



The Lions Den District 2-S3

"We Are Lions, lets Keep Climbing"



December 2016

<http://www.lionsdistrict2s3.org>

Volume 14, Issue 6

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DG's Message

Now that's it December and I have visited all of our clubs, I want to thank ALL of the clubs who have gone out of their way to help my visit and make me feel welcome. Austin Capital Evening gave a beautiful blue Lions Scarf, Lago Vista gave me a sack of Limes, Milano - a custom made pen, Bulverde - a Ball Cap, Georgetown Noon - a custom pen, Manor - a salt & pepper shaker, Blanco - homegrown oranges, and Austin Founder mixed nuts and a club pennant or flag. Some gave driving instructions, Thank You Manor. Some waited patiently while I fought traffic, Thank You Burnet, San Marcos Bluebonnets and Dripping Springs. Luling got to listen to a unfamiliar first club speech, Thank You. Austin Capital City welcomed me into the Walker's Lion Den - Awesome. University of Texas with their "Find the other like animals" to start their meeting. Second, the food with dinner was excellent. I learned more about a club during the dinners than I did during the meeting. I feel very blessed to represent District 2-S3.

This Month relates to Relieving Hunger. Please try to organize a food collection event. Keep your club active in membership also. December is the second toughest time of year with keeping members. We are still ahead but are loosing members faster than we can recruit.

Occasionally service projects and fundraising ideas are sent my way. First is a well known service to hearing preservation called Miracle Ear Foundation. Based on need and income, a candidate may qualify. More info may be found at: www.miracle-earfoundation.org

The second is a fundraising idea, Morris Press Cookbooks. Publish your own custom cookbooks. Based on

the number of books and pages, a club could easily double their money. See www.simplecookbooks.com

Mid-Winter Cabinet Meeting will be January 28th at Wimberley High School. Registration should be found on page 3 of this newsletter. We will have several training sessions plus 2 guest speakers, one of World Services for the Blind and the other Water Conservation and Quality.

On behalf of the Lyon's Family, I wish all a happy holiday. This time of year reminds me of all my friends and relatives and how lucky I've been to be with them. I believe we can all relate to this. Keep in mind those for whom are without. Please don't let them look upon this as a hopeless time. New friends can be within reach, keep them active and staying sharp.

"We Are Lions,

Lets Keep Climbing"



District Governor

Lion John Lyon and Patti

2016 - 2017

Mid-Winter Conference

&

3rd Cabinet Meeting

Saturday

January 28, 2017

Wimberley High School

100 Carney Lane

Wimberley, TX 78676

**See Registration
Form on page 3**



Tis the Season of Giving

1st VDG John Pruett

In December of each year we enter a season of holiday, joy, cheer, and gift-giving. We also enter a season of reflection, a time to focus our lives in the midst of all sorts of attention disruptors. Our motto is "We Serve" and this is certainly important throughout the year, but during this season it seems intensified. I believe that "We Lions" have our hearts in just the right place in that we feel and radiate love and delight toward others.

As part of my tradition I have been reading Advent selections during this season. One of those readings includes a song, "Simple Gifts" written by Joseph Brackett. A simple gift that we Lions can share with others includes time, money, and other acts of service. We give these simple gifts throughout the year because we truly want to, because we care about others, not because we think it an obligation. I have tried to define lionism in a simple way, but that is very difficult, as the term has been defined by our passion, and all the acts that we do as lions. However, during this season of reflection perhaps I have come to the simple conclusion that "lionism" means serving others because

we care about them.

Lion Brenda and I wish you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season, and the deep satisfaction that comes from helping others.



1st Vice District Governor
John Pruett
JohnPruett2@Gmail.com



The Lions Den
 December, 2016

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Lions District 2-S3 KidSight Program Year-To-Date* Screenings and Referrals

Number of Children:

Screened

9,178

Referred

1,151



***Year-To-Date: Lions Year –July 1 through November 30**





**District 2-S3
Mid-Winter Conference
District Governor - Lion John Lyon**

WHEN: Saturday, January 28, 2017

WHERE: Wimberley High School
100 Carney Lane
Wimberley, TX 78676

Schedule: 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM – Registration and Breakfast
8:45 AM – Call To Order

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee, Breakfast and Lunch: **\$15.00** in Advance - **\$18.00** at the Door
Registration Fee for those not staying for lunch: **\$6.00**

Name	Club	\$
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Early registration deadline is January 22, 2017

Make checks payable to: Wimberley Lions Club

**Mail TO: Lion Lee Gibson
P. O. Box 2963
Wimberley, TX 78676**



Play an instrument?
 Want to be part of a memorable, fun time?
 Join Lions from all over Texas at the
 Centennial Convention
 Chicago - June 30 – July 4, 2017

The Texas Lions Band will ride on a float and
 thrill the crowd in the International Parade of
 Nations on Saturday, July 1st
(and maybe some other appearances also)

Register for the Convention and complete the information below no later than Jan. 10, 2017.

Name _____ Club _____ District _____
 Instrument: _____

Prior experience: HS Band College Band Band Director

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ / _____ Mobile _____ / _____

Send to:
 PDG J. P. Kirksey
 12503 Scissortail Drive
 Manchaca, TX 78652
 512/282-2053 (home)
 512/585-0992 (mobile)



A Lesson On Stress

*PDG Frank Kinald
Chair, Global Leadership Team*

A speaker walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew he was going to ask the ultimate question "Is the glass half empty or half full?"

He fooled them all. How heavy is this glass of water? He asked them. Answers called out from the audience ranged from 8 oz. to 24 oz.

He replied, "The weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes". He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavier we won't be able to carry on".

As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're rested, we can carry on with the burden, holding stress longer and better each time.

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up again tomorrow.



San Marcos Lions Club Wins Chamber SOAR Award



The San Marcos Lions Club received the SOAR "Seeking Opportunities Achieving Results" Award at the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce GALA on Nov. 17. (L to R) Mitch Hoffman, President, Julie Hoffman, Larkin Smith, Past President. Not pictured, Carolyn Ortiz.

Canyon Lake Noon LC Veterans Day at Mountain Valley MS

Veterans Day at Mountain Valley Middle School recognized all veterans on November 11 for their service. Leo's presented a meaningful program thanking the veterans for their service and remembering their sacrifices.

Attending were Lion Veterans from Canyon Lake Noon Lions Club (left to right) Tom Meyer, Linda Harkness, Bob Gaynor, Norm Schaule, Buddy Sanders, and Bob Perry.



"Membership Growth" New Members - November

Congratulations to the newest members of District 2-S3 and their sponsors. *District Governor John Lyon*

Canyon Lake Noon Lions Club

Linda Harkness sponsored by Thomas Meyer

Cedar Park Longhorn Lions Club

Chad McCully sponsored by Sue Behm

New Braunfels (Noon) Lions Club

James D Pope sponsored by Joseph Worl

Pflugerville Lions Club

Andrew F Gebbia sponsored by Guy Gebbia
Larry B Imhoff sponsored by Guy Gebbia

Point Venture Lions Club

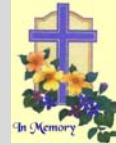
Fran A Pontesso sponsored by Nan Knapp
Fred A Pontesso sponsored by Charles Knapp

San Marcos (Noon) Lions Club

Michael A Cardona sponsored by Larkin Smith
Wesley J Doss sponsored by Carolyn Ortiz
Marty L Hammond sponsored by Joseph Kenworthy
Christopher R Rue sponsored by Samantha Armbruster
Bobbie J Turnbo sponsored by Debbie Smith
Kimberley R Williams sponsored by James Lanning

Spicewood Lions Club

Angelica S Prindle sponsored by Patty Krueger
Evan M Rattray sponsored by Guy Weinhold



A Memorial To A Lost Lions

Rubert Cedar Manor Lions Club

Manor Lions has lost a member of the club who joined when the club was only 2 months old – in April 1956. Lion Rubert Cedar was an active part of our club until his death on November 23, at the age of 95.



