



# DISRICT 14-H NEWSLETTER

District Governor Rose Ellen Skodacek

**August/September 2008**

“LIONISM BLOOMS THROUGH SERVICE”



example of Lions providing service to the blind and visually impaired. If you are interested in more information you can go to [www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org) or contact PDG Karen Cokley

Yours in Lionism,  
DG Rose Ellen  
570-383-2125 [skodacekr@mvsd.us](mailto:skodacekr@mvsd.us)

## **Greetings from Governor’s “DEN”**

Greetings Lions, Lioness and Leos of District 14-H,

It is hard to believe that the summer is almost over. This issue of the newsletter is for the months of August and September.

I want to thank each of you who attended my first cabinet meeting and helped me to get this year off the ground on a positive note.

I am challenging the members of 14-H to take on the issue of membership. The past years we have tried to focus on recruitment and retention, but what we’re doing **IS Not** working...we continue to have a net loss of members. We need to come up with new ways of rebuilding the District, but we cannot do it alone.

I attend training at Leader Dog in Michigan on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> along with 8 other District Governors. The Leader Dog program is an excellent

## **Greetings from your Vice District Governor**

I hope everyone is enjoying summer. The weather has been fine.

The year is starting out in a rush. Barbara and I attended the first council meeting at Valley Forge on the 1st of August. We had meetings Friday and Saturday, with VDG training on Saturday and Sunday. The main topic of the meetings and training was membership. International Director Dr Harold Ott spoke of how Pennsylvania was first in the United States for members. Now we are second with third place quickly approaching. We continue to loose members. I know you have heard about membership many times before, and may be tired of listening. We need to take action to reverse this trend. The latest strategy is to start forming new

clubs. We must find younger people and encourage them to join.

Our first cabinet meeting was held on Sunday August 10th at Falls Fire Co. It was an excellent meal with a very good turn out, 51 people attended. That is the largest number I have seen since I began coming to cabinet meetings.

We have made visits to the Honesdale and Hawley clubs. We are looking forward to Hallstead Great Bend on August 20th. Thank you for your support

Vice District Governor Barry Taylor

### District 14-H Website

[www.lions14h.org](http://www.lions14h.org)

Thanks to Lion Mark Kusma, District Treasurer we now have a new website. If you would like to have items posted on the website, please email him at [mkusma@abingtonlions.org](mailto:mkusma@abingtonlions.org)

### DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

#### Hearing/Sight First Meeting –

**District 14-H Cabinet Meeting-** Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Place to be announced.

**Special Olympics vision screening:**

When: Sunday Sept. 21, 2008

Where: Hershey Middle School—  
Homestead Road Hershey, PA 17033

Time: all day (TBA)

Who: All Lions club members and their family are welcome (minimum age restriction to volunteer is 10 yrs old)

Details: Currently 740 athletes area signed up competing in the following events: Soccer, volleyball, Bocce, LDR/LDW, power lifting

SOLCIOE T-shirt and pin provided!

If anyone's interested in attending, contact Dr. Amy Neal at 570-226-1300 or

[dramyneal@lakesidefamilyvisioncare.com](mailto:dramyneal@lakesidefamilyvisioncare.com)

### CLUB HAPPENINGS

**Hallstead/Greatbend** – Sept. 21st, 11:00 - , \$7.00, Mount View Plaza. Contact Lion John Manachester, 879-4937.

**Olyphant Lions Club-** Pasta Dinner, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Regal Room, Olyphant more details to follow.

**To place items of interest in future newsletters send them to:**

[skodacekr@mvsd.us](mailto:skodacekr@mvsd.us) or call 570-383-2125 by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

### *A LETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT*

Dear Lions,

I'm excited to announce that Lions Clubs International has joined forces with ServiceNation – a coalition of hundreds of organizations from all sectors of America – united with the common goal of meeting the needs of communities through service.

As part of this initiative, Americans are called to take part in a Day of Action on Saturday, September 27, 2008 to promote service and rally citizens to volunteer.

This is a great opportunity for you to reach out to other Lions and non-Lions to organize an event to draw attention to the needs of your community and urge citizens to take action. Just think of the Miracles Through Service Lions could perform! Sample events Lions can organize include:

\* Hold a ceremony to recognize community leaders who volunteer.

\* Conduct a student speech contest that focuses on volunteering.

