

# L I O N



M.D. "A" Edition January/February 2014

[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

*We Serve*

## Toronto Hosts 2014 Convention in July

Cosmopolitan City is 'The Complete Package', pages 21-22

1 City, 9 Ways – Toronto pages, 22, 24-26

Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form, page 23



## Information about cover photo:

EdgeWalk is CN Tower's most thrilling attraction in its history, and the first of its kind in North America. It is the world's highest full circle hands-free walk on a 1.5 m (5 ft) wide ledge encircling the top of the Tower's main pod, 356 m/1168 ft (116 storeys) above the ground. Visitors walk in groups of six, while attached to an overhead safety rail via a

trolley and harness system. Trained EdgeWalk guides will encourage participants to push their personal limits, allowing them to lean back over Toronto with nothing but air and breathtaking views of Lake Ontario beneath them.



## Always True Coldwater Lions!

To be a truly dedicated Lions Club member involves a great deal more than just attending meetings and fundraisers. Complete involvement in Lionism is an almost impossible goal. To reach that level of Lionism requires dedication to everything that the club becomes committed to. Very few Lion members, no matter how hard they try, ever attain the level of service requested by the Lions Clubs International.

The Coldwater Lions Club is in a very enviable position to have such a member who has dedicated 50 years of his life to serve this community. Lion **Tom Smith** was born in 1943 in the town of Midland, Ontario. He graduated high school and headed to the City of Toronto where he enrolled in a business course and graduated as a bookkeeper. Upon his return to Midland he found employment in an automobile dealership and eventually he became the owner of a General Motors dealership. Tom married and started a family and it was at this time that **George Fell**, a member of the Coldwater and District Lions Club, asked Tom Smith to become a Lion member. Lion Tom has remained a member for the



past 50 years and has set an example for other Lions to follow by donating his time to the Coldwater Club, whenever it was required, and financially supporting the community when the need was there. During the October 28, 2013 club meeting he was recognized for his dedication to the Lions Clubs



International by District Governor **Chris Lewis** who presented him with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. This is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism. On the same evening, Lion **Douglas Binns** was presented with his 10 year service pin by District Governor Lewis.

## Campbellford Lions 60th Anniversary

Five Campbellford Lions each received a Melvin Jones Fellowship award at the Club's 60th Anniversary celebration on October 27, 2013.



L-R: Lions Ray Weeks, Barry Barth, Marg Wilkes, George Perkins, Eileen Perkins and Lion President Eric Holmden who was presented with Life Membership for many years service to Lionism



Campbellford Lion President Eric Holmden welcomes new Lions Carol Lee and Shirley Simpson to the Club. Both have a rich history of volunteerism in Campbellford community



See more about Toronto and the 97th Annual Lions Club International Convention on pages 21-26.

# THE Lion



**We Serve**

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

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The LION Magazine, official publication of Lions Clubs International, is published by authority of the board of directors in 20 languages - English, Spanish, Japanese, French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian and Thai.

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**Barry J. Palmer**  
Lions Clubs International  
President

# Hail to the Former President, a Proud Lion

How strong are we when we serve together? "Individually, we are one drop. Together we are the ocean," wrote a Japanese poet. "The secret is to gang up on the problem, not on each other," said an American businessman.

*power of partnership. The Carter Center and Lions have saved the sight of millions of people.* A Lion, former President Carter understands the value of serving together. We are proud of his accomplishments, proud of him as a fellow Lion and proud to serve alongside his Center in preventing blindness.

**Lions clubs epitomize collaboration and partnership.** It's easy to write a check. But effecting lasting change requires banding together with like-minded people to knock down barriers to opportunity and self-realization.

*Dreams mean little and amount to nothing if we keep them to ourselves and try to achieve them all on our own.* To Follow Your Dream necessitates going down the path of teamwork and collaboration. Your clubs are dream makers. You dream it, and your fellow

Lions can achieve it.

Anyone who has accomplished great things realizes that family, friends or mentors paved the way. **We Lions have one another.** We must lean on one another to recruit and retain members, especially women, help the needy through microfinance and other means, and increase our visibility through social media. Remember that every great dream begins with a dreamer who has patience, passion and a preference for partnering.



**Barry J. Palmer**  
Your Lions Clubs International President

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much," insisted the great Helen Keller.**

In this month's LION former U.S. President Jimmy Carter explains to us in his own words the power of partnership. *On pages 8 and 9, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter explains to us in his own words the*

## The Family That Volunteers Together ...

A close-knit town of 1,500, Colebrook in Connecticut has a low crime rate, highly ranked public schools and a Lions club that dreams of more members and more service. Members recently met at a YMCA camp to plot their future. They tossed around a lot of good ideas. **"What motivates people to serve is their kids," Ray Winn, a Lion for 27 years, told the Register Citizen.** Brad Bremer insisted that the club should capitalize on the "brand recognition" of Lions. Shari Gray argued that the public needs to see the club as "a well-oiled machine." By the end of the day the members established new committees for membership, communications and agenda and left with a renewed purpose to grow the club.

*Lions, what is your dream for your club? What programs and projects will attract members of all ages and both sexes?*

### April is Family and Friends Month for Lions.

Invite family and friends to learn, serve and celebrate with your club. Organize a service project such as a tree planting or book drive, host an open house or throw a picnic. **Be part of the Lions World Lunch Relay on April 4.** Schedule a lunch that day as a way to connect your family and friends with family and friends of Lions worldwide. Register your event with Lions Clubs International and enter Lunch Relay contests for the most participants, best theme and biggest food drive. The entry form and more information are at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

*Volunteering together as a family is tremendously rewarding.* Studies show that it passes on family values to children, helps children pick a path in life, develops new skills for both children and adults and increases interpersonal communication and the problem-solving

abilities of family members. Remember that family members can receive a special dues discount when joining the same club.

Throughout the year, clubs need to improve the club experience to attract and retain members. Our own research has shown that Lions remain Lions because they enjoy the experience. They like the service the club does and feel comfortable within the club.

Don't wait. **Dream a membership goal and devise an action plan that works for your club.** The roar you hear will be your club's.



**Barry J. Palmer**  
Your Lions Clubs International President

## Digital LION Gains Readers

Thirty-one percent of Lions surveyed read the digital LION compared to just 14 percent a year ago. The survey of 2,282 Lions in 2013 by Lions Clubs International was done to assess attitudes toward the two versions of the LION. Twenty-two percent said the digital LION was excellent and 65 percent said it was good while 33 percent said the print LION was excellent and 55 percent said it was good. The survey found a slight uptrend in readership of the print LION: Lions said they spent 64 minutes reading an issue compared to a survey that found Lions spent 57

minutes a decade ago. Eighty percent rated it good or excellent compared to other magazines. Forty percent of Lions surveyed said they read or plan to read digital magazines in the near future whereas 62 percent of all U.S. magazine readers are or will be digital magazine readers. Forty-nine percent of Lions said they prefer to receive the print LION only, 26 percent prefer both the print and digital, and 25 percent want the digital only. LCI will continue with the print LION and recently developed a digital app for the LION.

## Kemptville Lions Club

We have adopted the responsibilities of maintaining one of the traffic roundabouts located in Kemptville.



**Albert Dykes, Alan Forbes and Grant Leeder raking River Run Gravel around shrubs to complete the installation phase of the Project**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### PORT DOUGLAS, AUSTRALIA – OCTOBER 6 - 10, 2013

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1. Approved the audited financial statements for Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation for the year ended June 30, 2013.

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

1. Reviewed two pending disputes in District 317-E (India) and approved the following actions: found that the district previously amended its constitution and by-laws in 2009 and 2011 to allow for the filling of vice district governor vacancies; declared the printed version of the constitution and by-laws in August 2013 as the official and valid constitution and by-laws of District 317-E until such time as it may be further amended; denied the district dispute resolution complaint filed by Lions Club of Piler as moot; denied the district dispute resolution complaint filed by Lions Club of Bangalore Mind Tree; overturned the decision of the majority of the conciliators; concurred with the dissenting opinion and deemed the special cabinet meeting held on or around May 4, 2013, as proper; appointed Lion Dr. TVSRKV Prasad as First Vice District Governor in District 317-E for the remainder of the 2013-2014 year; and declared the special cabinet meeting held on or around September 10, 2013, of no force and effect.
2. Revised Chapter XV, Paragraph L.2. of the Board Policy Manual to make it consistent with other provisions in the Board Policy Manual.
3. Revised Chapter VII, Exhibit E of the Board Policy Manual to update internal citations.
4. Revised Chapter XV, Paragraph A.1.c. of the Board Policy Manual with respect to trademark registrations.
5. Revised the Club Dispute Resolution Procedure in Chapter VII, Exhibit B of the Board Policy Manual to provide that the district governor team (district governor, first vice district governor and second vice district governor) review any objections to the selected conciliator and appoint, by a majority decision, a substitute conciliator in the event the objections have merit.

#### **CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

1. Established per diem allowances for appointed Credentials Committee members serving without other reimbursement, District Governors-elect, District Governors-elect faculty and headquarters staff attending the Toronto convention.

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

1. Appointed Lions to serve as coordinating Lions for Somalia and the Republic of South Sudan for the remaining months of the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
2. Approved the redistricting proposals submitted by District 1-B and District 1-K (Illinois), Multiple District 31 (North Carolina), Multiple District 17

(Kansas), District 403 B (Africa) and District 404 B (Nigeria).

3. Amended Chapter IX of the Board Policy Manual to include the region chairperson (when applicable) and the zone chairperson as a member of the district GMT and GLT.

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

1. Approved the 2013-2014 1st Quarter Forecast, reflecting a surplus.
2. Revised Chapter XXII Speaking Engagements, Travel Rules and Reimbursement, Paragraph B.3. to amend the policy for forum liaison as follows: In the event there is no first-year international director from the constitutional area in which the forum is to be held, the international president may appoint any past international director from the constitutional area in which the forum is to be held.
3. Revised Chapter XXII Speaking Engagements, Travel Rules And Reimbursement, Paragraph E.1.a and Chapter IX District Officers & Organization, Paragraph C.2.c. to include a chart outlining the date for submission requirements for expense claims for international directors, past international presidents, past international directors and district governors.
4. Approved the removal of Past International Director Octavio A. Botello Fernandez as fiscal agent. Past International Director Octavio Botello Fernandez was fiscal agent for the association until his death in October 2012. As the banking requirements in Mexico no longer necessitate the position of a fiscal agent no replacement will be required.

#### **LCIF**

1. Revised the Investment Policy Statement by increasing the allowance for the percentage of domestic equity investments in American Depository Receipts and foreign securities to 50%.
2. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual to include criteria for LCIF fundraising awards for District Governors.
3. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual to reflect changes in the Standard grant criteria to include: setting a minimum grant request in the amount of US\$7,500 and adding language clarifying the funding for projects in the developmental stages.
4. Approved a Core 4 disability grant in the amount of US\$1,321,400, which represents the 2014 budget for the Lions-Special Olympics Mission Inclusion program.
5. Awarded a contract to Quarasan in the amount of US\$777,370 for the revision of the Lions Quest curriculum.
6. Selected Dr. William McLaughlin as a voting member of the SightFirst Advisory Committee.
7. Approved 51 Standard, International Assistance and

Core 4 grants totaling US\$2,443,541.

8. Tabled two applications, and denied one application.
9. Requested District 321-C2 to make satisfactory progress on resolving issues related to grant 10907/321-C2 or repay to LCIF grant funds in the amount of US\$50,000, on or before December 31, 2013. Failure to do so will result in a moratorium on all grant applications from District 321-C2 which will remain in effect until June 30, 2016.

#### **LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

1. Approved the proposed curriculum plan and schedule for the 2014 District Governors-Elect Seminar for Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

#### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

1. Approved that effective immediately, the Africa Zone Challenge be implemented to support the chartering of additional new clubs in countries with less than four clubs.
2. Approved, effective immediately, the Japan Pilot Program to encourage the growth of family membership in Lions Clubs in Japan be implemented.
3. Approved, effective immediately, the U.S. Veterans Pilot Program be implemented for a period of 2 years. The pilot is designed to encourage United States of America Lions clubs to invite recent veterans to participate in community service activities sponsored by the local clubs.
4. Revised Chapter X of board policy regarding procedures for a multiple district to petition to change to a different constitutional area. The policy was aligned to meet current customs and norms.
5. Revised board policy regarding Ensuring Viable New Clubs. The policy was revised to allow the GMT Area Leader to be the second approval (from July 1 through December 31 of each fiscal year) for charter applications that exceed 10 or more new clubs within a district.
6. Revised policy to reflect the correct title of Branch club officers.
7. Determined that the title of Club Membership Director be changed to Club Membership Chairperson.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

1. Determined that beginning in FY 2014-15, preference will be given to MD/single district grant applications asking for grants for online banner advertising.
2. Decided that LION magazine surplus funds can be used for purposes other than improving said magazine, as long as expenditure is approved by the Senior Executive Administrator in advance.
3. Clarified that item #24 in Order of Precedence included LCIF Coordinators.

## SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Named Leo Evan Jenkins as a 2012-2013 Leo of the Year Award recipient.
2. Selected members and alternates of the Leo Club Advisory Panel for the term of November 2013-October 2015.
3. Modified board policy related to the Leo of the Year

Award to decrease the number of signatures required for nominations. Effective this fiscal year, nomination forms for single districts (not part of a multiple) require the endorsement of the Leo club advisor of the nominee's Leo club and the district governor in office during the fiscal year in which the nomination is made. Nominations at the

multiple district level will require the signature of the Leo club advisor of the nominee's Leo club and the council chairperson in office during the fiscal year in which the nomination is made.

