



District 26-M7 ... Newsletter



September 2013

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

What is a good Lion? What makes a good Lion? Who decides what defines a good Lion? Do we ever ask ourselves these questions? Do the answers really matter?

If 100 Lions were asked these questions, we would most likely get nearly 100 different answers. As times have changed, the focus on how a Lion can be a contributing member has changed. One of the challenges I hear mentioned the most in attracting younger members is “with family commitments, younger, working people don’t have time to join service organizations.” How do we know this if we don’t ask? In today’s world, everyone is busy, but there are still ways to be an asset to a Lions Club. Just because someone can’t make every club meeting doesn’t mean they can’t be of great value to your club. If you ask numerous people to join, but they all have conflicts with your meeting date and time, why not consider adding an additional meeting date for your club, changing your club’s meeting date and/or time, forming a branch club or even possibly chartering a new club in your town? In the more rural areas of our district, if you identify someone that would be a great Lion, but maybe doesn’t fit into your club as well as they would with a neighboring club, why not introduce them to another club? Remember, as Lions Clubs, we are not in competition with each other; we are all working to fulfill the Lions motto of “We Serve.”

*“When You Focus  
On Problems,  
You’ll Have More  
Problems.*

*When You Focus  
On Possibilities,  
You’ll Have More  
Opportunities.”*

All Lions Clubs are interested in attracting new members. Obviously, some clubs need new members to sustain the club’s life, while others are trying to strengthen an already healthy club. Before we ask new members to join, we need to ask ourselves several questions. What does our club have to offer its members? What kind of people would be a good fit to our club? What can we do to retain new members once they join?

As you can see, we have many questions to answer. Lions Clubs International has developed a program, the Club Excellence Process, or CEP, to help clubs work through these answers. CEP is not designed to tell clubs what they should be doing. Instead, it

helps clubs identify what they are currently doing and helps you figure out how those things can be done better. CEP basically asks four questions:

- Why are we here?
- What makes an excellent club?
- How can we determine our needs?
- What can we do next?

Along with these questions are steps that allow you to answer each question. At the end of the Club Excellence Process, your club will have a roadmap for the future and have a clearer message to attract new members.

For more information on the Club Excellence Project go to [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) or contact District Governor Jeff Hilke for more details.

## **DON'T BE AFRAID OF ...**



Change. It's what parents ask for when giving their children money. The promise of it helped win a presidential election. It's what Lions must do to survive.

The thought of change scares some people. To others, it's a challenge. Hopefully, you're in the latter group.

As Lions, we must be willing to "think outside the box." We must not be afraid to try new things, even if it means changing the way we operate, the time we meet or the activities we participate in. We all know that the world operates differently than it did 40 years ago, or even 5 years ago for that matter. If service organizations, especially the Lions, want to continue to function as we did 40 years ago, how can we expect to be attractive to the world today?

Everyone talks about wanting to attract younger members, but many are afraid to ask young people because we're afraid that, with family and career commitments, they won't have time to be active Lions. How do we know this until we ask them? When approaching them as potential members, why not ask them what type of activities they would be interested in, instead of telling them this is what we do?

When younger members see value in what we do and see they are valued as members of a club, it will be easy to attract them. But this is only part of the battle. Once a new member joins, we must be willing to listen to their thoughts and ideas, even if it will change the way we do things. How do we know if something won't work until we evaluate it or give it a try?

I realize that change is hard for some people. The thought of change can cause some people to panic. If you're one of these people, please stop to think about how your reactions and comments affect the members you speak to. Please consider how those reactions and comments affect the future of our Lions Clubs. When we lash out at new or younger members who suggest new ideas for leading our organization, how does this encourage others to share their thoughts, or even remain as active members?

I ask everyone to please keep this in mind – does the way I treat my fellow Lions help to promote the overall health and well-being of our Lions Clubs? For the vast majority of Lions, the answer to this is an obvious yes, but the actions of only one or two Lions can counteract the hard work of hundreds of others.

## HEARING COMMITTEE

Lions of District 26-M7, do you know that all of the used hearing aids we collect go directly to students at the Missouri School of the Deaf? Many of the students cannot afford to buy hearing aids and the staff and doctors there can retrofit the used hearing aids for each student's needs. Since this is a contribution it is tax deductible. Some used hearing aids are being collected by some hearing aid vendors and sent overseas. This happens when a person upgrades his or her hearing aids. Talk to the vendors in your area and ask them if they could save the used hearing aids for our deaf students at our state school. Another source of used hearing aids are the funeral homes in your area.

