

LION



M.D. "A" Edition July/August 2014

www.lionsclubs.org

We Serve



Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International
President

says "Don't Hide Your Pride."

London Central Lions Awards and Presentation

At their Club meeting in June, members were honoured and a \$34,000 cheque was presented to St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation for the purchase of Pediatric eye care equipment at the Ivey Eye Institute. These funds were raised at the Club's annual Fight for Sight fundraiser in May.



Lion Doug Hill receives 60 year membership certificate from PDG Lion Joe Elliott and Club President Lion Joanne Lystar



Club President Lion Joanne Lystar with PZC Lion Sandy Leadlay who received the Helen Keller Fellowship award; Lion Jim Balicsak received the Melvin Jones Fellow award and PRC Lion Ron Lindsay who was presented with the Club's Lion of the Year award



Club President Lion Joanne Lystar and PDG Lion Joe Elliott present 50 year membership certificate to PDG Lion Fred Jenkins

Amaranth Lions Honour Their Members



Lion Joanne Gilewski received a Lions Foundation of Canada Fellowship



Lion Lucy Mortson received a Membership to Camp Dorset



Lion Jim Melen received a Judge Brian Stevenson Award

Chemung Lake District Lions 40th Anniversary



Lion Bob Herr was presented with Melvin Jones Fellowship Award by PID Lion Bill Maguire – with wife Cathy



Melvin Jones Award presented by Lion Albert Munneke to Lion Gerry Herron – with wife Nicki



Lion Zone Chair Mike Murphy received a Melvin Jones Fellowship



Lion President Alan Mortson received a Judge Brian Stevenson Award



Lion Paul English received Judge Brian Stevenson Award – with wife Jane



Lion of the year - presented by DG Lion Albert Munneke to Lion Keith Elliott – with wife Lydia



Lion Harry Wheeler received Judge Brian Stevenson Award – with wife Dorothy



Lion Tonya Austin received a Helen Keller Fellowship

Submitted by Lion Karl Pilatske



On the cover:
Lions Clubs International
President Joe Preston and
his wife Joni.

THE Lion



We Serve

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

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Management Committee Lion Magazine
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Agreement Number is:
41805020*



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Joseph Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Do you remember what you were like when you were 21? I do, and let me just say I still had some growing up to do. I was shy, even timid. Yet when I joined the Mesa Host Lions Club in Arizona, even though I was its youngest member, I felt comfortable, even empowered. The club put me right to work, and several members served brilliantly for me as role models and mentors. Today I am at ease with leadership and in public speaking, as I need to be as your new international president, of course. I owe my growth as a Lion and as a person to other Lions.

I cite this story because it not only introduces me to you but also because it perfectly illustrates my presidential theme. This year I urge Lions to Strengthen the Pride. Strengthen the pride through service,

Don't Hide Your Pride

membership development, club dynamics and other ways. But also cultivate your own growth as a Lion by taking advantage of the best resource we have: other Lions. Role models and mentors surround each of us.



Preston shares a Lion-friendly book with a child at a library in his home state of Arizona
photo by John Timmerman

Let's all grow our clubs and our personal desire to serve by leaning on each other and learning from each other.

"Lion" is a great moniker. Our founders chose it because it symbolized courage, strength, activity, and most of all, fidelity. The lion symbol "stands for loyalty to a friend, loyalty to a principle, loyalty to a duty, loyalty to a trust," according to a LION Magazine story in 1931. So this year, as we launch our celebration of the centennial in 2017, let's strengthen our courage, strength, activity and fidelity. As the great Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Strengthen our pride, indeed, and always keep in mind that our pride, both in terms of our self-esteem as volunteers and our family of Lions, is our strength.

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

A Can't-Fail Plan to Add Members

I write this fresh off the international convention in Toronto, and it's hard to appreciate how fun and exciting a convention is unless you are there. Some 15,000 Lions packed the Air Canada Centre. They roared with gusto when I and other speakers rhetorically asked "Can we do it?" or "Are we up to the challenge?" The power of a crowd, of a group of people with a shared purpose, is inspiring. I am confident each Lion at the convention is now willing and able to serve more capably and enthusiastically.

But what if we could rouse the same level of commitment in each of our 1.35 million members? What could we accomplish if each Lion resolved to Strengthen the Pride by simply asking one person to join their club? Imagine the huge impact that would have on membership growth and the amount of service

we can provide.

Often when I ask someone, "Why aren't you a Lion?" the response is "I've never been asked." The beauty of our association is everyone can be a Lion. You don't need to be a rocket scientist. You don't need a college degree. You don't need to be wealthy. You don't need to have a certain body type. The single most important trait in being a Lion is the desire to serve others. Surely, we all know plenty of people who fit that bill.

October is New Membership Growth Month, and I'd like your club to set a goal of adding at least one new member. New members bring fresh ideas, keep clubs healthy and increase your club's ability to serve. When Lions sponsor and report a new member in October, they'll receive a Membership Growth Award

Pin. If your club adds new members in both October and April, it will receive a Membership Growth Award Banner Patch.

Sure, it's not always easy to approach someone, knowing they could say no. But as Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, said, "The biggest risk is not taking any risk. In a world that is changing really quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks." So ask away and pave the way for a future of new and expanded service.

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Lions Quest Canada Promotional Contest

And the Winner Is.....

The Forteau Lions Club in Forteau, NL

Congratulations go to the Forteau Lions Club in Forteau, NL (41-N3) for being the winner of the 1989 Classic Mercedes 300SE. One of our few remaining Past International Councillors Lion Don Gamble (pictured with PID Bruce) drew the winning ticket at our Lions Quest office in Cambridge, Ontario. We also had the pleasure of PID Bruce Murray, PDG John Daniels and Charlotte Gamble being present to witness the draw.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the

Lions Districts across Canada who helped to support Lions Quest Canada through this promotional contest and we look forward to your continued support for the 2014-15 Promotional Contest for a 12 Day Trip for 2 to Bali. Watch for details and tickets arriving soon in your club's mailbox.

We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for the generous donations from your clubs. Thanks again for your continued support!





Lions Clubs International
Presidential Theme 2014-2015

President

Joe Preston



A “pride” is a close-knit family of lions, as can be found in the savannahs of central Africa. Each member of the pride has responsibilities. Whether they are the hunters, protectors, caregivers, teachers, or learners, they work as a team, for survival and prosperity. If even one member of the pride does not fulfill its role, it can affect the entire group.

There is another group of Lions just as proud. But unlike the lions of Africa, these Lions aren't feared. Instead they are admired and respected. They, too, form a ring of protection, and they have shown themselves to be skilled hunters – providing food for the hungry and tending to the needs of a different flock. These Lions don't restrict themselves to grassy plains. Their territory has spread to every corner of the world, and they bring goodness wherever they exist. It's us – the 1.35 million members of Lions Clubs International.

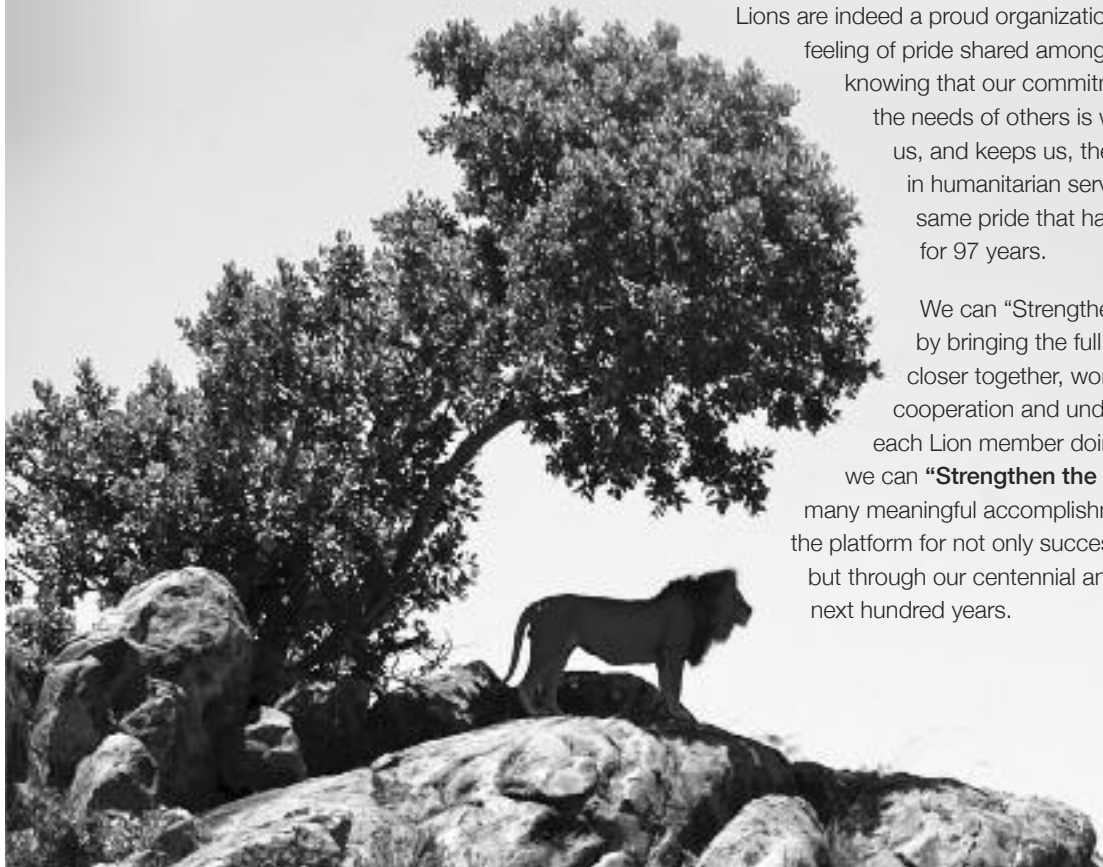
The English dictionary provides another definition of the word “**Pride**” – a feeling of happiness that you get when you or someone you know does something good. It is not the pride of being boastful it is the pride of accomplishment in building communities, doing good, and reaching out to assist others.



President
Joe Preston

Lions are indeed a proud organization. There is a feeling of pride shared among our members, knowing that our commitment to serve the needs of others is what has made us, and keeps us, the global leader in humanitarian service. It is the same pride that has sustained us for 97 years.

We can “Strengthen the Pride” by bringing the full Lion's family, closer together, working in a spirit of cooperation and understanding, with each Lion member doing their share. And we can “**Strengthen the Pride**” through our many meaningful accomplishments. This is the platform for not only success this year, but through our centennial and well into the next hundred years.



STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

THROUGH SERVICE

Service has been the bedrock of our association since we were started back in 1917. It is the essence of who we are and what we do best.

Our future is bright. We are about to embark on a three-year centennial celebration. It will be a celebration that embraces our past while shining a light for us to follow in the days and years ahead. And it will be centered around the pride that we all share in our motto “We Serve.” It gives me great pleasure to usher in our centennial by announcing our **Centennial Service Challenge** – a celebration of service that begins in July 2014 and will conclude in December 2017. There will be four elements to the Centennial Service Challenge. Clubs that report their participation in the Global Service Action Campaigns service projects that contribute to the attainment of the challenge will be eligible to receive a special patch. Please go to www.lionsclubs.org/servicechallenge for complete information.

