



# OH5 PRIDE REPORT

DISTRICT GOVERNOR MIKE KEREK | MAR 2024 | LY 23-24



## PANCAKES WITH A SIDE OF SERVICE!

Urbana Lions use their  
Pancake Breakfast to  
feature service projects.  
p.6

## CLUB UPDATES

Updates being shared  
by Worthington Noon  
Lions, Westerville Lions,  
and Olentangy Lions.  
We'd love to hear from  
YOUR club! p.7

## OFFICERS/CONTACT

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Send newsletter articles to:  
[districtOH5news@gmail.com](mailto:districtOH5news@gmail.com)  
*due by the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month*

## SAVE THE DATE

OH5 District Convention  
Deer Creek State Park  
Mar. 15-17, 2024

Ohio Lions State Convention  
DoubleTree Columbus/Worthington  
May 17-19, 2024

Learn to Roar  
Tolles Career Center  
June 8, 2024

Memorial Tournament  
June 3-9, 2024

## FROM DG MIKE

DG Mike encourages us  
to know our resources!  
p.2

## PEANUT BUTTER MOUNTAIN

Convention service  
project helps spread  
kindness p.4

## LEO CON REPORT

A great gathering of Leos!  
p.9

## FROM DG MIKE KEREK

I received a call from a gentleman last Friday named "Brian." He's 65 years old, has diabetes but otherwise in good health, but was forced to retire early last year due to Diabetic Retinopathy. The loss of vision was rapid and severe. He's legally blind now and his vision continues to deteriorate. He lives on his own; no family, no friends who are available, nobody to help him.

He called me because my number was online and he was trying to reach, "The Lions." His pharmacist recommended he do so when he was picking up his prescriptions – apparently her sister suffers from the same condition and "The Lions" helped her out. (No mention of what that assistance was!) When I asked how the Lions could assist him, he could only come up with, "I need eyeballs." He couldn't see to drive anymore. He couldn't read a computer anymore. He could barely make out the numbers on his phone and could hardly read what he wrote...unless it was in really big letters and numbers.

We talked for over an hour. He was belligerent, almost hostile; argumentative, rejecting suggestion after suggestion; but overriding it all, he was afraid. Absolutely petrified at the direction life was taking him without vision. I heard him break down several times, though he tried to hide it. At one poignant moment he said, "It's hard, Mike. Really damn hard." The emotion in his voice, in the voice of a grown man who went from working, boating, and enjoying life to being lost in a new reality, was heart-breaking. I had no clue how to help him, or what the Lions could realistically do for him. Except...

I looked up the number for Pilot Dogs and Lion Dan Kelley, who many know is a successful teacher, husband, proud father of 2, president of his Lions Club, and completely blind. I almost had to bully Brian into writing those phone numbers down but explained that he needed resources that the Lions didn't have. He needed professional assistance from people who knew how to help him, and where to go to find additional resources.

Brian called me today to thank me. He called Pilot Dogs and is now registered to take the ONM class to help him start the process of learning how to live without his sight. They also hooked him up with other organizations and are helping to guide him. Through Dan and other blind Lions, he has the start of a network to help him emotionally. As he said to me, "Things are looking up."

As Lions, we have sometimes an infuriatingly limited ability to help people we so want to assist. Limitations including financial, time, and knowledge. But we have so many other organizations that we either partner with or can utilize when needed; we can, in fact, help many more than what we have the resources ourselves to do. IF we know our resources!

Take the time to learn about the various Foundations, Agencies, and organizations that are local and in Ohio, and the services they each provide. I think you will be amazed at the wide range of options you and your club has to assist others in need. We don't have to HAVE the money, the time, or the knowledge. We just have to know who does and where to go to get it!

Keep up the amazing work, OH5!

-DG Mike

## TROY LIONS CLUB HONORS MEMBERS

The Troy Lions Club recently recognized two LIONS for their exemplary service: Doug Beitzel and Mel Ward with Melvin Jones awards



## A NOTE FROM PDG JOE JACKSON...

OH5 Clubs,

Could you network with your members to see if anyone has an “Enhanced Vision” machine in their garage, basement, or storage space?

These machines enlarge printed material so folks with limited vision can enjoy their favorite reading.

Let me know if you need a machine picked up to help out a friend in need.

PDG Joe

(937) 307-4581

## Our Ongoing Commitment to Service

Help Us In Spreading Kindness...

The Lions of MD13 will be coming down to our neighborhood in May, for the State Convention, at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington. If you remember, at last year's State convention, we sorted and prepped more than 13,000 pill bottles for reuse or recycling. This year's service effort is focused a little closer to home.

