

SEPTEMBER 2017

LION

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LIONS TAKE ON THE DIABETES EPIDEMIC

Children with diabetes
enjoy their summertime
at Lions Camp Merrick
in Maryland.



Lions Clubs International

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101st International Convention
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
June 29-July 3

WE SERVE

MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

CONTACTING THE LION

For change of address, non-receipt of the magazine and other subscription issues, contact **630-468-6982** or MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org. For all other inquiries call **630-571-5466**. Have a story idea or photo? Want to comment on a story or make a suggestion for LION editors? Contact the LION at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org or at **630-468-6798**.

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Children at Lions Camp Merrick in Maryland learn about managing their diabetes.

A NEW ERA BEGINS FOR LIONS

➔ NAMASTE!



Progress can come with a steep price. As people worldwide enjoy fast food and work non-strenuous jobs, diabetes

has become a global crisis. My own nation, hardly wealthy, is a case in point. India is known as “the diabetes capital of the world” with a staggering 50 million people suffering from type 2 diabetes. The statistics in the United States are bleak as well. In New York, a city with access to fruits and vegetables, an estimated 800,000 adults—more than one in every eight—now have diabetes. Nationwide, the picture is even grimmer. One in three children born in the United States is expected to have diabetes in their lifetimes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The toll on society will be enormous. Diabetes can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney damage and nerve damage. It also causes blindness.

Lions Clubs International (LCI) will not sit on the sidelines as the disease mounts. We will be in the thick of efforts to prevent and treat the disease. At our 100th International Convention in July in Chicago we formally announced our new commitment to curtailing diabetes. Echoing Helen Keller’s appeal to Lions in 1925 at their convention to become Knights of the Blind, Keller Johnson-Thompson, Keller’s great grand-niece, urged Lions and Leos to take on this new challenge.

“Will you not constitute yourselves to continue to be Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness through your work with diabetes?” she asked tens of thousands of Lions near the end of the final plenary session.

The focus on diabetes is part of LCI’s new global service framework. We are directing our energies and resources to-

ward vision, hunger, the environment, pediatric cancer and diabetes. We’re building on our traditions but also giving Lions new ways to serve. Lions can continue to support their local causes, of course, but we ask clubs and districts to contribute to the five areas of focus.

Johnson-Thompson dramatically rung the bell that was struck at the 1925 international convention to ring in Lions’ work with the blind and visually impaired. For 100 years Lions have always answered the bell. I am fully confident that we will rise to the challenge and fight back against the modern scourge of diabetes.

DR. NARESH AGGARWAL
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



// THE BIG PICTURE

GUNS AND ROSES



Connor Tinsley of the MSU Campus Lions Club in Michigan admires the shooting prowess of a resident at a senior home. The Lions bring flowers and games on their regular visits to the home (story on page 30). // PHOTO BY KEVIN FOWLER

DOG SHOW



Guide dogs are rare and poorly understood in Japan, so the Yamagata Uyo Lions Club brings a service dog to a crowded shopping district and lets people walk with the dog.



Georgia Lion to Serve as President



Past International Director Judge Haynes Townsend of Georgia, with his wife, Donna Lord, and family, celebrates his nomination as third international vice president July 2 at the 100th International Convention in Chicago.

Nearly 30,000 Lions celebrated the Lions centennial in Chicago at the 100th International Convention June 30 to July 4. Judge Haynes H. Townsend of Dalton, Georgia, was elected as third international vice president, meaning he will serve as international president in 2020-21. A past international director and a Melvin Jones Fellow, Townsend is the founder of the Georgia Lions Children's Eye Care Center at Emory University and a past president of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, Inc. In 2018-19, Lions will be led by its first woman president, First International Vice President Gudrun Bjort Yngvadottir of Iceland. Second International Vice President Jung-Yul Choi of Korea will serve as president in 2019-20. Full coverage of the convention will be in the October LION.

LEOS REACH A MILESTONE

In its 50th year, the Leo program celebrated a milestone in May: the 7,000th Leo club was chartered. There are an estimated 174,000 Leos in 144 nations. "Leo" stands for leadership, experience and opportunity, and the main purpose of the program,

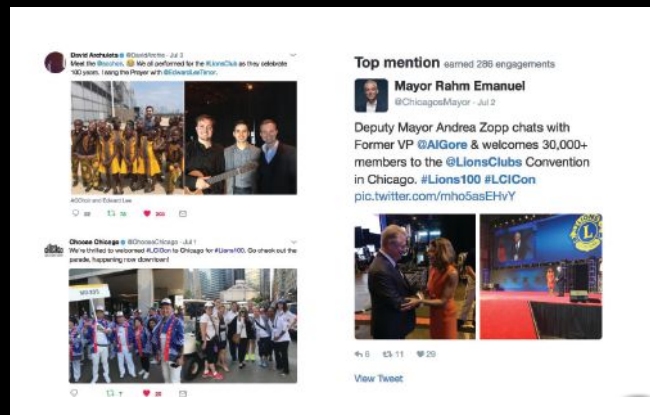


Future Fixer Leos in Chennai, India, run an eye testing program at schools with the help of doctors and nurses.

coordinated by Lions Clubs International, is to encourage volunteerism. Leos began in 1957 in Abington, Pennsylvania, after young Bill Graver asked his father, Glenside Lion Jim Graver, "Why isn't there a Lions-sponsored service club for young people?"

LIONS WERE TRENDING

It never happened before: Lions Clubs International was trending on Twitter. For the first two days of the international convention (June 30 and July 1) in Chicago, #LCICon was popular on Twitter—just below Jay-Z, who had released an album. The trending occurred because Lions at convention were posting photos on Twitter using the #LCICon hashtag, as were David Archuleta, the popular singer who performed at convention, and other people and entities involved in the convention such as the Shedd Aquarium, the Chicago Park District and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “This show that Lions have a better understanding now of social media, that they are more comfortable using it,” says Jacqui MacKenzie, the social media and community manager at LCI who encouraged Lions and convention partners to use the hashtag.



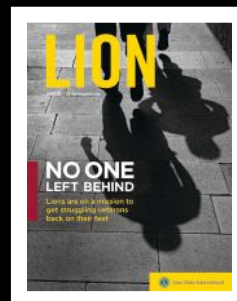
Cancer Death Leads to Saving Others



Martina's parents are comforted by the good that came after she died.
Photo by John Timmerman

A stylish, vibrant young adult in Italy, Martina died from cancer more than a decade ago, but her parents still feel close to her. “It’s like Martina is always by our side, still alive,” says her father. That’s because her death inspired a national Lions’ program to teach high school students about risk factors for cancer and to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Embraced both by the Ministry of Health and Education, Lions’ Martina Project has resulted in half of the youths exposed to it to change their lifestyles. The project is depicted in the latest LQ, the Lions Quarterly Video Magazine. The July LQ also features a food bank in an Oregon town where a mill closed, a dental clinic run by a club in Jamaica and a microfinance loan to a mother in India which led to a new textile factory in Delhi. 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.



LION TO PUBLISH EVERY OTHER MONTH

The LION will print six issues a year beginning in January, instead of the current 11, and also will publish five separate digital issues with additional content. Recognizing the demand for digital content, Lions’ International Board of Directors decided in 2015 to reduce the number of print issues. In 2016 the LION upgraded the digital LION with videos and bonus stories and also optimized it for smartphones, iPads, tablets and Web browsers. The digital magazine remains available as well in a second format—a “flipbook” version that mirrors the print issue. In addition to the forthcoming five digital issues annually, each month’s print issue will continue to be digitized and include bonus content.

OVERHEARD

“Her face just lit up like sunshine.”

—LEITA HASSIG of the Plainview Lions Club in Minnesota after a 95-year-old woman with macular degeneration used a video magnifier to read the newspaper. The machine was given to her by the Plainview and Kellogg Lions. From the Post Bulletin.

“He reacted with his eyes. He was just looking around at everything. But he didn’t say anything. The look on his face said it all. I knew that had changed his life.”

—OPTOMETRIST DR. MELISSA PFEFFER on an 8-year-old boy in Trinidad who received eyeglasses thanks to a vision mission. Pfeffer was set to travel to Guatemala with thousands of eyeglasses collected by Campbell County Lions in Tennessee. From the LaFollette Press.

“They’re the happiest kids in the whole county.”

—MIKE EXLEY, a Spanaway Lion in Washington, after his club sponsored an Easter egg hunt for children with special needs. From the News Tribune.

BY THE NUMBERS

22

Children from the Oklahoma School for the Blind who volunteered at the Bean and Chili Day of the Sapulpa Lions.



8

Size in feet of each of the two big-screen projector TVs at the Daytona 500 party hosted by Terra Rubra Lions in Maryland.

19

First to third graders who attended a summer reading and writing camp made possible by Lansing Lions in New York.

12

Roses given to buyers of a \$50 Lions Loot Ticket for the sweepstakes of the Fulton Lions in New York.

46

Cases of dry food bought and delivered to the Spanish Community Center Pantry by Joliet Noon Lions in Illinois.



