

M.D. "A" Edition July/August/September 2022

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MD'A' WELCOMES 2022-2023 COUNCIL



DISTRICT A-1 Evelyn Spiering



DISTRICT A-4 Susan Tunniclif



DISTRICT A-9 Larry Irwin



DISTRICT A-16 prolyn Stephens



DISTRICT A-2 Bob Townsend





DISTRICT A-12 Sheila Webb



MD'A' SECRETARY Marjorie Lewis



DISTRICT A-3 Linda Zwier









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Welcome to the July/August/September 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



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The Many Ways We Serve

Hello, Lions!

Just like we are all a little unique (or maybe even a lot unique) so is the way we serve. We are so diverse as Lions, and the people we serve are equally diverse. How I approach my service is based on what I saw my father do as a Lion and what my town needs from me today. How you approach service will be based on your background and what is needed in your community. And this is one of the many things I love about Lions. Having many ways in which we approach the world is a tremendous asset.

Lions have so many different special skills and attributes that make what we do special. And I absolutely love seeing how each and every one of you put your strengths to good use — especially when it is in service of one of our global causes or the local causes you serve.

Whether it's using your carpentry know-how to build ramps for those in wheelchairs or putting your party-planning chops into high gear to put together the perfect fundraiser, your unique approach to service is the core of our strength as a global service organization.

When you're a Lion, you can really be you. Take it from me, someone who's always just a little bit outside of the box. Be your amazing selves, Lions, we're stronger for it.

Yours in service,



Brian E. Sheehan International President, Lions Clubs International



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Waikoloa, Hawaii, USA – April 22-25, 2022



AUDIT COMMITTEE

 The committee received an update from Lions Clubs International Internal Audit and will continue to follow up and monitor action plans.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- Denied an international director endorsement complaint filed in District 3231-A3 (India) and affirmed Pankaj Mehta as the duly endorsed candidate of the sub-district.
- Denied a first vice district governor election complaint in District 3234-D2 (India) and confirmed a vacancy in the first vice district governor position for the 2022-2023 year, to be filled in accordance with the vacancy filling procedures.
- Denied a second vice district governor election complaint in District 3234-D2 (India) and affirmed Sunil Checker as the second vice district governor for the 2022-2023 year.
- Denied a second vice district governor election complaint in District 322-G (India) and affirmed Seema Goenka as the second vice district governor for the 2022-2023 year.
- Approved changes to Chapter XXV Dispute Resolution Procedures for consistency with current practices.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

- Approved an adjustment to the in-person registration fee schedule for the 2023 International Convention, increasing the rates for adult registrations and extending the time for Lions to benefit from the Early and Regular registration fee discounts.
- Approved the hotel delegation assignments for the 2023 International Convention in Boston,

Massachusetts, USA.

 Approved update to the language in LCI Board Policy Chapter VIII, to align election related policy, to current practice.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

- Updated the Club Excellence Award and the District Excellence Award for the 2022- 2023 fiscal year.
- Appointed Coordinating Lions for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- Updated the requirements on the sample nomination form for first and second vice district governors within found in the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws.
- Corrected a refence to the International Constitution in the Standard Multiple District Constitution.
- Updated the District Governor Expense Reimbursement Policy.
- Corrected the list of district and multiple district chairperson and coordinator positions listed in Chapter IX of the Board Policy Manual.
- Revised the policy regarding Coordinating Lions to clarify selection and expenses relating to Coordinating Lions serving districted and undistricted areas.
- Amended the club marketing chairperson position in the Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws.
- Added the position of district marketing chairperson and District Global Extension Coordinator to the Standard District Constitution and By-Laws.
- Added the multiple district marketing chairperson to the Standard Multiple District By- Laws.

FINANCE & HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

- Approved the estimated capital projects, maintenance, and repairs for employee life and safety, building sustainability, and enhancements with an approximate cash outlay of US\$8.7 million over the period of July 2022 to June 2026.
- Approved the FY 2021-2022 3rd Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.
- Amended Chapter XII, Exhibit B. of the Board Policy Manual.
- Amended Chapter XXI, Exhibit B. of the Board Policy Manual.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Confirmed the schedule for the FVDG/DGE Seminar in Montréal which will occur on June 23-24, 2022.
- Approved the one-time exception to the hotel and travel reimbursement policy for First Vice District Governors/District Governors-Elect Seminar associates and their adult companion for the 2022 FVDG/DGE Seminar at the 2022 International Convention.
- Approved the curriculum plan and schedule for the 2022-2023 First Vice District Governors/ District Governors-Elect Seminar.
- Amended board policy by adding Leo and Leo-Lion Programs to be co-facilitated by a Leo-Lion (beginning with trainings relevant for the fiscal year 2023-2024) to the list of training topics required for second and first vice district governors.
- Approved an allocation of US\$500,000 to the Leadership Development budget for 2022-2023 in order to provide a third international institute

per constitutional area.

LONG RANGE PLANNING (JANUARY 2022 MEETING REPORT)

- Received an update on the Lions International Strategic Plan.
- Discussed the role of the district governor and revisions to the training and development plan.
- Reviewed the incoming international president's theme and messaging.
- Reviewed lessons learned through the Marketing Think Tank, and the approach to developing marketing skills, confidence, and competence at the club level.
- Discussed a proposal from MD201 to add an environmental update to the Lions Code of Ethics.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

- Reviewed the PR Grant program and recognized the growth in popularity of the initiative.
 Approved increase in budget for the PR grant program for the year 2022-2023.
- Reviewed and approved the proposal submitted by the Lions of Pasadena for the 2023 Roses Parade sponsorship.
- Reviewed and approved the Peach Bowl sponsorship program for the next three years.
- Reviewed and approved the sponsorship program for the Minnesota Wild, "Lions Day with the Wild" and supporting budgets.
- Reviewed and approved the Executive Officer public relations program and its associated budget to provide press support for executive officers during travel.
- Approved a change to Chapter XVI Section B.4. of the Board Policy Manual to replace the phrase "may not be used for any other purpose."
 With the phrase "are to be used to fund editorial, production and shipping costs." and by replacing the phrase "or be used for other purposes, such as public relations endeavors" with the phrase "or be used for marketing and public relations activities.".

