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Keep The Ball Rolling

by ADP Myrna Kelley

I am happy to be serving you for a second term as your Affiliate District President. The last year was a joy for me and really helped me get acquainted with other clubs in our district.

I am so inspired by what all the clubs do for others. All the clubs in D2 are so active and do SO many good projects both locally, district wide and state wide. Keep up the great work!

I hope we can increase our district membership some next year. Membership growth is a key component to having a healthy club and to serving the growing needs of our communities.

Could everyone bring a friend to the next meeting? Explain to prospective members that we are just everyday people trying to make life better for those less fortunate.

Every new member can make a positive difference. Just imagine what our communities would be without Lioness and get out there and try to get additional members.

I would like to congratulate all the Lioness clubs for having a busy and rewarding summer. I have high praise for all of you.

I am looking forward to another year of great things from all the clubs in 27-D2.

Lions Members Aim To Preserve Eyesight

Reprinted courtesy of The Richland Observer

by Dawn Kiefer

Preserving eyesight is the number one mission of Lions Club members and Richland Center Lions go the extra mile – sometimes literally.

They make periodic trips to Mexico, where they test needy people's eyes and then provide them with suitable eyeglasses.

Here at home, they conduct vision screening of four and five year old kindergarten students, as well as fourth graders - whose eyes have developed since their earlier eye tests.

Lions members point out that, by law, children must have an eye test by age five.

Recently, Richland Center Lions Club members, including Floyd Blackmore, Lorraine Dalberg, Sharon Harness, and Roland McCauley, conducted eye testing at Doudna Elementary School. They were assisted by Belmont Lions Club member Charles Miehe, who used a mechanism called a photo screener to check the children's eyes for a variety of sight-related issues.

A CHILD'S SIGHT SAVED - *Belmont Lions Club member Charles Miehe re-checks Mitchell Woodman's eyes with a photo screener mechanism. Woodman's amblyopia was discovered in a Lions Children's Vision Screening conducted when he was in four-year-old kindergarten.*

Miehe said, "Typically, one child in ten is referred for further evaluation by a medical professional. While some are near- or far-sighted, more troubling are cases of amblyopia – commonly referred to as "lazy eye."

He added that untreated lazy eye can result in blindness in the affected eye and that as many as five percent of adults have lost their sight due to this disorder.

The most serious case the Richland Center Lions have seen in some time was that of Doudna kindergartner Mitchell Woodman, a local boy they screened when he was in four-year-old kindergarten.

The Lions referred the boy to a medical professional who diagnosed Woodman with amblyopia and prescribed a patch for him to wear over the unaffected eye.

Now, age six, he will soon be able to remove the patch for good and have both eyes in sync.

In fact, when Woodman, was tested this time, the results were vastly improved.

Lions want the public to know that anyone can contact them with concerns and they urge parents to follow through with testing for their children.

Additionally, the Richland Center Lions Club accepts used eyeglasses and even hearing aids, which they distribute to needy persons in our country and around the world.

You can drop your used eyeglasses and hearing aids off at any of the Lions receptacles placed around Richland Center or they can be handed over to any Lions Club member.

ask a prospective member to help out at your next project

27-D2 District Governor
Don Nelson
gondolagardens@charter.net
608/372-4439

Ready to roll up your sleeves?

By the time that you read this, the International Convention will be concluded in Sydney and hopefully I will have a pleasant stop over in New Zealand. Our first Cabinet meeting will be in Elroy on the 22nd of August at the American Legion.

For those clubs that meet all year, your new officers should be installed and you have possibly begun service or work projects in your communities. If your club starts up again in the Fall, now is the time to search out needed projects or services and take advantage of the beautiful Fall conditions before the snow flies all too early.

If your county or community has a Senior Service agency, possibly contact them and ask if your club and do a one day project for those that need minor repairs, leaf raking or tasks that need to be done before winter. Make it a club activity and be sure that your Lions colors are evident so the others know what we do. Contact your local park commission and check to see if there is something that needs to be done on shelters or grounds and let the newspaper know so that everyone knows who took the extra time to make it a better area.

Even though we are a Service Club, remember that all Lions, Lioness and Leos are our fellow members in our desire to help others and to serve those that need our abilities and help. Service and friendship to others is a good standard to hold.

I hope that your summer goes well and use the district website to download the District Governor visit forms to start the ball rolling. Hope to see you soon,

Barre Fest
A Shining Example

by 1st VDG Joe Fisher

In looking at my ramblings in past articles this year, I'm reminded of the adage that periodically "even a blind squirrel finds a nut." More specifically I remember on two separate occasions using as my central theme(s)

1. The need to give thought to means of recruiting, accommodating and mentoring new Lions of younger generations.
2. Using synergy to band together different Lions Clubs to accomplish what isn't feasible for clubs on an individual basis.