The Family and Women’s Task Force has brought forward the idea of **Responding to Children in Need**. As such, I am asking all Lion’s Clubs to participate in a special project that not only responds to children, but especially to children in need. Whether you expand a current project you are doing or take on a new one, the ideas for this are endless. It can be to address literacy, hunger, abuse, poverty, or wherever you find children in need. Invite your friends and family members to participate in these activities.



STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

THROUGH MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Our focus is on service, but **our strength is directly tied to our members.** The expression “there is strength in numbers” applies directly to our association. The more members we have, the more service we can provide. We have been fortunate to sustain growth over the past six years. That growth must continue – even escalate – if we are to maintain our premier role as the global leader in humanitarian service.

Countless times as I approach neighbors, friends and associates posing the question “why aren’t you a Lion?” the response has been “because I’ve never been asked.” I’m sure many of you have had similar experiences. It comes down to a simple principle – ask.

“ASK ONE”

My membership initiative this year adheres to that principle. I call it **“Ask One.”** Just imagine if each and every Lions member – all 1.35 million – asked just one person to join their club. It’s that simple – and Lions already have great tools to help them invite new members, such as the “Just Ask” brochure, or you may want to develop your own strategy, tailored to use with people you know.

But make it a meaningful ask. A genuine ask. The expression “it takes one to know one” can be applied to many things, not the least of which is Lions. It TAKES a Lion to KNOW a Lion – to know whether someone has the desire and passion to serve. After all, the single most important characteristic to become a Lion is the desire to serve others. It really is that simple. So ask one. Or two. Or three.

It is my goal this year to have our Lions make more membership invitations than we ever have had, resulting in more new members than we ever have had. Just ASK!

“SET THE EXPECTATION”

Before my visits and when I arrive, I will ask the host Lions, “How many new members do you have for me to induct?” I will ask the district governor to **set the same expectation** when they make their official visits. I will also expect current and past officers and directors to do this as well. Be ready when a prospective member says “yes” so that there is a timely club approval, meaningful induction, proper presentation of the membership certificate and Lion pin, and a thorough follow up orientation.

Every Club Needs A Plan

What we accomplish today, and what we accomplish in the future depends upon building and strengthening our membership. Survey after survey, and study after study have indicated people are volunteering now more than ever. But they have options for volunteering. In other words, the competition for volunteer time is keen. People who volunteer or join a club want to be assured that **their time is being used to make a significant impact** – locally, globally, or both. Meaningful and impactful service projects will keep members motivated and will feed their altruistic spirit. They are a great way to show our pride in serving others and involve new members. So I’m challenging every club this year to come up with both a Membership Development AND Leadership Development Plan – one that is unique to your club and your community. The “one size fits all” model simply doesn’t work.

Strengthen our Membership by **special targeting.** Although we want to grow all demographics, we challenge all of you to invite women and younger people to join, and to make the necessary adjustments in your clubs to make these new members feel welcome and to offer them equal opportunity for advancement. If for any reason you think that women, younger people or any special

group will not integrate into your club, please consider starting a **branch club** or **a new club**, specifically for these individuals.

“WE NEED MORE CLUBS”

It is not uncommon for a district to lose one or two clubs, so it is critical that we **use all extension tools and resources to bring in more new clubs** than we lose, if we want to grow. New clubs take a lot of effort and energy, so it is important to have a team of Lions to help you. It is also important to train **Guiding Lions** so that you have a pool of qualified experts to assist these new clubs so that they are successful. Remember, charter size matters. Chartering a club with 40 members doubles the chances for that club to succeed, as compared to chartering a club with 20 members.

“REBUILD EXISTING CLUBS”

Guiding Lions can also be used to **rebuild existing clubs**. Don't lose a club without a fight. If you have a club that is in trouble, get a strong and active club to work with them, and assign Guiding Lions to work with that club to increase their membership, develop better club operations and to expand the service that they are providing.

My Membership Development strategy includes recruitment, special targeting, involvement, retention, membership satisfaction, branch clubs, extension and rebuilding existing clubs. This comprehensive program is designed to grow and strengthen our association. But I'm asking you to localize the strategy to make it work for your club's particular needs and character.



STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

BY STRENGTHENING YOUR CLUB

It is time that we got back to the basics of strengthening our association from the Club Up. Every Lions Club will be encouraged to **examine what they are doing and consider implementing new management strategies and techniques to energize their club.** The goal is to have clubs with better focus, direction, drive and purpose. The old saying, "If you keep on doing what you've always been doing, you'll keep on getting what you've always been getting," is very true. If we want new and better results, we need to try new ways.

As we enter a new Lions year, I am asking all Lions to strengthen our programs while expanding our impact, and for each club to participate in the **Community Needs Assessment** to determine how best to serve their respective communities.

Clubs that have completed the Community Needs Assessment have found it to be a valuable tool in determining signature service projects. The vast majority of clubs completing the assessment indicated that it was useful in identifying needs. Make it an ongoing process instead of a one-time event, and use it also to build relationships with key members of the community and to recruit new members.



As important as it is to recruit new members, it is equally important to **retain members** – both new and existing. New members are particularly vulnerable. Good hosts, when entertaining guests at their home, will go out of their way to make their guests feel comfortable. The same can be said of your club. Your Lions club is your home away from home. Members of your club are like members of your family. New members want to feel like they belong. Assign a mentor. Ensure all members have a meaningful experience and are allowed to contribute and share ideas. For new members, ask them to assess their experience on a regular basis.

Participate in the **Club Excellence Process (CEP)**. CEP is a fun, interactive process that brings members together to look at what your club is today and what it will be tomorrow. It gives you the tools to strengthen your service, improve your club effectiveness and enhance your membership experience. Good for all members, and good for

the overall club atmosphere. For clubs that have completed CEP, you will be able to establish a plan of action. Next you can implement your plan, and the final step is to actively manage your plan to make sure that it is successful.

Part of your plan to strengthen your club should include ensuring that all members are actively **INVOLVED** in your club. That should be part of your club's Leadership Development Plan. When we match up our members to what they are interested in, when we make sure they are participating and attending, when we listen to them, when we give them equal opportunity to lead and when we get them performing hands on service projects and activities - we will keep them busy and add value to their membership. An involved Lion is a satisfied Lion.





LEOS

Leos are an important part of the overall strength of our pride – our family. I am calling upon all Lions to involve Leos, support them and celebrate their service accomplishments so they may expand our pride even further to help us serve more people. Properly supporting and staying in contact with our Leos will provide an opportunity for these Leos to become Lions in the future. Reaching out to younger generations will benefit our organization today and throughout another century of Lions service. Strengthen your club by sponsoring a Leos club.



STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

THROUGH LEADERSHIP

Leadership Development does not happen by accident. We can strengthen our clubs by developing strong club leaders. Leadership Development starts with a meaningful induction and a proper orientation. From there we assign our members to committees, where they are given a chance to grow into leaders. We should encourage that they become club officers and get the necessary training to be successful. As they move up the club leadership ladder they will develop new skills and expertise. *Every club should have a leadership development plan that includes goals for new member orientation, mentoring, and participation in zone meetings and leadership training.* By continually building the leadership ability of our club members we increase the pool of available leaders, which will reduce our need to recycle club officers. Successful club leaders are a good pool for district leadership positions, and above.



STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

THROUGH CREATIVITY

Survival is a basic instinct inherent in every lion in the Serengeti. The pride is constantly migrating to new areas. They develop creative means to thrive and overcome unforeseen challenges. They adapt. Adaptability and taking on new challenges is just as important to Lions clubs. If our clubs don't thrive and grow, countless needs go unmet and communities suffer.

The electronic age has ushered in new ways of doing business and reaching a broader audience. It has also provided us new and effective ways to communicate. LCI has built a strong network of social media tools. Followers on facebook, twitter, youtube, the LCI blog and other sites are growing each month. We're doing live tweets from major events like our International Convention, Lions World Sight Day and Lions Day at the United Nations.

Each day more clubs are developing web sites, either on their own or through e-clubhouse, and facebook pages. New tools like Service Activity Reporting and My LCI make it easy for clubs to report activities, find information, and share their pride.

Get creative. Create new avenues of communication and take advantage of the electronic age. It is easier than you think. Take a social media seminar at your area Forum or the International Convention. Find a member within your district or multiple district to host a seminar at your local convention. This year LCI staff will develop a special "hash" tag for members to tweet member recruiting successes, and also a special section on the LCI facebook page for Lions to share their stories.

For us to survive, grow and prosper in today's world, we need to **embrace technology**, and use it to our advantage.





STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

We can do more and accomplish more when we work together with like-minded people, companies and organizations. Every Lions Club is encouraged to **partner with others** when it is mutually advantageous, strengthens their communities, and helps your club better serve others. At the international level, LCI has grown by leaps and bounds in the last seven years, as to the quantity, quality and effectiveness of the service that we provide, and most of this growth has come from successful partnerships.

STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

THROUGH REDEDICATION

Our pride not only resides in our past, it dwells in our present and will propel us toward the future. Our founder, Melvin Jones, instilled that pride of service in our first members, and nurtured pride in membership as Lions Clubs International began to grow. As we prepare for our centennial celebration, it is important to remember the legacy of service willed to us by our founder. I am asking all Lions this year to set aside **January 13th – Melvin Jones' birthday** – as a tribute to him, and to rededicate yourself to the community and humanitarian codes, objects and principles of our association. As an alternative, you might want to perform a service project, do a random act of kindness, or hold a special new member induction ceremony. Whatever you do, make this a special day.

STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

THROUGH GIVING

The more you give, the more you have to give. I don't understand how this happens or why, but it seems to happen. This year I am asking all clubs to **make a contribution to LCIF**, the charitable arm of our association. LCIF is there to do more than clubs working alone. You decide the size of your gift.

STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE

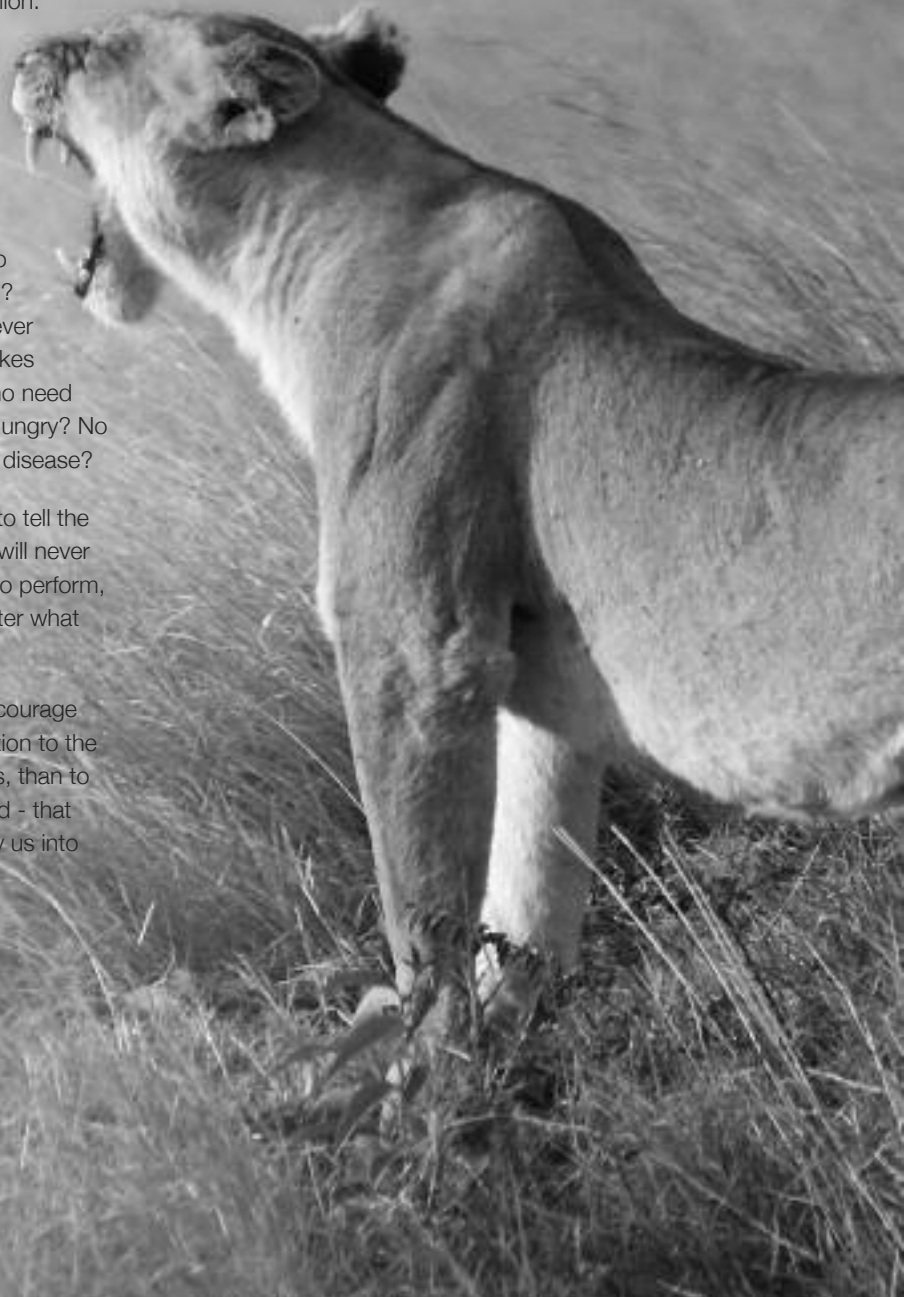
THROUGH COURAGE AND CONVICTION

One of the story lines in the beloved movie classic "The Wizard of Oz" centers around a character referred to as the "cowardly lion." In the end, he discovers it isn't courage he is lacking, it is conviction. A roar without conviction is just a loud noise.

Lions members have both courage and conviction. Did you ever stop to consider how much courage it takes to stand up to a bully? To right the wrong? To defend a weaker person? Did you ever consider the amount of conviction it takes to live by a set of principles that says no need should go unmet? No one should be hungry? No one should surrender to a preventable disease?

As Lions, we need to roar. We need to tell the whole world who we are, and that we will never stop trying, because we have service to perform, and we are going to provide it, no matter what the challenges are.

Lions Clubs International was born of courage and has succeeded due to our conviction to the principle that it is better to serve others, than to serve ourselves. And if we stay focused - that same courage and conviction will carry us into the future.



STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE – through Service, Membership Development, Club Development, Leadership Development, Creativity, Partnerships, Rededication and Courage and Conviction. It has been designed specifically to integrate and complement the work already underway by our membership and leadership network, the **GMT and GLT**, to take us to the next level of efficiency and effectiveness. Please use the GLT, GMT, DG Teams and all other resources to support your efforts.

Ironically, our namesake is an animal that stirs fear among many, while we are an organization not feared but respected. We have earned the respect of others because we are honest brokers of peace, goodwill and compassion for others. And we ask for nothing in return. It's enough knowing that what we do for those in need gives them strength and hope.

So roar with conviction Lions. Roar with courage. Roar because we are making a difference in the world. Focus on community and humanitarian service, and

STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE.



No Ordinary Joe

Our new president is not an ordinary Lion. Well, yes he is, and he hopes you can match his enthusiasm for Lions, sow similar results and reap the same benefits he has.

by Jay Copp

Meet Joe Preston.

You likely have—if you were a Lion at an event and looked as if you were alone. Her husband is not always outgoing, says Joni Preston. But among Lions it's a different story. Preston will spot a newcomer and make him feel welcome. "I've asked him about that," says Joni. "He says he wants everybody to love being a Lion like he loves being a Lion."

This is a certainty like the sun rising: our new president relishes Lions as a surefire mechanism to improve our communities. Being a Lion also is a golden opportunity for significant personal growth. Lionism worked that magic in his own life. In 2014-15, we can look forward to a Lion in charge who also will lead the charge, a leader supremely convinced of the value of Lions and our capability to leap to the next level of service.

Meet Joe Preston? You've met him, or at least a Lion like him. Certainly, you don't become an international president by being an ordinary Joe. But the contours of his life are routine and familiar. He's the fleet manager for the Sanderson Ford dealership, the largest Ford dealer in Arizona. He and Joni have three grown children, all of whom fondly recall idyllic family times including vacations at Sea World in San Diego and fall Saturdays in the football stadium at Arizona State enthusiastically cheering on the beloved Sun Devils.

These days the circle of life for Joni and Joe has formed another loop. They have seven grandchildren under the age of 7, all boys. So any discord or disagreement among a crowd of Lions will not faze a grandfather unhesitant to wade into the mosh pit of young boys. "They're all pretty little and have lots of energy. Any time we have a family event and they're all there, it kind of dominates what's going on," Preston says. "They have fun doing almost anything because they have fun within themselves. Just going to the park with them can be a fun experience."

Lions in Arizona first met Preston in 1974 when he joined the Mesa Host Lions. He was 21. A work

colleague invited him to the meeting. His friend never returned to the Lions. Preston never left.

"They really took me under their wings," he says. "It was amazing—you'd go out and work on their service projects and there'd be somebody that was 80 loading bags of newspapers into the bin and helping to recycle. It was pretty hard to say you weren't going to do your share of the work when they're working like that."

"They really appreciated what I did. And I appreciated what they did. And it was just amazing how you could join and develop friendships by just working together with people."

Preston was no stranger to service even as a newcomer to Lions. His upbringing predisposed him for it. A native of Iowa whose family moved to Arizona when he was 15, Preston says he had "two great parents." But he has a special affection for his mom, who traveled to Toronto for his installation as international president. "My mom was a tremendous influence on me. She was just very loving and steady," he says.

With his mom's blessings, he volunteered for the YMCA Leaders Club while in high school. He worked with grade school students, teaching them how to organize sports events. It was fun, and it was rewarding. So by the tender age of 15 he knew he liked to play sports, paint and draw, sing, play the piano—and serve.

As a young Lion, Preston again found himself working with youth. He did eye screenings and promoted reading. But he also didn't shy away from whatever service project was available. That willingness to step forward cemented his status as a Lion and presented him with his "day I became a Lion" revelation. He volunteered to drive blind people 20 miles to a blind center in Phoenix. Those he drove bubbled over with anticipation at seeing their friends. The realization that he was bringing joy to others struck him full force. "It was amazing what I got out of it. I knew that I was making a difference in somebody's life," he says.

He was getting something else out of Lions, too. He was finding himself. His identity became rooted in being a Lion. His growth as a person and at his job was tied to his increasing role as a Lion. "I was so shy and timid at the start of my year as a club president. I think about how confident I was by the end of that year," he says. "Being able to speak in front of people, it was amazing how I grew as a Lion. I was more successful in my business life. I was more successful in my personal life."

"Being a Lion I've learned so many skills that I was able to use in my business life. You join for certain reasons. And you stay for certain reasons. But there are so many side benefits to being a member. It's the friendships, the relationships."

Lions delivered one relationship in particular. As a bank manager, Joni realized it was time for her to become more involved in the community, and she joined the Pinnacle Peak Lioness Club. The incoming district governor, Joe showed up for the installation of the charter members. Joni and Joe ran into each other again at the state convention.

"What attracted me to Joe was his energy, his enthusiasm for life and just his good heart. I could tell right away he was a good man," says Joni. Joe was similarly enchanted. "She had something very magical about her, special about her—this compassion and caring about other people that you don't see in a lot of people," he says. "I would call Joni my soul mate. We've had a magical relationship, and we've been very supportive of each other."

Their Lions-tinged relationship reached a new level at the USA/Canada Lions Forum in Canada when he proposed. International President Judge Brian Stevenson offered to marry them on the spot. Politely turned down, the judge announced their engagement at a banquet in front of 3,000 people, and Joe and Joni had to spend the rest of the forum fending off offers to marry them.

Their Lions-themed life together continued with their children. The Prestons took them to Lions conventions and to service projects. "I'll always



An artist, Preston wants Lions to create their own masterpieces of service in their communities
Photo by John Timmerman



Preston's children, (from left) Tony, Karli and Dustin, relish time with dad, as they did growing up



When Joe and Joni are involved, service is invariably fun

remember handing out white canes on the weekend and collecting donations for that," says Dustin, a firefighter. "We grew up around the Lions. My memories are of pancake sales, working booths at carnivals and white cane events. And we had a lot of good friends that we had parties with," says Tony, who is in real estate. Karli Kelley, their daughter who is a biochemist, is grateful for a childhood imbued with Lions: "I think growing up around it that it's great to meet all the people you come across. They're such wonderful people that are part of the association."

Today their kids are on their own, and the Prestons live in Dewey, a rural community of 5,000 people. Joe was a charter member of the Bradshaw Mountain Lions Club in 2001. He had been a member of the Prescott Sunrise Lions Club for several years after moving for job reasons.

Those who have served alongside Preston attest to his people skills, dynamic personality and solicitude for others. "Joe is well liked. I have yet to hear anybody say anything negative about him," says David Roberts of the Wickenburg Lions Club. "He is a

gregarious person. He and Joni are a marvelous couple. I just love working with them." Adds Past Council Chairperson Richard Brown of the Pride of Scottsdale Lions, "Joe is a very unique person in that in all my 43 years of Lionism and all my years in business I have never met anybody where everybody likes them. He doesn't have any enemies. And he's such a leader."

The praise makes Preston uncomfortable. He prefers the focus to be on the task ahead. "During my tenure I want to do everything I can to increase the amount of service that we provide and help our clubs be more productive and more efficient," he says. "We have to take new strategies to what we are currently doing and take it to the next level."

Suffice it to say that Preston believes every Lion can make an impact and every Lion can be impacted by being a member. "I think one of the important things about Lions is you don't have to be rich. You can be successful by bringing your leadership to the table or by building relationships within our association," he says.

Meet Joe Preston? Your best bet at a Lions project is behind the grill, or in a booth selling tickets, or at the eye chart. You're most likely to find Preston in the middle of the service, not on the periphery. "He rolls up his sleeves every time, every function that we have. He's in there serving spaghetti or flipping pancakes," says Lynne Fortney of the Bradshaw Mountain Lions Club. "He's the epitome of Lions. He sets a good example for the rest of us."

