

# LION

APRIL 2017 // [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org)

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## ON THE ROAD TO HOPE

**LCIF's Plan to Raise  
\$50 Million a Year to  
Take on Measles and  
Other Challenges  
Facing Humanity**

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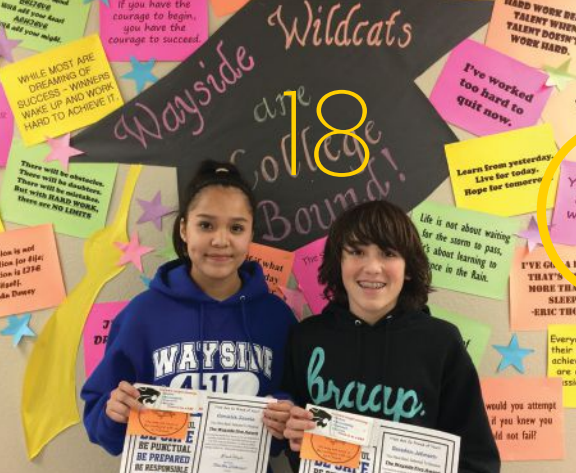


**Lions Clubs International**

# ONE CONVENTION ONE GREAT CITY TWO Styles of Commemoratives!



Whether Traditional or Centennial, both styles of commemorative merchandise will be available at our Chicago convention and are available online today. Take home your own little piece of Lions history.



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**April 2017**  
Volume 99 | Number 8



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Throughout our history Lions have cared for kids.



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**100th  
International Convention  
Chicago, Illinois  
June 30-July 4, 2017**

# 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.”*

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Jared Brown kayaks in Leaser Lake in Pennsylvania. LCIF assisted local Lions in building a pier and kayak launcher accessible to those with disabilities.

## Reach New Heights in Service Through LCIF

As a new Lion in 1978, I instantly loved the camaraderie. But I remained a Lion because of the service my club provided to the community. All those light bulbs, brooms and mops we sold helped a huge number of people in need. We also protected the sight of youth through vision screenings, distributed Thanksgiving baskets and held activities for orphans and underprivileged children. It was astounding how much good my club did.

But I was in for a revelation. What my club did on its own could not compare to the results we achieved as a multiple district. Among other accomplishments, we created the Tennessee Lions Eye Center, one of the nation's premier eye hospitals. This center has dramatically impacted the lives of thousands of children.

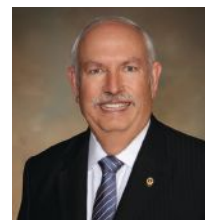
When I became a district governor and then even more so when I served as international director, I continued to learn of the advantages and achievements of many Lions acting together and pooling their time, talents and treasure. We all know that the clubs are the heart of our world of Lions. Yet when Lions come together on a broad scale we can accomplish remarkable things.

That's precisely why LCIF has been such a great force for good in our communities and the world. Our Foun-

dation is a tool to leverage the desire to serve deep in the heart of every Lion. In this issue we detail some of the amazing accomplishments of LCIF. Read it and be proud. But also continue to support LCIF through Melvin Jones Fellowships and Contributing Memberships. The Measles Initiative is particularly in need of support. A donation can help save a life.

Certainly, your service to your community demands your time and attention. But also unite with your fellow Lions through LCIF and change the world. Help LCIF help others. Through LCIF we reach new heights and climb new mountains.

Chancellor Bob Corlew  
Lions Clubs International President



[The Big Picture



Chicago is Ours!



(Left photo) Lions who attend the centennial convention in Chicago can get a bird's eye view of the city at Willis Tower. Yoly and Ben Zoleta of the Chicago Filipino American Lions Club show how it's done at the Ledge, a glass box extending four feet outward from the 103rd floor. President Yoly and Zone Chairperson Ben will be among the tens of thousands of Lions in Chicago June 30 to July 4. The convention has a great entertainment lineup including the rock band Chicago (above). Ledge photo by Alex Garcia

# [The Big Picture



The tournament drew players primarily in their 20s and 30s.

## On Frozen Pond





One of the 19 Brandon Lions, John Lund watches the action with his grandson.

In 1969, the year their club was chartered, Brandon Lions in Minnesota built an outdoor ice rink for their small town of 489, and they've maintained it since. Last summer Lions repaired and painted the boards, and thanks to donations from businesses, added netting, new hockey nets and a new hose for flooding. In February, the club celebrated the upgraded rink with a four-team pond hockey tournament in Lions Park. From eight in the morning until late in the afternoon teams chased the puck. "It took a lot of stamina, skating up and down. I think the Lions got tired just watching them," says Vice President Mike Ranweiler, a Lion since 1983. The tournament also honored the memory of charter member Fran Fuller, who grew up skating on rivers in North Dakota. He steadfastly maintained the rink for decades until he passed away several years ago. The nearest indoor rink is in Alexandria, 15 miles away, so the lighted rink in Brandon, close to regulation size, has always drawn a crowd. "You could hear the puck banging around at 10 or 11 o'clock at night," says Ranweiler. The tournament was "not a big moneymaker. It's not always about the money," he says. "It's to do something good for the community and have some fun." Photos by Lion Lisa Hynes



Prof. João Fernando Sobral

## PAST PRESIDENT SOBRAL OF BRAZIL DIES

Prof. João Fernando Sobral's slogan as international president in 1976-77 was "make your fellow man needed." He personally heeded that maxim particularly with Lions. Before his term ended he invited to headquarters and met at length with five Lions he had encountered on his visits to more than 50 nations. Lions inspired him and helped make his life meaningful. "These Lions were the men who made my year a success," he wrote in his last presidential column in the LION in 1977. "It was they who put my theme into action in every facet of their lives." Sobral, the first Brazilian to serve as international president, died Jan. 4 after a lengthy illness. He was 90. Sobral was a nationally known economist, a university professor and a successful businessman in Brazil. His firm was a leading manufacturer of thermal products, plastics, glass and sheet metal items. He also served on the Brazilian Federal Reserve Board and as a special adviser to the Minister of Mines and Energy. A Lion since 1960, he served as district governor and as an international director from 1969-71. As president he oversaw the building of an orphanage and arranged for free medical care for children with heart problems. He was the first chairman of SightFirst in Brazil and consistently encouraged Lions throughout Latin America to support LCIF and SightFirst projects.

## SERVICE WEEKS POST BIG NUMBERS

Lions' Worldwide Week of Service to Fight Hunger Jan. 9-15 was a success. To date, as reported to Lions Clubs International (LCI), 1,002 clubs fed 272,258 people through 1,328 projects. The week



The Lahore Green View Lions Club in Pakistan holds a vision screening for schoolchildren.

dedicated to sight projects, Oct. 10 to 16, also posted high numbers. Nearly 2,800 clubs benefitted 563,016 people through 3,603 activities. The numbers for the week for service to youth (Aug. 8-14) are: 2,717 clubs helping 633,052 youths through 3,856 projects. The Worldwide Week of Service to Protect our Planet is April 17-23. Clubs are encouraged to report their service to LCI through MyLCI online. Clubs can report their service through July.

## FIREFIGHTER PAYS BACK LIONS—32 YEARS LATER

A retired firefighter in California whose career was made possible by Lions clubs has repaid them 32 years later. Dennis Jones sent the two Lions clubs a check for \$600 before Christmas. In 1984, he had failed his vision test for the fire department, and the Lompoc and Vandenberg Village Lions clubs each donated \$300 for corrective eye surgery. Jones went on to work for the Lompoc Fire Department and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Each of his three sons and a grandson followed him as firefighters. "For [me and my wife], it was always in the back of our minds," Jones told the Lompoc Record about repaying the clubs. "I had always wanted to do that, to pay them back, but when you're raising kids and a family, life goes on. Then we just got to a certain point where it's like, 'Well, OK, there are no more excuses, let's do it.' So this was the year where we just said, 'OK, let's do it.'" Kathy Cady, a Vandenberg Village Lion, says the club will funnel the donation back into the community.

## A TIP OF THE HAT TO MOORE

The passing of actress Mary Tyler Moore in January brought to mind the February 2009 LION that promoted the upcoming international convention in Minneapolis. Lion Jackie Malling, then executive director of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, bore a passing resemblance to Moore and graciously agreed to imitate the opening scene of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," set in Minneapolis. "People bring up that cover to me frequently," says Malling. "I do feel close to MTM." Malling and Moore threw hats, and Lions threw a big party for more than 11,000 Lions and guests from 123 nations. You're gonna make it after all? Lions certainly did.



## KELLER AND JONES BACK WITH LIONS

Ohio Lions will welcome two historic figures at its state convention: Helen Keller and Melvin Jones. A Keller impersonator will re-enact her legendary appeal to Lions in 1925 to be Knights of the Blind. The Multiple District 13 state convention will be held in Sandusky, but for Keller's speech on May 13 Lions will travel to nearby Cedar Point, where Keller gave her speech at the Lions' international convention. Keller will be played by Jackie Christensen of the Canal Winchester Lions Club. She has portrayed other historical figures such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Jacqueline Kennedy. Portraying Melvin Jones will be Kenneth Hammontree of the Ashland Noon Lions Club. Known as "Mr. Ohio History," he has portrayed George Washington and General Dwight Eisenhower. Also appearing at the convention—and portraying himself—will be International President Chancellor Bob Corlew.

Watch a riveting video of a re-enactment of the Keller speech.



## SEEING VINTAGE FRAMES IN A NEW WAY

Eyeglasses aren't just for seeing anymore. The Tahlequah Lions in Oklahoma are turning vintage eyeglass frames into business card holders and necklaces and selling them to fund their service projects. President Dr. Joseph Shetler says most of their 25 members are affiliated with Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in Tahlequah. They know eye glasses, but it was Lion Dr. Hank van Veen who took on the job of collecting donated specs. In the process, he also accumulated a box of glasses that were too old or broken and could not be refurbished. Another practitioner showed van Veen how a little handiwork can turn fragile frames into business card holders. The frames are attached to a wooden base, and they have been selling for \$20 to \$30. Lion Leslie Beck has also made necklaces from the more ornate frames and sold them for about \$60.



Oklahoma's Tahlequah Lions are selling business card holders and necklaces they make from donated vintage eye glasses.



## Overheard

**"For the life of me, I cannot understand why a person would not want to be a Lion."**

—Bryan Cooper, historian of the 95-year-old Canon City Noon Lions Club in Colorado. From The Daily Record.

**"You just can't have a better feeling than that."**

—Jim Helmueller of the Pardeeville Lions Club in Wisconsin on giving sight to others by transporting cornea tissue. From Wisconsin News.

**"It's hard for some of those guys to get up and down the steps in their high heels."**

—Bryan Stuck of the Massillon Lions Club in Ohio on not including Beeftrust, longtime male Lions dressed as women, in the club's annual variety show. From The Independent.

## By the Numbers

**350,000**

Pull tabs collected and delivered to a Ronald McDonald House by Pearson Pickerel Lions in Wisconsin.

