



District 1-A Lions Clubs



Governor's Newsletter

Lion Georg G. Toft, District Governor

One A on the web at lions1a.com

November, 2003

Governor's Travels

November, 2003

- 11/2 Englewood
- 11/5 Mayfair
- 11/7-8 District 1-E Conv.
- 11/9 Mayfair—Salute to Amer. Heroes
- 11/10 West Sub. Lions Spaghetti Dinner
- 11/12 Willow Springs Lioness
- 11/13 MERL Meeting
- 11/16 Logan Square 80th Anniversary
- 11/20 Ill. College Optometry
- 11/22 MD1 Mid Year Forum
- 11/22 Hoby Night
- 11/27 Thanksgiving
- 11/29 Kala Sampath

Important News for all Members.

It Rained on our Parade. At the Oct Cabinet Meeting, it was the feelings of the members not to participate in the Holiday Parade on Thanksgiving Day, due to the lack of the Lions being allowed a Unit in the parade. As many of you are aware, the same situation existed last year, and only at the last minute were the Lions welcome. Many of you have received postcards asking you to volunteer to work in the parade, but the For Profit group running the parade did not see fit to contact the Lions as a group. Many follow-ups were made, and we were told they do not have any room for us.

Another Sad Note. The annual Circus Day for the Children has been moved to the Odium in Villa Park in Du Page County. The circus is only in town for 6 days, and because of the bus situation and taking the children out of Chicago and the County, these two problems will prevent the Lions from hosting the kids to the Circus. We are talking to Ringling Brothers to see if they can accommodate us later this year at the United Center. We will keep you posted on any results. But, as of now, the Parade and Circus are cancelled.

On a Brighter Note, Spectacle Sunday seems to be a great success. From the reports received, thousands of glasses were collected, box upon box turned into the clubs. These glasses are being forwarded by the clubs to be re-cycled and used again so that others may see. Please, each club that participated send in a note telling how many pairs were collected and where they were sent so we can make a report to the district. If you have glasses to be picked up, contact the Zone Chair to make arrangements. For all of the clubs that participated, Thanks for the efforts, helping someone to see!

Good News, LCIF, has issued a 48,500.00 to the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind. It was passed at the October 16th meeting, details will be forthcoming.

Also, on October 16th, the International Board approved the application for the New **Chicago Tae-Sup Lions Club**, which will serve the Lincoln Park area. Mark your calendars, their Charter Night will be Sunday January 11th, with **International President Lee** presenting the Charter. Sponsored by the **Chicago Arirang Lions Club**, they become the 86th Club in District 1-A. We welcome them and know that they will make a great addition to our Pride of Lions.

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Remembering 1921

At the International Convention in 1921 the slogan Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety, was adopted by the delegates. After a movement to change the name of the association, Halsted Ritter made the passionate plea to keep the name Lions, to put on our banners and hold it high for all to see.

Also, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, November 11th, a caisson with muted drums playing, carried a casket of an unknown soldier to be interred at the Arch de Triumph in Paris, the same scene was repeated an hour later in Westminster Abby in London, and six hours later in Arlington National Cemetery.

Armistice Day was remembered, later to be called Veterans Day, the tombs of those unknown heroes has been honored and guarded around the clock since that day. Fly your Flag in remembrance of all of Americas heroes on Veterans Day.

A Special Thank You From: International Director Bud and Lion Jama Wahl

October 24, 2003

Dear Lions of Illinois,

On behalf of the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors, we want to thank you for your generosity and hospitality at our recent board meeting in Chicago. We had numerous board members and spouses share their thanks with us, so we feel compelled to share these kind words with you.

Special accolades go to PID Phil and Betty Tom for their organization of the fabulous dinner at *The Phoenix* restaurant.

It was wonderful to see so many Illinois Lions AND share their love for service with our international leaders.

The spouses tour of the *Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind* showcased the good work that is done for the blind and visually impaired. Council Chairperson Georg and Lion Judy Toft, as well as the Lions of 1A, deserve a rousing round of applause for their efforts to arrange the tour. Your continued support of this worthy cause is admirable.

We are all proud to be ILLINOIS Lions. Thank you for the wonderful opportunities this weekend.

Your efforts are appreciated by many.

In Service,

ID Bud and Lion Jama Wahl

Foundation Wrapup

**Lion Carol McCann-Kojima, PDG
State Key Ambassador of Good Will
& Trustee Oscar McGuire**

Another Lions of Illinois Candy Day is history. How did your club do? Did you meet our Executive Administrator's goal? Did you exceed it? Will your club be listed in an upcoming Lions Share?

