates are among the lucky ones. "The children here at the Peace Village don't need our pity, they need our money. We have to remember that millions of other children out there have no chance of recovering from their wounds."

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

The story behind Rosaria's initial injury remains

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

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

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

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



Soccer is universally popular at the Peace Village

A Labor of Love

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

Funding comes from individuals and foundations, and German Lions are a key sponsor. Lions Clubs

International Foundation (LCIF) also has been a huge help by working with German Lions to fund five projects including a 1.8 million euro donation to build four badly needed dormitories and to repair the heating system. In 2012, LCIF Chairperson Wing-Kun Tam visited the Peace Village to meet its children and see the latest facility modernizations that the Lions helped fund. LCIF and German Lions clubs most recently paid for renovations of the façade of the physical therapy center and the installation of a new surface on the kids' basketball court.

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



An injured boy receives treatment

Growing Up with the Peace Village

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

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

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

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

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

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



An African girl is on the road to recovery

A Healing Mission

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

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

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

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

Because it is so difficult for children to be separated from their parents and to keep costs down, the Peace Village is working to build infrastructure around the world so that many more children can be treated near

their homes. It has built Peace Villages in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Romania, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan. It also supports projects in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Cambodia. The German Peace Village provides financial and logistical support and brings supplies to the various sites.

Staying Homesick

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

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

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



The children receive intense physical therapy

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

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

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

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



The prosthetics some children arrive with are often crude

A Protected Environment

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

Mertens adds, "A German TV show once called me about bringing children to their studio, but they wanted to have really sick children, those that were constantly crying or those who were desperately ill. The children here aren't suffering. They live and laugh and have fun. They squabble. They need to squabble."

Individual TV celebrities have a different approach sometimes. Several have adopted the Peace Village



The children at the Peace Village play the same games as children do everywhere

project and become “ambassadors” for it, including German actor Günter Lamprecht, who lived through WWII.

Another is the Japanese TV personality Chizuru Azuma, who has written two books about her experiences at the Peace Village. Her work to make the



Children help others to the dining room

Peace Village known in Japan and to collect donations has paid off: Young Japanese must first go on a waiting list before getting the chance to volunteer for a year at the Peace Village in Germany.

For Mertens, it's easy to see why Japanese volunteers are eagerly lining up: “We make the world



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

a better place. I'm convinced of this.”

Digital LION (lionmagazine.org)

Watch a moving Lions' video on the Peace Village at lionmagazine.org.



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

Lions Around the World

Em Legaspi Ang, 48 Bacolod City Host Lions Club, Philippines Real Estate Developer, City Councilor



I started out as a Leo but even before that I would go with my parents to their Lions projects. My whole extended family were Lions. My husband, Alan, is a Lion and our three children are Leos. Lionism is a family affair.

What I like most is doing medical missions. We live in a country with more than half of the population living below the poverty line. There are many people in remote villages who have never seen a doctor. At times I feel overwhelmed with the amount of work that needs to be done. I'm thankful to know there's a team, a whole organization, of capable people with big hearts.

On one medical mission in a remote town, a middle-aged man came up to us. He was from the next town but rode the bus to thank the Lions for giving him back his eyesight. He had become a carpenter and was making wooden furniture. It feels good to know that we really made a difference in a person's life. And in turn, he's able to help his family and others.

Another time I was campaigning for a seat in the city council and giving my first speech. I was very nervous, and I felt like I was boring the audience. Suddenly, an elderly woman asked to step up to the podium. She told them that she knew me because I was president of the Lions club when she received her cataract surgery. She had been almost blind for a decade before that. She said that she now earns a living making handicrafts and even employs other women in her village. She said she could never forget me.

Last year I was the first woman elected MD 301 council chair. When I look at all the new members' faces, I try to imagine how they see me. I ask myself, have I been a leader that others would want to emulate? Have I conducted myself in a respectable and admirable way?

As a leader, the road can sometimes be lonely. I feel it every time I'm faced with a goliath task and I'm just David with a sling shot. That's how I felt after Super Typhoon Haiyan last year. But whenever I feel almost defeated, I look behind me and see the people who support me in my endeavors. In Lions, you're never alone.

— Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Jim and Joan Bennett, 65/70 New Haven Lions Club, Connecticut Retired Client Services Manager/ Retired Sales Manager



Jim: Age is an issue for our club—the average age is over 70—but getting new members is all about just asking! We could double our membership if we all just asked one person. Just ask! My dad joined Lions in 1957, and I remember lots of laughter and fun among his fellow Lions when I was a kid. He was president of the club, but no one asked me or my brother to join! Just ask! I finally joined in 1980.

Joan: Jim asked me to join in 1992. Later that year he asked me to marry him. I think I had to pass the Lions test before I could pass the marriage test! I agree that it's all about getting out there and asking people to participate. We chartered a Leo club to get young people involved. And I have been the chairperson for recruiting volunteers—it's so rewarding, when I get them to come once I have them for life!

Jim: We've both been district governors. Our closest friends are Lions. We spend our vacations with other Lions. I guess our lives kind of revolve around family, Lions and church—and we wouldn't have it any other way.

— Todd Schwartz

Winstor D. Ceballos, 34 Passaic-Clifton Lions Club, New Jersey Academic Administrator



My grandfather, Cristobal, was a

lawyer. He was a person who, if somebody came to him and needed help—if they needed money or whatever—he would not turn any of them away. We lived in the Dominican Republic, and he always showed me that even though we didn't have that much, there were other people that had even less than us. Back then there was a lot of economic conflict because the economy was really bad. The peso had gone down, and there was a lot of inflation. So if we could help someone in any way, we would.

I was 3 years old when I got involved with Lionism. My grandfather chartered a new club [the Santo Domingo Miraflores Lions] in 1983, and my grandmother has pictures of me from the night of the charter. That started my whole Lions life, really. From there I became a Cub. I used to attend all the events with my grandfather, even the district meetings. I went to my first international convention with him when I was 9—this little kid, always in the middle of all the adults. People used to say, “Here comes Cristobal and his tail” because I was always with him.

My club now, we help with a camp for blind children. We try to be there when they go for lunch or dinner just to mingle with them and make them feel comfortable. We also go to schools and read to children between kindergarten and first grade. We support big-scale projects too, but by doing these little projects, we can see the kids laughing. Or we can see how they react when we do something for them. You can always send donations instead, but if you do that, you don't actually see that something is being done. This way, you can really see that what you're doing means something.

My grandfather passed away in 1998. When I first became a Lion, I joined his club, because I had promised him I would when I was old enough. My grandmother was my sponsor. It was a happy day, but it was a sad day also because he had passed away. He showed me so much, and I try to continue what he started.

— Anne Ford

Leroy Foster, 64
Laurelton Lions Club (Long Island),
New York
Retired Accountant



When I joined the Lions 34 years ago it was certainly not a diverse organization. But we shared a mission and a passion. I was born in the country—Huntersville, North Carolina—and in my family you learned that helping people was what you did. So when I learned about Lions after college, I thought about the end result more than I thought about who was what color. I thought about the fact that this organization stands for everything I believe in. I've been very proud to be a Lion.

I was in New York on 9/11, and I was a district governor. We stayed up all night that first night, figuring out how we could best make a difference. Lions all over went into action, helping to provide masks, counseling and much more. As I said, nobody cared who was what color. But we do need to reach out to younger people and more diverse people to join. We need to change some of the rigidity within Lions, and we must be more creative—go into colleges, talk about service as a résumé item. That will unite people from diverse backgrounds.

One of my favorite quotes sums up being a Lion: “Vision without action is just dreaming; action without vision just passes the time; vision with action can change the world.”
— Todd Schwartz

Junichi Hirata, 66
Minokamo Lions Club, Japan
Intellectual Property Manager



March 11th, 2011, was a day we Japanese will never forget. The massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Eastern Japan robbed us of more than 20,000 precious lives. Though our club is located more than 500 kilometers away from the disaster area, we gathered donations and sent emergency supplies right away.

I attended the Seattle International Convention about four months after the disaster. Right after the international parade ended, a Lion approached me. He was from Oregon. He told me, “I'm worried about Japan from the bottom of my heart,” and he handed me a small glass ball, small enough to sit in the palm of your hand. Inside the ball were pieces of rope and wood. The gentleman had collected pieces of rubble that had washed up on the beach and put them inside this glass ball. The rubble was pieces of scrap that had floated across the Pacific Ocean all the way from the disaster area to the U.S. He made and brought those glass balls with him to express his condolences to the Lions of Japan. It was enough to make me feel warm in the heart.

