



DISRICT 14-H NEWSLETTER

District Governor Rose Ellen Skodacek

October 2008

“LIONISM BLOOMS THROUGH SERVICE”



Greetings from Governor's "DEN"

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

The leaves are changing and much is happening in the District and our clubs. Many clubs are conducting fundraisers and making plans for holiday projects.

October usually is when many of our clubs may conduct fundraising events, which they sometimes call "White Cane" fundraisers. Monies collected are to be used to support programs and services for people who are blind or visually impaired as well as for sight conservation. As volunteers, Lions enjoy working together to target needs in their communities. The Lions decide which projects suit these needs and when and how they are best able to address them. We ask that clubs report their projects to Lion Josie Sands, White Cane Chairperson as soon as you complete our projects.

In October many clubs work with local schools to collect money for UNICEF for Halloween. Please consider the **School-in-a-Box Program**. I have made this my pet project as governor.

Work has begun on the District convention. Please save the dates of March 21-22, 2009.

There are 10 clubs that have not yet paid 1st-half per capita. There are clubs that are also not in good standing with International. Effective July 1, 2007 LCI instituted a policy that affects Clubs that have not paid their club balances on time. The new policy is as follows:

A Club which has an unpaid balance in excess of US\$20 per member or US\$1,000 per club, whichever is less, outstanding past 150 days will be automatically suspended including the charter, rights, privileges, and obligation of the Lions Club for a period not to exceed 90 days. In the event the Club does not reach a good standing within the Suspension period; their charter would be automatically canceled.

Suspension is the temporary deferment of the charter, rights, privileges and obligations of a Lions club due to an unpaid balance. This policy has serious consequences for clubs that are in arrears in paying their club balances.

Please feel free to contact me or LCI at membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org should you require additional information.

Yours in Lionism,
DG Rose Ellen
570-383-2125 skodacekr@mvsd.us

Greetings from your Vice District Governor

It's hard to believe but summer is gone, the leaves are turning and soon the woods will be bare. I hope you have enjoyed the warm weather.

Rose and I attended visits to Falls and Abington clubs this last month. We are also checking on places to hold the district convention. So far, prices are very high. I don't know what we can do to keep the costs down.

Barbara and I are going to Leader Dog on Oct 10th thru 12th. It should be a memorable experience; we are looking forward to it. This is Leader Dog's 70th year, a wonderful thing to celebrate. Karen will tell you more about it. Also, Pete Dubick and I are planning on attending the fall director's meeting of Beacon Lodge on Oct 19th.

At the cabinet meeting in August, I mentioned that Scott Lions would be running a Big Six wheel at a community fund raiser for Kyle Miller. Kyle lost his leg in a farming accident, he is 22 years old. I am happy to report we gave him \$1,500; the entire amount raised by the fund raiser was \$81,000. This is the second large fund raiser this year for someone in trouble. It's great to see that there are so many caring people out there.

I would like to thank you for your support and ask for your continuing support in the next 2 years.

Yours in Lionism
VDG Barry

District 14-H Website

www.lions14h.org

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Hearing/Sight First Meeting – October 9th, 7:00 pm Lake Winola Firehouse.

District 14-H Cabinet Meeting- Sunday, November 16th. See enclosed flyer.

District Convention – Save the dates: March 21 and 22, 2009. Details to follow.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Blakely/Peckville Lions Club-

Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser. The Pasta Dinner will be held at DeLeo's Catering 1119 Main Street Peckville on Sunday, October 26th, from 11:00am to 2:00pm Take - out only. Tickets will cost \$8.00 per dinner. Contact any Blakely / Peckville Lions Club member for tickets.

Falls Lions Club-Fall Festival, Sat.

October 11th, 11:00am to 3:00pm; Volunteer Hall Rt; Rt. 92, Falls PA; Chicken BBQ (11:00 until sold out), Craft Vendors, Chinese Auction, Raffles.

Forest City Lions Club- 60th

Anniversary Celebration November 10th (a Monday evening) with hor'deurves, cocktails, dinner and a program.

Olyphant Lions Club- Pasta Dinner,

October 15th at Regal Room, Olyphant Serving: 5-7pm, Takeouts: 4-5pm, Adults \$8, children \$4. Tickets available at door.

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

skodacekr@mvsd.us or call 570-383-2125 by the 20th of the month

PDG Ethel Heen Neary has had an accident. She is IN Thomas Jefferson Hospital. Please remember her in your prayers; cards can be sent to:

Ethel Neary
Thomas Jefferson Hospital
Room 7304 7Se
111 South 11th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107



In Remembrance

Lion Herbert Hug- Lake Winola Lions Club

To their loved ones, we sincerely give our heartfelt sympathy. We pray that they may realize every comfort and hope their faith will bring them peace in this time sorrow

UNICEF's School-in-a-Box program

In 1994, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) assembled school supplies in a large box for use by teachers in Rwandan refugee camps.