Digital LION

Our international presidents typically bring a lifetime of accomplishments to their Lions' leadership role. Learn more at lionmagazine.org.

"Stub" Hascall of Omaha, Nebraska, former Cornhusker quarterback and Standard Oil executive (August 1934 LION)

Dr. Robert D. McCullough, Tulsa, Oklahoma, a hospital chief of staff and former president of the American Osteopathic Association (September 1970)

Johnny Balbo of Illinois, professional wrestler/world champion (July-August 1974)

Jarvis Lions Club

In May this year, the Jarvis Lions Club was pleased to present two of our Members with Life Memberships into the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Lion Mike Feeney joined the Jarvis Lions Club in January of 1983, and is seen being presented his Life Membership by A-2 District Governor **Lion Jim Rohrbach**.

Past A-2 District Governor **Lion Dennis Craddock** became a member of the Jarvis Lions Club in October, 1973 and is shown with Club Secretary Lion Mike Feeney to his right and current Club President **Lion Nick Montague** to his left.

The Jarvis Lions Club is very proud of our long-standing presence in the community, and are very fortunate to have two outstanding Lions who have provided many years of service to the area. Congratulations, Lions Mike and Dennis.



St. Marys Lions

This past May 31, St. Marys Lions Club held a TOLL BRIDGE and raised \$2,500.00.

This money was divided between the St. Marys Christmas Lights Display and the St. Marys Museum.



Lion Larry McClelland dressed as a Lion and two volunteers from the St. Marys Museum

Bancroft Lions

Bancroft Lions recently staged a successful fund-raising barbeque at the local Loblaw's No Frills Supermarket. President **Lion Bryan Adams** and Director **Kristena Schutt** serve a satisfied customer.



Nancy Island Lions



l-r: PDG Warren Wicks, Lion Ken Ingleston – new member of Nancy Island Lions, Lion President Mary Ratensperger, 2nd Vice District Governor Lion Richard Ratensperger

Cobourg Lions at June 7th Relay for Life BBQ



l-r: Lions Marshall Davis, Kevin Kimmerly, Jacques Thiffault, Dave Cunningham submitted by Lion Wilma Bush

Preventable Blindness To Be Reduced

by Eric Margules

Imagine living for years with painful eye lesions, watching the world steadily dim as your eyesight weakens and eventually fails from what was ultimately a preventable condition.

This desperation is real for hundreds of thousands of people with onchocerciasis, more commonly known as river blindness, and other cases of preventable blindness in countries across Africa and some of the poorest regions of the world.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and 2013-14 Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Chairperson Wayne Madden recently announced an \$8.8 million grant to the Lions-Carter Center SightFirst Initiative. The LCIF grant will be disbursed over three years to eliminate river blindness and other causes of preventable blindness are within reach.

Carter and Madden met in May with top executives from both the Carter Center and LCIF during a signing ceremony to express LCIF's intent to provide \$8.8 million to the Lions-Carter Center SightFirst Initiative. The dramatic expansion of the initiative will help both organizations continue the fight against preventable blindness in Ethiopia, Uganda, Mali and Niger.

"For 20 years, the partnership with Lions Clubs

International Foundation has been instrumental in supporting The Carter Center's leadership in the fight against neglected diseases," says Carter. "The Lions'



LCIF Chairperson Wayne Madden presents former U.S. President Jimmy Carter with a plaque in recognition of his service to the visually impaired community

continued financial support will help The Carter Center, local Lions clubs, and other national partners defeat preventable blindness in some of the most affected communities in the world."

The Carter Center, which partnered with LCIF in 1999 when the Lions-Carter Center SightFirst Initiative was established, plans to use the increased funding to ramp up its fight against river blindness and

trachoma—the world's leading cause of preventable blindness of infectious origin, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mali and Niger are making progress in eliminating blinding trachoma by 2015, and efforts to eliminate trachoma in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, the most endemic region in the world, are generating promising results. In addition, the Center has changed its approach to river blindness in Africa. It announced last year it was no longer working to control the disease, but instead seeking to assist ministries of health to eliminate it from the areas where the Center works.

"Lions have a long history of preserving sight, so it's an honor to work with The Carter Center and our fellow Lion, President Carter, to help eliminate river blindness and blinding trachoma in African nations where we're needed most," says Madden.

Throughout the campaign, local Lions clubs will provide logistical support and help mobilize at-risk communities to participate in drug administration, surgery campaigns, latrine construction and other health-related efforts. United by a desire to see the eradication of preventable blindness, Lions are relying on cooperation, education, advocacy and sight-saving initiatives to rid the world of these preventable diseases.

LCIF

Diabetes Targeted in Tanzania

TANZANIA – Diabetes is growing in Tanzania as the African nation embraces a Westernized lifestyle. Yet most Tanzanians know little about it. "The average person is not aware of the disease," says **Bhavin Sonigra**, secretary of the **Dar es Salaam Mzizima Lions Club**.

His club recently held a diabetes camp at a primary school in Kigogo in the Dar es Salaam region. More than a dozen volunteer medical professionals recruited by Lions tested and counseled 249 people. Those with diabetes or borderline diabetic were referred to a diabetic clinic.

The school was chosen as the camp site because



A volunteer health professional tests a patient at the diabetes camp in Tanzania

Lions on Location

LCIF

people knew its location, but the testing primarily was done inside a modern and well-equipped mobile van of the Tanzania Diabetic Association. The Lions served people who otherwise mostly likely would not have received any care at all. "People don't have access to health care, mostly due to the cost," says Sonigra.

Lions being Lions, patients also had their vision screened, and Lions saw to it that 49 people received glasses.

A Historic Call to Arms Memorialized

AUSTRALIA – **Douglas Diggs** is spearheading a Lions' campaign to erect a statue in Gilgandra honoring residents of his small country town who served in World War I. The project is close to home for him. His grandfather, Robert Charles Diggs, was fatally wounded in France in September 1918.

Diggs, the charter president, is one of many members of the **Gilgandra Lions** whose ancestors served or died in the Great War. Despite a population of less than 3,000, Gilgandra was a stronghold of patriotism, military service, and ultimately, the supreme sacrifice. Some 390 young men from the area enlisted, and 70 were killed and 150 were wounded.

Gilgandra actually was a driving force behind Australia eventually mounting the largest volunteer army during the war. After the disastrous Gallipoli

campaign in 1915, recruitment plummeted. Then two brothers from Gilgandra, William and Richard Hitchen, gathered a group of men and marched 320 miles to Sydney to join the army. The Cooe March delivered 263 recruits to the army and inspired 15 other such marches.

The bronze statue envisioned by Lions will depict a World War I digger (soldier) calling his compatriots to arms. The club has raised \$26,000 of the \$70,000 needed. Lions have asked donors to give "a dollar for a digger." The plan is to unveil the statue on ANZAC Day, the day of remembrance for Australian soldiers, which is April 25 in 2015.

Most of the Australian soldiers in the war traced their heritage to the British Isles. After the war, an Anglican congregation in Bournemouth, England, decided to make a gift to the "town in the Empire with the most outstanding church and war service." The church



The statue will be based on a World War I recruitment poster

underwrote the construction of St. Ambrose Church in Gilgandra, which still stands. Among the Lions who worship there is **Peter Hall**, secretary. In the same French hamlet where the elder Diggs died, Arthur Hall, Peter's uncle, fought valiantly and later received the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest award for valor.



Douglas Diggs is leading the fundraising for the statue

Facebook Friends Unite for Syrian Refugees

NORWAY—Einar got up from his sofa.

Einar Lyngar, a Lion in Norway, rose to his feet and grabbed his iPad after watching a disturbing TV news report on a Syrian refugee camp in Lebanon. Children in summer clothes shivered in the snow in the mountainous camp. Some were barefoot. Lyngar was even more distressed because this was just four days before Christmas last year. "In Norway we know what cold and snow is," says Lyngar, a journalist.

Lyngar immediately contacted Lions friends in Lebanon he knew through Facebook. Thirty seconds later came the first response from **Ghassan Kabbara**, an architect who proudly displays a large Lions flag in his living room. "I saw the shocking report, too. We have

to do something, Einar," he wrote. Two minutes later Kabbara had reached District Governor **Wajih Akkari**, who often posts more than a dozen times daily on Facebook. "Einar, I have talked to him. He agreed we need to act," Kabbara told Lyngar.

Lyngar contacted the Norwegian Lions' disaster committee, which kicked in 100,000 krone (US\$16,000). Then more traditional technology produced other donations. After Lyngar and Lebanon Lions made plans, Lyngar promptly posted them on Facebook. A Norwegian journalist saw the postings and interviewed him on the radio two days later. Donations poured in. Two days after he arose from his sofa Lyngar was meeting Kabbara at the airport in Beirut.

Now all he and three Lions in Lebanon had to do was drive through a dangerous area in which four soldiers had been killed two days earlier by terrorists.

The Lions' caravan, which consisted of a truck and a jeep loaded with goods, drove past a series of checkpoints, waved through by surprisingly amiable soldiers without delay each time. Lyngar found out later that fellow passenger **Marwa Akkari**, the wife of District Governor Wajih, works for the prime minister.

The Aرسال camp held nearly 100,000 bedraggled Syrian refugees. The Lions were shocked by the rough conditions. Many refugees lived in unheated tents. They lacked basics such as toilet paper and soap. Besides the United Nations, the Lions were the first foreign NGO to come to Aرسال.

The refugees crowded around the Lions. Someone carried to them a 4-year-old barefoot girl whose ankle was an ugly purple. "I was afraid of frostbite and amputation," says Lyngar. He found a pair of lined

winter shoes that fit her. "Marwa helped her get it on. We both got tears in our eyes," he says.

The Lions distributed clothes and shoes. Norwegians had donated 90 pounds of children's clothes, and Lebanese Lions had gathered clothes for thousands of people. Also, a business sold to Lions at a low price heaps of chocolates and cookies.

Boys stood patiently waiting for chocolates. But they soon bolted that line. "They understood I had warm woolen socks, so they came running to me," says Lyngar.

Lyngar later coordinated the delivery of books and school supplies to the camp; some of the children had attended school for two years. In June a school opened for 1,000 children in Aرسال. Another school made possible by Lions opened a few weeks later in the Akkar refugee camp.

The speed of the aid matched the desperation of the need, says Lyngar. "All of it went very fast. Clubs in Norway [and Lions in Lebanon] are quick to react," he says.



Einar Lyngar of the Ringsaker Lions Club in Norway accepts a drink from Syrian refugees at a camp in Lebanon

Trillium Gift of Life - Organ/Tissue Donor News

Breakdown of Donors - April and May, 2014: 3 donors registered at District A-711 Convention, Mississauga April 22, 2014; 10 donors registered at Leaside Library, Toronto, April 28, 2014; 14 donors registered at Jones Avenue Library, Toronto, May 2-3, 2014; 14 donors registered at Multiple District "A" Convention, Deerhurst Convention Centre, Huntsville, Ontario.

TOTAL: 41 Donors registered in 5 days with Possible 328 Lives that could be saved!