“We Serve” are the two words that attracted me to join Lions. Those two words are the most important source of direction to guide my life. However, I believe that to really get the most out of the Lions motto you have to add “with gratefulness” to the end. Volunteer

service with gratefulness is a source of unlimited happiness. Since becoming a Lion I have realized that the limitless happiness I feel from doing service pushes me to improve as a Lion and as a person.

— Tomoko Kawamura

Dr. Celia Holder, 47
Christ Church West Lions Club, Barbados,
West Indies



My mother was a cook in a children's home and my aunt Daphne was a teacher, and they always went that extra step for the children. I saw them provide clothing, meals and furniture and household items for others in need in our neighborhood. They looked after the elderly and sick, and even helped raise other children. They grew up in an era when people showed love and care for others. I feel that spirit of kindness is really lacking in people today.

Any good I do is a tribute to their example. That's one reason I became a Lion. I'm the only Lion in my family and the only medical doctor in my club. Being a doctor makes it easier and much more comfortable for people when our club does health screenings. I'm able to immediately refer people to a specialist for further care.

I believe strongly in empowering our youth to be self-sufficient and productive. Actually, my first job was teaching biology at a high school after I got my first degree. So I'm always eager to help maximize their education and help them excel. Our club is helping pay tuition for some students at a school for the deaf, blind and autistic. We don't just pay tuition, though. We're supporting a project that teaches them basic life skills as they grow into adults. We also fund training projects, like one that teaches sewing skills so people can support themselves. We want our projects to be relevant to our own local needs and culture in Barbados.

I've had a few of those “aha” moments since I became a Lion. Once I bought school uniforms for a family. I met the mother and handed them over to her quickly. As I turned to leave, she stopped me and just kept hugging me with such emotion. She thanked me over and over.

When I first joined Lions, it was to give back to my community. But Lions has given me a lot, too. It's helped me grow beyond what's known and familiar. Because I feel like I've been really fortunate in life, I want to do good for someone else. Lions lets me do this on a much wider scale.
— Pamela Mohr

Rita Iheme, 45
Warri Ruby Lions Club, Nigeria
Travel Agency Owner



When I went to my first Lions club meeting seven years ago, I was immediately touched and impressed with what they were all about. I loved becoming a Lion, but I had the impression that you needed to be rich to be a Lion because there was so much money needed for projects. One day I was talking about this

with a senior Lion, Gochua Toritse. She said you don't have to be rich, just have a giving heart. She told me it's not how much you have, but the spirit in which you want to give that matters. It was then that I realized it's the contribution of like minds that actually makes being a Lion interesting and meaningful.

We worked with other nearby clubs to renovate a primary school. The school had no roof, no chairs or tables, no toilet. There was no atmosphere for learning. We built a roof and contributed 100 chairs and tables. The Lions turned the school around. The children could have a chance to learn.

I was at the school when it was commissioned; participating in the joy of the children seeing their new school made me so happy. You had to see these children when they came to the school. They were overwhelmed. They thought we Lions were sent from heaven! We later heard that the students were showing up early for the school day and that more new students started going to school.

The only real concern I have as a Lion is membership growth, but we're working on that. We've been doing more school projects, renovating and bringing books. We invite people to come and witness the changes in the schools. They only need to see what we're doing and people are so moved they want to become Lions too.
— Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Genevieve Jones, 38
Port of Spain 1st Officers Lions Club,
Trinidad and Tobago
Cytoscreener



I am from Trinidad, one of the most southern Caribbean islands. It's really beautiful. We have basically either sun or rain—nothing else. A lot of people come to visit us for the beach.

Our club was established in 2007. At first it was just me being roped into it; I didn't know anything much about Lions. When I actually got involved in it, then I understood what the organization was about. I enjoy the service aspect of it, being hands-on, effecting change in other person's lives.

The main focus of our club is youth projects. We work with youngsters who are involved with the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force, which is a program that was established over 100 years ago to help develop leadership skills and instill discipline and moral values. They do things like learning to use a map and compass. They go hiking and practice outdoor skills. And they are required to do some community service. It helps them become better citizens of our country. I enjoy seeing the youngsters develop and making sure that at the end of the day they achieve their goals, so they don't go astray and they aren't involved in any criminal activity.

My mom is a Lion as well. We joined at the same time. Since joining Lions, we do more things together like service activities. This year I had her tag along with me for the international convention, and she thoroughly enjoyed it.

My best memory from this year's convention is the international parade. I marched, and I wore a simple skirt and top in Trinidadian colors—red, white and black. It was nice to see the traditional costumes of Lions from all the different countries. We all gathered in one location and recognized that no matter what color, creed or race, we are all here to serve.

— Anne Ford

Wes King, 74
Brookings Harbor Lions Club, Oregon
Commercial Fisherman/Retired Navy



I joined in 2005. To be honest, I just saw something worth doing. It took me a little longer to convince my wife, Carol. She joined a while later when she saw me having so much fun. We work together as Lions pretty much like we do in our marriage of 51 years. If she wants to make a suggestion or say something, I listen. If I want to say something, she listens. We talk together and then decide which way to go.

I first became a Lion when a gentleman named George Fernandez asked me if I liked to help kids. I said, "Sure, I do." George, who's 92 and has been a Lion for something like 66 years, then started to tell me about his club. I went to a meeting, liked the people and my first project was screening kids for vision problems. We still do a lot of that.

I joined the Navy at 17. I dropped out of high school to join so I had to get my GED in the Navy. I retired after 22 years as a warrant officer because I had three teenagers at home, and they were, well, behaving like teenagers. I needed to be home. Their mother needed me to be home. Now they're all grown and successful. I'm really proud of them.

I've been involved for the last five years as a Leo adviser. They know me, and know that I'm speaking to them from experience. Two of them just joined the club. They're both 19 and full-service Lions from day one. We put them right to work. If you're going to invite people to join your club, you have to give them something meaningful to do. It's an entirely different leadership style than the Navy. If you're working with volunteers, you don't tell them what to do, you ask. I'm excited about being a district governor. There are 41 clubs in my district and I'll visit each one of them.

I own three commercial fishing boats and have had as many as five running at the same time, but I don't get to do much fishing because of the time I spend on Lions. And we're only two miles from the ocean! I also have some excavators and own a heavy construction company, but usually I'm too busy to use them. I do try to run an excavator around for at least a few minutes when I can find time just because it's so much fun, like a big toy! Who wouldn't want to play in the dirt with one? I may have retired from the Navy, but I'm not retired from life. I like to stay busy. I always say I've led three lives already, and I'm still not done.

— Pamela Mohr

Hilary Landrum, 35
Waxahachie Lions Club, Texas
Fifth-Grade Teacher



When I became a Lion in 2003, I was one of the first women in my club, and a couple of the older guys actually quit the club because of it! I took that personally for a while. That was in a little town of 2,000 people, and I guess there were still some people there who didn't want to change. I was only 24 years old at the time, so being faced with some negativity because of my gender and also my age really bothered me. But my husband, John, is a Lion, and most every Lion I met was so welcoming, really making me feel "in the pride," that it didn't take me too long to get over that first setback. The club I'm in now is about 30 minutes outside of Dallas.

I'm so glad I became a Lion. I'm a fifth-grade teacher, and someone once told me I have a "servant's heart." It must be true, because I just love to help those in need, and being a Lion is a natural extension of that. I've always believed that we each need to make the world a better place. Whether I help one person or 1,000, I know I've done something right.

Our club gets involved and gets things done for our community, and I'm really proud of that. We've helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity. We bought a van for a family with a disabled child. We helped some of my own students who needed glasses but couldn't afford them.

There are so many distractions for people my age, so not enough of us volunteer our time to serve. The median age in my club is late 60s, I'd say. My husband was district governor a couple years ago, and all the other governors were twice his age, I think. We as Lions need to do something to get younger people involved. And I know that these days, if we get some more young members, women members and more diverse members, at least nobody's going to quit the club!

— Todd Schwartz

Edward Lieberman, 63
Sea Cliff Glen Head Lions Club, New York
Criminal Defense Attorney



I didn't join Lions until I was 51. I had been in Kiwanis in my old community, which didn't have a Lions club. Service was part of my upbringing. My dad was a Mason. I was in the Key Club as a kid. But finally someone asked. The president in 2002 was very aggressive about membership. Michael Imbriano owned a food market. If you shopped there, you were subject to becoming a member. I guess if he didn't have such good food I might not have become a Lion.