Pictured Above: A donation was made in his memory to the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank. PDG Gil Burrell gives the check to LSLEB director Lion Dave Nalle.

Welcome New Lago Vista Lion - Greta Drengenberg

Greta moved to Lago Vista in 1999 from St. Louis and is now near a daughter who lives here, too. She has three children ranging in age from 39 to 58. After retiring as owner and operator of a donut shop, her hobbies now are line dancing, knitting and working puzzles.

Few people know that Greta and her two sisters lived with their parents in a displaced person's camp. When her parents both passed, it was the wish of her mother the girls be sent to America. Through a Lutheran welfare group, they arranged the trip to America and the three girls were then placed in a foster home in Wisconsin and raised. We're happy to have Greta with us and thank Kurt Tessnow for sponsoring her.



Greta Drengenberg



New Braunfels Noon Lions Club - Wurstfest 2016 Report

Alas! As we bid Auf Wiedersehen to Wurstfest 2016, the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club is most pleased to report that our Charities coffers have once again been replenished by the Outstanding efforts of more than 200 volunteers represented over the 10-day event! Seventy Lions, 33 LEOs, 22 Marine Corps JROTCs, and 78 volunteers comprised of family, friends and neighbors, the Food Booth and Parking Lot teams excelled in serving thousands of patrons during the course of the event.

Special Kudos to First VP Jack Morgan for spearheading another banner year in gross sales for the Food Booth. Job well done to you, Jack, the Shift Leaders and the Food Booth Groupies who "Made it Happen"!

While 2nd VP Ronnie Thompson was unable to oversee the fruition of his efforts as Chair of the Parking Lot due to health issues, he was most appreciative of those who came to the forefront to execute the task at hand. Many thanks to you, Ronnie, for what you were able to accomplish prior to your unanticipated illness.

A Special Kudos as well to the Parking Lot Shift Leaders and Crew! Torrential rains on at least two days did not deter the Flagger from directing traffic into the lot while the Field crew sought to find slots that wouldn't bog down vehicles in the muddy grass-land. Postal Carriers have nothing on You guys!

Our Club was also honored by the volunteerism of 1st VDG Lion John Pruett and spouse Lion Brenda (Milano), GMT Coordinator & PDG Lion Shirley Dillman (Round Rock Noon) and Lion Leon Childers (Garden Ridge).

And last, but not least, a special thank you to our Treasurer, Howard Weliver, who continuously provided a cash flow of various denominations, sorted and counted literally thousands and thousands of dollars, provided daily tallies, sales reports, and made daily deposits while doing shifts in both the food booth and parking lot!

My sincere gratitude and appreciation for every volunteer's contributions in making this year's signature fundraiser a resounding success! — **President Lee Ambrosino**

And this from First Veep Jack Morgan regarding the Food Booth specifically - Record breaking gross sales this year was \$56,274.

Volunteers for the Food Booth this year broke down as follows:

- Noon Lions - 592.5 hours
- Non-club volunteers - 252 hours
- LEOs - 244 hours
- TOTAL — 1088.5 hours

Number of volunteers contributing to the success of the Food Booth broken down:

- NBLC members 52
- Non-members 60
- LEOs 33

Many thanks go out to everyone who contributed to the success this year. Especially Mike Pfeuffer, George Shafer and Skip Stem who opened up each day and got things started. Also, to each of the shift leaders that supervised each shift of volunteers.



New Braunfels Noon Lions Club - Wurstfest

More pictures



San Marcos Lions Club Induct New Lions



The San Marcos Noon Lions welcomed six new members on Nov. 18, bringing the club's total membership to 94. Shown are new members Chris Rue, Wesley Doss, Bobbie Turnbo and Marty Hammond. New members not pictured are Michael Cardona and Kimberly Williams. Sponsors pictured along with Lions Club President Mitch Hoffman include Samantha Armbruster, Carolyn Ortiz, Debbie Smith and Joe Kenworthy. Not pictured: Larkin Smith, Sponsor, and Jim Lanning, Sponsor.

Manor Lions Support Charities

A donation was made to the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank in memory of Lion Rubert Cedar. Donations were also given to Travis County ERC for Holiday baskets and food and Meals on Wheels.

Below: PDG Gil Burrell is giving a check to some of the Lions who deliver Meals on Wheels in Manor: Lion Cliff Barnes, Lion JJ Lowe, Lion Dave Nalle and Lion John Burrell.



Above: PDG Gil Burrell gives checks to LSLEB director Lion Dave Nalle In Memory of long time Manor Lion Rubert Cedar and to the Travis County ERC for holiday baskets and food.

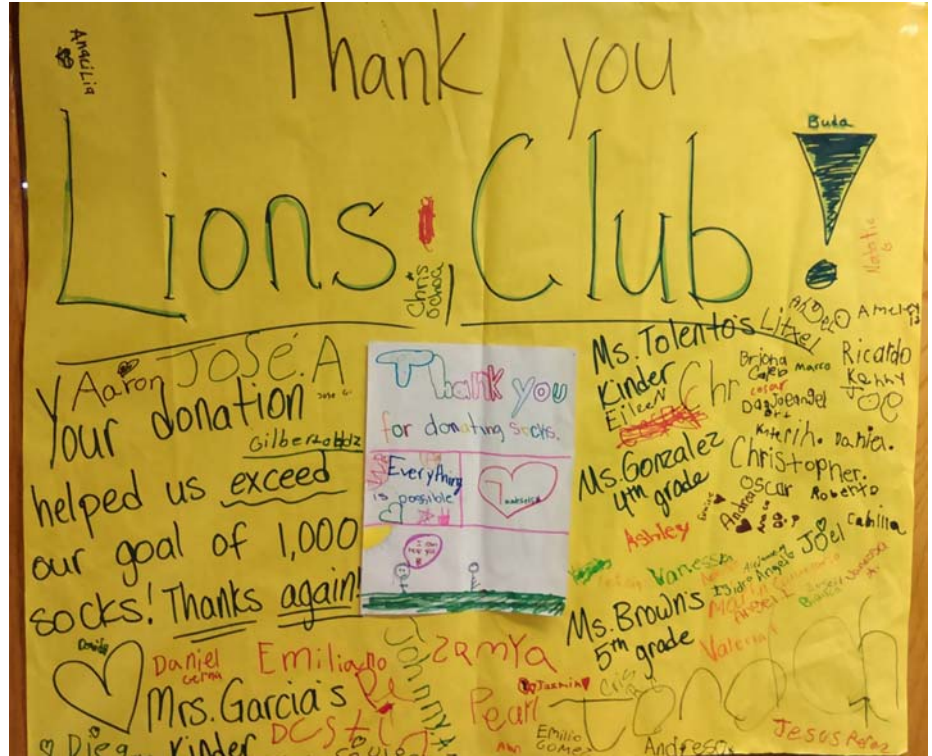


G-Town Noon Lions Expo Center Grand Opening

The Georgetown Noon Lions reserved a space for the Expo Center's Grand Opening on Saturday, November 12, in Taylor.

