

LION



M.D. "A" Edition Jan/Feb/Mar 2018

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We Serve

MD'A' CONVENTION COMING TO NIAGARA

**A VINTAGE FOCUS
ON
SIGHT AND SERVICE**

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Through your many programs – among them, sharing the gift of vision, protecting the environment, reaching out and engaging young people, alleviating hunger and raising money for worthy causes – you continue to make a vital difference. Where there is a need, there is truly a Lion!

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THE Lion



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Welcome to the January/February/March Edition of The Lion. To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please contact your District Reporter (Pg 30) and please remember to check your camera settings to ensure highest resolution pictures.

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Innovation: We're the King of the Jungle



Dr. Naresh Aggarwal
Lions Clubs
International President

As Lions grew in numbers and influence, we were wonderfully open to new ideas, new ways of doing things. Lions didn't always conceive of an intriguing original idea, but we quickly adopted it and helped popularize it: service dogs for the blind, eye banks and the white cane. To get where we wanted to go, to serve efficiently and broadly, Lions did not ever

Not bound by the chains of the past, emboldened by its aura of freedom, America a century ago was an incubator of innovation. There was jazz. The Broadway musical. And, a social movement, Lions Clubs, the first group of any stature to dedicate

hesitate to do things differently and creatively.

The spirit of innovation continues to be a hallmark of clubs, districts and Lions Clubs International. Whether it's a homeless shelter that provides vocational training for children in the Philippines, raising awareness of the need to recycle through a Trash Fashion Show in New Zealand or, ingeniously, making lawn decorations such as pumpkins and snowmen out of beetle-killed trees to raise money in California, Lions refuse to simply replicate worn-out service methods but instead invigorate communities with fun, clever and inspiring events and activities that help those in need.

This being the digital age, our innovation extends to social media and smartphones. MyLion, a world-class mobile app, is dramatically changing the way we serve and communicate. It's a brave new world indeed, and Lions are courageously blazing new

digital trails. The world is speeding up, spinning faster and increasingly becoming a true global village. MyLion puts us in the heart of the town square, able to be a linchpin of social improvement, thanks to our communication prowess.

All of this leads me to ask: how is your club doing? If it works for you, keep doing it. If you know you can do better, be brave and be innovative. After all, being daring is part of our Lion DNA. It's a cliché, but we are the king of the jungle, distinguished by our courage to stride fearlessly forward. I wish you the best this year in your service and know, based on a century of success, that as Lions you will reach your goals.

Dr. Naresh Aggarwal
Lions Clubs International President

It Takes Vision

Namaste!

Lions have been Knights of the Blind since Helen Keller's famous 1925 call to arms, working to end preventable blindness and visual impairment. However, it's important to remember that Keller was not casting the blind as fairytale maidens in need of rescue. She quite clearly wanted Lions to help the blind community integrate into the world. For Lions, service ends when the people served can serve their families and community.

She said, "The time has come to regard the work for the sightless as a whole, in which the kindergarten, the school, the library, the workshop, the home for the aged blind and prevention are seen to be parts of a great movement with one end in view, namely making life more worth living for the blind everywhere."

She could not have imagined how different normal life would be nearly 100 years later, but like any great thinker, her directive remains relevant. How do we

help the blind to truly integrate into the world? And how do we help prevent or reverse the varied causes of blindness?

We create assistive technologies that make everyday functions more accessible to the blind. And we help make sure those technologies are available to the very people who need them. If it isn't affordable, it isn't accessible. There are many ways we can help – guide dogs, electronic canes, mobile apps, inclusive social events, etc.

We use our network and collective expertise to identify promising areas of scientific and medical research in which to invest. I urge your Club to plan a project in Sight – it could be surgeries (cataract, trachoma, diabetic retinopathy) or recycling eyeglasses or screening young kids for refractive errors or any other type of project in this area.

This is what we do. In the last 3 and a half years, we have served 29 million people in the area of Sight,

involving over 26 thousand Clubs worldwide. As I write this, I am in South America where we have served 600,000 people in the area of River Blindness (Onchocerciasis).

We know that great advances don't happen without backing by people who have the vision to believe in the end goal. People who see in the light have sight. People who see in darkness have vision. It takes bravery to back new ideas and to actively seek out people who may need help rather than wait for them to find us. But Lions are brave. It takes vision to create change. And all Lions—sighted or not—have vision.

Dr. Naresh Aggarwal
Lions Clubs International President

Let Us Link Arms

Namaste!

Each one of us can only reach as far as our arms will go. But what happens when I take your hand, and you take your neighbor's hand?

There was a story in the news last year. A family swimming in Panama City Beach, Florida, got caught in a rip current. Nine people—including two children and an elderly woman—were trapped. People heard

their cries for help and began forming a human chain. Seventy to 80 strangers, hand-in-hand, were able to pull each person out and to safety.

Think about this. Not one of those people could have saved the victims on their own. A police officer tried, but had to turn back, the current was too strong. But together. Together! One by one they pulled the family members to safety.

This is what we do as Lions. As Lions, we reach out to people who are drowning in life. But as individuals we can only do so much. Sometimes the current is too strong and help can only reach those in need when we band together. I call this the Power of We.

This is what LCIF does. It helps Lions form a human chain to pull people to safety. LCIF can respond in ways individual Lions and Lions clubs cannot. Since

1968, LCIF has given just over US\$1 billion dollars in grants. In the wake of natural disasters, LCIF can mobilize funds swiftly, getting much needed help on the ground within days. For example, LCIF awarded a US\$100,000 grant to support relief and reconstruction in Puerto Rico after the devastating hurricanes there this past fall. That is money that could immediately get to work providing relief for victims.

LCIF enables Lions in Indonesia to partner with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in a campaign to provide vaccines to 95% of Indonesia's children between the ages nine months and 16 years by the end of 2018.

This is an incredible goal, and one that they are swiftly closing in on. LCIF has eradicated river blindness in Colombia and Ecuador—the first time any country has completely eradicated the disease. They're doing it! And they're doing it because they've joined hands. They've linked arms. They've become a greater whole than the sum of their parts.

LCI is the world's biggest service association by membership. However, we should also try to become the world's biggest in fundraising through LCIF. I never feel right to ask for a lot from a few, so I ask for a little from everyone. Even an average donation

of US\$1 per week from each member will double our annual funds raised.

This month, I challenge you all to look to your neighbors to your left and to your right. How might you join hands? And consider how donating to LCIF may extend the service you do.



Dr. Naresh Aggarwal
Lions Clubs International President



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Dubai, UAE/New Delhi, India – November 8-13, 2017



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Lifted the election moratorium in District 321-A3 (India) in order to permit the district to hold elections for District Governor, First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
2. Rejected the complaints filed by Lions Club Ghaziabad Senior and Lions Club Shamli Doab in Multiple District 321 (India) under the Multiple District Dispute Resolution Procedure as untimely.
3. Authorized the general counsel to issue a license to use the name "Lions" and the Lions Clubs International Emblem to the Lions Co-ordination Committee of India Association (LCCIA).
4. Permitted former member, Past District Governor Gil-Moo Park to join a Lions Club, provided that he not be permitted to serve in any district, multiple district or international leadership position in the future and if Past District Governor Gil-Moo Park engages in or supports the filing of litigation with respect to Lions related matters he will automatically be removed from Lionism and would not be eligible for future membership.
5. Revised the Standard Form Club By-Laws in Chapter VII of the Board Policy Manual for consistency with previously adopted changes related to the approval of Life Members.
6. Revised the Standard Form Multiple District By-Laws in Chapter VII of the Board Policy Manual to clarify the provision.
7. Deleted Chapter XV, Paragraph C.13. of the Board Policy Manual for consistency with previously adopted changes related to the emergency reserve funds.
8. Revised Chapter XV, Paragraph C.14. of the Board Policy Manual for consistency with previously adopted changes related to the eligibility to be elected for international office.
9. Revised the Neutral Observer Policy in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual as it relates to who can request a neutral observer.

10. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2018 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws to clarify the provision related to the duties of the district governor.
11. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2018 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws to amend the number of members of the Long Range Planning Committee be consistent with recent amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Established per diem allowances for appointed Credentials Committee members serving without other reimbursement, District Governors-elect and District Governors-elect Faculty and Headquarters Staff attending the Las Vegas Convention.
2. Revised the 2018 Las Vegas Convention Schedule.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Granted the clubs impacted by Hurricane Maria from Multiple District 51 (Puerto Rico) protective status through April 9, 2018.
2. Approved redistricting proposals from Multiple District 20 (New York), Multiple District 105 (Great Britain and the British Isles), Multiple District 410 (South Africa), District 322 B (India) and District 403 A2 (Western Africa). Approved redistricting proposals from District 316 A (India), District 316 H (India), and 3232 B (India) contingent upon a minimum of 35 clubs and 1,250 members in each proposed new district attaining good standing prior to December 31, 2017.
3. Approved additional funding in the amount of \$147,000 for the development and expansion of the women's initiative, which will be launched next fiscal year.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the FY 2017-2018 1st Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.

2. Approved amendments to the Board Policy Manual related to the General Travel and Reimbursement Policy.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the curriculum plan, schedule, and group leader team for the 2018 District Governors-Elect Seminar.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Approved three applications for PR grants, one for Multiple District LB (Brazil) in the amount of \$6,000, one for Single District 50 (Hawaii) in the amount of \$2,500, and one for Single District 415 (Algeria) in the amount of \$2,500.
2. Received approval by the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee for funding to support two new advocacy days in India and the Republic of Korea, in the amount of \$295,400 to cover the one-year total cost of the India program and the three-year total cost of the Korea program.
3. Revised Chapter XIX, Official Protocol of the Board Policy Manual to reflect the new Global Action Team (GAT) structure and a modification to the order of placement for the Past Council Chair role.
4. Revised Chapter XIX, Paragraph D of the Board Policy Manual to support new contest procedures. Furthermore, deleted in its entirety Chapter XIX, International Contest Rules to support new contest procedures.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Extended the "Welcome Home" pilot program to June 30, 2019.
2. Adopted a rule that prohibits a New Club Consultant from also serving on the Global Action team, effective July 1, 2018.
3. Revised Chapter X, Paragraph A.5.a. of the Board Policy Manual to permit more flexibility in allowing a new club to request alternative naming convention beyond starting with its local municipality.

- Updated the Board Policy Manual to reflect the previously approved increase of entrance fees from \$25 to \$35 for entrance fees for both new and charter members.
- Revised Chapter XVII, Paragraph C.4 of the Board Policy Manual to permit Leo to Lion Members and Student Members to report data and information via MyLCI in addition to paper submissions.
- Revised Chapter X, Paragraph A.3 of the Board Policy Manual related to the timing of charter fees to allow clubs adequate time to pay for additional charter members approved and added in the first

90 days.

- Amended Chapter X, Paragraph C.3 of the Board Policy Manual in order to allow the Membership Development Committee to approve club protests via poll in order to resolve protests in a timelier manner.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- Awarded an additional 2016-2017 Leos of the Year Award.
- Changed the service framework platform area of “Pediatric Cancer” to “Childhood Cancer”.
- Updated Leo Multiple District and District

Officer qualification and election process.

- Adjusted Chapter XXIV, Paragraph B.2. of the Board Policy Manual to amend the Global Action Team international structure to add a third vice chairperson.
- Revised Chapter XXII, Paragraph A.17 of the Board Policy Manual to update the Leo Club Program Advisory Panel qualification and nomination process.

For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI website at lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.

LCIF

Sensory Courtyard Awakens Children’s Abilities

by Cassandra Rotolo

LCIF

A hallway of the Fremont Public Schools’ administration building in Fremont, Nebraska, has been transformed into an oasis. The Sensory Courtyard is an area dedicated to engaging all five senses. Home to a hobbit house, a fossil garden, a tree swing and even a “Snoezelen Room,” the Sensory Courtyard is a sanctuary for children with a multitude of special needs who might otherwise not be able to explore their world safely and comfortably.

Children, young adults and entire families enjoy the hands-on experiences of the courtyard. Basalt columns showcase the visual, tactile and audible properties of flowing water. Dancing lights and reflections soothe the spirit. As natural light filters through the glass ceiling, families gather at the sensory table to learn and play games together while listening to calming wind chimes.

“I love taking my son there and seeing his face light up with each new sensation and sensory element. Looking around the courtyard, I see the smiles of children and parents. It’s a beautiful experience,” says Miranda Long of Fremont.

The courtyard encourages the exploration of new textures, promotes positive attitudes and inclusion and enriches educational and motor skills development. The courtyard also serves to raise awareness of special needs within the community—from visual impairment and mobility limitations to tactile defensiveness.

LION OVERCAME DIRE ILLNESS

A certified orientation and mobility specialist at Fremont Public Schools, Lion Mary Robinson teaches students who are blind and visually impaired. Robinson came up with the idea for the courtyard after learning about a young child who is blind but made great strides when he began gardening with his mother. Robinson worked for three years with her John C. Fremont Lions Club, neighboring clubs, local nonprofit organizations, artists, architects and the school board to bring her dream to life.

Only months before the courtyard was due to be unveiled, progress came to a screeching halt when

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Lions of District 38-O for the courtyard.

The courtyard includes Snoezelen Rooms; relaxing, multisensory environments beneficial for children with autism, those with behavioral concerns, people with visual impairments and even older adults with cognitive disabilities. These rooms help reduce anxiety, stimulate reactions and encourage communication. Lights, sounds, textures and smells can be used to calm agitation or spur exploration.

“When you are given a diagnosis of autism, developmental delay or anything else that places your child in the special needs category, you quickly become overwhelmed by all the things that the doctors, family, friends and society tell you they can’t do,” says Summer Mau, a board member of the Autism Center of Nebraska. “I wanted to do everything I could for my children. The Sensory Courtyard gives us a fun family experience, free of judgment of the abilities my children lack. There are not many situations in our community where we get to experience things together as a family.”

