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A Busy Time of Year for Lioness

by ADP Patty Overturf

Elections and officers training - two very important events!

By now most club elections have taken place. All communications that the new officers receive next year will be based on the names and addresses sent to Vice District Governor Kathy Friske. Inputting names and addresses does take time, so mail or e-mail your form as soon as possible. To find a 'fillable form", go online to the state Lioness website – www.wisconsinlioness.org and click on the Resources tab. Look under Forms for LC-02 New Club Officers Reporting. Please mail this to Vice District Governor Kathy Friske – 7634 Dixie Rd.; Tomah,WI 54660 or e-mail kathykf@centurytel.net . I would also appreciate a copy of next year's officers.

Along that same line, Officers Training will be Thursday, April 23 at Westview Inn in West Salem and Tuesday, April 28 at the TeePee in Tomah . 6:00 pm – Social, 6:30 pm – Meal with Training to follow.

Presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, skirt-twisters and membership chairs should make plans to attend either session. Secretaries will be trained on doing much of their reporting via the computer. It is a requirement to be a 100% president, secretary, or treasurer you have to attend officers training.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse prevention is a statewide project of Wisconsin Lioness Clubs. Each club should be doing something to raise awareness of this problem within their community. One good resource is Blue Ribbons for Kids. There is a wealth of information on their website http://blueribbonsonline. wi.gov//.

May 15-16 is Wisconsin Lions State Convention in Wisconsin Dells at Chula Vista Resort.

Lioness Kathi Beane and Lioness Loretta Ewelt have been working hard in their committees to ensure that the Lioness have an active role at State Convention.

The Wisconsin Lioness in conjunction with the State Convention Committee will be hosting a Wine and Cheese Tasting Social Thursday evening May 13 at the Ho-Chunk Casino from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. All proceeds will be donated to a Wisconsin Lions project as determined by the Lioness of Wisconsin. Please come and help if you are able. It will be FUN! More information on Lions State Convention and registration may be found at www.lionsstateconvention.org.

Spring has officially begun. Bloom wherever you are!

Send your news & photos of Lions in action today!

27-D2 Convention Re-Cap

by Lion Pat Hart, Convention Co-Sponsor

The District Convention, sponsored by the Warrens and Oakdale Lions, was held February 13th-14th at the Tee Pee Supper Club in Tomah.

Friday evening's "Fun Night" began with a group of Belly Dancers. When's the last time you saw the words "Lions District Convention" and "Belly Dancers" in the same sentence?

Next up was the "Click'n & Grin'n Cloggers. DG Mike and Lion JoAnn Marson were great sports. They got in on the action with a "clogging" lesson. Rumor has it they are going out on the road after DG Mike's term is up!

Next up was a very successful auction led by none other than Kendall Lion Bob Brandau. The evening was topped off by the "Run Away Train" country band.

Saturday's first speaker was Warrens "Cranberry Country Lioness" President Nodji VanWychen on Cranberry Production.

This was followed by Angela and Todd Klitzke. Their daughter Chloe was born with a hearing deficiency. Thanks to 27-D2 Hearing Chair Marvel Greene and the Reedsburg Lions. Chloe received digital hearing aids from the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Since receiving her hearing aids, Chloe who is now three, has begun to speak.

This story is a testimonial of what we as Lions can do. If you were there to hear Angela's story you would have shed a tear as most did.

ABOVE: *Angela and Todd Klitzke with daughter Chloe talking about how Lions have changed their lives when they provided a hearing aid for little Chloe.*

RIGHT: *International Director Douglas Lozier addressed convention attendees throughout the convention.*

The Necrology service with WLF Director John Hansen and 1st VDG-Elect Don Nelson was held next. Our District lost 22 dedicated Lions members over the last year.

Our District's own International Director Lion Art Marson introduced our visiting international guest International Director Douglas Lozier and his wife Lion Kathy are from Indiana. Director Lozier is a graduate of Purdue University.

He has come up through the ranks as a Lion and has been a member since the mid-1970's. Director Lozier's knowledge of and dedication to Lionism is immeasurable. His speeches were truly motivational.

After lunch Esther Rannow spoke about the many personalities that we deal with on a day to day basis and of the hats that they wear. This lady in her eighties has more "get up and go" than most forty year olds!!

Susan Bautch then spoke regarding her life experience with her son. This too was a heartfelt speech.

Bunny Tabott spoke to the group of her blindness and what her life is like on a day to day basis. This truly was another inspirational speech.

Lion Warren Wolf then began the District voting process. Our new officers are as follows: DG Elect Lion Kathy Friske (Oakdale Lions), VDG Elect Lion Don Nelson (Tomah Lions) and Second VDG Lion Joe Fisher (La Crosse Lions) Congratulations to these Lions.

Saturday evening's banquet was a white tuxedo event for not only our District Governor Mike Kelley but also the other District Governors in attendance. It was impressive to see these men and women who donate more time and energy towards the Lions organization than most of us realize, decked out in their formal attire.

If you missed the Convention this year you missed a good time of learning and socializing with members of the best service organization in the world!!

Please join the Lake Delton Lions at next years 2010 Convention in Lake Delton.

