




Photo submitted by Sandy Zeigler

ELITE LINEUP — Indiana Lions took some time at the State Convention to assemble for a group shot at the IU Memorial Stadium in Bloomington Friday, May 12. The Lions wearing the official “Red Coats” (except for the lady on the far right) are the outgoing 2022-2023 Dis-

trict Governors. They will continue as DGs until July 1. Wearing their “Red Coats” in front from left are District A DG Nicolas Gonzalez, District B DG Sandy Zeigler, District F DG Linda Scott, and District G DG Brian Thomas. About straight back in the last row is District D DG Eric Schuman, more on the right

side toward the middle wearing sunglasses is District C DG Bob Hrdy. Missing from this photo, because of his work obligations, is District E DG Don Russ. In the front row in the checkered shirt and tan slacks is State Convention Chair Lion PDG Mark Clark. Standing behind him in the dark suit coat is the other State Convention Chair, PDG Gary Ochs.



Nick's Notes

By PID Nick Xinopoulos
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Thank yous and congratulations all around

My Fellow Lions,
I would like to send out a huge thank you and congratulations to the District E Co-Chairs PDG Mark Clark and PDG Gary Ochs and the entire State Convention

Committee for an outstanding job in organizing our MD25 Convention. Our International President Brian E. Sheehan and First Lady Lion Lori enjoyed their time with us in Bloomington and they truly appreciated the warm Hoosier welcome from all those of you who attended the State Convention.

IP Sheehan informed us that Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation will now be under the umbrella of Lions International. Our motto will remain “We Serve,” and we are introducing a new tagline, “Serving a World in Need.” This new brand will roll out over the next few years. You can read more about this at lionsclubs.org.

Congratulations to PDG Dr. Herb Stevens, who received the Indiana Distinguished Lion of the Year Award. PDG Herb has dedicated many years to the Lions and is very worthy of this prestigious honor.

The Pre-Council meeting was held June 3. I would like to thank Council Chair Scott Smith for his outstanding leadership and the Multiple District Council of Governors for their leadership.
(Continued on page 2)

In their “Purple Jackets” are the Indiana Lions District Governors Elect. They will become District Governors starting July 1 when they take their oaths to serve.


In the center of the front row (wearing white) is the Indiana State Office Secretary PCC Sue Topf. In the front row beside the Purple Jackets is Betty Yunker, wife of Lion Robert, who is beside her in



FUN GROUP

— The District Governors showed with gusto at the State Convention that their jobs aren't all work and no play.

‘Twas a memorable privilege to serve!



Council Chairperson's Corner

By CC Scott Smith
council.chairmd25@inlions.org

ships I have made this past year and look forward to continuing to watch those friends grow. I want to thank a small group of friends particularly who have been by my side the entire year and beyond: PDG Jeff Locke, CS Angela Locke, PCC Mitch Semans, Lion Wendy Semans, and most of all, Lion Christine Woodward. Each of you made the great times even greater, and you

made the difficult times a little less difficult. You have not gotten rid of me yet. I accepted the position of GAT Vice Area Leader for LCI. This area will include Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan. I will be concentrating on Indiana specifically, so I will once again be making visits and enjoying the fellowship with the Lions
(Continued on page 2)



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Roars from A



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A wonderful year with wonderful people working wonders

By GOV. NICK GONZALEZ

Greetings, fellow Lions of 25A! It was a pleasure seeing some of you at our Indiana Lions State Convention. The sweltering heat was nice, except when you're dressed in full uniform.

For those who have never been to a State Convention, I highly recommend it. You can boost your Lions knowledge while meeting new Lions from all over the state. Time sure does fly fast.

One minute I am in District Governor training, the next minute I am writing my last article as a DG.

This was a fun and wild ride. I have met plenty of fun people and learned a lot along the way. I have done my best to be an exceptional leader. I have been nowhere near perfect, but I will grow from my mistakes.

I was hoping to introduce a new service project to our group. Food packing events are fun and

I was looking forward to building a new relationship with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. My first attempt didn't work because I didn't know the signup rules and the event filled up. The second time I did everything right, but the Food Bank had to cancel the shift a few days before the event. For anyone who has volunteered at Pack Away Hunger events, the Food Bank experience is quite similar.

As we close out this Lions year,



Door Village Lions host senior citizens bingo, refreshments and humor

Door Village Lions recently hosted senior citizens bingo, refreshments and humor

COVID-19 may have disrupted the long running Door Village Lions Senior Citizens Christmas dinner the club had hosted for well over 20 years, but Lion members resourcefully came up with another approach to honoring the many seniors in and around Door Village who made the ever-growing village the charming and inviting community what it is today.

Lion Joe Pahs, who was born and raised in Door Village, said, "It is the people - and especially the seniors who settled here, raised their families here, and made it an exceptional place to live - who are the ones club members wanted to show their thanks to by formerly preparing a Christmas dinner every year

and by treating them to a free bingo and refreshments event this year."

The event began with Committee Chairperson Lion Bonnie Olson welcoming all seniors and immediately inviting them to have a drink of lemonade, coffee or water. The bingo game started right after the welcome, with Lion Gene Flickinger calling the numbers and throwing in a lot of his favorite jokes. Bingo winners, one after another, picked up the wrapped packages and proceeded to sit back down and try to win again. Lions Cindy Polito, Nancy Weaver, Cindy Fischer Sam Polito, and Dennis Fischer helped Lion Gene verify winners, and made sure glasses and cups were always refilled.