- Approved a change to Chapter XIX, International Protocol of the Board Policy Manual to add "14. Coordinating Lion" immediately following "13. District Governor" and by changing subsequent numbering accordingly.
- Approved a change to Chapter XVI, Paragraph A.4.h. of the Board Policy Manual be amended by removing the phrase ", especially as it relates to the centennial celebration,"
- Approved a change to Chapter XVI, Paragraph D.3. of the Board Policy Manual be amended by replacing the word "and" with the word "or" on line eight.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Reviewed progress updates on implementation of the Lions International Strategic Plan and the Leo Club Program Strategic Plan.
- Enhanced the Join Together program to allow all established charitable organizations access to program benefits.
- Reviewed progress updates on the Global Membership Approach rollout, resources to support the process, and data showing success within pilot districts.
- Enhanced Membership Development Grants to allow more districts access to funding.
- Reviewed and provided feedback to Membership Division planned work for 2022-2023
- Enhanced the New Club Development Workshop Program, encouraging consultants to conduct workshops virtually when possible.
- Reviewed membership investigation results for the Lions Club of Poona and recommends cancelling the club for reason of misapplication of membership types.
- Reviewed and approved a proposal to allow Leo Districts and undistricted Lions access to funding through Global Action Team Success Stories.
- Created a new award, the Jesse Robinson's Membership Growth Cup.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- Resolved that Lions Clubs International's Afghan resettlement program be expanded to include service opportunities in addition to the current local sponsorship model.
- Resolved that Lions Clubs International provide information, resources, and service opportunities to Lions clubs who wish to support Ukrainian evacuees and prepare to extend this support to future large-scale refugee crises.
- Received a report on service reporting, including the number of people served, the number of service activities, and the percent of clubs reporting service.
- Received an update on advocacy events, including Lions Day with the United Nations and Lions Day on Capitol Hill and Parliament Hill.
- Discussed service programs, the development of LCI's global causes, and implementation of Lions International Strategic Plan.
- Received an update on winners of the Kindness Matters Service Award for 2020-2021.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- Received updates on supporting the 2022 International Convention and election.
- Reviewed updates on the current Salesforce implementation, as well as the addition of Salesforce Experience Cloud and additional budget for Salesforce Experience Cloud.
- Reviewed the 2021-2022 third quarter budget forecast and the proposed fiscal year 2022- 2023 budget for the Technology Division.
- Received updates on privacy initiatives and ongoing steps being taken related to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Reviewed progress updates on infrastructure initiatives, compliance, network security, and infrastructure improvements.

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.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Montréal, Québec, Canada – June 20-23, 2022



AUDIT COMMITTEE

 The committee received an update from Lions Clubs International Internal Audit and will continue to follow up and monitor action plans.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- Upheld a district governor election complaint filed in District 324-L (India) and affirmed a vacancy in the district governor position for the 2022-2023 year, to be filled in accordance with the vacancy filling procedures.
- Upheld a first vice district governor election

- complaint in District 324-L (India) and affirmed a vacancy in the first vice district governor position for the 2022-2023 year, to be filled in accordance with the vacancy filling procedures.
- Denied a second vice district governor election complaint in District 3233-E1 (India) and affirmed Sunil Arora as the second vice district governor for the 2022-2023 year.
- Upheld a second vice district governor election complaint in District 317-E (India) and affirmed a vacancy in the second vice district governor position for the 2022-2023 year, to be filled in

- accordance with the vacancy filling procedures.
- Upheld a second vice district governor election complaint in District 300-B1 (MD 300 Taiwan) due to no candidate receiving a majority vote and affirmed a vacancy in the second vice district governor position for the 2022-2023 year, to be filled in accordance with the vacancy filling procedures.
- Determined the conciliators' decision on a district dispute in District 324-A2 (India) is unenforceable and encouraged Lions to file a complaint with local authorities if there is a belief

- or question on whether a crime has occurred.
- Denied an international director endorsement election complaint in Multiple District 300 Taiwan and affirmed Feng-Chi Chen as the endorsed international director from the multiple district.
- Amended the Board Policy Manual, Chapter III to include guidelines for the International Board of Directors to formally recommend a candidate for third vice president.
- Amended the Board Policy Manual, Chapter V to clarify that outstanding dues must be outstanding more than 30 days before a club will be considered not in good standing.
- Amended Board Policy Manual, Chapter II.A. Advisory Committee permitting the committee to only interview endorsed candidates.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

- Received a report on registration and expected attendance for the 104th International Convention in Montreal.
- Discussed the upcoming site visit plans to Boston, Massachusetts, USA (2023 International Convention), Melbourne, Australia (2024 International Convention) and New Delhi, India (2029 bid for International Convention).
- Reviewed and considered updating Chapter VIII of the Board Policy Manual regarding Bid Requirements.

FINANCE & HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

- Approved an amendment to the Investment Policy Statement for the International Association of Lions Clubs 401(k) Appendix A be amended by decreasing the target for Hedge funds to 11% from 13% and adding Commodity to the Alternatives section of the policy with a minimum of 0%, Target of 2%, and Maximum of 5%.
- Approved the FY 2021-2022 4th Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.
- Approved the FY 2022-2023 final budget, reflecting a deficit.
- Approved placing Sri Lanka on modified protective status through December 2022 with reviews to occur at the 2022-2023 board meetings by the Finance & Headquarters Operation Committee.
- Amended Chapter IX, of the Board Policy Manual for updates to process for expense reimbursement and the Claims Compliance department.
- Amended Chapter XXI, A.1.a. of the Board Policy Manual to allow a past international director who moved permanently to another constitutional area which differs from the constitutional area in which they were elected to receive a budget of 10,000 miles per fiscal year for speaking engagements.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Confirmed the 2022-2023 Leadership Development International Institute Program schedule.
- Affirmed the group leaders for the 2023 FVDG/ DGE Seminar.
- Affirmed the success of GLT multiple district and district coordinators Learn reporting, which is more than double the trainings and participants reported at this time last fiscal year.
- Confirmed next year's expansion of Multiple District 11's Leadership Accountability Pilot to four other multiple districts and one single district.
- Recommended MyLCI read-only access be automatically granted to other past district governors, pending consultation and confirmation from Internet Technology staff by the time of the October 2022 board meeting.

