

LION

JUNE 2017 // lionmagazine.org

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get struggling veterans
back on their feet



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International Convention
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June 30-July 4, 2017**

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*“To empower
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meet humanitarian
needs, encourage
peace and promote
international
understanding
through Lions
clubs.”*

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International President Chancellor Bob Corlew screens a student's vision at a school in Atlanta, Georgia, on one of his two centennial bus tours.

Our Second Century to Surpass the First

This year Dianne and I had the privilege to travel the world during Lions' centennial year. We visited a crime-filled Trinidad neighborhood where Lions built a lovely playground to provide an oasis of peace. We put on big waders and helped Lions clean a stream in a city in Korea. We celebrated inclusion with Special Olympics at our U.N. Day in New York, chartered new Lions and Leos clubs and took an epic bus tour in which we witnessed Lions' passion for service in small towns and big cities.

What struck me was how Lions constantly adapt, change and grow. We may be 100 years old, but we are youth-like in so many ways. Despite the challenge and exertion involved, we do indeed climb new mountains. Lions who do vision screenings start a full-fledged clinic. Lions who operate a clinic start doing cataract surgeries. Lions with a two-story hospital add a third story. We keep doing more and more.

I've talked to many people served by Lions and realized anew how appreciative people are. My respect for Lions has grown exponentially. Time and time again I've seen how effective our projects are. We've been good about evolving as the world changes. We must continue to provide direction to change.

Overall, Lions Clubs International (LCI) is poised for a great second century. We achieved our goal of serving

100 million people almost two years early. We established the Welcome Home program aimed at former Lions, continued to embrace technology, both among clubs and at LCI, and worked together to alleviate humanitarian crises such as the refugee problem and natural disasters.

At our 100th convention in Chicago our centennial torch will be part of the celebration. Its light symbolizes that we are lights to our communities. We bring our service to places filled with darkness and provide hope and opportunity. It's a flame of unity, too. We are one big family that works together.

Thanks to everyday Lions like yourself, I know our second century will be even better than the first. Dianne and I thank you for your hospitality and warmth this year, for your service year after year and hope to see you in Chicago in a few weeks.



Chancellor Bob Corlew
Lions Clubs International President

[The Big Picture



Hang Time



Alex Mau, a 5-year-old with autism, lounges in a swing at the Sensory Courtyard in Fremont, Nebraska. See the photo essay about the Lions' project on page 40. Photo by Matt Dixon



Stan the Man

Several decades ago Stan Brock was working at a cattle ranch in the middle of the Amazon rain forest when a horse kicked him in the head. The nearest doctor was 350 miles away. Fortunately, he recovered on his own. But he realized how vulnerable isolated people are and how tribes are devastated by easily treatable diseases. Determined to deliver basic medical care to people in hard-to-reach regions, Brock established the nonprofit Remote Area Medical in 1985. Since then, the all-volunteer group has held 850 mobile medical clinics worldwide, providing free health care to more than 680,000 people. RAM once focused on dispatching health expeditions to countries such as Guyana, India and Haiti but increasingly



(Clockwise from left) A daughter waits as her mother's teeth are cleaned at a RAM medical clinic in Memphis, Tennessee. Blind in one eye, a man has his eyes examined before receiving a new pair of glasses at a RAM clinic. Stan Brock gives the A-OK after a pre-flight check.

Watch an interesting video on Remote Area Medical and a brief ABC news report.

its work is in the United States. Patients typically seek eye care, and Lions often have helped staff the mobile clinics. For many rural Americans, beset by chronic health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, RAM has been a godsend. For his unstinting devotion to the underserved and his practical, rubber-meets-the road approach to health care, Brock, 81, will receive the 2016 Lions Clubs International Humanitarian Award at the centennial convention this summer in Chicago. He is accustomed to the spotlight. Beginning in the 1960s, he was co-host of TV's "Wild Kingdom," on which he famously wrestled giant anacondas and dodged charging elephants. Now he wrestles with helping the uninsured and underinsured avoid the pitfalls and quicksand of illness and disease.



Charlie Bruskotter reads his essay at Lions Day with the United Nations in March.

OHIO BOY WINS ESSAY CONTEST

Charlie Bruskotter, 12, plays the piano and drums, listens avidly to science podcasts and reads popular books. He also is a gifted writer. Charlie, who lives in Delaware, Ohio, is the grand prize winner of this year's Lions International Essay Contest for visually impaired youth. He has ocular albinism, a genetic condition that affects his vision. Both of Charlie's parents and two grandparents are Lions. His essay asserts that peace will come if we are friendly to others, open to new ideas and accept one another's differences. "By accepting differences, we can get to know people that we would never know if we judged them by how they looked or acted," he wrote. Charlie will receive \$5,000 and be honored at the 100th International Convention in July in Chicago. The award was announced in March in New York at Lions Day with the United Nations. The ceremony was attended by Charlie, his parents, a younger brother, two grandparents and Michael Jones, president of the sponsoring Delaware Lions Club.

[Read Charlie's essay.](#)

'MAGIC GLASSES' DO THE TRICK

When Cross Burchett was 3, he suddenly discovered trees had needles, not "poky things on it." Everything had been blurry until he received what he called his "magic glasses." He started wearing



Holding hands with his mother, Kerri, Cross Burchett now can see well thanks to Lions.

eyeglasses after a Colorado Lions Kidsight screening. Now a teenager, Cross's story is told in a "Where Are They Now" segment in the latest LQ, the Lions Quarterly Video Magazine. The April LQ also features the "Houses of Love" established for the elderly by South Korean Lions, suicide prevention efforts by Irish Lions and a new Leo club at the South Carolina School for the Blind. Be sure to "like" and share LQ on social media. LQ is available on the LCI website, YouTube, iTunes and DVD.

[Watch the latest LQ.](#)

A LIVELY 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' VIDEO

We may be 100 years old, but the latest creation from Lions Clubs International celebrating the centennial is a zippy, 105-second-long video. "Happy 100th Birthday, Lions" features Lions from various nations sending birthday wishes in their own language. It's a fun, fast-paced evocation of the universality of Lions Clubs as well as a reminder of how Lions treasure their membership.

[Watch the video.](#)



Lions in California arranged for a private issue stamp to mark the centennial.

COLORFUL CENTENNIAL STAMPS ISSUED

Twenty-nine nations so far have put a “stamp of approval” on the Lions’ centennial by authorizing postage stamps honoring Lions’ 100th anniversary. The U.S. Postal Service does not approve stamps honoring nonprofits, but California Lions arranged for a private issue stamp that shows founder Melvin Jones and the Lions logo. Private issue stamps are valid stamps that sell for nearly twice the price of a regular stamp. Five years in the making, the international stamp campaign was spearheaded by Dr. Howard Levenson, a Lion from California since 1962 and a member of the Lions International Stamp Club (LISC) for nearly as long. He says it’s hard to pick a favorite among the centennial stamps: “They’re all very colorful.” Many show the Lions logo. Australia’s has the number “100” with the logo in the second “O.” Besides the logo, New Caledonia shows a canoe and a map of the nation. LISC will sell centennial stamps at its booth at the upcoming centennial convention in Chicago. The U.S./California stamp can be purchased from Levenson at howard326@gmail.com.

View some of the centennial stamps.

Also, read a feature story about Lions and stamp collecting (March 2013 LION).

TOP TEN: CENTENNIAL MERCHANDISE SOLD



1 COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROOF
72,945*



2 CENTENNIAL LAPEL EMBLEM PIN
19,861



3 LIONS CENTENNIAL DECAL
5,800



4 CENTENNIAL PIERCED LAPEL PIN
5,358



5 CENTENNIAL PIERCED LAPEL MINI
4,306



6 OVAL EURO STICKER
3,042



7 100TH ANNIVERSARY TAB
2,811



8 CENTENNIAL MEMBER BADGE PIN
2,588



9 CENTENNIAL BUTTON 10/PACK
2,120



10 CENTENNIAL DINER MUG
1,528

Club Supplies at Lions Clubs International in Oak Brook, Illinois, sells the items. To order the items, go to LCIstore.org and search for “centennial.”

*Includes sales by the U.S. Mint



Overheard

“They both have been extremely successful in their lives. They appreciate our country. That gets me—they are grateful. It makes my life worthwhile.”

—Bob Ward, an Ocala Lion in Florida since 1964, on meeting again two women who came from Ecuador as teen-agers 37 years ago to live for three months with American families through an exchange program sponsored by his club. From the Ocala News.

“Our trip ... gave us a foundation upon which we built the rest of our lives. This foundation led us back to the United States in search of the American dream, a dream I feel I have fulfilled. I’m happy to say our hearts have been filled with joy and gratitude for each and every person who took part in the exchange program.”

—Anita Villalta

“My life after this trip changed for good, because I came to love this country and always wanted to come back and live here. It was a dream that God put in my heart and made it happen.”

—Maria Elena Marquez

By the Numbers

55

Firefighters served meals by Milltown Baie D’Espoir Lions in Newfoundland, Canada, as they battled arson fires that gutted a school, town hall and police station.

100

Dollars distributed to the 50 members of the Medway Lions in



Massachusetts to help others as they see fit. The club was inspired by a story in the LION about Grand Junction Lions in Colorado.



20,000

Square footage of the fenced-in dog park to be built by Streator Hardscrabble Lions in Illinois.

200

American flags provided by Adel Lions in Iowa for placement around the Wall That Heals, a 250-foot half-replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

3 Days at a deluxe cottage getaway awarded to the winner of a raffle of the Mac Tier and District Lions Club in Ontario, Canada.

12

Teams that competed in the rib cook-off of the Weaverville Lions in California.



94 Years Ago in the LION



JUNE 1923

The LION encourages Lions to attend the upcoming 7th International Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Atlantic City is “the playground of the world,” its “bathing facilities are unexcelled anywhere in the world” and “for bolder spirits the whole Atlantic Ocean is available for yachts or other forms of water craft.”

Read the “Call of Brotherhood” urging Lions to attend the Atlantic City convention in the June 1923 LION.