Lion Charlie Wang, having a dialogue with Mandarin speaking clients after registering them as Donors at Jones Av. Library

Many people came by and confirmed already being Organ Donors. Libraries are excellent sites for promoting "Gift of Life" - staff very helpful and the public using the Library are interested in reading and learning.

During both Lions Conventions, handed out several hundred of pamphlets and regular Beadonor.ca CARDS plus Beadonor.ca CARDS with Lions Logo. Be an Organ Donor - Help Save Eight Lives.

submitted by Lion Raija Rosenthal, Chairperson



Lion Charlie Wang, President of Toronto Suomi Lions Club with PDG Lion Raija Rosenthal at Jones Avenue Library on Sat. April 26, 2014

Lions Club of Cobourg support Crohns and Colitis Foundation

Lions Club of Cobourg cheque presentation to Crohns and Colitis Foundation of Canada. Lions also helped with this year's fund raising effort by providing BBQers and BBQ for the event held May the 10th.



John Coutts (M&M Meat Shops, Cobourg), Lion Michael Boudreau, Erin Schneider (Crohn's & Colitis, Volunteer Development Coordinator GTA), Lion Ron Weiße, PID Lion Bill Maguire and Peggy Coutts (Franchisee, M&M Meat Shops, Cobourg)

New Low Vision Centers Mean Hope for Rural Kansans

by Eric Margules

On the sparsely populated prairies of Kansas you can see the country stretch for miles around you. But the same isolation that offers wide views of open skies and wheat fields means difficulties for the state's estimated 1,000 children who are blind or have low vision.

This was the case for Dylan Ferguson, who struggled with access to proper vision care for most of his childhood. When he was just 6 months old, Dylan's parents realized something was different about his vision. Later, when glasses weren't enough to help Dylan see the board in school, he started acting out.

"Anything that can affect your ability to use your vision can be called low vision," says **Lion Joseph Maino**, an optometrist and low vision consultant for the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB). "Reading is very important. The inability to actually see the print and make sense out of it causes a big problem when we're trying to learn things. When you have a vision deficit it really makes learning difficult."

The small population of most areas of Kansas means access to low vision resources are limited or nonexistent. Many families with low vision children are forced to travel hundreds of miles or wait several years for access to treatment and medical professionals. Dylan and his parents bounced from doctor to doctor, traveling as far as Springfield, Missouri—more than 350 miles—to see a low vision specialist.

But this all changed thanks to a \$71,000 SightFirst grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) for the expansion of the KanLovKids program—a partnership between the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, the KSSB and the Kansas Optometric Association.

The partnership led to establishing 10 outreach centers in underserved regions of the state and a mobile clinic serving children in the least populated areas. Specialized training, equipment and follow-up care have also been made available to the hundreds of children and educators participating in the program.

Thanks to a new center closer to his home, Dylan only has to travel an hour to see his optometrist, **Dr. Kendall Krug**, a Lion and consultant for the KanLovKids project. KanLovKids provides Dylan with crucial vision aids such as magnifiers. These devices allow his full participation in classroom activities and even help Dylan enjoy new activities outside of school.

"It's literally changed his life forever with the things they've helped him do. And I could never put into words how appreciative [we are] and how much they've helped change Dylan's life," says Jennifer Ferguson, Dylan's stepmother. "Without Dr. Krug, we'd still be driving to Springfield."

LCIF's SightFirst grant enabled the 10 regional clinics to purchase the necessary equipment to perform free low vision screenings, as well as provided the funds to train optometrists and other medical professionals on issues specific to the low vision and blind community.

"It's very important, especially with children, that you get them help as soon as you can," says Maino. "We provide the child with tools so that they can read, they can write, they can participate in classroom discussions."

KanLovKids operates with additional support from the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, which donates \$10,000 per year to cover the cost of evaluations. The program spans the entirety of childhood, serving children from birth to 21 years of age.

Vision, like the children themselves, is constantly changing, so KanLovKids makes sure its participants receive continuous support. The regional centers allow children to check in regularly and receive adjustments to treatment and services. The centers even participate in a lending library of assistive devices available to students and school districts.

The new low vision centers mean the maximum travel distance required to receive service in Kansas is just 100 miles. But for the most isolated parts of the state, a mobile clinic has also been established to

provide care and evaluations for groups of five or more children in the hopes that, with proper support, students can stay in their regular classrooms.

"The LCIF SightFirst grant has been a godsend for the children who are visually impaired in Kansas," says Maino. "Children would have to wait three, sometimes four years, before I would get a chance to see them and work with them. The grant has allowed us to provide care at the point in time when the child needs it most."

Low vision often goes undiagnosed without obvious symptoms. In an effort to raise awareness, the SightFirst grant also helped create a website featuring distance learning opportunities, low vision resources and other educational materials.

With the help of Lions, the KSSB and the right devices, there's no limit to what students can accomplish. Just ask Joshua Harsch, who, with the help of the KSSB, received specialized software that allows him to attend Kansas City Kansas Community College.

"Before I came here, I was basically just struggling along, hoping to get through the day," says Harsch. "As soon as I came here, I was shocked literally, because there was so much opportunity. And I was actually very happy for once."



Dr. Kendall Krug walks Dylan Ferguson through a low vision evaluation.
Photo by Dan Morris

Stirling Lions – raising money for Community Projects



Stirling Lions Elmore Baitley, Jan Wilson & Reg Hurtick with Steve Runnalls (Manager of Foodland) making the draw for the barbecue & steaks going with it



Stirling Lions Elmore Baitley, Jan Wilson & Reg Hurtick with winner of barbecue & steaks Terry Hunt

All in A Day's Service

by Jay Copp

In truth, a seemingly simple act of service can take days, weeks and even months of planning. But often the end result is a great day of selfless giving and joyful receiving. Even when not handing over a tangible item, Lions always leave a little something behind: a glad heart, a revived spirit or a precious memory of being cared about.

New Year, Same Old Fun

Bernice Fanning, 78, enjoys the food, games, companionship—and little moments of levity that always seem to occur at the annual New Year's Eve celebration for seniors of the **Upland Lions** in Indiana. This year a spirited 85-year-old woman sprang to her feet and danced in place each time the band began another song. Then she shimmed across the room and joined a couple who were dancing. After a few moments the wife graciously backed off and let her dance along with her husband. "It's the little things like that. They feel free," says Fanning.

Nearly 70 seniors attended the Dec. 31 party in the Lions clubhouse in tiny Upland, population 2,500. Begun five years ago, the event is an offshoot of the club's weekly luncheon, usually attended by 120 or so seniors.

The weekly gatherings often are holiday-themed and include contests such as frog jumping (played with dice) and soap box derby car races. About 10 Lions work each get-together, and a friendly familiarity exists among the Lions and seniors. Recalls **Lion Cindy Wright** (on right in photo with **Shirley Fisher**), "They said, well, we ought to have a New Year's Eve party. I said, 'Do you think you can make it to midnight?'"

All joking aside, the luncheons and parties allow the seniors to leave their homes and comfort zones. "I'm stopped all the time in the store by their kids. 'I'm so glad my mother has a place to go,'" says Wright, 62. "When you get older, you can have nothing to talk about. Now when they see their kids, they can say, 'I learned how to play cornhole. I played ladder ball.'"

Fanning, a widow, raised five children with her husband. Now she's alone in her nine-room home. But all that doesn't mean she can't, at least once a year, show her children a thing or two about stepping out and having fun. "I don't think any of them made it to midnight," she says.



AP Images

Care Bears in Texas

"Big Dawg," a Lion, used bears to soothe children on the verge of whimpering like lambs. **Reggie Yearwood** and several other **Odessa Grandview Lions** in Texas delivered two dozen stuffed bears to children at two hospitals a week before Christmas. The older children happily pressed the plush toys to their cheeks. "It's amazing what a little teddy bear can do. Once they are in their arms they hug them. 'This is mine. Don't touch,'" recounts Yearwood, 84, a retired county sheriff whose nickname dates from his days as a military policeman. Yearwood gave one of the bears to an 18-day-old baby girl (photo). An older girl daringly asked for a second bear. "I told her we need them for the other kids. So she said, 'If you have any left over, can I have another?'" says Yearwood, a past president. Lions had 48 bears to give away because **Oscar Dominguez**, past president, happened to see them on display at an Aeropostale clothing store. The store manager told him they were not for sale but would be given to a charity to distribute. "Have you heard of Lions clubs?" Dominguez asked her. "She said no," recalls Yearwood, picking up the story. "So he proceeded to tell her about us, and she said, 'I'll give them all to you.'" President **Stanley Prather** saw to it that the extra bears went to special education students.



AP Images

Animal Magnetism

Tutors have tails in central California, and Lions have patience and a love of reading. Once a week Roxy, a white poodle, accompanies owner **Eva McAnulty** to the Selma Library in the San Joaquin Valley. "Roxy knows that when she puts on her Therapy Dog bandana and gets all prettified, it's time to go to work," says McAnulty. Children who struggle to read aloud gain confidence and improve their reading skills thanks to



the non-judgmental presence of reading dogs, according to studies. A **Selma Central Valley Lion**, McAnulty also belongs to the **Central Valley Lioness Club**, which pays for some of the veterinarian bills and other expenses. Diego Avala (in photo with McAnulty), 7, read to Roxy and wants to do it again. "I'll go back. Her fur was soft," he says.

Editor's note: Roxy was put to sleep in May because of complications from diabetes.

Beauty After Tragedy

After a disaster came a rebirth. Lions from throughout Missouri descended on Joplin on "planting day" to beautify the new Irving Elementary. Lions planted 45 trees and 95 shrubs as well as nurtured the notion in impressionable minds that starting anew and rising from disaster can be as inevitable as spring. The school's landscape will "grow and blossom and mature each year just like the thousands of children at Irving," says Past District Governor **Debbie Cantrell**. Irving School was one of five schools destroyed by a tornado that killed 161 people in 2011. The new school is



located at the former site of St. John's Regional Medical Center, also a tornado casualty. (The hospital donated the land for the school, and a new hospital was built nearby.) The connection of Lions with Irving Elementary extends far beyond the trees and shrubs. Lions adopted 10 classrooms; each received \$1,000 for supplies. Kindergarten teacher Susan Moore also received flowers, given to her by **Kevin Cantrell** (photo), accompanied by his wife, Debbie, and Superintendent C.J. Huff, who later gratefully spoke at the District 26 M6 convention. Planting day was a barrel of fun: just ask Andrew (photo), son of **Lion Cathy Simpson** and a helper (kid-style) of Past District Governor **Jerry Young**. **Jim Meyers** of the **El Dorado Springs Lions Club** is in the background.



Steps Toward Independence

One small step for a boy—one giant leap toward self-reliance. Three clubs in Winona, Minnesota, held a pancake breakfast last winter to raise funds for a developmental stairs/bridge. Visually impaired Adam Judge (pictured), 5, and sighted students at the Goodview Community Kids Preschool practice their balance and coordination on the donated wooden structure. “It’s been wonderful in helping Adam have better balance on steps,” says Alyssa Lovas, his mother. Adam was diagnosed with retinal degenerative disease a year ago. “We knew something was different with his vision when he was two, but doctors couldn’t see anything until last year,” says Lovas. He will be a kindergartner at the Minnesota Academy for the Blind this month. “Adam is beyond excited about going to the school. He talks about it all the time,” says Lovas.

