

# LION



M.D. "A" Edition March/April 2015

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See pages 15-17 for details

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# THE Lion



**On the cover:**  
**Hawaiian Lions (from left) Bobby Balais, Peggy Oyama, Patrick Chung, Kent Kudo and Lottie Chun and steersman Nappy Napoleon of the Anuenue Canoe Club paddle off Duke Kahanamoku Beach in Honolulu near Diamond Head.**  
*Thanks Lion Bob Lee, the Anuenue Canoe Club/Nappy Napoleon and the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association for making the photo possible.*

*W*elcome to the Mar/Apr 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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# Help Lions Help Others Through LCIF



**Joseph Preston**  
Lions Clubs International  
President

Joni and I are Lions, but we're parents, too. So it was very gratifying for us when we recently visited a primary school in Nairobi, Kenya, and watched as more than 300 lovely children received vision screenings. Joni and I then had the privilege of giving eyeglasses to the children that needed them. I'm not sure who was smiling more—the children or us. You can smile with pride, too, because the screenings were made possible by LCIF. And LCIF's remarkable service is made possible by Lions such as yourself.

I almost didn't want to tell about this project in

Kenya. You may get the wrong idea about LCIF. Kenya is probably not anywhere near you. You may think, "Oh, yes, LCIF helps people far away from here, in undeveloped nations." I am proud that LCIF indeed helps people in dire need in impoverished places. Working through LCIF, Lions restore sight, protect people against measles and help disaster victims get back on their feet and so much more.

But our Foundation also helps millions of people in developed nations. It's active perhaps in your own community or likely a community near you. As just a few examples, LCIF recently awarded \$100,000 to Lions in Colorado to provide vision screening equipment to the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute, \$75,000 to Lions in Ohio to equip a handicapped-accessible playground and \$100,000 to Lions in Toronto, Canada, to provide equipment to a Lions eye care center.

LCIF is Lions' tool for serving on a larger scale than clubs can do on their own. Think of LCIF as a logical

extension of the Lions' model. We join a club because our service is more valuable when we unite with like-minded others. We support LCIF because our funds go a lot further when put into common pool. Through LCIF, we help each other help others. We can and do provide services that governments and other civic groups are not able to.

Please take a few minutes to read the full story about LCIF in this issue. If you have any doubts about the value of being a Lion or don't quite grasp the scope and reach of Lions' service, this story will swell your pride in being a Lion. One sure way to Strengthen the Pride is to better understand who we are and what we do. Now that's something to smile about.

**Joe Preston**  
Lions Clubs International President

## Mark Our Centennial With a Membership Drive

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

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

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

thank-you from Lions Clubs International.

The details on the Membership Awards program are on page 18 and can be found at lionsclubs.org as well. I know Lions always respond when asked, and I know Lions will do their very best to add to our rolls so we can do even more service. I wish you happy hunting for members!

**Joe Preston**  
Lions Clubs International President



**Lion Terry Graham, PID**  
Convention Chair Host

Prepare yourself for fun and fellowship as soon as you arrive and make the 41st Annual MD"A" Convention a major highlight of your Lions year!

Come and join us! The Lions of A-3 and your Host Committee promise you a fun-filled and educational convention. When you bring 540 Lions clubs together from 10 Districts [roughly 13,500 Lions], you can bet things are going to happen. Renew old acquaintances, develop new friendships, learn something new, enjoy great food and entertainment... and most important, have fun – fun – fun!

Have a look at our planned schedule:

- For the early birds, dust off those golf clubs and

## 2015 MD"A" Convention – May 21 – 24, 2015

### Ambassador Resort & Hotel, Kingston

participate in "The Stew O'Brien Golf Tournament" Thursday morning at 8:00 am. On Thursday evening a dinner will be held for Council and Past District Governors.

- On Friday morning Council Chair Bob Tanner will call the Governors Council meeting to order, followed by a luncheon that will give everyone an opportunity to meet our international guests, International Director Larry Dicus and his wife, Lion Jane. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 2:15 pm.
- The fun starts in earnest on Friday evening with an old-fashioned "English Pub Night" with English humour and English pub foods.
- Other convention highlights will be the Saturday night Banquet, the Opportunity for Youth Luncheon, Lioness meetings, seminars, vendor tables and pin traders. And don't miss the hospitality promotion event from District A-5, your 2016 convention hosts.

- Voting will open on Sunday at 7:00 am, followed by a Memorial Service at 9:00 am, remembering and honouring our departed Lions. The Closing Business Session starts at 10:00 am and will introduce your new District Governors and Council.

A draw will take place on Sunday from the sale of 50-50 tickets... and some lucky Lion or Lions club will reap the reward... in the past, the total amount was up to \$7,500.

Register today! Registration forms are online for download at [www.mdalions.org](http://www.mdalions.org) or check with your club secretary. The information package has already been sent in the mail to all clubs in MDA. Remember... your hotel accommodations must be booked directly with the hotel prior to April 25th.

This event will be a success with your participation. See you at the convention!

Lion Terry Graham, PID ~ Convention Chair Host



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH, 2015 GOVERNORS' COUNCIL MEETING



**Election of the Council Chair** – District Governor John Johnston (A1) was elected to the office of Council Chair for the 2015-2016 Lions year.

**MD'A' Convention Advisory** – PCC Al Page advised that planning was well underway for both the 2015 MDA Convention in Kingston and the 2016 MDA Convention in North Bay. 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. Our International Guests will be International Director Larry Dicus and his wife, Jane.

**International Advisory Committee** – The Governors' Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee and unanimously approved the endorsement of PID Dr. Patti Hill for the office of 2nd International Vice President to be elected at the LCI Convention in Hawaii.

**Sight Conservation** – PDG Peter Hammond advised that a revised Agreement between CNIB and MDA Lions has been drafted and is being reviewed by the MDA Solicitor. 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.

**Opportunities for Youth** – VDG John Harvey advised that the Opportunities for Youth Luncheon will be held at the MDA Convention on Saturday, May 23rd from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. All MDA youth activities will be featured. Tickets for the luncheon are \$25.00 each and are available by contacting VDG John. The Youth Exchange participants will arrive at Toronto International Airport on June 27th. The Fenwick and Fonthill Lions Clubs (A2) will host the 2015 Effective Speaking Final, Saturday, May 2nd at the Holiday Inn & Suites in St. Catharines. The registration form is available on the MDA website. The MDA

winner of the Peace Poster Contest is Jack Bradley sponsored by the Amaranth & Orangeville Lions Clubs (A9). The winner of the Peace Essay Contest is Jason Primeau sponsored by the Walden Lions Club (A5).

**Centennial Committee** – Council Chair Bob Tanner announced that to date the Lions of MDA have volunteered 300,000 man hours which has positively affected the lives of 2,000,000 individuals.

**MD'A' Life Memberships** – The Governors' Council approved fifteen (15) applications for MDA Life Memberships.

**For information, questions or concerns relating to these highlights please contact MDA Secretary John Stewart at email: [secretary@mdalions.org](mailto:secretary@mdalions.org).**

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS - MD'A' CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

### AMENDMENT #1

**Article V** – Council of Governors

**Section 3.** Appointment of Council Chairperson

The Council Chairperson shall be elected by the District Governors of the Multiple District provided that such chairperson shall be a district governor who is in office when he/she is so elected or who is a past district governor. A meeting of the District Governors of the Multiple District shall be called at the Multiple District Convention or at a time preceding such Convention, but in the same calendar year, for the purpose of electing a council chairperson. It shall be the duty of the attendees at the meeting to elect a club member in good standing in a club in good standing in the multiple district as the council chairperson.

The current Section 3 be renumbered as Section 4.

Rationale: Section 3 addresses the timing of the election for the Council Chairperson and brings the MD'A' Constitution into compliance with the Lions Clubs International Constitution

I am in favour of the proposed amendment:

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### AMENDMENT #2

**Article I** – Name

This organization shall be known as Multiple District "A" Lions Clubs, hereinafter referred to as "multiple district".

Rationale: The name change to Multiple District "A" Lions Clubs from Multiple District "A" – Lions Clubs International is in compliance with the Incorporation of Multiple District "A".

I am in favour of the proposed amendment:

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

# Through LCIF, Lions Serve Every Day, Every Way

by Cassandra Bannon

As the chairperson of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), I have the honor of presenting you with some of the highlights of the Foundation's work in 2013-14. This report will give you a glimpse of our achievements and the lives we have touched through your kindness and compassion. I look forward to celebrating even more success stories with you at the upcoming international convention in Honolulu. Congratulations to Past International President Wayne Madden on a successful year as chairperson, and to you, Lions, for supporting your Foundation!"



**Barry J. Palmer**

**LCIF Chairperson, Immediate Past International President**

Thank you to everyone who supported Lions Clubs International Foundation this past year. In a world of service, your generosity is making a lasting difference in the lives of millions. As LCIF chairperson, I have seen our impact firsthand, and it is humbling. I have seen communities around the world that have been strengthened through our efforts. I have seen the smiles of the people whose lives we have touched. Those faces will stay with me forever as a reminder of what Lions and LCIF can accomplish.