Lions Ashley Faulkner, Carol Hopper, JoAnn and Paul Steinfort, Annette Voelter all participated in a dual activity. First, we screened the vision of 29 persons (with one referral), plus we promoted Lionism in the various clubs in the area (including ours) with flyers and information about the clubs and Lions charities

Buda Lions Club Donates Socks To Hemphill ES



Above is a thank you card made by the students of Hemphill Elementary School for the donation made by the Buda Lions Club. The club collected \$95.00 and Lion Alan Robinson matched that, for a total of \$190.00. The donation was converted into socks before being delivered to Hemphill Elementary.



New Braunfels Noon Lions Club Green & Blue Santa

Noon Lions President Lee Ambrosino presents as our annual donation the Comal County Sheriff's Department Green Santa program one each spiffy presentation check (matched by a more negotiable one) for \$250. Accepting the check on behalf of the department are Deputy Gilbert Bustos, the sheriff's executive secretary and Sheriff Bob Holder his own self.

A similar donation was made to the New Braunfels Police Department's Blue Santa program.

Pictured Right: Green Santa check presentation



Public Relations Tips

*Lion John Creswell
District 2-S3 PR Chair*

I mentioned in an earlier article that a lot of good information can be found at the Lions Clubs International website (www.lionsclubs.org). Click on the magnifying glass on the main page and type in "public relations." You'll soon have the answers to:

- What are the club's PR Chairperson's responsibilities?
- How do I determine what is newsworthy?
- How do I contact the local media to promote my club's activity?
- What are some publicity ideas to help share Lions messages?
- What PR resources are available from LCI Headquarters?

For a PR overview, you can download the "Club Public Relations Chairperson's Guide," PR710.

Other Tips: The PR Chair should visit with the club's Board of Directors monthly on what's being done to publicize the club's public image to the public. This is a good time to brainstorm PR ideas. Questions to address include:

- Are news releases and promotional flyers timely and attractive?
- Are these materials being used?
- Is there an annual PR Budget?
- Do members wear their Lions lapel pin and club name badges outside of club meetings?

Active promotion of your club by its members builds a positive image within the community. People want to belong to a successful and reliable organization.

Finally, a club should never rest on its past laurels (honors, achievements, etc.). Clubs that do will decline in membership and stature within their community.



Canyon Lake Noon Lions - Brookshire Bros. Can Collection Cage

Brookshire Brothers Can Collection Cage - Canyon Lake Noon Lions now have a third aluminum can collection cage in the Canyon Lake area (in addition to the two at Lowe's Markets in Sattler and Startzville), thanks to Brookshire Brothers! Profits from recycling of aluminum cans makes up a significant portion of the Canyon Lake Noon Lions Club's fundraising efforts.

Pictured is Past-President Bob Brooks and Lion Bill Cox, the Produce Manager at Brookshire Bros. with a typically full trailer!

MAN! That's a lot of aluminum cans!!!



Milano Eve Lions 30th Anniversary

November 17, 2016; the Milano Evening Lions Club celebrated their 30 year anniversary with food, fun and fellowship. There were two districts represented, MD 2-S3 and MD 2-S5, and three clubs, Caldwell, Cameron (sponsor club to Milano) and Milano.

Thirty individuals attended the dinner. Two Charter Members, Eldon Ball and David Westbrook received their 30 year charter chevrons. First VDG from MD 2-S5 Johanna Elliott from Caldwell was the guest speaker. At the evening event, Milano Evening Lions debuted their Legacy Project, a bench to be placed in the Bailey Park in Milano.



Milano Evening Lions Legacy Project bench for Bailey Park.

San Marcos Noon Lions Donations



The San Marcos Lions Club on Friday, Nov. 18, made donations totaling \$8,500 to three local organizations. Accepting the donations were, left to right, Ellie Stewart of the Redwood Community Center, Cathy McNeil of the Hays County Salvation Army, and Sonya Kraus of Hays County PALS (Prevent a Litter). All proceeds from the San Marcos Lions Club's summertime tube rental operation in City Park are donated back to the community.

Two Charter Members, Eldon Ball and David Westbrook received their 30 year charter chevrons. From L to R; VDG MD 2-S5, Johanna Elliott; Charter member Eldon Ball; President Brenda Pruet; and Charter member David Westbrook.



Georgetown Lions Christmas

Georgetown Evening Lions hosted the Georgetown Noon Lions at the annual combined Christmas Party on December 6 at St. John's Methodist Church. Noon Lions/spouses attending were Corey Bailey, Jim and Kathy Greer, Don Jones, Gearl and Betty Koonce, Mort Sheffloe, JoAnn and Paul Steinfort, John and Adriana Tiller, Annette and David Voelter. Our share of Roaring Dollars donated to Texas Lions Camp was \$30; our value of food donated to The Caring Place was \$91; and the amount of our donations to Lone Star Lions Eye Bank (silent auction) was \$130.



Buda Lions Club Donate To Blue & Brown Santa Programs

The Buda Lions Club donates a check each Christmas to Brown Santa & Blue Santa. Hays County Brown Santa is a community service program of the Hays County Sheriff's Office, and the many sponsors and volunteers who make it happen each year. The Buda Police Department heads the Blue Santa which is community based.

On November 29th, 2016 Secretary Tammy Jackson presented the donation to each entity.



Pictured above is the check presented to Blue Santa. Standing left to right are Officer Fleming, Officer Lysek, Brittany Tate, Buda Lions Secretary Tammy Jackson, Detective Lopasky and Detective Lee.



Pictured above is the check presented to Brown Santa. Standing left to right (back row) are Jaime Page, Chief; Shelby Eskew; and Stephen Traeger, Deputy. (front row) Lion Tammy Jackson and Gary Cutler, Sheriff.

Spring Branch-Bulverde Spot Vision & Hearing Screening

On a cold, wet, and dreary December day the Bulverde Spring Branch Lion's Club dawned their boots and rain gear to perform vision and hearing screening testing of students attending Gloria Deo Academy in Bulverde. The Gloria Deo Academy is part of a new and fast growing alternative to both total home-schooling and total classroom emersion. Students attend school 2 days per week and are home-schooled 3 days per week.

Eight certified club members screened 155 children ranging from pre-K thru 11th grade. The Lions used audiometers and a state-of-the-art detection device called a Spot Vision Instrument to conduct the "Kid Sight Eye Screening." Chairman, Jerry Janosek explains that, *"Early detection of eye difficulties increases the likelihood of effective treatment."*

Children as early as 6 months old can be screened for acuity difficulties that might require eyeglasses. The Spot Vision instrument also detects amblyopia—an early childhood impairment that can be treated if detected early. Incoming President, Tony Doyle indicated that, *"Unless treated in early childhood, amblyopia can persist into adulthood; it is the most common cause of permanent one-eye vision impairment among children."*

While this annual screening of area youngsters is not diagnostic, the SBB Lions are fully trained to operate the Spot Vision equipment. When abnormalities are detected, Lions will suggest that children be further examined by an eye care professional such as an optometrist (O.D.) or ophthalmologist (M.D.).