**160**



Pounds of kitten chow donated to a local animal shelter by Sedalia Lions in Missouri.

**16**

Raised beds of vegetation in a grade school's garden tended to by Vass Lions in North Carolina.

**14.5**

Percentage of body weight lost by the winner of the Biggest Loser fundraiser of Batavia Lions in New York. Pledges secured for each pound lost by the 90 participants raised \$10,000 for the club.



**101**

Distance in kilometers of a bicycle ride along the central Oregon coast to publicize Lions clubs and their vision screenings of schoolchildren.

**1,976**

Triathletes who participated in the Spudman competition run by Burley Lions in Idaho.

**160**

Height in feet of a flagpole purchased for a city park by New Baltimore Lions in Michigan.

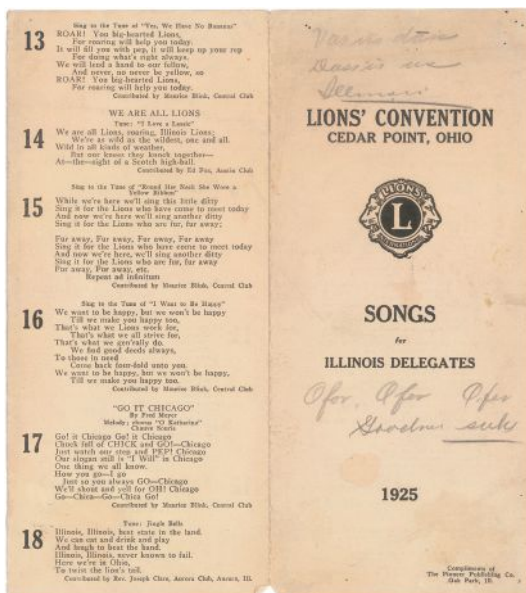
**11**

Types of pies sold by Owatonna Lions in Minnesota as their major fundraiser.



**19**

Disc golf baskets provided for a course by Cheyenne Sunrise Lions in Wyoming.



## 90 Years Ago in the LION

**APRIL 1927**

Founder Melvin Jones rhapsodizes on "The Power of Music." A longtime advocate for singing at meetings, Jones writes, "Language is not subtle enough, tender enough to express all that we feel. When language fails, our highest and noblest longings are translated into music."

Read Jones' column.

## Nicole & Anthony Cook

**Brenham Evening Lions Club,  
Brenham, Texas**

*Newlyweds Nicole and Anthony Cook share a commitment to each other and to Lions.*

It was 2012, and Texas cowboy Anthony Cook wasn't a Lion. But he was attending Lion events with Nicole Weyand, an active member of the Blinn College Lions Club in Brenham. He was interested in Lions, he says, "but mostly I was interested in her."

Weyand, who had twice served as president of the Brenham High School Leo Club, asked him one day if he was a real cowboy. She needed to photograph a "real" cowboy for her western art class, she says. "But mostly I just wanted to get his number."

Cook agreed to be photographed and Weyand continued to let him "follow her around" at Lion events.

She baked heart-shaped cookies to share with the Blinn Lions on Valentine's Day, but mostly for him. He said "no thanks," she remembers. (Every romance has its glitches.)

But eventually Anthony said "yes" to cookies, and more importantly, to joining Lions. And Nicole said "yes" to him.

Now Anthony and Nicole Cook—married on April 16, 2016—are the young newlyweds in the Brenham Evening Lions Club. Their youthful faces and enthusiasm are a welcomed addition to a club where most members are 50 to 90 years old, says Past International Director Joe Al Picone, who has been their mentor.

Anthony spends 12 hours a day on the back of a horse. Nicole spends her day teaching dance. And on the first and third Tuesday of every month they go to



Lions Anthony and Nicole Cook baked and sold purple cupcakes to support the Great Purple Cupcake Project, an epilepsy awareness event for World Epilepsy Day.

Lions meetings where she says, "We love the company."

"Dirty, smelly or tired, we're there," says Nicole, who is second vice president. Her husband is club director.

Their love for each other and their dedication to Lions have kept them involved in multiple projects. When Nicole learned that Anthony has epilepsy she led the club in baking and selling purple cupcakes to support The Great Purple Cupcake Project, an epilepsy awareness event for World Epilepsy Day.

When they transferred to Sam Houston State University to finish college, they became active in the Sam Houston Bobcat Lions Campus Club, enjoying activities like Senior Center visits together. Now college graduates, they are back in Brenham. Nicole assists Picone in his role as Guiding Lion

for the Blinn College Lions Club. Anthony and Nicole have continued the T-shirt drive they started as Blinn students. In 2016, they collected more than 1,000 T-shirts across their district for residents of the Brenham State Supported Living Center.

Both say "giving back to others" is the reason they love Lions so much. But, Anthony adds, "Building a relationship with people who need a support group is the part that I enjoy."

"It was well worth joining," he adds. "Not only is it about giving without expecting anything in return, but I have learned how to be a better leader. And because of what Lions clubs do, we were able to accomplish a lot."

Lions activities are even more fun, says Nicole, "when we can do them together."

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](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org). Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.

## Lessons in Lionism Come from Years of Experience

New Jersey Lion Marshall Klein fondly recalls his first Lion fundraiser. It was 1954, he was 28 and the North Arlington Lions sold light bulbs door to door, netting a profit of \$1,000.

The retired director of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey, Klein is 90 now. He proudly looks back to 1959 when he served as sight chairman for his club and a decade later when he was district governor. But we cannot go back to those days, he says. Times have changed. He has, however, paid attention to what's worked for Lions and what hasn't over the years. And those lessons are most useful when shared.

### **You say the day you sold light bulbs was your best day in Lionism. Why?**

Looking back, it was not only the money, but this one long day that brought us all closer as everyone had a story to tell. We had 45 to 50 members, and afterwards we had food together. We chatted about all the things we had done together. It was involvement, not just fundraising.

### **You also share fond memories of the day your club placed sand where boys and girls enter the lake at Camp Marcella – New Jersey Camp for Blind Children. What made that day special?**

It sounded like an easy job until we found out that it had to be done in the winter when the lake was frozen. In the spring, the ice would melt, and the sand would slowly drift down to make a sandy bottom. It was a great day because it was a lot of physical labor. We physically worked together for our community. Working hard and for your own community brings you together.

### **What makes a great club?**

Four ingredients: Membership, projects, fundraising and retention. We must also include involvement and interesting club meetings. The club meeting is the most important in this equation as this is how you set the tone for all the other ingredients. If the quality of the meetings is uninteresting, not only is it difficult to attract new members, but you will begin to lose old members.

### **You worry about diminishing attendance at meetings. How can we combat that?**

Conduct meetings where you can have good speakers without interruptions. Don't be lacking in planning meetings. How can you bring in a new member without a good meeting and a good speaker?

Have a good fundraising project too, but remember that part of raising funds successfully is how well you spend the money you raise. Where does it go? Do a project for the town that can involve the town. You have to work with your community to make community members want to get involved and work with you.

### **You joined Lions when it was a men's club. What do you think about increasing the number of female Lions and encouraging diversity?**

Women in Lions is great. It's important to have women in the club. Lions clubs with women do a better job. They work hard, and they have a different approach. We need to be welcoming to everyone. New Jersey has many ethnic clubs. Ethnic Lions clubs have big membership. Some meet on a Sunday, and Lions becomes a family thing. They spend time together as families, and those children grow up and join the club.



New Jersey Lion Marshall Klein is 90 and retired, spending his winters in Florida, but he will never stop being an interested and involved Lion.

## Marking Milestones with a Bell

Every time a young cancer patient hits a milestone like completing chemotherapy treatments, a Lion's bell rings at Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. The sound of the "ringing out ceremony" shares the news as well as hope with other patients, families and staff.

Lions got involved in the ceremony when child life specialist Tiffany Key wanted to start the ringing out ceremonies for her patients at Batson, but discovered she had no bell.

"Then the next day," she says, "we had a bell." Bruce Beal of the Jackson Medical Lions Club, a recreational therapist at the hospital, brought the need before his fellow Lions, and members voted unanimously to loan their gong and gavel to the children.

Eventually, the Lions helped them get one of their own.

The bell ringing ceremony helps patients express their joy, but also

spreads hope among others, says Key. Kids now dance down a red carpet, get a "no more chemo" certificate, are given a book and read a poem. Then they ring the bell three times, even though some exuberant ones would like to ring it more.

"It's my favorite thing to do. Childhood cancer is a beast," says Key. "But we have many, many success stories." Within a year there may be 40 to 50 ceremonies for patients who range from little bitty babies to young men and women.

"When the children come in, we tell them that this is going to be a difficult journey, but at the end there will be a celebration," says Key. "This gives them encouragement. It's a tremendous spirit lifter for our organization."

Sometimes parents choose to ring the bell to celebrate kids who may reach the end of life, or a child who isn't able to be cured. "It's



Photo courtesy of the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Reagen McKinney and her mom, Jesse McKinney of Philadelphia, Mississippi, enjoy Reagen's ringing out ceremony.

equally as special but much more tear-jerking," says Key.

Jackson Medical Lions also help provide snacks for parents who are at the hospital with children and also support other hospital fundraising efforts.

## Playtime Is for Everybody in Iowa

The Dubuque Noon Lions started building a playground at the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden in the late 1980s, and they just can't stop.

They are having way too much fun finding ways for children to have fun, and their newest project includes playground pieces specifically designed for children with sensory deficits or developmental issues.

"Lions make great volunteers," says Sandi Helgerson, executive director of the 60-acre arboretum in Iowa where an acre of land is dedicated to the playground. "We have had a strong partnership with Lions for many years."

The Dubuque Noon Lions first built a wooden play structure at the arboretum in the 1980s, then re-

placed it with an all-weather structure in the late 1990s when they also added a pavilion with picnic tables and grills, a walkway and benches. In 1998, a Lion's head drinking fountain was added, thanks to a Lions family.

The latest phase includes a playground with a sensory clock panel, a rain sound panel, an alpha maze in braille and more. "You don't have to be handicapped to use it. Everybody enjoys it," says Helgerson.

Jim Trannel, a past president of the club, says grants and local donations covered about \$15,000 of the cost for this addition, and the club contributed more than \$4,000 plus manpower.

The arboretum is "fee free," giving families free access to the playground and picnic area as well, says

Helgerson. It is maintained by volunteers—many of whom are also Lions.

Dubuque Noon Lions also sell ice cream during free Sunday afternoon concerts in the arboretum throughout the summer, splitting profits with the arboretum.



New playground equipment at the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden, a project of the Dubuque Noon Lions, makes playtime special for children with sensory deficits or developmental issues.

Photo by Nicki Kohl





Lions Ruth Palmer and Bill Fitzke help Chandler, Arizona, residents show their patriotic pride by posting American flags for them—part of the Sun Lakes Lions' "Fly the Flag" program.

