



We Serve

District 18-D Bulletin

Gold



Standard

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR LIONS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

March 2009



District Governor Dick Smith

Dear “Gold Standard” Lions of 18-D,

I thought that January was a busy month, but it had little in common with February! Part of the rapidity was probably due to the fact that I returned to full-time working for the Navy. I think forgot the impact full day labor has on the rest of one’s life! My hat is off to those District Governors who work full-time!

February starts the other district conventions in MD-18. VDG Grace Clower and I have been to LaGrange for District 18-E’s, Port Wentworth for District 18-B’s, and the last weekend of the month we will be in “Way South, Georgia,” at Lake Seminole State Park, for District 18-C. Each of the conventions has been a pleasurable experience. However, my best time has been visiting our clubs! I visited the Winterville Lions Club, the Lavonia Lions Club, the Athens Heritage Lions Club, the Athens Lions Club, and the Hartwell Lions Club. VDG Grace made my official visit to the Buford Lions Club, the Loganville Lions Club, and the Norcross Lions Club. We have equally been honored to

visit the clubs in the district and get up close to the Lions in District 18-D! Indeed, I was even given the honor of pinning the Gainesville Lions Clubs’ Melvin Jones Fellow Award on Georgia’s School Superintendent, Kathy Cox. If you log on to the following web link you will not only be able to read an article about her award, but you will see a slightly different photo of your DG: www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=217416.

March brings us to the end of another winter and the emergence of spring. If we are lucky again this year, we will see apple blossoms in the northern part of the district and peach blossoms in the southern part. Spring not only brings out flowers, leaves and grass, but warm weather leads club members outside as we return to several of our spring fundraisers and community service projects. Concerning the latter, I want to single out the Camp for the Blind’s first work weekend on the start of spring, 20 – 22 March. Yes, the Camp needs money, but labor is equally important as the hands of Lions help prepare the Camp for our summer campers. Please make plans to head south to Waycross and lend your hands to the Camp’s work projects. You will find a work weekend sign up sheet to fill out on the Camp’s web site, which they’ll need to be prepared for your arrival. The Camp’s second work weekend will be 17 – 19 April.

The final notice I will make is to mention that the Third Cabinet Meeting will be held on Sunday, 29 March, in Snellville. More information will be forthcoming very soon, but the meeting will start at 2:00 p.m. The special significance of this meeting is that we will officially convene our district convention for a few minutes to hold district elections. Based on your club size, you will be authorized one delegate for every 10 members to vote for our next DG, 1st VDG, 2nd VDG, Camp for the Blind VP, etc. Please add this date to your calendar! Our district candidates need your presence and your votes.

Yours in “Miracles through Service,”

Dick



UPCOMING EVENTS

You know how time flies when you're having fun -- mark your calendars for:

29 March = District 18-D 3rd Cabinet Meeting at 2:00 pm followed by the Convention to be held in Snellville.

Place: Snellville Senior Center
2350 Oak Road
Snellville

Directions: Coming from the North: Travel south on I-985 or I-85, exit onto Ga. 20 at Buford. Continue on Ga. 20 through Lawrenceville and take Hwy. 124 toward Snellville. In Snellville, turn left onto Oak Road. You will see the City Hall on the left. Enter the drive into City Hall and follow around behind City Hall to the Senior Center.

Coming from the East: Travel west on Hwy. 78 through Loganville to Snellville. In Snellville, go past South Gwinnett High School and the First Baptist Church. You will see the City Cemetery on the right. Take a right just beyond the cemetery on Oak Road. You will see the City Hall on the right. Enter the drive into City Hall and follow around behind City Hall to the Senior Center.

21 March – Lavonia Lions Club 75th Anniversary.

March – Prepare Club Elections and PU-101 forms YOU CAN DO THIS EARLY.



**92nd
International
Convention,
Minneapolis,
Minnesota**

Join with Lions from around the globe as we gather together for LCI's **92nd Annual International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA** - from Monday, 6 July through Friday, 10 July 2009.

Club Secretaries – place year-end awards and gift presentation order with Club Supplies

District Governors Month

March is Eye Donor Awareness Month

Planning Ahead

88th State Convention



**5-7 June 2009
Jekyll Island, Georgia**

Friday: Registration and Exhibits; Organizational Meetings – Lighthouse and Camp meetings; Opening

Ceremony + Two seminars – one of which would be Lions working with LEOS.

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

**For June 2009, all rates \$99 per night
Clarion Resorts/Oceanfront Resort
800-736-1046**

HOSPITALITY BOOK ORDER FORM

Hospitality Books only \$75.00 each till 31 March
1 April to 27 May \$85.00

**YOU WILL FIND A LETTER AND
HOSPITALITY BOOK FORM FOR THE 2009
GEORGIA LIONS STATE CONVENTION
SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5-7, 2009 AT
JEKYLL ISLAND ON THE DISTRICT WEB
SITE. PLEASE SHARE THIS
INFORMATION WITH YOUR CLUB
MEMBERS. THANKS AND WE LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**



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** 

New Lions Clubs International Web Site to Debut in March

As part of our major branding initiative, Lions Clubs International is launching a new English Web site. This new Web site will:

- Explain who Lions are and what we do.
- Make it easier to find information—and complete tasks.
- Tell the Lions' story dramatically in pictures and in words.

The new Web site will have familiar sections, including **About Lions** and **News and Events**. There will also be new sections:

- **Our Impact** will include stories and photos that show how Lions make a difference. Plus, “Tips and Tools” for projects.
- A new **Member Center** will provide information that Lions need to do service projects and manage clubs and districts.
- **Online Community** will allow Lions to connect with other Lions on MySpace, YouTube, Facebook and

Twitter and share their stories and photos with Headquarters.

The following features of the current Lions Clubs International Web site will not change in March:

- **Language Sites:** Our new Web site will launch in languages later this year. Our current language sites will stay online until we launch the new language Web sites.
- **Submitting Reports:** Lions will have uninterrupted access to the current WMMR Web site.

Learn more about the new Web site by reading the Web site features story in the March 2009 issue of **LION Magazine**.

Be Aware of Suspicious E-Mails

Be aware of e-mail scams that fraudulently use the Lions name or Logo or other trusted and well-known names. The goal of these types of scams is to trick people into revealing personal and financial information about themselves, which can then be used to commit identity theft.

If you receive a suspicious e-mail, please follow these guidelines:

- Do not reply
- Do not open any attachments
- Do not click on any links in the email

Please delete the suspicious email and do not respond. If you wish, you may report the email to local authorities in your jurisdiction for further investigation.

New Transfer Form For Club Secretaries

Attention Club Secretaries:

A new [transfer form](#) is now available for your use. The form contains vital information for both clubs commonly involved in the transfer process and also contains a contact us section for the MMR/WMMR user.

DVD for Lions Community Health Events

Lions Clubs International is pleased to offer an outstanding 12-minute film, “Protect Your Vision: The Dilated Eye Exam” (code: DEE-DVD), focusing on the importance of “the dilated eye exam” for people with diabetes. The Wisconsin Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and the Wisconsin Lions Foundation developed the presentation, available in both English and Spanish formats on the DVD. If your club or district is involved with [diabetes awareness](#), this film is an excellent resource for use at community health events. Use the [order form](#) to purchase your DVD for US\$9.95, plus applicable taxes if any. Wisconsin Lions should contact the Wisconsin Lions Foundation at 877-463-6953 to order the DVD.

American Diabetes Alert Day – March 24

US Lions may participate in the 21st annual **“American Diabetes Alert Day”** on March 24 to raise awareness about the seriousness of diabetes and its risk factors. Over 23 million children and adults in the US have diabetes, and nearly one quarter of those do not know they have diabetes. Sound the alert! Are you or a loved one at risk for diabetes? Take the [ADA risk test](#). Learn how you can sponsor a [Strides...Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness](#) event.

Additional resources can be obtained at the [National Diabetes Education](#)

Program's Web site, one of Lions Clubs International's partners.

New!!! Strides Walk Banner Patch

Lions clubs and districts that have organized a **Strides: Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness** may apply to receive the new Strides Walk Banner Patch award. Read more about the criteria and download the **application**.

International Convention Registration

Registration for the international convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA is now available online — it is convenient and easy to use. You can also use **online registration** to book a room at your delegation hotel. Your convention registration and hotel reservation are confirmed immediately via e-mail. Check the **convention pages** online frequently for updated information about convention events and logistics information.

New Lions Sought for Magazine Profiles

THE LION Magazine wants to profile young, interesting and active Lions who have joined an existing club within the last four to eight months. One such Lion will be highlighted each month in the magazine starting in January 2009. Please **e-mail a brief description** of the impact the Lion has made on the club along with person's name, club name, location and contact information (phone, e-mail) along with your contact information for consideration

Lions Clubs International Videos on YouTube

LCI's videos are now available on YouTube — the premier online

destination to watch and share original videos worldwide. Visit **www.youtube.com/lionsclubsorg** to see the latest videos about our international convention in Bangkok, club service projects featured in LQ and more. While on YouTube, click the Subscribe button to stay up-to-date on the latest Lions Clubs International videos.