Bill Hansen, 100

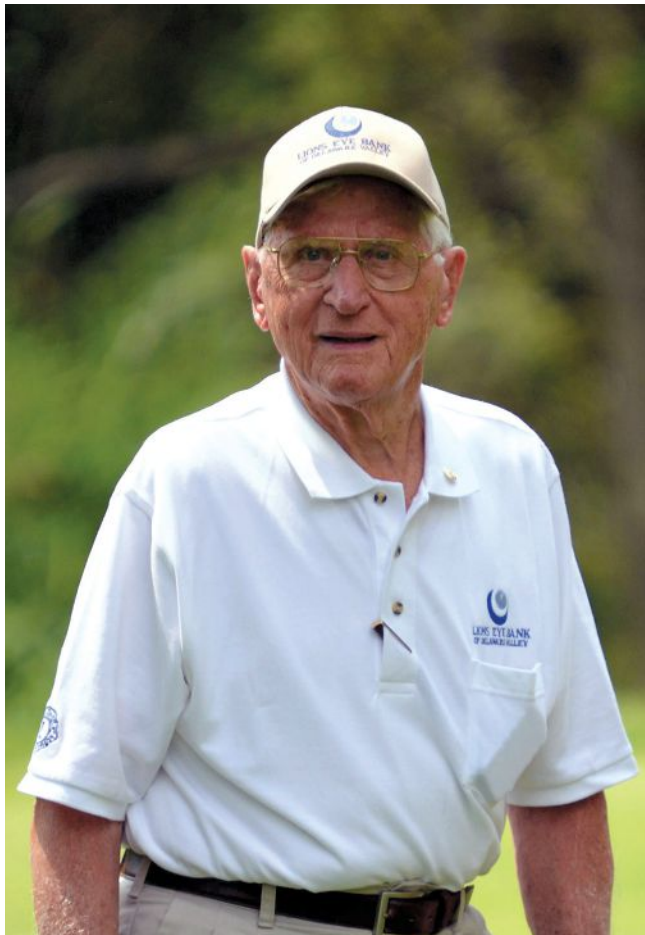
Haddonfield Lions Club, New Jersey

Bill Hansen and the Lions were born about the same time in 1917. Now both celebrate their 100th birthday surrounded by the numerous people whose lives are better because they're here.

Days after Bill Hansen's multiple birthday parties, multiple cakes and multiple candles in this, his centennial year, he said simply, "I'm fortunate. God has blessed me with many friends."

But his friends have much to add to that, and it begins with, "Well, everybody likes Bill"

Hansen worked for 84 years—from age 14 to 98. "He just can't sit," explains his grandson, Lion Kevin Burns. It is no wonder then that his birthday wish was to return to work for one day and for \$1. He did, and that made national news.



He delivered milk with a horse and buggy, toiled in the shipyards during WWII, and spent 33 years at Exxon Mobil Corp. before retiring for a month and launching a new career at Hutchinson Heating and Cooling where he stayed until he was 98.

For 71 years, he was blissfully married to "Dot," to whom he credits his health and his happiness. He has two children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Haddonfield's Citizen of the Year in 1987, Hansen is a 50-year-member of Christ the King Church where he still serves as an altar boy, and has been an active Lion for 41 years and trustee for the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley since 1992.

Friends Tom and George Henderson, 85-year-old twins: "We go to church with Bill seven days a week. He picks us up, and afterward we go to Panera Bread. On Sunday, we go to Dunkin' Donuts.

"We're not Lions, but if there's something Lions are selling tickets for, we buy them. When Bill goes to heaven he's going to ask St. Peter at the gate if he wants to buy a ticket. He's involved in everything the Lions are doing, and he's had every job he could have at church other than run the Ladies' Sodality."

Grandson Kevin Burns: "As much as my grandfather does for others, they do for him. He's nonstop. He wants to help.

"My father died when I was 16. Pop's Pop been a father figure to me. He's extremely involved in our lives. He taught me loyalty and work ethic, and that my wife and kids are the most important thing in the world."

Past District Governor Richard Zimmerman: "When Bill turned 90, I said, 'Be sure to invite me when you turn 100.' Well, he did. When he says he'll do something, he does it and does it right. You need a volunteer? Bill's there, front and center. He's a typical Lion, a superior individual."

Bill Hansen: "It's been a happy birthday. I've been so blessed."

Do you know a Lion who you think has a great story or deserves a bit of recognition? Email us a brief description of the Lion and the reason you're making the nomination to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.

Summer Camp: Scared, Tearful and Then ...

By Duane Helweg

It was July 1, 1956, my 10th birthday. I was not enjoying my birthday. In fact, I felt sick to my stomach. That day I was headed to a Lions summer camp for disabled children in Texas. The camp was 200 miles from home, and I had never been on my own before.

When I was in first grade I had spent three weeks in the hospital. Polio was the culprit. I had to wear a brace on my right arm to keep it in the socket. No longer could I “dogpile” with the guys or jump rope with the girls. Classmates teased me.

I was terribly self-conscious about my skinny, frail right arm with a protruding bone. A good athlete, I thought about playing basketball or running track but knew the skimpy uniforms would show too much of my arm. No matter what I did my disability seemed to sabotage me. I played the French horn at school but was mortified when a classmate shouted out, “Look! He’s playing with one arm.”

At the camp one of the staff, a guy named Hoppy, quickly sidled up to me and helped me feel comfortable. At supper that first night I was asked to stand in the crowded cafeteria and everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to me. Except for the embarrassment, I liked the feeling it gave me.

The next two weeks were busily spent doing arts and crafts, cleaning a cabin, camping out, playing miniature golf and swimming. When the swim instructor ordered me, “Take your feet off the bottom,” well, I did because Mom was not there to rescue me.

I enjoyed myself so much that when the second Friday arrived I didn’t want the camp to end. On our last night together we gathered outdoors for the awards ceremony. We were given T-shirts with the Lions Camp emblem and neckerchiefs stamped with all the activities in which we participated. The counselors said that the neckerchief represented an

award for each of us. But that didn’t relieve my desire to win one of the special awards to be presented that night.

I spotted my parents and older sister in the crowd. A bonfire was lit up front. It was about dusk in the Texas Hill Country, a beautiful setting. I sat near the center aisle, beside Hoppy, and could see everything great from there. One award after another

was presented, and my name was not called. My head began to sink; I didn’t want anyone to see tears that were beginning to well up in my eyes.

Finally, they were down to the last and highest award: Best Camper. They called the girl’s name first. Then they called the boy’s name. In the quiet of the moment, with embers of the dying fire crackling and crickets chirping in the night, I thought I heard my name called. It couldn’t be!

Suddenly, guys around me were cheering and slapping me on the back. Hoppy pushed me to go up front. I was in a daze. They handed me

the award and had me turn and face the audience. There was just enough light from the fire that I could see my parents and sister, clapping and smiling. How proud I felt.

It’s just a small trophy, made of a wood base, topped by a gold tent and tree, with an inscription plate on the front. It sits on a shelf collecting dust. But it reminds me of the first time in my life that I realized that I was worth something, that I could be a success, that I was a winner, regardless of how I saw myself. My experiences at that camp laid the foundation for completing college, marrying and raising a family and my career working for the state of Arizona and as a writer. Until escalating health problems related to my polio, I even served for a while as a Lion.

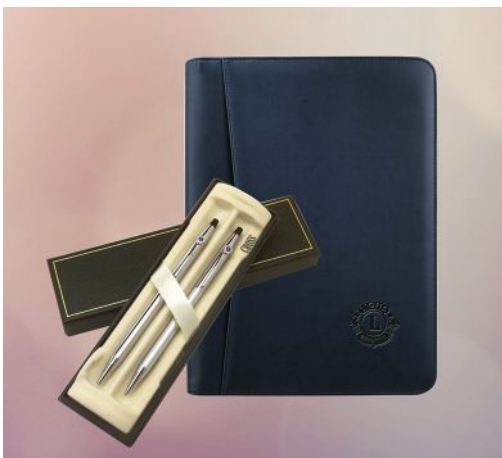
Helweg, 71, lives in San Angelo, Texas.



Duane Helweg in 1958

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Improving Young Lives with Shoes That Grow

Leos across Alaska have stepped up to put shoes on barefoot children in Kenya and Nepal.

The sturdy sandals or “Shoes That Grow” come by way of Because International, a nonprofit in Idaho committed to improving tools and resources used in regular life. They were designed by an Idaho man who saw the need while volunteering in Africa. A unique buckle, strap and tab system allows the shoe to extend five sizes so it can “grow” with the child.

About 80,000 pairs have been distributed by the organization thus far to decrease the number of people who suffer with parasitic foot infections because they have no shoes or shoes that don’t fit.

Among those actively involved are the Leos of Alaska, says Walt Hays, District 49A chairperson of international relations.

The Leos in Alaska raised \$2,000 to send 100 pairs of the \$20 shoes to Kenya. Another \$2,500 was raised to send 100 pairs of the shoes and 200 pairs of socks to a remote area of Nepal where they had to be delivered by a “burro train” that took seven to eight days to reach a village in the mountains.

Alaska’s Leos may be small in number, but they are big in their dedication and enthusiasm, says Hays. Leos in Kodiak raised money by doing cleanup after the Kodiak Island Crab Festival. Near Anchorage, Eagle River Bear Mountain Leos served as wait staff for large community dinners and by making presentations to area Lions clubs for support. Eight Leo groups throughout the state helped with packing and tagging.

Hays says that Lions have responded strongly to Leos’ appeals for help.

“When Leos learned that 200 million people in the world suffer from parasitic foot infection because they have no shoes or shoes that don’t fit, we thought we could make a difference,” says Lindsey Vance, past president of the Eagle River Bear Mountain Leos and a key promoter of the project. “At \$20 a pair, we thought this project was a perfect fit for our major Leos Centennial Project.”



Leos in Alaska have fun at a packing party for The Shoe That Grows—sturdy sandals that will be shipped to children in Kenya. (Photo by Jim Magowan)



Young children in Africa have shoes, and new ones at that, thanks to Leos.

A Summer of Sight

If anybody knows about sunlight, the Mesa Fountain of the Sun Lions in Arizona should. In 2015, they partnered with the Mesa Public Library to offer “Lions’ Summer of Sight,” offering free reading glasses, non-prescription sunglasses and eyeglass cases to those in need.

The free community service, open to all ages, was a summer program with Lions on hand to help people with glasses every Saturday morning in the library. But demand was so great that the club has made the program a year-round event. They now offer glasses on the second Saturday of each month during the school year as well, says Lion Kit McCormick, who initiated the program.

McCormick says the Lions assist people in finding the right strength of reading glasses as well as good sunglasses. They also accept used eyewear for recycling.

She estimates that up to 300 eyeglasses are given away each summer month. Fifty to 60 are fitted during the monthly visits throughout the school year.

The Mesa club receives eyeglasses from other clubs in addition to thousands from a Walmart distribution center. Those donated glasses are sorted, washed and tagged with the prescription.

“Our primary purpose is to collect glasses for missions around the world, but if we don’t need them for doctors going on missions, they are given away. We’re able to give more to Indian reservations and to take them to the library,” explains McCormick.

“We’re glad we’re able to help a lot of people who need a little boost and help them protect their eyes with the sunglasses. Sunglasses have become important too. And we get to meet so many wonderful people.”

A Touch of Whimsy

In 2002, the Lynden Lions in Washington commissioned a local sign painter to brighten up their small town with a slice of colorful Dutch folk life.