## Leos Support High School Food Pantry

Leo Clubs are open to young people who want to serve their community. But in Pennsylvania, the state where the program was founded by a Lion and high school coach 60 years ago, the high school Leos are finding that people in need can be as close as the next locker.

The Leos at Chambersburg Area Senior High School in Chambersburg are lending a hand in the school's food pantry, organizing and sorting food when it arrives to help food insecure students and their families.

Teachers Elicia Eberhart and Jennifer Michael co-advise the Leo program in the school. Eberhart was the driving force behind the food pantry in the school where more than 50 percent of the 2,200 students receive free and reduced price lunches. It is also estimated that there are more than 120 homeless students in the school.

Although there are food pantries in the community, most are not open at times when students can access them, Eberhart says. And some of these young adults are responsible for feeding their family. An in-school pantry allows them to bring nutritious food home to younger siblings.

According to Michael, they are servicing 13 families and expect numbers to increase as more students and families become aware of what's offered.

The Leos have also aided 30 to 40 families with a Thanksgiving food drive, held a book drive, visited nursing home residents and rung bells for the Salvation Army.

The Leos' parent club, the Chambersburg Evening Lions Club, collected hygiene items for the school, says President Stephen Caldwell, and they recently donated \$500 to a clothing room being set up in the school for students in need.

## Lions Help Others Fly the Flag

When the American flags start flying around Chandler, Arizona, it's not just a sign of residents' patriotism. It's also the American pride and spirit of the Sun Lakes Lions that's waving in the breeze.

The Sun Lakes Lions post about 1,800 flags in front of homes and commercial businesses for six major holidays each year, plus Patriot Day, the National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11. Not only is their work a tribute to our country and a service to their community, but it raises funds that support other Lion projects.

Past District Governor Larry Palmer says subscribers pay \$40 a year for their "Fly the Flag" program. Once they have enrolled, he and his wife, Ruth, a past president of the club, go to the subscriber's

home and install a 13-inch pipe in the ground to hold the flag. On the morning of a national holiday or a few days before, Lions and their helpers go down the streets and post the three-by-five-foot flags that are on 10-foot poles. They return to retrieve the flags as well.

The club has 30 to 40 flag handlers on an average holiday, and each puts up about 50 flags, says Palmer. The flags are stored in a large shed and delivered by volunteers, sometimes via a golf cart.

"It's a wonderful program any club can do," Larry Palmer says. In fact, five clubs near them have picked up on the idea, and one club, the Darien Lions, have started a similar flag program in their Illinois community.

Steve Hiatt, past president of the Darien Lions Club, heard about the program from his mother, Pat Hollander, a past president of the Sun Lakes Lions.

"We talk Lions, and she kept saying, 'You should try this,'" says Hiatt. "There's a benefit to participating in Lions beyond your own club. You learn what others are doing."

Darien Lions put up the flags before 7 a.m. and reclaim them before sunset at about 70 homes. "It's just another thing that makes you proud to be a Lion," says Hiatt, who expects the program to keep growing. "If everybody does a little, a lot gets done. We want to support patriotism. We're very pleased with it."



## ENGLAND

### Swim Meet is both Serious and Fun

A few years ago aspiring Olympians splashed down its lanes, but on this day the pool was filled with children and several adults with disabilities. They swam hard, took their place on the medal stand and basked in the cheers of family and friends. Since 1992, Lions clubs in Europe have collaborated on the International Swimming Gala, a biennial swim meet that rotates among three nations.

Lions held the latest competition at the sparkling Basildon Sporting Village in England, a training facility for the 2012 Olympics in London. Three dozen swimmers, some of whom had trained for months, competed in freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke races. Having fun was the chief goal, but the event was professionally run. Starters and timekeepers from a local swim club oversaw the races.

Two twinning clubs, the Billerica Lions Club in England and the Voreifel Lions Club in Germany, first

staged the event. Joining later was the Brussels Royale Lions Club in Belgium, which had also twinned with Voreifel. This year the Leigh-on-Sea and Romford Lions clubs in England also supported the meet.

Most of the swimmers had Down syndrome, a few had autism and some had physical challenges such as cerebral palsy. They clearly enjoyed the competition and camaraderie. One swimmer from England

was so inspired by the event that he decided to join a local swim club.

Swimming was just one part of the daylong event. Competitors made pottery at a craft center, visited a zoo, ate dinner together and danced at a disco. The night out for families was groundbreaking for some. “One family told me it was the first time they had done something like that as a family,” says Steve Waters, a Billerica Lion.



Swimmers compete in the International Swimming Gala.

## SWITZERLAND

### Cards Support Ancient Paintings

The Convent of St. John in Müstair in Switzerland was founded in the 8th century presumably by Charlemagne. The convent church and the Holy Cross Chapel are the only remaining buildings from the Carolingian period. So an annual Christmas card based on historic paintings at the complex and supporting their restoration has been a popular, much-anticipated fundraiser for two Lions clubs for more than 30 years.

This year’s card of the Val Müstair and Zimmerberg Lions clubs showed the convent’s patron, St. John the Baptist, sending his disciples to Jesus. Lion Rolf Gassmann, a painter and medical doctor, creates the art for the card. “His interpretation is much more colorful compared to what we can actually see,” says Walter Anderau of the Zimmerberg Lions Club.



A craftsman restores a fresco at the Convent of St. John in Switzerland.

The Holy Cross Chapel contains as many as eight levels of paintings. The clubs have been supporting the cleaning, documentation and stabilization of the paintings in the convent church and the chapel.

The Convent of St. John’s is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Its Carolingian and Romanesque frescoes are regarded as among the most significant in Switzerland. Müstair is the easternmost village in Switzerland—the Italian border is just over a kilometer from the complex.

## PORTUGAL

# Tremendous Tree Effort

Disease killed tens of thousands of pine trees in a lovely forest near Lousã. So nearly 100 Lions were among 6,000 volunteers who planted 45,000 trees on a brisk fall day.

The environmental action also involved control of invasive plants and weeds over 15 hectares (12 acres).

United Forest spearheaded the event. Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, United Forest aims to plant 400 million trees in 30 years. The initiative was begun in 2007 to recover and maintain the ecosystem through reforestation, prevention of forest fires and control of invasive plants and pests. More than 150 million trees have been planted so far.



Lions plant trees in Portugal.

## JAPAN

# The Pleasure of a Good Seat

For 17 years Lions in Kunitomi, a quaint town of 20,000, have ensured that commuters, walkers and, most recently, joggers can get a load off their feet. They made and maintain dozens of strategically placed sturdy benches.

The benches are especially useful in a town like Kunitomi, which has buses but no train lines for a population with a large number of elderly. The 17 members of the club gather regularly at a community center to make or repair the benches.

Last year members noticed more people taking up jogging, so they assembled a number of benches for placement in parks and other locations convenient to runners.

The older benches are made of wood and metal. But last year the club president was the owner of a lumber yard, so the new benches are made from wood alone. Maintaining the benches requires hard work, but “the Lions enjoy the camaraderie and jovial atmosphere,” according to the Japanese LION.

Lions in Kunitomi paint the new benches they made.



Lion John Bartlett hurries the sheep as contestants try to count them.

Photo by Fairfax NZ/Manawatu Standard

## NEW ZEALAND

# Counting Sheep— And Other Contests

The old-fashioned country show in Fielding meant tractor and stagecoach rides, plenty of servings of “hot chips” (French fries) and, of course, zany contests centered around sheep, bred and raised in abundance locally.

Not at all sheepish about their role, the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club organized three sheep-based events: Guess the Weight, Sheep Counting and Sheep Penning. For the first contest, “punters” (game players) forked over a gold coin to guess the weight of two rams. The theme of the weekend: farmers did much better than town folk.

“The old farmers would poke and prod through the thick wool to make an informed guess. The townies would make wild guesses that ranged from 36 to 160 kilograms,” according to the New Zealand LION. The one with the closest guess won the pot of gold.


For the penning activity, a team of two had to maneuver three sheep from a smaller pen into a larger one. “It made for a great spectator sport as the poorly informed frantically ran around waving arms and thinking to assert themselves over the sheep,” the LION story said. “The wiser heads coaxed and directed sheep to find their own way in.”

For sheep counting, contestants had to count the number of sheep as they ran from one pen to another. Lion John Bartlett knew the key was to count them in pairs. “Some ‘good’ guys can count five at a time,” he said.

At the end of the long weekend “sheep and Lions together were happy to pack up and head for home. Neither visitor nor sheep were any worse for wear.”

# LCIF is Invested in Humanity.

The Foundation plans to raise **\$50 million annually** in the fight against measles and other challenges facing the world.



“Together with our partners, we have prevented millions of measles deaths.”

JOE PRESTON  
2015-16 LCIF Chairperson

LCIF is raising the stakes. And we're doing it at a time when the need couldn't be greater.

For nearly 50 years, the Foundation has supported the life-changing work of Lions, serving some of the most vulnerable people and the neediest places on earth.

Now, as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2018, we have set a goal of raising \$50 million a year. We know the goal is challenging, but it will position Lions for even greater impact in our communities and our world.

We can fund more vision screenings and clean water systems, build more clinics and rebuild more communities when disaster strikes. We can do more in the fight against measles, a preventable disease that takes the lives of 300 children a day. That's why the Foundation is mobilizing Lions and working with global partners like Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Gates Foundation to end the epidemic.

With an estimated 17.1 million deaths prevented from 2000 to 2014, we know Lions are making a real difference.

The Foundation wants to do more because global needs are growing. In 2015-16, LCIF raised \$39.5 million, but awarded \$45 million in grants. And Lions are launching a new global service framework that will require the Foundation's support. It will take increased funding to keep pace with the growing demand for service.

Through the support of Lions, LCIF can reach its \$50 million goal and bring more hope to the world.

**Keep reading to find out how we're already doing just that.**



A Nepalese health care worker provides a life-saving measles-rubella vaccination.

# We are proving Kindness Matters.

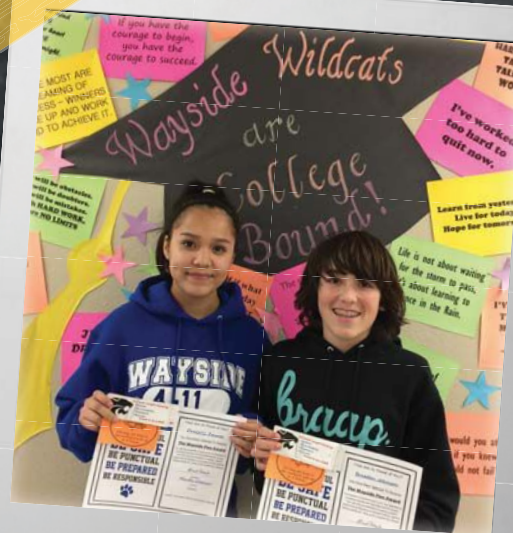
LCIF is helping more people than ever before.



