

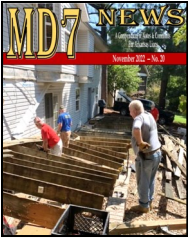
# MD 7

# NEWS

A Compendium of Notes & Comments  
For Arkansas Lions

November 2022 -- No. 20





COVER:

## FOUR CLUBS EIGHT LIONS TWO DAYS

Every once and a while, one of our own needs help. This time it was a past council chair who has served our district and state in many leadership rolls and continues to serve, mentor and train members throughout the state, though being housebound since surgery last spring.

Her second story 10 x 40 foot deck had fallen to the ground and her neighbors and property owners association were pushing her to get it cleaned up.

Eight Lions representing four northwest Arkansas clubs spent a Friday and Saturday disassembling the deck and removing the debris. Other needed repairs were also completed that weekend.

It would have taken three or four weekends for the participants of any of those individual clubs to get the job done, but by coming together, it was completed in a single weekend. It's amazing how much our Arkansas clubs can get done, but look how much more we can get done when clubs join efforts on projects.

The clubs working together were Fayetteville, Ozark, Bella Vista and Gravette.

# NEWS

## State & International

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS TO PROPOSE DUES INCREASE

The second quarter Council of Governors meeting was held in Ozark on Friday, October 7, 2022. The meeting was followed the next day by the District 7-I convention. The council chair and all four district governors were present along with State Secretary Wanda Green, several committee chairs and many state and district Lions. Also present was special guest, Past International Director Bill Philippi.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, Council Chair Young made a few brief comments and introduced the current district governors Pat Snodgrass, Dean Rowland, Travis Burton and Bill Johnson as well as our guest PID Philippi.

After approving the minutes and financial report The council chair opened the meeting for old business. PCC Bill Heaston gave an update on the Teleretinal Screening project supported by the Arkansas Lions with a matching grant from LCIF. The eight devices across the state test hundreds of individuals monthly and find approximately 16% needing further referral for diabetes related issues. PCC Heaston also reported on our current LCIF grant program to help The World Services for the Blind in creating a group home for blind individuals who also have other disabilities.

DG Rowland was appointed to prepare a resolution to increase MD 7 dues for presentation at the upcoming state convention.

In new business, Mid-Winter Forum Host Club Chair Mike Benefield explained complications in scheduling and the possibility of having to hold this usual January event in March. No decisions were made and the council is working with the host committee to find alternatives allowing the usual scheduling for the forum.

PCC and Leadership Chair Myrna McGee reported that zone chair and officer training has been completed and guiding lion training is being planned. Guiding Lion training qualifies individuals to work with and guide new or founding clubs.

CC Young reminded everybody of the (postmark) dates for mailing your winning peace posters to the next level for judging and State Secretary Green indicated that nominations for the various state awards are needed by March 1, 2023.

The next council of governors meetings are scheduled to be at the Mid-Winter Forum and State Convention.

# MD7 NEWS

November 2022  
No. 20

Published by the  
Arkansas Lions Clubs

Don Young, Council Chair  
Bill Johnson, Vice Chair  
Travis Burton, Secretary  
Dean Rowland, Treasurer  
Pat Snodgrass, Member

Wanda Green, PDG—State Secretary  
Jeff Davis, PDG—Editor

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<http://e-Districtclubs.org/sites/MD7>

## USA / CANADA FORUM 2026 PLANNED FOR MEMPHIS

PCC Brad Baker has confirmed that Memphis, Tennessee has been chosen to host the 2026 USA / Canada Forum. This will be the second time Memphis has hosted the event. The Tennessee Lions will be the official hosts, but Arkansas, along with surrounding states, have pledged financial and volunteer support.

To have the forum so close to home is big for Arkansas Lions. The USA / Canada Forum is several days with dozens of breakout programs and sessions to choose from each day. Many of the sessions are hosted by our current or past international leaders while others are given by vendors or Lions supported projects. It's a don't miss event!

# CLUB NEWS

ETC.



## Fort Smith Noon

Lion Marty Houston reporting

The Walmart on Rogers Avenue in Fort Smith presented a \$2,500 grant for our eye conservation fund again this year.

