



5M7 GRAM



May 2015

Lions, Lioness and Leos of 5M7,

As your District Governor over the last 10 months, I have confronted many challenges and have seen many rewards. Your Governor's Team has met the challenges head-on and has had successes. We also made headway on those issues that require more than a meeting or two to work out a solution. The rewards greatly outweigh the issues that challenge us. I will expand on these issues and successes at the **Spring Awards Dinner on June 8th** (see the flyer in this issue of the Gram). I sincerely wish all Lions, Lioness and Leos of 5M7 continue on under the direction of your next District Governor Lion Tom Fiecke and his team, 1st VDG Lion Steve Linder, 2nd VDG Lion Dan Kaiser and Secretary/Treasurer Lion Deb Roberge and the members of the 5M7 Cabinet; not only to complete work on issues remaining, but to face the challenges that will always come up. Remember, **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY!**



A few jottings of note:

- Spring Lake Park Lions and **5M7 Peace Poster** winner Sophia Park was presented with the MD5M winners \$100 check as well as the Lions Clubs International Awards (certificate and plaque) and \$500 check at the noon luncheon at the recent Multiple District 5M Convention in Bloomington. Past International President Lion Al Brandel assisted in the presentations.
- Remaining *Governor's Nights* have been scheduled. If you have requests of my time, please refer to my calendar in this issue of the Gram.
- Club Secretaries, send your **PU 101 Club** forms to LCI ASAP and as a courtesy to DGE Lion Tom, attach a copy to him for his records. **Do not send them to me.** Please be as complete and correct as you can. Communication between club and district leadership is vital so it is imperative the contact information in the District and International directories is correct!
- Our \$100,000 matching grant request to LCIF for **True Friends** was approved by the LCI Board of Directors at their board meeting in Prague last week. Lion Alison Sherman is excited to attend any Lions function to get the word out. Please invite her to share her exciting message.
- DGE Lion Tom has his 2015-2016 cabinet pretty well completed with the exception of a Chairman for Zone 6. If you can help, please contact him.

As I said last month, *"the Governors team along with your Cabinet Chairs may well be organizers and guides, but it is the individual club leaders and members who do the events and projects that are the heart and soul of this great organization we call Lions"*.

Now that the weather is cooperating, I plan on attending as many Lion functions as possible with one of my old cars. Hopefully, I will see you out there.

Yours in Lionism,

DG Lion Terry Wold
612-759-5433
"Serve the Need"





Lions, Lioness, Leos —

It's hard to believe that year 2014/2015 is coming to the finish line as 1st VDG of 5M7. In about 53 days I will be off to Honolulu, Hawaii for *Lions International Convention* to become your 5M7 District Governor. I hope that I can serve you as your District Governor as good as past District Governors have.

I want to remind Lions, Lioness, Leos Clubs to turn in your Club Office Elections results on PU101 form to LCI and also to me by May 1st. I prefer you send this information to me by email at liomfiecke@yahoo.com

At this writing, I still have an opening for Zone Chair in Zone 6.

[District 5M7 Leadership Training will be on Wednesday, May27, at Buffalo Community Middle School in Buffalo, and on Thursday, May 28, at Centennial High School, East Building, in Blaine.](#) There will be more information in this Gram Newsletter.

Next two months of year 2014/2015 will be busy with Governor's Nights, Zone Meetings, and Club Activities going on. I am looking forward to being your District Governor of 5M7.

DGE Tom Fiecke
Serve from the Heart

Lions, Lioness, and Leos —

It's been a wonderful year so far — meeting new Lions and greeting Lions Lion Kathy and I have met in the past. The clubs we have visited through Governor's visits and pancake breakfasts and other club activities have been so welcoming. Traveling through our District and other Districts with Governor Terry and Donna has been a great experience. We've learned a lot from the two of them. We are so looking forward to meeting more Lions in the next two years.

I'd also like to hear about Lioness and Leo activities. I would like to learn more about the Lioness club and the Leo club and what they are all about. So please let me know about meetings and other things you may have going on. It's a goal of mine to be more active with these two groups.

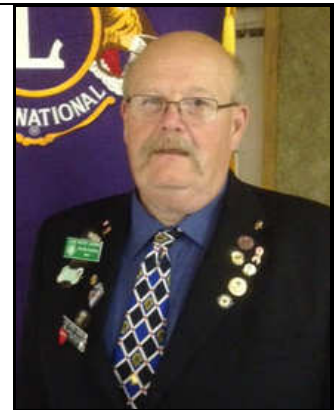
Are you a new club officer or just want to learn more about what goes on in your club? [Spring training for District 5M7 is going to be held on May 27th from 6:30-8:30 PM at Buffalo Junior High School and May 28th 6:30-8:30 PM at Centennial High School East Building in Blaine.](#) Remember those dates, if you plan on becoming a Club Officer.