Kenya

## Humanitarian Help

Hour after hour Mary Ndundo (photo), a middle-aged seamstress, bends over her sewing machine in Nairobi. She lives and works in Kibera, Kenya's notorious slum. Since she received a small loan thanks to LCIF and Lions, her business has taken off. She is sewing batches of tracksuits and sweaters for schoolchildren, and her landlord has expanded her shop. Ndundo is one of many women now better able to provide for their struggling families because of an LCIF microenterprise project. Small loans enable the women to purchase supplies and equipment to start or expand businesses.



Texas, United States

## Nurturing Youth

"OK, all of you are going to the principal's office." That's what Leah Roberts told her 7th-grade writing class. But the students were sent out of the room not for misbehaving but to receive praise for commendable conduct. A shy student, reluctant to share his writing, had been encouraged by classmates, who chanted his name. After Roberts read aloud what he wrote, there was "not a single snicker—only praise." That kind of positive behavior has been part of the classrooms at Wayside Middle School (photo) near Fort Worth in Texas since it implemented Lions Quest, LCIF's social and emotional learning program. Lions Quest has trained more than 600,000 educators.



El Salvador

### **Saving Sight**

In El Salvador, an impoverished nation terrorized by violent gangs, parents whose children have vision problems often have nowhere to turn. Health care resources are poor or nonexistent. The Benjamin Bloom National Children's Hospital in San Salvador is the nation's sole public hospital dedicated to children. But thanks to LCIF and Lions children in El Salvador are finally getting their vision fixed (photo). The Lions of District D 2 in El Salvador received a SightFirst grant for US\$53,601 to expand the National Program for Pediatric Low Vision at Benjamin Bloom. The grant facilitated infrastructure upgrades and human resource training for 28 eye care professionals. Through LCIF, Lions save sight in El Salvador and around the world.



Saipan


### **Providing Disaster Relief**

Typhoon Soudelor devastated the Western Pacific region and claimed dozens of lives in the summer of 2015. Millions of families were left without water, electricity or shelter. LCIF responded immediately with a US\$10,000 Emergency grant, awarded to the Lions in Micronesia for relief efforts in Saipan (photo). A US\$200,000 Major Catastrophe grant was awarded to Multiple District 300 Taiwan to assist with both immediate needs and long-term reconstruction. When a disaster strikes and makes the news, Lions want to help. LCIF gives them that opportunity. "When I see someone that's been devastated, I just ache for them. And I want to do as much as I possibly can for them," says donor Lion Terri Oster of the West Hempstead Lions Club in New York.

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And we're doing even more.  
Read more life-changing stories.  
Donate to LCIF.

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A mother waits with her child for a vital measles-rubella vaccination.

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*“LCIF could not accomplish any of these feats without the commitment of Lions around the world. Give careful consideration to how you and your club will continue to make dreams come true in the future.”*

**JOE PRESTON**

2015-16 LCIF Chairperson

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*Read the full letter and annual report.*



# Hope is Within Our Reach

It starts with achieving our  
\$50 million goal

**Each person and family in need motivates us to keep pushing forward toward this goal.**

And each act of kindness and every dollar matters when you're investing in hope. Because it isn't always easy to come by when people are struggling. But through the efforts of Lions and LCIF, hope can be restored.

The numbers prove it. In 2015-16, the Foundation impacted the lives of more than 44 million people, undertaking large-scale projects that lead to healthier communities, brighter futures, and lasting hope. That's why LCIF matters.

What's more, LCIF is truly your Foundation. Every dollar flows back into our communities through the effort of Lions. And each dollar is spent where it will have the most impact and managed with full transparency. Not surprisingly, our Foundation has received a four-star rating—the highest awarded—from Charity Navigator for six consecutive years.

It's true, raising \$50 million a year is ambitious, especially in an age when donations are decreasing and engagement in

volunteer organizations is waning. That's \$10 million more than the Foundation raised in 2015-2016. Achieving that goal will require renewed commitment, compassion and exceptional generosity. But most of all, it will take all of us—all 1.4 million Lions—joining together, ever mindful of the lives we change through service, never forgetting the joy that comes from helping others and the smiles that greet our helping hands.

With LCIF supporting the work of Lions, and Lions supporting LCIF, there's really no limit to how much hope we can restore to the world.

**Every \$10 matters.  
We can vaccinate  
10 children or feed  
a family after a  
natural disaster.  
So give today!**

**// [LCIF.org/donate](https://LCIF.org/donate)**

# WHAT A DEAL

A thrift store that employs the visually impaired is part of a Lions-founded complex that serves the blind in multiple ways.

BY DAVID HUDNALL

Photos by John West

A straight line runs up the back of Nathan Southern's neck, from his shoulders into his skull, where it disappears beneath his close-cropped blond hair. The scar is decades old, the result of an emergency surgery he had at the age of 10 to remove a brain tumor. The operation severely damaged his optic nerve. Over the years—Southern is now 37—his

vision improved, but only marginally, and it seems to have plateaued of late. Southern thinks his current vision is probably as good as it's likely to get.

"I can see you," he tells me one recent afternoon. "But I can't see your eye color, and the area around you is blurry. I can't drive. I can't read regular-size print."



Southern was showing me around Slightly Worn Thrift Store in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he is the manager. The shop is located on an industrial-commercial corridor on the outskirts of the Raleigh Beltline; its neighbors include a plumbing supply company, a tile distributor and an aluminum manufacturer.

Not exactly a retail destination, but for Southern, the lack of foot traffic gives him a little bit of breathing room. The everyday duties of running a shop take a little longer for him than they would for a fully sighted person.

“The biggest challenge for me is reading the tags on shirts and other clothing, to check for size when organizing the racks,” he says. “The type is always so small. I do have equipment to see it, but someone with ordinary vision could sort five shirts in the time it takes me to do one. Or cleaning—there could be a book or a piece of trash in the middle of the aisle, and I wouldn’t know it. I have to really



crouch down to see those kinds of things.”

Southern is from upstate New York. He moved to the South after his sisters relocated to North Carolina and reported back that the weather offered a preferable alternative to the frosty slogs of northeast winters. He attended Johnston Community College, where he earned a degree in advertising and graphic design. After graduating, he worked for five years in a variety of positions: manufacturing, shipping, production. Then, last year, the state’s Division of Services for the Blind connected him with Slightly Worn.

Opened in 2015, the store is operated by the RLCB (formerly known as the Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind). Southern found he liked the retail quality of the job. And he enjoyed helping mentor the store’s other visually impaired employees, who come from the nearby Governor Morehead School for the Blind.

“Oftentimes, it’s their first job, and they’ve never really had to think about basic things like transportation and scheduling their time—getting here on time, getting a ride to work or techniques for working on your own,” Southern says. “So I look at it as part of my responsibility to guide them along with that stuff.”

Then there are issues more specific to working in a thrift store.

“I show them how to feel the difference between a shirt and a skirt, how to hang a dress, which hanger to use and how to face the hanger,” he says.

A slice of light moves across the store: a customer is coming through the door. Southern leaves the break room area where we were sitting to greet her, and I stroll the aisles, browsing the racks of books, clothes and appliances. Several local Lions clubs, as well as individuals, donate the goods, priced lower than they would be at a typical thrift shop.

In the corner of the store is a section devoted to photography—lots of framed photos and prints. The section is Southern’s pet project. He studied photography at Johnston, and it remains a hobby. He shows me some photos he’d taken with his cell phone: streetscapes, a country church. He swipes through his photo gallery, holding the phone close to his eye, like a telescope. He arrives at the one he was looking for, a shot of downtown Raleigh at night, taken from a hotel balcony. He pulls back and shows it to me.

“I try to make sure they’re interesting or dramatic in some way,” he says. “I try to show what I see.”

Two doors down from Slightly Worn, in the same building, are the offices of RLCB, Inc. The organization has a rich history that stretches back to 1966 when three

Nathan Southern has limited vision but manages the Slightly Worn Thrift Shop in Raleigh.

members of the Raleigh Host Lions Club, Grady Galloway, Bill Waters and Earl Jennings, decided Raleigh needed a place dedicated to providing training and other services such as vision tests for blind individuals seeking employment in the labor market. All three men also served on the State Commission for the Blind, which at the time was sending people up to Virginia for such training and assistance.

They convinced the Lions to write a \$15,000 check to fund such a program for a year. A board was formed, an executive director appointed and the Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind was born. The clinic employed a nurse and optometrist to serve the blind.

Over the years, the organization has evolved into a much larger and more varied beast. It's no longer a clinic, and it's no longer technically a Lions operation. But all the board directors of the RLCB belong to the Raleigh Host Lions Club. "Myself and many of my senior staff are Lions," says Janet Griffey, president/CEO of the RLCB. "Those values are very much still a part of the culture here, even though we're technically RLCB, Inc. now."

The profits from the thrift store go straight to the RLCB, which then puts it toward technology training for blind people in the community at the RLCB Technology Lab. These days, RLCB provides not just job training but also jobs. As an associated agency of the National Indus-

tries for the Blind, it receives federal contracts to produce goods for the U.S. military and runs seven base stores across the country—in Alaska, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky and North Carolina. Down the highway, at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina, service members can obtain uniforms, underwear, socks, hats, and flight suits from visually impaired employees of RLCB.

"We're a true service to the military," Griffey says.

In the space between Slightly Worn and the administrative offices where Griffey works is RLCB's manufacturing department. Here, production manager Eliezer Pacheco oversees several legally blind employees as they assemble, package and distribute products RLCB is contracted to manufacture. The jobs pay a good wage of between \$15 and \$22 an hour. "There's very little turnover," Griffey says.

RLBC provides warehouse services for Zoetis, a plant and animal science company that was formerly a Pfizer subsidiary, and cuts bootlaces for IronLace, a Canadian maker of extra-tough strings.

"I call them MacGyver laces," Pacheco says. "They can pull a truck. We do them here and ship them in bulk to Canada."

A blind employee named David Phillips sits at a work station, cutting the laces according to the various lengths requested. Each size possibility, whether 36 inches,



Lion Janet Griffey, executive director of RLCB, confers with Ricky Covington, a production specialist in the manufacturing department.

45 inches or 54 inches, is preset on a “jig” on the table before him, allowing Phillips to accurately and repeatedly produce the right sizes without the use of his eyes. A half dozen visually impaired employees are spread out across the room in front of similar work stations.

Phillips was named Employee of the Year at RLCB in 2015, which meant a free trip to the National Industries for the Blind ceremony in Washington. “It was one of the best times I’ve ever had in my life,” Phillips says.

“The employees of the year from all the other NIB organizations are honored together,” Griffey says. “And we go out on a boat on the Potomac. We maybe even had a few beers; I can’t remember.”

Phillips grinned. “Maybe,” he says.

Nominees for 2016 Employee of the Year would be announced the following week, Griffey said, at a party to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the RLCB.

“We’ve been planning for it the last six months,” Griffey says. “I think it’s going to be quite a celebration.”

It is indeed.

