

LION



M.D. "A" Edition April/May/June 2023

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We Serve

MDA Lions gather for their District Convention

May 2023



Lion Patti Hill, 1st Vice President of Lions International
Helping to award a Helen Keller Fellowship
SEE STORY ON PAGES 21-22



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 **THOMPSON PRINTING**
115 Scott Ave., Paris, Ontario N3L 3K4

Senior Editor: Lion Bob Pearson
Publisher: Lion Herb Thompson

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THE Lion



Welcome to the April/May/June Edition of the LION.

To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please utilize the services of your District Reporter. For photos, try to ensure your camera and/or smartphone is at the highest setting to provide quality images. The camera quality of most smartphones available today is excellent. A minimum of 300 DPI is desired. Images copied from the internet and/or Facebook or other social media are usually unsuitable.

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

Management Committee Lion Magazine
Lion Marjorie Lewis • Lion Dave Hewitt PDG



Agreement Number is:
41805020*



Celebrate Success

Hello Lions!

I can't believe my year as your international president is already coming to a close. But when I look back at the places I visited and the many faces I saw, I am humbled by the sheer scale of the work we do as Lions. We've had such incredible success!

As we bring this Lion year to a close, let's take a moment to reflect on our year and all the good work that we did.

Remember, success can take many different forms. Yes, success is when you complete a meaningful service project or raise the required amount of funds to keep things rolling next year.

But when you are a Lion, success is also the smile you get from the girl entering kindergarten with a new backpack she got from Lions. Success is when the city council sees your tent

up at the local fair and thinks of reaching out for help with a cleanup project at the park. Success is the young professional who joins because they were looking for a way to give back and found a welcoming home in Lions.

While it's our instinct to notice the things that need fixing, let's also notice all that is right. Here's to you, Lions. Serving as your international president has been the experience of a lifetime!

Make a Great Day,

Brian E. Sheehan

Brian E. Sheehan

International President, Lions Clubs International



Official Notice

2023 International Convention, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

The following proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2023 International Convention.



ITEM 1:

A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE MINIMUM DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS FROM THE THIRD VICE PRESIDENT QUALIFICATIONS. REMOVAL OF THIS REQUIREMENT WILL PERMIT QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FROM ANY DISTRICT TO CONTEST FOR THE OFFICE, PROVIDED ALL OTHER QUALIFICATIONS ARE MET. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That the International By-Laws, Article II, Section 2(a)(3) be removed in its entirety, and all subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly.

ITEM 2:

A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE MINIMUM DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS. REMOVAL OF THIS REQUIREMENT WILL PERMIT QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FROM ANY DISTRICT, INCLUDING TRANSITIONAL AND PROVISIONAL DISTRICTS, TO CONTEST FOR THE OFFICE, PROVIDED ALL OTHER QUALIFICATIONS ARE MET.

(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That the International By- Laws, Article II, Section 3(c) be removed in its entirety, and all subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly.

ITEM 3:

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A DISTINCT MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY FOR MEMBERS PAYING DISCOUNTED DUES AS A RESULT OF ANY DISCOUNT PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE ASSOCIATION. CREATION OF A NEW CATEGORY WILL PREVENT MEMBERS PAYING DISCOUNTED DUES FROM INCREASING A CLUB'S TOTAL DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT AT A DISTRICT, MULTIPLE DISTRICT OR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That the International By- Laws, Article XI, Section 7 be amended to include "Discounted" between "Associate," and "Honorary," to become effective January 1, 2024.

ITEM 4:

A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE DUTIES OF DISTRICT OFFICERS. AMENDMENT OF THE DUTIES WILL ALIGN WITH A FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MOVING FORWARD. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article X, Section 2(a) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

As an international officer of this association, and under the general supervision of the International Board of Directors, they shall represent the association in their district. In addition, they shall be the chief administrative officer in their district and shall have direct supervision over the district cabinet. Their specific responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Further the purposes of this association resulting in membership growth in the district.
- (2) Oversee the Global Action Team at the district level and inspire other district officers to actively support membership growth and new club organization.

(3) Oversee current district action plan focused on and working towards the successful achievement of district goals to

- a. Charter new clubs.
- b. Achieve net membership growth.
- c. Ensure effective club operations.
- d. Provide leadership development and skills training at the club and district levels.
- e. Encourage clubs to conduct and report meaningful humanitarian service.
- f. Support and promote Lions Clubs International Foundation and encourage club and member contributions to Lions Clubs International Foundation.

(4) Oversee the administrative operations of the district as provided in the Standard District Bylaws

(5) Guide clubs to operate in accordance with International Constitution and By-Laws, support activities that improve member retention and remain in good standing with the association.

(6) Preside, when present, over the district convention, and cabinet and other district meetings.

(7) Perform such other functions as required by the International Board of Directors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article X, Section 2(b) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

The first vice district governor, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be chief administrative assistant to the district governor. Their specific responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Further the purposes of this association resulting in membership growth in the district.
- (2) Actively work toward the success of the current district action plan.
- (3) With the district governor and second vice district governor, review strengths and weaknesses of the district; refine and further develop a draft of the ongoing district plan focused on and working towards the successful achievement of district goals.
- (4) Identify and prepare a highly effective team for the subsequent year to develop and implement action plans to achieve district goals.
- (5) Work closely with the club leadership to identify future district leaders.
- (6) Perform such duties and other directives as may be assigned by the district governor

or the policies established by the International Board of Directors.

(7) At the request of the district governor, supervise appropriate district committees.

(8) Actively participate in all cabinet meetings and conduct all meetings in the absence of the district governor.

(9) Participate in council of governors' meetings as appropriate.

(10) Participate in the preparation of the district budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article X, Section 2(c) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

The second vice district governor is subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor. Their specific responsibilities shall be to:

(1) Further the purposes of this association resulting in membership growth in the district.

(2) Actively work towards the success of the current district action plan.

(3) Serve as the district liaison to region and zone chairpersons, at the direction of the district governor, working towards successful region and zone operations in support of club health.

(4) Become familiar with resources to support club development

(5) Prepare for the role of district governor.

(6) Perform such duties and other directives as assigned by the district governor or the policies established by the International Board of Directors.

(7) At the request of the district governor, supervise appropriate district committees.

(8) Actively participate in all cabinet meetings and conduct all meetings in the absence of the district governor and the first vice district governor.

(9) Participate in the preparation of the district budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article X, Section 2(d) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

The region chairperson, if the position is utilized during the district governor's term, is subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor and shall be the chief administrative officer in their region. Their specific responsibilities shall be to:

(1) Further the purposes of this association resulting in membership growth in the district.

(2) Actively work towards the success of the current district action plan and encourage club and zone participation.

(3) Supervise the activities of the zone chairpersons in their region and such district committee chairperson(s) as may be assigned by the district governor.

(4) Support club health by identifying club strengths and weaknesses and encouraging growth, leadership excellence and meaningful service.

(5) Become familiar with district operation and enhance leadership skills as needed for advancement.

(6) Perform such duties and directives as may be required by the district officers or policies established by the International Board of Directors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That

Article X, Section 2(e) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

The zone chairperson, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor and/or region chairperson, shall be the chief administrative officer in their zone. Their specific responsibilities shall be to:

(1) Further the purposes of this association resulting in membership growth in the district.

(2) Actively work towards the success of the current district action plan and encourage club participation.

(3) Serve as chairperson of the district governor's advisory committee in their zone and as such chairperson to call regular meetings of said committee.

(4) Ensure club health by identifying club strengths and weaknesses and encouraging growth, leadership excellence and meaningful service.

(5) Become familiar with district operations and enhance leadership skills as needed for advancement.

(6) Perform such other functions and acts as may be required by the International Board of Directors through the district officer's manual and other directives.