LONG RANGE PLANNING (MAY 2022 MEETING REPORT)

- Received an update on the Lions International Strategic Plan.
- Discussed a pathway for the board of directors to officially recommend a candidate for the position of International Third Vice President.
- Discussed international director endorsement requirements, and the challenges presented by only permitting director candidates from districts with a minimum of 35 clubs and 1,250 members.
- Received an update on communication to leadership, districts, and clubs related to the upcoming dues adjustment proposal.
- Reviewed lessons learned through the Marketing Think Tank, and the approach to developing marketing skills, confidence, and competence at the club level.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

- Reviewed the fourth quarter forecasts and the 2022-2023 budget for the Marketing Division and supporting services.
- Reviewed a year-end update on the PR Grant program and approved a name change to the Marketing Grant Program.
- Reviewed a year-end update on key marketing reports and projects including global advertising, social media, web, and public relations performance.
- Reviewed reports from divisional marketing campaigns, brand support, video and media support, and resource development for select divisions. The committee noted continued increases in marketing support requests.
- Received a report on the support Marketing provides to Membership to support membership priorities in 2022-2023.
- Reviewed the marketing charter in Board Policy Manual, Chapter II to adjust language for the new approach to marketing and the revised

Marketing Grant Program. The committee discussed these updates and requests the board concur by adoption of Resolution 1., hereinafter.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Met with Leadership Development and District and Club Service to discuss small districts and confirmed the Global Membership Approach, implemented correctly, will help small districts grow.
- Reviewed progress updates on the Global Membership Approach and confirmed program success among pilot districts.
- Reviewed and agreed with planned Membership Division work in 2022-2023.
- Discussed fraudulent membership activity in District 3234 D2 and requested staff take action to curtail this behavior, with further action anticipated at the October 2022 board meeting.
- Received a debrief from Leo-Lion Board Liaison Shefanie Vin, providing feedback on her experience.
- Requested staff propose a way to recognize all clubs celebrating their 100-year milestone.

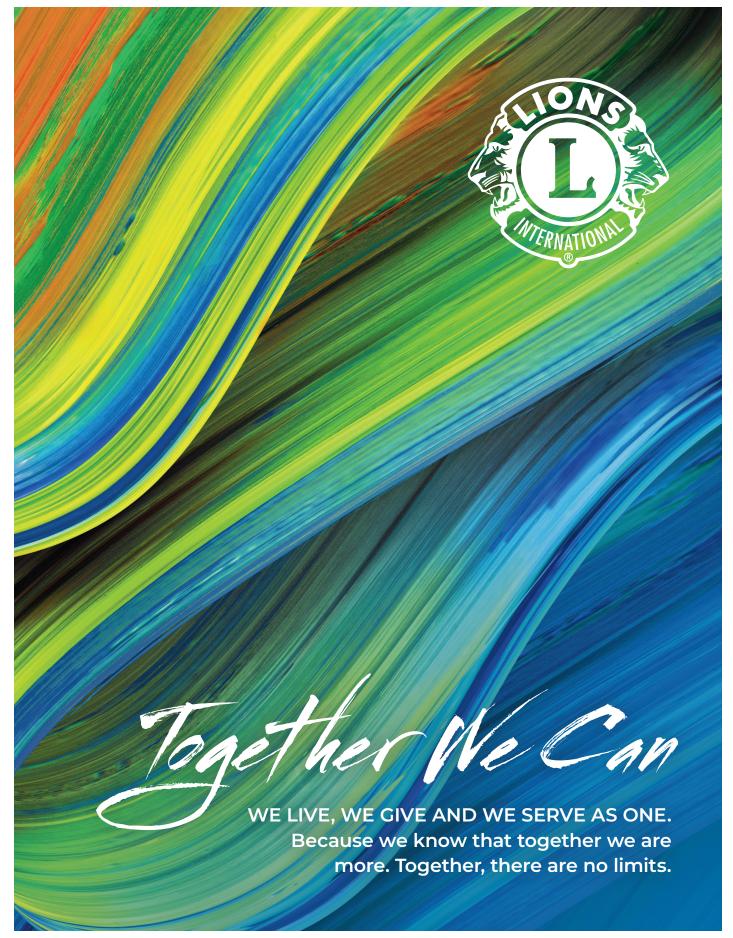
SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- Received a report on service reporting, including the number of people served, the number of service activities, and the percent of clubs reporting service.
- Received an update on advocacy events, including Lions Day with the United Nations and Lions Day on Capitol Hill and Parliament Hill.
- Discussed service programs, the development of LCI's global causes, and implementation of Lions International Strategic Plan.
- Discussed an opportunity to adopt Lions KidSight USA as an official service program of Lions Clubs International.
- Reviewed the Service Activities Division annual plan for fiscal year 2022-2023.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- Received updates on supporting the 2022 International Convention and election.
- Reviewed the 2021-2022 fourth quarter budget forecast and the final 2022-2023 budget for the Technology Division.
- Received a comprehensive update on the Salesforce projects, including the core constituent relationship management (CRM) and the next generation member platform.
- Reviewed updates on privacy initiatives, ongoing steps being taken related to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and requested that staff continue the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 27001 compliance project without formal certification.

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.



A Presidency that Took Flight in

Birt Islant

To know Brian Sheehan is to know Bird Island, a small town in Minnesota where family and community are nearly one and the same. Families take care of one another, and neighbors look out for each other. It's safe. It's trusting. It's close-knit.

"Everybody knows everybody, and everybody watches out for you," said Sheehan. If you need help shoveling the sidewalk or a hand moving, chances are help is right next door. This sense of community, and the feeling of connection it brings, helped shape the life of Sheehan. And so did his family, who were more than just great parents and good neighbors. They were Lions.

His father was a founding member of the Bird Island Lions Club in 1964, and he's proud of that heritage: "We're part of a fourth-generation Lions family." Even the grandfather and father of his wife, Lori, were both Lions. Service was simply a part of his childhood, from delivering Meals on Wheels to selling Christmas trees and then collecting them for his local Lions club bonfire. "At 6 years of age, and in a small community, and with all the things they wanted done, we just tagged along."

As he grew up, he became more and more involved in Lions, cooking homemade sausage at Lion events and taking part in the local demolition derby. Eventually, he joined Lions himself in his 30s. "I made that decision to be part of this organization. It wasn't something that was brought on by my dad necessarily, by him asking me." He knew that Lions were there making his community—and communities around the world—even stronger. Even better. Even closer.

Brian Sheehan also knew at an early age that the best way to make his contribution to his community was to first make something of himself.



Small Town,

Brian left Bird Island for college to become a mechanical engineer. He thought engineering could help him tackle big problems, but after a single computer science class, his priorities changed. The potential in this new, exciting field was clear to him. He returned to Bird Island and immediately placed an order for his first computer.

His business started as a small idea to improve his father's propane delivery routes. Together with his brother, Kevin, he wrote a custom programming language and built an algorithm to keep track of statements and plan routes based on weather and other factors for his father's propane business. And it quickly took off—people from all around Minnesota came looking for the software.

He even moved his business to a larger city in order to expand, but quickly realized that there's no place like home. In Bird Island, he knew the people working for him. He knew he could help his community by being there. Not just as a business owner, but as a friend, a neighbor and a Lion. He realized he could do big things in a small town. And he did.



Sheehan and his Lions club helped build Lions Memorial Park—one of the premier baseball diamonds in Minnesota—to bring people to Bird Island, to bring his community closer and to show everyone how big ideas can be brought to life, even in a small town.