The Buckeye Food Alliance (BFA) is the food pantry providing support for OSU students who are experiencing hunger – and there are a lot of them! The BFA is visited by almost 1000 students every month. One of the favorite items on their shelves is peanut butter. It is nutritious, is it easily stored, it can be used in a number of ways, has a long shelf life... and it fits in a backpack for easy transport! So, we are going to give them peanut butter!!!

Lions from throughout the state are being asked to bring in jars of peanut butter to be transported down to the State convention and, eventually, to the Buckeye Food Alliance. The OH5 Cabinet has already kicked off the campaign locally. At the cabinet meeting last week, each Lion present was asked to bring a jar of peanut butter. We already have more than 60 lbs of peanut butter to get us started. Let's see how much we can collect at the Zone and individual club levels over the next two months so that when the time comes, we can see our contributions added to those of Lions across the state, and feed a whole lot of hungry students.



Peanut Butter Mountain begins!

(Think of it this way – a 32 oz jar of peanut butter can probably be part of at least a dozen meals, probably more. You aren't contributing one jar of peanut butter. You are contributing a dozen meals to someone who is hungry!!!).

Yours in Lionism,

OH5 GST Lion Jane Jarrow.





## Monthly Trivia Contest



Be the **first** to send the correct answer to the Lions Trivia Question each month and win a \$10 Lions Money prize, to be spent on anything Lions related, from your DG!

Please note, these questions will NOT be easy.

Send answers to [districtoh5news@gmail.com](mailto:districtoh5news@gmail.com)

About how many children from around the world have participated in the Lions Peace Poster competition since it began in 1990?

*Congrats to Lion Mandi Himler on answering last month's trivia- how many people did the Lions serve GLOBALLY in Lions Year 202-23?*

*Answer: More than 530 MILLION people!*

## The Lions Funnies



## INNOVATING WITH PANCAKES!

Urbana Lions Club has held their Pancake Breakfast. HOW is it different than any other Lions pancake breakfast? Every customer gets a placemat- ***with a Lions Club Member Application on it!*** Wow!

The club also highlighted these activities: Flags Across Urbana, Golf Scramble, Grocery Scramble, and Sight Conservation Project.





## What's New from Worthington Noon?

### 1. Worthington Noon Lions Club Peace Poster Winners Announced

Bella Hollback from McCord Middle School earned first place at the Worthington School District level and then advanced to the OH5 State District Level where she also won 1st place. The following 3 students also placed at the local Worthington School District Level: Lyla Bloom of Perry Middle School, 2nd place Ervanur Toprak of McCord, 3rd place and Julie Meadows, 4th place. These four students will receive a monetary award and be recognized at their Middle Schools "Nights of Excellence" in this spring. Our 1st place winner, Bella Hollback will also receive a second monetary award and be recognized at the State District OH5 Lions Convention on March 16, 2024 at Deer Creek State Park Conference Center. The Worthington Noon Lions Club received twenty six student art entries this year, and hope to receive even more for next year's competition. The participating middle school art departments that sent entries this year will receive a monetary donation in recognition for their collaboration.

### 2. New Members Inducted

The Worthington Noon Lions Club celebrated its 13th Anniversary as DG Mike Kerek installed two new members at its February 13th General Membership Meeting, which was held at the Pilot Dog facility. Each member received a "service is our passion" lapel pin in recognition of the anniversary occasion and their dedicated service! Welcome new Lions Ty Nisthauz and Debra Harper.



## OLENTANGY LIONS UPDATE

The Olentangy Lions Club had a busy February. During our two monthly meetings, we had the privilege of touring the new Liberty Township Fire Station and listen to a wonderful presentation from Life Care Alliance. We have been working on creating an informational club postcard for potential members, brainstorming collaborative fundraisers with area businesses, development of our Facebook page, finalizing the sale of our March Madness squares that will benefit area food pantries, and we are excited to hold our first Social Hour meeting at Flyers Pizza in Powell, Ohio during our next club meeting. We are looking forward to meeting community members and potential new Lions Club members.

## WESTERVILLE LIONS WELCOME S.O.A.P. PROJECT

We had a speaker at a January meeting that shared her experiences as a young girl who had been trafficked. Her name is Theresa Flores and was trafficked for 3 years as an adolescent. As an adult, she has written several books and speaks around the country. She also started the S.O.A.P. project where her organization works with hotels to place soap and makeup remover in hotel rooms where large groups of people are coming for an event (such as the Super Bowl, conventions, The Arnold here in Columbus). These items have a label with contact information where the girl or boy can get help. Her talk was very moving and our Board voted to purchase and label 1500 bars of soap and makeup remover.