The SBB Lions are pleased to provide no-cost screening to youngsters anywhere in the greater Spring Branch and Bulverde area. Schools, pre-schools, churches, and day care facilities are encouraged to contact Lion Jerry Janosek at 830.221.7872 to arrange for this critical no-cost screening; the screening is conducted on-site at your facility. If you have any questions about Kid Sight Eye Screening, please feel free to contact the SBB Lions Club at 210.286.8050 or visit their website at www.SBBLions.com.



Lago Vista Lions Centennial Challenge - November

Peace Poster (11/03/2016): We selected the Lago Vista Lions Peace Poster Contest Winner from the Lago Vista Middle School. Cash prizes to all the winners will be announced shortly.



4th Grade Foresters (Arbor Day) (11/07/2016): On 11/07/2016 we planted four Bradford pear trees for the Lago Vista Intermediate School (4th grade classes).

Road Clean Up (11/19/2016): On 11/19/2016 the Road Clean Up Team cleaned up both sides of Lohman Ford Road (3 miles). Twenty-nine (29) bags of trash were collected.



Food Drive Collection (11/01/2016): On 11/01/2016 we collected food items and cash for recipients at Fort Hood.

Austin Founder Lions Participate in Parade

Some 14 members of the Austin Founder Lions Club and their guests participated in the Chuy's Children Giving to Children parade in downtown Austin on Nov. 26. The parade was an opportunity to gain community visibility while helping collect toys for needy children.

Lions Moton Crockett, Erin Leon, Lillie Gilligan, Leonor Marques, Bill Martin, Rudy Munguia, Jim Roberson, Sam Ruiz and Robert Seidel rode on the float or walked along side it. Lion Jim Overton drove the pickup pulling the flatbed float. In addition, Lion Dewayne Naumann donned a Lions suit and walked along with the float; he posed for photos with children along the parade route.

In addition to the float, Lion Tommy Cowan drove a pickup pulling "Simba," the club's KidSight vision screening trailer. Signage on the trailer highlighted the club's vision screening activities.

The AFLC float and Simba trailer were among 87 entries in the parade. Organizers estimate that 80,000 people lined the parade route. Some 30,000 toys were collected for the Austin Police Department's Blue Santa program during the 1.5 hour parade.



Above: Austin Founder Lions highlighted the Lions International Clubs service organization to some 80,000 Austin-area residents and helped collect some 30,000 toys for the Austin Police Department's Blue Santa program.

Right: Austin Founder Lions Past Presidents Lillie Gilligan and Bill Martin ride on the club's Chuy's Children Giving to Children parade float, followed by the club's Simba vision screening trailer led by board member "Lion" Dewayne Naumann.



Lone Star Lions Eye Bank LSLEB

The Lone Star Lions Eye Bank has compiled and sent to all the Directors from Districts 2-S3, 2-S5 and 2-X3 memory sticks with information material for the directors to give programs, have information at cabinet meetings, and to attend and give out information at Community Events. The Directors from the 3 districts of the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank have 3 very important responsibilities:

1. Manage/Oversight of the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank
2. Promotion of the Eye Bank – who the Eye Bank is and what it does
3. Raise funds for the eye bank

Currently the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank is in need of funds for:

- Purchase of new ice machine (ice is used in packing and preservation of corneas for delivery)
- Pay down the Mortgage for the lab and building
- Pay off the car loans

Lions can contribute by giving life memberships, memorials, Shepherd Fellowships (\$1,000) and 20/20 (a ten-year commitment to donate \$100, or \$250 or \$500 a year - amounts can go up or down each year). We have about 4,500 lions in 3 districts in 163 clubs. If each Lion in our 3 districts donated \$100 for one year (or \$8.33 a month) we'd have \$450,000 to pay off the loans and have savings to cover operating costs in lean times.

Our Lions Eye Bank provides corneas so that between 800 and 900 people regain their eyesight each year. In addition, eye tissue is used in research for glaucoma, eye diseases and eye injuries. You as lions in District 2-S3 are very valuable members of the Eye Bank.

As Lions, we should also sign up with Donate Life Texas at <https://www.donatelifetexas.org/> so that we can continue to give life after we are gone.

Lion Karen Walker Ratcliffe
2nd VP, Lone Star Lions Eye Bank

2208 Nestlewood Dr
Austin TX 78754

Cell & Text: 512-470-4644
Fax: 512-628-3499



Right: On Nov. 26, Austin Founder Lions Club participated in the Chuy's Children Giving to Children parade in downtown Austin.



AFLC Honors Six Schools and Their Namesake Lions

On Dec. 1, Austin Founder Lions Club presented each of six Austin schools named for civic leaders and long-time club members with \$500 contributions to support an activity or program. Principals and other representatives of Gustavo L. Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy, Boone Elementary, Cowan Elementary, Kocurek Elementary, Pickle Elementary and Widen Elementary accepted the awards.

"Many prominent Austinites have been members and leaders of the Austin Founder Lions Club, and we are pleased to continue our tradition of recognizing and honoring six of our own for whom the city named schools," said Jim Overton, club president.

Former Mayor Gus Garcia, for whom **Gustavo L. Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy** is named, is the only living club member among the namesakes. He attended the meeting and joined with the school's choir to sing several Christmas carols. Garcia has

served as a vice president of the club and continues to be active in the club's Kidsight vision screening program serving as an interpreter at many community screening events.

Boone Elementary is named for Mr. and Mrs. George Boone. George Boone was involved with the club's Sportsmanship Committee and other projects involving education/sports.

Cowan Elementary is named for Dennis Cowan, a former long-time member and chairman of the club's Sportsmanship Committee. Cowan, who served on the Lions club's board for several years in the 1980s, also led the club's involvement in literacy at Baker-Robbins Alternative Learning Center. He also is the father and grandfather, respectively, of Past Presidents Tommy Cowan and Michael Cowan.

Kocurek Elementary honors former Austinite of the Year Willie Kocurek who is a past president of the

AFLC and a Lions past district governor. Kocurek worked to involve the club in cultural development, and assisted a friend in establishing the first Lions club in Russia.

Pickle Elementary is named for former U.S. Rep. J.J. "Jake" Pickle who is a past president of the club and a Lions past district governor. As a member of Congress, Pickle helped bring federal government recognition to two Lions programs: the Leader Dog program and White Cane Day, both helping the blind.

Widen Elementary is named for Carl T. Widen, a former AISD board president and civic leader. Widen, whom the club honored on his 100th birthday, helped serve the community for many years, leading the work of the Lions as they supported softball tournaments with the city's Parks & Recreation Department.



Austin Founder Lions Club President Jim Overton, back, is pictured with representatives of Austin Independent School District facilities named in honor of AFLC Lions. Those who received the \$500 award per school were, left to right; Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy Principal, Sterlin McGruder; Boone Elementary Principal, Alan Stevens; Widen Elementary Principal, Kim Royal; Cowan Elementary Assistant Principal, Rebecca Phillips and student, Noah Villareal; Pickle Elementary Principal, Lauro Davalos; and Kocurek Elementary School Counselor, Angela Vera.

Buda Lions Club - Trail of Lights

On December 8th, 2016, the City of Buda had a preview showing to The Trail of Lights. The Buda Lions Club assisted with the event by serving coffee, hot chocolate, punch and cookies at the Senior Citizen Center, and a bus drives the group to Stagecoach Park for viewing. At the park, we have Lions that drive golf carts for easy viewing.