***International Hero Awards* CRITERIA**

The Hero Award will recognize Lions making a difference in the world. When submitting your nomination, choose a Lion, club, district or project that exemplifies the objects of the association. Your nominee should exemplify what it means to create miracles through service. You may include information regarding your nominee's impact on membership growth and participation, club extension, innovative changes, public relations success, and community impact and support.

NOMINATION REPORT

In addition to completing this form, each nomination must include a detailed report consisting of:

- A description of the nominee
- Statistical information
- Photographs of the nominee

One completed nomination form and report must be submitted for each nomination and sent to the specified location on the back of this brochure **to be received no later than April 1, 2009**. Three finalists for each category will be notified and then announced on the Lions Clubs International Web site (**www.lionsclubs.org**). Finalists should plan to attend the awards ceremony (at their own expense) held during the 2009 Lions International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

International directors will accept awards on behalf of winners from their constitutional areas who are unable to attend.



Lions Clubs International Videos on YouTube

Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world. Our 1.3 million members in 205 countries and geographic areas conduct vision, hearing and diabetes screenings, support eye hospitals, award scholarships, build parks, help youth, and provide help in time of disaster.

LCI's videos are now available on YouTube — the premier online destination to watch and share original videos worldwide. Visit **www.youtube.com/lionsclubsorg** to see the latest videos about our international convention in Bangkok, club service projects featured in LQ and more. While on YouTube, click the Subscribe button to stay up-to-date on the latest Lions Clubs International videos. Plus check out the other sites on MySpace and Twitter and Facebook:

Network with Lions online:

MySpace

<http://www.myspace.com/lionscluborg>

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lions-Clubs-International/27922222491>

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/lionsclubsorg>

Is Your Club Making News?

Whether a community project or a global effort, Lions are regularly in the news. Below are some recent examples of media coverage.

Lions Clubs International is always looking for Lions in the headlines. Please [e-mail](#) us the story or a description of the coverage you received so we can share your media exposure with other clubs. We regret that due to copyright laws we are unable to reproduce the story.

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MULTIPLE DISTRICT 18 BY SERVING ON THE MD 18 MERL TEAM

Multiple District 18 will select Lions to serve as members of the MD18 MERL team. The selection will be for a three year term beginning July 1, 2009 and extending to June 30, 2012. These Lions will be expected to provide training, coaching and assistance for the District MERL teams, Zone Chairs and clubs. They will work

closely with the Global Team Membership Liaison. If you are energetic and would like to make a difference in our organization, please consider serving as Membership, Extension, Retention or Leadership Chair for MD 18. Please talk to your District Governor or PCC Sandy Mercer, GMTL if you are interested. Selection will be at the April Council meeting.



NEWS

LCIF Coordinator

Lions Clubs International Foundation is in a position of unprecedented opportunity to build upon the recent success of Campaign SightFirst. To do so an LCIF Development Plan was created, which was approved by the LCIF Board of Trustees at the May 2008 Board Meeting. This plan is designed to strengthen our Foundation, and a critical aspect of the plan is the creation of an enhanced LCIF volunteer structure, similar to that of CSFII.

This enhanced volunteer structure will provide consistently trained and longer-serving LCIF Coordinators in every district and multiple district. These volunteer coordinators will serve as ambassadors of LCIF in all regards and will be supported in their efforts by geographically assigned LCIF Development staff. This change is being undertaken to better serve the needs of Lions and those we serve worldwide. The efforts of these LCIF Coordinators will help increase both awareness of LCIF's work and donations received, allowing Lions to provide greater humanitarian service when needed locally and globally.

These leaders are being appointed and trained during this Lions year (2008-2009) for a four-year term (allowing for some variation to address local needs). Please note that the new LCIF MD and District Coordinators will fill the role formerly served by MD and District LCIF Chairpersons. This new structure will be effective following International Convention in Lions year 2009-2010.

In the coming weeks, the recently appointed LCIF Multiple District Coordinator will be consulting with leaders in the district and multiple district to select LCIF District Coordinators to promote the work of LCIF.

Please give these leaders full support as they prepare to support our Lions Clubs International Foundation. Working together, Lions have the opportunity to build a stronger Foundation and create a better world.





Melvin Jones Fellowship

The Melvin Jones Fellowship recognizes donations of US\$1,000. It is the backbone of LCIF, providing 70% of the foundation's revenue. A recognition of humanitarian work, an MJF is an honor presented to those who donate US\$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others. Melvin Jones Fellows receive an attractive lapel pin, a plaque and a congratulatory letter.

Melvin Jones Fellows who make additional US\$1,000 donations to LCIF, or in whose name US\$1,000 donations are made, become part of the [Melvin Jones Fellowship Progressive](#) program.

To apply for a fellowship, complete the [MJF Application form \(LCIF-42\)](#). For the recognitions available, download the [LCIF Recognition Programs form \(LCIF-42R\)](#).

Contributions can be made by individuals (including non-Lions), clubs or districts. Contributions can be made in one sum, or in installments of a minimum of US\$100 over a five-year period.

It is possible to make a donation and choose the MJF recipient later. Write "Melvin Jones Fellow to be named later" on the check or bank draft.

When an individual's or group of individuals' personal donation(s) are accumulated for a club's or district's use to select a Melvin Jones Fellowship recipient, LCIF needs the signed consent. Please include such documentation with the completed MJF application that is sent to LCIF Donor Services.

For Melvin Jones Fellowship inquiries, contact LCIF Donor Services Department at 630-571-5466, ext.404 or [e-mail](#) us.

MJF FAQs:

- **The Fellowship was established in 1973 and the Progressive program began in 1986 in response to Lions' request for a way to extend their commitment to LCIF.**

- **Donations through MJFs provide 70 percent of the Foundation's annual revenue.**
- **There are 100 levels in the Progressive program.**
- **Most of the funds raised during the Campaign SightFirst and Campaign SightFirst II were through MJF donations.**
- **There are 287,703 MJFs worldwide and 53,582 PMJFs**
- **All MJFs are invited to the annual luncheon at convnetion and their names are on a rotating computer list of donors in the MJF room at International Headquarters**
- **The MJF is LCIF's highest honor**

Recognitions Available for LCIF Contributions

Contributing Memberships*

The LCIF Contributing Membership (CM) program is a great way for Lions to make an annual contribution to LCIF. There are three levels of recognition: The Basic CM is US\$20, for which donors receive a lapel pin, unique to the current fiscal year. The Silver CM is US\$50, for which donors receive the current year's pin with a silver ribbon backing. The Gold CM is US\$100 for which donors receive the current year's pin with a gold ribbon backing.

Honor Roll*

The LCIF Honor Roll recognizes individuals who donate US\$100 to LCIF or in whose name a donation was made by others. Recipients receive a certificate and their names are added to the Honor Roll at International Headquarters.

Club Plaque*

The LCIF Club Plaque is awarded to Lions clubs that make a non-fellowship donation of US\$1,000 to LCIF. A club may request a banner patch instead of a plaque if desired.

Corporate Plaque*

Companies may also receive recognition for their generous contributions to LCIF. The Corporate Plaque is awarded to companies that donate US\$1,000.

Memorial Donations

LCIF recognizes donations honoring the memory of another. The donor receives an acknowledgement card, and the family of the deceased receives a card informing them of the donation if family information is provided to LCIF at the time of the donation. For Memorial Melvin Jones Fellowships refer to form LCIF42, which can be downloaded from the LCIF Web site at www.lcif.org, then select "Publications and Downloads."



Editor's Note



Fellow Lions:

U.K. physicist invents inexpensive, water-filled eyeglasses to help poor

OXFORD, England — Joshua Silver, a lifelong tinkerer, was fiddling around one day with a cheap water-filled lens he'd built as an optics experiment when he noticed something interesting.

By adding or removing water he could not only change the power of the lens, he found, but he also could use it to very accurately correct his own nearsightedness when he looked through it.

"I was struck by the quality of the vision I could get with a device I could make for pennies and I could adjust myself," remembers Silver, an Oxford University atomic physicist. "My immediate thought was, 'If I can correct my own vision so easily, could other people?'"

Yes, it turns out. Eyeglasses using Silver's simple, self-adjusting technology are now poised to revolutionize the way the world's poor—and quite possibly the rest of us—see, potentially coming to the aid of billions who struggle to squint enough to farm, study, drive or hold down any job.

"With this technology, you can make your own prescription eyewear," said Silver, who has so far turned out about 30,000 pairs of the cheap glasses. He hopes to find funding to distribute a billion pairs to people around the world too poor to afford glasses or living in places like sub-Saharan Africa, where the ratio of opticians to residents is purportedly 1 to 1 million.