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

Convention Call



In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2023 International Convention. Our 105th International Convention will be held in person, with some events available on demand after the convention. It begins at 10 a.m. on July 7 and ends July 11. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president and 17 members of the International Board of Directors, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Our International Convention will be held in the historic city of Boston, Massachusetts in the United States. Convention is the Lion event of the year, bringing Lions and Leos from around the world to celebrate our service, enjoy friendship and fellowship, and to experience everything that convention has to offer.

The five-day convention will feature inspiring speakers, world-class entertainment, engaging seminars, and Lion traditions like the swearing-in of our new international president and our Parade of Nations through the streets of Boston. And you'll be surrounded by the incredible nightlife, vibrant shopping, the rich history and delicious cuisine of our beautiful host city.

So come join us in Boston for fellowship, fun and learning. Celebrate all we've accomplished.

Get inspired for another year of service and make some memories that will last a lifetime.

Brian E. Sheehan

Brian E. Sheehan

International President, Lions Clubs International



Highlights of the Council of Governors' Meeting May 27, 2023 – Four Points by Sheraton, London



VICE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON 2023-2024

Congratulations to District Governor Elect Ann Stevens (A711), who was elected to be Vice Council Chairperson for the Lions Year 2023-2024. We look forward to your leadership.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

A successful vote took place with the majority in favour of accepting the proposed amendments to the MDA Constitution & By-Laws. A huge thank you to both PDG Carmen Portelance, Credentials Chair and PDG Geoff Crane, Elections Chair along with their committee members for all their hard work.

ENVIRONMENT

7 out of 10 districts participated in the Environmental Photo Contest for the 2022-2023 Lions Year. There were so many amazing photos submitted. Congratulations to the winners!

“Our Natural Environment” Category: 2nd Place – District A12 – Alan Smale from the Orillia Lions Club and 1st Place – District A4 – Nathan Lang from the Mountain Lions Club.

“Lions In Service” Category: 2nd Place – District A3 – submitted by Kathy Marchen from the Prince Edward County Lions Club and 1st Place – District A2 – DG Bob Townsend from Simcoe Lynn Valley Lions Club.

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM

The Multiple District is showing the strongest membership growth, which we haven't seen in many years - an indication that we are focusing on the right things. As of May 16th, 2023, MD “A”

had a net membership growth of +445 members, compared to +53 in the same period last year.

Year to date, the Multiple District has added an impressive 1,869 new members. However, we had a corresponding 1,424 dropped members. Lions International has set a goal of growing to 1.5 million members over four years.

HUNGER

MDA CONVENTION HUNGER AWARDS
PROGRESS YEAR TO DATE –

Q4: APR-JUN 2023:

1. District Governor (DG): highest # hunger activities reported YTD; A-2 DG Bob TOWNSEND (292)
2. District Hunger Chair (DHC): highest % clubs reported hunger activity YTD; A-16 Pat AITKEN (72%)
3. Lions Club (LC): greatest # of SERVICE activities reported for hunger YTD; A-2 Fonthill LC (106)
4. Lions Club (LC): most people SERVED for hunger YTD; A-3 Madoc LC (19,054)
5. Lion Members: most volunteer hours reported for hunger YTD; A-2 Port Dover LC (7,443)

Congratulations to all! Let's keep reporting.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1st International Vice President, Dr. Patti Hill will come in as International President at the International Convention, Boston, Massachusetts, July 2023. This is a chance for Canadian Lions to show our support and be there to take part in

her demonstration. Please consider attending the International Convention and if you would like to Volunteer, please see the link below for the volunteer website.

Dr. Patti Hill's Volunteer Website:

<https://Pattisbostonvolunteers.ca>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Congratulations to Keeton Hamilton (A16) who had his Peace Essay win first prize Internationally. What a wonderful accomplishment, we are so proud of you, Keeton.

Thank you, to the Petrolia Lions Club for hosting the MD “A” Effective Speaking in Sarnia. There was a total of 22 contestants. A huge Congratulations to all of the winners.

MD “A” CONVENTION 2023

Congratulations to Zone 3, District A1 and the Convention Advisory Committee for putting on a super convention. It was wonderful to see everyone together, having fun, learning, and making new friendships. We hope to see you next year at the 2024 MD “A” Convention being hosted by the St. Davids & District Lions Club and taking place at the Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre, St. Catharines, May 31 – June 2, 2024.

Registration Forms are available at

www.stdavidslions.ca

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

by Andrea Small

"Turkey is going through the most difficult days in its history," says Past Council Chairperson Danyal Kubin, the disaster relief committee chairperson for MD 118 who is mobilizing Lions' disaster relief efforts following the February 2023 earthquake and aftershocks that struck Turkey and Syria.

Kubin is a structural engineer and seismic expert. He says this series of earthquakes is the largest seen in the region in more than a century and were felt for more than 350,000 square kilometers. Additionally, the earthquakes were very close to the surface, making the destruction even greater.

To date, the disaster has killed more than 50,000 people, injured more than 120,000, and left millions of people displaced. Homes crumbled to the ground, hundreds of other buildings collapsed, and communities were changed forever.

"Although our state and non-government associations do their best to support the earthquake zone with all their power, unfortunately, it is not enough to overcome all the problems caused by these earthquakes," Kubin said.

When a humanitarian disaster of this magnitude strikes, Lions are among the first to respond. And, empowered by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) grant funds, they are already bringing a small bit of comfort to survivors of these devastating earthquakes.

The first priority? Providing safety and shelter for people who currently have no place to call

home.

Immediately after the first earthquake struck, LCIF awarded a US\$200,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to the Lions in Turkey. Lions are using these funds to develop the Adiyaman Lions Container Village. The 60 containers purchased with the grant are furnished and fitted with a kitchen and bathroom to provide temporary housing for displaced people while they await reconstruction in their communities.

Lions in Sweden also are using an LCIF Matching Grant awarded in May 2022 to develop the Antakya Lions Tent Village. Within the village are 320 tents to temporarily house 1,050 people, more than 340 of them children. Local Lions and Leo volunteers regularly interact with the children, providing them with learning and socialization opportunities.

Finally, through LCIF's partnership with the MD 111 German Lions Foundation, funds are addressing the immediate survival, safety, and short-term housing needs of victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

These are just a few of the projects that are underway. Additional grants will be awarded as needs continue to grow.

"The devastation that this earthquake and the subsequent aftershocks brought is heartbreaking, and those affected by this disaster will need support in recovering and rebuilding for many days, weeks, months, and even years ahead," said LCIF Chairperson Douglas X. Alexander.

"The response and support from Lions worldwide is inspiring and illustrates Lions' unwavering humanitarian spirit during this unfathomable disaster. Lions live and serve in the communities most impacted, and we will be there to support the people there as long as they need us," Alexander added. "LCIF grant funding helps us make an even bigger difference



for people who've experienced so much loss during this unimaginable disaster."

LCIF grants are only possible with support from Lions across the globe, who immediately united to support those impacted by the earthquakes. In the weeks following the disaster, many Lions leaders, clubs and districts launched fundraising events in person and online to benefit LCIF's Disaster Relief fund. Lions worldwide also continue to make individual donations to support the cause. These efforts will help ensure that Lions can provide help and hope in the region as long as it is needed.

"We are talking about a disaster on a scale that no country in the world can be prepared for on its own," Kubin said. "That's why we need the support of the international community more than ever. Together we are always stronger."

To learn more about how Lions International is responding to this disaster and how Lions are an integral part of earthquake relief, visit lionsclubs.org/earthquakerelief.



District A5 Convention



District A5 is the largest geographic district in MDA and held what might have been the biggest convention.

This year, the event was organized by Region 1520 and held in Kirkland Lake. Host clubs were **Charlton-Englehart Lions**, **Kirkland Lake Lions Branch**, **Earlton Lions**, **Larder Lake Lions** and **Schumacher Lions**. A5 have unique and fun conventions and this year was no different. Friday night there was both a silent and live auction, along with live music. Saturday started with the cabinet meeting.