A Big Thank You is in order for those Lions that braved the cold last night for the "Sneak" preview for the Trail of Lights. Approximately 60 patronages took advantage of the hot chocolate at the Senior Citizen Center and took the bus to Stagecoach Park. Lions Nelia Barrera, Kathy Hall, Charles Handrick, Nancy Handrick, Sandy Neilson, Secretary Tammy Jackson, President Mike Jackson, Alan Robinson, Mike Criner, Keith Cooper and Gene Stavenhagen.



Santa & Mrs. Klaus made a special appearance and handed out candy canes to the attendees.



Lions Alan, Gene & Mike Jackson are bundled up to endure the cold, wintry weather, as are the attendees.



Grande Communications Donates \$1,000 to Bluebonnet Lions Club

On Tuesday, November 15, Grande Communications presented a check for \$1,000 to the Bluebonnet Lions Club for their Reach Out and Read Signature Community Service Project. Committee chair Lion Trish wrote the grant and Lion Cyndi is a staff member at Grande.



Point Venture Lions and volunteers
decorate their village.



Point Venture Lions and volunteers, Gene Glass, Nora Skaff, Keith Kirk, Fran Pontesso, Ann Kirk, Michelle Hill, and Laurie Glass (not pictured), decorate trees at the PV entrance. Lighted trees line the median.



Carole Thomas and her crew, Jackie Lambert, Nan Knapp, and Phyllis Marshall (not pictured) decorate wreaths.

Gene Glass, Dan Christian, Barry Pasarew, Roy Ables, Bill Roney, Anita Roney, Ann Kirk, Keith Kirk, and Frank Smith prepare to hang wreaths throughout PV.



Frank Smith, Bill Roney, and Gene Glass hang wreaths on PV stop signs.



Lago Vista 4th Grade Foresters say "Thank you"



Lago Vista 4th graders send a thank you to the Lago Vista and Point Venture Lions Clubs for the donated four Cleveland pear trees planted at the Intermediate School on November 4. Thank YOU Foresters!!!

Point Venture Lions support the Lago Vista Booster Club



Point Venture Lions volunteers Scotta Petmecky, Nora Skaff, Mike Bucko, and Aylisa Bucko serve at the Lago Vista concession stand.

Point Venture Lions and Volunteers Shop for Blue Santa



Blue Santa elves Jan Gallagher, Michelle Hill, Debbie Conger, Nora Skaff, Eleanor Smith, Anita Roney, Carole Thomas, Cindy Clemons, and Laurie Glass shop for toys for families in need during the holiday season.



Eleanor Smith and Michelle Hill shop for the perfect gifts and Nora Skaff puts the finishing touch on packages during the wrapping session.

Point Venture Lions Club Providing Support For Community Fall Fling



Trash Clean-up With The PV Lions Club

Saturday, November 12, was a great day for trash pickup and greatly needed! Thanks to all our volunteers and especially Mike and Aylisa Bucko.

And lunch at the park after-wards was a fun time to eat some dogs and rest some dawgsl!



ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING AT THE WESLEYAN Georgetown Noon Lions Club

December 1, Georgetown Noon Lions gathered to trim the 12' tree in the lobby at the Wesleyan on Scenic Drive. Lion Jackie Johannes brought plenty of great ornaments. Lion Paul Steinfort hung some extra lights, the topper, and lots of upper ornaments using the ladder; later Sarah Cunningham did the ladder work. Lions JoAnn Steinfort, John Tiller, Betty Koonce, Gearl Koonce also participated. Lion Gearl led the residents in music and provided "Blue Christmas" as a solo; Lions Paul and JoAnn sang a duet of "O Holy Night." Thanks to Barbara Olsen for accompanying us again.



SM Bluebonnet Lions Thankful Turkey 14th Annual 5K Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone for all that you did to make the 5K and Fun Run happen again this year. Our runners seemed satisfied with the course and the kids had LOTS of fun. There were great prizes (the famous turkey, ham, and pie selections), wonderful door prizes and refreshments, the t-shirts looked great, and registration seemed to go smoothly.

And what a great idea Ramika had to involve Phoenix Fitness in the Kids Fun Run! That was awesome. Also, having the run at the Baptist Church was fantastic in so many ways! The Leo Club members were great both on the course and cheering the runners when they came in. How great to have a Food Bank "turkey" at our Thankful Turkey! She was great and apparently had a good time and said she would do it again next year. Great idea, Beth, to get the Food Bank involved.

Many, many thanks to David Alexander for all that he did during the last several months and the day of the event with set up and running the event. David and Moe Johnson have done so much over the years and I think I speak for all Bluebonnet Lions when I say, "GREAT JOB and we'll miss you next year, but it is 'a well-earned' retirement from the Bluebonnet Lions Thankful Turkey 5K."



"Runners, take your mark!"

(photo by Linda Jalufka, 11/19/2016)

Wimberley Lions Host TLC At Wimberley HS



The picture below was taken at the WISD Admin Building on November 17th. Parents and children interested in Texas Lions Camp attended. Trish Wilson was there and did an excellent presentation. We are looking forward to sponsoring as many as 11 kids this year. Lions Richard Newsum and Ron Steel coordinated the event including a nice array of sandwiches, chips, etc. Other Lions attending were John Estep, Lee Gibson and Katy Shugart.



Wimberley Lions Program - Leader Dog

We had a terrific program on the Lions Leader Dog Program, presented by Lion Greg Teggeman. Lion Greg worked hard on the Leader Dog Campaign to raise money to build a Canine Development Center for service dogs for the blind in Rochester, Michigan. This program is 100% Lion supported and there is never a cost to an individual needing a Leader Dog. As well, the recipient receives a 20 day training period with their new "bestie".



Lion Greg Teggeman shows off the "Top Dog" pins received for being in the top 20 of Lions clubs donating to the new Canine Development Center.



Lion Ellen Karas shows us her service dog "Rudy" that helps with her PTSD.





Lago Vista BBQ Team Supports Friends of the Library

By Lion John Spoerlein – Pitmaster

The club's BBQ team was called upon several months ago to prepare a dinner for approximately 300 people at the Friends Of The Library's annual fund drive on Wednesday, Nov. 2. The event was held at the K-Oaks club house in Lago Vista and donors were fed a dinner of smoked pork loin (64+ lbs.), beef brisket (approx. 15 lbs.), smoked sausage (50 lbs.), baked beans (36 quarts), red skin potato salad (72 lbs.) and condiments. The brisket, beverages, dessert and servers provided by the Friends Of The Library.

The cost of the food and many hours of labor by each of the team members setting up the smoker and service trailer, meat preparation, cooking, slicing cooked meat, supporting the serving line and clean up afterwards was DONATED by the Lions Club of Lago Vista . Comments from the guests were very. favorable. A big thank you to team members Don Zschoche, Mike Beal, Carl Spoto, Mike Zaydel, Bob McCarty, Joe Gudka and new members to the team, Jerry Nilsson-Weiskott and Ken Johnston for job well done.



Friends of the Library President Bruce Morris thanked the Lago Vista Lions for the dinner.



(L-R) Directors Ken Johnston, Mike Beal; Immediate Past President Carl Spoto and Bob McCarty rest after the cooking of the BBQ meats.