Rich-world eyeglass firms also are snooping around Silver's idea, tantalized by the possibility of manufacturing glasses that could give wearers the ability to change their prescription with a twist. Goodbye bifocals!

In a world where just about everybody older than 45 needs reading glasses, and just 5 percent of the world's poor get the vision correction they need, "the market is

close to 3 billion people," said the 62-year-old inventor, who took up studying optics to better view atomic structure and still considers himself a rookie at understanding vision.

Silver's glasses, now in use in 15 African and East European nations, look as if they might pair well with a fake mustache. Thick Coke-bottle lenses sit in dark tortoiseshell frames flanked with a pair of syringes on either temple. By turning dials, the wearer pushes more or less fluid into the lenses, protected between two hard polycarbonate covers, until the prescription is perfect. The syringes can then be removed or left in place to allow continuing changes.

The reaction from new wearers "is universal," said Maj. Kevin White, a U.S. Marine Corps logistics expert who persuaded [the U.S.](#) Department of Defense to buy and hand out 20,000 pairs of the glasses as humanitarian aid in Angola, [Georgia](#) and other nations.



People who try the glasses, like this man in Angola, smirk at how they look, then can't believe their eyes when their vision improves, one official said. (U.S. Marine Corps)

Handed a pair, "people put them on, they look at a chart on the wall, you see them dialing and suddenly their smirk turns to a smile. They say, 'Wow! I can see!' It's mind-boggling," White said.

Silver, who went along on the first field test of the glasses in Ghana, remembers how the first man to try a pair, a tailor forced to retire in his 40s when he could no longer see to work, grinned and immediately started up his sewing machine after being handed a pair.

"Tears came to my eyes," Silver remembers. "I realized how really important it was for a guy like this to be able to see." He also realized he'd made a strategic error—no one wanted to give back the prototypes after trying them.

could keep people with eye diseases like glaucoma from visiting eye doctors who could catch their problem. Silver dismisses that as a major concern because in the locations most likely to benefit from the technology "there are insufficient professionals and no infrastructure" anyway to catch such diseases.

Perhaps most troubling, both the size and price of the glasses remain daunting: The current hefty model going for \$19 a pair. Silver is working on streamlined versions, with hopes of getting the cost down to about \$2 as manufacturing volume picks up.

"I'm not in this to make money. I wouldn't mind making some money," he says. "But my motivation is to take this technology and get it to people who need it."

Critics also have argued that the self-adjusting feature

1. **Redistricting.** According to the LCI Constitution, a district consists of at least 35 clubs and a minimum of 1,250 members. This is the minimum that LCI can effectively support with the dues they collect from the membership. With 5 of 6 districts having less than 1,250 members, there has been a number of communications from LCI concerning the need to redraw district lines. Three different plans were considered by the committee, ranging from changing to 5 districts to redrawing to 3 districts. The idea of going to 4 districts was presented to the Council as being the best plan. Any plan would have to be approved first by the Council of Governors, then by any district with the minimum 1,250 members and finally by the Lions of Georgia at State Convention. The Council after receiving the report decided to table the proposal for this term.



**Here is the new state pin. How can you get this?
Maybe come to the 3rd Cabinet meeting and you
Might be able to get one.**



HOT!!!!!! You Tube



Videos | Favorites | Groups | Friends | Subscribers

== NOW – GO TO THIS WEB SITE AND CHECK IT OUT ==

<http://ca.youtube.com/lionsclubsorg>



DIABETES ExpoSM

Free Event!
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA

March 21, 2009
9:00am - 4:00pm

Premier Sponsor

Walmart
Save money. Live better.

Sam's Club

World Sponsors

HUMANA
Crabapple when you need it most.

Tenet
Healthcare Foundation

diabetes.org/AtlantaEXPO

Admission is FREE!!!

GETTING TO THE EXPO

- Georgia World Congress Center Building C (Exhibit Hall C4)
Corner of Northside Drive & Simpson Street
- 9am-4pm

REGISTER ONLINE

- Visit: diabetes.org/AtlantaEXPO and print a VIP Entrance Coupon for quicker entry into the EXPO.

VISIT THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE

- Learn about local programs and events, advocacy activities, and research being conducted in your community.
- Pick up a free issue of *Diabetes Forecast* magazine and informational brochures.
- Talk with volunteers and find out how to get involved with the American Diabetes Association.

BOOK STORE

Shop here for the world's best books for people with diabetes

- Meal planning, dining out guides and cookbooks
- Diabetes care and treatment
- All books discounted 25%

KIDS CORNER

Interactive and fun for children and families

- Face painting
- Educational games
- Be a Dance Dance Revolution Superstar
- Make Cool Diabetes Alert Bracelets
- Collect prizes for your wit and wisdom

FACES OF DIABETES

Diabetes does not discriminate – it impacts people of all ages, races and ethnicities. Look for areas within the exhibit hall featuring information that is tailored to meet the specific needs of you and your family.

Call 1-800-DIABETES for more information or for general American Diabetes Association inquiries

American Diabetes Association
Cure • Care • Commitment[®]



RETENTION

Communicate Constantly Retention is every member's job!

Open communication is vitally important to the success of your club. It creates a comfortable, productive environment that will motivate members to do their best. Encouraging input from members and using your club meetings, newsletter and Web site to communicate happenings will help you with this task.

Making all club members feel that they have a voice in your club is vital for sustaining involvement. Members should feel that they can offer suggestions during club and committee meetings, comment on activities or express a complaint. They should also feel that their comments, suggestions or complaints are valued and will be appropriately addressed. Encouraging input but not following will create frustration for your members. One suggestion that you may try at your club to encourage input:

- Create a suggestion box or location for soliciting member ideas. During club meeting or in your club's newsletter or Web site, acknowledge the ideas that are implemented.

MD18 Retention Chair
DG Kenneth Moore



***"We're the New Generation of Lions...
Join Us Today!"***

YOU ARE LIONISM

We keep hearing that we need more members; that clubs should go out and get more members; that membership is the responsibility of the District MERL; of the District Governor; etc.

Let's get down to who is responsible—the individual Lion. Each Lion became one because he or she had heard that Lionism meant Service. Yet, how many Lions were told that they had something else to do—to "extend" themselves and invite others to be Lions.

This is addressed to the individual Lion. First, ask yourself why did you become a Lion? Why did you want to join the Lions Club in your city? I hope you can say that you became—you are—a Lion because you want to serve your community. If so, it is time for you to do more. Haven't you heard that more hands make projects easier and faster? This is why we need more Lions in our clubs. Yes, we keep talking building our district membership, but you should be more concerned in building your club membership so that your club's projects can be carried out easier and faster. The more Lions in your club—the more service to your community.

How can you, a Lion, build your club's membership? First, make a list of people you know that are interested in your community. Now, narrow that list to those who are not yet Lions. Talk to each of them and invite each to your club. Be up front when you invite these people to your club meeting. Tell them that the club's main goal is to serve the community.

I know that I will hear back from Lions that their club says they have projects but all they do is sell brooms, sell raffle tickets, stand in front of Wally World and collect money, etc. Lions—those are not community service projects. Those are fund-raising activities. What is your club—what are you doing to help your community? Not just writing a check for Little League or the food bank. When is the last time you put in some Lions Hours in your community so that people know a Lions Club exists? It is so easy to write that check. When that check goes into the other organization's account, no one sees a Lion in a vest doing anything to help. If you want more members, be more visible in your town. Make sure that everyone knows that the Lions Club is working to make your town better.

Lil Shurtleff, MD Membership Chair



"Change the World"

**TO ALL LIONS CLUBS:
Georgia Lions State Awards Program**

A copy of the 2008-2009 Georgia Lions State Awards Program is attached in .pdf format. If you cannot open the attachment or need the program sent to you in MS Word, please let me know. A copy of this program is also included in the State Directory. The deadline for awards applications to be in the committee's hands is May 30, 2009.

Every Lions Club in the state of Georgia should look through the State Awards criteria and apply for all of the awards for which they are eligible. If you have questions or need help, contact your district's State Awards Committee member.

REMEMBER....you can't win an award if you don't apply!

For State Awards Chair, Bryson Tanner

Copies of criteria for the Anne Sullivan Award, Outstanding Blind Award and Outstanding Deaf Award are attached in a .pdf file. If you are unable to open the attachment, please contact the State Office and copies will be sent in MS Word. Please note that the deadline for submission of applications for these awards is April 15, 2008.



The **KEY WORD** to all of this is **A S K**
Any further questions – just ask!

Southeastern Lions Leadership Institute
10th Institute



Southeastern Lions Leadership Institute: The institute will be held 16-19 April 2009 at the Tennessee Conference Center for the United Methodist Churches in Beersheba Springs, Tennessee.