Even before I was a Lion, I always knew a lot of people in the community. That's how I became involved in Life's WORC, which runs a group home for special needs kids. I eventually was on their board. They were bringing in Geraldo Rivera for their golf fundraiser, and he was on a tight schedule and needed to land his helicopter. They knew I knew people, so I was able to get clearance for him to land. WORC

eventually didn't want to sponsor the golf outing, so I helped transition it into our club.

I became very involved with Lions right away. I was president, district governor, council chair. Right after I became president a Lion came up to me and said, "You know, this is a great steppingstone if you ever want to go into politics." Well, I was busy for a few years as district governor and so on. But I'm now a trustee in town and maybe being mayor is something that could happen.

What took me so long to become a Lion? My kids were older. It was something I wanted to do. It's a great way to be involved in the community and meet people. Nassau County is not that big. But I've met people I never would have met. Some of them are dear friends now. Everyone I meet wants to do the same thing: help others. It's the same when I travel to the international convention or a forum. Being a Lion is a great icebreaker. It's really opened my horizons—people, places, cultures.

Now I'm the one recruiting Lions. When my son graduated from college, I asked him to join. His friends did, too. We've got a nice core of younger people in the club. It's funny how things work. I met the parents of my son's friend, and the dad became a Lion. So are my son and his friends. It's the tree of membership—it has a lot of branches.

— Jay Copp

Martina Wetzig-Krebs, 54
Linth Lions Club, Switzerland
Artist



I grew up in Springe, a typical beautiful village in Germany. Once a year the different clubs in town celebrated a fair. Lions were part of it. I was just a child, but I was very impressed to see the prominent people of my town spending their valuable time trying to help others. One year after the parade I went to the Lions booth. I was so nervous my heart was beating aloud. I asked what I had to do to join. They smiled at me and were nice but told me I could not join. Years later I realized that there were only men in my hometown club.

After I gave birth to my daughter my husband and I decided to move to Switzerland, where I worked as an IT contract manager. Life couldn't have been any better, and a friend asked me to join a Lions club.

Then I was badly hurt in a car accident. A woman not concentrating crashed into my car. After that, life changed dramatically. God had been looking out for me, but it took a long time to heal. I had to quit my job, which I loved. But I never lost my positive thinking. We cannot change our past, but we always have the choice to decide how to feel about what happens to us.

I believe that when we give we get a lot back. My mother toughened me up this way. She often asked me when I was a child, "What is wrong with this sentence: I can not?" It is "not." You can. You have to believe in yourself.

I am not working as an IT contract manager any longer, but this also means that I can live my other passion—art. I work as an artist. I do as much as I can for the Lions club. I am very thankful for my life and

want to help others that are not as blessed as I am. Our club really does a lot to help others. Some are handicapped and just need a wheelchair or money for therapy. We also support other organizations. Recently we built a playground in a children's home. I am impressed by the spirit of people with disabilities even though their lives are not easy. I love to help others, and this is why I love to be a part of the Lions.

— Jay Copp

Maurice Ibok, 39
Calabar Atakpa Lions Club, Nigeria
Finance Manager



I live in the capital of Cross River State, Calabar, which is a seaport near the Atlantic Ocean. It is a city of some 370,000 people. In September of 1997, when I was 22 years old, I was inducted into Lions Clubs International as a Leo. My childhood friend, now Lion Ekpe Nta Bassey, introduced me to the Lions. Ekpe was always going to work on club projects like cleaning of the surroundings or assisting the aged and kids. He would put on a neatly made Leo vest. I liked that, and also seeing young people carry out service activities in the society without being rewarded—but always appreciated— attracted me a lot.

My most rewarding project so far has been the cornea transplant we funded. I was the chairperson of the committee for that. The fact we could join together and gather resources to restore a person's sight was fulfilling.

I have three hobbies: spending time with my family, traveling, and serving humanity. I would like Lions in the U.S and Europe to know that Lions in Africa are passionate in our service to humanity. We are "Loving Individuals Offering Needed Services."

— Todd Schwartz

Rod Mercado, 55
San Francisco Host Lions Club, California
Entrepreneur



I was one of those kids in the Philippines who was not able to go to school. I came from a big family of nine. I had to work at age 7 or 8; I would find used bottles and sell them to a junk shop. I would tell myself then, "I'm not going to grow up to be a poor person." Even as a kid, I knew that I had the power to change myself, to change my life.

I immigrated to the U.S. in 2007. It was so difficult. That was when the economy was going down. I was going around presenting myself to every single person who could possibly give me a job. I worked as a caregiver for seven months, and then I applied to Pizza Hut. I applied to be a busboy, where you clean the tables and things like that. They said, "I'm sorry, but you're not qualified." I said, "But I know how to sweep the floor, clean the toilet, everything." They said, "No, because we're taking you on as a manager." I was just so fortunate.

I was seeing a lot of people crying about how they couldn't pay their debts anymore, and I saw an

opportunity. I said, "My goodness, if I can just help them with their finances, then I can probably have a new career here." I saved \$5,000, and I decided to open my financial services business. I started the business in a very small room with two telephones. And I have employees now, a lot of employees.

All the hardship that I encountered in life, I used to make more possibilities. I mentor youth now, and I tell them, "Look, this is all temporary, and difficulty will shape your character. Don't look at this as a burden."

It was difficult for me to decide whether I wanted to be a Lion, because when you come to a new country, you're concentrating on your career. A friend of mine said, "Come on, give them a chance. You were already doing community service back in Manila." So I went, and that's when I realized, "Oh, this is it. I really love this." That was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life.

And now I'm the second vice district governor. You will probably not believe it, but I know exactly what I want my district to do in the next few years. I'm a relatively new Lion, but I'm a fast learner.

— Anne Ford

Olga De Araujo Moreira, 76
Bela Horizonte Itacolomi Lions Club, Brazil
Retired Paralegal/Law Librarian



I volunteer at the Creche Ana Maria de Castro Veado—a day care. The municipality of Belo Horizonte is responsible for it. Members of my club are part of its board. We donated a playroom with a television set. Earlier this year we bought a water tank for the center.

This day care is located in a sprawling slum. The mothers need to work. Or some parents are criminals or drug addicts. The kids are here from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. They get breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, classes and learn the basics of hygiene. Everything about children touches me emotionally. They are innocent, needy. We as adults have to take good care of them.

Two of my children live near Orlando. I lived there from 1998 to 2005. When I moved back to Brazil, a neighbor in my condo complex invited me to the Lions annual convention in Pocos de Caldas, a town in my home state. I was delighted to be there: the lectures, parade, the activities, the friends I made. On the way back home, still inside the bus, the president of the Belo Horizonte Club invited me to join. A month and a half later, in a solemn ceremony, I became a member.

We [club members] do a lot of crafts such as crochet, knitting and embroidery of dish towels. We sell them at our annual bazaar to raise funds for our services. We buy baby clothes for single mothers, toiletries for nursing homes, donate wheelchairs, plant trees.

I'm worried about the future of our club. We're mostly middle class, some upper middle class. We live in nice neighborhoods. The meetings start at 8:30 and finish at midnight. We're afraid of driving home. Most of us are elderly. Bela Horizonte is the capital of Minas Gerais. There are nearly 3 million people. Public safety is an issue. Assaults and robberies are common.

Attendance is declining. When we meet again in January I will try to change the meetings to the afternoon.

When we get new members, I ask them to get their children to join. They say their kids are too busy. In the past, Brazilian families might have had maids to take care of their kids. That's no longer true. But, still, I'm not convinced. I love my Lions friends, my club and Lions Clubs International. What really motivates me is to selflessly serve others. By donating my time, I can contribute to the relief and comfort of those who are suffering.

— Jay Copp

Edward Obreen, 25
Zoetermeer Centaurea Cyanus Leo Club,
Netherlands
Pilot/Resident of Izmir, Turkey



I moved to Turkey to get a job. But I know everything that happens with my Leo club. We text all the time. I go back about every two months and still am really involved. All the Leos in my club are best friends to each other.

I went to the Leo Europa Forum in Istanbul this year, and I saw the problem that Leos don't know how to reach each other. So I thought, why don't we have an interactive map where you can see how many clubs there are and how many Leos there are? If you're on holiday and you want to serve, or need a hotel, or a place to sleep or eat, you can use the map. It's something that young people would like to use. I worked on it six months, and it's working good.

My mom is a role model for me. She is a positive, active, social person. I try my best to be like her. She's a Lion, and she told me the district governor wanted to start a Leo club. She knew I had started a student group in flight school, so I guess she thought I could do it. I started out inviting two close friends to dinner. Then we invited five other friends. What really helped was on our national service day in the Netherlands when we worked with Scouts on painting their building and building a pier. There was a newspaper story. And we had a Facebook page, so people found out about us and joined.