A recent speaker was Jeff Thompson, Welch Allyn Vision Screening. Jeff sells the Spot Vision screener to medical clinics and vision clinics, and also works with the many Lions Clubs, who have found it beneficial to own a Spot Vision



Another recent speaker was Julie Moncrief of the Fort Smith Regional Arts Museum or RAM. RAM is now 75 years old in the Fort Smith area and established in 1948, providing art education and exhibits.



Julie told us that they are excited about obtaining the John Bell Jr. art collection. John Bell's art tells much about the history and his love for this area. John Bell died in 2013 and had spent much of his life in a wheelchair with cerebral palsy. She said Bell learned to draw, paint and create using one hand and overcame disability to become a widely respected artist.

Lion Ron Lawler has been busy installing new signs for the club and tells us all of the signs are now up. He has been instrumental in getting these signs replaced as the previous signs had gotten old and worn.



## Little Rock South

Lion Julie Suhm reporting



Our September fundraiser was the *East End Sizzler 5K-10K Race and Health Fair / Market Place*. Almost 80 runners participated. The perfect weather made this event a great success. We were raising money to help fight Childhood Cancer. Our race event gets better every year.

loads of community support. Lots of fun for all.



Here are some of the decorating we did of WSB campus for the Haunted Holidays. We decorated trees in the holiday themes and had tombstones set up along the walkway.

We usually decorate the entire courtyard. One of the residents saw us and helped as well. Was a lot of fun!!



It was great weather for the East End Parade which allowed for a great turnout, great participation. Our club put in a lot of work and creativity to come up with a Top Gun themed float. WE WON THE OVERALL GRAND PRIZE!!



## Hot Springs

Jessie D. Hawkins

Lion David Shokey reporting



The Hot Springs Jesse D Hawkins Lions Club collecting food for a local food pantry.



## Stuttgart

Submitted by the District Governor

District Governor Bill Johnson was the recent guest speaker at a combined meeting of the Stuttgart Lions and the Stuttgart Leo Clubs. Members of both clubs enjoyed the meal and presentation by the district governor.





# Hot Springs Evening

Lion Christina Davis reporting

It has been a busy quarter for the Hot Springs Evening Lions Club. We are in the midst of celebrating our 50th year in the Village and the festivities (and fundraising) continue for the creation of Balboa Park. The volleyball court and picnic shelter have been installed and we are now waiting on installation of the playground equipment.

As a fundraising event for the park, we hosted our first Annual Baggo Tournament on October 1st. The competition was fierce, but Bennett Seafood team won out at the end. A fun time was had by all.

On October 15th, we hosted our annual Pancake Day. We flipped over 1200 hotcakes, scrambled 1000 eggs and browned cases of sausage, serving over 600 hungry customers. Our Jessieville Leos Club stepped in to help us bus tables and run delivery orders to the door.

In our spare time, members are conducting Vision Screenings in conjunction with our HSV Morning Lions Club and also volunteering at Project Hope Food pantry, as well as creating Braille Bibles at the local Lutheran Church.



# Gravette

Lion Jeff Davis reporting

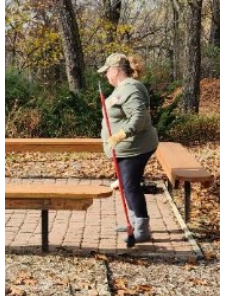
Five Gravette Lions spent a recent afternoon, one of the warm ones, picking up litter from our adopted mile of highway. The highway signs were just put up last month, so this was our first time. One comment was "of all the times I've driven by here, I never noticed the shoulder wasn't flat and level!"

Last month, several of us did our fall clean-up at the setting area we maintain at the cemetery. We also put a coat of water sealer on the new wood we used to replace the seats earlier this spring.

The Bentonville Breakfast club asked for help at their annual Haunted House. Three members of our club along with DG Dean Rowland spent a weekend working crowd control, manning concession stands and cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. About 2500 folks attended the Haunted House each of the two nights we worked. The following evening, we participated in Gravette's Trick or Treat on Main Street. We handed out over 300 bags of candy.

