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Camp Douglas Lions Learn About Canine Companions

Camp Douglas Lions hosted a special guest and speaker at their regular dinner meeting, September 9, at the German Haus in Camp Douglas.

Ruby Donovan spoke about her work as a volunteer with Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). She was accompanied by nine-month-old Salvador.

Donovan explained that CCI is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. Started in 1975, CCI is the largest non-profit of its type and was the first to receive full accreditation by Assistance Dogs International. As it happens, CCI is also a Lions Project, with national headquarters in Santa Rosa California.

RUBY DONOVAN *holding CCI Dog in Training, Salvador.*

CCI puppies are born in the homes of volunteer puppy raisers. The puppy raisers provide permanent homes to CCI's breeder dogs, and they nurture the pups until they reach about eight weeks of age.

The pups are then placed with volunteer puppy raisers for the next 13 to 18 months, where they learn basic obedience and socialize with people in a variety of public settings. They are then ready for Advance Training at one of CCI's five regional centers.

Donovan said that the Advanced Training is a highly-structured six to nine month program where professional CCI instructors teach the dogs to master 40 specialized commands. Upon successful completion, the dogs enter Team Training, where they are matched with a person with a disability.

She does become attached to the dogs she works with, Donovan admitted, but said that she is proud when they complete their phase of the training with her and move on to Advanced Training. She also said that her CCI volunteer work is very gratifying.

Learn more about the Lions Project for CCI at http://www.lpcci.com/, P.O. Box 3896, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, 1-877-865-7224 (toll free).

We Can Do This

by ADP Myrna Kelley

There are many words in the English language that are special when put together. For me, "we can do this" are my favorite four words.

Lioness can change the community. We continue to ease the burden of our neighbors, near and far, proving hope for them. We try to walk in their shoes.

Lioness are just ordinary people doing extra ordinary things.

Lioness are like a family. Our good deeds speak for themselves.

It takes Lioness willing to roll up our sleeves and get the job done. Twenty people working together can do more than twenty people alone. Communities get better. Jobs get done.

When Lioness thrive, the community thrives.

I commend all the clubs for what you are doing. Open your hearts to others. Have fire in your heart. Keep that flame burning. Always keep a positive attitude.

Shut your eyes and visualize a community with no Lioness club.

Whether it's a basket for a shut-in, flowers downtown, Christmas toys or food for the needy, glasses, etc. The list just goes on and on.

We are the essence of the community. Lioness do hands on projects, they don't just writing a check. We're looking for a better tomorrow. We need to be visible in the community. Lioness are active community members who give back happiness.

Deliver a fruit basket this holiday season and look into the eyes of the recipient and you'll see the Lioness spirit. Don't ever say, "We're just a small club". The kindness you do can be life changing. Small clubs can make a big impact on the community.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

27-D2 District Governor
Kathy Friske
kathykf@centurytel.net
608/372-2192

Summer is gone and winter is fast approaching. We will be sliding into the snow and cold weather along with the Holiday Season. Families will be gathering for all the festivities. Don't forget your Lions Families.

My year as your District Governor is really becoming an experience. This position is one I never intended to obtain, but it is very rewarding.

I challenge all Lions to become active in their club, at the district or state level. We need Lions to grow and move up. Contact VDG Don to be considered for a role on the District Cabinet.

This year the LCI Global Youth Music Competition is for the Violin. The winners will be chosen at the 2010 LCI Convention in Sydney, we hope that thousands of young musicians worldwide will participate. Next year's instrument will be the Classical Guitar. I think we should start looking at our youth and see if we can come up with someone to compete in this competition.

Providing positive experiences for young people provides an invaluable opportunity to make clubs better known in their communities -- especially among the younger generation.

November is National Diabetes Month. Have you gotten your hand outs, and have a place to hand out the brochures for Diabetes this month, If you would like to use the district Diabetes display please contact Lion Doug Olson your District Diabetes Chair. His contact information is on the District Website www.md27d.org. Also fill out the application for your banner patch for your club banners.

Living with Diabetes doesn't mean "Bah Humbug" for the Holidays. The Mall can be used for more than just shopping, use it for walking during bad weather.

Exchange more than gifts. Making simple substitutions in your favorite dishes can change them from an "Off Limits" food to something that can be enjoyed by all guests. Recipes can be found in libraries, on the internet, and from the American Diabetes Association.

November is Deer Hunting season. WLF can put your deer hides to good use. Over the years, the money from the deer hide collection has been used to help support WLF's programs and projects. Why not start a collection point in your community! For more information please contact our District Environmental Chair Lion Willard (Bud) Greene at 608-786-1264 or greeneacres123@centurytel.net

Your District Governor's Calendar is on www.md27d.org website.

And Remember reach for the moon but if miss grab a star going by. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

So, How is Your Lions Year Going?

by 1st VDG Don Nelson

Most Lions clubs in the state have had at least several meetings so far this year. Whether your club meets twice a month or only once, it is already time to plan for the entire fiscal year.

We are bombarded with requests from local groups as well as Lions endorsed programs for contributions the entire year.

