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Lioness News

by ADP Myrna Kelley

Does your Lioness Club know where your club will be in five years? 10 years? Try to know where you are and where you want to be. How many members will you have? Will your club still be doing extra ordinary things for the less fortunate?

Try to go beyond survival to a flourishing club. Make sure your projects are relevant. Make sure your community knows what your club does. Make sure your members feel proud and stay engaged in your club. Make sure your club has FUN! Engage everyone. Every member is responsible for the club's success or failure. It's not just the officers.

Lioness hear people say "That's unfortunate" if someone is hurting. Lioness roll up their sleeves and help. Some of us became members before we saw all the good that Lioness do for the community, district and state. Then we see how much happiness we give and we're so happy to be Lioness. Keep up the wonderful work!

Remember my motto from Helen Keller, "alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Have a wonderful holiday and a very happy New Year.

Cashton Celebrates 60 Years Of Community Service

About 100 guests attended the Cashton Lions 60th anniversary celebration Saturday, October 17, 2009 at the Cashton Community Hall. Guests included Lions, their spouses and invited guests from Boaz, Ithaca, Hillsboro, Oakdale, West Salem, Holmen, La Crosse, Sparta, Tomah, Westby, Norwalk, La Farge, Onalaska, and Coon Valley. Clubs not attending but sending congratulations included: Mindoro, Necedah, and Soldiers Grove

The event started at 6 PM with a social hour and dinner was served by Mrs. B's Catering at 7 PM. The Time Travelers, a 5-piece band under the leadership of Mike Snusted, provided the musical entertainment.

The evening's program followed with Mike Healy serving as the emcee. He introduced the guests that included District Governor Kathleen Friske, International Director Debra Wasserman, 11 Past District Governors and several 27-D2 Cabinet members.

International Director Wasserman, who is visually impaired, was the guest speaker. Her message included a brief history of Lions International including its founder Melvin Jones and Helen Keller. She went on to speak of the Lions mission to help the visually impaired, hearing impaired, and those with cognitive disabilities. She also spoke on working together to help people with limitations attain their goals. Her message was well received by an appreciative crowd.

Mike Healy presented a $500 donation to Wisconsin Lions Foundation Directors John Hanson and Eric Holthaus. The money is to be used for Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI. Four Cashton area youth attended Camp in the past year.

The evening's events continued with Paul Mitby and Jon Torkelson receiving plaques for 50 years of continuous membership in the Cashton Lions Club. Both men's fathers were charter members of the club.

Dorothy Bronson. Barbara Hansen, Carol Hultberg, and Harriet Leis were recognized for their contributions as well as the contributions of their late husbands who were members of the Cashton Lions.

One of the night's highlights was when Arvid Lee, a charter member, received a plaque for his contribution to the Cashton Lions Club.

Mr. Lee also celebrated his 95th birthday that evening with the band playing and the audience singing Happy Birthday to him.

The program came to an end with closing remarks by Emcee Mike Healy. A social hour and dancing by some present closed out the evening.

TOP LEFT: *Cashton Lions charter member Arvid Lee receives a plaque for his contribution to the club from International Director Debra Wasserman, October 17, 2009. It was also Arvid's 95th birthday.*

BOTTOM LEFT: *Cashton Lions club members Paul Mitby (left) and Jon Torkelson (right) receive plaques from Lions International Director Debra Wasserman for 50 years of continuous membership to the Cashton club. Both men's fathers were charter members of the Cashton Lions Club.*

RIGHT: *International Director Debra Wasserman speaks at the Cashton Lions Club 60th Anniversary.*

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As you are reading this, most of you will have just finished spending time with family and friends giving thanks for the many blessing that we all have.

Hopefully in this economic time we can give thanks for the roof over our heads, food to share, and warm clothing and blankets for those cold winter evenings.

In my travels around our district I am very happy to see all the hard work our clubs are doing to make sure that everyone in their communities can enjoy the holidays.

As we are all planning for our Holiday season celebrations. It may be in house, church or meeting room full of people, or it may be just family or a few people. You may have a big tree with lots of decorations and lots of presents or maybe a small tree with cards and presents.

You and your Lions Families may be serving food at a shelter, or helping a family that is looking for a job, or a family who needs warm jackets and clothing so their family can have a Happy Holiday season. Or delivering food baskets to those in need, ringing bells at the Salvation Army.

This is the time of year that the world joins us in serving. You see, as Lions, we serve year around by reaching, touching, and improving lives. It's like Christmas every day when we make someone feel better and help make this world better and a little safer.

Help Stop Diabetes Holiday Food Frustration; No Need To Give Up Taste This Year —Living With Diabetes Doesn't Have To Mean Bah Humbug Holidays—

"People with diabetes need to understand there are great ways to be satisfied through the holiday season, without feeling like you've given up great tasting foods." Stock the kitchen with foods made specifically for people with diabetes like Glucerna® Shakes and Bars. They taste great and can be a delicious meal replacement for breakfast or lunch on days when you'll be eating a large meal later."

The Mall Isn't Just for Shopping — Get Moving! Exercise is extremely important, not only to keep your body in shape, but to ward off stress that the holiday season invariably brings. Redefine power shopping this holiday and join the local mall walkers group. Gather your family and take a walk around the block before dessert, instead of a second helping. It will get your blood pumping, help manage blood glucose levels and burn some extra calories.