Cost will be \$125 per person but includes all lodging, meals (dinner on Thursday, Breakfast, Lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday), and materials. The institute is open to Lions who have not served as VDG and will include topics such as goal setting, meeting management, group dynamics, team building, personality, leadership style, problems solving, conflict resolution, delegation, mobilization of volunteers diversity, protocol, mentoring, and public speaking. For more information contact Past International

Director Dr. Beverly Roberts at 706-592-2982 or email at pidbroberts@bellsouth.net . Only 60 spots are available, so send in your registration now!

Club Presidents & Secretaries - Please share this with your club members, as you never know who might be interested. You may also wish to encourage Vice Presidents to attend.

The application package will come out in early January

CLUB REPORTS



This is another way of getting Lions in your club, new members and prospective members interested in doing something new and different. Getting involved is another word for **WE SERVE**.



Certain things can happen when your Lions Club gets involved. If we have to find something new – go for it – because the more we raise – the more we can give. Also, the more members who get involved also create a bundle of fun and more money raised. The information that appears may benefit another club – for here is where we get ideas and we might be able to use those ideas within your own club.

Auburn-Carl Lions Club = The Club has gained one new member in February. The Club hosted a Senior Citizen Community Christmas Dinner in December with approximately 150 in attendance. They will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Supper this Saturday, February 28, 2009, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. They will take part in White Cane Day.

Clermont North Hall Lions Club = February 2009 Activities = Our speaker at our first meeting was the owner of a local nursery. She presented wide-ranging information on growing everything from fruit trees to vegetables and lawns. At this we also had several guests. Our first meeting also included the official visit by Zone Chair Ron Bennetti. He was accompanied by PDG Mike Higgins. Our White Cane Chair is in place and planning has begun for this event in April. Our Nominating Committee was appointed and will work on our slate of officers for the new Lions year. We renewed our sponsorship of the local Cub Scout pack. We worked one event parking cars at the Mountain Center in Gainesville.



Dahlonge Lions Club = Mark your calendars for May 13, 2009. This is the next screening date at the Community Helping Place. Plan now to work one of these events. Its hard to determine who gets the most out of these events. Those doing the screening or those being screened.

BORED-LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BECOME

INVOLVED: Check out the upcoming events. White Cane will have 4 locations. Have you volunteered to work one of these locations? Will you sell all of your pancake tickets and work the event.? Why not start spring cleaning now and start gathering items for the yard sale? Will you be available to assist with that function. **REMEMBER WHERE THE FUNDS THAT ARE RAISED ARE SPENT.**

Gainesville Lions Club = Georgia Schools Superintendent Kathy Cox was in town to receive the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from the Gainesville Lions Club at a joint meeting of the Lions and the Gainesville Kiwanis Club. The humanitarian honor is the Lions' highest award according to Lions president Jim Schwartz. Schwartz said the Lions gave Cox the award for winning a million dollar game show prize and donating it to hearing and visually impaired school children. Cox won the money last year on the "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader" television show hosted by comedian Jeff Foxworthy.



After the Civic Center meeting with the two clubs, Superintendent Cox toured Fair Street Elementary School.

Jefferson Lions Club = Community Service Projects: The Jefferson Club is hosting their **annual pancake supper on Saturday, March 21, 2009**, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson High School Cafeteria. Everyone is invited. The Club will take part in White Cane Day in April. Our annual calendar sale headed by Lion Jim Smith netted \$2,975. **Sight Services:** Collection of 70 used eye glasses, 6 lenses, 4 sun glasses, 24 cell phones and chargers. Forty five eye exams have been completed so far this year. **Public Relations:** A picture of the winner of our Peace Poster contest was in the paper. **Meetings:** *February 10* Roxanne Rose, editor of the Living Jackson magazine, talked to us about how she became interested in editing a magazine. She pointed out that the magazine reflects the positive quality of life found in Jackson County. A book was donated to the Jefferson County Library in her honor. *February 23* Ron Prescott and Rachael Parr, both science teachers in the Jackson County School System, told the membership of their experiences in being part of the team that aboard the research vessel Atlantis. Both went down about one mile to the ocean floor aboard the submarine Alvin. Books were donated to the Jefferson library in their name.

Lavonia Lions Club = Has been working hard to make this a great 75th Anniversary Celebration with Past International Director Beverly Roberts as guest speaker.

Norcross Lions Club - Chris Swift has returned as a member. He is our 27th member. VDG Grace Clower visited our club and brought the District Governor's message. We continue to collect eyeglasses and work on the Norcross Art Fest. Membership Chair Lion Martha Hermann has suggested ways to attract new members, and we are working on her suggestions.

Lions Gene and Louise Little (MERL Team) gave a Program with our VDG attending Lion Grace Clower and Lion Bill Heron our Zone Chair.



Lawrenceville Lions Club = We had 2 Vision Screening Sessions with 24 taking it and 14 needed further examinations at the 1st screening and 87 taking the exams and 17 needing further examinations. 7 volunteers. We have our White Cane Days set up for April 17th and 18th. Four members attended the Snellville Pancake Breakfast. We plan a Sno Cone sale at an elementary spring fest as a fund raiser. We sold 100% of our Raffle tickets for Camp For The Blind.

<i>Eyeglasses collected</i>	<i>332</i>
<i>Lenses</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>Cell Phones</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Volunteer Hours</i>	<i>118</i>

Snellville Lions Club - Fund Raiser: Club held their Annual Benefit Breakfast at the Snellville United Methodist Church February 14th. Good turn out, with 74% of the membership working on this project. **Guest Speaker:** February 5th. Lion PDG Ed Hashbarger topic for this evening L.C.I.F February 19th. Lion Judy Stamsen District Canine Companions Chair February 19th. Lion Pete Stamsen White Cane Chair. **Service Project:** Following item given to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse 160 Used Eye Glasses 12 prs. of Loose Lens 17 Cell Phone.s. **Award:** Lion Tom Burgess received a 2 member key award. **New Member:** Bonnie Linscott, sponsor by VDG Grace Clower. **Lion Volunteer Hours:** 97 hours



During the July 15th club meeting, Kathy Martin became a member of the Snellville Lions Club. She is sponsored by Vice District Governor Grace Clower. Kathy grew up in the Stone Mountain area but now resides in Snellville. She presently works with Keller Williams Real Estate. She will be a good addition to our club. Thank you, Kathy, for wishing to participate in our club and become part of the SLC family.

Thursday - **March 5th** - Club Meeting - Walton EMC

Sunday - **March 8th** - Daylight Savings Time Begins

Monday - **March 9th** - Board Meeting - Walton EMC - Would enjoy seeing you there.

Thursday - **March 19th** - Zone Meeting - Snellville Lions Club is hosting this meeting

Friday - Sunday - **March 20-22** - Work Weekend - Camp for the Blind Friday

Saturday - **March 21st** - Diabetes Expo at World Congress Center

Sunday - **March 29th** - 3rd Cabinet Meeting - Snellville Lions Club is hosting his meeting



Toccoa Lions Club = Toccoa Lions pulled together under the leadership of Russ Paxton to serve 500 people on Saturday morning February 21, 2009. According to Paxton 270 guests dined in the cafeteria and 230 guests pick up their breakfasts at the back door drive through service. Ticket revenue was \$3,240.00 and expenses were \$1,805.06 resulting in a profit from operations of \$1,434.94. Lion Claud Smith was able to secure a \$2,200.00 donation to the event from the Mitchell Allen Foundation. The total amount raised was \$3,635.94. This money is earmarked for our local sight conservation program. Lion Ruth Payton advised of the efforts made to have a recruiting dinner. After discussing, tentatively it will be on Thursday March 12th at 7:00pm at the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church. Ruth has prepared about 50 invitations for mailing to prospective members. Lion Ray made the motion. In the month of January 2009 the Toccoa Lions received 123 pairs of glasses, 6 set of frames, 30 lens, 50 glasses cases, 12 sunglass lens and 31 pairs if sunglasses.

GOOD NEWS: Steve Spruill, our club president, with the salvaged club banner. At our Valentine's dinner party on February 12th the college food service director made a surprise presentation to us. Believe it or not is survived the fire by fall through floor into the basement and then it was covered by water from the fire hoses.

Steve and Diann Spruill took it to the dry cleaners and Diann sewed the loose patch back onto the banner. We are keeping the old banner and ordering a new on for our second 75 years of service.



Dr. Irv Hellenga was honored on February 28, 2008 for his fifty-five years of service with the Toccoa Lions Club

Towns County Lions Club = Lions "GIVE-A-Christmas" Santa and His helpers are ready for over 135 children.

