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Good Heavens! Is It That Time Of The Year Already!

by 2nd VDG Don Nelson

I guess that time really does fly when you're having fun. It's already March and the end of our Lionistic year looms in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you for what you have accomplished so far this year.

I urge all of you, as you prepare to make your final donations, to remember that we truly do make a difference in the lives of the sight impaired, handicapped and those who are in need worldwide through WLF.

Our district has made a considerable donation to the Lions Eye Bank this year, and hopefully, many other districts will have added to theirs at their district conventions.

Let's not forget that WLF, Leader Dog, Youth Exchange, and Diabetes would appreciate any donations to offset their remaining yearly expenditures.

There are still close to nine thousand assorted district pins available at the state office. Their sales would certainly add needed funds to the state's coffers. Why not buy enough for all your members? We know that it's going to a good place.

Make sure that you follow the USA/Canada Forum news in your Lions newspaper. There are many opportunities for volunteers and members. It won't be held this close to most of us for many years. Take advantage of the sessions, speakers and meet your fellow Lions from all over the USA and Canada.

Hopefully there will be an incoming Second Vice District Governor for 27-D2 by the time you read this. This is an important position that is STRONGLY recommended by the International. Please consider stepping up to this office and become a leader in your state's Lions. I hope many of you will have been approached in the next two months and asked to "step up to the next level".

Have a good last few months and we'll see you at the State Convention at Stevens Point in May.

Guiding Lion Training

On January 31, 2010 at 10:00 A.M before the cabinet meeting PDG John Schwab held a training session for the MERLOW team and Region and Zone Chairs as well as other Cabinet members on becoming a Guiding Lion. This was more to help clubs out when they need the help and also to start new clubs. Members trained included:

Lion Arnie Svacina
Lion Margaret Lueck
Lion Dierk Van Cleef
VDG Don Nelson
PDG Virgil Thompson
WLF Lion Eric Holthaus
Lion Bob Volden
PDG Aloysius Lueck
Lion Randy Kissack
Lion Pat Hart
PDG Marty Osinski
PDG Eric Ender
Lion Pete Lunde
PDG John Hanson
PDG Richard (Dick) Hauser
DG Kathy Friske

The DG and VDG will be able to assign a team of Guiding Lions to help with any club that has hit a flat spot in its lions life and is in need of some influence of enthusiasm, motivation and training to help kick start their goals and gaining new members.

The ultimate goal of the program is to help make a new club independent and self-reliant or to assist an ailing club in regaining its energy and mission of what lionism is about.

It is the hope of District 27-D2 we can regain the enthusiasm with in the clubs in the district and create some new clubs in this time of a trying economy.

We need to remember all we have to ask someone to a club meeting or help on a project them may become you new member.

If you're not confused, you're not paying attention.

— Tom Peters

Officer Training

Prepare your club for your next year of Lion service, fellowship, enjoyment, and satisfaction by attending one of the Officer Training Sessions.

We will hold one at the New Lisbon Legion on Tuesday evening, April 20th.

A second one will be held at the Richland Center Bowling alley on Thursday evening, April 22nd.

The last one will be held in La Crosse on Tuesday evening, April 27th. The location will be announced later.

New officers, new members, and repeat officers can gain confidence and information from these sessions and can help in creating and passing on positive attitudes and tips from their experiences.

Break-out sessions include President, Secretary, Treasure, Membership Chair Tail Twister, and New member education.

The evening schedule is as follows:

6:30 – 7:00
Assembly and social

7:00 – 7:45
Dinner

7:45 – 8:00
Lion Presentation

8:00 – 9:15
Training sessions

More information and registration forms will be sent to each club. Contact PDG Virgil Thompson at thomsrv@centurytel.net for more information.

Lioness News

by ADP Myrna Kelley

It was discovered at a recent Alliliate Lioness Advisory Committee meeting that Lioness throughout the state all do their starting dates for the new members differently. After much discussion, it was decided by the committee that four things should happen before a new member is recognized.

1. the member fills out a Proposal for Membership application.
2. the Lioness board approves the new member
3. the new member pays her dues and
4. the new member's name appears on the P and A report.

Some clubs are waiting until the Installation Ceremony as the date the new member becomes officially a member. Many clubs only do the installation ceremony only once or twice a year. It was decided by the Affiliate Advisory Committee that the ceremony is just symbolic. Let's all try to use the above criteria to avoid any more confusion. Thanks.

It was also announced that the State Lioness will be in charge of the Pool Side Hospitality at the Wisconsin State Convention which will be held May 13-15 at the Ramada Inn in Stevens Point. It will be held on Friday night. If you're asked to help or donate that night, please accept. More later.

The Lioness raffle at the Lions Camp Open House made $1,030. which was donated to the Nature Center at Lions Camp. Great. It was also discussed that the Nature Center will accept mounts that families no longer need or want if they are in good condition. So, dig out your basements and consider making a gift to the Nature Center.

Lioness window clings will be available soon. The project should give us some more recognition as Lioness. They will be 4 " X 6".

Looking forward to the nice spring weather that can't be too far away. Keep up the wonderful work, Lioness. It has been a very productive year so far.

Tomah Lions Gift Of Sight

by Lion Doug Olson

A LaGrange student will be able to see better thanks to a donation of a video magnifier from the Tomah Lions Club.

Hunter Storkel, a student of Tammy Case, who teaches visually impaired students, has several non-correctable vision impairments. He suffers eye fatigue easily because he has difficulty trying to focus on print.