Unfortunately, the venue had mixed up the times to open the building and the Governor gave us a choice, have the meeting outside or in the school bus that was available for the shuttle service. Our International guest, PID **Tom Gordon**, said "I have attended meetings all over the world, but this is the first time I have attended a meeting in a school bus".

The town of Kirkland Lake went all out, from the banner hung as you came into town, to the vendors ready for shoppers, to the locals who came out for the parade, and the Tourbon Mine holding a tour and "Panning for Gold". Unknown to the attendees Lions, DG Lion **Bob Beaven** has purchased a \$100.00 gold nugget to plant into the panning table. The Tourbon Mine operating authority also donated another gold nugget in appreciation for all of the services the Lions have done in their community. PID Tom Gordon and Lion **Gillian Gordon** were two of the participants in the panning and Gillian found one of the gold nuggets.

The convention had several displays and vendors including the A5 Historian Pin Project, LCIF, Lions Quest, and the Hearing chair. One special display and sale was donated by the late PDG Lion **Grace Kingsnorth**, our long time LCIF chair until the past few years. Before she passed, she had donated all of her Lions jewellery to be sold at the convention and the proceeds given to LCIF. Approximately \$500.00 was raised. Lion Grace was a strong supporter of LCIF and we are grateful for this wonderful gesture.

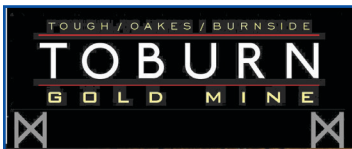
There were several sessions that Lions could attend, including an unusual one from a group that crochets "Princess" wigs for children with cancer. Another booth was set up by S.A.B.I.C. (Seizure and Brain Injury Centre) in Timmins. This was a DG's's project to raise money to expand services in Northern Ontario. A5 raised \$20,844.70 to support S.A.B.I.C .

Saturday evening was filled with laughter and speeches by PID Tom Gordon and the District



Governor. The hospitality rooms were popular for many hours. Sunday brought our memorial service and closing ceremony. Although we had 181 new members this year (our largest growth in decades), we lost 131 to death and other reasons. This included several PDGs, whom we will miss dearly.

A convention for the history books!



Partnerships with Purpose

by Leia Williams

“When you remove a cataract, people who have not seen their children in years, suddenly see them. It is amazing to witness,” Past District Governor Sedrace Rwekikiya shared, while standing under the thick shade of the tree canopy just outside St. Francis Nsambya Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. As she continued to speak about the incredible impact Lions have made in Uganda toward reducing preventable blindness, in the distance, the latest vision project was taking shape.

A renovated and expanded two-story vision clinic surrounded by scaffolding could be seen past the trees. This 5,500 sq foot facility, expected to be completed in 2024, should provide enough space and equipment for medical staff to increase outpatient consultations from 2,800 to 8,100 per year. Newly trained staff will also increase the diagnosis and treatment capacity by thousands of individuals.

“I am excited about the new clinic being constructed,” Dr. Lucy Namakula expressed with a smile. “This will extend our services to the community and save our patients money.” Earlier in the day, she had to refer a family to another hospital because their baby had severely crossed eyes and the current vision clinic could not manage his treatment. This referral to a larger facility would require travel for the family, which would increase their costs. “It is important to support the clinic because sight is a gift. This clinic will save families money and the new equipment will improve our patient care, so we are grateful to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Latter-day Saint Charities for supporting us.”

Together, these two organizations have partnered to give over US\$420,000 to expand comprehensive eye care services in the Kampala metropolitan area. When the clinic is completed,

it is expected to offer 20,250 student eye exams each year, in addition to exponentially increasing the current clinic’s capacity for cataract surgeries, diabetic retinopathy screenings, and more.

For years, Kampala has had few comprehensive eye care facilities and they were not meeting the full needs of the community. Knowing this, Dr. Geoffrey Erem and fellow Lions of District 411-B decided they could bridge the gap by applying for a SightFirst grant with LCIF to expand and improve their current vision clinic. “Lions come together to solve community needs,” Dr. Erem noted. “If we pool resources, we make a larger difference.”

Efforts like this one prove Dr. Erem’s point. The mission-oriented partnership with Latter-day Saint Charities will enhance LCIF’s ability to invest in vision care in expansive ways, support sustainable Lions-led projects, and reach thousands of people in Kampala. Additionally, for the medical professionals who will be empowered to serve a greater number of patients more effectively, this partnership will support their professional fulfillment, which is immeasurable yet priceless. “I love to help patients see,” Dr. Namakula remarked. “It is like



a bit of magic. Just imagine that you have been living in darkness and now there is light.”

When the doors to the newly expanded St. Francis Nsambya Hospital Eye Clinic open next year, light will flood each room and patients will leave with the ability to see it, some for the first time.

LCIF and Latter-day Saint Charities have partnered since 2018 to fight the major causes of preventable and reversible blindness for underserved populations in Africa, South America, and the Middle East. Visit lionsclubs.org/CSR to learn more about LCIF partnerships and the impact they have around the world.





COMING TOGETHER. MOVING AHEAD.




Celebrate service in Boston

At LCIcon 2023, Lions and Leos will unite to forge a path to a better world. Come celebrate service with us, and enjoy the sights, history and culture of Boston.

- Enjoy historical trails and indulge in excellent food and drinks.
- Take part in empowering seminars, hear from Lions leaders and inspirational speakers.
- Enjoy world-class entertainment and meet your fellow Lions and Leos.
- Join the Parade of Nations on the historical streets of Boston.



 **SCAN ME TO REGISTER**



Lions 105th Annual International Convention • Boston, Massachusetts, USA • July 7-11, 2023

Candidates for Third Vice President

MARK S. LYON

Mark S. Lyon, from Brookfield, Connecticut, USA, served as International Director from 2018 to 2021. He has worked in corporate legal administration and financial services for over 40 years and is currently board administration manager with Synchrony Financial. He has been recognized with numerous Presidential Awards, as well as the Ambassador of Good Will Award. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and an LCIF Campaign 100 Major Donor. Past International Director Lyon has served as presenter, faculty and participant at countless training events and leadership forums throughout the years.



DR. DOMENICO MESSINA

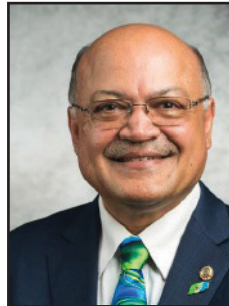
Domenico Messina, from Trapani, Italy, was elected as an International Director in 2010. He is a medical doctor who specializes in pathology and oncology and serves as chief of the anatomic



pathology department of his hospital. A philosopher and sociologist; Lion since 1985, he is the recipient of countless awards and recognitions, including the Ambassador of Good Will Award. Past Director Messina is also a Progressive MJF. He has served as vice president of his Sicilian province, as a council member of the Italian Cancer League and is responsible for a multidisciplinary group of breast cancer doctors. He has served as a GAT area leader for six years, an LCI Representative at WHO for nine years and is a six time group leader. He has dedicated his life to his family and people in need.

MANOJ SHAH

Dr. Manoj Shah of Nairobi, Kenya, served as an international director from 2005 to 2007 and subsequently as a board appointee in 2011 and 2015. He is a businessman with interests in the automobile, property, hospitality and finance sectors. He is a humanitarian partner having donated over US\$120,000 to LCIF, and has been recognized with numerous awards including the Ambassador of Goodwill Award. Past International Director Shah has served as faculty for a number of leadership institutes and is a five-



time group leader. He is also a certified LCIP. He recently published his biography, "One in a Million." In addition to his Lion activities, he has dedicated himself to running two charitable hospitals, volunteering at St. Johns Ambulance, supporting the Special Olympics as well as road safety initiatives throughout Kenya.

