



April 15, 2012



District 26-M7 ... Newsletter



## Missouri Lions Sight Week



Lions Sight Week (May 6 - 12) is rapidly approaching. Is your Lions club celebrating your achievements in our sight programs?

What is Lions Sight Week? The week-long observance celebrates the Missouri Lions' support of our blindness prevention programs and honors your volunteerism in the community.

Some Lions clubs have already scheduled sight-related activities during this week. One of the ambitious goals of Sight Week is to screen 2,000 children statewide as part of the Children's Vision Program. As part of this effort, clubs were asked to contact local day care and pre-school centers to see if they are interested in receiving the free tests. While available times for this particular week are filling up, do not hesitate to continue seeking to provide this valuable service to your community. These services are available year-round.

Every Lions club president received an information packet on activities that can be done locally to celebrate this important event. Information is also available at <http://www.mlerf.org/lionssightweek>.

Let your community know that you are serving!

### Club Officer Reports

#### Presidents and Secretaries:

It is time to look at your clubs' officers for the next year. As you complete your elections, please ensure that you update your club officers (president, secretary, treasurer, membership chairperson) on the Lions Clubs International Web Monthly Membership Report (WMMR) web site or submit a hard copy of the PU-101, Club Officer Report to Lions Clubs International **prior to May 15, 2012**.

This very important report allows us to prepare the district directory and will allow the new club officers to gain access to the WMMR web site to submit and update the club's information.



# From the Guv:



Well, the month of March has entered the history books. The old adage is that if March comes in like a Lion, it goes out like a lamb. For me, March came in like a Lion and went out like a Lion! Our District Convention kicked off the month with sharing great information on Lions activities around the district and state! I also had the opportunity to follow our multiple district's endorsed candidate for International Director, PDG Donal Knipp, to three other district conventions in March. To wrap up the month, we attended the Wentzville Lions' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which gave us a sneak peek at our state convention's international guest – Past International President Jimmy Ross. Of course, our “partners in service,” Lions Betty and Lou Ann, traveled as ambassadors of our district.

April 1<sup>st</sup> was no ordinary April Fools Day. That morning found us traveling to meet with the Joplin Host Lions Club and other Lions and Leos as part of the Joplin tornado recovery effort (see story in the newsletter). Several of the homeowners who receive the new trees shared their experiences with us as they expressed their thanks for the Lions' assistance. The opportunity to help others really does help your heart grow.

Now, the Lions State Convention is drawing near. We look forward to seeing you during the convention at the Capitol Plaza Hotel on April 20 – 22.



IPDG Debbie Whittlesey (Dist 26-M6), PDG Donal, and Lion Betty strike a pose after planting several trees in a rebuilding neighborhood.

*DG Jesse*

## Six Elements of a Successful Club

Have your Lions taken stock of your club's health and progress? The value your club places on its activities and the perception the public has of your Lions club have direct impacts on your ability to attract new members and retain your current members. Here are some questions your Lions should be asking themselves and sharing with the club's leadership.

1. The club members conduct service projects that are meaningful to them.
2. The club achieves a net growth in membership and quickly involves the new members in meaningful activities.
3. The club communicates effectively with the members and the public.
4. Meetings are held regularly and are meaningful and positive.
5. Club officers participate in zone and district leadership training.
6. The club is in good standing and reports regularly.

***How does your club rate?***

# Did You Know?

Between July 1, 2011 and February 2012,

- 39 persons in the District 26-M7 counties received a corneal transplant.
- 2,422 children between the ages of six-months and six years had their vision screened for amblyopia (218 children were referred to an ophthalmologist for further testing).
- Over 380 adults had their vision screened for glaucoma or macular degeneration.
- Five individuals in the District 26-M7 counties were helped through the Eyecare Assistance Program. This assistance included paying for surgical costs to treat a torn retina, paying for cataract surgery, and providing drops needed for corneal transplant recovery.

Your kind donations to the **Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation** make these services possible. These are benefits that we normally don't see, but your hard work makes them possible. Many thanks to the Lions who work the many pancake flips, barbecues, raffle ticket sales, bingo games, and all the other fund raisers for making these miracles possible for so many!

## New Lions

A great Lions welcome to our newest Lions. Remember to welcome them to our great organization!

### Belle Lions Club

Sonja M. Abbett Sponsor: Ann Gehlert  
Cheryl Kay Lorts Sponsor: Ann Gehlert  
Leah A. Treadwell Sponsor: Donna K. Campbell

### Chamois Lions Club

Denise Nolte Sponsor: Jessica Hackmann  
Douglas Schwartz Sponsor: Steve Duncan

### Eldon Lions Club

Linda S. Bierbower Sponsor: Edward Bierbower  
Thomas L. Spriggs Sponsor: Edward Bierbower

### Jefferson City Evening Lions Club

Kyle J. Heislen Sponsor: Chris Lindsey

### Jefferson City Host Lions Club

Helene W. Richardson Sponsor: Ron Jordan  
Roger A. Schwartz Sponsor: Mark Kross  
Stephen C. Rasmussen Sponsor: Sam Bushman

### Linn Creek-Osage Beach Lions Club

Roger Brauman Sponsor: Martin Bagby  
Sally Brauman Sponsor: Martin Bagby  
Thomas Dettmer Sponsor: Martin Bagby

*When was the last time you asked someone to serve as a Lion?*

## Stand-In Editor

We are grateful that our great editor, Lion Linda Martin, is on the healing path. We continue to wish Lion Linda the best.