There's a Lions club in Germany. It meets online. It's international, and the language is English. So it's right for me. They went to Amsterdam not long ago to help a woman with four kids whose husband left her. They fixed up her house. I need to create a PowerPoint to tell them who I am and they need to invite me.

— Jay Copp

Bart B. Ozbun, 52
Cape Girardeau Noon Lions Club, Missouri
Financial Adviser



When you grow up on a family farm, you run all kinds of equipment by the time you're about 10. My dad did custom combining, and after I got out of my eighth-grade year I started driving the combines. We went from Texas to the Canadian border with our combines to cut wheat, and then in the winter and fall, he'd take all the equipment down to Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee and cut soybeans and things like that. During summers,

while my friends were at the lake, I'd sometimes get in an airplane after school. I'd fly to Texas, my mom would pick me up, and I'd go straight to the field.

You kept going till late in the night because the machines never stopped. I learned to do without a whole lot of sleep. That work ethic kind of gets in your blood. After you've put in 18- to 20-hour days on a combine, going to an office from 9 to 5 is not that big a deal.

My dad was a Lion, and I always helped his club out when I was younger. When I came to Cape Girardeau, one of the individuals at the bank suggested, "You ought to go look at the Lions." It made sense to me. I thought, "Hey, that's what I did growing up." When I told my dad I'd joined the Lions, he just smiled and said, "You'll enjoy it." I think if I had chosen any other club he'd been OK with that too, but obviously there's a sense of pride in knowing I'm doing what he did.

We were a very big, close family, and we still are to this day. And the Lions club is a family. If you need 'em, you know they'd be there. One of the biggest things people pay attention to in our meetings is the health of the members. Is anybody sick? Is there anybody we should be concerned about? That closeness is tough to come by. When you find it, you grab it and you hold onto it.

— Anne Ford

Helen Quintanilla, 60
San Diego Executive Lions Club, California
Cash Management Supervisor



I'm not a nurse, but when my club goes into the community to do health and wellness fairs, I help take blood pressures. A lot of people do not even know that they have high blood pressure. They are the breadwinners for their families. We educate them, let them know that they need to monitor this. Making a difference in one life—that's very, very big for me.

I'm very proud of our club being involved in providing nonprescription reading glasses, too. A lot of people, they don't really have the means to go and buy the glasses. When you see someone we've helped reading a magazine while they wear their glasses . . . I get emotional about it at times.

I brought my family into the Lions—my sisters, my brother. And the person who recruited me to be a Lion is working with us all the time. She's almost 80 now, and she is our chair for membership. She always says, "Helen, what do you want me to do?"

My first international convention was in Seattle in 2011, and I have made myself a commitment to go to it every other year. I am the immediate past president of our club, and this is my second year on the cabinet as treasurer. I do the district newsletter, and I do our club bulletin as well, so I have my hands full. At night when I go to sleep, I say, "You know what, Lord? Thank you for this good day. Thank you for what we have done. Take care of this body." And I go to sleep.— Anne Ford

Nita Siregar, 49
Tangerang Selatan Puri Siwi Lions Club, Indonesia

My husband is German, and he works at Siemens in Germany. I had thought that Lions was for the

bourgeois only because in the past most members I knew were government officials and upper-class people. Nowadays the club is totally different; anyone can become a Lion as long as they are social and willing to share with others.



I am from an ordinary family, and it was a very hard struggle until I graduated from college. I went to the University of Indonesia majoring in international relations. I worked hard to pay the tuition fee because my family wasn't very rich, but I'm glad now that my hard work has been "refunded proportionately" by God.

I've been to many countries—four in Asia, 13 in Europe, Canada, six big cities in the U.S. With my experience traveling around the world, I felt very small before God. I was amazed with his astonishing creations. Some people have worked harder than others, but they probably haven't got the equivalent returns. Still I'm certain that God loves us very much. My experience in traveling wasn't the reason for me to become a Lion. I became a Lion because I like being a social creature. I like to share things, and I am thankful with what I have now.

A project I really liked was when we arranged free eye exams for students. They didn't check their eyes, presumably due to financial problems. I always take my daughter, Michelle, with me to every Lions activity whenever it doesn't disturb her school activities. My children know how important Lions' services are. I wanted them to learn how to become human, someone who is always grateful to God. I'm not compelling my children to become Lions; they'll have to decide for themselves. We are all helping each other. I like being a Lion; I have to be able to serve people in need, as best as I can, with God's help.

— Jay Copp

Sue Topf, 65
Clermont Lions Club, Indiana
Retired Loan Officer



I've lived in the same house for 40 years, and I raised four kids there. Nearby was a nice 20-acre park which is owned by the Lions. We played and picnicked in that park for four decades, so I knew about Lions for a long time. But no one ever asked me to join, so I just figured it was a closed men's club. Which it was until 1987—actually 1995 for my club.

As time went on and women were allowed to join, my friend Nancy kept bugging me about becoming a Lion. So did my neighbor. I knew they did good things—I didn't know what exactly, other than the park and the community center—and that they were a good and lasting force in our community. I knew the people before I knew the vision, I guess you could say. But I joined in 2005, which I know isn't very long ago in Lion years! But I've been busy—I've been the president of our club twice, district governor twice, region chair, council chair.

And I've been on five missions to Mexico, which is absolutely my favorite project. Those missions change your life. Helping people who have so little is

tremendously satisfying. My rusty, 40-year-old Spanish comes back a little more each time. Giving the gift of sight is amazing, and the people are so humble, so thankful. Last trip we fit a 100-year-old man with his first pair of glasses! He had walked down from the mountains in his Sunday best, smiling and laughing. He still farmed his fields every day! Helping him see clearly again—nothing beats that.

As for the club positions I've held, well, when I first joined the zone meetings were pitched as something you really didn't want to do. So I don't know how I got talked into becoming vice president. But I'll tell you, at my first cabinet meeting the world opened up. You go outside your club and you find new things to help your club, that's how it works. I got even more involved, and I found new ideas and new ways of connecting with Lions. And eventually I was helping guide other clubs to try new projects and explore new things. A lot of clubs don't like to step out of their comfort zone, but it's vital to do that if Lions are going to stay relevant.

Our club is blessed, with members from teenagers to 90-year-olds. I once installed an 18-year-old and an 81-year-old on the same evening. I have eight grandkids now, and I spend so much time teaching them what a good thing paying it forward is that they think the Lions is my own personal club—and I'm happy to say that when it comes to commitment and satisfaction, they are exactly right! — Todd Schwartz

Kam Vara, 46
Milton Keynes Central Lions Club, England
Attorney



I joined my club because I wanted to help and volunteer in my community. But what I found was a family. Even though I moved from London in 2002, it's really only been in the past three years that I've felt settled here and not considered moving back. I missed my family in London, but becoming a Lion really provided me, my wife, Liz, and our children with a sense of belonging right here. It introduced us to an entire new group of friends that we would've never gotten to know. I call them my "Milton Keynes family" since we're all so close. And I'm not just talking about members, but our families as well. We have a lot of impromptu gatherings, and our kids all play together.

Liz and I have both definitely found Lions to be a very family-friendly organization, and I guess that's why it fits into our lives so easily. Both my children, Devan, 6, and Asha, 4, have already said they want to be Lions when they grow up. They're still expecting to see the four-legged variety at meetings!

I was inducted into the club in 2011, became vice president the next year, and president in 2013. Without Liz's support, I wouldn't have been able to take on the role of president for even one year, let alone for two consecutive years. We now have 13 Lions (our 14th member being inducted tonight!), but I've always said that it feels more like we have 26 members. If we didn't all have the support of our partners, we, as a club, wouldn't achieve a fraction of what we do. We don't only help our community. We help and support each other, just the same as any family does.

— Pamela Mohr

Searching for Melvin

Who was our founder? Why he matters today.

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

Melvin Jones
1879-1961
Founder
Lions International

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Longtime staffers at Lions headquarters in Oak Brook outside of Chicago have met elderly Lions either at headquarters or an international convention

who once met Melvin. The encounters were basically the same: Melvin visited their club, briefly spoke, chatted amiably, inducted a member or two and vanished. It was a thrilling, memorable moment that came and went.

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

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



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

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

Befitting someone called upon to make frequent speeches and to be an oracle, Melvin owned a booklet of aphorisms. "CID Says" was penned by insurance executive C.I.D. Moore in 1927. Among the hundreds of sayings, Melvin put check marks next to a dozen or so including "nothing is so efficacious in interesting others in what you have to sell as your own

enthusiasm” and “the man who knows how to work does not know want.” He checked and underlined a single maxim: “simplicity, sincerity and naturalness are elements in every great character.”