You provided life-saving measles vaccinations in places like Bangladesh, Botswana and Uganda. You gave needed supplies and hope to the Philippines following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. You helped students around the world make positive choices and lead healthier lives through Lions Quest.



**LCIF Chairperson Madden comforts an infant**

You saved the sight of millions through SightFirst, which ushered men and women into the light, just as Helen Keller urged us to do. I am truly grateful for all that you do. Our partnerships allow us to expand our reach and help even more people. Alongside The Carter Center, we helped eliminate river blindness in Colombia and expanded our SightFirst initiative to address preventable blindness in Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Uganda. Thanks to our Sight for Kids partnership program with Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Companies, we have screened the vision of more than

20 million students and we're expanding our reach beyond Asia to Kenya and Turkey.

Lions Quest received a US\$300,000 grant from the NoVo Foundation to enhance its social and emotional learning curriculum to help meet the changing needs of our students and schools. We are vaccinating millions of vulnerable children against measles through our partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and we're making great strides toward our goal of raising US\$30 million for the fight against measles.

But none of this would be possible without you. Together, we are truly making this a world of service. As you read through this report, you will learn about some of the lives we have touched and see the tremendous impact we have achieved together. I hope you will remember that none of these touching stories would be possible without your continued support.



**Wayne A. Madden**

**2013-14 LCIF Chairperson, Past International President**

## **Saving Sight**

Lions save sight in many ways. LCIF supports their sight-saving efforts through programs such as SightFirst, which helps Lions build comprehensive eye care systems in underserved communities to prevent blindness and vision loss, as well as caring for those who are blind or visually impaired.

A simple pair of eyeglasses can bring the biggest smile to a child's face. Seeing clearly can help a child read better, participate in sports and so much more. LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Companies (JJVCC) have been working together to help millions of children see more clearly and bring smiles to their faces through their Sight for Kids partnership program. Launched in Asia and led by local Lions, JJVCC employees and local partners, Sight for Kids engages eye care professionals who train teachers to conduct school-based vision screenings and eye health education in underserved communities. When needed, students are referred to local eye care professionals for eye exams, eyeglasses, further treatment and follow-up care at no cost.

Now, LCIF and JJVCC are expanding their Sight for Kids partnership to communities in Kenya and Turkey. These are the first two countries in Africa and Europe to receive Sight for Kids services. Through the program, more than 20 million children in underserved schools and communities across the Asia Pacific region have already benefitted from Sight for Kids. The need for access to basic eye exams and treatment for school-aged children is global. Through this expansion, even

more children will receive needed eye care.



**In Kansas and worldwide, LCIF restores and improves sight and prevents blindness**

*Photo by Dan Morris*

## **Supporting Youth**

LCIF's Lions Quest program teaches character education, bullying prevention, drug awareness and service-learning to students from kindergarten through grade 12. The American Institutes for Research completed in 2013 an independent evaluation of the Lions Quest program in Wood County, Virginia. More than 1,000 students were evaluated across all three program areas—Skills for Growing, grades K-5; Skills for Adolescence, grades 6-8; and Skills for Action, grades 9-12. Students in all evaluated grades showed gains in social awareness, relationship skills and peer relationships. The research also noted reductions in disruptive and potentially harmful behaviors.

This study not only shows how effective Lions Quest is but also positions LCIF and Lions as leaders in best practices in youth development. Lions make sure that Lions Quest programs are implemented with fidelity, ensuring that students and teachers have the best possible conditions for learning and growth.



**Students in Ireland learn life skills through Lions Quest**

*Photo by John Timmerman*

## **Fighting Measles**

LCIF provides financial and volunteer support to reduce measles deaths worldwide by increasing access to measles vaccines where needed most. Through the One Shot, One Life: Lions Measles Initiative, Lions are playing an increasingly central role in international efforts to end measles. In 2013, LCIF partnered with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to protect millions of

children against measles where vaccines are needed the most. More than 100 million children will be vaccinated through the partnership.

LCIF has committed to raising US\$30 million by 2017 to improve access to vaccines through Gavi. The funds will be matched by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing the total to US\$60 million. Lions also play a key role in mobilizing people for vaccination campaigns.

In celebration of World Immunization Week, April 24-30 in 2014, LCIF launched a 30-day challenge to raise US\$1 million for the One Shot, One Life: Lions Measles Initiative. Measles donations to LCIF during the month of April were matched by the family of Lion Abhey and Past District Governor Aruna Oswal of New Delhi, India, up to US\$500,000. Lions exceeded the challenge, raising a total of US\$1.3 million to combat measles.



A Lion in Nepal vaccinates schoolchildren

### Providing Disaster Relief

The LCIF Emergency Grant program provides financial support to Lions engaged in disaster response for immediate needs. Major Catastrophe Grants provide substantial funding for disasters with major impact.

In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan struck Southeast Asia, devastating the Philippines. The typhoon was believed to be the largest storm ever to hit land. Entire villages were obliterated and millions of people in the region were affected, many of them left homeless. LCIF immediately mobilized a US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant for relief efforts, followed by another US\$30,000 for immediate needs. Designated donations from Lions worldwide poured in, surpassing US\$1 million in the wake of the disaster.



Lions provide food to families in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan

### Improving Local Communities

Through its humanitarian grants, LCIF provides matching funds to support Lions' efforts to improve vital public service institutions and programs in their

local communities. For example, with the help of a US\$5,000 International Assistance Grant from LCIF, Lions in Portland, Oregon, purchased wall charts and an autorefractor to test visual acuity. The Lions teamed with three clubs in Peru—the Lambayque Ciudad Evocadora Lions Club, the Llampallec Lions Club and the Lambayequa Ciudad Evocadora Leo Club. Together, they organized health fairs, conducted hearing and vision screenings and distributed more than 250 pairs of eyeglasses to people in need in Peru. The Portland Lions also certified six local Lions on the correct use and operation of the autorefractor, enabling the local Lions to continue their vision screening work.

### Financials

In fiscal year 2013-14, Lions, their partners and friends generously donated US\$43.9 million to LCIF. The Foundation awarded 538 grants totaling US\$46,021,590. View the rest of the Foundation's finances at [lcif.org/resources/EN/pdfs/lcif/financial\\_statement.pdf](http://lcif.org/resources/EN/pdfs/lcif/financial_statement.pdf). Thank you for believing in LCIF!

Grants Awarded 2013-14	
Saving Sight	\$13,087,642
Combating Measles & Rubella	\$7,595,573
Providing Disaster Relief	\$1,276,000
Supporting Youth	\$1,982,539
Improving Communities	\$22,079,836

- The complete LCIF annual report can be found at [lcif.org](http://lcif.org).

## LCIF LCIF New School Provides Opportunity

by Cassandra Bannon

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

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

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

The Lions then turned to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) for a US\$35,750 Standard Grant to

raise the remaining funds needed to build and equip the school. LCIF's most common grant, Standard Grants provide matching funds from US\$10,000 to US\$100,000 for largescale Lions humanitarian efforts. Standard Grants generally provide capital funding for equipment and infrastructure needs. Typically funded are mobile health units, hospices, medical equipment, blind and disabled centers, eye clinics and schools in developing countries.

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

The Lions persevered and the new school is now up and running, providing a safe place for students and teachers alike. Lions expect this new school to serve up to 240 students when children from nearby villages start attending. The roof does not leak and the floor is

made of concrete, not dirt. There are wooden doors and shutters on the windows. Students and teachers now have desks and chairs.

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

To find out more about LCIF Standard grants, visit <http://www.lcif.org/EN/lions-center/grants/standard.php>.



The new school in Kemba is a huge improvement



We Serve

# Take Pride in Lions – Ten Times Over

by Jay Copp



We Serve

We are taught to be wary of pride. Pride goes before the fall is a familiar warning. Calling someone “prideful” is not a compliment. “Proud people breed sad sorrows for themselves,” novelist Emily Bronte weighed in. But there is bad pride, involving a sense of superiority and conceit. Then there is good pride, a well-measured understanding and appreciation of achievement and worth. Pride can propel us to stay the course, to do good, to reach our full potential as people—and as Lions.

**International President Joe Preston** is urging Lions to Strengthen the Pride this year. That’s a play on words, of course. A pride of Lions, a club can grow stronger in service and membership. To Strengthen the Pride also means taking pride in who we are and what we do. Only by recognizing and celebrating our service mission can we reach our potential and maximize our impact on the world.

Preston has identified 10 specific ways to Strengthen the Pride. It’s not hard to find clubs and members that take pride in Lions and in strengthening their service commitment and capabilities, evidence that any Lion or club can act similarly and achieve similar results.

Lions should share the pride by asking others to join. **Ray Adams**, an active member of the **Coventry-West Greenwich Lions Club** in Rhode Island since 1979, can attest to that. “As my story shows, you have to ask,” he says. Years ago, after managing his boys in Little League, he told his wife with the extra time he now had he might run for the town council. “Honey, I love you and you can do whatever you want. But the day you get elected is the day I file for divorce,” his wife, who detested politics, told him.