27-D2 District Governor
Mike Kelley
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This is a reminder to all club secretaries that your PUI01 reports are due as early in April as possible. Vice District Governor, Lion Kathy Friske, will be sending the information to the printer on May 1 to complete the MD27 Directory for 2009-2010.

Wisconsin Lions Week normally falls close to our Lions State Convention which will be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells May 15-16.

How can local clubs celebrate Lions Week? Wear your pins, publish articles in your local newspaper and advertise your club activities and accomplishments. Clubs may also set up Lions displays in downtown windows. Invite local community leaders to your May meeting and explain Lionism to them. Finally, use radio to help promote Lionism during Lions Week. Good luck! Remember it helps to toot your own horns!

In my travels around our district stressing membership one glaring change is apparent. We need to attract younger members. Clubs need to meet the needs of these members and very often that means change. Sometimes subtle change is needed and sometimes bigger leaps are required. It's imperative to change what isn't working and adapt something new that will work. What worked 15-20 years ago may not be the best course to be taking today. Young people today want to make an immediate impact. They want hands-on-experience and meaningful meetings. They want to be part projects close to their hearts, not one that has been done for the past 20 years. Lions need to keep pace with an evolving community so we can stay relevant to the communities we serve.

Mission to Mexico

by PDG Dick Nestingen, 27-D2 Mission To Mexico Coordinator

Forty Lions from Wisconsin flew from Chicago to Mexico City, then on to Vera Cruz. There we were met by Lion Abe from Posa Rica Lions. A bus was waiting for us for another four hour ride to the Village of Paplanta.

We stayed in a hotel there and worked about 45 minutes from there up and down hilly streets and rural roads.

They took us out to see the ruins of El Tajin the day before we started work. Our Mission was in a sports complex. We had 10,500 pairs of glasses to start and with the help of 10 Posa Rica Lions put 4,100 pair on Mexican and Totonaca Indians dressed in their traditional white clothes, straw hats and sandals, with some in bare feet. All of the people came from Villages in the mountains by bus.

We also screened more than 200 children. We worked from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Every evening we had a show by a different group of dancers before eating a supper of all Mexican food about 9:00 pm. We got to bed about 10:30 and were up at 6:00 am.

At the Mission we were blessed many times and thanked for the glasses. We were proud to be Wisconsin Lions.

We left Mexico with the Mission accomplished.

If you are interested in a club program or more details on the Wisconsin Lions Mission to Mexico program, don't hesitate to contact me at 608/452-3647 or E5249 County Road P, Coon Valley, WI 54623

Foot Awareness Month

from VDG Kathy Friske

Did you know that every 30 seconds, a lower limb is lost to diabetes somewhere in the world?

The human foot often shows initial signs of severe medical conditions, such as diabetes. That's why it's so important to "Knock Your Socks Off" and have your feet examined during regular checkups.

Early detection and regular foot screenings are key to preventing diabetes complications to the feet, particularly amputations, and can improve the quality of life for people with diabetes.

Check out www.md27d2.org

Pin Trading Alive & Well in 27-D2

by Brian Overturf, 27-D2 Pin Chair

I would like this article to be an avenue to promote any new trading pins you might have, and also answer any questions. I am available to offer advice when creating or getting pins manufactured, and if I can't help, I have names of reliable Pin Representatives. My goal is to promote this great hobby of pin trading and in the process, promote your Club or special project. But a good pin can also be used as a fund raiser, if done correctly.

The most frequently asked question is about what to do with a collection of pins belonging to a deceased member or loved one. Trading pins can be given to family members or friends who do not belong to the Lions organization. They can be used in raffles or given to any members. Giving some pins to a new member is a great promotion. Taking these pins to a Zone meeting or a Convention to be traded or sold is always a good idea. I or any Pin Trader would be glad to look at them and advise you.

New Pin Update

- A new series of 27-D2 pins was unveiled last year's State Convention. The new series is of Beef cattle, specifically two pin sets of breeds, the Bull and the Cow with a Calf. The first pin is an Angus Bull. Some pins are still available-$3 plus shipping. Just contact me if interested. The Angus Cow/Calf will be available at this year's State Convention.
- The Hillsboro Lions has a new series of Round Barn pins available.
- The Tomah Lions also has the last pin in their Crane series available (the long-legged bird kind).
- The Warrens and Oakdale Clubs created a great looking convention pin. Of course it has cranberries on it. By the way, these Clubs hosted a great convention.
- The Coon Valley Club has had some new pins out just recently... raccoons in various sports uniforms. The first in the series wore a green and gold uniform with a number "4" on it.

The Wisconsin Pin Traders are raffling a complete set of State Pins. Proceeds are to go to Campaign SightFirst II. Contact me or any club member for tickets. Drawing is to be held at the State Convention.

Let me know if you are interested in purchasing any of these pins, I can be reached at pvzoo2000@yahoo.com or 608/269-2478.

PdC Learns About the Community

by Lion Maury Oehler

During 2009 the PdC Lions Club will invite a series of mostly municipal employees to talk about/explain the work they do.

Terry Meyer, Prairie du Chien Wastewater Treatment facility superintendent and part-time Streets superintendent, began the series talking about changes over the past 20 years and also some vision of the future. His remarks generated many questions from those in attendance.