The **Winona, Winona Rivertown** and **Sunset Lions clubs** held the breakfast. Lions have gotten to know and like Adam. “He’s such a neat kid,” says Past District Governor **Bob Andraschko** of the Sunset club. “He is just so pleasant and gracious. He really appreciates what others do for him. Yet he wants to do it himself.”



Photo courtesy of Marsha Burgett

A Full-Service Bookbike, Lions-style

What good is a book if you can’t read it? Lions and the Pima County Library in Arizona took a good idea and made it better by stocking the library’s nifty Bookbike with reading glasses. The glasses are free just like the books. A librarian pedals the three-wheeled bike with bookshelves built into its mounted box to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, senior centers and other venues where people are less likely to frequent libraries. The demand for the reading glasses was so high that the library now stocks its 24 branches in and around Tucson with reading glasses. More than 4,000 reading glasses have been handed out through the Bookbike and at the branches. “We can’t keep up with the demand,” says Vice District Governor **Barbara Dailey** (in photo with her husband, **Lion Don**), director of operations for the Arizona Lions Eyeglass Recycling Terminal. From 10 to 15 percent of the glasses received by the recycling center are reading glasses. Lions clubs also receive reading glasses by partnering with a pharmacy in asking customers to donate them. The free glasses are much welcomed. “Some people really need to watch their pennies and don’t have extra money,” says Dailey. Librarian **Karen Greene**, who first proposed the Bookbike and then saw a need for the glasses, has heard or been told by other librarians stories of grateful patrons: from the person who needed them for a job interview and a person who

had not read in 15 years to the person who could not stop loudly and repeatedly proclaiming his wonder at being able to read again to the person in disbelief the glasses were gratis. “He said, ‘Really, how much do I owe you?’ He was floored,” says Greene, who is now a Lion.



Real, Real Low Prices

Talk about one-stop shopping. Disadvantaged children in south Florida get free school clothes, shoes, school supplies and often vision and diabetes screening at one of seven participating Wal-Marts. About 55 Lions clubs raise \$37,500 for 750 students for a \$50 shopping spree supervised by Lions. Don’t think it’s only the children who are thrilled. “I’d say 95 percent of our club is there. It’s such an invigorating experience. The kids are so happy you want to help them,” says **Dorothy Letakis** of the **South Florida Asian American Lions Club**. Lions such as **Annie Nanowsky** (photo), charter president of the South Florida club, gladly help the children decide what to buy and how to budget their funds. Other groups take part such as Kiwanis, which gives away backpacks. But for 11 years Lions have taken the lead; the current project chair is **Kathy Katerman** of the **Aventura-North Miami Beach Lions**. Lions don’t miss a trick: waiting parents are treated to a video or a talk about Lions. About 20 computers refurbished by Lions are raffled off. The best part is when a Lion happens to encounter a child seen the year before. “They’ll hug you or tell you a story,” says Letakis.



Brush With Service

Sometimes in serving, you get more than you bargained for. Chalk it up as a welcomed learning experience. “I thought we would paint a couple of hydrants. We were out there all day in the hot sun,” says a smiling **Justin Hurn**, 17, of his Leo club’s project. The **Raceland Leos** in Kentucky painted more than a

dozen hydrants in town. Another surprise to the project was that it required brushes. “I thought it would be spray paint,” says a sheepish Justin, whose father, **Jeff**, is president of the **Raceland Lions** and the Leo adviser. Like father, like son—Justin serves as Leo president. “I tell the parents they ought to see their meetings. They’re run like ours,” says the elder Hurn. “I think it [being a Leo] has helped Justin a lot. It’s matured him.” Justin works part-time five days a week as a store clerk in addition to attending school and serving as a Leo. But he is undaunted about his future plans. “I’ll be a Lion. I like to help people,” he says.



Lakefield Annual Lobsterfest and Show

Lakefield Lions and Lioness had a successful annual Lobsterfest and Show attended by approximately 500, including Jim Wilford in photo.

Fresh pound and a half lobster, ham, salads and desserts were enjoyed, followed by music by 'Angus Leahy and Friends'. All proceeds are split between Lions and Lioness and go back into the community.

submitted by *Lion Wilma Bush*



FOR THE RECORD

As of May 31, 2014 Lions Clubs International had 1,390,593 members in 46,713 clubs and 757 districts in 208 countries and geographic areas.

Arkona Lions Club celebrates 65-year member

by Kimberly Powell-McConaghy

It was a full house at the Arkona Seniors Centre on Sunday, May 4 to celebrate **Charlie Page's** 65 years with the Arkona Lions Club. "I never dreamt of this," said Page. "There are a lot of people here I haven't seen in years. It's a great honour to be here and to be alive," he said. "The club was formed in 1948 and I'm the only surviving charter member."

The Arkona Lions Club was chartered on April 6, 1948 with the sponsorship of the **Sarnia Lions Club**, but Page has officially been a member since February 1, 1948. A man to keep busy, Page joined the Arkona Masons around the same time. He was born in Petrolia, but spent his working life in Arkona as manager of the Arkona Feed Mill and now resides in London.

The club has been an important part of the Arkona community since its inception. Numerous projects as well as regular participation in community life have been the result of the enthusiastic support, efforts and contribution of the Lions Club to higher quality of life for the citizens and visitors of Arkona and area. "When I think of this town, if we didn't have a Lions Club I wonder what it would be and I'm pleased to be a little part of that," said Page.

"Our club has accomplished many marvelous things in our history and Lion Charlie was a large part of most of them," said Arkona Lions Club Secretary **Cliff Ryan**. The first was the transferring of control of Rock Glen Conservation Area to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority in 1952. In 1967, club

members realized that the only way to keep a doctor in the village was to build a medical centre and when the facility opened on October 5, 1969 it was Charlie and the District Governor who officiated. And, when the dental clinic was added in 1976 and the addition added in 1989, Charlie was there as he was for the opening of the Indian Artifacts Museum at the school in 1972 and when it moved to Rock Glen Conservation Area in 1986. Another major project was the building of the Arkona Lions Non-Profit Seniors Apartments Orchard View Apartments, a name suggested by Charlie.

"One of the most fun tasks we had in Charlie's active time was the building of our Lions float and taking it to parades," Ryan reflected. "We even won first place at our Ontario Convention." The Arkona Centennial Parade was a proud showing for the club.

"While these are a brief chronicle of the accomplishments of our club in the last 65 years, they are also a testament to the drive and leadership of Lions like Charlie," said Ryan. "It may not sound like he had time, but Charlie was also an awesome member of the Arkona community as a husband, father, business leader and example to all who were smart enough to take notice," said Ryan. Page was joined on Sunday's celebration by his son Rod and daughter Charlene with her husband Don.

A letter of congratulations from the Lions Club International President **Barry Palmer** was presented to

Page on behalf of 1.35 million Lions worldwide thanking him for his dedicated service and belief that changing a life or the world starts with each one of us. Along with the letter was the 65-Year Monarch Chevron which Page will wear with pride alongside his 25, 50 and 60-year Monarch Chevrons. Page also received The Helen Keller Fellowship plaque.

Arkona Lions Club President **Doug Cook** said it takes vision, foresight and integrity to bring what Charlie has to the community. Page says he looks forward to celebrating 70 years.



On Sunday, May 4 at the Arkona Seniors Centre the Arkona Lions Club celebrated life member Charlie Page, 93, for his 65 years of dedicated service. Shown in photo, Arkona Lions Club Secretary Cliff Ryan, left, and Arkona Lions Club President Doug Cook, right, present Page, centre, with a letter of congratulations and 65-Year Monarch Chevron from the Lions Club International President as well as The Helen Keller Fellowship plaque. Photo by Kimberly Powell-McConaghy

Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Contest

May 30 – June 1, 2014

The MDA finals were held in London on May 31 at the Four Points Sheraton. Thank you to the **Lions Club of St Thomas** for being the host club. There were 33 speakers representing the 10 Districts.

In the Junior English category, there were 9 competitors. The winner was from A9 – Tristan Zettel, who spoke on the subject of Stress.

In the Junior French category, there were 5 competitors. The winner was from A711 – Sarah Cushnie, who spoke on the subject of Pollution.

In the Intermediate English category, there were 8 competitors. The winner was from A4 – David Bell, who spoke on the subject of Privacy.

In the Intermediate French category, there were 2 competitors. The winner was from A15 – Arjun Pandey, who spoke on the subject of Everyday Heroes.

In the Senior English category, there were 6 competitors. The winner was from A711 – Sabrina Yussuf, whose topic was 'Life is a puzzle'.

In the Senior French category, there were 3 competitors. The winner was from A4 – Leila Turgeon, whose topic was the Pursuit of Passion and Dreams.

The co-chairs of District A4, **Lion Mike Schulz** and **Lion Kris Schulz** were proud of the four competitors who

earned trophies for their District and submitted the accompanying photo.



Senior French - 1st Place - Leila Turgeon - Sponsored by the Orleans Lions Club
Intermediate French - 2nd Place - Clemence Thabet - Sponsored by the Orleans Lions Club
Junior French - 2nd Place Abigail Carpentier - Sponsored by the Orleans Lions Club
Intermediate English - 1st Place David Bell - Sponsored by the Beachburg Lions Club

CHS Services Available to Local Residents

During a recent Joint Lions meeting of the **Iroquois-Matilda** as well as the **Morrisburg and District Clubs**, members heard Doris Brownlee, Hearing Care Counsellor, Canadian Hearing Society (CHS), explain CHS's three goals in assisting people 55 years of age or older who are experiencing hearing loss: to help consumers accept their hearing loss; to ensure proper communication strategies are being used both at home and in the community; and, to adjust to life with hearing aids and/or communication devices.

Founded in 1940, Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) is a charitable agency and the leading provider of services, products, and information that remove barriers to communication, advance hearing health and promote equity for people who are culturally deaf, orally deaf, deafened and hard of hearing. CHS is governed by a board of directors, the majority of whom are culturally deaf, orally deaf, deafened and hard of hearing.

During her presentation to local Lions earlier this year, Doris further detailed the process to ensure the

needs of each consumer are understood and met. An extensive interview, held in the consumer's home ensures the hearing care counsellor thoroughly understands the hearing history, lifestyle and needs. From this information, the counsellor customizes solutions and introduces different hearing equipment, aids and devices based on individual needs. Follow-up care ensures the consumer is enjoying enhanced hearing based on the solutions implemented.

Earlier this year, CHS opened an office in Cornwall at 4 Montreal Rd., at the corner of Montreal Rd. and Molborough Ave. Programs and services provided by this location include sign language and coming this fall the location will offer hearing help to help those with hearing loss adjust and develop strategies to enhance their current situation.

In addition, CHS has a regional office in Ottawa located at 2197 Riverside Drive with an audiologist on staff to determine the hearing status of each client and offer solutions.