Adams told that story to another Little League manager. “If you want to do some community service come to the golf course tomorrow night. After the round we’re having a steak fry, and I want you to meet some guys,” the baseball manager told him. Turns out it was a Lions fundraiser, and the manager, Joe Fryc, became his sponsor.

Adams knows asking is essential. A few years ago **Leo Lamoureux**, a longtime member, died. His family had helped on fundraisers, but he had not asked them to join. The club took care of that oversight, and today his daughter, **Barbara Lee Scotti**, is president and her husband, **Tim**, will succeed Adams as treasurer.

Lions should take pride in our accomplishments and traditions. Echoing Helen Keller’s call for Lions to be Knights of the Blind, **Edgar “Nick” Cleves Jr.** of the **Alexandria Lions** in Kentucky has meticulously repaired 56,000 pairs of eyeglasses out of his home over the past 22 years. Lions clubs bring him broken eyeglasses and parts from optometrists and stores, and Cleves, 87, replaces or repairs the temples and nose pieces for eyeglass missions by doctors and medical students in

Haiti, Indonesia and elsewhere.



**Tom Richardson and the other 52 members of the Plano Early Lions Club in Texas take lot of pride in the 3,000 eyeglasses they recently collected and processed for the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Midland**

Lions need to take pride in our service projects, as do the **Medina Lions** in Ohio. It’s not an exaggeration to say they produced a miracle. The Miracle League is for children and adults with disabilities. Lions funded its concrete/artificial turf infield, bought uniforms and cook burgers on opening day. The pride Lions have in the league is matched and then some by parents who watch their children hit the ball, catch popups and spontaneously hug buddies running to a base. Chris Kungel sat in the bleachers watching her son, Austin, 15, play. “Look at him. He’s so happy,” she told the Sun News. His happiness peaked after he walloped a home run over the fence. “I deserve a milkshake,” he yelled to his mom.

**Stratton Eustis Lions** from Maine and **Lac Megantic Lions** from Quebec, Canada, recently demonstrated they take pride in being Lions by celebrating 60 years of being sister clubs. More than 110 Lions from 15 clubs from both sides of the border gathered at the Stratton Plaza Hotel, owned by Lion **Jeff Brickley**. The day was filled with quiet chats, fiery speeches, fond memories, rollicking entertainment and brilliant fireworks as well as somber reflection.

The two clubs, chartered on the same day and established by the same club in Maine, get together every 10 years. The towns are 50 miles apart. Eustis, which includes the village of Stratton, has only 800 residents, who often travel across the border to Lac-Magantic, population 6,000, for medical services or for shopping. Emergency vehicles from Eustis were the first from the United States to reach Lac-Magantic on July 6, 2013, after a fire and explosion from a derailed freight train transporting crude oil killed 42

people and destroyed half the downtown. Stratton Eustis Lions donated funds to their sister club for a children’s room at the new library. On their day of celebration, Brickley, who had collected donations from hotel guests, donated more funds on behalf of the hotel and Lions to the Lac-Magantic club, says **Neil Iverson**, president of the Stratton Eustis Lions.

**Ponoka Lions** in Alberta, Canada, show a pride to educate the public and share our accomplishments. The club bought a 48-passenger coach bus for use by the community, including senior citizens and sports teams, and wrapped the bus with its name, the Lions logo and a logo for the Ponoka Stampede, a festival featuring carnival rides and pony chuckwagon racing. Lions purchased the bus with funds from their Stampede food booth and bingos. The bus made more than 100 trips last year. “It’s a moving billboard about our club and our community,” says **Barry Neath**.

We recall the day we receive our pins as Lions. But many of us also proudly remember the day we truly became a Lion. For **Terry Loucks**, a past district governor and **Wellsville Lion** in New York, it happened when a mother called him and said her daughter needed surgery. But the family had no insurance. His club happened to be meeting that night. When he gave her the good news the next day that the club would take care of the bills she broke down in tears. Loucks got a little misty-eyed himself.

Many Lions have such pride in membership that they desire to be a Lion for life. **Harold Porterfield**, 87, a well-known cattle rancher, has served as a **Dorris Lion** in California since 1959. He joined when his wife, Ruth, told him he should be more involved in the community. His pride in being a Lion was part of growing up for sons **Chet** and **Guy**, now Dorris Lions themselves. Lion **Rennie Cleland** says Porterfield is a typical Lion: “He doesn’t do anything for recognition. He just does it because that’s who he is.”



**Santa Lucia Leos in Ecuador are proud of the books they give to schoolchildren as part of their Reading Action Program**

Lions ought to invest in our goals and missions. One effective way is to begin a Leo club, as did the **Dawnbreakers Lions** in Fremont, California. Lions did the spade work that blossomed into an extraordinary Leo club: the American High School Leo Club chartered last year with 212 members. The Leos have



been busy volunteering for the California School for the Blind, the Fremont Festival for the Arts and a comfort kit drive for cancer patients.

Take pride in our spirit of service as established by our founder Melvin Jones. This year Preston asked clubs to celebrate Jones' birthday on Jan. 13 by taking part in Lions Worldwide Week of Service. Several **Royal Oaks Lions** in Michigan served on a Salvation Army's Bed & Bread truck, distributing soup, sandwiches, coffee, cocoa and blankets in Detroit. "I've been blessed in my life. Now that I'm retired, I can pay back for all the blessings in my life," **Bob Westbury** told the Daily Tribune.

Lastly, Lions should mix in fun in all we do. Projects can be different. Why do the same-old, same-old? The **Lake Jackson Lions** in Texas staged a common event with a devilish twist: a ZombieFest 5K run. Lions awarded prizes for the bloodiest costume, the best moan, the best shamble, the most imaginative costume and "best in horde." Halfway around the world, **Minnamurra Lions** in Australia hosted a "Kiss Goodbye to MS" event in which 55 couples locked lips at the sound of a police siren.

Many clubs inject fun in meetings. "When you come to one of our meetings, it's not all serious stuff. We joke, we crack up, we have a lot of fun," **John Griesheimer**, president of the **Washington Lions** in

Missouri, told The Missourian. All that fun retains members and attracts new ones. "They're hooked because they see how much fun we have," adds Griesheimer.

"Never bend your head," said Helen Keller. "Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the face." So from this day forward let's be Lions who are full of pride, act with pride and build communities that we will take pride in. We've enjoyed a proud history, and we need to build on that pride as we near our centennial.

*Pamela Mohr and Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt contributed to this story.*

## Frame and Fortune

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

by Stuart Glascock

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

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

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

On a modest whiteboard in their office in Olympia, Washington, a few numbers speak volumes. The chart simply lists two months of eyeglass deliveries reaching seven destinations: Mexico, 498 glasses; Honduras, 900; Dominican Republic, 600; Uganda, 418; Mexico (again), 400; Guatemala, 1,200; Kitsap County, Washington (homeless event), 120; Philippines, TBD.

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



*Past District Governor George Robinson inspects glasses at the NWLERC for scratches, corrosion or missing or damaged pieces*

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

For some, like NWLERC President **Patricia Baron**, the volunteer gig morphed into something profound. Retiring after 30 years as a claims administrator in the state Attorney General's office, Baron caught the eyeglass recycling bug. A natural leader, Baron keeps the troops on track.

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

#### **A Calling**

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

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

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

#### **In the Beginning**

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



*NWLERC President Don Schmidt (green shirt) presides over a busy room of Lions and volunteers*  
*Photos by Darren Miller*

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

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

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

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

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

Jump ahead a few years, and the operation runs tightly. The NWLERC is neat and tidy. From the clearly labeled supply cabinet to the tagged cardboard containers filled with ready-to-ship eyeglasses, everything seems in place.

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

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

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

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

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

### An Army of Helpers

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

it; the entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park sits 50 miles east.

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

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

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

Another NWLERC regular, **Roberta Fender**, grew tired of retirement at home, so she got involved; now she's not home alone much. She packs and labels glasses at least two days a week. The eyeglass-

handling tasks don't demand much physically, but they require focus and insight.

The NWLERC harbors another secret weapon: Lacey Lamplighters Lions Club member **Harry Thornton**. An 88-year-old, he obsessively gathers used glasses. So obsessed, he has collected over 80,000 pairs. Thornton maintains 30 donation boxes in Thurston County—at eye clinics, libraries, thrift shops, schools and doctors' offices. The octogenarian manages all the pickups personally.

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

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

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



Recycling eyeglasses is a multistep process. (1) Past Zone Chair Mel Williamson carries in collected eyeglasses. (2) Schmidt loads presorted glasses into the commercial dishwasher. (3) Schmidt delivers clean glasses to Past District Governor Robinson and community volunteer Michi Delaney. (4) Robinson and community volunteer Cheri Ingersoll inspect and clean the glasses. (5) Williamson and Lion Cindy Robinson determine the prescription of the glasses. (6) The lensmeter ensures patients ultimately get the glasses they need. (7) The boxed eyeglasses are ready for a Lions' mission

and **Claire Thompson**, among others.

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

Glasses with broken or missing parts are sent to a reconditioning and recycling company in Los Angeles called Respects Restoration & Recycling, which restores some glasses for resale. It salvages as much as possible. Leftover materials such as plastic and metal frames, screws and hinges are recycled. Glass and plastic lenses are not recycled. Profits from sales to Respects support the LERC's operating expenses.