Representatives from the offices of North Carolina’s three highest-ranking officials—Governor Pat McCrory, U.S. Senator Richard Burr and U.S. Senator Thom Tillis—are on hand, as are four pilots from the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, decked out in full navy-blue regalia and holding rifles. Huge blue and gold balloons hang from the ceiling of the technology lab, where most days RLCB employees are instructing visually impaired North Carolinians on how to use the latest computer programs and operating systems. Today, though, classes have been canceled.

Sharon Benton, a blind former employee of RLCB who went on to work for the city of Raleigh, kicks off the ceremony by singing the national anthem. Noting that he’d grown up in Raleigh and had long been aware of the good the RLCB has done in the community, Jimmy Broughton, a top aide to McCrory, delivers McCrory’s proclamation recognizing the organization.

Toward the end of the ceremony, after words from Griffey, Morehead superintendent Barbria Bacon and NIB president and CEO Kevin Lynch, a man named James Benton rises and slowly makes his way toward the podium, a white cane guiding him on his way.

“I don’t mind being blind, but sometimes I do struggle with looking like I’m blind,” Benton says, to laughs.

In many ways, Benton, an African-American man in his 50s, personifies the ambitions of RLCB. He came on-board in 1984, two years after his wife, Sharon (who sang the national anthem) joined. At the time he was in college, at St. Augustine’s University in Raleigh.

“They [RLCB] gave me my first real work experience,” Benton tells me a week after the anniversary party. “Like a lot of visually impaired people in those days, I couldn’t find anywhere else in the community to work.”

Benton started off in commercial assembly. He used a crimper to put creases in military straps. He did seamstress work. He cleaned and bagged boxing pillows. In 1989, he moved on to work at Holiday Inn, working over the next 10 years in customer support and guest services (working the phones is an ideal position for the blind) before being promoted to ADA (American Disabilities Act) representative for the company. “I made sure our hotels had the right accommodations for people who were significantly disabled,” Benton says.

After a stint in Salt Lake City, he ended up back in North Carolina, working for the Division of Services for the Blind. In addition to serving on the RLCB board of directors, he’s now a transition counselor for the blind, a role that requires him to be a job coach, job dealer and job skills trainer for visually impaired people in Raleigh and several surrounding counties. Over the last 18 years, he has connected hundreds of blind North Carolinians with jobs that improved their lives. But, as he tells the crowd at the anniversary celebration, the work is far from over.

“Seven out of ten visually impaired people in this country are unemployed,” Benton says, reading braille from the podium. “That’s why I’m so grateful to the RLCB for providing opportunities for so many of us like myself. RLCB continues to open doors. And it continues to open eyes.”



The thrift shop opened two years ago.

Read how Lions helped the blind in Tulsa, Oklahoma, support themselves through Broomtown, USA (April 1952 LION).



# GOOD WEATHER NOT REQUIRED— BUT JACKETS ARE

BY JAY COPP

Photos by Jim Bovin

In Minnesota winter is a long season. “You get cabin fever. You want to get out,” says Bradley Hensen of the Orono Lions Club. The club has the perfect antidote to the winter doldrums: the Snowball Open.

The club staged its 30th Annual Snowball Open in January. Six hundred golfers played an 18-hole course created by Lions for the occasion on iced-over Long Lake. They plowed away snow to create fairway strips, tee boxes and greens. Woe to the golfer who hit an errant shot off the fairway.

“That ends up in a snowbank. We call that the rough or sand trap. They have to use a wedge,” says Hansen.

He’s usually too busy working the event to pick up a club and try his luck. But he knows the best way to golf on ice. “You use a 7-iron and pop it up. Let it roll,” he explains.

The par 5 holes are about 110 yards, and a par 3 hole is 50 to 70 yards. Golfers use their regular clubs but use tennis balls, not golf balls. The holes are not the standard 4.5 inches but 12 inches, the size of the opening drilled by the auger.

Lining the fairways—helping to give definition to a hole—are discarded Christmas trees. The club puts to good use the trees that until not too long ago decorated the living rooms of residents.



Ice is even more treacherous than the 18th green at Pebble Beach. (Opposite) Even in the snow, aim for the flag.

The weather sometimes has been awful. No matter. “You can’t say rain or shine. It’s snow and cold, but we still play,” says Hansen. This year the weather was a relatively balmy 25 degrees with a light wind.

The \$25 entrance fee raises funds. But the club is savvy about generating additional revenue. Eighteen businesses were sponsors that set up tents or booths on the course. They served hot chocolate or chili. One sponsor took photos of golfers. Another set up blackjack tables.

The money raised supports Leader Dogs, diabetes screening and other causes. A raffle, which raised \$6,000 this year, supports the club’s innovative RED (Read Every Day) program. Schoolchildren who read a predetermined number of hours get to choose new books for themselves.

Golfers, especially serious ones, try mightily to get a good score. But having fun is the primary objective. “Everyone is in warm boots, funny hats. It’s a good time,” says Hansen.



This golfer has a customized golf bag.

Staying on the fairway is key to a low score.







Part of the fun is watching others whacking the ball.



Sponsors make a round easier.



Just as with regular golf, the great outdoors is a great reason to play 18.

# CHICAGO: OUR KIND OF TOWN

*June 25, 2017. Memo from club president: Will the last Lion out of town please turn out the lights? See you in Chicago.*

OK, not every Lion will come to Chicago for the 100th International Convention June 30 to July 4. It just seems that way. Registrations are through the roof. Advance registration closes May 1, though registration can be done onsite.

This will be no ordinary convention. Highlights include top-notch entertainment such as Chicago and the Beach Boys, major speakers such as former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, a memorable ceremony marking the centennial, an interactive historical exhibit, a festive parade on State Street in the heart of downtown and a full slate of outstanding seminars and tours of the city.

This convention also will be notably more convenient, accessible and Lion-friendly. Everything—both the exhibit hall and the plenary session venue—will be at McCormick Place. The hall is open longer. Voting has been made easier. Delegates no longer need delegate forms if they can access MyLCI. Also, delegates can get certified and vote at the same time. Moreover, the plenary sessions have been streamlined. For example, instead of being part of the second plenary, slowing it down, the nomination speeches for directors have been moved to a business meeting on Saturday, the second day of the convention.

More so than ever, the centennial convention will be Lion-centric. Hands-on service projects will be offered both onsite and at various spots in Chicago. Among the activities are cleaning a beach, gardening at an urban farm and packing items at a food bank. A \$25 fee covers the cost of a commemorative T-shirt, transportation and refreshments.

Lions also can take a guided tour of headquarters in suburban Oak Brook. Recently modernized and re-landscaped, headquarters includes the re-created office of Melvin Jones containing memorabilia such as the lion rug

given to him by Winston Churchill, his briefcase and passport, the wall of presidents with portraits of the 100 international presidents and a powerful statue evoking both the toll of river blindness and the heroic efforts by Lions to curtail the disease. The tour cost including round-trip transportation and a commemorative souvenir is \$35.

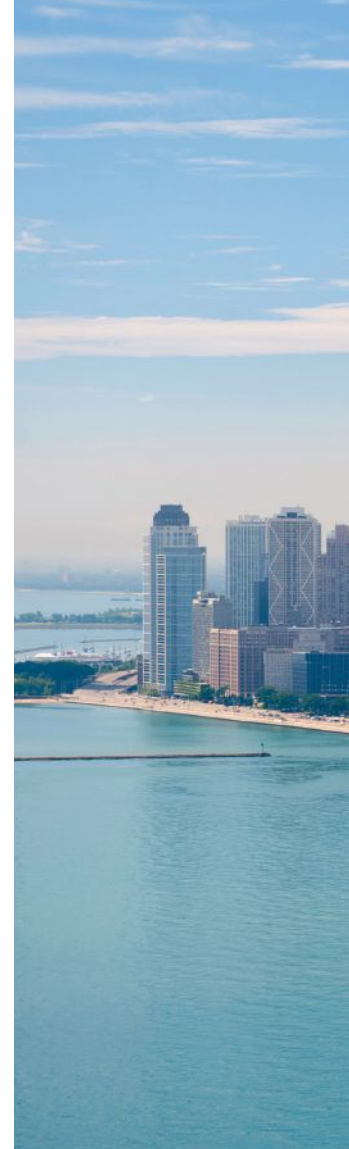
Some Lions may wish to travel on their own to headquarters. Reservations are required to make sure all visitors can be accommodated. An independent tour costs \$10 and includes a souvenir.

Finally, the future of Lions will be unveiled as Lions leaders roll out the LCI Forward plan. Lions Clubs is evolving for the better, and convention attendees can learn firsthand what service will be emphasized and how clubs will be encouraged to enhance membership and operations.

Another attraction of convention this year is the opportunity for Lions to share their wisdom and experience as Lions or even their personal talents. Modeled loosely after the popular Ted Talks, in which experts or highly placed people share their knowledge or insights, Lions Campfire sessions will allow Lions to talk about how they attracted new members, revamped club meetings or other topics of their own choosing. The talks will be 30 minutes at most with another 15 minutes for questions. Advance registration is required.

The Lions Performance Stage in the exhibit hall will allow singers, dancers and musicians to share their talents with Lions worldwide. Among the performers registered so far are a brass band and a dance troupe. Bring your guitar, accordion or saxophone and entertain Lions with music they may have never heard!

Another draw of convention will be a grand prize drawing, likely for a car or motorcycle, at the second plenary session. More details are forthcoming.



The skyline and North Avenue Beach are two attractions of our centennial convention city.

Watch an exciting promotional video about Chicago and the convention.

Get the complete list of tours and seminars.



Convention is packed with things to do, but Lions also can tour Chicago and enjoy its world-class architecture, appreciate its rich musical heritage and learn more about its amazing history. Among the 11 tours are the Architectural River Cruise, the Jazz Blues and Beyond tour and the Gangster Tour, which includes the site of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Both Lions history and Chicago history will be featured in the Melvin Jones/Mount Hope Cemetery and South Side Highlights tour. The tour includes Jones' refurbished gravesite and Hyde Park and Jackson Park, where former President Obama lived and where his presidential library will be.

The South Side also will be crawling with Lions one night as tickets will be available to Lions for a White Sox game against the archrival Yankees, no less. As White Sox fans will attest, the South Side ballpark has better food than its North Side counterpart and the beer is cheaper as well. Alas, the world-champion (!) Cubs are out of town during convention, but the Cubs offer tours of Wrigley Field.