Our recent Crockpot Festival, where members cook their favorite crockpot dishes and serve them to the public, was a great fundraising success. We are also doing well with our annual holiday pecan sale. We've found that standing on a busy street corner on Saturday mornings, complete with amateur sign spinner, yields our best sales.

Gravette's Christmas parade is coming up and again our club will have a float. The Chamber of Commerce, the week following the parade is hosting an Old Fashion Christmas on Main Street and has asked our club to participate. Many hands-on activities are planned for the youngsters. Our booth will allow youngsters using a hand crank to move the cable car up and down a holiday decorated backdrop of Gravette's Main Street.



# Hampton

Submitted by the District Governor



District Governor Bill Johnson met recently with the Hampton Lions as part of one of their regular meetings.



# Mulberry

Submitted by the Zone Chair

Mulberry Lions Club had an outstanding week at the Crawford County Fair the week of September 10-18th. They operated the Cook Shack (photo attached) with assistance from volunteers throughout the county. Van Buren had 2 members work one evening and can testify it is hard work cooking 250-300 hamburgers from 5 until after 9 pm on a slow night! This is the primary fund raiser for the club. Recently, the club members with student volunteers from the Mulberry-Pleasant View School District placed flags for veterans buried in the Mulberry Cemetery.



I'm not sure, but sometimes I think we have too much fun being Lions!



# Monticello

Submitted by the District Governor

District Governor Bill Johnson met recently with the Monticello Lions as part of one of their regular meetings.



## Van Buren

Lion Terry Carson reporting



The Van Buren Lions Club held two fund raisers in October, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Classic at Eagle Crest Golf Course in Alma and the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Each of them was very successful.

The club continues to sell Imprinted bricks for \$100 for the new Van Buren Lions Club "Mayor Gene Bell" Park. The first 40 bricks have been placed (photo attached). The park should be open the first week of December with a dedication date to be announced.

The annual Peace Poster Contest had 6 entries and awarded \$100, \$50 & \$25 for the top 3 entries. This year's entries were very good and the most entered in years. Arts on Main in downtown Van Buren promotes and judges the contest each year.

We just completed our Annual Pancake breakfast and raised over \$3,000. The event was held at Heritage Church in Van Buren for the first time and was a great success. Our old location at J.J. Izard elementary school was demolished and a new parking lot for the football stadium was built. You might remember that J.J. Izard was a past member of the club and a banker.



## Jonesboro University Heights

Lion Charles Hartwig reporting

New Arkansas State University-Jonesboro Chancellor Dr. Todd Shields was a guest speaker at the Jonesboro University Heights Lions Club in September.

The Jonesboro University Heights Lions Club heard from Jonesboro-Craighead County Public Library officials at a recent meeting. In the photo (l-right) are JUH Lions President Tom Woods, Library Director Vanessa Adams, and Library Spokesperson Brandi Hodges.

Two Jonesboro University Heights Lions Club members received their Melvin Jones Fellow awards from our club President this week. John Hiegel (left) is our immediate past club President, and Louis Clarke is our Treasurer – and has been for several years now.



Norman Dickson photo



## Green Forest

Submitted by the Zone Chair

The Green Forest Club will help prepare Christmas food boxes during the week before Christmas. Both the Green Forest and Huntsville Club are invited a Christmas Party in December.

## North Little Rock

Lion Deborah Bolding reporting

Our September golf tournament fundraiser was a success. We are grateful to our many sponsors, volunteers and golfers. We continue to work together serving our community through our Vision Screening program at community events, health fairs and daycares. We will be volunteering at the AR State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock to assist with flag placement for Veterans Day and Wreath preparation for Christmas.

NLR Lions Installation of Officers was conducted in August. A great time of fellowship was had by all.



## Maumelle

Lion Adam Xaysuda reporting

The Maumelle Lions Club has completed its "mailbox" eye-glass collection box project and is ready to expand its eyeglasses donations to the Lions Club International Eyeglass Recycling Program. The box has been installed in the Kroger parking lot by Chad Gardner and a new member, David Ruehr. The location is across the drive from the real mailbox and next to two brown donation boxes for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas. It has been painted in gold and blue Lions colors and is decorated with Lions Club decals on the sides and an eyeball graphic on top. It is a replica mailbox, rather than a "real" USPS box, and has lettering on it that tells people NOT to put actual mail in it.