Scratched lenses are the biggest reason that sorters reject glasses, followed by poor-quality, broken or cracked frames. Style sometimes enters into it. A display board in the main work area features several

oversized, round glasses, sometime called "owl" glasses. "The mission people have found that people reject these super-big glasses. Nobody would wear them," says Baron. "Little skinny glasses are very popular."

### **The Future**

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

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

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



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

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

Meanwhile, back in a quiet corner of the former fire station, quality assurance manager **Jack Ford** plays backstop. He checks one last time before the secondhand glasses are sealed for transport. Ford has worn glasses since his junior year in high school. He values correct prescriptions. He also spent 21 years on the front lines of the aerospace business. "I've lived with specifications all my life," he says, matter-of-factly.

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

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

## **From Washington to the World**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Humanitarian groups all over the United States

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Monthly Euchre Tournament**

It was all fun and games as Euchre enthusiasts from across the Royal City once again joined the **Royal City Lions Club** for their monthly Euchre Tournament at Trinity United Church. Everyone had a wonderful time together while raising money for a great cause. Proceeds from the monthly tournaments go towards the Lions' Christmas Hamper Program. The volunteers were happy to report that last years tournaments funded a very successful 2014 hamper program, and they are looking forward to another great year helping others. Visit [www.royalcitylions.com](http://www.royalcitylions.com) to find out more.

# Lions on Location

## Angry Bird Gets Lions' Attention

Australia – The bird had a brain. The large butcherbird nesting near an apartment complex stayed put whenever an able-bodied man emerged from the building. But elderly Dodie Allen of Ipswich, Australia, who uses a walker, became trapped in her own home. The magpie-like bird would swoop in and claw at her head.

"I get sick in the stomach because I know it's coming after me," she told the Queensland Times in a story headlined "Woman a Prisoner in Her Own Home." Accompanying the story was a photo of a nervous-looking Allen clutching her front door.

Leave it to Lions to handle a bird problem.

**Ipswich Lions** arranged for traps to be set near the building. The butcherbird didn't fly into the trap. But a fierce storm took care of the problem. Turns out the bird was attending to a nest. High winds blew the chicks from the nest. Doing what he could, a neighbor took the chicks to a wildlife care facility. Allen now can safely leave her home.

## The Andrew Sisters—and Der Bingle—Sing in Austria

Austria – Music is universal, transcending language. But words, too, can be universal. The **Gmunden Lions** in Upper Austria held a "Jazz Night" as a fundraiser. The headliners were the "Andrews Sisters." The headline in the subsequent story in the Austria LION Magazine was "Swingin in Gmunden."

The land of Mozart and Strauss has an abiding fondness for jazz. The Jazz Night is a long tradition of the 48-member, all-male Gmunden Lions Club. This past year the popular Vienna Swing Sisters sang the hits of the Andrews Sisters. Lisa Jakob, Eva Hinterreithner and Susanne Fanny Rader took on the roles of LaVerne, Maxene and Patty Andrews, America's most popular female singers in the 1940s. The set list included "Rum and Coca Cola," "Tico Tico" and "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen."

Bing Crosby and other male singers of the era also showed up on the bill. Singer Markus Richter handled those tunes. The entertainment amounted to "a recreation of one of the most fascinating eras of musical history."



## Remote Villagers Served in Ecuador

Ecuador – Lions in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, traveled 16 miles over mountain roads to provide not only healthcare to villagers but also medical advice to prevent illness and disease. Ten members of the **Quito Colonial Lions Club**, four doctors and three healthcare workers spent a day in Pintag to provide exams,

medicine and information. More than 150 adults and children were served at a school. "The participants were very interested. There were lot of questions and comments. These activities fill our hearts and help us grow as people and become better human beings," a Lion told the Spanish LION Magazine.



Health care workers meet with residents of Pintag, Ecuador

## 'Help for Little Ears' a Big Success

Germany – Children in tow, some mothers in Peru travel hundreds of miles to a central location to lift their offspring from silence or muffled sound and a murky future to full hearing and an opportunity at a solid education and a promising life. Given overnight accommodations, the parents come from homes that lack computers and smart phones. But their children return home with state-of-the art hearing aids and a shared understanding with their parents on how to work and maintain the sophisticated listening devices.

Since 2009, working with a church, German Lions have provided thousands of hearing aids for children in Peru and South Africa. A project of the German Lions' foundation, **Hilfswerk der Deutschen Lions**, Help for Little Ears has succeeded in transforming the lives of needy families who otherwise would have not have access to nor the money to pay for hearing aids.

Lions collect used hearing aids and have them expertly refurbished or secure donations of new ones from companies. The hearing aids meet standards issued by the European Union for Hearing Aid Acoustics.

Help for Little Ears is a complex operation. In Peru and South Africa, volunteer audiologists and physicians work with the children and parents. German Lions sometimes are present to help fit the aids. The goal for the children, already partly realized in some



The hearing of an infant in Peru is tested as part of a German Lions' project

instances, is for them to attend secondary school and even college perhaps and eventually take up a profession.

## Clubs in India Perform Unusual Service

India – Service for two clubs in India is a matter of life – and death. The **Vellore and Thiruvannamalai Lions Clubs** recently coordinated the donation of two cadavers to Christian Medical College in Vellore in southern India. One of the bodies was the father of a Lion, according to the New Indian Express. Vellore Lions also have arranged for the donation of 21 pairs of eyes to the medical college.

## Lions Unleash Bottled-Up Daring

Japan – Kids today: they're afraid to tackle challenging endeavors. That's the view of some Lions in Toyama, a city of 1 million in the center of Japan. Understanding that children today (surely no different than children of prior generations) need to be challenged does not take a degree in rocket science.

But the Lions in Toyama are using rockets to lessen children's hesitancy to pursue activities in which success is not certain.

For six years the **Toyama Minato Lions Club** has helped students make and launch their own rockets. Rising along with the whirring rockets are knowledge of engineering principles and a willingness to tackle a difficult, even potentially dangerous, task.

Lion **Machiko Kataguchi**, who has years of engineering experience, coordinates the annual Bottle Rockets Trials at the Hokubu Children's Center. Kataguchi began the project because he saw too many children ignorant not only of basic science but also hesitant to try endeavors that were difficult.



The children immensely enjoy building and launching the rockets while also learning to take chances

"Lions help the kids make their rockets, but take care not to do too much or interfere," according to a story in the Japanese LION. "They even let the kids use utility knives and scissors. In today's accident-averse society, children are shielded from anything dangerous or difficult. Therein lies the problem: today's children will be unable to deal with even the slightest hardship in the future. The Lions are teaching the children not only to make bottle rockets but to be independent, work hard and be proud of their achievements."

The children also learn how to use technology to their advantage. For the first few years, they used hand pumps to pressurize partially water-filled plastic bottles. That method was exhausting. So now they use a compressor. The rockets are flying farther, prompting Lions to affix flags in the ground marking the ever more distant flight of the rockets.

### Potato Dig Gets a Boost

New Zealand – Using forks in the wet ground, the Lions laboriously dug up the potatoes by hand. The farmer who owned the land told the Lions any potatoes they dug up were theirs; the mud had prevented him from using his heavy-duty commercial digger.

Many members of the **Temuka Pakeke Lions Club** are hardy retired farmers, accustomed to physical labor. They grow potatoes and pumpkins for Lions' fundraisers and also chop kindling wood, bagged and sold to the public. Still, they are in their 60s and 70s. "We would have retrieved a small quantity as it was extremely heavy work," says Barbara Somerville, president.

To the rescue came a digger from America that had not been used in more than two decades.

Lion **John Wills** learned that local farmer Warren Mulligan had an International Harvester single-row digger imported in the early 1950s. The Lions dusted it off, and Mulligan's son hooked it up to a 35-horsepower Massey Ferguson tractor.

The Lions were in business. They quickly dug 3 ½ tons of potatoes, which they sorted and divided into smaller bags for sale to the public. The sales netted US\$1,500.

The yellow potato harvested by Lions is typically used for potato chips. But the Temuka Lions are not only hard workers but also know their way around the kitchen. "We bought a fair share for our own use. They have a lovely flavor—excellent for baking and mashing," says Somerville.



Farmer Russell Mulligan pulls the digger with his tractor

### Hope Springs from Grief

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

Hurst succeeded in raising \$50,000 (US\$44,000)

and elevated awareness of the disease and Lions thanks to the Lions logos and diabetes signs on the bike and boat.

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

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

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

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



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

### Digital LION

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

### Caring for Animals Improves Children

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

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

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



Caring for horses has enabled troubled children to improve their behavior

### Food Drive in Ireland Makes Spirits Bright

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

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

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

### Recycling With a Twist

Peru – Lions here recycle glass bottles – not an unusual activity. But what sets apart this club is that it turns the bottles into drinking glasses with the Lions logo.

Members of the **San Borja Papa Juan XXII Lions Club** also refurbish and affix a Lions logo to vases, lamps and other decorative items. The objects are donated to the needy to spruce up their homes.