<https://www.soaproject.org/>





## Report from Ohio Leo Convention

Despite the bad weather and tough driving conditions the State of Ohio Leo's held our annual convention at All Occasions Catering in Waldo, Ohio. With 123 registered Leos and Lions we enjoyed a day of learning, participation, and socializing, with an emphasis on FUN!

Representing District OH5 was the Ridgedale Leo Club, the Jonathan Alder Leo Club, the Northeastern Leo Club and our prospective Leo Club from Mechanicsburg.

Our activities included:

It's all about Waldo, Ohio and stories! (Ridgedale Leo Club members and advisors as moderators)

LCI Leo Leadership Seminar (Field Leo Club members and advisors presenting)

Video Presentations (Leo-Lion Ojas Chitnis and Leo-Lion Board Liason Alicia Kiri Beer)

Best Project Presentations (Fairborn Leo Club members and advisor as moderators)

Service Project - the Waldo Food Pantry received 17 boxes of products (toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, cleaning supplies and disinfectants). Jonathan Alder Leo Club members and advisors leading the project).

Note - leftover lunches, cookies, and beverages were donated to a Marion, Ohio, area homeless shelter.



## FROM CC DAVE STOCKUM

Where did February go? What a month. We had a successful Council of Governors Meeting in Grove City at which many pressing issues were decided by the District Governors. Foremost, the DG's approved the language of an issue to be voted on at the MD13 State Convention in May asking the delegates in attendance to decide whether the International Relations Committee remain as part of the MD13 Structure. A second issue approved by the DG's was the language to consider whether to add in the MD13 Policy Manual an unfunded position of New Voices Coordinator to the Global Action Team. PDG Rob Murry informed the DG's that he was retiring from his position as Assistant MD13 Treasurer, and the DG's approved the nomination of PDG Randy Goff to replace Rob beginning July 1, 2024. PDG Rob also announced his intention to step down from the MD13 Liaison Committee, effective the end of June, so DG's will select a replacement for that position at the State Convention. MD13 Lions and OH3 have been blessed by the leadership and service PDG Rob Murry has provided in these two important offices, as well as the OH3 CST, over many years. Thank you, Lion Rob, thank you.

We are close to moving into positive numbers in membership growth for the first time this century! We are currently only 15 members in the red, if you are familiar with accounting terminology. There are many things we can do to put us in the black. We can embrace the Recruiter's Passport Program. Lions who have received this handy guide to recruiting new members have been quite enthusiastic about it. We can accept the Council Chair Challenge to finish the year +2 or better in membership in our clubs. We can invite non-Lions to join us in our service projects. We can put our new members to work and make sure they feel welcome and essential to the life of our clubs. We can make sure we have sufficient orientation to both new and longtime members about how our club, our district and our international organization function. We can remind members who have sponsored new Lions that their duty does not end when the new Lions are installed. We can recognize that not all our members have the same skills and motivations in being part of our organization and work to take advantage of those areas in which they are adept. In other words, growing by adding members is important, but keeping members by following the WE SERVE of Lionism is why we exist.

Best Wishes in the coming months. Plan to attend your District Convention if possible. Spring Ahead (as the Daylight Savings Time folks say) into a season of growth in service.

CC Dave Stockum





The Excitement is BUILDING

Thanks to your donations to LCIF, District OH5 has been able to apply, and was approved, for a Community Grant.

During the District OH-5 Convention we will be “constructing” activity or “busy bags” for pediatric cancer and other patients being cared for at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Dayton Children’s Hospital. These bags will contain games, puzzles, etc. that will help keep them occupied during their stay and during their treatments.

We need you!! “Will you be those children’s Hero” and help put these bags together? After the elections in the afternoon we will be putting these bags together, around 500 in all, in the Parlor A & B rooms.

See you March 16<sup>th</sup> at Deer Creek!

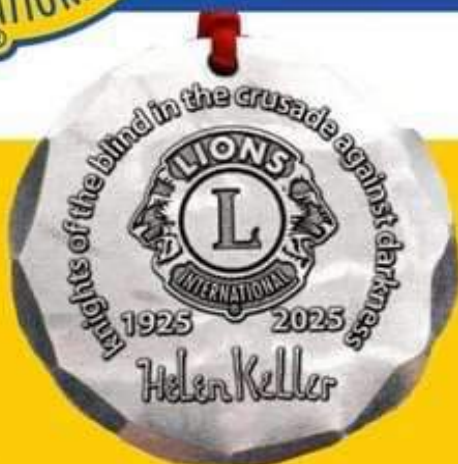
IPDG Debbie





# Helen Keller

## CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE



### Ohio Lions and Wendell August Forge Are honored to present a limited edition ornament

At the 1925 Lions International Convention at Cedar Point, Ohio, Helen Keller presented her challenge to the Lions to be her "Knights of the Blind"

Her cause lives on as today's Lions provide vision services worldwide as one of eight global initiatives.

