



DISTRICT 14-H NEWSLETTER

District Governor Rose Ellen Skodacek

January 2009

“LIONISM BLOOMS THROUGH SERVICE”



Greetings from Governor's "DEN"

Dear Lions, Lioness and Leos,

It is hard to believe that the holidays are over....hope the New Year finds you healthy. It was very heartwarming to see that many of the clubs had holiday programs and activities in their communities and the recognition for them in the newspapers.

I know it is hard to talk about money in these difficult economic times but I have received notification from the State and International regarding clubs in our District not being current on filing MMR reports and paying their accounts on time and may be at risk of being placed on suspension. The policy is in this newsletter. It is from these reports that you are billed for dues. Clubs are reminded that these reports need to be filed on time in order to be eligible for the 100% District Governor's Award.

Please contact me as soon as possible to set up my governor's visit to your club. I would like to thank those clubs that have done so already.

A mailing will be coming to the clubs at the end of the month regarding the District Convention. We will have an

International speaker and plan to have training for membership and club officers.
DG Rose Ellen

Greetings from your VDG

I hope everyone had a very good Christmas and New Year's Day. I wish you the best for the upcoming year.

The calendar sales for the district should be just about over. I believe we have sold about five hundred. I would like to thank everyone who took part in selling them. Now we just have to see how many winners we have in the next six months.

Barbara and I are looking forward to the February council meeting in Johnstown. I hope we have good weather that weekend. I understand Johnstown is not a good place to be when it snows.

I also would like to remind everyone of the Cabinet Meeting on February 15. The district convention is March 21st and 22nd at the Hilton in Scranton. Scott Township club will be hosting the hospitality night on the 21st. I would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy the food and the fellowship of your friends in Lionism.

We just received our paperwork for the International convention in Minneapolis. I had the pleasure of attending the convention in '97 when it was in Philadelphia. Nine members of our club were there. I look forward to seeing some fellow Lions from District 14 there.

In closing I would like to wish each and every one of you a very good new year.
Yours in Lionism,
V D G Barry

District Happenings

Lions Day at the U. N.

The United Nations Lions Day will take place on Friday, March 13, 2009. The information we have from Lions International is that they will hold Lions Day at the UN for one more year, 2009. The renovations to the UN are slightly delayed, allowing us access for one more year.

We would like to run a 25 passenger bus, leaving early on the morning of Friday, March 13th. However, we only have 5 people planning to attend. We encourage all Lions, Lionesses, Leos, and guests who have never attended to register with International to attend this program.

Cost of the bus (which includes the tip for the driver) is \$28 – if we fill the bus. We may look at alternate transportation depending on the number attending. You **MUST** be registered with Lions International to attend. Registration forms can be downloaded from Lions International or from our website www.lions14h.org. **The deadline for submitting the form to Lions International is February 6, 2009.**

Lunch will be on your own, unless you registered for lunch with a sitting UN Ambassador. The bus will be stopping on the way home for dinner. For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus, contact Mark Kusma at 575-4915, or via email at mkusma@abingtonlions.org.

District Convention

March 21 - 22, 2009 at the Hilton in Scranton. Watch the website for more information at the end of this month.

HPC/Sight First Fundraiser

There will be a craft fair on Saturday, April 18th at Sacred Heart Church Hall in Peckville. More info next month.

Club Happenings

Falls/Lake Winola Lions Club

WILD GAME DINNER

Sunday, January 25, 2009

2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Ardee's Foodrinkery, Rt.92, Falls

For more info, call Art @ 388-6107

Tickets available at the door for a \$9.00 donation.

Jefferson Twp Lions Club

Lenten dinner every Friday during Lent, beginning February 27th at the club's hall on Lions Road in Mt. Cobb. Prices vary by selection. Dinner served from 3:30 – 6:00. Dine in or take out.

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

Please keep the following Lions / Lionesses in your thoughts and prayers:

PDG Ethel Heen Neary

Allied Skilled Nursing Center

Room 418 South

475 Morgan Highway

Scranton, Pa. 18508

She will be happy to see you. **Please visit.**

Suspension Policy

In July, 2006 the Board of Directors approved a new policy, effective July 1, 2007 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.

Clubs on suspension shall not:

- (a) Conduct service activities
- (b) Conduct fund raising activities;
- (c) Participate in district and multiple district functions or seminars;
- (d) Participate in any voting procedures outside of the club
- (e) Endorse or nominate a candidate for district, multiple district and international office;
- (f) Submit Monthly Membership Report and report forms;
- (g) Sponsor a Lions club, or organize a Leo or a Lioness club.

Clubs on Suspension shall:

- (a) Hold meetings to discuss the future of the club and identify the steps needed to regain an active status.
- (b) Make payments to clear the existing outstanding balance, or request a payment plan.