Also coming up is the *International Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii from June 26-June 30 2015*. Lion Kathy and I have everything in place and paid for. We're really looking forward to this convention. Also coming up is *The Grand Forum* in Grand Rapids, MI from September 17-19 2015. The *USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum* is one of the best learning experiences a Lion will be able to attend. Most Lions come away from the Forum with a very positive outlook about Lions and what goes on within Lions. For more details about the Forum go to www.lionsforum.org.

In closing have a wonderful and safe Spring and hope to see more of you at different Lions activities this Spring and Summer.

Thank you for all you do!

1st VDGE Lion Steve





DG Terry's Calendar:

May

- 05 - Leo Club formation meeting with DaVinci Academy/Blaine Central Lions Club
- 8-10 - Leo Leadership Conference - Annandale
- 11 - Isanti Governor's Night
- 12 - Coon Rapids Leos Charter Night
- 14 - St. Michael Governor's Night
- 16 - Blaine World Fest - Blaine
- 18 - Zone 6 Feed My Starving Children, Coon Rapids
- 19 - Becker Governor's Night & 40th Anniversary
- 20 - DG Team Meeting - Blaine (DGE Tom's recap for 2015-2016)
- 26 - Zone 5 Meeting - Anoka
- 27 - Club Officer Training (6:30 pm) Buffalo Middle School - Buffalo
- 28 - Club Officer Training (6:30 pm) Centennial High School East Bldg - Blaine

June

- 06 - D-Feet Hearing Walk
- 07 - Military Appreciation Day - North Branch
- 08 - District Awards Night - Broadway Pizza, Fridley
- 09 - New Member Induction - North Branch
- 11 - Blaine Central Lions - Regular Meeting
- 14 - Pancake Breakfast & Fly-In - Rush City
- 25 - Blaine Central Lions - Regular Meeting
- 26-30 - International Convention - Honolulu, HI

Editor's Note — Please send your articles and photos for the **5M7 Gram** by the 25th of each month. Be sure to include your club name, and captions for your photos. Send to: beckymom@comcast.net



Lions Leadership Institute



Enclosed is a photo of myself, Lion Mary Curtis, Lion Cheryl Kitrick and Lion Ann Kaduce. This was taken at the completion of the **Lions Leadership Institute** in Mahanomen last month. Lion Cheryl is from Canada and served as one of the instructors. Lion Ann and I highly recommend this training opportunity. It is not just for individuals interested in a leadership role but for anyone that wants to become a better Lion. The next class will be March 31-April 2, 2017, we encourage everyone at that time to fill out an application for consideration of enrollment.

Lion Mary Curtis
President Spring Lake Park Lions

MD5M Convention -- Peace Poster



CC Lion Earl Orvik, PIP Lion Al Brandel and DG Lion Terry Wold are presenting **Peace Poster winner Sophia Park** with a plaque, certificate and checks from the Multiple and International for her Merit Award winning poster.



5M7 Governor Terry Wold

**Invites you to the
Year End Celebration and
Awards Night**

June 8th, 2015

6:00 pm Social

7:00 pm Dinner

Location: Broadway Pizza

8298 University Ave. Fridley

Cost: \$16 per person

Menu: Pizzas, Salad Bar, Sub Sandwich, and Desert Pizza.

RSVP to: 1st VDGE Steve Linder before May 31st

slinder71@usfamily.net or 763-572-9348

Payment will be accepted at the door.

Please call or email with a club count,
you will be charged for the count reserved.



Cedar East Bethel & Ham Lake Lions Centerville, Columbus & Hugo Lions



Pictured are District Governor Lion Terry Wold and Cedar-East Bethel Lion President Judy Ricke.



DG Terry with the Monarch Membership Chevron recipients.

On April 21st the Cedar-East Bethel and Ham Lake Lions hosted their joint *Governor's Night*. Eleven of the Cedar-East Bethel Lion's received years of service chevrons ranging from ten years to two 40 year charter members.



DG Terry presenting District Award & Gov's. Personal pins to club Presidents and Secretaries.



DG Terry with nine of the 18 Milestone Chevron Award recipients.



DG Terry inducting new Centerville Lion Steve Ernster with sponsor President Lion John Thill.



Cedar East Bethel Lions Governor's Night cake.

Ham Lake Lions Governor's Night cake.



Clearwater Lions



DG Terry presenting Bruce Gagnelius Drug Poster District 5M7 winner 6-year old Henry Steabner a plaque and \$50.00 cash award.



DG Terry awarding a Monarch Chevron Membership Award to Lion Chris Ritzer.



DG Terry awarding a Monarch Chevron Membership Award to Lion Darwin Gohman.



DG Terry awarding a Monarch Chevron Membership Award to Lion David Frahm.

