

District 1-A Lions Clubs



Governor's Newsletter

Lion Catherine Rondinelli, District Governor

Lion Georg Toft, PCST, editor

September, 2001

Governor's Travels

- Sept 5: Candy Day Jamboree
- Sept 6: Beverly-Ridge
- Sept 7: Bayanihan
- Sept 11: District 1K Jamboree
- Sept 15: District Membership Workshop
- Sept 20-23: USA/Canada Forum
- Sept 26: Special Olympics Med Fest
- Sept 27: Rosemont (rescheduled)
- Sept 29: 1-A Membership Outreach Day

"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!"

Taking part in a special service project with some people in our community that needed help, one of the recipients asked me, "Just who are the Lions, I heard of them but I thought they were a secret society?"

Perhaps, this conception of Lionism is our greatest area of education that must be addressed. Every club member has probably been asked this question, and every answer is different.

In this particular case, the Lions provided school supplies, paid tuition and gave the kids a computer system to do their school work on. The reward? The youngest child said, "You must be Santa Claus", as the computer was installed. Her smile said it all.

As we continue our Path of Service this year, it is important that we get our message out to everyone. We have a Golden Opportunity on Sept. 29th, as Lions all

over the District take part in **Membership Outreach Day**. Let's all get behind this project set up a table or booth to tell the community the work your Lions Club is doing. You know the best locations, now is the time to get ready.

Get local officials involved, get permission to set up your site, make sure the Banner and pictures are ready to display. Have plenty of handouts, the clubs history and brochure, some of the great items from International, and of course, have some membership applications ready, the main reason you will be doing this.

Get all of the members involved, a big crowd of Lions will always draw a lot of people, perhaps give away coffee along with the brochures, start a dialog with the folks that stop, and explain that everyone can be a Lion. All that is required is the desire to help people in the community, across the city and around the world. Be positive! Show them that they are needed.

Ask them, "What would you like to see the Lions doing for our community?" Build on the answers, showing them how they can help.

Is your club noted for any special community projects? Use the efforts of the past, something remembered, as the basis of your booth. Draw them in with pictures of the many community events you have done, telling them of the countless Lions projects that take place every day.

And, when they tell you, "I didn't know that!", you have your chance to get our message out, and invite them to membership.

As we tell the world about the Lions on the 29th, we have one real mission. To put light into the darkness of our communities, so that in the future, everyone will know about the Lions, and never again will we hear, "I didn't know that"

For, thru knowledge, shall we grow.

CANDY DAY CANDY DEPOT

Call Al Hanson

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Hear the Bells!

Ask not for whom the bell tolls, begins a quote many of us are all familiar with. This month, school begins, many clubs will hold their first meeting, bells will ring to start these events. Most of us are past the school age, so listen for the bell at your club.

With school beginning, many clubs are making sure

that each child has the needed school supplies, and thanks to scholarship programs, many students are able to go to high school and college, tuition provided by the Lions.

Our Lions Bell is a symbol, just as our banner and pin, of the tradition of our service to others. When the bell rings, we Lions become equal, dedicated in our commitment to

providing what our community needs. This is what is great about being a Lion.

We have much to do, the road ahead is filled with challenges that only Lions can answer. So, when the bell rings for your meeting to begin, be there, and remember this, **the bell tolls for thee**, fellow Lion, it tolls for thee.

DIY....

Over the past few decades, the Do It Yourself craze has spawned all types of depots and warehouses, where you can go and get almost anything, and some even stay open 24 hours a day to satisfy a desire. It's great if you need a whatnot to fix a thingamajig, at four in the morning, but do we think this craze will ever come to an end? And, what about the other DIY needs we need to address?

Perhaps we should call them DFY's instead, Doing For Yourself. A church nearby has this sign out front, "The best part about a good deed, is the feeling you get inside." Now they probably meant inside the church, but, what about the feeling inside we as Lions get when we do a project and see the results of our labors.

If we close our eyes, we can see the smiles of the kids at the circus, the

sparkle in the eyes of those that saw Santa being escorted by Lions, or the tear on the cheek of some senior not forgotten during the year.

Each community that supports a Lions Club, counts on the Lions to promote and support certain local needs. The members look forward to doing the task, because each Lion member, no matter how gruff they may appear outside, has the little spark of Lions Pride inside them that makes them feel good. They may tell a friend or neighbor of what the club did, their part in making it happen, or they can sit back, happy in the job well done.