Directors Ken Johnson (with hat) and Jerry Nilsson-Weiskott prepared the BBQ meals.



Friends of the Library Members served the group



Hundreds of Friends of the Library Members enjoyed the Lions-provided meal

4th Grade Foresters Arbor Day

*By Lion Ken Johnston
Photos by Lion Ken Johnston*

On November 4th, Lion Pres. Don and I met with Rob and Cindy Wheeler of Point Venture Lions Club at the L.V. Middle School, along with Principal Stacie Davis and a couple of others from Point Venture (only for a short time, however) to plant 5 new 5 ft. tall Bradford Pear trees, along with some chosen students from LVMS. This followed a full assembly, during their lunch period, where the Lions were introduced and thanked for the trees.

After starting to dig (1 shovel, 1 pick, and 1 wheelbarrow to share amongst us) it was figured out that we "need a bigger and better digger" which didn't happen, but we made due with what we had, as Lions do, and after getting 2 holes deep enough, we (and the kids) got two in the ground and all staked out when the students had to return to their classes. So who finished the job you might ask? Well, it was Presidents Don and Rob and yours truly. Since Pres. Don and yours truly were not informed of the strenuous hole digging and tree planting, and without tools or gloves, or adult beverages to stimulate the muscles, we remembered our motto, "WE SERVE", and serve we did. Got all 5 of those "Environmentally Friendly" specimens into the somewhat hard (?) Central Texas Hill Country soil (and rocks!) My job, or so I thought, was to just replace Lion Jo Anne's photography taking, and that I did. In the end it was only Lions Don, Robb, and Lion Myself still standing, I think we were anyway. Our job completed, we stood back to admire our work, and me to take pictures.



Lago Vista LC, Ken Johnston; and Imm. Past Pres. Point Venture LC, Rob Wheeler.



LVLC Pres Don Zschoche with a student; Arbor Tree Planting at LV Intermediate School; and Pres LVLC Don Zschoche, Pres PVLC Rob Wheeler, and Cindy Wheeler.

NB Breakfast Lions Club Membership Drive

Immediate Past President Mike Stallings presented the Breakfast Lions Club New Member Drive details during the regular Club business meeting. Lion Mike spoke to us about the 3 R's: Recruiting, Retention, and Review.

1. Recruiting

• Personal recruiting

The Club challenge for November - March encourages members to bring a member. The Lion with the most points receives a dinner for two at Gennaro's. Points: guest at an activity=1 pt; guest at meeting=2 pts; new member application submitted=5 pts

• Public recruiting

Our members can use Club meetings and events as recruiting opportunities. We will make available brochures, giveaways, and a trifold display. Applications will always be ready during club meetings.

2. Retention

We will develop a New Member Orientation program to inform and present service opportunities. Early on involvement and a member mentor are key elements in retaining members. Each new member will receive a Membership Handbook that includes our leadership structure, Member contact list, calendar of events, committees & POCs, resources, our Club history, Lions International history, and other information.

3. Review

To insure that our Club Membership Plan is effective, we shall hold an annual review. We will look at membership types, dues and fees, and club projects/activities to make certain that the Club offers what members want and need to become better Lions. If an update is needed, the Membership Committee shall advise the Board.

Additionally, the Membership Committee will present to the Club during the standing quarterly business meeting. The Committee shall make a quarterly review of membership rolls to reinforce our commitment to all members.

Of course, none of this is possible without the involvement of all members. Only you can invite a prospective member. Only you can actively promote our Club and Lion-ism. It remains every member's duty to grow our membership and, therefore, sustain the service that we contribute to our community.

This is what Christmas is all about...

"Pa never had much compassion for the lazy or those who squandered their means and then never had enough for the necessities. But for those who were genuinely in need, his heart was as big as all outdoors. It was from him that I learned the greatest joy in life comes from giving, not from receiving.

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted for Christmas. We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible.

After supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Pa didn't get the Bible, instead he bundled up again and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though, I was too busy wallowing in self-pity. Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens. Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what.

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up this sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy. When I was on, Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed. "I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me." The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high side boards on.

After we had exchanged the sideboards, Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood - the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? Finally I said something. "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?" "You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight. Sure, I'd been by, but so what?

Yeah," I said, "Why?"

"I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him. We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading, then we went to the smoke house and Pa took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand. "What's in the little sack?" I asked. Shoes, they're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us; it shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible, then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?" "Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt, could we come in for a bit?" Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children - sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Pa like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am," Pa said. He turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring in enough to last awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up." I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and as much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks with so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak.

Continued from page 27

My heart swelled within me and a joy that I'd never known before, filled my soul. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it.

Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their Pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little for quite a spell." I was the youngest. My two brothers and two sisters had all married and had moved away.

Widow Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, May the Lord bless you, I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough. Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square. Your ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that, but on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

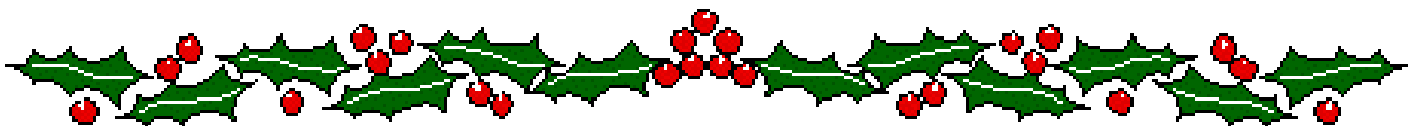
I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Now the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children.

For the rest of my life, whenever I saw any of the Jensen's, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me much more than a rifle that night, he had given me the best Christmas of my life."

This took place on Christmas Eve, 1881.... Before Lions Clubs and their Motto, "We Serve" existed. If it was today, Pa would be a member of your Lions Club. This is why "We Serve."



Merry Christmas



Peace Poster Contest - At The Club Level

OAK RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL



Pictured Above: New Braunfels Lion Juanita Wells once again over-saw the LCI Peace Poster Contest in New Braunfels ISD. This year's winners were Catelyn Hatcher first place and Sora Mayer second place, both students of Ms. Kathryn Willis (left) and Aiden Baumann who took third place, student of Ms. Charleen Watson, right.

Pictured Below: The New Braunfels ISD Winner, representing the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club at the District level.



BENOLD and FORBES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thanks to Georgetown Noon Lions Club Youth Opportunities Chair Lion Maureen Kinald for spear-heading our Peace Poster Contest again this year, assisted by committee members Lion Marcie Ramm, Lion Corey Bailey, and PDG Gary Cocanougher.

Benold and Forbes Middle Schools, Georgetown, Texas, both participated, and the Benold entry (poster below left) won the final club competition to represent the Georgetown Noon Lions Club at District Level judging. Photos of winners and families too place on Nov. 18 at the library. In the photo right: Forbes art teacher Cynthia Urban with school winner Kimberly Salazar; Lion Maureen presenting top winner to Gracie Hill of Benold, with teacher Christina Rodriguez on right.



Canyon Lake Lions Club - Leos at CLASS



Mountain Valley Middle School Leos chose the Canyon Lake Animal Shelter Society (CLASS) as one of their service projects. The Leos walked dogs, petted cats, and genuinely cared for these wonderful orphans needing forever homes.

Lions Linda Harkness, Roy Danford, and Buddy Sanders joined the Leos for this worthwhile effort.