Union County Lions Club = Sight / Hearing: One application for eye glasses and exam approved. **Lion Mints:** 154 rolls dispensed. **Social Concerns:** Lion Rosa Mandon sent total of 8 cards. **Collections:** Non to report. **Membership:** Membership drive successful with 5 applications turned in & approved for membership. President Gene Little commended Lion Lisa Little on her presentation from a woman's point of view at the membership drive meeting. **White Cane:** Dates set for April 17th & 18th, [Fri. & Sat.] Co-chairs are Lions Paul & Karen Clark. **Club visitation:** Set for February 17th at Blue Ridge Lions Club, Blue Ridge, GA. **Volunteer Hours:** 430. **Activities:** Peace Poster Chair, Lion Louise Little introduced P.P. winner from Woody Gap Middle School, April Turner and P.P. winner from Union County Middle School, Madison Larisey. Madison was also the 18-D winner in the P.P. contest. Her poster will go to the State to be judged along with the winner from the 5 other Districts for a State winner. Both were presented certificates & \$25.00 check each from Union County Lions Club. Lion Membership Chair Jim Wentworth then inducted two more new members for Union County Lions Club. They are Darrell & Vicki Cummings, their sponsor is Lion Rosa Mandon. Program for the evening was Jane Ferguson, Area Director of USDA Rural Development & Marlyn Hollis, Area Specialist for USDA Rural Development. This is program to assist low income & very low income families to improve quality of life living in small rural communities by providing loans & grants for fresh water, sewer, electrical system improvement & help with purchase of first homes. They also help with housing for elderly & disabled. There are many other areas that they assist with. Of course there is a financial income guideline that must be met. Very, very informative.



Two new members of Union County Lions Club
New Lions John Bilbo and Sarah Chumbley



A successful meeting with eleven prospective members and Lions who spoke on various Lion related issues at Membership night

West Jackson Lions Club =

The Club has added three new members since July, and have two perspective new members. The Club has provided library books for three elementary schools in their area.

Winder Lions Club = A total of 72 eye exams and eyeglasses have been provided since July. The Club is continuing with their Bingo fund raisers every Friday night with average of 119 in attendance. VDG Grace presented a program for their Valentine's Day Dinner. The Club sold \$167.00 in tickets for the Camp for the Blind. The Club is still collecting eyeglasses, cell phones, and hearing aids.

Winder Noon Lions Club = They have recently inducted 4 new members in their Club.

Club members have participated in eye screenings in Athens, and worked in two local blood drives. The Club has provided special vests for the City of Winder police squad. They have provided 1000 pairs of eyeglasses. The Club sold pecans as their fund raiser. Provided four Junior of the Year Awards to four local High Schools. They will participate in White Cane Day in April, and will have a Golf Tournament in May as a project fund raiser.

We're Waiting = have you ASKed?



Did you submit yours?

E-mail = edmclionh@bellsouth.net or

Go on-line = www.edmclion.com/ or



Public Relations Tools and Resources: Looking to raise awareness for your Lions club, district and multiple district project, activity or event? Use the online PR tools and resources, highlighted here, to get started with your public relations plans.

Essentials

Review the "[Club Public Relations Chairperson's Guide](#)" (PR710) and "[District Public Relations Chairperson's Guide](#)" (PR730) for information and samples for developing your PR plan and communications. Also, take the Public Relations Course offered through the [Lions Learning Center](#). It is an excellent interactive program to assist in developing your public relations skills.

PR Tools & Resources

- Review the [calendar of events](#) for upcoming programs to promote locally.
- Customize [sample news releases](#) for Lions activities and programs. The fill-in-the-blank templates provide direction for the release content, layout and length. Localize and submit the release to the media for your next Lions event.
- Create your own [club fact sheet](#) using the online template, or use it as a guideline to create a district or multiple district fact sheet. Keep it up-to-date and distribute it with all media material. The club fact sheet is also useful to distribute at club and community events to members and prospective members.
- Show [audiovisual presentations](#) at upcoming meetings or events. Many are available for Lions and non-Lions audiences.
- Distribute [public service announcements \(PSAs\)](#) available for television and radio.
- Utilize [brochure paper](#), [print ads](#) and [billboard artwork](#) to promote Lions in your community.
- Create a club [Web site](#) to promote upcoming events and attract prospective members.
- Check [Public Relations Support for Clubs and Districts](#) to find other resources

Communications

Lions Clubs International provides a variety of member communications and valuable tools for assisting Lions public relations initiatives. Online communications include:

- Lions Clubs International's [fact sheet](#), [history](#) and [news releases](#)
- [Brand Renewal FAQ](#) answers frequently asked questions about the new Lions brand
- Lions Clubs International's [key messages and questions](#)
- [THE LION Magazine](#), published ten times a year, posts selected articles online. Read [How To Get In THE LION](#) to submit your club, district and multiple district stories and photos
- [e-Newsletter](#), a monthly online newsletter, with the latest communication from International Headquarters
- the [President's Monthly Message](#)
- [Lions in Action](#) highlights unique Lions club projects and provides a resource of ideas that may be implemented in your hometown.



GA. Lions Lighthouse
VP Lion Mike Higgins, PDG
mhpdg@windstream.net

Check out the new **Lighthouse Video**
Click here to view the Lighthouse Video!

<http://www.eventstreams.com/lighthouse/010fst/>



This season's can't miss event!

April 30, 2009

Location: Opera -

Atlanta's Event Center

1150 Peachtree St.NE, Atlanta

[Reserve your tickets.](#)

Now Seeking Sponsors
and Silent Auction Items

Last year's inaugural event raised \$53,000 for uninsured Georgians and featured artwork made from recycled eyewear by local Atlanta fashion students.

- fashion design competition
- unique eyewear
- fabulous silent auction
- celebrity judges

Featuring artwork by fashion students
made from recycled eyewear

***Benefiting the Lighthouse Foundation's
Vision Services for the underinsured***



Georgia Lions
Lighthouse Foundation
Better Vision. Better Hearing. Better Georgia.



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:

- A. Place plastic jars on check-out counters of convenience and fast food stores. This could be done 4-6 weeks in March and April and can be handled by 1 or 2 Lions. Special jar lids and decals are available through White Cane Days, Inc.
- B. Write letters to businesses of your community soliciting donations. Then follow up with a personal visit.
- C. Hold a pancake breakfast, chili supper, chicken BBQ, or other project designated for White Cane.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.



White Cane Packets Available

White Cane Packets will be mailed to White Cane chairs, Associate Directors, and Club Presidents without Associate Directors the first week of February. The packet can also be found online at www.lionslighthouse.org under the resources for lions section. This year's White Cane fundraiser will prevent the Lighthouse from having to cut our surgery budget. White Cane posters are available from the Lighthouse by calling 404-325-3630 and for fundraising ideas download the White Cane packet today!

* * * * *

To the Lions of Georgia:

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation is the 12th fastest growing organization in Georgia. In order for Lighthouse to assist as many of Georgia's uninsured as possible, we need your help.

White Cane is the foundation's way of collecting funds from the general public. We are going after as many grants and other resources as possible, but funds are still running short.

You have recently received a letter from the Lighthouse and me requesting a donation to the Luminary Society. The Luminary Society is an additional way individual Lions can donate to the Lighthouse.

I am asking you to dig deep and make a donation to the Luminary Society. It's not whether you donate ten dollars or ten thousand dollars; it's whether you donate at all.

If you have any questions, please contact your District Luminary Chair or myself, Sandy Mercer at sandymercer@bellsouth.net.

**Lion Sandy Mercer, PCC
Luminary Chair**



GA. Lions Camp for the Blind
VP Ken Thurmond
eyebank@alltel.net



From Kristen Picus, Camp Director:

The LEO Gathering at the Camp is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, February 13-15, 2009. Kristen will attend the American Camp Association (ACA) Conference and training the week of February 16th. The Winter Work Weekend is scheduled for March 20-21, and the Spring Work Weekend will be on April 17-19.

Summer Camping Sessions are scheduled and the theme for this year's Camping Season is

“On the Flip Side”. Dates for the sessions are as follows:

May 31-June 5 Counselor Orientation
June 7 – June 12 Family Camp (4-9 year old campers)
June 14-June 19 Adult Camp
June 21 -26 Pre-teen Camp
June 28-July 3 Young Adult Camp (18-25 year olds)
July 11 Lions Day at the Camp

Work weekend goals: LEO's weekend – Clean up nature trail; change sand in pool filters; putty nail holes and paint trim in main office; put in boarder for flower beds; dig dirt from around siding and low buildings; pick up pine cones and limbs; clean out brush around pond; paint.