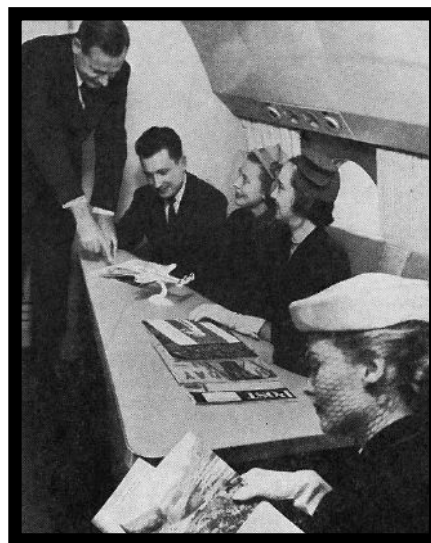
150

Eggs of the 1,500 in the Easter Egg hunt with a white slip of paper entitling the child to a stuffed animal. Kirkwood Lions in Missouri have held the hunt since 1929.



2,200

Eyeglasses distributed by Oregon Lions including Roseburg Lions on a 10-day mission to Mexico.



65 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

↔ **SEPTEMBER 1952**

The LION Magazine is now available for passengers on Capital Airlines, joining “other leading national publications to circulate throughout the 6,000 miles of one of the nation’s leading air routes.” Each of the 76 cities served by Capital Airlines has at least one Lions club.

[Read the complete story.](#)



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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!



// Steve Welker

Chandler Lions Club, Arizona

Twenty-three years ago, Lion Steve Welker and his wife, Dr. Kristina Welker, were driving to visit the surrogate mother who was carrying their twin boys when they were hit head on by a man who had gone into a diabetic coma while driving. Kristina suffered multiple serious injuries. Steve was left blind.

Two weeks later, their sons, Colton and Dylan, were born.

Now, Steve Welker, 60, shares his story of facing life's challenges in the hardest of times.

He is the author of "The World at My Fingertips" and co-authored "Radical Resiliency" with his wife, a doctor of psychology. A motivational speaker, Welker is on the board of the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a spokesperson for the United Way and an avid supporter of Guide Dogs For The Desert.

Why did you become a Lion?

After the accident I went to the Arizona Center for the Blind for rehab to learn daily living skills and computer training, and I realized that it was founded by a Lions club. I suddenly had all these connections to Lions, but I was not a Lion.

What do you like most about Lions?

The camaraderie. I love doing all the activities Lions are involved in. And it's awesome that I'm able to be in the group that supports what's important to me, and so many causes I'm so very fond of.

You say that when people accept their limitations they uncover an ability to overcome great odds. How were you able to do that?

Three things: Positive attitude, setting goals and accomplishing them and a strong support group. Positive attitude is not something you're born with, but you can build that. I had to build one out of desperate need. I had to set goals. And I have an amazing wife who stayed with me. She had her own serious injuries, and I was in a coma. She did not marry a blind man, but she was on board from the beginning. And I have amazing boys. And I have Lions who have helped me figure things out.

And you have Orbit, your "above-standard poodle?"

Yes. He's awesome. I got him on April 30, 2014, 20 years to the day I lost my sight.

How can seeing people best help people who are blind?

Ask.

You write that there are things you would love to do, but you have to accept that you simply can't do them. Such as?

Look into my wife's eyes. See my sons. I have missed every stage of their life, visually.

Is it difficult to relive your story, telling it each time you give a presentation?

No. It's just a story, and it ends on a

happy note. There's nothing special about me. I went through this, and look what I was able to do. And you can do it too.

I like this quote from Helen Keller: "I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light."

That's something Lions have done for me. They've been my friend.



Some say
'service is
its own
reward'.

We agree. But we also
feel our service recognition
awards make for a nice
reward too.



Go to LCIstore.org

For the new Women in Lions pins and our many other service awards.



Ten Ton Toots, a retired mine locomotive, may be the largest piggy bank in the world. She collects donations for the Coleman Lions in Alberta, Canada.

Ten Ton Toots Collects Coins, not Coal

There will be no shaking of the Lions' piggy bank in Coleman, Alberta, Canada, to see if there's change inside. You can just assume that there is, and that when it's removed, it will go to fund Lions' projects.

The Lions' piggy bank is fondly called "Ten Ton Toots" because she was 10 tons of dead weight when the Lions got her as a way to launch their fund drive and build a new hall for the Boy Scouts in the 1960s.

"Toots" is a retired mine locomotive born in 1909. Known to miners as "Dinky," she hauled five million tons of coal from underground to daylight over 180,000 miles of tracks from 1904 to 1954, says Lion Guy Farano.

A compound air locomotive, Toots used compressed air released into the cylinders to drive the wheels and pull up the 200-ton loads from the mines in York Creek, an underground mine south of Coleman. But Toots served her time, and when she was put to pasture, the Lions got her.

She was craned onto a flatbed truck and then hauled to Flumerfelt Park in Coleman where the Lions cut a slot in her side and changed Toot's collection from coal to coins.

She may well be the biggest piggy bank in the world now, according to the Lions, who open her up every two to three years and collect from \$200 to \$500 in contributions.

Visitors like to take pictures with her and contribute to the Lions, says Farano. And they can continue to for years to come. Anybody who decides differently will have to move her.

Lebanon Lions are Heavy Hitters

The Lebanon Lions in Indiana have supported their local Little League since second baseman Jackie Robinson was the National League's MVP. That was 1949.

Many young boys and girls have worn jerseys sponsored by Lions during the 68 summers since, but in honor of the Lions' centennial, the Lebanon Lions decided to hit it out of the park with a Legacy project. They contributed \$10,000 to the Lebanon Little League, not only sponsoring a ball team, but also allowing the Little League to replace gravel paths between ball fields with pavement, making the park handicap accessible.

Lots of families spend their summer evenings and weekends at the ball park, says President Dan Fleming. "This will make it easier for a lot of people."

Chip Hunter, president of Lebanon's Little League, says the donation allowed them to accelerate work that was on the five-year plan. "The walkways between the fields were fairly difficult to navigate, especially if you had a wheelchair or a walker, but thanks to their generous donation, that's not a problem anymore."

Hunter says Little League relies on community support, and the Lebanon Lions have been "a loyal partner" for many years. About 600 boys and girls play in the Lebanon Little League each year, and many families enjoy the park. Even more came in last year when 14 teams from around Indiana arrived for the state baseball tournament. And this year they will host the state tournament for girls' softball.

When the paving was done, leftover Lions' funds were combined with Little League money, helping them purchase another set of bleachers that were needed at the park.

To top it off, Fleming says last summer's Lions baseball team ended the season in first place.

Kentucky's Got Talent

Greenup County Lions in Kentucky went looking for talent, and they hit a gold mine—so much talent that they're digging deeper and doing it again.

The club has traditionally sponsored a horse show every fall to raise money for scholarships and community projects, but interest in the horses was dropping, says Lion Cathie Shaffer.

She suggested that they try a talent show instead, envisioning something local, something akin to the television program "America's Got Talent."

Their tristate area of Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia, near Ashland, Kentucky, has already produced popular singers like The Judds and Billy Ray Cyrus. There surely had to be more talent out there, thought Past President Shaffer, who co-chaired the project with Treasurer Joshua Spears.

"We didn't know what to expect. But we really have some talent around here," says Shaffer. "Bless their hearts, the guys didn't know what they were doing. But they helped, and it turned out great. We also had great support from the community."

Performances were held at the John P. Stephens Cultural Arts Center in Raceland High School. Backstage help came from the local community college, and local music and theatre instructors served as judges.

Shaffer says she was surprised by the variety of performers who took the stage. A "fantastic" 12-year-old contortionist, an 8-year-old singer, a Michael Jackson impersonator, some good bands, a gospel singer, a drummer and others vied for prize money of \$500, \$250 and \$125, and Lions took in about \$3,000—\$1,500 of which provided scholarships to local students.

"We're happy with how it turned out, and we hope to make it an annual event," Shaffer says, noting that another show is being planned for November. "It's something we're offering that nobody else is. And it's a chance to showcase these people who might not have other places to perform. We've definitely got talent around here."



A talented performer competes in the hope of winning the prize money at the Greenup County Lions talent show in Kentucky.

Photo by Joshua Spears

A Fine Day for Ducks and Research

On any given day ducks can float down the Acushnet River in Massachusetts with no direction and no one judging their speed.

But then the "Duck Master," Lion Joe Costa, came along. In 2014, he suggested the Acushnet Lions sponsor a duck race to raise money.

"I thought this would be easy, seeing that we already have a river running through the town," Costa says. "Little did I know, it was not easy."

First off, where do you find 500 ducks willing to race downstream on Father's Day? The Lions had to buy 500 rubber ducks, print numbers on their bottoms with waterproof markers, get the permits to conduct the race and contact the fire department to put up a dam that would stop the ducks from going

too far down river. Nobody wanted them to end up in the ocean.

But hard work and unexpected challenges were no deterrent.

The Acushnet Lions sold 500 tickets for \$10 each, then added an additional 200 tickets to please their sellout crowd. They put up a finish line dog house for the ducks to float through. On race day, Lions in kayaks had to scoop up the ducks as they crossed the finish line and rescue the dawdlers who floated off course and ended up in the rocks and weeds.

Prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 were awarded to the three winners, and merchants gave more than 30 gift certificates in prizes as well, helping the club make enough to contribute \$5,000 to Lions Eye Research aimed at

the prevention and cure of eye disease.

When all ducks were back on dry land the Lions learned one more job had to be done. The ducks needed a bath if they were going to compete again the next year. So back in the water they went.

