

## Helmer's Story

All my life I was a joiner and participated in leadership roles. By the age of 30 I had many. So when asked to join the Lions Club my answer was "when you start one in Arkdale, I'll join."

Then it happened, I had many business dealings with Clarence Sturm (43rd International President). He made sure we had a club. As I was going to our first organizational meeting, I told my wife, "I'll join but I won't take an office". I was voted in as a Vice President. After my presidency, I was appointed Zone Chairman, then onto District Governor and then Council Chairman.

Next was to be voted on the Board of Directors of our Wisconsin Lions Foundation (6 years) which led to being President of the Board. I had really become a Lion's Lion and decided to run for International Director (elected in 1987). After my two year term, I was appointed to a national committee for "Campaign Sight First".

Other events historically to Wisconsin lionism were that we made our Wisconsin Lions Camp a year round facility rather than the 2 and one-half months of summer camp. The International Board zeros in on one great theme, "Blindness" to eradicate the six major causes of blindness, which resulted in raising over 1.5 million dollars and resulted in Campaign Sight First II.

The other projects I started was "Vitamin A", which lack of, caused children to go blind. Which started with donations to U.N.I.S.E.F. and is now a Wisconsin lion project to Central America. And the "Mission to Mexico" from 1994 to 2011, we gave the Mexico Lions 1.5 million dollars worth of used medical equipment, over two hundred emergency vehicles and fit over 175,000 people with used eye glasses. This project has now evolved to Wisconsin Missions.

As a reluctant starter in Lionism, it sure grows on you.

Helmer Lecy

