

Lions of Georgia



*Georgia Lions State Convention
28-30 May 2010
Tifton, Georgia*



PLEASE – Presidents/Secretaries = send in the name of your Club and the Name and Email address only of all club members who have DSL so we can send the State Mag to each of those members. Send to edmcionh@bellsouth.net or lionga@bellsouth.net



Dear Lions, Lioness and Leos of Georgia,

All of you have heard the song “What a difference a day makes, twenty four little hours.” For me, as I reflect on the past, it’s what a difference a decade makes. Ten short years ago I had the honor and the privilege to serve our association as International President and lead the Lions of the world into the new millennium and a new century of service. As I was preparing to serve as International President I wanted to create a positive and sustainable approach to continued community service that Lions the world over could understand and support..

I ask Lions, Lioness and Leos to sail into this new century of service on four ships, **MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, and PARTNERSHIP.** I still believe these four ships of Lionism will be relevant to our success as service providers for years to come.

When we look back at our first days as a Lion we can remember many of those who we served with that are no longer with us. They were men and women who provided the leadership and set the direction for our clubs, districts, multiple districts and our International Association and I believe it is our responsibility to invite others to join us in our clubs to replace these lost members so we can continue to make our communities and the world a better place to live, work and play. Fellow Lions, membership is the life blood of our clubs and our International Association just as it is in your church or place of worship and any other organization of which you are a member.

After you have invited someone to join your Lions Club they then begin to enjoy the fun and fellowship we have as Lions. As their sponsor you should encourage them to become involved in all activities of the club and develop or improve their leadership skills and use them for the betterment of your club and district. All of us know that learning and leadership development is a life long process.

My year as International President took me too many different countries and geographical areas. Meeting with Lions, Lioness, Leos, as well as, the leaders of their countries gave me the opportunity to share with them our visions and goals as the world’s largest humanitarian service club organization. Sharing with them the partnerships I was blessed to be a part of bringing to our association and the success we were having as partners was very gratifying to me. Our partnerships with The Carter Center, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Johnson and Johnson and others brought about great success and involvement for our association and continues to do so today.

Much has been accomplished by Lions, Lioness and Leo’s in our services to human kind over the past ten years. Yet today the need for our humanitarian services in communities around the world is as great today as it was in 1917 when Melvin Jones and others founded our great association.

This past decade has given three of our outstanding Georgia Lions the opportunity to serve on the International Board of Directors. Beginning with Past International Director Buddy Ouzt and Carol from Winder, Georgia, followed by Dr. Beverly Roberts from Hepzibah, and currently serving is International Director Haynes Townsend and Donna from Dalton . All of these Lions were able to see firsthand and be a part of improving the quality of life for people most in need, not only in our great state, but in states and countries the world over.

The Lions of Georgia have been blessed in many ways and with outstanding leadership. Services provided by the Georgia Lions Lighthouse during this past decade have saved or restored sight and hearing for thousands of Georgians. Giving them hope and happiness and the opportunity to continue to be productive citizens so they can provide the basic necessities of life for themselves and their families. But I would be remiss if I did not say thanks and congratulations to PCC Mark Miller and the Lighthouse Board of Director, as well as, Christine Lennon and staff for having the vision and taking the action to move our Georgia Lions Lighthouse into a new facility. Our ability as Georgia Lions will be greatly enhanced to provide much needed services to indigent Georgian’s because of their actions.

During this past decade the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind continued to give young blind and visually impaired Georgians opportunities to experience life in ways they might never have dreamed of before going to camp. The leadership of the camp under Lion President Frank Spinney continues to work at bringing much need repairs to bring the swimming pool and other areas of the camp up to code. They need our continued support.

Other projects that are extremely important to the Lions of Georgia include Leader Dogs for the Blind, Southeastern Guide Dog and Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic. Each of these services greatly improves the quality of life for many Georgian’s.

Yes, we as Georgia Lions can be proud of humanitarian services we have provided. However, there are many opportunities and challenges we must address if we are going to meet the needs of our communities. Working to retain and increase our current membership in our clubs and extend new clubs must be a priority if we are to continue serving those most in need throughout our great state and around the world.

Everyday each of us has the choice to make a difference in someone’s life. It might be a young person needing a hand up or someone needing glasses or surgery to be able to see their children and grand children. Whatever the situation is their future is in our hands.

As Lions we must always remember that it is not what we know about Lionism, leadership or serving humanity, it's what we do about it that makes the difference.

My prayer for all of us is that God will continue to give us the strength to serve and the courage to care.

Jim Ervin, Past International President



State News



Why attend the State Convention

1 Offers a unique opportunity to meet and network with Lions from around the State. An opportunity like this is not fully provided by the District Conventions that many Lions attend.

2 Provides educational seminars which address a variety of issues that concern Lions. Seminars in the past have addresses topics as membership, vision research/eye care, youth exchange, new clubs, service projects, Georgia Lions Lighthouse, Camp for the Blind, other state projects, etc.

3. Offers the opportunity to meet guest speakers – this year's guest speaker – Ed McCormick, of Valley Center, Kansas, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 83rd International Convention, held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, June 19-23, 2000.



4. Offers Lions, Leos and their guests an opportunity to visit a different city.

5. Allows members attending the convention the opportunity to vote on changes to the constitution and by-laws and other important issues concerning Lions within the state .

Future State Conventions:

- 2011 – Gwinnett County, Marriott in Duluth
- 2012 – Savannah 24-27May Marriott Riverfront
- 2013 - ??? Augusta ???
- 2014 - ??? Macon ???

Georgia Lions State Convention



28-30 May 2010
Tifton, Georgia

Friday: Registration and Exhibits; Organizational Meetings – Lighthouse and Camp meetings; Opening Ceremony +Two seminars – one of which would be Lions working with LEOS. (Friday Night Meal Tickets \$20.00).

Saturday: District Breakfasts; First Business Session; Melvin Jones Luncheon (\$25.00), State Awards; District Governor's Banquet +

Sunday: District Breakfast; Necrology Service; Second Business Session

HOSPITALITY BOOK ORDER FORM

Hospitality Books only 1 April - \$85.00.

Reservations are due no later than May 15, 2010.

Books purchased after this date will increase to \$95.00.

District Hotels are:

Dist. A at Courtyard - (814W 7th St. Tifton, GA
(229-388-0803) \$89/night.

Dist. B&C at Comfort - (905 West 7th St.. Tifton, GA
(229-382-8250) \$82/night

Dist. D at Country Inn - 901 West 7th St.. Tifton, GA
(229 382-8100) \$82/night.

Dist. E at Fairfield - 806 W. 7th St., Tifton, GA
(229-387-8288) \$80/night.

Dist. F at Holiday Inn - 1208 Hwy 82W, Tifton, GA
(229-382-6687) \$75/night.

**YOU WILL FIND A LETTER AND
HOSPITALITY BOOK FORM FOR THE 2010
GEORGIA LIONS STATE CONVENTION
SCHEDULED FOR 28-30 May 2010 AT
TIFTON ON THE **STATE WEB SITE.****

**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH
YOUR CLUB MEMBERS. THANKS AND WE
LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

Youth in Philanthropy

Caroline wanted a theme party for her 6th birthday in June of 2008. She loves dogs so she wanted a puppy-themed party. Knowing that many of her friends were dog lovers as well, Caroline's mom thought of making her party a 'benefit birthday' party and immediately thought of PAWS!

The family included a PAWS wish list in the invitations, asking for donations in lieu of birthday presents. The kids came to the party, had their faces painted like dogs, played an 'agility' game, visited a 'vet clinic' and a dog bakery. The finale was a visit from a Paws With A Cause Foster Puppy! All of the kids learned about PAWS through a presentation, and then were allowed to pet the puppy.



Caroline, in her puppy-themed birthday outfit, visits PAWS HQ and meets Demo Doe Krickit!

The week following the party, Caroline and her mom came to PAWS National Headquarters to deliver the 'presents' from the party – an entire SUV full of donated items for PAWS! They took a tour of the PAWS facilities and for months after the party, Caroline kept asking "when can we get a Foster Puppy?" In October of 2008, Caroline's parents said 'yes' and Foster Puppy Rosie joined their family.

Caroline and her sisters, Greta and Ana, attend puppy class and are great at telling the PAWS story. They tell people that Rosie is not their pet; she has an important job. She is going to be a helper dog someday and change a person's life.

This spring while mom was having a garage sale, the girls decided to set up a juice box stand. As Rosie was hanging around for the sale, the subject of PAWS came up in many conversations with customers. Halfway through the sale, Caroline suggested to the others at the juice box stand that they should donate all the money to PAWS to 'help them buy things for the puppies.' Soon, the girls were raiding mom's snack cupboard and started

telling their customers they were giving the money to PAWS!



Caroline, Greta and Anna with Foster Puppy Rosie

Caroline's generosity continues to shine through to other organizations as well, as she has donated her hair to Locks of Love and will be having an art-themed party, with Very Special Artists as the beneficiary. According to Caroline's mom, selling the idea of another benefit party to her was not necessary; it was more of a foregone conclusion!

PAWS wishes to thank Caroline for her support! We appreciate your sense of compassion and community service and commend you and your family for reaching out to help non-profit organizations achieve their mission! Keep up the great work!

Food for thought.....how do we teach our children?

* * * * *

The District Governor

They are not orgres or someone to fear.
Just doing their best to be your leaders for a year.
Some are good speakers and others just so so.
When they come to your club they put on a good show.
They will tell you their goals and what needs to be done.
Always upbeat and tell you make it happen but have fun.
They ask your club questions and ask what you do?
And tell you of others, just to help you.
When they visit your club the thing to know.
They are only Lions like you, just on the go.
Some strive to climb the LCI ladder.
But to most after their year it doesn't matter.
It's back to their clubs to do what they can.
From broom sales to white cane to lend a helping hand.
So don't get excited when they are on the way.
Just have a good meeting like any other day.

The Red Nic Governor

Youth Camp and Exchange

The attached letter is from an Alpharetta student, Rita Korb. She took full advantage of the Lions Youth Exchange Program.

Rita did not have all the money needed for the plane fare over to Italy. The Alpharetta Lions Club paid the difference. I contacted many Lions to donate a part of the "spending money" she would need on this adventure. They came through with flying colors! Her own family could not help at the time, because her father was out of work due to the economy. She has told me many times how much she appreciated the Lions and what they did for her. Before she left for Italy, she spoke for the Leo Club and again at the Lions meeting. She would love to speak at other clubs to tell her story.

Rita graduates from High School in Alpharetta in May. She has been accepted to Emory University in Atlanta. She has given her permission to have her letter printed.

Presently, there are two students, a boy and a girl, in Italy waiting for a Host Family in Georgia. If our Lions read this letter they would understand how this program effects and influences lives, positively, forever.