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

LCIF

## Helping Out After Typhoon Haiyan

by Allie Stryker

Sometimes words fail.

Survivors say if you weren't there when Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, it would be almost impossible to understand the fear, the sense of helplessness or the despair that followed. Looking at the aftermath, it is hard to believe that anyone could survive a storm of such force.

"The scene on the ground is grim and heartbreaking, especially in Tacloban. There is no place there that has a roof—schools, churches, malls, government buildings. The city has lost practically everything," says Council Chairperson **Em L. Ang** of Lions Multiple District 301 in the Philippines after a visit to the most devastated areas of the Philippines as part of the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Committee. "We have seen entire villages obliterated. I have no words to describe what is left."

Typhoon Haiyan, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, was estimated to have been the strongest storm ever to hit land. By looking at the resulting devastation, that estimation is easy to believe.

As early reports of the typhoon's destruction filtered in from the Philippines, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) made \$130,000 available to Philippine Lions to provide immediate relief. That amount quickly increased to \$500,000 through donations from Lions in neighboring countries and around the world. Within a month, LCIF had surpassed \$1 million in donations and commitments for disaster relief efforts including the shipment of tents and water filtration units, or jerry cans.

"After visiting the most affected area, I can now understand and sympathize with the desperate needs of the victims. Short-term, they need food, water and medical supplies. Then they will need assistance in cleanup, reconstruction and rebuilding. And we, Lions will be there with them all the way," says Ang. "The tents and jerry cans will greatly help the affected families as they slowly pick up the pieces of their lives



**In Barangay Liong, Lions passed out supplies on the roadside because the typhoon demolished the village's structures**

shattered by Haiyan. Thanks to LCIF, the local Lions are better able to help the victims rise above the debris and destruction. I extend my sincere thanks for all the support that LCIF has brought our countrymen in these very difficult times."

The Philippines has 12,600 Lions in 380 Lions clubs. Four clubs are in the capital city of Cebu in the hardest-hit province, and one is in the hardest-hit town of Tacloban City. Immediately after the storm was over, the Lions went to work providing relief.

"I was humbled by the immediate and generous support of our Lions worldwide," says LCIF Chairperson **Wayne Madden**. "When I visited the Philippines, I saw the damage that the typhoon had done. Though buildings and communities are damaged in the Philippines, the Lions' spirit is not. It is moments like these that demonstrate the large scale of Lions' compassion and dedication to service and humanitarian needs."

The typhoon's impact has been throughout the Philippines. "Although my family and I were not directly affected by the super typhoon, in a way we have been, because we feel the devastation," says Lion



**Lions provide supplies in buckets to residents in Roxas City who lost everything**

**Lina Manacap**. "All my gratitude goes toward those who have helped, big or small. You have eased a little of the victims' pain. I cannot thank you enough."

**To learn more about relief efforts, visit the LCIF website. To donate, visit [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate). To see more photos taken by Lions in the Philippines search for #LionsRelief on Facebook.**



**A shipment of supplies arrives in Dumangas Port for Lions' relief efforts in Capiz**

LCIF

## Lions Continue Helping Haiti

by Allie Stryker

In a world rocked by frequent disasters, an earthquake that happened four years ago far away can fade from memory. But it's a different story for those in the disaster area. Some people who lost their homes in Haiti, devastated by an earthquake in January 2010, still reside in tents.

But thanks to an initiative of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), the Lions of Multiple District 111 in Germany, Lions of Haiti and HELP, a German nongovernmental organization, 600 Haitian families moved from tent cities into temporary homes. LCIF, HELP and ECHO (the humanitarian aid department of the European Union) also are building permanent homes and latrines for families in need.

With contributions from Lions clubs, districts and individuals, \$6 million was donated to LCIF for earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. Lions have helped people regain a sense of normalcy. A key partner has been HELP, which provides disaster relief and encourages communities to take charge of the improvements needed.

The three people profiled here are among the many thousands of people Lions and LCIF have assisted in Haiti. LCIF also helps Lions provide disaster relief all over the world, from the Philippines and Oklahoma to Japan, India and wherever help is needed. If you would like to contribute to LCIF's disaster relief fund, please visit [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate). Thank you for your support.

### Guirlande Jean-Baptiste

Because of the earthquake, Jean-Baptiste, 37, lost her job and had to move to Camp Cospic with her two children. It was hard to find work, but she eventually found a job providing cleaning services for an NGO.



“This shelter means a lot to me,” says Jean-Baptiste, who moved into her new house a year ago. “I don’t have the means to build a house on my own ... The life conditions in the camp weren’t good. The tent didn’t protect us from rain, heat or strong winds. It was terrible living there—imagine, with two teenagers—especially during the hurricane seasons and through the terrible storms of last year, including hurricanes Isaac and Sandy. I don’t know how to thank you.”

**Louis Amalia**

Louis Amalia, 80, moved into a house in November 2012 after living in Camp Franck Hector following the earthquake.



“Before the earthquake I sold soap and biscuits as my livelihood. Even in the camp I continued with this activity but it was very hard because my stock was destroyed by the earthquake,” says Amalia, who loves the intimacy of her house. “In the camp you were never alone, except inside the small, dark tent. With age, you need time for yourself, a quiet place where you can repose.”

**Jean Felix Rosélie**

A mother of four, Rosélie, 48, moved to Camp Cospic with her children after the earthquake. For three years, they lived in a tent that was too small, too hot and offered little protection. Rosélie made a living by selling second-



hand clothing. Her family moved into a house in November 2012.

“One year ago, my husband died and I was alone with my four kids. It is very hard for me to carry all the sorrows about the future of my kids on my own shoulders,” she says. “I was very happy to move into the new house. Air goes through the windows, and there is intimacy. I quit selling clothes and am now selling cold drinks and omelets from my house.”



## Onchocerciasis in Cameroon: The Way Forward

by Mohama Tchatagba

In her late 70s, widow Claire Ngon Mongo has been blind for more than 25 years. Still, she found a way to attend a local river blindness meeting one rainy morning in October.

Born in the village of Metounga in Cameroon, Mongo currently lives in Edea, a coastal city located upstream of the fast-flowing Sanaga River. Like all small cities located on the banks of the river, Edea does not escape the bites of the black fly. Because of this, the parasite that causes onchocerciasis (river blindness) is carried from one person to another, transmitted through the tiny black fly.

Onchocerciasis causes extreme itching and eye lesions. After long-term exposure these lesions may lead to low vision or irreversible blindness.

Mongo is completely blind, and her body shows the signs of “leopard skin,” a permanent mark of river blindness and its impact in this remote area of Africa. She became blind before treatments for river blindness were available in her community. Even though Mongo cannot be healed, the younger generations of Cameroonians in this region can have hope for a future without river blindness.

In Edea, a city of approximately 120,000 people, almost everyone knows about the Onchocerciasis Control Program, a SightFirst project that has been funded by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) since 1995. In Cameroon, Lions and LCIF work to control onchocerciasis through ivermectin medication. Four other non-governmental development organizations also assist in the control and treatment of river blindness in Cameroon. Medication is also distributed to control lymphatic filariasis, or elephantiasis, a disease transmitted by mosquitoes.

Thanks to Lions and LCIF-supported distribution of Mectizan® (donated by Merck),

the rate of onchocerciasis prevalence has dropped drastically in certain regions covered by the program from 1995 to 2012. In six regions of Cameroon the prevalence of the disease has fallen from 90 percent in 1987 to 20 percent in 2013.

Achieving these impressive reductions in river blindness was made possible through the distribution of more than 36 million doses of Mectizan® to more than 5.8 million people over the years. However, 20 percent of the population in the endemic regions remains threatened by blindness through onchocerciasis.

“I haven’t seen light for a very long time. I am currently able to survive thanks to generous people around me, those who are able to see and work to make money,” says Mongo, in a stuttering but determined voice. “Mectizan has helped them avoid my fate. We need Mectizan for those who can still avoid being blind.”

Through funding provided by Lions during Campaign SightFirst II, LCIF has the ability to support local Lions with sight-saving initiatives. Lions will continue to be involved in planning, monitoring, community awareness and mobilization campaigns, as well as advocacy efforts to promote the importance of treatment for onchocerciasis in Cameroon.



*The banks of the Sanaga River in Cameroon are fertile breeding grounds for the black fly that causes river blindness*

## Blackheath Binbrook Lions

On Tuesday November 12th representatives of the 1st Binbrook Scouts visited the Blackheath Binbrook Lions to let the club know how the trip to the scout Jamboree in Red Deer during July went. The Lions club donated \$1500.00 toward the trip. The Scouts and leaders took hundreds of pictures combined and Scouter Andy Beinhaus narrowed this down so they could present a 20 minute slide show. While the slide show was on they told stories of their trip including some of the places they visited and happenings with the bus.

After the slide show and questions from the Lions the Scouts surprised the club with a plaque presentation in thanks for the support of this memorable trip.



*L to R: Lion Raymond Baxter, Scouter Keith Busher, Scout Brynne Busher, Lion Chad Campbell, Scouter Andy Beinhaus, Scout Sean Beinhaus and Lion Doug McDonald*

**FOR THE RECORD**

As of June 30 2013, Lions Clubs International had 1,347,403 members in 46,238 clubs in 208 countries and geographic areas.

# Triumph Over Blindness

*LION Magazine talked with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on our progress against blindness, his decades-long Lions membership and on staying active as you age.*

**LION Magazine: River blindness has been eliminated in Colombia. How were we able to accomplish that?**

**Carter:** Let me first say I'm very proud of my relationship with Lionism. I'm still considered to be a full-fledged Lion. I'm very grateful for the partnership The Carter Center has with Lions Clubs International. We couldn't do it without Lions. Everywhere I go I brag about what Lionism has meant to me.

The achievement in Colombia was a tremendous milestone, not only in the Lions-Carter Center partnership but in the larger effort to eliminate river blindness from Latin America and Africa. [LCIF] Chairperson Madden attended the ceremony in Bogota, and his remarks on the work of Lions Clubs around the world to prevent blindness and illiteracy reminded me of why I wear my pin with pride.

River blindness is a disease caused by worms that originated in Africa and was likely brought to this hemisphere by the slave trade back in the 1700s and 1800s. When The Carter Center adopted river blindness as one of our targeted diseases, it existed in six countries in Latin America: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela. We began to see this as a relatively milder form of onchocerciasis than existed in some places in Africa for several reasons. One of the most important is that the little black fly that transmits the disease in Africa is much more efficient than in Latin America. Another is that only about 600,000 persons in six countries were at risk for river blindness in Latin America, compared to millions in Africa. So we saw Latin America is a good region to try new ideas that could lead to elimination.



**A Guatemalan health worker provides Mectizan® to a child. Guatemala announced that it had interrupted river blindness transmission in 2011 and stopped all treatment activities in 2012**

Some of our experts at The Carter Center have worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is next door to us in Atlanta. They thought we should try to get rid of the adult worms, which concentrate in lumps in the skin called nodules, where they breed the microfilaria that cause itching and discoloration of the skin and blindness.

So we thought, how can we fight this more aggressively? We began working in close partnership

with the Ministries of Health, distributing in endemic areas doses of an oral tablet called Mectizan®, donated by Merck. In some places the program gave two doses a year and in some places four doses a year. We found to our pleasant surprise and gratification that it worked over a period of many years to completely eliminate the worms. So that's what we've done. It's taken us a long time. We've been working with local Lions for more than 20 years in the Americas, and they have provided important advocacy and technical expertise. Together with the Ministries of Health, we've now gotten rid of the disease in almost all six countries.

There's one small area on the border between Venezuela and Brazil where the disease still occurs. We're working on that now. I've been fishing in that particular area and have met with some of the indigenous Yanomami people there. They move freely back and forth across the river, the border between the two countries. The Brazilian side of this remote region is much more easily accessible. So we can get helicopters to transport the medication to their side of the border. But we need to get permission from both countries simultaneously to fly these Brazilian helicopters to the Venezuelan side to administer the dosages.

**What will it take to eliminate river blindness in the rest of the Americas and Africa? How close are we?**

When we found out about seven or eight years ago how successful the program was in Latin America, we decided we would try it in localized regions of Africa. We decided to first try it in North Sudan and Uganda. As always, working with the Ministries of Health, we've been successful interrupting transmission in eight of our 18 locations in Uganda and one location in North Sudan, which is now the Republic of the Sudan. We are making very good progress as assessed by our scientists.

So The Carter Center has urged the World Health Organization and other organizations that deal with sight saving to do what we have done, that is, target onchocerciasis to be eliminated instead of just controlled. Twenty-six years ago the CEO of Merck, Dr. Roy Vagelos, told us he had a veterinary medicine that would prevent river blindness. But you had to give it every year. Merck produced Mectizan®, a formulation of the medicine for people, and pledged to donate it for the control and elimination of onchocerciasis as long as needed.

So that's what we've done, and many other organizations have joined The Carter Center to change—this is a very dramatic and profoundly important change—from controlling river blindness by giving them one dose a year to giving them more than one dose of Mectizan® in order to eliminate the disease completely in that particular region of a country. The Lions Clubs and LCIF are important partners of this river blindness work and have provided wonderful support in the Americas, Cameroon, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia.

**What progress have the Lions and The Carter Center made on reducing trachoma?**

The Carter Center began partnering with LCIF on trachoma in 1999. Jim Ervin, who at the time was international president of Lions, traveled with Rosalynn and me to Mali. We were accompanied by local Lions leaders to visit rural communities, and that's where we first met people blinded by this terrible disease. We've done away with blinding trachoma in Ghana and are continuing to work in endemic regions of Mali, Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan.



**Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, International President Jim Ervin (Lions hat) and Amadou Toumani Touré, later president of Mali, mark the official launch of the Lions-Carter Center SightFirst Initiative in Mali in 1999**

We have done an incredibly good job in Ethiopia, which is thought to be the most highly endemic country on earth for its concentration of blinding trachoma. We have used what is called the SAFE strategy. Surgery is the first element. We have trained thousands of local eye surgeons, mostly what would be called in the Western world nurses, to do this surgical procedure. We give them the sterilized instruments and instruction on how to use them. The Carter Center is one of the world's leading facilitators of eyelid surgeries for advanced-stage trachoma.



**Enthusiastic children from Amhara, Ethiopia, run to greet Ethiopian Lions and Carter Center staff in April 2009**

Distributing antibiotic is the second part of the strategy. I went to the Pfizer corporation headquarters a number of years ago and got Pfizer to agree to donate the medicine Zithromax®. We're now distributing the antibiotic, and this November we will celebrate a major milestone with our Lions Clubs partners in Ethiopia and with Pfizer: the 100 millionth dose of Zithromax® distributed with Lions-Carter Center-assistance.

The F part of the SAFE strategy is face washing. We go in and teach school kids and parents the

advantages of having their children wash their faces to prevent the spread of trachoma bacteria. We were getting reports from schoolteachers in the area on what percentage of the children wash their faces in the morning, and occasionally we and the Lions organization would give a modest prize to the school kids who did the best jobs of washing faces.



**Ojok Charles, 16, of northern Uganda is blind due to river blindness. LCIF, The Carter Center, and local Lions are assisting Uganda to eliminate the disease nationwide by 2020** *Photo by Kay Hinton*

I'd say the most notable and interesting achievement is with the E or environmental component of the strategy, which is to get rid of flies—just plain houseflies similar to those I lived among as a child. At the end of 2012, the Lions-Carter Center project in Ethiopia had been directly responsible for the building of 2.9 million latrines, which is very interesting. We were successful beyond our wildest imagination because it became a women's liberation movement. In many parts of Africa, it's completely forbidden or taboo for a woman to relieve herself in public. So the women and girls, instead of going behind a bush, have habitually relieved themselves in the house or around it, which contributes tremendously to the spread of trachoma. The flies carry the infection from one person to another.

We taught people how to create a latrine for less than a dollar. We taught them how to dig a hole in the ground and fix the top of the ground so it won't cave in as you squat over it and put a screen around it to provide some privacy. We thought we might have 10,000 latrines built at the end of the first full year. But we had 86,500 latrines built, because women adopted this as a way to give them more freedom to use the bathroom whenever they need to. Now we've passed 2.9 million latrines, and the local people have continued the practice and are building latrines on their own.

**You told Lions in 2007 at our international convention that other than your marriage your Carter Center's partnership with SightFirst was the most important of your life. Please explain.**

I was referring to Lionism in general. When I came home from the Navy, I had no awareness at all of public service. I had been a submarine officer concentrating exclusively for the previous 11 years on my naval career. When I came home, what opened my awareness of the outside world was my involvement as a Lion. I began to work on small projects like giving blood or collecting eyeglasses and selling brooms from the factory for the blind. I ultimately became a district governor, and I was elected chairman of all the district governors in Georgia. I had 208 Lions clubs in Georgia. I visited as many as I could. I became aware of the outside world and an opportunity to serve other



**Safia Koumare cradles her young child in their home in Soukara village, Mali. The trachoma bacteria spread easily from person to person, most frequently from child to child and to the women who care for them. The Lions/Carter Center partnership facilitates eyelid surgeries for people with the advanced, potentially blinding stage of trachoma known as trichiasis**

people. That was a transforming event in my life and led me to go into politics and to establish The Carter Center after I left the White House.

Thanks to the Lions Clubs International Foundation's partnership with The Carter Center, millions of people already have been protected from infection with trachoma and river blindness, and hundreds of thousands have received eyelid surgery. These accomplishments would not have occurred without LCIF's early investments and the constant support and advocacy of Lions clubs on the ground.

**How is Mrs. Carter? You've been married 67 years. It's been, as you say, a great partnership, hasn't it?**

It really has. We're still getting to know each other. We have four children, 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. A lot of the older grandchildren are married. We have 34 members of our family now. She is a full partner with me in everything at The Carter Center. She founded and guides the Center's Mental Health Program to continue a fight for good mental health care, which is so important to her. We're still getting along fine with each other.



**Trichiasis patients display their intake forms while awaiting eyelid surgery during an outreach campaign in Guidan-Roundji, Niger, in 2012. The Carter Center has facilitated approximately 40 percent of all trichiasis surgeries globally, and LCIF is a primary funder**

**Like everyone else, some Lions are getting older. You maintain a remarkable schedule. How do you do it? What advice do you have for staying active as you age?**

As long as you do things that are exciting, unpredictable, adventurous and gratifying, you will stimulate your mind and stay healthy. If certain activities are gratifying to you then you want to continue to be able to do them. That encourages people to be more conscious about what they eat and about how much exercise they get. Working on projects with the Lions and The Carter Center has given us this kind of personal reward.

*The LION Magazine interview with former U.S. President Carter was edited for length and clarity.*

## Digital LION

**Read about former President Carter and river blindness at [www.lionmagazine.org](http://www.lionmagazine.org):**

- “The man from Plains”—a club president becomes a U.S. president (March 1977 LION)
- “Lions have changed my life”—a feature on the former president (April 2009)
- Lions curtail river blindness (September 2009)

### Lions/The Carter Center Save Sight of Millions

The Lions Clubs International Foundation is an important partner of The Carter Center, pledging \$42 million in grants since 1994. The partnership has led to 136 million Mectizan® treatments for river blindness, 78 million Zithromax® treatments for trachoma, and 334,000 trichiasis surgeries. Local Lions clubs help mobilize communities to participate in drug distribution, eyelid surgery campaigns and latrine construction. Lions provide technical support, monitor progress and meet with influential leaders in their countries to advocate for continued attention to river blindness and trachoma.

#### Partnership Highlights

1994 – The first SightFirst grant is awarded to The Carter Center for a river blindness control program in Nigeria.

1999 – The Lions-Carter Center SightFirst Initiative is launched thanks to a \$16 million grant from SightFirst for river blindness activities in six countries in the Americas and in Nigeria and Uganda as well as for trachoma control in Ethiopia and Sudan.

2004 – SightFirst provides a \$2 million grant for river blindness elimination in the Americas. “We are overjoyed that, in cooperation with The Carter Center, we've been able to save the sight of millions of people,” says Dr. Tae-Sup Lee, 2004-2005 LCIF chairperson.

2007 – International President Jimmy Ross travels with former President Carter to Sudan. Past International President Jim Ervin visits the River Blindness Program in Uganda shortly after the country announces its new policy of river blindness elimination by 2020.

2009 – Carter dedicates the “Gift of Sight” statue at Lions' headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, to honor the organizations' collaborative efforts to fight preventable blindness.

2009 – The 100,000th trichiasis surgery is done, the one millionth household latrine built, and 30 millionth dose of Zithromax® distributed as the Lions-Carter Center-assisted trachoma program reaches full scale in Amhara, Ethiopia.

2010 – International President Sid L. Scruggs III and Past President Ervin participate in MalTra Week in Ethiopia during which more than 10 million people are treated with Zithromax® for trachoma.

2012 – The Sudan Federal Ministry of Health, with assistance from The Carter Center and LCIF, announces that the isolated desert area of Abu Hamad has stopped transmission of river blindness. It is among the first areas in Africa to demonstrate that intensified mass treatment with Mectizan® can interrupt transmission of the disease.

2013 – LCIF Chairperson Wayne Madden joins Mr. and Mrs. Carter in Colombia to congratulate President Juan Manuel Santos and the people of Colombia for becoming the first country in the world to be verified by the World Health Organization to have eliminated river blindness with support from The Carter Center and LCIF. LCIF awards \$3.1 million to further fund The Carter Center for river blindness and trachoma programs in Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Uganda.

### *Serving Without Even Trying To Serve*

This past year **Utsunomiya Chuo Lions** in Japan traveled with people who have muscular dystrophy to Moka City, renowned for its pottery. Ceramic artist **Moriyoshi Saeki**, a club member, taught the group how to make pottery wares. The Lions and those with muscular dystrophy learned together and worked side by side. The Lions were serving by not serving. They befriended others by being friends.



*Lions and those with muscular dystrophy make pottery together*

That was the whole point of the outing: not giving or receiving service but having fun together spontaneously. That's how it's been for this club and those with muscular dystrophy since 1974. Each year Lions and people with the disease enjoy an activity together with no service strings attached.



*The Friendship Walk involves fresh air and friendly interaction*

It wasn't always so. For seven years Lions donated blankets, visited people at home or otherwise provided a tangible service. Then club members realized it was more beneficial to those not in the best of health to go somewhere and just have a good time. Over the years places visited include an aquarium, a hot springs and an azalea park.

The club works with the Tochigi Muscular Dystrophy Association in choosing a destination. "Lions made our request for pottery making come true," says Toshiyuki Ebinuma, the president of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"Many people don't know what to do when they interact with people with disabilities, and that awkwardness comes across through their words and attitude," says a longtime, non-Lion who volunteers on the outings. "Lions are different. They are so

natural. It's probably because in their mind they are just having fun together rather than giving favors of some kind to the disabled."

Service projects for those with disabilities are a traditional Lions activity in Japan. **Niigata Chitose Lions** hold a festive Friendship Walk for people with physical or mental challenges. Last year's 14th annual walk was held at the Big Swan Stadium, where the 2002 World Cup games took place.



*Lions befriend those with disabilities on the Friendship Walk*

Participants completed a half-hour walking course with three check points before enjoying a hot lunch and fun games. A total of 334 people including caretakers, facility staff, Lions and other volunteers took part.

Lions began the walk because of a lack of affordable disability care facilities in Niigata City. "We have several participants whose physical disabilities are so severe they can rarely take a walk, and this event gives them a good opportunity to exercise," says Director Aoki of the Yamashiro Local Activity Support Center. "Because Lions take care of organizing the event, we staff members can also enjoy the day, which we are very thankful for. It is also great that we can walk while talking and building friendships with people from other facilities."

### *Unmasking Melvin Mascot*

Meet Melvin Mascot. Many South Africans have. He shows up where crowds gather—at festivals, bingo games and fundraising walks, golf outings and wheelchair races. Active on Facebook, he has 2,995 friends and counting. According to his Facebook profile, he was born on January 13 – not coincidentally at all, the same birthday of Lions' founder **Melvin Jones**. His Facebook relationship status: "It's complicated." Such is the life of a Lions mascot with four fingers, a furry body and a fervent desire to publicize Lions.

Melvin's alter ego is **Carl van Blerk**, 45, a former schoolteacher steeped in Lions. His wife, **Debbie**, is a Lion, and **Jade**, their 12-year-old daughter, is a proud Leo. (Son Tyler, 9, is a Leo in waiting.) Van Blerk joined the **George Lions Club** in 2006, chartered the **Eden Lions Club** three years later and dreamed up Melvin not long afterward. What do you expect from a gregarious

person who attended the College of Magic when he was 10 and earned pocket money as a teenager by performing at birthday parties and schools?

Van Blerk says Melvin leaves an impression. "I can confidently say there is not a club in our country who is not aware of the Eden Lions," he says. The average South African also gets exposed to Melvin by virtue of his frequent appearances on TV and radio stations and in newspapers.

Van Blerk's enthusiasm for public relations does not flag when it comes to club projects. Lions were prepared to launch a Tip-A-Ton food drive. "Why a ton?" he challenged them. They raised 10 tons. His club's Christmas party for needy children included volunteer pilots flying more than 60 children up and over the city.



*Melvin Mascot jumps at the chance to promote Lions*

Van Blerk has become a kind of franchise operator. Melvin Mascot now has three look-alike "brothers." There is Swellvin of the **Swellendam Lions**, Rex of the **Port Rex Lions** and Mufasa of the **Fort Beaufort Lions**. Van Blerk dreams of further extending his role: "to have Melvin recognized in some form by LCI as an official Lion mascot and to be seen, not necessarily as a suited character, but as a Lion."

### *Buyers Flock to Flea Market*

Visitors to the Nyvang Cooperative in Denmark watch farmhands harvest fields with horses, housewives wash clothes on washboards and blacksmiths shape red-hot iron into horseshoes. The living museum showcases the decades-long heyday of the cooperative movement in Denmark—a strong factor



*The flea market offers an array of goods*

in the development of democracy in the nation and an influence today in industries ranging from dairy products to windmill energy.

Visitors to the museum can also often see a facet of Denmark society that came after the cooperative movement but is a

hallmark of civic-minded societies—Lions. The Lions of nearby Holbaek partner with the cooperative on a flea market, Christmas celebrations and other events. Four other Lions clubs also sometimes take part.

The recent flea market drew a large crowd. “The results promise a repeat and perhaps a tradition in the future,” says **Joergen Nielsen**, club president. Profits went toward the pediatric ward at Holbaek Hospital.

### **\$100 Loans Change Lives**

Kalupahanage Ajitha Vinodani of Sri Lanka was left with no income when her husband died in an accident a few years ago. Others in her situation plunge into destitution. But Vinodani is a thriving entrepreneur. She lives near the beach, where she buys fish, dries it out and sells it for a tidy profit.

Sri Lankan H.W. Renuka Damayanthi turned her life around when she bought a sewing machine. She makes dresses, curtains and blinds that she sells at the local market. The demand for her products is so strong that her son helps her after school.