The Lions sold 1,000 tickets, and prizes were upped to \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 on the second and third years of the race, says Costa. Each year the Lions donated \$8,000 to Lions Eye Research, and they expect the race to be an annual event followed by an annual contribution to Lions research.

Costa is resigning as "Duck Master," but another Lion is ready to take on the coveted title.



Two orphans in Ghana wear dresses made from old pillowcases.

ENGLAND

New Dresses Save Girls from Dire Fate in Ghana

Pillowcases in England likely to be discarded end up saving girls in Ghana from being molested or abducted.

Cheadle Lions and other Lions clubs support Little Dresses for Africa in which pillowcases are recycled and sewn into dresses. Girls in shabby clothes in Ghana are at particular risk of abuse because it's assumed there is no one to care for or protect them.

Nicole Watson, wife of Lion Nick Watson, is the UK coordinator for Little Dresses for Africa. She recently distributed to orphans in Ghana 480 dresses, 94 pairs of shorts, 90 T-shirts, hundreds of pants, books and toys. "It really makes you appreciate what we have here in the UK," says Watson.

"In Ghana there is no social assistance. If you are ill, there is no NHS [National Health Service]."

Members of the all-male Cheadle club, other clubs and other groups donated pillowcases or sewing supplies, paid for shipping or made the dresses. Cajoled by his wife, Nick, the president of the Cheadle club, ran a half-marathon and raised 400 pounds (US\$500) for the project.

Watson's trip focused on the Holy Heart Foundation orphanage near the capital of Accra. Some of the children are orphans while others were homeless because of abject poverty in their family.

NEW ZEALAND

A Twiddlemuff Triumph for Those with Dementia

Restless hands are a hallmark of people with dementia. A twiddlemuff, a thick hand warmer with buttons, buckles or other easily-fingered objects attached inside, are often given to those with dementia to provide a comforting distraction.

The all-women Palmerston North Heartland Lions Club set a goal to knit 100 twiddlemuffs in 100 days (ironically, the project was not a centennial project). The 43-member club easily surpassed its goal by coming up with 160 twiddlemuffs.

"Every Lion probably knows someone unfortunate enough to have dementia. It can strike every walk of life, color or creed," says 2016-17 President Jeanette Izod, whose sister-in-law and brother-in-law have the disease.

Members used donated wool, buttons and assorted items to sew the twiddlemuffs. One woman donated her mother's 100-year-old buttons, and

another provided a suitcase of wool. Some donors took it upon themselves to knit the twiddlemuffs on their own.

A red heart was sewn on to each twiddlemuff, given to care facilities. Staff

told Izod that patients are "reluctant to take them off and just want to sit and twiddle." One woman who had not spoken for weeks held her hands up and said, "These are lovely."



Jeanette Izod (left), 2016-17 president of the Palmerston North Heartland Lions Club, and Lion Ann Dowds have some fun with the twiddlemuffs sewn by the club.

HUNGARY

Talent Day Showcases Similarities

Talent shows for schoolchildren invariably are crowd pleasers. But what happens when you bring together children in regular schools with children with disabilities and Roma children in one of the poorest regions of Hungary?

On a scale of 10, the cumulative effect of a day of music, dancing and painting soared to a level of 11. “There were lots of tears,” says Lion Attila Jeles of the Nyíregyháza Elso Lions Club, which co-sponsored the unusual event. The children learned the lesson that they share things in common with people different from themselves. “We wanted to strengthen the feeling in them that we are all different, but dance, music and culture bring us closer to each other,” says Jeles, an English teacher. “Dissimilarity embodies an enormous amount of qualities.”

The 4th Lions Talent Day was held at the Vikár Sándor Music School in Nyíregyháza. The children with disabilities who took part attend special schools and grapple with Down syndrome, autism, blindness and other challenges. The musicians were Roma children (known—often pejoratively—as gypsies) from the Dankó Pista Secondary Grammar School in Biri. The other children attend various schools.

The event also was sponsored by the National Talent Points, a nonprofit that encourages gifted children. Leos pitched in as well. “Talent Day is always an unmatched, astounding experience,” says Jeles.

The 4th Lions Talent Day in Hungary showcased youths’ artistic skills.



ANSWERING THE CALL

Lions are rallying around the global epidemic of diabetes



Keller Johnson-Thompson calls Lions and Leos to action.

The only living descendant of Helen Keller, Keller Johnson-Thompson stood before 15,000 Lions and Leos near the end of the 100th International Convention July 4 in Chicago.

Aside her was the very same bell Helen Keller stood next to at the 9th International Convention in 1925 in Cedar Point, Ohio. Keller had rung the bell after her speech, a historic, game-changing call to action for Lions to be Knights of the Blind.

Johnson-Thompson, Keller's great grand-niece and a Lion from Tusculumbia, Alabama, vigorously struck the bell to ring in a new call to action for Lions for their second century. She asked Lions,

“Will you not constitute yourselves to continue to be Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness through your work with diabetes?”

“We Lions always answer the bell,” responded Centennial Chairperson and Past International President J. Frank Moore III, an Alabama resident. “And we’ll do so with diabetes.”

This past year Lions Clubs International (LCI) announced its new service framework: **vision, hunger, the environment and pediatric cancer**. In Chicago, Lions learned that **diabetes** also will be a fifth main focus for the next five to 10 years.

LCI adopted diabetes as a central cause after consulting with Lions. Lions leaders since then have built a global technical diabetes working group, funded pilot programs and developed step-by-step guides to easily walk Lions and Leos through the planning and delivery of diabetes projects.

Enlisting the support of 1.45 million Lions to curtail diabetes can't come too soon.



420 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE WITH DIABETES

Our goals in the fight against diabetes:

/1/ PREVENT

To prevent type 2 diabetes through healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

/2/ CONTROL

To control diabetes-related complications through education, support and increased access to care.

/3/ RESEARCH

To support and advocate for research that leads to new treatments and technologies that can change lives.

**LIONS DON'T STAND
ON THE SIDELINE.
WE SERVE ON THE
FRONTLINE.**

STORIES BY JOAN CARY // Photos by Ron Wu

Campers celebrate when they achieve personal goals in diabetes management.

A Dynamic Approach to the Disease

Diabetes is life-changing.
So are these camps for kids with diabetes.

UNTIL 2002, RHONDA MCDAVID KNEW LITTLE ABOUT DIABETES AND NOTHING ABOUT LIONS.

But then her son, Matthew, introduced her to both. Now she's a Lion and executive director of Camp Seale Harris, a Lions-supported diabetes camp, serving more than 600 diabetic children each summer in Alabama, one of the states hardest hit by the disease.

At age 4, Matthew McDavid, now 18, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, and at age 5, he begged to go to summer camp. Through his doctor, his mom found Camp Seale Harris, and inadvertently, Lions.

Some camps are Lions-owned like Lions Camp Merrick in Nanjemoy, Maryland, but many more camps like Camp Seale Harris count on Lions for support. An estimated 220 diabetes camps serve 22,000 to 25,000 campers in the U.S., says Indiana Lion Terry Ackley, executive director of the Diabetes Education and Camping Association. There are also 22 diabetes camps in Canada and possibly 500 to 600 camps worldwide serving 40,000 to 50,000 children with diabetes.

McDavid, at Camp Seale Harris, didn't just send her son to camp. She went with him, first as a volunteer. She watched firsthand as Lions bestowed kindness sweeter than pecan pie on the children who wake up every day with diabetes. She saw Lions sweat behind the stoves on those late summer days in the South, making sure the campers got nutritious meals—a key to keeping diabetes in check. And she met children—many of whom would have never made it to camp without the Lions who financially and physically helped them get there.

MCDAVID MADE CAMP FRIENDS

LION DORA: Dora Hartsock, a Lion from Gulf Shores who 20 years ago lost her 8-year-old daughter, Bridget, to diabetes complications, then turned around and poured her heart into fighting the disease and helping the children who have it. For one week every summer, she goes to the camp in Mobile, and among other things, teaches line dancing to get kids moving because exercise is important. And if she didn't, there'd be a mutiny.

LION GUS: Past District Governor Gordon Gary from Mobile who runs the camp kitchen serving healthy meals to more than 100 hungry campers every day because good nutrition is crucial to keeping blood sugar in check. And because Lion Gus's scrambled eggs are the best way to start the day after you've checked your blood sugar.

LION ANNE: Past District Governor Anne Shumaker, a Centre Lion and a retired teacher who, before the schools had nurses, kept her desk stocked with tiny packages of orange juice, candy and sugar cubes for the students with diabetes. She now helps families fill out camp paperwork and leads her club's support in getting kids to camp—all the way down to buying swimsuits for them and gas for parents.

"These Lions are making a profound difference in the lives of children with diabetes," says McDavid.

⇒ **THE FUTURE IS THEIRS.
THE OPPORTUNITY IS OURS.**

AND THOSE ARE JUST A FEW LIONS.

Among the 1.4 million Lions now vowing to fight this epidemic is Lion Matt Knauff, 19, of Grantsville, Maryland, who says Lions have been part of his life since he could walk.

Unfortunately, so has diabetes.

Knauff, 19, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 3, attended his first diabetes camp at Lions Camp Merrick when he was 6. His tuition was paid for by his hometown Grantsville Lions, and although he got homesick, he went back the next year, and for many after. For 14 years he has been going back to camp.

Now Knauff is a camp counselor and just a few days after his 18th birthday, he also became a Lion like his dad and his grandparents.