Many thanks,

Lion Faye H. Smith, State Youth Camp/Exchange Chair

Dear Faye Smith,

I started my physical journey on the thirtieth of July, with just my suitcase and Italian to English translator in hand. This trip that I was embarking on had the biggest impact on my life thus far. I arrived late at night at the Bologna airport, to my host family. I was so, very exhausted that I could barely think properly. They immediately took me under their wing, and kept asking me how I feel and whether I needed food or water. The immediate feeling of hospitality was wonderful. My stay with the Guaraldi lasted for two weeks with a couple odd days. I stayed with them in Cento, Italy, a small town outside of Bologna. There I had the experience of a normal, Italian teenage life. I went out with friends, explored the city. And my first week there I went to the sea for a few days. With them I experienced the cliché Italian family life. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing many relatives gather together on a weekend night and talk to each other. I loved seeing them argue with each other in a caring way. All of the Italian people that I met had a different reaction to me. Some immediately said, "Go Obama" others recognized I was from Georgia and started singing, "Georgia on my mind." Overall the family was loving and I was happy that they hosted me. A week after my arrival, my host sister left to Finland on a Lions exchange but not to worry, another girl from Finland (Anna) that is participating in the exchange came and stayed with me. At first, I was worried that maybe we might not get along or those things

might be a little awkward. But after speaking to her for a few minutes I realized that we would become very close. Together we watched several movies in Italian and tried to decipher what they heck my host mother wanted when she spoke to us. Anna and I still talk at least once every week. Our friendship has grown since the first day we met. She likes to hear about my crazy American life. While I enjoy to hear about her life in Finland. I brag to everyone I know that I have a very close friend in Finland. And anytime someone tries to get all high and might at my school about a Italy or Finland, I tell them about the summer I spent abroad. After completing my stay with the Guaraldi family, Ana and I went to the local Camp Emilia.

So we arrive to this inn on a morning July 17 2009. The inn La Rochetta was amazingly beautiful. The house was of stunning Italian architecture and they had an orchard in the back. The inn was breathtaking and the inn keepers were the nicest people. They immediately tried to teach me some Italian and helped all of us feel at home. Anna and I were the second people there, before us arrived another girl from Finland. We made some awkward introductions but all was well when we laughed about how much spaghetti we have already consumed in our stay. Then slowly but surely many other campers joined us. There were kids my age from all over the world: America, Finland, Turkey, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Canada, Poland, Spain, Hungary, Estonia, and Netherlands. My fellow campers upon learning that I was an American, asked me many things and really challenged my knowledge of the other countries. Before I met the campers I thought that I had life pretty much figured out. I thought I knew most everything there was to know. But you have no idea how wrong I was. I knew the basic physics, science, math, and literature questions that they threw at me. However my knowledge on the other countries did not go past the fact that I knew that Hamlet was from Denmark. Not to worry though, my friends quickly filled me on why their country was equally the same and sometimes even better than America. To make it seem as if I wasn't that big of a fool, I quickly google searched every country to prove that I wasn't that stupid. But not to fear, my campers were just poking fun at me. I feel like they really enjoyed telling me why I should like their country and why America isn't the greatest. Through them I got to experience the cultures. On one of the nights at camp we all laid on the ground and viewed the stars. They were shocked to hear that back home I can't see as many stars as I can see in Italy. We didn't have many shallow conversations, instead we talked about life, people, cultures, are thoughts about being away from home, etc.

Camp was an experience far better than I had ever imagined. When I first applied to the Lions Exchange I was very uncertain of how the camp will help me. But it was my favorite part of the exchange. I have enough stories to fill several pages of how fun the camp was. The bond of knowing that we are foreigners in a foreign land transcended any dislike that we could possibly have for each other. From the first day when we accidentally left to of the campers back at the inn when we went to the opening ceremony to the last where we tearfully left each other to journey back home or to our next host family was completely perfect. As a camp we got to experience the Italian life. We visited Rome, Florence, Verona, Venice, Ferrara, and a few other cities. One of my favorite nights of my life was when we were in Rome. We

arrived earlier that day and visited the Forum and the Coliseum. But in the afternoon we were dropped off at the city center and were told to meet back at 12. I had so much fun taking in the Roman history. (And because I am such a nerd and have a huge fascination with the ancient Romans, I acted as a self-appointed tour guide giving a brief history of every building we passed). I set off with my friend from Finland, Estonia, and India. At first we were unsure where to go, so we just kept walking around licking the amazing Italian gelato's that we ordered. My Indian friend, Guarav helped us travel across the crazy Roman streets, we took pictures with the local Policeman. We saw the Circus Maximus and other historic family buildings. But my favorite was when we stumbled upon an empty street where at the corner was an empty restaurant except for a group of 5 priest that were sitting down enjoying the lovely night and when they saw us they immediately greeted us. Then of course we had to get lost and find our way back. Everyday that we spent at camp was an adventure in itself. The food we ate and laughed about, the way Italians always say the word Ciao at least three times, the weather being to hot, and how often I reapply sunscreen to protect my very white skin.

After the camp, I had the pleasure of spending one final week in Italy with a second host family located in Brescia. On the train rides, I stroke up a lot of conversations. I used to cower away with embarrassment when I watched him speak to these random people. But, in my month abroad, I realized how much I enjoy these strange conversation. I spent several hours on a train moving from one city to another which gave me an ample amount of time to meet different people. On a train to my host family, I spoke with a poor, elderly Italian woman. Sure, my Italian was very colloquial but I spoke to her about my travels to Italy and I listened to her stories of living in the Lombardy region. Another conversation I enjoyed was that with two medical students from Brazil. We spent nearly an hour speaking about the improvement needed for the public transportation system of Atlanta and how it compares to that of Italy and Brazil. One of my favorite conversations was that with a Danish woman. When I realized she was Danish, I tried to correctly pronounce the desert: rød grød med fløde. She spent twenty minutes or so teaching me how to lose my English accent. Finally both of us gave up and we spoke about her Scandinavian ancestors. At first, I was a little frightened to strike up a conversation with someone I did not know. But as I became more familiar with Italy I realized that people are very interesting. So, I stayed a week with my next host family, they were very similar to my previous family. I liked the fact that they lived right near mountains, and the streets were beautiful. My host sister was a movie fanatic, so I managed to watch many movies in Italian barely understanding anything that was ever said by anyone.

Overall the camp experience and host family stay was so wonderful. I cannot explain how amazing it felt to be apart of this group. I can honestly tell anyone that asks that this experience had the greatest impact on my life. I learned so many things that one can't learn in school. I now have friends all over the world. Recently we were all talking on face-book when I asked them what their favorite part of their year was and each of them said the same thing, "the week they spent at Campo Emilia." I still keep in contact with all my fellow

campers, and when it was time to leave camp all of us were in tears. At camp I felt at home, these strangers are now my foreign relatives. I am sitting here at my computer trying to write exactly how this camp changed me but I can't. Words cannot describe how amazing Campo Emilia is. I am looking through my travel journal and many of my entries talk about how much fun I am having and how much things I have in common with these foreigners. When I stepped off the airplane my family immediately said that I was different in a good way. I have a different view of life now, I believe. Before I was more focused on what I wanted and things, but now I worry about what happens globally. When something happens in Estonia, Denmark, etc I immediately wonder how my camp mates are reacting to the news. I am more conscience to other people of other cultures because of this camp. I am now more confident in myself and in my views of the world. I am able to survive this world. Looking over my entries and my thoughts, I sometimes wonder how I managed to leave to a completely foreign country without know the language and made an experience out of it. All I can say is I am very grateful for you Faye Smith and the Lions club for allowing me to travel and get this experience.

Thank you,
Rita Korb



Check out the
HOST FAMILY GUIDE
on the Lions web site





**The Ins and Outs of an LCIF EMERGENCY GRANT
By: Berry Broach, DG 18-A**



18-A

As we start into the last quarter of the Lions year I am still hoping to meet or surpass my Goals on membership for the year. The Extension Workshop that we have just completed in the John's Creek area of North Fulton County was a great success. We have the twenty paid members needed to charter the club and with the second organization meeting coming on the 31st of March I feel that we will add several more members. We were not able to form the Milton Club as planned because the Milton area turned out to be a residential area with no business areas to speak of. However I am hopeful that we can complete the club in the Free Home area. The Free Home club has fifteen paid members and I think that with some effort we can charter that club before the end of the year. GMT Area Leader Carl Harrell and Rich Bickerood of Dallas, Tx. did an outstanding job in leading Guiding Lions Charlie Andrews of the Alpharetta Club and Ray Moore of the East Cobb Club in forming the new club. They were aided by 1st VDGE Alan Bethel, DGE Scott Warren, Garner Andrews and myself in putting it all together. John's Creek is a very high energy area and I am sure that it will be an outstanding Lions Club and a real leader in that area of District 18-A.

Our Dr. Don Schmidt - George P. Crumbley, Jr. 2010 District 18-A District Convention was an outstanding success due to the outstanding work of Convention Chair, Tom Shulman, and the efforts of Jim and Betty Veal and Sarah Henson of the Host Blue Ridge Lions Club. As usual, the efforts of Emma Lou Stover, Barbara Sanford, Ethel Reese, Hanna Towns and Jim Fredrickson of the Ellijay Lions Club made the Hospitality Room one of the best ever. This group of Lions have, for the past two years, gone out of their way to aid me as VDG and now as DG. They have taken the worry of table decorations and the setting up of the hospitality room away from me. They will never know how much I appreciate their efforts.

Our Hall of Fame Inductions on Friday night of the convention was well done, as usual, under the leadership of PDGs Vanessa Stanley, Jane Price and Kenneth Moore. My congratulations go to the inductees Elizabeth Dixon - Atlanta Lions Club, Jim Fredrickson - Ellijay Lions Club, PCC Mark Miller - Jasper Lions Club, PDG Marion McTyre (deceased) - South Cobb Lions Club and DGE Scott Warren - Woodstock Lions Club. They are all very worthy of this honor.

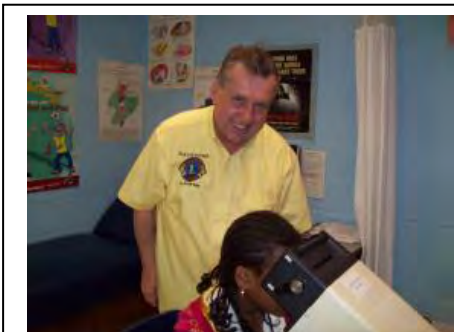
As this year nears completion one always thinks of what has happened during the year to make that Governor's year a success or a failure. The answer is that there is no one thing that can be pointed to in making that decision. The answer is simply, Is the District in as good or better condition when you leave it as when you inherited it ? Only time will tell.



18-B

It is very important to electronically submit your Monthly Membership Report (MMR) on time each and every month BEFORE the end of the month. This reflects an accurate count of our membership numbers with Lions Clubs International. If your Club mails your report, it must be mailed by the 15th of the month. If you need any help with this, please contact your Zone Chairman or my office. Remember to support the eye clinic in your area when asked to volunteer. Beginning the month of July, you will get a beautiful 60th anniversary pin for volunteering six hours or more.

Lions ensure vision checks for West Chatham students



Lions Club of Savannah President Chip Nedza helps West Chatham Middle School sixth-grader Shanquelle Ross with her eye exam. Through a program called Project Vision, club members have set aside \$8,000 this fiscal year to provide testing and eyeglasses for sixth-graders throughout the Savannah Chatham County Public School System.

By [Linda Sickler](#)

It's test time for West Chatham Middle School sixth-graders -vision testing, that is. Shanquelle Ross, 11, easily passed the test when she took it Dec. 18, but about 20 percent of her sixth-grade classmates probably won't. About one in five sixth graders tested so far are in need of corrective eyewear.

