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Joint Women's Civic Club And Lions Meeting

by Lion Bob Potter

What hat do you wear? That is the question posed by Esther Rannow, a highly sought-after public speaker when she addressed the Hillsboro Women's Civic Club and Hillsboro Lions at an unusual joint meeting April 12th. Rennow's message, conveyed with humor and insight, is that we may not be able to solve all the world's problems, but we can make a difference in our little corner of it, if only we are willing to wear the right hat.

The Women's Civic Club and the Lions, two longstanding Hillsboro service clubs, have been making a difference in this little corner of the world for years. Their cooperation to bring Esther Rannow to Hillsboro is an example. The Lions picked up the tab for Rannow's fee and hotel accommodations, and the Women's Civic Club prepared a delicious dinner and transformed the Hills Manor meeting place into a sumptuous banquet hall, complete with linen tablecloths, handmade table runners, and fresh flowers. Members of the two organizations made a receptive audience for Rannow's call to service.

"Americans cannot wait to help," according to Esther Rannow, "but we need to stay committed for the long haul." She then modeled a dozen hats, describing the attitude toward community service represented by each hat in turn. Donning her first hat, "busy" with ornamentation, she reminded her listeners who are "too busy" to volunteer, that they are allotted the same 24 hours a day as others. "We choose how we invest those hours."

Switching to a conservative black fedora, she repeated the mantra of many organizations: "We've always done it this way."

"Change is scary but inevitable," said Rannow.

Wearing a transparent hat to symbolize the transparency of the excuse, "You all do it so much better than I could," Rannow stated that each of us has talents and skills to share: organization, taking care of details, making phone calls, for example.

ESTHER RANNOW ILLUSTRATED HOW WEARING THE RIGHT HAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE *and make the world a better place for all.*

Rannow put on her party hat and became the "party girl" who says, "I'll come to your meetings, but don't ask me to serve on committees. That's so boring…"

"Have you ever noticed that people who are easily bored tend to be pretty boring themselves?" asked Rannow.

Next Rannow pulled a knit cap down over her head, covering her ears and eyes. "This type asks, 'When did you decide to do that?'" Rannow pointed out that many people deprive themselves the chance to serve and enjoy the fellowship of other volunteers because they don't keep their ears and eyes open. Such poor habits carry into other aspects of life, causing such people to miss opportunities for personal and professional advancement.

Like a Frisbee (which Rannow placed on her head), a person may promise, "I'll get back to you. Unlike the Frisbee, they do not."

Placing her granddaughter's tiara on her head, Rannow discussed the status seeker, who asks, "Who else will be there?" Such people, Rannow noted, tend to show up for photo ops but little else.

To illustrate the excuse, "The weather is too cold/hot/snowy or too nice to come," Rannow donned a pair of earmuffs and a fishing hat.

"Anyone who has been in Wisconsin for five minutes knows that the weather is a challenge," according to Rannow, "You can't let it stop you."

Rannow's next hat, rather old-fashioned, gave Rannow the opportunity to repeat the common refrain, "I'm getting too old for that."

Rannow rebutted that sentiment with this quote from a piano teacher friend: "You don't quit playing because you get old; you get old because you quit playing."

She then modeled a hat worn by early twentieth-century ladies and brandished the long hatpins that held such hats in place. She stated that a more likely use for those hatpins was to jab certain people, just as certain people get their jabs in after others have completed a project. "That will never work," or "You spent too much (or too little)," they might jab, having carefully avoided any involvement with the project.

Finally, Rannow placed on her head a well-worn hardhat. Her audience members all got the message: "Show me what has to be done, and I'll give it my best shot," this hat (and volunteer) says, "I'll give my time, talent, skills, and money to make my community a better place in which to live and work."

Esther Rannow, a career educator, concluded her brilliant presentation with a quote from The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss: "… Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better…"

Following Rannow's presentation, The Women's Civic Club and the Lions held their respective business meetings. One item on their agenda was enthusiastically approved. Barb and Bob Potter proposed that the two clubs cooperate to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's visit to Hillsboro by planting a tree on the grounds of the public library, site of the old Hillsboro High School, where JFK spoke. "Although Kennedy planned to plant a tree during his visit, his tight schedule made it impossible to complete the task," said Bob Potter, "Doing so now would stimulate an interest in history among Hillsboro students and inspire future generations to serve, as JFK inspired our generation."

27-D2 District Governor
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Sitting here and looking out the window and just thinking one year ago I was wondering how I was going to make it through the next year as your District Governor. WOW the time sure has flown by. Now I'm sitting here trying to think how to sum up and express myself on what a wonderful experience this had been.