Work weekends goals: Lions = Siding project; replace windows in Gazebo; screw together all siding at bottom of wooden buildings; shutters (build, paint and put up; repair fence and gates around trash dumpsters; redo bus staging area fence; fix damaged shingles; cover urinals in girls' bathroom; fix windows on back side of girls' dorm; fix and extend down-spouts, repair or replace gutters; dig up stumps beside activities building (back fill with dirt); pressure wash buildings, front entrance, and mildewed sidewalks; repair cabinets and dressers in dorms; fix all door thresholds (top and bottom of doors); caulk and paint trim in main office; fix rot in Program Director's residential bathroom; fix leak in awning roof off bathrooms; check all electrical outlets in and on all buildings; attach posts to concrete walkway beside cafeteria bathrooms; edge sidewalks; fix picnic tables; inventory crafts building, activities building and kitchen; drag walking track; clean tree line next to track; paint girls and boys sitting area; paint all construction completed buildings; fix and re-popcorn ceiling in boys dorm bathroom; put down 1x4 boarder around flowerbeds.



Remember – all work done will
make it safer for these children





Leader Dog Chair Lion Diane Wall
liondianewall@bellsouth.net

Volunteer Puppy Raisers Needed

Rochester Hills, MI, January 14, 2009 – Raise a puppy for Leader Dogs for the Blind and you will change a life. Volunteer puppy raisers are needed to raise Future Leader Dogs for the first 12 to 15 months of the puppy's life. Leader Dogs offer independence and freedom to people who are blind and visually impaired – you can be a part of the life-changing experience.

Volunteer puppy raisers have the honor of naming the puppy they raise. Raisers teach the puppies house manners, basic obedience and expose them to the world. Some raisers are even able to get permission from their workplace to bring the puppy to work with them. Puppy raisers are volunteers who generously take puppies into their homes and provide them with health care, food, and life's experiences. If the raisers live close enough to Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, Michigan, they may take advantage of free veterinarian care for the growing puppy.



“We would not be able to provide Leader Dogs at all if it weren't for volunteer puppy raisers. The exposure that the puppy raisers provide is an intricate part of the dog's extensive training needed to become a Leader Dog. Right now we are actively looking for more puppy raisers,” said Beverly Blanchard, puppy development manager for Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Most of the puppies growing up to become Leader Dogs are Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers; about 10% of them are German Shepherds. Raisers may choose which breed, sex and color they prefer. Experience with dogs is not required, however, raisers must commit to dedicating a year to training and socializing the puppy. Prior to receiving the puppy, raisers will learn how to prepare their home, train, socialize and play with their puppy.



“Volunteer puppy raisers are as diverse as the people we serve. We have 14 year-old raisers and raisers in their 80s. Some people raise the puppies on farms, in apartments, in big cities, alone or with a large family living with them. The raiser must be able to dedicate about a year to the puppy. Many raisers say that the puppy increased their social life,” said Blanchard.

Creating a responsible canine candidate to become a Leader Dog entails a great deal of socialization. The more the puppy sees and experiences during the first year of its life, the more adapting and calm it will be when exposed to future experiences. Many puppy raisers expose their puppies to: shopping malls, loud sirens, cats and other animals, different kinds of staircases and floor surfaces, busy sidewalks, bicycles, sporting events, grocery stores, churches and much more.

When the puppies return to Leader Dogs for the Blind, they are thoroughly evaluated for medical soundness and personality traits. Puppies that pass this evaluation are trained one-on-one for the next four months by a professional

instructor. The instructor then carefully matches each Leader Dog with an individual who is legally blind. The team trains together at Leader Dogs for the Blind for a month before leaving the facility and returning home. “My Leader Dog, Baxter, helps me get to anywhere I want to go. If I didn’t have a Leader Dog, I’d just sit in the house all day. Now I just harness up my dog and we go!” said Bobby Hart of Springfield Tennessee. Hart recently returned home with a Leader Dog.

Leader Dogs are provided completely free to qualified individuals, including travel and 26 days of room and board at the Leader Dog facility. Leader Dogs for the Blind is funded by donations from Lions and Lioness Club members, individuals, foundations and corporations dedicated to community service.

If you would like to more information about becoming a puppy raiser or would like to make a donation, call Leader Dogs for the Blind at (888) 777-5332 or visit www.leaderdog.org.



Do not forget = 70 for 70:

In celebration of Leader Dog’s 70th anniversary, Lions Clubs making a donation \$70 more than your regular club contribution will receive a commemorative “70 for 70” patch for the club banner and a pin for each club member. Have you sent in your \$70.00 separate from your normal contribution?



Leader Dog recognized as a “Best In America” charity

Independent Charities of America (ICA) recently recognized Leader Dogs for the Blind as one of the best non-profit organizations in America for meeting the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness.

About the “Best In America” Seal



The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to the members of Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness.

These standards include those required by the US Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world.

Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal.



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

RFB&D on Facebook

[Join RFB&D's page on](#)

[Facebook](#) and you can have fun talking with people all across the country that have had their lives improved by RFB&D. Learn about our nationwide events, view photo galleries and watch videos.



* * * * *

Share

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic posted a link.

Friday at 5:42am

[The Pentagon Channel](#)

Source: www.pentagonchannel...



The DoD has a FREE resource for active duty, Guard and Reserve servicemembers and their families; it's called Military OneSource. They offer 24/7/365 help with such things as child care, personal finances, ...

Watch a video featuring RFB&D and one of our Veteran members, Mike Jernigan.

* * * * *

Building Confidence, Building Lives, A Video Of RFB&D Success Stories

Check out this on the web site <http://www.edmclion.com/> you might find it interesting. Scroll down and look under RFB&D if you wish to view this fine video.

* * * * *

Fellow Lions,

We, probably more than many, are very aware of the current economy's impact on the non-profit sector. All the worthy charities we support have felt the impact and

need our support more than ever. As proof that RFB&D is not immune please read the following:

Outreach / Member Services

In response to the nation's continuing economic decline, the National Board and Staff of RFB&D have been accelerating several parts of RFB&D's Strategic Plan. One component is the development of web-based educational outreach and member support tools. This movement to nation-wide "virtual outreach" means that after February 15, the Georgia Unit's Outreach / Member Services will close. Bill Pass, our Educational Outreach / Member Services Director, has done an outstanding job during the past decade in educating and supporting members throughout Georgia. We will miss Bill, and thank him for his enduring commitment to students and RFB&D.

Lions, Georgia's blind, visually-impaired, and orthopaedically-challenged students need us now more than ever! 270+ Lions Clubs have been a formidable friend and advocate since 1975 but it's time to take our commitment to an even greater level. Without Bill at the Georgia Unit or on the road, reaching out to schools, school districts, and communities it's up to US to spread the word, raise awareness in our communities, and re-dedicate ourselves to reaching the 36,000+ students from Kindergarten through post-graduate that need textbooks on CD to further their education. I am asking each club to discuss at your next meeting how your club can help. The Lions Leading Through Learning initiative is designed for us to take the lead role in this struggle and now is the time to put it into effect. If your club has not made a donation to RFB&D this year I am asking you to do so soon - I'd like to see EVERY club in Georgia give SOMETHING this year. There are also a number of other things your club can do, from hosting a Reading Event using the new LABR Units to contacting your local schools to make them aware of Lions, RFB&D, and how we can both help the students in YOUR area, to holding an Awareness Event. I am available to give you more information or answer any questions you may have.

Let's take the leadership role in the fight for our youth and show Georgia what Lions can do! THANK YOU!

In Service,
Steve Helwig
MD18 RFB&D Chair



Robinson, PDG, SE Guide Dog
706-548-8719
bobcat8233@aol.com

Walter Daniel and Duchess

A Terrific Teacher And Teacher's Aide



Walter Daniel recently retired after 30 years of teaching

3rd and 5th graders in some of Alabama's best schools, but he still works daily as a math and reading tutor at Minor Elementary School near his home in Birmingham.

Walter was born with no vision in his left eye and with partial vision in his right eye. "I went through the Birmingham public schools with assistance from some great teachers," he says. "That's why I became a teacher."

Walter arrived at our campus last July and met his first-ever guide dog, Duchess, a day later. "The trainers took into account that I work with children," he says. "They matched me with a kind, petite, and gentle dog."

After training with Duchess for 25 days, Walter returned to Minor Elementary with his new four-pawed assistant.

"Life with Duchess has exceeded my expectations," he says. "She has boosted my trust in myself - and she makes a great teacher's aide!"



Judy Stamsen CCI Chair
eskiemom@bellsouth.net

Imagine having a dog that could turn on lights, pick up dropped keys or open a door. Canine Companions for Independence Service Dogs are partnered with adults with physical disabilities to assist with daily tasks and increase independence by reducing reliance on other people. A Service Dog can pull their partner in a manual wheelchair, push buttons for elevators or automatic doors, and even assist with business transactions by transferring money, receipts, and packages.

A CCI Service Dog not only assists with physical tasks, but also provides social support. During a two-week training session, participants learn how to effectively handle an assistance dog to maximize use of the 40 commands.

Disabilities served include, but are not limited to, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida, arthritis and cerebral palsy.