Ayden Crom, 3, also has benefited from the courtyard. He is tactile defensive, which means that his body interprets the sensation of touch with fear, pain or discomfort. The pain of anything touching the soles of his feet was so great that he could walk

only on his knees. Ayden’s involuntary responses to touch kept him from meeting many developmental milestones for his age.

Initially, Ayden was unable to interact with many of the courtyard experiences. Sitting on the edge of the ball pit in the Snoezelen Room was all he could handle. But his teachers persisted, taking him back regularly over the next several weeks. He got a little bit closer to the ball pit each time, experimented with putting a toe in and eventually jumped in.

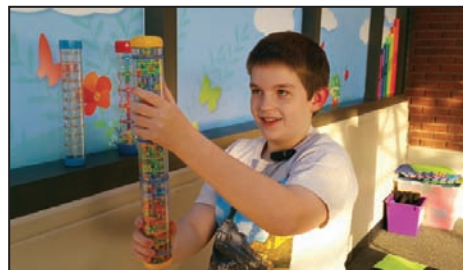
Now Ayden will sit in the pit and cover himself with the balls, rock on the horse, accept a ball in two hands and sit on a hard chair. He explores the fossil garden without fear and presses his feet against the squishy bottom of the mud hole. He’s catching up on key developmental milestones and is now ready for preschool.

Lion Mary Robinson, the champion of the courtyard (sidebar), dreams of expanding it to include even more hands-on sensory experiences. Camping, additional art or tasting activities or STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) exploration areas could be added.

Robinson received a devastating diagnosis. What she had written off as simple fatigue was, in fact, acute myeloid leukemia (AML). AML is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow; it is the most aggressive form of leukemia with the lowest survival rate.

Armed with a positive attitude, support from her family and community and her refusal to give up, Robinson fought for her life. Her treatment was aggressive, causing her to be very sick. But all the while, she kept a smile on her face.

The grand opening of the Sensory Courtyard was postponed while Robinson was being treated. After several rounds of chemotherapy, she was cancer-free, and the courtyard opened to rave reviews.



Zack plays in the Sensory Courtyard



The Mau family enjoys the courtyard

Service Abroad

Freedom Charity Run

By plane, train and automobile, Lions descended on Chicago for the Centennial celebration last summer. But four Lions from Poland ran to town – 625 miles through America’s heartland to cross the finish line at convention.

The longest and fifth annual Freedom Charity Run began at Helen Keller’s birthplace in Tusculum, Alabama, and ended 11 days later at Lions International Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois. Their run through Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and into Illinois connected Lions’ past with Lions’ future, says charity run founder and Past District Governor Mariusz Szeib of Poznan. It also raised more than \$5,000 to help schools for Syrian children living in the Arslan refugee camp in Lebanon.

Support started at home and spread. Szeib’s neighbor came with horse ointment—the best thing for sore joints. From Sweden came the gift of new running clothes. Hats were embroidered. A sports psychologist offered advice on running 600 miles in the heat. Excited American Lions planned for the runners’ arrival, and runners mapped their route from the deep South to the Windy City.

“We Run, We Serve,” is the motto they chanted as they relayed two-by-two across the country.

For Szeib, Past District Governor Daniel Wcislo and Lions Jacek Trebecki and Mateusz Pietrulinski, 11 days on the run inspired freedom, promoted spirit and adventure, but unfortunately also included “some adventures that were not that nice,” says Szeib.

Temps approached the 90s as they kicked off. Then came tropical storm Cindy, chasing them with high winds and buckets of rain. Passing cars slapped the runners with walls of water. And in one town, when a runner stopped for a traffic light, men jumped from a car and pulled a knife on him, demanding money. The runner had nothing to give but a charity T-shirt, so they left him alone. Thank goodness, says Szeib. “He’s a runner.”

But all in all, the heartland lived up to its name. Welcoming Lions invited them into their homes and



The Polish runners jog near Chicago

meetings, fed them dinner and donated to the cause. At an Indiana club meeting, Lions sang both the Polish and American anthems.

Szeib marveled over endless cornfields, “millions of acres of beautifully trimmed lawns” and American hospitality.

He and Wcislo have made the annual run since 2013, each year in a different place and for a different cause. They have raised money for German children whose town flooded, for Ukrainian orphans, to help Lithuanian children with cancer and for earthquake victims in Japan and Nepal. In Japan in 2016 they raised funds to build a hostel for children in Nepal who walk an hour to school.

Szeib has run marathons in all seven continents, he says. Now he prepares for Freedom Charity Run 2018 when they will run from Poland through Czech Republic and Germany, ending in France, and he continues to seek donations for the children from Syria.

Camps for Burn Victims Change Lives

INDIA – More than 1 million people in India are burned each year. Many of them are women or children burned in accidents in the kitchen, where cooking often is done on kerosene oil stoves.

For eight years, in September, the Khamgaon Silvercity Lions Club has organized a plastic surgery camp for burn victims. Nearly 300 surgeries have been done.

Two renowned plastic surgeons, Doctors Anil Tibrewala and Dr. Shankar Shrinivasan of Mumbai, donate their services. A hospital and pharmacy association also support the three-day event.

Lions handle the logistics including publicizing the event, coordinating the appointments of patients and arranging the travel, housing and meals for medical personnel.

Some patients come as far as 300 miles for surgery, and some have as many as five surgeries, says Prakash Mundhada, charter president.

Talking Newspaper Goes Digital

ENGLAND – The Northumberland Gazette is the weekly newspaper for which residents of Alnwick and from other nearby small towns in northern England turn to for the latest local news and sports. For more than 30 years, it also has been the news source for those with visual impairments, thanks to Lions.

Alnwick Lions have faithfully read and recorded selected articles from the newspaper and diligently mailed tapes to 30 or so readers. Now they’ve moved into the digital age. A £3,000 (US\$4,000) grant from the Newcastle Building Society, a financial institution, has paid for digital recording equipment. The Lions now mail the articles on a memory stick.

The digital upgrade may enable the club to produce more editions of the talking newspaper and to send it out to more people, says Lion Tom Deedigan.



Lions record stories from the Northumberland Gazette

Medicine and Gifts Help Isolated Villagers Celebrate Media Noche

PHILIPPINES – In the early morning hours of November 30th, members of the Legazpi City “Host” Lions Club trekked for 30 minutes through a downpour, over the single unpaved road, into the village of Mancao. They’d been traveling since before dawn, having gathered at the home of club president Noel Estillomo before setting out on pump boats across the Sula channel. Stacking boxes of medical supplies, slippers, sacks of rice, soap, and gifts between themselves and the doctor, dentist, and two nurses they’d recruited to accompany them, the Legazpi Lions hunkered down for the 90 minute boat ride.

Situated on the northwest coast of Rapu-Rapu, Albay, in the Philippines, Mancao is a small, isolated village protected somewhat from the strong Pacific storms by a thick mangrove forest that grows along the shallow shoreline. However, it’s this remoteness that makes accessing basic necessities like food, soap, and medical care so difficult for the people of Mancao.

“There’s not even a small public market where they can buy things they need for their daily lives,” says Lion Jose Briones, who participated in the mission. Instead, locals get what they need from “Sari-sari” stores—general stores that sell things like cookies, biscuits, oil, kerosene gas, soft drinks, and other small items, but no medicine. There are also no doctors in Mancao, and the long and costly sea travel to the mainland means many people don’t get the healthcare they need. When ill, people use herbal remedies and see “parahilot”—masseuses who practice the Filipino healing massage, Hilot.



The Lions wanted to make sure their gifts could help the people of Mancao celebrate the traditionally long Filipino Christmas season. In addition to the medical supplies and other necessities, they brought gifts for media noche—the midnight feast on New Year’s Eve that symbolizes their hopes for prosperity in the coming year.

In all, they gave gifts of slippers, soap, spaghetti



noodles, tomato sauce, bread, 11 pounds of white rice, oil, and sausages in cans. At separate stations they (along with the accompanying medical professionals) performed dental and wellness exams, including a diabetes screening, and dispensed medicine for nearly seven hours before embarking on the long trek home. Despite the difficult conditions, Estillomo says the one-day project was, “An awesome and wonderful experience.”



Speech Device Gives Young Man a Voice

AUSTRALIA – Dylan Bowland can now communicate with his parents, thanks to a generous donation from the Dardanup Lions Club. The South Western Australian club raised more than US\$1,800 to help Bowland, who has cerebral palsy, purchase an updated speech device.

Bowland has quadriplegic cerebral palsy from a traumatic birth, and requires individualized equipment and expensive technology just to

participate in everyday life, says his mother, Theresa. “His disabilities are severe.”

When the club heard of the Bowland family’s struggles to purchase the needed equipment, they stepped in. Club President Phil Ottrey says helping those in their community is a priority for the Lions. And with a well-supported raffle at the Dardanup pub every Friday night, a battery drive, and some catering the Lions do, “The money never seems to run short,” he says.

Seeing how their support helped Bowland, the Dardanup Lions are looking into helping more people with disabilities. “There is a wide open space where people need help,” says Ottrey.



Dylan Bowland and his mother, Theresa, work to adjust the old communication device as they await his new one, which was partially funded by a donation from the Dardanup Lions Club



Message to the Lions of MD “A”

Blind Golf Canada (BGC) is reaching out to all of you to thank you, especially those Clubs who have supported blind golf for years and to those Clubs who have recently been made aware of our organization and our need.

Most people across Canada are unaware that blind and partially sighted people play golf from an elite



level to just taking up the game as their sight fails. Many people who have become blind are unaware that blind golf actually exists and this is the purpose of this message to those Clubs who are not aware of Blind Golf Canada.

As you are the Knights of the blind, we believe there are individuals in your communities who have lost their sight and would enjoy having a Lion volunteer take them back out to the golf course, especially a Lion who already enjoys the game of golf.

Lions Clubs can do much more than financial support for the blind, they can be involved with them as well in mutual activities and golf is one such activity. We ask, over this winter, that you keep your Lion eyes and ears open for those who are blind or have vision loss in your community. Help us recruit new golfers and ensure that our blind citizens are not hiding away totally unaware of the great opportunities that lie ahead through friendship with Lions and possibly by taking up the great game of golf. We sincerely thank you for your support!

Lion David Burnett, Director, Blind Golf Canada, Aurora Lions Club

Please visit our web site for further information:
www.blindgolf.ca



Lions Clubs Camp Kirk Foundation

50/50 Draw Winners – July 2017

Burford Lions Club \$15,289.00

Early Bird Winner of \$500.00

French River Lions Club

A huge thank you to all the clubs and individuals throughout MD “A” who purchased tickets!

Lion Tom Goldring, Chairperson
LCCKF Board of Directors

LCIF and Partners to Provide Gender Equity Intervention in Delhi, India

by Ariel Dickson

Gender-based violence and inequality are a sad reality in many countries around the world. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence. These acts can leave women with painful repercussions, both physically and psychologically. In many areas of the world, these women are shunned from their families and communities. Unable to find work, women are left with limited abilities to provide for themselves and their children. Furthermore, children who grow up in families with violence often perpetuate or experience violence later in life. To end the cycle, educating and empowering youth from an early age is a vital step in overcoming these obstacles.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), in collaboration with *Breakthrough Communications PL* [Link to: <http://breakthrough.net.in/>] and the *Independent Television Service, Inc. (ITVS)* [Link to: <https://itvs.org/>], has launched a new initiative on gender-based violence prevention in Delhi, India. The initial training took place October 10-11, 2017, in conjunction with International Day of the Girl Child. The project promotes a positive school climate and safe learning environment for all students. LCIF allocated US\$100,000 in seed funding for this multi-organizational collaborative project.

The initial pilot intervention, titled *Dosti Ka Safar* (The Journey of Friendship), was built using Lions Quest lessons and programming, and will help foster and cultivate greater gender equity among 2,000 youth in New Delhi and surrounding regions. This customized intervention utilizes teacher-led discussions, serialized films and the Lions Quest model of “skills practice” to extend constructive behaviors from the lessons into the everyday classroom and community at large.

“Lions Clubs International Foundation is honored to collaborate with transformative pioneers,” said Chancellor Bob Corlew, Chairman of LCIF. “This Lions Quest project will bring positive social change and make a difference for thousands of women and girls in the Delhi area. It is a shining example of the

positive youth development skills Lions Quest has fostered in millions of young people.”

“[This curriculum] will enable [adolescents] to identify and access support systems and resources that exist in their surroundings, address and prevent discrimination and violence and create safer spaces for themselves and their peers,” said Pauline Gomes, Senior Manager at Breakthrough.

“We are excited and honored to have partnered with other distinguished organizations to launch this one-of-a-kind curriculum-based intervention,” said Abhishek Srivastava, India Engagement Coordinator for ITVS.

To reach these ambitious goals, Lions Quest and partners trained teachers from nine local schools in social and emotional learning, as well as overcoming patriarchal norms, gender biases and stereotypes in the initial pilot. In addition to training teachers to implement the curriculum, all classrooms received printed teacher books, student journals, videos and copies of *Priya's Shakti* – a celebrated graphic novel about a female rape victim turned super hero in an Indian village.

Earlier in 2017, Lions Clubs International signed a *Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women* [Link to <http://lionsclubs.org/blog/2017/03/08/lions-and-un-women-partner-for-gender-equality-womensday/>], the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to further LCI's commitment to the *UN Sustainable Development Goals* [Link to: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>]

For more than 30 years, Lions Quest has developed and implemented a

comprehensive, evidence-based social and emotional learning program in schools all over the world. Through curriculum dissemination, professional development and community engagement, more than 16 million youth have benefited from the program. The project in India marks a new milestone in Lions' service to youth worldwide. It inspires a hopeful future where men and women have the same opportunities, and all people are free to live a safe and happy life.