“I love it,” he says of Lions Camp Merrick. “It gives children a chance to not be the weird kid on the block. At camp, you’re not different anymore.”

“If you ask a child what they like about diabetes camp, they’ll say, ‘I’m not alone.’”

McDavid says, “If you ask a child what they like about diabetes camp, they’ll say ‘I’m not alone, and I found out I can still do things.’”

“Camp helps kids become independent with their care. It helps families access support.”

“What’s most difficult about diabetes is that you wake up every day, and you still have it. You can’t take a day off from it,” adds McDavid. “And you will continue to have it for the rest of your life.”

⇒ **1 IN 3 U.S. CHILDREN WILL HAVE DIABETES IN THEIR LIFETIME**

PHOTOS: Children with diabetes have fun, find support and become more independent with their care at camps like Lions Camp Merrick in Maryland and Camp Seale Harris in Alabama.



Not Alone in the Fight

LIONS OFFER HOPE AND SUPPORT TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH DIABETES.

On the endocrine floor at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, nurse Jamie Connelly aims to be like “that nurse”—the nurse who stuck her head in Connelly’s hospital room back in 2005 when she was 11 and diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

“I just wanted you to know that I’m working today. I also have diabetes, and I was diagnosed when I was 11. I was at this hospital,” she recalls the nurse saying to her.

In that moment, Connelly, the granddaughter of Maryland Lions Jack and Joan Magee, knew she was not alone. She also knew, she says, “that I could totally do that.” She could be a nurse like that one and help other children live with a disease that often begins in childhood but lasts a lifetime.

She learned to manage. At age 11, that meant checking her blood sugar was as much a part of her routine as practicing her flute. Counting carbs was sixth-grade math that other kids didn’t have to do. Sleeping in was never an option because her blood sugar had to be checked every morning whether it was a school day or a Sunday.

For years, at home, at school or during her much-loved summer days at Lions Camp Merrick—for which she thanks the support of the Cecilton Lions—she endured eight shots a day. Although she still regularly checks her blood sugar and counts her carbs, her newest “really cool regimen” has her taking only one shot every two or three days to insert her insulin pump site, she says with glee.

“It’s always hard, but with the very young children who don’t quite grasp it yet, it’s harder for the parents because they know that this is a lifetime thing,” Connelly says. “Nobody wants to see their kid get diagnosed with something like this.”

While the cause of type 1 diabetes (characterized as the body’s inability to produce insulin) is not known, type 2 results from the body’s ineffective use of insulin—often the result of excess body weight and physical inactivity. And more than 60 percent of adults and 30 percent of children in the U.S. are overweight or obese.

One of three adults in the U.S. has prediabetes, and 9 out of 10 don’t know it, according to the World Health Organization. That’s where the need for screenings becomes evident.

Around the world, Lions are promoting awareness and offering screenings that alert individuals to their need for medical care or a lifestyle change. In Florida, Lions have screened more than 140,000 people and trained another 10,000 to do the same, says Past District Governor Dr. Norma Callahan, president of the Lions Diabetes Awareness Foundation in Multiple District 35.

“Out of every screening we have at least 10 percent that need to be referred,” says Callahan. “People come back to us and say, ‘You’ve made such a difference in my life.’”

Connelly’s father and grandfather are among the people who have come back. In a letter to the Cecilton Lions, Jim Connelly wrote that his daughter’s diabetes camp experience could not have been possible without the graciousness of Lions.

“Your charitable work helps people in ways you may never learn about.”

Building Solutions

We're currently piloting 25 diabetes projects in 13 countries. These pilot projects will guide the development of blueprints that will give any club around the world the tools and information needed to organize a diabetes project of their own.



⇒ **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDED US\$750,000 TO MAKE THESE PROJECTS POSSIBLE.**

Lions can be the Difference in Diabetes

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE WORLD. AND LIONS.

Iowa Lion Steve Schuelke would have loved to join the ranks in the Lions' fight against diabetes, says his wife, Sue Schuelke, also a Lion from Oelwein, Iowa.

But in his own way, he led the fight. Schuelke died from heart disease and diabetes complications in April, at the age of 62. He was 18 when diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and after many years and many struggles, "his body gave up but his spirit never did," she says.

He led an active life despite heart disease, kidney disease caused by diabetes and diabetic retinopathy. He volunteered at schools and a diabetes camp for kids, was always willing to share his story if it helped just one person and proudly introduced his diabetes service dog to others.

Diabetes is a personal and progressive disease, but it represents a personal struggle for more than 420 million people worldwide now. And Lions are seizing the opportunity to stop the epidemic growth and change the world.

Project blueprints are being developed to give clubs customizable tools to implement and support diabetes camps, community health and screening programs, and community recreation programs and facilities. Pilot programs are under way around the world to help guide the development of the blueprints. And the new Lions Global Action Team brings together leadership, membership and service to put the plans in action.

Schuelke would have worked with Lions to build some of those programs in his own community, but most importantly, he served as a natural role model for one of their two daughters who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11.

"He wanted to show our daughter how you live with this," says Schuelke. "He didn't have a choice with type 1. But he never let it stop him. He never said, 'I can't do this because I have diabetes.'"

One Lion can make a difference. And when 1.4 million Lions join together to fight diabetes, we can make a world of difference.

Ready to launch your own project?

Here are five ways your club can join the fight against diabetes:

- /1/ Organize a community support group for those with diabetes and their caregivers.
- /2/ Partner with a local healthcare provider to organize a diabetes screening.
- /3/ Sponsor a child in need to attend a diabetes camp or organize your own camp.
- /4/ Organize a school or community vegetable garden to encourage healthy eating.
- /5/ Start a fitness club to keep adults in your community active.

Learn more at lionsclubs.org/diabetes.

OUR TRADITION OF SERVICE WILL BE MORE THAN HONORED. IT WILL BE TRANSFORMED.

Watch short videos on diabetes:
an overview of the diabetes crisis

the role of Lions in fighting diabetes

a camp for children with diabetes

SUPER

TEACHER

Lions played a role in her rise to excellence

// BY JAY COPP

The sleepy-eyed students quietly trudge into English class. It's 7:30 a.m., an ungodly hour for these high schoolers. The May weather outside is warm and inviting, and summer break looms. Today's topic is a pantoum, an obscure form of poetry.

Teacher Kathy Nimmer, 48, plunges ahead at Harrison High School in West Lafayette, Indiana. Don't worry: she's got this.

In a soft voice, a girl volunteers to read a pantoum, a poem with repetitive lines. It was not written by some long-ago aesthete. It was penned by one of them—a former student of Nimmer's. "We have a model poem, but use a student's poem when it's better than the model," Nimmer says.

"What should we write about?" she asks the class. "Purple!" a student cries. "Purple? Usually, it's life or friendships or something big. Let's write about love. Write one sentence on 'luuv.' Keep it classroom-appropriate."

After two minutes, Nimmer explains how the 22 students will create a classroom pantoum, a three-dimensional one. Students will come forward two at a time to replace other students and eventually read their line twice before being replaced.

The complicated choreography is potentially a train wreck, but Nimmer's instructions are precise. The students follow the plan. None of their sentiments are sappy or snarky or clichéd. "Love is an unending struggle." "Love can draw people together or apart."

The students complete an endearing ensemble performance.

"Yeah, that was clappable," Nimmer congratulates the class.

Confidently strolling among the rows of desks, Nimmer, a teacher for a quarter century, commands a classroom without being commandeering. A trait common to the best teacher, she carries within her a fierce desire for her students to succeed.

"She's my No. 1 teacher of all time," says senior Eleanor Sammons, a track star who will run for the University of Wisconsin. "She's the most creative, the most passionate. She's so loving and supportive."

Near the school's entrance is the colorful Casey's Mosaic, created two years ago by writing and art students. Inspirational phrases run across it: "Dream exuberantly." "Savor the life you have." Casey, a student of Nimmer's, died tragically at age 23. She was quiet, and Nimmer never felt she forged a bond with her. But after her funeral her father came to the school with a gift: the money donated to the family after Casey died. The father wanted to use it for the writing program. Casey had confided in her father how much Nimmer's class had meant to her.

Nimmer's teaching skills have not exactly gone unnoticed. In 2015, she was one of the four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year award. After the award she spent a year giving speeches for students and teachers—370 inspirational talks. She gave a TED talk. She met President Obama at the White House.

Local television stations and newspapers jumped all over her story. Today, people in Lafayette recognize her. On the same day that her students made a pantoum, an elderly woman ahead of



her in line at a restaurant did a double take: "Hey, you're the teacher who went way up on the list."

Yet her career in the classroom began horribly. Her classroom was "chaos," she says. One day a boy threw a backpack at another student and shattered a window. "I was mortified. It was humiliating," she recalls.

Even before that horrible day, at her first open house for parents, a shrill



Teacher Kathy Nimmer keeps her students engaged in the classroom. // Photos by Nate Chute

woman gestured toward her and said, “I will not expose my son to this.” A bold boy, more prescient than he or anyone realized, muttered, “Give her a break.”

A Master Mentor

The Tippecanoe School District in the Lafayette area covers 437 square mile. Its 19 schools enroll 12,500 students. One of the most remote schools is Cole

Elementary, situated off a quiet country road and surrounded by vast acres of fertile farm fields. After her writing classes, Nimmer has driven here to huddle alone with teacher Brittany Bredar, whose fourth-graders are at recess.