PHIL NATHAN

Phil Nathan, of Earls Colne, England, served as an international director from 1999 to 2001. He retired in 2019 as a director at Charles Stanley & Company. He has been recognized with numerous Presidential Awards, as well as the Ambassador of Good Will Award. In addition to these recognitions, he has also been honored by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. He is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Second Century Ambassador. Past International Director Nathan has continuously remained involved as a hands-on international leader including his role as chairman of the "Lions Clubs International—a Gift for Living Trust," which has saved the lives of several thousand babies and children around the world.



Lake Joseph - MDA Lions Clubs 2022/23 District of the Year Award Winner

The 2022/23 District of the Year award winner is District A2, the top-contributing District in MDA for the third year in a row! CNIB was excited to present this award to District Governor **Bob Townsend** at the MDA Convention 2023.

Bob was surprised to learn his district won the Award, but pleased because he surrounds himself with good people who spread the word about Lions and what's important. "Supporting CNIB Lake Joe is 'muscle memory' for my district," he explains. "It's one of the things we always support, and we inspire new clubs to join in giving to Lake Joe, especially with the new CNIB Lake Joe Minibus campaign cnib.ca/LakeJoeMinibus. We can do more, and I look forward to seeing what happens in the future in A2, Multi-District A, and beyond."

Congratulations also to the 2022/23 Club of the Year winners for raising the most in their respective districts: A-1: **Petrolia and District**

Lions/A-2: Lions Club of Fenwick/A-3: Pittsburgh Township and Storrington Lions /A-4: Brockville Lions/A-7-11: Mississauga Central Lions Club A-9: Mount Forest Lions/A-12: Elmvale and District Lions/A-15: Fergus Lions/A-16: North Newmarket Lions.

At the MDA Convention 2023, Lions **Jenn Rebidoux** and **Khrisstina Engel** were also voted onto the MDA / CNIB Joint Committee. Lion Jenn is the District's GMT Women and Family Specialist and also the IT (Technology) Chair and is super passionate about building the camp community for people with sight loss. Lion Khrisstina is Accessibility Chair for MDA and District A-16 has very personal reasons for joining this committee. "CNIB Lake Joe changed my life," she declares. "As someone who lives with sight loss, before I came to Lake Joe I was lost. But the people at camp taught me a lot – including that sight loss is NOT the end of the world. Now I'm

always willing to try new things. I wouldn't be where I am today without CNIB Lake Joe."



2021-2022 LCIF Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The world needs hope. And Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is answering the call to bring hope to a world in need.

It was my honor to serve as Chairperson of LCIF in 2021-2022. I enjoyed hearing from many of you about the things you have accomplished because of LCIF. I am extremely proud of all the things we achieved

together.

The stories of your service, empowered by grant funding from LCIF, are inspiring. Although the beneficiaries of your service may never know of your kindness, the world is a better place because of you.

While we continued to face challenges across the globe, Lions continued our important work. As an organization, we stood for peace and we united through kindness by awarding grants to support refugees in Ukraine and throughout the world during immensely challenging times.

I ask you to join me in continued support of LCIF, so we can build on the successes of

Campaign 100. Our service to our world must continue. Because there is nothing we cannot achieve when we work together. This is exactly why LCIF is so important.

Lions and Leos, thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your Chairperson of LCIF during this historic time. It will forever be one of my greatest accomplishments. I look forward to continuing to serve alongside you.

With gratitude,

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi
Immediate Past International President
and LCIF Chairperson, 2021-2022

WE DID IT—TOGETHER!

Your global foundation accomplished the most successful fundraising campaign ever because of supporters—like YOU. LCIF raised more than US\$325 million during *Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service*, the largest fundraising campaign in our foundation's history.

"I'm so proud of the dedication of Lions and Leos to support Campaign 100 and ensure the future of our global foundation for years to come," said Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, chairperson of Campaign 100.

"The world needs Lions and our global foundation to magnify hope in the world. Together, our reach spans the globe and helps Lions deliver care and compassion to world citizens in need."

This amazing accomplishment was made possible because of our supporters and Lions across the globe. Thank you for helping magnify hope in the world!

Thank you to Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada and J. Frank Moore III for their leadership and support that helped make the campaign a success. The example you set is an inspiration to all Lions everywhere.

Enjoy a selection of stories from around the world from the 2021-2022 LCIF Annual Report. The impact featured in these stories is made possible through generous donations. To read all of this year's stories, plus grant information, and more fundraising updates, visit lionsclubs.org/lcifannualreport for the digital LCIF Annual Report.

MEET LION JUDGE KEVIN BISHOP, ONE OF MANY LIONS HELPING AFTER DISASTER STRIKES

After a devastating tornado hit his community in Mayfield, Kentucky, USA, Lion Judge Kevin Bishop turned to LCIF for help.

The tornado that hit Mayfield was one of a series of tornadoes that ripped through homes and businesses, pulled powerlines straight from the ground, and spread debris for miles around—leaving destruction in their wake.

LCIF immediately awarded an Emergency Grant to the Lions in Kentucky. The grant funds supported generators, propane heaters, and carbon monoxide detectors. Many of the power lines were damaged from the tornadoes and leaving families without power.

Beyond the immediate help, LCIF also awarded an additional grant to District 43-K to purchase equipment for the Mayfield Graves County Fire Department and Rescue Squad Station. The tornado destroyed the building, and although the rescue squad did have insurance, it was not enough to cover all equipment lost.



In addition to LCIF's support, Lions across the country in Pennsylvania, Oregon, Ohio, New York, and Connecticut delivered supplies in the days following the disaster.

"I have been a Lion for a long time and our motto is that 'we serve,' but until the Lions serve your community, you don't know what these words really mean," Bishop said.

HELPING YOUTH IN ECUADOR

In Quito, Ecuador, LCIF's Lions Quest program helps provide a sense of community and belonging to youth at the Colegio Alemán Quito school.

The school began implementing the program in the 2014-2015 school year. Through social and emotional learning curriculum, the Lions Quest program strengthens key social and personal skills and prevents behavior that is harmful to children and others. Lions Quest encourages self-awareness and self-efficacy so that children and young people can make positive decisions.

"At Lions Quest, I learned that all my friends should be part of a team. They all help each other," said Ivanna, a student at Colegio Alemán Quito School.

Isaac Abad Crespo, past council chairperson and District G-1 Lions Quest chairperson, helped the school adopt the program. In 2019, an LCIF Community Partnership grant was awarded to District G-1 to help the school pilot the newest edition of the program and expand Lions Quest activities at the school, adding Skills for Adolescence. The program

helps children and adults manage emotions; set and achieve goals; and feel and show empathy for others, helping them establish positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

“I think that for us parents, it is an important tool that helps in the socio-emotional development of our children,” said Carolina Dominguez, a parent. “My children use many strategies from Lions Quest to talk and resolve conflicts.”

Gabriela Reyes, a teacher at the school and Lions Quest coordinator, said she noticed a difference in children’s listening between ages eight and nine. For example, several children gave examples of different situations in which they did not feel heard—especially at home. One girl said she realized that she didn’t listen in the right way to her parents when they wanted to talk to her, Reyes said.



“If you start working with children on the acquisition of social and emotional skills at an early age, I believe that we will have children who positively impact the community to which they belong,” Reyes said. Reyes and Crespo are looking forward to seeing the continued impact that the program has on youth. “Our motto is to serve. I think one of the best ways to serve our community is to adopt this program because you can see extraordinary results in the children and youth, and they are our future,” Crespo said.

HUNGRY TO HOPEFUL

Throughout the world, many children wake up and go to bed hungry each day. In India, two in five children face malnutrition, which can lead to illness, stunting, and delayed physical activity.

Supporting rural children in India who face food insecurity are the Anganwadis—government-run childcare centers that combat hunger and malnutrition for children ages six and under. The program was started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated

Child Development and Services program, but unfortunately, some of the centers lacked hygienic kitchen and dining facilities.