Bill Swinburnson spent six weeks painting a whimsical mural on a 142-foot stretch of blank cinderblock wall—a reminder of the town’s Dutch heritage and a “welkom” to town visitors. It features 37 Dutch characters, some in traditional wooden shoes, as well as tulips, cheese wheels and a Lions sign.

The “Swin Mural,” as locals call it, was part of the town’s beautification project. But sometimes even the biggest beauty needs a facelift.

After 14 years, Lynden Lions noticed that the red tulips were not as red, the sky was not as blue and the yellow cheese wheels had lost their appeal.

To commemorate two anniversaries—the town’s 125th and the Lions’ 40th—the club decided to bring it back to life. Lion Jason Kaerh connected the club with three art students from Western Washington University in Bellingham who were willing to apply some touchup paint, exchanging hours and talent for class credit. Lions provided support and supplies. Swinburnson, who is now retired, gave advice. And then the Lions covered the wall



Photo by Lion Galen Laird

Lions in Lynden, Washington, gifted the town with this 142-foot whimsical mural celebrating their Dutch heritage and providing a bright “Welkom” to visitors.

with a layer of laminate sealer that should give the artwork at least 10 more years, says Lion Galen Laird.

Lynden, population 12,000, lies just five miles south of the Canadian border. Visitors often stop to take pictures in front of the mural and the town’s windmill constructed on top of a building, says Kaerh.

Some characters in the mural depict Lynden residents, including the late Arie “Ike” Honcoop, holding up a Lions’ sign. Honcoop was a well-regarded dairy farmer and a dedicated Lion known through the multiple district as the “Little Trouble Maker” because he was full of joy and practical jokes but also full of compassion and eagerness to help.

“The mural means a lot to the people here,” says Kaerh. “It keeps memories alive.”

Helping the Visually Impaired Visit a Museum

Studies show that only 11 percent of the blind or visually impaired visit museums, according to a radio reading service, Connecticut Radio Information System (CRIS).

But in Windsor, Connecticut, Lions hope to see that number increase. They are working with CRIS to provide narrated tours of the Tobacco Museum in Windsor, allowing visually impaired visitors to access information by using their smartphones.

It’s at this museum, says Lion Margaret Boisture, where visitors can learn about the state’s agricultural history and the work that took place in the Connecticut tobacco fields.

For many years shade tobacco was the signature crop in the Connecticut River Valley. Early settlers had found the sandy loam to be the perfect soil for growing tobacco, and cigar use was shooting up as fast as the plants.

But times have changed. Although there are still fields covered with gauze or cheesecloth to grow tobacco in the shade, many people visit the museum to understand the unique process of growing, harvesting and preparing the crop for high quality cigars.

Narration will be accessible via smartphone at each of the 17 stations in the museum, describing the exhibit and providing additional information for people unable to read the printed materials, according to Boisture.

Installation costs \$300 per station, and businesses as well as local individuals have sponsored half. The club will fund the rest.

Lions are also collecting used smartphones to have on hand for visually impaired visitors who don’t have one. And club members are lending their voices to do the readings for the exhibits.



Photo by Lion Margaret Boisture

The Tobacco Museum in Windsor, Connecticut, is appropriately located in an old tobacco barn.

GERMANY

A Pied Piper of Biking Beckons

The Pied Piper story is set in the ancient town of Hamelin, Germany. That makes Lion Paul Fasse of Hamelin a kind of Pied Piper. He wants Lions to come to Hamelin. But the payoff he offers is entirely beneficial: fellowship with Lions, celebrating the Lions' centennial and getting in some exercise while enjoying the beautiful German countryside.

German Lions hope to attract 100 Lions worldwide to ride in the Gran Fondo bicycle ride in Hamelin on Sept. 3. The ride in Germany is one of 14 Gran Fondo races worldwide in 2017.

Participants can ride 80 or 100 miles or even divide the race between multiple riders. Last year, Fasse, a 58-year-old veterinarian, rode in the Gran Fondo New York race. Fasse can be reached at: paul@gfnydeutschland.com.



A Gran Fondo bicycle rider pedals in Germany last year.

JAPAN

Salmon Repopulated in Precious River

Poisoned by the nearby Ashio Copper Mine, the once majestic Watarase River that flows through Sano City became known as the "river of death" by 1900. Fish died by the tens of thousands, and farm crops were ruined by the pollution.

But today, after 35 years of environmental action, the river has made a startling comeback. A key component of its revival has been the release of hundreds of thousands of young salmon into the river. The Sano Chuo Lions Club chartered the same year the salmon initiative began in 1982 and has provided funds and hands-on help for the salmon repopulation since its founding.

Last year alone, backed by the Lions club and a citizens' group dedicated to the river, 20,000 young salmon, called fry, were released into the river in a single day. Residents had hatched the fish eggs at home before carefully transporting them to the river for the epic release.

The fry have been able to survive—and eventually migrate to the ocean before returning to fresh water to spawn—because the river has been cleaned up. Last year, more than 500 salmon ascents were verified in the river.

The detail-oriented Sano Chuo Lions smooth the way

for residents' environmental actions. They even cut the grass on the river embankments so that children can safely walk down to the water.



Children and adults in Sano City release young salmon into the Watarase River.

AUSTRALIA

Scenic Road Owes It All to Lions

Regarded as one of the most scenic drives in Australia, the road offers rolling hills, sharp curves and stunning scenery. It takes you through hidden valleys and subtropical rain forests. If you time it right, you can see a train or two emerge from tunnels that are part of the grand Spiral Loop railway line.

Australian Lions are particularly proud of the road: the nearby Kyogle Lions Club built the 11-kilometer (6.8 miles) Lions Road in 1970. Members still maintain Lions Road, mowing the grass, repairing weathered signs, cleaning up picnic areas and regularly collecting the donations placed in a toll box.

Drivers are generous with donations. For security reasons, the club does not disclose the amount. But coupled with matching government grants over the past several years, the funds allowed the sealing of the road, formerly a narrow gravel road, its widening in stretches and periodic patching.

More than 100,000 vehicles annually use Lions Road, a shortcut between Kyogle and Beaudesert in Queensland. Travelers delight in the one-lane wooden bridges, the lush pine forests, the panoramic valley views and occasional glimpse of wild-life such as wallabies.

The club decided to build the road in 1969 after the local governing bodies could not agree on details of a road project. Lions spent weekends not only building the road but also installing culverts and fencing to keep cattle away from drivers. Machinery, materials and even gas were donated. Beaudesert Lions joined the project in 1971.

Emptying the donation box and monitoring its three security cameras take a considerable amount of time and manpower. "To get the money one person has to lie on the ground, and the other two are there for traffic control," says President Col Griffiths.

The fourth Lions club in Australia, the Kyogle Lions Club chartered in 1952. The club has gotten a lot of mileage out of the road. For its

40th anniversary a book by a charter member on the beloved road raised AUS\$45,000 (US\$34,500), donated to a rescue helicopter.



Lions Road is well-known and much appreciated in Australia.

ENGLAND

Lions Respond to a Record Winter Storm

Accompanied by punishing winds, Storm Desmond dumped 13 inches of rain on Borrowdale in one day, breaking the United Kingdom's 24-hour rainfall record. The winter storm flooded 16,000 homes and businesses, swamped farmland and cut off villages in northwest England for days.

Lions from more than 10 clubs filled sandbags, distributed food and gathered and delivered mops, buckets, dehumidifiers and heaters. Lions collected relief funds on



Members of the Radcliffe & Whitefield Lions Club deliver a washing machine to a flooded home.

the street and also used multiple district grants to support relief efforts. "There was a sense of wartime spirit that existed in all the areas affected," according to the LION for the British and Irish. "So many Lions gave their time and performed heroic deeds that their communities will never forget."

Lion Kevin Martin shakes hands with homeless veteran Sidney Lee Johnson after detailing ways he could help Johnson in San Jose, California.



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

**CLUBS IN CALIFORNIA WHOSE
MEMBERS ARE VETERANS HELP
VETERANS WITH PROBLEMS.**

By Joan Cary | Photos by Scott Strazzante

In the Bay Area of California, Lion Kevin Martin sees the homeless seeking shelter in the bushes and under rooftop eaves, emerging from parks in the morning with their bundle of dirty blankets and eating dinner at nightfall from garbage cans behind fancy restaurants.

He sees them begging for change.

What Martin, a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam era, a peer specialist at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto hospital and a Lion, can do is offer them a different kind of change—a change that will not just improve their day, but their life.

“We have a tendency to look right through the homeless, or right past them,” says Martin. “But I can’t.”



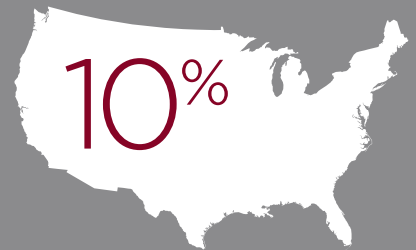
He stops.

“Are you a veteran?” he asks them.

“If they are,” he says, “I can do something to help.”

Martin is a member of the Peninsula Veterans Lions Club, one of two veterans Lions clubs in California, the land of warm ocean breezes and golden sunsets, but also high-priced housing and the largest number of homeless veterans in the U.S.

According to national statistics, more than 10 percent or 47,000 of the homeless adults in the country were veterans in 2015, and roughly one-fourth of them—about 11,000—were living in California.



or 47K homeless adults in the country were veterans (2015)



of homeless veterans live in





“ I HAD SO MUCH HELP GIVEN TO ME. I THINK IT’S MY DUTY NOW TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE MAKE THAT TRANSITION AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE. ”

The Peninsula Veterans Lions Club and the San Francisco Veterans Lions serve all, but focus on aiding veterans and their families in need.

Club members live by two creeds: “We Serve.”

And the ethos of the U.S. military: “No Man Left Behind.”

In his job with the VA, Martin searches for veterans in homeless shelters and on the streets, then helps them transition into a better life by introducing them to VA services where they can address post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), mental illness, substance abuse, depression and joblessness—all issues that may have contributed to their homelessness.

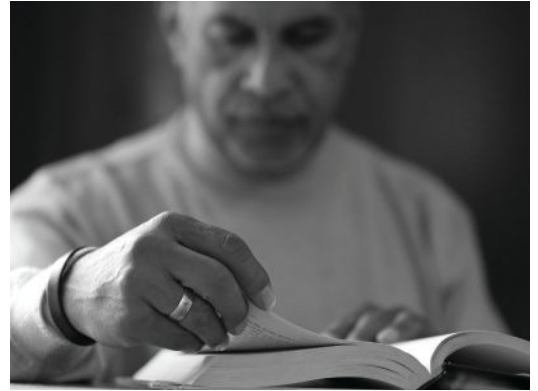
Once they are off the street and into housing, the Peninsula Lions step in with their **“Move-In Basket” program that provides the veteran with an air mattress and a laundry basket chock-full of pots and pans, cleaning supplies, utensils—any and every thing to make their place a home where life can start anew. The veterans also help them find furniture and welcome them into the Lions’ fold, inviting them to Lion-sponsored barbecues and events to form friendships and keep the lifeline of support flowing.**

Since 2012, the Peninsula Veterans Lions have delivered more than 350 baskets to veterans who have found housing through the VA’s Homeless Vets Reintegration Project





Veteran Tariq Collette relaxes at his apartment in San Jose with furniture and essentials given by Lions.



