

# LION



M.D. "A" Edition January/February 2016

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*We Serve*

## Lions Clubs International Convention - 2016 Fukuoka, Japan



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June 24 - 28, 2016

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# THE Lion



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**On the cover:**

Japanese Lions who are planning the international convention gather in Fukuoka at the Kushida Shrine, founded in 757. Go to page 15 for more.

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

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## POSTMASTERS

If unclaimed, email us at:

mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

## GOVERNORS' COUNCIL 2015-2016

- Council Chair  
John Johnston (Dianne Piggott)  
128 Robin Ridge Drive  
Belmont, Ontario N0L 1B0  
519-558-0068  
mailto: councilchair@mdlions.org
- A1 Mike Tuxford (Barb)  
206 George Street, P.O. Box 822  
Lucan, ON N0M 2J0  
519-227-2252  
mailto: lionmiketuxford@gmail.com
- A2 Stewart Patterson (Nancy)  
2019 Main Street, South  
Jarvis, ON N0A 1J0  
519-587-2772  
mailto: ndp@kwic.com
- A3 Janet Marissen (Harry)  
10 Carla Court, P.O. Box 645  
Wellington, ON K0K 3L0  
613-961-0990  
mailto: handjmarissen@hotmail.com
- A4 Kristina Schulz (Michael)  
5329 Driscoll Drive  
Manotick, ON K4M 1E3  
613-692-8266  
mailto: krisandmike@sympatico.ca
- A5 Gerry Bertrand (Catherine Walton)  
363 Marion Street  
Sudbury, ON P3E 3H3  
705-674-4251  
mailto: gerrybertrand@gmail.com
- A711 Harold Hobson (Pat)  
13395 Heritage Road  
Caledon, ON L7C 1V1  
905-702-9216(h); 416-706-7000(c)  
mailto: hobsonschoice@sympatico.ca
- A9 Joanne Klonikowski (Andy)  
273 Boulton Street, P.O. Box 526  
Palmerston, ON N0G 2P0  
519-343-2553  
mailto: lionjo@eastlink.ca
- A12 Richard Ratensperger (Mary)  
59 Christopher Avenue  
Wasaga Beach, ON L9Z 1S4  
705-812-2906(h); 705-429-8731(c)  
mailto: mysunidaze@hotmail.com
- A15 Diane Smith (Paul Shutsa)  
1079 Floradale Road  
Elmira, ON N3B 2Z3  
519-669-1465(h); 519-574-0485(c)  
mailto: DG@a15lions.org
- A16 Susan Tate (Barry)  
12 King Street, P.O. Box 543  
Fenelon Falls, ON K0M 1N0  
705-887-5220  
mailto: state@lionsa16.com
- Secretary John Stewart PDG  
Treasurer Dave Hewitt PDG

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**Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada**  
*Lions Clubs International  
President*

## Lions Go Full Bore in Helping Refugees

Lions clubs work like this: they see a need in their community and they fill that need. Lions Clubs International works much the same way: we become aware of a pressing large-scale problem or crisis and then address it. Other Lions leaders and I are

horrified at the appalling refugee crisis in Europe, the largest since the end of World War II. The refugees have abandoned their homes, risked their lives and fled Syria and Iraq typically with little more than the clothes on their backs. Mothers and fathers cannot feed their children, shelter them from the elements or adequately protect them from disease.

At headquarters, we immediately saw the opportunity for a cross-border collaboration and quickly assembled a LCI/LCIF Refugee Steering Committee to funnel aid to refugees without delay.

LCIF already has approved a US\$200,000 grant to assist refugees, and our foundation has received from Lions more than another \$312,000 for refugees. That amount will surely grow. The committee will provide guidance to Lions on developing impactful projects and seek out partnerships with other groups to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of our aid. Chaired by the very capable International Director



*Refugees from Syria and Iraq in Turkey near the border with Greece are getting aid from Lions*

Helmut Marhauer of Germany and Lion Claudia Balduzzi of Italy, the committee also includes Lions from Greece, Turkey and other European nations involved in the crisis.

Lions in Europe have been on the scene heroically helping refugees in Turkey and Greece, even to the point of great personal risk (see story on page 7). However much we are moved and want to help, few of us can take time from work or family to be like these Lions and personally deliver aid. But all of us can support the work of Lions in the crisis zones or financially contribute to fundraisers and projects conceived by clubs and districts. Please be generous. Working together, Lions worldwide can help countless families obtain food, safety and the precious opportunity to restart their troubled lives.

**Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada**  
*Lions Clubs International President*

## Convention: Your Best Week Ever as a Lion

Japanese have a word for our culture of hospitality – *omotenashi*. You'll experience *omotenashi* while shopping, dining or really at any public place. At a department store an attendant in a well-tailored uniform may welcome you at an elevator bank with a bow and polite greeting. After pushing the call button, he or she will direct you to the arriving elevator with arms held at a perfect 90-degree angle. It's highly choreographed and highly welcoming. When dining out at a nice restaurant, the staff may stand in a line and bow at the end of the meal and escort you to the sidewalk. The graciousness stems from *omoiyari*, an acute sensitivity to other people.

You can experience this wonderful culture of hospitality if you attend the 99th International Convention in Fukuoka June 24-28. But as a Lion you will feel a sense of welcome even warmer and more

embracing than the average tourist. Do you know the feeling of camaraderie and the sense of pride that arises when you attend your Lions meeting or do a service project alongside fellow Lions? That feeling is multiplied exponentially at a Lions international convention. Being alongside Lions from around the world is incredibly uplifting and affirming.

You can be a great Lion and enjoy the fellowship of Lions without attending an international convention. But you'll appreciate being a Lion in a new, profound way and understand the vast, important scope of Lionism by taking part in the annual convention.

Convention is the opportunity to be with like-minded people from around the world. You can march in our grand parade, listen to inspiring speakers, hear the latest news about Lionism, delight in world-class entertainment, help decide the future of our association

and learn proven strategies about successful projects, public relations and membership drives. It's five days of unparalleled fun, fellowship and fruitful learning.

Japanese Lions are feverishly preparing for a most memorable convention. Japan is a place where Lionism is particularly strong. Lions here are among the first to respond to any disaster worldwide; their service projects in Japan are strikingly effective and creative. You can bet your bottom yen that the *omotenashi* and *omoiyari* of Japanese Lions will provide you with one of very best experiences of your entire life.

**Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada**  
*Lions Clubs International President*

### Request from Editor Lions of Multiple District 'A'

Starting with the February issue leading up to our Anniversary in 2017, we at the Lion magazine are looking for articles and photos of activities that reflect 100 years of service to our communities and also how your Club may celebrate our Centennial year. Please keep in mind that we only print photos of cheque presentations if we have space.

**Lion John Daniels, Editor**  
*mdathelionmag@hotmail.com*



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Budapest, Hungary

October 1-4, 2015



### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1. Amended Chapter II, Paragraph B of the Board Policy Manual removing reference to a joint audit committee, reflecting the establishment of the separate LCIF audit committee.
2. Deleted Chapter XI, Paragraph C.2. of the Board Policy Manual and amended Chapter II, Paragraph B.3. of the Board Policy Manual to reflect the independence of the internal audit function in the proper chapter.

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

1. Approved CSC (Corporation Service Company) as the registered agent for the International Association of Lions Clubs.
2. Adopted a resolution to revise board policy to reinstate the office of International Third Vice President.
3. Adopted a resolution to revised Chapter XX, Paragraphs Q.2. of the Board Policy Manual related to the distribution of the Standard Form Constitution and By-Laws.
4. Revised Chapter III, Paragraph E.3. of the Board Policy Manual to make it consistent with other provisions in the Board Policy Manual.
5. Revised the Standard Form Multiple District By-Laws in Chapter VII of the Board Policy Manual to be consistent with previous changes to the Standard Form District By-Laws.
6. Revised the Trademark Policies in Chapter XV of the Board Policy Manual to make board policy related to convention trading pins consistent with practice.
7. Revised the Advisory Committee to Review Vice President Candidates in Chapter II, Paragraph A of the Board Policy Manual to further define the objective, composition, duties and term of the Advisory Committee.
8. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2016 International Convention to amend the International Constitution to remove the Emergency Reserve Fund from the Constitution to allow for more flexibility in funding programs and services.
9. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2016 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws to revise the designation of Administrative Officers and, upon adoption, to revise Chapter XVIII, Paragraph A and B of the Board Policy Manual related to administrative officers.

### **CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

1. Revised 2016 Fukuoka convention schedule.
2. Established per diem allowances for appointed Credentials Committee members serving without

other reimbursement, District Governors-elect and District Governors-elect faculty and headquarters staff attending the Fukuoka convention.

3. Revised convention bid policy to allow for a designee to attend site inspections for future cities.
4. Revised policy to increase the convention registration and housing cancellation fees.
5. Amended policy to include the reinstatement of the Third Vice President, effective July 1, 2016.
6. Revised Election Procedures to eliminate the certification of alternate delegates.

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

1. Granted protective status to the Tabubil Lions Club for a period of six months.
2. Appointed Past District Governor Marina Barsegova to serve as an additional Coordinating Lion for the Republic of Armenia and Past International Director Per Christensen to serve as an additional Coordinating Lion for the Republic of Moldova.
3. Provided new districts, that result from redistricting proposals that consolidate transitional districts and is approved prior to October 2018, a grant in the amount of US\$2.00 per member the first year the new district is formed and US\$1.00 for each member plus US\$10.00 for each net member increase the two years following the year of implementation to help defray the cost of redistricting and support growth.
4. Approved the redistricting proposals from District 316-C (India), Multiple District 3 (Oklahoma), and Multiple District 316 (India) to take place at the adjournment of the 2016 International Convention.
5. Revised the Board Policy Manual to encourage electronic reporting to allow for the collection of email and phone numbers.
6. Revised the Board Policy Manual to further protect member information.
7. Revised the Board Policy Manual to correct a reference to the Executive Administrator.
8. Revised the Board Policy Manual to correct a reference to a paragraph that had changed location.

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

1. Approved the FY 2016 1st Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.
2. Approved requesting Constitution and By-Laws draft an amendment to the Constitution to remove Article IX at the International Convention to be held in Fukuoka, Japan, in June 2016.

3. Approved rescinding Resolution 5 of the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee report approved at the July 2014 board meeting in Toronto which modified the suspension policy. This decision restores the suspension policy effective immediately to its prior version.
4. Approved a change in board policy effective July 1, 2016, regarding travel policy for the third vice president.
5. Approved housekeeping revisions to Chapter XII and Chapter XXI of the Board Policy Manual.

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

1. Approved the plan, schedule and group leader team for the 2016 DGE Seminar in Fukuoka, Japan.
2. Revised the Board Policy Manual to accurately reflect the current nomenclature of the Leadership Development Committee and Leadership Development Division.

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

1. Approved the primary goal and supporting goal of the new five-year strategic plan being developed: LCI Forward. The primary goal is to improve the lives of 200 million per year by the end of 2020-21, tripling Lions' service impact. Adopted a plan framework summary.
2. Appointed a strategic planning team for further plan development and approved modest budget support.
3. Authorized formation of an international working group of Lions to explore future service approaches to engage more people in our humanitarian service actions.
4. Added to the composition of the Centennial Action Committee.

### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

1. Suspended the Join Together pilot program but retained the program's applicability to Lioness Clubs that desire to become Lions clubs in the program's pilot area.
2. Approved a membership grant for US\$25,000 for a special initiative in Multiple District O (Argentina).
3. Revised the new club charting process policy language to include online chartering.
4. Revised the family member policy language in relation to qualifications and reporting to include the verification of residence information, family relationship, and reporting online through MyLCI.
5. Revised the Key Award policy language to include reporting through MyLCI.
6. Updated the Life Membership policy language to better reflect the automated approval process.

