



## District 1-A Lions Clubs



# Governor's Newsletter

Lion Georg G. Toft, District Governor

One A on the web at [lions1a.com](http://lions1a.com)

September, 2003

### Governor's Travels

Candy Day Jamboree-9/3/03  
 Orland Park-9/4/03  
 ZC/RC Meeting—9/10/03  
 Bayanihan—9/12/03  
 100% Awards Nite-9/15/03  
 USA Canada Forum-9/16-20/03  
 Opening Eyes-9/24/03  
 Beverly Ridge-9/25/03  
 PDG Meeting-9/29/03

## WANTED—LIONS WHO HAVE A DREAM!

Years ago, in our district, a Lion had a dream. 1-A is the home of many dreamers as we all know, Melvin Jones had a dream that became our International Association, today I want to tell you about another dreamer and his friends. This dreamer served our district as governor the same year I graduated from grammar school, so I did not know him, yet I can share his dream, and so can each of you.

His simple idea, his dream was to raise funds in a mass collection done by Lions across the district.

That first year, they gave out miniature White Canes with each donation in their quest to help the blind. While this worked, as it still does in many places in Europe, the thought was to make it more appealing, so they tried Cracker Jack with good success, but the Lions did not want to tie their name to a commercial product. Thus was born the Lions Candy roll and our Lions Candy Day.

LIBAC, Lions of Illinois Blind Activities Committee, was born and clubs that worked Candy Day were asked to give portions of their collected funds to support projects like Leader Dog, Hadley School, Dialogue and the Lighthouse. Many of the Lions that became governors later were active in making LIBAC a success, and the dream of Lion Marvin Tench, to have all of the 1-A Lions work together on a project grew across the state and beyond, making Lions Candy Day one of the biggest fundraisers we do. Simple idea, Lions working together to help the blind. After Marv's death, another Lion with a dream took over the helm of LIBAC. His dream was to have an eye research hospital in Illinois and to create a Lions Foundation to better operate the many programs we became in-

the many programs we became involved in. By working hard and joining hands with Lions all across the state, Norm's dreams and the dreams he shared with so many others came true. Camp Lions, preschool testing, the Lions of Illinois Eye Bank were just some of the ideas of that band of dreamers.

And then there was a Lion, who was stricken with glaucoma, and vowed to help fight the disease by spreading the word and getting people in the communities all across Illinois tested for glaucoma. He began a drive to raise the funds to build the first mobile testing unit way back in 1966. Enlisting the help of the doctors at the U of I, Freddie Messengers Glaucoma unit hit the highways and was accepted as a great Lions Project. His dream, the motor home that screened so many with great success was the first of the Lions mobile screening units in Illinois.

And time marches on, and it is time for a new crop of dreamers to come forward with new ideas, new and innovative ways to help the peoples in our community.

Start at the club level, what can your club and it's members do that will be a help to the people we serve. If we focus on our Lionism, looking for needs and then filling them as Lions, we can make a difference.

Look to the areas that do not have a Lions Club now, areas that we support with our open areas accounts, providing the service that a Lions Club, if there was one there could provide, and think of a way to start a new club to better serve that community.

Be Innovative asks Dr Lee, open the gateway to our future with service, dreams and ideas that will be instantly recognized as something that the Lions do.

That Candy Roll you will pass out on Candy Day, the gem of an idea from one Lion tells everyone that you're a Lion working to help the blind. And as you pass out the candy, take the time to dream of new ideas, new projects new ways to help. Join the club, be a dreamer! Dream of service as a Lion.

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## LYONS LIONS CLUB—OPERATION STARS AND STRIPES

The Lyons Lions Club is looking for your help. A brand new Lion Judy Knittle is chairperson of this very special project. She read an article in a local newspaper entitled "the war is not over, and our troops still need your support." The article went on to describe the basic needs of military personnel. She took the article to the club and the club is now collecting items to be sent to the Troops Overseas. Lion Judy says military personnel are in need of all types of sundries for both men and women such as shampoo 8 oz size, deodorant, razors, bug spray, toilet paper, wrapped hard candy, breakfast bars, cheese and crack-

ers, peanut butter & crackers, cookies in a tin, beef jerky, slim jims, Pringles potato chips, sunscreen, powdered Gatorade or other powdered drinks with sugars, playing cards, notepaper, envelopes and pens, hand held games. **NO CHOCOLATE!** They have developed a way to have the items packed up and packages are being sent overseas through the assistance of the Batavia Overseas VFW Post 1197. We, as Lions, can help too. If you do not have time to purchase these items, please send Lion Judy a check, big or small, to help defray the costs of purchasing items and sending. She will

gladly send you a receipt detailing how your donation was spent. Her home phone number and address are 708-442-7417, 8328 West 45th Street, Lyons, Illinois 60534.