With support of an LCIF US\$84,225 Hunger grant, Lions refurbished the kitchen and dining facilities in 90 Anganwadis throughout the state of Kerala.

“We Lions recognized the need to improve the dilapidated kitchen and dining facilities of at least a few Anganwadis,” said Past District Governor Rajesh Kolarikkal, grant administrator for the project.

Lions renovated kitchens with stainless steel countertops and sinks, replaced plumbing, added worktables with stovetops and installed refrigerators—all to ensure that children can eat healthy food. They also installed stainless steel dining tables and benches in the dining rooms for ease of cleaning and increased sanitation.

More than 900 Lions installed the upgraded equipment, and helped monitor the facilities to ensure everything functions properly.

“The most modern and hygienic equipment—along with a refrigerator—were unimaginable to these centers without your support,” said V.P. Sajeendran, Kerala legislative member from Kunnathunadu. “I appreciate LCIF for enabling Lions to implement such a project, which is a dire need of the community.”

The 2,250 children, who depend on the Anganwadis each year, are now able to enjoy healthy meals cooked in a hygienic environment.



And parents and teachers can rest assured that their children will learn and thrive in a safe, nurturing environment. As Kolarikkal said, “Wherever there is a need, there is a Lion.”

EMPOWERING AND GUIDING THOSE LIVING WITH DIABETES

Diabetes educators empower people to manage their diabetes by coaching and guiding patients to understand the chronic disease and how it affects their personal lives and work.

Thanks to funds from LCIF and Lions in Wellington County, Ontario, Canada, a Diabetes & Patient Education Centre at the Groves Memorial Community Hospital received beneficial technology. The facility serves patients with type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes through educational programming to help patients learn about diabetes and what steps they can take to stay healthy.

A US\$50,000 LCIF grant was combined with US\$160,000 in support from the local Lions in District A-15. Grant funds supported audiovisual system for the education rooms, as well as computers for patient consultation rooms.

The nine Lions clubs supporting the project include Ariss, Maryhill, Arthur, Belwood & District, Elora, Fergus, Grand Valley, Hillsburgh & District, Marsville & District, and Rockwood & District. These Lions commitment to diabetes education, prevention, and treatment has made an incredible difference to citizens in Ontario.

Since 1968, LCIF has funded global humanitarian service, deepening Lions’ and Leos’ commitment to help those in need, locally and globally. Visit LCIF.org to learn more about how together, we continue to magnify hope.



Winner Recruit Parsa Hazaeri with his peer group

Left: Winner Recruit Parsa Hazaeri
 Centre: WPDG's George Corrin & Harvey Wood with the winning recruit.
 Far Right: Sgt. Major Jim Berney with winner

Peace Posters for Peace Officers

A few months back PDG **George Corrin** had a interesting concept dealing with Peace Posters. He lives in the town of Aylmer Ontario which happens to be the location of the Ontario Police College (OPC). His idea was centered around the Peace Posters that were generated in District A15, MDA and Lions International contests. George was successful in obtaining several professional productions of winning posters from LCI. An initial meeting was held with Sgt. Major Jim Berney of OPC who was of the opinion that the idea had merit and would work at the college. PDG's George and **Harvey Wood** attended with Lion **Bob Pearson** who was present on behalf of the LION Magazine. It was a trip down memory lane for Lion Bob, having been a student many, many years ago at the college followed by a three-year term as an instructor in the 90's.

It was decided to host a process amongst the many classes of recruits that attend the facility and award them a poster of their choice. An initial selection process was held at the OPC on June 6th where Recruit Parsa Hazaeri, Toronto Police Service, was selected by the leaders of the classes that were the present student body. The successful recruit had a choice of many award winning posters to keep.

On August 2nd there is a graduation ceremony of all the classes at the college, it is planned to involve all the classes in this initiative, PDGs George and Harvey will attend along with Lion Bob.



District A4

On May 23rd District A4 Lions gathered to make a presentation to the Ottawa Hospital Foundation of a cheque for \$101,898.50 for the Ottawa Eye Institute. This money was donated by the Lion Clubs in District A4 as part of our Centennial Campaign. The amount was increased ten-fold by generous private sponsors of the Eye Institute for a grand total of \$1,018,985.00. The

campaign was coordinated prior to COVID by Lion **John Proulx** of the **Gloucester North Lions Club** and Lion **Nancy Barkley** of the **Iroquois Matilda Lions Club** post COVID. Lions John and Lion Nancy presented the cheque to the Eye Institute staff for a room named **Salle d'examen Lions Club International District A4 Lions Exam Room**.

As the District A4 Vision Chair, I had the pleasure of presenting Lion John and Lion Nancy with a plaque in recognition of the

great job they did to raise the funds.

Other District A4 Lions in attendance were DGE Lion **Barry Chisholm**, 1VDGE Lion **Roxanne Backes**, IPDG Lion **Renee Devenny**, PDG Lion **Andy Etherington**, District A4 Vision Chair and Lion **Les Craig** a 60 year Member of the Iroquois Matilda Lions Club. We were greeted by Dr. David Mayberley, Department Head of the Ophthalmology Department and his great staff. It was interesting to learn that one of several

pieces of equipment that were purchased were being used by over 30 departments within the Ottawa Hospital.

A Big Thank You to all the District A4 Lions Clubs for your generous donations to this wonderful project. "WE SERVE."

Submitted by District A4 Vision Chair,
 PDG Andy Etherington



Lion Les Craig, Lion John Proulx, PDG Lion Andy Etherington, IPDG Lion Renee Devenny, DGE Lion Barry Chisholm, Lion Nancy Barkley, 1VDGE Lion Roxanne Backes



Lion John Proulx & Lion Nancy Barkley, Dr. David Mayberley & staff

Catch the Ace Puts Hagersville Lions on the Map!

Hagersville Lions Club was looking for a new way to raise funds for the club's activities. Lion **Dan Matten** heard of the Chase the Ace that successfully held in Nova Scotia. He brought the idea to the club and it was decided to go ahead and apply for a licence to hold this "new" fundraiser. The Hagersville "Catch the Ace" is a joint fundraiser between the Hagersville Rocks committee, the Hagersville Chamber of Commerce and the Hagersville Lions Club.

Hagersville Rocks will be donating its half of the money raised to West Haldimand General Hospital through the Hagersville Hospital and Healthcare Foundation, and the Lions are giving their money to the Hagersville Food Bank and other local not-for-profits and community initiatives. This concept was done in conjunction with the Hagersville Rocks organization, led by Rob Phillips, who is also the chair of the Hagersville Chamber of Commerce.

The first round started on December 2019 but had to be suspended and put on hold in March 2020 because of Covid. It resumed October 2020 and the lucky winner who drew the Ace of Spades walked away with a little over \$10,000.00. The club raised about \$15,500 and half was donated to the Hagersville Food Bank and the other half to the West Haldimand Hospital and Healthcare Foundation.

The clubs decided to apply for a second round, and applied for and received an 'in-person' license that was open-ended in terms of sales and jackpot from the AGCO. We wanted people to come out in person and socialize. As Covid eased off, Catch the Ace was the perfect reason to come to the Hagersville Legion – who hosted us and helped us greatly. It then became quite the community event.

Round two started early in May 2022 and sold one hundred and fifty-two tickets that day. It was a long, slow road to promote the event. In week twenty, we had sold three hundred and seventy-four tickets that carried a progressive jackpot of \$8,033.00.

It was advertised heavily on Facebook and other social media, on our community Lions sign and elsewhere. Lion Dan wrote regular reports every week of the draw that were published by the "Haldimand Press" who were a major source of support. The weekly draws were live-streamed on Facebook, and the longer it went on, the more popular it became. As the event was made public, viewers watched developments as Ace MC Lion Dan tried to make the draw an entertaining event.