7. Revised the Life Membership policy language to remove the International Board of Directors approval requirement.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

1. Replaced current Order of Precedence with Exhibit A to the PR Committee Report.
2. Placed a moratorium on new official editions of

LION Magazine until January 1, 2018.

3. Updated several sections of Chapter XX of the Board Policy Manual to reflect current practice.

**SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

1. Selected Leo Club Advisory Panel members and alternates for 2015-2017.

2. Consolidated and clarified Chapter 1 of the Board Policy Manual related to Youth Camp and Youth Exchange Programs.

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



# Lions Critical to Relief in Nepal After Earthquake



by International Director Sanjay Khetan and Cassandra Rotolo

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked Nepal last April 25. Two weeks later, another 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck the country, and thousands of aftershocks continued to rattle the region in the following months. This devastating series of earthquakes shook the country's infrastructure and the spirit of the Nepalese people.

Known locally as the "Gorkha" earthquake, it killed more than 9,000 people and injured 23,000. Entire villages were leveled, historic sites were damaged or demolished, and nearly 8 million people were left homeless. Compounding the disaster, landslides and avalanches soon followed, including an avalanche on Mt. Everest. This was the worst natural disaster to hit Nepal in nearly a century. Though experts had warned for decades that Nepal was vulnerable to a deadly earthquake, the country was woefully unprepared.

Right after the first earthquake, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) awarded a US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe grant to the Lions of Nepal. Major Catastrophe Grants provide significant funds for disasters with major international impact and can be used to address both immediate and long-term needs.

More than 1,500 Nepalese Lions were at a district conference when the initial tremors started. These local Lion leaders formed a committee to organize relief efforts, collecting whatever materials they could find. Lions were able to quickly assemble relief kits, which included rice, salt and mattresses. European Lions sent water purification tools, and Indian Lions sent tarps and solar lights. The **Lions of Bangladesh** sent 7,000 blankets, and the **Lions of Gujrat** in Pakistan provided 5,000 relief kits. Packing centers were established in Gorkha, Dhading and Nuwakot so the kits could be distributed.

Though many of them were victims themselves, the **Lions of Nepal** immediately went to work. The Lions quickly realized that the community blood supply was insufficient to keep up with the increasing demand. They organized blood drives, collecting more than 4,000 pints of blood in a single day. The collection quickly surpassed storage capacity at many blood banks.

Within three days, clubs throughout Nepal were engaged in relief operations. Just as materials were running low, more began to arrive. Working together, Lions established additional packing centers at Kathmandu, Nepalguj, Butwal, Narayanghat, Pokhara, Birganj, Janakpur and Biratnagar. In addition to the rice, salt and mattresses, these centers packed tarps, noodles,

blankets and other materials. Teams of Lions distributed more than 17,000 relief kits in the affected areas, serving individuals, families, schools and health centers.

Heavy rains poured down in the days following the earthquake, so the tarps included in the relief kits provided much-needed shelter. Lions built shelters in several communities and even served meals there. Many people were reluctant to re-enter their homes, afraid another earthquake or aftershock could destroy any building that might still be standing; they slept outside in tents and makeshift camps.

With the funds from LCIF and the concentration of Lions in Nepal, gathering supplies was not the most difficult part of the relief operations. The difficulty came in getting the supplies from the packing centers to the victims. Nepal is a mountainous country with many isolated communities, so moving supplies through the rugged terrain presented a serious challenge. Many of the residents had to come down from the mountains to collect their kits. Lions also used helicopters to deliver supplies to the most remote areas. On the way back to the packing centers, those helicopters transported people who needed medical attention.

"When we reached the places others had not yet reached, the people welcomed us with open arms. It looked like they were smiling for the first time since the quake," says Lion **Pankaj Pradhan**, a past council chairperson of **Multiple District 325**. "All of them shared their hardship stories with us. Through their heartbreaking stories, we could see their resilience. They were extremely grateful for our support."

Getting people to load, unload and carry relief supplies proved problematic, so local Lions did most of the work themselves. Lions carried materials on foot to areas that were not accessible to automobiles, working amidst the tremors and aftershocks to ensure that critical supplies made it to the people who needed them. Lions were even working in the area of the second earthquake's epicenter, but the Nepalese Lions continued on, undeterred by the risks to their own safety.

Ten days after the initial tremors, local Lions reached Danuar Basti in the Sidhupalchowk district. Until then, no other relief agencies had reached this remote area.

The Lions saw utter destruction when they arrived, with many people wearing the white garments traditionally worn by those mourning the loss of family members. People were huddled under improvised

shelters and in dire need of assistance. Lions provided relief kits with tents and blankets, and victims received medical attention at a nearby health camp.

Amidst the ruins, life went on. For some, life was just beginning. Phool Maya Tamang gave birth to a healthy baby girl in the Lions camp. Understanding this precious gift of life, the Lions helped Phool and her baby move to a sturdy shelter where they could safely await a more permanent home.

Shambhu Bahadur Bhandari, 76, had watched helicopters fly over his village, but none came to help. The local Lions club was the first to offer any assistance to his village. He approached the Lions with tears in his eyes, a bag of food in one hand and blanket and tent in the other. He hugged the Lions and expressed his gratitude that his two young grandchildren could eat while he continued searching for food and shelter.

Lions also established health camps, donated medicine to area hospitals and helped with sanitation efforts. They are working closely with the government on plans for reconstruction, which currently include building 1,000 houses and 50 schools, all of which are now required to be resistant to an earthquake.

In total, LCIF mobilized more than US\$5 million for both immediate relief needs and long-term reconstruction efforts. The Lions of Nepal, alongside LCIF, are committed to rebuilding the country and will continue working until the job is done.



**Villagers carry relief materials from Lions to their homes**



**Shambhu Bahadur Bhandari, 76, gratefully receives food from Lions**



## Lions Risk Lives for Refugees

Lions **Leif** and **Nilgün Erdem Niord** traveled to the southeast tip of Turkey with a truckload of food for 500 trapped Yazidis, a religious minority in Iraq who fled the persecution of ISIS. But fighting between the police and Kurdish nationalists forced them to flee. “It was tear gas all around,” says Niord, a peace activist who lives in both Turkey and Sweden. Sympathetic Turks later distributed the Lions’ aid. Three times previously Niord, her husband Leif, and Turkish Lion **Fadime Demirci** traveled to small villages in Turkey near the Syria border to bring food, beds, blankets and toys to 1,000 refugee families. Swedish and Turkish Lions supported the aid. Lions worldwide have been raising funds and donating supplies for the Syrian and Iraqi refugees. LCIF approved a US\$200,000 grant to assist refugees, and our foundation has received from Lions more than another \$312,000 for refugees. An LCI/LCIF Refugee Steering Committee was formed to coordinate assistance. The refugees are in dire need, says Nilgün Niord. “The refugees escaped with nothing. They carried the elderly on their backs and babies in their arms,” she says. “Many children look traumatized. The mothers looked desperate and helpless.”



Refugees in Turkey near the Syrian border carry food donated by Lions

## Centennial Update

### ‘Touchstone’ Stories Released

One hundred stories tell the century-old story of Lions Clubs International (LCI). In advance of the centennial of Lions Clubs in 2017, LCI has written 100 “Touchstone” stories that, in sum, describe what Lions are all about. The stories run the gamut: from Leader Dogs, Leos and Lions Quest to Melvin Jones, Helen Keller and Jimmy Carter. The stories detail the founding and expansion of Lions, the various service projects of Lions worldwide and the culture of camaraderie and fun that permeates clubs. The following Touchstone story and the other 99 are available at lions100.org. Each month the LION will include a Touchstone story as well as the latest centennial news.

### Lions Recycle for Sight

The World Health Organization estimates that more than 150 million people suffer from blurred vision due to uncorrected refractive errors such as nearsightedness or farsightedness. The inability to see clearly can prevent children from learning in school, adults from finding work or staying employed and older adults from living independently. Often, a simple pair of eyeglasses can bring the world into focus, but a lack of access to basic care prevents many people in developing nations from getting the treatment they need. Cost is also an issue; a pair of glasses may cost as much as a month’s wages.

However, with the help of Lions around the world and the Recycle for Sight program, LCI is bringing clear vision to millions, one pair of glasses at a time.

Through Recycle for Sight, Lions collect new and gently used eyeglasses and sunglasses in collection bins at a variety of locations in their communities: libraries, doctors’ offices, schools, sidewalks, banks and retail stores. The glasses are then shipped to the nearest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, where

employees or volunteers sort the glasses, clean them and determine their prescription strength. After carefully packaging the refurbished spectacles, Lions store them until they can be distributed through humanitarian missions to developing nations.

Lions and professional eye care specialists sometimes screen thousands of children and adults during sight missions, providing them—free of charge—with prescription lenses, frames and ultimately a better quality of life. Lions also distribute recycled glasses to nonprofit organizations focused on eye care, as well as to optometry college groups, religious organizations and military assistance groups.

Eyeglass recycling, one of the most popular activities for Lions around the world, dates back to the 1930s. Similar to today, Lions gathered glasses in their communities and gave them to those most in need. For example, in the early 1960s, the **Hayes & Harlington Lions Club** in England collected more than 20,000 pairs of glasses for those with vision impairment in India.

In 1994, Lions Clubs turned their longtime efforts into an official program under the name Recycle for Sight. With a common identity and common format, the program has continued to expand.

Each year, Lions collect about 30 million pairs of glasses. Clubs in Australia and Japan annually send 500,000 pairs of glasses to six recycling centers in Australia. Over the past decade, more than 3.5 million pairs of eyeglasses from these centers have been shipped to locations including India, the Middle East and tiny islands in Indonesia. By employing people from local correctional facilities, several of the centers are fostering rehabilitation by teaching skills that people can use after they leave prison.

The **Tokyo Sangenjaya Lions Club** partnered with a national retailer to collect glasses for Australia’s recycling centers in 2013. “Seeing Lions work in packaging these eyeglasses, I realize how much we consume and throw away that is still in usable or even perfect condition,” says one local businessman. “These eyeglasses will change someone’s life.”

“Thank you,” a 94-year-old man in Honduras cried after receiving a pair of Lions recycled glasses. “I can now read my Bible—the first time in 15 years.”



For more than 80 years, Lions have been collecting, sorting and cleaning eyeglasses, and distributing them to those in need

## Service Week to Fight Hunger Nears

More than 800 million people in the world don’t have enough to eat. Lions are called to do something about it: Jan. 10-16 is our Worldwide Week of Service to Fight Hunger and Poverty. The service both honors the birthday of Lions’ founder Melvin Jones (Jan. 13) and contributes to the “Relieving the Hunger” component of the Centennial Service Challenge to serve 100 million people. Lions are asked to complete a small project such as organizing a food drive or volunteering at a soup kitchen. Or Lions can do a medium-sized project such as developing a weekend backpack meal program for schoolchildren or starting a community garden. Clubs also are encouraged to undertake a major project such as establishing a food bank. Clubs need to report the service on the online MyLCI Service Activity Report for the project to count toward the Centennial Service Challenge and to earn

a Centennial Banner Patch.