To receive a Service Dog:

- Be at least 18 years old. If disabled due to injury, be one-year post-injury rehabilitation.
- Request an [application](#).
- Find a friend or family member to be a training assistant.
- Have a support system in place to facilitate a successful assistance dog partnership.
- [Apply](#). This process involves several steps designed to ensure success.
- Once the application is accepted, attend a two-week Team Training class at a CCI training center.
- After the training session and graduation ceremony, attend on-going CCI training and follow-up support services.

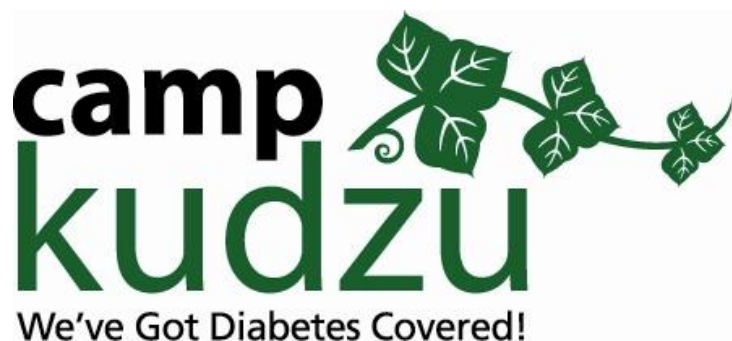
CCI Service Dogs and follow-up services are free of charge.

As the Chair person for Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence for 2008-2009, I am available to be a guest speaker at your club for a presentation.

Judy Stamsen



Lion Ron Bennett
Diabetes Awareness Chair
rbennettisr@windstream.net



Camp Kudzu

On behalf of the children and the families we serve, thank you for your Lions Club recent donation. You are part of our family of donors in a critical year. The year 2009 marks Camp Kudzu's tenth anniversary! We are celebrating by adding a third week of summer camp. This expansion is a major step in our two-year plan to eliminate the wait list and makes it possible to offer one hundred more children than ever before a spot at camp.

Camp Kudzu delivers results in the present, here in Georgia. Only at Camp Kudzu can children and teens with diabetes find mentors in every cabin, peers who become lifelong supportive friends, around-the-clock lessons on good medical self-management from doctors and nurses who deliver care in the woods and on the fields. In 2008, 454 children took part in summer camp, over 60 families attended family camp weekends, and 60 teenagers gathered for weekend retreats. The results: young and old gained strength and knowledge to deal in the present with a disease that poses challenges almost hourly.

Your support is truly a gift to those who wish to take part in Camp Kudzu's programs, recognized for their effectiveness in delivering vital diabetes management education. Camp fees cover less than 40% of costs and approximately 30% of campers receive scholarships.

Thank you again. We are honored to have your support!

Sincerely,

Alexandra M. Allen
Executive Director

PS = We are so grateful to you and to all the Lions of Georgia (hand written).



Now – my questions is =
DID YOU GIVE?

For those who might be interested: **WORLD
DIABETES CONGRESS**



The 20th World Diabetes Congress will take place on 18-22 October 2009 in Montreal, Canada. Registration is now open. Find out more at www.worlddiabetescongress.org.



**"Peace Begins
With Me"
2008-09 Grand
Prize Winner**

Each year, Lions clubs around the world proudly sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest in local schools and youth groups. This Contest encourages young people worldwide to artistically express their visions of peace.

The theme of the 2009-10 Peace Poster Contest is **"The Power of Peace."** Students, ages 11, 12 or 13 on November 15, are eligible to participate.

Contest Deadlines

Entries not meeting deadlines will be disqualified.

- **January 15:** Kits go on sale from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- **October 1:** Deadline to purchase kits from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- **November 15:** Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a governor to send one winning district poster to multiple district council chairperson.



Fellow Lions!

Each year, Lions clubs around the world proudly sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest in local schools and youth groups. This Contest encourages young people worldwide to artistically express their visions of peace.

This is a letter from Lindsey Hoyt – the Georgia State winner of this years Peace Poster Contest:

Dear Mrs. Humphrey,

First of all, I want to thank you, and all the Lions, for sponsoring the Peace Poster contest. I look forward to it every year, and have enjoyed participating for the past three years.

The main reason I have enjoyed this contest is being able to look back over my past posters and see how my drawing has changed ~~so much~~ dramatically from focusless objects to detailed people. Whenever I pull out a piece of paper to draw, I am reminded of the Peace Poster contest, and its success in directing childrens' minds to peace around the world.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the Lions' meeting in Atlanta, on February 1st. I received the invitation and appreciate it. This was my last year of eligibilty for the contest, and thank you again for making the Peace Poster contest possible.

Lindsey Hoyt

2009 LEO GATHERING

Fellow Lions,

Over 75 Leos, Lions, and adults representing all 6 MD18 districts met at our Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind for this year's Leo Gathering. Held February 13-15, attendees were able to get to know other service-minded people from across Georgia while putting the Leo motto of Leadership/Experience/Opportunity into practice. There was some rain but not enough to deter us.

The primary focus of the Gathering was projects for the Camp. I will have a detailed list in my final report but everyone there was able to get many projects on the list completed. Camp Director Kristen and B&G Manager Bobby were very appreciative of our efforts. There is still much to do to get our Camp ready for the summer so I encourage you to attend one of the scheduled work weekends - our campers deserve it!

Saturday evening we held our annual Talent Night. All were amazed at the collection of talented young (and not-so-young!) people, from step-dancing to guitar-playing and singing to skits - many acts were made up by the kids themselves! The winning group wrote, played, and sang a blues song about the Gathering! A special "shout-out" to Alice and Sarah from the Lighthouse - they were GOOD!

The Leos were divided into teams and asked to utilize the skills Vicki Connell (Future Problem Solving) gave them in their Sunday morning presentations. We gave them challenges common to most charities - most teams also incorporated one of the charities into their presentations. Their ideas are being consolidated and will be included in my final report and submitted to all our charities for their use. Thank you DG Georgia, Athens Lions Club President Steve McElroy and Vicki for serving as judges.

An event of this size does not happen without many dedicated individuals and I'd like to recognize some of them here:

PCC Jerry Kaiser and Brenda Nease for coordinating the meals and soliciting donations. 18-C VP Cary VanLandingham and Deena for ALL their assistance, from work projects to kitchen duty. PDG Joe Bill Brannon for bringing 35 cots/sleeping bags from the Statesboro Red Cross. They came in

handy because of the number of young ladies we had this year! 18-A Leo Chair Lawton Baggs for leading the Sunday sunrise service and for his dedication to young people. Vicki Connell for coordinating the training and team presentations. Ms. Connell is a friend (I'm TRYING to get her to join!) who devoted A LOT of time getting ready as well as taking the time to be there. Darlene Handy (18-A) for being there all 4 years of the Gathering-in the girls' dorm! (ask her what THAT means!) My wife Angela for EVERYTHING she did to make the event possible (too much to list here!). DG's Georgia Taylor and Ron Zeppieri, Zone Chair Jack Taylor, PDG's David Forrest and Duncan Sinclair (Jan was there too!) PDG Ed Hashbarger and Yoriko (leader Dog), Alice Mallory and Sarah Epting (Lighthouse) for taking the time to speak with everyone about their charities then working with the Leos on their presentations, as well as working on Camp projects.

The clubs and individuals who made donations toward the Gathering - primarily for meals and drinks. PCC Jerry reported that we were able to give the Camp a donation of \$288.15 (the amount collected minus the costs), as well as donating the unused items. We also donated almost 2 flats of bottled water. Dave Helwig for donating a print of his artwork ("Big Nasty"-has all SEC opponents and Georgia Tech. See more of his work at davehelwigart@yahoo.com). We held a raffle Saturday and raised another \$55.00 for the Camp!

The dedicated, caring adults who came with the groups as chaperones, drivers, and Advisors. GLC President Frank Spinney and the Camp staff for ALL their efforts and for how welcome they made us feel! Seminole County for winning the first Outstanding Club award. They will receive a plaque and a plaque with their name/year will be on permanent display at the Camp. ALL the GREAT Leos who dedicated themselves to the weekend and gave it their best!

If I missed someone I sincerely apologize. Please let me know and I'll correct.

With the summer rapidly approaching our Camp needs our support NOW. I am encouraging all MD18 Leo Clubs to hold a special fundraiser no later than April and to make sure the funds get to the Camp as soon as possible. Lions - let's make sure EVERY club in MD18 sends a donation to both the Camp AND our Lighthouse before the April 30 deadline. Every dollar counts!

April is Leo Awareness Month. I'd like to see every Leo Club (as well as the Lions Club that sponsors them) hold an event, do a special project, or something else to celebrate and raise awareness (see below for suggestions). I also want to encourage all Leo clubs to apply for the awards and recognitions for which they qualify. I can send you a list, including criteria, for these upon request. Remember - the deadline is April 30!