"No one can do something like that on their own. It was a team effort. That's how we bring big ideas to life."

His club is a pillar in the community. His business is global. His dream of being international president is now a reality. After everything he's done, he believes that when we work together, we can make the impossible possible. Which is what he has planned for Lions.











It's so simple, so fundamental, and so true.

Together We Can.

President Sheehan believes it. He sees it in his work, in his service and in his wonderful marriage to Lori—teamwork makes it all work. That's why Together We Can is his message to Lions, and the world.

We see it in our clubs every day. People uniting to build up our communities, to be the helping hand, to change lives. Together.

We see it in the work we do with Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). We take on big life-changing projects that make our communities healthier, more vital and more sustainable. And we do it together.

Lions know we can't do it alone. To accomplish big things, we all have to pull together, roll up our sleeves and put in the work to make the impossible possible. And we do it with a smile because this is how we live, this is how we serve, and this is who we are as Lions.

Every day, we live out the simplicity, the necessity and the absolute beauty of Together We Can.















Achieving Great Things Together

When we carry that spirit of togetherness out into the world, great things happen. Here are some priorities that can help us strengthen our communities and Lions.

Share the Joy of Being a Lion

When our clubs grow, so does the kindness we bring. It takes healthy clubs to keep our service going, our members happy and our communities strong. When we invite family, friends and neighbors to join us, we increase what we can do together. And the fun we have together.

Keep our Foundation Strong

Our service is powered by our foundation, LCIF. Together, we take on bigger projects that lead to bigger impact and bigger change, where we live and around the world. Let's celebrate the success of Campaign 100, and let's continue to support our foundation and the future of service so we can magnify our impact.

Think Big When We Serve

Let's think about how we can make the projects we love even better, and let's look for new ways to support our global causes because real change starts with big ideas. Don't shy away from taking on a big, daring project, and be prepared to be amazed at what we can do together.

Be a Local Advocate

Lions are leaders in their communities, and our service and our voices matter. So be a champion for a local cause. Create awareness, education and change. Become a local leader—and a vocal leader—for your club, your causes and your community.



are some great ways to put Together We Can to work in your club and your community.

Teamwork

Teamwork is the engine that drives us forward-it's how great things happen. So it's up to each of us to pitch in, to do our part, and to be a team player. Not only will we get great things done, but we'll be part of something greater than ourselves too.

Attitude

We're driven by a passion for helping others-and we have fun doing it. So keep in mind that a smile and a can-do attitude are contagious. When our service and fellowship reflect the joy within us, we can achieve the best possible outcomes and bring out the very best in ourselves.

Thinking outside of the box

This expression usually denotes innovation and big change-but it's really about problem-solving. It's a willingness to reassess and set aside old ways, to get creative and try new things. And when you embrace it, you just may find that the impossible is, in fact, possible.







More than US\$300 million raised! Thank you for everything you did to make Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service a huge success. LCIF is making a difference because of your support

Greetings Fellow Humanitarian,

On behalf of the Lions of the world and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), we want to thank you for your outstanding commitment to Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service.

It was our sincere pleasure to announce at the 104th Annual Lions International Convention in Montreal that we successfully reached – and even exceeded – our campaign goals.

Because of your leadership and support, LCIF raised a total of US\$324.6 million during this historic campaign.

We are grateful to each and every one of you for everything you have done to make this campaign so successful. We could not have accomplished this amazing milestone without your hard work and dedication. This success is a reflection of your leadership and humanitarian spirit.

Throughout your years of service to this campaign,

We did it - Together!

your leadership and example helped ensure that LCIF can continue empowering those serving to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and protect the vulnerable in the years and decades to come

Even during the course of the campaign, the impact of Campaign 100 was felt globally through:

- New grant programs in Childhood Cancer and Hunger to improve quality of life for those in need
- Mobilized the Refugees and Displaced Persons fund to provide safety and security for those fleeing their homes during immensely challenging times
- Increased ability for LCIF to quickly award grants in times of disaster and during global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic
- Continued support for the world's youth through Lions Quest programming and grants
- Innovative grant projects to protect and restore our environment to improve the well-being of all communities
- Lives changed for the better many even saved
 because of Lions' service in vision, diabetes
 and other humanitarian efforts globally

We should all be very proud of what our organization was able to accomplish because of LCIF and Campaign 100.

Let us not forget that the needs of the world continue to grow, and we must build on this campaign success



to ensure the future of our foundation's ability to magnify our service to those in need around the world for generations to come. We thank you for your continued support, and look forward to working with you in service in the years to come. While the campaign is coming to an end, our work together as Lions empowered by LCIF continues.

With sincere gratitude,



Dr. Jitsuhiro YamadaPast International
President
Campaign 100
Chairperson



J. Frank Moore III
Past International
President
Campaign 100 Vice
Chairperson

LAK JOF

CNIB Lake Joe welcomes the Lions back after COVID closure

There is a rich history between Lions and CNIB Lake Joe. Recognizing the life-changing role camp plays in the lives of people with sight loss, in 1960 CNIB in collaboration with the Lions Family of Ontario and the Canadian Council of the Blind, purchased a small piece of paradise from the MacDonald family on Lake Joseph in Muskoka.

The Lions' connection and dedication to the camp runs deep. As CNIB Lake Joe reopened its doors to in-person programming in 2022, we're thrilled to have our local Lions join us onsite.

Every Wednesday, several Lions representing clubs from across Ontario, willingly give up their time to host Bingo night. They are involved in every part of the night's activities – from calling the numbers to clearing up after the games.

"One of the primary goals of the Lions Club is to assist those that are blind," explains *Janice Campbell* of the **Wasaga Beach Lions Club**, "so, our goal of coming here is to encourage and provide fun for those who are blind and their families."

She added that it's nice to be back. "It's good to see a semblance of regular life coming back for everybody, including those with special needs and their families. It's important to have social interaction and get back together."

However, the most exciting part for the participants are the prizes. Munashe Nya,16, played

bingo while he was at the camp for the Canadian Leadership Development Program. "Bingo was so much fun!" he gushed. "I was really surprised when they offered money as prizes. It made me stay for a few rounds. When I heard \$10, I sat down."

Another point of pride for the Lions is the Friendship Arch. Lions **Randy Hargrave** and **Byron McLellan** from the **Penetanguishene Club** graciously donated their time to renew the Friendship Arch with a fresh coat of paint, new Lions emblems and landscaping.