We sure had 2 beautiful days for our 2003 Candy Day weekend. With my family commitments we were unable to help any clubs with solicitations, but did some donations to as we met up with Lions at various locations. Did you keep in mind the reason you were handing out the candy—so that someone will have the opportunity to attend our Lions Camp. Even though the money you send to our Foundation goes to our many programs, a majority of clubs focus on earning dollars to send a child to camp or a Low Vision Screening.

Remember your Club's final report is to be turned in by December 31, 2003 to our Joanne Delby at the Lions of Illinois Foundation. If your fi-

nal Candy Day Report is among the missing, you may call Joanne at 1-800-955-5466, ext 222 and she will send you a new report.

The Sight & Sound Sweepstake raffle tickets will be going in the mail early in 2004. Please try to sell 1 book per member or have each member purchase the tickets. This is a legal raffle conduct pursuant to Illinois statute regulating such events. The donations received from this raffle, go to support all Foundation programs which over 18,000 people depend on each year.

The John Deere Classic is now history and mailings have gone out to those who have pledged money f or Birdies. With only 1634 birdies made during this tournament we are asking that everyone round up their pledges. If those pledging .01 per bird would round it up to \$20.00

and if everyone pledging higher amounts would also round up more; we could come up with approximately \$50,000.00 for the Lions of Illinois Endowment Fund. This would make a nice growth in the Endowment Fund and put us closer to securing the future of the Foundation.

BE PROUD TO BE AN ILLINOIS LION. SUPPORT YOUR LIONS OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION AND YOUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES!

Combined Region Meetings

Vice Governor Austin D'Souza

At the first cabinet meeting, I requested our Region Chairpersons to arrange combined regions meeting and have MERL presentations. A quick response came from Region Chairpersons Lion Ray and Lion Al who combined Region 5 and 6 for their region meeting on October 16th at the Oak Lawn Hilton. It was a grand success!

The Mt. Greenwood Lions Club newsletter quoted these words from a Lion: **"Our first Region of the year was a duzy, like no region meeting I have ever attended in 40 years."**

Region 7 Chairperson Lion Paul Samson arranged his meeting on October 29th with a MERL presentation and all clubs in the Region were well represented.

It was hoped that all regions in District 1-A would have MERL presentations before the end of December, 2003 and I am proud to say that all regions with the exception of one will be completed. Region 1 will have its MERL presentation on November 2 and 3 and 4 on November 13.

Starting in November, the MERL

Committee will become the MERLOW Committee—Membership, Extension—Retention—Leadership—Orientation and—Women's Chair. Orientation is an important role in Lionism. No matter how experienced a Lion he or she is, annual orientation should be mandatory at the club level.

Currently, population statistics show that women make up 52% of the population. However, when we look at our lions clubs, membership for women accounts for only 14%. International President Dr. Lee is requesting us to ask more women to participate in Lionism. To encourage membership by women, this year the \$25 initiation fee for women will be waived. A woman who becomes a charter member of any new club does not have to pay the initiation \$30 fee. Lets encourage more women to join our ranks to work with us, hand in hand, in our communities.

The 2003-2004 Mid-Year Workshop is scheduled for January 24th at the Oak Lawn Hilton. First Year International Director Lion W. R. O'Riley of Maryville, Missouri will be our guest speaker. Attendees will be provided

with plenty of information on the various resources available to make our lions clubs more active in our communities. All lions are invited—mark your calendar now—first time attendees will be awarded special pins—and some lucky door prize winner will go home with a DVD player.

My sincere thanks to all MERLOW members who make my committee a glowing light in District 1-A—Membership—Lion Jose Gonzalez; Retention—Lion Dennis McMillan; Leadership—Lions Robert Hellgeth and Wes Salsbury; Orientation—PDG Lion Frank Waide, Jr; and Women's Chair—Lion Julia Aguirre.

If you need any help in your club, please do not hesitate to call on these active lions. Let us share our ideas and work hand in hand to spread Lionism throughout District 1-A. It is time to Focus on Lionism by bringing Unity in Diversity.

District 1-A Mid Year Workshop

January 24, 2004—8:00 a.m.—2 p.m.

Oak Lawn Hilton, Oak Lawn

Odds and Ends.