Bredar tells Nimmer that a boy in her class is from a troubled family. His “reputation” has left him isolated from his classmates. Bredar discreetly en-

couraged an even-keeled classmate to befriend him. The troubled boy shoots baskets alone in the gym, and Bredar says, though she is not a basketball player, she is considering shagging the rebounds so he is not alone.

Nimmer listens attentively, nods her head in affirmation and proffers advice.

A stay-at-home mom, Bredar studied to be a teacher at night. Her first full

“She reads cues really well. She picks up on nuances. ...
She sees better than most sighted people.”

year has not been easy. “I’m a reflective person, and I reflect on how I handled things, how I might have done better, on my drive home,” she says after finishing her session with Nimmer. “There are behavioral issues to deal with. There’s classroom management. Family life comes into the classroom.”

Asked what difference Nimmer has made for her, Breder begins to cry.

“So many words come to mind. She’s my voice of reason, my voice of motivation. I’m more comfortable now, more confident. I try to talk to my husband about school, and he doesn’t get it. Kathy gets it.”

After Nimmer won her national award, the school district happened to create a new position of mentor for rookie teachers. Nimmer got the job. She still teaches two classes at the high school, but she also counsels the 70 new teachers, either brand-new or new to the district.

Down the hall at Cole, in his office, Principal Mike Pinto can easily tick off the qualities that make Nimmer a good mentor. “She has an amazing sense of humor. She’s very kind. She’s real. Humility—that’s a good word, too.”

But what stands out among her soft skills are her perceptive abilities. She quickly sizes up people and situations. “She reads cues really well. She picks up on nuances,” says Pinto. “She sees better than most sighted people.”

Nimmer is blind. She began losing her vision as a second grader. Her retinas were degenerating. By ninth grade, the low point of her life, large print no longer helped. In college she used a cane. By the time she became a teacher only faint perceptions of light were left.

Colleagues of Nimmer long ago stopped being astounded at the concept of a blind teacher. Instead, their astonishment turned to her uncanny abilities as a teacher. Her blindness is now almost an afterthought to them. Her unceasingly high level of attentiveness and engagement in the classroom take center stage. “When you see her interacting with students in class, you wouldn’t even know she was blind. She’s just an amazing teacher,” says Superintendent Scott Hanback. “Her blindness does not define her. What defines her is her love for the kids.”

Yet for her students, her blindness is not so easily pushed to the side. In the first few weeks of class they habitually raise their hand to answer a question. They soon learn to say their name before speaking. As for homework and tests, they submit their work electronically, and Nimmer has text-reading software as well as an audio digital device to make comments.

Her students know not to pet Nacho, her service dog, when he is harnessed and working. But before class, as he lies near her, a student or two invariably plays with him. Like his owner, Nacho is a classroom favorite. Students like how he nudges the bell on the classroom door with his nose before entering the room. Nacho came from Guiding Eyes for the Blind in New York, supported by Lions.

Nimmer knows the layout of her room and walks freely

in certain spaces. But the students remain aware of her disability. At the end of the writing class, a girl tentatively approaches her and slides a white envelope in front of her. “I know you can’t read it. But it’s an invitation to my graduation party,” she tells her.

It’s hard to say if Nimmer would have held the same sway over her students if she had her sight. But it’s certain she has a gift to connect with them.

Early in her career her class had two girls: Jennifer and Sydney. The latter loved English class and writing. The former wanted nothing to do with literature. But they became fast friends in class, bonding over Nimmer’s service dog. And together they did a big presentation in class: staging the classic scene at the water pump in “The Miracle Worker” where young Helen Keller, thanks to Anne Sullivan, understands the word “water.” The performance was indelible.

“It was just so vivid,” says Nimmer. And significant for Nimmer as a teacher uncertain of her ability. The reluctant English student had come to revel in stories. “I realized I could reach any student. Jennifer embodied that for me,” she says.

A second moment of growth and discovery related to students’ personal lives and challenges. When is it appropriate to get closer to a student when they are in crisis? What is the appropriate approach? Years ago, Nimmer had a student in distress. Her mother had cancer, and she was in a downward spiral. Nimmer wavered but finally reached out to the family. The mother, who eventually died, was “super supportive of me connecting so well with her daughter.”

One year three students were killed in a grisly car accident. One of the students had been taking her class. “The bell rung, and the class was totally silent. There was his desk in the front row—empty,” says Nimmer. “I tried to say something. I teared up. I didn’t know what to say.”

But she knew what to do. “Writing is good therapy. I didn’t tell them what to write. There is the power of the written word. It’s an avenue to understanding and strengthening and it gives comfort,” says Nimmer, who herself wrote a letter to the student’s parents. Grateful, the parents wrote back.

Redemptive Suffering

Nimmer was able to reach out to others because of her own setbacks. Her suffering and her passage through it freed up her heart.

Nimmer grew up in Munster, Indiana. Her vision failing her, her parents enrolled her in the Indiana School for the Blind (heavily supported by Lions) when she was a 6th-grader. The school was 160 miles away in Indianapolis. It was tough being away from her loving family. “My heart said ‘no,’ but my head said it was the best place to go,” she says.

But as a 9th-grader she found herself lost. It was hard to master Braille and impossible to read and learn as easily as she did before. That was “a dark time,” says Nimmer.

Depression set in. A gymnast, she foolishly ate way too little. Anorexia gripped her.

The turning point for Nimmer was an all-day counseling session her parents arranged with her pastor. His message resonated with her and gave her hope. “I thought when I lost my vision I lost my importance. I felt I lost value as a person,” she says. “He helped me realize your abilities don’t give you value. Otherwise, only rock stars, athletes and artists would have value. He showed me I had something to give to others. We’re created to serve others. God knows he has a reason and purpose for each of us.”

When she returned to school she became much more involved. She served on the school council and played the school song on the piano at assemblies. Her teachers, especially her piano teacher Linda Francisco, became her trusted mentors. “They gave me the courage and confidence I needed,” she says.

Nimmer enjoys the give-and-take of teaching. She wears glasses to reduce glare and “because they are cute glasses.” ↴



So what should she do with her precious life? She wanted to help others as her teachers at the Indiana School for the Blind helped her. She thought back to her third-grade teacher in Munster, Mrs. Riggs. Her tenderness had saved her. “I thought I just needed glasses. I was going blind,” she says. When she returned to school, Mrs. Riggs wrapped her up in a big hug. Then Mrs. Riggs showed her to her desk, gave her assignments and carried on like a teacher should. “She showed me she could still teach me and I could still learn,” she says.

So when as a new teacher her class was in chaos Nimmer was upset but not defeated. She had experience in rising from a dark depth. She prayed. She made a list of ways for her to improve her classroom management. She worked at becoming calmer and more poised. “I realized if I was uptight, then my students would be uptight,” she says. “Being more animated—more positivity—made a difference.”

Her initial stumbles were a gift; she could better teach students who stumbled. She could walk with struggling new teachers because she had walked in their path. “I’ve been ashamed. I’ve cried. I could use that for others,” she says.

A Wings Wizard

It’s a long way from Munster to the White House. And it was a long wait for President Obama in the hot sun, especially for Elias, her service dog then. White House interns kindly brought him a water bowl emblazoned with “Bo Obama” (the president’s dog).

Accustomed to dealing with a roomful of teenagers, Nimmer was not afraid to joke with the president. Obama chuckled when she told him about her harnessed companion, “He’s about ready to retire, but he waited until he could meet you.”

The year of touring the country and speaking to packed halls was a heady experience. Invariably, after a talk, a teacher, administrator or parent would rush to the podium and introduce a blind child to Nimmer. The local newspaper the next day would carry a quote from the child or a



Nimmer and Nacho leave Harrison High School. ↴

parent on how the encounter would inspire achievement.

But what sticks with Nimmer even more are the youths that seemed to face an especially tough road, those for whom her example or rhetoric would collide with particularly grim circumstances. She met a sobbing teenager. His house had burned down. Actually, it was his grandparents’ house: his parents were out of the picture. The boy had autism. “I think he realized how fragile life is. One day he’d be on his own,” she says. “He was so alone. He did not fit in. I was quaking and crying. It will be awful for him.

“You always want to fix things. I had no answers. But I needed to show him I cared. I don’t know what I did for him, but I was a part of his story.”

For her students, she also will be part of their stories after high school, as they encounter success and hardship. Parents give their children roots and wings. Teachers mostly provide the latter. Nimmer’s students are certain they’ll remember the warm nest she built for them. “If I have obstacles in my life, I’ll think about how happy she was and how she dealt with her blindness,” says Sammons, the track star. “I feel grateful for what I have.”

TARGETING FUN

// BY JAY COPP

Photos by Kevin Fowler

Earlier in the day a resident eagerly pulled aside Erin Scott, a staff member at the senior home, and asked, “Tonight’s the night the kids are coming, right?”

This time the students at Michigan State University came with Nerf guns, balloons and soft paddles. They hung red cups for the seniors to take aim at with the guns and supervised games of balloon badminton.

Many of the seniors at the Brookdale Meridian facility near the campus grapple with memory loss or daunting physical ailments. So how did the activities go over? “Oh, my word, they loved it,” says Scott. “One resident who is further along with dementia—I had never seen him participate so much in an activity.”