The Montreal Experience - Convention internationale des Lions 2022

We have assembled a collection of photos courtesy of Lions International and MD'A' personalities, District Governors Ev Spiering- A1, Susan Tunicliffe-A4 and Bob Beaven-A5. There is a good amount of convention material on the LCI Site,

including a feature on our new International President, Brian Sheehan, who was our feature speaker at the MD'A' convention. Videos can be viewed at: https://lcicon.lionsclubs.org/











"Moving Forward in 2023"

MD'A' CONVENTION REGISTRATION

May 26, 27, 28, 2023

Reserve rooms directly with the Hotel Four Points by Sheraton, 1150 Wellington Road South, London, ON 519-681-0600 REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND ANY FUNCTION OR MEAL

Person A Lion Leo Guest	Person B Lion Leo Guest
Club District	Club District
Name:	Name:
Dietary Requirements / Allergies:	Summary of FEES:
Dietary Requirements / Allergies:	Summary of FEES: Convention Registration: Before 31 Dec 2022 [] x \$25 = \$ After 31 Dec 2022 [] x \$30 = \$
	Convention Registration: Before 31 Dec 2022 [] x \$25 = \$
PAYMENT METHODS: Cheque payable to "2023 MDA CONVENTION" and forward to: Lion Rosemary Kennedy, R# 4, 11206 Springfield Road, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R3 R - 519.773.2751 C - 519.859.2751 email: mdareg2023@gmail.com Registration & etransfer to: mdareg2023@gmail.com	Convention Registration: Before 31 Dec 2022 [] x \$25 = \$ After 31 Dec 2022 [] x \$30 = \$ Meal Package: [] x \$180 = \$

- **★** Every Lion, Leo or Guest MUST be registered using this form and payment made
- **★** Payment MUST accompany this form & forwarded to Registration Chair to confirm registration
- **★** All Cancellations must be in writing. No Refunds after March 31st, 2023, except in the event the host committee has to cancel due to a pandemic or gov't regulations
- **★** NO meals or hotel rooms guaranteed AFTER 27th April 2023

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be made by April 27", 2023 in order to be eligible for the group rate.

If you have special room requirements, please advise the Four Points at the time of booking.

Check in time is after 3pm

Checkout time is 11 am.

MONTRÉAL 2022 Ved Liou Cole International Convention

DOGGUIDES

CHENS-GUIDES

LFC Dog Guides at International Convention -LFC à Montréal

The Lions Foundation of Canada was on display in Montreal, staff and volunteers made the trip along with their

four-legged friends. The response from the parade viewers was heart warming to say the least. Their display in the convention hall was a popular place to visit and be greeted by one of the dog guides.



LFC staff and volunteers — L-R: Bev (CEO), Mavis, Danielle, Julie, Kristina and Haley

Official Greeter



In front of main convention sign



On Parade - L-R: Hayley, Bev (CEO) and Kristina and friends



International Parade on pause

MD'A' Peace Poster Contest 2022



An added starter from the 2022 MD'A' convention was the presentation of the award for the winner of the Peace Poster contest, the theme this year was "We Are All Connected".

Jayden Stickwood, a student at Sunderland Public School, sponsored by the **Sunderland Lions** was the winner. Her poster got international recognition as she received a Merit Award from LCI.



L-R: Winner Jayden Stickwood, the now International President, Lion Brian Sheehan, contest coordinator Lion Janet Dawson Brock and International Director Lion Allan Snider

Lions Charity Run 2022 – We Run, We Serve!

Runners raise awareness and funds to help children of Ukraine by running 638 Miles (1,026 km) from Chicago to Montreal

Convention in Montreal.

June 24 at the 104th Lions Clubs International – the supplier of sportswear and footwear for the

This run marks the 10th anniversary of the

Freedom Charity Run. Since the formation of the Run, volunteer runners have run 6.500 km in 15 countries on three continents and collected almost \$208,000.00 to help children in more than 10 countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The collected funds from past runs have been used to build schools in Rwanda & Tanzania, develop a student hostel in Lokhim, Nepal and helped refugees from Syria by

providing funds to buy ambulance.

The children of Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Ukraine have also been supported due to funds raised at past runs. The patrons of the run have been the presidents of Poland, Germany, Lithuania and Latvia, the president of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, and the mayors of several dozen cities that were on the route of the previous runs.

> People interested in helping children in Ukraine can help by making a payment to the account below, joining the race anywhere on the route, or simply purchasing a Freedom Charity Run tee-shirt.

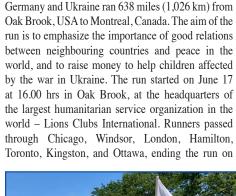
The organizers declare that all collected funds will go to those in need without any deductions. All costs of the run are covered by the participants themselves, or they are financed thanks to the kindness of the sponsors: Texet Poland, Toyota Bońkowscy, Puro Hotels and Craft

runners.









Eight runners, Lions clubs members from Poland,



St. Davids Lions Recognized for LCIF **Contributions**

recognized at the MD'A' convention for the member Model Club challenge. club's continuous contributions to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and for completing the Campaign 100 Model Club challenge.

Through public awareness, club member contributions, a Christmas chocolate fundraiser and a memorial golf tournament in memory of a long serving club member **Pete Merritt**, the club met its goal: first achieving the CDN \$360/member Maple

The St. Davids Lions and Lioness Clubs were Leaf Club status and then the USF \$500/

L-R: The now International President, Brian Sheehan, St. Davids Lions members, International Director Allen Snider and Lion Susan Snider, Lion Lori Sheehan. Rear: PDG Jim



District A5 "News from the Near North"

Lions in District A5 Have Been Busy

The town of Callander's recent family fun day was a huge success. The town held the celebration with many vendors and attractions, including the *Callander Lions* who operated a food both selling french fries, hot dogs and ice cold drinks. On the day of the event, the temperature hovered around 37° C or for those of us prefer the old method, try 98° F. The volunteer Lions worked in the heat over fryer and grills to raise money to help out in their community. Lion *Claire* handled the fryer, Lions *Debbra* and *Gail* served the food, Lion *Julie* from Capreol handled the grill and Lions *Brenda*, *Minnow Lake Lions* and *Linda*, *Coniston Lions* handled the orders and money. The event sold out of fries and many drinks before the afternoon was over. Special thanks to Lions Julie and Lynda for coming out to



was Rosalie Torcotte of Callander, congratulations.

Ferris Lions were pleased to welcome Virginia Elliot to their meeting recently. She lives in the North Bay

district and is a new recipient of a Dog Guide from the Lions Foundation of Canada. She gave an interesting talk about her experience. Virginia is hearing impaired and was paired with her dog "Morley" and received the extensive training at the foundation.



Ferris Lions Club would like to give a big thank you to all who supported their BBQ draw fundraiser. Special thanks to Nippissing Propane, Walmart and No Frills. The winners were Shawn Gutzeit who won the BBQ, Marlene Bergeron, (Walmart Gift cards) and K Jackson (No Frills Gift Card). All proceeds to go back into helping our community.