The two women have more in common than business savvy. The **Hikkaduwa Lions Club** guided their path to self-sufficiency. The Sri Lankan Lions funneled small loans of about \$100 to each of them from Lions in Denmark, who began the microloan program in 2007. Lions have given the interest-free loans to more than 275 poor families.



**A small loan enabled H.W. Renuka Damayanthi to flourish financially**



**Kalupahanage Ajitha Vinodani used a loan as working capital to finance her dried fish business**

The **Søllerød Lions Club** in Denmark began providing small loans to women in Sri Lanka and Nepal and now also partner with Lions in Haiti and Tanzania. Women with families who otherwise likely would be impoverished have used the loans to raise chickens, open street restaurants and expand home gardens.

Often the women are able to hire other women, and their small businesses create an economic mini-boom.

Bimala Shrestha of Nepal used her loan to buy wool to make gloves, caps and socks. Three women now work full-time in her shop, and 50 other women either supply her shop or sell her goods to export firms.

International President **Barry J. Palmer** of Australia is urging Lions this year to engage in microfinancing to stimulate jobs. But **Henning Molin** of the Søllerød Lions helped initiate his club’s microloan foundation after learning of Muhammad Yunus, who in 2006 received the Nobel Peace Prize for his microfinance achievements. Yunus received the 2008 Lions Humanitarian Award.

The Søllerød Lions Club set aside \$50,000 to fund microfinance to celebrate the club’s 50th anniversary. Most of the loans, which range between \$100 and \$400, have been repaid timely. The club’s funding now exceeds \$60,000.

### **Pipe Down? Not in England**

They tossed the caber, putted the stone and, of course, listened to the high-pitched shrill of bagpipe bands. **Harpenden Lions** in England staged a festive Highland Gathering to celebrate Scottish culture.

None of 29 club members are Scottish. But they realize Gatherings are popular. Nearly 8,000 people came to enjoy Scottish music and sports. The event raised 13,000 pounds (US\$21,000) for Parkinson’s UK and other charities.



**Bagpipes played, the caber was tossed and stone was putted at the Highland Gathering in Harpenden, England**

Six kilted pipe bands played. Hulking men tossed the caber, a long tapered pole. Athletes also competed in the stone put, similar to the shot put, and the weight over the bar, which involves throwing with one hand a 56-pound weight with an attached handle over a bar. These sports feats may not lead to Olympics glory, but they result in “a great fun day out for local people,” says **Andrew Godden**, president.

### **Project Warms the Heart—and Body**

Nearly every Finn loves the cleansing warmth of a sauna. That includes those with disabilities. So to celebrate its 50th anniversary the **Oulu Sillat Lions Club** built a first-rate, freestanding sauna to accommodate those with special needs. The 25-member club spent nearly US\$40,000 on the unusual sauna, which has a ramp on the outside and three interior levels without steps.

### **French Deepen Ties with Essilor**



Lions in France partnered with Essilor, the world’s largest manufacturer of corrective lenses, on World Sight Day (October 10). Volunteers from Essilor accompanied Lions on information campaigns and free eye exams in dozens of cities.

In 2012 Essilor used avant-garde art on World Sight Day to promote eye health. Urban artist Manfred Stader created an ephemeral, interactive, 3D work on the theme of sight and better vision in Charenton-le-Pont, the Parisian suburb where Essilor is based.

Essilor is a longtime partner of Lions Clubs International. It provides lenses and equipment at no cost to Lions among other contributions to Lions’ sight efforts.



**Dominique Meslin, director of training at Essilor Academy, assists Lions at a vision screening**

### **Taking Them Out to the Ball Game**

Part of the elite Mexican League, the Sultanes Monterrey baseball team plays in the largest baseball stadium in Mexico. But the ballpark accommodates

only eight wheelchairs. So when Lions sponsored a day of baseball for disabled children at the stadium, hundreds of seats were removed for 100 children in wheelchairs.

Chartered in 2012, the **Guadalupe La Sierra Lions Club** transported in trucks 1,300 children with disabilities for a day of baseball at the stadium. The children mingled with the big leaguers, played a game on the field and then watched the Sultanes club take on the Petroleros de Minatitlan.

The children put on uniforms and hit and fielded the ball with assistance from the major leaguers, Lions and relatives. There are no organized teams in the region for children with disabilities. "Our main goal was to show these children and their parents they could participate in baseball," says **Lucy Reyna Garcia**, president. The children enjoyed it—almost as much as their parents. "The children showed a lot of enthusiasm, but their parents were even happier to see their children playing with their friends," says Reyna.

No one kept score (except perhaps the children themselves in their heads). The children munched on hot dogs while watching the big league game. After the game was over they received a welcome surprise. "Our goal was fulfilled when the mayor committed to

promoting sports for disabled children in the Little Leagues," says Reyna.



*A fan in the baseball stadium*

### **A Powerful Idea in Nepal**

Nepalese villagers have husked rice for centuries. Now they produce food much more efficiently in rice mills reliant on small power stations made possible by a Lions club in Switzerland.

The **Thurgau Lions Club** supports the Nepal Yantra Shala Energy Company in its work in remote Nepalese villages, whose source of energy previously was from wood, dung or agricultural residue. The villages' water

mills, powered by timber water wheels, were not powerful enough to drive rice-husking machines.

Lions gave the energy company a universal drilling machine and a refurbished turning lathe and provided on-site training. The club also underwrote the electrical engineering education in England of the son of the company owner. The end result has been a string of villages with small power stations of 10 to 100 kilowatts and communities better able to feed themselves and others.



*A worker makes a turbine drive shaft for a Nepalese village*

## **Prison Puppies**

**After inmates raise them, the puppies' good behavior will lead to a new life on the outside as Leader Dogs. The blind are not the only ones given a new lease on life.**

by Jennifer Hemmingsen

On a dreary day in Iowa, the cluster of squat cement buildings that make up the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility seem to fade into the steel-gray sky. Icy sleet falls on the buildings and covers the bare cornfields surrounding the electrified fence.

The Fort Dodge facility is one of Iowa's largest prisons, housing more than 1,000 men serving sentences for serious crimes. They've been sent here for taking what they had no right to take: property, a sense of community security, a human life. In here, their lives are reduced to bare essentials and subject to strict routine.

In a long, pale corridor, corrections officer Brenda Birchard breezes past inmates dressed in regulation jeans, T-shirts and sweatshirts. With the easy familiarity of a woman who knows where she's going, she passes a set of plate-glass doors and enters the prison's sparsely furnished library, where more than a dozen inmates sit on straight-backed chairs. Under each chair, calm, alert and quite possibly the last thing you'd expect to see here: puppies.

Lions Clubs International's dedication to sight programs and services is world renowned. For generations, Leader Dogs for the Blind programs have given the gift of independence to those who are blind, visually impaired or deaf and blind. But less well-known is the decade-long partnership between the Leader Dog program and Iowa Prisons.

Since 2002, select inmates in a few Iowa prisons have raised Leader Dog puppies for Leader Dog's certified trainers in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Inmates have cared for hundreds of pups, teaching them basic commands and preparing them for specialized training and the life of a service dog. The Fort Dodge Correctional Facility has been a part of Leader Dogs since late 2010, giving inmates an opportunity to give back by helping others.

"Their crime doesn't mean diddly to me," says Birchard, Leader Dog coordinator for the prison. "The name of this place is Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, not Fort Dodge Discipline Facility." Raising Leader Dog puppies helps inmates practice skills—like responsibility, patience and putting others' interests before their own—that will help them be positive members of society when they're released.

### **A Litter of Six**

The first partnership between Leader Dogs and Iowa Prisons was at the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City when staff member **Randy Kirkbride**, a Lion, approached then-warden Jim McKinney with the idea.

Leon, an elderly inmate who so far has served nearly 50 years of his life sentence for murder, was one of the first inmates to participate. "I said it would be good, under the circumstances, to pay back a little—not nearly enough—but to do something good for somebody else," says Leon, who asked we not print

his last name.

The prison started out with a litter of six. Inmates cared for and socialized the puppies, teaching them 16 basic commands—such as sit, down, come, stay—preparing them for more extensive training from Leader Dogs School's certified trainers. The partnership was such a success that it since has branched out to Iowa prison facilities in Newton and Fort Dodge. Hundreds of puppies have received their



*Yves Inmate handlers at Fort Dodge Correctional Facility teach Leader Dog puppies 16 basic commands such as stay, heel and down – when the handler wants the puppy to lie flat on its belly*

initial training—supporters liken it to puppy kindergarten—behind Iowa prison walls.

The Fort Dodge program started in 2010, with five older puppies that “outside” handlers had found difficult to train, says Birchard. In many ways prison life is ideal for puppy training. Inmate handlers at Fort Dodge have plenty of time to devote to their dogs, who accompany them nearly everywhere. If an inmate does have an appointment or work duty where dogs aren’t allowed, there are plenty of “puppy sitters” to offer some relief.

“They work and work with those dogs,” says District 9-NC Leader Dog Chairwoman **Lois Jones** of the **Iowa Falls Lions Club**. In fact, puppies raised in Iowa prisons are more likely than other puppies to graduate and become Leader Dogs, she says.

Today the Fort Dodge facility has 73 dogs in training and one cat, Max. (“He thinks he’s a dog,” inmate handlers say.) Max helps acclimate the dogs to other pets. The puppies arrive when they’re 5 to 8 weeks old, and they stay for about a year.

The program is strict. Handlers must have clean disciplinary records and go through a series of puppy classes before they can be assigned a puppy. It’s also self-sufficient: all the puppies’ blankets, scarves and leashes are made in the prison. Sponsorships and donations pay for puppy food, vet visits and other supplies.

“It’s tons more work and responsibility than having a dog outside,” says Thomas Mann, 32, serving a 50-year sentence for his part in the murder of a high school-aged drug informant. “It’s not a pet. It’s basically like having a kid.”

When they’re working, the puppies each wear powder blue bandanas that say “Leader Dog in training.” The bandanas are meant to represent a blind handler’s harness. Only when the bandanas come off is it OK to play. Even then, there are rules: games of fetch and tug of war are forbidden. Puppies have to sleep in their own beds.

“There are a lot of ‘do’s and don’ts,’” says 33-year-old handler Tony Vang. “There’s no way of cheating if you want your dog to succeed.”

### Life Lessons

Vang, who expects to serve 14 more years for a first-degree robbery conviction, says he wasn’t sure at first if he wanted to be a Leader Dog handler. He didn’t know if he’d be able to care for a dog without breaking one of the big rules about prison—you have to project a tough persona in order to survive.

It’s hard to be gruff with an adorable little puppy as your constant companion, an animal that trusts and accepts you for who you are. As one inmate says, “A dog doesn’t care who I am or what I’ve done.” The inmates develop close attachments to their puppies, which lasts even after the dogs have grown. When the inmates talk about their puppies, it’s as if they’re describing a close friend or member of their family.

“When the dog goes, they break down and cry,” Jones says. Handlers write monthly updates to their



**Inmate handlers Brent Stitzer (left) and Thomas Mann pose with puppies Myles and Izzo**

puppy’s sponsors. Jones, whose family has sponsored several puppies, read from one whose author was preparing for his puppy to leave: “I love her a lot,” he wrote. “But I know she’s going on to bigger and better things.”

Inmate Brent Stitzer, 28, says that it feels really good to give back and to know his work eventually will help someone else live a freer and more independent life. Being a puppy handler has taught him the value of putting someone else’s interests before his own, he adds. He hopes to continue as a trainer when he’s released soon after serving four years for vehicular homicide. “I’ve just enjoyed doing it,” says Stitzer. “I think it will help keep me out of trouble when I’m out of here.”

“It’s taught me patience,” says James “Big Swede” Merial, 40. “A little foresight before I make rash decisions.”

That’s something that didn’t come so easy for Merial, who is serving a 50-year sentence for robbery and kidnapping. He is massive and muscular, with a bald head and bushy brown beard. He cuts an imposing figure, sitting with legs planted firmly on the outsides of his chair. “Without the animal, I didn’t have to deal with anything I didn’t want to,” he says. As a handler, that’s all changed. “People want to interact with your dog, so you have to be more social,” says Merial.

### Helping Hands

As much as they are able to do, the puppy programs at Iowa prisons rely on help from outsiders, too. The inmate handlers at Fort Dodge Correctional are quick to list the people who are central to its success: sponsors, donors, trainers in Michigan, other volunteers. “I think we all realize we’re just a small part of the big picture,” Birchard says.

Past District Governor Randy and Past Council Chairperson **Carol Kirkbride** of Ankeny log thousands of miles each year, driving dogs to the vet, giving them a taste of life outside of prison. They deliver young pups to the prison for training and load them into their own vehicles to make the 700-mile journey to Rochester Hills for training and partnering with a blind handler.

Jones travels throughout her district, giving about two presentations about the program per month and soliciting sponsorships and donations.

Among the volunteers is a special group of fourth-grade students at Rock Run Elementary School in

Iowa Falls. The students help puppies gain important experiences they can’t get “inside” such as children, traffic, crowds and public places.



**Leader Dog puppies wear blue bandanas while they’re “on duty” to represent a blind handler’s harness**

Their teacher, Jones’ daughter-in-law, Susan Jones, got her class involved as part of the character curriculum back in 2003. That first class hoped simply to raise enough to sponsor a single Leader Dog. Since then, they’ve sponsored nearly three dozen dogs and learned important lessons about community spirit along the way.