**Lions Quest
Canada**
The Centre for Positive Youth Development



The Oro District Lions assist with Christmas Cheer

Every year, members brave the elements and deliver turkeys to over 1,800 families from Barrie and the surrounding townships. The Lions have been helping for over twenty five years and the thanks they received puts the club in the Christmas spirit.



Trenton Lions

Chair of Trenton Lions Club Bingo Committee, Lion **Connie Kelso**, presented a cheque for Care & Share Food Bank to President Lion **Andy Axhorn**. Donations were made by Bingo Players and the Trenton Club. 200 lbs of food was donated for the food bank. Thank you to the Bingo Goers and the committee for their generous donations to combat hunger in the community. **Lions Roar!**



'A Way to Say I Love You'

A New York father joins the Lions to help his sight-impaired daughter

by David Hudnall



Tony Catalano and his daughter, Martel, who has retinitis pigmentosa, have drawn closer since he became a Lion

The Saratoga Springs Lions Club is one of the most robust in the state of New York with 110 members and a full slate of projects, and one of its newest and most active members is a 56-year-old former college football player with a Jersey accent by the name of Tony Catalano. He's from upstate originally but returned to the area a few years ago after years in the New York City area working in publishing sales in Manhattan and raising a family in the New Jersey suburbs.

"Tony is a force, a true leader," says District Governor John McDonald, a Saratoga Springs Lion. "He's likable, personable and already incredibly committed to the club. I see him moving on to greater things, for sure."

But it wasn't too long ago that Catalano, a former rugged linebacker for Holy Cross College, wasn't even entirely sure what Lions clubs did. In Jersey, he'd occasionally spot a Lions sign outside a doctor's office or a flier about an eyeglasses collection drive. But he never gave it much thought. In retrospect, that's odd because vision problems run in the Catalano family. Catalano's parents both had cataracts removed. Catalano himself has worn glasses since the first grade, and, in his early 30s he underwent a cornea transplant because of keratoconus, a progressive eye disease that thins the cornea.

Bad eyes were also passed down to Catalano's daughter, Martel. When she was 13, she began to notice she couldn't see well in the dark. After several

trips to eye doctors, it was determined that Martel suffered from retinitis pigmentosa, commonly called RP. This rare genetic disease causes the gradual diminishing of the rods in one's eyes. It starts with night blindness. Over time, peripheral vision becomes impaired. Often, the end result is legal blindness, though it can take years or even decades to reach that point.

Martel is now 28, and her RP has indeed gotten progressively worse. She and her family have come to grips with her condition in different ways. It has been difficult. For a long time, Catalano, an otherwise voluble, gregarious person, largely tried to avoid conversations about what RP meant for Martel's future.

"Through her teenage years, we all tried to some degree to ignore her situation," Catalano says.

"He's a tough guy with an emotional core," Martel says of her father. "And he had kind of a wall up about my condition. He just didn't want to talk about it."

That wall began to crack a little in 2016, around the time Catalano passed a Lions tent at a walk-and-run event in Saratoga. He struck up a conversation with the Lion manning the booth and saw the connection between their mission and his daughter's plight. More to the point, he saw an avenue through which he could begin to process what was happening with Martel.

"That day really helped crystallize things for me," Catalano says.

Fear and Sadness

In much the same way that it's counterintuitive that someone as talkative as Catalano would resist talking about his daughter's challenges, it's hard to imagine Martel as a troubled young person. Today, she's a yoga instructor and life coach living in downtown Saratoga Springs. She's empathetic, thoughtful, easy to talk to and appreciative of friends and family and nature. She's centered, as they say in yoga.

But Martel spent years struggling emotionally with the physical effects of RP. There was sadness and fear about the disease, of course, but also other problems, like eating disorders and bad relationships. With the benefit of hindsight, she sees it all as interconnected.

"I broke things that I would be able to fix, so that I didn't have to think about the one I couldn't—going blind," she says. "I spent a decade in an exhausting marathon of depression, anxiety, physical and psychological ailments. They undoubtedly fed off of each other. When one would get bad, so would the rest—a vicious cycle of mind-body stress. I blinded myself from the fear of going blind."

Then there were the more obvious logistical problems related to gradually going blind at such a young age. After graduating from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, she moved around, first to Burlington, Vermont, then back to New York City, where she worked in marketing for a nonprofit. Commuting in the city began to pose several obstacles for Martel as her peripheral vision worsened. She would accidentally step on dogs or plow into a toddler while walking in the city, resulting in embarrassing moments and injuries.

"I was coming home a mess every day after work,



Martel Catalano waits to see an eye doctor

after living in a place of such constant tension,” Martel says. “I would come home and tell my parents, ‘I hate my job, I hate my job, I hate the city.’ But we weren’t putting together the reasons why. It was because my RP was getting worse. But that process of realization was very slow and gradual.”

Helping that process along was her mother, Corinne, a psychologist who has worked with autistic children and their families. “My mom would facilitate these conversations—lots of late nights and dinners—where, I think we all together started to accept what was happening,” Martel says. “But my dad had no experience in family well-being or psychology. It’s difficult for parents to admit there’s something going wrong with their child. I think it took not only me to come to terms with everything, but also for my parents to accept that.”

Yoga helped with managing the stress. So did moving back to Saratoga Springs, where Tony and Corinne now live, and where less everyday variables existed. Martel now lives with her boyfriend on Main Street in Saratoga Springs. She is within walking distance of everything she needs: the gym, restaurants, groceries, the yoga studio where she’s an instructor, the tea shop where she works a few days a week. She still sees well enough to bike occasionally. When she needs to travel somewhere, her boyfriend drives, or her parents come pick her up.

Martel is also in the process of creating, with a friend, Beyond My Battle, a nonprofit online community that will offer emotional support, resources and education for people living with incurable illnesses.

“People with RP usually don’t end up with a total blackout. They maintain a few degrees of vision in the center area, but often it’s that they become legally blind,” she says. “A lot of people have sight dogs or white canes, and I anticipate that will one day happen for me. But I feel lucky so far. I’m almost 30, and my doctor thinks right now that things will go slowly for me. It’s manageable for now. But it’s going to get worse, and I’m anticipating all that.”

A New Role

At that walk-and-run event back in 2016, Catalano had been advised to contact McDonald for more information about the Saratoga Lions. He promptly did. The two hit it off: It turned out that McDonald’s uncle had been Catalano’s basketball coach back in high school. Catalano attended three meetings as a guest, and soon he was a member.

Catalano dove right in. He now serves on the board of directors and is the official Lion tamer, greeting the crowd at the weekly meetings. Among the events he’s gravitated toward are the Lions’ annual Memorial Day Duathlon, a run-bike race that attracts both locals and some premier athletes, and Camp Abilities, a weeklong camp for visually challenged children held at Skidmore College.

“At Camp Abilities, I find I get a lot out of that spiritually—hope and patience,” Catalano says. “I’m working there with people with worse vision than Martel. Working with others who are on the path to blindness has made me more comfortable talking about it, in a way. I have always felt guilt that hers is an inherited disease. It came along through my side of

the family. That guilt is just something I have to deal with, I guess. But being involved [with the Lions] is helping me get through that.”

Nobody was as surprised as Martel to learn about Catalano’s enthusiasm for the Saratoga Lions Club.

“He’s never really been a volunteering type of person, and if he had, it was always coaching sports, because he’s, like, a jock,” Martel laughs. “Football is kind of the only extracurricular thing he’d ever been involved with when I was growing up.”

Like Catalano, she didn’t know much at first about the Lions or their focus on vision.

“I thought it was cool that he was volunteering, because I value that personally,” she says. “Then he started spending more time with this club, and finally I was like, ‘Why are you so involved with this club all of a sudden?’ And then he sort of told me they had a focus on blindness. And that really touched me. It was really nice to hear that.”

The club has also expanded Catalano’s horizons beyond his initial interest of helping those with vision problems. He speaks with excitement about upcoming plans to volunteer on Lions efforts related to hearing loss and diabetes. He’s gone full Lion—a total convert.

“So far, I feel like the club has helped me more than I’ve helped the club, though I’m hoping that changes over time,” Catalano says. “And I think she [Martel] knows that I’m doing this because of her. It’s a way for me to say ‘I love you’ without saying it—although I say that a lot, too.”

LCIF

Supporting Lions. Serving humanity. Giving hope.

LCIF

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is turning 50 this year, and along with a golden anniversary, this year brings wonderful stories from beneficiaries around the world, and exciting new changes on the horizon. In fact, every indication is that LCIF is in its prime. Gearing up for a new capital fundraising campaign, restructuring grant offerings to better serve the needs of Lions, and preparing to support LCI’s new global causes, LCIF has the right mix of experience and energy to help those most in need. LCIF has been supporting the service of Lions for 50 years, and that’s just the beginning.

LCIF has helped Lions accomplish a lot in its 50 years.

LCIF was incorporated as a foundation in 1968 to take the mission of Lions Clubs International to new heights, tackling global problems and assisting Lions with large-scale humanitarian projects. LCIF distributed its first grant four years later, and hasn’t slowed down since.

With more than US\$1 billion in funding awarded through more than 13,000 grants, LCIF has restored sight to parents who had not been able to see their

children. It has rebuilt communities devastated by earthquakes and wildfires. It has fed hungry children and empowered youth to become healthy, productive adults. With the support of LCIF, Lions built water wells and latrines that are helping to control the spread of blinding diseases. People who were once hidden from the world because of a disability, denied education and companionship, now attend school and contribute to their communities. This US\$1 billion has shown the world that Lions care and LCIF helps.

LCIF’s First Grant

June 9, 1972. In Rapid City, South Dakota, a cold front moved across the eastern slope of the Black Hills. Dew points rose as the air became heavy with clouds. By 6 p.m. a continuous line of thunderstorms blanketed the eastern Black Hills. Steep canyons funneled the water toward the dry plains. Water levels of Rapid Creek, above Rapid City, rose 12 feet in just two hours. By 5 a.m. on June 10, Rapid Creek was again within its banks, but not without taking the lives of 238 people. Three thousand people were injured and 1,335 homes were destroyed.

Lions were among the first on the scene to provide

help to the devastated community. The foundation made its first grant to District 5-SW for US\$5,000 to assist the South Dakota flood victims, beginning a legacy that continues today.

TODAY

Since that first grant, LCIF has provided funds to projects all over the world. Communities are supported around the globe and around the corner. LCIF focuses on four main areas—sight, youth, disaster and humanitarian efforts—ensuring help goes where it is most critically needed.

Sight

The child of a farming family in Gujarat, India, Jyotsana Nisarta was only 2 years old when she contracted polio. Even with medical intervention, Jyotsana was left with considerable visual impairment.

With limited opportunities for people with disabilities in India, Jyotsana remained dependent on her family. That’s when the Blind Welfare Council in Dahod changed her life. With support from a US\$63,000 grant from LCIF, Lions of District

323-F1 helped to expand the council's vocational training center. The council was able to take on more computer trainees and introduced several new programs that train about 100 people per year for respected and well-paying jobs.

Within months Jyotsana had completed her training and was immediately hired as a computer operator. The skills she learned in her classes at the Council enabled her to further her career, and Jyotsana soon was hired for a government job. She takes photos and thumbprints and issues identification cards to members of her community. Her monthly income has nearly doubled, which enables her to help her family as well as pay her own living expenses.

Read more about what LCIF is doing to combat blindness at LCIF.org.

Youth

At Grapevine Middle School in suburban Dallas-Fort Worth, students sit in a circle and take part in a directed dialogue. The Lions Quest exercise is intended to help build community. These students will eventually create their own code of conduct—a set of expectations that they use to hold each other accountable.

“The students started correcting each other. It’s something they come up with, so they own it,” says Juneria Berges, former principal at Grapevine. As a result, attendance at the school rose and students

demonstrated much-needed critical thinking skills. Studies have shown that students are more likely to achieve academically when their school environment is safe, warm and supportive – just the sort of environment being created at Grapevine. “Lions Quest teaches ethics, caring about others, and responsibility for oneself,” says Berges. “The kids learn they have choices in life, and you have to make the best choices for yourself.”

Whether they are living in the suburbs, cities, or small villages, these life skills are universal. And nowhere can those lessons be better put to use than the South Sudan. Located in East-Central Africa, South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Twenty years of civil war left the country with essentially no infrastructure. Only a handful of areas have running water, electricity, clinics, schools, or paved roads. Half of the population lives below the international poverty line, which is less than US\$2 per day. It is not surprising then that only one in three South Sudanese men and one in 10 South Sudanese women can read. Very few speak English, which is the official language of South Sudan.

In an effort to bring life skills and hope to the country’s young people, 38 teachers from 14 schools and institutions were trained in Lions Quest *Skills for Adolescence*. At least 6,832 students ages 12 to 18 will benefit from the Lions Quest program.

“As teachers, we have been equipped with the skills we needed to reset the mindset of young people to look at their situation differently and positively,” says Emmanuel Ladu, head teacher at Juba Model Secondary School.

To read more about the Lions Quest program or to request materials for a school in your district, visit LCIF.org.

Disaster Relief

When Hurricane Matthew hit the Caribbean in October, 2016, it quickly became the strongest storm to hit Haiti since 1964 and the third strongest for the nation on record. Bridges washed away. Many of the main roads became impassible. Food and drinking water were in short supply. Five hundred and forty-six people died, though reports of unconfirmed deaths rose as high as 1,600. Two hundred thousand homes were completely or near-completely destroyed and 1.4 million people were left in need of humanitarian aid.

The Lions of Haiti, victims themselves, quickly went into service mode. They requested assistance from LCIF and were awarded an initial US\$10,000 Emergency grant to address the immediate needs of the victims. Twenty Lions and 10 Leos from Port-au-Prince traveled to Petit-Goâve to work with clubs there. Together, they distributed 550 relief kits to residents and later packed 1,500 kits of food and medicine that were distributed in Les Cayes.