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

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

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

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



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

Most known photos of Melvin show an elderly man with white hair, bookish wire-rim glasses and a wry smile. Those who met Melvin and remember him are now seniors themselves. **Chuck Lantry**, a Homewood Flossmoor Lion, sometimes attended his father’s meetings as a boy of 4 or 5. His father even drove Melvin home occasionally. “I just remember him as a very distinguished gentleman,” says Lantry, a silver-haired attorney. With a smile, he adds that the Lions’

meetings did not exactly render him alert and observant for the ride home. “I was usually half-asleep by 8 or 9 o’clock,” he says.

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

Kugler met Melvin when he was a 14-year-old Boy Scout. Kugler’s father, **Morris**, was an international director from 1954 to 1956, and Melvin stayed overnight in their modest home. “That’s how it was back then. There were no hotels, no highways,” says the loquacious Kugler. “My dad was all over southern Illinois helping to start clubs.” The Kuglers weren’t rich by any measure, but his father ran an independent phone company and traveled in circles with notable people like the Illinois governor. The young Kugler knew little about Lions but quickly understood that a special guest lodged with them.

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

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

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

Reformers, preachers and novelists blasted the nation for shortchanging its citizens, and businessmen’s groups particularly endured scorn.

Writer Sinclair Lewis memorably satirized the self-serving, pompous members of a businessman’s club in “Babbitt,” published five years after Melvin founded Lions in 1917. Lions were too small and unknown to be the particular target of Lewis. And Melvin’s purpose was in direct opposition to the self-absorbed gladhanders mocked by Lewis.

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

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

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

Eight flags wave near the entrance of Lions headquarters. The flags are rotated daily to ensure all 209 nations are represented periodically. Melvin remains a visible presence at headquarters. His office at the former downtown Chicago location of LCI has



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

been recreated in Oak Brook. Off the main lobby, behind glass, are his rugged desk, a too-realistic lion rug and assorted artifacts.

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

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

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

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

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

Melvin Jones' uncle, Melvin Wiley Jones, was a peace constable who knew the participants in the famous gun battle of 1881. Melvin was 2 then. Yet, like his namesake uncle, he indeed was part of the Old West. He was born in Fort Thomas, Arizona, and his father was Calvin Jones, who fought in bloody battles against Native Americans. Melvin's boyhood memories were of horses and blue-clad troopers, bugles and war cries, wagon trains and impoverished settlers. Melvin's father commanded scouts under

General Nelson Miles, a famous Indian fighter. Melvin was born just three years after General Custer's troops were routed. Cochise and Geronimo and their braves clashed with troops during his boyhood.

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

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

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

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

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

Despite the impulse to stereotype, the Time reporter actually got it right. He nailed what Lions were about in hailing the 79-year-old Melvin for getting the ball rolling: "In those days the luncheon club was primarily

a meeting place for businessmen who wanted to meet businessmen. Rotary's pin was reserved for the town's leading man in each line of business; second-ranking Kiwanis, later tagged 'the grey flannel suit boys' by Lions, used 'We Trade' as its motto and admitted only two members from each recognized local enterprise. Old Monarch Jones opened his new clubs' rolls to anybody a chapter voted to invite, made community service rather than business the organization's avowed goal."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're still waiting in the driveway in Flossmoor, wondering about Melvin's home, when Kevin Long, the foreman of the village's public works department, returns. He's waving a paper. "I think I found what you need," he says. He's photocopied a permit to build a garage signed by Melvin Jones on Aug. 8, 1941. The address is the dilapidated home. Within minutes the owners of that home drive up. "This was his [Melvin's] home," confirms Rosalie Havens. She and her husband, George, purchased it in the 1960s after he died. "We couldn't figure out what was going on at first. We had people from India and all over stop here. 'Why are they at our house?'" she recalls.

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

The Havens are quite familiar with Lions. Turns out



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

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

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

So does the good men do live on after them?

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



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

Lantry, who fell asleep in the back seat when his dad drove Melvin home from meetings, wasn't allowed to doze his way through childhood: as a boy he worked alongside his father and other Lions in doing maintenance and painting at the pool. Melvin never pitched him on Lions, but just the same he became a Lion. Since 1982, he's cooked pasta, fried steaks, sold pickles on a stick, rose at an ungodly hour on Candy Day to catch the earliest commuters at the train station and targeted the right people and filled out the necessary forms for dram shop insurance or other paperwork needed for club projects. Melvin receded



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

in Lantry's distant boyhood memories, yet his grand idea helped shape his adult life. "Lions kept me involved in the community. Our club has definitely made an impact," he says.

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

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

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

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

Digital LION (lionmagazine.org)

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

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

The LION has secured rare footage of Melvin. He's shown at the 1942 convention in Toronto and on a side trip to Hawaii from the 1947 convention in San Francisco. View the short video clips as well as the LION stories at lionmagazine.org.

Honor Melvin's Birthday

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

Trenton Lions Club



L to R: Induction performed by PDG Lion John Thompson, new members. Lion Shawna White, Lion Robert Brown, Lion Larry Beeler, Lion Andy Axhorn and new member Lion Dale Bigalow

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

Council Chair Bob,

First many thanks CC Bob for allowing me the opportunity to serve this year's Council as their LCIF Coordinator.

As many of you know PID Art Woods resigned as MDA LCIF Coordinator for personal reasons and I have been asked to take over for this, his last of 3 years as Coordinator.

Historical LCIF data for MDA

Total donations to LCIF by MDA since inception of Foundation - \$7.225MM

Total LCIF grants to MDA since inception of Foundation - \$3.964MM

Current LCIF data for MDA

Following is information to date as of end of July 2014:

Average MDA Club participation in donations to LCIF - 37.82%

Total funds donated by clubs in MDA in 2013-14 - \$216,000

Total LCIF funds received by clubs in MDA in 2013-14 - \$70,000

Total funds donated by clubs in MDA in July 2014 - \$12,321

Total goals for donations by Districts (3) this Lions year - \$85,000

Total MDA Club donation installments - \$1.019MM

Total MJFs in MDA - 4089

Total PMJFs in MDA - 160

From the above information I believe a suitable challenge for this year's Governors will be to focus on encouraging more clubs in their Districts to donate to

LCIF and request their District LCIF Coordinators, if they have not done so already, to identify both goals, and action plans for the year. Let's see if we can reach a year end goal of 50% clubs donating to the Foundation with total Multiple goal of \$250,000.

LCIF is our Association's vehicle through which we can honour our commitment "We Serve" to those in need outside Canada. MDA has shown LCI that it is second to none when it came to managing an International Convention so let us work as a team and show them MDA is also one of, if not, the most generous Multiple when it comes to helping those in need through donations to LCIF.

Respectfully submitted

Lion Dick Peel PDG

MDA LCIF Coordinator 2014-15

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

Our Programs

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) supports and develops international humanitarian programs that serve people in need. With the dedication and work of Lions, LCIF is able to improve millions of lives through our high-impact initiatives.

Our international humanitarian programs are focused in four main areas:

Preserving Sight

Since 1990, SightFirst has been making quality eye care accessible to those who most need it. SightFirst has made it possible for more than 30 million people to have improved or restored vision.

Supporting Youth

Over the past 25 years, more than 12 million young people in 85 countries have benefited through Lions Quest, our youth development program for kindergarten through 12th grade.

Providing Disaster Relief

In times of disaster, Lions meet immediate needs such as food, water and shelter with funds from LCIF. For larger-scale disasters, the Foundation remains committed to helping communities rebuild into the future.

Meeting Humanitarian Needs

LCIF is active in a variety of international humanitarian efforts, such as supporting the construction of homes for the disabled, providing vision screenings to Special Olympics athletes and combating measles.

See the impact that our programs make: **videos are available** that highlight LCIF's humanitarian efforts.

Sight and Blindness Programs



LCIF is a leader in providing support for preventing avoidable blindness and restoring sight for people around the world. Our sight programs range from developing and improving eye care systems to providing sight-restoring surgeries and treatments to distributing medications to those most at-risk for eye diseases.

SightFirst: Lions' Vision for All

Since its inception in 1990, the SightFirst program has played a key role in reducing global blindness. It is only through the collaborative efforts of Lions, our partners, local health authorities, eye care professionals and other non-governmental organizations that SightFirst has been able to help 30 million people have improved or restored vision. SightFirst serves as a leading member of **VISION 2020**, the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness.