It might seem at first like an odd alliance—schoolchildren, Lions clubs, prison inmates—all working together to help make life better for the visually impaired. But the disparate elements achieve a harmony of purpose.

“It all ties together,” Lois Jones says. “It works.”

Or as Tony Vang put it from the other side of the prison wall: “You can tell the worth of a program by how far it reaches.”

## Lakefield Lions

Lakefield Lions’ float “Winter Wonderland” won second place in the non-commercial division of the Santa Parade. Over a thousand lined Queen St., Lakefield, to watch approximately 45 floats and bands. A large group of Lions, families and friends held their annual Christmas dinner following the Lakefield Lions’ Santa Parade. Lion President **Ron McEachern** presented Lion **John Dunford** with a “Lion Lobster King” plaque in recognition of outstanding efforts with Lions Annual Lobsterfest & Show. The 2014 event will be held June 7th featuring ‘Angus Leahy & Friends’.



# Female Focus

## Women in clubs gain a special satisfaction in serving women and girls in need.

by Marsha Mercer

An empty sock drawer is not a big deal in tropical Hawaii. The ability of girls to get an education also is not an abiding concern.

It's a far different story in Afghanistan.

**Christine Nguyen**, a high school senior in Honolulu, has taken this to heart. Only 17, she has already been part of an international aid effort to make life a little brighter for schoolgirls in Afghanistan, one of the world's harshest places for girls to get an education.

Nguyen is president of the all-girl **Sacred Hearts Academy Leo Club** in Honolulu which, with two other Leo clubs, collected and sent backpacks, school supplies, balloons and socks to Afghan girls.

The "Socks for Sisters" program began after the Leos learned that schools in Afghanistan are unheated. The girls first wanted to send bright, striped and patterned socks but decided that plain white socks were more appropriate for the conservative country.

"When you live here in America, socks and school supplies are so trivial. But there it's so important," Nguyen says. "It's pretty amazing."

**Teresa Bryan** began the process of chartering Leo clubs when she was president of **Kamehameha Lions** in 2008-2009. After girls at Sacred Hearts Academy asked **Jim Bryan**, Teresa's husband, to sponsor a Leo club, La Pietra Hawaii School for Girls wanted a club and then Kalani High School did too. The three clubs now have 350 Leos.



**Samantha Fukushima (from left) of the La Pietra Leo Club, Leo Adviser Teresa Bryan of the Kamehameha Lions Club and Christine Nguyen of the Sacred Hearts Leo Club feel uplifted about collecting socks for girls in Afghanistan** Photo by Whitney Miyahira

Socks for Sisters is just one of many service projects in which female Lions and Leos are making a difference in the lives of women and girls. If, as former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright once said, "There's a place in hell reserved for women who don't help other women," these women Lions need never fear the hot place.

Women-designed projects tend to be hands-on and personal; women typically work one-on-one or in

small groups. Women Lions help homeless women in Michigan get back on their feet. They mentor kids in California, share their love of reading with children in West Virginia and drive sick children in Oregon to airports.



**Lion Diane Wehby (right) has helped this woman and others at the Degage Ministries homeless shelter in Grand Rapids, Michigan**

And here's something else that women-centric Lions projects often share: creative financing.

"One of the things we try not to do is write checks," says **Diane Wehby**, past president of the **Thornapple Valley Lions Club** in the Ada-Cascade area of western Michigan. "We say, 'How can we help you?'"

When she was club president, Wehby began hearing a recurring theme in conversations with women friends and colleagues.

"Many of my friends had a huge interest in helping women and children," she says. About that time, Wehby was also trying to grow the club, but some women members couldn't make it to the Monday night meetings.

Lightbulb moment: How about a **Thornapple Valley Lady Lions Club**? The branch club held its first meeting last May, and all its projects target women and children.

"We have a member whose dream was to help homeless women. For me, the issue of domestic violence was near and dear to my heart," says Wehby, a registered nurse and hospital administrator.

"One of the cool things about Lady Lions is if it works for you, we can do it," says Wehby. The branch club meets right after work, and some members bring their children.

"If somebody's baby's crying, that's OK," Wehby says, adding diplomatically that a crying baby might not be as welcome at a traditional Lions meeting.

Members of Thornapple Valley Lady Lions drive 25 miles to inner city Grand Rapids to work with the women's unit at the Degage Ministries homeless shelter. They crocheted scarves for Valentine's Day gifts for shelter clients and donated more than 200

business outfits, complete with accessories, for women returning to the work force after job retraining.

"Our specialty," says Wehby, "is doing what we can do with little or no money."

For example, the women hosted a baby shower for two domestic violence shelters. The Lady Lions made refreshments and invited friends and family to bring baby gifts. The night of fellowship and fun brought in \$2,000 worth of donated baby goods.

For shelter clients about to "graduate" to their first apartment or home, the Lady Lions prepared about two dozen "bathroom in a bag" kits—shampoo, conditioner, towels, toilet paper and a bathmat in a duffel bag.

Sometimes the Lions hear indirectly about their impact. Wehby said a shelter volunteer told her about complimenting a homeless woman wearing a pretty scarf. The woman proudly explained it had been a Valentine's gift from the Lady Lions and that was the last time she would wear it. But why? The volunteer asked.

"I'm going to be using my scarf as part of the valance in my new apartment to remind me of the kindness of strangers," the woman said.

In her day job, **Carol Shipley**, president of the **Modesto 500 Lions Club** in California, is a Stanislaus County assistant district attorney. She knows that mentoring can be an important tool to help kids stay in school and out of trouble. This is the sixth year she and other Lions have mentored fourth graders at Shackelford Elementary. Lions work one-on-one to develop reading skills.

For the kids, having an adult mentor "makes them feel important, even if it's just half an hour twice a week," she says. "It's the boost they need to realize they can succeed."

Modesto 500 also supports the Family Justice Center, a local nonprofit that helps victims of domestic, child and elder abuse, and Without Permission, a nonprofit that helps victims of human sex trafficking.

"It's pretty frightening out there," Shipley says. Girls are being recruited into prostitution between the ages of 11 and 14. "It's crazy right now."

She also hopes to get her club involved in a new summer camp for children of domestic violence.

The news media often focus on the need to mentor boys, but guess what?

"Girls need mentors for the same reasons boys do," says psychology professor Jean E. Rhodes, director of the Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

A single mother raising a son alone may realize her boy needs a strong male role model and get a male mentor, but, Rhodes says, few single moms raising a girl would see the need for another woman to mentor

her daughter—even if mom and girl can't communicate or the working mom has no time.

Research shows that when a child has one good relationship with a caring adult outside the family it helps the child build resilience. A mentor also can show a child another life path, Rhodes says.

Adult mentors benefit, too. They often connect with people outside their social network and become more aware of problems in the community. They can develop deeper appreciation for teachers and schools, Rhodes says.

**Lura Watkins**, a great-grandmother and a member of the **South Charleston Lions Club** in West Virginia, has made a lifelong commitment to sharing her love of reading in schools. She was a volunteer reader decades ago when her own three children were young. Now she's among the Lions who read to younger students in West Virginia's Read Aloud program. Last year, Watkins read weekly in a third grade class for half an hour. She's about to start again.

"The kids hear somebody's voice other than the teacher's, and they know somebody in the community is interested in them," Watkins says. "It's good for Lions and other organizations to get involved, and it gives the teacher a few minutes' break."

**Kathryn Jo Clark** of South Charleston, a retired school teacher and mother of three, was recruited for Read Aloud by her husband, **Dick Clark**, a Lion for 44 years.

"I just loved being there," Kathryn Jo Clark says of the third-grade classroom where she recently read from a book of scary folktales.



**Kathryn Jo Clark of South Charleston reads to a student as part of the Lions' participation in the West Virginia Read Aloud program**

*Photo by George Brown III*

Reading is not the only seemingly modest task Lions do for others: driving is another.

After a 2-year-old girl in southern Oregon tumbled headfirst off a picnic table and suffered a serious brain injury, **Lion Sue Jagers** got a call. The child needed medical treatment in Portland, 300 miles from her home. A free flight was arranged, but could Jagers provide ground transportation?

That's where Earth Angels, a Lions service project Jagers created, comes in. An Earth Angel—in this case, Sue's husband, **Jim**, picked up mom and daughter at the airport, drove them to the hospital and back to the airport for their flight home.

"The families save thousands of dollars in airfare and rental cars, and they know someone cares," says

Sue Jagers. She and Jim, a past district governor, belong to **Canby Lions Club** near Portland.

Earth Angels works in partnership with Angel Flight West, a nonprofit group whose volunteer pilots provide free flights for seriously ill patients. Since 2009, Earth Angels have driven more than 900 missions in Oregon, and the program recently started in Washington state. Sue Jagers' goal is to take the project nationwide.

The Lions provide more than a car service. Every Earth Angel who picks up a sick child gives the girl or boy a stuffed animal – a lion, usually – and a Lion-made quilt, thanks to Sue Jagers and her family.

"It's the moms who really appreciate it," Jagers says. "They have tears running down their faces."

The Lions and Leos can get teary-eyed, too. But often, despite the stakes, the actual service is anything but serious and somber. Schools in Hawaii have service requirements for students, but teenagers are glad to be Leos, says Teresa Bryan. "They have fun. That's our key," she says.

Jim Bryan, first vice district governor, risked his life making two trips to Afghanistan in 2009 and 2011 to personally deliver 15,000 pairs of eyeglasses along with backpacks, school supplies and socks. The Leos have more shipments ready to go, but it's too dangerous for Bryan to return. Afghanistan lacks postal service, FedEx and UPS, and the U.S. military no longer accepts aid packages for delivery after a package bombing last year killed three American troops. Bryan hopes to find a way to resume the shipments.

Until then, the Leos aren't standing still. After cases of bullying came to light and a girl at La Pietra committed suicide, local teens flooded Facebook with condolences. The three Leo clubs wanted to do something to fight bullying, but what? They decided on a scholarship and an anti-bullying dance with signs that carried messages like "Keep Calm and Say No to Bullying!" Applicants for the Kamehameha Lions Club & Foundation's \$1,000 scholarship will write an essay about efforts to fight bullying at their school. The first dance last January was so successful that the Leos are planning another.

"We're trying to target teen awareness about bullying in a way that appeals to them," says Nguyen, the 17-year-old Leo.

**Digital LION – Go to [www.lionmagazine.org](http://www.lionmagazine.org) to watch a video on Socks for Sisters.**



**Lion Sue Jagers created Earth Angels in Oregon to transport sick children to airports**

## Wishing Well Lions Club

Our 38th Annual Music Scarborough Piano Festival was held this year from November 4th through November 12th with the winners' concert and awards held on Saturday, November 23rd 2013 and attended by District Governor, **Peter Hammond** as our Guest of Honour.

Music Scarborough is a competitive piano festival sponsored and run by Wishing Well Lions Club. We are dedicated to providing an excellent forum for our talented young performers. We work closely with professional music educators and parents to foster appreciation and love of music in our youth; to promote values of excellence and pride in their individual achievements, while striving for the pursuit and continued development of artistic talents in the community. Entries normally range from 300-600 and marks are awarded by a professional adjudicator with the top earners being provided medals and trophies at the final Concert.

We are the only club in our entire district to run a festival of this nature and magnitude; it may be also true to say that we may be the only club (that we know) in Canada who run a festival like this.

The picture below shows Thomas Dobrovich, the overall winner of the "Best of Festival & Star of Festival Trophy" with Lions **Peter Smit** and **Felix DeSouza** (Chairperson). The winner also competed in four separate class groups and won the top marks in all of those – a deserving winner of the Best of the Festival award.

*submitted by Lion Felix DeSouza*



## Lions VIP Car Rally 2013 – Halton K9 Lions Club



**Photo taken at Oct. 20th Blind Car Rally showing navigator Tracy Delmo, her Dog Guide Abby, Lion Diane McSkimming of Halton K9 Lions Club**

## The boisterous, over-the-top hijinks of the 1950s and earlier may have faded into history, but Lions still have plenty of fun while doing good.

by Marsha Mercer

**George Keens** took his seat as the newest member of the **San Pedro Lions Club** in 1959 and wet his pants.

It's not what you think. Keens sat in a puddle of water left intentionally for him. While Keens was standing, a playful Lion had surreptitiously poured water onto the chair's concave leather seat.

That was how Lions in one club in Southern California welcomed new members in the age of Ike and Elvis.

"They had to take it—like an initiation," recalls Keens, 97. "It was all in fun."

Times change, and so do Lions. The San Pedro club has women members now, and the soggy, seat-of-the-pants welcome has gone the way of the transistor radio. Fun evolves, though it's still as important to Lions clubs as H<sub>2</sub>O is to the human body.

Surveys done by Lions Clubs International show men and women become Lions primarily to serve their communities, and Lions truly enjoy service. Whether they're sorting old clothes for a flea market, flipping chicken on the grill or playing baseball with special needs kids, Lions have fun helping each other while they're making their communities better.

"The 'We Serve' philosophy resonated with me," says **Kathryn Scott**, who joined the **Orcutt Lions Club** in California in 2010 and quickly rose to president. Lions' work with Angels Foster Care and Royal Family Kids Camp, which help foster abused children, touched her heart. She also loves the Lions-sponsored Christmas parade.

With a background in sales and marketing, Scott sees stoking enthusiasm as key to retaining and recruiting members. She brings in small prizes—lion candy, fuzzy lion toys, Beanie Baby lions—because, she says, busy members face a decision: "Am I going to go to this meeting or stay home and watch 'Survivor'?"