White Cane Month (Lighthouse)
Send a Kid to Camp (Camp)
Spotlight on Children
Record-a-Thon (RFB&D)
Liberty **Day**
Kids 'N Coins (Leader Dog)

Local-needs project

Thanks again to EVERYONE who made the 2009 Leo Gathering a success! 7 Leo clubs were represented at this year's Gathering (out of 36 in Md18). I would like to see at least twice that many next year! We'll find room! Hope to see YOU next year!

In Service,

Steve Helwig
MD18 Leo Clubs Chair
Leo Gathering Chair

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Take a moment and consider being a host parent to an Exchange Student for the month of July 2009. There are two Turkish students who

would like to visit and experience our culture in the United States. The students will have their own spending money and medical insurance. Host families will provide a home for the duration of their stay, as well as meals. The Youth Exchange chair in Turkey has contacted Georgia with the request and will provide the necessary paperwork. // You will find

this to be a rewarding experience. I have hosted seven students from six countries and found it to be educational and fun. The experiences provide a lifetime of great memories.

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I understand there are two or three young people interested in the youth exchange program this year, and they are trying to raise the needed funds for travel.

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Dear Marlene,
A young lady named Rita wants very much to go to Italy on our Exchange program. However, she needs financial assistance. Due to the economic situation, her dad had a business but had to declare bankruptcy. He now drives a truck. Rita is a very good student and deserves this opportunity.

Please have Kristy get this out right away so we can get feedback quickly.

Rita has been working hard to earn money for her plane ticket (1200.00) and so far has \$400.00. If any clubs would be willing to send \$50.00 or even \$25.00 toward the expenses involved it would be much appreciated. In addition, any student needs spending money and a few new clothes to carry with them.

If you can, Please send donation to Miss Rita Korb (at my address)
c/o The Smiths
155 Woodlake Drive
Newnan, Georgia 30265

Many thanks.

Lion Faye H. Smith
Youth Exchange Chairman

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TO ALL LIONS OF GEORGIA,

NEED YOUR HELP! Please take a moment and consider being a host parent/parents to an Exchange Student for the month of July, 2009. There are two Turkish students who would like to visit and experience our culture in the U.S. They will have their own spending money and medical insurance. Host family will provide meals and home. The Youth Exchange Chairman in Turkey has contacted me with this request and will provide necessary paperwork.

You will find this to be a rewarding experience. I have hosted seven students from six countries and found it to be educational, fun and a lifetime of great memories.

Please e-mail or feel free to call me with questions or comments you may have. My telephone number is 770-683-0038.

I look forward to hearing from you,
Best regards,
Lion Faye Smith
State Youth Exchange Chairperson

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Dear member of the Lion family,

My name is Murray and I am the current International Youth Camp & Exchange Chairman of District 201N3, Australia. You may or may not be aware that our district runs a youth camp in July this year called Camp Kookaburra. We also are unique in that we offer a community hosting/Volunteer Community Service programme for two weeks after our camp. This enables campers to participate in activities which have a social impact on our society. This could be anything from landcare to working with our Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or assisting the elderly/infirm of the community. This programme along with our camp co-incide with the Youth Exchange dates here in Australia. Previous campers have all been very positive about their involvement with the programme.

We are currently inviting expressions of interest from up to 40 young people from around the world to participate in this years camp. Please if you know of

any individuals or clubs interested direct them to our camp website at

www.lionsclubs.org.au/201n3/campkookaburra

We welcome the opportunity to host interested young people from different cultures, to show our true blue, fair dinkum Aussie hospitality.

Yours in Lions
Murray Howard
District 201N3
International Youth Camp & Exchange Chairman

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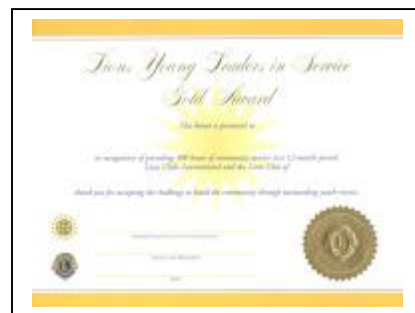
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Lions can provide formal recognition to young volunteers who do not belong to Leo clubs.

Lions clubs can present young people, ages 12-18, who have completed at least 50 hours of community service with the **Lions**

Young Leaders in Service Award.

A guide and the application form for this award is included in the **Lions Young Leaders in Service Awards: A Lions Club Guide.** For the application only **[click here.](#)**



Lions multiple districts or districts can organize a Lions Young Ambassadors of the 21st Century Award program for young people, ages 15-19, who have excelled in community service, leadership, public speaking, and academics.

For information about these award programs, contact the **Youth Programs Department.**



LIBERTY DAY—YOUR LIONS CLUB AND SCOUTING PROJECT

The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America has recognized Liberty Day as a citizenship project. Older Cub Scouts (Webelos 4th and 5th grade), Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews are encouraged to undertake a project at least once a year under the BSA program, Good Turn for America. Liberty Day is now listed as one of the suggested projects.

Liberty Day Kids is the ideal method of a Webelos den, Boy Scout troop or Venturing Crew to complete a Good Turn for America project using Liberty Day. For Liberty Day Kids, the scouts learn a set of questions and answers directly out of the Constitution. They then take these questions and answers out to the public in a mall, post office, or other gathering place and ask adults the questions. Every adult questioned is given an “I Got Quizzed” sticker or an American flag lapel pin along with a pocket Liberty Day booklet.

This is a great way for a Lions Club to be involved in Scouting. The relationship between Lions and Scouting goes back to the beginning of both organizations in the United States. The cooperation between Scouts and Lions benefits both organizations. Young people need the guidance and mentoring of quality adult role models—Lions. For more information, read the section on Scouting in the “Lions of Georgia Handbook” (pp 148-149).

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.



LIBERTY DAY GEORGIA DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE/U.S. CONSTITUTION

KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT

U.S. Constitution

What is the term of office for the following?:

President (4 years)

Senator (6 years) Representative (4 years)

Who is the President of the Senate? Does he/she have a vote?

(Vice-President) (Only if Senate is equally divided)

Which body hears cases of impeachment? Who presides?

(Senate) (Chief Justice of Supreme Court)

Who decides when elections for Senators and Representatives are held?

(Respective State Legislature)

How many Senators does each state have? **(Two)**

How many Representatives? **(One for each 30,000 citizens)**

Which body of Congress is responsible for initiating revenue (tax) bills? **(House)**

What are the three branches of U.S. government? **(Executive, Legislative, Judicial)**

To amend the Constitution requires what % of both houses of Congress and approval by states? **(2/3)**

Who were the Georgia signers of the Constitution? **(William Few and Abraham Baldwin)**

Under name are the first ten Amendments known? **(Bill of Rights)**

On what day and time do the terms of President and Vice-President end? (Noon on January 20th)

What about Senators and Representatives? **(Noon on January 3rd)**

How many Amendments are in the Constitution? **(27)**

In what year was the last one ratified? **(1992, by Michigan)** **Note: It was part of the first ten Amendments but was not ratified until 5/7/92.**

What year was the Constitution officially approved? **(1787)** **What day and month? (September 17th)**

When did the Constitution take effect? **(June 21, 1788 for states who had ratified)**

Contact Steve or Angela Helwig for a Program.



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.



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 and travels to the Lions International Convention (US Convention).

*Youth Becoming
Music Ambassadors
To The World*

Georgia Lions All-State Band 2009

Application for membership

Go to www.edmclion.com

scroll down and look for GA Lions All-State Band
below RFB&D.



NEW BOOK DETAILS HISTORY OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

OAK BROOK, IL, USA, February 2, 2009 –

“Lions Clubs in the 21st Century,” a newly released book detailing the history and success of Lions Clubs International, is now available for purchase through the association and select online retailers.

Written by Paul Martin and former LION Magazine senior editor Robert Kleinfelder, the book traces the development of Lions Clubs International from its birth in 1917 at Chicago’s LaSalle Hotel through its growth into a globally recognized humanitarian and service organization of 1.3 million members.

“This book is the story of the world’s largest voluntary service club organization, but it’s also a story of the human spirit,” said Kleinfelder. “The compassion and self-sacrifice of Lions for 90 years are an inspiration. That’s what this book is about.”

Published by AuthorHouse in late 2008, the 396-page book also delves into the success of the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the SightFirst program and SightFirst II campaign, as well as the advent of family, cyber and other new types of clubs.

“Lions Clubs in the 21st Century” is available for purchase through the Club Supplies Department of Lions Clubs International by visiting the [Lions Store](http://LionsStore.com) or calling 630-571-5466, and through select online retailers.

Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service club organization with 1.3 million members in 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired and made a strong commitment to community service and serving youth throughout the world. Learn more at www.lionsclubs.org.

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