Since then, UNICEF's School-in-a-Box program has provided educational supplies to teachers in areas affected

by civil unrest, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis.

Each UNICEF School-in-a-Box includes teacher supplies and materials for up to 80 students when classes are taught twice each day to 40 students each. Teachers can use the inside cover of the box as a chalkboard.

In 1996, Lions Clubs International signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF to support the School-in-a-Box program.

In 2005, Lions helped to distribute UNICEF School-in-a-Box kits to victims of Hurricane Katrina in the US Gulf Coast states.

Each UNICEF School-in-a-Box costs approximately US\$198.00. Donations can be sent to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF); 300 W. 22nd Street; Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842; USA

Lions clubs that donate US\$500 to LCIF for the UNICEF School-in-a-Box program will receive a banner patch award. Lions clubs will receive a chevron patch award for additional donations of US\$500.

For more information, contact:
children@lionsclubs.org

*****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 15th 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 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.

***MESSAGE FROM OUR
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT***

Dear Club Officers,

Earlier this month I was privileged to be present at an inspiring event: the International Paralympic Games in Beijing. I saw men and women who had lost limbs swim at world record speeds, blind athletes perform amazing feats of strength and runners who rely on artificial legs run faster than all but those who set Olympic records at some of the same venues just a few weeks earlier.

I came away feeling that there are no obstacles that cannot be overcome and especially, that we Lions have the potential to perform even greater miracles of service than we have ever imagined.

Both the Paralympics and the Olympic Games also reminded me of the importance of teamwork. At the Olympics, the Chinese men's and women's gymnastic teams could not have won their gold medals if their specialists in floor exercise and balance beam, parallel bars and still rings did not perform up to their personal best.

Every Lions Club and indeed all of Lions Clubs International work in much the same way. Each of us has unique gifts that we bring to our mission of service and we owe it to ourselves, our fellow Lions and our communities to use them to the best of our ability. When we do and when we work together toward a common goal, there is almost nothing we cannot accomplish.

But just as American swimmer Michael Phelps came away from the games as the most honored athlete, we Lions reserve our highest recognition for those who have mastered several disciplines. That's what the Club President Excellence award is all about. To qualify, club presidents must be "all-around champions" and excel in areas including service, administration, leadership, membership growth and contributions to LCIF. (The full list of qualifications can be viewed at <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/da1.pdf>).

Not everyone can win an Olympic medal, but an Excellence Award is within reach of every Lions Club president. You owe it to your community, your club and most of all, yourself to strive for this achievement. You should also know that your efforts reflect not only on your club and yourself, but also on fellow Lion leaders in your district. Excellence Awards for Zone, Region and District officers are contingent upon having at least 50 percent of the clubs under their leadership achieve Excellence Awards. I urge you to do everything in your power to help further the culture of excellence at all levels of our association.

Another way to help foster excellence is through the new International Hero Awards which will be presented at the 2009 International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. These awards are designed to recognize the everyday heroes among us. These are Lions who excel, often without fanfare, at meeting the needs of our closest neighbors and neighbors around the globe. They are individuals who have embraced their potential to have a direct and positive impact on our world. They deserve to be celebrated and we have a responsibility to ensure that they no longer go unrecognized. Please be on the lookout for the everyday heroes in our midst and consider nominating those you know for an International Hero Award. The nomination form can be found at <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/pr40.pdf>.

Finally, I ask each and every one of you to embrace your own power to affect your community and the world community. Your leadership year is an extraordinary opportunity to make things happen. Exercise your leadership by making ambitious plans and sharing them with the members of your club. Do not hesitate to propose new initiatives for service. Ensure that our traditional service priorities receive the attention that they deserve. Spread the word about Lions through [effective communication](#) with your community. These steps are not mere self-aggrandizement. They are key components in attracting new members who will increase our ability to live our Lions motto – We Serve.

As always, I thank you for all you do for Lions and for your community.

Sincerely,

Albert F. Brandel, President

The International Association of Lions Clubs

and WMMR users must report by October 31, 2008

Banner patches will be awarded to every club that participates in the October Membership Growth Program. Criteria for the banner patch: Clubs with 21 or fewer members must bring in 3 or more new members.

Clubs with 22-40 must bring in 5 or more new members.

Clubs with 41 or more must bring in 8 or more new members.

Internationally we brought in 16,402 The newest numbers in September shows that we are at a -4.

The October Membership Growth Award Program is here for the second year!

Add members in October

Report each member using either the MMR or WMMR. MMR users must report by October 20, 2008

