

From the Lion's Den

Vol. 7, February, 2009

Lion Terry Bliss, editor

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Fellow Lions:

As I write this for the newsletter I am so amazed at what our Lions Club accomplished today. Today was the fourth annual Winter chicken bar-be-que sponsored by our club. After paying for expenses, all the proceeds will be given to the Walt Rutland Family to help, as needed, as they continue to rehabilitate Walt after his tragic accident and his long road to recovery. I witnessed today the strength of this club as many Lions, family, Leos, and community members came together for a cause; over 940 dinners were packed today, within about 2½ hours, with only a couple of times where we ran out of chicken for 10 -15 minutes. Everything went very smoothly as I could see. Congratulations and huge "THANK YOU" go out to everyone that gave of their time today, and / or purchased bar-be-que tickets. Thank you to Chairman Phil D'Agostino and his committee for this very successful club fund raiser – a lot of work, but fun also for everyone. Again I have to say, "I am proud to be a Kendall Lion". The strength of many people coming together for the good a family within the community was very evident today. We should feel very PROUD.

I must also send Lion Gerry Ellis a belated "THANK YOU" for packing several baskets at Christmas and delivering them to needy community members. Lion Gerry has committed to this project for well over 20 years. I apologize for not putting this in the last newsletter. My age is starting to show.

Twenty – two Kendall Lions visited Hamlin on January 6, for a visitation. A delicious chicken parmesan and spaghetti dinner was served. Everyone attending had an enjoyable time and we heard of many of Hamlin's projects and we were encouraged to give them support.

Just say "Yes, I will." Three past president's and our next President have been given the task of submitting to me a slate of officers for next year, no later than the second meeting of February. This needs to be read to the membership at 3 different meetings, then voted on, and submitted to the International by the end of April. If you have not held an office, please give serious thought to taking on a position, if not next year, within a couple of years. This club has many outstanding past presidents, who were great leaders, and this duty needs to continue. Go through the line of offices, from director, and through the 3 vice-president positions to the Presidency. Yes, it can be a lot of work, but very satisfying as you go through the year. You will be given as much help for success as needed by our great membership. We also need an assistant for Secretary Debbie, as she is overwhelmed at times. Treasurer Paul would like to step down, but will gladly assist a new treasurer. – Lion Pres. Dan

Dates to remember:

February 1-28 – Kendall Lottery (benefit the Emergency Fund: all tickets need to be sold)

5 – Lions meeting; program by Paul Dittman on the new website; BOD meeting

14 – Valentine's Day – take your spouse out to dinner and a movie (just a very good suggestion)

19 – Lions meeting; program by PDG Marv Hankenson (or Jim Schieble?) on Lions Camp

Badger. Clarendon Lions will also be visiting. **We need our best attendance of the year.**

March 5 – Lions meeting; program by Genesee / Orleans Ministry of Concern, BOD meeting.

12 – New Lions Orientation: 7 – 9 P.M., at the Kendall Elementary School, Conference Room.

This is for all Lions, especially our newest members who have not attended an orientation.

19 – Lions meeting; program on Camp Abilities

Did you know ?

1925 International Convention
Cedar Point, Ohio
June 30, 1925

“Dear Lions and Ladies:

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see"? That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you. “

Helen Keller

Editor's note: The above text is the actual speech delivered by Helen Keller at the 1925 Int'l Convention.

I had the opportunity to witness an actress portray Helen Keller at the Int'l Convention in Chicago in 2007. The entire speech took a full 15 minutes (imagine a deaf person trying to carefully articulate each word). I witnessed it with over 17,000 Lions from around the world, and it was one of the most moving, powerful events I've ever experienced. I also saw the unveiling of the statue referenced in the article below.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter Dedicates "Gift of Sight" Statue at Lions Clubs International Headquarters in Recognition of Lions' Blindness Prevention Efforts.

The bronze statue depicts a child leading a man blinded by river blindness. For hundreds of years, a child leading a blind elder has been the fate of families stricken with river blindness, or onchocerciasis, in Africa and Latin America. A Lions club member, President Carter has long joined Lions in their fight to save and restore sight.

LCIF has a long history of partnering with The Carter Center and Merck & Co, Inc. to fight river blindness. Through these joint efforts, experts predict river blindness will be eliminated in Latin America by the year 2012.

Currently river blindness is prevalent in Latin America and Africa and is transmitted by the bite of a black fly. The disease is often blinding but can be treated through medication. Merck has donated 600 million doses of this medicine through its MECTIZAN Donation Program to LCIF and other partners, and LCIF has awarded more than \$30 million to The Carter Center for river blindness and other eye disease control programs through the Lions-Carter Center SightFirst Initiative. Lions play a vital local role in the programs, helping educate people on the diseases, distributing the drug and providing for eye health training and equipment.

Pennsylvania Lions Help Girl Receive Treatment

When Hallstead/Great Bend Lions in Pennsylvania put Melissa Spencer and her visually impaired daughter, Jessica, in contact with a pediatric vision specialist, the initial prognosis wasn't good. Jessica would have to make a two-hour trip to **Oswego, New York**, several times a week for a vision training regimen with a price tag of \$8,000 to \$10,000--which the Spencer's insurance wouldn't cover.

But the Hallstead/Great Bend club wanted to do better. Past District 14-H Governor Jack McGoldrick and the district SightFirst committee contacted Dr. Amy Neal, a member of the New York Special Olympics vision program, who secured a visual therapy computer for the Spencers and arranged monthly visits with them at Neal's practice in Hawley, Pennsylvania. To finish things up, the committee took care of the \$500 cost of the computer.

WELCOME ! CONGRATULATIONS ! WELCOME ! CONGRATULATIONS !

Welcome to new Lions Helen Unterborn (sponsored by Randy Unterborn) and Doug Urquhart (sponsored by Brett Ernenwein) . We are all looking forward to serving with you !

FUNNIES !

The other day Mrs. Smith was standing in front of the bedroom mirror, not happy with what she saw.

She said to her husband, "I feel horrible: I look old, fat, and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment." Being the thoughtful husband, Mr. Smith replied "Well, your eyesight's darned near perfect."

You know what they say --- "Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other one is a husband."

Supposedly, these are actual advertisements that have appeared in papers and businesses.

Lost: small apricot poodle. Reward. Neutered. Like one of the family.

A superb and inexpensive restaurant. Fine food expertly served by waitresses in appetizing forms.

Dinner Special -- Turkey \$5.25; Chicken or Beef \$6.25; Children \$3.00.

Wanted: Hair-cutter. Excellent growth potential.

Dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children.

Four-poster bed, 101 years old. Perfect for antique lover.

Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Two signs found on top of one another in a country kitchen several years ago: "Restrooms to the left". "Please wait for the hostess to seat you".

Official sign near door: "Door Alarmed." Handprinted sign nearby: "Window frightened".

In a funeral parlor: "Ask about our layaway plan."

In the vestry of a New England church: "Will the last person to leave please see that the perpetual light is extinguished."

On the grounds of a public school: "No trespassing without permission."

Sign on a front door: "Everyone on these premises is a vegetarian except the dog."

In a clothing store: "Excellent bargains for men with 16 and 17 necks."

"Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel".