The Iroquois-Matilda Lions Club and the Morrisburg & District Lions Club, united in their commitment to the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) each presented a \$250 cheque to CHS Hearing Care Counsellor Doris Brownlee, recently. Pictured left to right are Lions Earl Wood and Bob Bechara from the Morrisburg & District Lions Club, Brownlee, Lions Paul Robertson and Doug Peters of the Iroquois-Matilda Lions Club. In accepting the donations, Doris said, "It is a pleasure to work with Lions to introduce various services CHS has to offer to the community and in so doing acquaint deaf and hard of hearing clients to various communication strategies and communicative devices tailored to individual needs resulting in dramatically increased quality of life"

Petrolia Lions

The Petrolia Lions held their annual BaconFest Buffet and Sunset Car show on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the Petrolia Lions Hall. They offered a menu with an assortment of bacon-enhanced entrées, sides and desserts. Proceeds from this event go to support various community events.



Petrolia Lions Club Banner



Sunset Car Show Contestant

Palmer Rapids and Area Lions Club

The Palmer Rapids and Area Lions Club held two dinner meetings where the members ate their meals wearing a blindfold. President **Sharon Schwieg** arranged for members to experience blindness while doing this everyday task. Working in pairs, one member wore a blindfold and their partner was sighted to assist as 'shepherd'. This partnering was reversed on the second occasion.

In discussion that followed it was clear that losing sight had reduced the enjoyment of the meal for many. Not knowing what was in each mouthful reduced the sensation as many described themselves as 'visual eaters'. Others were simply disorientated completely after lining up to fetch the buffet style meal and then not being certain where they were at the tables. For those members who regularly support the blind anglers at BAIT, it was an enlightening experience too.



LIONS QUEST Positive Youth

Development Training-of-Trainers Workshop

Building Community Capacity for Positive Youth Development

Learn how to apply Positive Youth Development to your life and work. A supportive community is one whose members can assist in training volunteers, expand community awareness of issues, and deliberately and intentionally devote time to establishing the essential building blocks of community development.

Certification in the Building Community Capacity for Positive Youth Development Training of Trainers will equip you with tools and strategies to effectively deliver workshops and development opportunities in your community.

Building on the success of training held across the province of Alberta as well as with organizations and agencies including Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, and Physical and Health Education Canada, Lions Quest Canada is proud to offer this unique approach to building community capacity around Positive Youth Development.

Workshop Opportunities

Kingston, Ontario - Thursday August 21st & Friday August 22nd, 2014

Oakville, Ontario - Wednesday October 15th & Thursday October 16th, 2014

Visit www.lionsquest.ca for more information.

Melvin Jones and other awards

Gib Rotherham reçoit le Prix Compagnon de Melvin Jones

Lors d'une récente réunion tenue à l'hôtel Lakeview de Knowlton, **Gib Rotherham** a reçu le Prix Compagnon de Melvin Jones décerné par le Club Lions International en reconnaissance de son engagement en faveur du **Club Lions de Knowlton**, notamment à titre de président à deux reprises, soit en 1973-1974 et en 1991-1993.

Rotherham est membre depuis plus de 40 ans et il a participé à divers projets du club tout au long des années, par exemple, il a joué un rôle important dans l'obtention du financement pour les courts de tennis du Parc Commémoratif Jim Battley, dans la rénovation de la plage Douglass, l'achat de défibrillateurs et des mâchoires de vie pour le service d'incendie et le laser argon pour BMP.

"Il est très gratifiant de contribuer à la réalisation des besoins de la communauté et c'est avec un grand plaisir et beaucoup d'humilité que j'accepte ce prix", a déclaré Rotherham.

Le Club Lions de Knowlton compte présentement 55 membres; un groupe d'hommes et de femmes qui identifient les besoins de la communauté et travaillent ensemble pour répondre à ces besoins.

Le Club Lions International est la plus grande organisation mondiale de clubs de services. Les

1,35 million de membres qui font partie de plus de 46.000 clubs rendent service à la communauté dans 207 pays et aires géographiques autour du monde. Depuis 1917, les Clubs Lions ont aidé les non voyants et les personnes souffrant de déficiences visuelles, ont appuyé les initiatives en faveur des jeunes et ont renforcé des communautés locales en travaillant sur le terrain et en réalisant des projets humanitaires. Pour avoir de plus amples renseignements sur le Club Lions International, veuillez vous rendre à lionsclubs.org.



Lors de la présentation du Prix, Gib Rotherham et le président du Club Lions de Knowlton Winston Mason

St Marys Lions

Recently St Marys Lions were proud to present Lion Bob McGregor and Lion Bill McNeight with Melvin Jones Fellowship awards.



District Governor Denis Vinette presents Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Bill McNeight



District Governor Denis Vinette presents Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Robert McGregor

Trenton Lions Club 75th Anniversary



Lion Andy LaPointe's International President's award presented by Judge Lion Brian Stevenson



Lion Mark Kelso received Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship award from Judge Lion Brian Stevenson



Lion Diane Gardy received Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship award from Judge Lion Brian Stevenson



PDG Lion John Thompson received International President's award from Judge Lion Brian Stevenson

Galt Cambridge Lions

The Galt Cambridge Lions Club recently presented two Melvin Jones Fellow awards. Recipients were **Lion Charlotte Gamble**, a member of the Galt Cambridge Lions Club and wife of PDG **Don Gamble**, and **Walter Gowing** who is an active Cambridge citizen who assists the Lions in their community service.



All Kids Are Our Kids

Lions Quest Canada collaborates with the Association of Children's Aid Societies

This simple idea is at the centre of everything we do as Lions – we sponsor sports teams; we build recreation facilities; we organize family-oriented events; we encourage young people to be proud Canadians; we support teaching young people the message of peace; we provide devices, support and training for children with special needs; we organize youth exchange opportunities; we host camps for children and youth of all abilities; and we work to make sure that Canadian communities are the best place in the world for children and youth to live.

The simple idea that all kids are our kids is also central to the work of Lions Quest Canada – The Centre for Positive Youth Development. Historically our work has been focused on the school setting with the internationally recognized Lions Quest Skills for Growing, Skills for Adolescence and Skills for Action programs. We know from over twenty-five years of experience that the same research that creates the foundation of our school-based programs can be used in any setting where children and youth live, learn, grow and play.

Over three years ago Lions Quest Canada was contacted to provide consulting services to the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) as part of their Ontario Looking After Children Program (OnLAC). OnLAC has had an important impact on promoting and monitoring outcomes for children and youth in their care. Within the Assessment and Action Record tool that foster parents and professionals use

there is a Developmental Assets Profile that is based on the same research as our Lions Quest Skills Programs.

In an effort to build the skills of their training team the OACAS and Lions Quest Canada have worked together to create a customized training. The training equips them with a working knowledge of the research and tools to work with foster families, agency staff and caring community members. The OACAS views Lions Quest Canada as a valuable resource equipped with research, tools, videos, Canadian content, wisdom, knowledge, and the ability to bring a perspective from the general population to this unique group.

Morag Demers and Marlyn Wall, Ontario Practice Model Development Professionals for OACAS shared that staff members see asset building as a way to make positive changes to the way they work with children, communicate as a team, and to their outlook on working with children in their care. Agencies value that this research-based approach provides a natural way to connect with schools, mental health services, public health, recreation services and community groups.

Trainers encourage foster parents to be intentional and deliberate in their everyday interactions to contribute to better outcomes for the children. It is important to remember that the community is impacted by the child in foster care and the child is impacted by the way the community interacts with them. It is normal for all children and youth to struggle with challenges along the way and if we create communities

that surround all young people with messages of support as well as caring adults their chances improve.

Past Council Chair **Tim Cronin** has been a foster parent since 1992 and it was during a training facilitated by Lions Quest Canada for Family and Children Services of Waterloo Region that he realized the connection. Lion Tim is also a trainer for the local Children's Aid Society and he was certified at a session facilitated by Lions Quest Canada. Tim feels that intuitively the trainers and foster parents know what they are supposed to do, but that Lions Quest Canada training brought the practical tools, coaching and message to effectively go out and present it to others.

Tim shares, "As a foster parent it is a positive model that I can really work with. Most of our kids come to us with such low self-esteem so to be able to put a positive spin on it by using the asset building approach makes a huge difference. Kids learn 'no' very easily, but to be able to redirect them with a positive action or to build on their strengths instead is such a strong opportunity for foster parents. Moving things in a positive direction can change the course of these children's lives forever. The more I can teach people about how to do things in a positive way the bigger difference I can make."

For more information about how Lions Quest Canada is working in communities and with agencies across Canada visit our website at www.lionsquest.ca or contact Joanne McQuiggan, Executive Director at joanne@lionsquest.ca or 1-800-265-2680 ext 107.

Tamworth Lions

Tamworth and District Lions Club held the 4th annual Pontoon Boat ride and barbeque for area seniors and those with challenged mobility. Attended by long term care residents from surrounding area with staff. Over 180 people participated in the boat rides and barbeque at Lions Beaver Lake Park, Erinsville. Positive comments came from all who attended.

submitted by Lion Wilma Bush



Succès de la clinique ophtalmologique mobile du Club Lions de Knowlton

Le 10 mai dernier, le Club Lions de Knowlton a tenu au Centre Communautaire, sa clinique ophtalmologique mobile. Plus de quarante personnes ont pu profiter de cette occasion pour rencontrer, dans la clinique mobile des Lions, qui est un véritable bureau médical sur roue, le **Dr Charles Weldon**, ophtalmologiste et membre du Club. Dans chaque cas le Dr Weldon a pu effectuer les examens nécessaires pour évaluer la santé visuelle, mesurer la pression intraoculaire pour déterminer le statut de glaucome et des mesures de réfraction pour la myopie, l'hypermétropie et l'astigmatisme. Suite à l'examen le médecin a pu échanger avec chacun pour discuter des résultats et si nécessaire des besoins d'évaluations complémentaires.

Du personnel de Diabète Brome-Missisquoi était sur place pour effectuer des tests de dépistage du diabète.

Le Club Lions International est la plus importante organisation de clubs philanthropiques au monde, comptant 1,35 million de membres répartis dans plus de 46,000 clubs à l'échelle internationale. Les Lions ont une histoire dynamique. Depuis leur fondation en

1917, les Lions sont surtout connus pour leur combat contre la cécité. Nous sommes également partie prenante d'une grande variété de projets communautaires, notamment pour la protection de l'environnement, l'assistance alimentaire aux victimes de la faim, l'aide aux personnes âgées et aux handicapés.



Sur la photo devant la clinique mobile des Lions, de gauche à droite : Michelle et Raymond Major, Shirli Seymour, Joan Treacy, Meredith Mackeen, Gib Rotherham et Bob Seymour

Always by Our Side: Mitchell's Story

by Lion Susan Kerr

Are you an animal lover? Have you ever wondered how a guide dog is trained? Did you know their training starts in a foster home when they are about two months of age?

Hi!! My name is Mitchell...and I am a big beautiful brown standard poodle who works with my partner as one half of a Canine Vision Team. I am very smart and I dictated all the words for a book to my foster mom... it tells all about my adventures and misadventures as I taught my foster family everything they needed to know about life.

