District Editor: Pat Kennedy . 251 Lincoln St., Elroy WI 53929 . 608/462-5636 . pjkennedy@centurytel.net

# West Salem Leos Wrap

Members of the West Salem Leo Club — a youth community service group affiliated with the Lions Club — spent Saturday morning wrapping Christmas presents for children less fortunate than themselves.

About 20 of the Leo Club's 41 members gathered at the American Legion on Leonard Street for the wrapping session, which was part of Leo's Club project called Old Fashioned Christmas for Kids. There was pizza afterward, but it was clear that wasn't what motivated the youngsters to give up their Saturday morning.

Giving something back to the community gave seventh-grader Cole Hoyer a good feeling, he said. "It's good to be with your friends, giving to others and helping each other out — especially at this time of year."

"This is pretty neat," said Ken Spraetz, a retired middle school teacher who is the group's adviser. "The goal is to do something good for someone else and this allows these kids to do something nice for others while introducing them to community service."

The program, which receives toys and donations from the West

Salem Business Association, Sprint and the West Salem Foundation, began nine years ago and was the brainchild of Gerald Van Oss and Rosy Rosendale.

"It all started when I was listening to the radio and they were mentioning all the needy kids who needed toys, but there was no mention of West Salem," Van Oss said. "The first year we had nine families and 17 kids. This year there are 25 families."

The Leo Club eventually took over the project. "I think it got a little bit overwhelming for Gerry and Rosy," Spraetz said.

Leo's Club members actually pick out many of the toys themselves, while others are supplied by the business association. "The kids do the shopping. We take the money donated and go to Walmart and Shopko. They really enjoy doing this," Spraetz said.

About 20 Leo Club members took part in the shopping which helps ensure the recipients will be sure to enjoy the gifts. "If I got some of these presents I'd be happy, but the best part for me is probably just the feeling of giving to others," said Vanessa Holey a seventh-grader who serves as Leo Club president.

The wrapped gifts are transported to the police department for distribution. "Each gift comes with an addressed sealed envelope so we know where to deliver the toys," said Police Chief Charles Ashbeck.

Spraetz emphasized that anonymity is one of the key features of the program. "Candidates for toys are recommended by schools, by churches and by individuals in the community, but all we know is the age of the children — we don't know who will be receiving the presents. Only the police department knows that."

# Lioness News

*by ADP Patty Overturf*

It's March already! Spring is just around the corner. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our current club officers for taking the time and making the commitment to serve in leadership.

Most clubs will be electing their new officers for the coming year this month. Secretaries should have a form for reporting new officers. If not, 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. It is a 'fillable form' you can save and e-mail. Please mail this as soon as possible to Vice District Governor Kathy Friske – 7634 Dixie Rd.; Tomah,WI 54660 or e-mail kathykf@centurytel.net. She's inputting the names for next year's directory. I would also appreciate a copy of next year's officers.

Along that same line, officers training will be the latter part of April. Information will be given out at the District Convention in Sparta. Presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, skirt-twisters, and membership chairs should make plans to attend. It is a requirement that to be a 100% president, secretary, or treasurer you have to attend officers training.

Our Lioness District Convention is going to be AWESOME this year. I hope to see many old and new faces April 4 at the Colonial Bowling Center in Sparta. The Sparta Lioness have been working hard to put together a convention no one should miss. The theme is Hawaiian. Come dressed in your Hawaiian shirts, blouses, mumu dresses, flip flops or even your coconut bras and grass skirts if you choose!!! We want you to be comfortable and have fun! The cost for the day is $17.00 through March 13th and $20.00 after March 13th. So register early. Also, remember that District Governor Mike Kelley will be honoring the Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers of our clubs at our convention this year.

Speaking of officers – our Affiliate Lioness District will be electing new officers at Convention. Don't be afraid to step up and do your part and serve on the District Cabinet. I know we have many capable and dedicated Lioness in this District and we need your help.

The Affiliate District raffle is underway. The winner will be drawn at our Lioness District Convention. First prize - $300, second prize - $100, and third and fourth prizes - $50 each. Why not you? Be sure and get your ticket!

The State Advisory is again compiling all Lioness giving and service hours statewide. Each club needs to complete the new 2008-09 Lioness Giving Form by April 1st. Please notice that volunteer hours are to only reflect service hours as a Lioness and that fund raising hours are not to be included.

**27-D2 District Governor**
**Mike Kelley**
mikemyrna@mwt.net
608/847-6331

This is the time of year when Lions Clubs need to start thinking about their slate of officers for 2009-2010. Once the slate of officers has been formed, it needs to be presented to the club (three times) and the election held. When the election is over, the new officer's names need to be sent to your next year's District Governor Kathy Friske. The form you use to report this is the PU101 and it needs to be in the hands of the District Governor no later then April 15, 2009. The District 27-D2 Directory goes to the printer in May so it is imperative to get the information in so the directory will have the correct information on the club's officers, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail information.

At the Necrology service during our February 14 District Convention I was amazed at the number of deceased members we (27-D2) had in one year. We lost 21 wonderful, dedicated Lions who, for many years, were the backbone of our clubs. Our membership chairs need to work on new members and train them to become our great Lions of the future. It's a sad circle, but a circle that needs to continue so our humanitarian efforts in Lions continues.

TWO VICE DISTRICT GOVERNORS - The Governor and the first and second Vice District Governors are a team working together to provide effective leadership. The District Governor's role is a complex and demanding one and he/she will be able to share responsibilities with the first and second Vice District Governors.

The first Vice District Governor is primarily responsible for assisting with membership developement, chartering new clubs and promoting new clubs.

The second Vice District Governor is primarily responsible for focusing on retention issues and for increasing the awareness among Lions about various association programs.