Ramsey Lions



DG Terry awarding a Monarch Chevron Membership Award to Lion Jack Kuechle.



The "Suits" with the Milestone Chevron Award as well as the Governor's pin and MD5M Governor's Award pin recipients.

Rush City Lions



Rush City Lion's will serve a Pancake Breakfast at the *Rush City Airport Fly-In* on June 14th, 8:00am - 12:00 noon. Car Show, unique and interesting exhibits and planes, many other activities for all ages! More information as it becomes available.

Santiago Lions



DG Terry with sponsor Lion Deb Landry, Christine and Mike Rogers, Christine Bonnema with sponsor Lion Ray Mulvey. Mitch Bonnema not pictured.



DG Terry with Chevron Award recipients Lions Deb Landry and Harland Strube.

Spring Lake Park Leos

On March 28th the Spring Lake Park Lions and Leos along with the SLP Park & Recreation Dept. hosted an [Easter Egg Hunt](#) at Lakeside Lions Park. Over 300 kids participated and well over 600 people were in attendance. The Leos provided free books for the children, hid the eggs, assisted the Lions with registration and collected donated food. It was a great time!



Zone 6



This photo of 1st VDGE Lion Steve Linder was taken at a recent Zone 6 meeting. It looks like he needs a little more practice before he travels to Hawaii for the International Convention in June!



Guest speaker, PDG Lion Norm Kelzenberg was also in Hawaiian mode as he gave his presentation.

Zone 7

In his presentation to the clubs ID Molenda referred to posters in the fellowship hall on which were written **call-to-action words**: *Encourage, Study, Give, Serve, Invite, Pray* and *Worship* and how they can motivate Lion members.

Three candidates were inducted into Lions by International Director Michael Molenda at the Zone 7 meeting on March 24th.



Shown above are International Director Michael Molenda, Circle-Lex Lion Darleen Devaney, Forest Lake Lion Bob Schmidt, Circle-Lex Lion Mike Schweigert and Youth Outreach Chair Lion Ginny Hestekind.



With only two months left in District Governor Terry's year, there are still plenty of

opportunities for vision-related projects and activities your Club can work on during his term of office. You can continue to collect used eyeglasses, sunglasses, reading glasses and hearing aids to be cleaned and repurposed for others. You can work with your local schools and senior centers to assist in providing eye exams and eyeglasses for those in need. You can share the news about the latest advances made at the University of Minnesota's Department of Ophthalmology towards treating macular degeneration, childhood blindness and other vision afflictions.

PDG Paul and I have received one entry for the eyeglass collection boxes contest we've been sponsoring since February. You still have time to submit your entry and have a chance to win a cash donation to the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation (MLVF) for your Club.



This donation would go towards your Club's Helen Keller Sight Award fund. All you have to do is send a photo of your eyeglass collection box and a brief description about it to either PDG Paul or Lion Lyle before June 1st. The winners will be announced at the *Governor's Year-End Celebration* dinner on June 8th.

For those Club's in need of dispersing their gambling operation proceeds prior to the end of the fiscal year, please consider making a donation to the *Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation*. You can designate your contribution towards a specific cause at the MLVF. Your donation can go towards programs like the *Children's Eye Clinic*, the *Macular Degeneration Center*, the *Lions' Eye Bank* or the proposed *Minnesota Lions' Eye*

Surgical Center. Contributions are always welcomed, no matter what time of the year it is.

PDG Paul and Lion Lyle are available to attend your Club or Zone meetings, dinners and functions. Don't forget to invite them to your upcoming activities. They are looking to share the latest information regarding advances in the diagnosis and treatment of vision issues that probably touch someone very close to you. When your Club or Zone works on their plans for next year, please include PDG Paul, Lion Lyle and the MLVF into your schedule.

Thank you all for continuing to be Knights of the Blind!

Yours in Lionism,

PDG Paul Hansen – MLVF West
pjhansen@windstream.net
H) 320-274-3234 C) 612-840-5960

Lion Lyle Goff – MLVF East
gofflt@msn.com
H) 763-754-8921 C) 763-229-6145

MD5M Directory Option

MD5M Lions Executive Secretary
md5mlion@charter.net wrote:

Dear Lions,

Some folks just can't get by without a Printed copy of the MD5M Directory. For those people, 5M9 has a solution. They produce a spiral bound MD5M directory that is really quite nice from the same CD that is provided to you free of charge at the July Council meeting. All paper directories must be pre-ordered and pre-paid. See the attached order form.

Lion Bob

Order Form for a Printed MD5M Directory

Name _____

Phone number _____

Club _____

E-Mail address _____

Of MD5M Directory @ \$18.00 each _____

Of 5M9 Directory @ &8.00 each _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Make ALL checks out to 5M9 and send them to:

PDG Peter Van Erp
38214 610th Ave.
Bluffton, MN 56518

Deadline to order is June 1, 2015



"Service through Leadership"

District 5M7

Please Plan to Attend

For Your Club



Spring Training For Officers Elect



Did you ever wonder why professional baseball players need to take part in spring training? After all aren't they the top of the game? What do they accomplish in training camp?

