

February-March 2018

Issue #4

~ DG James Wagner ~

1st VDG Frank Bertolino ~ 2nd VDG David Wilson

CS Tracy Griffin ~ CT Marcel Plouffe

District 33N Bulletin



This One is for You... Governor

Page one of this bulletin is a tribute to our governor. DG Jim promised to do things a little differently and he has followed through with those promises. First, he vowed to do everything in his power to conclude the business of the Advisory Meetings by eight thirty p.m. so we could be at home at a reasonable time and before some of our bedtimes. A minor thing to some but important to the rank and file members that go to these meetings.

He has managed to complete his agenda at both the First and Second District Advisory Meetings within his self imposed time constraints. Now that alone does not make for a successful Governorship. You need to be able to maintain focus on your agenda. You need to attain all of your goals and you need to make the meetings both informative and entertaining. Governor "Jim" Wagner has managed to do all those things. Above all that...(the proof of success) attendance was way up at the Second Advisory. Even Jim was a little surprised by the enormity of the crowd. I bet, a certain PDG is not calling him space shot anymore???.... ((Maybe not any less either))

Ladies and gentlemen... It is my pleasure to present to you.....Our favorite 2017-18 Governor...



THE PAST CANNOT BE CHANGED, FORGOTTEN, EDITED OR ERASED; IT CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED....

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Mid Winter Celebration

The Mid Winter is a celebration that encourages Lions to just relax. It is a chance to rejuvenate both the body and the mind. It is a chance to recharge our batteries and spend some quality time with the greatest "Family" on planet Earth.

Our guests for this weekend are International Director Nicolas Xinopoulos and his wife Lion Gretchen from Brownsburg, Indiana. I Googled International Director Nicolas Xinopoulos to learn a little more about him. Both he and his wife have always been very active in Lionism. We could ALL learn by their examples. I look forward to hearing him speak at the convention. As you are reading this it is late January!!!! Did you book your room for the Mid Winter Celebration? Have you made your plans to join us? If not then you are an ideal candidate for "The Procrastination Award." Perhaps you need to read the following words and think long and hard about them and if they are describing you....

" If no mistake have you made, yet different game you should then



losing you are, a play."

To review....Friday night's theme (optional dress evening Banquet is a Pizza and Salad Buffet and promises to be an incredible evening. The cost is twenty six dollars.

The Saturday Awards luncheon is a cold cut buffet also sometimes known as a sandwich buffet. ((Some assembly is required)) The cost is twenty one dollars.

The Saturday Evening Banquet offers a choice of Beef Short Ribs, Baked Haddock or Mushroom Risotto. The cost is thirty two dollars.

Sunday morning offers a full hot breakfast. The cost is sixteen dollars.

Sign up for the meals with the above pricing was due by January 12th....Meals choices made after January 19th have a twenty percent "Procrastination Fee" attached to them.

The Mid Winter Celebration is one of the highlights of the Lion Year. Please join us (No more procrastinating) and just Enjoy yourself and whatever company you choose to keep.

Good Friends Are Like Stars....You Don't Always See Them, But You Know They Are Always There. **

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Seeds For Science



When I agreed to write the District Bulletin for Governor Jim Wagner he was very explicit. My bulletin, written my way, with no interference from him. I agreed because I wanted to reach out to the

District Membership in a different way than had been tried in years past. I wanted to create a bulletin that could be used as an instructional tool. At first I thought my task would be easy and I would write stories from my own Lion experiences. I soon learned that the need for information and direction was deeper than I had originally thought. In fact the void I felt in myself was also felt by many others. The answer was simple and could be compared to the investment seeds we plant with the MLERF.

Any gardener knows that you need to plant seeds early if you want to have a bountiful harvest. So as we enter into the month of February we start making our plans to ensure a bountiful harvest. Greenhouses and window ledges become commonplace for seed beds. Vegetables and flowers will germinate in the winter sunshine. From seeds grow seedlings ready for replanting once spring officially arrives. The gardeners goal will be obtained with careful nurturing, lots of water, fertilizer and a solid understanding of agriculture. This is very much like the seed money used to support research ideas. It is also the way we need to prepare our members both new and old.

In 1953, the Lions Clubs of Multiple District 33 adopted MLERF as the first project that would be undertaken on a state wide level. That first year, the Lions raised \$5000. The first research grant was presented to Dr. Ingalls of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ingalls was instrumental in determining that baby blindness was being caused by too much oxygen in the incubators of premature babies. It was a common practice for premature babies to be placed in incubators where they received a rich mixture of oxygen. What wasn't known at the time was that increased levels of oxygen are actually detrimental to the formation of a newborn baby's eyes. The solution was to install a valve in the incubators to control the flow of oxygen. The cost of the valve: a mere five cents. The disease known as blind baby disease was practically eradicated using these valves.

I related the above story to you because it is literally eye opening. As Lions we should all spend a little time on the web and Google Mass Lions Eye Research Fund. The history of this organization is well worth the read. I have provided one possible link for your convenience.... www.mlerfi.org This fund helps funnel seedling money to promising research possibilities. That research can often lead to more extensive federal grants.

“Always remember that you are unique. Just like everybody else.” -Author Unknown



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It is a “Happy” New Year... Now Loosen Up!!

Let's start off on the correct foot with a long established protocol. Happy New Year to one and all. May you enjoy prosperity and good health in the coming year.

I have inserted a short poem by Joanna Fuchs because it echoes our service motto... It is entitled "Another Chance" and I have re-written it in sentence form to save on space.

A bright, shiny new year, empty, neat, pristine, empty, waiting, ready for us to get it right. Another chance to love and forgive. Another chance to make a real effort to give more than we get. Another chance to make a difference. A good new year. A Happy New Year!