Please remember that your club decides where to spend the monies that it raises and your local community deserves to see that money spent where they can see. It is important, though, to support the state Lions projects.

Please make an effort to support all the state programs with some monetary donation at either the district convention, state convention or give the donation to DG Kathy on her visit.

Maybe we should designate an hour or two at our fundraisers for one program or another. Any amount is applicable and counts towards your clubs donations. It is time that our district becomes a 100% district again.

I had the opportunity to visit Leader Dog in September and left with a new appreciation. If you have a dog recipient in your area, invite them in for a program. There are also materials available on CD from the school that can be shown at your meetings.

Remember that we are at the point in the year when our membership bottoms out with members having to decide if they are going to rejoin or not, Continue to use innovative methods to attract the members that you would like to have in your club. Include everyone in the first projects with special emphasis on your newest members. This is also the time to start thinking about volunteering to be an officer next year or even stepping up in the district. We really do need you.

I hope to meet all of you this year and I am usually available to come to your meetings.

Interested in running for 2nd Vice-District Governor?
Contact 27-D2 Election Chair
Warren Wolf
608-783-0864
wd91225@charter.net
Nomination Paper Deadline:
NOVEMBER 31

SAVE THE DATE:
The Lake Delton Club is working on the District Convention which will be held on February 12-13 at the Winter Green Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

27-D2 Deer Hide Report

by Bud Greene, Deer Hide Chair

As clubs from around 27-D2 get ready for another good year collecting hides for WLF, it's a good time to look back on last year's collection.

In 2008, Our District collected 918 of the 7,783 total hides collected statewide. This resulted in $50,915 being donated to WLF. Districts E1, C1 and C2 contributed more that we did. Let's see if we can make the goal of 1,000 hides collected this season. The areas we received hides from were:

West Salem – 81
Coon Valley – 180
Onalaska – 10
Mindoro – 55
Genoa – 108
Seneca – 50
St. Joseph Ridge – 87
French Island – 5
Holmen – 10
Mormon Coulee – 49
Desoto – 18
Soldiers Grove – 47
Oakdale – 247

PROMOTING HIDE COLLECTION - *Lion Bud Greene and two Ace Hardware employees by a collection sign.*

Lion Jim Friskie deserves a special "thank you" for trimming, salting, storing and delivering all of the Oakdale hides including some the Elroy club collected.

I want to thank all the Lions who helped make this a great project for our foundation. Check www.md27d2.org for more information and location of collection points.

News & Activities

85 RUNNERS COMPLETED THE SECOND ANNUAL ELROY LIONS TUNNEL TRAILS HALF MARATHON - September 12, 2009, including a 72 year old woman. Lions provided water, Gatorade and encouragement to the half marathoners at several places along the route. There were a total of 150 competitors this year in the Half Marathon, the 5K and the Kids Fun Run. These events were an integral part of Elroy Apple Dumpling Days, the first weekend after Labor Day. All participants were treated to one of Elroy's famous Apple Dumplings. The Lions also provided inflatable air slides and bouncers for the youngsters. Complete Half Marathon results are posted on www.elroylions.org.

HILLSBORO LIONS LABOR DAY FLY-IN - Hillsboro's "Flying Lions" prepare for take-off in the Hillsboro Labor Day parade under the direction of "Wing Commander" (Club President) Lion Al Skemp. The "Flying Lions" were a big hit with spectators along the mile-long route as they buzzed the crowd, tossed candy to kids, and carried out elaborate maneuvers around their escort vehicle, a bright yellow VW bug. The message carried on the beetle and by the "Flying Lions" was a big "Thank you!" Through their generous support of such fundraisers as the gun raffle, H.O.P.E. flamingoes, dairy breakfast, and Empty Stocking, the people of Hillsboro enabled their Lions Club to carry out its mission of service to the community, the state, and the world.

STODDARD LIONESS - *by Lioness Maggie Schlicht* - started the 2009-10 year by inducting three new members. L to R: Myrna Kelly, Jancyn Lepke, Cyndi Penkalski, Cindy Levendoski & Jaynne Lepke. The Club's 2009 projects included annual pancake breakfast fundraiser, community Easter Egg Hunt and 50th Annual Labor Day picnic concession stand fundraiser. Fourteen proud Lioness participated in the 4th Annual American Cancer Society Run/Walk of Chaseburg on October 3rd. In November annual holiday bread delivery for elderly and shut ins will be November 21st.

37th ANNUAL CRANFEST HAS COME AND GONE IN WARRENS - The Warrens Lions and La Crosse/Monroe County Pork Producers sold Butterflied Pork sandwiches all three days at the Festival. On Friday evening the Warrens Lions prepared Spaghetti dinners. Saturday evening Steak suppers were served at the Lions Log Building. With over 150,000 visitors coming to the village of Warrens during the festival there were a lot of mouths to feed. This photo shows a few of the Warrens Lions cooking steak on Saturday night. As usual the Warrens Lions cook over oak firewood and not charcoal as one might think. The Warrens Lions are appreciative of all who attended the Cranberry festival. The festival is the largest fund raiser that most local civic organizations participate in through out the entire year.

Send your club news & photos of Lions in Action to Editor Pat