In short the answer to all of these questions is that they recognize the need to be prepared for the upcoming season. The preparation they accomplish in spring training has a great deal to do with the results they will achieve during the actual season. By the end of spring training the team has been selected, the players know what is expected of them, such as who will be a starting pitcher versus a relief pitcher, skills have been fine-tuned, and goals have been set. Only then does the season start.

While spring training for baseball teams lasts basically six weeks I would suggest that as Lion Officer-elects, our spring training runs from March 1 until June 31st. This is true if you are a club president elect, a District Governor elect, or any other elected position that will start July 1, 2015.

It amazes me how many times I have heard: "I have been (fill in the position) before so I don't need to do much to be ready for my year". As many times as I have heard that from lions I have never heard Tory Hunter, Joe Mauer, Brian Dozier, or countless other ballplayers say they really don't need to go to spring training! They realize that if you are going to be successful you have to put time in before the season starts. The time that Lion's leaders, at any

level, invest in getting ready before the season starts will pay off in the long run by helping them be successful.



Training will be at two locations

**Buffalo Junior High School on May 27th

**Centennial High School East Building in Blaine on May 28th

The time will be 6:30-8:30 both, The Leadership training will be covering topics for the zone chairs, presidents and all upcoming presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and membership chairs/committees. And as in the past all interested lions are welcome to attend these and all classes.

Used eyeglasses, hearing aids, and printer cartridges will be collected at this and all Lions Club events