## Saratoga Tri-County

Lion Dale Gathright, Jr. reporting

Saratoga Tri-County continues to collect paper and boxes for recycling at a local children's center, as well as collecting used eyeglasses for recycling.

We have currently launched an effort to find small grants for the club owned Community Building to make needed repairs and upgrades.

# Conway Noon

Lion Phylliss Fry reporting

The Conway Noon Lions Club recently received a \$600 donation from the Conway Walmart. The donated funds will be used to provide professional eye examinations and eye glasses to those in need.



Our club enjoyed hearing from District Governor Dean Rowland on November 1, 2022. DG Rowland shared district goals with the club and presented Membership certificates to 4 members with 25 years or more of service, as well as several chevrons to other members.

President Cox was honored as a 40 year member. The club was presented a certificate for 76 years of service to our community. During the governor's presentation as he was speaking about donating to LCIF, Lion Amy Reed opened her purse and gave her \$10 on the spot and challenged the rest of the members to give. 9 members came forth. The CNLC will encourage the rest of the members to make their donation by the end of

# Clarksville

Lions Tracy & Rita Price reporting



The Clarksville Lions Club takes up canned and food that is safe for distribution and places it in local Blessing Boxes. This is one of our Service Projects for World Hunger.



Our Lions Club had the privilege to do vision screening for Kindergarten and 1st grade at the Clarksville Primary School! We screened 364 students with 50 of those students needing to see an optometrist.

# Texarkana Evening

Lion Maxine Crittenden reporting

First Vice District Governor Toni Shockey attended the Texarkana Evening Lions meeting and installed their officers for 2022-23.



# Pea Ridge

Lion Judy Palmer reporting

We have a Zipline Facility at our local Neighborhood Market store. October 26 Pea Ridge Lions Club took a tour. Amazing! A few Fast Facts from the Tour:

- Top weight of a package is 5 pounds.
- Drones were designed originally to deliver pharmaceuticals to remote areas on the African continent.
- Zipline is subject to FAA regulations.
- There is an air traffic control tower.
- At this location, up to 6 drones can be in the air at one time.

This tour made us so proud of our little community. Experimenting and reaching new heights in aviation service.



For many years, the Pea Ridge Lions have participated each fall in the Annual Pea Ridge Mule Jump. The mule jump is a national event and draws hundreds of participants and fans from a dozen or more states. Each year the club receives donations for their free doughnuts, but their big money maker is their banner of paid sponsors.

## Lions Poinsettia Sale

Beautiful as decorations or gifts

6" or 8" local greenhouse grown poinsettias.  
(Red or White)

- Size: 6" potted poinsettia
- Cost: \$12.00
- Size: 8" (3 plants in one pot)
- Cost: \$20.00
- Order until Friday November 11th
- Delivery Date: Nov 25th – Nov 28th



Pea Ridge Lions Club  
For more information call 818-219-8203.

# Dardanelle

Lion Margaret Altemus reporting

The Dardanelle Lions Club recently added 6 new members with two other potential new members attending the last club meeting. The growth is the direct result of each member inviting community members to an introductory dinner meeting. This resulted in a 50% increase in the club's membership.

October saw the club participating in a partnership with the Regional Library for Trunk or Treat. Multiple community groups set up outside the library for a night of family fun, literacy awareness, and an outdoor movie. Over 400 children were part of the "treating" (no tricks) accompanied by parents, grandparents, family and friends. It was a great opportunity to answer "What is the Lions Club" and "What do you do?".



# Berryville

Submitted by the Zone Chair

The Berryville Club continues with their Flag program. It is time to contact and renew flag sponsors for the new year.



## STATE SERVICE PROJECTS



International Director Ernesto "T.J." Tijerina and his wife Juanita were visitors to Little Rock where the director gave the keynote address at the District 7-N annual convention recently. While in Little Rock, the director received a tour of the Arkansas Lions Eye Bank.

Established in 1986, the Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory at UAMS has since grown to one of the best in the country. Our eye bank serves the entire state of Arkansas and has been heavily supported by the Lions Clubs of Arkansas since its humble beginning.