The Lions Club of Savannah has a vision: ensuring that all Chatham County middle school students can see. "The Lions Club of Savannah is very into vision," said Lions Club of Savannah President Chip Nedza. "It's what the club is about." Through a program called Project Vision, club members have set aside \$8,000 this fiscal year to provide testing and eyeglasses for sixth-graders throughout the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

The club purchased two Titmus Vision Testers that are transferred from school to school as needed throughout the year. "I bought them for the club on eBay," Nedza said. "We couldn't afford the \$2,000 per-machine cost to buy them new, but I found some online."

Currently, one of the testers is at West Chatham Middle School. "I'm the keeper of the machines," Nedza said. "I take them over to the schools as needed. Each school keeps them for two weeks of testing." For West Chatham Middle School nurse Dee Charles, the testing machine is a blessing. "Before, I had to use eye charts," she said. "I'm getting spoiled." Using charts was extremely time consuming. By contrast, Shanquelle's test took just a few minutes.

"This is a big school," Charles said. "We have 355 sixth-graders that have to be tested and a single nurse to do all the testing." The machines work with most students. "Except when I get kids who want to play," Charles said. In cases where the machines won't work, Charles can rely on the standard eye charts. But the machines are a big help., especially since her time to do testing is limited. "I'm busy from the time I get here at 7:30 a.m.," Charles said. "If there is a sick child, the teacher will send them."

Although the testers work quickly, patience is required when dealing with children. "If you rush them, they get frustrated," Charles said. "I let them take their time." Testing sixth-graders began in October. With 3,600 sixth-graders district-wide, it takes an entire year to test all of them. About a third have been tested so far. About 240 students have failed the vision test so far. "Out of the 240, only about 50 will need assistance because the others have vision insurance," Nedza said. "In the old days, when they had to test with a chart, it would have taken half the year to test one school," he said. "With the vision testers, they can do all the sixth graders in one school in about two weeks."

Similar testers are used to test vision at driver's license facilities. Visual acuity tests are administered by the school nurse, and a list of students who fail is compiled. The nurses also identify students whose families have no vision insurance and can't afford to pay for further testing and eyeglasses. The names of students who need assistance are given to the Lions Club's Sight Chairman, who arranges for further testing at the Georgia Eye Vision Center. "The folks at the Georgia Eye Institute donate their time for the vision tests and the Lions Club pays for glasses," Nedza said. "Our budget will cover about 200 pairs of glasses this fiscal year."

Money for the program is raised through the sale of Christmas trees. At a time when most charities are suffering from a lack of donations, the Lions Club saw proceeds rise in 2009. "We raised \$17,000 this year and sold more than 650 trees," Nedza said. "We actually broke the record of most trees sold in one day on Black Friday. "We made more money this year because of our Web site," he said. "Before, it wasn't advertised. "People now know the money we raise is going for children and they're buying trees," Nedza said. "We've had some principals and teachers and of course parents who know why we're raising the money come out and support us." Although the vision services are provided free to families in need, some parents don't return the necessary forms in a timely manner. "We need the parents to fill out the forms," Nedza said. "They must be filled out. Unless they are, there's not much we can do to help. "Some parents need a push," he said. "Without the nurses to help us, there's no way this would work." The nurses are more than happy to help. "I really do appreciate the Lions Club doing this," Charles said. "They have been a big help."



18-C



I am proud that we have very active LEO clubs, advisors and Lion volunteers working with our LEO's within our District.

LEO Clubs Summaries in 18-C: Bainbridge > Participating with activities at the new BHS; Colquitt County > Donation to the Camp for the Blind at Banquet // Attended the State LEO Gathering // State Officers for the MD-18 LEO District; Early County > Participated in PAGE Academic Bowl // Teacher Appreciation // Young Ambassador // Sponsored a School-In-A-Box through LCI & UNICEF // Junior Luminary Chairs for Relay for Life; Lanier County > Participating in club activities and school projects at LCHS; Seminole County > Coordinated 18-C participation at the LEO State Gathering // Young Ambassador // State Officers for the MD-18 LEO District // Relay for Life team // Selling Ducks for Shellcracker Tournament; Thomas County Central > Completing school projects and assisting others.



**C.J. JACKSON named 18-C LIONS YOUNG AMBASSADOR
KENDRA MELLS named YOUNG AMBASSADOR FINALIST**

18-C Young Ambassador – C.J. Jackson was named the 2010 Lions Young Ambassador for District 18-C at the Lions of Georgia District 18-C Convention held February 27, 2010. Jackson was sponsored by the Seminole County LEO Club and Lake Seminole Lions Club in this event. Kendra Mells was named a finalist for the 2010 Young Ambassador. Mells was sponsored by the Early County LEO Club and the Blakely Lions Clubs in this event. The Lions Young Ambassador of the 21st Century program was established to recognize youth for outstanding community service involvement, leadership accomplishments, public speaking skills, and scholastic achievement. Both Jackson and Mells are active participants and leaders in a variety of school, community, and church service events. The YA program centered on the Lions 09-10 International theme of “Move to Grow.” Lions Past International President Jim Ervin, Lions International Director Dr. Jeremiah Myers, 18-C District Governor Dr. Clinton Holloway, and 18-C Lions Youth Opportunities Chair Karen Wynegar presented the Young Ambassador Awards. Jackson, named the YA for 18-C, was presented a \$500 Service Scholarship from District 18-C Lions. The YA Finalist Scholarship of \$250 was presented to Mells. PIP Ervin and ID Myers stated, “C.J. and Kendra are both an outstanding example of what a Young Ambassador is. Both have been active in all areas of service – school, church, community, and to our fellowman. They are also an example of what our LEO Clubs can build in our young people.” Jackson and Mells also each received Young Ambassador Scholarships from the Lake Seminole Lions Club and Blakely Lions Clubs. Jackson will now have the opportunity to represent the Lions of 18-C at the at the State Lions Young Ambassador program at the Lions State Convention to be held in May 2010 in Tifton.



18-D = DG Grace

Here we are half-way through the 2009-2010 Lions year. It has been a great 6 months for me as District Governor. I have had the privilege of visiting all 36 clubs in the District. District 18-D had our Rally in November. Twelve of our deserving Lions were inducted into our Hall of Fame. International Director Art Marson and Lion Jo from LaCrosse, Wisconsin were our guests for the weekend. It was great to hear firsthand what's going on in Lions Clubs International from one of our International Directors.

The next week after our Rally, I was notified that our newest club, the Dacula Lions Club, had been chartered by Lions Clubs International. We will celebrate with our new club at their Charter Night on January 30, 2010.

Thank you for talking with Michael today. We had a busy day at Monarch School today with the Read Across America week culminating in a special Bedtime Stories Night tonight. The families came in for a free pizza dinner and while the parents are given strategies to use at home, the children are entertained by guest readers of their favorite story books. We are all in our pajamas and have a great time!

Mary Leonard
Speech/Language Pathologist
Love, laugh, and give with all your heart! And don't forget to dance!



Lions Clubs of Georgia Donate a Braille to Monarch Student

On Wednesday, February 10, 2010, members of the Lions Club were at Monarch School to present a Braille (and paper) to Allison Mead, a vision impaired student in Ms. Melanie Abad's preschool class. This Braille is being donated through the efforts of the 18th District Lions Clubs of Georgia. The Dawsonville Chapter spearheaded the effort. Mr. Greg Hicks, Past President; Ms. Katie Hulsebus, President; Mr. Ron Bennetti, First Vice District Governor Lion of the State of Georgia (18th District); and members Mr. Michael Berry, Mr. Jeff Kelly, and Mr. Jimmy Fields, were all very instrumental in the purchase of the Braille. Mr. and Mrs. Mead are very excited to be receiving this piece of equipment for their daughter.

The Lions club was founded in 1917 when a Chicago business leader wondered what would happen if people put their talents to work improving their communities. The Lions Club is the world's largest service club organization. There are more than 1.3 million members internationally. All members act on the same simple idea: "let's improve our communities." In 1925 Helen Keller spoke at the Cedar Point, Ohio Lions Club International Convention. She challenged them to become the "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Since that challenge, the Lions Club has been dedicated to assisting the blind and visually impaired.

The presentation was attended by: Pete Stamsen, Zone Chairperson, Lawrenceville Lions Club; Greg Hicks, Past President, Dawsonville Lions Club; Elmer Moon: Snellville Lions Club; Michael Berry, Dawsonville Lions Club; Carolyn Collins, Snellville Lions Club; Randy Collins, Snellville Lions Club; Allison Mead, Recipient; Stephanie Mead, Mother of recipient and Braille Student; and Allison's Aunt, Candice Fountain. Ms. Natalie Hopkins, Assistant Principal of Monarch School; Speech Pathologist Ms. Katie West; Allison's classroom teachers, Ms. Melanie Abad, Ms. Krista Williams, and Ms. Paula Williams along with her classmates were also there to see Allison receive her new Braille. Speech/Language Pathologist, Ms. Mary Leonard contacted the Lions and coordinated the presentation.



18-E = DG Scott

They met in Roberta, Georgia November 1st, 2009 and everyone new there was a special weekend in store for the all.



The Byron Lions Club Past President Leroy Geyman and Lion Tamer Gaylene Gaymen and the invited veterans met Crawford County Lions Club President Bob Paschal at the Subway in Roberta. It's the easiest location to direct folks to and have a cup of coffee.

What was the occasion? The 3rd Annual Combat Injured Veterans Deer Hunt. Crawford County Lions Club has led the way to find a need that was not being addressed as far as they knew, and what a huge success this project is. You only have to witness the smiles and comrade ship just meeting these special people each year. You don't have to be military to shed a tear of joy meeting these folks.

The hospitality of Mr. Ed Tomberlin and a very special birthday girl Eve Tomberlin, owners of Uniwatee Plantation, a private plantation in Crawford County made all this year possible again. Thanks so very much Ed and Eve you are very special folks and the appreciation go well beyond wording. Ed and Eve opened their hearts and lodge to our special weekend guests and with their staff they provided food, lodging, and a great time for everyone there. Lion John Wood actually joined Crawford County because he wanted to be involved and involved he is from cooking, serving, interviewing, posting on YOUTUBE (look for Crawford County Lions Clubs).

Yes there were deer taken this weekend but I forgot to mention, Mr. Ed is a Game Manager, and with the help of DNR, Wild Turkey Federation, and Bass Pro, no one except Ed' staff had to worry about how to get the out and processed, equipment, transportation in or out of the hunt area. Remarkable, through planning everyone eligible to hunt had a blind set up, and a great area to hunt. Did I tell you that only veterans are eligible to hunt, yup that's it, you and I can help but unless you apply through the Crawford County Lions Club for the lottery drawing and are in fact a combat injured veteran you cannot hunt.

Here's a kicker for you, Nick our photographer is legally blind and comes in from Florida just to take pictures of this event. Nick did a great job and took over 1000 pictures of this event, don't forget to smile or think you can get away with a surprise because Nick see's all, and photographs all. Great job Nick I wish I could get them all in this article.

What else do I need to share with you about Crawford County, well did you know they collected funds at Bass Pro in Macon for phone cards for our military in Iraq, yup, and they collected enough to send several thousand minutes to a hospital in Iraq. All the minutes were issued by a head nurse stationed in Iraq so our military could call home and talk to family. There is funding left and they are on standby to help all they can in Afghanistan, I hope they never get the call but Crawford County Lions are ready to "SERVE" when asked. They also have set up a meeting monthly for elderly citizens in several counties to come to Bass Pro to watch the feeding of the fish, sounds so small but what a great idea for our senior citizens in assisted care facilities to get out and have a great time. Gifts provided by Bass Pro make this outing a special event for Lions and our citizens.

