

District 1-A Lions Clubs



Governor's Newsletter

Lion Catherine Rondinelli, District Governor

Lion Georg Toft, PCST, editor

December, 2001

Governor's Travels

- Dec. 1-2: Council of Governors/Springfield
- Dec. 4: Joint meeting: Chicago Hts, Park Forest, Country Club Hills
- Dec. 5: Simon Bolivar
- Dec. 7: Manila
- Dec. 8: Diamond and Marharlika
- Dec. 9: District Holiday Party
- Dec. 15: Kala Sampath
- Dec. 20: Countryside

Club of the Month

The Schiller Park Lions chartered a new Leo Club at the Leyden East High School, with 40 members. PDG Len Pearson inducted the officers, I initiated the new members, and VDG Ralph assisted with the program, which was held on November 19.

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Do You Hear What I Hear?

Christmas, 2001

The holiday season is upon us and families and friends will soon be gathering to celebrate, exchange gifts and join hands to bring in the New Year!

But, what do you hear?

Do you hear the sound of the choir as they sing carols at a place of worship, on the car radio while traveling to be with friends or family, in your home on your favorite CD or on your television watching a favorite Christmas special?

If you close your eyes and sit back do you hear the chorus of angels who sang the night it all began - the night of the first birthday celebration! Do you hear the travel worn couple asking for a place to rest and the cry of "No room in the inn!"? This celebration began with a bright star shining down showing the first gift gives the way to the manger and has continued down through the centuries. This star still shines as brightly as ever for all of us every December 25th.

What else do you hear?

Do you hear the drop of a tear falling from the cheek of a child who Santa forgot – the plaintive sigh of a

relative realizing that no one has called or come to see them – the plea of a shut-in for someone to talk to them – the cry of a hungry child? Lest we forget, these sounds are also a part of this very joyous holiday season.

Each of you, as Lion volunteers, has heard these sounds many times over and in many different ways. You have responded by providing clothing, food baskets, glasses, toys, visiting homes and shelters, working in soup kitchens, reaching into your community to see where you can help, looking beyond yourselves understanding you are a citizen of the world and realizing all mankind are brothers. You have heard the call of the visually impaired and look to rid the world of preventable blindness. You hear these sounds and know that as long as you wear the "L" pin you are a part of a group who continues to try to make a difference in the world!

Someone once said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give!" As Lions, you are givers of your time and your unique talents to make these sounds heard less and less. You are unique because you are not looking for public adulation or recognition. You are simply looking for the smile on the face of a child who just received a new toy,

the joyous light in the eyes of a mom and dad who now have food on their table for the holidays and something under the tree for the children from Santa, the gentle feathery touch on your cheek from a senior citizen you have been reading to or just visiting with.

In the quiet of the night, as you stand out on your porches or patios looking for the Christmas star, listen for the echo of the sounds, both happy and sad, and know that you have responded to them because you are a Lion!

Do you hear what I hear? I know you do.

A very blessed and happy holiday season to you and all that you hold dear.

The gifts of Lionism

Christmas is the season of giving gifts. Sometimes to friends, often to strangers if you're a Lion.

Being a Lion allows you the ability to contribute, to serve in so many ways. In our district, we have the circus, summer camp, the parade, the Eye Research Center, the Lighthouse and of course, our community.

Lions gather together to support the International and Lions of Illinois foundations, eye banks, Leader Dog, CRIS, the Hadley School and many other charities we consider important. We collect used eyeglasses, we offer candy for donations on Candy Day, and we sponsor scouts, little league, carnivals and picnics.

These are but some of the gifts we give, gifts we are pleased to present.

Consider the students that have gone on to college because of Lions Scholarships. Think of the many

doctors that are saving sight all over the world because the Lions sent them to school., and remember the over three million cataract operations performed by Lion doctors and medical teams.

The gift of Lionism should be broadened and shared. In our district we have areas that do not have a Lions Club. We have many people that would like to be members, but are never invited to our service. In the coming months, we can show how important our Lionism is to us by bringing in a new member, a new club.

Years ago, back in the seventies, one of the membership programs urged each Lion to sponsor a new member. Not just any member, but a new member that was the age of the sponsor when they became a Lion. This is still a good idea, with the benefits of youth and new ideas coming into your club. Think about extending the

gift of Lionism to young people you know.

As you travel any community, you see countless small business run by local entrepreneurs, supplying needed goods and services. For them to succeed, they put in long hours and are concerned about the community that allows them to operate. Would not the community be better served if a Lions club were part of it? As Lions, we have a responsibility to share the gift we enjoy as Lions with others.

As we pass out the gifts this year, consider the gift of Lionism. Invite a friend or neighbor to your club, extend the hands of welcome, the spirit of the community service we all share. Look around the district, who do you know that could help you start a club?

Share the gifts you have with others, share the gift of service, of Lionism.

SPECIAL NOTICE, CIRCUS DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED

Please mark your calendars and change your directories so you don't miss the annual Lions Circus Party.

Time, location and the need for your help has not changed, but the new day will now be Wednesday, March 13, 2002. The move of the office of the sponsors and some new staff was part of the reason for the

change. Also, the duration of the Circus has been shortened, so the available dates were changed.

Remember, the circus is one of the big events of the district and deserves your support and participation. Checks to help buy the tickets can be mailed to PDG Harold Burkett, make them

out to Lions Circus Party. We urge you to watch for information on manpower sign-up and assignments.

Keep the date
Wednesday, March 13th open,
our guests depend on you.

Trustee

Happy Holiday's to all of the Lions and their families. May all of your dreams and hopes come true this season.