Ferris Lions of North Bay would like to give a big thank you to the North Bay Scouting group for all their help in our Annual Tag Day. This group of 18 Scouters will be participating at the Jamboree in Helsinki, Finland along with upwards of 14,000 scouts. This donation is just a little help to get them on their way. Good luck to the Scouts on this big adventure.



L-R: Lion Chief Claude Beauline, Scouters Julie Carson, Derek Lawday, Lion John Marcil

Our very own Lion **Ken Gray** just celebrated 45 years of service in Lionism. He is a very active member of our club and a valued member. We are looking forward to another 45 years with you. Congratulations. Making the chevron presentation is PDG **Carmen Portelance**.



Batawa Lions Roar into Summer Raising Funds their Community and LCIF

The Batawa Lions Club held its Community BBQ on a sunny and windy Saturday, June 18th to celebrate their 10th Anniversary as a service club. This family-friendly event was attended by 150 residents, family, distinguished guests and Lions. The event, held at the

Batawa Lions Community Park included food, door prizes, music, wagon rides, face painting and much more. The proceeds of the event pushed the Lions Club 10th Anniversary Fundraising Goal to \$10,000 thanks to all those who attended and volunteered to

make this event a huge success. A highlight of the afternoon was a cheque presentation for \$500 to the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF.

Batawa Club President Joseph Coward stated that: "For our Tenth Anniversary we wanted to do something special. We brought together everyone who have supported our club in the past or has been positively impacted by our service projects, for a fun

community event that celebrates Batawa, Quinte West, and Lionism.

As a Lions Club we don't brag about our accomplishments, we prefer to serve the community; however, we take pride in knowing that we have made a positive impact."





Amaranth Lions

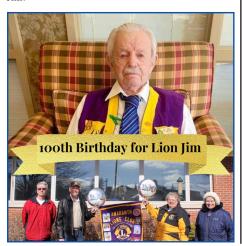
Lion *Jim Melen* has always been a community man. He served eight years on Dufferin County Council, and one year as both deputy reeve and reeve of Amaranth Township. He was a charter member of Amaranth Lions Club and prior to that, he was a member of *Mono Mills Club*. Jim recently received his chevron for 45 years of being a Lion. He was the Tail Twister for Amaranth for several years and always had a joke to finish with.

As to what life lesson he would pass along to others, Melen gave a very simple answer.

"Be kind to everyone," he said. "Don't be selfish. Find something in common and talk. You're not going to get along with your community if you always have a chip on your shoulder."

Jim now resides in the Lord Dufferin Centre. Jim celebrated his 100th birthday on April 2nd of this year.

Editors note: Our apologies to Lion Jim and the Amaranth Lions, we have had Jim's file for quite a while and it got lost in the shuffle, we are happy to report that Jim is still kicking. Congratulations Lion Jim!





West London Lions Attend 2022 Young Lions Retreat

Report from West London Lions & Canadian Young Lions from: Renay Rahman, President of the West London Lions Club, and the Co- Chair of the 2022 Canadian Young Lions Retreat.

Being a part of Lions International I recognize the opportunity the organization provides for members to take on initiatives to strengthen their communities and support others through humanitarian services. And as a young Lion, I believe there are many opportunities for our younger Lions and Leos to continue to develop awareness of communities and current humanitarian efforts they would be impassioned to take service for. A part of the Young Lions Retreat, we aim to build awareness of subjects that are important for future young Canadian leaders. For the 2022 Retreat we chose to focus on a subject that is deep rooted in Canada, and that is building awareness of indigenous history and culture. The opportunity to have both mature and young Lions learn and educate themselves on indigenous history and their present predicaments, that is much more personal to what is taught in public education and textbooks.

Through the support of Young Lions Retreat advisor, PDG **George Corrin**, I had the privilege to build a communication bridge with the Six Nations community, and a start of a partnership with the Youth Council. And with my conversations with Six Nations Youth Council Coordinator, Darryl Hill, we share the same goal in spreading awareness and education of indigenous history. We narrowed down to the important topics of discussion to present at the Retreat: understanding indigenous culture and history, and the importance of land acknowledgments. We were pleased to hear the reception of the presentation, and the feedback from our attending Lions and Leos who demonstrated eagerness to be introduced to resources and opportunities to learn more indigenous

culture. Along with the many shared resources, the Six Nations Youth Council kindly open an invitation to their Grand River "Champion of Champions" Pow Wow - a sacred social gathering in honour of traditions of their ancestors. At the Pow Wow, I had the opportunity to be guided around by Darryl, learning more about indigenous art, cuisine and culture, and had the opportunity to watch and meet indigenous dancers from across North America. I was later given the opportunity to visit with Darryl at the Mohawk Institute Residential School, a now landmark of a tragic past that highlights important conversations for reconciliation. Overall, the time given by the Six Nations Youth Council to the young Lions and the Canadian Young Lions Retreat demonstrates an eagerness to spread awareness of indigenous culture and history to the younger generation. And we look to continue this partnership,



Lions of A711 CNE Peewee Baseball Tournament

The tournament has been operating since 1956. The Lions got involved as a sponsor in August of 1997. This is the 25th year of being a proud sponsor of this long standing tradition.

This year we were able, through club donations and the snack bar which operates during the tournament, to give the CNE a donation of \$10,000.00.

The Lions like the idea of volunteering their time to work the booth and have enjoyed the experience as much as the customers enjoyed the food.

The Lions Clubs involved will ensure they are involved the tournament for as long as it continues.

Submitted by Lion Wayne Hoey, Past District Governor 1996-1997

L-R: CNE Liason PDG Wayne Hoey, PDG Russ Fedun, Governor Ferdy Coronel, PDG Jeff Friedman, Peewee Chair Ed Bosker, PDG Sandy Heral-Judhan, the CNE Princess, CNE Board Members and in the back ground two hard working Peewee volunteers



2600 Dozen Donuts served at the 2022 Port Colborne Lions Carnival! The Port Colborne Lions Club

The Port Colborne Lions Club carnival returned this year after a two-year covid-19 hiatus: The community of Port Colborne were ecstatic with the rides, the many draws and of course the food, donuts, and crystal beach waffles. The crowds were amazing, and their support continues to show that Port Colborne truly supports their Lions Club.