The support generated by the Arkansas Lions includes the procurement of eye examination equipment, funding a cutting-edge research project, and providing funds for eye bank personnel to attend health fairs and other related events to enhance community awareness of the need for eye donation.



Geoff Brown, Eye Bank Director with ID Tijerina and DG



## World Services for the Blind

The World Service for the Blind Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of Eric Yarberry as our new CEO. Eric has served the past four and a half years as Director of Education and Training. He has been recognized as the next generation of leaders by his colleagues in the blindness field.



WSB CEO Eric Yarberry

An Arkansas native, Eric actively serves on various boards for organizations within the blindness community and brings to the table a real world of living with a visual impairment. He is president of the Little Rock Founders Lions Club. Eric graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in Professional and Technical Writing. He lives in Little Rock with his lovely wife Emily, and his Leader Dog, Hank.

After eight years of service at WSB, Sharon Giovinazzo will be joining the Light House for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco as their CEO. The Board of Directors and staff thank Sharon for her leadership and wish



## 2023 Oaklawn Outing and Third Quarterly Meeting

28 November 2022 – 15 March 2023

The third quarterly meeting of the Mid-South Lions will be Friday & Saturday, March 17-18, 2023, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. All Saturday meetings will be at the Hotel Hot Springs in Hot Springs, Arkansas. **Reservations at the hotel can be made by calling 877-623-6697 and using the code MID-SOUTH LIONS CLUB GROUP.** Room rates are \$129 plus tax per night and includes a full hot buffet breakfast.

*The highlight of the March meeting will be an outing at Oaklawn Gaming and Racing on Friday, March 17. Our group will be seated in the Carousel Terrace. The outing, which is \$60 per person, will feature an all-day buffet, non-alcoholic beverages, entry into the Carousel Terrace and a racing program. Our group will be featured in the third horse race of the day "The Mid-South Lions Dash" where we will have our officers on the track to present the winner's trophy.*

This meeting is extremely important to the organization and direction of Mid-South for 2022-2023. If you are on the board or a committee, please make every effort to be in attendance as we need to hear your voice as we move forward.

### LINK—OAKLAWN OUTING REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

[https://midsouthlions.churchcenter.com/login?return=https%3A%2F%2Fmidsouthlions.churchcenter.com%2Fregistrations%](https://midsouthlions.churchcenter.com/login?return=https%3A%2F%2Fmidsouthlions.churchcenter.com%2Fregistrations%2F)

Registration can only be made through the app. Copy and paste the above link to your browser for more information.



# Arkansas Lions MID-WINTER FORUM

**JANUARY 14, 2023**

**Arkansas Tech University - Russellville, Arkansas**

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

Art of Recognition: PCC Bill Heaston

How to Host and Event: PDG Roy Patterson

Technology: Bethany Howell

District & Vice District Governors: CC Don Young

Guiding Lion: PCC Myrna McGee

Community Impact / footprint: DGE Russell Bryan

## **GENERAL SESSION PANEL DISCUSSIONS;**

Membership: Panel

Fundraising: Panel

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST . LUNCH (Big selection!)  
50-50 RAFFLE (for ALERT) . SILENT AUCTION (for MD 7!)**

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
And Lions Fellowship!**



# Mid-Winter Information & Registration

Register before December 30th AND SAVE!



**Arkansas Lions**  
**Mid-Winter Leadership Forum**  
**January 14, 2023**  
**Arkansas Tech University – Rothwell Hall**  
**215 W. “O” Street**  
**Russellville, Arkansas 72801**