The items are donated to the club from treasurer **Cesar Luis Sevillano Palacios**, who owns a sanitation company. Palacios' expertise comes in handy for the clubs' main project: recycling. The club recycles paper,



Cesar Luis Sevillano Palacios poses with a girl drinking from one of his club's glasses

cardboard and plastic, and the funds generated pay for food and milk for soup kitchens and nursing homes.

### **Lions Make the Forest More Adventurous**

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

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



*Lions build a shelter for their adventure path*

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

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

### **Blind, Sighted Students Bond Over a Book**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## **Atwood Lions Continue to Build Community with the Construction of A Permanent Outdoor Ice Rink**

The Atwood Lions Club has had a solid history of being a key contributor in the growth and development of the Atwood Community. You only need to take a short walk around Atwood to enjoy many of the features that this Lion’s club has been involved in during its’ 57 years in existence.

2014 was no exception to the active participation and determination of this club, as they had an idea to construct a permanent outdoor ice rink in the heart of the community. This \$125 000 project was partly the result of a generous donation from the late Jean Oak,

the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the continued support of our community, and one dedicated club.

Atwood Lions club has had an outdoor rink in the past, with the rink taking shape as soon as the weather warranted, and with the help of the Atwood Fire Department, flooding of the ice would help to create a temporary outdoor rink for winter skating. A vision for something more permanent and the idea to create a more solid structure led to this new facility.

A great deal of planning went into the construction of this new rink, with professional excavation of the

site, sturdy regulation NHL grade boards and Plexiglas, as well as a fully cemented ice surface to allow for a year round playing surface. Both young and old alike can now enjoy ice skating in the winter and ball hockey or rollerblading in the off season.

This past summer, club members were busy preparing the site, and getting ready to make it all come together. Having several neighbours and community members join in to help certainly was appreciated. Young and old alike pitched in where needed to create an amazing pad that will be enjoyed by all for many years to come. Way to go, Atwood Lions!



*Atwood Lions members Tim Buchanan and Lion President Jeff Erwin work to ensure proper drainage is in place for the outdoor rink*



*Lions Mike Smith, Chris Elliott, and Mike Gordon put some of the finishing touches on the Plexiglas installation*



*The finished product – a job well done*

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

If yes, please complete the form on page 16 and return the top half of the form to Lions Clubs International Headquarters, to the attention of the Club & Officer Records Administration Department before **May 1, 2015**.

Bring the bottom half of the form to the convention and present it when you arrive to certify at the Credentials area in the convention center. **Before sending the form, be sure a club officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer) signs both halves as indicated on form.**

The address to mail the form is: Lions Clubs International  
ATTN: Club & Officer Records Admin Dept.  
300 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

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

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

See below to determine the number of allowable delegates for your club.

If you have any questions regarding this certification request, please contact the Club & Officer Records Administration Department via email at [stats@lionsclubs.org](mailto:stats@lionsclubs.org) or by calling 1+630-468-6938 or you can fax your form to 1+630-706-9295.

Thank you

#### ALLOWABLE CLUB DELEGATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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

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

**LCI COPY**

(Mail to LCI before May 1, 2015)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2015 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA



Club Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of allowable delegates: \_\_\_\_\_  
Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**See previous page for the allowable delegate table.**

Please select one:  DELEGATE OR  ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Club Officer

Mail the above to LCI (Club & Officer Records Admin.) before May 1, 2015. After that date, bring it to the convention.  
Lions Clubs International • 300 W 22<sup>nd</sup> Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

EN

**DELEGATE/ALTERNATE DELEGATE COPY**

(Bring this copy to the Convention)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2015 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA



Club Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of allowable delegates: \_\_\_\_\_  
Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

LCI stamp for  
Alternate  
Delegate  
certification

**See previous page for the allowable delegate table.**

Please select one:  DELEGATE OR  ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Club Officer

2015 Cred-100.EN





# The Spirit of Aloha to Permeate Hawaii Convention

## *Welina mai kākou!*

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

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



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

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

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



*Soft-rock star Kenny Loggins headlines the International Show*

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

As a natural setting, Hawaii can't be topped. From the soaring cliffs of the Napali Coast on Kauai to the

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

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

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

Another convention highlight is the announcement of the Peace Poster and Essay Contest winners. The contest winners are recognized during the first plenary session, and a presentation and reception is held later. The humility and joy evident in the young winners are memorable moments.

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

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

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

## Markham Lions

### *Pop Can Tabs for Wheelchairs*

On December 18, 2014 members of the Markham Lions Club gathered at the Markville Mall, Markham for a presentation of 72 lbs of pop can tabs to Peter Gunn on behalf of the Elora Legion. The tabs are sold for revenue to pay for wheel chairs for the needy. It takes 2.5 M tabs to purchase one wheel chair.

### *Donation to Markham Stouffville Hospital*

On January 29th 2015 the Markham Lions Club presented a cheque for \$1000. to the Markham Stouffville Hospital and were given a tour of the



*L - R: Zone Chairman Lion Ken Drynan, (District A16, Region 18, Zone 18 West) Lion Al Webber Lion John Bell, Lion Grace Medland, Jacque Bell, Peter Gunn, Lion Bryan Gray and Lion Jim Doak*

Radiology Department, an area to which our support is being directed. This cheque represents part proceeds of the Western Caribbean Cruise Raffle held last year.



# Centennial Celebration Membership Awards Announced

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

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

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

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

The awards program includes progressive levels of recognition. If a new member or new club remains in good standing for a year and a day, the responsible Lion (or Lions) will be recognized as a Silver Centennial Lion and receive another limited-edition pin. A Gold Centennial Lion will be likewise honored if a new member or club remains in good standing for two years and a day. Diamond Centennial Lions are honored for new members or clubs in good standing after three years and a day. Good standing means international per capita taxes are paid in full and there is no outstanding balance of \$50 or more that is 90 days past due.

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

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

Once the new club has been active for two years and

a day, Premier Centennial Lions Clubs receive a banner patch, recognition on the LCI website, a virtual banner recognition and recognition at the international convention, area forums, district and multiple district conventions.

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

Complete details are listed on the LCI website.



*Clubs worldwide are adding members. The Dhaka Shamoli Lions Club in Bangladesh inducts members. A wife admires the pin of her husband, a new Lion in Hungary. Clubs in Multiple District 300 Taiwan swear in members on a visit by International President Joe Preston. The Chicago Montclare Elmwood Park Lions Club in Illinois adds an 18-year-old to its rolls*

# First Centennial Video Premieres

The first centennial video, a five-minute story on the founding of Lions Clubs International, is part of the latest LQ, the Lions Quarterly video magazine. The video explains how and why Lions began in 1917 and why "Lions" was chosen as a name. It describes founder **Melvin Jones** and the **Chicago Central Lions Club**, the first new club. Subsequent videos, to be released periodically, will focus on Jones, Lions as Knights of the Blind, expansion of Lionism, peace/international understanding and other themes.

## Leo Club meets Pepsi

Lion Joyce reports the **Lakeshore Leo Club** had a special activity as pictured here. Lesa Newman and Pepsi walked the Leos through the different commands that she and Pepsi do every day. The commands are not the same as for a normal dog. Lesa and Pepsi demonstrated how having the dog has allowed Lesa to live on her own. Pepsi retrieves the phone if a seizure takes place and demonstrated pushing the Help Line button if an ambulance is needed. Lesa's son Travis explained about epilepsy to the group. The Leos are hoping to become involved in a Dog Walk this year.



*Leo President Michaela Jacques, Leo Director Keirstyn Ducharme, Lesa Newman and her Seizure Response Dog Pepsi, Leo Secretary Tambre Alford and Leo Vice-President Lucis Willinger and friend Jessie*

## Cobourg Lakeshore Lions

Cobourg Lakeshore Lions dropped in at Terry Fox Public School, Cobourg, with a gift of \$250 worth of great books for the school library. The Lions are grateful for the help of school librarian Annette McAllister who helped select 51 Scholastic titles for the children. The Lions International Program helps the Lions get the best deal on books to promote the Lions Reading Action Program.

The Club's Vision Screening Program was provided for 259 students in junior kindergarten through Grade 1 at local elementary schools in November.

# Dogs Who Guide

Blindness sapped the joy from a young Canadian woman until lovable dog guides helped turn her life around.

by Jay Copp

So I've asked Beverley Berger to show me what her life with a dog guide is like and I'm apparently about to be the reason she fractures her leg or worse. She and Jasper, her friendly but aging Labrador retriever, are out for a stroll in her quiet neighborhood in a small town 30 miles outside Toronto. It's a perfect summer day, which is why a boy about 10 is on his bike, riding fast heedlessly like a typical lad his age. He's on the sidewalk and veering straight toward Beverley and Jasper.

What is the proper protocol here? Do I step in front of her? Tell her to take a quick sideways step? She's 62 but slender, athletic-looking and, from what I've learned so far, quite capable of making quick, good decisions. I don't want to panic her. Or be paternalistic. So, trying to not to sound alarmed, I quietly tell her, "There's a boy on his bike coming at us." I wave my arm slightly at the boy, who grins madly as he whizzes by me, Jasper and Beverley.