I think that's all for now about this special Lions Club in central Georgia. They exemplify what MD18E is all about and we need to share our special times more with all Lions Clubs.





18-F = DG Harvey

OPINION COLUMN 208: written 2-26-2010 By Nat Harwell

“Comfort Food”

Has anyone seen or heard from Al Gore this year? It would be serendipitous, indeed, for the former vice-president to appear and convince Old Man Winter to pack his bags. Gore can pontificate about global warming to his heart’s content, but here in the Deep South folks are tired of being this cold for this long. Easter is but five Sundays away. For crying out loud, in just 39 days Jack and Arnie tee off in Augusta as honorary starters for The Masters!

Yet still we shiver in the icy grip of the coldest winter in recent memory. Global warming meets an inconvenient truth, indeed! Last Thursday temperatures in our neck of the woods barely climbed past the freezing mark. Wind from the “Alberta Clipper” which seems to have permanently rerouted the jet stream from the North Pole to Georgia sliced through layers of clothing like Epsom salt through an old lady.

Cold? Goodness gracious! My three backyard bird baths froze over and never thawed all day, despite standing in direct sunlight as weather experts reported temperatures in the 40’s. Quite often, however, there’s a silver lining to even the darkest of clouds. Sure enough, the silver lining appeared last Thursday, disguised as the Covington Lion’s Club annual chili supper.

The Neal Banks Lion’s Club Pavilion features a nondescript concrete block building easily overlooked by drivers as they rush to vitally important appointments. An attractive sign situated at the corner of Legion Drive and Conyers Street marks the location, but unless one is looking for it, the pavilion blends in nicely with the woody surroundings. It really doesn’t look much like a silver lining. But it’s hard to beat a steaming bowl of chili on a cold, windy night. It’s even harder to describe the ineffable warmth generated within a concrete block building on a concrete slab when the very essence of a community comes together in fellowship in one place at one time. But that’s exactly what transpired last Thursday evening at Academy Springs Park.

I grew up, you see, in the small town of Greensboro, Georgia, where my dad was a member of the Lion’s Club. So despite my appreciation for other civic organizations which also perform wonderful service to and for their communities, sentimentally I’ve always been partial to the Lion’s Club. Formed in 1917, the Lion’s motto is “We Serve.” And it’s hard to imagine any loftier purposes than these, briefly excerpted from Lion’s Club International: to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world; to promote the principles of good government and good citizenship; to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community; to encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

The Lion’s Club is best known, perhaps, for their invaluable contributions to eyesight. My generation remembers “the Lion’s Lighthouse for the Blind,” which recycled used eyeglasses, funded research, and helped people around the world see better. But the best part about Lion’s Clubs, I think, is the impact they have on their own communities. Folks who have lived here for any length of time look forward to the annual Chicken Bar-B-Q, to the nationally certified “Sherman’s Last Burning” bar-b-q contest, and to the chili supper. And it’s not so much for the food as it is for the opportunity to gather for convivial conversation, to fellowship and hobnob with people from all walks of life who make this place unique.

You see, the thing is that all of us who live here have a stake in the history of this place and are tied to the essence of what has made us what and who we are. Our common interests glue us together in a wondrous sort of bond. And I don’t know what other folks call it, but corny as it may sound, I just call it love. We love our country and our state, true enough. But in magical moments like a church homecoming or high school reunion, or dinner on the grounds, when you have a chance to see people you care about but who aren’t your kinfolks, it’s all about realizing how we love our town, and how we love each other.

So last Thursday evening, although the Lion’s club chili helped, ‘twas the warm spirit of fellowship with those who make this place special which defeated the chill of the wintry wind. And that’s a pretty special silver lining for this old boy.

RETENTION VISION STATEMENT: “Lions for Life”

*What this statement does is specify a viable retention goal. That is, once Lions are recruited, our goal should be to keep them as members for the rest of their lives.

MEMBER RETENTION: CLUB ACTION ITEMS (UNUSUAL)

In the last state newspaper, I posted nine membership retention action items for clubs to do, plus a retention vision statement. Based on my behavioral science research, these actions will help keep members longer; the vision statement is to keep “Lions for life!”

As you read through the above items, I’m sure that you recognized several of them, including the importance of new member Lion orientation, membership participation, etc. Some of these action items clubs routinely do. However, some clubs don’t do them and other clubs don’t do them year after year. The implication of volunteer research findings suggests that Lions who haven’t experienced these actions are more likely to be the ones who will terminate their club membership.

Some of my research discovered action items that I’ve not encountered very often in my twenty years as a Lion. Therefore, what I’m going to do in this year’s final Georgia Lions Newspaper is briefly explain why these unusual actions are retention important. First of all, I’m not convinced that we fully ask new members what they would like to do as a member of the club they joined. Yes, we may ask them what they’d like to do, among the things a club is already doing, but do we find out if they have some new activity expectations? The importance here is that members who can’t match their personal goals with the goals of the clubs they joined are likely to disappear as members.

Lion clubs do recognize the volunteer efforts of some Lions. For example, we give out a “Lion of the Year” award, an occasional “Melvin Jones Fellow” award, etc. These are extremely significant awards, but how do we recognize the volunteerism of Lions who are less active and didn’t win our major awards? Retaining these lower active members is extremely important for a club, but doing so requires that we recognize their volunteer efforts. Behavioral science research has found that volunteers who do not feel that they are recognized for their efforts are likely to quit.

There is second type of recognition that is also important: recognizing the spouses and intimate friends of Lions. Many years ago I participated in a national study of Naval Reservists in which it was discovered that spouses who disapproved of the volunteer status of their mates resulted in the unwillingness of these reservists to extend their Navy volunteer membership. Spouses and intimate friends of members may not be Lions, but we need to recognize their contributions to clubs, which may only be their willingness to share their mates with Lions.

Finally, we need to equalize club volunteer labor among members. Volunteer organizational research has found that members who become extremely involved in club activities tends to result in the loss of members. The multiple activities of a Lions club need to be spread “equally” among club members or some actions should probably be terminated. Certainly losing members does not help get things done!

Yours in Lionism,
Richard “Dick” Smith, PDG
MD-18 MERL TEAM RETENTION CHAIR

SOLVING THE MEMBERSHIP PROBLEM!

Solving the membership problem is an enigma. There is no “one size fits all” answer. Instead, I encourage each club (and each District, for that matter!) to approach the problem as a team. The MERL team approach is the best way to resolve the problem. Let’s go over each part of the team, although I will not be discussing them in order.

Let’s start with L—the Leadership component. If you are not selecting good leaders in your club and in your District, your membership will suffer, because no one wants to follow a poor leader, and soon, they don’t follow anyone! So, use the LCI provided materials to train your leaders so they can be successful in their positions, and help your club and District succeed in the membership game.

Next is the E—Extension. Obviously, establishing a new club is not going to help an existing club, but it will help the District grow. At the same time, helping to sponsor a new club, including acting as a Guiding Lion, helps remind Lions just what Lionism is all about, and why they joined your club to begin with. It may then encourage them to help grow your own club.

The R component—Retention is a big issue for many clubs. Getting new members is only good if you keep the members you have. Don’t drive members away with long or boring meetings. Make each of your members feel needed, wanted, and appreciated. That will go a long way in keeping them an active part of your club.

Now down to the nitty gritty—M for Membership. How can you get new members? There are a lot of approaches. Here are a few ideas to get you started. Divide your club into teams, and have a contest to see which team can recruit the most new members by a certain date. Award the winning team with a steak dinner, and make everyone else eat beans and weenies! I know an organization that is working on membership on the point system. Every time they invite a guest to a meeting they get a point; if that guest joins, they get five points. Whomever has the most points by a certain date gets a prize. Other clubs make each member sign a pledge to bring in at least one new member during the Lions year. This friendly competition really works. Make sure you get publicity for all your fundraisers as well as your service projects. And always have membership information available whenever your club has a project or fundraiser. Carry membership brochures with you. Read the article in this month’s Lions Magazine about the Glove Box membership kit put together by one club. Most important, don’t forget that membership is not just the job of the Membership chair. It is everyone’s job. So, for Ford, quality is job one. For Lions, Membership is job one! As I have said before, quoting Past International President Al Brandel, “for each new member you recruit, you have two more hands to help provide service to your local community.”

If I can be of service to you or your club, don’t hesitate to contact me. Let’s all Move to Grow throughout the rest of the Lions Year.

Marlene Humphry
MD 18 Membership Chair

* * * * *

Lions:

The Link to the Forum Newsletter can be found at:

<https://usacanadalionsforum.org/forumnewsletter012010v1a.pdf>

Seminar List now available:

<https://usacanadalionsforum.org/2010seminarspeakersspreadsheet.pdf>

Information on Local Tours can be found at:

http://www.milwaukeeforum.org/Milwaukee_Tours.htm

Need to register before June 15th to keep price break:

<https://usacanadalionsforum.org/registration.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the Forum Office at:

forum@spe.midco.net

Don't forget to check out the Forum Video on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Un8cs0RJcpA>

The Forum is also on Facebook and Twitter.



**USA/CANADA FORUM
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
23-25 September 2010**



Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

Providing vision and hearing services to Georgians in financial need

Celebrating Sound: Alice Arline's Story

“Now that I can hear, every little thing in life is such a delight,” says Alice Arline, who is herself a delight. She can’t stop giggling when she talks about all the things she can now hear. For example, her daughter gave her a clock three years ago and one of the first things Alice did, wearing her hearing aids, was call her daughter to say. “Praise God! The clock you gave me ticks. I can’t believe it!” Using the elevator is now also a brand new experience for Alice. “I’d lived in this building for a year before getting my hearing aids. The first time I rode the elevator with them on, this strange noise startled me. I said to my girlfriend, ‘What in the world was that?’ She said, ‘Where have you been Alice? It’s just the elevator ding that goes off at every floor.’ We laughed and laughed. Truth is, I’d been in another world for ten years—deaf.”



Ten years ago, Alice had an audiogram and was told she needed hearing aids. She couldn’t afford them, so she ignored it. Her hearing deteriorated over time. Eventually all she could follow, in her beloved church services, was reading the Bible. “I used to sit in church and never know what in the world was going on. I couldn’t hear our preacher tell us which scripture he was going to read, and reading the Bible was about all I could do in the service. My friend would look up the passage for me and point to it. Now I look up passages and point them out to her. She can hear just fine, but it’s such fun for me to be on the other side of deafness, I can’t help myself.”

As with most hearing impaired people, Alice didn’t know the degree of her loss until she started wearing hearing aids. Now she tells everyone she sees about the Georgia Lions Lighthouse and about the importance of getting hearing tests. “Everyone at the clinic was so nice to me, from the secretary to Dr. Lori McCorry. In fact, everyone at that Lighthouse has been wonderful. Words can’t express the thanks I feel for being able to hear again.”



