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On Santa's Team Author Unknown

My Grandma taught me everything about Christmas. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," jeered my sister. "Even dummies know that!"



My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her world-famous cinnamon buns. Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm.

Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus!" she snorted. "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad. Now, put on your coat, and let's go." "Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second cinnamon bun.

"Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's.

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobbie Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class. Bobbie Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out for recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough; but all we kids knew that Bobbie Decker didn't have a cough and he didn't have a coat.

I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobbie Decker a coat. I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that. I didn't see a price tag, but ten dollars ought to buy anything.



Continued on page 2...



On Santa's Team continued from page 1

I put the coat and my ten-dollar bill on the counter and pushed them toward the lady behind it. She looked at the coat, the money, and me. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" she asked kindly. "Yes," I replied shyly. "It's ... for Bobbie. He's in my class, and he doesn't have a coat." The nice lady smiled at me. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag and wished me a Merry Christmas.



That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat in Christmas paper and ribbons, and write, "To Bobbie, From Santa Claus" on it ... Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobbie Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially one of Santa's helpers.

Grandma parked down the street from Bobbie's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Suddenly, Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going." I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his doorbell twice and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobbie. He looked down, looked around, picked up his present, took it inside and closed the door.

Forty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my grandma, in Bobbie Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were: Ridiculous! Santa was alive and well ... **AND WE WERE ON HIS TEAM!**



Here are some ideas for Christmas or all year round:

Socks of Love: Fill a sock with toothbrush & paste, gloves and other essentials with the other sock and tie with ribbon-donate to homeless or women's shelters.

Bedtime Bags for Children: Fill a soft carrying bag with a plush toy, blankets, books, toothbrush, etc and donate to homeless shelter or those going to foster care.

These are just two of hundreds of service projects you can do or do with your children or grandchildren or your club during Christmas or any time of the year.

For these great ideas, go to www.pinterest.com

May the spirit of Christmas stay with you throughout each day as you are
Santa's Helper all year long!

DG Connie

Merry
Christmas



Words From VDG Glenn Swanson

With the holiday season in full swing, we all should give thanks for those we love and love us in return. What a complex world we live in with so much turmoil, from war to weather disasters. Perhaps the most important thing, we as Lions can do is help those in distress, and love those who are closest to us. As we were gathering for Thanksgiving, I couldn't help but think of those who have been left homeless in the Philippines or in our own country due to recent tornadoes. The Lions are always the first to send aid around the world. It makes me proud to be a Lion.

Had a chance to visit the Multiple District 25 Office last week and spend a little time with Council Secretary Billy Chastain. It looks like the brick project is moving along nicely. What a great idea for a Christmas gift for that "special Lion" in your house or someone in your club. For a hundred dollars you can give someone special recognition that will be a permanent remembrance in their honor. We as Lion's, are often so busy helping others that we fail to recognize those who are close to us. This not only benefits that Lions of Indiana but will honor a loved one who is dear to you and yours. Check the Indiana Lions web site and buy a brick today.

Lastly, let us not forget what the true meaning of Christmas is all about. As we watch and hear stories of "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday", it makes you wonder what kind of world we are living in? Cherish the ones we love and live each day in hopes of a better world and an "after life" with our creator. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

VDG Glenn Swanson
Maple City Lions
LaPorte, Indiana

Tips for Building Club Membership

Building membership is a year-round activity, as new members will always be needed to replace those that leave. Here are some tips to help build your club's membership:

- Plan a special Showcase meeting, an Open House, Model Meeting or Demonstration Meeting. Invite members from around the district to represent special projects. Invite guests and be ready to sign them up on the spot. Invite past members to come back and join the fun again! Review the names on your club's Charter and determine if there are relatives still in the area. Invite them to join!
- Conduct a membership drive on a yearly basis. This is a proven great membership-building program. Involve the whole club. Publicize BIG and at least 4-6 weeks in advance, which means planning needs to start several months in advance. Make sure you have plenty of guest packets and membership applications available at every meeting.
- Invite every guest to join. Many people are just waiting to be asked. Ask your guests if they know of anyone that might be interested and contact them.
- Plan a club membership-building contest. Consider challenging current members or other clubs in your zone and/or region to a membership contest. Consider awarding prizes to the member that sponsors the most or if competing against another club or region, as a prize, the losing club buys pizza for the winning club or similar.
- Make a list of all the people you know who would benefit from Lions and invite one person from the list to each meeting. *Tell them you will stop by and pick them up for the meeting.* Be sure to ask them to join.
- Have an information booth at community events. Call attention to your booth with balloons, and set out dishes of candy. Have a guest book to sign, and follow up with people who express an interest.
- Have a recognition program to acknowledge all members who have brought in guests.
- Make a list of the best things about your club. You now have a list of selling points to use when talking to prospective guests.
- Develop a mentor program. This will help encourage new members to keep involved with the program and will help long-term members renew their enthusiasm.
- Read and distribute your Lions newsletters to your members and even prospective members.
- Celebrate your club charter date/club anniversary annually. Maybe use this as your annual membership drive date.
- Make a point not to discuss club problems at your membership drive. Nobody wants to join a club with problems.
- Even if you have low attendance at a meeting, still have the meeting. Continuity matters! Yes, you and the team can make it happen! Contact your Region or Zone Chair immediately if you need help.