Happy and a safe Holiday to all of you, and thank you for all you do.

I'm still looking for a few clubs that have not contacted me for a club visit.

News & Activities

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN SEPTEMBER FOOD STAND PROFITS benefitted Lions Camp Rosholt and other Lions Club activities. The food stand pictured was outside Nelson's True Value in Blackhawk Junction. Nelson's provided the tent, tables, grill, and gas for the event. L to R: Ray Tippery, Terri Jung, Maury Oehler, Ruth Brown, and Erv Mueller. This was the fourth of four food stands the Lions staffed during the summer of 2009.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN LEARNS- *by Lion Maurice Oehler* - Sharon Dahman of the Lower Wisconsin River Genealogical and Research Center (LWR) gave a very interesting presentation at a recent Prairie du Chien Lions Club meeting. They pointed out the many resources available from the LWR. Their presentation was one of a series of informative programs sponsored by the PdC Lions Club.

TOMAH LIONS presented a $3,000 check to the Tomah Veterans Memorial Campaign. Presenting the check was Lion President Bob Handy for the Lions Club. On hand to receive the check were Tom Flock and Ted Schleicher for the Tomah Veterans Campaign. The campaign is looking to raise $125,000 to begin construction on the memorial. This was just the start of their campaign to raise funds for it. The Lions Club was one of the first to contribute to get it started.

LIONS MEMBERS HONORED AS RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR KING AND QUEEN Lifelong Richland County residents Dick and Lorraine Dalberg received a great honor a few weeks ago, when they were named King and Queen of the Richland County Fair. They have been to all 50 states of the U.S. and to a number of countries around the world. But they get a great deal of fulfillment from their travels to our neighbor to the south, Mexico. Along with other Richland Center Lions members, the Dalbergs have gone to Mexico twice a year for the past five years. Each time they go to the State of Tamilupas, although to a different city. While there, they and their group work four 12-hour days fitting people with used eyeglasses that have been donated, taking along 2,000-plus pairs each time. They are very pleased to report that, in Richland Center's 13 Lions Club eyeglass receptacles, 2,000 pairs of eyeglasses are donated every year. "We're grateful for all the help," they say. "The people in Mexico are happy to see us." Dick has been in the Richland Center Lions Club 29 years and, although Lorraine has technically been a member only four years, she has always helped with club endeavors, such as clean-up for Star Spangled Celebration and the rodeo parade. Dick's loyalty to the club has not gone unnoticed. He received the highest Lions Club honor bestowed: The Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Event

DECEMBER

WED, DEC 16 - New Lisbon Lions Club 50Th Anniversary - Target Bluff German Haus, Camp Douglas, WI. $15/person. Social Hour at 5:30pm. Dinner at 6:30pm. Reservations are due by December 9th to Lion PDG John Stastny, 205 S. Monroe St., New Lisbon, WI 53950. Reservations received after December 9 will not be guaranteed seating.

Send your club news, events & photos of Lions in Action to Editor Pat today!

DISTRICT CONVENTION

February 12-13, Winter Green Resort, WI Dells

Lions Eye Bank Superstar

by 2nd VDG Lion Joe Fisher

As I was reading a recent story on Lions eye programs, it occurred to me that we have a "superstar" in our midst in our own LaCrosse Lions Club.

Lion Jim Ritter recently transported his 148th set of eyes. Lion Jim, who joined Lionism in 1976 and has served a total of 6 years as our LaCrosse Club President, transported his first set of eyes in May, 1989. At that time area eye transport was in the exclusive domain of another LaCrosse area Lions club (which has since disbanded). Lion Jim was called by the person in charge of that Club's Eye Transport Program when on a particular night, none of his "regular" Lions could make the trip. When this club disbanded they turned over their small Eye Bank fund balance to the LaCrosse Lions Club under then President Lion Art Marson. At that point Lion Jim, in addition to a few other LaCrosse Area Lions formed the core of the eye transport efforts.

While initially the standard run was from LaCrosse to Madison, it was eventually broken down into a two legged operation:

- Leg A LaCrosse to Tomah
- Leg B Tomah to Madison

Starting in 1995, an arrangement was reached with Northwest Airlines to fly the tissue from LaCrosse to Madison. Airport. 9/11 along with the necessity to physically open the boxes effectively put an end to this practice.

It also was a common practice to take the eyes to the Tomah Greyhound Bus Depot for subsequent shipment to Madison.

Lion Jim recounted a couple of stories involving "skittish bus drivers" during these operations. He also mentioned that his wife Neva was a companion on many of his trips.

As of now the standard itinerary comprises three legs:

- LaCrosse-Tomah
- Tomah-Portage
- Portage-Madison

When asked to sum up his overall feelings the Korean War Vet and retired Excel Energy Engineer related that it is "really neat," and having had two optical surgeries himself, he can personally appreciate the program's value. The father of six and grand-father of 10 stated that "while it's a volunteer program, it's really worthwhile." While about half the deliveries are during normal "business hours," it is an ideal program for retired Lions. Jim stated that "if everyone would do just a little, it would materially benefit all connected with the program."

Obviously while Lion Jim Ritter has retired as an engineer from Excel Energy, he definitely hasn't retired from life. We are all much better for this.