As a nation that was still rebuilding after the devastating earthquake in 2010, the Haitian government lacked the resources to adequately respond to the new disaster. Emergency grants from

WHAT LCIF DOES

We expand the reach of your service by awarding grants in four key areas.

We give sight by combating eye diseases, creating infrastructure to improve eye care delivery, increasing the number of trained eye care professionals, and making vision care more equitable and sustainable.

We support youth by helping children learn to work together, make positive decisions, and serve lives.

their communities, and by constructing schools, youth centers, and vocational training centers.

We provide disaster relief by helping devastated communities survive after disasters and by bringing hope through assistance in long-term efforts to rebuild homes and lives.

We address humanitarian needs from global health issues such as measles, diabetes, hunger, and childhood cancer to empowering those with disabilities to lead more independent and fulfilling lives.

CHANGES TO GRANTS

Grants from LCIF allow Lions to amplify their service work and reach more people. If you believe your project could benefit from a grant, be sure to contact your district governor.

New Grants

- Leo Service Grants: Leos can now assess, plan and implement their own service projects.
- District and Club Community Impact Grants: a percentage of contributions to LCIF are transformed into grants that fund local projects in alignment with the foundation’s areas of focus.

New Structure

Core 4 grants and international assistance grants are now rebranded under the category of humanitarian grants, which encompasses:

- Matching grants (previously called Standard grants)
- Lions Quest grants (previously called Core 4 Lions Quest)
- Diabetes grants (previously called Core 4 Diabetes)

All of the criteria for these grants will remain the same, as well as the application deadlines.

Remaining deadlines for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

- May 12: Application deadline for SightFirst grants to be reviewed at the August 2018 SightFirst Advisory Committee meeting
- May 14: Application deadline for matching grants, diabetes grants, and Lions Quest grants to be reviewed at the August 2018 board meeting



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017 LCIF received its sixth consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for its effective fiscal management and its commitment to accountability and transparency.



LCIF are specifically designed to help provide basic immediate needs including food, water, clothing, and medicine to victims.

After immediate needs are met, victims of disasters are not forgotten. LCIF remains committed to the important work of rebuilding homes and lives, often long after a disaster occurs. Through Major Catastrophe grants, LCIF supports long-term reconstruction projects to help victims return to their lives and regain their independence.

LCIF provided a US\$200,000 Major Catastrophe grant for relief in the wake of devastating floods that struck Paraguay in December 2015 and January 2016. Now, two years later, relief work is ongoing. Lions and LCIF are still there, supporting communities as they rebuild.

Local Lions recently finished repairs on five primary schools that were destroyed by flood waters. Because of this important work, 1,725 students have been able to return to school.

For information on how your club can apply for Disaster Preparedness, Community Recovery, or Emergency grants, visit LCIF.org.

Humanitarian

SK Talantang is an elementary school located in rural Sabah, Malaysia, amongst tall rubber trees and marshy rice fields. Until recently, more than half of the children who attend the school had to walk up to four hours to school and four hours back home, often barefoot to preserve their shoes. Others used their parents' motorcycles or packed into rickety vans. During the rainy season, many students missed school due to the treacherous conditions. Because of this commute, some parents did not enroll their children in school at all.



Thanks to the efforts of Lions clubs in Korea, the Lions Club of Kota Kinabalu Host, and LCIF, a dormitory was built to house 100 of these children. The dormitory is just a short walk from the school building and includes beds, bathrooms, a dining area, and a kitchen that serves meals five times per day. Many of the amenities are not available in their private homes.

The children of SK Talantang are now able to live and study in a place suitable for learning. They are also able to stay after school to participate in extracurricular activities.

Of course, attending school is only beneficial when children have the nutrition needed to focus and concentrate. But around the globe nearly 800 million people do not have enough food to eat. The situation is most dire in developing countries, where one out of six children is underweight. The Venezia Host and Venezia Angelo Partecipazio Lions clubs in Italy teamed up with the Koudougou Baobab Lions Club in Burkina Faso and LCIF to address food insecurity in several villages in the West African nation. The Italian Lions received an LCIF International Assistance grant (IAG) for US\$54,267 to support the project.

The Lions had two main objectives. The first was

to form a field school to train women in rural areas to use a drip irrigation system. Second, they would use that drip irrigation system to create a village vegetable garden. Women from nearby areas would be taught how to cultivate crops using the new system, as well how to use those crops to feed healthy meals to their

ONE SHOT, ONE LIFE

Lions work with LCIF to stop measles

What is measles?

- Found in every part of the world
- A contagious viral infection that first attacks the respiratory system, then creates a rash
- Ninety percent of those without immunity will contract the virus when exposed
- Immunity can be easily acquired through a vaccine
- Six times more infectious than the flu

How Measles Impacts the World

- The cause of death for 89,780 people per year; around 245 people every day
- The world's leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths among children
- Thirty percent of survivors experience complications, which can include permanent hearing loss, blindness, and death

LCIF Impact

LCIF financial support along with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance matching funds has enabled:

- A projected 87.7 million children to be immunized
- 97.8 million doses of measles or MR vaccine procured
- 61,000 future deaths averted
- By the end of 2017, it is estimated Lions and LCIF mobilized more than US\$85 million toward the global fight against measles

Lions are proud to be a contributing partner in bringing the annual measles death rate below 100,000 for the first time in history.

How Lions Can Help

As a club

- Organize fundraisers, such as concerts, dinners, galas, sport events, and donate money raised to LCIF
- Ask your Club LCIF Coordinator to give a presentation on measles

Individual Lions

- Spread the word through social media, word of mouth, or publications like the local newspaper
- Volunteer at vaccination centers
- Donate Today! One dollar could save a life

families. Water storage towers, compost pits, a storage shed, and fences played important roles in helping the project reach its goals.

Drip irrigation is a low-water, low-pressure system that keeps plant roots moist. By applying water directly to plant roots rather than the surrounding soil, drip irrigation systems use less water than some traditional systems. Drip irrigation is particularly beneficial where water sources are scarce.

Lions got to work. They secured and cleared nearly 2.5 acres of land. They dug a well with a solar pump and a storage tank and planted onions, other vegetables, and fast-growing Moringa trees. Once the crops were planted, Lions from both countries trained local women on using the drip irrigation system and tending to their gardens.

The field school pilot program trained seven women from the Kyon District. It is expected that up to 60 women will be trained annually. The Lions hope that these women will grow enough excess food that they may start their own village market and sell their produce for a profit, leading to economic stability and independence.

“We Lions are fighting poverty and securing food for women and children in rural Burkina Faso because malnutrition is widespread,” says Lion Giovanni Spaliviero of the Italian Lions Association, MK Onlus. “We hope these vegetable gardens will help to significantly improve the health and the living conditions of children and their families.”

For more information on LCIF’s newly restructured grants, and how Lions can apply, visit LCIF.org.

THE FUTURE

Lions should be proud of the work they’ve set in motion through LCIF over the past 50 years. Through their hard work and generous donations, LCIF’s two previous capital fundraising campaigns, Campaign SightFirst and Campaign SightFirst II, have raised US\$143 million in 1994 and US\$205 million in 2008. Those campaigns led to considerable progress in the global fight against blindness.

A new capital fundraising campaign, officially launching in July, will be LCIF’s most ambitious yet. With a goal of raising US\$300 million, LCIF will support Lions’ efforts to triple their humanitarian impact and serve 200 million people per year by 2021. In order to reach this goal, LCIF will expand its areas of focus. Moving forward, in addition to its current core competencies, LCIF will focus on projects addressing diabetes, the environment, childhood cancer, and hunger, all under the humanitarian umbrella. These are issues that LCIF grants have addressed in the past, but this new focus will bring additional solutions and service to the world’s most pressing global problems.

As our world continues to change, LCIF will be there, growing and evolving to meet new challenges. To address new concerns and best serve communities and future generations, LCIF is looking to the next 50 years to make its greatest impact yet.

LCIF relies on the generosity of Lions. When you make a donation to LCIF, you can make a difference both locally and globally. Talk to your club’s LCIF Coordinator for information on how you can support LCIF, then spread the word on the important work LCIF is doing.

With continued support from Lions, LCIF can continue to be the shelter in the storm, the light

in the darkness, the hand reaching out to make our communities safer, brighter, more humane.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Cross Burchett was only 3 years old when he went to a Colorado Lions KidSight vision screening. It was there that his parents discovered he was farsighted, and so much so that his brain had started to shut down the vision in one of his eyes. Cross was at risk of permanently losing his vision.

About 10 percent of preschoolers have eye or vision problems, and at that age, they do not voice complaints about it. Cross’ parents, Kerri and Don, immediately got Cross fitted with glasses that corrected his vision. Early detection and treatment saved Cross’ sight.

Today, Cross is 14 years old and enjoys reading, playing video games, and soccer. “To say thank you to [Lions and LCIF] just isn’t enough. And I hope they understand how they changed his life and hopefully [the lives of] many other children with what they’ve done,” said Don Burchett. Cross joined Dr. Yamada on stage at LCIF’s Plenary during the Centennial Convention in Chicago and was presented with the chairperson’s plaque. Cross thanked Lions and LCIF once again for his life-changing vision screening.



The Mark Preece Family House

Rockton Lions continue to support the Dr. Mark Preece House in Hamilton and have been doing so for the last 3 years. The Mark Preece Family House, which opened in April of 2011, is a home away from home for families whose loved ones are critical care patients at any of the hospitals in Hamilton. They rely on the support of families and the community to finance the operations of this House. They receive NO government money. People from across the province call the Mark Preece House “Home” while they are in Hamilton spending time with loved ones who are patients or receiving treatment in Hamilton.

Once a month, a team of Rockton Lions prepare a meal for the guests who are staying at the house. And it is greatly appreciated by the families who are dealing with real crisis in their lives. Providing a meal gives them a much needed break. Guests include from Thunder Bay, Windsor, Kitchener, Niagara, Belleville, Ottawa, the East Coast and the USA. They have been encouraged to go back to their communities



and search out their local Lions Clubs and tell them about their Mark Preece House experience. A number of clubs have followed up and made a donation.

This is a terrific cause the Rockton Lions have championed with great support from the membership. It creates a great feeling of accomplishment!



Lions Jeff Jongeling, Bruce McKnight, Doug Cassan and Ron Moore getting ready to feed the guests of the Mark Preece House ham, potatoes, coleslaw and Lion Bruce’s “home made” pumpkin pie!

Elmvale and District Lions

The Lions of Elmvale and District finished off the year in fine fashion with the induction of three new members by A-12 District Governor **Randy Hargrave**. The new members are shown with their sponsors, they include Lion **Eileen Cooke** on the left, Lion **Jenn Rebidoux** in the centre and Lion **Jerry VanCasteren**. The club also organized the local Santa Claus Parade under the direction of Chair Lion **Scott McLean**. The club was also busy with assistance to the local food bank, hosting a 4H Banquet and manning Salvation Army Kettles.



Las Vegas: A City Like No Other

by Reannon Muth

Las Vegas is a city that celebrates its stereotypes. Mobile billboards advertising yard-long cocktails and topless pool parties roam up and down the streets. Casinos shaped like castles, pyramids and Roman palaces – each more unapologetically gaudy than the next – stretch as far as the eye can see. Then there are the slot machines, which perpetually ping from hotel lobbies, gas stations and grocery stores to remind you that no matter where you are in Vegas, a sinfully good time is only a whisper away. Even the city's former mayor, Oscar Goodman, has embraced Vegas's glitzy image, appearing at events flanked by clusters of feathered, sequined Showgirls.

But look closer and you'll find that there's much more to this desert resort town than one might first expect. While Vegas may be best known as the Entertainment Capital of the World, 100 years ago, Las Vegas – which means “The Meadows” in Spanish – was not much more than a dusty, railroad pit-stop. Remnants of the city's wild west roots can be found today in the wild burros and horses that roam the hillsides of Summerlin and in the big-horned sheep that can often be found grazing in the neighborhood parks near Lake Mead. Several ghost towns exist within driving distance from Vegas, including Clark County's oldest bar, the 105-year-old Pioneer Saloon.

Las Vegas turned 112 this year – which is young by most city standards – and it shows. Las Vegas's population has increased from 260,561 people in 1990 to 632,912 in 2016, making it the third-fastest growing city in America. This has caused a boom in neighborhood redevelopment, which has led to the creation of a flashy yet authentic Chinatown, a promising arts district and a hip downtown bar scene. People now travel to Las Vegas not just to play cards and swill cocktails, but to attend music festivals, dine in celebrity-chef-owned restaurants and explore Nevada's state and national parks. With several national parks a half-day's drive away, such as Zion and the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas has become a launching point for nature-loving tourists looking to explore the American Southwest.

As for the locals (yes, people really do live in Las Vegas), they hail from every corner of the planet. In fact, it's so rare to hear someone say “I was born in Vegas” that it frequently elicits a double take. People may relocate to the Silver State for different reasons – some for the low cost of living, others for a chance at fame and fortune (a casino valet is rumored to pull in six figures), but the common thread that binds Las Vegas together is their thirst for adventure. Las Vegas attracts a greater-than-average number of open-minded and creative risk-takers, who are also, perhaps surprisingly, relatively unpretentious and easygoing. Las Vegas won't judge you for that tequila-fueled night you danced on the bar or for singing bad Jimmy Buffet karaoke because they've seen it all before – and chances are good they've done it all before, too.

Just don't make the mistake of mispronouncing their state's name – it's pronounced Nev-AD-a, not Nev-AH-da.

The best time to admire the view of the Las Vegas city skyline is at sunset, when the sky flames orange and the brown desert mountains are blanketed in a velvety coal blue. At dusk, the casinos light up like giant, neon Christmas trees, making it easy to understand why Las Vegas was featured on US Today's list of the world's “best city skylines.” Watch the sun dip behind the mountains from atop the 1,149-foot Stratosphere (the tallest freestanding observation tower in the country) or enjoy it through the floor-to-ceiling glass windows of the ultra-chic Mandarin Oriental bar.