(HVRP), says Kevin Guess (left in photo on page 20), the club's charter president. The club thanks generous donors but also works a concession stand at Stanford University sporting events to fundraise for goods and services the vets need.

Guess, a mental health social worker and post-Vietnam Army vet who had his own struggles, says, "For those of us who have struggled and were able to recover, this is a way to give back. Our mission is to help others get to where we've gotten."

Like many other Lions in his club, he and Martin know that the demons of war are seldom left overseas.

"I suffered from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and severe depression," says Martin. "I came out and went to work, but my injuries and my illnesses were so profound I found it hard to keep a job. ... I lived in a tent in a field of tall grass with a dog that didn't bark at anybody but me. But I fought my way back.

Through the VA, I learned how to live and think differently."

Now the Lions club is where many of his friends are and where his support network lies when he struggles with occasional PTSD episodes.

"I had so much help given to me. I think it's my duty now to help other people make that transition as smoothly as possible," says 61-year-old Martin. "I don't point and tell them to go that way. I like to take them by the hand and walk with them."

Iraq Army veteran Tariq Collette is one of those who sings the praises of men like Martin and Guess—Lions who helped him leave the old life behind.

Collette, who served in infantry combat from 1991 to 1993, was penniless, unemployed and struggling with alcohol abuse when he arrived in California. He had seen trauma, both in Iraq and in his hometown of New Orleans when he was rescued by canoe during Hurricane Katrina.

"I thought alcohol was going to make it all better, but it didn't," he says. "It just made the problem larger." On the street in San Francisco he met Roland Ware, a Peninsula Lion. Ware introduced him to the VA and to the Lions, and in time, Collette checked himself into the VA program.

Collette now works in San Francisco helping others who are struggling, and he lives in an apartment in San Jose with furniture and essentials received through Lions.

"They have given me more than that though," says Collette, 58. "They have given me encouragement, support and friendship. As soon as I get settled I'm going to be a Lion. It's all about giving back, and we all need to, especially here. It's an extremely large problem here."

"There are homeless veterans everywhere, I think," responds Guess. "It's not just here in



**‘ WE NEED TO LET THEM
KNOW THEY HAVE NOT
BEEN FORGOTTEN. ’**

California. Men and women are struggling. But it is a tremendously sad and ongoing issue here. “

Another Peninsula Lions program recognizes that although 90 percent of the vets in the system are male, an increasing number in need are women, and not many programs are specifically designed to assist female veterans.

For them, Lion Terry Catania organizes the club’s Women’s Makeover Program with the help of a local salon owner.

Lions arrange for female inpatients at the VA to get makeovers at a nearby salon. But it’s more than a haircut. It’s a morale and self-esteem boost.

“These women are stuck in these hospitals with all these guys. They have no money. Most are from the trauma program. They’re in a bad way. They come in here with some really serious issues,” says Catania, who served in the Army from 1974 to 1977.

“This helps them focus on their program a little more. I know they feel hopeless because I’ve been there, and now it’s very rewarding for me to try and give back what was given to me. Being able to do something on the outside that helps them to start a new chapter on the inside is an honor.”

The club also supports the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors and partners with other organizations to provide a large Christmas party for veterans in the psychiatric lockdown unit at the hospital.

“One reason we’re able to do all this is because we have amazing women in our club. They have come up with these ideas, and I’m proud that our male Lions have jumped on board with their suggestions,” says Guess, whose wife, Tamera Guess, is club president and served in the Army as a Humvee mechanic during Desert Storm.

“We are seeing more women coming in,” Guess says. “We need to let them know they have not been forgotten.”



San Francisco Veterans
Lions Club



Rotary clubs



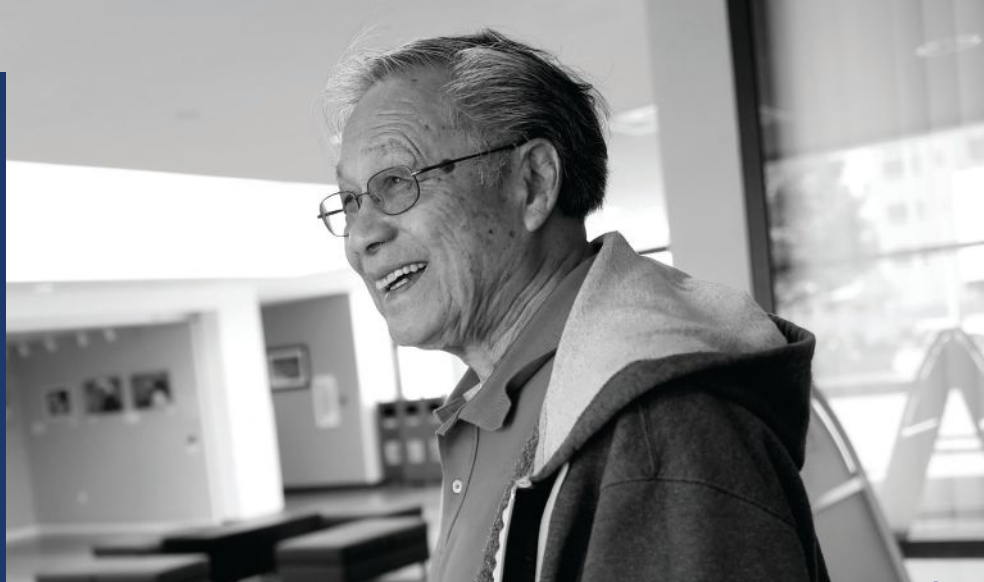
San Francisco police



Lions Veterans Charities



Bikes4Vets program



Another issue that veterans face is a lack of transportation. The San Francisco Veterans Lions club, a relatively new club formed in 2014, combines efforts with Rotary clubs and other organizations, the San Francisco police and Lions Veterans Charities to offer their Bikes4Vets program.

Program chair Helen Wong says Lions recondition the abandoned or confiscated bicycles they receive from the police department and outfit them with new helmets, locks and lights before giving them to veterans in need. She expects to present 100 bikes to veterans this year.

“The bike is their vehicle,” says Wong, a retired Army-trained occupational therapist. “It allows them to get to doctor appointments, work, therapy, to see family and friends, to buy groceries.”

Keeping all of these projects afloat would not happen without clubs supporting each other throughout District 4 C4, says Guess.

“It was an ‘aha’ moment when we had our charter installation night,” he recalls. “Basically the

whole district—Lions from all over the district—showed up, and they all stood up. We have gotten tremendous support from them, and from Lions Veterans Charities.”

Past District Governor Roger Chinn, a 50-year member of the Foster City Lions, founded Lions Veterans Charities 17 years ago. A nonprofit network of clubs in District 4 C4, some that choose to support veteran projects and some that do not, it was begun after the Foster City Lions held their first fishing trip for patients in the Menlo Park VA hospital.

The trip has since become an annual event, and the organization has grown to offer support to veterans and to the homeless throughout the Bay Area since then.

Lions Veterans Charities provides meals and clean clothing to homeless veterans and civilians, hosts events at hospitals and clinics, supports the United Service Organization (USO) at the San Francisco International Airport and assists with Bikes4Vets as well as other activities.

For three years now, Chinn has been working toward yet another project. He envisions transitional and permanent housing for veterans with no income.

Although there is a county-wide push for more low-income housing

in San Mateo County, Chinn points out that many veterans come home not just troubled, but unskilled and unable to find work. Some suffer PTSD or other issues that keep them from holding a job, and without a job, they cannot get into low-income housing.

He wants to build housing with a developer and builder who will hire veterans and teach them the trades in the process so they can later be hired elsewhere.

“It is a very difficult situation here,” says Chinn. “It’s as if we as a society don’t want to look at it. It’s not only disgraceful, but it’s a very sad commentary on what we as a country are doing or not doing to help our veterans.”

Chinn, 83, is a former mayor of Foster City. He is retired from his career as an architect, but not from his life as a Lion, and he keeps a list of Lions Veterans Charities’ 10 projects under way for this year. Chinn enlists the help of fellow Lions like Guess who shares his time with both the Peninsula Lions and as a trustee for Lions Veterans Charities.

“I’ve been at this for 17 years,” says Chinn. “But there is plenty to be done here and I already have both feet in.”



15 CLUBS: 15 WAYS TO SERVE VETS

Hamiota Lions in Manitoba, Canada, constructed a granite memorial wall to commemorate the 784 veterans from their community who served in World War I and World War II.

Medfield Lions in Massachusetts provided funds for the start of the National Education for Assistance Dog Services—Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans, an organization that has a Canines for Combat Veterans program.

In lieu of exchanging gifts at their Christmas party, the Porterville Lions in California send 20 to 30 care boxes to U.S. military serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Westside Lions in Nebraska provided free eyeglasses at a Veterans' Affairs "Stand Down," a day when VA and community resources personnel come together to assist homeless veterans.

Vidor Lions in Texas provided a patriotic addition to their community by creating a veterans' park called "Fields of Freedom." The park pays tribute to each branch of service.

Margate Lions in Florida offered the use of their clubhouse to the organization, Welcome Home Resumes, to use as a base for helping veterans develop resumes, as well as for meetings of the Welcome Home group for veterans.

World War II veterans (from left) Charles Pace, Willis Prather, Thomas Taylor, Owen Richards, Lloyd "Bill" Dean and Reed Perilloux are honored at the Colfax Lion's Red, White and Blue Christmas Parade in Louisiana. Pace and Taylor also served in Korea.

Photo by Lion Diana Rhodes



Cumberland Lions Club Foundation in Maryland awards a scholarship to freshmen who are veterans enrolling fulltime at Frostburg State University.

Lake Jackson Lion and veteran David Penman of Virginia, along with other club members, helped rehab a home for a wounded Marine coming home from Afghanistan.

Wilson Lions in New York partnered with "Cell Phones for Soldiers" to collect used cell phones for the benefit of U.S. military members. Funds raised from recycling old phones are used to send prepaid international calling cards to soldiers at military bases around the world and in VA hospitals.

Reedley Lions Club's annual Kings River Blossom Bike Ride in California welcomes Team Semper Fi, an athletic sports team made up of more than 300 injured service members who compete in athletic events across the country. Their motto is "Recovery Through Sport."

Colfax Lions in Louisiana organize a Red, White and Blue Christmas Parade that includes Santa, but also honors a different group of veterans each year.