With a focus on building comprehensive and sustainable eye care systems, SightFirst provides funding for projects that deliver eye care services, build or strengthen eye care facilities, train professionals and build awareness about eye health in

underserved communities. Through two fundraising campaigns, Lions are investing US\$415 million in the SightFirst program to extend its services to even more people in need throughout the world. With an average cost of just US\$6 to help restore a person's vision or prevent blindness, millions more will be given the **gift of sight**.

Our sight programs have changed the lives of millions. Read a few of their stories at <http://www.lcif.org/EN/our-impact/sight-stories/index.php>, and see our impact through our **sight-related videos**.

Partnership Initiatives

Many of LCIF's sight initiatives are the result of strong partnerships with groups that share our dedication to preserving sight and fighting global blindness.

Fighting Diseases

In order to improve eye health, SightFirst is committed to understanding the causes, impacts and solutions to the world's major eye issues and diseases.

Disaster Relief Programs



LCIF's commitment to disaster relief goes back to our beginnings, when we awarded our very first grant for flood relief in South Dakota, USA. Whenever and wherever disasters strike, Lions are often among the

first to offer aid—and LCIF is right there with them, ready to support their efforts with funding assistance through Lions disaster relief programs. Working together, LCIF, local Lions and Lions leaders assess the urgent needs and quickly deliver the aid most required by victims. This grassroots model has proven effective in tragedies around the world, such as the Southeast Asia tsunami, September 11th and the Haiti earthquake. Lions know that disaster can affect anyone's community, whether it's halfway around the world or right at home. That's why in the last 10 years, LCIF has provided more than US\$100 million for disaster relief programs worldwide.

Thanks to the support Lions provide to LCIF on an ongoing basis, **Emergency Grants** are available to provide for basic immediate needs including food, water, clothing and medicine. We have learned from experience that when a disaster victim receives aid quickly, it provides strength needed to survive the shock and loss and even a little hope for the future. To date, more than 3,000 emergency grants have been awarded.

After immediate needs are met, victims of disasters are not forgotten. LCIF remains committed to the important rebuilding of homes and lives that must happen, often long after a disaster occurs. Through **Major Catastrophe Grants**, LCIF helps with long-term reconstruction projects to help victims begin to return to their lives and regain their independence.

At the heart of LCIF's disaster relief programs are the individuals and families your donations reach. Read their personal stories at <http://www.lcif.org/EN/our-impact/disaster-stories/index.php> and view our Foundation's impact through our **disaster relief videos**.

Donate to LCIF's ongoing disaster relief fund.

Youth Programs



Since its founding nearly four decades ago, LCIF has been committed to helping children and young adults in need all over the world. We reach thousands of youth every day through a number of programs that help them enjoy their childhood and grow into successful adults.

Lions Quest

More than 13 million youth have been taught positive life skills through Lions Quest, our most comprehensive program for youth. Lions Quest unites the home, school and community to cultivate capable and healthy young people through positive youth development programs. More than 550,000 educators have been trained to implement the programs, which

supports character development, social and emotional learning, civic values, violence and substance abuse prevention and service-learning.

Lions work with the schools to implement the program from kindergarten through 12th grade, and often partner on community service-learning projects.

The program has drawn rave reviews from educators and high ratings from government agencies. Over the past 25 years, program developers, school districts, universities and independent research firms have conducted program evaluations which indicate that the Lions Quest program improves achievement test scores, changes attitudes and beliefs regarding substance abuse and violence, lowers rates of disciplinary problems, lowers risk of dropping out of school and decreases use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Continually expanding, Lions Quest is present in 85 countries and program materials have been translated into 36 languages. This positive youth development program is having a huge, global impact; view a video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7kuxui_pa8 about the program in India and read stories of those impacted at <http://www.lcif.org/EN/our-impact/youth-stories/index.php>. You can also view videos at <http://www.lcif.org/EN/lions-center/materials/videos.php#lions%20quest%20videos> on LCIF's efforts to support youth.

Humanitarian Efforts



Humanitarian service is at the heart of LCIF and Lions' work. Working together, Lions identify the most crucial needs, and LCIF supports them in humanitarian efforts that transform lives of people around the world. Our partners are also key in addressing humanitarian needs in the most effective ways.

Empowering People with Disabilities

LCIF and Lions are helping people with disabilities to lead more independent, productive and fulfilling lives. Lions have built more than 1,000 handicapped-accessible homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. We also support people with disabilities through training and services they need to improve their education and job prospects, while enhancing their day-to-day lives and emotional well-being.



Current humanitarian efforts include the **Opening**

Eyes program, which helps Special Olympics athletes see the finish line more clearly, while also improving their quality of life, and the **Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Program**, which provides low-income people with access to hearing aids to enhance their quality of life.

Addressing Global Health Issues

The Foundation also develops and implements programs that improve health for people worldwide. We are currently working to combat **measles** through strong partnerships that bring immunizations to those who are at-risk of the disease.

LCIF also supports Lions' efforts to address another global health risk - diabetes. Approximately 347 million people have diabetes, with the number projected to rise according to the World Health Organization. Through the **LCIF Core 4 Diabetes program**, multi-year grants are awarded to large-scale Lions' efforts to support diabetes education, prevention and treatment programs. LCIF has supported Lions' diabetes initiatives in Turkey, France, Benin, the Republic of Korea, the United States and many other countries.



See more at: <http://www.lcif.org/EN/our-programs/humanitarian-efforts/index.php#sthash.0D0FZQ4a.dpuf>

Lucknow Lions Splash Pad

In Dec. 2012, the **Lucknow and District Lions Club** spearheaded a drive to raise funds to install a splash pad for the children of Lucknow and the surrounding communities. The Lucknow Kinsmen and Kinettes, the Lucknow Legion and the Lucknow Agricultural Society assisted with the project. The club also received a Trillium Grant and by the summer of 2013 had reached their financial goal. ABC recreation from Paris Ontario installed the pad and a number of benches in late September 2013, adjacent to the existing Lucknow swimming pool.

submitted by Lion Angus Cline



Lion Ambrose Redmond assisted by **Lion Corinne Cline** erecting an information sign near the splash pad site and the completed pad itself

2015 MULTIPLE DISTRICT "A" CONVENTION

SPARKLING WATERS 2015

AMBASSADOR CONFERENCE CENTRE KINGSTON

MAY 22 to MAY 24, 2015

HOSTED BY THE LIONS CLUBS OF DISTRICT A3

A DISTRICT _____ Club _____

Lion 0 Lioness 0 Leo 0 Partner In Service 0 Highest Office _____ Past 0 Present 0

Name _____ Name to appear on badge _____

Mailing Address _____
STREET # OR PO BOX CITY PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

Phone _____ Email _____

B DISTRICT _____ Club _____

Lion 0 Lioness 0 Leo 0 Partner In Service 0 Highest Office _____ Past 0 Present 0

Name _____ Name to appear on badge _____

Mailing Address _____
STREET # OR PO BOX CITY PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

Phone _____ Email _____

PLEASE NOTE; ROOM RESERVATIONS ARE BEING HANDLED DIRECTLY BY THE AMBASSADOR CONFERENCE RESORT AND IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. THE HOTEL INFORMATION IS ON PAGE 2



FUNCTION TICKETS	COST PER PERSON	A	B	TOTAL
Thursday Night DG, DG Elect & PDG Dinner	\$ 50.00	0	0	\$
Friday Luncheon	\$ 40.00	0	0	\$
Friday Pub Night	\$ 55.00	0	0	\$
Saturday Night Banquet	\$ 62.00	0	0	\$
TOTAL FOR FUNCTION TICKETS				\$ _____

FUNCTION TICKETS MUST BE ORDERED BY MAY 7th, 2015

THERE WILL BE NO FUNCTION TICKETS SOLD AT THE CONVENTION

PLEASE NOTE;

- 1) Everyone, including guests and exhibitors must be registered to attend convention functions, including meals.
- 2) All cancellations must be in writing by mail or e-mail and be acknowledged. Cancellations received after April 1st, 2015 will be subject to a \$10.00 handling fee.
- 3) **No refunds after May 1st 2015**

AMOUNT DUE

Full registration fee for A	\$25.00 = \$ _____	Registration fee for Leo	\$10.00 = \$ _____
Sunday only for A	\$10.00 = \$ _____	Function Tickets (From Above)	= \$ _____
Full registration for B	\$25.00 = \$ _____	Convention Pin	_____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____
Sunday only for B	\$10.00 = \$ _____	Pin Trader Table	_____ X \$25.00 = \$ _____
Vendor/Pin Trader	\$25.00 = \$ _____	Vendor Table	_____ X \$25.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Please make your cheque payable to LIONS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT A3 (NOTE MD" A" Convention)

MAIL YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO

PDG Russ Mitchell
 30 South Maloney St.,
 Marmora, Ont., K0K 2M0
 613 472 3415
r-mitch3@sympatico.ca

SPECIAL REQUESTS

We will do our best to accommodate those with special requests.