Our District (27-D2) is very fortunate to have two great candidates in Lion Don Nelson and Lion Joe Fisher to assume these offices.

On March 28, 2009, the TTT (Transfusion, Transition and Transformation) training will take place in Warrens, Wisconsin, at the Log Cabin starting at 9:00 A.M. The training is for the 27-D2 MERLO team, Region 1 and 2 chairpersons, zone chairpersons of both regions as well as the membership people, Presidents and Vice Presidents of the clubs in Regions 1 and 2.

This training is an interaction media approach to help Lions Clubs use information and ideas to assist in the recruitment, involvement and retention of Lion members.

# D2 Hide Collection Provides Funds For WLF

**DEER HIDES** *being loaded by Lion Greene on the forklift and Lions Evenson and Holey.*

The deer season is over and we are cleaning up the deer hide collection and are very happy to tell you that we had another good year.

With the deer kill down this year about 10 to 20 percent we were expecting a bad year and were surprised to see we were only down about 30 hides from last year in district D2.

With all the deer hides sent or picked up by January 2nd we had a total of 880 but within a couple of days the number had gone to 905 as we received 25 more hides. These were sent to Lions Camp in early February.

I would like to thank all of you that helped us with another good year and hope to get your support again next year.

# VDG Corner

*by VDG Kathy Friske*

**March 24th is Diabetes Alert Day and March is Save Your Vision Month -** You've heard the expression that your eyes are the windows to your soul, but did you know that your eye doctor can also save your life?

Your eyes are often the best windows to your health. By looking into your eyes, your optometrist can tell a lot about your general health.

Since over 33% of people with diabetes don't know that they have it, an eye exam can be the only clue to detecting this potentially life-threatening disease.

By dilating the pupil, your optometrist can see inside your eye using an ophthalmoscope, which lights and magnifies the blood vessels in your eyes. Changes to these blood vessels can signify various stages of diabetic retinopathy. Left untreated, it can cause blindness. For those suffering from diabetes without knowing it, the detection and treatment of this disease can mean relief on many levels.

Save Your Vision Month raises awareness among the general public and targets at-risk groups to remind them of the need for regular, comprehensive eye examinations to detect eye health problems, general health issues, and vision difficulties.

# West Salem: New Members & Awards

Three new West Salem Lions Club members — Sue Ward, Chris Cronk and Dan Cronk — were welcomed to the club by Lions District Governor Mike Kelley of Mauston at the club's January 7 meeting.

Kelley also presented several awards to club members. The first went to Ken Spraetz, who received the Leo's Club Advisor Award for all of his work with youths in the West Salem schools.

The second award, the Key Award, went to Jim Allen for sponsoring new Lions Club members. Allen has been instrumental in introducing new members to the West Salem club.

Also receiving plaques that evening were club President Steve Zeman, Secretary Eric Ender and Treasurer Herb Aleckson.

Kelley also spoke to the club about the Lions' contributions all around the world. Lions Clubs International provides glasses, hearing aids and other medical equipment all over the globe, and are spearheading efforts to make cornea transplants more available and updated us on improvements at the Lions Camp in Rosholt.

The West Salem Lions Club actually predates the camp, tracing its roots back to 1948.

**Club wraps up giving season -** Giving at Christmas is a long-time tradition for the West Salem Lions Club. According to Christmas Basket Chairman Vern "O.J." Romskog, "We delivered 36 food and seven fruit baskets this year."

The club also donated nine extra boxes of miscellaneous items to the Care and Share Food Pantry.

The club received help on this project from the Middle School student body and Principal Dean Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lang, Janel Locher, the West Salem Leo Club and Ken Spraetz, just to name a few!

"We (the Lions) sincerely thank each and everyone who helped make this a huge and happy event every December," Ronskog said.

## DG Mike's Schedule

**MARCH**

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | French Island Lions |
| 6-7 | Council of Governors |
| 11 | Viroqua Lions |
| 13-4 | 27-D1 Convention |
| 15- | Cabinet Meeting |
| 16- | Reedsburg Lions |
| 18- | Sauk Prairie & Plain Lions |
| 20 | 27-E2 Convention |
| 25 | Gays Mills Lions |

**Check out www.md27d2.org**

# News & Activities

**HILLSBORO GROWS BY THREE -** On January 5, 2009 the Hillsboro Lions installed three new members. From left to right: Lions sponsor Al Skemp, Allan Fanta, Sharla Fanta, sponsor Doris Skemp, Bonita Phillips, and sponsor Liz Johnson. Members were installed by Lion James Taylor with the Blindfold Ceremony.

**HOLMEN LIONS** have been a financial supporter of the Gateway Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and Camp Decorah for 30+ year. Recently the club was invited to hold their regular club meeting at the new dining hall and to tour the camp. Lion President Barry Ploessl presented a $1,000 check to Boy Scout Professional and Lion Member, Steve Topel. The check is for general operating expenses of Camp Decorah.

**FALL 2008 ZONE MEETING** Marty Osinski, left, of Genoa, WI, and 27-D2 Leadership Chair, and Eric Holthaus of LaCrosse, WI, and a WLF Director, speak at a Zone Meeting in Seneca, WI, last fall.

**Send your news & photos today!**

**PRAIRIE DU CHIEN - TOP:** Lions Terry Jung, Ray Tippery, and Pam Olson man a fundraising brat tent outside the True Value store in Prairie du Chien. The True Value store provided the tent, beverage "tank", and gas grill and propane for the event. **Bottom:** Twelve waffle irons are ready to go for the Prairie du Chien Lions Club Waffle Supper fundraiser held at Prairie du Chien High School. At far left are Lions Ray Tippery and Tammy Otteson.