



## A CHALLENGE TO SERVE



Wow, what an amazing way to start my year as District Governor. Even after the excitement of a great International Convention and being sworn in as District Governor, one of the biggest highlights was yet to come. It was my honor and privilege to participate in the Banner Luncheon, where I represented VP Bob's home club and our District in the passing of the LCI International First Vice-Presidential banner from Dr. Yamada to our very own Chancellor Bob Corlew. Joining us at our table along with VP Bob were Lion Dianne Corlew; 12-S IPDG Carolyn Blankenship; PCC B.J. Blankenship; PIP Austin Jennings, his son Lion Mike and his wife Marilyn, and PID Dr. Eugene Spiess and his wife Lion Rita. Dr. Spiess will be Chair of the District Governor Elect School next year. One could certainly not ask for a more enjoyable group with whom to share lunch and conversation.

Clearly I have another reason for sharing this with you, and it is a very straight forward one. To have one of our own be elected to serve as the LCI International President during the one-hundredth (100th) anniversary of Lions is the utmost honor not only for VP Bob and Lion Dianne, but for our District as well. We as a District need to put our best foot and our best efforts forward to respond to the Centennial Challenge; embrace and succeed at Dr. Yamada's goals for this year; identify locations and establish new clubs; grow our current clubs; be supportive and cultivate our current and new members; and move toward family focused clubs. That sounds like a lot, but I know what the Lions of District 12-S can do. And remember, we are not doing this for the numbers; we are doing it to better serve others. As I said when I was

elected District Governor, I need to see a Lion every morning in the mirror, and I challenge you to do the same. District 12-S has done so much, but there are still more and more people throughout the world and in our own communities that need our help. And as long as there is still one need somewhere, we have work to do. It is basic math, the more Lions we have, the more service we can do.

I know where VP Bob and Lion Dianne have their hearts, and that is in service. VP Bob deserves a District of which he and Dianne can be very proud. The benefits of having an International President from District 12-S are not just for them, but the benefits for our District are returned many-fold throughout the years to come. Just look at the legacy that PIP Austin has given us.

When the 100th International President talks to Lions and other people throughout the world, wouldn't it be great if he could start off the conversation with, "let me tell you about the amazing Lions in my home District and what they are doing."

Please know I am here to serve you, the Lions of District 12-S, and I will do anything I possibly can to help you as a Lion and each Lions Club reach your goals of service to others. Let's embrace Dr. Yamada's theme of Dignity, Harmony and Humanity and use those ideals to enrich the Lions' experience in District 12S this year.

Lions, please remember August is "Engaging the Youth" month for the Centennial Challenge. In addition, the week of August 30 – September 5 has been designated as Children's Dignity Week. I encourage you to go online to [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and spend some time looking at these two events and planning your club's projects and activities.

God Bless Each of You, and Thank You for the opportunity to serve as your District Governor. Remember to thank a Veteran and our Active Duty Military Personnel. Without their sacrifices we would not have the freedom to be Lions.

DG Bob

Bob Davenport  
DG, District 12-S  
122 Mount View Avenue  
McMinnville, TN 37110-1739

### THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."

Psalms 55:22

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Think deeply, speak gently, love much, laugh a lot, work hard, give freely and be kind."

Unknown

### DATES TO REMEMBER

August 15, 2015	Tullahoma Downtown Lions Golf Tournament, Tullahoma, TN
August 14-22, 2015	Wilson Co. Fair, All Wilson Co. Lions Clubs, Lebanon, TN
August 22, 2015	District 12S Summer Gathering, Woodbury Lions Club Bldg., Woodbury, TN
September 5, 2015	Duck Race, Red Boiling Springs Lions, Red Boiling Springs, TN
October 24, 2015	District 12S Fall Gathering, Smith Co. Chamber Bldg., Carthage, TN

## LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

By PDG Tom Irwin, District 12-S Chair

Greetings, Leader Dog chairs, newsletter editors and champions!

Happy Summer! At Leader Dog, we are wrapping up the fiscal year and should have end of the year reports available online in the next week or so. I will let you know when they have posted (various reports are always available at: <http://www.leaderdog.org/lions/lions-reports>).

The capital campaign to renovate the existing "kennel" is in



Previous Canine Development Center

full swing. Please share the article and pictures below with your district newsletter editors. Lions are just over half way to goal which will continue until we reach the \$3 million mark. It will be the Lions that propel the campaign to completion! Please let me know if you need any information on the campaign or how you can help get the word out to your clubs. Every bit is vital and appreciated!

Cheers,  
Lion Beth



Renovation in progress on the Improved Canine Development Center

the most comprehensive renovation project this building has undergone. The Caine Development Center is aptly named because it isn't just our kennel but houses puppy development, a veterinary center, breeding program and the staff and volunteers.

At any time, we can house up to 310 large dogs in this facility—it will, when complete, cover almost 80,000 square feet. Parts of the current building date back to the 1950s.

"It was state of the art in the 1950s but today our clients travel in more complex environments to get to work, school...we

need to raise a much different type of dog to handle these changes," states president and CEO Lion Sue Daniels.

The Lions have reached \$1.6 million of the \$3 million goal in the first year. "This is such a huge commitment from the Lions and it is coming in gifts of all sizes. Lions started Leader Dog and their support is still as important today as it was in 1939," states Lion Mike Dengate, Lions capital campaign manager.