Your help will allow the foundation to make the dreams and hopes of so many will come true in the coming months. Each year, we as Lions serve over 15000 people in our state and

the efforts of each Lion for the foundation does make the difference. So from all of them, Thanks, and Seasons Greetings.

Two things to consider in December. First, Candy Day reports must be turned in this month. Please make sure that this is done for your club. Second, if you have one of

PDG Oscar McGuire

the units scheduled, get the info out to the community. If your club sponsors a camper set aside the funds and get the application in. And, as always, used eyeglasses are needed and welcome. Check your containers and send them in. Our service is needed everyday, don't stop for the holidays. Oscar.

Every one needs a present.

As Christmas draws near, each of us young or old, thinks about what we would like as a present. Children write to Santa, wives keep reminding husbands to give them a list, and the newspapers are full of ads of what we should have.

Thousands have a simpler wish, a meal with friends, a pair of warm gloves, the assurance that their kids will be able to go to sleep in a warm bed.

And, still thousands more have hope that some one will come to visit them in the nursing home, just to say hello. Relatives, far away look for the card, the pictures and wait for the telephone to ring. These are the presents that they really want.

How can we give them the present they want?

Let's start at home. At our house we set aside some time to call relatives far away on Christmas Day.

Our clubs, all over the district, find some way to bring the spirit of the holiday to those in need. Food baskets, clothing and toys find there way into Santa's pack or delivered by willing Lions. Lions will man the kettles as bell ringers, sing carols in the hallways of hospitals and pass out candy canes at community parties.

And, in the case of real need, Lions have adopted a family or two, to make sure the gloves are warm, the food abundant and the toys are what was on the list.

As the days draw to a close in the Christmas countdown, as we scurry around getting those last minute gifts, maybe we should add one more present to our lists. Is there someone the club or you may have overlooked? Is there that one person that no one told you about? A friend or a stranger that will be alone the first time this season?

If we keep Christmas in our hearts, we receive one of the greatest presents we can get. Lions over the years have brought the little extra that keeps the twinkle in Santa's eyes, the smile on a child's face, the grin on a senior.

Every one needs a present, my hope is that every one receives what they desire, and no one is forgotten.

The Vice Writes

THE BEST KEPT SECRET

This past weekend Lion Millie and I traveled down to Mattoon Illinois to attend the District 1-E convention. Congratulations to our 1st District Governor Elect Lion Glenn Long and first Lady Susan. They now have seven months to complete the preparations for their up-coming year.

We went down early Saturday morning since four of our District 1-A Lions were on the morning agenda and we wanted to be present for the seminar. The title was MEMBERSHIP-ARE YOU KEEPING YOUR CLUB A SECRET? The chairman was Lion PDG John Coleman assisted by Lions Austin D'Souza RC, Lion Dennis McMillian DC, and Lion Julia Aquirre. The program was well attended and went over quite well. Everyone that attended thought the presentation was right on the money. It covered ways to get out publicity via the papers,

VDG Lion Ralph Koller

at community events etc. and the idea of place mats for area restaurants with club adds. Many commented that it was one of the better programs at the convention, consider asking PDG John to present it at one of your region meetings and come to the District forum to hear another slant on the subject from Lion Joe Gonzalez DC and Lion Dennis McMillian in January. We must get our message out and our communities aware that the Lions are here --Lets no longer be the BEST KEPT SECRET IN TOWN and lets watch our membership grow.

Seasons Greetings to all.

VDG Lion Ralph Koller

Santa Has Arrived!

Thanks to all of the Lions, Lioness and Leos that got up so early to join their fellow Lions at the Jingle Elf Parade.

As the Lions marched, the Flags of Nations flying, we were just ahead of Santa, and if someone were to connect the placement, they would see that just as Lions are serving all over the world, Santa is the symbol to children all over the world as the spirit of Christmas.

Thanks to RC Austin D'Sousa for his leadership as chairman, to ZC Al Hansen for making sure the Flags were picked up and returned and to all of the clubs that brought down the banners, only to learn that we could not carry them in the parade.

What's important is that Santa is here and we helped. As we walked the parade route, the sparkle in the eyes of

the children and the hope in the faces of the parents made it all worth while. And, one can not forget the applause the fire and police units received.

Santa is Here, Christmas is Here. As Lions we can make sure that we will do our part to bring the spirit of the holiday to everyone in our community. Let no one be forgotten, let no one be missed.

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Lions Bearing the Torch of Service

Thoughts from the Governor.

As I write this message, we're getting ready for Thanksgiving, a time to give thanks for the many blessings we've received, and are doing our holiday shopping. I want to express my sincere thanks and best wishes for a very happy holiday season to all of the wonderful Lions of District 1A.

I've observed your club activities for a number of years and know that most of you have special holiday projects in which you provide food baskets for needy families, toys for children, gifts for neglected seniors in nursing homes and donations to

other organizations that serve the needy.

However, Lions do not limit giving to this season of the year. Lions provide assistance all year round to those who need us. Much of this is accomplished through our Foundation, which receives hundreds of requests for glasses, hearing aids and other assistance from individuals who have nowhere else to go. But many of these requests go unheeded. On my desk at this moment I have a long list of requests that have been ignored, some going back to March of 2000. It's understandable that

many small clubs lack the funds to provide assistance. So, Presidents, if your club can't afford the request, please return the form to the Foundation and let them know that you don't have the funds. We will find another club or clubs who can help. Please, let's not give the impression that Lions are undependable. Please remember our slogan: "We Serve".

A very happy and blessed holiday season to you and your loved ones.

Governor Catherine