In the meantime, we will continue to share information with you. We need your help. You need to tell us what your Lions club and Lions are doing to serve. Please send your pictures, stories, and scheduled events to Jesse Hathcock, Jess26M7@aol.com or 608 Castle Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65019.

## **Next Up ... Missouri Lions State Convention**

The Missouri Lions State Convention is rapidly approaching. Lions, mark your calendars for April 20 - 21, 2012. Those days are sure to be packed with hours of fellowship and learning as the Lions from around the state travel to Jefferson City for their annual State Convention.

This year, we have a double opportunity to enjoy our time as Lions. Not only are we able to take part in the great times, we are also serving as the hosts for all the Lions. This means that we will display our "Heart of Missouri Lions" hospitality to make everyone feel welcome.

If you haven't already done so, please register now. Any registration postmarked on or before April 2 qualifies for the early bird rates. The registration application is available on the [www.missourilions.org](http://www.missourilions.org) web site. The special rate for the hotel block of rooms is extended until March 23. To reserve a room, call the Capitol Plaza Hotel at 800-338-8088.

Also, let PDG Bob Van Ark know if you can help out with hosting the convention. We will need lots of Lions' help, from serving as greeters to staffing the registration desk to helping with the convention equipment. If you are interested in helping with the convention, please contact PDG Bob Van Ark at 573-635-5984 or [bvanark@socket.net](mailto:bvanark@socket.net).

## **State Convention Nears – Your Help is Needed**

Jefferson City is the host site for this year's Lions State Convention on April 20 – 22. A council of Governors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, preceding the convention. Lions will begin arriving at the Capitol Plaza Hotel the afternoon of April 19<sup>th</sup>. Many more Lions will arrive on Friday.

District 26-M7 is offering a unique chance for you to serve your fellow Lions – you can assist our Host Committee in any number of ways, including: greeting Lions as they arrive at the hotel, staffing the registration desk helping set up meeting rooms, etc. If you would like to assist, please let me know ([Jess26M7@aol.com](mailto:Jess26M7@aol.com) or 573-761-4438). I will get you in contact with the correct person on the Host Committee.

## **Club Officer Training**

The time of year has arrived. Lions clubs formed their nominating committees and are placing into nomination slates of officers for the upcoming Lions year. Each year, we see a mixture of Lions who will continue in their leadership positions and Lions who are stepping up to accept new challenges. Regardless to which group you fall into, or if you are a Lion who is wondering what the officers are doing, you will be glad to know that your Global Leadership Team and District Governor Team are preparing a series of Club Officer Training sessions .

Plans are now being finalized to hold up to six regional training sessions in the 10 counties that make up District 26-M7. The final plans will be announced in a separate mailer/email to every Lions club.

If you are a new officer, plan to attend to learn how you can make your year a success. If you are a "veteran" officer, plan to attend to share your experiences and pick up new information.

## Club News

**Chamois Lions Club** -- The Chamois Lions hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7. The club worked with the D. C. Kids to ensure the City Park was prepared and the eggs were hidden. The success was declared a success as approximately 50 children participated in the important and traditional community event.

Club members are scheduling a time to finish the "Welcome to Chamois" sign on Highway 100 west of Chamois.

The Chamois Lions received the International President's Membership Achievement in recognition of membership growth and Lion Dale Hackmann received a Membership Advancement Key for his efforts in recruiting and sponsoring new members.

**Holts Summit Lions Club** -- The Holts Summit Lions Trivia night was a great success. Shown to the right are Lions Lynn Bateman (posing the questions) and Don Soph (keeper of the time). Below right are the contestants searching for the right answer.



**Jefferson City Evening Lions Club** -- Members of the club painted portions of the local Special Learning Center interior.

**Jefferson City Host Lions Club** -- The club recently hosted their annual "Pot o' Gold" fundraising dinner. The local newspaper included an article acknowledging the club's \$6,000 donation to the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation.



**Owensville Lions Club** -- The two ball fields created at the new sports complex are scheduled for youth games this summer. Two of the four planned fields are ready for play -- grass was sown last fall and trees were planted in the walkway between the fields. The Owensville Lions are sponsoring a dinner and dance on April 21 to continue with this exciting project.

## Looking for a Great Lion

As we move into a new year, the Lions of District 26-M7 find ourselves in an unfortunate position. We are missing a quality Lion eager to embark on the journey to serve our district's Lions as the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice district governor and, eventually, as the district governor.

If you have served as a Lions club president and zone chairperson, cabinet secretary, or cabinet treasurer and are interested in continuing to serve the district Lions, please contact Jesse Hathcock, District Governor, at 573-761-4438 or Jess26M7@aol.com.