Bottom line, says Past District Governor **Bill Newyear** in Pahrump, Nevada: "It's a volunteer organization that does a lot of work. You're not paid



Lions have always liked to have fun. In 1926, officers of the Salt Lake City Lions Club in Utah were "sentenced" to one year of hard labor for "forwarding the aims" of Lions

for it. If you can't have fun, why bother?"

Fun is not trivial. It serves an important role in groups, says Vanessa Druskat, an expert in organizational behavior at the University of New Hampshire.

"The more you understand and appreciate the uniqueness of one another, the more you listen to each other, trust others' views and make smarter decisions," she says.

Groups can achieve their goals without having fun, but fun actually boosts performance, says Druskat, whose dad is a Lion in Massachusetts. Bringing members and spouses together for social events like barbecues and golf tournaments helps people learn about, understand and trust each other.

Taking five minutes at the start of a meeting for silliness is also smart: "People think more clearly when they're relaxed," she says. Plus, fun engages people. "When we're engaged, we learn more," she adds.

Fun is not quantifiable, the way meeting a fundraising goal is, but creative fundraising can be fun, make a community take notice and energize members.

**Pam Burton** of the **Darlington Lions** in rural Maryland compiled YouTube videos of Lions fundraising events around the globe—from elephants playing soccer in Nepal to Wiener Dog Races in Buda, Texas—for a presentation last year at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

Lions Clubs are all about experience, and what's fun varies from club to club and even Lion to Lion. Age and gender affect someone's notion of fun, as does geography. Clubs need to know their communities and their members.



Deep Creek Lake Lions in Maryland award prizes for Most Likely to Sink and Best Use of Duct Tape in its build-your-own-boat race

Even in a world of instant tweets and global CNN, people retain rich geographical differences that shape their ideas of fun. **The Chilliwack Stellers Jay Lions Club** in British Columbia, Canada, finds fun in catering memorial teas and other foodie events.



The bed race of Newburyport Lions in Massachusetts brings out the zany side of residents.

Photo courtesy of the Daily News of Newburyport

"We were the first all-ladies Lions club chartered in Canada 25 years ago," says **Joan Maxwell**, club secretary and a 19-year member. Men can join now, but, she says, "We wear pink vests."

At their meetings, Stellers Jay Lions get a kick out of tossing Loonies (the Canadian dollar) into a toilet seat.

"It's a game that livens things up," says Maxwell. The tail twister places a toilet seat in the middle of the group, and members take turns tossing dollar coins. If yours goes in, you get it back. A miss and into the Lion bank it goes. Mostly, the Lions win.

Don't underestimate the fun potential of a member who's a character. He or she might turn ordinary tasks into legend. **David Carlock** of the **Boynnton Lions Club**, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, recalls the amazing sales skills of the late **Harry McCauley**.

"He could sell Eskimo pies in the Antarctic. He wouldn't take a no," says Carlock. Decades ago when Lions sold light bulbs door to door, McCauley sold a box of bulbs to an elderly fellow who didn't even have electricity.

"People don't believe it, but it's true!" says Carlock, 75.

Longtime Lions often relish old stories, traditions and rituals more than newer, younger members do. Conflict sometimes results.

In Bridgewater, Massachusetts, **Sharon Audette** is helping new Campus Lions clubs. College students often don't like raising money, but most are interested in volunteering, she says. Younger Lions want hands-on projects such as cleaning up a beach or running in a charity race, not selling tickets.

Audette, who joined the **Bridgewater Academy Lions** in 2005, wants to bring in fresh, fun activities—maybe a road race (a scavenger hunt in cars), a chili cook-off



**Brown County Lions in Indiana take part in an outhouse race**

or a hot wings cooking contest. Older members push back with the five words that murder change: “We’ve never done that before.”

Audette perseveres. “You’ve just got to keep pushing, very delicately,” she says.

Lions Clubs International recognizes that clubs have different needs. Only a little more than a third of non-Lions say they would appreciate regular meetings, and just one in 10 non-members say they like the idea of a cheer, roar or song, according to LCI surveys.

The tail twister is now “totally optional,” says **Becca Pietrini**, a manager in Membership at LCI.

Pranks can be fun, or not. Take cutting off neckties – please! – says Past District Governor **John Youney** of Skowhegan, Maine.

“Cut your tie off? That’s not acceptable to me,” says Youney. A tail twister’s tail twister, Youney has presented talks on how to accentuate fun. He’s all for competitive nerf basketball but losing one of his beloved Jerry Garcia silk neckties to a “fun” snip of the scissors? Never.

Youney’s region is one of the country’s top maple syrup producers, and **Skowhegan Lions** naturally think they know syrup-making. He recently sprang a surprise pop quiz – \$1 each – and offered syrup products as first and second prizes.

“That got people going, because when there’s a prize, they compete,” Youney says. And they laugh.

There’s scientific evidence to back up the power of laughter, says Professor Druskat, who notes that brain research shows people are never more in sync than when they are laughing together. Their brains light up in the same area.

**Greg Stahl** of the **Wrentham Lions Club** in Massachusetts could surely get a good-natured argument from other Lions when he declares, “We’ve got the most fun club on the planet!”

In March, Wrentham Lion **J.R. McDonald** and a partner dressed up as Barney and Betty Rubble from “The Flintstones” and danced to “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” in the first “Dancing with the Wrentham Stars” competition.

“Our guy was hilarious,” says Stahl. “Barney” brought home the award for raising the most money among the participating charities.

“We’re good at playing jokes with and on other clubs in the area,” says Stahl, a 20-year member who once impersonated another member and got inducted

into another club so he could razz his friend at district conventions. They also enjoy stealing other clubs’ gongs and gavels.

Regional differences dictate fun, and in Alabama there’s a saying: “If it’s not football, it’s wrong.” The **Montgomery Lions Club**, which meets every week for lunch, frequently invites football coaches as guest speakers.

An all-stars high school football game is among the club’s fundraisers. Members also enjoy Lion **Alva Lambert**’s uncanny impersonations of famous Alabama sports stars and politicians including the late Gov. George Wallace and Sen. Howell Heflin.

“It’s good fellowship, with some frivolity and joviality,” says Lambert. **Montgomery Lions** once were known for lobbing dinner rolls at each other.

“We’re more civilized now,” he says. “We ball up cloth napkins and throw them. Much more refined.”

Fun is intangible, but it’s not hard to find solid proof of the power of fun in accomplishing big goals. The **Fort Kent Lions** in northern Maine constructed a gym-sized pavilion with a covered stage and restrooms in Riverside Park.

This is remarkable in a town of 4,000 residents. The Fort Kent Lions Club has 90 members, all men. About 60 show up for meetings every other week at a restaurant where they can have a couple of drinks while they discuss their latest projects. The club even has a house band of members, called Boomerang.



**Pine Bush Lions in New York sponsor the UFO Festival Parade. Pine Bush has been the site of numerous UFO sightings**

Club fundraisers include an ATV Poker Run, in which all-terrain vehicle drivers pick up playing cards at various checkpoints on a predetermined route with the goal of getting the best poker hand. Five years ago, members posed in the buff—carefully, so as not to scandalize—for a calendar. Sales went through the roof, and the club made \$30,000. A variety show every other year is a reliable money-maker.

“I can’t say it’s a family event,” President **Charlie Ouellette** says of the show. “Some of the skits are a little racy, but it raises a lot of money to do the things in the community we want to do.”

Fort Kent Lions contributed to a mural that depicts the region’s history of potato farming. They gave a ski tow to the town. They support a Boy Scout troop and pay for golf lessons for kids among other projects.

Ouellette says his members enjoy some rituals –

singing Lions songs and doing the roar and toast. As for yellow vests, some older members wear them, younger ones, not so much.

“When we travel out of town, we wear polo shirts with the Lion logo and pins,” Ouellette says.

Newyear and his wife, Past District Governor **Marcia Newyear**, who lived in California until earlier this year, say the vests are such a sticking point for younger members that the Newyears once had denim vests made with the Lions logo on the back.

The Newyears believe in making serious, if routine, occasions like the induction of members or installation of officers into fun celebrations.

“We do things that help a lot of people, and we should celebrate those who take time to do the work and become officers,” says Marcia Newyear.

She turned one installation into a “Jeopardy” episode, complete with questions for the new president. Another time, she created an Academy Awards show—a red-carpet “walk of fame” and a roving TV “reporter,” all against a backdrop with Lions logos.

Any club could produce a faux “Jeopardy” or Oscars, but what made these events special was that they grew organically from the members and locale. The incoming president worked on the “Jeopardy” TV show and the venue of the actual Academy Awards is located just 20 miles away.

In Lemont, Illinois, where **John Goushas**’s dad has been a Lion for 45 years, the younger Goushas thought Lions were “an old man’s thing” – until he saw younger people getting involved. He joined 11 years ago. As president, “I’m trying to step it up a notch – bring in some variety.” He changes seating so members meet new friends, rotates meetings among restaurants and is open to new ideas.

When a woman member suggested that male Lions dress as women and perform in a cabaret show, the men agreed. The next year, though, the club auctioned a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. An annual pork chop dinner features a popular “Wheel of Meat” raffle. **Lemont Lions** support three local food pantries. They give scholarships and iPads to high school seniors and work with a local optometrist and ear, nose and throat doctor so children get free glasses and hearing aids.

The camaraderie is so strong that whenever Goushas, 51, has a problem or needs something, he turns to fellow Lions.

“It’s always, ‘I know a guy who knows a guy.’ We’ll find a way. That’s the way Lions are,” he says. That’s fun.

**Digital LION:** Read about those crazy days of yesteryear at [www.lionmagazine.org](http://www.lionmagazine.org).

- Nebraska Lions cage human Lions (December 1923 LION)
- Illinois Lions try highly unusual method to raise attendance (June 1924)
- California Lions stage a hotel fire – and no one gets arrested (December 1937)



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## District A-12 welcomes all Lions, Lioness, Leos and Partners!

Your 'Historic' combined MDA – A12 Convention May 2-4, 2014 is less than six months away. As of November 30, we have 402 Registrations with 230 attending the Saturday Luncheon and 273 attending the Saturday evening Dinner and Entertainment.

Deerhurst Resort advises that *individual* rooms are now fully booked. A few two and three bedroom condos are still available but going quickly. Hidden Valley Resort (1 km away) has 60 rooms blocked for our Lions, but is also filling fast. Comfort Inn, Huntsville, is offering 20 rooms at a special Lions rate of \$88/night.

The Stew O'Brien Golf Tournament is set for Friday morning. This eighteen hole course is challenging enough to satisfy all skill levels. The cost is only \$55 per player, cart included.

We will have free entertainment Friday evening, Opportunity for Youth on Saturday morning, International Vice President Joe Preston as guest speaker at the Award Luncheon, Information Sessions in the afternoon, Pin Trading, Lioness business session, and a super-great Banquet that evening. Those attending the banquet will be pleased to know we will

be following the A-12 tradition of no speeches – just great food followed by equally great entertainment!

Bonus – just by registering now, you will receive a chance to win a car - at absolutely no charge to you. FREE! Nothing to buy!

As an added bonus, Lions Camp Dorset is providing free bus service for a tour of the Camp on the Saturday afternoon. Founded and supported by the Lions and Lioness of Ontario, the Camp has evolved from dialysis in the back of a converted school bus to a state-of-the-art medical facility – thanks mainly to the Lions family.

Come enjoy affordable luxury in the beautiful Muskokas! See why we believe: Muskoka Rocks! For more information, contact:

PDG Jim Hilt, Convention Chair  
[jimhilt381@gmail.com](mailto:jimhilt381@gmail.com) 705-636-1862  
IPDG Maureen Hilt, Registrations  
[maureenhilt@gmail.com](mailto:maureenhilt@gmail.com)  
Deerhurst Resort 1-800-461-4393  
Hidden Valley Resort 1-705-789-2301  
Comfort Inn, Huntsville 1-705-789-1701

## St. Marys Lions Club

Our St. Marys Lions Club was present for opening day of the Skate Park in St. Marys October 30, 2013. The Club donated \$7,000.00 plus the erecting of a shade shelter.



*Pictured are PDG Lion Dr. Jim, Lions Gerry, Jill, Lions President Evelyn, Marianne and Larry*

**MULTIPLE DISTRICT "A"/A12 CONVENTION 2014**

**MUSKOKA ROCKS**

**DEERHURST RESORT HUNTSVILLE**

**MAY 2 - MAY 4, 2014**



**HOSTED BY THE LIONS CLUBS OF DISTRICT A12**

**A** District \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Lion  Lioness  Leo  Partner in Service  Highest Office \_\_\_\_\_ Past  Present

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name to appear on badge (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET # or PO BOX CITY PROV P.C.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**B** District \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Lion  Lioness  Leo  Partner in Service  Highest Office \_\_\_\_\_ Past  Present

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name to appear on badge (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET # or PO BOX CITY PROV P.C.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel registration is being handled by *Deerhurst Resort* and you are responsible for booking your room directly with them. Please refer to the **ACCOMMODATIONS** information flyer - choose your room then call **Deerhurst** and make your reservation. **Deadline for hotel reservations is APRIL 1, 2014.** Book early and avoid disappointment!