Directory Updates: **Region 2, Zone B Chairman Lion Linda Nilsson**—phone No. 847-966-4238

Region 7, Zone C Chairman Lion Norman Bates: e-mail address lion.norm1@juno.com

District 1-K Vice District Governor: Dr. Harold Banser—not Bansen

Lion Dave Derenzo—new work #312-569-6596. Address: West Side VA Hospital, Radiation Safety (11r) 820 S. Damen, Chicago 60612.

PDG Jim Van Wyk—922 Ward Road, Glen Allen VA 23059-4546 (804-262-0283) work: (804-545-8328. E-mail same

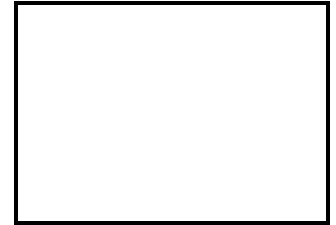
Willow Springs Lioness Pres: Darlene Sosolik, 312 S. Nolton, Willows Springs, 60480 (708-839-1483) **Secretary: Sharry Joiner**, 15064 Parnell Circle, Lockport 60441 (815-836-8801. **Lion/Lioness Vi Hoffman**—to be Lioness District Chairperson for 2003-2004.

Brookfield-LaGrange Park Lions—new meeting place: Rascals, 1136 Maple Ave, LaGrange Park

Congratulations to new **Lion Dr. Georg M. Nista** of the Mt. Greenwood Lions Club, who by filling out a pledge card for the John Deere Birdies for Charity at the District 1-A Candy Day Jamboree, became the proud owner of a 2004 Buick Rendezvous given away this year.

Medical Update—Region 5, Zone B, Lion Hank Rejlek is home and on the mend. Our continued best wishes for a speedy recovery and it is hoped he will be back out and among us soon. PDG Art Schmidt was back in the hospital, but he is home once more. Drop the "Little Guy" a note and tell him he is missed by all of us.

Mark Your Calendars For: Sunday, December 14, 2003 - the District 1-A Cabinet Christmas Party at Elmcrest Banquets, 7370 West Grand Avenue, Elmwood Park from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Details to follow on costs and plans for the event.



Focus on Lionism

Focus on Humanitarian Service, one of the facets of this year's theme—to Focus on Lionism. Our association has grown over the years because we, as Lions, provide needed services to our communities. Now the word "Service" can be construed in many ways. Helen Keller asked us to provide the tools and manpower to aid the visually impaired when she asked us to become her "Knights of the Blind" - a service we adopted and have become well known for.

Lions around the world concern themselves with youth. The future of our lonely planet depends on those who shall follow us. Leo Clubs offer the opportunity for young adults to work with the Lions and develop skills that will serve them all their lives. The Leos have done so many acts of service, it is impossible to keep up with them.

Lions' medical missions bring the resources of the Lions to far off outposts of the world, providing medical help, operations and helping to stem the causes of preventable blindness. One medical mission is leaving our district this month to bring aid and

comfort to those in need in the Philippines. Prospect members from a new club we hope to have on the books this month are traveling south to provide exams and give the gift of sight to those who need glasses in Mexico. The used eyeglasses we collected across the district on "Spectacle Sunday" may soon find a new set of eyes as part of this mission by the doctors and students from the Illinois College of Optometry. Clubs all across the district report the hundreds of pairs of glasses collected and the recognition received definitely made "Spectacle Sunday" a great service project.

The just received Grant from LCIF exemplifies Lions Service as we partner with the Chicago Light-house for the Blind in Vocational Training, giving the visually handicapped the tools to go forth, have a job and be self-reliant. Each student who graduates is a victory for the service Lions provide.

Clubs across the district are involved in service projects all the

time—from the picnic for the Korean adopted children by the Arirang Lions, the skate board ramps built by the Thornton Lions, the wheelchair ramps done by Eastside, the adopted Santa families done by Mayfair and the special Olympics done by the Northwest, the Lions of 1-A have a long history of being there, bringing the service and the smiles that Lions are noted for. And, we have to thank the Lion Leaders at every level. Club presidents and committee chairs who have come up with the ideas and make the dreams become reality. The members of the Cabinet, dedicated Lions all, who take the mantle of leadership higher, working with the Clubs to make sure that the many jobs get done and working to share the dreams and ideas for the benefit of others.

As we join together to "Focus on Lionism", leave us also focus on our humanitarian service to those in our communities and around the world. And, the next time someone asks you, "What do the Lions Do," just tell them our motto, "We Serve" and we do it every hour of every day.

Together, We make a difference!