Summer Service

Numbers

July 1—March 20, 2010

District A

Eye Glasses: 561
 Eye Exams: 235
 Eye Surgeries: 29
 Hearing Aids: 376

District B

Eye Glasses: 600
 Eye Exams: 395
 Eye Surgeries: 24
 Hearing Aids: 140

District C

Eye Glasses: 294
 Eye Exams: 153
 Eye Surgeries: 28
 Hearing Aids: 178

District D

Eye Glasses: 105
 Eye Exams: 81
 Eye Surgeries: 35
 Hearing Aids: 128

District E

Eye Glasses: 217
 Eye Exams: 118
 Eye Surgeries: 32
 Hearing Aids: 194

District F

Eye Glasses: 349
 Eye Exams: 215
 Eye Surgeries: 37
 Hearing Aids: 170

Fiscal Year Totals:

Eye Glasses: 2126
 Eye Exams: 1,197
 Eye Surgeries: 185
 Hearing Aids: 1,186

60th Anniversary Pin



In celebration of your Lighthouse's 60th anniversary, we have made a special edition pin. There are two ways to receive a pin:

1. You may honor someone you know by purchasing a pin for them. They will receive the pin, a letter letting them know you honored them, and a special 60th anniversary certificate.

2. In the 2009-2010 Lion's year, give 6 hours of your time as a volunteer to the Lighthouse by: serving at a vision clinic, hosting a vision or hearing screening, collecting eyeglasses for recycling, working in our eyeglass recycling center, participating in your club's White Cane campaign, or performing administrative tasks for the Lighthouse.

White Cane Butter Mints
45.00 per 1000
Miniature Plastic White Cane
65.00 per 500
Punched Card
14.00 per 500

**Order from Lions of Michigan
(517) 887-6640**



White Cane: It's not just bucket drives anymore!

As of March 24th, the Lions of Georgia have raised **\$29,712** toward the **\$167,500** White Cane goal. It is a good start, but April is an extremely important month!

If you are considering submitting a Wal-Mart grant but have not done it yet, we strongly encourage you to do so! Wal-Mart has been very supportive of White Cane in the past, and the goals of their community grants are in line with those of the Lions and the Lighthouse.

In addition, we would like to continue to stress the importance of hand-delivering letters when soliciting donations. People tend to give to people rather than causes. When you deliver letters in person, it also gives you a chance to answer any questions they may have, and to spread awareness about Lionism in Georgia.

Fulton County Lions Club recently raised over \$3,000 by making personal calls on local businesses. Personal calls require some advanced planning, but they are an extremely efficient and effect way to fundraise!

If you would like to know service numbers for your area, or for more information about the Lighthouse or White Cane, please call Kim at 404-325-3630 or visit us on our new website at www.lionslighthouse.org . Thank you!



WHITE CANE EMPHASIS IS APRIL, but don't wait until then to start planning your club's participation. A few clubs report they are too small, or they are rebuilding, or not sure how to hold a White Cane Drive. NO club is too small (or too large) to participate. A White Cane Drive can be a terrific incentive for a rebuilding club. So how about some ideas on how to begin or improve your club's efforts.

Here are some ideas:

* Place plastic jars on check-out counters of convenience and fast food stores. This could be done 4-6 weeks in April and can be handled by 1 or 2 Lions. Special jar lids and decals are available through White Cane Days, Inc.

* Write letters to businesses of your community soliciting donations. Then follow up with a personal visit.

* Hold a pancake breakfast, chili supper, chicken BBQ, or other project designated for White Cane.

* Get publicity through having a community leader (mayor, administrator, or commissioner) sign a proclamation declaring your club's White Cane Drive and publishing it in your local newspaper.

* If you have a Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Kroger's, or some other large retail outlet, approach management about a matching grant for White Cane.

* Utilize your White Cane efforts to educate your community about the Georgia Lions Lighthouse in general, and your club in particular. You may be able to recruit a few new members.

"Preventing the use of a..."

White Cane

**The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation
Fund-Raiser to Support Vision Care**

Brian McCann Joins the Capital Campaign Team

With the support of the Georgia Lions, we are over one-third of the way to our \$2.75 million goal! Over a million dollars have been raised for our capital campaign. In addition, Atlanta Braves catcher Brian McCann agreed to be our honorary campaign chair.



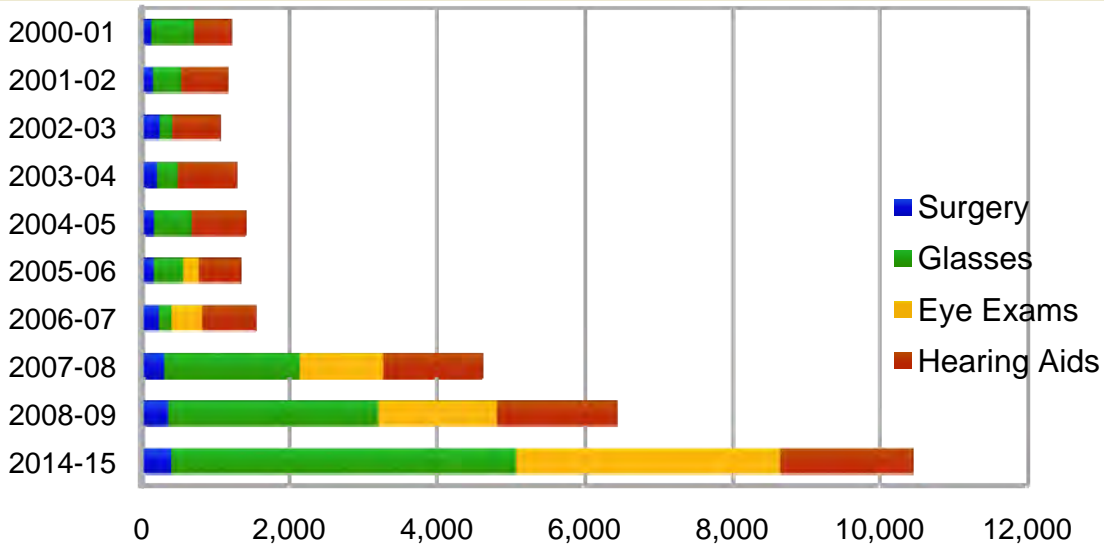
McCann suffered from blurry vision last year after a LASIK surgery in 2007. He was only able to continue playing professional baseball because of a special pair of glasses made to fit under his mask and to give him peripheral vision.



Brian McCann
Honorary Campaign Chair
Atlanta Braves Catcher

“Losing my sight could have cost me my job,” he says. “Fortunately, I had access to quality eye care that kept me in the game and doing what I love. Each year, the Georgia Lions Lighthouse helps thousands of Georgians to see and hear the sights and sounds that help them to be productive and fulfilled. Please support their efforts.”

We are excited about the addition of McCann to our campaign team. Keep an eye on our new website at www.lionslighthouse.org to see a video with McCann’s reasons for supporting the Lighthouse’s capital campaign. To learn more about the campaign and discover what the funds will be used for, please visit our website or contact Kyle at 404-325-3630 or at kgalenski@lionslighthouse.org.



* * * * *

Health Care Changes and Your Lighthouse Foundation

On March 23rd, a new Health Care Bill was passed into law. Since then, we have received a number of questions about how it will affect your Lighthouse Foundation. While we would be thrilled if every Georgian had comprehensive medical care, we believe that the Lighthouse will continue to be a necessary presence in Georgia for a number of reasons:

1. Most people will be required to have health insurance or will be enrolled in Medicaid, but this coverage will not necessarily include vision services or hearing aids. For example, Medicaid does not cover eyeglasses and only covers eye exams for people with specific chronic conditions. Certain surgeries, like cataract surgery, are not covered.
2. While Medicaid will expand to cover many families at or below 133% of the federal poverty guideline, the Lighthouse will continue to provide eye clinics, glasses, and hearing aids to individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty guideline.
3. Currently, neither Medicaid nor Medicare cover hearing aids; this will not change with the passage of the new bill.

For these reasons and more, the vital work of the Lighthouse will still be required. The new building and equipment will give us the capacity and flexibility to continue to deliver on our life-changing mission and meet the evolving needs of Georgians by covering the gaps in coverage that will remain.

April 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDA	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
White Cane Month						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Camp Work Weekend
18 Camp Work Weekend	19	20	21	22	23	24 Council of Governors Mtg Tifton, GA.
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Come one – come all – check out Saturday →	15 Guiding Lion & Club Rebuilding Training Warner Robins City Hall – 9am
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Council of Governors Mtg Tifton, GA	28 Georgia Lions State Conv., Tifton, GA	29 Georgia Lions State Conv., Tifton, GA
30 Georgia Lions State Conv., Tifton, GA	31					

June 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Lions Int'l Convention Sydney, Australia	29 Lions Int'l Convention Sydney, Australia	30 Lions Int'l Convention Sydney, Australia			

July 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Lions Int'l Convention Sydney, Australia	2 Lions Int'l Convention Sydney, Australia	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 MD Zone/Reg Chair, MD MERL, and District MERL train In Centerville
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 CAMP FOR THE BLIND Summer CAMP Lions Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESD	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Council of Governors Mtg. Marriott Gwinnett, Duluth, GA	11 Council of Governors Mtg. Joint Georgia Lions Lighthouse and Camp for the Blind Meeting, Duluth, Georgia
12 Joint Ga. Lions Lighthouse and Camp for the Blind Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 USA/	24 CANADA Milwaukee,	25 FORUM Wisconsin
26	27	28	29	30		



From Kristen Picus, Camp Director:



"RIPE FOR CHANGE"

Recently I have been thinking a lot about this coming summer, and I am so excited! I have been thinking about the new adventures and skills we are going to teach through geocaching. I have also thought about how excited every camper will be when painting their projects to decorate the cafeteria. I have thought about the moments that will surely come this summer when sleep will elude me, and my tired body will crave a "long winter's night."

I imagine what it looks like to take a visually impaired camper onto our new low ropes course and allow them to get acquainted with the wires. I envision seeing their smiles, and hearing their roaring laughter. However, what I look forward to the most, are the after camp stories that trickle in all year long. I love hearing how some brave action or life change was sparked at camp and then was acted upon when campers returned home. In those moments, you know that what you invested in another person mattered, and it changes lives. As we start the 2010 camping season this year, we are ready to face new challenges head on; we are "Ripe for Change."

