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We Can Do So Much More When We Work Together

by 2nd VDG Joe Fisher

Synergy. I always thought this was kind of a ".25 Cent Word" but I think it does have meaning for us Lions. My educated friends tell me that it just means that when we all work together we can do much more than we can as individuals (or individual Lions Clubs for that matter).

While each of our clubs has their unique personalities, histories and local functions/ identities (and that's good), there are also many opportunities to serve needs that we can do well working together, but that are above the scope of any individual club's abilities.

Another way of saying this is that the whole (zone, region, district, state etc) is greater than the sum of its parts (individual clubs).

Some of our clubs are very good at this aspect (many have traditional, albeit informal working relationships with other Lions Clubs) while some are not.

These latter clubs have been pretty much accustomed to going it strictly on their own. This may serve the extremely local needs, but what about our larger Lionistic missions and responsibilities?

At any rate, I'm asking you club presidents and other club officers to think about this aspect. Honestly ask yourselves "are there times when we can team up with another club or clubs to make an even more significant contribution then we are presently making?"

I look forward to discussing this and other pertinent Lionistic issues with each of you in the near future.

Art Fair Funds State Park Improvements

The Oakdale Lions were busy with Art in the Park on June 7, 2009.

Mill Bluff State Park is one of nine Ice Age Parks. Every year on the free camping weekend the Art in the Park Festival is held. The Oakdale Lions Club has been a part of this festival for the past 10 years. The money that is generated by the Lions goes back to the Park for improvements. Some of the improvements that are being worked on are to erect Braille signage on the trails in the park. The club has bought and erected a large flag pole by the swimming pond along state highway 12 and 16.

The Nature Trail begins at the far end of the east picnic area. This .4-mile-long trail is a self-guiding trail. Hikers will learn about wildlife, trees, wildflowers and geology. Part of this trail is accessible for people with disabilities. A historical marker here describes the geological features of the area. For the more ambitious, there are 223 stone steps that wind their way to the top of the bluff, where an observation deck on the north end offers an excellent view of the park and the surrounding area. These steps were built in the 1930s by (WPA) Work Progress Administration.

About .8 mile north of I 90-94 on Funnel Road is Camel's Bluff Trail, a 1.25-mile hiking trail loop.

The Park sits on the Juneau/ Monroe county line between Oakdale and Camp Douglas WI.

This year on the morning of the festival the Park had visitors. There was Momma Bear and her three cubs. What a fantastic scene. You just don't know what you will encounter when Lions are busy doing their projects.

Retaining & Attracting Members

by ADP Myrna Kelley

For many of our Lioness clubs, retention of members is one of our biggest problems. We need to try to get members that are thinking of dropping the club to reconsider. Let them suggest new project ideas and let them help make decisions on how our money is being spent. Brainstorm for new ideas.

New need to attract new members all the time. Make sure new members are given a good orientation by explaining what the Lioness do in the community, district and state. Make sure new members are excited about joining the Lioness. Make the induction ceremony special for them. Ask them for ideas at the first meeting. Make sure new members have names and telephone numbers of club members.

Make sure to think all members for chairing projects. We all like to be recognized for our hard work. Find out what talents members have and use those talents for the good of the club. We all need to feel that we are valued members. Include spouses in some of your activities. Many of them want to be included, too.

Good luck, Lioness, in you new year of 2009-2010!!!

27-D2 District Governor
Kathy Friske
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The summer activities are in full swing. Hopefully your club is having fun with *We Serve One Step At A Time* in your communities.

CHANGE HAPPEN'Z' We have to look at how we do business... recruiting members, conducting meetings, and how relevant our fundraiser are. Could we do better by trying something new, or even a new twist on something that did not work last time around?

During the next 12 months, you will encounter many opportunities to contribute to the success of your Lions club by identifying:

- Highly successful club activities/practices that should be continued and expanded.
- Less successful club activities/practices that should be changed and improved.
- Unsuccessful club activities/ practices that should be replaced by something brand new.

This discussion will help strengthen your club. Your club may decide to eliminate an unprofitable fundraiser, or introduce a new service project.

Membership will and must be a high-priority this year as MD27 membership has fallen below 20,000 members. We have lost clubs as well as members. We need to turn this trend around. Under the leadership of the two Vice District Governors, the MERLO Team will be working on membership growth and on a new Lions Club.

The more members we have the more hands we have to provide these services. With the economy in the state that it is in, our communities can use all the help we can give them.

Our International President Eberhard J. Wirfs motto this year is MOVE to GROW. One aspect of this theme is growth in membership.

With all of this the most important Lion, Lioness, Leo is the individual club member. Together we can make great strides in the lives of others. Show your pride in your communities by talking about how your club and members work to benefit your community and beyond.