For a suggested minimum donation of \$18 (US dollars) for the hand forged aluminum and \$23 for the bronze version, with all proceeds benefiting Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), you will receive a one of a kind memento, with Helen Keller's digital signature.

All Ohio Lions LCIF Leadership will have these to offer in person. All others can purchase through WAF website directly at [wendellaugust.com/lcif](http://wendellaugust.com/lcif)

WAF and the Ohio Lions *thank you* in advance for your donation and sharing in a piece of Lions International history.

This fundraising project is brought to you by the LCIF Leadership team of MD13 Ohio.

**INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING:** We greatly appreciate our international customers. While online international orders aren't available due to various shipping complexities, we do consider minimum bulk orders of 100 pieces or more on a case-by-case basis, with certain restrictions. For assistance, please call 1-800-923-4438. For a timelier response, email [info@wendell.com](mailto:info@wendell.com) and type "LCIF Helen Keller" in the subject line. Thank you for your understanding. We're dedicated to providing a smooth experience for all our international customers.

# Ridgedale Lions & LEO Clubs



## Charter Night Celebrations



Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Doors open at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm, Program follows

The Historic Women's Club Home  
1126 East Center Street  
Marion, OH 43302

- Celebrating 60 years of service by the Ridgedale Lions Club and 50 years of service by the Ridgedale LEO Club.
- Cost \$25 per person – includes meal. RSVP required.
- RSVP by March 15, 2024. Email [grisch0527@msn.com](mailto:grisch0527@msn.com) or call 740-465-8001.
- Pay by cash or check at the door – make checks payable to Ridgedale Lions Club.

BEEHCROFT LIONS  
PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE  
BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY



Saturday, March 30, 2024  
Church of the Good Shepherd  
6176 Sharon Woods Blvd  
8:30 am – 10:00 am  
Adults \$ 6.00  
Children 3-12 \$ 3.00  
Under 3 FREE





# Plain City Lions Annual Auction



**Thursday April 25, 2024**

**Doors Open at 6:00 pm – Dinner at 6:30 pm**

**Der Dutchman Restaurant Banquet Room**

**Plain City, Ohio**

Sampling of Auction Items:

*\$500 Gift Certificate – Distinctive Marble & Granite*

*Skid of Water Softener Salt – ASE Feed*

*Adirondack Chair - Yutzy Farm Market*

*Golf - 18 holes w/cart for 4 – Rolling Meadows Golf Club*

*Pool Membership for 2 – Village of Plain City, Parks & Recreation*

*Hand Made Old Fashion Porch Swing – Lion Perry Beachy*

*Prime Rib Dinner for 12 – K Family Concessions*

*Perch Dinner for 10 - Lion Roger and Ann Weeks*

*Authentic German Dinner for 8 - Lions Claudia and Brent Hostetler*

*King size Mattresses – Plain City Food Pantry*

*Battery powered Pressure Washer– Plain City Food Pantry*

*Stihl 3G56C Leaf Blower – Hilliard Lawn and Garden*

*Large Dollhouse – Lions Judy and Harley Bodenbender*

Many more items and new items being donated daily!

Silent Auction Items too numerous to list.

Auction proceeds benefit many mostly local nonprofit organizations.

Come to the auction and support your Plain City community!

**Auctioneers: Geoff Smith, Don Westlake and Grant Phipps**

**Special Thanks to Der Dutchman Restaurant for Hosting**

**Get your dinner tickets from any PC Lion or at Main Street  
Treasures or Rummell•Brill•Cassady Insurance**

**SUNDAY, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-5:00 PM**  
**36<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual CANTINA Trivia Contest**  
*(Same fun – different setting!)*

Speedy Gonzalez thinks HE has all the answers.  
How about you?

*Come join us for our first  
**CANTINA** Trivia Contest  
And show us what you've got!!!*

**LIONS TRIVIA CHALLENGE!**

In addition to competing for the overall honors (and prize!) for the contest, those Lions Clubs that field a team of 4 (Lions, family, friends) to play on behalf of their club will also be eligible to win LIONS BRAGGING RIGHTS – a “traveling trophy” that currently bears the names of the Worthington Noon Lions (twice!), the Beechcroft Lions (twice!), and the Ohio5sters (three times!).