Lion Allison Burzinski enjoys watching a senior shoot a Nerf gun.



The students belong to the MSU Campus Lions Club, chartered in 2015. Visiting the home every other week is one of several dozen projects of the highly active, 66-member club.

The Lions mix it up with the seniors, providing a wide variety of activities: bingo, games and even science experiments. They present the seniors with gifts such as flowers and T-shirts.

“Usually they’re not really active. It’s easy for them to be secluded. They can feel isolated,” says President Patty Costello. “We give them companionship. We engage them in activities.”

The students are ordinarily far removed from the concerns and challenges of the elderly. Yet they often are close to their grandparents and, in any case, are quick to bond with the seniors at the home. “It’s my favorite event,” says Costello, a special education major. “They are such sweet people. It’s such a simple thing we do. We hang out with them for two hours. That’s all they ask of us: to be with them.”



Seniors shoot at paper cups. Shown are Lions Connor Tinsley and Patty Costello (background, left) and Nama Naseem.







(Above) Seniors have fun—a break in the monotony of their days.
(Left) Costello and a senior share small talk.



“It’s my favorite event. They are such sweet people. It’s such a simple thing we do. We hang out with them for two hours. That’s all they ask of us: to be with them.”



WE

// BY JAY COPP

ARE

LIONS



A Name With Legs

We're Lions. We've been Lions since the day Lions Clubs began. A name chosen so long ago might easily have become old-fashioned or out-of-date. But a lion is such a potent symbol, resonating with positive qualities. The name transcends both eras and borders. So here is everything you need to know about the origins of our name, why it's apt and how Lions have used it and continue to use it to our advantage.

How We Became Lions

In 1917, Chicago insurance salesman Melvin Jones was the leader of the Business Circle, a businessman's club. At his urging, members of the Optimists, the Wheels, the Royal Order of Lions of Indiana and 20 other clubs met at the LaSalle Hotel on June 7. Skilled at negotiation, Jones convinced 20 delegates from more than two dozen different clubs to form an association.

The one sticking point was a name; each group favored its own. Jones knew he had to give up the name of his own group if he expected other groups to give up theirs. Prepared for disagreement, he had done some research. He told the delegates the name he favored was widely associated with strength, courage, fidelity and action. On a secret ballot the delegates voted for his suggestion: Lions.

The unity over the name lasted just two years. At the 1919 convention in Chicago a bloc of dissatisfied Lions proposed a name change. They wanted something better, something catchier. Attorney Halsted Ritter, a prominent Denver Lion, rose to defend the name. "What a glorious meaning it has," proclaimed Ritter, who later became a judge. "Its name is more significant than any other. It spells not only the king of beasts, typifying all the qualities we love to extol; it stands not only for fraternity, good fellowship, strength of character and purpose, but above all, its combination of letters, L-I-O-N-S, heralds to the country the true meaning

and basis of American citizenship—Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety."

Since 1919 there has never been any movement to change or alter the name. And Rit-



Founder Melvin Jones tames a cub in 1947.

ter's creative formulation of the name has lived on. Not sure of its exact origin, clubs stumble across it on the internet or one Lion tells another of it. Lions also have proposed alternative formulations, most notably 2010-11 International President Sid L. Scruggs III of North Carolina. He championed Loving-Individuals-Offering-Needed-Service.

Early Lions proudly reflected on why our name was appropriate. A Lion from San Antonio, Texas, expounds on a lion's "courage, strength, fortitude and superiority in every department of his life" in December 1921 LION.

An editorial in the January 1931 issue notes how "our name itself was not selected at random."

LIONS MINGLE WITH lions

Pride on Parade:

Like a multitude of other clubs, Fillmore Lions in California like to parade Lion-style.



Surf on Turf: Lions in southwest England publicized their annual convention by the sea last year in Lionistic fashion.



Cubs from Clubs: As a comfort to children who have become lost or are in an accident, the Bloom-Carroll Lions Club in Ohio donated stuffed lions and other stuffed animals to the police department.



A Puzzling Hobby:

Peshu Irani of the Lincoln Hills Lions Club in California made a challenging 1,000-piece puzzle as a tribute to Lions.



King of the ... Road:

A cute stuffed lion is awarded to the winner of the Traveling Lion contest in District 45 in Vermont. The latest club with the prize invites members of other clubs. Traveling clubs are awarded points in a formula based on the size of their club, the number of visiting members and the distance traveled.



Dramatic Moments: Lions Clubs International made a clever short film about Lions serving in Oz for the 2014 International Convention in Toronto and staged an uplifting "Lion King" musical segment at the 2015 International Convention in Hawaii.

MARKING OUR TERRITORY

Lions proudly leave their paw prints in public spaces.



The Seattle West Seattle Lions Club commissioned a local artist to create this mural in Seattle.



Sponsored by the Richmond Lions, this dignified lion stands aside an eyeglass collection box at a bank in Bangor, Pennsylvania.



A lion memorializes Lions: Eden Prairie Lions in Minnesota inscribe the names of deceased members on the marker.



Fear not, kiddies: this lion does not bite. Below Noon Lions in Wisconsin erected this fountain at the Turtle Island playground, also a club project.



Lions of Scotland commissioned an artist in 2006 to create this 20-ton, granite sculpture in Edinburgh, and a few years later Lions fitted it with a spectacle for one eye to raise awareness of glaucoma.



Perhaps the world's most impressive lion created by Lions, the Lion's Head rises 40 feet into the air near Baguio City, Philippines. Baguio City Lions built the popular tourist attraction from limestone and wood in 1972.



Visitors to the state office of Indiana Lions in Indianapolis receive a regal greeting.



Korean Lions built this sturdy monument to publicize Lions.



The lion statue at Lions Park in Visalia, California, is as popular with children as the playground.



Ok, so Garfield is a cat, not a lion—close enough. Sweetser Lions in Indiana meet in a 1933 parlor car. Five-foot-tall Garfield greets visitors near the platform of the caboose, one of a dozen stops on the Garfield trail. Cartoonist Jim Davis grew up nearby.

WE ARE **LIONS**

✓ *Members have the advantage!*

BEAST

HEARING

lion: Movable ears provide good hearing, enabling a lion to hear prey a mile away.

- ✓ Lion: Whether a president or guest speaker is concise or longwinded, Lions still attentively listen. Clubs also absolutely rely on the ability of members to follow spoken instructions for project tasks.

ROAR

lion: A roar can be heard as far as five miles away.

- ✓ Lion: Can't you hear those Lions roar? Sure, you can—Chicago, New York, London, Paris, wherever. Lions' service is known far and wide.

PRIDE

lion: A pride usually consists of 15 lions.

- ✓ Lion: A club can't be chartered unless it has at least 20 members.

ACTIVITY

lion: The laziest of big cats, lions sleep as much as 20 hours a day.

- ✓ Lion: Lions plan to serve 200 million people annually by 2021.