And Remember

We Serve

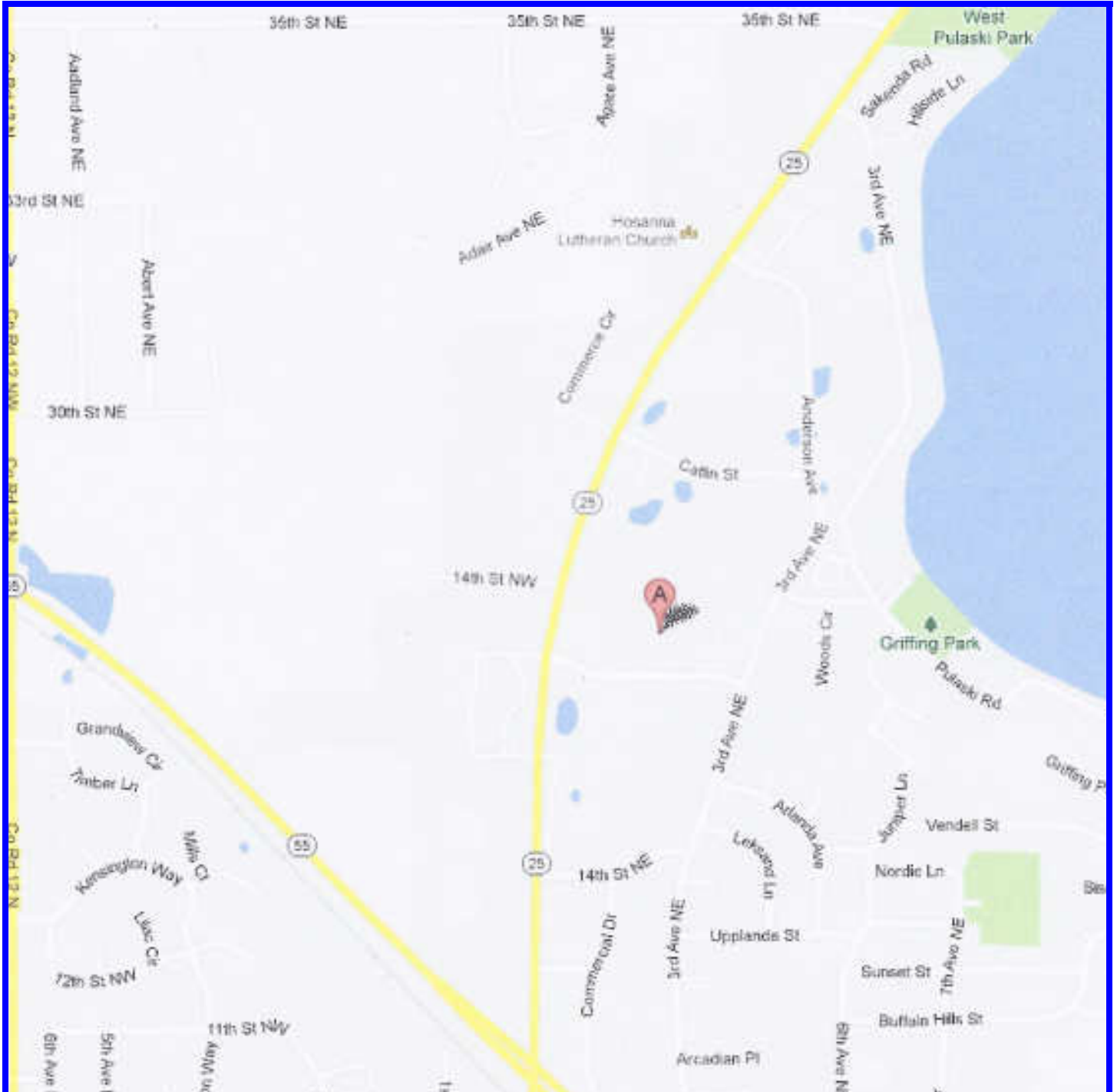
5M7 District Leadership Training



The first session is on Wednesday, May 27th, at the
Buffalo Community Middle School,
1300 Highway # 25 North, Buffalo, MN 55313
(across the highway from Wal-Mart.)



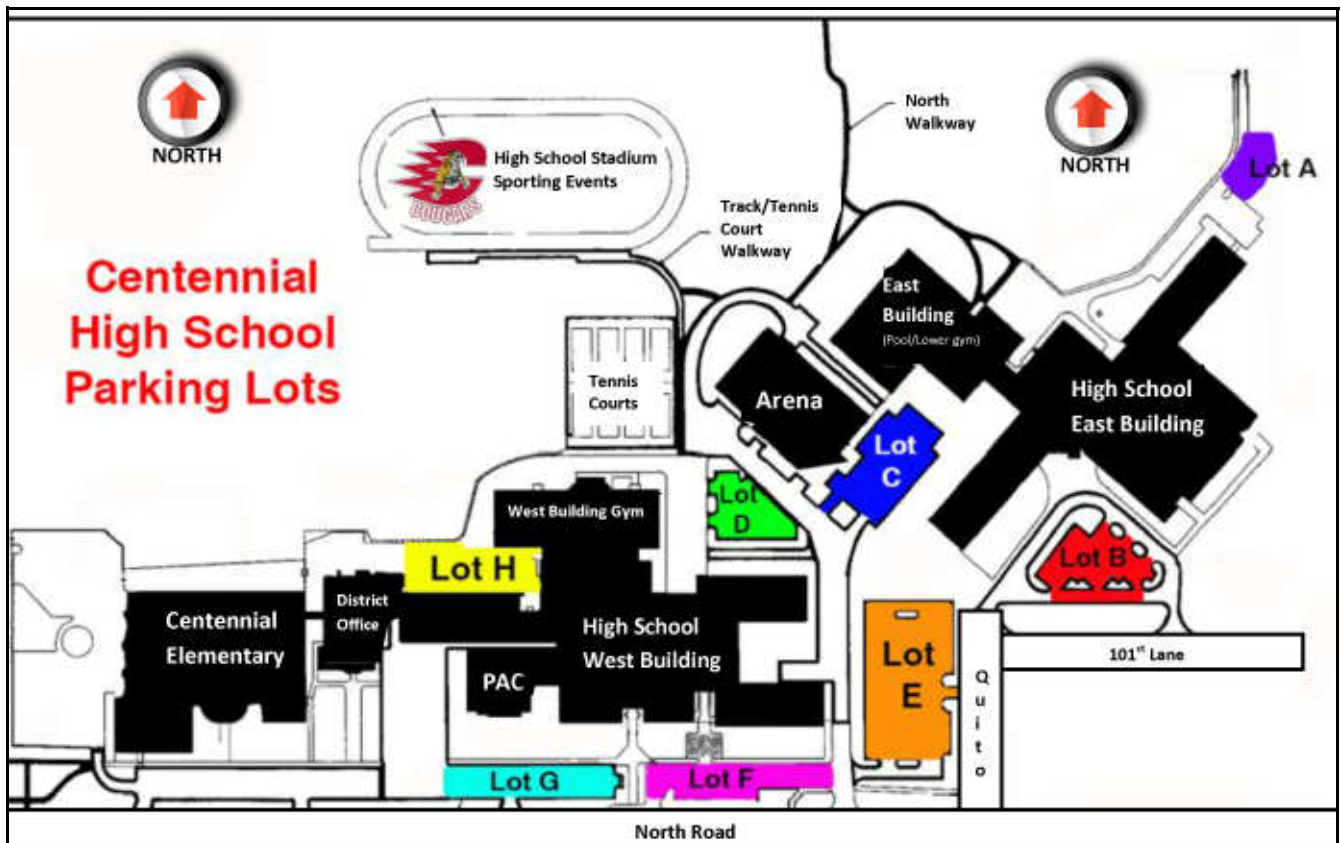
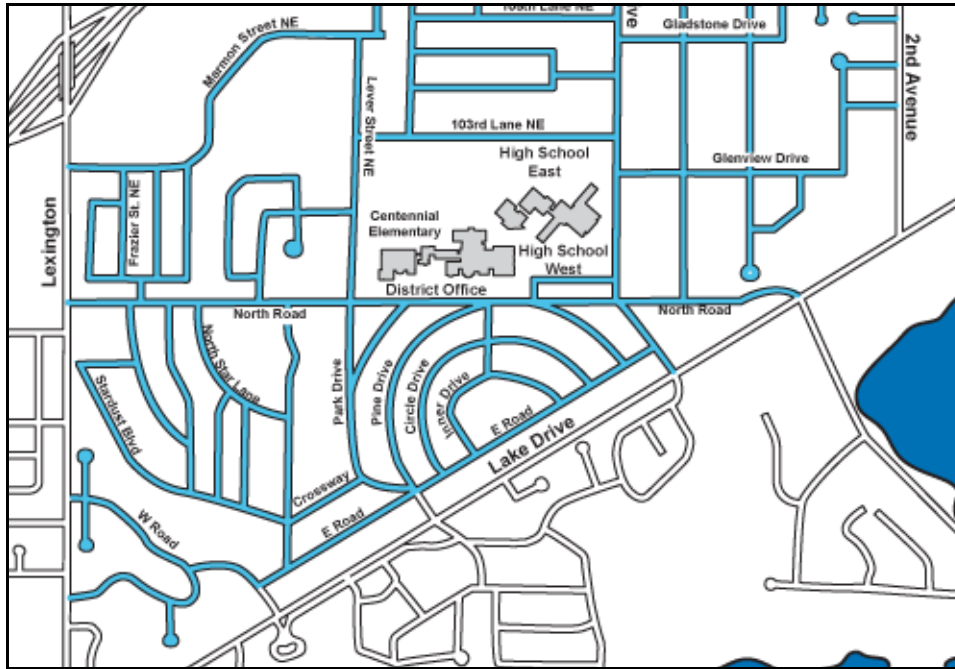
Starts at 6:30 p.m.