**Dub Deavor** (from left) and Lions **John Haskell**, **Joyce Canada** and **Bob Canada** of the Selma Lions Club sort some of the 1,000 cans of food collected at the club’s annual Central Alabama Fair for a local food pantry  
photo courtesy of the Selma Times-Journal

# Lions on Location

## Teenager Comes Out Swinging

AUSTRALIA – Aidan Barry, 17, has golfed long enough and has reached a certain level of expertise that he has a handicap. It's his other handicaps that distinguish him from the average golfer.

Aidan suffers from vision and hearing problems. He has a lung condition that he describes as “asthma-like.” His arms are only a few inches long. His medical ordeal began when he had open heart surgery two weeks after he was born, the first of six heart operations.

He took up golf when he was 7. He plays as part of the Disability Recreation and Sport South Australia, of which his mother, Bernadette, is a board member. The family lives in Marion, a suburb of Adelaide, Australia's fifth-largest city.

**Adelaide Lions** admire his pluck. Using computer game terminology, he says, “Having a physical disability is like playing life in Hard Mode.”

He is a straight A student. His goal is to study law—and to win a gold medal at the Paralympics. Meanwhile, everyday life has become easier for him thanks to the assistance dog Lions provided after raising \$45,000 (US\$32,000). The dog helps him carry items, press pedestrian crossing buttons and even pull laundry from the washing machine.



Aidan Barry golfs despite arms six inches long

## Austrians Mimic New York Event

AUSTRIA – Celebrating Lions Day at the United Nations, Lions in Austria held their own version of the day at the Parliament Building in Vienna. Lion **Karlheinz Kopf**, President of the Austrian National Council (one of the two houses in the Austrian Parliament), hosted the event.

Ambassadors, U.N. officials and Lions such as Kopf and Past International Director **Ernst Musil** talked about the longstanding relationship between the United Nations and Lions and the importance of nonprofit organizations in alleviating social ills. The keynoter was Prelate Mag. Fürnsinn, abbot of the Herzogenburg Monastery. Classical musicians played songs by Mozart, Bach and Handel. The Peace Poster Contest finalists from the western, central and eastern

districts of Austria were introduced to the crowd of 200.

Held in early spring in New York, Lions Day at the United Nations is a 37-year tradition.

## Lions Target Dementia

ENGLAND – Santa brought the gift of memory—or at least care and support for those with dementia. For nine nights before Christmas Santa took to the streets with **Mildenhall and District Lions** in southeast England to collect funds for the Forget-Me-Not Campaign of West Suffolk Hospital.

Nary a Scrooge was found. The Santa Sleigh raised 3,751 euros (US\$4,200) to raise awareness of dementia and provide care for patients.

For **Eric and Pat Nixon**, longtime members of the **Cosham Lions**, dementia has hit home. Eric, 87, who served in the RAF for 43 years, has Alzheimer's. Pat, a retired special education teacher, speaks at Lions meetings about becoming a “Dementia Friend.” The nonprofit encourages people to stay in touch with people with dementia, to be patient with them and to wear a badge publicizing Dementia Friends. “I don't think people understand what dementia is and what happens,” Pat told the Portsmouth News.

## Lion Carves Out His Niche

FINLAND – Finns joke that cold weather for other Europeans means their cars don't start while Finns are still driving with the tops down on their convertibles. Lion **Veijo Oinonen** is one Finn in particular for whom winter is a pleasure: he's won 18 ice sculpting championships.



Veijo Oinonen carved a Santa Claus

A member of the **Kuusankoski Lions Club** since 2005, Oinonen has taken home gold medals in the Finnish championships and earned medals in foreign

competitions such as in Sapporo, Japan. The competitions are for teams. “You have to have one leader who has the main idea and who can manage the team,” says Oinonen. “At the national level the time is restricted, so it definitely takes teamwork with good leadership.”

Ice sculpting is a ticket into the larger world of ice and winter festivals. In Harbin, China, an entire town is constructed from ice. “Some of the buildings are very tall, up to 30 meters [98 feet] and with flashing LED lights. It's an unbelievable experience,” says Oinonen, who spends part of the winter in Lapland in Northern Finland where weeks go by without daylight.

His interests made him a good fit for Lions, he says. “I've done a lot of volunteer work in sports organizations, and maybe that was the reason I wanted to join,” he says. “We work together in my club and share responsibilities.”

## Quick Response After Nepal Earthquake

GERMANY – German Lions responded almost immediately to the devastating earthquake last April in Nepal. Within just four days of the disaster, German Lions donated more than 100,000 euros (US\$112,000) for relief.

German Lions' nonprofit partner, Help, sent a six-person rescue team to search for survivors and recover bodies. The earthquake killed more than 9,000 people, injured more than 23,000 and left nearly 3 million without a home. Among the dead was Dr. Matthias Kuhle, a Göttingen professor with his students on an excursion. A rockslide killed him.

German Lions also enabled Help to use its creative disaster response—a “cash for work” method. Residents are paid to assist with relief and reconstruction, providing a boost to the damaged economy.

As with other disasters, German Lions also sent pallets full of PAULS—portable aqua units for lifesaving—to purify contaminated water.



A worker packs PAULS to purify water in Nepal after the earthquake



### **Schoolchildren Now Sail to School**

INDIA – Shikha Kumari’s school stands across the Durgawati River, 115 feet wide and 50 feet deep. For months the 13-year-old girl did not attend school in the Kaimur District in eastern India: she cannot swim and the nearest bridge is nearly three miles away.

Nearly 100 other students took the plunge day after day. Boys typically placed their school clothes and books in plastic bags in an urn before swimming across. Not able to change clothes on the river bank, girls had to wait until they reached school before getting out of their wet clothes.

The river became especially perilous during the monsoon season when the water level rose. At least seven students have drowned.

Today a boat safely ferries 25 students at a time across the river. Some two dozen Lions from **Multiple District 322** personally paid for the boat. “It was a gesture to show how we have learned fellowship and the spirit of Lionism,” says **Sanjay Awasthi** of the **Patna Takshila Lions Club**.

The Lions’ largess was extended to the community. Elderly village women also use the boat to cross the river.



**Schoolchildren who once swam to school now ride a boat**

### **Snow Festival Brightens the Season**

JAPAN – It snows almost constantly from November to March in Otaru, a port city. The sun rarely shines. In February, the city thumbs its nose at the wintry weather with a radiant Snow Lantern Festival. The city glitters with paths lined with small snow huts lit by candles, fields of snow sculptures, and, running adjacent to the canal that is central to the city, rows of small snow statues holding candles. The canal itself is filled with floating glass spheres made bright by candles.

The effect is cinematic, other-worldly, life-affirming in the face of a long, dreary winter.

The **Otaru Lions** have run the festival for 13 years. It coincides with the nearby Sapporo Snow Festival, so travelers can visit both events.

Sapporo hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics, and its more famous snow festival features massive snow sculptures made by artists. Residents in Otaru make the snow art. It’s a more approachable festival, exemplified by the conscious effort last year to create

snow objects close to the ground, making them accessible to children.

The candles in the snow huts cast a warm, orange glow over the snow. Lions divide into teams to tend to the candles around the clock to keep them lit.

The Lions have their own snow pavilion with snowmen of various shapes and sizes. Permanently displayed there is a beloved bronze statue of a flute-playing boy.

The festival is not a fundraiser. “To the Otaru Lions, this service activity is about good, old-fashioned volunteer work, not cash donations,” according to the Japanese LION. The nine-day festival drew 498,000 people last year.



**Children gaze at a snow hut at the Snow Lantern Festival**

### **Manure Is Not Wasted**

AUSTRALIA – The dung of the earth is supporting flights of mercy and healing. Or as the local newspaper put it, “Manure is not such a crappy idea.”

The **Murgan Lions Club** bags and sells manure to green thumbers. Proceeds go to CareFlight, which provides quick-response medical care for remote, injured and ill people through a fleet of helicopters and planes.

The manure is courtesy of the cows of dairy farmer **Col Sippel**, a Lion since 1974. One day while contemplating his cows’ prodigious output, “I got a brainwave that we should be selling manure,” he told the Toowoomba Chronicle. The club sells nearly 40 bags weekly.

### **Old Eyeglasses, A New Concept**

CZECH REPUBLIC – Across Europe in 29 nations last year thousands of schools, civic groups and cities held events and hosted projects as part of the European Sustainable Development Week. Lions in Prague jumped right in, promoting eyeglass recycling, a concept new to most Czechs.

Bank employees and customers donated more than 2,000 eyeglasses at 42 branches of the Komerční Banka, a leading bank in the Czech Republic. “We were extremely pleased with the project,” says **Eva Zouzalova** of the **Prague Strahov San Giorgio Lions Club**, which organized the initiative. “Recycling of eyeglasses is not done here. People don’t even know

they can be recycled. Eyeglasses are thrown in the rubbish.”

Czech Lions transported the eyeglasses to a Lions eyeglass recycling center in northern Italy. After being cleaned, repaired and measured, Italian Lions shipped the eyeglasses to several nations including Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia and Cambodia. An influential agency, Flagship Communications in Prague had promoted the recycling free of charge for the Lions.

Sponsored by the European Union, the first-ever sustainable development week focused on waste and resource conservation, biodiversity, green jobs/training, climate change and social inclusion.



**Sandra Zouzalova, Director of Flagship Communications, proudly displays some of the eyeglasses collected by Lions in Prague**

### **Club Adopts a Village**

INDIA – The **Narangi Lions Club** has adopted a small village to preserve its heritage and improve the health of its 99 families. Tiny, isolated Burha Mayong is home to Tiwas, Hindu Assamese and Bengali Hindu refugees.

Narangi Lions have held health camps, literacy programs and classes on female empowerment for the families. They also constructed a hall and bathrooms and donated many goods including a computer, sewing machine and handlooms.

The 68-member club is working with the Social Welfare Department on the village improvement, according to the Assam Tribune.

### **Students Facing Exams Helped**

MALAYSIA – Students’ stress over national exams has made headlines in Malaysia. Students distressed about upcoming exams, key to career opportunities, have killed themselves by jumping off a balcony, dousing themselves with gasoline before lighting a match and hanging themselves.

The **Kuching Kota Samarahan Lions Club** has eased the stress by sponsoring seminars prior to exams. The club offered assistance for students taking standardized tests in proficiency in Mandarin. In a press release, the club said the learning session will help students feel they are not alone in their quest to advance their careers.

### ***Puppets Help Kids Deal with Feelings***

NEW ZEALAND – Puppets Zak, Lucy and Jo play together, bicker, confide in each other, squabble, make plans together and learn to accept their differences. Their dramas mirror the lives of schoolchildren, which is why a child counsellor takes them to perform at schools.

“Using puppets is an ideal way to connect with the children,” says Lesley Bates. “The puppets work well to bring the children out of their shells and explore emotions without embarrassment.”



*Students play with the sock puppets they made as Lucy looks on*

*Photo by Fairfax NZ*

The ***Feilding Host, Feilding Manchester and Feilding Kowhai Lions Clubs*** sponsor the school visits by the Social Socks puppets. “I get brilliant support from Lions. I was blown away. They are such lovely groups of people,” says Bates.

### ***Child Labor Drama is Dickensian***

PAKISTAN – A sensitive, intelligent young boy in Pakistan, Yasir is forced by his father, a drug addict, to quit school for a job in a dirty, noisy workshop. Yasir dutifully trudges off to work, but one day, remembering his school days, he breaks down and weeps bitterly.

That’s the plot of “Little Hands,” a piercing drama on child labor sponsored by a Lions Club, produced by a Lion, written by a renowned Pakistani writer and staged at the well-appointed auditorium of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Islamabad. Pakistan has one of the world’s highest rates of child labor, and the 90-minute drama with professional actors was performed on June 12, the World Day Against Child Labor.