Lion Judy says "this project is "urgent" and we need to keep it going as long as they need us. " These are our best and brightest doing their job for us in a far off land. The holidays are coming and many of them will not be home with their families. The first Lions Club in District 1A created food baskets for the families left behind—can we do less—for those not home?

## Trustee

Did you know your Lions of Illinois Foundation was founded July 1, 1974, registered with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and qualified as a tax-exempt organization?

Did you know all programs are approved by you, the Lions, at the annual membership meeting in May?

Did you know through your Foundation, your community and club can benefit from the following services: *Camp Lions for Children, Camp Lions for Adults; Lions Low Vision Clinic, Jacksonville, Lions of Illinois Statewide Compre-*

*hensive Low Vision Evaluation Clinics; Diabetic Eye Center; Mobile Diabetic Eye Clinic and Hearing Services Unit; Infant Hearing Screenings; Cochlear Implant Program; used Hearing Aid Bank; Used Eyeglasses; Hearing Aid Collection; Social Services and Referral and Lions of Illinois Funds for Emergency (L.I.F.E)?* Did you know the Vision of the Lions of Illinois Foundation is to create a permanent vehicle for the delivery of programs and services to the visually and hearing impaired?

When you are trying to decide whether you will participate on Candy Day—think

## PDG Oscar McGuire

of the words written here—think of what you have accomplished by placing that pin on your lapel and becoming a Lion. Standing on the corner on Candy Day, collecting nickels, dimes, quarters and sometimes dollars, you are one of a very special and select group who have allowed the Lions of Illinois Foundation to live its vision and dream.!

As your Trustee, I thank you!

## THE 2003-2004 LIONS YEAR AT A GLANCE

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

ZC/RC Meeting—September 10, 2003  
USA Canada Forum—Portland, Oregon—September 18-20, 2003  
Opening Eyes—United Center—September 24, 2003  
Candy Day—October 10, 2003  
Nite at the Races—October 15, 2003  
2nd Cabinet Meeting—October 23, 2003  
Spectacle Sunday—October 26, 2003  
MD-1 Forum—Peoria—November 22, 2003

Thanksgiving Parade??- November 27, 2003  
District 1-A Cabinet Christmas Party—December 14, 2003  
District 1-A Midyear Workshop—January 24, 2004  
3rd Cabinet Meeting—February 19, 2004  
District 1-A Bowling—February 22, 2004

District 1-A Conv.—April 22-25, 2004  
4th Cabinet Meeting—May 6, 2004  
MD-1 State Convention—May 20-22,

2004  
Bad Pants Golf Open—May 24, 2003  
District 1-A Installation of Officers—June 13, 2004  
International Convention (Detroit Windsor) - July 5-10, 2004

## From the desk of

## Vice Governor Austin D'Souza

### **"ALONE, WE CAN DO SO LITTLE. TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH."**

In 1925, Helen Keller gave the Lions a challenge to be the Knights of the Blind. We took the challenge and worked towards helping the blind to see this world better. October 10 is proclaimed as "Candy Day" in Illinois. This is your opportunity to help the many people in the world who live without proper vision and hearing. How long do we, the lions, ignore these people and do nothing? Our communities need Lions clubs to complete the mission of Helen Keller to be Knights of the Blind.

Blindness is no respecter of persons—it strikes without regard to race, religion, sex or nationality. In the U.S., 1.3 million Americans age 25 and older have severe visual impairments, causing them to make adjustments in areas of careers and

everyday living situations.

Children in schools cannot see properly and cannot afford eyeglasses. Where are the Lions to help these children to see—to read—to become good citizens? This year, let us set a goal to collect more donations than last year to help more people in our community.

In District 1-A, there are several open areas where there are no Lions clubs. Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." So, let's make that extra effort to stay out on the corners to collect donations.

"Our Country is great because it is built on principles of self-reliance, opportunity, innovation and compassion for others," said former President Ronald Regan. Let us prove this by caring and sharing our time and energy to make this world a

said former President Ronald Regan. Let us prove this by caring and sharing our time and energy to make this world a better tomorrow.

We should "Focus on Lionism" and bring back our old glory. Show our communities we care and help the needy. In this month, we should gather more volunteers to sell candy-get the community involved-contact businesses to underwrite. Remind them that when they donate to the Lions of Illinois Foundation, it is tax deductible.