**PLEASE NOTE:**

- **Everyone, including guests and exhibitors** must be registered in order to attend any convention functions, including meals.
- All cancellations must be in writing by mail or e-mail and acknowledged. Cancellations received after **March 1, 2014** will be subject to a \$10 handling fee.
- **NO REFUNDS AFTER April 1, 2014**

FUNCTION TICKETS	COST PER PERSON	"A""B"	TOTAL
Saturday Luncheon	\$ 45	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
Saturday Night Banquet & Entertainment	\$ 70	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
<i>If you purchase both tickets, the cost is \$105</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
Total Amount for Function Tickets Required \$ _____			

**Tickets must be ordered by April 1, 2014 and are available only while quantities last. Don't delay!**

**NO FUNCTION TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE CONVENTION**

**AMOUNT DUE**

Full Registration fee for A	\$25.00= \$
Sunday only A	\$10.00= \$
Full Registration fee for B	\$25.00= \$
Sunday only B	\$10.00= \$
Exhibitor/Pin trader	\$25.00= \$
Registration fee for Leo	\$10.00= \$
Function tickets (as above)	\$ _____
Convention pin <u>    </u> x	\$5.00 = \$
Pin trader table <u>    </u> x	\$25.00= \$
Commercial exhibitor table <u>    </u> x	\$25.00= \$ _____

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Pay by cheque:** payable to **"MDA/A12 2014 Convention"**

**OR** charge to your  **Visa** or  **Master Card**

**Card #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp.** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Your statement will show a Gravenhurst Lions Club charge

**Name on card** (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed registration to:**  
 PDG Maureen Hilt  
 RR 1 381 N. Bay Lake Road  
 EMSDALE ON P0A 1J0  
 Phone 705 636-1862  
 E-mail registration@mda2014.ca

Or you can register on line at  
[www.MDA2014.ca](http://www.MDA2014.ca)

**SPECIAL REQUESTS**

We will try our best to comply with any special requests listed below.

	A	B
Diabetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gluten Free	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



***MUSKOKA ROCKS***  
*Be there and be part of the fun!*

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DATE REC'D	BY
REGISTRATION #	



# Toronto Hosts 2014 Convention in July

## Cosmopolitan City is 'The Complete Package'

by Jay Copp

### O, Canada.

Lions can't stay away from the country for long. Toronto hosted the first international convention outside the United States in 1931. Eleven years later, as war raged in Europe, Lions worldwide returned to Toronto, as they did in 1964. Montreal hosted in 1978 and 1996, and Windsor shared the spotlight with Detroit in 2004. Toronto becomes the center of Lionism again July 4-8 as it hosts the 97th International Convention.

Toronto may not have the glitz and sizzle of other cities. But residents and tourists alike adore its vitality, its cosmopolitan makeup and its innumerable cultural attractions, restaurants and shopping venues. It's clean, safe and nice. It's the girl next door who has grown into a beauty. It's MaryAnn, not Ginger. Toronto is attractive, exciting and eye-opening yet also is eminently livable and likeable.

The '64 convention was notable for its overall pleasantness. The gathering was "the most friendly" convention in Lions' history, LION Magazine asserted then. The city has not changed.

"Toronto is the complete package," writes Torontonians Shannon Kelly in Fodor's. "Toronto is clean, safe and nice. Torontonians say 'sorry' when they jostle you. They recycle and compost. They obey traffic laws. They're like the boy next door you eventually marry after fooling around with New York or Los Angeles. Why not cut the charade and start the love affair now?"

Toronto has a bustling urban core, incredible ethnic diversity, a dazzling array of cultural riches, an everything-under-the-sun food scene, a patchwork of neighborhoods, ranging from hip and trendy to ethnic and scruffy, and an eye-popping setting, located on grand Lake Ontario. Toronto is not some sleepy outpost, some pale imitation of a world-class city but the real thing, the fourth-largest city in North America, recently overtaking Chicago. "We're a clean, vibrant city—very modern with skyscrapers. You can get an eyeful of them. Lions, especially from America, will have their eyes opened," says Past International Director Carl Young, chair of the Host Committee.

The iconic CN Tower, until recently the world's tallest freestanding structure, is the city's most well-known landmark. Visitors also flock to the Royal Ontario Museum and its stunning Chinese and aboriginal peoples collections, the splendid Art Gallery of Ontario, the first-rate theaters and the pulsating club scene. Befitting a city where winter can be long and brutish, subterranean Toronto offers a dazzling network of shops and restaurants. The world's largest underground shopping complex, PATH is 29 kilometers of pedestrian tunnels running beneath the downtown office towers. For a quieter, peaceful day, marvel at the skyline while taking a short ferry ride to

Toronto Islands, where cars are prohibited and beaches are popular.

Canada often is stereotyped as the home of hockey, lumberjacks and caribou, a cold frontier populated by tough, modest, plain-speaking people. Toronto is anything but monolithic. Half its residents are immigrants. The city is home to 120 cultures. Toronto almost out-Lions Lions Clubs. Lions who descend on the city from all points of the globe will bump into Torontonians who speak their language and eat the same foods. Each hotel reserved for Lions will include a welcoming Lion who speaks the language of guest Lions. The convention's steering committee had no problems finding Lions fluent in a range of languages: Lions from Canada speak 62 languages.

Part of the charm of visiting Toronto is meeting Canadians, not "Americans-lite" at all but possessing their own culture and predispositions. In the Toronto Trilogy book series, Doug Taylor includes a scene where a young boy recalls his father's rant on the characteristics of Canadians. They are possessed with the seasons and never stop talking about them. In a crowd, they want to be invisible. They insist they are the only people in the world who speak English without an accent. They are passive by nature, loathe of making a fuss and prefer to keep their opinions private. They strive to see both sides of an argument. However, if a Canadian's favorite hockey team fails to make the playoffs, don't dare to disagree with him when he declares, "Well, there's always next year."



Toronto is a world-class city with a stunning waterfront and skyline.

Photos courtesy of [www.torontowide.com](http://www.torontowide.com)

Yes, hockey. Lacrosse is officially the national sport, and Canadians claim to have invented football. But hockey remains an all-consuming passion among Canadians—their equivalence of mother and apple pie. Lions won't be able to skate outdoors in July (the weather likely will be warm and sunny). But they can visit the interactive Hockey Hall of Fame and call a playoff game, pretend to be a goalie and pose with the Stanley Cup. Another appeal to this hockey mecca is that its focus is international including exhibits on the "Miracle on Ice" U.S. Olympic squad, national teams like the Finns and even women's hockey.



Toronto's Harbourfront stages a slew of big events and festivals

Toronto is both cosmopolitan and distinctly Canadian and yet, as least for Americans, reassuringly familiar, too. "We drive on the same side of the road. It's the same telephones, the same TV, the same theater. And it's not football here either—we call it soccer," says Young.

There won't be any culture shock, either, in encountering Canadian Lions. "What you do in America we do here," says Young, mentioning pancake breakfasts (though their maple syrup typically is genuine), walkathons and sight activities. "We're all about service. It's often hands-on."

The close relationship between U.S. and Canadian Lions is reflected in the seven joint multiple districts. Lions from border states in the United States traditionally traveled across the border for district enclaves and Canadians often returned the favor. Many Canadian clubs are located in a narrow belt along the 4,000-mile boundary with the United States.

One difference between U.S. and Canadian Lions is that the latter is more democratic. "We have more elections for officers. We tend to use the ballot box more," says Young. Because of the nation's robust national health insurance, Canadian Lions also differ from their U.S. counterparts in raising funds for eye-related procedures. While encouraging tissue donations, Canadian Lions, for example, generally don't need to solicit financial support for surgeries at eye banks.

Unlike before Sept. 11, Americans now need passports to enter Canada. Canadians, on the other hand, typically already have passports. Torontonians often use theirs to shoot down to Buffalo, a short jaunt away. The Argonauts are the hometown football team, but the Bills are beloved as well. "We bleed for the

Bills,” says Young.

Canadian Lions are hard at work preparing for the influx of their yellow-vested comrades. “They’re rolling out the red carpet. The dedication and energy level is a real eye-opener,” says Kathryn Wakefield of the Toronto Convention & Visitors Association.

Future issues of the LION, particularly the April issue, will detail the speakers and entertainers at the convention. Or check LCI’s website soon. The parade in particular promises to be celebratory and memorable. Its downtown route includes The Hospital

for Sick Children (Canadians pull no punches in naming things.) In a nice touch, Tim Hortons, the iconic coffee and doughnut shop, will be on hand at the parade with a food truck. Even better, Canadian Lions are asking hospital officials to allow their patients to see the festivities. Everyone loves a parade, especially sick kids.

*The influential Toronto International Film Festival won’t be running during the festival, but who’s to say if Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall or other stars are around*



## 1 City, 9 Ways – Toronto

Whatever pleases you the most – food, sights, culture, history, fashion, adventure, sports, getting a deal or delighting your children—Toronto can deliver the goods.

### Sightseer

#### Breakfast

*Tim Hortons*

Join the hordes of Canadians in getting energized for the day by ordering a “double-double” (two cream, two sugar) and a box of Timbits (donut holes) at this popular chain.



#### Morning Activity I

*CN Tower*

You aren’t allowed to leave Toronto without visiting its most iconic site, a 1,815-foot spike. Ride the glass elevators and bravely step onto the glass floor.



#### Morning Activity II

*Harbourfront Centre*

Once the home to Toronto’s grimy docks, the sprawling cultural, social and children’s hub teems with gleaming performing arts areas, art galleries, jogging and cycling trails and eateries.



#### Lunch

*Future Bakery* (multiple locations)

Fuel your body and please your taste buds with a big bowl of beef borscht or a schnitzel sandwich on dark rye with mashed potatoes.

#### Afternoon Activity

*Casa Loma*

The mock medieval castle is actually a gaudy 98-room mansion built in 1913 for the extravagant Sir Henry Pellat, a financier who became wealthy by providing



Toronto with electricity. Gape in awe at the furnishings but it’s OK to gloat a little too: Sir Henry later lost everything in land speculation and was forced to move out.

#### Dinner

*Buca*

Stylish yet traditional, Buca offers rustic Italian cuisine based on fresh, seasonal ingredients. The beautifully understated main dining room features soaring high ceilings, exposed raw brick and iron beams.

#### Evening Activity

*The Theatre*

Toronto trails only London and New York as a theatre center. The top venues are the Canon Theatre, the Princess of Wales, the Royal Alexandra and the Toronto Centre for the Arts. Whether it’s big, brassy Broadway musicals or avant-garde productions, Toronto has it.



### Culture Vulture

#### Morning Activity I

*Art Gallery of Ontario*

Among the 89,000 works of art are masterpieces by Rembrandt, Picasso and Rodin. The glass and titanium façade is a work of art in itself.



#### Morning Activity II

*Underpass Art*

When can a walk through an underpass be a mesmerizing experience? When you stroll through the Dufferin underpass and see its amazing mosaics.

#### Midday Snack

*Dufflet Pastries* (multiple locations)

Diets die here. The cheesecakes, cupcakes and tarts are beyond memorable.



#### Afternoon Activity

*World’s Biggest Bookstore*

The name says it all – 64,000 square feet of books on every subject imaginable.

#### Dinner

*Crush Wine Bar*

Be safe and not sorry at all by ordering halibut, a rib eye or a pork chop.

Or take a chance and be delighted by bacon-wrapped Ontario rabbit or wild boar ragu with in-house testaroli pasta.

#### Evening Activity

*Bell Lightbox*

The home of the renowned Toronto International Film Festival, the gorgeous cinema complex includes five state-of-the-art theatres, three gallery spaces and a restaurant and bar. A cinematic-like feature of its exterior are glass panels that catch the shadows of people moving within.



### Fashionista

#### Breakfast

Cute as a button, family-owned *Caffe Bacio* boasts to-die-for mushroom and spinach omelettes and one of the city’s very best Americanos.

#### Morning Activity I

*Holt Renfrew*

The city’s showcase high-end department store is a temple of Armani, Gucci and Karan. You may run into a celebrity or two here. Or maybe not—the famous reportedly have private shopping suites.



continued page 24



**97th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention**  
**Friday, July 4 – Tuesday, July 8, 2014 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada**  
**Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form**

**Deadlines**

- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Toronto.
- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation. • **May 16, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a hotel room cancellation.

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Lion: Club No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  Lion  Lioness  
 COMPANION: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Lion: Club No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  Lion  Lioness  Guest  
 CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  Alpha Leo  
 CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  Alpha Leo

This is my/our first LCI convention.  Not my first convention, I've attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Letter of invitation (If a visa is required for your country of origin) [Club number must be provided above to verify membership]  
 The plenary sessions are presented in English with simultaneous translation Will you require a headset?  No  Yes

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

Before January 10, 2014: Reservation in delegation hotel  
 After January 10, 2014:  I prefer my delegation hotel  
 Prefer hotel based on:  room rate of \_\_\_\_\_  location near convention center  
 Arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Guests in Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Beds Needed  1  2  
 Special Requirements:  Non-smoking  Wheelchair Accessible  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

EVENT	DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
Leo Lion Summit	July 4/ 10:00-16:00	US\$60	_____	\$ _____
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	July 6/ 15:00-17:00	US \$25	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	July 7/ 13:30-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	July 7/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

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

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

REGISTRATION FEES	Adult	Child (17 and under)
Early (before 10 January, 2014)	US\$110	US\$10
Regular (11 January through 31 March, 2014)	US\$150	US\$10
Late (1 April, 2014 – onsite)	US\$170	US\$10

**Package A:** Registrations: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ticketed Events: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hotel Deposit: US\$ 225.00  
**Total Due:** US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**Package B:** Registrations: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ticketed Events: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Due:** US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check  Bank transfer/deposit (copy must be attached to this form)  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover  
 Your name as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_ Credit card **must** be in the name of the registrant.  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security code (3 digits) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment to: Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA  
 Credit Card and Bank Transfer Payments can be faxed to: (1-630) 571-1689 (If you fax, please do not mail original)  
 Questions? Email us: [registration@lionsclubs.org](mailto:registration@lionsclubs.org) • Allow 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery of your confirmation.