Jasper does not flinch. I think I catch a small smile cross Beverley's face as she continues walking. Earlier today she had told me she can sometimes orient herself, determine she's entering another room at home or elsewhere, by a slight change in the air flow. The boy on the bike must have created a tornado-like wave.

I find myself equally protective of her at each intersection, even as Jasper dutifully stops at crossroads. If a car is approaching, Beverley usually can hear it and Jasper knows to wait as well. Turning drivers, if they notice she is blind, inevitably abruptly stop and wait for her to cross. She waits for them. It's like a reverse game of chicken. She may speed up the courtesy dance by waving them through, but she and Jasper patiently let the cars go first.

We come to the library. Jasper knows dozens of words. "I think it's usually the tone of my voice," Beverley explains. We're still on the sidewalk, about a dozen feet from the door. "TURN RIGHT. TO THE DOOR," she tells him. Presto, Jasper escorts Beverley to the library door. She nimbly unhooks his leather harness, takes it off and hands him a biscuit. A working dog, Jasper would never eat while in harness.

Across the street is the post office. Village residents must pick up their mail.

That's a chore Beverley often does, both as an excuse to get some exercise and to share household duties with John, her husband of 40 years. The "street" is a busy highway with cars and semi-trucks traveling at breakneck speed. I'm befuddled. "How do you manage to cross that street?"



*Beverley Berger and Jasper stroll through their neighborhood*

light I press."

On our way back to her home real trouble looms. A sandy-haired woman in her 50s is walking two dogs on leashes. I can see a block away that one is a handful. He strains at the leash. She and her dogs are headed straight for us. As she draws near the boxer remains set on mayhem. He barks and pulls at the leash with powerful thrusts.

The woman stops moving forward as we approach and steps to the side. She is on the parkway three or four feet from us. It's hard to read her face. Is she troubled about what may happen? Or is she annoyed that she gave ground while struggling to control two dogs and yet this other woman with a single dog continues to occupy the middle of the sidewalk? It's possible she does not even know Beverley is blind. Beverley is looking ahead and she strides with the grace of a sighted person.

I had warned Beverley a woman with a nasty dog was approaching. What do I say now? I am torn. Would I be out of line for speaking up, implying she can't handle this on her own? What if she misinterprets my advice and moves toward the danger?

For a few seconds the outcome appears in doubt. The boxer lunges viciously toward Jasper, coming within inches of his handsome face. Utterly calm, Jasper stands stock-still. Finally, the danger passes. We move away. "That woman should have apologized," I say. At the library, Beverley had told me that she and Jasper, like other owners and dog guides, can handle most situations. Problems occur because of poor or misinformed decisions made by people they encounter. "It's the people, not the dog," she repeats to me.

It's the people. Before you meet someone like Beverley, you wonder how the blind cope. You wonder if their lives are seriously flawed or somehow lesser this or lesser that. You want to protect them. Maybe you pity them. Beverley Berger, in no small part thanks to Jasper, a gift of Canadian Lions, is doing just fine, thank you. She is a remarkable person in many ways, regardless of her sight capabilities. A story on Beverley can't but help include her blindness, but it's her relationship with Jasper that is far more interesting and ultimately more significant.

\*\*\*

We're on the porch of the Berger home. It's a comfortable, spotless, well-appointed home full of pottery, paintings and knickknacks. It's a home my wife or mother would comment on, in the car after we leave, "that's a beautiful home." Beverley is a classic homemaker. She made some of the pottery including a finely detailed beaver with real beaver teeth, a gift from a friend. She also is adept at knitting and rug hooking, and her colorful handicrafts adorn the livingroom. Brownies are cooking in the oven. "Ooh, I've got some chocolate goo on my arms," she says, wiping off the residue.

She's lived in the same house for 36 years, and,

sometimes putting her hand out before her, she walks confidently and quickly from room to room. "I've had some mishaps. It's usually when I have a talk to give. I'll walk in with a big gash above my nose," she says.



*Beverley is an accomplished handrafter*

Still, uncannily, she knows exactly where things are. She points to the wall on her left when referring to a family photo. Describing the farming roots of the community, she gestures beyond the windows to the spacious fields of grain. "I guess I'm very inquisitive. I ask a lot of questions. I talk to John a lot," she says.

She owns a few gadgets to help her with everyday life. A software program reads her email aloud. She loves to cook, and she uses a talking kitchen scale. "He has a great British accent," she says gleefully. She treasures her audio books; she favors science and travel. Canada offers free tuition for those over 65, and she toys with the idea of soon pursuing a degree in linguistics.

Beverley has an open, expressive face. The glamor of youth, certainly once part of her features, has retreated at her age. But her face still emits a glint and spark, the visage of someone not beaten down by the years. Jasper, out of his harness, lies at her feet. Beverley talks a mile a minute.

"When he's out of his uniform, he's just a dog. He wants to run around and chase a Frisbee. He's a softie. He has a good heart. I've also been told he's very handsome. But he gets the job done when I need him. So I get the best of both worlds," she says.

Her fourth dog guide, Jasper, is 10. She's had him since 2006. There's a certain bittersweet tone to Beverley when she talks about her companion. "He's slowing down, just like people do. He's starting to cut corners," she says. On our walk, Jasper had periodically veered to the side to sniff and other times to relieve himself. "I let him get away with that. I have too much respect for him," she says.



*Jasper is uncanny about knowing the way home*

In a few months he will retire. But he won't leave home. John, 82, will become Jasper's caretaker and de facto owner. "I think he'd rather have me leave than Jasper!" cracks Beverley. So the Bergers, as has happened before, will once again become a blended family: a retired dog guide, a new dog guide and two adults.

Beverley has come a long way since her first dog guide. Back then, she used a cane after losing her sight at age 30. The cane was a far easier tool to master. "It was very difficult for me at first [with a dog]. With a cane you orient yourself spatially. It's a lot like radar," she says. "The number one rule is to follow the dog. It sounds simple, but it's very difficult.

"It's a trust issue. Will your dog see the manhole cover? You have to learn they don't stop to be a tourist. They stop for a reason. It takes time to make it work. You work as a team. It's like any relationship. You have to get to know each other."

Learning to handle a guide dog was one thing. Beverley also had to learn how to accept her fate. Becoming blind devastated her. "I was very angry, bitter. I didn't handle it well. I was not a very nice person. I was very curt. If someone tried to be nice to me, I was so angry. I thought they felt sorry for me, and that's the last thing I wanted.

"It was like a five-step grieving process for me. When you lose something precious like vision, it's like losing a loved one. People who have been blind their whole lives don't feel the same way. I've had people tell me, 'It's great you've had vision because you know what blue is like.' Well, I know what I'm missing."

Beverley lost sight in one eye and then the other. Her first retina detached when she was 17. Her desperate parents sent her to the Mayo Clinic. She underwent the same crisis 13 years later. "I missed the boat when it came to retinas," she says wryly. She had multiple surgeries in Boston and Philadelphia. Finally, she put a stop to the fruitless medical procedures. Her eye ordeals happened not only early in her life but early in the science and treatment of her eye condition. "That was like the Stone Age then. It was a little before the computers and laser treatments," she says.

As embittered as she was, Beverley could not sit in the corner and cry. She and John had been married for a decade before her blindness. He was often on the road working in the film industry. She had to take care of their 4-year-old daughter, Stephanie.

Life is not a fairy tale. When mommy or daddy is sick or impaired, young children don't rally behind them. They get frustrated when their needs are not met. "Kids are selfish. That's just the way they are. It impacted her life. She wanted to know why I couldn't take her to McDonald's or her friend's house."

Yet her bitter pill also proved to be beneficial. "I have to give credit to Stephanie for motivating me. When her attitude was, why can't you do this or do that, I thought, I'll show you, you little brat. That's just my personality."

One advantage Beverley had in raising Stephanie was that the whole community seemed willing to be her eyes and ears. "Once she [Stephanie] was smoking by the hockey rink, I'd say within 30 minutes of it I got two

phone calls. They said, 'We know you can't see ...' Everyone took a protective role. She really hated that for a while."

So Beverley learned how to take care of Stephanie without vision and how to keep up the home. Next Beverley had to learn to embrace life again, to regain her independence, to get out of the house and become a full participant in society. It took a few years, but in 1989, seven years into her blindness, the Nobleton Lions approached her about a dog guide.

"They didn't want to be presumptuous. Not every blind person wants a dog. It's a lot of responsibility. It's like having a child. You have to care for them. You have to feed it and clean it. You have to stoop and scoop," she says.

Beverley spent 28 days learning how to work with a dog guide at the CNIB (once known as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind), amply supported by Lions. Her first dog was Totem. There was a slight hiccup. "He no speak English," recalls Beverley with a smile. Totem was trained by a person who spoke French. She adjusted to that hurdle. A higher hurdle was integrating Totem into the family. Give a dog to a family, and a child will want to play with it.

"It was rough time. The dog was not a family pet. They really resented that. I had to restrict how much attention they paid to the dog. I got pretty crabby: 'Leave the dog alone!'"

