

September and October 2018

Issue # 1

~ DG Frank Bertolino ~

1st VDG David Wilson ~ 2nd VDG Marcel Plouffe

CS Joy Bartlett ~ CT Brian Doherty



We Serve

District 33N Bulletin

Together We Can!



We Serve

Our Governor Frank Bertolino is passionate about community service projects. It does not matter what you do... it only matters that you are doing something that will help other people and/or the community. Over the years we have learned that our diversity has become one of our greatest strengths.

Currently the International Association of Lions Clubs has grown to include approximately 1.4+ million community service minded men and women in more than 46,000 clubs located in approximately 193 countries and geographical areas.

Naturally when a pride of Lions comes together to make a difference the results are always dramatic. But passion alone cannot solve all the problems of the world.

So we simply strive to make a difference in all our community service exploits. What began as the good intentions of a small group of civic minded men and women more than 100 years ago has evolved into a global force for good; a world class organization of men and women who recognize needs that go beyond their own, who work on behalf of others whom they may never see, speak with or even meet. Simply put, we strive to make the world a better place.

As we all strive to become more visible within our communities we also strive to make a difference.

If you want happiness for an hour - take a nap.

If you want happiness for a day – go fishing.

If you want happiness for a month – get married.

If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune.

If you want happiness for a lifetime – help others.

Old Chinese Proverb/Happiness

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The Starfish Story



Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the

beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.

Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, “Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?”

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied “Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can’t return to the sea by themselves,” the youth replied. “When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water.”

The old man replied, “But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I’m afraid you won’t really be able to make much of a difference.”

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, “It made a difference to that one!”

Sometimes the smallest gesture can make a huge impact on someone's life. There are many different ways we can show kindness to others, and it doesn't have to be in a big way. Catherine Pulsifer

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I received a copy of a letter written by John J. Godoy in gratitude for all we do (District 33N) with our eye glass recycle program. A heartfelt thank you goes out to John Lucente and the Lexington Lions for all they do to manage and maintain this program. This one was definitely worth sharing District wide!

Greetings to Lions Clubs, USA & Massachusetts-Lions District 33-N

August 13, 2018, Linköping, Sweden,

Dear Lions Friends,

I hope that I find you all well. I am writing to you to thank you for the enormous support throughout the years I have had from the Massachusetts – Lions District 33-N and, in particular, from my old friend John Lucente, in collecting, washing and measuring used eyeglasses. Most recently I received 3500 pairs of eyeglasses from John and Alan which will be used on an upcoming trip to Peru in November 2018.

I am an optometrist, raised in Lexington and educated at Dartmouth College. Later I studied in France and finished my Optometry Degree in Sweden. In 1995 I founded an NGO, Vision For All (VFA) and in 2016 I helped establish a new, more sustainable NGO in Peru, Vision To All, (VISTA). With these two organizations we have helped over 250 000 people in 25 countries around the world and always working closely with Lions. In 2015 I had the honor to receive, from the Monarch of Sweden, the King's Medal, 8th grade, blue band, for my International Solidarity work as an Optometrist.

I hope that our mutual and fruitful work will continue and expand.

Sincerely,
John J. Godoy
Optometrist



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Lions Both Civil and Visible

The first rule of civility is to always be polite (end of story). The first rule of visibility is to put yourself in a position to be seen by as many people as possible. The second rule is once you attain the first rule you must make sure that there is a positive light shining on you.

In today's society we all spend a lot of time connected by social media. It is part of the fabric that allows us to keep in touch with our immediate and extended families. With that in mind we all need to filter our comments while on line.

Remember once you type it...It could be out there forever!

My advice is do not type your opinions on social media. In a world as polarized as ours is, you will have half the world agreeing with you and the other half condemning you. That is not the sort of visibility we Lions strive to participate in.

I know most of you are saying I do not do that or maybe you stay away from social media just because of that reason. Ok, picture this, you are at a Lions Club function and you are talking with friends. Someone brings up something that they saw on the evening news that upset them. Everyone around the table offers their opinions and the conversation eventually goes off in a more productive tangent. You probably thought the conversation ended when the subject matter changed but did it?

Someone sitting at that table is going to leave that table and reconstruct that conversation with another group discussion. Your name could be brought up no matter if you were for or against the recent discussion. Then five sets of ears becomes ten sets and so on and so forth.

This is why Lions should never be political or opinionate openly in public. We are here to serve not to judge. We all enjoy our freedoms. Freedom of Speech is a right but please use it wisely. I guarantee that in a world where half truths are normal that anything you say will always be used against you.