You Matter!

Beware!

The Shoe Thief



“Footnote”

2nd VDG, Randy Greer, was recently apprehended in a great tennis shoe heist. At a recent convention meeting held at the home of Lion Butch Weston, 2nd VDG Randy Greer was discovered to have taken the shoes of Lion Ed DeMars, leaving behind his New Balance sneakers for Ed to wear home.

Beware, your shoes may go missing next!

Mid Winter Conference Pre-Registration Drawing Near



Deadline for pre-registration is Dec 24th. Be sure to get your registration in!

New this year is how to build your own free website with e-clubhouse and club brochures to promote your club and service to your communities and beyond. Presented by our very own District Governor, Connie Roe.

Many popular seminars are back. Indiana charity gaming rules-get your game on with the real rules. Facebook and social media. How to recognize Lions, The club excellence project, retention, membership, new member orientation, state projects and more! Over twenty-five seminar choices and workshops. Something for Everyone. Also one of the biggest silent auctions benefiting the Leo Program and many project and vendor displays.

Room Rates are only \$55! Join us Friday night for dinner and a viewing of many peace poster entries throughout the state.

Registration forms are on Indiana Lions site: www.indianalions.org

The Indiana Harbor-East Chicago Lions Coat Drive

Please drop off any gently used or new coat, hats, and gloves during business hours to:
Fife Funeral Home,
4201 East Chicago, IN 46312
or call 219-902-6459 to
make arranges for pick-up.

Lion Patrick, IH-EC Lions Club

We will be collecting coats
ALL DECEMBER!

Save The Date!

Schererville Lions will be hosting a Zone 1C meeting:

When: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 6:30 pm
Where: American Legion Post 485
7485 Burr St., *Schererville*, *IN*, 46375
What: Pizza , soda \$10

A speaker has not been scheduled yet; I will let you know as soon as one is confirmed. I will be sending reminders to clubs in the zone.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Lion Patty Cooke

Indiana Harbor-East Chicago Lions Club



PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

December 15th, 2012 at Heritage Hall
4206 Tod Avenue, East Chicago, IN
From: 8 am-12 pm

Bring 2 non-perishable items or a new or gently used toy and get a free picture with Santa or \$3.00 per picture.

Tickets: \$5.00 (can be purchased at door)

Children ages 3 and under eat **free** with adult ticket purchase
(One child per Adult) for more information call: 219-808-0300

For information about Lions Club International visit: www.lionsclubs.org or www.ihelions.org
Like us on face book at ihelions@lions.com

"Serving East Chicago since 1926"



District A Bands Together

Lions of District 25-A, banded together to do vision screening for the Lighthouse Charter Schools of Gary and East Chicago, IN.

Together, this pride of Lions did vision acuity test on 425 students ranging from 1st to 5th graders in three days.

I would like to personally thank the Lions clubs of District 25-A who stepped up to help with the vision screening:

Hobart Lions: Lions Clarence and Sally Davis

Dyer & St. John



On Wednesday, November 20th, the Dyer and St. John Lions Clubs held a joint Open House for the public. The Open House is provided as a way for the public to learn about all of the programs and activities that Lions is involved with. In addition, it's a great membership recruitment tool. Club members from both clubs helped as volunteers at the event and all club members were asked to submit names of individuals to attend the event. Invitation letters were mailed to approximately 100 people and several newspaper articles were published prior to the event. Despite the cold and rainy evening, there were 22 visitors who attended the open house and 18 Lions who volunteered (*as well as 2 leader dogs*) either to help set up, work the event or clean up. From the people who attended the event, both the Dyer and the St. John Lions clubs were able to secure several new members. The Dyer Lions grew by three new members and the St. John Lions grew by seven new members. Congratulations to both clubs on a successful event!



New Dyer Lions Members:

Laura Chavez – sponsored by Lion Stacey Williams
 Vicki Morris – sponsored by Lion Al Konieczka
 Connie Kann – sponsored by Lion Dick Silveira

New St. John Lions Members:

Kimm Maznaritz – sponsored by Lion Al Konieczka
 Carrie & Kevin Brownwell – sponsored by Lion Denise Konieczka
 Kelly Junkin – sponsored by Lion Denise Konieczka
 Nancy & Mitch Moneta – sponsored by Lion Al Konieczka

Portage Lions Sponsored Winning Peace Poster For District A!