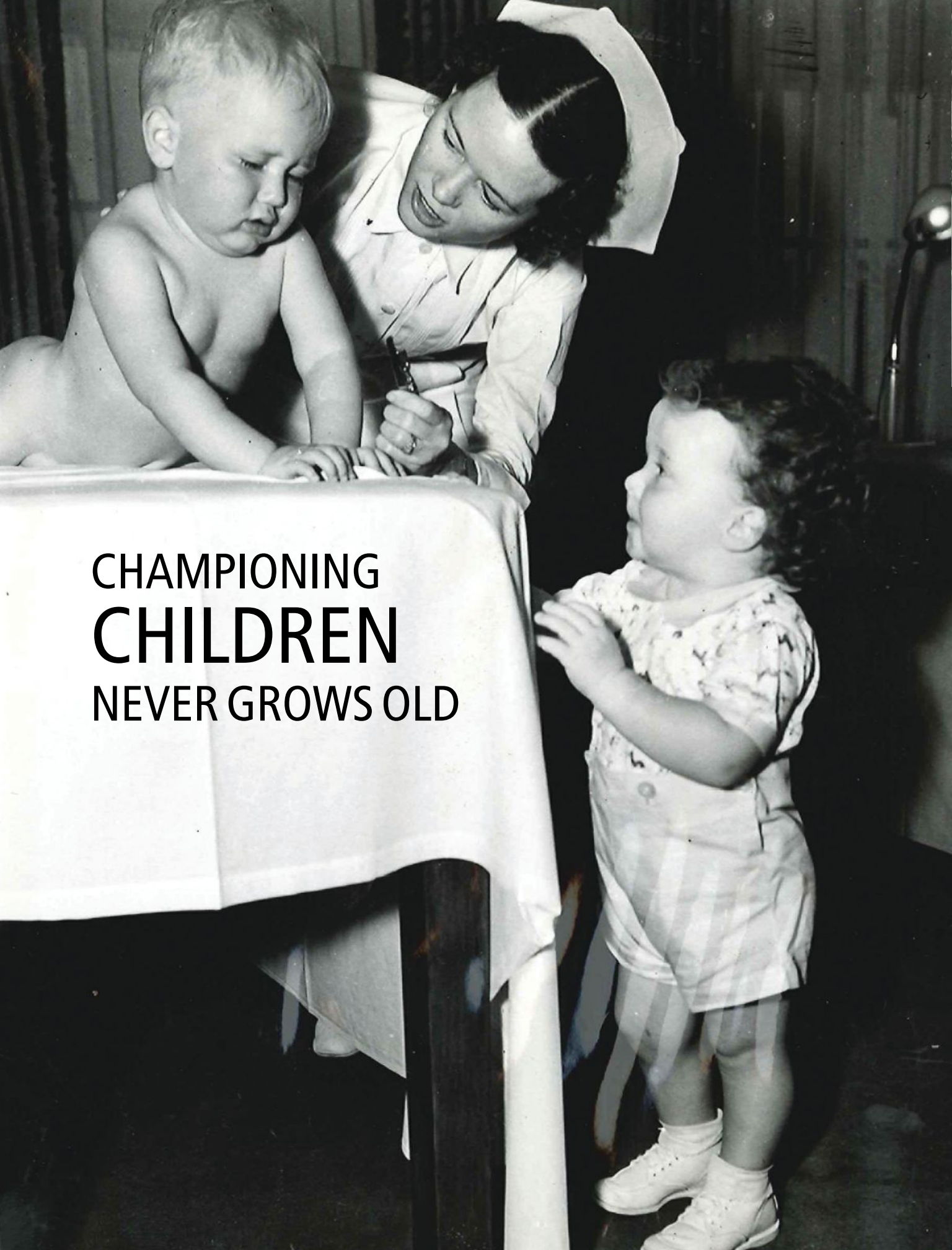
But back to the convention itself—where Lions from around the world will gather in fellowship, celebrate the glorious past and help shape the next century of Lions.

Besides Chicago and the Beach Boys, also performing will be the Charlie Daniels Band, Patti LaBelle, David Archuleta of "American Idol" fame, American English (a Beatles cover band), folk/country singer Anna Fermin, the high-energy Blues Brothers Revue, the inspiring African Children's Choir and crooners Edward and Belinda Lee.

Chicago has been in the news lately—for all the wrong reasons. Any big city has its risks, but Chicagoans know that serious crime is, sadly enough, concentrated in a few neighborhoods. As with any urban area, attendees should be aware of their surroundings, mindful of their valuables and put away their convention name badge when sight-seeing.

So, if you enjoy being a Lion and meeting Lions, Chicago this summer is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to not only appreciate the service accomplished by millions of Lions in 100 years but to take part in the opening days of the second century of Lions. It's a chance to blaze new trails of service and set new standards for fellowship and fun.

*Visit [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org) or [LCICon.org](http://LCICon.org) for complete information on the convention.*



CHAMPIONING  
**CHILDREN**  
NEVER GROWS OLD



Soap box derby drivers take a break in 1947 in San Francisco.

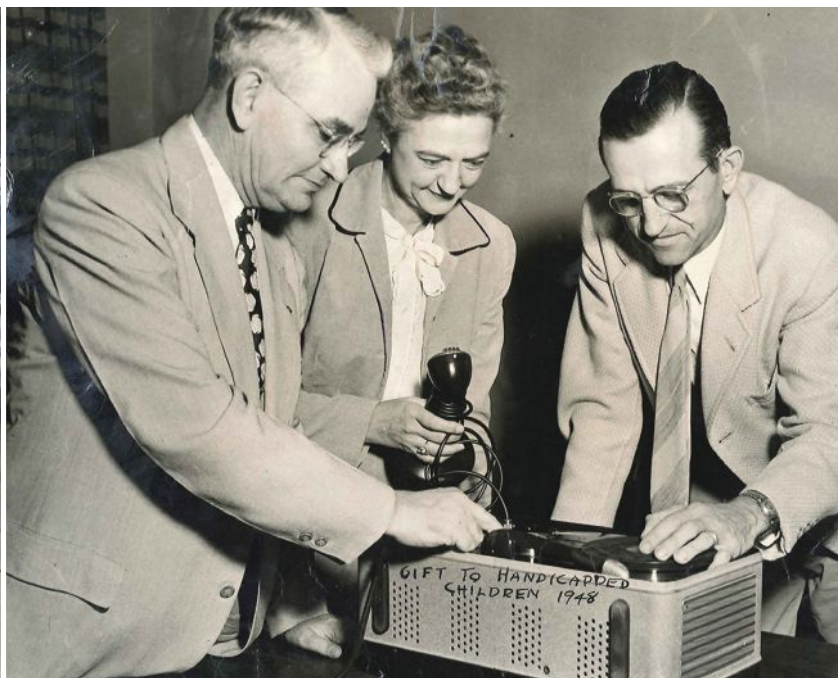
(Opposite) A nurse at a Lions health clinic at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles examines an infant in 1937.



Boston Host Lions treated children to lunch in 1948 at the Hotel Kenmere. Lions from other states join the party. Shown are Philip Cerrado (from left) of the Central Lions in Chicago, William Rowe of Boston and Rudy Fritsch of Garner, Iowa.

**THE VERY FIRST LIONS PROJECT IS LOST TO HISTORY.** But we are certain of one of the first: in November 1917, just months after the first convention ended, Oklahoma City Lions began a campaign for more playgrounds for boys and girls. Helping children no doubt was an easy choice for Lions, many of them fathers. Within three or four years of Lions' founding, headquarters had established a committee to aid needy children, and many clubs quickly climbed on the bandwagon. In 1921 Des Moines Lions in Iowa delivered

40 pounds of beef barbecue for a picnic at the Home for Friendless Children, Saginaw Lions in Michigan supported Boy Scouts and Fresno Lions in California volunteered to be Lion "dads" at a sumptuous banquet for fatherless children. At the 1923 convention in Atlantic City, Lions learned that clubs undertook 88 different kinds of aid to children, and that more than half of the clubs took part. So it has gone decade after decade: Lions care for children, far from friendless when a club is nearby.



(Left) Patients at the Children's Hospital of Michigan enjoy a ceiling book projector donated by Gratiot Lions in 1947. Looking on are Lions Stephen Pike (left) and Joseph Lang. (Right) Lions in St. Petersburg, Florida, provide a "device for speech correction" for handicapped children in 1948. Shown are C. E. Long (from left) of the Optimist Hearing Clinic, speech specialist Grace Randall Wright and Dr. Joy Adams, a Lion.



Orphans in Los Angeles enjoy a beach party in 1951 thanks to Lions.



William Bethel accepts the first-place trophy in the public speaking contest of the San Jose Lions Club in California in 1952. The topic was Learning to Live Together.



Yankee great Yogi Berra gives some pointers to the Pinehurst Lions Club Little League baseball team in North Carolina in 1955.



Children in Chinatown in New York race during a day of sports and fun held by Lions in 1955.



Rita Butters, 8, who has cerebral palsy, sits on the knee of Edward Marshall of the Boston Host Lions Club, which corrected her vision impairment in 1956. Also pictured are her foster mother, Waldo Tewksbury, and George Toohey, an eye specialist.



Freckle-faced James Doyle Wyatt, 9, backed up by his father and cubmaster Richard Wyatt, receives an award from Norman Larson of the Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts in 1960 for saving the life of his younger sister, whose dress caught on fire after a mishap. James beat out the flames with his hands. Also shown is Rex Mosier of the Westwood Lions Club, sponsor of his pack.



Teenagers dance at an event at the convention in Chicago in 1958.



Warren Heathman of the Portland Downtown Lions Club in Oregon plays Santa's Helper, fitting shoes for two children in 1958.



Children from the Pillsbury Settlement House in Minneapolis enjoy a Lions' outing to Duluth in 1965.



T. M. Glidwell (left) and Casey Hayes of the Commerce City Lions Club in Colorado present math and science awards to Stephen Farnsworth, 15, and Alberta Bertapelle, 15, in 1963.





A boy's dream comes true: born with a defective heart, Santiago Cervantes, 13, of British Honduras grips the soccer ball he always dreamed of owning. His heart was surgically repaired in Toronto in 1969. Watching are some of his benefactors (from left): Lion Terry Ashford of Toronto, constables Fred Smith and Barry Andrews, Lion Howard Lowe and surgeon Dr. Peter Forbath.



Lisa Peterson, 7, uses parallel bars provided by Denver Lions to walk and exercise in 1969.



Therapist Carol Sullivan helps Troy Isakson of Broomfield, Colorado, use a therapy table, provided by the Stapleton International Airport Lions Club in 1974.



Elgin Lions in Illinois donate a customized wheelchair to the Elgin Easter Seal Center in 1960. Lions shown are William Snellgrove (left), Robert DeYoung (right) and Robert Juby (kneeling, right).



Don Pendleton of the Columbus Lions in Georgia puts a raincoat on a student at Edgewood Elementary School in 1976. Lions gave the rain gear to safety patrol members.

# OUR CLUB'S INSPIRING BLIND MASCOT

BY SUZANNE MOORE

She's a dog, and she's a Lion, but this club mascot doesn't get her identities confused.

Pepper, a 12-year-old blind Labrador retriever, is the mascot of my Plattsburgh Lions Club in New York. When she dons her yellow vest with the blue Lions Clubs patch, she knows she's on the job—she practically drags me to the car, thrilled to be headed to another gig.

Just what kind of gig can a blind dog handle?

They are many and varied—Pepper doesn't spend much time on the couch.