Over time, boundaries were established, and Beverley gradually expanded her boundaries. With her guide dogs she learned to navigate her neighborhood, take the train to Toronto and even get to the airport for plane trips. Jasper and his three predecessors opened up the world for her. They also pried open her heart.

"I'm responsible for another living creature. You have to think beyond yourself. It gives you a purpose. It makes you realize the world is not such a bad place.

"A dog gets me from Point A to Point B. I rely on him as a tool to do what I want to do. But he really cares about me. He wants me to be happy. When I'm sad, he feels that. He puts his paw on my leg or his head in my lap."



*Jasper behaves properly as a dog guide when in harness*

Being out and about with Jasper also is like wearing a name sticker that says, "Hi, glad to meet you." Dog guides are a people magnet. "It's different when you have a cane. People are afraid to say or do the wrong thing. You start to think, OK, I'm blind and people don't want to be near me. You get these negative thoughts. That's not a good way to live.

"A dog is a great icebreaker. People come up and start talking to the dog. I have to respond for the dog. I was once in a pub at the airport and a guy sent over a gin and tonic for the dog!"

Each dog has had its own personality. "You learn their little idiosyncrasies over time," says Beverley. In particular, each has had its own bugaboo. "Totem loved large bodies of water. He almost took me water surfing twice." Mason hated green garbage bags on garbage day—something about the bag blowing in the wind spooked him. Silly Kit stopped in his tracks when near a lawn tractor. Jasper? "He doesn't like ladders," she says.

So the dogs have been with Beverley for 25 years through thick and thin. Stabs of anger and despair still pierce her. That's when Jasper proves especially valuable. "When I feel the resentment creeping up on me, I try to push it away. Or I go for a walk. When something is bothering me the best way to reduce stress is physical activity."

The worst of times was when their second child, Daniel, suffered a detached retina at age 7 and lost sight in that eye. He had been born when Beverley was blind. Taking care of him was not nearly as difficult as watching him become legally blind. "That was the most wrenching thing that ever happened to me," she says. "I'm a mother. I was like, OK, God, if you want to wrestle, wrestle with me."

As he grew older, it took time for Daniel, now 30, to find himself, says his mom. He recently experienced the thrill of traveling through Europe for five months on his own. His marriage had ended before his trip; perhaps his disability was too much for the couple to overcome, she says.

"I think 85 percent of relationships end when one of the partners gets a serious disability, says Beverley, who credits John for not wavering in his commitment to her. "He never treated me any differently. If he had, I would have resented it. I wasn't his blind wife. I was his wife. I have to thank John for standing by me. He was simply my husband—no more, no less."

John, who retired three years ago, is puttering about the house today. Stephanie, 36, is an advertising and marketing manager for John Deere. Daniel works for EB Games. Jasper stretches out on a rug in the porch. "It will be a difficult transition," Beverley says of his impending retirement. "But after one hour outside now he crashes when we get home. When he was a young dog I'd give him a drink and it would be, what do we do now?"

Jasper stirs and ambles over to Beverley. "He's a mama's boy," she says, slipping off his harness, a task she has done thousands of times and soon will do for the last time. Jasper lies at her feet. "Now he's just a dog."

*Editor's note: Beverley now has a new dog guide, Lotus, and Jasper has taken retirement in stride.*

**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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.ambassadorhotel.com)**

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

# Goderich Lions

The Goderich Lions Club has revitalized a former Girl Guides Camp for use by youth in Huron County and beyond. In the spring of 2014 the club committed \$110,000 for the purchase of Camp Klahanie south of Goderich, near the shore of Lake Huron.

In the early 70's John & Marian Hindmarsh donated over seven acres of land to the local Girl Guides for use as a camp. They deeded it to the local Girl Guides for \$1.00. The local Girl Guides ran the camp successfully for the next 35+ years. During that time the Goderich Lions Club provided support to the local Girl Guides through building a kitchen and meeting hall and providing fill to raise the land above the wet ground level. Over \$75,000 was spent by the Lions Club in capital improvements and sweat equity.

In 2009 the provincial level of Girl Guides declared that Camp Klahanie was no longer viable and closed the camp without warning. They then announced that they would sell the property to the highest bidder.

The local Girl Guides approached the Goderich Lions

Club for help and thus began a three-year project to recover the camp and return it to the local community as a Youth Camp and make it available to ALL youth groups. Finally the Goderich Lions Club, through challenges and negotiations was able to purchase the property from the Girl Guides of Canada for \$110,000.

The community rallied around the project and funds have been diligently raised in the period since. Years of neglect have left it in very bad shape. With upgrades and proper facilities Camp Klahanie is becoming a training ground, not just for girls and women but also boys and men plus those with disabilities. Since the camp was designed with only female users in mind it has been in need of significant renovations to make it suitable for a wide variety of groups so co-ed washrooms are planned. However, donations of over \$100,000 recently have meant that renovations will be done sooner than later.

Lions Club members and apprentice carpenters are waiting for the spring of 2015 so that they can begin the upgrades. The plan is to build four 10-person

bunkhouses to be nestled at the edge of the property's woodlot to further camping facilities.

The Goderich Lions Club and the community thank Melody Falconer-Pounder for her diligence in contacting the Lions Club and seeing that the camp was able to continue. She is now co-chair of the camp Board of Directors along with Genelle Reid and Deb Bell. Lions Club members on the board of Camp Klahanie include **Mike Alcock** as co-chair, **Jerry Pelton**, **Walter McLwain** and **Jim Crow**.



Lion Gary Blenkhorn, left, Melody Pounder centre and Michael Alcock right

**Lions Clubs International Multiple District "A"  
EFFECTIVE SPEAKING CONTEST/CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE**

**Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference Centre**

**327 Ontario St. St. Catharines, On. L2R 5L3**

**May 1, 2, 3, 2015**

**MD"A" Council Members & Individual REGISTRATION**

**DISTRICT "A" \_\_\_\_\_**

**DISTRICT CHAIR : \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Position: Council Chair \_\_\_\_\_ MD"A" Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ MD"A" Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ District Governor \_\_\_\_\_**

**1<sup>st</sup> VDG \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_**

**Day of arrival: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Departure: Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_\_**

**Room: Single (1 queen bed) \_\_\_\_\_ Double (2 Queen beds) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Room Rate: \$110 (plus taxes) - \*\*5 people to a room maximum**

**Rooms must be booked directly with the hotel using code: MDA**

**All reservations must be secured with a credit card.**

**Meal Tickets required for Saturday May 2, 2015**

**Special Dietary Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Breakfast: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Banquet: (6 - 12) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Under 6 free.**

**Meal Ticket Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payment: Cheque made payable to Fenwick Fonthill Effective Speaking**

**\*\*\*\*RSVP – APRIL 15, 2015\*\*\*\* (No changes after this date!)**

**Mail completed Registration form to: - Lioness Laurie Buchanan, 1610 Pelham St., Fonthill, ON, L0S 1E3; email: scentit@gmail.com**

# Ambulance in the Valley Story Illustrates the Need for the Positive Youth Development Approach

We often use this story in presentations to help our Lions Club supporters and community members understand the Positive Youth Development approach and how it can have a big impact on the children and youth in our communities. To view a video version of the story please visit [www.lionsquest.ca](http://www.lionsquest.ca)

\* \* \*

Once there was a community that was located on the edge of a very steep cliff. When people were driving to the community there were often accidents where vehicles crashed after driving off the edge of the cliff.

The citizens were concerned about people being injured when this happened and they decided to place an ambulance in the valley at the bottom of the cliff so it would be ready to transport the injured people to the hospital. Historically this is how we have responded with TREATMENT for challenges with children and youth when they have taken dangerous risks – we try to help fix things once the damage is done.

The citizens were happy that more injured people were able to receive treatment at the hospital, but they wanted to ‘catch’ people before they crashed at the bottom of the cliff. The community installed a huge net, similar to the ones you would see at a circus, half of the way down the cliff and a number of people were ‘caught’ once they had crashed over the cliff. In the past, this is how we have responded with INTERVENTION when children and youth have taken dangerous risks – we try to step in and support people before they cause further harm to themselves.

The citizens were pleased that more people who had crashed over the cliff were being caught before they

were injured at the bottom, but there were still vehicles driving over the cliff. The community members then decided that if there were better street lights around the edge of the cliff, drivers would see the dangerous drop, choose to slow down, and avoid crashing over the edge of the cliff. Traditionally this is how we have responded with PREVENTION when our young people are faced with difficult decisions – we hope that by shining a light on the dangers that young people will make more positive decisions.

The citizens were very happy that people were better able to see the edge and fewer vehicles were crashing over the cliff, but it was still happening. The community then decided to work with the families to encourage them to share their boundaries & expectations with young drivers, with the schools to provide driver education programs for the young drivers, with the police service to make sure that the speed limits were monitored and enforced, with the municipality to make sure the lights and roadway were kept in good repair, with the local service stations to encourage people to make sure their breaks were in good working order, and the local media to create awareness about how to drive safely through this area of town. This is how we are approaching POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT so that all children and youth are receiving consistent messages about making positive decisions from all areas of their lives and that all adults know that they have a role to play.