Lion Jim and I have met so many wonderful people this past year. We have been to places we would never have thought of going.

I especially would like to thank all the clubs and their members for all the hard work and making our visits a great experience. Keep up with all the hard work and have fun by

Reaching, Touching, Improving lives, in your communities and around the world.

A special thank you to all the Lions, Lioness, and Leo members of District 27-D2. Also I would like to thank all the other District Governors and other Lions, Lioness and Leos, throughout the state to make this a memorable year as a whole we are a great group of people.

When you see your Cabinet Members for the year 2009 – 2010 give them a great big thank you for all their hard work that they have put in this past year. Thank you Cabinet Members for making my year a lot easier. Everyone that was asked stepped up and did a terrific job and went that extra mile.

Our Lioness Affiliate President Lion/Lioness Myrna Kelley has done an outstanding job. When you see her give her a big thank you for her great leadership this past year

Soon we will be starting our new Lions year 2010-2011 and with great leadership ready to serve you. District Governor Don Nelson of the Tomah Lions club has been hard at work this year preparing for his year as District Governor. He will able to serve you with great leadership. We are blessed with such great leadership in the district starting with past leadership and continuing on into the future. Let's give all your support to the leadership this coming year to your District Governor and his cabinet. Also give all your support to your club officer as they are great leaders and also may be willing to go beyond just the club level as leaders, as your District is looking for leadership in all areas.

Please make welcome as your new District Governor Lion Don Nelson and his partner in service Gwen. Also please welcome First Vice District Governor Joe Fisher and his partner in service Lion Mary from the La Crosse Lions Club. Our Second Vice District Governor, Bob Volden is from the Viroqua Lions Club.

Younger Generation Looking to Serve

by 2nd VDG Lion Joe Fisher

With the warmer weather ascending on us it opens the door to many more "outdoor type projects." With this in mind maybe we can combine these plans with our efforts to attract younger generation Lions as well. It seems that since time immemorial the "older generation" has been pensively wondering "what the younger generation" is coming too. In my last 20 plus years of my working life I was in various aspects of College Student Services. I can honestly relay the most prominent question of the last 10+ of those years from these young students (and often their parents as well)

What is there on campus in regard to service opportunities? Contrary to much of what we read today I think this is sterling "indictment," really testament to the quality of our young people. Our question as Lions is how do we turn this quest for service into positive recruiting results?

While I would guess there would be many good answers to the above question, I think much would center around getting them involved with many active and obviously stimulating projects (probably they would have many good ideas of what these may be). Most recent research indicates that most of this generation enjoy activities but don't find meetings stimulating. We have to be attuned to this aspect as well. Finally inasmuch as many clubs have had markedly good results with younger Lion recruits, I think the next step is the mentoring process which entails gradually preparing them for positions of progressively greater responsibilities. Each club member should be involved in this process.

HOW DO LIONS TAP INTO YOUNGER PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SERVE? *The younger generation is volunteering at record levels. Why not invite them to get involved with some of your summer projects?*

Finally on a much different note, when this comes to print Lion DG Kathy and her partner in service Lion Jim will be on the "last lap" of their year as DG. I would like to add Lion Mary's and my name to the many who thank them for their great year of service and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

send your club news, events & photos of Lions in Action to 27-D2 Editor Pat today!

Club News & Events

NORTH BEND LIONS 2ND SMELT FRY of the season on March 28th. Attendance at the catfish fry and the two smelt fries was very good this year making the annual fund raising projects successful. Here the Lion servers are ready for action. Even though we are a small club all members take an active role in making sure these events are successful. The fund raisers are used to support community and school activities along with the Wisconsin Lions Camp and Campaign SightFirst II.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN'S LATEST INFORMATIONAL MEETING - Tom Nelson was the main speaker at the Prairie du Chien Lions Club April meeting. His topic was the "St. Feriole Island Garden Project." He summarized the history of the project, its current status, and plans for the future. It was a very informative session. Tom 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, Tom as been involved in activities related to the Island.

THE ELROY LIONS 41ST ANNUAL RADIO DAYS PROGRAM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AGAIN THIS YEAR. The event, on March 27th and 28th this year is one of the Club's biggest fundraisers with interesting guests, motel and hotel stays to auction off, and trivia questions for listeners to win prizes. Local businesses pay for ads on the program which may or may not always be read professionally, but always with enthusiasm. Discover Wisconsin host Stephanie Klett was a guest this year again for the 11th year after missing last year because of prior commitments. This year she brought along a film crew so some Elroy Lions may be on a Discover Wisconsin Juneau County segment (if they pass their screen test).

Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.

— Danny Thomas