She has had tea with a college president to discuss changing the no-dogs-on-campus rule that barred her from a Lions' event. By special invitation, she led the Pledge of Allegiance at a local town meeting. Pepper also is part of an anti-stigma group that fights destructive labels given to people with disabilities. And not long ago, before an entire elementary school, our dog showed International President Chancellor Bob Corlew how she inspires children with her two messages: "I'm not my disability; I'm ME!" and "When life gets 'ruff,' keep wagging your tail."

Pepper developed diabetes at age 11 and soon suffered some severe side effects common to dogs. Fast-developing cataracts led to glaucoma, and despite our best efforts, she lost both eyes to surgery.

My husband, Bryan, our daughter, Shelby, and I were inspired by how Pepper handled the multiple challenges that piled up on her, from the severe pain that comes with glaucoma to weeks in the dreaded "cone of shame" after three different surgeries.

No matter what, she never stopped wagging her tail.

And once her world went dark for good, we saw that tail wagging as she bumped into walls, ended up in closets by mistake and searched for a now elusive water bucket. We were hunting for adaptive equipment to help guide her, but Pepper had other ideas.

She suddenly remembered her nose and ears, senses that seemed to awaken with heightened power. Before long, she was going up and down stairs, expertly weaving her way around our other two dogs and the cat and mastering lessons at therapy dog training.

She remained our sweet, happy dog. Others didn't see it that way. Upon meeting her for the first time, they'd say:

"Poor dog!" But you're looking at the wrong end, we'd tell them. Look at her wagging tail.

The Plattsburgh Lions Club, however, immediately recognized Pepper's special ability to inspire. We invited the club to take her on as mascot, to help further their causes of vision and diabetes awareness. Since then, Shelby and I, along with Lions, have taken Pepper to schools, libraries, nursing homes and other venues where we tell how she lost her sight and became empowered. We read the storybook my daughter and I wrote and donated to the club as a fundraiser, "Pepper Finds Her Way." It brings a lot of chuckles, especially when Pepper says: "I didn't mean to sit on the cat (not always)."

But there's one sobering moment when children see the illustration of how Pepper viewed her yard when she still had vision and then the next page, completely black, that shows what she "sees" now. Even so, we remind the children, she kept wagging her tail.

We never leave a gig without feeling a sense of wonder at how Pepper bonds with her new friends, regardless of age. There was one child at a library who was too timid to ever participate in programs there, yet walked up to Pepper and petted her to her father's obvious surprise and delight.

At a mental-health support group meeting, one person drew another amazing message from Pepper's experience: you may not be able to recover completely, but you can live where you are.

At another gig, a girl enthusiastically petting Pepper suddenly stopped, saying, "Where are her eyes?" When we told her she had none, the girl drew back in alarm. But after a moment, she was petting her again.

She remembered the lesson: Pepper is not her disability.

I am now a proud Lion, and Shelby and I are working on a sequel to Pepper's book, about how she lives with diabetes.

As for Pepper, she's a Lion with a big roar. Though she can't see, she shows others how.

*Follow Pepper at Facebook/BlindPupProject and Twitter:@blindpupproject, and read her blog, [Blind Pup Insights](#), at [pressrepublican.com](#).*

(Opposite) Pepper bonds easily with children, such as these at a playground in Champlain, New York, where Pepper gave a presentation last summer.





## USA CANADA FORUM

# FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

When the USA/Canada Leadership Forum kicks off in September, the first 100 years of Lion service will be history. The centennial celebration will be over, and the parade will have passed. But like children on the day after a birthday or holiday, the question for Lions will remain:

Now what?

How can we help? Where will we go? Who will join us?

And for each individual Lion—be it their second year of Lionism or the 52nd—it might also be: “How can I up my game?”

Young or old, new or experienced, the USA/Canada Leadership Forum, Sept. 21 to 23 in Portland, Oregon, can help with that. Let there be “No Regrets.”

The 41st Forum—Leadership with Imagination & Service with Creativity—offers a three-day opportunity for face-to-face meetings with friendly Lions from far and wide as well as face-to-face inspiration and training from speakers with valuable life lessons to share.

“There will be more than 90 seminars for your educational experience, a service project to help two schools for the homeless, Lions University activities and graduation, plus special seminars for young Lions and Leos,” says Past International Director Lowell Bonds, the Forum general chair and a member of the Birmingham Lions Club in Alabama since 1974.

“You cannot miss the forum if you want a good foundation for our service in the next 100 years.”

Four inspirational speakers will be there to boost members’ motivation and help hone leadership skills:

- Colonel Don Petit: The fourth most experienced spacefarer of all time, he has spent 370 days in space and 13 hours walking in space—more time than any other astronaut. Petit will speak of the future of NASA and the future of space travel.
- Jen Bricker: Born without legs, her amazing adoptive family taught her to never say “can’t” and she

A sea of flowers welcomes visitors to the “Rose City.” Photos courtesy of [travelportland.com](http://travelportland.com)



took it from there. Having overcome extreme difficulties to accomplish her goals in life, she will explain how attitude gives us altitude.

- Naresh Aggarwal: Our 2017-2018 International President from India will share his story and the highlights of the international program.
- Willie Jolley: The highly-energized No. 1 speaker in America today (according to Zig Zigler), Jolley will expand on the premise that goals are just dreams with a deadline. He will challenge us to reach for the stars and dream for the future.

For those who have already been at work on their Lion skills, Lions University will also hold a special graduation ceremony as our international president personally congratulates and recognizes the accomplishment of all those meeting graduation requirements.

And to get you up from your chair and moving:

- Participants will join in leaving Portland better than they found it. Each attendee will be asked to bring a child's stocking cap, gloves, scarf and socks to stuff into backpacks to be distributed to homeless school children as part of the Lions Backpacks for Kids program.
- The popular Strides Walk to raise funds and support diabetes awareness starts before noon on Thursday.

More time to move about and enjoy the city? Forum attendees travel free on Portland's high-tech public transportation. And pre- or post-convention tours are offered by the Portland host committee.

Whether you travel far or not at all, take time to smell the roses in "The Rose City" where the climate is perfect for growing roses. Portland's International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park draws thousands of visitors from around the world each year. It would be sweet if you were one of them.

## What to See and Do

Maybe it will be the view of the mountains. Or the sight of the bridges spanning the Willamette River. Or the tree huggers and bicyclists on the streets enjoying warm days and cool nights.

Portland's temperatures average in the 70s during September, and the city is so green there is no getting around it. You will want to go through it.

This nature-inspired city is surrounded by Mount Hood to the east-southeast, the Coastal Range and the Pacific Ocean to the west, rich farmland to the south, and the Columbia River Gorge with the spectacular 620-foot-tall Multnomah Falls to the northeast.

At some point nature is going to successfully beg you to come out and play.

Check out some of those sights on your visit, but also make certain to see the city. Among the many attributes Portland offers (besides highly-acclaimed farm-to-table restaurants) you may enjoy:

**The Portland Saturday Market:** Acclaimed as the nation's largest weekly open-air arts and crafts market, the creations are sold by the people who make them, and there's live music and international snacks to boot.

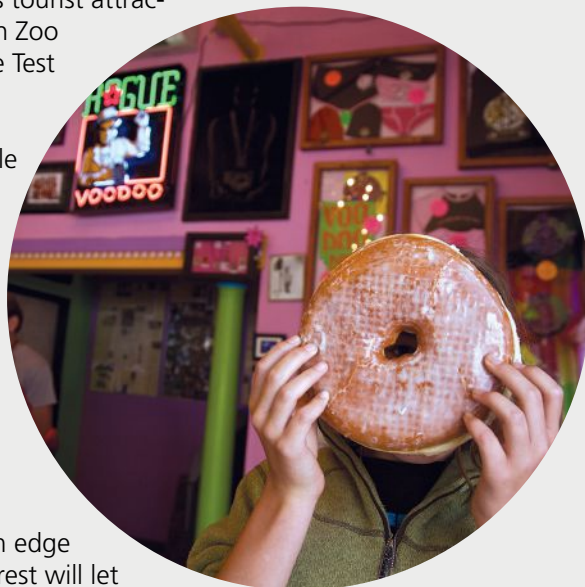
**Powell's City of Books:** A Portland landmark, Powell's contains more than one million books in nine color-coded rooms, and is known as the largest independent used and new bookstore on earth.

**Washington Park:** Five to 10 minutes from downtown, the park is home to numerous tourist attractions including the Oregon Zoo and the International Rose Test Garden.

**Voodoo Doughnut:** While this one fits in best with Portland's vow to be different, there are multiple shops that make exotic doughnuts here, topping them with everything from bacon to Oreos. Locals rave about them, but be prepared to stand in line.

**Forest Park:** On the north edge of West Hill, this urban forest will let you pretend you're out in the wilderness, but there's coffee around the corner.

**Movie brewpubs:** In Portland you don't go to the movie and then out for a beer. You enjoy a beer at the movies. The area boasts many fine wineries, but Portland is very much about local breweries and beer.



The **Staples, Staples Host** and **Staples 93 Lions** in **Minnesota** purchased and installed Lions' signs at four highway entrances near town.

The **San Marcos Lions Club** in **Texas** presented 100 \$50 gift cards to the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District to help teachers purchase classroom supplies.

Past President Pat Morrell of the **Warwick Lions Club** in **Virginia** was youth coordinator for the John M. White International Lions Camp where 29 youths from 17 countries participated.



**Mountain Grove Lion** Mike Elam leads the way as the conductor on "Toots," the club's popular train that is making the circuit at festivals and fairs in rural **Missouri**. Toots was donated to the club by a friend of Lions, and although the train schedule fills quickly, it appears by invitation at other Lion events throughout the state.

The **Easley Lions Club** in **South Carolina** held a pancake breakfast fundraiser, assisted with construction of a new playground for those with disabilities, helped with restoring a primitive school, provided a protective jacket for a police dog and helped returning veterans through Upstate Warrior Solutions.

The **Ottertail Lions** in **Minnesota** donated \$25,000 to the city of Ottertail to be used for fire equipment.

The **Brandon Lions Club** in **Manitoba, Canada**, has been active for more than 75 years. Members have done everything from sponsor the purchase of an ambulance for the city to building a baseball park. They raised money for a non-profit senior complex known today as Lions Manor where they serve breakfast to residents once a month and are involved in numerous community events.

The **Bellmore Lions Club** in **New York** participated in the Service Project Letter Campaign where more than 400 students wrote letters describing service projects that would benefit their community. Lions chose four ideas that included a community cleanup, a coloring book collection for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and a DVD collection to benefit medical facilities.

The **Francis Scott Key Lions** in **Maryland** initiated a new service project, Operation Blue Thank You, to honor local police officers. The Lions invite an on-duty patrol officer to be their guest for dinner as an expression of appreciation.

The **Random Lake Lions** in **Wisconsin** provided the funds for the Village of Random Lake to purchase 14 hanging flower baskets and mounting brackets to fasten to utility poles, beautifying the downtown.