<b>A-NAME</b>			
Please circle one of the following: Lion    Lioness    Leo    Non-Member			
Club:			
Mailing Address:			
Primary Phone:		Special Dietary Restrictions:	
E-Mail:			
<b>B-NAME</b>			
Please circle one of the following: Lion    Lioness    Leo    Non-Member			
Mailing Address:			
Primary Phone:		Special Dietary Restrictions:	
E-Mail:			
<b>Accommodations:</b> <u>Please make your own reservations.</u> There are many hotels in Russellville: Holiday Inn Express, 300 E. Harrell Dr., Russellville, AR 72802, (479) 219-5152; Price \$102.60 for Lions			
<b>Registration Fee:</b> Your registration fee covers the cost of all Forum activities. Fee must be paid in full to participate in the Forum activities. <b>Please bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for the student food bank for a drawing! Please list dietary restrictions above (by phone no.)</b>			
Postmarked by:	<b>Early Bird -December 30</b>	<b>Postmarked After Dec.30 or on site</b>	<b>First-Timer</b>
	\$35	\$50	\$25
<b>Amount Due:</b>	\$	\$	\$
Please make check(s) payable to Lions Mid-Winter Forum. Mail registration form and check to Robert Harty, 17016 Lake Sequoyah Rd., Fayetteville, AR 72701			



# EVENTS

## DECEMBER

1 (Postmark) Peace Poster to CC

15 (Postmark) Peace Poster to LCI

## JANUARY

14 Mid Winter Leadership Forum, Russellville *Info in this issue*

## FEBRUARY

## MARCH

3 Lions Day at the UN (New York)

17-18 Mid-South Sight & Hearing quarterly meeting / Oaklawn outing, Hot Springs, AR

## APRIL

15 Lions Day at Mid-South Sight & Hearing—Hamilton Eye Institute

20-21 State Convention, Fayetteville. *Info in this issue*



**ARKANSAS LIONS STATE CONVENTION**

**APRIL 21-22, 2023**  
**FAYETTEVILLE**  
 Hilton Garden Inn

**SATURDAY'S CONVENTION EVENTS**  
 registration / snacks / opening / presentation of colors

- State projects
- Breakout sessions
- Discussions & exchanging ideas

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
 Past District Governors Association

- KEYNOTE SPEAKER
- SPECIAL GUESTS
- AWARDS

**50-50 Drawing**  
**Silent Auction**

**APRIL 21-22, 2023**

Friday afternoon:  
 Council of Governors Meeting

Friday evening:  
**BANQUET**  
 Black Tie Optional

Watch your Email for additional information and registration.

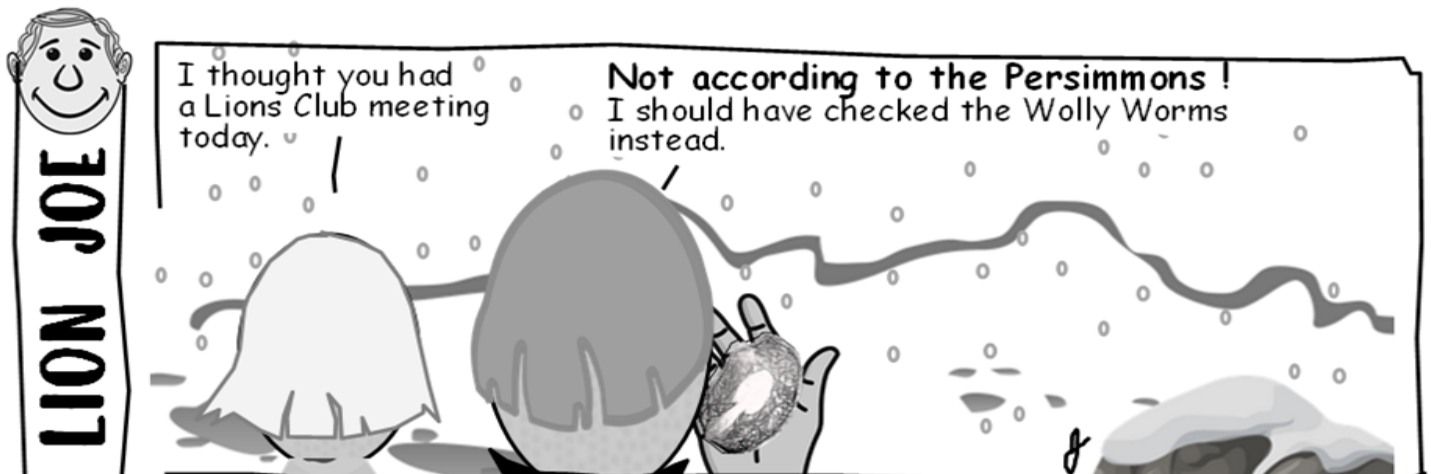
Sydney Bailey, Fayetteville Host Committee Chair



Can you unscramble the names of these Lions Clubs?