	A	B
Diabetic	0	0
Vegetarian	0	0
Gluten Free	0	0
Other _____	0	0

HOTEL CONTACT INFORMATION

AMBASSADOR CONFERENCE RESORT

1550 Princess St., Kingston, Ont., K7M 9E3

Phone 613 548 3605 - Fax 613 548 1613 – 1 800 267 7880 - www.ambassadorhotel.com

Wed. & Thurs. Night \$125.00 Fri. Night \$165.00 Sat. Night \$165.00 Sun. Night \$125.00 All Taxes Included

A Whirlwind of Training This Month!

Pat Howell-Blackmore, Director of Communications and Programs and Joanne McQuiggan, Executive Director were busy in October with a variety of training events across Alberta and Ontario.

It started off when Pat worked with Tim Horton Children's Foundation and their camp staff from across Canada in Parry Sound, ON. Then Joanne joined Pat as she delivered a two day **Building Community Capacity for Positive Youth Development** Train the Trainer session in Oakville, ON. With participants from across Southern Ontario, we expect it will turn into even more workshop sessions.

Joanne then headed to a meeting of the Alberta Lions Quest team in Calgary. Lots of activity is planned for this year with funds available from the LCIF Core 4 grant. The group was energized and enthusiastic to get started. Joanne traveled onto Taber, AB to deliver our Train the Trainer session again. Lions Quest Chair **Anne Kennedy** participated in the session and found it to be a valuable learning experience and is now able to share our broader community work with Lions across her District. At the end of the week, Joanne spent two more days delivering the same workshop in Sylvan Lake, and was pleased that Lion **Jason Isaman** joined the group - again showcasing the great connection Lions have with children and youth.

Pat spent a week in Grande Prairie, AB, also delivering the Train the Trainer session, along with separate workshops for educators, parents, coaches, and the business community. After a very full week, she just had a day to recharge before heading to Sioux Lookout, ON to facilitate a community workshop followed by a return trip to Halton Region to assist Our Kids Network with a training session.

Lions Day at a CFL Game

An enthusiastic group of Lions from across Multiple District A attended the Toronto Argonauts game against the Hamilton Tiger Cats on Saturday October 25. A portion of the ticket sales were designated for Lions Quest Canada. From all accounts, the group had a great time, and both Lions and Lions Quest Canada were featured on the scoreboard during the game.

The Toronto Argonauts presented a special pin to recognize the Lions who attended, and also managed to come from behind in the 4th quarter to win the game 26-24. Thanks to CC **Bob Tanner** for putting Lions Quest Canada at the forefront of this opportunity.

Lions Quest Program Revision Underway

Over the next few months, we will be finalizing updates to our curriculum materials. This is the most in-depth revision in more than ten years. Not only will the images be updated - making the program look and

feel more current - but there will also be important additions to the content. We will be adding lessons dealing with some of the most current and important issues facing today's youth: bullying, social media responsibility, post-secondary & career readiness.

What does it mean for you, the Lions? We think it will make the program easier for you to present to the schools in your community. We think it will make it easier for you to motivate other Lions in your club to support the program. But most importantly, we think it will make the program better - more effective at delivering the results we all hope to see in our communities.

Stay tuned for more updates on the progress of the revision!

FUNDRAISING REPORT

You Make a Difference - Your Support is the Difference

Thank you to all of the clubs that have already supported us this year and we look forward to this list growing over the next few months! Remember our Promotional contest for this year is 12 Days in Bali - all of the details have been sent to clubs across Canada. For your \$250 donation, you receive one book of tickets, but think about increasing that to \$500 and present a Lions Quest Fellowship to a worthy recipient in your community. Details are available on our website.

Lions Quest Canada - Positive Youth Development Training-of-Trainers Workshop Kingston, Ontario

– by Lion Bill Thompson, Lions Quest Chair, Lions District A3

What do a Public Health worker, Police Officer, Tim Horton Children's Foundation worker, Children's Aid worker and a Lions Club member have in common? A strong desire to bring Positive Youth Development to their communities. Our facilitator, Director of Communications and Programs for Lions Quest Canada, Pat Howell- Blackmore was more than willing to help us prepare for that journey during a workshop hosted by the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health Unit on August 21st & 22nd, 2014.

The workshops focused on Positive Youth Development and the concepts related to building community capacity in support of children and youth. The Developmental Assets are the building blocks all youth need to become positive, constructive community members. The external assets such as support from people who care about them, the need to feel valued, clear rules and the opportunity to learn, create a safe, positive environment for young people. Internal assets such as a belief in themselves, a commitment to learning, strong guiding values, a sense of self-worth and good coping skills are needed for young people to effectively function in their family,

community and world around them. Whose responsibility is it to provide these building blocks? Everyone's!

The Asset-Building Difference

Asset building requires us to reassess how we look at youth development. We must stop focusing only on young people's problems and recognise and nurture their strengths. Youth Programs alone can be enhanced by building relationships. Asset building encompasses not just troubled young people but embraces all youth. When we understand the 40 Developmental Assets, we can start to do intentional asset building in our community.

"The Power of One" is the potential for one individual to help, to heal, to support, to challenge and to change for the better, the life of a young person. (*Peter Benson, President, Search Institute*)

Our facilitator, Patricia encouraged participation from the 20 workshop members. The personal stories recounted brought the "Power of One" to life.

One of the most powerful stories was about a young girl named Maria who had a chance encounter with a caring lady one afternoon in a grocery store. At the



Catlin Carson, Tim Horton Children's Foundation; Mark Heffernan, Brockville Police Service; Pat Howell-Blackmore, Lions Quest Canada; Katherine Morin, Peterborough County City Health Unit; Erin Vretteas, KFLOA Public Health; and Karen Pettinella, HKCR District Health

time Maria was a troubled teen and the kindness shown by the lady encouraged Maria to seek out help and support for her challenges. Fourteen years later the troubled teen, who was now a young lady, would seek her out to thank her for turning her life around.

A Public Health worker credited the Tim Horton Children's Foundation Summer Camp Program with saving one of her clients. There were more than a few tears, and quivering chins in the room when she shared the story.

The Power of Many

A fundamental assumption of Positive Youth Development is, “The more of these positive experiences children have in their lives, the greater the likelihood that they will succeed developmentally.”

There are so many wonderful community programs, working hard to make a better life for all the youth in our communities. If all of these programs embraced and worked towards building the concepts behind positive youth development into their agendas, imagine how much more successful they could be.

Families, schools and communities can come together to make Canadian Communities the best place for children and youth to live.

As Lions, we donate money to many of the youth clubs in our communities. Introducing the leaders of these programs facilitated by Lions Quest Canada

about Positive Youth Development would further assist them in molding successful, healthy youths.

For more information visit www.lionsquest.ca or call Kay Nelles at 1-800-265-2680 ext 102.



Joycelyn Clemens, Sarnia Children’s Aid; Elizabeth Langlois, Connect Youth Inc.; Kimberly Marshall, Leeds Grenville District Health Unit



Const. Mark Heffernan makes a point

District A-711 News

Our Governor Lion **Don Bissonnette**, PDG Lion **Rollie dela Cruz** and PDG **Raija Rosenthal** arranged to meet on Thursday, September 18th. - Tara Frotten, Resource Development Support Coordinator to dialogue with her and her support staff.

Discussion included how the “new-to-be” **Leaside 100 Lions Club** could partner and serve Spinal Cord Injury Ontario. We met her support staff: Lynne Minique – Manager, Special Events, Jackie Bloom – Director of Resource Development and Leandre Casselman – Development Coordinator who gave us a tour of the building.

DG Don and PDG Rollie followed in their wheelchairs as Leandre showed these two “how to wheel around .”