5M7 District Leadership Training

The second session will be on Thursday, May 28th at
Centennial High School, East Building
4881 101st lane NE, Blaine, MN

Starts at 6:30 p.m.





4th Annual Donation Drive

With summer just around the corner, it is time once again to help True Friends prepare for the Campers! Your small gift makes **MANY** Campers Happy!

ARTS & CRAFTS is the theme this year!



Items on the list that I am collecting are:

Tempra Paint (all colors)

Paintbrushes (all colors)

Face paint

Pom-poms

Foam Shapes

Small colorful tiles

Fuse Beads

Jewelry making supplies: Beads, bead cord, charms

Watercolor paints

Plastic paint palettes (20)

Tie Dye Colors to mix

Pipe cleaners

Grout

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.” –H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

BRING TO: the Zone 5 Meeting (May 26th), the 5M7 Year End Party or contact me to make other arrangements. I need to collect all donations no later than June 15th.

Thank you in advance!!

Lion Theresa Goff

t-m-goff@hotmail.com

763.754.8921



Exciting News

True Friends has been awarded a \$100,000 LCIF Grant!

Now for the hard part: *we need to raise the match!*

What will this money be used for?

**\$135,000 - Camp Courage Ropes and Challenge Course.* This will provide challenging, rewarding and life-enhancing experiences to an often overlooked population - people with disabilities and to Veterans Cohorts for vets with PTSD. This plan includes:

- A unique **climbing tower** with 2 high platforms and 16 traversing elements that will be completely accessible for those in wheelchairs or other physical disabilities.
- **Azip line** will enable users to approach via a ground-level platform, enter a special chair-type safety harness and launch themselves on the 800 foot zip line, fully controlling the entire experience.

There is tons of research that says participating in this type of exhilarating challenge and succeeding at meeting the "challenge" enhances self-esteem and a sense of independence.

**\$65,000 for a wheelchair accessible van.* This will allow for transport of campers from one of the five True Friends sites to another; allowing them to fully participate in innovative True Friends programs. Without these vans, True Friends ability to serve campers with the most advantageous, personally tailored learning experience is curtailed.

Please have Alison & Jason out to your clubs to explain the importance of raising the \$100,000 for the Camp Courage Ropes and Challenge Course. They will be doing a presentation at the Zone 5 Meeting on May 26th. (RSVP to Lion Joel Anderson at joel.anderson@jemtechnical.com) To schedule a visit or to learn more about how you can help, contact Alison at: AlisonS@truefriends.org or 952.852-0101 x 310.

Please consider helping us achieve the \$100,000 goal!



You Are Invited to Camp Needlepoint & EXPO!