As the council of Governors took their votes to heart, District A almost won for state. It took two rounds of voting and then our proud artist lost by 1 vote!

Thanks to everyone that worked so hard on this wonderful project. There will be several peace posters throughout the state on display at the Mid Winter Conference in January. Be sure to get your registration in to attend this outstanding learning opportunity and day of fun and fellowship.

Those that submitted posters will have them returned after the Mid Winter Conference.



2012-13 Merit Award Winner
 Guilherme Augusto R de Maura
 (Brazil)

“The world is alive because it has many hearts full of peace sustaining it.”

Lacrosse Lions



LaCrosse Lions welcome new members Lions Cory and Kristy Simic, sponsored by Lion Leonard Lustgarten and new members Lions Curt and Lisa Simic, sponsored by Lion Tim Earle. Welcome!





WHITING



On Thursday, November 7, 2013, the Whiting Lions Club inducted five new members to their club. The monthly meeting was held at Winey Beach café in down town Whiting. Lion Michelle Rohrman brought along five new members to the meeting. Lion President Efren Gomez did the honors and inducted them after our dinner. The five new members are now Lion Bonnie Coronadan Vasilak Lion Linda Miklusak, Lion Karen Garcia, Lion Diane Kaminsky and Lion Carol Duhon. The Whiting Lions would like to welcome them to our club and may “they serve” many happy years with us.

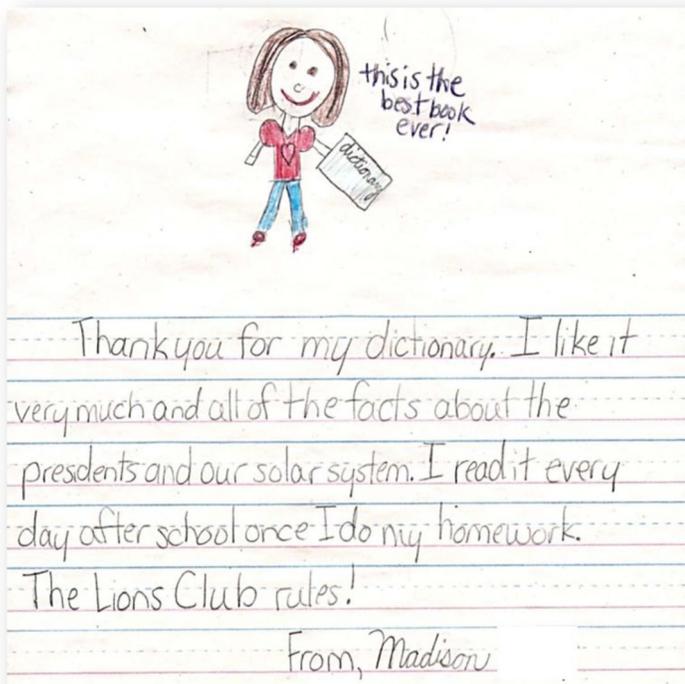
The Whiting Lions also conducted a Veterans Ceremony.





Schererville Central Lions Club
The Dictionary Project

Shhhhh... Top Secret



We are looking forward to another great silent auction event at the 25A District Convention March 8, 2014.

We are respectfully requesting that each club donate a gift basket or other item at this wonderful fundraiser.

Please bring your items on Friday evening or Saturday morning to the convention site. This year it will be held at the Best Western Conference Center in LaPorte.

Be sure to contact PDG Margaret with any questions or if you need someone to pick up your basket. 219-923-0776

Third Grade, St. Michaels Catholic School, Schererville, IL

Sample of one of the 33 Thank You letters.



District Governor Connie, 1st Vice District Governor Glenn Swanson and 2nd Vice District Governor Randy Greer wish you all a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year! Bring on the Elfen magic!



Michigan City Lions Performing Arts Choir, comprised of members from their club, sang Christmas Carols at their regular meeting this month. Rumor has it that there will be no Grammy awards forthcoming! Boss Lion Henry looks like he had a nose job. Great Job and Great Fun!



Welcome New Members!