Kristen

2009 Campers by County – Five Session and Xmas

County	Total				
Appling	2	DeKalb	11	Muscogee	1
Baldwin	2	Elbert	2	Newton	1
Barrow	1	Fayette	5	Oconee	1
Ben Hill	1	Fulton	16	Oglethorpe	2
Berrien	1	Gordon	1	Paulding	2
Bibb	4	Grady	2	Pulaski	1
Bleckley	2	Gwinnett	3	Putnam	1
Brantley	2	Hall	6	Rabun	1
Bryan	1	Hancock	3	Richmond	3
Bulloch	1	Henry	1	Tattnall	1
Carroll	1	Houston	3	Telfair	4
Charlton	2	Jefferson	1	Treutlen	1
Chatham	3	Johnson	2	Troup	2
Chattooga	1	Laurens	3	Upson	3
Cherokee	3	Lincoln	1	Washington	2
Clayton	8	Lowndes	3	Wayne	4
Cobb	4	Mitchell	1	Wilkes	1
Columbia	1	Monroe	1	Wilkinson	2
Decatur	3	Murray	1	Out of State	2

Total for Year **144**

* * * * *

2010 Schedule

- Session 1: Family Camp (age 4-9) June 13-18, 2010
- Session 2: Pre-Teens (ages 10-13) June 20-25, 2010
- Session 3: Young Adults (ages 18-25) June 27-July 5, 2010
- Session 4: Adults (ages 26-50+) July 9-16, 2010
- Session 5: Teens (ages 14-17) July 19-30, 2010

Two New Camp for the Blind Fundraisers

BASKET SILENT AUCTION



A Tisket, a Tasket, a green and yellow Basket...a poem of our youth, a song by Ella Fitzgerald, or a project of the Camp Fundraising Committee? For some fun and to raise some money for our Camp, we would like to have a Gift Basket Silent Auction during the 2010 State Convention. We are requesting each Lions Club to brainstorm and pick a theme to use in filling a basket to be included in the Silent Auction. Possible ideas to start you thinking are: a bird basket with a birdhouse, book, food, a bird figurine; a beach basket with sunscreen lotion, beach towel, shells, maybe a motel room at the beach; a particular food, like Chinese with

beach towel, shells, maybe a motel room at the beach; a particular food, like Chinese with a cookbook, Wok, rice, etc; fishing; golf; gardening; auto care; football; college; art supplies; booklover; sweet tooth; dog lover; cat lover; etc, etc, etc. Once you start brainstorming, the ideas are endless. Everyone has an interest in something and will bid on the baskets that strike their fancy. If you include a commercial service, please consider a business with locations all over the state. We would like to have baskets of all value. Please put a list of items that are in the basket on the outside so everyone will know exactly what is in it. Also, let us know your value. We are thinking a minimum of \$25 but we will not turn down any. We know of one basket being collected that will be \$200. We will have a wonderful display on Friday and Saturday at the State Convention for you to come by and place your bid. Winners will be announced Saturday afternoon so the baskets can be picked up before leaving Tifton. This project can only be successful with the help of your club and its participation. Have some fun preparing yours. We look forward to seeing the results. A REMINDER!! Has your club prepared a Themed Gift Basket yet for the Camp Silent Auction to be held at the State Convention? You still have time to brainstorm for a theme, shop for the items, prepare the basket, and bring it to the Convention in Tifton. If you need help getting your basket to Tifton, you can contact your District's Camp Vice President or Fundraising Committee member: District D – Sylvia Masters We do request that you tape a list of the items included on the outside of the basket so Lions will know exactly what they are bidding on. All values will be accepted. Please fix a basket for us and help raise money for our Camp!



Grand Tour of Georgia Motorcycle Event



This is going to be an interesting and fun event. This event will last from April 1st until the end of September. Motorcycle riders will purchase a passport book for \$35 to 18 locations throughout Georgia. Lions have that time frame to ride to at least 15 of those locations to be successful and obtain a pin/year tab for our vests. We have budgeted \$35,000 worth of revenue from this event. The flier for this event is on the next page and we will need for all the Lions of Georgia to get those out to Motorcycle Shops and Groups/Clubs throughout the State or even in other States. YES, if you wish – cars or any moving vehicle is included.



2010 Grand Tour Of Georgia hosted by the Georgia Lions' Camp for the Blind, Inc.

Ride your Motorcycle*, see the great State of Georgia and help a blind child go to Camp! Enjoy a summer of riding experiences and help that same child gain a lifetime of confidence and experiences as well!

Purchase a Passport Book for \$25.00. This Passport Book is loaded with 19 scenic and historical locations throughout the great State of Georgia.

Ride to 15 of 18 optional locations and one mandatory location between April 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010. Record each visit with a photo, submit your record of visits and you will receive a Grand Tour Pin/w 2010 Year Tab and a Certificate of Completion. Those successful riders will also be able to purchase a 2010 Grand Tour of Georgia Tee Shirt.

* Those wishing to partake in the Grand Tour of Georgia that do not ride motorcycles may do so. The same rules will apply.

To obtain a Grand Tour of Georgia Application visit the Georgia Lions' Camp for the Blind's Website at GLCB.org or call (888) 297-1775 (Ga. Only) or (912) 283-4320 from 8am – 5pm Monday – Friday.

Ride Safe – Ride to Help Others!

LIONS OF GEORGIA, INC.

March 26, 2010

Dear Georgia Lion:

In accordance with Article XII (2) of the Constitution of MD 18, Lions of Georgia, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the Council of Governors hereby submit the following proposed amendments to the MD-18 Constitution and to the By-Laws to be voted on at the 2010 Georgia Lions State Convention in Tifton Georgia, May 28-30, 2010.

Proposed Amendment # 1

A proposed amendment to the Multiple District 18 Constitution. The attached proposed amendment brings articles of the MD 18 Constitution into compliance with Lions Clubs International, including the offices of First and Second Vice District Governors. It also changes the name of the Georgia Lions State *Newspaper* to the Georgia Lions State *Magazine*. All changes proposed are highlighted in grey.

Proposed Amendment # 2

A proposed amendment to the Multiple District 18 By-Laws. The attached proposed amendment to the By-Laws brings articles of the MD-18 By-Laws into compliance with Lions Clubs International, including the offices of First and Second Vice District Governors, qualifications for those offices and the election procedures. All changes are highlighted in grey.

Please study these two documents carefully and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your District Governor or a member of the State Constitution and By-Laws Committee. These Amendments will be voted on at the First Business Session (Saturday morning) during the 2010 Georgia Lions State Convention May 28-30, 2010 in Tifton, Georgia.

Yours in Lionism,



Ron Zeppieri
Chairman
MD-18 Council of Governors

NOTE: The complete Constitution and By-Laws will be mailed or emailed to each club prior to the State Convention.

Other Project News

* * * * *



Instructor Ellie Carlson uses tactile sign language to explain the intersection configuration to a student that is Deaf-blind.

Deaf-blind Communications

Many people are familiar with the famous scene from "The Miracle Worker" when Anne Sullivan pumps water into a young Helen Keller's hand while signing the word "water" into the other. It is a life-changing moment for Helen; she is learning tactile sign language.

Tactile sign language requires the people in the conversation to physically touch each other in order to communicate. The person "speaking" signs into the hand of the "listener," while the "listener" cups their hands around the "speakers" hands to feel the words being formed. Because this is such an intimate form of communication, instructors only train one or two people per class.

Some of the Deaf-blind students that come to Leader Dog do not use tactile sign language. They may have enough sight to see sign language close-up or may have enough hearing, with the help of hearing aides or cochlear implants, to hear someone from extremely close range.

Name Signing

In the Deaf community, the sign representing a person's name is given to the person by someone that is Deaf. Often the sign combines the first letter of the person's name with an attribute distinct to the individual – their vocation, a favorite hobby, or a personality trait. This is also true when a person who is Deaf-blind "names" their Leader Dog.



Tammy "Ally" Ader signs the name of her Leader Dog "Marnie" by combining the finger positioning for the letter "M" with the sign for "proud." Ally thought this was good sign for Marnie because of the pride she displays when she is wearing her harness

Dog Days of Summer – Trekker Camp

Friday, June 25 – Friday, July 2, 2010



This summer adventure for teens 16 to 18 includes the opportunity to experience what it is like to live and work with a Leader Dog and sends you home with a free Trekker GPS unit! During the week you'll learn how to use the Trekker to enhance your ability to travel in current and new environments — you'll probably figure out on your own how to download your favorite music to the device. Additional activities planned for the week include tandem biking, movie night and kayaking.

Instructor to Student Ratio

Dog Days of Summer has a 3:8 instructor to student ratio to ensure a personalized experience for all participants.

Lodging

Campers stay in the residence facility on our beautiful campus in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Male and female students reside in separate areas of the residence and are supervised by Leader Dog instructors.

Camp Overview

- Challenge Level: Moderate to Difficult
- Age requirement: 16-18 years old
- Dates: June 25 – July 2, 2010
- Application Deadline: April 16, 2010

How to Apply

Camp size is limited to 8 participants. Acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please review our [power of attorney policy](#) (PDF) before beginning the application process. **A signed and notarized copy of this policy is required for all accepted students under the age of 17.**

To apply, [download an application \(PDF\)](#) and submit with a short essay (one page) titled *Where I would go with a Trekker* and mail to:

Leader Dogs for the Blind
ATTN: Trekker Camp
1039 S. Rochester Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307



Pet therapy: Save painkiller, reach for this aid



Andrew Pike, a veteran of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne who was shot and paralyzed during the Iraq war, smiles as he plays with his new service dog

Is it time to hold off on taking painkillers? Another study is showing how much pets aid people.

Adults who use pet therapy while recovering from total joint-replacement surgery require 50 percent less pain medication than those who do not, according to [ScienceDaily](#). These findings were presented last week at the 18th Annual Conference of the International Society of Anthrozoology and the First Human Animal Interaction Conference (HAI) in Kansas City, Mo.

Dogs are [helping vets](#) cope with post traumatic stress syndrome, helping [autistic children](#) in schools, and [diabetic children](#). Dogs are also being used to [sniff out peanuts](#) for children with allergies. Trained therapy dogs and cats have been used by members of the [Delta Society](#) to comfort people in hospitals and rehab centers for more than 30 years.

"Evidence suggests that animal-assisted therapy (AAT) can have a positive effect on a patient's psychosocial, emotional and physical well being," said Julia Havey, RN, study presenter and senior systems analyst, Department of Medical Center Information Systems, Loyola University Health System (LUHS). "These data further support these benefits and build the case for expanding the use of pet therapy in recovery."

Harvey raises dogs for [Canine Companions for Independence](#), a nonprofit group that provides dogs free of charge to people with physical and developmental disabilities.



From the desk of State RFB&D Chair Lion Steve Helwig lion.swamthing@gmail.com

RFB&D's New Website

New Design, Easier Access



We are proud to announce our newly designed [RFB&D website](#)! Features include: intuitive navigation, updated graphics and direct access to our more popular sections.

Support Record-A-Thon!

Become a Volunteer! Become a Sponsor!

RFB&D's National Record-A-Thon will be held during the week of April 19th in recognition of National Volunteer Week's "Celebrating People in Action." (Check your local RFB&D studio location for specific dates and times.)



EASIER AND MORE FUN THAN EVER: A new fundraising website is now available for you to help support this national event. Create your own fundraising pages, set your personal goal, collect donations and track your progress. Invite friends and family to get involved. [Get started today.](#) One in seven Americans (or 15% of the U.S. population) has some type of learning disability, while just 57% of students with learning disabilities graduate high school. Our student members need your help!



Welcome to Camp Kudzu

Camp Kudzu serves Georgia's children, teens and families with type 1 diabetes. Camp brings to mind fresh air...laughter heard across a lake...starry skies...children running, climbing, swimming and looking up to caring adults. Camp provides a sense of community. The children, teens and families who take part in Camp Kudzu's programs learn that they are not alone in their struggle with diabetes.

Camp Kudzu offers summer camp, family weekends, an and teen retreats. The focus is on fun, but the lessons learned regarding diabetes self-management skills are critical to long-term health. *Children who have access to quality diabetes management education at a young age can reduce their risk of diabetes-related complications. Camp provides vital education in a setting that gives each child the best chance of practicing lessons learned.*

We all await a cure. Until that day comes, Camp Kudzu helps our young people live life to the fullest.



Summer, 2010, Dates

May 29/30 - June 4, Camp Twin Lakes, Rutledge, GA
June 5/6 - June 11, Camp Twin Lakes, Rutledge, GA
July 31/August 1 - August 8, Camp Barney, Cleveland, GA

On-line and paper applications available now.



Camp Kudzu is now organizing a committee to plan all aspects of its 5K race and family fun run, the Kudzu Clipper. We are particularly in need of individuals to recruit \$500 - \$2,500 sponsorships from small to medium sized companies. If you enjoy party and event planning, raising funds in support of Camp Kudzu's programs, want to get to know other Kudzu volunteers, or have race management experience, this is the committee for you! For more information, contact Amber Medley at 404-250-1811 or amedley@campkudzu.org



Diabetes is a disease that no child should have to face.