**WHEN:** Sunday, April 7th  
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**WHERE:** El Vaquero Restaurant  
3230 Olentangy River Rd,  
Columbus, OH 43202



Questions? **CONTACT:** Lion Jeff Davis  
lionjeffd@aol.com

**\$10/person entry fee (\$40 per team)**

**MOVIES, MUSIC, HISTORY, PEOPLE SPORTS, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!**  
Take a chance on some of this year's themed raffle baskets!

*All proceeds are used to fund the service and philanthropy work  
of the Tri-Village Lions.*



**JOIN US FOR**

**WALK FOR VISION 5K**

**SUPPORTING THE CENTRAL  
OHIO LIONS EYE BANK**

**SATURDAY**

**May 4th, 2024**

*Sponsored by: District OH-5 ZONE 4 Lions Clubs*



**Fees: \$15 Adults and Kids 8 and Up**  
**Kids 7 and Under Free**  
**T-Shirts Additional \$20**

***REGISTRATION STARTS: 7am***

***WALK/RUN STARTS: 8:30 am***

**PROSPECT COMMUNITY PARK**

**PROSPECT, OHIO**



# ~~REGISTRATION FORM~~

Pre-Registration is required by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for a guaranteed T-shirt if purchasing  
We are accepting same-day registration and will have some shirts available

(Please Print)

First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age on Race Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size if Ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Contact # in Case of Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If using this form for multiple participants, please add each additional person in lines below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size if Ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size if Ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size if Ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size if Ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY FEE:**      **\$15.00 Adults and Children 8 and Up**  
                         **Kids 7 and Under FREE**  
                         **T-Shirts \$20**

## **Additional T-Shirts \$20**

Children Small \_\_\_\_\_ Children Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Children Large \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Small \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Large \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Extra Large \_\_\_\_\_ Adult 2X-3X (add \$2 ea.) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED PAYMENT AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK/MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: Prospect Lions Club ~~ MEMO LINE: 5K Walk/Run**  
**MAIL TO: TREASURER YVONNE NYE 6431 HOLIDAY DRIVE, PROSPECT, OHIO 43342**

**WALK/RUN WAIVER:** I individually or as a parent, and/or guardian of the named minor for in consideration of acceptance of this entry in this event, do hereby release, remise, and forever discharge the Zone 4 Lions Clubs of District OH5 comprised of the Delaware, Green Camp, LaRue, Mt. Gilead, Pleasant, Prospect, and Ridgedale Lions Club, from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, of causes of action whatsoever arising out of, or relating to any injury, loss, or damage, including death, relating to participation in the aforesaid event. I further state I am in proper physical condition to participate in this event.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE, IF UNDER AGE OF 18 \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS -- PLEASE CONTACT TOM & DIANA MYERS ~~740.360-6385 ~THANK YOU!!**

# Spreading Kindness



*Just Add Jelly*

FOOD COLLECTION  
AT MAY 2024  
STATE CONVENTION

The Global Service Team is asking Convention attendees and willing clubs to bring jars of

**peanut butter**

to the 2024 State Convention. Donations will be given to the Buckeye Food Alliance, which serves just under 1,000 Ohio State students who are food insecure every month.

Bring your donation and learn more about today's collegiate food insecurity.



**BUCKEYE  
FOOD ALLIANCE**



**JDRF** IMPROVING  
LIVES.  
CURING  
TYPE 1  
DIABETES.

# ONE WALK



## JDRF ONE WALK – COLUMBUS

**APRIL 28TH**

**2540 OLENTANGY RIVER  
ROAD, COLUMBUS**

The JDRF One Walk is your chance to show the world that together, we can conquer type 1 diabetes (T1D). The money raised will power more research, enable more advocacy and fund more support for the 1.45 million Americans living with T1D. And, you'll have a great time doing it!

For more information, please contact: JDRF Southern and Central  
Ohio Chapter

Natalie Brislin: [nbrislin@jdrf.org](mailto:nbrislin@jdrf.org) - 740-707-2322





**JDRF** IMPROVING  
LIVES.  
CURING  
TYPE 1  
DIABETES.

# ONE WALK



## JDRF ONE WALK – KINGS ISLAND

**JUNE 1, 2024**

**6300 KINGS ISLAND DRIVE  
MASON, OH 45040**

The JDRF One Walk is your chance to show the world that together, we can conquer type 1 diabetes (T1D). If you're living with T1D or you love someone living with T1D, you'll likely do just about anything to make life easier.

For more information, please contact: JDRF Southern and Central  
Ohio Chapter  
Kelsey Boeckermann [kboeckermann@jdrf.org](mailto:kboeckermann@jdrf.org)  
513-978-6671