This new policy has serious consequences for clubs that are in arrears in paying their club balances. This policy could affect Clubs that have as little as two per-capita billings or less unpaid at 150 days. Clubs placed on suspension may regain an active status by sending payments sufficient to pay the balance. A re-activation report will not be required to regain a good status,

however, the officers should immediately review and update the membership roster after a Club is removed from Suspension.

This change in policy was necessary because many Clubs were accumulating large unhealthy balances over 90 days in excess of US \$1,000. Many of these clubs were unable to pay such large amounts and were eventually inactivated and canceled. Large balances in these amounts are difficult to revive, and caused many members to give up and leave their Clubs.

Dues are the primary source of income used to support the programs and services provided to our membership. Regular and prompt payment is expected to ensure continued support of this great operation.

Please feel free to contact us at membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org should you require additional information. We hope all clubs will review their statements regularly, and will send the necessary payments to ensure their good status is protected.

Membership Billing and Accounts Services
300 W. 22nd Street
Oakbrook, IL 60523-8842
membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org
630-571-5466 630-571-1687 FAX

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

In September, I announced that Lions Clubs International had 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. Never before have we had an opportunity like this to share the Lions mission with such a large group of kindred partners and demonstrate our commitment to service.

As part of ServiceNation, we are being asked to sign off on a Declaration of Service to state that we believe in the power of service and that we are ready to do our part. I urge Lions to unite and take part in this effort. Visit www.bethechangeaction.org/pledge/sign to read the brief Declaration of Service and to add your name to this very important document.

In addition, as a leading service organization, we've been asked to help organize service projects for Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day, January 19, 2009. This is a great opportunity to come together in shared purpose to tackle the common challenges we face. On this day, I ask that Lions organize service projects such as eye screenings or non-perishable food drives. Visit <http://feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx> to locate a food bank through the Feed America network; or, contact local social service agencies to find out where the greatest need is. I know many Lions clubs distribute food directly to needy families, which is another option.

I will get back to you after the New Year with additional information regarding MLK Day. In the meantime, please begin planning your service project for January 19th and circulate the Declaration of Service link to fellow Lions and friends.

Please contact Caryn Adolph, manager of International Activities at Caryn.Adolph@lionsclubs.org with any questions.

Remember, it's the everyday heroes performing miracles through service that make this country great. Thank you for reaching out to help those in need this time of year. Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season and in the New Year!

Sincerely,
Al Brandel, President
The International Association of Lions Clubs

Happy Birthday – Melvin Jones

Melvin Jones was born on January 13, 1879 in Fort Thomas, Arizona, the son of a United States Army captain who commanded a troop of scouts. Later, his father was transferred and the family moved east. As a young man, Melvin Jones made his home in Chicago, Illinois, became associated with an insurance firm and in 1913 formed his own agency.

He soon joined the Business Circle, a businessmen's luncheon group, and was shortly elected secretary. This group was one of many at that time devoted solely to promoting the financial interests of their membership. Because of their limited appeal, they were destined to disappear. Melvin Jones, however, had other plans. "What if these men," he asked, "who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" Thus, at his invitation, delegates from men's clubs met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for such an organization and on June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born.

Melvin Jones eventually abandoned his insurance agency to devote himself full time to Lions at International Headquarters in Chicago. It was under his dynamic leadership that Lions Clubs earned the prestige necessary to attract civic-minded members.

The association's founder was also recognized as a leader outside the association. One of his greatest honors was in 1945 when he represented Lions Clubs International as a consultant in San Francisco, California, at the organization of the United Nations.

Melvin Jones, the man whose personal code "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else" became a guiding principle for public-spirited people the world over, died June 1, 1961 at 82 years of age.

District 14-H
Third Cabinet Meeting

To: All Past District Governors, Cabinet Officers, Region and Zone Chairpersons, Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Treasurers, Lions, Lionesses, LEO's and District Family Members.

Re: Cabinet Meeting February 15, 2009

Deadline: February 7, 2009

Time: Registration - Noon to 1:00 PM
Buffet Luncheon - 1:00 PM

Place: Fiorelli's Catering, Main Street, Peckville

Host: Region I Chairperson ----- Lion Joe Gracik, Jr.
Zone A Chairperson ----- Lion Pam Savitski
Zone B Chairperson ----- Lion Gene Scagliotti

Cost: \$ 18

Make Reservation To: Lion Joe Gracik, Jr
584 Hilltop Rd.
Peckville, PA 18452
489-6013

Total Number Attending for Lunch: _____ X \$ 18 = \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "DISTRICT 14-H"

Name of Club: _____

Contact Person and Phone Number: _____