If you ask the old monarchs, the Lions that are the mainstay of your club, Why are you a Lion? The answers are as different as each Lion. But if you search hard enough, the one common thread is the Lions ability to feel good about do-

ing, what the Lions do. DFY is the self satisfaction, the reason for giving of yourself for others. To be a Lion, you develop the realization that others in this world are not as lucky as you are. You could ignore the plight that is around you, but the Lions Spirit that comes over you as an active member, makes you want to do what you can to make things better.

We Serve, is a motto we can be proud of, it stands for and means so much. We of course, is Lions together for a common cause, and Serve, is our ability to meet a challenge, solving the problem.

If you start feeling sorry for yourself, you need to get in a little DFY time in, and the best place is your club. As a former International President said in Chicago, "We are not Lions for ourselves, we are Lions, for those that are

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

If you have not yet registered for the Membership Workshop on September 15, please contact Cabinet Secretary Linda at LionLinda1A@yahoo.com. We're ordering in breakfast and need to know how many to prepare for. This will cover both membership recruitment and retention, and ideas for the Membership Outreach Day on Sep-

tember 29. Several clubs have already scheduled similar outreach days in their communities, and they will be at this workshop to share their ideas.

The workshop will be held at the Bridgeview Center, 7900 South Oketo Avenue, starting at 8:30AM

Membership is every Lions Job, and this will be a great way to get ideas, learn of the things that work and share ideas with fellow Lions. Club Officers, especially the Membership and Retention Chairmen should attend this meeting. We will start at 8:30 and should be done before noon.

Night at the Races

This year's Governor's Cup party has been moved to Wednesday, instead of our usual Friday, for financial reasons. Chairman Lion Bob Hellgeth called all of the race tracks to see if we could hold this event on Friday, to no avail. If we were to go to Maywood on Friday, the cost would be \$19.50 to the racetrack.

New Day

The only night we could hold this at our regular cost of \$14 is Wednesday. However, there are a couple of advantages. The buffet includes prime rib, and is served from 6 to 9 p.m., with post time at 7:40 p.m. So those Lions who are coming from a long distance can still enjoy a good meal while watching the

Wednesday Oct 17th

races. Your Region and Zone chairmen have the tickets. Bring your family and friends to this evening of food, fun and fellowship.

See you there!

News Shorts from around the District

Fifty Plus Lions attended the Officers Workshop on August 28th. If you missed it, talk to someone who was there! Thanks to Lions Bob Helguth, Judy Toft, Mark Jerger, and all of the participants that interacted so well. Just proving, learning is fun...

SAC offers assistance! Club in the doldrums, membership stagnant, ready to throw in the towel?? Call the governor to find out about SAC. They won't get new members for you, but maybe, just maybe the ideas they bring can light the spark needed. Rebuild today, your community needs you!

3-5-7! These are not the magic numbers for the Cubs, but the years where Illinois will shine with Interna-

tional Flavor. In 03, we host the Lions Clubs Foundations meeting, in 05, The USA/Canada Forum come to Peoria, and of course, every Lion knows about 2007... That's when the 90th International Convention will be held in Chicago. (is it too early to design the winning district pin??)

Have you checked out the District Web site yet? Lots of new information, club events and every Lion can now read the Governors Newsletter on line. Learn what's happening, keep informed and contribute information. Remember, the Governor asked each club to appoint an Internet Chairman back in July. The address : www.uic.edu/orgs/lions1A See you on the web..

Eye glass collections are ongoing with the Lions, but October 31st will again be Lions Sight Night, so remember to let the community know, if a Lion comes a calling, it's not Trick or Treat, he wants those old glasses. And, that Lion may give you a Candy Roll to say thanks.

And, the **District Needs Help** to do the Special Olympics, OPENING EYES MED FEST, Sept 26th at the United Center. Join fellow Lions to provide eye exams and glasses for the athletes. CONTACT LION RAY JACHIM at rjmj3@aol.com. We need at least fifty (50) Lions to help make this happen. Friends and relatives are welcome to help too. SEE YOU THERE! Bright and Early

LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTES

Training For Future and Current Leaders

One of President J. Frank Moore's goals, and one of our District goals, is the training of new leaders. In fact, we advertise that one of the benefits of Lion membership is leadership training. This can be accomplished in many ways, including hands-on projects on the club and district level.