Just a reminder, to get your article's in your local newspapers, and also in the Wisconsin Lion.

If you haven't contacted me for a club visit please have club secretaries do this as soon as possible as my calendar is filling up fast. Feel free to use the DG Visitation Request form or email me.

Thank you to all the secretaries that have sent in the monthly M reports on time. It is very important for all secretaries to get these reports in on time.

Work At The State Fair for WLF

The New Berlin Lions have graciously invited us to once again give away WLF candy and brochures at their State Fair Corn Roast Booth.

27-D2 is scheduled to hand out candy on August 13, 2009 at the State Fair. All Lions, Lioness, and Leos are welcome.

There will be free food and drink at the Corn Booth for all workers! Dress appropriately for the day (Hot during the day, maybe cool at night). Wear your WLF or Lion shirt.

Contact DG Kathy to sign up.

District Governor Visitation Request Form

Club name:		
Meeting Place:		
1st Choice Date:		
2nd Choice Date:		
Dinner Meeting:	Yes	No
Times:		
Hospitality:		
Meal:		
Meeting:		
New Member Induction:	Yes	No
Officer Induction:	Yes	No
Special Request:		
Directions to Meeting Location:		
Information We Should Be Aware Of:		

Club Activities

THE STODDARD AND GENOA LIONS CLUBS DONATED TWO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY READERS TO THE DESOTO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT. - *by Lion Bob Moline* - It allows low vision individuals to magnify text as well as other projects and tasks. Seated L-R:Stoddard Lion President Bob Moline and Genoa Lion President Marty Osinski. Standing; Desoto District Superintendan: Stoddard Lion 3rd VP Dave Strudthoff, Leos, Zeb Mading, President Joslyn Oneal, Jessica Oneal, and Middle School Advisor, Samatha Bolstad.

WARRENS LIONS MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION - On Monday May 25th 2009 the Village of Warrens celebrated Memorial Day. The Warrens Lions served 250 halves of chicken for the event. Pictured below is Warrens Lion Arnie Erickson. Lion Arnie and two other Lions put up with the smoke in the cook shack for the five hours that it took to cook all that chicken. Lion Arnie does a 'Masterful' job basting the chicken halves on our wood fired cookers. The white tarp behind Lion Arnie protected him from the 30 MPH winds we had on Memorial Day.

send your news and photos of Lions in Action to Editor Pat today!

DG Kathy's Calendar

AUGUST
2 Cabinet meeting at Iathca
6 D2 day at the State Fair
8-9 WLF Board Meeting
13 27-D2 @ State Fair
19 New Lisbon Lions
29-30 LCI and Leader Dog

SEPTEMBER
19 Camp Open House
24-26 USA Canada Forum

OCTOBER
2-3 Council of Governors
16-17 C1 District Convention
18 Cabinet Meeting
23-24 Merging Lions Institute
24 Westby Lions
27 Boaz Lions
31 WLF Board Meeting

NOVEMBER
1 WLF Board Meeting
6-7 B2 District Convention
11 Coon Valley Lions
13-14B1 District Convention
26 Thanksgiving

Check out www.md27d2.org for the latest news

27-D2 Cabinet Meetings

11:00 am Cocktails
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Meeting

DATES:

SUN, AUGUST 2, 2009
Honor Divine Lions Park
Ithaca, WI
sponsored by the Ithaca Club

SUN, OCTOBER 18, 2009
Oakdale Credit Union
Oakdale, WI
sponsored by the Oakdale Club

SUN, JANUARY 31, 2010
Warrens Lions Log Building
Warrens, WI
sponsored by the Warrens Club

SUN, MARCH 21, 2010
American Legion
Sauk Prairie, WI
sponsored by the Sauk Prairie Club

Please RSVP to DG Kathy one week prior to each Cabinet Meeting if you will be attending.

Mark Your Calendars For Apple Dumpling Days Races

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, racers of all ages and fitness levels will descend on Elroy for the Elroy Lions third annual Apple Dumpling Day races.

Races include the Tunnel Trails Half Marathon, the Apple Dumpling Dash – a 5K run/walk, and the Green Apple .75K Kids Fun Run.

Races will be run on the three abandoned railroad beds that have all been converted to bike trails. The trails provide a great running surface, a nice amount of shade, and fantastic scenery for the runners. The half marathon is unique in that it uses three different bike trails and features a fascinating tunnel. All races finish at the Elroy City (Schultz) Park.

In addition to T-shirts and other goodies medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place males and females. The half marathon will have five age categories.

For more information go to www.elroylions.org or www.elroywi.com/Marathonraces 2009.htm.