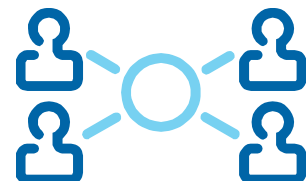
Reminder... All funds, whether donations or sweepstakes ticket money, to the State Hearing Committee need to be mailed to our District Chairperson, Lion Linda Martin, P.O. Box 1481, Camdenton, MO, 65020. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thanks for all you do for our district. Lion Linda Martin

## STAY CONNECTED WITH 26M7

District Website: <http://www.e-district.org/sites/26m7>

District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MoLions26m7>



## CAMDENTON MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Camdenton Lions hosted their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Miniature Golf Tournament at Pirate's Cove in Osage Beach. Over 20 sponsors and many friends and families made this tournament the most successful one yet. Below, the first picture shows PDG Lion Jon Martin keeping score as a group of players prepare to compete in the tourney. The second picture shows the participants enjoying the event. The third photo is President Lion Dr. Brett Koons presenting the third place winner his \$50.00 prize.



## ROCKY MOUNT LIONS TO BUILD COMMUNITY PARK

The Rocky Mount Lions are pleased to announce that they are beginning plans for a community park which will be located on 3.8 acres behind the Lions Club building. The land was donated to the club by Josephine Pope several years ago, and the Lions believe that a community park for families is the best use for the property.

The Lions Club will be approaching other organizations and businesses in the area asking that they help with the project—both with physical labor and with donations. Plans will include a covered pavilion, a playground, a walking/bicycling trail, picnic tables, barbecue pits, bathrooms, water fountains and a concession stand. Individuals, businesses and other associations can help with the development of any of these facilities and have areas of the park named for them.

The Club is looking for a bonded and insured logging company who would like to bid on selected trees in the 3.8 wooded acres. For more information about this, call Bill Frehse at 573 392 1410 for the bid forms.

## HERMANN LIONS DONATE TO MLERF



The Hermann Lions recently made a donation of \$3000.00 to the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation. In the picture from left to right: Lions Dale Batson, president, Joe Staggenborg, Howard Riek, Dr. Ron Walkenbach and Wayne Hagedorn.

## NEW ADDITION TO OWENSVILLE LIONS SPORTS COMPLEX

Here is the new Lion Drinking fountain for the sports complex! When Lions Larry and Margaret Duncan purchased it from the Camdenton Lions, the paint was faded and had holes from several decades of use. The fiberglass was repaired at our paint shop at Mt. Sterling, Glenda Haddox, wife of Lion Jim Haddox repainted it and Lion John Scego of Scego Auto Body clear coated the paint. From left to right are Lions Richard Hahn, Margaret Duncan, Mark Schaeperkoetter, Cathy Hahn and Larry Duncan. We have also restored the large Lion that Camdenton had and will place it in front of our building!



## **MLERF NEWS**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM – SEPT. 19-21**

MLERF will host a booth at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Overland Park, KS on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. We need volunteers to help us offer free glaucoma screenings and share information about MLERF's sight-saving programs with the visiting Lions. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Clayton Clark in the communications department at [cclark@mlerf.org](mailto:cclark@mlerf.org) or 800-283-1982 x115.

### **MLERF AND THE MISSOURI LIONS ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME**

Thank you to the athletic committee and other volunteers who put on another successful All-Star Football Game. The Lions not only organized a major event on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, but they also coordinated a week of camp and activities for sixty-four recently graduated high school football stars from around the state.

The All-Star Football game is a major fundraiser for MLERF. On the night before the game, a banquet was held for those involved, and Lion Tony Bavuso, the new Executive Director of the Foundation, had an opportunity to share a few words about the importance of the game and its history. An interesting fact is that Lion Tony officiated the game once in the mid-90's. But even more interesting was the story he told about Jana, a student-athlete from St. Louis who lost vision in one of her eyes due to a bacterial infection. Both Jana's athletic performance and academic performance suffered until she received a cornea transplant with donor tissue provided by our Heartland Lions Eye Banks. The experience "flipped [her] life 180 degrees," as she puts it, and she's now back on track with her college studies and volleyball game.