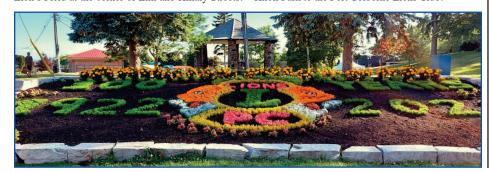
One of the many draw prizes that were up for grabs at this year's carnival was a Mitch Marner jersey complete with shadow box, being displayed here by Lion **Sharon Leavere**. After two years of being locked up at home, it appears the public was ready to come out in full force. The food and waffle booths surpassed previous sales, and what can we say about our fabulous Port Colborne Lions donuts, with sales exceeding 2,600 dozen.



City of Port Colborne Celebrates 100 years of Lions Community Service

The Port Colborne Lions will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in October of this year with a special celebration dinner. Thus far this year they have erected a new Lion's Arch at the City's owned Lion's Field at the corner of Elm and Killaly Streets.

They are also installing two new park benches at H. H. Knoll park for use by the general public. To recognize the Port Colborne Lions anniversary, the City of Port Colborne has dedicated their floral garden at H. H. Knoll Park to the Port Colborne Lions Club.



Kitchener Pioneer

Throughout the pandemic, the Kitchener Pioneer Lions Club continued to serve the community. Where there's a need, there's a Lion. There is a big need in local hospitals for equipment to better serve the healthcare needs of our community.

The funding of hospital equipment is not provided by the provincial government and each hospital must rely on outside sources. Arequest was received by our club help to provide funding for hospital equipment. With a donation of approximately \$77,000.00 the club provided resources for the Grand River Hospital to purchase a Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy board that will help in the treatment of specific cancers.

Additionally the club has provided the In-center Hemodialysis Unit with eight specially designed dialysis chairs. These chairs will make the four-hour, three times a week dialysis treatments more comfortable for the many dialysis patients in Waterloo Region.

The Kitchener Pioneer Lions Club have challenged the other clubs of Waterloo Region to assist the Grand River Hospital Foundation in meeting their equipment funding goals.



Mountain Township & District Lion's Celebrate Canada Day 2022



The event featuring live music in large tent, refreshments, snacks and inflatable attractions for the children

Mountain Township Lions drew a crowd of over 2000 from the township and surrounding

Thanks to the efforts of Lion **Ed Duncan** for his role and commitment as Committee Chairman. His knowledge and organizational skills are necessary assets for successful events of this size.

Later in the evening, the North Dundas Fire Department signaled the beginning of the much anticipated fireworks display. Eventgoers, both young and old, enjoyed the display evening and a chance to celebrate Canada's birthday!





In the July/August/September issue of 2019 we published an article about Lion Kevin Frost of the *Orleans Lions Club*. The article described Kevin's exploits in the realm of international speed skating with references to his participation in blind golf, tandem bicycle racing, along with competitive rowing and running. Further, he has been selected to attend the World Blind Golf Championships in South Africa in 2023.

As referenced in the original article Kevin is a three-time World Blind Champion in short track speed skating and ranks 8th in the world against able-bodied skaters. Lions have sponsored Frost in many competitions. He has been a Lion for over 15 years and recently received his membership chevron from Club President **Sylvie Blanchette**.

The magazine, unfortunately does not have the space to list all of Kevin's accomplishments, hence

Lion Kevin Frost, World Class Blind Speed Skater, Blind Golfer, Blind Para-Cyclist, Competitive Rowing and now an author.

we have provided links to his website and the Lion Magazine article from 2019. They are definitely worth a read.

The initial Lion magazine article can be found at: https://bit.ly/3Av8vKP, on page 26, it is only the beginning of a fantastic story.

There is also a wealth of information on Kevin's website at: https://deafblindspeedskater.com/

It is suggested you check out at both links for a comprehensive look at what one person with a great ambition can accomplish, despite their handicap. He also has a facebook page, which is a wealth of information: https://bit.ly/3pTg4WN

Kevin is also kept busy with motivational speaking engagements, to the tune of over 300 sessions world wide, including a TEDx presentation at Ashbury College in Ottawa.

One might assume that someone with a story like this should write a book and that's exactly what happened in this case. Kevin's story has been published and is due for release in September. It will be available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and on Audible. If you would like to order some printed copies, have any questions, or would like to book a presentation/talk/Zoom meeting for your club please contact him directly at DeafBlindChampion@gmail.com







MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting September 23-24, 2022
- Council Meeting November 18-19, 2022
- Council Meeting February 10-11, 2023
- Council Meeting May 26-27, 2023 (Convention)

District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Four Points Sheraton, London	Mar. 31, Apr. 1-2, 2023
A2	Holiday Inn, St. Catharines	March 24-26, 2023
A3	Four Points Sheraton, Kingston	April 28-30, 2023
A4	Four Points Sheraton, Kingston	April 21-23, 2023
A5	Northern College, Kirkland Lake	April 28-30, 2023
A711	Sheraton Parkway Hotel	April 14-16, 2023
A9	Sure Stay Best Western, Kincardine	April 28-30, 2023
A12	Allure Hotel and Conference Centre, Barrie	April 14-16, 2023
A15	Best Western, Brantford	April 14-16, 2023
A16	Holiday Inn, Peterborough	April 21-23, 2023

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

Four Points Sheraton, London May 26 - 28, 2023

International Conventions

1106th	Boston, Mass., USA	July 7 - 11, 2023
107th	Melbourne, Australia	June 21 - 25, 2024
108th	Mexico City, Mexico	July 4 - 8, 2025
109th	Altanta, GA, USA	July 3 - 7, 2026
110th	Washington, DC, USA	July 2 - 6, 2027

USA - Canada Forums

Sept 14 - 16, 2023	Reno, Nevada
Sept 5 - 7, 2024	Louisville, Kentucky

Thamesford Lions

Community Environmental Projects; Roads & Parks Cleanup Day

In April ten members of the Thamesford Lions helped to clean up the four main roads leading into our village. The club has been doing this community service twice a year on a regular basis. It is part of a roadside cleanup program working with Oxford County and Zorra Township. Our club also partnered with families of Grade 8 students from Thamesford Public School, plus three other community families who "just wanted to help" by cleaning in four parks in town.



Pollinator Gardens

One of the newer initiatives of the Thamesford Lions Parks & Environment committee this year was to establish a "Pollinator Garden" in North Park. Working in equal financial partnership with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), the Lions began preparation last fall at a location chosen in the North Park. This spring, Lions completed preparation of the site and with guidance from Linda Smith & Kim Gilbert of UTRCA, members of the Thamesford Girl Guides troop and the Lions completed the planting.



At the same time last fall, Zorra Township made plans to establish a second garden located near the entrance sign at the Lions River Park on the other side of the village. The township totally covered the cost of this project and worked with UTRCA, who once again selected and guided the planting of that garden this spring.