\* Hold a town hall meeting with public officials to talk about the needs of the community and how citizens can help.  
\* Implement a Lions [Crew-at-Work](#) or Lions [Green Team](#) service project to improve a community facility such as painting a playground or planting trees at a nursing home. Afterwards, host a BBQ or serve coffee and discuss how service projects benefit the community. \*Invite a teacher who uses Lions Quest curricula to talk about how service learning leads to positive character development and the importance of offering young people opportunities to help others.

These are only a few ideas. There are many other types of events that Lions can organize to demonstrate Miracles Through Service. What's important is that you take action!

[Register](#) your event today with LCI!

[Download](#) more information and resources on organizing a Day of Action event.

Please contact International Activities at [programs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:programs@lionsclubs.org) with any questions.

A [sample press release](#) is available to publicize your event. Be sure to take photos of your event to share with local newspapers.

Thank you for all you do for your community and towns across this country.  
Sincerely,  
Al Brandel, President  
The International Association of Lions Clubs

**\*\*\*ALERT\*\*\***

### *Important IRS Information*

#### **LIONS CLUBS HAVE A NEW FILING Requirement**

It's short, easy and electronic – it's the new E-Postcard

Don't throw away your tax-exempt status – be sure to file your e-Postcard

- How do you know if your Lions Club has a filing requirement?  
If you are a small tax-exempt organization that normally has

annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or less and does not have to file Form 990 or 990-EZ, you must file the e-Postcard (also known as 990-N).

- When is the e-Postcard due?  
It's due by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month after the close of your tax year. Lions Clubs operate on a fiscal year, July 1 – June 30, and the e-Postcard will be due by November 15, 2008.
- What information does your club need to provide on the e-Postcard?
  - a legal name and mailing address and any other names used,
  - a Web address if one exists,
  - employer identification number (EIN),
  - organization's annual tax period,
  - the name and address of a principal officer, and
  - a statement confirming the organization's annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less.

- What happens if you don't file?

You risk losing your tax-exempt status! Any Lions Club that fails to meet its annual reporting requirement for three consecutive years automatically loses its tax-exempt status under the new law.

- Why is the IRS calling it an e-Postcard?  
Because it's as simple as sending a postcard and it's electronic.
- Need more information?

Go to [www.irs.gov/eo](http://www.irs.gov/eo) for complete details and while you're there sign up for Exempt Organization's free email newsletter, EO Update, to receive up-to-date information posted on the charity pages of [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

### ***A LOCAL WOMAN LOOKING FOR HELP***

*The following request was received:*

My name is Lindy Morelli and I am a forty-three totally blind woman, living in Scranton. I am writing to ask for your

financial assistance. This is the first time I am asking for your help. Presently I am working in the non-profit organization called Lighthouse in Scranton. This is a non-profit organization I started in 1994 so that I could try to help the poor and homeless in my community. It is a non-profit organization in the state of Pennsylvania and has existed for fifteen years. Throughout this period, I have been able to provide a day center for people to come to so that those who are in crisis and/or transition could find support, comfort and guidance. In 2004, I was able to expand this ministry outreach to provide a residence for the homeless and we have served about fifty homeless persons in our residence since that time. I have been trained as a counselor, having received a bachelor's degree in theology, and a masters degree in counseling and have provided pastoral and support ministry services to many people in the Scranton Wilkes-Barre area. Our organization is funded only through the generosity of others and through our own sporadic fund raisers. With the help of some volunteers who help with the day to day needs of the outreach, I have managed this outreach for the most part on my own without the help of a church body or back up organization to sponsor it. I have a board of directors who helps to oversee the finances of the ministry. I am asking for your help as this time because in order to expand the outreach to the needy, I have begun to study at Catholic University of American in Washington D.C. so as to obtain a doctoral of ministry degree. With this degree, I hope to design other ministries for those who are in crisis in our community. However, for this particular program, there is no financial aid available and Lighthouse, which is

the ministry organization I work for has offered to pay for as much of the school expenses as we can afford. In order to do this, we are taking money away from our savings toward operating costs, and though we do get sporadic donations, and the residents who live here help by giving a minimal amount of monthly rent, we want to be sure we can keep on doing this ministry without running into problems. Doing this work has been very meaningful to me, but as I have said, it has been a work that I have struggled to maintain. If you would like to know more about Lighthouse in Scranton inc. you can go to <http://lighthousecovery.tripod.com>. There you can learn more about me and about our outreach. If the Lions/ Club can help with the either the expenses I have from my doctoral studies or with the operating costs for this very important ministry, I would be most gratefully appreciative.

Sincerely  
Lindy Morelli  
President