Lago Vista Leos Help "Friends of the Library" Fundraiser



Pictured Above: On November 2, 2016, Lago Vista Leos helped bus the tables during the "Friends of the Library" Fundraising Event.

Pictured Below: On November 2, Lago Vista Leo Sydney Gomez prepared a cup of coffee for a member of the "Friends of the Library."



Pictured Right: Round Rock High School Leos completing 1,000 baggies of 'Reindeer Dust'.

Round Rock HS Leos



New Braunfels HS 9th Grade Center LEOs

Leos Sock October; aka, Socktober

Secretary Jeremy Alkire of the New Braunfels High School Ninth Grade Center Leo Club (Sponsored by the New Braunfels Breakfast Lions Club) reports that the *Socktober Drive* was successful. *Socktober* is an annual event led by the Leos to gather as many donations of socks and underwear for children from 7 to 17 years old. The donations are given to the local Communities in Schools for distribution.



This year's drive netted a total of 40 pairs of socks, 59 pairs of underwear for both boys and girls, and 8 tee shirts. All clothing are newly purchased and provided in the original packaging to CIS. The agency in turn distributes the articles to families identified as in need of assistance.

Bluebonnet Lions Club - *Thankful Turkey 5k*

San Marcos HS Leo Club

The San Marcos High School Leo Club volunteered at the Bluebonnet Lions Club's Thankful Turkey 5K; some of the Leos even participated in the run.



At right: Young runners wait for 1st Kids Fun Run.

Photos by Lion Linda Jalufka



Below: SMHS Leo Club volunteers at 5K.



Lago Vista Leos - Canned Food Drive

By Lion Linda Jameson, Lago Vista Leos Advisor

The Lago Vista Leos knocked it out of the park again this year with their 5th annual Thanksgiving food collection! This was the biggest collection ever! After only 12 hours over the course of 5 days, the Lago Vista Leos were able to collect and donate 58 cases of canned goods and non-perishables. These items included corn, green beans, peas, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, boxed instant potatoes, cereal, oatmeal, rice, beans, mac n cheese, apple sauce, peanut butter and jelly as well as flour and sugar, etc.



A huge shout out for Lowe's Market in Lago Vista for allowing us once again to stand at your door front asking customers for donations, without your support, this would not be possible. Another special thank you is to the Point Venture Lions Club who donated canned food, children's t-shirts as well as shampoo, conditioner and lotion.



And of course a great big thank you to the Lago Vista Lions Club for partnering with the Lago Vista Leos by donating, getting the word out and supporting their Leo club.



We are very thankful for living in a community that is so giving. It truly takes a village as they say. We should all be very proud of our youth to give of themselves and their time to help those in need.



Feeding the Community



The items collected, along with cash for turkeys or hams, were donated to families of soldiers deployed. It took a 6X12 foot U-Haul trailer to haul it all to its final destination. The Lago Vista Leos partnered with the Killeen Leos Club to get the food to those in need. Advisors from both clubs worked together along with their awesome Leos to get this huge undertaking accomplished. I also want to add the recipients were all anonymous. Nobody, including the Leos nor the advisors have any specific names nor addresses of anyone who may have received food donations. Past State Leo President, Lily Jameson was on hand to pack the trailer.



LAGO VISTA LEOS NORTH POLE FLYER

*By Lion Linda Jameson
Lago Vista Leos Advisor*

What a way to serve! Lago Vista Leos were given the opportunity to serve the community aboard the North Pole Flyer. The 2.5 hour excursion from Cedar Park to Burnet, TX featured Santa and Mrs. Claus. The Lago Vista Leos were asked to be in the "BINGO" car as it rolled on down the train track where they called out the famous letters and numbers to the passengers. Each car was beautifully decorated to get everyone in the Christmas spirit! The Leos all dressed up like elves and had a blast helping the children while they enjoyed a live reading of the North Pole Flyer book! The Leos got to share the cookies from Mrs. Claus and drink hot chocolate while aboard the train. This was the second annual train trip for our Leos and they are excited about volunteering again next year!



SANTA'S ELVES

CLUB NEWS.....

AUSTIN FOUNDER LIONS CLUB



District Governor John Lyons visited the Austin Founder Lions Club on Nov. 17. Second Vice President Scott Hendrix, right, presented the club's Centennial Banner to Lyons. AFLC was chartered Jan. 18, 1916.

BLANCO LIONS CLUB

We will meet at the Old 300 Bar-B-Que (4th and Pecan St.) on Thursday December 1st. Dinner can be ordered at the counter and paid as you order. Dinner will start at 6:00pm and the meeting will follow at 6:30. This should allow interested individuals to attend at no cost. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the meeting.

Aluminum Cans: We still have to fill the trailer and move the blower back to ABC Recycling.

Membership: We are still looking for new members. So far this year we're doing great. A personal invitation to attend a meeting could be an effective tool to recruit new members.

Christmas Parade: The parade will be December 10th. We will be giving out coffee and cocoa. June will have all the details at the meeting.

GARDEN RIDGE LIONS CLUB

Project Thanksgiving: We spent \$1,135.00 to provide Thanksgiving food baskets for 23 less fortunate families in the Garden Ridge and surrounding area. Two large boxes containing a 10-12lb turkey, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, stuffing, rolls, 5lb bag of apples, potatoes, pies, and much, much more were delivered to each family.

A BIG Thank You to all the Lion members and their families for helping in so many ways to make this year's event possible. Every family that we called could not thank the Lions enough for making their Thanksgiving better and in some cases, possible.

Again this year, THANKS goes out to Martin Rios who donated 10 turkeys and Shelby Trial/Bryan Lantz who donated \$100

to the Lions Thanksgiving Project. Thirty-one Lions and family members pulled together to deliver these food baskets on November 19, 2016.

Hearing Testing: We have completed performing hearing testing on over 7,000 students in 32 schools in the Comal and New Braunfels Independent School Districts and selected private schools. My sincere thanks to all those volunteers that participated in this effort; the testing was performed by twenty four Garden Ridge Lions including eleven spouses and other local volunteers. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of you supporting this effort. I trust everyone had as much enjoyment in working with our young students as I did. What a breath of fresh air to see what we have as our future generation. Past President, Dick Holloway; Hearing Testing Chairman.

Texas Lions Camp Endowment Campaign: We donated \$3,000.00 to the Camp's "Today's Promise for Tomorrow's Children" Endowment Campaign. The check presentation took place with Meghan Jaeger at the Texas Lions Camp on Monday, November 22.

Texas Lions Camp 1000 Percent Donation: Earlier in the year, we donated \$830 to the Texas Lions Camp (83 members), our 100% contribution towards our District Governor's 100% Program. This additional 900% donation of \$7,470 completes our continued commitment to support the Texas Lions Camp with an annual donation of 1000%. The check presentation took place with Meghan Jaeger at the Texas Lions Camp on Monday, November 22.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA): We donated \$500 to CASA.

Hope Hospice: We donated \$2,000.00 to Hope Hospice of New Braunfels, Texas Tree of Lights. This organization provides quality, compassionate hospice care to adults and children facing the advanced stages of any life-threatening illness.



From L to R: Randy Maschek, Past President, Garden Ridge Lions Club; Kathleen Krueger, Development & Communications Coordinator, HOPE Hospice; and Jim Newbold, Garden Ridge Lions Club.