Las Vegas may lack the overt charm of San Francisco or the fabled history of New York, but that is part of what makes the city unique. Like a skilled poker player, Vegas doesn't show you all its cards at once; it holds its most prized gems close to its heart. In order to see beyond the strip joints and the strip malls to the “Real Vegas,” you've got to approach the city like a curious explorer. If you do, you may just discover a city rich in beauty, culture and its own brand of cheeky, quirky, sophistication.

9 UNIQUE THINGS TO DO IN LAS VEGAS:

There is much to see and do in this 24-hour town, but the best, most unique sights and activities are the ones many Vegas visitors often overlook. Here are nine Vegas hidden gems and best-kept secrets worth considering.

1. Hike Red Rock Canyon



Those who think the scenery in Vegas is ugly will rethink that sentiment after visiting Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The white sandstone

cliffs and red rock formations are breathtaking, especially at sunset when the iron-rich hillside appears to glow like a red-hot ember. As you snap a selfie next to one of the car-sized boulders or jog alongside a stampede of wild horses, you'll find it difficult to believe that this quiet, tranquil canyon is only a 30-minute drive from The Strip. Those who left their hiking boots at home can enjoy a visit too, thanks to the Conservation Area's paved 13-mile Scenic Drive.



2. Take an afternoon boat ride on Lake Mead



Las Vegas may not be the place you would expect to find the largest reservoir in the United States, but crated in the middle of the Mojave Desert is a 120-mile long stretch of royal blue water so large it can be seen from outer space. Dotted with shell-covered islands and surrounded by a haze of jagged mountains, the lake is certainly picturesque, but what makes Lake Mead most impressive is the sheer size of it. It is the 16th largest manmade lake in the world.

For a personal introduction and a unique view of the Hoover Dam, climb aboard the Desert Princess – a Mississippi-style paddlewheel. The 90-minute cruise departs from nearby Boulder City seven days a week, and is a satisfying way to spend a sunny afternoon on the water.

3. Tour the Neon Museum

When most people think “art museums,” they probably don’t think “Vegas,” but the city has a surprising number of free public art installations and even a few high-end art museums and galleries as well. By far the most original, however, is the Neon Museum (also called the Neon Boneyard), which is where “Las Vegas signs go to die.”

Located in a dusty vacant lot in the shadows of a freeway overpass, the Neon Museum may not seem impressive at first. The small outdoor space is crammed with hundreds of vintage casino signs that jut out of the sand like tombstones and loom over visitors like the ghosts of Vegas Past. It’s eerie. The oldest neon sign in the exhibit is a chicken shack ad from the 1930s and the largest is the 188-foot-tall sign that once welcomed visitors to the Stardust Casino.



What makes this museum worth the visit, however, is the guided tour, which details the history behind where each neon sign originated and how it came to be laid to rest in this backyard desert warehouse. You don’t have to be particularly interested in neon signs to enjoy the tour, as the stories the guides tell are less about the signs and more about the insights into Vegas’s overlooked past. In a city that has embraced an “out with the old, in with the new” mentality – most of the city’s historic casinos have been torn down and replaced with more modern versions – it’s a gift that nonprofits like the Neon Museum exist to preserve a piece of Vegas history.



4. Bar-Hop along East Fremont Street

Located just south of the Neon Museum is East Fremont Street – an area of Downtown Las Vegas that has seen a major revitalization effort in the past few years. The bail bonds, pawn shops and pay-by-the-

hour motels have largely been replaced by a string of hipster bars, vegan restaurants and “Container Park” – a shopping and restaurant plaza built entirely out of up-cycled shipping containers.



East Fremont Street is where the locals go when they want to enjoy a night out on the town and is a great option for those looking for a low-key alternative to the decadent night clubs of The Strip.

A great place to start an evening in Downtown Las Vegas (DTLV, for short) is happy hour at The Griffin. With its brick walls, fire pits and shadowed interior, this cozy hipster hangout



feels more like the inside of a British medieval castle than anything you would find in Las Vegas, which is part of its appeal. Next, wander over to the dive Atomic Liquors, the city’s oldest freestanding bar and another long-time neighborhood favorite. When Atomic first opened in 1945, it became known as a popular place for “atomic bomb viewings.” No joke. Patrons would clamber onto the roof to swig “Atomic Cocktails” and ooh and ahh at the giant mushroom clouds forming over the horizon – just 65 miles away at the government’s atomic testing site. More recently, Atomic Liquors has become a popular filming location for iconic Vegas films like *Casino* and *Hangover*.

Other Fremont faves include the newly-opened rock bar Corduroy (a great place to go for people watching) and the restaurant Pizza Rock, which serves arguably the tastiest margherita pizza in town (Seriously – It’s won awards in Naples, Italy).

5. Photograph Seven Magic Mountains



Located 10 miles outside of Las Vegas, alongside a lonely stretch of I-15, is probably one of the oddest attractions you’ll see in Las Vegas: An art installation known as Seven Magic Mountains. The *Flintstone*-esque art display consists of seven 30-foot towers of colorful, florescent-painted boulders, stacked atop one another in a seemingly haphazard fashion. The project was pioneered by Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone as a symbolic critique of the artificial aesthetic of cities like



Las Vegas. Love it or hate it, you can't argue that Seven Magic Mountains is certainly unique.

6. Embrace Your Inner Cowboy at the Pioneer Saloon

Just past Seven Magic Mountains in the town of Goodsprings, Nevada, is the valley's oldest bar, the 105-year-old Pioneer Saloon. Though many have visited the tin-walled watering hole over the years, one of the most well known was actor Clark Gable, who once wallowed away several sorrowful days at the Pioneer while grieving the death of his wife, actress Carole Lombard, after her plane crashed in nearby Mt. Potosi.

You can learn more about Clark Gable's tragic tale as well as other local lore (like why one of the saloon's walls is riddled with bullet holes) in the bar's museum/dining room.

7. Drink in a Speakeasy

Hidden undetected behind a wall in the popular downtown bar Commonwealth is one of the city's hippest places to take a date, work colleague or anyone else you're hoping to impress: The Laundry Room. Part speakeasy and part old-timey whisky bar, the place gets its name from its former incarnation – it was once an actual functioning laundry room, a fact evident by the bar's industrial brick walls and narrow shape. Ask for a business card and the bartender will hand you a clothespin with the bar's name and number etched on the side. It's clever touches like this one that make the speakeasy worth the hassle – reservations are required and must be made via text. There is no need for menus in this bar, as the Laundry Room's resident mixologist – fittingly outfitted in a bow tie and handlebar mustache – will whip up a custom cocktail for you based on your personal taste profile.

8. Take a free backstage tour of a Cirque du Soleil show

It's no secret that a Cirque du Soleil show is cool. The mesmerizing set pieces and spellbinding acrobatics have made these Vegas mainstays with the odd-sounding names (Think: "Ka" and "O") a spectacular hit with visitors from around the world. But it would be a stretch to claim that watching one is necessarily "unique." After all, a reported 9,000 people attend a Cirque du Soleil show in Las Vegas *each and every night*.

Taking a backstage tour of a Cirque Show, however, is a different story. While it used to be that you had to "know someone" to get a behind-the-curtain look at the inner workings of a Cirque Show, now you can do so every Saturday for free on the set of Cirque du Soleil's Beatles-themed show "Love" at the Mirage. Cleverly named the "Magical Technical Tour," the 30-minute tour features a look at the technology used to help the cast fly and catapult across the stage as well as a special performance of the show's opening number "Get Out."

THE 5 MOST UNIQUE RESTAURANTS IN LAS VEGAS:

Long gone are the days when "dining out in Vegas" was synonymous with \$1.99 all-you-can-eat buffets. Today, Las Vegas has become well known as one of the world's top foodie destinations, thanks in part to celebrity chefs Wolfgang Puck, Emeril Lagasse, Guy Savoy and others who have elevated the food scene in Vegas with the launch of a slew of lavish eating options. Las Vegas now has more master sommeliers than Los Angeles and New York and more 3-Michelin star chefs than any other city in the US.

From classically vintage restaurants like the Golden Steer – the famed steak house where Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin regularly dined – to the deliciously decadent Joël Robuchon – where an 18-course tasting menu clocks in at \$425 – when it comes to fine dining, few cities do it better. The following are several one-of-a-kind and under-the-radar diners and eateries for Vegas visitors looking to enjoy their meals with a heaping side of kitsch and quirk.

1. Best Hidden Gem: THE Steak House at Circus Circus Hotel and Casino

Don't let the Barbie-pink slushie drinks, two-storey slot machine merry-go-round and the giant neon clown in the entranceway deter you: Hidden inside the campy casino hotel Circus Circus is one of Vegas's best steakhouses, simply named THE Steak House. The large portions, reasonable prices and old-school Vegas atmosphere may be what set this steakhouse apart from the rest, but the reason this Sin City gem has been on the "Best of Las Vegas" list for over 30 years is, quite simply, THE steak – Soft, tender and not overly seasoned, the filets and ribeyes at THE Steak House are melt-in-your-mouth delicious.

2. Most Unique Breakfast Restaurant: The Peppermill

With neon pink lighting, mirrored ceilings and a forest of fake purple trees (yes, you read that right), it is safe to say that The Peppermill has embraced the wackier, tackier side of Las Vegas – but that's A-OK with its fans and regulars. This 24-hour diner has been serving sleepy casino shift workers and hung-over partygoers 10-egg omelets and plate-sized chicken fried steak (the portions at The Peppermill are enormous) since 1972. It was even once a favorite hangout for the mafia, who would crowd around the fire-pits for late-night cocktails in the restaurant's fireside lounge. Fun fact: The fireside lounge was in the Martin Scorsese film *Casino* and the film *Showgirls*.

3. Most Unique Location: Chicago Joes

You wouldn't be blamed for not noticing Chicago Joes if you walked past it. That's because this 43-year-old Italian restaurant is located in a converted, two-roomed brick house. Step onto the porch

and through the front door (no need to knock, just walk right in) and you'll immediately feel at home. The white-lace curtained windows and old family photos give the place a warm, intimate vibe.

Though the food is more 'grandma' than glam fine dining – all the restaurant's dishes are traditional Italian and made with simple ingredients – it would appear that the owners' decision to forgo fusion and remain true to its 'classic Italian' roots has paid off. The restaurant has been popular since it opened in 1975. Though the restaurant's original owner, a man from Chicago known as "Little Joe", has passed away, the restaurant has remained a family-run operation and is now managed by Little Joe's son, who is also named Joe. 80 percent of the items on the menu are made using grandma's secret recipes.

4. Most Unique View: Dinner at the Top of the World Restaurant

Las Vegas has no shortage of upscale restaurants, but for a 360-degree view of the entire Las Vegas Valley, there's only one choice: the Top of the World Restaurant. This New American restaurant, which is located 800 feet above the Las Vegas Strip in the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino, slowly rotates in a circle, providing diners with spectacular city views through its floor-to-ceiling glass windows. A word of advice, however: Be mindful of the bungee jumpers! Though posted signs warn guests about the SkyJump (a ride that sends people catapulting off the Stratosphere's roof at 40 miles per hour), there never ceases to be at least one person who is startled mid-way through their meal by the sight of a person free-falling Superman-style toward the ground below.

While the Top of the World Restaurant can be pricey for budget-minded visitors – dinner will set you back 100 dollars per person and that's before drinks – if you go to the restaurant's 107 Lounge for Happy Hour, you'll be treated to a little-known bargain deal: two-for-one appetizers and half-off cocktails.

5. Local Favorite: Firefly Tapas Kitchen & Bar

When Vegas locals dine out, they often do so in restaurants far from the congested tourist corridor of Las Vegas Boulevard (many locals take great delight in saying that they can't remember the last time they visited The Strip). As a result, thousands of restaurants have cropped up across the Valley over the last few decades. From The Italian American Club – which many have said has the best Italian food in Las Vegas – to Honey Salt – with farm-to-table inspired cuisine, it's a great pick for organic-food fans – to the famed Firefly Tapas Kitchen and Bar; the best restaurant for Sangria and Spanish-inspired small plates and one of the top-10 'local favorites' in Vegas. The menu features both hot and cold tapas, the most popular being the tuna tartare and the bacon-wrapped stuffed dates – but everything on this menu is exquisitely prepared and "too good to share" yummy.

International Convention Club Delegate Entitlement Table

Membership	Delegates Entitled
1-37	1
38-62	2
63-87	3
88-112	4
113-137	5
138-162	6
163-187	7
188-212	8
213-237	9
238-262	10

Membership	Delegates Entitled
263-287	11
288-312	12
313-337	13
338-362	14
363-387	15
388-412	16
413-437	17
438-462	18
463-487	19
488-512	20

Membership	Delegates Entitled
513-537	21
538-562	22
563-587	23
588-612	24
613-637	25
638-662	26
663-687	27
688-712	28
713-737	29
738+	See below*

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 that month during which the convention is held. See Article VI, Section 2 of the International Constitution and Chapter XVII – Membership, Board Policy Manual.

*Delegate entitlement is one delegate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Voting at 2018 International Convention

Voting for Executive Officers and International Directors

Every Lions club in good standing can participate in the election of executive officers and international directors and can vote on amendments to the association's bylaws by assigning delegates to represent the club at the international convention.

At the International Convention certification and voting will occur at the same time in the convention Voting Area. As soon as you are certified, you will receive a ballot and will be able to vote immediately. Certification and Voting days and times are:

- Sunday, July 1, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM (13:00 – 17:00)
- Monday, July 2, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (9:00 – 17:00)
- Tuesday, July 3, 7:00 AM – 10:30 AM (7:00 – 10:30)

Assigning Club Delegates

Club Delegates for the 2018 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned by the club president or secretary, using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> International Delegates
- Submitting the [Club Delegate Form](#) to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Clubs using MyLCI can assign their club delegates at any time between January 1 and June 27, 2018.