To be meek, patient, tactful, modest, honorable, brave, is not to be either manly or womanly; it is to be humane. Jane Harrison

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#WeServeKindness

“As written by Tammy Gray GST”



As we begin our new lion's year I can't help but reflect on the world around us. If you watch the evening new, or scroll through your social media newsfeeds, far too often we are faced with a notable amount of negativity. As this year's district GST (Global Service Team) chairperson I asked myself, what can we do as Lions to make this a better world? I know we can't stop all the violence and tragedy but, we can do service projects that are uplifting, heartfelt, and hope filled. So why not start with something simple that everyone can be a part of; let's start with Kindness. Kindness is a fundamental part of the human condition. It can bridge the divides of politics, religion, gender and social status. So starting immediately we would like to kick off the "kindness" initiative. We want to invite members to reach out to your communities and perform random acts of kindness. Every day we have an incalculable number of opportunities to impact the people around us. The key is to embrace these opportunities. It is not necessary that you spend a lot of time or even money. There are so many things that we can do to make someone's day; do not underestimate the power of even a small good deed. An act of kindness can be something as simple as approaching the person next to you at Dunkin Donuts and saying "Hi, I'm from the _____ Lions club and we would like to pay for your coffee today."

Not only did you add some joy to that person's life but that simple act of kindness could also be the beginning of a conversation with them about who we are as Lions. This is a great way to embrace DG Frank Bertolino's motto -- "Tell the Story...the Lions Story". In that moment you have an opportunity to "tell the story" to someone who may have never known about the Lions.

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In our district we have over 1,200 members. Just think of the impact we could have if each one of us performs a single act of kindness. You could be the beginning of a kindness ripple that reaches across our district and beyond. This kindness initiative can be performed at both an individual lever or at a club level. Here are just a few ideas that may help you get your creative juices flowing:

- Pay for the coffee of the person behind you in the coffee shop
- Buy a stranger breakfast
- Mow the lawn for an elderly neighbor
- Shovel someone's sidewalk for them this winter
- As a club maybe you want to pitch in and surprise a stranger at the grocery store and buy their groceries or surprise a family at Target and pay for their school supplies.
- ...the possibilities are endless.

Let's show our communities that we are more than just an organization that tirelessly fundraise; we are also a group of compassionate, service minded individuals who want to contribute to our communities. We Serve is not only our motto but it is also our way of life.

As you perform your acts of kindness please let us know (tgray2968@yahoo.com)

We want to feature these acts of kindness on our district web site as well as at the mid-winter convention. What better way to showcase the joy you have created in someone's life than to share it with others and inspire them to do the same.

So I ask you to please encourage your members to participate; perform an act of kindness and take the opportunity to tell the lions story. Let's be the light we want the world to see.

YIL,
Tammy Gray
District 33N GST

Kindness is language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. -Mark Twain



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Welcome to the Family

Please join me in welcoming new members to our Lion family. If you published your email address when you filled out your application paperwork then you will automatically get a copy of this bulletin. If you did not list an email when you filled out your paperwork then you will get mentioned here but you will NOT get a copy of this bulletin. If for some reason you listed an email but do not want to receive this bulletin then simply send me an email at 33nbulletin@gmail.com and I will remove your name from my email distribution list.

Tewksbury Lions Club:

Maryann Frisella

Caroline McAllister

Assunta D Perez

Welcome one and all to the Lions family....

Welcome to Bedrock

The theme for the Mid-Winter Convention is now officially etched in stone!



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Dates to Remember

November 28

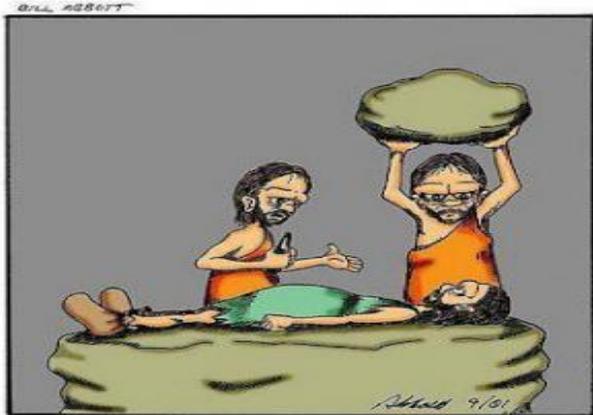
Second District Advisory

(Crown Plaza 15 Middlesex Canal Park Woburn)

February 1-3

“Mid Winter Convention”

(Crown Plaza 15 Middlesex Canal Park Woburn)



“...and this is Ralph, your anesthesiologist.”



“I invented clean underwear – in case he gets into an accident.”



“Give me a hand, you big lug — I can't make breakfast all by *myself!*”