Four clubs in Texas, the **LaGrange Noon Lions**, the **La Grange Evening Lions**, the **La Grange Bluebonnet Lions** and the **Smithville Lions**, purchased a screening machine and trained several club members on its use. Many children have been screened.

The **Knowlton Lions** in **Quebec, Canada**, contributed \$1,000 to La Maison Au Diapason, an organization offering free palliative care and psychological and spiritual support to terminally ill patients and their families.

After years of preparing catfish and shrimp on plywood supported by sawhorses, the **Canyon Lake Noon Lions** in **Texas** recently purchased like-new stainless steel commercial kitchen equipment to use for the club's fundraising fish fries and shrimp feasts.

The **Springfield Lions** in **New Jersey** helped host "Union County Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil" to raise awareness of the problem of homelessness. Thirty-three names were read and candles were lit to remember homeless people who died over the year.

The **Stanwood Lions Club** in **Washington** surprised one of its members, Jim Bonniel, with a portable reading camera that scans text and sends the images to a computer where other software allows the computer to read the pages out loud. Bonniel, a longtime Lion, has a rare genetically inherited disease that gradually decreased his ability to see.

**Harlan Lions** and the **Harlan-sponsored Leos** responded to a tornado that struck **Indiana**, destroying farm buildings and homes and sending debris through fields of corn and soybeans. Many came to remove debris from about 30 acres of soybeans that had to be cleared before the crops could be harvested.

The **Bolingbrook Lions** in **Illinois** provided a local college student, Aubrey Millar, with new hearing aids. She was born deaf and received her first hearing aids at seven months. Aubrey sent a letter to thank the Lions, saying, "I hold the Bolingbrook Lions near and dear to my heart because they have helped so many children and people like me."



# Club Delegate Form

Club delegates for the 2017 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> International Delegates
- Submitting this form to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Confirmation of the club delegate assignment will be emailed to the club delegate. When the email address of the club delegate is not available, the confirmation will be emailed to the club officer.

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

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

Delegate Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Name: (first middle last) \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate Preferred Ballot Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Club Officer: (select one) Club President \_\_\_\_\_ Club Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Officer Name: (first middle last) \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail form by May 1, 2017 to:

Member Service Center • Lions Clubs International

300 W. 22nd St. Oak Brook, IL USA 60523

MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org • Phone 1-630-203-3830 • Fax 1-630-571-1687

*Clubs using this Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates must mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2017. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2017, bring signed form to the convention site. Clubs using MyLCI must assign their club delegates by June 28, 2017.*

## VOTING AT THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

### Voting for Executive Officers and International Directors

Every Lions club in good standing can participate in the election of executive officers and international directors and can vote on amendments to the association's bylaws by assigning delegates to represent the club at the international convention.

At the 2017 International Convention certification and voting will occur at the same time in the convention Voting Area. As soon as you are certified, you will receive a ballot and will be able to vote immediately. Certification and Voting days and times are:

- Sunday, July 2, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Monday, July 3, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 4, 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

### Assigning Club Delegates

Club delegates for the 2017 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned by the club president or secretary, using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> International Delegates
- Submitting the Club Delegate Form to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Clubs using MyLCI can assign their club delegates at any time between January 1 and June 28, 2017.

Clubs using the Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates will need to mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2017. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2017, bring the signed form to the convention site. The form will also be available online.

For more information on voting at the International Convention go to [www.lcicon.org/vote](http://www.lcicon.org/vote).

International Convention  
Club Delegate Entitlement Table

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

Delegate count is based on the club's membership as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. See Article VI, Section 2 of the International Constitution and Chapter XVII – Membership, Board Policy Manual.

\*Delegate entitlement is one delegate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.

# LION

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## DIRECTORS

### Second year directors

Melvyn K. Bray, New Jersey, United States; Pierre H. Chatel, Montpellier, France; Eun-Seouk Chung, Gyeonggi-do, Korea; Gurcharan Singh Hora, Siliguri, India; Howard Hudson, California, United States; Sanjay Khetan, Birgani, Nepal; Robert M. Libin, New York, United States; Richard Liebno, Maryland, United States; Helmut Marhauer, Hildesheim, Germany; Bill Phillipi, Kansas, United States; Lewis Quinn, Alaska, United States; Yoshiyuki Sato, Oita, Japan; Gabriele Sabatosanti Scarpelli, Genova, Italy; Jerome Thompson, Alabama, United States; Ramiro Vela Villarreal, Nuevo León, Mexico; Roderick "Rod" Wright, New Brunswick, Canada; Katsuyuki Yasui, Hokkaido, Japan.

### First year directors

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## [Anniversaries

### April 2017

**\*100 Years:** Houston Founder, Texas; Port Arthur Founders, Texas.

**95 Years:** Cookeville, Tenn.; Bluefield, W.V.; Ranger, Texas; Columbia, S.C.; Gibson City, Ill.; Port Colborne, Ontario, CAN; Clairton, Pa.; Wausau, Wis.; Perth Amboy, N.J.; Albemarle, N.C.; Casper, Wyo.; Sonora, Calif.; Independence, Kan.

**90 Years:** Sausalito, Calif.; Lexington, S.C.; Pampa, Texas; Choteau, Mont.; Exeter, N.H.

**85 Years:** Laurel, Md.; Marion, S.C.; Canton, Ga.; Jackson, Ohio.

**80 Years:** Portland, Ind.; Coalville, Utah; Kamas Valley, Utah; Calhoun Falls, S.C.; Mississauga Credit Valley, ON, CAN; Austin, Nev.; Southbridge, Mass.

**75 Years:** Lakeview, Ore.; Romeo, Mich.; Northmont, Ohio; Vienna Host, Va.; Somerset, Ky.; Corona, N.Y.; Beatrice, Neb.; Kreutz Creek Valley, Pa.; Albany, Ky.; Hedley, Texas; St. Louis Park, Minn.; Devon, Conn.

**50 Years:** Alief, Texas; Swansea, S.C.; Port Mc Neill, BC, CAN; Burke, Va.; Scenic Hills L C, Ohio; Bedford Area L C, Mich.; Spanaway, Wa.; Ste. Marie, QC, CAN; Depew, N.Y.; East Missoula, Mont.; Giltner, Neb.; Morrison, Okla.; Cochrane Buffalo City, Wis.; Quyon, QC, CAN; La Grange L C, N.Y.; Easton, Conn.; Caledonia, Wis.; Hauterive, QC, CAN; Kerrville Heart O' The Hills, Texas; Clermont-La Malbaie-Pnt Au, QC, CAN; Ashland, Maine; Rushville, Mo.; Tennerton, W.V.; Hudson Hope, BC, CAN; Waterdown District L C, ON, CAN.

**25 Years:** McGaheysville Massanutten, Vt.; Clementon Greater Clementon, N.J.; Alexandria Heart City Paces, La.; South Attleboro Village, Maine; Whitehall Area, Ohio; Cape Girardeau Evening, Mo.; Frederica Spring Creek, Del.; Bolton Regional, Conn.; Hastings Rivertown, Minn.; San Angelo Concho Pearl, Texas; Scottsdale Pride of Scottsdale, Ariz.; Pittsburg Shadyside-Squirrel Hill, Pa.; New York Golden Heart, N.Y.; Montgomery, Texas.

\*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.

## In Memoriam

Past International Director Floyd Newberry Jr. of Mt. Orab, Ohio, has died. A member of the Mt. Orab Lions Club, he held perfect attendance for 65 years. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, he served on the international board of directors from 1995-97. He had a special interest in the Ohio Pilot Dog program and supporting the students of the Ohio Lions band. He enjoyed a successful career in real estate.



# Pin Trading is a Treasured Part of Lions' Culture

Glittering squares of gold on a lapel, shaped like lions' heads or in the outlines of states. These emblems are colorful reminders of past accomplishments, international conventions or new friends.

Lions Clubs International pins come in all shapes and sizes today, but they were introduced in the late 1940s as disposable plastic parade giveaways. Those early emblems, called friendship pins, are now highly sought after by pin collectors and traders.

Trying to count up all of the different pins that have been produced over the intervening decades "is like trying to count grains of sand on a beach," says Verle Malik of the Winchester Host Lions Club of Virginia. Malik publishes a series of handbooks cataloging the different kinds of pins, one of several catalogs produced by clubs and Lions around the world. Volume one of Malik's handbook included life-size images of pins from every state and multiple district, and volume two featured specialty pins: prestige, mini, medallion, charm, stickpins, Lioness, Leo and variations on pins issued by states and multiple districts. Volume three included international pins.

"These are friendship pins," says Malik. "They were initially made to help you remember the person that gave it to you. You exchange them everywhere you go and pass them out to everyone you visit. Once you accumulate a few of them—the pin traders will appear."

The biggest place to trade pins is the annual international convention, but for Lions who can't make it—or for Lions who want more opportunities to trade—there are several large pin-swapping gatherings held throughout the year in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Davenport, Iowa. Smaller local swaps also occur regularly.

Pin swapping is a friendly affair, but there's a strategy involved. "You've got to have pins to trade," says Bob Showers, longtime pin swapper from the Packwaukee Lions Club in Wisconsin. "If you go down there with mediocre pins, you're not going to get very many."

There are a number of official pin trading clubs within Lions. According to Bill Smith, the founding president of the Pin Traders Club of Virginia, they're eager to bring in new collectors. "When we find out a guy's a new pin trader, he leaves [the swap] with far more pins than he came in with. We'll give him a handful of pins. We're just trying to hook him."

Lions collect and trade more than pins. At the 1951 international convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the Lions International Stamp Club was officially chartered. Peter Keller, founder of the LISC and director of the American Stamp Dealers Association, authored a regular stamp collecting column in LION Magazine, calling stamp collecting "the King of Hobbies and the Hobby of Kings."

Within a year, the LISC had members from five countries, collecting and trading rare or interesting stamps of all kinds. Since 1940, countries such as Cuba, the Philippines and Nicaragua have issued commemorative stamps featuring the Lions Clubs International emblem and past international presidents like Finis Davis of Louisville, Kentucky, who served from 1960-61, and Clarence Sturm from Manawa, Wisconsin, who served from 1959-60.

As with anything that Lions are involved in, fun and fellowship leads to service. In 2008, the Lions International Trading Pin Club led a fundraising effort among fellow pin traders and presented a check for \$100,000 to Campaign SightFirst II at the International Convention in Minneapolis the following year.

Trading pins and stamps is a hobby that's entertaining and a celebration of Lions' dedication to service. "I don't golf. I don't bowl," says Smith. "Pins are my passion. And I'm not unique in that."





## Sitting Pretty

For decades Candy Day has helped fill clubs' coffers and fund good causes, as it did in 1960 for Lions of Illinois. Two Chicago Lions promote Candy Day in October with model Mary McKay. Look for more historical photos in the LION as the 100th International Convention in Chicago in June nears.



# 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.**



**On Sale Now!**  
**US\$52.95**

**Order your Centennial Coin today!**

[lionsclubs.org/coin](http://lionsclubs.org/coin)



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Commemorative Coin today!**

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