GEORGETOWN (NOON) LIONS CLUB

November & December Activities: GNLC recorded 16 activities from November 1 through newsletter publication December 9 including;

- Decorating tree at Wesleyan
- 7 senior care facility service days: bingo, helping residents shop at Wal-Mart, manicures, etc.
- Serving dinner to women veterans at the ROCK
- Donation of food to The Caring Place
- Donation to Texas Lions Camp
- Donation to Lone Star Lions Eye Bank
- KidSight Vision Screening at Expo Center
- Scholarship to counselor at TLC
- Peace Poster Contest
- Christmas Party

LAGO VISTA LIONS CLUB

Road Clean-Up: On 11/19/2016 the Road Clean Up Team cleaned up both sides of Lohman Ford Road (3 miles). Twenty-nine (29) bags of trash were collected.



Front (L-R) Carl Spoto, Mike Zaydel, Jerry Nilsson-Weiskott, Julie McCreary.
Back (L-R) Lions Bob McCarty, Joe Gudka, Ken Johnston, Gene Cargile.



Front (L-R) Lions Carl Spoto, Mike Zaydel, Stephanie Smith, Julie McCreary, Patricia Sabre-Marroquin.
Back (L-R) Lions Bob McCarty, Joe Gudka, Ken Johnston, Gene Cargile, Keith Hamrin.

Texas 4000 - Fighting Cancer: Texas 4000's mission is to cultivate student leaders and engage communities in the fight against cancer.



Lion Elaziel Roche reported that she will bike 4500 miles from Austin to Anchorage AL next Jun-Jul-Aug 2017. She is seeking funds to undertake this adventure. Elaziel was a former Lago Vista Leo.

NEW BRAUNFELS (NOON) LIONS CLUB

Business Meeting, November 3:



Tail Twister Cameron Bradfute pins to his vest the one Wurstfest badge he was missing, a gift from "some guy in Michigan", and now his set of 31 is complete.

President Lee Ambrosino presents certificates of longevity to a bunch of us during the meeting. These guys have time in Lions Club International from 10 years up to Henry Hull's 40, Kermit Baese's 45 and grand champion Wallace Johnson's half century of Lionism. Outstanding!



Wurstfest President-elect (and Noon Lion) Dan Krueger and Grosse Opa Bruce Boyer drop by for a lunch of wurst und kraut and to bring the faithful up to speed on the Ten Day Salute while enjoying the accordion stylings of Pearly Sowell.



With son David Smith leading the singing, Pearly rocks out on some German folk favorites. (Something about toast-ing "prost" with a glass of iced tea just misses the boat.)

Business Meeting, November 17:



Sheriff Bob Holder mugs for the camera with Prez Lee

Ambrosino as Craig Zgabay makes his debut as the "new Do-ra White", Caterall commander-in-chief.



Former Lion Jim Pope is reinstated or reinducted or otherwise welcomed back into the fold by Prez Lee Ambrosino as sponsor John Creswell lends moral support. Jim dropped out a few years back to care for his ailing wife Bette.



Membership chair (and past-everything) Dennis Heitkamp delivers a concise synopsis of the workings of our club. Even without graphics his presentation was thoroughly informative.

NEW BRAUNFELS BREAKFAST LIONS CLUB

What's Happening:

- December 3, Kids Christmas at Wal-Mart, 8am – 2pm
- December 3, Bell Ringers for Salvation Army
- December 7, Christmas Party for Leo Club at Ninth Grade Center
- December 13, Regular Meeting - Monica Borrego, Kitchen Table
- December 20, Board of Directors Meeting at The Pinnacle
- December 27, Christmas Break – No Meeting

SAN MARCOS BLUEBONNET LIONS CLUB

President's Corner: It's December and the Christmas rush is here! I'd like to thank Martha and Ramika for chairing the Thankful Turkey 5K and Carol for being their mentor! The event went off perfectly! With such good guidance, the committees worked well together. It was also great to have so many SMHS Leos there to help us out. Of course David and the other San Marcos Runners Club members were awesome!

The Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for January 28,

2017, at the Wimberley High School with registration from 8-8:45 am. Registration deadline is January 22, 2017. There will be breakout training sessions. This is a great opportunity since it is so close to us. I highly encourage officers to attend as well as other members. If you are considering holding an office in the future, this is a good way to see what all is entailed. I will have the sign-up sheet at the December 7 luncheon meeting. If you can't be at the meeting and would like to attend, please email me. The Club will cover the cost of the registration fee; but if we pay and you are unable to attend, you will be responsible for the repayment of the fee.

I hope to see everyone at our Annual Christmas party! More details are in this newsletter! **Debby Lawrence, President**

Programs Committee - Kate Shaw, chair: At our November luncheon we heard stories of the San Marcos Springs at Aquarena from Ron Coley and enjoyed pictures from his book *The Fountains of St. Mark* and at the November evening meeting we hear from Stacy Martin about how she conquered the stresses of trauma in her lifetime.

Coming up we will have some awesome gift ideas for under \$10 at our Christmas party gift exchange and Texas Silver Haired Legislature stories from the Texas Capitol at our January evening meeting.

Let Kate know if you have an idea for a future speaker and remember to bring a guest to enjoy our programs with you.

Awards Committee - Melesa Yager, chair: Congratulations to Lions Judy Aswell and Debby Lawrence, our October Lions of the Month, for their extraordinary service to our community as co-chairs of our very successful Pecan & Nut Sale fundraiser.

Lion Judy Aswell recently received her 30-year membership certificate from LCI. Lion Kate Shaw was recognized for winning a medal at the 5K Run honoring Lion Rita Mutschlechner's granddaughter, Sarah.

Social Committee - Beverly Marek, Chair: Our December birthday member is Katy Lighthouse. Katy is in her 90's and loves birthday cards. She is a 1984 Charter Lioness Club member and received 14 Perfect Attendance awards between 1984 and 2001. She also received Lioness Growth Award and Lion of the Month in 2007 & 2014.

WIMBERLEY LIONS CLUB

At our last Lions meeting November 1, Lion 3rd VP Ron Steel did a Lions Orientation session for several of our new members, which included a youth protection component. Youth protection training is important for all Lions as we often work with our local youth at Market Day and service projects. For you Lions whom have been through the Boy Scouts as an adult leader, you know the value of this training. The main thing to remember is to never have a one-on-one situation with a youth. Make sure there are other Lions around. Thank you Lion Ron!

According to our Lions International President, Chancellor Bob Corlew, there are over 1.4 million Lions members as of October 31st. This is a good sign of growth around the world. Let's do our part to continue this growth.

Lion Bill Higdon and his amazing Vision Screening Committee have been very busy screening kids. Since last July 1, they have screened 898 kids with 67 referrals. This is a very important part of our community service to help preserve the eye sight of the youngest members of the community. Keep

up the great work!

Our Lion Mascot now has a name. After all of the names submitted to Lion Tail Twister Bobby Burris, the winning name was "Roary" announced at the last Lions meeting by Lion Bobby. If you haven't met Roary, then you have not been at Market Day. Bobby has had our mascot ride on his golf cart around the field selling cold water or warm cider in response to the outdoor temperature changes.

The Thanksgiving Holiday will be here soon. As busy as we are Lions helping in our community, we also need to take time for our families during special holiday.

Time to wrap this one...Thank you Lions for what you do for our club! **Lion Boss John Estopp**