Clubs using the Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates will need to mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2018. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2018, bring the signed form to the convention site. The form will also be available online.

For more information on voting at the International Convention go to <http://lcon.lionsclubs.org/EN/seminars-events/certification-voting.php>

Lions Clubs International
Member Service Center
300 W. 22nd Street
Oak Brook IL USA 60523

email: MemberServiceCenter@LionsClubs.org
fax: 630-571-1687
phone: 630-203-3830



Club Delegate Form

Club Delegates for the 2018 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> International Delegates
- Submitting this form to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Confirmation of the Club Delegate assignment will be emailed to the Club Delegate. When the email address of the Club Delegate is not available, the Confirmation will be emailed to the club officer.

Club Number: _____
Club Name: _____
Club City: _____ State/Province: _____ Country: _____

Delegate Member Number: _____
Delegate Name: (first middle last) _____
Delegate Email Address: _____
Delegate Preferred Ballot Language: _____

Authorizing Club Officer: *(select one)* Club President Club Secretary

Officer Member Number: _____
Officer Name: (first middle last) _____
Officer Signature: _____

Mail form by May 1, 2018 to:
Member Service Center – Lions Clubs International – 300 W. 22nd St. – Oak Brook, IL USA 60523
MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org Phone 1-630-203-3830 Fax 1-630-571-1687

Clubs using this Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates must mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2018.
If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2018, bring signed form, along with your government issued photo I.D.
to the convention site.

Clubs using MyLCI must assign their club delegates by June 27, 2018.

Always start with the person nearest to you

by AL GST PDG Carl van Blerk

The peace, tranquillity and tangible love I felt in the Mother House on my recent trip to Kolkata, India was almost overwhelming. Mother Teresa was truly a special person and she continues to fill the hearts and souls of those who carry her important work forward. The privilege of visiting this unique place while attending the Lions ISAAME forum in December 2017, would not have been complete without this inspiring visit.

Mother Teresa once said, "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you." Perhaps, as Lions, we sometimes think we always need to help as many people as possible all the time. Feeding hundreds of people and making sure we've tested all the children for sight problems at the local school is a vital component of what we do, but we must never lose sight of the person nearest to us, who also needs our help.

This sentiment became evident to me personally in December 2014 when I was visiting a school in a small seaside town on the Southern Coast of South Africa. This little school in Knysna had just learned of the birth of Carli van Straten, whose parents were both teachers at the same school. Carli didn't come into the world with all the same smiles, excitement, and joy as most babies bring about, and although her wonderful parents were filled with deep love and exhilaration for

her arrival, they were also filled with fear and concern for her survival.

Carli was born with not one, but four very complicated heart defects. A combination of problems that meant her survival beyond just a few hours was highly unlikely.

Carli has double outlet right ventricle (DORV), which means both her greater arteries are coming out of the same ventricle. This in turn means no oxygenated blood runs through her little body. She also had transposition of the greater arteries (TGA), which indicated that her greater arteries were switched.

This tiny premature baby also had a hole in her heart (VSD), and after birth, when a scan of her heart was done, it was immediately discovered that she also had pulmonary stenosis (PS), which means one of her valves was extremely small.

Just a few months earlier, the doctors had recommended that her parents, Riaan and Joanie, terminate the pregnancy due to obvious major complications. But the faith of this incredible family was unwavering as they chose to not consider that as an option.

Lions Clubs International, through District 410D, got involved by supporting the family with the potentially life-altering medical costs. Within only a few hours of hearing of the family's devastating news, a tentative amount of US\$21,000 was set aside to help Carli and her family with the medical bills that would accumulate over the coming years. Much like Carli's family, Lions didn't question whether she would survive. Carli had Lions walking alongside her now too, and she would fight through, like a true brave heart warrior.

Today Carli is 3 years old, has already been through many brave fights and become a beacon in the van



Carli in the hospital after her birth and now, attending her first day of school

Straten family and her adopted Lions family. Her parents have started their own fund raising, through the sale of iHeartCarli stickers, and use much of those funds to help other babies in the hospitals they spend so much time frequenting. Sometimes, it's just a teddy bear, or some baby essentials, but they have learned to pass on the kindness and gain strength through the iHeartCarli campaign.

The van Stratens have since moved to a larger city in South Africa in order to be close to the hospitals where Carli is receiving treatment. But she is never far from the thoughts of all those who got to know her. Carli is now growing up in Bloemfontein, and continues to inspire Lions from all over the District. The regular social media photos and stories posted by the family, showing her eating an ice-cream, doing swimming lessons with her older brother Benjamin, or celebrating her first day of play school, remind us daily of why we are Lions and why we need to continually look at the person standing beside us and ask; "How can I help you?"

Carl van Blerk started as a Lion in the town of George, South Africa in 2006. After just a couple of years, he saw the need to expand their service and chartered the Eden Lions Club, where he served as Charter President for 2 years. He later served on the Cabinet and later became District Governor for the year 2014/2015. He is currently the GST Area Leader.

Celebration of \$16.5 Million Dollars for Community Groups

Provincial gaming officials, local politicians and dozens of community volunteers gathered to celebrate \$16.5 million dollars raised for community groups in the past twelve years at Treasure Chest Bingo and Community Spirit Gaming for local charities and not for profits organizations in Kingston.

Begun more than a decade ago, the revamping of Ontario's Charitable Bingo and Gaming is now a partnership between Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, the Ontario Charitable Gaming Association, the Commercial Gaming Association of Ontario local charities and gaming and bingo centre operators. Treasure Chest Bingo converted to a charitable gaming centre in 2005 and Community Spirit in 2012.

As a result of the shared distribution from Treasure Chest Bingo in the past the **Lions Club of Amherstview** has aided youth in the community and beyond including the Loyalist Township Minor Hockey Association,

the Loyalist Skating Club, Loyalist Area Scouting and Special Olympics.

Amherstview Seniors have benefitted from the Amherstview Lions Club donations. This month the Amherstview Lions Club partnered with the **Odessa and District Lions Club** in order to purchase a Shower Commode Chair for the Lennox and Addington County General Hospital in Napanee. This chair is to be used in the Palliative Care Unit. Locally the club has provided Meals on Wheels to eighty-one seniors. In partnership with the Lionesses the Lions Club has provided a Harvest Luncheon and a Euchre party to the great delight of those senior citizens.

As well the Club donated to the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Kingston Branch of the Canadian Hearing Society, the Sunshine Foundation Dreams for Kids, Ronald McDonald House, the CNIB, as well as Camp Dorset where children with kidney dialysis can attend.

Annually, the Christmas Hamper Project has been spearheaded by the Amherstview Lions and has given assistance to over one hundred families in Amherstview. The Parade generates part of the food and donations involved in the project.

The club is grateful to the Treasure Chest Bingo Association. The funds raised by the Club's weekly participation are always put to good use for the seniors of Amherstview, the youth of Loyalist Township, the needy of Amherstview as well as other charitable institutions.



L-R: Amherstview Lion Past President Carman Fisher, Amherstview Lion Joan Benoit, Amherstview Lion President Bill Matier



MDA 2018 NIAGARA CONVENTION
“FRIENDSHIP THRU SERVICE”
FRIDAY, MAY 11 TO 13, 2018

HOST COMMITTEE — **FEBRUARY UPDATE**

Your MDA convention host committee is working with the MD Convention Committee to provide a service filled event. The convention program is still a work in progress; however, we think you are going to like what your convention has planned!



Friday Evening “Welcoming Dinner”

- The MD-A Convention Committee has renamed the convention Friday evening dinner to the Convention Welcoming Dinner. As the new name indicates: the dinner event welcomes all convention attendees. (Business attire recommended.)



Friday & Saturday Evening Social Time - \$10

- Join the host committee and friends on Friday and Saturday evenings for some light music and conversation in our lower level hospitality area.



Saturday International Banquet Luncheon - \$24

- We have learned that 1st International Vice President Gudrun Yngvadottir from Iceland is the convention's international guest and the luncheon keynote speaker.



Saturday Afternoon ‘Friendship thru Service’ Project

- Join the St. Davids Lions organizing and packing eyeglasses for shipment to the Canadian Lions ‘CLERC’ center in Calgary. CLERC grades, sorts and cleans the eyeglasses for use in Lions service projects in one of 76 countries worldwide.



Saturday Afternoon ‘Dog Bowl’ Event - **CANCELLED**

- We just learned that the hotel's bowling alley will close for renovation on May 1st. The extensive renovations will be completed by the fall of 2018 and ready for another MD -A Convention...perhaps.



- Remember — Convention 50/50 Draw - \$5 — Current Draw Value: \$1189.00
Purchase tickets at the convention registration desk or from the tickets mailed to your club.

As you can see, the St. Davids Lions Host Committee is working hard to make shortened MDA Convention filled with Friendship & Service. Check our website (www.stdavidslions.ca) for updates.



**Registration Form
Available @:
stdavidslions.ca**

PDG Allen Snider, St. Davids & District Lions
MDA 2018 Niagara Host Committee Chair

Beamsville and District Lions

A Memorial Forest, a long term dream of Beamsville Lion **Andy deVos** became a reality in October of 2017. Lions Community Park is an ongoing project of the Beamsville and District Lions. Since 1994, the 47-acre property near the corner of Fly Road and Mountain Road has been transformed to include sports fields, a pavilion, pond, track, and

now a Lions Memorial Forest and Trail. A dedication celebration was held for the memorial forest and trail. A commemorative stone and plaque, recognizing a contribution from the Mountain family in the name of **Fred, David, and James (Jim) Mountain**, who were members with a combined service of 76 years, was unveiled.



Official Dedication of the Lions Memorial Forest & Trail by (L-R) Mayor Sandra Easton, Jack Mountain representing the Mountain Family, Lion Chief Gord Gerrie and MP Dean Allison



Lions Gord, Andy, Clark, Frank and Ed installing the Memorial Forest & Trail sign at the Beamsville & District Lions Community Sports Park



Lions and friends who made the project possible



District A-3

The Peterborough Regional Health Centre are in the final stages of a major fund-raising project for their Ophthalmology Department, twenty-four Lions and Lioness clubs in District A-3 are involved in reaching the \$200,000.00 goal. **East Peterborough Lions** have fulfilled their commitment of \$10,000.00 with a further \$5000.00 donation. Full details to follow in the next issue following the campaign wrap-up.



Trenton Lions



Lion Art Folland, on behalf of Trenton Lions Club, presented a cheque to Canadian Diabetes Association for 'Send A Kid To Camp Fund'

CTV Lions Children's Christmas Telethon

Ever wonder what it takes to make a successful telethon? A strong chairperson, an organized committee, the heart of a Lion and many, many volunteers. The current Telethon started from humble beginnings. In 1949, members of the Sudbury Chapter of "The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartets" pitched in to help the Salvation Army fill their "Cheer Pots." They entertained in front of four collection stands singing Christmas carols outdoors in downtown Sudbury. The objective was to raise \$500.00.

This original idea grew to stage and radio shows and by 1951 the "Barbershoppers Christmas Toy Drive" had become a Christmas Institution. That year, over 300 children were provided with toys by the Christmas Toy Drive.

In 1952, the 1st ALL STAR PROGRAM of local talent was held at the Capitol Theatre in Sudbury. Over 1000 toys were donated. In 1953, it looked like the Barbershoppers would fall short of their goal to help the 300 families and about 1500 children who needed help. Wilf Woodill and the newly christened CKSO Television stepped in to have a five hour

volunteer talent show to raise the much needed funds. They collected \$2,000.00 that evening exceeding their goal. This is the year the Telethon was born that ran through until 1965.

In 1966, CKSO TV partnered with the **Sudbury Lions Club** to continue running the telethon to help provide gifts to children in the surrounding area. In 1972, Lion **Gerry Albert**, who worked as a sales representative for CKSO, was asked if he and his Lions club would be willing to take on the full running of the telethon. The club agreed and so in 1973, the Lions ran the telethon on their own and raised \$7,000.00 with Lion Gerry as the chairperson. The club quickly realized that they needed more help.

The **Minnow Lake Lions** and the **Coniston Lions** were approached and joined the next year to help in the running of the telethon. By 1975, seven clubs were involved in running the telethon. Lion Gerry Albert served as the chairman until 1981, when it was taken over by Lion **Albert Routliffe**, then Lion **Roger Brideau**, Lion **Len Collin**, Lion **Cleo Roy** and currently Lion **Sam Koury**.

In 2017, almost seventy years later, The CTV

Lions Children's Christmas Telethon is still going strong. The telethon provides gifts to the children of Iron Bridge, Blind River, Elliott Lake, all Manitoulin Island, Onaping Falls, Capreol, Valley East, Garson, Coniston, Warren, Noelville French River, the Greater City of Sudbury and all areas in between. This year Westree, Ontario was added. Since its start from humble beginnings, millions of dollars has been raised to provide Christmas to many children in the north. This year, over 17,000 toys were delivered to all of the children in these areas. This nine hour spectacular would not be possible without the organization and volunteers from all of these area Lions Clubs to bring smiles to the faces of children at this special time of year.



Chair Sam Koury and Friend



Lion Tom Gordon
International Director

From The Desk of Lion Tom Gordon, International Director

Gillian and I would like to thank you for the privilege of representing you and the Canadian members of the Lions family on the International Board of Directors.

Director duties took us to two Lions' conventions in North Carolina and Manitoba and one Leo convention in British Columbia. It's interesting how different Districts do their conventions.

We experienced our first full Board of Directors meeting in November, travelling to Dubai for the first four days of the meeting and got to celebrate the first charter year of the Dubai Lions. They put on a dinner at the Versace Palace and Dubai Princess Hayim attended. They started in great style taking over managing the UN disaster relief warehouse in Dubai.