Sumner Lions in Washington, along with Lions of western Washington, support Project New Hope, an organization that offers counseling retreats to military families struggling with life after deployment.

Cicero Mattydale Lions in New York waited for hours at the airport to give a hero's welcome to a young soldier who was seriously injured in Afghanistan. He underwent numerous surgeries and physical therapy in Texas before he could return home.

Victoria Lions in Minnesota supported a Wounded Warrior Project that enabled 12 Minnesota veterans to spend a day trap shooting and hunting at the Marsh Lake Hunt Club.

Livingston Lions in New Jersey had a pizza party and bingo for disabled veterans at the VA hospital in Lyons.



WCA
9

DANGER! DO NOT ROCK SEAT



FUN IS INCLUSIVE IN ILLINOIS


BY JAY COPP

Photos by Alex Garcia

Harnessed firmly in the Sizzler, Violet Van Donk, 19, smiles widely as the carnival ride hoists her toward the sky. Watching below, her mother, Vivian, is just as happy. Vivian has taken her daughter, who has Down syndrome, to the Lions' carnival for nearly 10 years.

"She gets to spend the day with her friends," says Van Donk. "We just can't drop her off at Great America." This year is special: the event happens to be held on Violet's birthday. "This is my best birthday ever," Violet tells her mother.

For 15 years the New Lenox Lions in Illinois have held their Special Needs Day for hundreds of children, teenagers and adults. The participants clamber aboard a dozen carnival rides, dance under a tent canopy to thumping music spun by a Lion-DJ and feast on hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza. It's all free. It's very much appreciated.



Bob Karsc enjoys the view on the Ferris wheel ride during the Special Needs Day.



Chloe Dillion rides a safe motorcycle.

“There’s no judgment here,” says Traci, whose daughter, Tori, has come to the carnival for four years. “If someone has a meltdown, it’s no big deal. Everybody has been there.”

Carnivals are as fun and memorable for those with special needs as anyone else, if not more so. But enjoying a family outing at an amusement park or church or com-

munity festival can be problematic. Some of those with special needs, especially those in wheelchairs, need extra time and attention to climb in a seat. The ride operators at Special Needs Day, regular workers from Windy City Amusements, are careful to assist riders and accompanying helpers as needed.



Yep, it's more fun not to hold on.

“This place is awesome,” says Michaelina McGarvey waiting with her other son as her son, Koltin, 11, sits atop a brightly-painted metallic motorcycle that loops around and around. “It’s hard for him to wait [at another carnival]. There’s no extra noise to deal with. And he gets to be with his brother.”

Camille Cerda, 45, who uses a wheelchair, rides the Himalaya alongside a helper. She’s the last one off the ride but eager to head to the next one. “I liked it! I’m a daredevil,” she exclaims. “I’ll go on as many rides as they put me on.”

The Lions piggyback on the Proud American Days of New Lenox, an outer Chicago suburb. The town uses the tent, rides and concessions for its summer festival. The 39-member club holds their event during the day, so the grounds are ready to go for them. Making the day even less costly is that Windy City does not charge the club for using the rides or its workers.

Still, it takes a village to stage the Special Needs Day. Hundreds of volunteers and staff are on hand. The participants come from Trinity Services and Lincoln Way Special Recreation Association, two groups that assist those with disabilities. Their staff comes as do Lions, firefighters, who cook hot dogs, police officers, who serve up popcorn, and employees from nearby St. Joseph Medical Center, who cook hamburgers, as well as emergency response team personnel.

The event grew out of the club’s monetary support of Trinity Services. Lions wanted to do something more hands-on, something with more of an impact. The initial Special Needs Day was a small affair with a boom box and many less participants. Now those who come eagerly look forward to it, a day unlike any other for them.

On this day the dance area under the tent is full as Lion John Lucas, a past president, plays the infectious “Happy” by Pharrell Williams. Dancing with one another

in clumps, with another person, with a volunteer or even alone, the participants feel the rhythm of the song pulsing from the 10-foot high speakers and shimmy, sway and shake to the music.

“Just look at everyone. They’re all having a great time,” observes Dave Wheeler, president and a past district governor. In a few hours the grounds will host the Proud American Days, but for now the pride is all with

the Lions. “It’s just a great day,” says Lion Lynn Eckhardt, the event chairperson. “I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else but here.”



Koltin McGarvey, 11, is “in the moment”—and lovin’ it—while on a ride.



Marty Buno’s “souvenir” is plain to see.



Attendee Martin Dale Krueger and Pam Vinson take a spin on the dance floor.



Picture the Future of

PEACE

IMAGINE

600,000 children sharing their visions of peace

INSPIRE

Youth to showcase their talent

CREATE

Stronger ties in your community

Don't miss your opportunity to sponsor the **30th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest!**

Give kids in your community a creative way to express their visions of *The Future of Peace*, the theme for the 2017-18 Peace Poster Contest. Order your Peace Poster Kit to play a key role in engaging our youth and promoting peace around the world. Get complete contest details at lionsclubs.org.

The Future of Peace begins with you and your club.

Order your Peace Poster Kit today!



"Order Now!"

SECOND RESPONDERS

California Lions help a lower-income rural area recover after a disastrous fire burns more than 1,200 homes.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATYA CENGEL

Building a home deck on an ordinary Saturday afternoon, Stephan Wasik heard the first blast—a rising whistle followed by an explosion.

“Hiss, hiss ... pop!”

After he heard two more propane tank explosions, Wasik stopped working. He lives on Cobb Mountain in thick forest cover, which makes it difficult to see your nearest neighbor, the road, or, in this case, the fire. Wasik ran to the end of the road to get a better look. A scorching wind pushed him back a step or two. Needles flew at him like hot pokers. Wasik is 62, retired from the tech industry but prides himself on staying active. He always thought if there

were a fire he would stay and fight it. But as he saw the fire approaching, all he could think was: “It’s over.”

He ran back to the two-bedroom, two-bath house he shared with his wife, Pam, and told her they had to leave. Before they ran out the door, he unplugged the crock pot in which they were cooking chicken soup.

“You always think you’re going to go back,” says Pam.

Below the mountain, in Middletown, Lion Craig Eve remembers odd details about the fire, too. A neighbor spilled water on the way out and stopped to mop it up because she didn’t want the firefighters to slip. When Eve’s



John Cappa (right), president of the Cobb Mountain Lions Club, and Vice President Mike Dunlap stand in front of their clubhouse, used as a recovery center after the fire.

daughter knocked over a stack of papers, his wife told her not to worry; they would clean it up later. Many of the fire victims say the same thing: they thought they would come back. Some did. But, unfortunately, not to their homes.

More than 1,200 homes burned in the Valley Fire of September 2015, the third most destructive fire in California history. Started by faulty hot tub wiring at a home, the fire killed four people and destroyed more than 70,000 acres mostly in Lake County, a lower-income agricultural area with a population of around 64,000. California Lions continue to play a role in the recovery.

It took three weeks for the Wasiks to receive official confirmation that their home was gone. A few months before the fire, their insurance carrier dropped them, says Pam, and no one else would pick them up. After the fire, they received around \$33,000 through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and a state grant, says Stephan. They used some of the money to buy a trailer to live in and the rest on their new home, which is being built by the nonprofit Hope Crisis Response Network. The Indiana-based organization run by Kevin and Valerie Cox goes wherever calamity strikes—this time calling their project Hope City and setting out to build 110 homes in Lake County in the next five years with help from churches, corporations, grants and a rotating cast of volunteers. Hope City does not charge for the houses, which cost around \$55,000 in materials for the small model, but recipients who were given FEMA grants contribute those funds to their new homes.

The nonprofit was having trouble housing the volunteer teams who came each week and numbered anywhere from 10 to 45, until the Middletown Lions Club let them house volunteers in their clubhouse. Meanwhile, the Cobb Mountain Lions Club allowed a recovery center to operate out of its clubhouse for almost a year. The Wasiks are grateful for both clubs—Middletown for housing the Hope City volunteers who will build their home and Cobb for storing and distributing the food, water, clothing and household supplies they needed.

“Between them [Lions Clubs] and Kevin Cox of Hope City, it was a lifeline,” said Pam.

It was a week after the fire began that Lion Phyllis Rogers learned that the Cobb and Middletown Lions clubhouses had been spared and donations were pouring into the buildings. The clubhouses became information centers, places where volunteers gathered to help and victims came to find out what services were available to them, said Rogers, then district governor. Rogers received calls from the state’s 14 other district governors, all of them asking how they could help. Rogers told them to send money.

They did: about \$60,000 in cash and another \$40,000 in donated campers, recreational vehicles and trucks. Another \$10,000 came from Lions Clubs International Foundation, with an additional \$10,000 almost a year later

when fire struck again. The donations were sent to the district’s nonprofit Redwood Lions Memorial Foundation to buy supplies for a recovery center initially housed in Middletown and later moved to Cobb. Money also helped the clubs pay their ballooning utility bills for their clubhouses, used much more often after the fire. The funds also provided modest scholarships for high school seniors whose families lost their homes, says Redwood Foundation President Barry Bialkoski.



Stephan and Pam Wasik lost their home in the 2015 Valley Fire. After the fire, they went to the Cobb Mountain Lions Club several times a week to pick up supplies and get the latest news from other fire victims.

“When there’s a disaster in the Lions’ area we find ways to help,” says Bialkoski.

Craig Eve, vice president of Middletown Lions Club, became Hope City’s go-to man early on. Whatever Hope City needed, said Valerie Cox, Eve and Middletown Lions found a way to get it to them.

“We couldn’t be where we are with volunteers if they [Lions] hadn’t provided a place for us to house people,” said Cox.

Eve didn’t do all of this from the comfort of his living room—that burned down in the fire. Out of Middletown Lions Club’s 26 members, eight lost their homes, said club Secretary Eldena Hanson-Russell. Eve was one of them. When he saw the fire in the distance he and his wife, Linda, and their 21-year-old daughter, Ashley, grabbed computers, papers, guns and pictures. Then they loaded their four dogs, four cats and eight pygmy goats into two trucks and a horse trailer and waited to see if the fire was going to come their way. When big fireballs started crashing at their feet they got in the trucks and drove away.

The next morning a firefighter they know texted a picture of their chimney—all that was left of their home. The

four-bedroom house had been in the family for years. In the past, whenever they tried to remodel it a relative would complain: “But Grandpa put that there” or “Grandma liked that window.” Now they will finally get their own house, what Craig calls “a new beginning.” In the meantime, while Craig builds their home, his family lives in two trailers.

They are far from alone. As he drove around the area, Middletown Lions Immediate Past President Myron Meek

been even sure who was around to give permission for the club’s 6,900-square-foot, wood-sided clubhouse to be used as a recovery center. His wife, Judy, a Lioness, volunteered at the center daily for more than two weeks; however, it wasn’t just Lions who helped there.