In addition, there are two excellent programs on the International level. One is the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute for Lions who have not yet held office in their club, but are potential leaders. The mini-

mum class size is 30, so applicants stand a good chance of being accepted. The date of the next class is April 18 through the 22nd, 2002. This is the date of our District convention, but any 1-A Lions who are accepted can come to the hospitality rooms to relax.

The second program is for Lions who have held the office of club president or higher: Leadership Institute for Senior Lion Leaders. The next one will be held from March 3 through 7, 2002, also in Oak Brook. Ap-

plications are due by January 3.

What is the cost? Only your transportation. Meals and rooms, if needed, are covered by Lions Clubs International. So, what have you got to lose? If interested, contact your Region or Zone chairman, or call the Governor for the application forms.

Trustee

Ready? Set? GO!!!

Candy Day will be upon us in a few short weeks. IS YOUR CLUB READY? Volunteers lined up? Corners assigned, aprons and cans, candy ordered? And, are the underwriting letters out?

Are you set? Central location to give out the candy, have a cup of coffee, and make sure that everyone shows up. If you have all of this done, then GO!!

Go out to the corners and show your community that the Lions are working hard and asking for their help. The bright yellow vests are sure traffic stoppers, the candy a great give a way as you ask for donations.

"Help the Lions" the battle cry as we seek every quarter, dime and dollar we can to promote the works of our Foundation and the activities of each club.

Lion Oscar McGuire

For remember, what we do on Candy Day, helps our projects all year long. If we work the good locations in our community, we will see our neighbors and friends all willing to help us. Be visible, be active, and be happy. Every bit we collect will make someone happy, at camp, with a leader dog, a cane a brail book.

Candy Day is for everyone, Ready, Set, Go.... It's Great to be a Lion!

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District 1-A Lions Clubs
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Lions Bearing the Torch of Service

Thoughts from the Governor.

Well, this year's golf outing is over, and was a great success due to the hard work of the committee. Many, many thanks to chairman Lion Al Hanson, co-chairman PDG Harry Barber, and committee members, VDG Ralph Koller, PDG Art Schmidt and Lady Lion Doris, Zone Chairman Paul Sampson, Lion Marty Mast, driver par ex-halant; Lion Millie Koller, Lion Jan Barber, Lion Angela Hanson, Lion Reno Lovison, Lion Dennis McMillan, and Lion Ron Hause. We also appreciate the volunteers who took the day to work at the betting holes: Zone Chairman Norman Bates and his two grandsons, Zone Chairman Wes Salsbury, Zone Chairman Rosemary Zelasco, Zone Chairman Joe McCabe, Lion Mary Fitzgibbons, and Lion Phil Gilroy.

Thank you to the clubs who have placed me on their mailing list for their newsletters. After I finish sorting my mail, the newsletters are the second items I read, right behind letters from the International office. If your club does not have a newsletter or bul-

letin, I urge you to do so. It's the best way to keep in touch with your members and inform them of club activities and programs (right behind personal contact, of course). It also gives your District officers insight into your club's activities, so please make sure that your Region and Zone chairmen, along with the Governor, are on your mailing list.

I'm also eager to visit each club this year, including the joint meetings that many clubs hold in conjunction with neighboring clubs. During my visits I want to hear from members about their perception of the future of Lionism, including ideas on what we should be doing to strengthen our organization. All comments will be given to our Long Range Planning committee, which will be developing a draft of a long range plan by the end of this club year. If you have not yet scheduled the visit, please call me as soon as possible. It would be helpful if you had a choice of dates, in case your first choice is not available.

We would like to make this newsletter inter-active, so if your club has an event to publicize, please send it to the editor **two months (?)** in advance.

Remember, the strength of our district lies with the local club. When you talk to a prospective members, be sure to let them know that IT'S GREAT TO BE A LION!

Lion Catherine

CLUB OF THE MONTH

The Willow Springs Lions Club.

They are co-sponsoring the second annual Willow Springs School Technology Fair, holding a spaghetti dinner with proceeds going to the school's technology fund, and holding a Diabetic Eye Screening at the school on the same day.