## Lions Plant Trees in Joplin Area

At the District 26-M7 Convention, IPDG Debbie Wittlesley issued an invitation for Lions to take part in a tree planting project. On the March 31-April 1 weekend, over 100 Lions and Leos came together in Joplin to plant more than 200 trees at recently rebuilt homes.

The trees were no seedlings or saplings. They measured between 10 and 15 feet and are expected to grow to 30 to 40 feet at maturity. The homeowners we spoke with said they would not mind having to rake leaves in the near future.

The event drew Lions and Leos from Missouri and Oklahoma. Lions from District 26-M7 were PDG Donal Knipp, Lion Betty Knipp, Lion Lou Ann Hathcock, and DG Jesse Hathcock.



Clockwise from upper left: Shovels marked with the Lions and "I Believe" logos were provided. Volunteer Lions receive instructions on tree planting. IPDG Debbie Whittlesey, PDG Donal Knipp, and DG Jesse Hathcock compare their shovels after a couple of hours of planting. PDG Donal and Lion Betty work with Carl Junction Leos to plant a tree.

## Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute

Time is growing short for enrolling in the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute. In past newsletters and at district and club meetings, we have discussed the many benefits of this weekend of education – benefits that will result in stronger Lions clubs and instill greater confidence in your abilities.

Lions interested in honing their leadership skills should make plans to attend this exciting event. Already eight Lions from Missouri

Our district has budgeted scholarships for the tuition, lodging and meals on campus. If you are planning to attend, please get your application to me prior to May 15, 2012.

Registration forms are available at [www.missourilions.org](http://www.missourilions.org) or you can contact me at [Jess26m7@aol.com](mailto:Jess26m7@aol.com) or 573-761-4438, mailing address 608 Castle Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

# Calendar of Events

- April 19 Council of Governors Meeting, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, 4 pm - 6 pm
- April 20 All You Can Eat Catfish Fry, Camdenton Lions Club, Camdenton Junior High School, 4 pm to 7 pm.  
Valet Parking provided. Cost: \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 5. Come eat and enjoy our Dogwood Festival.
- April 20 Missouri Lions State Convention, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, 12 Noon - 6 pm
- April 20 Hospitality Night, Missouri Lions State Convention, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City 6:30 pm
- April 21 Missouri Lions State Convention, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, 8 am - 3 pm  
Owensville Lions Foundation is sponsoring a dinner and dance fundraiser for their new sports fields. The cost of each ticket is \$50.00 (per person) and entitles you to a great dinner, dance, drinks and an entry in the \$4,000 grand prize drawing; other prizes will also be awarded. You need not be present to win.  
Ham and Bean Dinner, Brumley Lions, 4 pm
- April 22 Missouri Lions State Convention, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, 9 am - 11:30 am
- April 28 Kettlekorn sales, Hermann Lions, Shelbyfest (4th and Schiller)  
Chili and Soup Lunch/Membership Drive, Gravois Arm Lions, 11 am - 4 pm
- April 30 Health Fair, Belle Lions, Bell Community Center.
- May 4 BBQ Fundraiser, Eldon Lions (raise funds for Lions All-Star Football Game)
- May 5 Demolition Derby, Auxvasse Lions Club
- May 10 Health Fair, Chamois Lions, Chamois High School, 2 pm - 7 pm
- May 16 District 26-M7 Cabinet Meeting, Holts Summit Lions Club, 6:30 pm
- May 19 Ham and Bean Dinner, Brumley Lions, 4 pm
- June 1 Golf Tournament, Jefferson City Breakfast Lions, Railwood Golf Course, 11:30 am
- June 1 Golf Tournament, Jefferson City Evening Lions, Oak Hills Golf Course, 12 Noon - 6 pm  
Lions Follies, Eldon Lions
- June 9 Tractor Pull, Brumley Lions
- June 15 Gun and Knife Show, Linn Creek-Osage Beach Lions, Lions Building, 5 pm - 8 pm
- June 16 Gun and Knife Show, Linn Creek-Osage Beach Lions, Lions Building, 8 am - 5 pm  
Ham and Bean Dinner, Brumley Lions, 4 pm
- June 17 Gun and Knife Show, Linn Creek-Osage Beach Lions, Lions Building, 9 am - 3 pm
- June 22-26 Lions Clubs International Convention, Busan, Korea
- July 1 Barbeque, Lohman Lions, 11 am  
Fireworks, Lohman Lions, 9 pm
- July 4 Food Booth at 4th of July Celebration, Eldon Lions
- July 13-15 Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, Doane College, Crete, NE
- July 21 Council of Governors, Warrensburg  
Ham and Bean Dinner, Brumley Lions, 4 pm
- July 21 Missouri Lions All Star Football Game, Warrensburg, 7 pm
- Aug 18 Ham and Bean Dinner, Brumley Lions, 4 pm
- Sept 1-3 Jamestown Festival  
Mokane World's Fair
- Sept 13-15 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Tampa, FL