“We didn’t want it to be a Lions’ activity,” said Judy, who is 72. “We wanted it to be a community thing, so it was kind of a healing.”



Craig Eve (above, left), vice president of the Middletown Lions Club, is building a house after his own was destroyed in the fire. Justin Myers (above, right), 22, an AmeriCorps member, works on a Hope City home in Middletown. The Middletown Lions’ building housed Hope City volunteers.

pointed out the new and the destroyed houses, calling them out so often it was impossible to keep up.

“This is new. Used to be one there. Used to be one here. One on top of the hill is new. All of this area is burnt through. There were 7,000 burnt vehicles in this lot,” says Meek, a 74-year-old former chemist.

He kept the tally running as we drove through town, blocks of empty fields followed by spots of brand-new homes. In some places a home was left untouched; in others the bricks from a patio or a metal fence are all that is left. The owner of a home where only the pool is left has refused to return to look at the rubble. Meek’s nearby home was spared, but his neighborhood is half empty.

The Middletown club took a hit as well. Two of the members who lost their homes left the area. Meek hadn’t

After the recovery center moved to Cobb, the Middletown building housed Hope City volunteers for several months. Hope City also benefited from another Lions club when Rick and Joann Lydon donated their 36-foot motor home to the nonprofit in August 2016. “If I were ever in that situation I hope I would have somebody donate something to me too,” said Joann. The donation continues a more than 30-year-long tradition of California’s Pleasanton Lions Club members donating vehicles to worthy causes.

The Cobb Lions have a different history. Their building, once a one-room schoolhouse built in 1887, was given to them with the understanding they would maintain it as a community center, says Vice President Mike Dunlap. The club has added onto the original building in stages. Since the fire they have rededicated themselves to getting

‘In some places a home was left untouched; in others the bricks from a patio or a metal fence are all that is left.’

the community to use the space as a community center. First they need to renovate it. For that they need money, something they don't have. Allowing the recovery center to operate full-time out of the club building for almost a year meant "the club essentially bankrupted itself," says Dunlap. Like in Middletown, the center was manned by Lions and non-Lions such as Rose Geck. According to Geck, Barry Bialkoski, president of the Redwood Lions Memorial Foundation, was "instrumental in really helping us feel like 'wow, we have somebody that we can count on to help us fill the needs of the community.'" When she needed bins to organize the clothes, Bialkoski got them for her. When she needed money for tools or shoes, Bialkoski provided it.

Open long past most other recovery centers in the area, the center became known for being a place where fire victims could go to get a cup of coffee and talk to people like President John Cappa. When he joined Lions

more than a decade ago, Cappa said it was what you did if you wanted to know everyone in the community. Since then, he said, the club has been in decline. At the time of the fire they had about 30 members. Six of those members lost their homes. But the fire also gave them new members. Dunlap joined after showing up to help out. Kelly Stuckey joined after going to the recovery center to get drinking water. When her now adult son was younger he was a Leo, and when Stuckey decided to join she brought him with her. He has since recruited his girlfriend.

"The club had declined quite a bit in membership and activities," says Dunlap. "The fire became kind of the last straw and kind of a rebirth too."

The fire destroyed more than 70,000 acres. Signs of the fire's destructive path remain nearly two years later.



Six Decades of LAUGHS

In November 1950 the LION ran a small cartoon, buried in the bottom corner of a back page. The black-and-white drawing depicted a classic husband-and-wife confrontation in the living room. For the next 58 years with a few exceptions, until November 2008, the LION ran a cartoon in every issue. The humor of the Lion' clubhouse was echoed in their monthly magazine.

Be forewarned: the cartoons are a product of their times. Wives nag and clean the house and husbands work and golf when not at work. No doubt, the LION was published from a male point of view; for a time its cover even bore the tagline "a magazine for service-minded men." But at least Lions often were man enough to make fun of themselves in the cartoons.

The illustrations typically were placed on a page with corny jokes. But more than just humor was at play here. From the staid '50s to the swinging '60s and through the twists and turns of subsequent decades the cartoons again and again zeroed in on a few themes: the friction between husbands and wives, the annoyances of children and the frustrations of new technology and changing times. Life was not always easy, but at least you could laugh in the face of difficulties. True to their magnanimous spirit, Lions took life and its predictable challenges with a comforting dose of humor.

—Jay Copp



"You needn't bother saying 'Uh-huh' anymore Wendell—I stopped talking five minutes ago."

1950



"You may be a Lion—but you're still my husband and you'll wipe the dishes!"

1952

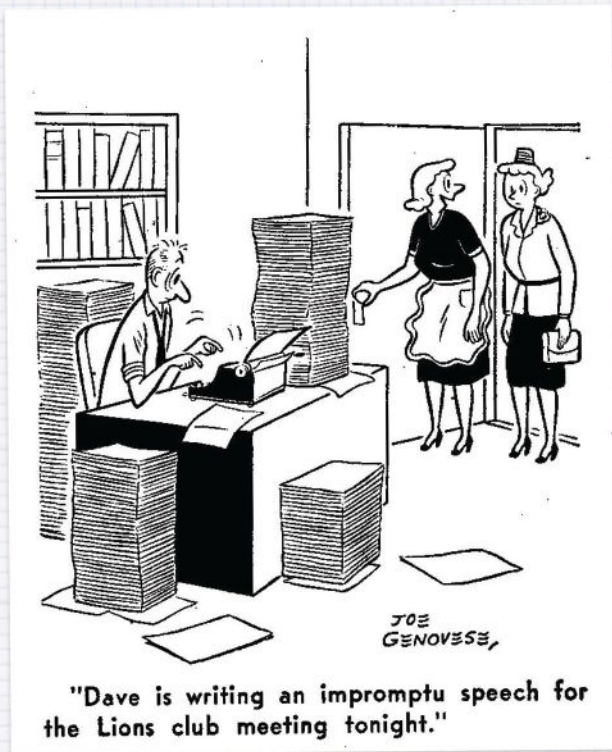




1951



1951



1952



1955



1961

1961



1969



1974



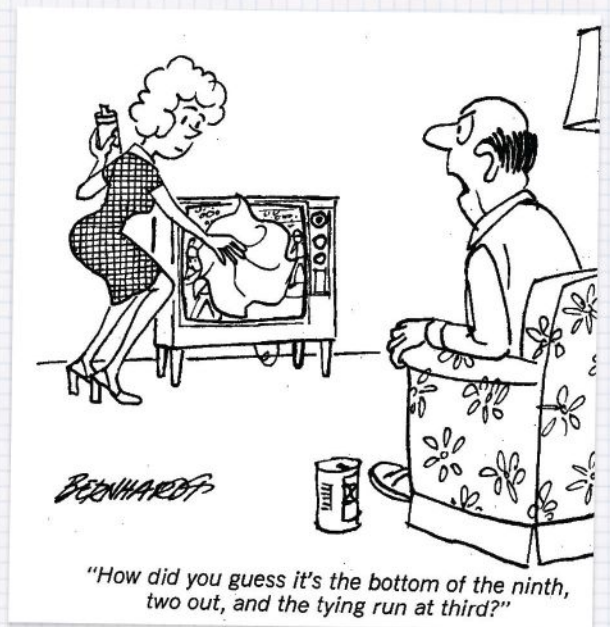
1965



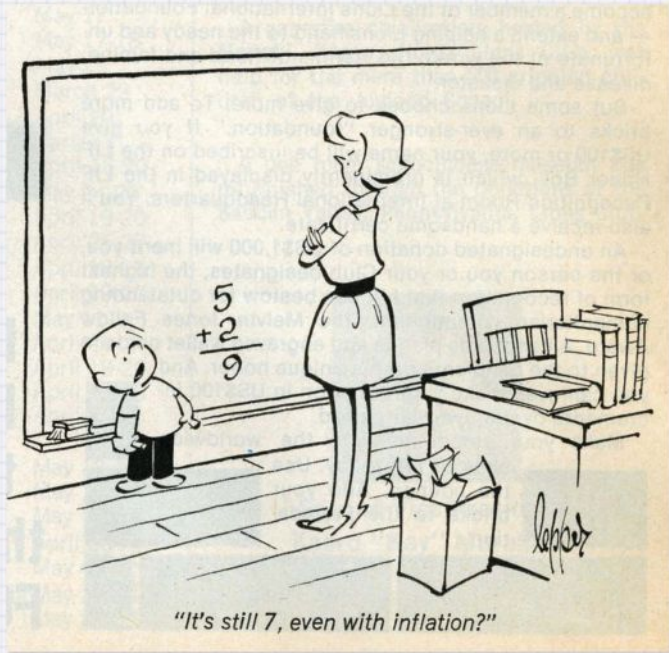
1968



1974



1978



1980



1982



1990

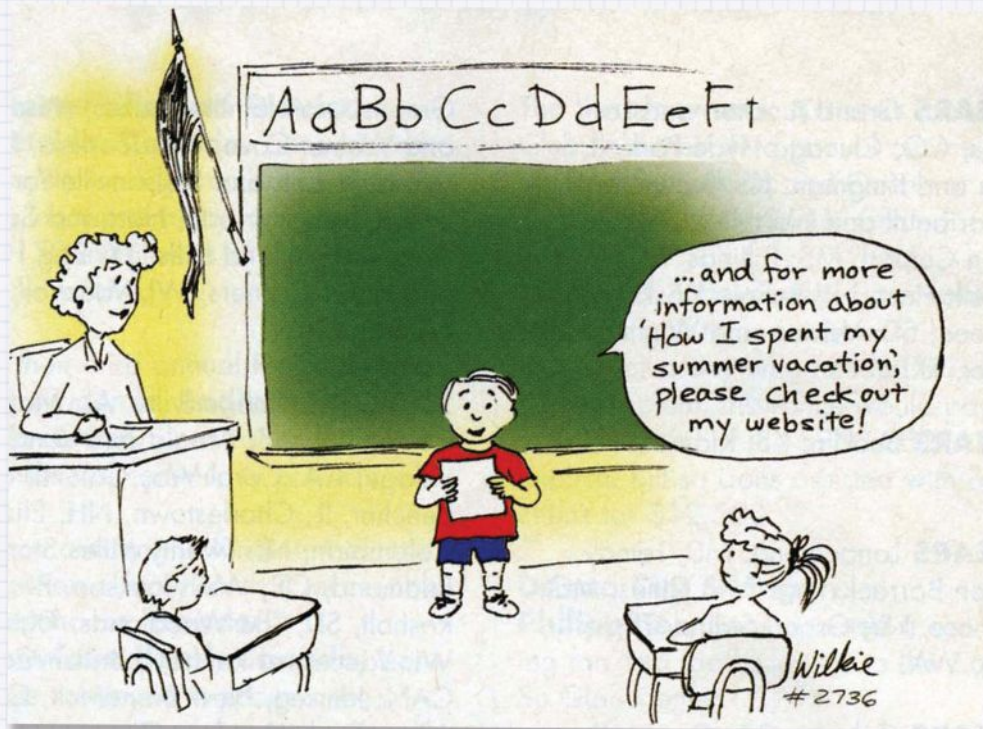


2002



1984

Lions took life and its predictable challenges with a comforting dose of humor.