“Our children and youths [who work] are unable to get a proper education and are involved in various type of abuse,” says ***Iftikhar Ahmed***, charter president of the ***Islamabad City Lions Club***. “I think the performing

arts is a good medium to convey messages to the public. We can increase our membership and convey a good image of Lions.”

Ahmed, the show’s producer, outlined his general ideas for the script for Aslam Mughal, the playwright. The play drew about 500 people including officials from UNICEF and the U.S. embassy.

The play is grim but ends on an upbeat note. Shaken by the death of another child who works, Yasir’s father has a change of heart. Yasir’s return to school becomes a reality when a Lion financially assists the family. Yasir completes his schooling and joins the Lions to stamp out child labor.



*Yasir’s mother comforts him before his father sends him off to work*

## **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR CANADA CANDIDATES**

The Multiple District 'A' Nominations Committee is pleased to announce that the following Lions have been duly endorsed by their respective sub-Districts and are therefore qualified to represent Multiple District 'A' as a candidate for International Director for Canada.

**TOM GORDON, PCC – NEWMARKET NORTH LIONS CLUB, DISTRICT A16**

**M. JIM PRENGER, PDG – KINCARDINE & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB, DISTRICT A9**

The candidates’ names shall be presented to the delegates at the 2016 Multiple District 'A' Convention scheduled for May 26th to May 29th in North Bay, Ontario. Certified delegates who have registered and paid the Convention registration fee shall be entitled to Vote for one (1) candidate on Sunday, May 29, 2016 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Pursuant to the MD 'A' Constitution & By-laws, sub-Districts must submit the name of its endorsed candidate to the MD 'A' Secretary no later than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the MD 'A' Convention. Therefore, the deadline is Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

***Harry Marissen, PCC***  
***Chairperson***  
***MD 'A' Nominations Committee***

***John Stewart, PDG***  
***Secretary***  
***Multiple District 'A'***

# 'I Can See Like An Eagle'

by Anne Ford

*Meet Fran Grabowski of Michigan and you'd never know that the effervescent former teacher and pastor came close to completely losing his sight. Grabowski's journey not only took him from near-blindness to extraordinary vision—it also brought him to Lions. Grabowski and others tell the tale of how the Lions of Michigan helped bring glorious light where there was terrible darkness.*

**Fran Grabowski:** When I turned 40, I had to get bifocals. As depressed as I was about getting older, I was excited that I was going to be able to see better. We're talking 20/800, 20/900 vision without glasses.

**Tammie Grabowski, wife:** His eyesight was terrible. It was to the point where he could drive if he *had* to—but if I was there, I was the driver, because it was safer.

**Grabowski:** I got these new bifocals, and I'm playing golf with my son, and I can't see the flag. I'm asking him, "Where's the flag?" To be funny, he says, "On the green." I'm like, "No, seriously, where?" He says, "You really can't see the flag?" It was pretty much that way the whole way around the golf course.

I thought they had made a mistake in grinding my lenses. I took 'em back in, and a young technician said, "Hold on a second." She took a pen light out of her pocket and shined it in the sides of my eyes, and she said, "I'm going to go get the doctor." I'm like, "That's not good."

Turns out, the technician had seen, just with her naked eye, that my corneas were misshapen. The doctor ran some tests and found I had a hereditary disease called keratoconus. It's a thinning and a warping of the cornea. That warping means that glasses won't work, because by the time the light is refracted by the glasses and hits the eyeball, it's all screwed up.

**Lisa Langley, an Ann Arbor Host Lion and executive director of the Ann Arbor-based nonprofit eye bank and research center Eversight Michigan:** The cornea is the size of a dime. It's a clear window in the very front of the eye, over the iris. When we look out of our eye, we just take it for granted that there's a window there and it's clean. When that cornea becomes clouded, your world changes. It's as if you were trying to look out of a windshield during a rainstorm and your wipers aren't working, or someone placed five layers of waxed paper over your eye.

*Grabowski's ophthalmologist recommended a corneal transplant, an outpatient procedure in which a diseased or damaged cornea is removed and replaced with a healthy cornea from a deceased donor. Grabowski underwent a cornea transplant in his right eye on Aug. 31, 2011. Eversight Michigan provided the cornea, and Dr. Stephen Higgins of Kalamazoo Ophthalmology performed the surgery.*

**Tammie:** We were pretty scared that he would go

blind if something went wrong. There was not a lot of sleeping going on the night before.

**Grabowski:** They used local anesthetic and put me into a twilight sleep. I don't remember anything about the surgery. They had told me they'd use a thing called an optical speculum to keep my eye open. I was like, "Okay, I don't want to know any more about that." Afterward, my eye looked like I got hit by a baseball bat. I had colors around my eye that I did not know could exist in the flesh—greens and purples and blues.

**Tammie:** He went home with a shield over his eye. We had to go back the next morning, and as soon as they took that shield off, he said, "I can already see better than I could before." They said, "It's only going to get better from here." We were excited. If it's this good after 24 hours, and you're telling us it's going to take a year to heal, how much better is it going to get? That's one day—what's 364 more going to show us?

*Over the next year, while they waited for the transplant to finish healing, the Grabowskis grew curious about Eversight Michigan and its mission.*

**Grabowski:** Tammie and I decided to go to Eversight and take a tour. And it wasn't just the nickel tour—we got the deluxe package. We found out that the Lions started Eversight [then called the Michigan Eye Bank] back in 1957.

**Langley:** Lion Dr. John W. Henderson was our founder. A man's dying wish was to donate his eyes, but there was no eye bank in Michigan, even though the first cornea transplant had been done back in 1905. So Dr. Henderson joined the Lions and went to virtually every Lions club in the state, rallying them to help him form an eye bank, helping him tell people that they could be eye donors. That was a pretty bold and brave thing to do. I mean, kidneys weren't transplanted until 1971. This was brand-new stuff.

Our youngest cornea recipient was 3 days old, and our oldest was 100 years old. We've helped nearly 90,000 people see again since our inception. We are a state project of the Lions of Michigan, and we are truly very proud to be affiliated with and founded by them. We rely on Lions.

**Grabowski:** On the tour, we got to go in the laboratory and hold an actual cornea in a shipping container. There was a doctor in there, practicing separating the layers of a cornea, which is only as thick as a piece of Saran wrap. In the last room of the tour was where the counselors were, the people who speak with the donors' families. I stepped in that room, and that was a life-changing moment, because it became real to me as to why I have this gift. This gift came with a big price. Because on the other end of the phone are people who are going through the gut-wrenching pain of grief, but who are selfless enough to donate eye tissue, to give people the gift of sight.

**Tammie:** That's the only reason my husband can see right now, because somebody died and gave him that tissue.

**Grabowski:** After that day, I told the Eversight folks: "Have eyes, will travel. You need a spokesperson, and God has given me the gift of gab." They said, "We'll sure use you."

*But Grabowski had another surgery to undergo. On Dec. 19, 2012, he went in for a second cornea transplant, this time in his left eye. Again, Dr. Higgins did the surgery.*

**Grabowski:** I woke up saying, "Well, I'm glad I won't have to go through *that* again." And one of the nurses said, "We didn't get to do the transplant." I was like, "Excuse me? What?"

**Tammie:** I should have been clued in when they took me into a back room. When Dr. Higgins came in, he just looked exhausted. He said, "Well, things did not go as planned. I did my best, but there is the chance that we've lost his eye." They got about halfway around the incision to remove Fran's cornea, and basically the whole inside of his eye started to swell and come out through the incision.

**Grabowski:** As it turned out, we went in the next morning, and they took off the shield, and I did have vision. Dr. Higgins gave a big sigh and said, "Now I can tell you things are OK." He saved my eye. Had I had a less skilled surgeon, I'd now have one eye and one prosthetic eye. I was ready to try the transplant again, but we had to wait at least six months.

*Finally, on March 19, 2013, Grabowski underwent a successful cornea transplant in his left eye.*

**Grabowski:** This time, at Dr. Higgins' recommendation, we went to the Kellogg Eye Center at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, because there they could have a retina surgeon standing right next to the cornea surgeon. This time there was no hemorrhaging, no nothing.

My results have been phenomenal. I see 20/15 out of my right eye and 20/20 out of my left eye. I can see like an eagle. I don't need corrective lenses. The folks at the DMV didn't believe me. I had to tell 'em, "Corneal transplants." They were like, "Holy mackerel!"

**Tammie:** It used to be that he would always say: "What does that sign say? What does the TV say?" And now I'm the one saying, "What's the scoreboard say?" and he's telling me. He always says, "I can almost see into the future!"

*Grabowski made good on his promise to Eversight. As an Eversight Ambassador, he's on the road constantly, speaking about his experience to groups such as the Lions.*

**Grabowski:** I was going to events that Eversight was having, and I'd notice all these Lions. In the car afterward, either my wife or myself would say, "Why



aren't we Lions?" And the other person would go, "I don't know. I don't even know how you become a Lion." Then I met Lion Don Brown, who is a member of the Eversight Board of Trustees and a member of the Paw Paw Lions.



**Dr. Stephen Higgins gave Grabowski his sight back**

**Don Brown:** Fran said to me, "I want to thank you for giving me back my sight." I said, "Don't thank me,

thank the Lions of Michigan; it's they who gave you back your sight, along with Eversight."

**Grabowski:** Then he said, "Come to my club and tell your story." So I went and spoke to his club in Paw Paw, and afterward he thanked me. He was holding two applications to the Lions, one for me and one for my wife. As soon as he invited us, it was like, "Yes, we're in, we're joining." I've become super-active in the club, and now I'm President of it, and my wife is the membership chair. I tease people that I'm going to be the first International President with two corneal transplants.

And now I go to Lions clubs all over the state, letting them see how their money's being spent. I thank them on behalf of people like me, who were blind but now can see. I talk about how I've gone from what would have been a life of indistinguishable colors, not being able to see my wife's face, not being able to drive or read or play golf . . . My life would be so much different. And these transplants have given me another shot.

I get asked all the time if I know anything about my

donors. Their names are known only to God, but I think about them every day, and I'm thankful that they and their families were forward-thinking enough to leave a little something behind. These people live on through me. They continue to see through me. I see through the eyes of angels.



**Fran Grabowski now can look at Tammie, his wife, with stellar vision**

The list of Lions eye banks can be found by searching for "eye banks" at [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org).

## Lions Foundation gives Canadians new leash on life

Many Lions are familiar with Lions Foundation of Canada's training school in Oakville, Ont. This is where people from all over the country meet their matches as they learn to work with their new Dog Guides, specially trained in one of six programs to assist Canadians with physical and medical disabilities. But did you know that the majority of Dog Guides begin their lives just outside the Kitchener area in Breslau, Ont., where LFC's breeding facility is situated?



**Litters of puppies in Breslau, Ont. last summer**

The picturesque grounds of the breeding facility are also home to the Memorial Forest, a place where you can commemorate the life of a loved one with a living memorial, and support LFC's mission of providing Dog Guides at no cost to clients. As a symbol of strength, shelter and durability, a living tribute can be a source of comfort and meaning.