But, 'til there's a cure . . . there's Camp Kudzu.



"I feel really blessed to have this opportunity with this school."

When Pam PARKER was diagnosed with a rare case of juvenile macular degeneration at age ten, she didn't let it stop her from becoming a powerful little dynamo of a cheerleader. Cheerleading became Pam's passion, and she pursued it to the top by scoring a position as a professional cheerleader for the World Football League's Birmingham Vulcans. She turned down an offer from the Miami Dolphins to pursue another dream: starting a family. Three grown boys and three grandchildren later, she has no regrets. But the road from there to here wasn't without pitfalls, as her vision progressively deteriorated.

Pam recently shared a vivid memory of discrimination: Misinformed childhood teachers refused to teach her, simply because she was visually impaired. But today, Pam's face brightens as she shares her plans to visit schools with her new guide, Avery. She wants to educate children and help them get comfortable with people who have disabilities. She and Avery have already planned their first speaking engagement at her granddaughter's school back in Alabama.

"I remember being little and being afraid of someone in a wheelchair," she explains. "Parents don't seem to think about it or talk about it unless they are personally affected. My kids grew up with it and are better for it. They are helpful, understanding, and compassionate."

Pam also plans to volunteer at St. Jude's hospital in Memphis, taking Avery to cheer up children with serious illnesses. Longing to be able to travel independently, Pam is hoping to take a spring trip to Orange Beach, Alabama. "I can't wait to take Avery to the beach!" Go for it all, Pam. We're cheering you on!



Diabetes Myths

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Years ago, a certain type diabetes was called "adult onset" diabetes because it was triggered by weight gain, and that was seen mostly in adults. Today, because of childhood obesity, it's now just called Type 2 diabetes. And diabetes is just one of the many health complications that can arise from excess weight gain in kids.

At pediatric clinics throughout Kaiser Permanente hospitals, doctors noticed their young patients were growing, but not at a normal pace.

"Part of the reason we wanted to do this study is because we have been seeing our patients get heavier and heavier over time," said Dr. Amy Porter. "And our heaviest patients seem to be getting heavier."

So researchers carefully looked at the health records of over 700,000 children in Southern California. "One of the conclusions of the study was that there was a higher prevalence of extreme obesity at even younger ages than we anticipated," said Dr. Porter.

Dr. Porter says extreme obesity means a child falls into the 99th percentile on the body mass index. The groups with the highest rates of extreme obesity are teen Latino girls and teen African American boys. Obesity affected more than one out of 10 of these kids, raising the risk for all types of complications.

"Diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, liver problems, joint problems those kinds of things. So all those children are at risk for that," said Dr. Porter.

Dr. Porter told 16-year-old D'Vonte Pullen he had to make healthier choices. "She told me that I needed to start losing weight now or I'm going to get diabetes or a heart condition when I'm older," said Pullen.

"The longer they stay with these medical complications the harder it is for them to have a long healthy life," said Dr. Porter. "So if you do happen to be extremely obese and get diabetes when you are 15 by the time you are 25 years old you have already had a decade of diabetes."

Pullen just joined the football team and is eating more fruits and veggies. Dr. Porter says parents should keep fridges full of healthy food. Whatever kids see first shouldn't be chips or junk food. And don't let one member of the family eat sugary snacks but not another. The whole family has to be in on the effort.

Darla Sandoval, 7, is making the change. "I am eating more veggies and drinking a lot of water and no more TV," said Sandoval.

Another tip for parents is to keep the TV off during dinner. Kids should be engaged during the meal and not get in the habit of mindless snacking. And get them involved in helping to prepare the meal, they'll feel more invested and more likely to eat healthier.



Go on-line <http://www.diabetes.org> to find out:



[Diabetes Basics Risk Test](#)

Are you at risk for diabetes? Take the test to find out.



[About Us 2009 USA Gourmand Award Winner](#)

Healthy Eating! 150 delicious recipes fresh from the sea.



["The Power of Peace"](#)
[2009-10 Grand Prize Winner](#)

The theme for the 2010-2011 Lions International Peace Poster Contest will be "**Vision of Peace.**" Peace Poster Kits will go on sale on January 15 from the Club Supplies Sales Department. See the order form (PR 785) for more details.



LIONS YOUTH AMBASSADOR AWARD CONTEST

The MD-18 Council of Governors is sponsoring a Young Ambassadors contest for the youth of Georgia. The program is a part of the Lions Opportunities for Youth initiative which is second only to our primary mission of sight restoration and conservation.

Lions seek to provide young people with opportunities for achievement, learning, contribution and service, individually and collectively through sponsorship of activities identified as best practices in the field of youth development.

Applications and contest rules are being made available to all Lions Clubs in MD 18 through the district Young Ambassador chairperson.

A preliminary judging of eligible contestants will be made at the sub district level. A finalist from each district will compete for the \$1,000. Young Ambassador Award on Friday, May 28th at the MD-18 convention at Tifton, Georgia.

Joining Forces to Help Youth

To help local Lions fulfill the needs of the children and adolescents in their communities, Lions Clubs International (LCI) maintains partnerships with several outstanding organizations that provide assistance to youth.

Scouts

LCI has worked in cooperation with the [Girl Scouts of America](#) and the [Boy Scouts of America](#) for decades. Around the world, Lions clubs have sponsored thousands of Scout troops. And today, Lions clubs sponsor more Scout troops than any other non-religious organization in the USA.



America's Promise

LCI is part of [America's Promise](#) – a consortium of 250 businesses, organizations and government agencies. America's Promise strives to provide the five fundamental resources children need to succeed – caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others.



Youth Service America (YSA)

[YSA](#) increases the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people, ages five to 25, to serve locally, nationally and globally. LCI supports YSA by encouraging Lions clubs and members to participate in National Youth Service Day (USA) and Global Youth Service Day.



The Hadley School for the Blind

[Hadley](#) provides free distance education for blind or visually impaired individuals who are at least 14 years of age – and for relatives/family members of the blind or visually impaired. Lions work with Hadley to help enroll people who can benefit from these free courses.





Lanier County High School = Participating in club activities and school projects

April is Leo Club Awareness Month

Leo advisors and chairpersons: Spread the word about the Leo Club Program—work with your Leo clubs, districts, or multiple districts to organize a joint Leo-Lion community service project.

- Raise funds to provide aid for Haiti
- Start a tree planning project
- Repair a playground
- Start a recycling program

Leo clubs prepare young people for a lifetime of leadership. Visit the **Leo Zone** for more information or contact the Youth Programs Department at leo@lionsclubs.org.

Contact the Panel

The Leo Club Program Advisory Panel represents Leos and Lions in their respective constitutional area in matters which affect the Leo Club Program. If you have ideas about the Leo Club Program, share them with your panelists and items which impact the program will be presented to Lions Clubs International Board of Directors for consideration and final approval.

Constitutional Area I
Lion Margaret McHugh
Maine, USA
E-mail: phonldy@aol.com

Today's Children Need Lions More Than Ever

Millions of children suffer from poverty, homelessness, hunger, abuse, neglect, disease and disabilities. Tragically, these children often must live without essential health and education services that would alleviate their distress – and give them hope for the future. That's why the **Lions Services for Children Program** continues Lions Clubs International's long tradition of helping the world's future generations.

Leo Facebook Fan Page

The Leo Club Program announces it's new Facebook Fan Page. Become a fan of the official Leo Club Program fan page at www.facebook.com/leoclubs and get updates from LCI and talk with other Leos from around the world!

LeoMMR

The LeoMMR is now live! This new monthly membership Web site just for Leos provides the ability for Leo clubs, Leo districts and multiple districts to maintain Leo membership data and run monthly reports. It also provides the ability for International Headquarters to communicate directly with all Leo members. Leo officers were issued passwords on November 3. To use the site visit www.lionsclubs.org and click 'submit reports'. For more information about the LeoMMR contact the Youth Programs Department at leommr@lionsclubs.org.

Grant Funding Available for Leos

The Leo Leadership Grant Program provides financial assistance to a Lions multiple district, sub-district or single district (not part of a multiple district) to help finance a Leo leadership conference. The goal of the program is to further develop Leos' leadership skills, specifically in the areas of:

- Project management
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Creativity/innovation
- Planning community service projects

Lions Clubs International will award a maximum of two US\$2,000 grants per constitutional area each fiscal year and will approve eligible grants on a first-come, first-served basis. Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until May 1 of each fiscal year.

For more information about the grant program visit the Leo Zone.

To find out if there is still funding available in your constitutional area e-mail leo@lionsclubs.org.

Lions Services for Children Projects

The problems children face vary in degree from country to country, but the need for health and education services is constant and universal. Lions clubs help address these needs by developing projects with specific, attainable goals, including:

- Collecting food, clothes or books
- Organizing a vision or hearing screening
- Providing immunizations through a vaccination drive
- Starting a literacy program with a local school, library, community center or [Leo club](#)
- Supporting a nutritional program for undernourished children
- Securing wheelchairs for disabled children
- Sending a child with diabetes or physical challenges to a specialized camp

Lions have also constructed hospitals, schools, orphanages and children's centers throughout the world to serve youth in need.



GLASB Mission



The Georgia Lions All State Band is a Georgia Lions supported youth activity with the goal of providing a great opportunity for middle and high school musicians from across the state of Georgia to enjoy a rewarding musical experience with some of the best directors in Georgia.

Contact Lion Lynn Infanger, GLASB Chair at 706-280-8360 or peter.infanger@windstream.net. Also state and international information is ready on the internet – go to www.harmonyinternational.com



Participation allows the student the opportunity to showcase their musical talents with other gifted musicians from across the state. The band each year performs before the Lions of Georgia each year at its State Convention.



*Youth Becoming
Music Ambassadors
To The World*

Georgia Lions All-State Band 2009



Welcome to Liberty Day!

When I founded Liberty Day with my wife Kathy in 1996, we never anticipated the things we would accomplish.

Ben Franklin challenged us that we will have a republic only if we can keep it. But this great nation will be unable to heed his words if our citizens are not proactive in educating others—especially fifth graders learning about government for the first time.

I hope you will take a look at what our new website has to offer.

Andy McKean
President & Founder

Liberty Day is a program for our youth. It is a way to strength citizenship in our youth through a program based on the Constitution of the United States.

This is a program started by the Lions Clubs of Denver. Georgia adopted this program in the late 1990s. There are several ways a Lions Club can sponsor a Liberty Day program.

The first way is through a school program. Lions Clubs should arrange a speaker who would be interesting to the students. This speaker could be an elected official or someone who could speak on the rights and responsibilities of citizens as granted by the Constitution. Once you have your speaker, you can receive permission of the school system to sponsor a Liberty Day event to a class or a group of students. I have found that 8th grade and up is ideal. Then order the number of Liberty Day booklets you need from me. The cost is \$.60 each and includes shipping. Also work with the teacher(s) so that they reinforce what the speaker has said through an essay or other classroom work. The students could even write a letter of thanks to the speaker/Lions Club on the subject.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

If your Lions Club is interested in sponsoring a Liberty Day project with a Scout group, please contact your District Liberty Day Chair or Lil Shurtleff, MD Liberty Day Chair.