The American Diabetes Association, Minnesota Area is currently planning our two largest programs of the year: **Camp Needlepoint/Daypoint** and our **Diabetes Expo**. I personally want to invite the members of your club to visit one or both of these programs this year.

Camp Needlepoint sessions are Sunday, August 16 to Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 to Saturday, August 29. Since registration and camper pick-up are the Sundays and Saturdays, we ask that you schedule a day during the week. The time at camp will include a tour of the camp facility, lunch with the campers and an opportunity to meet the medical staff, counselors and campers. Camp is located just south of Hudson, Wisconsin.

Contact Susan Klimek at 763-593-5333, ext. 6591 or email sklimek@diabetes.org to schedule your visit. We ask that you not show up without first contacting us as we need to know who is on-site for the safety of the campers and staff.

Our **Diabetes Expo** will be held on Saturday, October 10th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Hall E. It is billed as *“everything you need to know about diabetes under one roof”* including workshops, cooking demonstrations, fitness activities, free health screenings, an *“Ask the Expert”* area, and vendors offering the latest diabetes products and services. Last year over 8,300 people attended and we’re expecting more this year. As a Lion, you and/or your club can get involved in several ways:

We invite you to come to learn more about diabetes.

We need many day-of-event volunteers for this activity. Lions Clubs may want to volunteer as a club. Many clubs helped last year; by wearing their vests they gained more recognition for Lions Clubs and what they do in the community. Volunteer for a few hours (time slots are 8:15 AM – 12:00 PM or 11:30 AM – 3:15 PM) or for the entire day.

Please contact Molly Duerr at 763-593-5333, ext. 6652 or at mduerr@diabetes.org if you or a club would like to volunteer.

Several areas outside of the Twin Cities worked on organizing buses to and from the Expo for members of their community. Clubs from several communities in your district could set up a bus route with several stops to pick up people. Work with your local clinics, hospitals, churches, etc. to get the word out.

If you are thinking about having a bus please contact Molly Duerr at 763-593-5333, ext. 6652 or mduerr@diabetes.org for more information. All people will have free admission to the Expo and there will be free bus parking at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

We appreciate the support we have received from Lions Clubs in the past and invite you now to see how your funding is helping people with diabetes.



The Affordable Hearing Aid Project A Joint Venture Between Lions Clubs of District 5M7 & Sight & Hearing Association



Providing help for those in need of hearing aids, but who are financially unable to purchase them, is a Lions Club mission through our Affordable Hearing Aid Project. As a volunteer organization, it is a challenge to help individuals in need of hearing aids, especially in determining financial need and finding a willing network of hearing aid providers. This is a cumbersome and time-consuming process for our Clubs, but help is available to us through the Sight & Hearing Association (SHA), a nonprofit organization that shares a similar mission to help those in need of hearing aid assistance.

Under the direction of Trustees Jim Mulroy and Norm Kelzenberg, of the *Lions Multiple District 5M Hearing Foundation*, Lions Clubs of District 5M7 have teamed up with SHA to assist the Lion's Affordable Hearing Aid Project mission. SHA is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in St. Paul that provides vision and hearing screening and education in Minnesota. They have 75 years experience assessing individual need, as they provide assistance to thousands of children and adults in the same communities we serve. SHA has offered to help the Lions better fulfill our goal of helping individuals with a hearing loss that have limited financial resources, obtain an affordable hearing aid(s).

This joint venture with SHA complements our Affordable Hearing Aid Project by providing a quick and easy process to connect individuals in need to an audiologist in their community. Partnering with SHA ensures that the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project is fulfilled in a timely and cost-effective manner so we can continue to make a significant difference in the lives of those in need in our community

Here's How It Works:

A Lions Club refers an individual in need to SHA by calling SHA with the contact information. The Lions Club should let SHA know whether it will help sponsor the individual financially.

SHA conducts a brief application interview with the individual. After reviewing an individual's assets and expenses, SHA will determine what dollar amount, if any, the individual will be responsible for in order to obtain a hearing aid(s). Financial responsibility is determined on a sliding scale fee model that uses a formula based on federal poverty guidelines. It is preferred that the individual makes an investment in the hearing aids. SHA will then notify the sponsoring Lions Club what financial help might be needed.

After SHA makes payment arrangements with the individual and sponsoring Lions Club, they will direct the individual to an audiologist who will provide a full hearing exam and hearing aid fitting. SHA maintains a hearing aid inventory and whatever is needed will be pulled from their inventory. Audiologists will provide a full exam, professional hearing aid fitting and aftercare at an agreed upon nominal fee. If an appropriate hearing aid is not available in SHA's inventory, they will use funds from the salvage of old aids collected by the Lions to purchase new or used hearing aid(s) from local manufacturers.

The typical cost of a set of hearing aids through this program will cost \$650.00 total for both the individual and sponsoring Lions Club. The amount each would pay will depend on the financial assessment of the individual.