Tara Frotten and PDG Raija



Leandre Casselman explaining and providing informative tour to DG Don and PDG Rollie in wheelchairs

MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors’ Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting - March 6/7, 2015
- Council Meeting Convention - May 21-24, 2015

District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London	April 10-12, 2015
A2	Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway, St. Catharines	March 27-29, 2015
A3	Ambassador Conference Resort, Kingston	April 17-19, 2015
A4	Brookstreet Hotel, Kanata	April 10-12, 2015
A5	Best Western, North Bay	April 10-12, 2015
A711	Airport Inn Select, 970 Dixon Road, Toronto	April 17-19, 2015
A9	Days Inn & Conference Centre, Owen Sound	May 1-3, 2015
A12	J.W. Marriott Rosseau, Minett	April 24-26, 2015
A15	Arden Park, Stratford	March 20-22, 2015
A16	Pinestone Resort, Haliburton	April 24-26, 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2014/15	Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre, Kingston, ON	May 22 - 24, 2015
2015/16	North Bay, ON	May 26 - 29, 2016

International Conventions

98th	Honolulu, Hawaii	June 26 - 30, 2015
99th	Fukuoka, Japan	June 24 - 28, 2016
100th	Chicago, Illinois, USA	June 30 - July 4, 2017
101st	Las Vegas, Nevada, USA	June 29 - July 3, 2018
102nd	Milan, Italy	July 5 - 9, 2019

USA - Canada Forums

Sept. 17 - 19, 2015	Grand Rapids, Michigan
2016	Omaha, Nebraska

Ski Legends Partner with Lions

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

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

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

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



Rosi Mittermaier and Christian Neureuther meet with Zimbabweans

Cleanup Preserves Lake's Luster

JAPAN – Junior high students from Aizu-Wakamatsu with rakes and pitchforks descended on the beach of Lake Inawashiro, located in the Fukushima Prefecture. The fourth-largest lake in Japan, it's admired for its clean water. "Heaven's Mirror," as it is affectionately known, often shows the glimmering reflection of majestically snow-capped Mt. Bandai.

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

The club had a prior connection with the junior high

school through its sponsorship of the Peace Poster contest. "We learned a lot about volunteerism today," a student told the Lions at the lake.



Students clear the lake of excess algae

Liberian Clubs Fight Ebola

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

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

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

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

Women Run the Show

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

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

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

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

attended leadership institutes as well.

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

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

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

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



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

Swedes Aid Iraqis

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

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

Strathroy-Caradoc Lions Club

The Strathroy-Caradoc Lions Club held the first Purina Walk for Dog Guides in Alexandra Park, Strathroy, on Saturday September 20, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

The \$1,020.00 raised is all going to the Lions Foundation of Canada in Oakville. This Lions-owned dog training school provides, at no cost to recipients, Canine Vision, Hearing Ear, Service, Seizure Response, Autism Assistance and Diabetic Alert Dog Guides to Canadians.

Sophia Reyes from London brought her Service Dog Guide and Lesa Newman from Blenheim brought her Seizure Response Dog Guide and they both walked one of the two routes, one 1 Km and one 2 Km in length.

The ribbon at the start of the walk was cut by District Lions Foundation of Canada Chair **Joyce Mahovich** from Tilbury assisted by Strathroy-Caradoc

Lions President **Mariette Desjardine**.

All walkers received hot dogs and a drink and the dogs received grab bags of dog treats and neckers. Prize winners were Gavin and Lola Fentie of Strathroy, Jessica Legacy of Blenheim and Sophia Reyes of London.

Thanks to the local businesses who helped publicize this new event, to those who donated prizes and to all residents who joined us for this enjoyable morning.



Belle River Lions Club

The Belle River Lions Club once again were out canvassing for Diabetes on the club's Diabetes Tag Day on Saturday, October 25, 2014. The total donations collected resulted in a 25% increase over last year. Way to go Fellow Lions!

Way to go all Belle River contributors!



Jaimie Clarke, Manager, Foodland (also a Belle River Lions Club member) holding a Certificate of Appreciation from the Belle River Lions Club along with Leo Keirstyn Ducharme, Lion Debbie Lemire, Leo Tambre Afford, 1st Vice-President Allan White

HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Reporters

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 or the Lion Magazine.

Lion John Daniels, Editor Lion Magazine email: mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| A1 | Lion Barb Tuxford | email: lionbarbtuxford@gmail.com |
| A2 | Lion Wayne Scott | email: w.scott@a2lions.org |
| A3 | Lion Wilma Bush | email: wilma.bush@sympatico.ca |
| A4 | Lion Sandra Baldwin | email: slbaldwin@rogers.com |
| A5 | Lion Liam Brennan | email: lembrennan@hotmail.com |

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| A711 | Lion Jennifer Boyce | email: bevin@hotmail.com |
| A9 | Lion Al Leach PDG | email: adleach@hotmail.com |
| A12 | Lion Michelle Heyduk | email: fredheyduk@hotmail.com |
| A15 | Lion Bob Rutter | email: lionmagcor@a15lions.org |
| A16 | Lion Shekhar Bhalla | email: sbhalla@rogers.com |

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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 and clicking on "**Lions Resource Centre**" on the left side of the page.

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Delaware Lions Club

Delaware Lions celebrated with Lion Joe Clark as they presented him with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Lion Joe is a Charter Member of the Delaware Lions Club serving his community from 1971 to the present. Being community minded, Lion Joe played an integral part in initiating the

formation of the Delaware Lions Club. Lion Joe's service is commendable as he compiled an outstanding record of service to his community and Lionism over his 43 years as a member of the Delaware Lions Club.

He has been a 100% Lion through his attendance and participation. Lion Joe served on the executive as President for 3 terms - 1977-1978, 2004-2005, and 2010-2011 - as Director for 4 Terms, - as Membership Chair for 3 Terms, as well as Tail Twister, Lion Tamer, Assistant Secretary and Bulletin Editor.

He also served on and chaired most committees.

Lion Joe SERVED by participation in most of the Delaware Lions Club Fundraisers, Projects, Activities, Youth Education and Sports, always sharing his leadership skills and always there to help with the physical work!!

Lion Joe has been a very visible Lion serving others while always keeping in mind and applying the motto "WE SERVE!"

Lion Joe - Congratulations and thanks for all your leadership and contributions to your community over the years! You truly live the Lions Motto 'WE SERVE!'

From all the Lions of Delaware -- Past and Present!

Lions Club of Sudbury

The Lions Club of Sudbury celebrated their 90th Charter Night on October 25th, 2014.

The guest speakers for the evening were Lions International 2nd Vice President **Bob Corlew** and his beautiful wife Dianne.

Congratulatory messages were also presented from Toronto Lions Clubs as well as area Lions.

Over 200 guests attended the event and a Melvin Jones Fellowship was given to President and 1st VDG A5 **Gerry Bertrand**, a Life membership to Lion **Steve Brazeau**, a Helen Keller to Lion **Sandy Clarke** and a Brian Stevenson Award to Lion **Bernie Piché**. A Certificate of Appreciation was also presented on behalf of MDA.



Lions Clubs International Convention MD-A Delegate Parade Dress



- (Optional) Gambler Hat with Red MD-A Band
- Smile
- LCI Issued Parade Delegate Ribbon
- MD-A Maple Leaf Safari Shirt
- (Optional) White or Red T-Shirt
- (Not Shown - Optional Red Fanny Pack)
- White Pants
- All White Shoes

MD-A Promotions Committee — ORDER FORM

Item	Men's Sizes	Cost (tax in)	Quantity	Size	Total
Safari Shirts	S - M - L - XL XXL - XXXL	\$52.00 ea.			\$ _____
Safari Shirts	XXXXL Special Order** **advance payment required	\$52.00 ea.		Chest: _____ inches Length*: _____ inches *Note on Length: Measure down from neck to a comfortable length.	\$ _____
2014 MD-A Convention Trading Pin		\$5.00 ea.			\$ _____

Available for pick up at the March Council Meeting
and/or the MDA Convention

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

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Sharbot Lake

On September 1, 2014 **Sharbot Lake and District Lions Club** dedicated a Crimson Maple, at the Railway Heritage Park, in honour of Lion **Bill Morton**, a long-time Lions member and former RCAF pilot.



Bowmanville

Celebrating 68 years in Lions is Lion **Russell (Bud) Oke**, a member of the **Bowmanville Lions Club** who joined Lions in 1946. [l-r] Council Chair **Bob Tanner**, Lion **Bud** and District Governor A-3 **Linda Duffie**. Lion Bud is 99 years old! Congratulations Lion Bud and thank you for your many years of service!

submitted by Lion Wilma Bush



Agreement Number is:
41805020*

Wainfleet

November 11, 2014 marks the first time residents of Wainfleet Township will be able to celebrate Remembrance Day at their own Cenotaph in honour of those men and women who served in war and peace. The **Wainfleet Lions** formed part of a committee to raise over \$70,000 to erect Wainfleet's own cenotaph. Pictured at the unveiling of the cenotaph are Wainfleet Lions Chief **Mark Lambert**, WWII vet Harold Grant and Cenotaph Committee member Lion **Martin VanGool**.