The Memorial Forest generates funds for the Lions Foundation of Canada's six Dog Guide programs:

**Canine Vision** for people who are blind or visually impaired

**Hearing Ear** for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

**Service** for people with a physical disability

**Seizure Response** for people with epilepsy

**Autism Assistance** for children on the autism spectrum

**Diabetic Alert** for people with type 1 diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness

Trees planted in the Memorial Forest are in memory of a Lion or friend of Lions Foundation. The name of the deceased is inscribed on a plaque and placed at the base of the tree. An in-memoriam certificate, stating that a tree is planted in memory of the deceased, is sent to a designated family member or friend on the donor's behalf. Each year, a dedication service is held at the Memorial Forest, and a dedication service brochure is printed with the names of those for whom a tree has been planted in



**Puppies grow up to be life-changing service dogs**

the preceding year.

Other ways your club may wish to support Lions Foundation include sponsoring a litter of puppies who will go on to become life-changing Dog Guides. This \$5,000 gift covers veterinary and other care associated with bringing these pups up to meet the important tasks ahead.

Once Dog Guides are trained and ready to be matched with someone, LFC seeks sponsors to cover a portion of the \$25,000 cost of raising, training, and placing a Dog Guide. Clubs sponsoring teams are formally connected to the graduating team they support, honoured during Dog Guides' graduation ceremony.

From small beginnings to commemorating lives well lived, it all happens here.



**For more information, visit [www.dogguides.com](http://www.dogguides.com)**



**New trees growing in the Memorial Forest**

by Cassandra Rotolo

When District 1 J was considering new ways to give back to their suburban Chicago community, Lion **Jeri DiPasquale** had an idea. At age 13, her son had been diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, so her family knew all too well the needs of the diabetic community.

“As a parent, you always try to keep your child safe,” says DiPasquale. “You tell him not to run into the street and not to touch the hot stove. But a diagnosis of diabetes changes everything. You suddenly hold your child’s life in your hands. If you don’t give him his shot, he’s going to die.”

DiPasquale suggested to her club that they support diabetes prevention. The **Lions of District 1 J** teamed up with Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare (EMH) to develop a diabetes prevention and lifestyle intervention program by securing a \$95,275 Core 4 Diabetes grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). The project prevents diabetes by providing education and resources to low-income adults at risk of developing the disease.

“We never would have gotten through this without the education and support we got from Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare,” says DiPasquale. “Thank you, LCIF, for making sure other families have access to this vital resource.”

Diabetes is a growing epidemic in both the United States and worldwide. Some 29 million American adults have diabetes. That includes an estimated 7 million who do not know that they have the disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC). Another 86 million Americans (more than 33 percent of adults) have pre-diabetes, which puts them at the highest risk of developing diabetes within the next five years. It is predicted that one in three Americans will have the disease by 2050 if current trends continue.

Now, with the help of local Lions, the new Diabetes Prevention and Lifestyle Intervention Program at EMH identifies underserved, financially strained and high-risk individuals who may have pre-diabetes. Those who screen positive for pre-diabetes are offered a free consultation with a diabetes educator at the hospital-based Learning Center. They can choose to enroll in a lifestyle-change program, based on the CDC curriculum designed to prevent or delay progression of Type 2 diabetes.

The program aims to educate participants with the ultimate goal of reducing the prevalence of diabetes. This is an expansive community outreach program that helps individuals identify their risks and develop a plan to minimize them.

Local Lions are integral to the success of the program. There are 64 Lions clubs in District 1 J and more than 2,300 members. The Lions function as community ambassadors by

advocating for diabetes prevention. They facilitate informational meetings, help collect health data such as weight and BMI (Body Mass Index) measurements from participants, and host fundraising events.

With the help of Lions and LCIF, the target is for at least 65 percent of participants to lose weight, maintain that weight loss and experience a stabilization of the blood glucose level after completing the program. The Lions of District 1 J are working diligently to improve the health of their community and prove that an ounce of prevention is, indeed, worth a pound of cure.

For information on how your district can apply for a Core 4 Diabetes grant, visit [lcif.org](http://lcif.org).



*Lion Jim Worden discusses patient education with Julie Sanfilippo (center), a health coach with the Diabetes Prevention Program, and nurse Linda Voght, a certified diabetes educator at Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare*

## Ingersoll Lions

On Oct 13th 1947, the Ingersoll Lions met for their monthly executive meeting. On the agenda that evening was the finalization for what was to become a signature event with the Ingersoll Lions, the Vets Night Dinner.

Although no official records exist, it is said over two hundred and forty guests attended the first dinner sixty-eight years ago. It took place in the old Armoury on Charles Street in Ingersoll. Buses came from as far away as London, where many vets were still in hospital recovering from war related injuries.

It snowed that evening, but snow could in no way dampen the spirit of the event. There was a colour party of course, and the flags were marched in led by a piper, as happens every dinner. Church and political dignitaries were there, with lots of speeches, but best of all the vets themselves were there in force. This was a chance to give thanks for making it home and to remember the friends who did not. After the speeches ended and the tables were cleared the singing began, led by vets, who as they say, could carry a song. The same vets who for many a year led the singing at subsequent dinners. Times and locations changed but

never the singing.

This year on November 4th we finished dinner with the same songs, the power of those songs just as strong today, sixty-eight years later, as it was on that first evening so many years ago. The numbers of vets are fewer, the voices weaker, the memories faded, but the power of the singing brings us all back to that year when the Lions held their first dinner to honour those who gave so much of themselves and for those who never returned.



# Woolwich Community Lions Canine Challenge

What is it like to live your life in a wheelchair? Or not be able to hear a simple knock on the door? Or be blind for that matter and totally dependent on your service dog to be your eyes as you navigate the neighborhood streets?

Woolwich Community Lions Club members discovered firsthand the challenges faced by individuals with physical and medical difficulties, and how Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) trained service dogs to provide them with independence and freedom during the annual LFCDG Canine Challenge on November 21st, 2015.

The Busy Busy Club Team Lions members **Nancy Chiasson, Deb Cserhalmi, Cheryl Bauman**, and friend Kathi Ryan handled the dogs from the six programs, and were given gear to simulate the respective disability, such as being wheelchair bound, deaf with sound cancelling headphones or blindfolded. Dogs in training such as Gracie/Helga (special skills), Ultra/Paddy/Flame (hearing), Cooper (canine vision), Boone/ Isomer (autism), Daisy (diabetes), and Ash (seizure) showed off their skills as they provided team members with assistance as they navigated

through various obstacle courses.

The day serves as a fundraiser for LFCDG as well as a chance for Lions members to learn about this fabulous foundation that clubs help to support. To join the challenge, Lions clubs provide a registration fee and form a team of four to compete with other Lions club teams at five stations representing the six LFCDG programs. For this year's contest, the WCLC Busy Busy Club team went leash to leash with four other Lions teams, and won the prize for most monies raised for the fundraiser.

Lions Foundation of Canada's mission is to assist Canadians with a medical or physical disability by providing them Dog Guides at no cost. To do this, the Foundation operates Dog Guides Canada, a preeminent national training school and charity that assists individuals with disabilities through specialized Dog Guide programs. These Dog Guides are provided at no cost to eligible Canadians from coast to coast despite costing \$25,000 to train

and place. The Foundation relies on donations from individuals, service clubs, foundations and corporations and does not receive any government funding.



*Hearing Ear Dog Guides trainees Ultra and Paddy alert and lead Team members Deb Cserhalmi and Kathi Ryan to the door to investigate a knock*



*Lions Nancy Chiasson, Cheryl Bauman, Deb Cserhalmi & friend Kathi Ryan*



*Team member Cheryl Bauman practices "hugs" with autism Assist Dog Guides trainee Isomer*



*Trainee Cooper helps blindfolded Deb Cserhalmi navigate obstacle course*



*Special skills trainee Gracie helps Busy Busy Team member Kathi Ryan; team member Nancy Chiasson helps with the wheelchair with trainer Jessie Walker observing*

## Alliston Lions Club

A Lion's Roar out to the end of our 2105 Christmas Hamper Campaign. We have made Christmas a little better for sooooo many less fortunate than us.

Every Alliston Lion should be extremely proud of their Club and take immense pride in being associated with Outstanding Fellow Lions that generously gave of their time, efforts and fellowship (not to mention some serious belly laughs) through out this past Hamper Season.

To Lions **Norm** and **Wayne**, or should I say Mutt and Jeff or Laurel and Hardy or the muppets or other terms of endearment that are not printable, thank you for your time, management and continued reminder that this was again your last year... see you next year. Thanks to Adopted Lion **Darlene** for managing the 'backoffice'.

We served 121 families (still two hampers to be picked up following a couple of late afternoon deliveries and visits to the club).

We delivered over 7100 lbs to the Alliston Food

Bank. This will keep the Food Bank going until approximately Easter.

We were able to assist the **Angus and Tottenham Lions** and Fire Departments with their campaigns through our collection of toys from those areas by our generous partners.

For the first time, we distributed Smoke and CO<sub>2</sub> detectors to Adj/Tos residents through the generosity of our partners at the Everett Fire Department and the Lion Jim Kenn Memorial Food Drive. The cash donations we received ensure the older teenagers and any food shortages were provided for.

We are in good stead for next year toy wise and for projects throughout the year.

The Club will be taking out large advertisements in the local papers and other media in the New Year thanking our partners, donors and moral supporters for their efforts.

Your efforts no matter how large or small further enhanced our club's 'Legacy' as a formidable Volunteer

Organization in the Area.

This is why 'WE SERVE'.





# Fabulous Fukuoka

Long a port of entry, our convention city in Japan will be a gateway to fun and fellowship for Lions.

by Tim Hornyak

**Cover photo:**

**Japanese Lions who are planning the international convention gather in Fukuoka at the Kushida Shrine, founded in 757. (Front, from left) Past International Director Yasumasa Furo, chairperson of the Host Committee, and Past Council Chair Takenori Kitajima, chairperson of the Executive Committee, wear Happi, traditional Japanese outfits worn when carrying the portable shrine. (Back, from left) Norihito Nakagawa, vice chairperson of the Parade Committee, Koji Onishi, chairperson of the Parade Committee, and Taisuke Yamamoto, vice chairperson of the Public Relations Committee, wear shirts with the convention logo.**

*Photo by Katsuaki Tanaka*

Fukuoka looks like no other big city in Japan. Five major rivers divide its center, and numerous canals contribute to a teeming network of scenic waterways. The city's delightfully varied bridges include the Najima Bridge and its elegant 1930s stonework, the sleek, modern lines of the Aitaka Bridge (at 430 meters, the longest sea bridge in Japan for pedestrians and bicycles) and the orange-yellow tiled Deai Bridge, which encourages people to loiter at picnic tables—no wonder its name means “bridge of encounters.”

At the Deai Bridge and elsewhere, easygoing buskers croon away in the evenings. Traditional *yakatabune* party boats, decked out with colorful lanterns, go up and down the Naka River as passengers feast on *sashimi* and *sake* under the glare of neon lights from the nightlife district of Nakasu Island. That's the kind of laidback feel Fukuoka can pull off.

Yet Fukuoka also bustles as a center of commerce and culture. Its airport is one of the world's three busiest. Located on the southernmost main Japanese island of Kyushu, Fukuoka is one of the closest places in Japan to the Korean peninsula and China. For centuries, it served as a clearinghouse for goods and cultural imports from the continent into Japan.

Both peacefully enchanting and busily engaging, the capital of the Fukuoka Prefecture is a wonderful choice for the Lions' 99th International Convention. Tens of thousands of Lions worldwide will gather in this city of 1.5 million from Friday, June 24 to Tuesday, June 28.

Lionism is robust in Japan and especially Fukuoka. Japan has 124,353 Lions in 3,120 clubs, and Fukuoka, the nation's sixth-largest city, has 2,097 Lions in 42 clubs. The clubs are highly active and creative in service. The commitment of Japanese Lions to service is perhaps best exemplified in their astounding support of LCIF. Japanese Lions have contributed more than \$300 million to LCIF, more than any other nation and more than one-third of all funds granted by the foundation.