By week thirty, over four thousand tickets

were sold and the jackpot rose to over \$15,000.00. It was in mid-January 2023 at week thirty-four that it crossed the \$100,000.00 mark and at the end of January, the jackpot reached \$222,047.00.

This caught the attention of the town, the whole county and beyond. On February 16th we crossed the \$500,000 line and the regional media like CHCH and CTV began reporting on the Catch the Ace in Hagersville. This caused an onslaught of people coming to Hagersville to participate in the chase of the elusive Ace of Spades resulting in selling over 70,000 tickets in week forty.

Mid-March we exceeded one million dollars for our progressive jackpot and CBC started regular reporting. This caused an explosion in ticket sales and the club had to seriously adjust our work force and organization to accommodate the surge. Police officers were hired and as well as a security company and portable toilets were put up. Despite waiting times of over one hour in a line-up, people were in good spirits.

On average a Catch the Ace event lasts twenty-five to thirty weeks. This session crossed week forty and was still going strong. The tension and expectations rose and more tickets sold in the weeks that followed. In week forty-five an astonishing one hundred and fifty-two tickets were sold and almost ten thousand people came to Hagersville to buy tickets. The whole town was affected. The traffic on the draw days was very heavy and parking exceptionally difficult.

In week forty-five the drama was over, the Ace of Spades was drawn and the winner, Richard Marshall won over two million dollars. Richard is from the town of Nanticoke in Haldimand County, not far from Hagersville. He is 83 years old was a commercial fisherman all his life. Richard stated that he will help his kids and grandchildren with their education and that he and his wife want to travel to Switzerland where his wife is originally from.

Overall the town had a secondary gain as people from all over came to town, went to restaurants, and frequented town retailers.

The whole town helped pull this phenomenal event off and made it the success it became. The **Fisherville** and **Port Dover Lions** were involved and their assistance was most appreciated. This is



the Lions spirit we love, serving the community. Another side effect the Catch the Ace has is the Lions in general were promoted. Many people learned about the Lions, what they are, what they do and that they are supporting the community. In fact, five more people have joined the club.

Catch the Ace is a variation of a 50/50 raffle. In this case, 50% of the winnings are split: 20% for the winner of the weekly draw, 30% goes into a progressive jackpot, and the other 50% are the funds raised for our supported causes.

In preparation for Catch the Ace, we took a new deck of 52 playing cards and put each card into a separate envelope. After tumbling them in a raffle drum, we pulled them out randomly and individually numbered the envelopes from 1 to 52. This ensures the integrity of the event and makes sure that which card is in each envelope and what envelope has the Ace of Spades is unknown.

Once purchased, the players fill in their name and phone number and must choose an envelope number between one and fifty-two with the exception of numbers already chosen in the previous week's draws. All tickets sold go into the drum and the draw for the weekly winning ticket is held.

The ticket that is drawn is the weekly winner for that evening who receives twenty percent of the funds from that day's ticket sales. The envelope is opened with the number that was entered on the winning ticket. If the card is the Ace of Spades the winner will also win the jackpot and the game is over. If it is not the Ace of Spades we will put the card on the placeholder on our displayed game board corresponding with the number that was on the envelope and the raffle goes on until the Ace of Spades is drawn. This can be a maximum of fifty-two weeks and might accumulate a huge jackpot, as in this case over two million dollars.

More information is available through Lion Dan Matten via the Hagersville facebook page and their website.

Wilmot Lions/Lioness Club

Recently Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club members – **Joan Bilinsky** and **Paul Mackie** had the pleasure of presenting a \$1,700.00 cheque to the hosts and owners of the Hillside Residence in Maryhill, Ontario. The funds were raised during a Spaghetti Dinner that was promoted as an opportunity for our club and our community to raise funds to assist with the hosting and supporting of Ukrainian refugees arriving to Canada.

The hosts and owners of the Hillside Residence in Maryhill, Karen and Robert Martin, have taken on a huge challenge with this project, to provide transitional housing opportunities for the Ukrainian guests as they arrive.

Hillside Residence was formerly a retirement residence, family-owned and operated for over twenty years. It has thirteen rooms and is located

on a twenty acre site in Maryhill. The facility provides a perfect option for those arriving to gather with other refugees and to meet with volunteers.

Because of limited financial resources, both the refugees and hosts like the Martins count on community donations co-ordinated through the

Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation. Donations are directed specifically to Hillside Residence, via the K-W Foundation, to assist the Martins and their volunteers to provide and continue the service they are providing for a short-term environment for the new, welcome refugees.



Districts A3 and A4 Joint Project

Recently, as a result of the efforts of Lions Clubs in Districts A3 and A4, a substantial donation of \$31,640.00 was made to the University Hospital Foundation to facilitate the purchase of an IO Master 700 Ophthalmology machine. A welcome contribution to the hospital's vision program.

A big "Lions Roar" is called for.



Amherstview Lions

At a recent meeting in April, Second Vice-District Governor **Kevin Kimmery** presented Lion **Bruce Johnson** with a special pin for his fifty years of service in the club. Lion Bruce spent many years in Richmond, Ontario where campaigns such as the Rubber Duck Races on the Jock River, Dances such as "The Big Bash", Christmas Cheer Broadcasts, and Bed Races were some of the highlights of his time as a Lion. He campaigned in this area to raise over \$30,000 for an essential eye measurement device at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston. He visited many clubs on icy roads to obtain funding for that essential device.



Blyth Lions

A while back the Lions in Blyth established a park that is named in their honour. Ongoing maintenance and improvements are the rule rather than the exception. In keeping with that theory, they recently commissioned a mural to be painted on the side of their clubhouse which is located in the park, showcasing the International Lions clubs pillars within the flowers (World Hunger, Environment, Vision, Childhood Cancer, and Diabetes) and hidden within the girls clothing on the swing (pink t-shirt for bullying and Mitch-Match socks for Autism).



Suggested by PDG Jennifer Batte, mural created by Erratic Art in Goderich.

Capreol Lions

Long Serving Capreol Lion **Dorothy Payette** has been made a Life Member of the Capreol Lions Club. After 25 years of service, the club has bestowed this honour for all that she has done for the club. She has served on many positions including board of directors, chairpersons, and any job that was put to her. She does exemplify our motto "We Serve". Congratulations to Lion Dorothy on serving her community and her club for all these years.



President Rick Clouthier, Life Member Norm Martin, New Life Member Recipient Dorothy Payette and Secretary Sue Zammit

Kirkland Lake

The Kirkland Lake Lions Club was awarded the Best in Business 2022 Positive Community Impact Award from the Kirkland Lake Chamber of Commerce. In only a few short years, this club has gone from a branch club to being A-5's newest club in 2023. They are very active in the community, including helping to clean up the local grocery store after a fire as their first appearance in the area as a branch club. They have come a long way since then. Congratulations to our newest club on receiving the award.



Lion Lisa Joly, Club Secretary and Lion Shanea Smith, Club President

St. Patricks Day with the Iroquois-Matilda Lions

The club hosted upwards of one hundred and sixty five guests that evening, offering fine food and infusions, and entertainment provided by the very talented songster and storyteller of the Ottawa Valley, Wayne Rostad. As always, our community and fellow Lions Clubs shine in their support of our initiatives. Proceeds for the sale of 50/50 Raffle Tickets and a Silent Auction provided for a donation of \$2500 to the District A4's Governor's Charity, Childhood Cancer, and to the Iroquois Pavilion Project.



Lion President, Evonne Deleгарde



Lion Candace Latulippe and Lion Wayne Mustard

Chemung Lake Lions

A huge thank you to Lion **Paul English** and the Chemung Lake District Lions Club for their generous donation to the Bridgenorth United Church Food Bank to help fill our empty shelves. Your hard work and generosity are greatly appreciated.