MONIKER

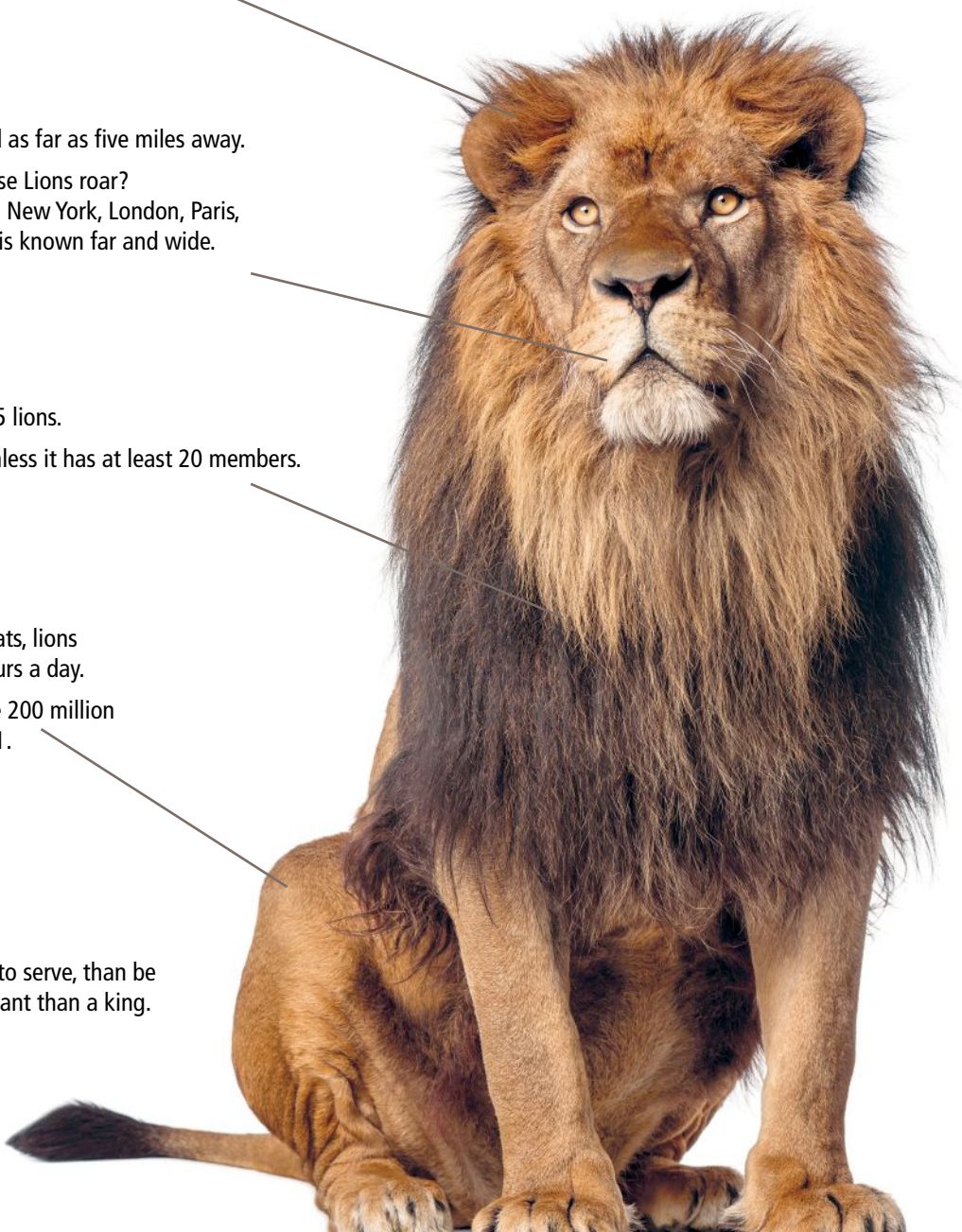
lion: King of the Jungle

- ✓ Lion: We Serve. It's better to serve, than be served. Better to be a servant than a king.

SIGHT

lion: With eyes six times more sensitive to light than human eyes, a lion sees particularly well at night.

- ✓ Lion: Humans have among the sharpest vision of all animals. But even better, Lions give the gift of sight to others.



VS. HUMAN



SMELL

lion: A lion has a well-developed sense of smell.

- ✓ Lion: Clubs carefully consider a variety of projects and can smell a stinker a mile away.

HEART

lion: A male lion typically tips the scales at 420 pounds; its heart weighs a mere 2.5 pounds—less than 1 percent of its body weight.

- ✓ Lion: Lions are all heart.

GENDER ROLE

lion: Females do almost all the hunting.

- ✓ Lion: All jokes aside, both female and male Lions pride themselves on being active and involved.

RANGE/POPULATION

lion: About 20,000 lions roam in 27 African nations and in India.

- ✓ Lion: There are more than 1.4 million Lions in more than 200 nations and geographic areas.

SPEED/ENDURANCE

lion: Can reach a speed of 50 mph but only in a short burst.

- ✓ Lion: Quick to the table when the buffet line opens. More seriously, Lions show great stamina—flipping pancakes and screening vision for hours on end is no easy task.

RATING LIONS OF POPULAR CULTURE

It's a jungle out there. Since time immemorial, lions have appeared as characters in films and books and elsewhere within our culture. The beasts of the jungle seem to speak volumes about the world of humans. So what well-known lions are of the same lineage of Lions and remind us of ourselves? Our roar-a-meter rates famous lions.

Detroit Lions



Twenty-five seasons without a playoff victory. Enough said.



Cowardly Lion, "Wizard of Oz"



Sure, he's a sympathetic character, but he's cowardly.



MGM Lion (Leo)



Positives: great vocal chords and regal bearing. Negative: Fake enthusiasm—forced to roar about many movies that were clunkers.

Richard the Lionheart



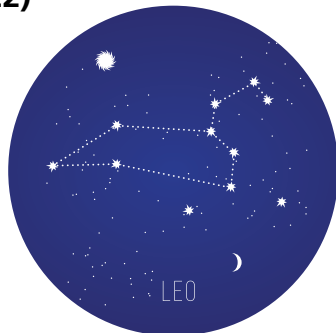
He's commonly overrated. Pious and brave, the 12th-century English king also could be reckless and arrogant.



Leos (people born between July 23 and Aug. 22)



Leos are creative, passionate and cheerful but also sometimes stubborn, self-centered and lazy.



Elsa, the Lioness from "Born Free"



Thanks to Joy Adamson, she learned to live on her own and made the most of her freedom.



Alex, the Madagascar animated films



Voiced by Ben Stiller, Alex is funny, flamboyant and friendly. Best of all, he's a people person: "Here come the people! I love the people."



Aslan, C.S. Lewis' "The Witch and the Wardrobe"



What's not to like: he's wise, compassionate and the benevolent protector of the beleaguered children who visit Narnia.

Simba, "The Lion King"



Simba overcomes his faults and becomes a great leader. His rise to greatness is the ultimate story.



Song Leaders

HOT 10

Lions love to sing—about Lions. And songs about lions have climbed the charts. So here is LION Magazine’s completely unscientific, totally subjective Top 10 Lion songs.

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Don't You Hear Those Lions Roar Joseph W. Thurston/Robert Kellogg |
| 2 | Roar, Lions, Roar Ed Chenette |
| 3 | Hail, Hail the Lions are Here Unknown |
| 4 | Lions Roar Lion Roy L. Burtch |
| 5 | Lions Everywhere Lion Roy L. Burtch |
| 6 | The Lion Sleeps Tonight The Tokens |
| 7 | Circle of Life Elton John/Tim Rice for "The Lion King" |
| 8 | Wondering Where the Lions Are Bruce Cockburn |
| 9 | Little Lion Man Mumford & Sons |
| 10 | Oh England, My Lionheart Kate Bush |

Sing, Lions, sing! The Songs for Lions special issue of the LION in December 2008 showcased three dozen beloved Lions songs.

A LION HUNT

The iconic roaring lion of MGM films dates to 1924. But by 1939 Lions Clubs were so well-known that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer turned to Lions when it needed to film a cub to introduce its short features. Headquarters publicized the contest in the LION and told clubs to mail photos of a cub to headquarters in downtown Chicago.



Leo Jr. is admired by Johnny Weissmuller (from left), Bert Lahr, a World's Fair official, Jimmy Stewart and Frank Buck.

Lions Clubs, not taking a back seat to Hollywood press agents when it came to rhetorical flourishes, asked members to find a Leo Jr. with “the earmarks of a Gable, the natural exuberance of Mickey Rooney, the savior faire of a Robert Benchley and more fuzz on his chest than on Robert Taylor’s.” The cub’s place of origin did not matter—a zoo, a lion farm, a private owner.

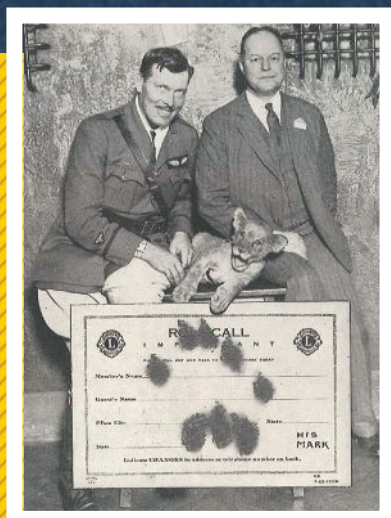
Hundreds of clubs submitted entries. Many submitted photos of their mascots including the Chicago Central Lions, founder Jones’ club. Mel Chico (a play on Jones’ name) resided at Lincoln Park Zoo on the city’s North Side when he wasn’t with the club.

The nine finalists were escorted to the international convention in Pittsburgh, where they ambled across a stage in a Lion Beauty Parade. The winner was three-month-old Cubby, representing the Kalamazoo Lions in Michigan. Lions of Little Rock, Arkansas, who had championed their own Rocky, mock-protested the decision, saying Cubby was a “runt without personality or voice.”

Leo Jr. quickly made his first public appearance—a highly dramatic one—on Lions Day at the World’s Fair in New York. As flashbulbs popped, Johnny Weissmuller of Tarzan fame made a grant entrance with Cubby in his arms. The pair’s court of honor, astride a giant elephant, were no less than Jimmy Stewart, Frank Buck (the ring-leader of an animal show) and Bert Lahr (the cowardly Lion in “The Wizard of Oz”). Leo Jr. was then whisked off to Hollywood by plane for fame, if not fortune.

GOLDEN ERA OF REAL LIONS

Decades ago, when Lions embraced stunts and pranks and the fears of lawsuits were less, Lions got a lot of mileage out of lions. The 1930s, perhaps because the times were so dismal and levity was sought, was an especially fertile era for lion-related hijinks.



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/6/

/1/ In 1930, for the first time, a club “inducted” a lion. The New York City Lions Club made Gilmore, whose owner was colorful Lion Col. Roscoe Turner, a member.

/2/ In 1931, Philadelphia Central Lions one-upped their New Yorker counterparts when they inducted Little Trader Horn, a cub that starred in a movie of the same name. The cub was owned by actress Edwina Booth, the film’s star. A chief whom Booth met during filming in Africa had sent her the cub, which she carried out in a handbag.

/3/ In 1933, El Monte Lions in California inducted 20 new members and barbecued lion steaks. Contributing the fresh meat was nearby Gay’s Lion Farm, home to 287, well, 286, African lions. Owner Charles Gay was a club member, of course. Entertainment was provided by the Gilmore Red Lion Gasoline company, chosen because of “its fitting name,” according to a LION story.

/4/ At the World’s Fair held in Chicago in 1933-34, headquarters was quick to showcase Lions Clubs to visitors from around the world. Lions’ penchant for lions was on full display on Lions Day when International President Vincent Hascall, a rough-and-tumble sort who once quarterbacked the Nebraska Cornhuskers, gamely served as Lion Tamer. A photo shows him with a bullwhip at his side while three feet away a large lion perches on a stool. Distractedly, Hascall stares at the photographer while the lion fixes his eyes on Hascall. His heart may have been pounding, but the heart attack that took his life occurred a full 13 years later.