Then we travelled to New Delhi, India for the last day of the board meeting and to take part in the Lions of India activities around International Diabetes Day on November 14. We attended a seminar at the National Department of Health where the Executive Director of the International Diabetes Association, the Minister of Health and our own International President Dr. Aggarwal addressed the audience.

LCI has started to roll out its Diabetes Toolkit with '25 Project Ideas' that can be implemented with little or no cost. The full roll out will occur at the International Convention in Las Vegas. Diabetes Canada had a meeting with the Multiple District Diabetes Chairs from across Canada and our own PDG Denis Vinette met with District Diabetes Chairs across MDA. Some clubs have picked up on the 'Fill-a-Truck' event suggested at these meetings. Of course, donations would always be accepted. Club Secretaries filing their Service Activities Reports will see a space to indicate Diabetes activities.

Lions International has changed the title of the fifth service focus from Paediatric Cancer to 'Childhood Cancer'. The thought being that most cancers are not confined to just children but are common in adults as well. There is also a '25 Project Ideas' for childhood cancer flyer that should be available sometime in January. The full roll out of this program is not expected until September of 2018.

One of our own Lions, Lion Terence (Tebo) Richards was accepted into the Lions Certified Trainer Program and went through his initial training in August. We are very proud of his accomplishments. Only 34 of the 400 applications from around the world were accepted into this program.

I have been appointed to the Leadership Development Committee and I am impressed by the work done by the in-house staff and committee members. There are changes being considered for the Lions Institutes and new grants for training that are coming out shortly. One of those changes is to re-work the Faculty Development Institute to facilitate client differences. The LCIP training was developed so all Institutes could be done regionally. Our Leadership Development Committee discussions centered around the effectiveness of our training materials, both traditional and on-line, and how to measure that effectiveness. President Aggarwal's goal is to train 500,000

Lions this year. One of the main parts of our Strategic Plan is to make our training effective enough to draw in new members.

The Membership Development Committee and the Leadership Development Committee are working together to both increase our membership and to add quality to a membership in Lions Clubs International. Three Ad-Hoc committees have been struck to direct in this endeavour. The Women in Lions, the Youth and Young Adults Committee and the Special Interest Clubs Committees are working to attract business women, youth and young adults with leadership potential, and groups with common interests into our association. A special effort is being made to find a place for youth in our leadership structure at all levels.

There are big changes in Marketing Operations where a new website design, privacy issues, information flow, social media (including our MyLION App), and mobile applications are being tested. And there's a new website to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Yes, we live in interesting times in the world of Lions International. Gillian and I would like to wish you all a healthy and Happy New Year. We hope that 2018 will be full of the wonderful experiences you desire, both in and outside the world of Lions.




We Serve

WINDSOR DOWNTOWN LIONS

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Do you know what's happening March 21, 2020 ?
You might need an old calendar to figure it out, more to follow...

East Peterborough Lions

The East Peterborough Lions made a \$2,000.00 donation to the Salvation Army Kettle Program in December. Several members were on hand, along with Chief of the Peterborough Police, Murray Rodd. The club was busy fund-raising in the months leading up to the Christmas season and they show no signs of slowing down in 2018. They have been supporting the Salvation Army and the Toy Drive for close to thirty years.



Gananoque Lions

ROAR! THE GANANOQUE LIONS CLUB did it! After 3 long years of planning, engineering, fabricating, landscaping and installing, The Joel Stone Ramp for People with Disabilities is finally installed. Lion **George Funnell** was wheeled onto the Accessibility



Lion Rob Janke, Lion Brian Tunnicliffe, Lion Sue Tunnicliffe, Mayor Erika Demchuk, Lion Leanne Crawford, Lion Rick Fleming, Lion Rick Dunn, Lion John Hampton. Front row - Lion George Funnell

Ramp on Thursday September 14th, 2017. The Official Opening will be in June 2018 and the Gananoque Lions Club is looking forward to celebrating this great event. The Ramp was the direct result of a \$36,264.00 grant from Enabling Accessibility Grant along with private donations from our Community to develop and install this state-of-the-art Accessibility Ramp. Congratulations to Co-Chairs Lion **Brian** and **Susan Tunnicliffe** of the Gananoque Lions Club and the supporters of this great cause. This ramp is the only one of its kind in North America.



AND YET ANOTHER MAJOR PROJECT!

The Lions of Gananoque completed their Lions International Centennial Project with their opening and dedication of the Lions Centennial Park in September of last year. Shown in the photo are club members and District A4 Officers.

Editor's Note: These Gananoque Lions accomplishments were meant to be in the November-December issue of the magazine. The editor had a "senior moment" and they were not included. Our sincere apologies!



Gananoque Lions Centennial Park Opening
July 15, 2017

West Grey-Durham Lions Community Spirit

The Lions of West Grey-Durham held a "gift basket" raffle in December of last year. Proceeds from the raffle were directed to the club's many worthwhile projects, including their recent sponsorship of the recent fall COPD class held at the Fitness Centre in Durham in partnership with the local Family Health Team. It is gratifying to see three different community based organizations come together for community benefit.

Pictured is winner Janice Gateman from Chatsworth with Lions **Darlene Hastie** and **Bev Porter**. The Gateman Family donated the artwork of the Durham Heritage Walkway Bridge back to the Lions for placement in the Rockwood Terrace Long Term Care home in Durham for the enjoyment of the residents.



Mt. Brydges / Strathroy / Delaware / Melbourne Lions and the community busy over Christmas

It started when it was learned the Women's Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy had lost three major appliances in a short period of time that were crucial to their operation. The municipal employees of



Lion Jerry Veale making presentation to Salvation Army Food Bank in Strathroy to Major Rousey

Strathroy/Caradoc Township collected enough funds to facilitate a stove purchase. The Strathroy Rotary Club provided a new refrigerator. The Mt. Brydges Fire Dept and the Strathroy and Mt. Brydges Lions Clubs donated funding to purchase a new dishwasher.

The Mt. Brydges Lions carried on with their usual Christmas project manning the Salvation Army



Lions manning the Salvation Army Kettle with presentation of cheque to Major Shea by Lions Cyril May and John Brunet

Kettles from Dec 15th to the 24th, raising \$2,600.00 and the club also donated \$500.00.

The Lions held a tribute night to honor local NASCAR Crew Chief Cole Pearn with a meet and greet event December 28th. Lions members from Delaware, Strathroy and Melbourne were involved as well. Upwards of seven hundred were in attendance with coverage provided by Rogers TV. Food and cash were donated for local food banks and a 50/50 draw was held with proceeds going to Sick Children's Hospital in London. A big thank you to all who supported this great event.

Group Photo with representatives from the township of Strathroy/Caradoc, Mt. Brydges Fire Department, Strathroy Rotary Club, Lion Pres Stuart Kettelwell and Lion Jerry Veale of Mt. Brydges and CEO Cara Campbell, Women's Rural Resource Centre



District A12 - Tiny Township & Port McNicoll Lions

The Tiny Township Lions Club of District A12, Ontario, Canada raised \$3,400 for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides on New Year's Day with the Polar Bear Dip!

18 Dippers participated and braved the -18°C temperature. Shown in one photo are PDG **Len Day** in the foreground, Lion **Sheri Black** from Port McNicoll is to his right and DG **Randy Hargrave** is in the back. In the second photo are PDG Len on the right who appears to be enjoying himself, DG Randy on the left, not so much!



Lions Helping Lions

Kincardine Lion **Eric Slade**, was a double transplant recipient who passed away late last fall.

He was in the midst of refurbishing his back deck prior to becoming ill and did not get to finish the repairs. Members of the **Kincardine Lions Club** finished the job for Lion Eric's wife Brenda.



Lions **Chris McCullough, Larry Bannerman, George Ling, Paul Thompson, Tom Durrant**. Lion Eric's wife **Brenda** on the finished deck

Amherstview Santa Claus Parade

On November 4th the **Amherstview Lions** and Loyalist Township Santa Claus Parade brought Santa and Mrs. Claus to the children of Amherstview. Among the fifty-five entries in the parade were the **Brockville Lions** Steel Band, and the Rob Roy Pipe Band and Highland Dancers of Kingston. Carrying the flag is Lieutenant Colonel Chris Wellwood who was a member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Dignitaries were on hand: Emma Tugnette, the Citizenship Award winner at Ernestown Secondary School; Region Chair Lion **Fred Brown**; MP for Hastings-Lennox and Addington, Mike Bossio; Loyalist Township Councillor, Ron Gordon; Amherstview Lioness President **Linda Hornbeck**; and

Lion President of Amherstview, **Bill Matier**.

Many youth groups took part, including the Brownies and Guides of Kingston and Amherstview, the Loyalist Area Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, the Kingston Ringettes, Pulse Cheerleaders in Kingston as well as the dancers of the Rhythm Dance Centre in Amherstview.

The Parade ended at the Amherstview Community Hall where the parade participants gathered for warmth and a hot lunch. Hot dogs and hot chocolate were prepared by the Lions and were donated by the local Foodland store in Amherstview.



RC **Fred Brown** and the clowns ready with 750 Candy Canes

A-9 Lions Busy last November

All the clubs in A-9 are busy in the fall, here are some of the activities as reported by District Governor **Dennis Flavell**, watch for updates for other A-9 clubs in future issues.

The **Lions of Ripley and District** assisted with the Christmas parade, sponsored a free skate, distributed candy for children at the recreation centre, did Vision and Hearing Screening at local schools and purchased a Lions Quest Kit for the grade 2/3 at a local school.

The **Grand Valley Lions** had a float in the annual Christmas Parade and club members donned Duck, Polar Bear and Lions costumes and they distributed candy for the children. The club also assisted the Grand Valley BIA with parade organization.

The **Palmerston Lions** had their Train float in the

Harriston Santa Claus Parade and held the first annual "Light Up The Park" event in partnership with the Town of Minto. The club also decorated Heritage Park complete with Christmas lights. Those who attended the parade were treated to cookies, cider and entertainment and even Santa came to visit.

The **Wingham Lions** collected and delivered three hundred pairs of eyeglasses to "Sight First". **Kincardine and District Lions** did Vision and Hearing Screening at a local school. **Sauble Beach and District Lions** held a Breakfast With Santa and revitalized their Friendship Arch site. The **Lions of Mildmay and District** collected food to restock the Walkerton and District Food Bank.

"KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK LIONS"



Knowlton and Cowansville Lions

The Knowlton and the Cowansville Lions Clubs have contributed \$20,000 for the purchase of ophthalmic equipment. The two clubs of District A4 joined forces to donate the funds to the Brome-Missisquoi-Perkins Hospital Foundation for the purchase of ophthalmic equipment. This donation is a tremendous upgrade to the hospital program. It will be used to purchase a state-of-the-art device that allows for the computerized analysis of the visual field and will be a boon to patients.



Les Lions Clubs de Knowlton et de Cowansville ont versé 20 000 \$ pour l'achat d'équipement ophtalmique. Les deux clubs du District A4 ont uni leurs forces pour faire un don à la Fondation de l'Hôpital Brome-Missisquoi-Perkins pour l'achat d'équipement ophtalmique. Ce don constitue une formidable amélioration du programme hospitalier. Il sera utilisé pour acheter un appareil de pointe permettant l'analyse informatisée du champ visuel et sera un avantage pour les patients.

Guelph Lions Club Annual CNIB Christmas Dinner, Toy Drive and Christmas Hampers

The Guelph Club hosted their annual CNIB Christmas Gala. The Holiday Inn served a fine turkey dinner to 160 CNIB clients and their guides, the most we have had in a number of years. Including the six members of the band and all of Santa's Lions helpers, everyone enjoyed a fine meal and entertainment. The live band provided festive music and Santa even made an appearance to bring a small gift to each attendee. Santa was assisted by our youngest CNIB client yet, Olivia who is 5 years old and she told Lion Chief **Jim** "I am very smart". Three prizes were available to be won and the second prize of a Talking Watch was won by none other than little Olivia who drew the winning ticket with the help of District Governor Lion **Char**. This is truly one

of our favourite service projects.

The Lions also held their annual Toy Drive and Christmas Hampers with friends CJOY/Magic 106.1 Radio Stations. Our community partners showed the generous and giving spirit. December 17th was Wrapping and Hamper packing day. The project was led by Lion **Debbie Lascelles** and her helpers. The heartfelt Thank You cards we received from the recipients truly showed us that "We Serve!"



New Hamburg Lioness

Lioness President **Karren Faulkner** presented Lioness **Bobbi Williams** with the Lioness Life Award at our recent Christmas party. Lioness Bobbi, a chartered member when our club started in 1980, is still an active member. Congratulations.



As well, 2017 was the Lioness thirty-fourth year for our Tree of Light program. The New Hamburg Fire Department aerial truck lit up the area, The New Hamburg Concert Band played and the Waterloo Oxford Girls Choir entertained singing Christmas songs. It was a wonderful evening with lots of complimentary hot dogs and apple cider provided for one of our largest crowds all enjoying this start to the Christmas season by lighting the Tree of Light. The New Hamburg Lioness Tree of Light campaign has raised over \$300,000.00 since its inception over three decades ago.

Lions Hookers in Temiskaming Shores

Yes we said Hookers. But these hookers are members of the **Temiskaming Shores Lioness Lions Club**. They are called the Happy Hookers or 2H, which does ongoing knitting & crocheting of afghans, hats, mittens, socks, quilts, pajamas, and breast prosthesis. The club collects wool and supplies for local ladies who love to knit for the Hookers. As well, the members of 2H make Clean Kits which are filled with small grooming supplies, hand towels and face cloths.

They are given to local organizations including the Women's Pavilion for abused women & their children, VICARS, a mental health organization, nursing homes, the local hospital for their chemo program, dialysis, nursery and long term care areas, local ambulance services, police cruisers, local schools day care areas and food banks.