(Answers on photo board)

- ICLAOC ORKC** Lions Club—(District O)
- ULVLELSRLSLS** Lions Club—(District I)
- INWEER** Lions Club—(District O)
- XKAANETRK NNEEGVI** Lions Club (District L)
- UNAITOMN OMEH** Lions Club (District I)
- RLLCISAE** Lions Club (District N)
- EDS CAR** Lions Club (District N)
- EOHP VEGEINN** Lions Club (District L)



# The Little Rock Founders Lions Club



A 105 year history — Part 5

Compiled by Lion Bill Heaston with contributions from Lions Cassandra Williams and Betsy Barnes

## 1940-1949

The decade of the 40s was a busy period for the Lions of the Little Rock Club as well as the Lions in all the clubs in Arkansas. The major event in this decade was the adoption of the Lions of Arkansas first major state wide project.

When you think about the relationship between the Lions organization and World Services for the Blind (WSB), formally Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind (AEB), you need to go back to the early years of the twentieth century. It all started February 17, 1916 when the Little Rock Lions Club was organized. The Thirty-Nine men who met on that day at the Marion Hotel in Downtown Little Rock became charter members of the Downtown Little Rock Lions Club. Over the years, since that date, several events have occurred which have had an impact on Lions Clubs and the beginning of WSB.

The following year in 1917 a Chicago insurance man Melvin Jones, who was an active member of a local business club, wondered why local business clubs could not expand their horizons from purely business concerns to the betterment of the community and the world at large. Jones' efforts resulted in an organizational meeting in June of that year. The attendees issued a call for a Convention to be held on October 8-10, 1917 in Dallas, Texas to form an Association of Service Clubs. Thirty-Six delegates representing 22 business clubs from nine states answered the call. One of those business clubs was the Downtown Little Rock Lions Club and was represented at the Dallas Convention by H. T. Esterle.

The delegates present voted to take the name "Associations of Lions Clubs", a Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and the Lions Objects and Code of Ethics drafted. The colors Gold and Purple accepted and the Lions' emblem approved. Officers were elected for the new Association and St. Louis, Missouri was selected for the second Convention.

During the rest of 1917 and into 1918 the Little Rock Lions Club and other Clubs in America concentrated on projects to support the Nation's War efforts. A severe influenza epidemic hit the world and the United States in 1918-1919 which claimed so many lives. Few clubs were meeting and many were losing members and were delinquent in their dues. However, things started getting better as the World entered the "Roaring 20s".

The "Roaring 20s" were years of rapid membership growth, Lions Clubs being organized, more community service projects and a Challenge by Helen Keller for the Lions of the World. Helen Keller's eloquent appeal lit the flame that has blazed brilliantly ever since that Tuesday morning of June 30, 1925 at the Ninth Annual Convention of Lions International in Cedar Point, Ohio. Helen Keller closing remarks to the delegates at the Convention says it all:

"Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf blind children untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves "Knights of the Blind" in this crusade against darkness? I Thank You"

Helen Keller sat down beside Anne Sullivan her teacher and received a prolonged standing ovation from the delegates. The delegates later passed a resolution declaring "Sight Conservation and work for the Blind" one of Lions major activities. It is a living tribute to Helen Keller and the power of her talk at Cedar Point, Ohio in 1925 that today it is estimated that over 50% of the Lions Service Projects each year are in the field of sight.

The Little Rock Lions Club accepted the challenge and quickly adopted Sight Conservation thereafter as their major Service Activity. One of the sight projects they started in 1926 was an annual subscription of the Braille addition to the Readers Digest to the school library at Arkansas School for the Blind. Roy Kumpe, a student at the school, was designated by the school authorities to attend a Little Rock Lions meeting to formally express the gratitude of all the students. In his book "The Lion's Share" Roy Kumpe tells about that meeting.