To find out how your Lions club can get involved in this legacy, go to [LeaderDog.org](http://LeaderDog.org) or call your Leader Dog chair for a presentation.

## CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL

Lions around the world are well on the way of meeting Past International President Preston's goal of helping 100 million people by 2017! In the 2014-2015 Lion year alone, 37 million people worldwide have already been helped. That's fantastic!!! Thank you so much Lions of District 12-S for getting out there and helping to make this goal a reality! Please be sure that all activities your club participates in are being reported to LCI on the Lions club website ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)) in the Service Activity section so that your club gets credit where credit is due.

August is quickly approaching which means it's time to Engage Our Youth. LCI has recently announced a special week of helping our youth by celebrating Children's Dignity Week, August 30 – September 5. No more than ever, we as Lions need to bring dignity to the children in our community and encourage them to continue to strive for success. Information on this special week of service can be found at [www.lions100.org](http://www.lions100.org) under the "Programs" tab located towards the top of the page.

I want to encourage each and every club to help the youth of their community. Remember back to when you were a child and the struggles that you may have faced with school work, home life, friends, etc. Today our children need to know they are special and that they are cared about and Lions can do just that. Start a back to school backpack program, read to children at your local library, begin an afterschool mentoring program with the help of your local schools. These are just a few ideas for what we as Lions can do to help the children in our community today become upstanding citizens tomorrow. Who knows, a child that your club assists today just might be a future Lion when they grow up because of the care and compassion they received from you and your club.

Let's get out there and start this Lion's year off right by serving the youth in area!!!

## DISTRICT 12-S WHITE CANE

By 1VDG JoAnn Birdwell

First I would like to congratulate our newly elected District Governor, Bob Davenport. I know he will do an outstanding job leading our District in 2015-2016 Lions year. I would also like to applaud our Immediate Past DG Carolyn Blankenship for the awesome job she did in 2014-2015.

As your 1VDG, I will be your White Cane Chairperson this year. I will be asking, and begging for your clubs donations this year to help fund all the worthwhile projects that 12-S supports. As you know July 1st is the beginning year for the Lions. I am asking each club as you plan your budget for the coming year to plan on giving at least \$10.00 more than you gave last year. I know I can depend on all the big hearted Lions in 12-S. The following are the projects for White Cane, Leader Dog for the Blind, Drug Essay, Learning Ally, Lions Communication Services, Hearing and Speech, World Services for the Blind, Middle TN Sight Service, Peace Poster, TN School for the Blind, TN School for the Deaf, and KidSight Outreach. When and how did White Cane Days come about?

In 1921, James Biggs, a photographer from Bristol, England, became blind following an accident. Because he was feeling uncomfortable with the amount of traffic around his home, he painted his walking stick white to be more easily visible. In 1930 Lion George A. Bonham, President of the Peoria Lions Club (Illinois) introduced the idea of using the white cane with a red band as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility. The Peoria Lions approved the idea, white canes were made and distributed, and the Peoria City Council adopted an ordinance giving the bearers the right of way to cross the street. News of the club's activity spread quickly to other Lions clubs throughout the United States, and their visually handicapped friends experimented with the white canes. Overwhelming acceptance of the white cane idea by the blind and sighted alike quickly gave cane users a unique method of identifying their special need for travel consideration among their sighted counterpart.

Today white cane laws are on the books of every state in the US And in a few other countries providing persons who are blind a legal status in traffic. The white cane universally acknowledges that the bearer is blind.

1964: the U.S. Congress approved a resolution authorizing the President of the US to annually issue a proclamation designating October 15th as "National White Cane Safety Day." 1969: the International Federation of the Blind adopted October 15th as International White Cane Safety Day." The above referenced date is a suggested date Lions clubs are free to hold awareness

events according to the schedule of the club and the

community it serves. This is why the Lions Clubs have chosen the month of October for their White Cane Projects Activities. I am looking forward to serving with you this year and if I can help you in any way please let me know.

Thank you Lions of 12-S for Bringing Dignity to Others Through Humanitarian Service.

## DISTRICT 12S WHITE CANE FUND PROJECTS

### Middle TN Lions Sight Service

Providing diagnosis and eye surgery for the Indigent

### Tennessee School for the Blind

Lions support students' work program, Christmas Gifts, low vision clinics, Boy and Girl scouts

### Lions Communication Service

A mobile sight and hearing vehicle which visits Communities, screening for vision and hearing problems

### World Services for the Blind

Vocational training and rehabilitation for blind adults

### Tennessee School for the Deaf

Providing quality education for deaf children

### Peace Poster Contest

Encourages children to focus on world peace

### Leader Dogs for the Blind

Guide Dogs at no cost to provide independence And mobility to blind people

### Learning Ally

Provides recorded text books and other reading Material for blind and dyslexic people

### Hearing Aid Project for 12S

Lions provide hearing aids to people with Hearing disabilities

### Drug Essay Contest

Encourages high school students to understand How drug abuse can destroy their lives

### Ed Lindsay Industries for Blind

Provides vocational training for blind individuals

### Kidsight Outreach

Screening of young children's eyes 1 to 6 yrs old For sight threatening conditions

Your donations make it possible for us to live up to our Motto: WE SERVE.

If you would like to become a part of this service organization, ask any Lions Club member how to join.

If there were more of us we could do more good. Questions? Call 1VDG JoAnn Birdwell 615-666-4238 .