2006

COURTYARD AND SPARK

Photos by Matt Dixon

At the Sensory Courtyard in Fremont, Nebraska, children climb, clamber, scamper and swing. In a cave they ease themselves into a secret reading place. In a hobbit house they chase “butterflies” and “grow” flowers. At a table they create towers from plastic tubes. They see, hear, touch, smell and taste—engaging all five senses.



The courtyard sparks an inner awakening for the children who are visually impaired, have autism or deal with behavioral disorders. “Oh my gosh—it’s amazing how they react to it. Their faces just light up,” says Lion Mary Robinson, a special ed teacher for Fremont schools. But the sophisticated playground is about much more than fun. “The experiences they have in the courtyard help alleviate some issues in the classroom. They’re learning without even knowing it,” says Robinson of the Fremont John C Lions Club. “Parents tell me how much it’s helped their children.” Located within a school complex, the \$150,000 courtyard was a project of Lions of District 38 O and LCIF.

(Opposite) Madilyn Mau, a 3-year-old with developmental delays, feels water running down a stone at the courtyard.







Madilyn romps in a ball pit with her mom, Summer.



Amid colored bubble towers, Aurora Seip, a visually impaired 6-year-old, likes the sound of her voice through a microphone.



Zach Bean, an 11-year-old with autism, admires his tower of tubes.



Sammi Zamora, a 3-year-old with behavioral issues, enjoys the leathery skin of a pair of turtles.

CHICAGO

2017



Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2017 International Convention. Our 100th International Convention will be held in Chicago, Illinois, United States. It begins at 9 a.m. June 30 and ends July 4. 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.

Chicago was where Lions began in 1917, and the city is the perfect choice for our centennial convention. Chicago has a stunning lakefront, great architecture and countless cultural attractions. The food is great, the people are friendly and, befitting the birthplace of Lions, Lions and their service are part of the fabric of life in Chicagoland.

The five days will feature renowned speakers, first-class entertainers, a stirring torch ceremony to mark the centennial, and, of course, Lions' convention traditions such as the grand parade, the swearing-in of the new international president and three plenary sessions that demonstrate the amazing range and scope of Lions' service. Al Gore, former U.S. Vice President, will give the keynote address, and Stan Brock of Remote Area Medical will receive the 2017 Lions Humanitarian Award. Another highlight is the announcement of the Peace Poster and Essay Contest winners.

Performing at the convention will be Chicago, the Beach Boys, the Charlie Daniels Band, Patti LaBelle, the Blues Brothers Revue, David Archuleta of "American Idol" fame, the African Children's Choir and other top-notch entertainers.

Convention Week is a wonderful experience packed with fellowship, fun and learning. The centennial convention will be especially memorable. Lions will understand and appreciate what Lions have achieved over the last 100 years and help launch our second century of service.

Signed by me in Oak Brook, Illinois, United States of America, this 9th day of May 2017.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Corlew".

Chancellor Bob Corlew
Lions Clubs International President



Official Notice 2017 International Convention, Chicago, Illinois, USA

The following proposed amendments to the International By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2017 International Convention.

ITEM 1: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL CALL PROVISION TO GIVE MORE ADVANCED NOTICE OF THE CONVENTION BY ALLOWING THE OFFICIAL CALL TO BE ISSUED 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That, effective beginning with the 2017-2018 year, Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase “forty (40)” and replacing it with the phrase “sixty (60).”

ITEM 2: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE BOARD REPRESENTATION PROVISION TO BE CONSISTENT WITH RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That, effective beginning with the 2017-2018 year, Article II, Section 5 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase “fourteen (14)” in line 3.

ITEM 3: A RESOLUTION TO PERMIT AN INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER FROM THE SAME DISTRICT TO SERVE ON THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS SIMULTANEOUSLY. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 5(c) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the phrase “, and a director.”

ITEM 4: A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICER ENDORSEMENT FROM TWO (2) TO THREE (3) SUCCEEDING CONVENTIONS AND TO REQUIRE A THREE-YEAR WAITING PERIOD FOR AN INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATE TO SEEK ANOTHER ENDORSEMENT AFTER THE INITIAL PERIOD AND TO REQUIRE A THREE-YEAR WAITING PERIOD FOR AN INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE AFTER TWO SUCCEEDING ENDORSEMENTS. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 4(a), second paragraph of the International By-Laws be amended by changing the validity of an endorsement from two (2) to three (3) succeeding conventions by deleting the phrase “two (2)” and replacing it with the phrase “three (3)”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 4 of the International By-Laws be amended by adding a new paragraph (c) as follows:

Endorsements for international director shall be valid for three (3) succeeding conventions provided that the candidate is otherwise eligible to be elected. If not elected during the initial endorsement, the candidate must wait three (3) years before such candidate is eligible to seek endorsement again. Endorsements for international third vice president shall be valid for three (3) succeeding conventions provided that the candidate is otherwise eligible to be elected for a maximum of two (2) succeeding endorsements. If not elected during the successive endorsement periods, then such candidate must wait three (3) years before the candidate is eligible to seek endorsement again.



Patricia 'Patti' Hill

Dr. Patti Hill of Edmonton, Canada, is a psychologist and member of the Edmonton Host Lions Club. An international director from 2007 to 2009, she served as a Leadership Chair, a member of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum multiple times, a Multi-National coordinator for Campaign SightFirst II, an Institute Faculty member, and a presenter at several forums and international conventions. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Hill received the Inspiring Woman Award and remains active in many professional and community organizations.



ROsane Teresinha Jahnke

ROsane Teresinha Jahnke served as international director from 2008 to 2010. A member of the Balneário Camboriu Centro Lions Club in Brazil, she was a teacher and is a lawyer. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Helen Keller Knight of Sight recipient, she participated in the LCIF Steering Committee and was a Group Leader and a GLT Leader. She has participated in 20 international conventions and 18 forums, and always promotes the rights of children with special needs as well as cancer prevention awareness.



Carlos E. Justiniano

Carlos E. Justiniano of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, is an orthodontist and president of his real estate corporation. He is a past international director, as was his father, Rafael Justiniano. A member of the Mayaguez Lions Club since 1979 and an Ambassador of Good Will, he is a SightFirst and SightFirst II district coordinator and Leo Club adviser. He is active in many civic organizations including the American Red Cross and Muscular Dystrophy Association, and served as a moderator at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum and Latin American and Caribbean Forums. He has also led 14 humanitarian missions to Haiti since the earthquake in 2010.



Fabrício Oliveira

Fabrício Oliveira of Catolé do Rocha, Brazil, served as an international director from 2006 to 2008. He is a businessman and business administrator, and has been a member of the Catolé do Rocha Lions Club since 1985. He is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received the Global Vision Medal Award, the Ambassador of Good Will Award and 11 International President's Awards. Twice a District Governors-Elect seminar group leader, Oliveira is also active in many professional and community organizations. He has been endorsed three times by Constitutional Area III.



Carolyn A. Messier

Carolyn A. Messier of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, served as an international director from 2011 to 2013 and a board appointee from 2014 to 2015. She is the retired executive director of the Lions Low Vision Centers and a low vision therapist who joined the Windsor Locks Lions Club in 1990. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, she has presented or moderated at six USA/Canada forums, is active in the New England Lions Council and is the recipient of the Ambassador of Goodwill Award as well as other professional and LCI recognitions. A board member of the Connecticut Eye Bank, she served on the founding committee of Lions KidSight USA.



Salim Moussan

Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon, is a retired businessman and member of Beirut St. Gabriel Lions Club. An international director from 1997 to 1999, he has twice been a board appointee and group leader and has chaired several leadership forums. He is fluent in three languages, has visited 93 countries and has attended 29 consecutive international conventions, 72 area forums and more than 45 regional conferences. Recipient of several Lions awards, he was decorated with Lebanon's National Medal of Merit.



Steven D. Sherer

Steven D. Sherer of New Philadelphia, Ohio, has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980. A licensed public accountant and retired finance officer/CFO of New Philadelphia Public Schools, he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received numerous Lions and professional accolades. Sherer served as an international director from 2006 to 2008, was a GMT area coordinator for four years and currently serves on the LCIF Quest Advisory Committee.



Haynes H. Townsend

Chief Judge Haynes H. Townsend of Dalton, Georgia, is a member of the Dalton Noon Lions Club and has 37 years of perfect attendance as a Lion. A past international director, he is a Melvin Jones Fellow, founder of the Georgia Lions Children's Eye Care Center at Emory University and past president of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, Inc. Georgia's Judge of the Year in 2003, he is also a member of the Dalton First United Methodist Church and a Disciple Bible Study teacher.

A Barefooted, Four-Hour Walk to School—Until Lions Intervened

BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

Getting to SK Talantang School, situated among towering rubber trees and marshy rice fields, was an epic journey for many students. Some students who live in areas without roads walked for as long as four hours to reach the school in rural Sabah, Malaysia. Then after school they walked home—often barefoot both ways. They didn't want to wear out their precious government-supplied shoes.

Those using vehicles to get to school worried their parents as well. They rode on the backs of motorcycles or packed into rickety vans. During the rainy season, many students who walked and rode skipped school altogether because of the dangers posed by rushing waters.

Now half of the school's 200 students no longer make the long or dangerous daily trek. A dormitory has been built, thanks to Lions clubs in Korea, Kota Kinabalu Host Lions Club in Malaysia and Lions Clubs International Foundation. Built in six months and opened in February, the dormitory is just a short walk from the school.

Spearheaded by Past District Governor Eugene Lee, the dormitory includes bedrooms with bunk beds, bathrooms with flushing toilets, a dining area and a kitchen. The children are fed nutritious meals several times a day. The dormitory also offers lighting, running water and sanitation, amenities which are often not available in many private homes.

The children no longer have to rush home and can participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, Boy Scouts and tutoring. The students can choose to go home or stay in the dormitory on weekends.

During the dedication ceremony, District Governor Myung-young Kang of Korea encouraged the students: "Up to now, you had a good excuse not to attain good scores: the distance between school and your homes. No more. I, your Korean Uncle Kang, wish you study hard, day and night, rain or shine, and become leaders of Kota Marudu, Sabah State and Malaysia. Once becoming such leaders, if someone asks how you have been so successful, you better say, 'That's because I studied at Asrama Desa Lions SK Talantang!'"