Facing the Korea Strait dividing Japan from the



**The Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival, which runs after the convention ends from July 1-15, signals the coming of summer in Fukuoka. Colorful floats are a festival staple. The festival is centered on the Kushida Shrine (cover photo)**

Asian continent, Fukuoka is situated near the top of Kyushu Island, north of the cities of Nagasaki, Kagoshima and Kumamoto. The largest city on Kyushu, it serves as a gateway to the island for travelers arriving by airplane, bullet train, ferries and cruise ships. With South Korea's Busan a mere 133 miles from Fukuoka compared to more than 620 miles to Tokyo, as well as increasing numbers of Asian tourists, this metropolis and port sometimes feels more a part of continental Asia than Japan's chain of islands.

The city also is remarkably compact. Fukuoka Airport and Hakata Station, the terminus of the bullet train line from Tokyo, are only minutes by subway from the Tenjin shopping district. Hakata Port, which hosts facilities such as the Fukuoka Convention Center (a Lions' convention venue) and ferry terminals, is a quick taxi or bus ride away. If you want a quick getaway into the hinterland of Fukuoka Prefecture—to visit the grand Shinto temple at Dazaifu or the beautiful old canal town of Yanagawa—Nishitetsu Fukuoka (Tenjin) railway station is within easy reach.

Fukuoka is the third Japanese city after Tokyo and Osaka to host a Lions international convention. It has a history of bridge-building that goes back at least to AD 57, when a gold seal was presented to local leaders by China's Han dynasty. The seal now is housed in the Fukuoka City Museum. In the 12th century, the warlord Taira no Kiyomori established Hakata as a port for Chinese trade. Along with goods, concepts such as Zen Buddhism were imported, and Japan's first Zen temple, Shofukuji, still stands in Hakata Ward. The samurai age saw the establishment

in 1607 of Fukuoka Castle, from which the modern city draws its name, and the division of the city into the Fukuoka sector for samurai and the Hakata sector for merchants.

Amid the modernization rush in 1889, the towns merged under the name Fukuoka, but Hakata was preserved in the ward and train station name. While it was devastated by U.S. air raids in 1945, Fukuoka rebuilt itself while preserving many of its traditional Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines.



**Fukuoka's waterways and parks give the city an at-ease ambience**

Some of the many signs of pride that locals take in their history include the newly built Sennen no Mon (Thousand-year Gate), a masterpiece of modern woodworking craftsmanship that marks the entrance to Hakata's temple district, and the Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival, a celebration held every July in which large traditional floats, weighing more than a ton each and featuring elaborately crafted Hakata dolls, are paraded through the streets on the backs of men clad in traditional *happi* coats.

To Japanese living elsewhere, Fukuoka tends to mean one thing: food, especially *ramen*. The city is often associated with the Hakata version of this popular noodle dish, and Hakata ramen refers to thin noodles in a cloudy broth based on pork bones, often topped with slices of roast pork and leek. This hearty brew is served up in the city's famous *yatai* outdoor stalls, a sort of old-timey casual dining experience that

has become increasingly rare in other Japanese cities.

Other specialties include *karashi mentaiko*, spicy salted cod roe sometimes added to rice balls or pasta; *motsunabe*, which is a powerful hot pot of beef or pork tripe, peppers and cabbage in a miso broth; *mizutaki* chicken and vegetable stew; and *tetsunabe gyoza*, a pint-sized, local version of Chinese pot stickers stuffed with pork, green onions and cabbage. Being by the sea, the city naturally overflows with excellent sushi, *sashimi* and seafood of every description—try a *kaisendon* of *sashimi* salmon, scallops, sea bream or mackerel over rice, and you'll get a taste for what locals love.



**Fukuoka's food is legendary: from (clockwise) Hakata ramen and mackerel sashimi to motsunabe and pan fried gyoza**

You'll find the people of Fukuoka friendly and refreshingly polite. As with Japanese throughout the country, it's not unusual for them to go out of their way to help travelers by guiding them down a street, helping decipher a menu or navigating a railway connection. Even if they may sometimes be shy about their limited English (speaking slowly always helps), Japanese are often very curious about what visitors think of their country. Icebreakers like personal introductions can lead to many interesting conversations and cross-cultural friendships.

Fukuoka residents will readily admit they'll go crazy for the latest thing—be it a luxury clothing store or a new sweets shop—until the next big thing comes along. But one thing that doesn't change is the warmth and hospitality that locals extend to visitors from inside and outside Japan. They're curious to know what travelers think of their seaside city, with its canals, street food, noodle shops and a proud history of international relations. So grab a pair of chopsticks and dig in to Fukuoka's rich soup of culture and cuisine!

*Tim Hornyak is a freelance writer based in Tokyo and coauthored the Lonely Planet guidebooks to Tokyo and Japan.*

#### **Digital LION**

- Watch an exciting promotional video on Fukuoka at [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org).

- Lions gathered in Japan in 2002. Read about the "record-setting international convention" at [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org).

- Japanese Lions are equal to nearly any challenge: they help their nation recover from the devastating earthquake and tsunami (May 2015 LION).

## **Five Must-see Sights**

### **Fukuoka Castle Ruins, Maizuru Park and Korokan Historical Museum, Jonai, Chuo Ward**

Built by samurai warlord Kuroda Nagamasa in the early 17th century, Fukuoka Castle was the seat of the Kuroda lords for centuries until it was torn down in the 1870s when Japan abandoned feudalism. Some of its enormous stone walls and wooden gates still remain, along with a few of the 47 *yagura* turrets, the most impressive of which is the long white Tamon *yagura*. The surrounding Maizuru Park explodes with cherry blossoms in spring, but makes for a pleasant strolling spot year-round. Also in the park is the Korokan Historical Museum, which exhibits the ruins of a state guesthouse, the Korokan, that received imperial embassies from China from the 7th to the 11th centuries. Scale models of the buildings give visitors an idea of the grandeur of the original structure.

An observation deck affords panoramas of the city and the Genkai Sea, which is especially picturesque at sunset. A short walk from Hilton Fukuoka Seahawk hotel, the tower is adjacent to TNC Hosokaikan, which houses RoboSquare, a showcase for some of the cutting-edge personal robots developed in Japan.



**Fukuoka Tower**

### **Kushida-jinja Shrine, 1-41, Kamikawabata-machi, Hakata Ward**

This Shinto sanctuary traces its history back to the opening of Hakata port in the 8th century. It has an imposing main gate and a sweeping, wing-like roof over its main hall. The shrine is associated with the Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival and houses one of the towering floats on its grounds. The equally good Hakata Machiya Folk Museum and Hakata Traditional Craft Center, which exhibits Hakata dolls and textiles, are nearby.



**Fukuoka Castle**

### **Tenjin**

Tenjin is Fukuoka's bustling heart, packed with luxury goods shops, department stores, electronics retailers and a 1,900-foot-long underground arcade of more than 100 stores. The architecture is sometimes striking—compare the giant, staircase-shaped Acros Fukuoka building, which has a forest growing on its "steps," to the stately French Renaissance-style design of nearby Kihinkan Hall, built in 1910.



**A Hakata doll**



**Tenjin**

### **Fukuoka Tower, 2-3-26, Momochi-hama, Sawara Ward**

Built in 1989 for the Asian Pacific Expo, Fukuoka Tower is 767 feet tall and clad in reflective panels.

### **Fukuoka City Akarenga Culture Center, 1-15-30 Tenjin, Chuo Ward**

This elegant red-brick Victorian building in Tenjin was once the Kyushu branch of the Nippon Life Insurance Company. An example of Western architecture from Japan's era of rapid modernization, it was completed in 1909 and designed by architect Kingo Tatsuno, whose masterpiece is the Queen Anne revival grand façade of Tokyo Station. Today the two-story structure has charming Art Nouveau interior décor, a small library and temporary exhibits such as model ship displays.

## Five Great Places to Dine

**Chusuke**, Showa-dori Street by Bank of Japan (location may change)

Long before food trucks became all the rage in other cities, Fukuoka had *yatai* eateries on wheels, and Chusuke is one of the best. Poke your nose in, find a seat and rub shoulders with locals dining on everything from *ramen* and *gyoza* dumplings to *yakitori* chicken skewers and liver with Chinese chives. Look for the stall's bright red awning outside the Bank of Japan's Fukuoka branch office.



Chusuke

**Tonkotsu Ramen Ichiran Honten**, 5-3-2 Nakasu, Hakata Ward

If you have time for just one bowl of *ramen* in Fukuoka, try Ichiran. They've remained true to their *tonkotsu* (pork bone broth) ramen from their establishment decades ago. It's especially interesting

if you're visiting alone, because part of the restaurant is devoted to individual booths where you can slurp noodles to your heart's content; don't be afraid to ask for second helpings of noodles (*kaedama*) but be sure to save some broth!



Ramen at Ichiran

**Ramen Stadium**, Canal City, 1-2 Sumiyoshi, Hakata Ward

Tucked away on the fifth floor of the sprawling Canal City Hakata mall, Ramen Stadium has eight shops serving up regional variations on Japan's beloved *ramen* noodles. Kizou, for instance, specializes in beef tongue *ramen* from the Sendai area of northern Japan, while Kagoshima Ramen Fukkoku Shokudo's bowls feature Kagoshima *kurobuta* roasted black pork.

**Yorozu**, 2-3-32 Akasaka, Chuo Ward

This delightful bar full of cherry wood slabs and copper boilers is devoted to Japanese tea. Owner Suguru Tokubuchi dons a lab coat as he goes about meticulously roasting and pairing teas with traditional Japanese *wagashi* sweets.



Yorozu

**Yanagibashi Market**, 1-5-1 Haruyoshi, Chuo Ward

Known as "Hakata's kitchen," this modest collection of stalls upstream from Nakasu along the Naka River overflows with seafood of every description, from mackerel, bonito, whale and fish cakes to seasonal favorites such as grilled oysters and bamboo shoots. A branch of the local independent coffee shop chain Manu Coffee is by the exit.



Yanagibashi Market

## Easy Excursions

These destinations can be seen in one day via rail on a Nishitetsu Dazaifu & Yanagawa Sightseeing Ticket Pack (2,930 yen, US\$24 for adults; 1,420 yen, US\$11.50 for children)

### Dazaifu

Dazaifu City was once an administrative center that ruled the whole island of Kyushu for 500 years. Today it's most known for Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, a majestic Shinto sanctuary devoted to Sugawara Michizane, a 9th-century statesman who is revered today as a god of learning by students throughout Japan. The approach to the shrine is lined with teashops selling *umegaemochi*, a roasted rice cake filled with red beans; one of the best shops is Kasanoya. The Kyushu National Museum is housed in a hill behind the shrine and exhibits treasures such as Buddhist statues, hanging scrolls and samurai swords. Dazaifu is a roughly 30-minute train ride

from Nishitetsu Fukuoka Station with a change at Futsukaichi.