"The club met at the YMCA building at sixth and Broadway and I remember being impressed by these business and professional men who not only

helped those in need but seemed to have so much fun. They introduced me to the "Tail Twister" and other Lions and I left that meeting with high hopes that someday I, might become a part of the Lions fellowship and commitment to service". Roy Kumpe's hopes and dream came true four-teen years later in 1940 when he was invited to become a member of the Little Rock Lions Club.

The Little Rock Lions Club prospered rapidly during the decade of the forties in service to the blind and in membership growth. One of those new members in the Little Rock Lions Club invited to join in 1940 was Roy Kumpe. It did not take long for Lion Roy to fit right in to the Clubs activities, community involvement and progress within the leadership of the Club. His big opportunity came in July 1945 when the new President appointed him Chairman of the Sight Conservation Committee. This Committee had not been very active other than the occasional glasses for local grade school students but Lion Roy had other ideas for the committee. He proposed that the Little Rock Lions Club promote a State wide Lions effort to establish a Readjustment Center for the Adult Blind. The idea met with opposition but with the support of several of the Committee members and the new President the Sight Committee voted to recommend the establishment of the center as the Clubs major service activity. Lion Roy knew this was the first step and it still had to be approved by the clubs Major Activities Committee and the Board of Directors before being submitted before the general membership. After a lot of discussions, debating and overcoming opposition over a period of several months, the proposal was accepted and received the backing of the club membership. A major hurdle had been overcome but a bigger one was to obtain the acceptance of the idea by the Lions of Arkansas at the up-coming State Convention. It took a lot of one-on-one meetings with Lions attending the State Convention in Hot Springs in May 1946 and it paid off. The Resolution was adopted with very little discussion and the Lions of Multiple District-7 Arkansas had their first Lions State Project.

The Little Rock Lions Club members immediately went to work to raise the initial \$10,000 for the Center. They met that commitment and Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind (AEB), now World Services for the Blind (WSB) became a reality in May 1947 and the rest is history.

The Lions of Arkansas and other states have supported WSB with Donations, Leadership on the Board of Directors and Foundation Board and Promoting WSB throughout the World. Three Former Lions International Presidents from Arkansas, Edward Barry, Dr. James Fowler and Finis Davis helped spread the message on WSB programs throughout the world during and after their terms as International Presidents. Another event which was started in 1961 to help promote WSB was Visiting Lions Day (VLD). VLD was initially for Lion District Governors in Arkansas but was eventually expanded to all Lions as well as the surrounding states of Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. VLD expanded to include a reception at the host hotel on Friday night, a breakfast the following morning with a feature speaker, busses to carry the visiting Lions and guest to WSB, tours of the facilities, photos taken of guest at the Lions Statute, programs by the staff and trainees, opportunity to learn to walk blindfolded with a white cane, guest speaker at lunch along with entertainment provide by the trainees and the visitors were provided promotional material to take back for presentations in their states. At the end of the day before going back to the hotel for another reception the individual Lion Clubs had an opportunity to present a check to WSB from their club. This was called "The Parade of Checks" and would amount to several thousand dollars. VLD was stopped in 2011 by the Board of Directors due to the increasing cost of this event.

Yes, it can be said: The Lions of MD-7 Arkansas the surrounding states, Lions International and the world Lions have had an IMPACT on WSB since 1947.

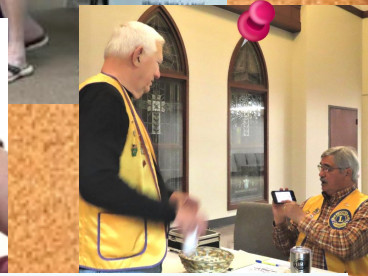
Keller, Helen "Knights of the Blind" Presentation June 30, 1925, Ninth Lions International Convention Cedar Point, Ohio

Kumpe, Roy, Written With Jim Lester "The Lion's Share", A History of Arkansas Enterprises For the Blind, Rose Publishing Company, Copyright 1983

# PHOTOS



Ed & Smith went on a cruise to Canada. While there he met a group of Canadian Lions. There are lions everywhere!



*Tail Twister:*  
 Calico Rock  
 Russellville  
 Weiner  
 Texarkana  
 Evening  
 Mountain  
 Home  
 Carlisle  
 Des Ark  
 Hope  
 Evening



*Happy Holidays*

CITY PARK