Please note: Lions Clubs International will be documenting the international convention for promotional purposes. Your participation may be filmed or photographed at this event. Your registration is your consent for use of these images by Lions Clubs International.

### Morning Activity II

#### Bata Shoe Museum

Shuffle your feet past Elton John's boots, Marilyn Monroe's red leather pumps and more than 10,000 other shoe and shoe-related fashions.



### Midday Snack

#### Summer's Ice Cream

Torontonians count down the days until Summer's opens. Act like a local by grabbing a homemade scoop (or two) in a just-made waffle cone.

### Afternoon Activity I

#### Eaton Centre

You can find nearly anything at the block-long complex. Prices are conveniently tiered: the first floor offers lower cost goods, the second has mid-level prices and the third is for expensive items.



### Afternoon Activity II

#### Mjöl

The shop that carries lovely Scandinavian furniture and exquisite Japanese handicrafts poses the classic shopper's dilemma: you're tempted to blow the budget in one stop.



### Evening Activity

#### Windsor Spa

Shopping all day can be brutal so take the edge off—and

your clothes—at the swanky Windsor Arms Spa.

### History Buff

#### Breakfast

#### Sunset Grill (seven locations)

As good as granny's, Sunset offers wholesome food and great service. The bacon, eggs and home fries never disappoint, and even dainty eaters wolf down the granola with yogurt and honey.

### Morning Activity I

#### Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Some of the city's best-known denizens are at rest here including classical musician Glenn Gould, former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie, Titanic survivor Arthur Godfrey Peuchen and Canada's beloved "Voice of Hockey," Foster Hewitt, who coined the phrase "he shoots, he scores!"



### Coffee Break

#### Balzac Coffee

#### Roastery

Espresso connoisseurs treasure this atmospheric gem, a revamped brewery house.



### Morning Activity II

#### Historic Distillery District

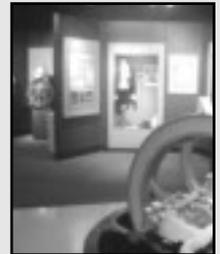
Step back in time wandering through a 13-acre cobblestone site with dozens upon dozens of cinema-ready 19th-century buildings.



### Afternoon Activity I

#### Redpath Sugar Museum

Dating back to 1854, the working sugar refinery includes a small museum on what we all very much crave in our diet.



### Afternoon Activity II

#### Police Museum & Discovery Centre

The police headquarter's museum showcases historic equipment, uniforms, vehicles and crime-related paraphernalia. "CSI" comes to life as you can learn how to trace a murderer's DNA from a cigarette butt.

### Dinner/Drinks

#### Hemingway's

Hemingway's—a no-nonsense type like the acclaimed author—is a neighborhood pub with a friendly vibe.



## MDA Directory Information

### Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting: February 28/March 1, 2014
- Council Meeting Convention: May 2-4, 2014

### District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Holiday Inn, Sarnia	April 4-5, 2014
A2	Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Catharines	March 28-30, 2014
A3	Ambassador Conference Resort, Kingston	April 11-13, 2014
A4	Brookstreet Hotel, Ottawa	April 11-13, 2014
A5	Radisson Hotel, Sudbury	April 11-13, 2014
A711	Delta Meadowdale Conference Centre, Mississauga	April 11-13, 2014
A9	The Davidson Centre for Kincardine and District, Kincardine	April 4-6, 2014
A12	Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville	May 2-4, 2014
A15	Holiday Inn, Guelph	April 11-13, 2014
A16	Quality Inn, Oshawa	April 12-13, 2014

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MDA Convention

2013/14 Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville, ON May 2 - 4, 2014

### International Conventions

97th	Toronto, Canada	July 4 - 8, 2014
98th	Honolulu, Hawaii	June 26 - 30, 2015
99th	Fukuoka, Japan	June 24 - 28, 2016
100th	Chicago, Illinois, USA	June 30 - July 4, 2017
101st	Las Vegas Nevada, USA	June 29-July 3, 2018

### USA - Canada Forums

Sept. 18 - 21, 2014	Puerto Rico
Sept. 17 - 19, 2015	Grand Rapids, Michigan



## Adventurers/ Outdoorsmen

### Morning Activity I

#### Scarborough Bluffs

The glacial lakeshore cliffs offer stunning views across Lake Ontario.



### Morning Activity II

#### Spadina Quay Wetlands

The self-sustained ecosystem, full of heath plants and poplar trees, is also alive with frogs, birds and fish. Keep your eyes out for monarch butterflies, mallards goldfinches and red-winged blackbirds.

### Lunch

#### Pearl Harbourfront

Enjoy a great view of Lake Ontario while feasting on dim sum, Peking Duck or braised lobster.



### Afternoon Activity

#### Niagara Falls

Less than a two-hour drive from Toronto, you can experience the famous waterfall from the Canadian or American side.



### Dinner

#### Canoe

Splurge at one of the city's finest restaurants, located on the 54th floor of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower. The real-mean portion of the menu includes prime cuts of Nunavut caribou, rare breed porkers from Manitoba and cattle from Alberta.

## Sports Nut

### Morning Activity I

#### Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum

See the original Stanley Cup, a replica of the Montreal Canadiens' locker room and collections of goalie masks, skates and sticks.



### Morning Activity II

#### Maple Leaf Gardens Site

Alas, one of the cathedrals of hockey is



gone, but in Loblaws grocery store are a red dot on the floor marking the original center ice location and a giant maple leaf made out of old blue seats.

### Afternoon Activity I

#### Polsen Pier

Whack the dimpled balls at the driving range here.

### Afternoon Activity II

#### Bicycling

Bike rental shops can allow you to pedal the spectacular flat route along the city's lakeshore.



### Evening Activity

#### Major League Baseball

The Blue Jays play the Brewers on July 2 and then leave town. So watch sports at Loose Moose over a Barking Squirrel craft beer or head to Wayne Gretzky's Restaurant to see the skates he wore as a two-year-old.



## Foodie

### Morning Activity

#### St. Lawrence Market

Stock up on local and imported specials especially fresh shellfish, sausage and cheese at one of the world's best food markets.



### All the Best Foods

A food cognoscenti destination replete with gourmet foods, artisan cheeses and hard-to-find breads.

### Afternoon Activity

#### Kensington Market

Just about every food on the planet can be found at this lively outdoor market.



### Red Tea Box

Select your tea from the antique Chinese medicine chest. Try the tea-flavored Maccha cheesecake.



### Dinner

#### Nota Bene

One of the country's top restaurants features contemporary Canadian cuisine. The duck salad and sticky toffee pudding are incomparable.



## Frugal Traveler

### Morning Activity I

#### St. James Cathedral

This Gothic Revival landmark has the tallest steeple in Canada. The city's best free burst of sound comes after the 9 a.m. service on most Sundays as the bells ring.

### Morning Activity II

#### Toronto's First Post Office - photo courtesy of Parks Canada

Established in 1833, this working post office allows you to live like your pre-computer ancestors: write a letter with a quill and ink, seal it with wax and send it postmarked "York-Toronto 1833" for a small fee.



### Lunch

#### Dumpling House Restaurant

Watch the dumplings being rolled in the window and then feast on steamed or pan-fried meat and vegetarian entrees. You'll be fatter—as will your wallet.

### Afternoon Activity I

#### Edwards Garden

Nature tamed and tied up in a neat bow: colorful floral displays, rock and butterfly gardens and picturesque bridges.

### Afternoon Activity II

#### Trinity College

New students wear robes to meals at this throwback college. Pick up a self-guided tour pamphlet and ramble through the quad and the dignified Anglican chapel and then look especially serious as you do the Philosopher's Walk, a leafy ramble on the east side toward the Alexandra Gates.



### Dinner

#### Gourmet Burger (multiple locations)

Named the city's best burger under \$10. Be adventurous the second time and order the Aussie Burger, topped with fried egg, pineapple, beets, bacon, and regular cheddar.



### Evening Activity

#### Honest Ed's

Bargains galore abound at this kitschy, beloved institution.

## Parents With Kids

### Morning Activity I

#### Toronto Zoo

See some lions from the animal kingdom as well as gorillas, giraffes and polar







## LIONS CLUB INSURANCE PRODUCTS

Does your club realize that while Lions International provides member clubs with a basic Commercial General Liability Policy, our products can provide coverage that otherwise may not be available on the Lions Master Policy? There may be gaps in your insurance protection that you are not aware of. We can fill them!

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1-(800)387-1627

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Providing Insurance Protection to Lions Clubs since 1991



# Toronto Maple Leafs Getaway Weekend

a Fundraiser for Lions Clubs International  
Convention 2014 Host Committee



Toronto Maple Leafs vs Detroit Red Wings  
Saturday, March 29, 2014

Winner receives the use of 10 seats in the Molson's box at Air Canada Centre and Dinner in the Hot Stove Lounge prior to the game. Plus: One night accommodation (five rooms with double occupancy) at The Royal York Hotel.

All proceeds for the 2014 Lions Clubs International Convention Host Committee

\$10.<sup>00</sup> per ticket or 3 for \$20.<sup>00</sup>  
Draw to be held on March 1, 2014



For additional tickets, contact  
Stan Durward - 705.357.2115  
Box 38, Sunderland ON L0H 1H0  
Tickets to be sold only to Lions Club Members  
*Prize is subject to change without notice*

# Lionism Serves Humanity and Peace

## Lions Clubs International 47th Annual Convention – July 8th to 11th, 1964 Toronto

by Ray Charbonneau, Historian

In keeping with our look back at International Conventions in Toronto we follow up our coverage of the 1931 and 1942 events with the 1964 Annual General Meeting of Lions Clubs International.

One feels the need to explain the social, political and economic happenings in 1964 to set the climate of the time and how Lions were a part of it. This was of course the Space Age, The Nuclear Age and the Jet Age all at once. Nelson Mandella was sent to prison and race riots were occurring all over the USA where they gave us the Ford Mustang, GI Joe and Buffalo wings.

In Canada we all got Social Insurance Cards, we extended our fishing limit to 12 miles out and Northern Dancer won the Kentucky Derby, The Preakness and the Queen's Plate. Tim Hortons Coffee shops made their debut and the big nickel was erected in Sudbury. Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor were making eyes in Toronto home while rehearsing for Broadway.

We were listening to the Beach Boys "I Get Around" and the Beatles "Can't Buy Me Love" and watching "My Fair Lady" and "Mary Poppins".



The Toronto Skyline had not changed much since the previous 1942 convention. The tall modern towers would come a few years later.

Yonge Street was a happening place except on Sunday. Our Airport was taking shape.



Our new city hall was nearing completion.

Once again we were back at the Royal York Hotel as Convention Headquarters and it had



a new wing added to the east to accommodate increased business.



The plenary sessions and entertainment were at Maple Leaf

Gardens where the walls were still echoing from the Leafs 3rd Stanley Cup win in a row. Nothing compared to the noise made by the Beatles in September of the same year.

Opening Ceremonies featured Miss Canada, Carol Ann



Bodner and all of the Canadian symbols we could put on one stage. Note the Canadian Red Ensign that would be replaced the following year by the National Flag we all know and love.

Then as now we have a flag



ceremony and these all appear to be carried by young persons in uniform.

Plenary Sessions were well attended and the theme of the convention was displayed prominently above the stage backed with red drapery.



Anita Bryant was invited to entertain us with her hits such as "In My Little Corner of The World" and "Paper Roses". She would later become known for "breakfast without orange juice is like a day without sunshine".

International President Aubrey Green – 1963-1964 was riding high with Lions Clubs International enjoying huge growth in his year as International President. At the first plenary session in Maple Leaf Gardens he reported 720,385 Lions in 18,455 (1,301 new) Lions Clubs in 125 countries along with a registration of more than 32,000.



Governor George Wallace of Alabama was invited by the International President also from Alabama to be a keynote speaker. A known segregationist, he used this platform to denounce the new Civil Rights Bill in the USA. This was not well received by the people of Toronto and Canada and he was protested and jeered in public. Lions Clubs International received criticism in the press for associating with a

person of this political ideology but he was loudly



applauded after his keynote speech by Lions from the southern states.

The York Lions Band was featured amongst many other marching bands and majorettes along with 35 floats. More than 250,000



people turned out to see this parade which set a record with Lions Clubs International in terms of participation.

The Toronto Colombo Lions were in fine form and it was reported that club member and Alderman Joseph Piccininni having expressed his concern for the invitation of George



Wallace was replaced as a driver carrying the International leaders in the convention parade.

George Laughlin from St Catharines was completing his 2nd year as our International Director from Canada with Jack Filkin from Toronto waiting in the wings.



Premier John Robarts welcomed everyone on behalf of Ontario.

Mayor Phil Givens brought greetings on behalf of the City of Toronto. He would lose his job later in an election later that



year in part due to his support for the purchase of this Henry Moore sculpture that still sits outside of City Hall today. Pretty tame by today's standards.



Council Chairman – GORDON W. CLIPPERTON (CC), Streetsville; District A1 – JACK L. MISNER, Port Stanley; District A2 – MAURIE STREN, Brantford; District A3 – J. ROSS OLIPHANT, Peterborough; District A4 – MARK GOLDHAMMER, Cornwall; District A5 – ROBERT G. BABCOCK, Sudbury; District A6 – CLIFFORD H. COX, Temagami; District A7 – DR. HUGH MACKAY, Richmond Hill; District A8 – ALBERT DRAPEAU, St Lambert; District A9 – KENNETH M. HENDERSON, Palmerston; District A10 – MARCEL LACHANCE, Quebec City.

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