The Kyushu National Museum includes this 19th-century painting by an unknown artist

### Yanagawa

Yanagawa was a castle town near the shores of the inland Ariake Sea, situated south of Fukuoka City. The castle is gone today, but its hundreds of kilometers of canals and moats remain. Some of them are plied by old-fashioned boatmen who pilot *donkobune*, low-flat-bottomed boats pushed along by poles. The 30- to 70-minute *donkobune* cruises are called *kawakudari* (going downstream) and they're a great way to time travel back to a slower, more relaxed age—you might hear the boatmen break out into song. The local specialty of grilled eel (*unagi*) is best enjoyed at the stately Ohana estate, once the home of Yanagawa's ruling Tachibana clan. Its Shukeitei restaurant overlooks the exquisite Shotoen garden, which has centuries-old pine trees and a central pond designed to evoke Matsushima in northern Japan. Yanagawa is about 45 minutes from Nishitetsu Fukuoka Station by express train, and a taxi or bus is required to get to the *kawakudari* canals.



# Delegate Form Instructions for International Convention

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

If yes, complete the Delegate/ Alternate Delegate form and return the top portion to Lions Clubs International Headquarters, to the attention of the Member Service Center before **May 1, 2016**. Bring the bottom portion of the form to the convention and present it when you arrive to certify at the Certification area in the convention center.

Before sending the form, be sure a club officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer) has signed the form and printed their name on both halves as indicated on form.

Mail form to: Lions Clubs International  
 ATTN: Member Service Center  
 300 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Oak Brook, IL USA 60523-8842

Signed, scanned forms can be sent to: [memberservicecenter@lionsclubs.org](mailto:memberservicecenter@lionsclubs.org)  
 Fax: 630-571-1687

To certify for the election, you will also need to bring a government-issued photo ID with your signature.

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

If yes, **do not mail your form**. Bring the entire form to convention. You will only need to come to the Certification area in the event you are replacing a delegate. If you are replacing a certified delegate, you will need your signed International Convention Delegate/ Alternate Delegate Form (alternate and officer signatures are required on the form) along with the delegate's gray copy of their Credential Card. If you do not have both of these items or are replacing a delegate who was not certified, you need to bring an authorized signer with you to the Certification area. A government-issued photo ID and convention name badge will be required for the alternate and officer.

If you have questions regarding this process, contact the Member Service Center.

Email: [memberservicecenter@lionsclubs.org](mailto:memberservicecenter@lionsclubs.org)

Phone: 1+630-203-3830

Fax: 1+630-571-1687

**International Convention Allowable Club Delegate Table**

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

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



**International Convention Delegate/ Alternate Delegate Form (Mail to LCI before May 1, 2016)**

Lions Clubs International Convention - 2016 Fukuoka, Japan

(Print clearly for quick processing)

Club Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Select one:  DELEGATE OR  ALTERNATE DELEGATE Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Delegate/ Alternate Delegate Name Signature of Delegate/ Alternate Delegate

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Officer Name Signature of Club Officer

**Before May 1, 2016**, mail this portion to Lions Clubs International • Member Service Center • 300 W 22<sup>nd</sup> Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA • Email: [memberservicecenter@lionsclubs.org](mailto:memberservicecenter@lionsclubs.org) • Phone: 1+630-203-3830 • Fax: 1+630-571-1687

**After May 1**, bring form to the convention

EN

**DELEGATE / ALTERNATE DELEGATE COPY**



**International Convention Delegate/ Alternate Delegate Form**

**(Bring this copy to the Convention)**

Lions Clubs International Convention - 2016 Fukuoka, Japan

(Print clearly for quick processing)

Club Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Select one:  DELEGATE OR  ALTERNATE DELEGATE Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Delegate/ Alternate Delegate Name Signature of Delegate/ Alternate Delegate

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Officer Name Signature of Club Officer



## Milverton Lions

In October 2015, Milverton Public School held a grand opening ceremony for their new playground equipment. The fundraising efforts were a true community effort with multiple service clubs, community organizations and individuals supporting this project. Pictured here are the Milverton Public School Council and Past President Lion **Joel Phelan** from the Milverton Lions Club.

*Photo: Debbie Riddell Photography*



## USA-CANADA Lions Leadership Forum Grand Rapids Michigan



*Lion/Lioness Pat Rowbottom, Mt. Forest Lions & Lions/Lioness Janet Dawson Brock, K-W Community Spirit Lions with their well deserved T-Shirts after the Diabetes Walk Event*



*MDA Council Chair, Jim Johnson accepting plaque for MD "A" for best attendance from their Multiple District*

## St. George Lions Splash Pad Project

Last month St. George Lions reported on their very successful "Wing Nite" in support of their Splash Pad Project. Another important aspect of their fundraising is the involvement of the younger St. George Citizens.

Shown here is how our future leaders and Lions are getting involved!!!



## Stratford Lions 90th Anniversary

The Stratford Lions Club recently held their 90th Anniversary. IPDG Lion **Tim DeBlock** and DG Lion **Diane Smith** presented a Charter Plaque to Lion Chief **Trudy Carter**. Lion **Bill Robinson** received an International President Appreciation Certificate from PID Lion **Art Woods**.



## New Hamburg Lions and Lioness Clubs Joint Meeting

The Joint Meeting was entertained by the Waterloo Regional District School Board Special Education Choir. This is a group of young challenged adults who practice every Wednesday morning. They sing the songs and sign the words as they sing. The Choir was presented with a Helen Keller Fellowship Award and a \$500.00 donation was made to the Lions Home for the Deaf. It was a most enjoyable evening with the singing and signing of the songs.



*Janet Dawson Brock presenting a Helen Keller Award to the Choir Director Nancy Tili*

## Coldwater Lions Club

Lions' way of promoting community service is participating in activities the community provides.



*Amazing float to enhance Coldwater Lions Club's presence in the community during Santa Claus parade in 2015*



*Lions in the Lion's Arch photo are: Left to Right: Lion Jay Yanuziella, Lion Laird Vanni, Lion Tom Smith and Lion Doug Binns*

## Trenton Lions Club

Trenton Lions Club delivered Christmas packages to Long Term Patients at Trenton Memorial Hospital.

Each patient received a new pair of pyjamas, some personal hygiene items and a puzzle book to help pass the time.



*L to R: Lion Jude Burns, Perry (hospital staff), Lion Andy Axhorn, Lion Diane Gardy and Lion Andy LaPointe*





**2016 MULTIPLE DISTRICT 'A' CONVENTION**

**“Medieval Times 2016”**

**CLARION RESORT- PINWOOD PARK  
201 PINWOOD PARK DR., NORTH BAY, ON P1B 8Z4**

**MAY 26 TO MAY 29, 2016**

**CO-HOSTED BY  
WIDDIFIELD LIONS CLUB AND BONFIELD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB**

**A. DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name to appear on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET & OR PO BOX CITY PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

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

**B. DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name to appear on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET & or PO BOX CITY PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

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

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

1. Everyone, including guests and exhibitors must be registered to attend convention functions, including meals.
2. All cancellations must be in writing by mail or e-mail and be acknowledged. Cancellations received after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 will be subject to a \$10.00 handling fee.
3. **No Refunds after May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

FUNCTION TICKETS	COST PERSON	A	B	TOTAL
Thursday Night DG/DGE/PDG Dinner	\$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Friday Luncheon	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Friday Night Medieval Dinner	\$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Saturday Melvin Jones Fellows(ONLY) Breakfast	\$23.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Saturday Night Dinner	\$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
TOTAL FOR FUNCTION TICKETS				\$ _____

**FUNCTION TICKETS MUST BE ORDERED BY MAY 20, 2016**

**AMOUNT DUE**                      **\*\* SUNDAY ARRIVALS –CASH PAYMENT ONLY\*\***

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

**\*\*\*Payment Method\*\*\***      Cheque       Visa       Master Card       Pay Pal

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Please make your cheque payable to: Lions M D “A” Convention 2016  
Credit card payments will state “Show Fund” on your bill.

<b>MAIL YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO:</b> <b>BONFIELD AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB</b> <b>ATT: HOLLEY MENARD</b> <b>P.O. BOX 28</b> <b>350 LINE 3 SOUTH</b> <b>BONFIELD, ON P0H 1E0</b> <b>bonfieldlions@hotmail.ca</b>	<b>SPECIAL REQUESTS</b> We will do our best to accommodate those with special needs <b>Diabetic</b> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegetarian</b> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gluten Free</b> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> _____                      A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/>
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**PLEASE NOTE; ROOM RESERVATIONS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**  
\*Please let the Hotel know you are with the Lions Convention.  
**ROOM RATES PER NIGHT \$125.00 tax included**

**HOTEL CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b><u>CLARION RESORT</u></b> (Convention HQ) <b>TELEPHONE 705-472-0810</b> <b>TOLL FREE: 1-800-461-9592</b>	<b><u>COMFORT INN</u></b> <b>705-494-9444</b> <b>676 Lakeshore Dr</b>	<b><u>LAKESHORE SUITES</u></b> <b>705-497-9000</b> <b>710 Lakeshore Dr</b>
<b><u>TRAVELODGE</u></b> <b>705-472-7171</b> <b>718 Lakeshore Dr</b>	<b><u>SUPER 8</u></b> <b>705-495-4551</b> <b>570 Lakeshore Dr</b>	<b><u>BEST WESTERN</u></b> <b>705-474-5800</b> <b>700 Lakeshore Dr</b>

## West Coast Lions 10th Anniversary

The West Coast Lions Of Grand Bend celebrated their 10th anniversary on October 7th. Eight new members were inducted that night. Lion **Fred Tipple** received a Bruce Murray Fellowship, Fred has been a member for 56 years. Lion **Erryn Sheppard** was presented with a Melvin Jones Fellowship by charter member Lion **Diane Carson**. Lion Erryn has raised thousands of dollars for the Purina Walk For Guide Dogs in Grand Bend. Also on hand was Municipal Lampton Shores Mayor Bill Weber who was given a cheque for the remainder of our club's commitment to the Beach Enhancement Program and the club made a pledge to assist in the building of a Community Stage at the beach.



Lion Fred Tipple Receives Bruce Murray Fellowship

## Bracebridge Lions Club

Bracebridge Lion President **Greg Readman** had the distinct honour of presenting Lion **Lyle Cathcart** with his 65-year-Chevron. Lion Lyle was also presented with his Perfect Attendance Pin, which he has received for 64 of his 65 years with the Bracebridge Lions Club. Earlier this year, Lion Lyle was presented with a Provincial Award for Volunteerism for his unprecedented service to the community.

Lion Lyle is an icon in our community and has been the heart of our club for a long, long time. He has held almost every position in the club and is famous for the Annual Steak BBQ that he has hosted for the club for well over 50 years. The Bracebridge Lions Club holds over 35 food events each year, some as fundraisers and some as community service. At most of these events

Lion Lyle is front and centre displaying his stamina and prowess in front of the BBQ, and humbling those half his age. Last year at the Muskoka Beer festival, the rock band Lighthouse was playing and Lion Lyle was dancing up a storm with the BBQ spatula in his hand. A lady came over and donated \$20 to the club, saying that she loved watching Lyle dance during the performance. At 86 years young, Lion Lyle is not only a Lion, but a Shriner as well and sets the bar really high, for the rest of the club to follow.



## Club Lions de Knowlton

De nouveau cette année, comme de puis près de cinquante ans, le défilé du Père Noël du Club Lions de Knowlton, fut un succès. Le sourire sur le visage des jeunes spectateurs lors de l'événement en témoignait. Tout ceci ne serait pas possible sans la générosité de nos concitoyens. Au risque d'en oublier, et le Père Noël s'en excuse d'avance, il aimerait souligner les contributions suivantes : Glen Whitehead, Pro-Construct inc. pour le garage et le camion remorque pour le char allégorique du Père Noël, Les Sapins du Lac Brome enr pour les arbres de Noël, IGA Gazaille pour le jus, Windmill Plastics pour le stationnement, Thomas McGovern, Knowlton Academy, The Harmony band, Pierre Laplante, les premiers répondants, les porteurs de bannière et les lutins. Nous désirons

également souligner que nous avons besoin de jouets neufs pour nos paniers de Noël.