The Lions purchased a Smart View pocket magnification device for Hunter. The $615 device will greatly reduce the fatigue he experiences while trying to complete his home work. The pocketable device, which weighs only 4.9 ounces, allows up to 9 time magnification of printed material, and is easy to use.

Funds for the purchase were raised through the Lions "Pies for Eyes" project held with the support of Barnstead's Market. Proceeds from the sale are used for Lions eye projects.

Other eye projects supported by the Tomah Lions include: eyeglass assistance, "Eddie Eye Glass" education, Wisconsin Lions Eye Bank "tissue transporters, Leader Dog and eyeglass collection.

27-D2 District Governor
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March is upon us. So it's time to spring into step and get those new officers elected and submitted to VDG Don Nelson for the Directory. We need the new and/or old officers to attend the Officer Training coming up in April. There are always new things to learn.

Spring brings many new things to our clubs. Perhaps it's the time of year to have a membership drive.

You need many hands and new ideas for those fund raisers that the Club has planned for the summer months.

Each club should be reviewing this past year's service projects and fundraisers to evaluate the positive and negative factors of each event.

Are they as successful today as they were ten years ago? If not, can they be improved or do they need to be replaced with a more updated and worthwhile project?

Are they well attended? How can we improve on attendance? Does our community have a new need that we have not evaluated? These are all questions that can help to make your club grow and become more successful in your area. It may also help in the retention of Lion members. See if you can pique the interest of the younger generation. Please take the time and try to do a little review of your club and area.

Remember "Positive Actions Bring Positive Results".

March 23, 2010 is American Diabetes Alert Day. Do you have a high traffic area to hand out the brochures? Brochures should have been ordered from WLF.

March is Save Your Vision Month. You have 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. For example, did you know that some systemic and chronic diseases, especially diabetes, can often be detected by an optometrist during a comprehensive eye exam?

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. 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.

Thanks to the Lake Delton Club for hosting a terrific District Convention. They put in many hours of hard work leading up to the event. Perhaps it's time for your club to think about hosting a District Convention. We need to move it around the District.

Hillsboro's Medical Mission To India

At their January meeting, the Hillsboro Lions accompanied Dr. Sandhya Shah, of Gundersen Lutheran, on her medical mission to the mountainous state of Uttarakhand, India. Dr. Shah's animated narration as she projected vivid images of grateful villagers receiving essential medical care riveted her audience; the Lions felt as though they were a part of that July, 2009 expedition of service to some of the world's most underserved people. They beheld breathtaking Himalayan vistas as the medical van climbed to a remote campsite. The fragrant aromas and savor of exotic northern Indian food excited their senses. The sounds of chattering monkeys delighted them. The heat and thin, mountain air slowed their steps. Dr. Shah's photographs and passionate description transported her listeners to a magical place—a place of service to others.

Born in India, Dr. Sandhya Shah immigrated to the U.S. in 1973. She travels to India whenever possible so that her three children gain an appreciation of their heritage. Her daughter, Nikita, was one of the medical students who accompanied the 2009 medical mission to Uttarakhand, sponsored by the Dil Se Foundation and New York Life Insurance Company. The young

people served in a multitude of ways: instructing the residents in English and hand washing, transportation, cleaning, and providing other skills as needed.

Conditions were crude and often difficult. The medical team saw patients in a school building and even outdoors. Dr. Shah also used the van, in some cases, to ensure privacy for female patients. Maintaining sterile conditions was a continuing challenge. A makeshift pharmacy was set up in a storage room behind a grocery store. Limited counter space made it necessary to use the floor for medicines, some of which were brought from the United States. Medical waste and garbage were disposed of wherever possible.

Nevertheless, the people came; even elderly men and women walked for miles over rugged mountain terrain to receive the gift of medical care. Dr. Shah and her team drew blood to detect conditions such as anemia and HIV, dispensed life-saving medicines, and even performed an electrocardiogram (ECG) to diagnose congestive heart failure in a woman who was then evacuated for more extensive treatment. When Dr. Shaw asked the woman why she had not seen a physician earlier, the woman replied, "Doctors cost money; if I see a doctor, I have no money for food."

Despite their poverty, isolation, and lack of services, the people of Uttarakhand taught the students who accompanied Dr. Shah's medical mission a profound lesson: "It's incredible how the people here live and how happy they are," exclaimed one young man.

After a hands-on week of service with the medical camp, the student group embarked on a seven-day journey to explore the rich cultural diversity of India. Dr. Shah showed the Hillsboro Lions a video documentary of that trip, "Bharat Yatra 2009– A Journey to India." Thus, the Lions went along as the students visited an institution for visually handicapped, where blind students were learning to type. An American visitor observed, "They all have big dreams; they demonstrate the infinite potential of the human spirit."

At an Army academy, students learned that the military is a highly sought-after, very selective employer in India. They visited a cultural museum nestled in an area of the Himalayas said to be the abode of Gods, a Buddhist center, where they practiced meditation techniques, a weaving center where war widows earn a modest living at the loom, and a Gandhi Ashram, operated by an Englishman to teach vocational skills." They bathed in the sacred waters of the Ganges with the faithful, who believe that "She [the Ganges river] is irrigating our souls, our hearts, and our minds."

"India must be touched and felt; only so much can be captured by the lens of a camera," intoned the film's narrator. With the support of organizations such as the Dil Se Foundation and the efforts of volunteers such as Dr. Shah, American students are touching and feeling India and building bridges of understanding and friendship. Lions who were fortunate to share that experience through Dr. Shah's presentation were moved to contribute a check to the Dil Se Foundation. This gesture enabled the Hillsboro Lions Club to act locally on behalf of the universal spirit that connects all Mankind.