Club	New Member	Sponsor
Bass Lake Lions	Lion Peggy Arquette	Lion Davis Swanson
Bass Lake Lions	Lion Cory Wilson	Lion John Wilson
Bass Lake Lions	Lion Gloria Ballard	Lion Richard Ballard
Chesterton Lions	Lion Julie Dobowski	Lion Michael Perkins
Chesterton Lions	Lion Michael Roach	Lion Michael Perkins
Chesterton Lions	Lion Julie Dobkowski	Lion Michael Perkins
Lowell Lions	Lion Rich Bennett	Lion Ron Wietbrock
Lowell Lions	Lion Scott Fitzgerald	Lion Jeffrey Greco
Michiana LC	Lion Jennifer Gracyalny	Lion James Cross
Rensselaer Lions	Lion Loren Berenda	Lion Michael Louck
Wanatah Lions	Lion Carolyn Chrisman	unknown

We Remember...

*Lion Dave Chesak
Rensselaer Lions*

“The angels are always near to those who are grieving, to whisper to them that their loved ones are safe in the hand of God.”

- Eileen Elias Freeman -

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS!

Listed below are short 1 to 3 minute videos from the Center For Disease Control, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and others on disaster preparedness, awareness, and response. The link first goes to the videos about severe winter weather but at the bottom is the full library that deals with tornadoes, ice storms, terrorism, wildfires, hurricanes, construction of safe rooms, chemical spills, etc.



The National Just In Time Disaster Training Video Library has over 20 easy to access videos focusing on how individuals and families can prepare for severe winter weather.

The subjects of these videos are:

- Winter Weather – Preparedness
- Winter Weather – Home Preparedness
- Building a Disaster Supplies Kit
- Building a Winter Survival Kit for your Car
- Creating a Family Disaster Plan
- Downed Power Line Safety
- Food Safety During Power Outages
- Generator Usage / Safety
- Ice Storm – Preparedness
- Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

This **FREE** on-line library can be accessed at the following web site:

www.JustInTimeDisasterTraining.org

YOUR CLUB HAVE AN ACTIVITY COMING UP?

Make sure to email your information to Lion Karlene Roe witchywillow@hotmail.com

Feel free to email full flyers or just small blurbs like those to the left!

Lions love coming to each others functions, so make sure we know about them so we can come and support your club! You may also send pictures with descriptions and names, as well as articles to me of past events or activities your club has

If you want to make it in the newsletter, please have information to Karlene no later than the 25th of each month!





District 25-A Lions please join Governor Connie Roe for her 3rd Cabinet Meeting

Hosted by the Union Mills Lions Club
Sunday, January 19, 2014
Union Mills Conservation Clubhouse
at the Mill Pond
Union Mills, Indiana 46382

Pot luck meal
Meal cost \$ 12.00
1:00 P.M. Central
2PM - Eastern
1PM Central

Ugly Shirt or Sweater Day!

First Ever White Elephant Silent Auction

Bring Your unwanted Christmas
gifts or any other item laying
around you no longer need to the
cabinet meeting!



Please turn in all reports for District Convention at this meeting. These reports will be included in the Convention Book. You will be allowed to add any additional information only if you already turned in your report.

-----Cut here-----

Club _____
Name/Title _____

Number attending _____ x \$ 12.00 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please RSVP by Jan. 7, 2014

Mail to: CS Angie Schmeltz
14726 Bryan St., Cedar Lake, IN 46303
Any questions call 219-374-9714

***Please Make Checks Payable to District 25-A Lions**





December 2013 DG Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Convention Mtg	3 LaCrosse OV	4 E. Chicago Eve OV	5 Medaryville OV	6 Town Xmas Party	7 Council Party/ Winamac Wonderland
8 Speech & Hear- ing Xmas Party	9 Michigan City OV	10 Portage OV	11	12	13	14 .Mich City
15	16 Convention Mtg	17	18 Hobart OV	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		January 2nd Crown Point OV		

**See an open date? Contact DG Connie to schedule your clubs official visit:
H: 574-946-4701 C: 219-863-2556 or kroegwen@embarqmail.com**

Indiana Lions Calendar of Events December 2013

International Calendar of Events Membership Focus: Family Relieving the Hunger Global Service Action Campaign

- 7 Council Christmas party
- 8 Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing,
Annual Holiday Luncheon,
Sunday Dec. 8th, 12:30p.m.
Indiana School for the Deaf
- 14 Foundation Christmas party Speedway
- 24-25 State Office Closed - Holiday
- 31 State Office Closed - Holiday

December 15:	Postmark deadline for the multiple district council chairperson to send one winning Peace Poster to the Public Relations and Communications Division
December 15:	Postmark deadline for the multiple district council chairperson to send one winning essay to the Public Relations and Communications Division
December 27:	Application deadline for Standard, Core 4 and IAG grants to be reviewed at the February 2014 board meeting
December 31:	Last day for early discount on convention registration fees
December 31:	Close of Period 2 for the Dream Achiever Awards





December 2013
DG Connie Roe
701 S Huddleston RD
Winamac, IN 46996