Lion Mary and I were furnished a classic illustration of both of these principles in operation this past Memorial Day weekend. We were privileged to attend "Barre Fest"; an all day celebration/concert in which the organization and central catalyst was the recently reconstituted Barre Mills Lions Club.

This is a club that was recently "resurrected from the ashes" by a vibrant group of mostly young, progressive and demonstrably community minded individuals.

This was a major undertaking (and major success) due to the energetic and organized approach taken by these predominantly young, dedicated, community oriented Lions. This approach, by what I've observed (and more by what I'm told), is characteristic of this "new club" and a great example of what can happen when youth and younger generation Lions are given legitimate and sincere voice.

In terms of synergy, while the Barre Mills Lions were the central force behind this event, I also noticed helping Lions from the St. Joseph Ridge and Warrens clubs, as well (my apologies to any other clubs I may have missed) and another local community service organization. As Lions clubs, when we support each other ,many good things happen.

In summation, "Great job Barre Mills Lions. Keep up the good work." You are an inspiration to all of us in 27-D2.

On a closing note, Lion Mary and I would like to join the rest of our District in welcoming our new District Governor, Lion Don Nelson and his partner in service Gwen as our new "royal couple." It's our privilege to work with you and we wish you the best for your year of Lionistic leadership.

And along the same lines, we would like to thank IPDG Kathy and Lion Jim for their many contributions to Lionism and our district this past year.

Club News & Events

WARRENS CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY
by Lion Pat Hart

Another Memorial Day has come and gone across this great nation. This day was set aside as a holiday to honor those men and women who gave their lives so that our country could remain free. That freedom that they gave us enables Lions, Lioness and Leos to carry on the gift of helping those in need.

Think of the sacrifice that our service men and women make every day for us. I believe all of us know someone who has recently served our country in Iraq, Afghanistan or somewhere in the world.

After a program at the Warren Mills cemetery, honoring those who served and also those who continue to serve, community members then came to the Warrens Lions Log Building for a chicken dinner.

The tradition of honoring our fallen service men and women has been taking place since the 1860's when it was first known as "Decoration Day".

PDC LEARNS ABOUT ST FERIOLE ISLAND - Tom Nelson gave a very informative presentation on the "St. Feriole Island Garden Project" at the Prairie du Chien Lions April meeting. Nelson is a retired middle school teacher. His passion is the development of St. Feriole Island (which used to be called the Fourth Ward) in Prairie du Chien as a tourist attraction. In fact, ever since the late 70's when the flood-prone Fourth Ward was relocated to higher ground and while he was still a teacher, he has been involved in activities related to the Island.

BARRE CO-ED LIONS 1ST ANNUAL "BARRE BOWLING BLAST" - 24 teams of five bowlers each participated in this 8-pin tap tournament. Participants included several area Lions clubs – St. Joseph Ridge (2 teams), Warrens, Norwalk and Sparta – all of which performed well ... with Norwalk taking 1st place, St. Joe's taking 3rd and the Sparta Lions placing in 5th place. A good time and great support by all our area Lions Clubs! In total, the event raised almost $2,800.

Upcoming Events

JULY

SUN, JUL, 18 - Sauk Prairie Lion Rembember Merv Golf Tournament at the Lake Wisconsin Country Club, Prairie du Sac. Come join us for a great day of golf, dinner and prizes. Support the Sauk Prairie Lions. It is a great day of fun.

— For more info or to sign up, contact Nancy Passehl 608/643-3008 or nnpass@merr.com

AUGUST

SUN, AUG 22 - District Cabinet Meeting at the Elroy American Legion. Social at 11:00, Dinner at 12:00 with the cabinet meeting to follow.

SEPTEMBER

SAT, SEP 18 - 10th Annual Whooping Crane Festival At Lions Park in Necedah Wisconsin. It will be chocked full of great stuff, bus tours of the Necedah Wildlife refugee, awesome speakers all day a 10K run, ATV Poker run. Great food, Whooper brew, Fiddlestiks playing that night. Lots and lots of vendors and crafters. The tours start at 7 and run until 3.

— For more information check out: http://www.whooping-crane-festival.com/

What's happening? Send all your club news, events & photos of Lions in action to 27-D2 Editor Pat

Get Your District Governor Visit Scheduled

LCI requires each District Governor to visit all the clubs in his/her district during their term in office. DG Don's schedule is filling rapidly, so contact him ASAP to schedule an official visit.

The information you need to provide includes:

- Club Name
- Meeting Location name / address and directions
- 1st and 2nd choice of dates
- If it's a Dinner Meeting
- Meeting Times (hospitality, meal, meeting)
- Any Special Requests (new member induction, officer installation, other)