Over the past 37 years, the All-Star Football Game has raised over \$151,000 to help support Heartland Lions Eye Banks and our other sight-saving programs. The impact of this work can best be measured in the lives changed through such donations. For perspective, contributions from the football game translate into approximately 15,100 children getting screened for early childhood vision problems or 47 people like Jana receiving corneal transplants through tissue from our eye bank to regain their sight and independence. In short, the Missouri Lions All-Star Football Game helps change lives for the better in Missouri. And it is on behalf of our grateful recipients that we extend a heartfelt thank you to the athletic committee, other Lions volunteers, the fans, and anyone else who helped out with this year's game.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP YOU BETTER...

Communication is important and necessary to the continued success of our organization. Communication can be made in a variety of ways. With today's technology, there have been advancements in effective and efficient mass communication. When email was first introduced, everyone kept their addresses protected to avoid unwanted solicitations, now known as "Spam," and only had access to email while at work.

Today, email is a way of life. Virtually everyone uses email to conduct business, pay bills, and stay in touch with family members. Many of us have email available to us in our homes and even on our cellular phones.



We are in the process of trying to update the email distribution list used by district 26-M7 to notify Lions of upcoming meetings and to distribute our district and state newsletter. While reviewing the membership rosters of our district's clubs, I have noticed that a majority of Lions don't have an email address listed, or that the addresses are entered incorrectly. Club secretaries, we know most clubs use email to communicate with club members. Please enter these email addresses into your club rosters when submitting your monthly reports to LCI. Additionally, and more importantly, we ask you to share those addresses with the district. You can be assured that any email addresses shared with us will only be used for newsletter

distributions, meeting notifications, or other important communications. We won't sell the list to anyone or use it to share jokes or any non-Lions information. Any email information can be sent to District Governor Jeff Hilke at [lionjeffhilke@gmail.com](mailto:lionjeffhilke@gmail.com). Your help is greatly appreciated!



## SPREADING THE NEWS

District 26-M7 Information Technology Committee is working to keep all of our district "in the know." There are a variety of ways that we will be using the web to distribute information to those in the district and beyond.

We have created a Calendar of Events on the website (<http://www.e-district.org/sites/26m7>) that can promote all the clubs events. All a club has to do to add their event is send an email to DG Jeff Hilke ([lionjeffhilke@gmail.com](mailto:lionjeffhilke@gmail.com)) or Lion Amy Bell ([lionamybell@gmail.com](mailto:lionamybell@gmail.com)). Please include the club name, event name, date, time, location, cost and contact information.

We also have the District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MoLions26m7>. This can be used to share photos, upcoming events and club involvement in the community. We ask that you like our page and share it with all your friends, regardless of whether they are Lions or not.

Be proud of all you accomplish through your clubs and help spread the word about what Lions do for you and your communities!

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** [HTTP://WWW.E-DISTRICT.ORG/SITES/26M7](http://www.e-district.org/sites/26m7)

September 3	District Governor Visit to Fulton Host Lions
September 5	District Governor Visit to Gravois Arm Lions
September 9	District 26M7 Zone 4 Meeting (Cole County Area) Social at 6pm; Meeting at 6:30pm
September 12	District Governor Visit to Freeburg Lions
September 14	MLERF Board Meeting  Gravois Arm Lions Benefit Auction; Starts at 11am  Jefferson City Capital Lion Trivia Night; 6pm – 9pm
September 19 – 21	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Overland Park, KS Convention Center \$265/person Find out more at <a href="https://usacanadalionsforum.org">https://usacanadalionsforum.org</a>
September 24	Hermann Lions Steak Fry
September 26	District Governor Visit to Cole Camp Lions  District Governor Visit to Holts Summit Lions
September 28	Belle Lions Club Harvest Fest; 8am – 4pm
October 7	Hermann Lions Club Golf Tournament
October 12	Gravois Arm Lions October Festival; 9am – 12pm  Papa Joe Homm’s Traditional Octoberfest Linn Creek/Osage Beach Lions; 5pm – 10pm
October 26	Council of Governors Meeting 10:00 a.m. Solid Rock Family Church 508 Hunters Run Rd, Jefferson City
November 13	26M7 Cabinet Meeting 6pm Social; 6:30pm Meeting Lake Ozark Lion’s Club 131 Fish Haven Road, Lake Ozark