Contacts:

Sight & Hearing Association
Kathy Webb, Executive Director
1246 University Ave W #226'
St Paul, MN 55104

kwebb@sightandhearing.org
651.645.2546 ext 11
www.sightandhearing.org

Lions Multiple 5M Hearing Foundation
www.5mhf.org

PDG Norm Kelzenberg, Trustee
nhkelzenberg@comcast.net
®763-786-1819 ©612-219-8049

PDG Jim Mulroy Trustee
lionjim0809@icloud.com
®763-241-9562 ©612-669-0754



Lioness Clubs

*We're getting closer.....*to spring each and every day....well maybe not the week I'm writing this newsletter. Highs in the 40's, winds out of the north and west, gusting 30-45mph and chance of snow in northern Minnesota. Sound familiar? The weather will turn soon and once again, everyone will be out enjoying their favorite outdoor activity!

Anoka Lioness [35] continue to work serving meals at Hope 4 Youth, a homeless youth drop center. They also provided birthday cakes to the Anoka Treatment Center.



Big Lake Lioness [16] will work on putting together their May Baskets for local seniors. The Lioness received 42 applications for scholarships from local high school seniors all of whom had to write a 100 word essay on what community service means to them. The winner's will be announced in May at graduation.

Coon Rapids [7] played bingo at both Park River Care Center and Camilla Rose Care Center with seniors.

Montrose [13] has been having their share of injuries over the past few months. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Lionesses Marcy, Deb, Marlette and Sandy. We wish you all the best and hope you're all back on your feet again soon!



St. Francis [11] is taking a breather after their annual Salad Luncheon and Style Show. As usual the food was plentiful as well as excellent and the clothes fabulous!

Lino Lakes [10], Cedar East Bethel [15] Clear Lake [14] and North Branch [17] are busy working on upcoming projects and events.

*** Note: I have received the following PU 101 forms: Lino Lakes, Montrose, Big Lake, Coon Rapids and Anoka. If you haven't sent yours in yet, please do so ASAP.*

Reminder.....

Our Leadership Forum will be held on Saturday May 9th at the Big Lake Lions Park on CR 5 in Big Lake from 9am to 12noon. A continental breakfast will be available.

This forum will include a brief overview of the Lioness organization and helpful information for new [and old] officers. We'll also be discussing important issues such as how to attract new members and keep current members, using tools from the District/International to our advantage, and most importantly.....where do we go from here.....a look at the future of Lioness.

Please provide the number of Lioness attending from your club to me via email or phone no later than April 27th.



Can Do Canines' Lions Newsletter Submission – May, 2015

Thanks to the support of Lions Clubs across 5M, **Can Do Canines** continues to train specially trained for people with disabilities and provide them to those in need, free of charge.

Below is the follow-up story of a graduate, Chad Wilson, who was partnered with a Can Do Canines assistance dog in 2012. Thank you again for your continued support of our organization!

A BRIGHTER WORLD BECAUSE OF YOU



Chad Wilson & Mobility Assist Dog Porter

“Porter is one of the best things to ever happen to me. What he brings to me, in addition to

physical support, is joy and companionship.”

When Chad Wilson shares this over the phone about Mobility Assist Dog Porter, you can hear the smile on his face. A large dog, weighing in at 75 pounds, Porter has an ample personality to match. Chad describes him as a “funny guy” with a love for squeaky toys. Chad says Porter shakes his whole body and jumps around like a “bucking bronco” when he’s excited.

Chad’s mother Sandy says, *“Porter is, most importantly, Chad’s companion. He’s always there for Chad, and it’s clear that for Porter, Chad is number one. If you could see the way they interact, you would have no doubt.”*

Chad was born with muscular dystrophy, a condition which causes progressive weakness and loss of muscle mass. He was diagnosed at age four, and received his first electric wheelchair when he was 14 years old. Sandy says that the wheelchair has sometimes been a barrier, but that Porter serves as an “ice breaker,” encouraging people to approach and engage socially with the two of them.

“Because of my disease, I get progressively weaker, and certain things become more difficult for me. I always try to find a way around these difficulties, which is where Porter comes in.”

Chad’s main concerns are falling and the loss of his ability to bend over and pick things up when he’s dropped them. He has worked hard to stay as independent as possible in his daily life, and that continues to be his primary goal.

“Porter is a great help in making that possible.” Chad says.

Porter acts as a brace for Chad when he falls, and retrieves any items he may drop. He’s also been trained to get the emergency phone in case Chad needs some “non-canine” assistance,

To sum up their partnership, Chad says, *“Having Porter is having peace of mind, knowing I can go out into the world and not have to worry about the things I can’t do on my own. Porter allows me to have independence. Without **Can Do Canines**, I wouldn’t have Porter, and in turn, my world would be a little less bright.”*