LCI NEWS



Where in the World

Have you ever checked the Lions Web site – click on Lions Newswire or check out

Lions News Network

- LQ-Lions Quarterly ?



HIGHLIGHTS

Calendar of Events

Review upcoming Lions events your club can promote locally.



Lions Clubs iPhone App

Download our iPhone App to stay in touch with us.

Download the Lions Clubs App to Stay Up to Date on Our Latest News and Information

Stay in touch with Lions Clubs International with your iPhone by downloading our new Lions Clubs App. With the Lions Clubs App, you can access the following resources – at the touch of your fingertips:



- Daily news updates from Lions Clubs International on [Twitter](#).

- Videos from Lions Clubs International – and Lions around the world – on [YouTube](#).
- Lions Clubs International [Facebook page](#).
- Photos from clubs around the world on [Flickr](#).
- [LQ – Lions Quarterly Video Magazine](#) podcasts.
- Lions Clubs International Web site, [Club Locator](#) and more!

Stay up to date on Lions Clubs International news and information – [download the Lions Clubs App from iTunes now](#).

The Lions Clubs App is compatible with iPhone and iPod touch (2nd generation). Requires iPhone OS 3.0 or later.



LCIF Halting River Blindness

Learn how LCIF helped halt river blindness in Ecuador.

Transmission of River Blindness Halted in Ecuador
Atlanta, Georgia, USA, March 3, 2010 — Ecuador has become the second nation in the Americas to halt the transmission of onchocerciasis, according to a press release from the Carter Center, the Atlanta-based sponsoring agency for the Onchocerciasis Elimination Program in the Americas.

Read more about it – go to: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/news-and-events/newsroom/release-103.php>



EVENTS

Leo Club Awareness Month

See projects you can do during April to promote Leo Clubs.

April is Leo Club Awareness Month

Spread the word about the Leo Club Program – work with your Leo clubs, advisors, districts, or multiple districts to organize a joint Leo-Lion community service project.

- Start a tree planning project
- Repair a playground
- Organize a recycling program



Lions Worldwide Induction Day

Make plans now to celebrate new members on April 24.



LIONS QUARTERLY



LQ

Watch the [April 2010 LQ video magazine](#) to see Lions step up to the plate for the disabled.



Lions, Lions Clubs International Foundation Respond to Earthquake in Chile

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is committed to bringing aid to communities impacted by the recent earthquake in Chile. The earthquake is one of the largest ever recorded, resulting in more than 800 deaths and leaving 2 million people displaced. LCIF has already awarded four emergency grants, each for US\$10,000, to districts T-1, T-2, T-3 and T-4 in Chile. District T-3 includes the city of Concepcion, one of the hardest hit areas in the country. [Visit the LCIF Web site for the latest news.](#)



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE





FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

One of the most important ways that Lions make a difference in their communities and the world is through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International. With funding from LCIF, Lions carry out large scale humanitarian projects in their community.

Every dollar donated to the Foundation goes directly toward a grant, as administrative costs are paid by interest on investments. Lions' support of the Foundation is critical, as donations from Lions provide the majority of LCIF's revenue.

Since LCIF began in 1968, it has awarded more than 10,000 grants totaling more than US\$700 million. Together, Lions and LCIF are making a difference for millions of people. "We Serve" better together.

SIGHT INITIATIVES

Lions are known worldwide for blindness prevention. Since the SightFirst Program began in 1990, 7.6 million people have had their sight restored through cataract surgeries, 30 million people have had vision loss prevented and hundreds of millions of people have received improved eye care services. Lions and LCIF are establishing and expanding sustainable eye health care systems in underserved areas.

Through two fundraising campaigns, Lions have raised more than US\$343 million to continue and expand SightFirst Programs. Thanks to SightFirst and Lions, the battle against preventable blindness remains a priority in communities worldwide.

Childhood Blindness

Since 2001, LCIF and the World Health Organization have been collaborating to address childhood blindness throughout the world. Thirty-five need-based Lions eye care centers have been established in countries all over the globe, delivering preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitative eye care services for 102 million children.

Lions Eye Health Program

The Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) is a community based education program to promote healthy vision and raise awareness of the causes of preventable vision loss.

SightFirst China Action

Through SightFirst China Action, 5 million cataract surgeries have been carried out in China, home to 20 percent of the world's blind from cataract. Additionally, medical staff has been trained and clinics upgraded to increase accessibility to eye care.

Sight for Kids

LCIF and Johnson & Johnson collaborated to develop Sight for Kids, a program that has provided vision screenings, follow up treatment and eye health education to more than 10 million children in Asia.

River Blindness

SightFirst has supported more than 131 million treatments for river blindness in 15 countries in Africa and Latin America in partnership with The Carter Center. As a result, experts foresee eradication in Latin America by 2012.

Trachoma

Lions and LCIF provide support for 10 million people who have trachoma through medication, surgery, training of health workers, improving hygiene and health education.

YOUTH INITIATIVES

Supporting the development of youth is a major initiative of LCIF. Lions are bettering the future of children all over the world through improved education and health.

Lions Quest

Lions Quest is a school-based life-skills program for children from kindergarten to 12th grade. More than 11 million children have taken part in a Lions Quest classroom and more than 423,000 educators have been trained to implement the program. Lions Quest teaches responsible decision-making, effective communication and drug prevention.

HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES

Many of LCIF's successful humanitarian programs range from combating disability to disaster relief efforts. Lions continue to develop projects that address the immediate and long-term needs of their local and global community.

Disaster Relief

LCIF emergency grants enable Lions to meet immediate needs such as food, water, clothing, and medical supplies. Lions often offer additional assistance through volunteering or donating supplies. When disasters occur on a larger scale, major catastrophe grants are awarded for long-term reconstruction projects. LCIF has provided funding for recent catastrophes including Haiti and China earthquakes, Hurricane Katrina and South Asia tsunami.

Diabetes Treatment and Prevention

Diabetes prevention and control programs are funded through Core 4 grants, which can include funding for equipment, treatment and education programs.

Low Vision

Grants support the expansion of low vision services, equipment and education to those affected with the condition.

Opening Eyes

Opening Eyes is a partnership program with Special Olympics to provide vision screenings at select Special Olympics games. In 10 years, more than 150,000 athletes have been screened, and more than 44,000 provided with prescription eyeglasses. More than 8,000 Lions have volunteered their time at the screenings.

Greetings Dear Lion,



I am sure you were equally shocked when you learned of the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile. As with the Haiti earthquake and other past natural catastrophes, LCIF responds quickly to ensure those impacted get the aid they need, but the Foundation is also committed to long-term relief.

Our efforts continue in Haiti, where Maureen and I visited last week. We were amazed to see what the Lions of Haiti are doing to restore stability to their country and know that the Lions of Chile will bring the same service to their communities.

Together, we are all working to bring hope to the people affected, displaced and suffering.

Thank you,

Al Brandel
2009-2010 LCIF Chairperson

New Web Site for Positive Youth Development Program Launches

February 10, 2010, Oak Brook, Illinois, USA – A new Web site has launched to better illustrate Lions Clubs International Foundation's premier positive youth development program, Lions Quest. The site is more user-friendly, better highlights Lions and has an enhanced new look.

In addition, the site has more international information and a world map showing all Lions Quest locations. The home page is available in all official Lions languages. More statistics, Lions and teacher stories, and student testimonies support the program through the Web site. Additionally, a short video is located on the home page to provide an overview of the Lions Quest program.

The launching of the new site coincides with the 25-year anniversary of Lions Quest, celebrating the long-time success of the program among youth worldwide. A refreshed Web site further supports the many exciting happenings during the milestone year for the program.

Now is the perfect time to become involved with Lions Quest and your local schools! To find out more, visit the new Lions Quest Web site, www.lions-quest.org.

For questions on the new Web site, contact Lions Quest at info@lionsquest.org.

Transmission of River Blindness Halted in Ecuador

Atlanta, Georgia, USA, March 3, 2010 — Ecuador has become the second nation in the Americas to halt the transmission of onchocerciasis, according to a press release from the Carter Center, the Atlanta-based sponsoring agency for the Onchocerciasis Elimination Program in the Americas.

Colombia was the first of the six nations to break the transmission of onchocerciasis in 2008.

Make A Donation

Thank you for supporting Lions Clubs International Foundation's humanitarian work worldwide. US\$20 can provide cataract surgery to restore an individual's sight, US\$100 will provide low vision exams and glasses and US\$2,000 can build a water well to provide clean water. Every dollar donated goes directly to a humanitarian project that will improve the lives of thousands of people. Administrative costs are paid by interest earned on investments.

Ways to donate:

- [Donate Online](#)
- [Check](#)
- [Wire Transfer](#)
- Over the phone, by calling 630-468-6954

The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible, as allowed under the Internal Revenue Service code.

New Year, New Decade, New Look for LCIF

February 22, 2010, Oak Brook, Illinois, USA – Lions Clubs International Foundation has a new look, which includes an updated logo and repositioned brand image. This refined image is compelling and helps to clearly and effectively communicate the value of the Foundation to both the external community and the Lions. This repositioning will better define the foundation and its program, enabling both Lions and the external community to better understand and retain our messages. It also better complements the new look and messaging of LCI. This is part of a larger initiative which includes key messages, color schemes, graphics and refreshed logos.



Over the past year, LCIF has sought the input of Lions at all levels through online surveys and in-person sessions conducted at area Forums and the International Convention. The foundation hired Blue Silver, Inc. to assist with strategy, development and implementation. They previously designed the Leo logos and materials, as well as branding for the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) and Lions Quest. They have a strong background in development of a unified brand image and long term strategies as well as an unbiased, outside perspective.

Lions Clubs International Foundation is #1!



LCIF:

- is ranked the number one non-governmental organization (NGO) with which to partner by the *Financial Times*.
- is a 4-star rated charity – the highest rating given by Charity Navigator.
- is responding to the world's needs - more than \$680 million in LCIF grants have improved the lives of people worldwide.
- is meeting needs in North America - one in four LCIF grants are awarded to Districts in the US and Canada.
- was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its remarkable humanitarian efforts.
- uses 100% of every gift to support vital humanitarian programs.

LCIF
is Your
Foundation!

Network with Other Lions Online

As Lions, we are in good company. We have fun in our clubs. And when we meet fellow Lions for the first time, we treat them like old friends. And now, there are some exciting new online communities to help you connect with other Lions.

New Online Communities for Lions

Join one or more of these online communities to network with other Lions. Share information, ideas and videos. And let the world know you're proud to be a Lion!



Subscribe to our channel on [You Tube](#) – the world's premiere video sharing Web site – to be the first to see our latest videos



Follow us on [Twitter](#) for up-to-the minute news updates from International Headquarters –



Become a fan on [Facebook](#) – a popular Web site that connects users to friends, family and associates.



Be a friend of Lions Clubs International on [MySpace](#) to connect with other members and clubs around the world.



Join a network of Lions club members – and experienced professionals – from around the world on [LinkedIn](#).



See photos from Lions around the world on [Flickr](#) – the world's most popular online photo sharing site.

Add Our Twibbon to Twitter and Facebook profile to help spread the word about Lions – and to help you connect with other members and clubs around the world.

To participate in our online community, you need to join one or more of the official Lions Clubs International (LCI) social networks listed above. Please be aware that LCI does not own any of the above sites, and we are not responsible for comments posted by other members on these sites.



Georgia Lions Magazine

1441 Burycove Circle, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043

<http://galions.org/md18.html>