Where there is a need, there is a Temiskaming

Shores Lioness Lion to help out. A big shout out to this club for their community efforts.



L to R: Lioness Lions Sheila Legault, Bonnie Moore, Jane Read, Gail Thompson, Jackie Blackburn and Anne Windsor

Ancaster Lions

Usuf Ishawk recently received an award representing over forty years of service as an Ancaster Lion. Usuf has been actively involved in Lionism since the early 1970s and has held many positions with the Ancaster Club.



L to R: District Governor Surinder Sharma, Lion Usuf and Lion Chief Mel Dempsey

Newmarket Lions

On December 17, 2017 the Newmarket Lions Club hosted a community lunch at the Newmarket Community Centre and Lions Hall. Over 400 family members were served a hot lunch. Children had their picture taken with Santa and spent time doing crafts. Even International Director **Tom Gordon** rolled up his sleeves and helped out.



Minnow Lake Lions

Minnow Lake Lions donated \$1000.00 to Salvation Army. Lion **Bob Wallace** on the left is presenting the cheque with other club members to Corps Officer Craig Summerfield.



Exeter Lions Celebrate Eighty Years

The Lions of Exeter celebrated their eightieth anniversary last November and what a way to do it, with significant presentations to a group of deserving members. The club's record speaks for itself and the awards were well deserved by the recipients. A strong club indeed, last count sixty members strong including nine Life Members!



Melvin Jones presentations L to R: President Dan Turkheim, PCC Bill Carson, DG Char Dwyer



Melvin Jones presentations L to R: DG Char Dwyer, Lion Bill Crump, President Dan Turkheim



Life Membership: Lion Larry Eveland, President Dan Turkheim



Life Memberships L to R: Lion Darryl Parsons, President Dan Turkheim, Lion George Godbolt, Lion Bill McGregor, Lion Chris Keller



Anniversary Certificate: DG Char Dwyer, President Dan Turkheim

Huttonville Lions

The Huttonville Lions Club was honoured with a visit from District Governor **Surinder Sharma** on their annual donation presentation night last November. Governor Surinder presented club president **Stan Bryan** with a four diamond Centennial Service award banner patch. Lion **Bill Brownridge** received a Gold Membership Award pin from the Governor and Lion **Steve Azzopardi** received a fifteen year service chevron pin.

A group photo was also taken of the community organizations that were recipients of support from the club; judging from the number of persons in the picture the club is a strong presence in the Huttonville area.



L to R: President Stan Bryan, DG Surinder Sharma



L to R: Lion Bill Brownridge, President Stan Bryan, DG Surinder Sharma



L to R: Lion Steve Azzopardi, President Stan Bryan, DG Surinder Sharma





LION Magazine is an incredible publication highlighting life-changing stories of Lions around the world. It has played a key role in keeping Lions informed and connected for nearly a century and loyal readers such as yourself are a testament to the value the magazine provides.

Technology is changing the way the world is reading and finding information. That's why the LCI International Board of Directors voted to change the LION Magazine publishing model by reducing the number of print issues and adding a digital magazine counterpart. The Board of Directors wanted to ensure we were meeting people in the digital spaces where so much of the world is connecting.

The LION Magazine team loves print. And it's not going away. But we also realize that the digital LION offers a magazine experience that isn't possible with print. Videos bring stories to life in exciting new ways. You can instantly share stories on social media so your community can see the incredible service we're providing. You can access LION Magazine anywhere, anytime with a mobile device. And links help you find more of the content you're interested in, including an extensive archive of past issues. Moving forward, we will print four issues of LION Magazine each year, and digitize those four issues. You can read the magazine online at: <http://digital.mdalions.org/> or download the LION Magazine mobile app to read it on the go. We are looking forward to delivering great print and digital magazines to you this year, and in the years ahead.



MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting - February 23-24, 2018
- Council Meeting Convention - May 11-13, 2018

District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Four Points by Sheraton, Wellington Road, London	April 13-15, 2018
A2	Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway, St. Catharines	March 23-25, 2018
A3	Ambassador Hotel & Conference Resort, Kingston	April 13-15, 2018
A4	Navcan Centre, Montreal Street, Cornwall	April 13-15, 2018
A5	Holiday Inn, 1696 Regent St., Sudbury	April 20-22, 2018
A711	Holiday Inn Intl. Airport, 970 Dixon Road, Toronto	April 20-22, 2018
A9	Marriott Town Suites Hotel, Kincardine	April 27-29, 2018
A12	Horseshoe Valley Resort, Barrie	April 14-15, 2018
A15	Holiday Inn, Scottsdale Drive, Guelph	April 13-15, 2018
A16	Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre, Haliburton	April 27-29, 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2017/18	Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario	May 10 - 13, 2018
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International Conventions

101st	Las Vegas, Nevada, USA	June 29 - July 3, 2018
102nd	Milan, Italy	July 5 - 9, 2019
103rd	Singapore, Singapore	June 26 - 30, 2020
104th	Montreal, Canada	June 25 - 29, 2021
105th	New Delhi, India	July 1 - 5, 2022
106th	Boston, Massachusetts, USA	July 7 - 11, 2023
107th	Melbourne, Australia	June 21 - 25, 2024

USA - Canada Forums

Sept 20 - 22, 2018	Columbus, Ohio
Sept 19 - 21, 2019	Spokane, Washington
Sept 15 - 16, 2020	Louisville, Kentucky

Sydenham Lions



Congratulations to Sydenham Lions on receiving significant awards at a meeting last fall. Congratulations also to the recipients and an admonishment to the editor as this should have been in the last edition.

L-R: Lion Jim Kelly, a Melvin Jones Fellowship; A-3 District Governor Bill Zwier; Lions Joanne Ankers, Heather Gillespie, Helen Keller awards; Region 11 Chair Fred Brown and Lion Chief Rob Kendrick.

Not available for the photo also receiving a Helen Keller award was Lion Bud Young

Lakefield Lions and Lioness

Centennial Legacy Project donation of \$20,000 was made to Lakefield Curling Club Renovation by both Lakefield Lions clubs. The curling club undertook a major Reno project addressing energy, ice making, along with improved capacity & programming for the sport. They have been approved for support under



Vice Governor Lion Frank Hewitt presenting Legacy Badge to Lakefield Lioness President Norma Jones and Lion President Gord MacLeish

Canada's Community Infrastructure Program with a funding match for a total \$40,000 donation.

In recognition of the support, the curling club has named the Lions Clubs of Lakefield as sponsors for the Lakefield Juniors' Sunday Curling League. This will provide no cost junior curling for up to thirty-two of our youths each year for the next ten years.



Group of happy junior curlers

Shelburne Lions

The Shelburne Lions Club presented their caterer, Kelly Tovell, with a Melvin Jones Fellowship award at their Christmas meeting in December. It was a special night with several guests and spouses present.

On special occasions, Kelly and her daughter Samantha, have provided their services free to the Shelburne Club. The membership wholeheartedly felt Kelly deserved the award for all the humanitarian things she does, not only for the Lions but for others in the community as well. The Plaque was presented by PDG **Theodore (Dick) Spruyt** and the pin by PDG **Ferne Osborne**.



L-R: PDG Dick Spruyt, PDG Ferne Osborne, Kelly Tovell

Wyoming Lions 2017 – “The Lively Ones”

2017 was a great year for our club. Two very successful Fish Fry events with over 650 attending each of the sold-out events. Great support of members, families and friends!

As the focus of our Lions Centennial Legacy Project, the Wyoming Lions Club donated \$60,000 in support of the new local splash pad at McKay Park. It has been a huge success. The pad complements other clubs sponsored projects in the park, including the swimming pool, tennis courts, playground equipment, gazebo, outdoor hockey surface and park benches.

The Wyoming Lions Club received a Canada 150 Sesquicentennial Award for Community support, presented to the club by local MP Marilyn Gladu, as shown in the photo.

In December of 2017 the club presented Melvin Jones awards to Lions **Murray Marsh, Lyle Huether, Don Nelson and John Stewart**. Combined, these Lions have 174 years of service, PCC **Bob Tanner** and PDG **Don McKessock** were on hand to assist with the presentation.



Knowlton Lions

Yet again, as it has been the case for nearly fifty years, the Knowlton Lions Club's Santa Claus Parade was a success with over twenty-five entries and a great turnout along the route. The smiles of the little ones make it all worthwhile. This would not be possible without the generous participation of many in the community. At the risk of forgetting someone, to whom Santa offers his sincere regrets, he would like to recognize the contribution of those who prepared entries for the parade: Glen Whitehead of Pro-Construct Inc. for the garage, trailer and driver for Santa's float, Jean-Yves Lepage of Les Sapins du Lac Brome Inc. for Christmas trees, IGA Gazaille for juice, Virgin Hill for hot chocolate, Walmart for the cookies, Windmill Plastics for the float parking, Thomas McGovern, Knowlton Academy, The Harmony Band, First Responders, the Elves, the Banner carriers, TBL and Sutton fire and rescue department.



De nouveau cette année, comme de puis près de cinquante ans, le défilé du Père Noël du Club Lions de Knowlton, fut un succès, avec plus de vingt cinq inscriptions et une grande foule le long du parcours. Le sourire sur le visage des jeunes spectateurs lors de l'événement en témoignait. Tout ceci ne serait pas possible sans la générosité de nos concitoyens. Au risque d'en oublier, et le Père Noël s'en excuse d'avance, il aimerait souligner les contributions suivantes : Glen Whitehead, Pro-Construct inc. pour le garage et le camion remorque pour le char allégorique du Père Noël, Jean-Yves Lepage de Les Sapins du Lac Brome Inc. pour les arbres de Noël, IGA Gazaille pour le jus, Virgin Hill pour le chocolat chaud, Walmart pour les biscuits, Windmill Plastics pour le stationnement, Thomas McGovern, Knowlton Academy, The Harmony

Band, les premiers répondants, les porteuses de bannières, les lutins, Ville de Lac Brome et les pompiers et premiers répondants de Sutton et Lac Brome.

Espanola Lions

The Espanola Lions Club have donated \$25,000.00 to the Espanola Nursing Home for their Therapeutic Garden. Ten minutes of morning sunlight can help the elderly sleep better, lower anxiety and aggression and result in less medications. The garden will provide a place for residents to visit, garden, exercise, gather, craft, enjoy music and nature. A fountain is to be placed amid native plants and perennials. These plants will attract butterflies, birds and small animals. A small fireplace provides a welcoming setting for residents and families to sit and enjoy their company.



MD'A' Lions Resource Centre Website

The "MD'A' Lions Resource Centre" website is available for your use. Its goal is to provide a "one-stop-shopping" website for Lions resources, ideas and tools in all aspects of Lionism, including recruiting new members, keeping the members we already have, revitalizing clubs, fundraising ideas and club and district operations.

The MD'A' "Lions Resource Centre" website may be viewed by going to the MD'A' website at www.mdalions.org and clicking on "**Lions Resource Centre**" on the left side of the page.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

District Reporters

There is a reporter designated for each district in MD-A, their function is to assist the Lions and magazine staff with submissions by collecting high resolution photos where possible and the accompanying stories. Please utilize their services. They can be contacted as shown below:

- A1 - Lion Barb Tuxford: lionbarb@gmail.com
- A2 - Lion Wayne Scott: w.scott@a2lions.org
- A3 - Lion Wilma Bush: b2wbrady@gmail.com
- A4 - Lion Sandra Baldwin: slbaldwin@rogers.com
- A5 - Lion Brenda Lalonde: bmlsudbury@hotmail.com
- A7/11 - Lion Ilkka Ahola: iahola02@gmail.com
- A9 - Lion Mike Murphy: Mmikey45@gmail.com
- A12 - Lion Kierstan Hargrave: pr@a12lions.org
- A15 - Lion Gerry Haliburton: bulletin@a15lions.org
- A16 - Lion Micheline Lush: governornews@lionsa16.com

Editor: Lion Bob Pearson
mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

To the Lions of MD "A"



As outlined in an editorial item on page 28 there have been significant changes to the magazine in the areas of the number of issues per year and the advent of the digital versions. This new process is not without some areas that may be a cause of concern. As is the case in the past the submission process for the first issue of the year is traditionally chock full with many quality items being submitted through your District Reporters. This issue is no different, in fact because of the reduced number of issues we have added four pages to try and accommodate the extra material.

Even with that we have not been able to include all the items received and we will attempt to get caught up with the next issue, which historically has less content. We ask that you be patient if your submission did not make it in this time around. Please contact your District Reporter or the editor if you have concerns.



Join A-2 for an Early
 "Taste of Italy"
 in support of
 Patti Hill for I.V.P.

Fri Apr 20, 2018
 6 PM Meet & Greet 7 PM Dinner
 Jarvis Community Centre
 18 James St, Jarvis ON
 \$250.00 table of 8 or \$35.00 p.p.

Featuring:
 Past International
 President Judge Brian Stevenson
 Entertainment by the Jarvis Lions
 50/50 Draw

Reservations now being accepted, limited seating.
 Contact PDG Allen Snider: a.snider@a2Lions.org,
 905-468-9671 (9am-6pm)

Mail cheques to: A. Snider, 1268 Line 3, RR#6 NOTL
 (Niagara-On-The-Lake) ON, L0S 1J0
 Payable to: "District A-2 Lions Club Treasurer"

Admin Contributions to Lion Patti's Campaign are appreciated.

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 frontlines
 of service
 to the
 palm
 of your hand



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What do these 4 Men have in Common? ... a wonderful new connection!



Several Lions Clubs in Ontario have
 already formed new partnerships with the
 TELUS Ride For Dad.

To join this great team & find out more,
 Contact ...

Colleen Campbell, Manager,
 National Office Ride For Dad/
 Prostate Cancer Fight Foundation,
 613-623-0733 or national@ridefordad.ca
www.RideForDad.ca



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