Minnow Lake Lions

The Minnow Lake Lions Club suffered a great loss when PDG Lion **Armand Jean** passed away. It was decided to honour him by planting a memorial tree in Minnow Lake Lion Park beside his good friend Lion **Bob Ogilvy's** tree. This is something he would have been proud of. Lion Armand proudly lived the Lions motto "We Serve" for 56 years. He joined the **New Sudbury Lions Club** in 1966, transferring to the **Sault Ste Marie Lions Club** in 1977, then back to **Sudbury North-East/Minnow Lake** in 1990. While serving his community, he also served his Lions clubs by holding numerous positions including Secretary, President, chairs of several committees, Zone Chair, Region Chair and District A5 Governor in 1986-87 while part of the Sault Ste Marie Lions Club. With his good friend Lion Bob Ogilvy, he was the driving force in the building of two great projects, the Minnow Lake Skateboard Park and the Lions Park at Minnow Lake Place.

He was the proud recipient of the Melvin

Jones Fellowship Award and a Life Member of the Minnow Lake Lions club. In his own words: "Lionism is designed for the members to enjoy life and serve their community"

Our Lion Armand was a dedicated Lion and a good friend. He will be sadly missed by fellow members.



Port Dalhousie Lions celebrating 75 years

Article from Niagara This Week

by Abby Green

In 75 years, a lot of things can change.

But one thing that has stayed constant is the Port Dalhousie Lions Club, and its dedication to the community. The club celebrated the milestone anniversary with a dinner at Coppola's Banquet Centre on March 4, with a packed venue that saw city and regional councillors in attendance. Chartered on Nov. 24, 1947, the Port Dalhousie Lions Club started with 75 members.

In 1952, the club purchased the building at 201 Main St., which has been known as the Lions Centre ever since. "Our old lacrosse league was kind of instrumental in the old Port Dalhousie, (for people) growing up here and that kind of thing," said Tim Empringham, a current board member. According to the club website the club ran the league each season, and built a lacrosse bowl in Port Dalhousie on land it eventually purchased from Canadian Cannery. "The current club still sits at this location where it renovated the original Canner's building," it reads.

The Lions Club also ran the very successful carnival in Port Dalhousie, until the flooding at Lakeside Park forced it to be cancelled the year before the pandemic.

Empringham has lived in St. Catharines for most of his life, but only moved to Port Dalhousie about 10 years ago, and joined the Lions about five years ago. "I had friends that were part of the

Lions, and I could see a lot of the stuff that they were doing, and they're trying to in particular right now," he said. "It's a great opportunity to help give back to some really great causes. We raise money through a number of different activities that we do, and it's largely given back within our own community."

In addition to the charitable work that the club does, such as supporting the Niagara Children's Centre, Start Me Up Niagara, and more, it also

hosts spaghetti dinners at the centre on the first Wednesday of every month.

Right now, Empringham said, the club is looking for new, younger members. "I think it's important for some of us that are, you know, say, sub 50 to start to take the reins and take over from some of the folks that have been members for (a long time)," he said, adding that one current member has been involved for 64 years.



Merriton Lions

After operating the Merriton Arena autonomously through a lease agreement originally dating back to 1979, the Lions Club of Merriton membership recently approved a motion to not renew the lease agreement beyond this year's ice season.

Lions Club treasurer **Keith Brown**, says it's a "bittersweet decision" for the Lions, who have historical ties to its construction in 1967, when it was originally built as an outdoor rink.

"As we look at our long-term vision as a club, we've made a decision to focus our efforts on building on the many other ways we are supporting the community."

The arena was built in 1967 as an open-air rink with financial assistance from the Lions, Merriton Legion, Merriton Athletic Association, Merriton Volunteer Fire Department and the community at large.

"The City is proud of the partnership we've had with the Lions, and we're thankful for the

significant contributions they've made to our community, including the operation of the arena for nearly 45 years. A special thanks to Lion **Geoff Crane** who volunteered as arena manager for the last 40 years," said City CAO David Oakes.

The Lions Club continue to operate the Merriton Community Centre, as part of a separate agreement. The City and Lions are negotiating an extension of the lease for the centre, while also looking at additional opportunities to make it an even more vibrant facility.

"We value what the Lions have brought to our community through the arena and

the community centre, and we look forward to continuing that partnership," said Phil Cristi, the City's Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services. "The City is looking forward to working with the Lions to ensure that the centre remains a vibrant space that will continue to serve the surrounding community for years to come."



Minnow Lake Lions

Sudbury Rocks is a Marathon that runs each year in Sudbury. This race is one of only a few full marathon qualifiers for the Boston Marathon. The Minnow Lake Lions Club has proudly supported this event with both donations and maintaining a water station during the race for over 10 years. One of the reasons we have been involved in this event is due to our own Paralympian competitor, Lion **Gilles Lafrance** (#1586). This year, the proceeds go to the Northern Cancer Treatment Centre in Sudbury. Congratulations to the Minnow Lake Lions for serving their community at this great event.



Mountain Township and District

Lion **Nathan Lang** of the Mountain Township and District Lions Club of District A4 beautifully captures the monarch butterfly in caterpillar form. The milkweed is extremely important to the caterpillar, as it feeds exclusively on this plant. This photo was taken in Lion Nathan's garden in Mountain, Ontario where he lets the milkweeds grow to support the Monarch Butterfly. Nathan placed 1st in the MDA "Nature Environment" Photo Contest.



New Liskeard Lions Club

The New Liskeard Lions give back to a member of the community.

Isabelle Laferriere is going to the world dance competition this summer and the Lions are there to help.

Their cheque presentation of \$1,000.00 makes them a platinum sponsor to help Isabelle achieve her dreams.

Isabelle's family is also a great supporter to the Lions club by donating use of their trailer park to help the club raise funds in conjunction with their community events.

Great job Lions and good luck to Isabelle.



Lion Pat Smits, President Lion Manju Dangalle, Isabelle Laferriere, PDG Lion Alf O'Reilly and Lion David Low

Russell Lions

The Russell Lions Club wishes to express its pride in fellow member Lion **Raja Wysocki** who was presented with the Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship Award at the recent A-4 Convention by **Judge Brian Stevenson** himself!

Sharing in the celebration is A-4 District Governor Lion **Susan Tunnicliffe**. The award is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed within Lionism in Canada. It is recognition of outstanding achievement of a Lion who is dedicated to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Congratulations Lion Raja!



Mountain and District

The Mountain Township and District Lions Club held their Spring Dinner Show on April 1st, 2023. The sold-out crowd was served a freshly prepared BBQ steak dinner complete with baked potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Entertainment was provided by The Celtic Kitchen Party, who played a mixture of Celtic infused originals, traditional and contemporary east coast, Irish and Scottish music.

Proceeds from the event will go to our many commitments in the community.

To everyone's delight the South Mountain Easter Bunny made an appearance. Our next

Dinner Show will be in November and Jack Frost may stop in! As always, we thank our generous community and sponsors for their overwhelming support!



Stayner Lions Club

The Stayner Lions Club was pleased to present PRC 8N Lion **Claire Weston** with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award in recognition of her service to this club, District A-12 and those who have benefited from the work of the Club and the District. Presenting the award was Lion **Bob Charlton** (Sponsor) and President **Jerry Houtzager**.

Lion Claire has served the club as Committee Chair of Health; Publicity, Bulletin & Social Media; Boys & Girls; Eyeglasses Recycling and Vision Screening committees. She has been a Director, Club President, and Lion Tamer. She has also made time to serve District A12 as Zone Chair for Zone 8N for 3 years, and

Region Chair for Region 8 for 2 years. For the upcoming year, she will be serving as Diabetes Chair for District A12.

During all this, Claire has been honing her leadership skills, taking courses through Lions University/Leadership Forum.

Congratulations Lion Claire!



ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

District Reporters

There is a reporter designated for each district, their function is to assist clubs and the magazine staff with submissions that include high resolution photos and a summary of the service activity. Please utilize their services. They can be contacted as shown:

- A-1 Lion Michelle Mundy: michellemundy@live.com
- A-2 DG Lion Bob Townsend: b.townsend@a2lions.org
- A-3 Lion Kim Carr: tater@sympatico.ca
- A-4 Lion Bill Vermilyea: b.vermilyea@outlook.com
- A-5 Lion Brenda Lalonde: bmlsudbury@hotmail.com
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Editor Lion Bob Pearson
mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2024	Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre
	St. Catharines May 31 - June 2, 2024

International Conventions

105th	Boston, Mass., USA	July 7 - 11, 2023
106th	Melbourne, Australia	June 21 - 25, 2024
107th	Mexico City, Mexico	July 4 - 8, 2025
108th	Atlanta, GA, USA	July 3 - 7, 2026
109th	Washington, DC, USA	July 2 - 6, 2027

USA - Canada Forums

Sept 22 - 23, 2023	Reno, Nevada
Sept 5 - 7, 2024	Louisville, Kentucky



MDA Convention

Special thanks to PCC John Whyte for his support and again to our host committee, the event could not have been as successful as it was without their efforts.

PZC Rick Waite, Chair Host Committee

Our International Guest for the event was non other than Lion **Patti Hill**, 1st Vice President Lions International, who, perhaps by the time you have had the opportunity to read this article has been inducted at the International convention in Boston as your International President for Lions Year 2023-2024.

Another successful event is on the books thanks to a **Great Effort**, headed up by Lion Rick Waite of the Port Stanley Lions and his strong committee made up of Lions from various clubs in District A1, in particular Zone 3. **Great Job Lions!**

They were: **Rick Waite** (Chair) and **Harry Wismer**, from **Pt. Stanley Lions**, **Evelyn Spiering**, **Anne Neill** and **Rosemary Kennedy** from **St. Thomas Lions**, **Gerald Smith** and **Bruce Campbell** from **Belmont Lions**, **Allister Cameron** and **John Hughes** from **Dutton Lions**, **Corrie Monaghan**, **Ron** and **Laurie Reid** from the **Rodney Lions**.

A great Team Effort!

The theme for this year's convention was **"MOVING FORWARD IN 2023"**, a more than fitting description after the events over the past few years with Covid. Not only did the committee **"Move Forward"**, they went over the top.

Lion Rick shared the following:

As chair of the 2023 MDA convention host committee, I wish to thank all the Lions and guests that attended. I hope everyone enjoyed their weekend.

There was 224 registrations, 150 attended the Saturday banquet, 135 at the Saturday Opportunities for Youth luncheon and 125 at the Friday night opening dinner.

I wish to thank International 1st Vice President Dr. Patti Hill, International Director Allen Snider and Lion Susan, Council Chair Mark Kelso and Lion Connie for their attendance and support during the convention. There were interesting breakout sessions as well many display tables for Lions to learn and explore.

I encourage my fellow Lions to register for 2024 MDA convention in St Catharines.



pleasure of inducting a new member into the Dutton and District Lions, this event had a special significance, the new Lion is **Carolyn Cameron**, a former school teacher and a strong supporter of the Youth Exchange Program. She is a great example of the philosophy, **"You Are Never Too Old"**. Lion Carolyn is 82 years young!

It was a bit of an emotional event, Carolyn was accompanied by Lion **Brenda Patterson**, President of the Dutton and District Club. A closer look at the photo might just reveal a tear or two!

There were several other awards made at the event, the winner for the "Lions in Service"

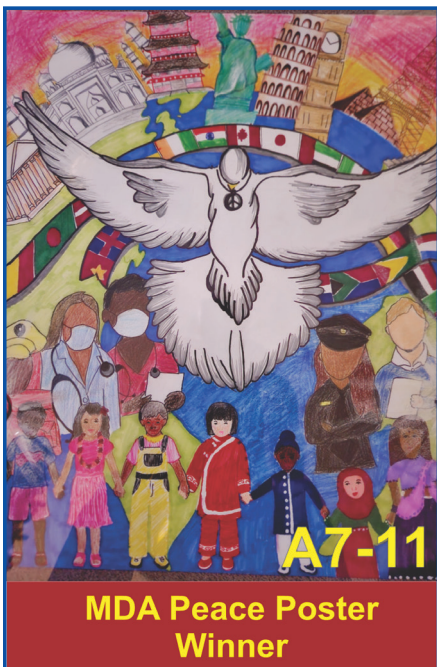
Lion Patti unintentionally was involved in one of the highlights of the weekend. Unbeknownst to her, she was assisting Lion **Zoltan Dohar**, MDA Hearing Conservation Chair with the awarding of a Helen Keller Fellowship. It had not been announced who was receiving the award. Patti, utilizing her skills with sign language was working alongside of Lion Zoltan who was about to announce the winner. In this case, it was Lion Patti. Needless to say she was completely taken by surprise and was temporarily at a loss for words. In this case photos, plus sign language speak a thousand words. **Congratulations Lion Patti!**

Lion Patti was not done yet, she had the





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category was the submission on behalf of DG Lion **Bob Townsend, Simcoe-Lynn Valley Lions**. The winner in the Environment category was Lion **Nathan Lang** from the **Mountain Lions Club**.

Keeton Hamilton from District A16, on behalf of the **Newmarket Lions**, was the International winner in the Peace Essay for the visually impaired category. He was recognized in a special ceremony in New York on Lions Day at United Nations Headquarters. Interesting to note, Keeton delivered his essay at our convention utilizing a Braille translator.

The MDA Peace Poster contest was won by Nandini Paliwal, sponsored by **Mississauga Central Lions**.

Two winners in the Effective Speaking competition came out of District A711; they were Shenelene Chery in the French category and Siraj Jaffry in English.

There were other significant awards given over the weekend that are reflected in the collection of excellent photos taken by Lion **Bill Crawford** of the **Simcoe Lions**, some are displayed in this article and the remainder can be viewed by using on the following link shown below, our apologies for not including all of the recipients in this portion. https://a15lions.org/newsletters/index_thumbs.html

The event culminated on Sunday morning with a stirring memorial service, as always led by PID **Art Woods**, with the assistance of the District Governors.

As Lion Rick stated in his remarks, we look forward to the 2024 event in St. Catharines.



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Rockton Lions

After four long years, The Rockton Lions held their 15th All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry on June 3, – another huge success!!

Over one thousand were in attendance, with lots of help from the **St. George** and the **Lynden Lions**, along with the St. George United Church who we help out at their annual fish fry event. In addition most of our active members pitched in along with a number of extra volunteers.

Almost eight hundred pounds of pickerel were served along with seven hundred pounds of potatoes!

With the support of donors there was an unbelievable silent auction which raised over \$18,000.00 and a 50/50 draw where the winner took home \$2,380!

60% of the profits from the event fry go to support the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Since 2012 we have supported over the training and placement of least 13 teams and donated \$10,000.00 to the foundation expansion in 2015.

We're now looking at becoming involved in the "LFC Difference Campaign" for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides to support their initiative for a new state-of-the-

art training school, targeted to open in 2025. It will be the first of its kind and will provide for the training of more Dog Guides and most importantly help more people.

See you next year on June 1!!

Submitted by Lion Pat Evangelisto, Rockton Lions



New Liskeard

The New Liskeard Lions club made a donation to Zack's Crib. This donation will help to build and maintain the Zack's Crib shelter, which provides medical care, food and lodging for homeless people. Some of the most vulnerable of our community are often overlooked and this donation will help to support those that need a "hand up" during some of the lowest points in their lives. The New Liskeard Lions are there to help out all members of their community. Great work and a giant Lion's roar to you.



L to R: Lion Pat Smits, President Lion Manju Dangalle, Zack's Crib Chair Yves Paille, PDG Lion Alf O'Reilly and Lion David Lowe

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