I lived for my first year on St. Joseph Island in Ontario with my family of LIONS! Yes...LIONS. Well...the two-legged kind! I came from Lions Foundation Canada Dog Guides in Oakville, Canada....and went back there to Doggy University when I was about a year and a bit old. My foster family, Lion Susan and Lion Robert Kerr, really loved me and we had a lot of fun as I trained them to dance and to give me treats on command! The people of this community really loved me too....and mom said I should write this book because she was fed up of people still asking about me. "Have you heard how Mitch is doing?" "Has Mitch written to you recently?" "Will he ever come back here for a visit?" She said I'd better just hunker down and help her write this book....so I did.

We really hope Lions and Lions Clubs will buy my book because it is a fundraiser for Lions Foundation, apart from being a fascinating book because it is all about ME!

I have lots of photos for you....aren't I the handsomest poodle you have ever seen?

And I have a Facebook page www.facebook.com/susankerrlovesdogs.

susankerrlovesdogs. Can you 'LIKE' it, please?

Best of all, my mom and I have a website where you can really get to know us all, see what we are doing to promote the book, and see lots more photos. Mom says she would love to hear from you and welcomes your comments, questions...or just stopping in to say 'hello' on-line. www.susankerrlovesdogs.com

P.S. My story happened 7 years ago....mom just couldn't get me out of her mind though....loved me to the moon and back, she did!! Actually, I recently retired after a very successful career and I have been adopted forever by my guy's family, so I can stay near to him for the rest of my life. My mom, who wanted to adopt me after retirement, quite understands, even though she is a tad disappointed. As always, it is whatever is in my best interests, she said. I am a happy camper...always have been...because I started my life living with LIONS and going to LIONS CLUB meetings, and walking in the Purina Walk for Dog Guides!! And being the mascot of the St. Joseph Island Lions Club. Makes a guy proud!



Orangeville Lions Club

Orangeville Mayor Rob Adams presented a Sesquicentennial Commemorative Award to **Bill Theeuwes** at the Lions Ball Hockey Challenge on June 21, marking the club's 65th anniversary.



This spring, the Orangeville Lions Club made a \$10,000 donation to the Orangeville Otters Swim team for a state of the art timing clock.

Lions Canada Pride Program

Members of the **Blyth Lions Club** and the **Londesboro and District Lions Club** presented the Lions Canada Pride Program to the Grade 1 and Grade 1/2 Classes at Hullett Central Public School. Following the



presentation the students received a Canadian Flag and the Lions Canada Pride Certificate.

MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting - September 5/6, 2014
- Council Meeting - November 7/8 2014
- Council Meeting - March 6/7, 2015
- Council Meeting Convention - May 21-24, 2015

District Conventions

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

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2014/15 Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre, Kingston, ON May 22 - 24, 2015

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
102nd	Milan, Italy	July 5-9, 2019

USA - Canada Forums

Sept. 18 - 21, 2014	San Juan, Puerto Rico
Sept. 17 - 19, 2015	Grand Rapids, Michigan
2016	Omaha, Nebraska

The William Wright Memorial Pet Cemetery

A Fundraising Project of the St. Joseph Island Lions Club

The *William Wright Memorial Pet Cemetery* was originally the site of a Presbyterian Church. William Wright had donated the land on which the church was built. The Church building burned down in 1926 just about the time the Presbyterians and The United Church amalgamated....(we do not think it was a message from on high!)

The gravestones and buried remains from the cemetery behind the Presbyterian Church were moved to the United Church Cemetery further down the road. When William Wright and his wife died, they were buried in the original Presbyterian Cemetery and are still interred there, and their grave site is marked and respected.

David Wright, the grandson of William, inherited the property and started a pet cemetery on the site of the former Church Cemetery in 1985. He named it after his grandfather. He was well-known as an animal lover and was disturbed by the lack of burial sites for city pets.

David operated the cemetery until his health forced him to give it up. He approached the **St. Joseph Island**

Lions Club in 2003 and asked then **Lion President Ted Lumley** if we would take over the operation of the Pet Cemetery. The members agreed and the deed to the property was transferred to the club. The only stipulation was that we keep the name, The William Wright Memorial Pet Cemetery, and that it be used as a cemetery for pets, buried at a nominal fee, with all fees donated to Lions Club charities.

This non-profit cemetery remains a safe haven for deceased pets and all proceeds are used for charitable purposes, as David Wright had wished.

Since the St. Joseph Island Lions have taken over, several additions and improvements have taken place. When the original site was filled, the two other sections were opened up. The tool shed was turned and wired to accommodate 2 freezers for winter storage. Removing rocks and leaves and cutting the grass are ongoing projects.

Our cemetery is located on the P Line on St. Joseph Island, in a quiet setting inundated with large maples. It is the "closest place to heaven on the Island."

Gloucester North Lions Club

Approximately 60 people received a vision test when we hosted our Vision Screening on Saturday, April 26 2014 in Ottawa. In this very successful event, not only were there children who were tested, but also a few adults. We would like to thank Place d'Orléans and members of the Gloucester North Lions Club.



l-r: Guy Savard, John Proulx, Pierrette Wood, Linda Robar, Linda Kuzniarz, Judy Macdonald, Dorothy Thompson, Harry Jackson, Judy Proulx, George Davies, Ken Macdonald

Fisherville Lions induct 2 new members

The Fisherville Lions inducted 2 new members at their final meeting Tuesday, June 17. Shown from left are **Lion Bill Roth**, sponsor for **Lion Cheryl Fess-Clause**, **Lion Chief Jim Fleming**, **Lion Christine Rohrbach** and her sponsor, **Lion Raymond Rohrbach**, PDG. District Governor **Lion Jim Rohrbach** performed the induction service but was taking the picture.



Vente de garage communautaire du Club Lions de Knowlton

De nouveau cette année, le Club Lions de Knowlton tiendra sa vente de garage communautaire. Depuis 2004 plusieurs individus et groupes ont contribué au succès de l'événement par des dons d'objets, de temps et de services. Cette année le produit de la vente sera offert au Premiers Répondants.

La vente aura lieu le samedi le 7 juin de 8:00 à 14:00 heures sur le site du Dépanneur Rouge au 483 Chemin Knowlton à Knowlton.



Un aperçu d'une vente antérieure

How To Double Your Pride In Being A Lion

Being able to support youth in the community provides Lions with a sense of pride and satisfaction. When that support leads to another opportunity to serve, it becomes a win-win situation for all involved. **The Scarborough Central Lions Club** recently found itself in this happy situation.

For several years, the Club has sponsored the 6th Toronto Scout Group. Following a Scout meeting, P.P. **Lion Andy Cox**, the Club's liaison with the Scouts, was approached by one of the boys who told Lion Andy that he had been accepted to play Select level baseball but to play Select level was very costly and his parents were not in a position to take on the full costs. He was wondering if the Lions could provide some financial support.

The young fellow came to a Club meeting and gave a presentation about the league, his club and his aspirations. After hearing the presentation, it was unanimously decided to make a donation to help him reach his goal. We were told later that he was just overwhelmed by how generous the Lions had been towards him.

That is how our Club doubled our Lion pride. We served the community by providing support for youth to take part in the Scouting program and gave a boy some of the help he need to play ball. Who knows, maybe in a few years we'll be in Rogers Centre routing for a Blue Jay we lent a hand to when he was just an up and comer.

Submitted by Lion Ken Thompson

Chemung Lake Lions



Lion Garry Armstrong of Chemung Lions was presented with a Lion Life Membership Award by President Lion Peter Day

Wasaga Beach Lions Have Fun While Helping Others

The Heart and Stroke Foundation, a volunteer-based health charity, leads in eliminating heart disease and stroke and reducing their impact through the advancement of research and its application, the promotion of healthy living and advocacy. On Jun 11th The Wasaga Beach Lions Club had 29 riders. This is the first time that we have ever filled the bike. There is no doubt that our team captain, **Kathy Kapoor**, got everybody motivated. Last year the club donated \$1,000 and some of the members raised \$335, totalling \$1,335. This year was totally amazing. The club donated \$1,000 and our members raised \$4,734.25 totalling \$5,734.25 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. **Lion Wayne Henderson** raised the largest amount next to our chair, Kathy. The rain held off and

the sun came out during our ride. After the ride, Boston Pizza provided us with healthy whole wheat vegetable pizza! Thanks **Lion Sandy!**



HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

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

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

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

A1	Lion Shawn Davison	email: shawnwd@yahoo.com
A2	Lion Wayne Scott	email: w.scott@a2lions.org
A3	Lion Wilma Bush	email: wilma.bush@sympatico.ca
A4	Lion Sandra Baldwin	email: slbaldwin@rogers.com
A5	Lion Liam Brennan	email: lembrennan@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Reporters

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

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MD "A" Lions Resource Centre Website

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

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

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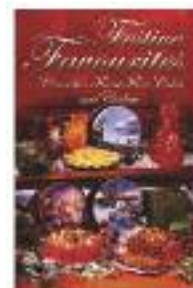
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Oro District Lions



DG Chris Lewis presents a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Lloyd Stockdale of the Oro District Lions Club

St. Jacobs Lions award two Melvin Jones honours

St. Jacobs Lions have honoured two long-serving Lions with the Melvin Jones Award. Honoured at a June club meeting are **Lion Dennis Lougheed** and **Lion Bill Cummings**.

Lion Dennis, a Lion since 2004, is the present District A-15 Cabinet secretary. He has served in various district offices including Zone Chair 51W and Opportunities for Youth Chair.

Lion Bill joined Lions in 1977 in Glencoe, Ontario. He was also a member of the Wingham and Elmira Lions Clubs before joining the Lions Club of St. Jacobs. He was President of the Lions Club of St. Jacobs 1997-1998. He has also served as Treasurer and as a Director. Since 1999, Lion Bill has been Club secretary.



District Governor Denis Vinette, the two Melvin Jones Award winners Lion Dennis Lougheed, Lion Bill Cummings, and Club President Bruce Schweitzer

MacTier and District Lions



The MacTier & District Lions Club inducted four new members.

L to R: DG Chris Lewis, Jacco Spykerman, Lorri Spykerman, Rob Carswell, Sandy Johnson, Terry Johnson, Ron Miller and Frank Spykerman

Sundridge Lions Club

District A-12 Sundridge Lions Club celebrated their 70th Charter Anniversary.



DG Chris Lewis presents the Sundridge Lions Club with a 70th Anniversary Charter Certificate of Congratulations



In recognition of their 70th Anniversary, the Sundridge Lions Club presents The Lions Foundation of Canada with a donation



Lion Charles Holden receives an International Foundation of Lions Life Membership Award



President Murray Rogers receives a Melvin Jones Fellowship

Remise de médaille Dr. Arthur Labelle à Shirley Seymour

Lors une réunion récente, les membres du **Club Lions de Knowlton** ont remis la médaille commémorative « Dr. Arthur Labelle » à Shirley Seymour pour son implication et dévouement dans la tenue, à Knowlton, de la clinique ophtalmologique mobile. Cette clinique qui est un véritable bureau médical sur roues permet sans rendez-vous de consulter un ophtalmologiste pour recevoir un service de prévention gratuit. La présentation d'une telle activité exige plusieurs heures de planification et d'organisation. En lui présentant cette reconnaissance le président du Club Winston Mason a déclaré « Notre communauté est chanceuse de pouvoir compter sur des personnes dévouées et généreuses comme madame Seymour. »



le président Winston Mason et Mme Shirley Seymour

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