/5/ Authorities often were glad accomplices in Lions’ hijinks. In 1934, a zoo keeper in Oklahoma City allowed Lions to kidnap four cubs just three weeks old. Newspapers eagerly printed the subsequent photo of four Lions with four baby cubs. The young lions were nicknamed the Four Macs, after four club members with Scottish names.

/6/ Clubs sometimes blurred the line between lions and Lions. In 1934, Yoakum Lions in Texas devised what the LION deemed “a highly impressive initiation ceremony.” The club mounted a large cage on a railway flatbed, and new members were “invited to deposit themselves therein.” Brandishing rifles, members pulled the flatbed down Main Street. The reaction was entirely positive. “The enthusiasm and interest was little short of miraculous, and many other embryo Lions are clamoring to be admitted,” the LION crowed.

/5/



/4/



Tackling Trachoma Takes Teamwork

// BY CASSANDRA ROTOLO

Lions have saved millions from blindness caused by trachoma, a bacterial infection leading to scarred corneas and resulting in a slow, painful process toward complete blindness. Lions Clubs International Foundation's (LCIF) SightFirst program has awarded more than US\$29 million to The Carter Center to combat trachoma in Africa. Lion Kelly Callahan is director of The Carter Center's Trachoma Control Program.

LION Magazine: When did you know you wanted to dedicate your life to humanitarian work?

Kelly Callahan: I grew up knowing I wanted to help. My mother taught this from a very young age. Actually she lived it, and I was a witness to the joys of helping others. I spent three summers during my undergraduate degree assisting studies on orcas (killer whales) in British Columbia, and then I went on to volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps.

I was assigned to Côte d'Ivoire in 1996 to work on Guinea worm disease, a painful parasitic infection spread through contaminated drinking water. On my second day, a man lifted his shirt to show me the Guinea worm growing just under his skin in his abdominal area. In that moment I was struck with the notion that that no one should have to suffer from such a horrible disease.

LM: How did you get involved in the fight against trachoma?

KC: During my time in the Peace Corps, we created a filter frame that proved to be extremely useful; we saw a 47 percent reduction in cases of Guinea worm disease the first year. Then we saw virtually zero new cases. I met representatives from The Carter Center at a conference. I fell in love with the possibility of helping millions of people. In 1998, I joined their team and began working on Guinea worm and onchocerciasis [river blindness]. In 2001, I saw a young boy about 5 years of age who needed surgery in both eyes from trachoma. It was absolutely horrendous. I knew I could help.

The Carter Center was willing to assist the people of South Sudan, not only in Guinea worm eradication and onchocerciasis control, but also toward controlling trachoma. So we started interventions to control trachoma in Sudan in 2001. I later transitioned to The Carter Center offices in Atlanta and eventually became director of the trachoma program.

LM: What do you think have been the biggest barriers to overcoming this disease?

KC: The hardest thing to do is to change our own behavior. Imagine you grow up with no access to water or sanitation. These concepts are later introduced to you, but you don't understand why they're important. We need to help people overcome barriers to changed behaviors so they wash their faces, wash their children's faces, build and use latrines.

Beyond that, these are environmentally challenging areas. Piped water and sanitation are huge challenges for governments. How do these infrastructure developments take place? How are these large-scale systems funded in very challenging areas?

LM: What has been the most pivotal advance in fighting trachoma?

KC: I think partnerships have made the biggest difference. In 1999, we were the single entity looking at this in a big way. Our partnership with LCIF and local Lions in endemic countries helped us move into more countries. Partnerships and their formation have been pivotal in advancing a global program.

LM: LCIF and The Carter Center first teamed up in 1999. What is your fondest memory of Lions and The Carter Center working together?

KC: I have so many! First, the Lions clubs of Uganda have a very strong



Living with her infant son in a refugee camp in South Sudan, Nyuking Galwak, 30, endured poor sanitation and lack of access to clean water. She lost her vision in both eyes because of trachoma. Lions supported the outreach clinic that provided Galwak's sight-saving surgery. She now understands the importance of washing her hands and face using clean water.

female presence. The neglected tropical disease coordinator for the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Edridah, is a Lion. The Carter Center country representative, Peace Habomugisha, is a Lion. Being with these women and other Lions, including Lion Night Ndyarugahi, is unforgettable—seeing them strategize on controlling trachoma. These are empowered women working toward ending blindness.

Second, in 2016, I attended a mass drug administration launch ceremony of Pfizer-donated Zithromax®, the antibiotic used to control trachoma, in Amhara, Ethiopia. Past International President Joe Preston was there. His face just lit up when he saw how a single dose of medicine makes so much difference. Preston even sang to the joy of the crowd. I cried.

LM: Trachoma is one of the oldest known infectious diseases. How close do you think we are to eliminating it?

KC: The elimination of blinding trachoma is within reach. However, because of the scope of the problem in Ethiopia and a few countries, like South Sudan, we may need a few more years, but I'm more than confident that together with the Lions we will reach our goal.

LM: Is there anything else you would like to share with Lions?

KC: President Carter became a Lion when he left his U.S. Navy service. His desire to help the poorest of the poor, coupled with Lions' desire to be Knights of the Blind and look at diseases over the long-term, have made a lasting impact on me. I look at what we can do through the noble efforts of Lions-Carter Center partnership and I am energized. What an effective partnership! Over 400 million treatments and over 600,000 sight-saving surgeries. I'm honored to be part of this.

SightFirst AND Trachoma

- 600,000+ trichiasis surgeries completed.
- LCIF and local Lions have helped to distribute more than 152 million doses of Zithromax® (donated by Pfizer).
- 3 million latrines and water wells have been built in Africa.

SightFirst supports trachoma elimination activities in Ethiopia, Niger and Mali through The Carter Center and in Uganda through the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. Additionally there are other donors, like Pfizer, and implementing partners, like the International Trachoma Initiative and SightSavers, involved in this important work. Trachoma cannot be eliminated by a single organization. It will take all of these organizations pooling their efforts and resources to eliminate this blinding disease.

LION



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// ANNIVERSARIES

September 2017

95 Years: Greensboro, N.C.; Montreal Central, QC, CA; Columbus, Ga.; Caldwell, Kan.; San Pedro, Calif.; Wilson, N.C.; Bridgeport, Neb.; San Rafael Host, Calif.

90 Years: Bossier City, La.; Danbury, Conn.; Santa Fe Host, N.M.; Taos, N.M.; Roswell Downtown, N.M.; Savannah, Ill.; Konawa, Okla.; Baton Rouge, La.; Sumas, Wa.

85 Years: Martinez, Calif.; Jesup, Iowa; Salisbury, N.C.; Truckee Host, Calif.; Nashua, Iowa; Sarnia, ON, CA; Dahlonega, Ga.; Cornwall, N.Y.; Thorntown, Ind.

80 Years: Bessemer, Mich.; Pico Rivera, Calif.; Sulphur Springs, Texas; South Milwaukee, Wis.; Ambridge, Pa.; Dalton, Ga.; Waukesha Noon, Wis.; Hanover, N.H.; Bradford, ON, CA; Cohase, N.H.

75 Years: St. Joseph South Side, Mo.; Royal Center, Ind.; Richland Center, Wis.; Natchez, Miss.; Ossian, Ind.; Rivesville, W.V.; Tiverton, R.I.; Nashville, Mich.; St. Charles, Mich.

50 Years: Beverly Hills, Fla.; Zeeland, N.D.; Atkinson, Neb.; Linden, Iowa; Pulaski, Wis.; Morgan City, La.; Gilman City, Mo.

25 Years: San Francisco Highlands, Calif.; Blainville, QC, CA; Harrisville, Miss.; Pine City Pine Area, Minn.

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

// INFORMATION

Corrections

Ashley Boynes-Shuck's grandfather's name was incorrectly spelled in the May issue. Leon Louis was a Lion for 42 years.

The Stow Lions in Massachusetts held the Golf Ball Drop fundraiser—a concept borrowed from the Bridgton Lions in Maine.

A SHOT AT A HEALTHIER FUTURE



Join the Fight Against Measles

LCIF and Lions are raising \$30 million (US) by the end of 2017 to provide life-saving measles vaccinations around the world. Those funds will be matched by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, bringing the total to \$60 million!

Please join us in bringing hope and change to communities every day, everywhere.



**ONE SHOT
ONE LIFE**
Lions Measles Initiative

**Make a difference.
Donate today.**

www.lcif.org/donate





Pause for Paws

Lyle Rosburg of the Jefferson Host Lions Club in Missouri has a surefire method to get cars to slow down and perhaps buy some Lions' peanuts: his faithful dog Snoopy. Snoopy's sign reads "Even Though They Are Cats, I Love Lions."

Photo by Julie Smith/AP

Revolutionizing Service



The New MyLion™ Mobile App

LCI celebrates 100 years with the unveiling of MyLion—a world-class mobile app designed to make service volunteering fun, fast, and easy. Get ready to connect and serve with Lions everywhere—right from your mobile phone.

Learn more and download today* at www.mylion.org



* Available now in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, and India. Coming soon to all other countries and geographic areas.