I wish you all the best for your Candy Day and have a great collection

## LEARNING ON LINE

1. Did you know you can send free e-cards through the International Web Site using cards that are made up from Peace Poster Contest entries that are shown up on the Site through a company here in Chicago?
2. Did you know that you can learn more about Lionism through the Lions Learning Center on the LCI Website?

Just go to the LCI website and find the Learning Center under "Resources". Spend as much time or as little time as you want. You can always come back to it. You can learn about the history of LCI, protocol and badge recognition among other things. If you want to learn more about Lionism this is the place to go.

3. Did you now you can download any of the Lion logos for your newsletters or programs. Go to the LCI website to Resources "download instructions." You will find logos, forms, booklets and other types of information for your club.

4. Have a member of your club go to the website before each meeting and bring a new bit of information about Lionism to the club meeting i.e. the on-line e-newsletter, public relation tips, retention tips, peace poster contest information, up coming events, benefits of club membership, the on-line lions yellow pages. This could be a regular 1-3 minute learning time for all your members—new and old alike.

## DOES ANY LION HAVE ANY STAMPS?

Looking for a simple club project for a member somewhat less active but still wanting to help? How about a Lions International Stamp Collecting Project! In "surfing" the LCI website, the following article was found by Lion Samuel Wolkon, East Windsor, Connecticut Lions Club. He says "as a member of the LCI Stamp Club, I have found interest in the "Stamps for the Wounded." It is a simple program to help wounded Veterans who are in VA Hospitals to pass the time away. All you have to do is collect any stamps that you get in your every day mail, take off the stamp and send it to Lion Sam.

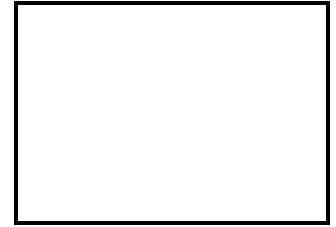
According to an article by Janet Langhorne, Acting Chief, Recreational Services, "it has been found that the benefits of participation in a leisure activity such as stamp collecting has been dubbed as therapeutic."

The East Windsor Lions Club have endorsed this project and are providing Lion Sam with all cancelled and non-cancelled stamps from the USA and other countries.

He plans on mailing the first package of stamps to LISC at the end of October, and most likely each month thereafter.

You can send your cancelled and non-cancelled stamps to : Lion Sam Wolkon, 140 Northview Drive, South Windsor, CT, 06074-3519. His e-mail address is lionsam@snet.net.

This is a simple project but imagine the benefits not only to a person staying long term in a hospital but also to the person who can still participate in his club activities in a very unique way.



## Focus on Lionism

### LION—CAN YOU SPARE A DIME

The words to the old song were “Brother can You Spare a Dime”. Times have changed and we as Lions also have changed—we now look for the quarters and the dollars to continue to support the projects and programs we are involved in.

In a few weeks, Lions will be out on street corners all over the District giving away Lions Candy Rolls, “shakin” their cans, looking for that illusive dime, quarter or dollar donation..

If you have ever counted the contents of the Candy Day cans, the quarter is probably the most offered coin you find. It certainly takes a lot of them to fill the can—each one adding weight until your hand starts to cramp and your arm gets tired.

You stand there wondering “why am I doing this—a quarter doesn’t

buy a lot now days”.” Why am I out here in the cold, the dark and if past history holds true-the wet?”

Then you recall the words you heard at the Candy Day Jambo-ree about the child who went to camp— a person getting a special pair of glass— a hearing aid given to a senior citizen— scholarships offered to young people—the programs the Lions of Illinois Foundation can provide—all because you are standing out on this corner.

You begin to get the inner satisfaction of knowing the hours you spend on the corner will bring someone hope and perhaps change their life forever as they learn mobility with a dog or a cane, hear or read a book in Braille or become a breadwinner with a job.

When you are standing out on the corner, you know that you are not alone—you are one of al-

most 1,400,000 people in over 192 countries all over the world who realize that together they can and do effect the lives of many.

While you are holding out the can for that donation you realize this is your chance to serve others, without regard of reward or recognition—your chance to reach out a helping hand to someone and say, I care — I am a Lion!

You realize it is a small roll of candy but the help and assistance it can generate with the simple donation of a quarter creates a wealth of opportunities.

You realize that you and all other people, like you who wear that special pin on their lapel, jacket or hat are “focused” on the concepts of Lionism and the personal pleasure and quiet satisfaction it brings knowing that together you make a difference!

**Together, We make a difference!**