Merci et Joyeux Noël.



Le Père Noël et ses aides

## Copetown Lions

Copetown's theme at a recent meeting was the Lions Dog Guide Program. Shown is Lion Chief **Sami Jashan** and Lion **Dorothy Mamela** and Lions Foundation Chair **Debbie Cserhalmi** with a cheque presentation along with special guests Nancy Chiasson and "Blue" and Cheryl Bauman with "Lola".



The Club held their annual Turkey Roll Nov 21st, it was a grand night with lots of support from members, the community and sponsors alike. Shown below are Lion Chief Sami Jashan, centre and Lion **Doug Paddon** making the club's contribution to the A15 Bunk Bed Project. The Club also made a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society.



## Exeter Lions

Another first for the Exeter Lions Club came on November 21st when they co-hosted the first night time Santa Claus Parade on Main Street in Exeter. The weather was perfect with plenty of snow arriving to create picture postcard views.

Winners of the best commercial float was Huron Tractor and best non-commercial float was the Exeter Elementary School. Congrats and thanks to everyone who participated. Special thanks to Ms. Mac Photography for the stunning photos.





# Le Club Lions de Knowlton appuie les Sparks, Brownies et Guides

Lors d'une réunion récente, les membres du Club Lions de Knowlton ont convenu de remettre une contribution au groupe des Sparks, Brownies et Guides locaux. La somme servira à acheter du matériel pour faire des ponchos, qu'ils désiraient depuis un certain temps et sur lequel ils pourront exhiber leurs badges. Le Club Lions a appuyé régulièrement les différentes organisations de jeunesse locales pendant ses plus de soixante années au service à la communauté.

Le Lions Clubs International est la plus grande organisation de clubs-services du monde, avec 1,3 millions de membres répartis dans 45 000 clubs, présents dans 200 pays et aires géographiques dans le monde entier. Depuis 1917, les clubs Lions aident les non-voyants et handicapés visuels et s'investissent énormément dans le domaine des services à la

communauté et en faveur des jeunes à travers le monde.



Lors de la présentation du chèque pour le Club Lion Bev Crandall et pour les Guides, Donna Houseman

# Lions Club of Lakefield

Lions Club of Lakefield enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party with spouses at Marshlands Centre catered by Jack's. It was an evening to enjoy great dining, great mingling & most of all appreciation shown to members. Highlight of the evening - Lion **Roy Fitton** (on the right) and Lion Pres. **Bob Elliot** (on the left) presented Lion **Larry Taylor** with a Judge Brian Stevenson Award for outstanding achievement & contribution to Lionism. Lion Larry is a very special Lion who works tirelessly for the betterment of our community and surrounding areas.



## Christmas Induction Ceremony Exeter Lioness Club

In December we had 11 Kittens join our Exeter Lioness Club. In January 2016 2 more will join. (Tonight they had other Christmas commitments.) What an honour for our Club to have so many join at one time.



President Lioness Laurie Dykstra, Past District Governor of A15 and Past District Council Chair of MDA, Bill Carson, 1st vice-President Lioness Louise Pincombe along with the Lioness sponsors and the 11 New Lioness, December 14, 2015

## MDA Directory Information

### Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting - March 4/5, 2016
- Council Meeting – Convention - May 26-29, 2016

### District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Holiday Inn, Sarnia	April 8-10, 2016
A2	Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway, St. Catharines	March 18-20, 2016
A3	Ambassador Hotel & Conference Resort, Kingston	April 15-17, 2016
A4	Navcam Centre, Cornwall	April 15-17, 2016
A5	Sudbury	April 15-17, 2016
A711	Holiday Inn International Airport, Toronto	April 22-24, 2016
A9	Days Inn & Conference Centre, Owen Sound	April 29-May 1, 2016
A12	Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville	April 15-17, 2016
A15	Courtyard Marriott, Waterloo	April 29-May 1, 2016
A16	Admiral Inn, Lindsay	April 22-24, 2016

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MDA Convention

2015/16	North Bay, ON	May 26 - 29, 2016
2016/17	Kitchener, ON	May 11 - 14, 2017

### International Conventions

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 15 - 17, 2016	Omaha, Nebraska
Sept 21 - 23, 2017	Portland, Oregon
Sept 20 - 22, 2018	Columbus, Ohio

## Guelph Lion Awarded

### **Guelph Lion Jim Sanders awarded Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 10th Anniversary Champion Award**

It was Guelph Mayor Cam Guthrie's privilege to present the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 10th Anniversary Champion Award to Guelph resident & Guelph Lions Club member, Jim Sanders.

In 2009, Jim was appointed Chair of the Province's AODA Accessibility Standards Advisory Council and Standards Development Committee.

In the words of his nominators, as the Committee Chair, Jim was "masterful in listening to all perspectives and issues and helping the committee achieve its objectives." The Committee is made up of individuals with disabilities as well as representatives from industry and service providers.

The nominators added, "Jim is truly committed to achieving a fully accessible Ontario by 2025."

In addition to Chairing the committee, Jim is an active volunteer, accepting invitations across Ontario to speak about the AODA and disability issues in general.

He retired in 2009 after a 42-year career with the CNIB. He worked in four provinces, serving for his final eight years as President and CEO of CNIB National. For many years, Jim represented CNIB as Vice President of the North American/ Caribbean Region and member of the International Executive Committee, The World Blind Union.

Jim was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2003.

Quoted by Guelph Mayor Cam Guthrie, "It is truly an honour for me to have this opportunity to congratulate such an outstanding citizen of Guelph."

Congratulations Jim, on receiving such a prestigious award!



## Chemung Lake Lions

Chemung Lake Lions provided 31 hampers serving 86 adults and children in the area with toys and knitted goods, gloves, hats and scarves for the children. Eight Lions participated, supported by staff and management of Ennismore Foodland and community members who provided food donations. Chemung

Lake Lions donated remaining balance. Thanks to Selwyn Township office staff for compiling list of families. **Larry Donoghue, Ann Tilley, Doug Packman, Dale Warren, Bob Herr, Keith Elliott** and **Steve Tilley** are in photo.



## London Central Members Tour Ivey Eye Institute

Club members were hosted by St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation and the Ivey Eye Institute with a tour of the Ivey in London. A plaque with the Club's name was presented to the Club and is displayed in one of the waiting rooms at the Ivey. Since 2009 the Club has

purchased close to \$200,000 worth of eye equipment and an examination suite for the Ivey. The money is raised at the Club's annual "Fight for Sight" benefit night held in May. In addition Club members are volunteering as vision screeners, assisting in the I\*SEE Vision Screening Pilot Research Program undertaken by the Ivey. This program screens the eyes of pre-school age children aged 18 months to 4 years.



## Melvin Jones Birthday Celebration

District A711 Lions and Leo's celebrated Melvin Jones Birthday at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. Lions Clubs of **Toronto Netralya, Toronto Centre, Thistleton, Toronto Doctors, Toronto Cathay, Mississauga Central, Huttonville** and an **Oakville Leo** were on hand.

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. Leo Emma is one of the founders of Books with NO Bounds, an amazing young Leo whose Oakville Leo Club are conducting wonderful community service projects.

Donations were given to the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto to help their youth program.

Oakville Leo President **Emma Mogus**, Leo club donated 500 books for the children who came to the



# Cambridge Highlands Lions Peace Poster Contest

Peace Poster Chair Lion Victor Chaux with the club's winner in the Peace Poster Contest, Ignacio Chaux, his poster will be in the District competition



# Multiple District Teamwork!!!

## Sakura House Hospice Generator Ribbon Cutting

On Monday November 9th a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new backup generator was held at Sakura House with major donors in attendance. This project was conceived in the **Thamesford Lions Club** and carried out as a joint project with most of the clubs in **A15-Zone 37S** and some from **District A2 Zone 4W**. Members of the public and other area organizations also contributed raising funds to the total of \$98,000. This paid for the purchase and installation and set aside enough money for a trust fund to pay for ongoing maintenance. Sakura House is a palliative care facility which in the past would have seen disruptive conditions in

the event of a power failure and would have been shut down entirely in the event of a prolonged power outage. PRC **Jack Broadfoot** holds the scissors.



L to R: John Goodbun, Mrs. Robin Kish, Jack Whitmore, Lions Jack Broadfoot, John Nymer, Darrel Ford, Dan Fisher, Vern Fleming and Reverend Mark Marshal

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

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

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

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

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

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### District Reporters

- |             |                      |                                     |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>A711</b> | Lion Ilkka Ahola     | email: iahola02@gmail.com           |
| <b>A9</b>   | Lion Mike Murphy     | email: Mmikey45@gmail.com           |
| <b>A12</b>  | Lion Lety Dudgeon    | email: lionlety1946@gmail.com       |
| <b>A15</b>  | Lion Bob Pearson     | email: bobpearson50@gmail.com       |
| <b>A16</b>  | Lion Mark Carrington | email: mark.carrington@sympatico.ca |

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Province: \_\_\_\_\_ PC: \_\_\_\_\_

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SECRETARY TO HAVE YOUR ADDRESS  
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## MD "A" Lions Resource Centre Website

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

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



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## Touchstone Story – Founder Melvin Jones

Melvin Jones was a dreamer, a doer and a pragmatist. He was an energetic, extroverted salesman who in private hours would reread Shakespeare. What better man to found the world's largest association of service clubs?

The Lions International Board of Directors officially designated Jones as the founder of Lions Clubs in 1958—more than four decades after Lions Clubs held its first meeting. But, no matter what his official title, Jones' impact on the Lions has been far-reaching. He provided the leadership, the organizational ability, the tenacity and the muscle necessary to establish the foundation for Lions Clubs International to become what it is today.

Jones was born on Jan. 13, 1879, at Fort Thomas, Arizona, a remote U.S. Army cavalry post where his father was a scout for the Army. At age 7, Jones' family moved east and settled in Illinois. Gifted with a fine tenor voice, he considered making his career in music. Instead, he became an insurance salesman.

By 1913, Jones had formed his own insurance agency in Chicago. When he joined a networking luncheon club for businessmen in Chicago called

the Business Circle, he quickly took the lead in recruiting new members and persuading backsliders to rejoin. But something about the club's business-only focus didn't square with Jones' different, larger vision.

"What if these men who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" Jones asked. He saw a new kind of club with the desire to help others.

As Business Club secretary, Jones, with help from his wife—the champion golfer Rose Amanda Freeman—wrote scores of letters to clubs nationwide inviting them to take up his idea for a service-centered organization. Businessmen interested in membership convened in Chicago, Illinois, and on June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born.

Later that year, at Lions' inaugural convention in Dallas, Texas, Jones was elected secretary-treasurer, a title he would hold for many years. Eventually, the board bestowed upon Jones the title of secretary general for life.

Jones was a prolific writer who could be clear



and forceful on some occasions, flowery and sentimental the next. His hand can be seen in founding documents like the Lions Clubs Objects and Code of Ethics. His columns in LION Magazine, which are still quoted today, helped articulate the organization's principles and values.

He also loved aphorisms. Never one to sugarcoat the truth, Jones had one favorite saying neatly framed in his office: "Truth and roses have thorns about them."

Jones gave up the insurance business in 1926 to become Lions' de facto CEO and global goodwill ambassador. He played both roles brilliantly—building and managing an expanding headquarters operation and travelling constantly for club visits and speaking engagements. The pace never stopped.



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