The new dormitory at the school has changed students' lives.

Partnership Launched

Classes at a school in Ségbé, Togo, are canceled when it rains. That's because the school is basically an open-air structure with a straw roof. Kindergarten class is taught under a tree. The school has no desks, chairs or tables. But a four-classroom school will be built, thanks to two Lions clubs in Togo and LCIF. Each classroom will have tables and chairs for the students, a desk and chair for the teacher and a cabinet for storage.

The new school is being built thanks to the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)/Aruna Abhey Oswal Trust Humanitarian Initiative Partnership, begun last year. The partnership will support LCIF service projects worldwide that focus on sight, youth, disaster relief, measles and humanitarian initiatives.

Rostraver Lions in **West Virginia** filled a school bus with more than 65 boxes of school supplies for students and teachers affected by devastating floods in Clay County, one of the state's poorest areas. More than 178 homes were declared uninhabitable, forcing families to live in tents, and six schools were severely damaged.

In **Minnesota**, the **Deerwood Lakes Lions** have taken on a variety of projects including a soup kitchen for the needy, playing bingo with Alzheimer's patients, preparing lunches for children on school vacation, establishing a Little Free Library for the community, picking up trash along two miles of highway, giving out scholarships and arranging a rummage sale and health fair.

Curtiss Lions in **Wisconsin** have made multiple donations for scholarships, for the purchase of bicycles given out in the community and for district projects. Through bratwurst fries, they raised \$2,200 that was donated to the police department for purchase of a police dog.

The **Gilbert Lions Club** of **Arizona** screened more than 4,100 children and teachers in a two-week period at Gilbert schools.

In **Texas**, the **Brazoria Lion's** annual gun raffle always hits the mark. A popular event, the \$20 raffle tickets are consistently sold out. Lions sell 3,500 raffle tickets, which include a free barbecue sandwich lunch, for a chance to win a gun and a four-wheeler.

The **Shell Lake & District Lions Club** in rural **Saskatchewan** where 21 of the citizens are Lions, donated \$20,000 to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide Program, which provides dog guides at no cost to needy recipients. This was the club's third and largest donation to the program.

The **Neosho Rapids Lions** in **Kansas** have sponsored a haunted house and a one-hour hayrack ride for 25 years. A canned food collection helps those in need.

Members of the **Jonesboro University Heights Lions Club** in **Arkansas** got a pleasant surprise when two Lions from England joined their weekly morning meeting. The visiting Lions from the **Uttoxeter Lions Club** shared information about their club and thanked the local Lions for selecting "God Save the Queen" as their weekly opening song.

Singapore Bedok Lions in **Singapore** continue their project to help orphans and vulnerable children from a children's home in Yangon, Myanmar. Most recently, they brought the orphans to Singapore for a concert performance.

The **Troy Lions Club** in **Ohio** has 28 preschools on their schedule for vision screenings. They trained college students in an early childhood development class to be vision screeners, and the class obtained practical experience screening the vision of 19 children ages 3 to 5.

In 1947, the **Weatherford Noon Lions** in **Texas** produced the first Parker County Professional Rodeo. The rodeo was taken over by another group, but Lions stayed involved. Since 1950, club members have run the rodeo concession stand, cooking burgers and macho nachos with a pile of jalapenos. They also support the county's youth livestock show.

Spokane Central Lions in **Washington** have raised more than \$500,000 in the last five years, donating to a children's diabetes camp, Girl Scout camp and other camps, supporting high school seniors and nursing students with scholarships, and performing more than 2,000 hearing screenings for preschoolers.

The **Stow Lions** in **Maine** hold a "golf ball drop" each year in conjunction with their fall flea market. A local tree expert takes a basket with up to 300 balls high up and dumps them toward a regulation golf cup below. The closest to the hole or in the hole wins \$1,000. Each ball costs \$10. They recently sold 272 chances, and two winners received \$500 each.

Boise Bench Lions in **Idaho** donated \$20,000 to the Idaho Eastern Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. The funds were raised at their golf tournament in Nevada.

With the support of **Lions Multiple District 35 of Florida** and the **Bahamas**, as well as Lions Club International Foundation, Southeastern Guide Dogs officially opened its Barpal-Hirst Student Center, a dog- and people-friendly place to serve its students. Southeastern Guide Dogs has partnered 3,000 people with service dogs, placing more than 100 dogs each year into careers to assist those with visual impairments and veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Knowlton Lions in **Canada** contributed \$1,500 to the Pettes Memorial Library established in 1894. It is the oldest free rural library in Quebec.

In 2013, when tornadoes ravaged **Oklahoma**, the **Chester Lions** united their community to Stuff-A-Truck with supplies. They did it again for those whose homes were devastated by floods in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A generous community responded, and the Lions filled a truck with needed items totaling 2,000 pounds.

The **Lebanon Lions Club** in **Kentucky** donated \$2,000 to the Marion County Veterans Honor Guard, contributing to the purchase of a new 24-passenger bus used to transport members to military funerals in Marion and surrounding counties.

LION



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Anniversaries

June 2017

***100 Years:** Pueblo Charter, Colo.; Temple Founder, Texas; Denver, Colo.

95 Years: Birmingham, Ala.; Pittsburg, Kan.; Niagara Falls, Ontario, CAN.; Herrin-Energy, Ill.; Jamestown, N.Y.; Orangeburg, S.C.; Fort Wayne Central, Ind.; Tulare Host, Calif.; Montgomery, Ala.; Altoona, Pa.; Aurora, Ill.; Anderson, S.C.; Sikeston, Mo.; Ponca City Noon, Okla.

90 Years: Wooster Noon, Ohio.

85 Years: Murray, Iowa; Rising Sun, Md.; Decatur, Ga.; Cranbury, N.J.; Wellston, Ohio; Chatsworth, Ga.

80 Years: Jackson, Tenn.; Marianna, Fla.; Seattle Capitol Hill, Wa.; Saluda, S.C.; Lewisburg, Tenn.; Sto-Ken-Rox, Pa.; Malden, Mass.; Lansing, Ill.; Gallatin, Tenn.; Seattle Rainier, Wa.; Sandusky, Mich.

75 Years: Cortez, Colo.; Deerfield, Wis.; Wyandotte, Mich.; Windsor Locks, Conn.; Philadelphia Lindley Olney, Pa.; Leesville, La.; Rushford, Minn.; Clearfield, Pa.; Houghton, Mich.; Marietta, Ga.; Carthage, Ind.

50 Years: Mineral Wells Evening, Texas; Pocasset, Okla.; Bethel, N.Y.; Mason Neck Lorton Charities, Va.; Austin Capital City, Texas; Orleans, Neb.; Wellington, Ill.; Woodinville, Wa.; Bonfield, Ill.; Kentland, Ind.

25 Years: Denton Triangle, Texas; Jordan Jordaness, Minn.; Pincher-Cowley Roaring, Alberta, CAN.; Hidalgo, Texas; Lynn Shoe City, Mass.; East Hampton Village, Conn.; Pleasant Valley Bullskin, Pa.; Girdwood Turnagain Arm, Alaska; Eagle River Sleeping Lady Mt, Alaska; Boyceville, Wis.; Harbor Mesa, Calif.; Fall River Carousel, Mass.; Oak Ridge, N.C.; Mill Creek, Wa.; Temple Breakfast, Texas; Grand Haven, Mich.; Byron Delta, Calif.; Canaan Northwest, Conn.; Waterford Regional, Conn.

*Lions clubs operated before Lions Clubs held its first convention in Dallas on Oct. 8, 1917. Hence, the centennial of some clubs predates the centennial of Lions Clubs International.

Anniversaries are based on the official records of Lions Clubs International. The recorded charter date at LCI sometimes differs from local club records.

Information

In Memoriam

Past International Director Dr. Warren E. Greene of Monterey Park Lions Club in California has died. He was 96. A Lion since 1948, he served as an international director from 1970 to 1972. He was responsible for the chartering of the first Leo club in California and founded the California-Nevada White Cane Days. He also served on the executive committees of the Southern California Lions Eye Institute and Junior Blind of America. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, he received the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor awarded to Lions. He was a longtime optometrist.

Lions' Motto Came from A Contest in 1954

Lions have both a slogan and a motto.

The slogan reflects the association's formative years in America during and after World War I. The motto declares its common purpose in two short words.

In the early 1920s, cleverly spelling out our name, the slogan "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety" appeared widely on club stationery, billboards and other promotional materials. Who said it first? Chances are it was a young attorney named Halsted Ritter who rose to speak at the 1919 International Convention in Chicago.

"The name Lions stands not only for fraternity, good fellowship, strength of character and purpose," Ritter declared, "but, above all, the combination of L-I-O-N-S heralds to the country the true meaning of citizenship."

The words suited the patriotism that swept the U.S. following WWI, and Lions embraced the slogan.

As the Lions movement grew across national borders, cultures and languages, Lions began looking for other words to describe their mission and work. In 1954, the board announced an International Motto Contest and invited suggestions from all 522,000 worldwide members.

According to the entry form, the motto had to be "enduring," "international in character" and "easily translatable." There was also a strict contest rule to discourage wordiness. Lions could submit as many mottoes as they liked, but each entry could be no more than five words in length.

To get Lions thinking, the organizers gave out a few five-word examples: "Men of Action in Action," "Working with Others for Others" and "Worldwide Service to Humanity."

Thankfully, 11 of the 6,000 Lion contestants had a better idea. They each submitted identical entries. But Lion D. A. Stevenson from Fonthill, Ontario, Canada, was declared the winner as his submission had the earliest postmark. His motto contained two simple words: "We Serve."





Faith in Hope for Charity

Comedian Bob Hope accepts the 1971 Lions International Humanitarian Award from International President Robert D. McCullough of Tulsa, Oklahoma, at a Lions banquet in Washington D.C. Hope was honored for his work on behalf of sight conservation and eye research. The Humanitarian Award is now presented at the international convention, and Stan Brock, the founder of Remote Area Medical, will receive the award in July in Chicago (page 6).



Celebrate 100 years of humanitarian service

by purchasing a Lions Clubs Centennial Commemorative Coin.

This exquisitely crafted, limited-edition, silver dollar coin is produced by the United States Mint and features our founder Melvin Jones.

This keepsake coin is the perfect way to honor our rich history and support the life-changing work of Lions around the world. For each coin sold, US\$10 is authorized to be paid to Lions Clubs International Foundation to improve the lives of even more people in need.

The Centennial Coins will only be minted during 2017 and supplies are limited. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of Lions history.



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US\$52.95

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Make a difference!

Celebrate our 100th anniversary by inviting a Centennial member to join your club.

This opportunity only comes once every 100 years. So invite a Centennial member to join your club and make our next century of service the most impactful yet!



Lions Clubs International

lionsclubs.org/CentennialMembership