Now let's talk about the title of this article. I have been attending Lion Conventions for about ten years now. The experience was always coupled with lots of laughter and great times until the last few years.

I am not talking about people being disruptive or out of line. I am talking about carefully timed noise designed to enhance the atmosphere and bring levity to the proceedings. This is especially true at the Mid-Winter and State Conventions. I know the Advisories are a little more restrictive but we can still find ways to have fun. I know some of our newer members do not fully comprehend what I am talking about but trust me this is a real thing.

This publication has been striving to tactfully bring you tidbits of learning while dabbling with some comic relief. We all need to relearn how to laugh again and enjoy each day as it comes. We need to interject humor into our daily lives while maintaining our respect for one another.

The upcoming Mid Winter is the perfect event to remember what it is like to enjoy life again. Put aside the stress for a day or two. I promise a little laughter goes a long way to foster a positive attitude. That positive energy and attitude is what makes us Lions. So sit back and enjoy the stories as told by our seasoned membership and friends. Lionism is all about making a difference. Where there is a NEED, there is a LION. Join us, be one with the pride! Together we can. Together we serve...

***We like a man to come right out and say what he thinks-
if we agree with him.
- Mark Twain***

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Ground Hog Day



As you begin reading this I know you are saying why is this little critter in a Lions Bulletin? First of all please understand that the town and businesses of Punxsutawney, PA. are established organizations that are performing public services. We Lions also have a tendency to do a little hibernating during the winter. Then at the beginning of February, or there about, we peek our heads out of our homes and attend our mid winter celebration. Now that you see the parallel let's get back to Phil.

Every year thousands gather in Punxsutawney, PA. to receive the prediction of their beloved Phil. According to tradition, if Phil sees his shadow while exiting his burrow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If Phil is not greeted by his shadow, then spring will begin early.

Which should mean that spring will arrive in less than six weeks.

The average lifespan of a groundhog is six to eight years, but according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, there has only been one Phil and he has been making weather predictions since 1887. They say that, Phil drinks a magical "groundhog punch" each summer and gains seven years of life with each sip.

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club also says that Phil relays his weather prediction to the president of his "Inner Circle" by speaking "Groundhogese". They maintain that Phil has never been wrong but statistics show that he is correct only twenty four percent of the time. No matter the evidence, thousands will still gather in Punxsutawney to see Phil and receive their (potentially inaccurate) weather prediction.

When I agreed to write this bulletin I decided to always write the truth even though some people might get upset at times. Well I understand that a service organization can only exist if they provide a service and there is a need for that service.

We are Lions and we have provided a service now for more than one hundred years. Our service changes with the times and with the needs of the communities we serve. We cannot predict the future but we can say that as long as there is a need there will be a Lion.

Maybe it's time to let poor Phil sleep throughout the winter. Shadows only exist on sunny days so a prediction in any language can be generated to serve the masses that gather at Gobbler's Knob.

Contradictions do not exist. Whenever you think that you are facing a

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contradiction, check your premises. You will find that one of them is wrong.
- Ayn Rand (1905-1982)

The Centennial Challenge (numbers are not updated)

Is your club participating in the Centennial Challenge? For nearly 100 years, Lions have served their communities with dedication and contributed to the development and well-being of millions of people around the world. To celebrate our 100th anniversary, we had asked Lions to help reach our Centennial Service Challenge goal of serving more than 100 million people by June 2018. We have the opportunity to double that goal but secretaries need to report club activities in the specified categories. Let's turn 69% clubs participating to 96% clubs participating.



Diabetes- Prevent new cases of diabetes and improve the quality of life for those already diagnosed.

Youth- Support youth in your community, or inspire the next generation of volunteers by inviting Leos and other local youth to serve on a project with you.

Vision- Prevent future cases of unnecessary blindness through vision screenings and educational events. Give the gift of sight through projects that benefit those who are blind or living with low vision.

Hunger- Improve access to healthy food for vulnerable populations in your community.

Environmental- Protect and improve the environment to make your community a healthier place to live for everyone.



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"Show me a sane man and I will cure him for you."

- C. G. Jung (1875-1961)

Welcome to Our New Members

I do try to welcome new memberships to our Lion's family. I do miss a few sometimes but it is not my intention to do so.

If you recorded a valid email address when you joined you should be receiving a copy of this bulletin. If you didn't then you are not reading this and therefore it does not matter.

Acton Lions

Jon P Bailey

Billerica Lions

Daniel C Antoszewski

Valerie A Paolucci

Concord Lions

Jeffrey T Altschuler

Eric H Jordan

Tressa L Jordan

Essex County Regional Lions

Robert DeMore Jr

Lexington Lions

Victor Onorato

Julienne M Seed

Pepperell Lions

Roland Nutter

Reading Lions

Jane L Flynn

Gina Healy

Salem Lions

Stephen C Kapantias

Tewksbury Lions

Nancy Fisette

Russell Fisette

Townsend Lions

Natalie Call

Woburn Breakfast Lions

Leonard J Burnham

Richard A Capistran

Woburn Host Lions

Manuel Fonseca

John Kelly

I do not normally list transfers or re-instated members, however if you have used an email address I will update your records if necessary and you will receive this publication....

If a man is speaking in the forest and there is no women around to hear him, is he still wrong?

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2-4 --Mid Winter Convention (Hilton, Forbes Road Woburn) Join us....this year's theme is Star Wars....

March 26 --Third Advisory Meeting (Tewksbury Country Club 1880 Main St. Tewksbury Ma. 01876)

April 27-29 -- State Convention (Holiday Inn 31 Hampshire Street Manfield Ma)

May 21 --Fourth District Advisory (Woburn Legion 194 Lexington St. Woburn Ma. 01801)

Other things of note will sometimes be written in this box...