\* \* \*

For more information about Lions Quest Canada please contact Joanne McQuiggan at 1-800-265-2680 ext. 107 or by email at [joanne@lionsquest.ca](mailto:joanne@lionsquest.ca).

## Freelton Lions

A group of members from the Freelton Lions Club visited Bryans Auction Farm on Highway 6 in Puslinch on December 24th, 2014, to thank the Lillycrop family business for 25 years of support. They have provided the Club with the opportunity to raise a very large percentage of their funds by serving the auction customers from the Lions fast-food trailer at all their on-site sales. Between the home renovation and equipment sales at Bryans, the Lions have served at an average of two sales a month, giving them a consistent and significant source of funds, which are a major portion of the monies available for their charitable donations and other projects.

A plaque (pictured) was custom made from a wagon-wheel, deemed appropriate to their business, and recognizing their 25 years of support to the Freelton Lions. It was presented to Ken Lillycrop by Lion **Ken Henderson**, surrounded by Club members, Lions **Bob Lanktree, Ron Mathies, Jimmy D. Coverdale, Ken Lillycrop, Lions Ken Henderson, Jim Munday, Jim Cook, Bob Duffy, Reg MacDonald, Ray McConachie, and Bob Kerr** with Freelton Lions Club President **Sally McMann**, and Lion **Teri Cook**.

Ken Lillycrop said that the plaque will find a



## 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



# Palmerston Lions Celebrate 75 Years Of Service- Sept. 2014

The Palmerston Lions Club has long been considered to be one of the cornerstones of the town of Palmerston since it was chartered on September 27, 1939.

On September 20, 2014, the club celebrated its 75th anniversary in front of 100 fellow Lions and guests at a dinner banquet at the Palmerston Community Centre.

Those in attendance got a chance to take a look at the large collection of club memorabilia from over the last 75 years, as well as reminisce about the events and people that made the last 75 years memorable.

The banquet featured Past International Director Lion **Patti Hill** from the **Edmonton Host Lions Club** in Edmonton, Alberta. She spoke to the group about dreams, and how important a Lions Club is to a town such as Palmerston.

"The Palmerston Lions Club is one that is both nationally and internationally recognized and respected," said Hill. "For the last five years, the Palmerston Lions Heritage Park has been a part of the international president's video that is shown to every club all over the globe. The Heritage Park is the talk of Lions globally!"

Hill was present for the **Tommy Gipp** plaque ceremony at Lawrence Park, and took a tour of Lions Heritage Park, the Heritage Railway Museum, the Norgan Theatre, as well as many other sites around Palmerston.

"To go around town and see everything that the Lions have done here, and it seems like literally everything has the club's handprints on it somewhere, is a great indication of how great this club is," said Hill.

"We don't go looking for a pat on the back as Lions, but you should give yourselves a pat on the back for everything that you have done for this town."

Lion **Joanne Klonikowski**, who is currently the 1st Vice District Governor for Lions District A9, brought greetings from the district.

Mayor **George Bridge** brought greetings from the town, and commented that without groups like the Lions, a lot of what happens in small towns is not possible to accomplish.

"As a small town, we do not have a lot of cash," said Mayor Bridge. "But when a great group like the Lions get together, they can stretch a dollar a very long way. A project like Heritage Park would not have been possible if the town were to do it alone."

In appreciation of all of the support that Mayor Bridge has given the club, the Palmerston Lions Club made him an honorary member of the club.

"This is a great feeling," said Bridge. "My father was a Lion for many years in Harriston, and to be associated with a great group of people is an honour."

Perth-Wellington MPP Lion **Randy Pettapiece**, of the **Monkton Lions Club**, brought greetings from the province

of Ontario and reflected on his many memories growing up in arenas like Monkton and Palmerston, both of which were run and funded by the Lions Club.

"I am honoured that you have included me in your celebration here tonight," said Pettapiece. "And to be listed in your program tonight as Lion Randy Pettapiece is especially great. I am proud to be a Lion and wear my Lions pin on my lapel every day."

Lastly, in a surprise to many in the club, Lion **BJ Finlay** from Kincardine presented club president Lion **Dave Wilson** with a gift that she had been holding on to for nearly 40 years.

"Lion **Ken Henderson** gave me this fedora back in the 70s one night after my curling team won the Palmerston Curling Club ladies bonspiel," said Finlay. "It only seemed fitting that this fedora make its way back home."

Wilson graciously accepted the fedora on behalf of the club.

"Lion Ken was a highly respected Lion throughout the province, as well as internationally. He was a big part of this club, and we talk about him often after meetings," said Wilson. "We will treasure this."

In addition to the greetings and gifts, Lion Patti Hill presented Palmerston Lions **Bob Emmerson** and **Scott McFadden** with the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation from Lions International for all of their hard work and dedication not only to the Lions club, but to the town of Palmerston in general.



*Past International Director Patti Hill (left) swore in Town of Minto Mayor George Bridge (right) as an honorary member of the Palmerston Lions Club during the club's 75th anniversary celebration on September 20, 2014. Mayor Bridge was surprised and honoured by the honorary membership, stating that his family has a long history with Lions*

## Palmerston charter member honoured at ceremony

"Today, we are here to correct this oversight."

Those are the words of Lion Dave Wilson, who on September 20, 2014 unveiled a plaque at Lawrence Park in memory of Tommy Gipp, who was a charter member of the Palmerston Lions Club in 1939.

Gipp came to Palmerston at the age of 9, and upon

graduation from high school he operated the Palmerston Café (located roughly where Small Town Pizza is today) with his wife Alice and their four young children Ron, Irene, Marion and Tommy Jr.

Sadly, Gipp passed away on October 17, 1943 at the age of 29 after complications from a tonsils operation. Gipp was the man who spearheaded the building of Lawrence Park in 1943. He wanted to take what was an overgrown hayfield and turn it into a place for kids to play, that included a ball diamond and wading pool.

The Palmerston Lions quickly endorsed his idea and went to work raising funds. Construction started in the fall of 1943.



*The Palmerston Lions honoured charter member Tommy Gipp with a plaque in Lawrence Park in a ceremony on September 20, 2014 as part of the club's 75th anniversary celebrations. Gipp was the driving force behind the creation of Lawrence Park in 1943. He passed away that same year at the age of 29, never getting to see the end result. Many members of Gipp's family were in attendance for the ceremony. From left to right: Jim Sheppard, Kurtis Gipp, Tammy Sheppard, Tom Gipp Jr., Ty Gipp, Marnie Shore, Marian Shore, Geoff Gipp, Margaret Gipp, Lisa Johnson, and Sarah Gipp*

Gipp did not live to see what Lawrence Park became.

Upon his passing, Lion **Art Carr** (who was also the publisher of the Palmerston Observer), wrote that Lawrence Park was "Tom Gipp's baby, just ask anyone," and that "it would only be fitting that a small plaque might be erected that the youngsters enjoying the fruits of his energies and ideas, may know to whom they owe their pleasure."

Wilson, who wrote the book "A Pride of Lions – A History of the Palmerston Lions Club", was unable to find any documented proof of this being done. With the club celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year, they felt that this must be done and correct the oversight from many years ago.

At the ceremony on Saturday morning, Wilson unveiled the plaque, which is affixed to the wall of the pavilion, in front of a large crowd that included 11 members of Gipp's family, who travelled from various places in Ontario to be on hand.

"We are honoured that the Palmerston Lions Club has decided to honour Lion Tom," said Gipp's granddaughter Marnie Gipp. "I never got to meet him, but because of this ceremony and the hard work of Dave (Wilson), I feel like I got to know how great a man he was."

“To know that he was a highly respected member of the community, and of the Lions Club, makes our family proud,” said Marnie Gipp. “After learning what I have about my grandfather, I now understand where my family gets their values and passion from.”

The Gipp family also took a walk around town, as well as a tour of the Norgan Theatre, while here for the ceremony, and enjoyed a luncheon with the Palmerston Lions Club and Past International Director Lion Patti Hill, who was in town for the 75th anniversary celebrations.

submitted by: Lion Dave Wilson



The Palmerston Lions inducted four new members to their club on September 20, 2014 during a luncheon as part of their 75th anniversary with PID Patti Hill assisting. Joining the club are (front row, left to right) Mike Charlebois, Lee Talbot, John Snell and Chris Craig. Charlebois and Talbot are sponsored by Lion Ron Elliott (back row, left) and Snell and Craig are sponsored by Lion Andy Klonikowski (back row, right).

## Markham Lions Club

The Markham Lions Club celebrated their 71st Charter Night on Saturday November 22, 2014. A Melvin Jones Fellowship Award was presented to Lion **Grace Medland** (Centre). Making the presentation is District Governor Lion **Eleanor Colwell** (Left) and Markham Lions President, **Mike Hiatt** (Right). Congratulations Grace on your achievement.



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

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: mdatheionmag@hotmail.com

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

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### District Reporters

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

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(include all code numbers)

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Date of Change: \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://www.mdalions.org) and clicking on “**Lions Resource Centre**” on the left side of the page.

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