St. Davids Lions

Family Carnival Returns After a 2 Year Covid Delay

Quoting in a Recent Niagara on the Lake news article: **Glenn Miller**, president of the St. Davids Lions Club and Carnival Chair, says this year's four-day event was what they expected — BIGGER and BETTER than ever. The totals are now in: our Family Carnival exceed previous participation levels!

With the exception of Wednesday, the crowd was bigger than previous years, stayed later than is typical, and ate more than ever. Some of the items, including fries and hot dogs, were sold out, and amusement rides provider Townsend Amusements was more than happy with the ride numbers and will return again next year. Arranged by Lion member Ken Lamb, our local music entertainment was great, including the high school youth who performed on Saturday afternoon.



Group "Vinyl Flux" perform at the St. Davids Lions Carnival

"We were expecting event to be above average, above what would be a normal carnival, because of the enthusiasm we heard leading up to it, and that's exactly what we saw," says Miller.



Racing Family on Carnival Fun Slide

Since the event, there has been ample positive word of mouth comments about our annual Lions BBQ food offerings! All food prepared and served by enthusiastic Lions and Leo Club members assisted by numerous community volunteers.



Grand Prize Winners Lori & Ken Moerschfelder with Carnival Chair Glenn Miller



Lions Hoops Challenge - Created by Lion Mark Robertson

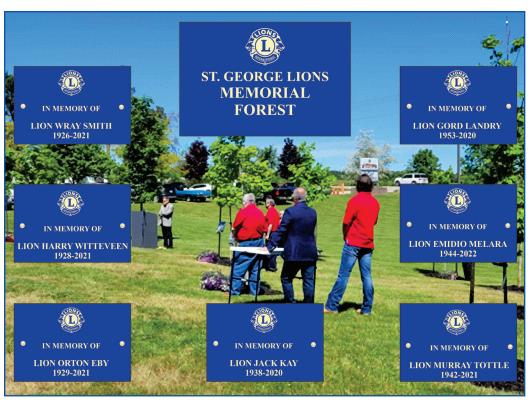


Our Burger Chef Joe Typer & Volunteer



Burger Barn Service Team — LEO and Friends

St. George Lions Club - Memorial Forest Dedication



George Lions a number of years ago. It has been used by the County of Brant for many years for soccer and other events. Over the past few years the Club has been planting in anticipation of starting a Memorial Forest.

Elliot Field was purchased by St.

On June 4th the club held the first Memorial Forest Dedication Ceremony. Seven trees were dedicated to Lions who had passed over the past two years. It was a perfect, sunny day with a wonderful turnout of invited guests and members.

Lion *Kevin Hewitson* was the emcee for the dedication. The ceremony began with a prayer and music. Each departed Lion was recognized individually. As their name was read a bell was sounded by Lion Chief *Steve Ferretti*, and a plaque marking the tree was uncovered by a Lion member.

The seven Lions remembered were: Lion Gord Landry, Lion Harry Witteveen, Lion Jack Kay, Lion Wray Smith, Lion Murray Tottle, Lion Orton Eby, and Lion Emidio Melara. All of these Lions had different interests in life but they had one thing in common. They became Lions

because they wanted to join the club and make a difference in their community.

The Memorial Forest will be a source of comfort and meaning to those who have suffered a loss. Planting the trees, is a symbol of hope, a sign of new beginnings and a living tribute. This memorial forest, not only pays a significant tribute to the memory of our lost Lions, but also ensures a better environment for generations to come.

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

A-7/11 Lion Astrid Simola: a.simola@sympatico.ca

A-9 Lion Wayne White: wanda.wayne@rogers.com

A-12 Lion Jenn Rebidoux: jenn.rebidoux@sympatico.ca

A-15 Lion Bob Pearson: bobpearson50@gmail.com

A-16 Lion Tim Cheung: tcheung@lionsa16.com

Editor Lion Bob Pearson mdathelionmag@hotmail.com



Four US Presidents are members or have been members of Lions Clubs International. President Gerald Ford was a member of the Grand Rapids Lions Club. President Ronald Reagan was a member of the Dixon Noon Lions Club (Life Member). President Jimmy Carter still serves as a member of the Plains Lions Club. President George W. Bush became an honorary member of LCI during the 101st Lions Clubs International Convention in Las Vegas.

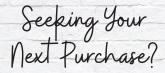






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Niagara Falls Lions Club Celebrates Its 100 Years of Serving



One hundred years ago in 1922, the Niagara Falls Lions Club began its life as a leader in the field of community service in the Niagara Falls area. A meeting was held in the Park Refectory on June 22 of that year with 25 charter members choosing **Charles Swayze** as their first president. As our club reaches its 100th anniversary, we pride ourselves on being the longest continuously active club in the A2 district and Canada.

While our fundraisers and donations have changed over the years, one thing has remained constant, our strong and constant dedication to the people of our community and especially to our children. In 1925, Helen Keller inspired the Lions to support the visually impaired. Lions jumped right in to provide eye exams and glasses for those in need of assistance. Every year in the Club's history saw donations and working eye care, including donations and assistance to CNIB Lake Joseph Camp for the Blind, LFC Guide Dogs and the Lions Recycle for Sight program.

In 2019, we participated in the Regional Health Units vision screening program for Senior Kindergarten students. In 2020, the club contributed towards the eye care of a young girl who was in need of speciality glasses that were being custom made by the University of Waterloo.

1927 saw our first carnival. It was deemed a success and was continued annually until 2012. The Lions Club Carnival was always something kids and adults looked forward to as it created so much fun and enjoyment. Being a major fund-raiser, the carnival provided us with funds to carry on our work in the community; such as, food baskets for those in need. The Carnival helped us fund the cost of building the Lions Club pool next to our clubhouse and the skating complex that opened in 1978. Although the skating complex is no longer there, the Niagara Falls Lions Park boasts a splash pad, picnic tables, benches, a short tree lined walking path and playground: now operated by the town.

The pool offered a Learn to Swim program which taught many of our city's children how to swim. 1970 was a big year and it saw our first Major Draw event. A major fund-raising event that lasted for 50 years. Funds received from the Major Draw allowed our Club to donate large sums to the Niagara Falls Hospital Foundation. One of our other major fund-raisers is the annual Christmas tree sale. This began in 1978 and continues today. While people scout out the perfect tree, it is common to hear, "We've been coming here for 25 years to get our Christmas tree." This major event would not be possible



without the aid of the Niagara Falls Ringette team. The Ringette players assist with the unloading of the trees and help in the selling process. In return, they receive a generous donation to assist them in the running of the upcoming season.

Over the past 100 years the Niagara Falls Lions Club has been an integral

part of the community it supports, and as we surpass our centennial, we plan to continue to be that integral part.

Agreement Number is: 41805020*