Midway through the festivities Lion Cindy Polito stopped the

games to invite seniors to a generous display of cookies, cakes, fresh fruit, and cheesecake. The bingo games then continued until all the prizes were gone. Lion Sue Kaiser thanked all for coming and asked if they would like to do the same thing again next year. Many were in favor and were invited to come again next year in April. Members were pleased with the thanks and the favorable comments offered by guests, and members are always asking those who enjoy giving a kindness to others to join the club and help in the many projects the club conducts each and every year to benefit the community and each other. To join or learn about Lion activities, call George Morley at (219) 575-3575 or Lion Bonnie Olson at (219) 879-5670.

Photos submitted by Cindy Fischer and George Morley.

I encourage you to try new projects. Be willing to listen to the ideas of your newer Lions.

You all work wonders! You have seen needs in your community and found ways to help. You have invited people to join you in service and encouraged them to be Lions. You have looked after your fellow members in your club, keeping them up to date and lending a helping hand. You are

wonderful people! You continue to embrace the spirit of Lionism.

I am honored to have been your leader this year; you will be in great hands as DGE Stephen leads you into the new year. Thank you all for a wonderful year. In the words of International President Brian Sheehan, "Together we can!" I can honestly say, "Together we did!"



10TH ANNUAL HUNT— The Mill Creek Community Lions held their 10th annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8, at the Indian Trail Elementary School. Over 50 children six months to 10 years old participated in the event. Eye screening for amblyopia on those six years and younger was also performed.

SCREENERS — Pictured are Kevin and Connie Roe with President Barbara Berby. The Roes did the amblyopia screenings at our Easter Egg Hunt April 8.



HIGH SCHOOL HIGHJINKS — Students from Ogden Smith High School added a youthful felicity to the Easter egg hunt.

DONATION — The Ogden Davis Leos also made a charitable donation to a worthy cause.



The Hoosier Lion

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Thank yous

(Continued from page 1)

We would like to congratulate Council Chair Elect Bob Hrdy, the Governors Elect, the 1st Vice and 2nd Vice District Governors Elect and wish them a successful year.

Our International Convention in Boston is fast approaching. We hope many of you have registered and plan to attend. There is still time to register. As an International Convention Delegate, you will need the proper documentation and a government picture ID in order to vote.

Your club secretary can assign you as a delegate through the MYLCI website under the My Lions Club tab and then print out the "Club Delegate Confirmation." You should also receive an email from Lions International with your confirmation number.

Your club must be in good standing for your members to vote!

At our 2022 International Convention in Montreal, Canada, Lions from around the world voted for an increase in dues beginning July 1, 2023. International dues will increase by \$3 on July 1, 2023, with another \$2 increase on July 1, 2024, and a \$2 increase on July 1, 2025. The last dues increase was in July of 2011.

A note from Immediate Past International President Douglas X. Alexander stated, "The proposed adjustment will help cover our costs and allow us to suitably serve our members' needs. With that said, the Board of Directors did not take this issue lightly, nor are we minimizing the value of each dollar our members contribute."

He also wrote, "A dues adjust-

ment will allow Lions International to provide improved support to Lions and to continue to invest in improving programs and digital products such as our website and MYLION. It will also allow us to invest in new programs such as the Learning Management System (LMS), development of new curriculum, such as digital literacy, training videos, global advertising, marketing automation, digital and video storytelling and other tools and initiatives that will enhance our impact, our brand, and our membership."

'Twas a

(Continued from page 1)
of Indiana. If any Club, Zone, Region or District would like me to present to you the merits of

This year the USA/Canada Leadership Forum is in Reno, Nevada. This Forum is an opportunity to participate in outstanding seminars that give us ideas how to improve our quality of service, ideas on how to increase our membership, an opportunity to hear motivational speakers, and to connect with Lions in the United States and Canada.

I wish each and every one of you and your families a healthy and fun summer. As always, it has been a pleasure to be your Lions International Liaison.

the GMA program and how it can help you grow, then please reach out to me.
Thank you all and God Bless!



Roars from B



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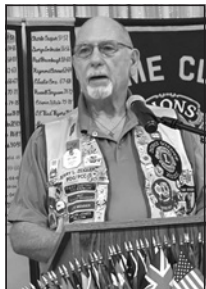
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Two International Leadership Awards

By GOV. SANDRA ZEIGLER

To limit all the wonderful Lions in District 25B to just two for this prestigious award was a tough decision.

My first recipient to be awarded the International Leadership Medal was the Lion who first introduced me to how Lions serve others. Over the years, I have watched PCC Jerry Zeigler's leadership. I was so proud to be able to award him this "International Leadership Medal."



PCC Jerry and I are shown in the above photo with International President Brian Sheehan, who presented these awards.

My second candidate to receive this prestigious award was my District 25 B Cabinet Secretary, Lion Carol Bittner. She is also the President of the Decatur Lions Club.



In the above photo, shown from left are PID Nick Xinopoulos, IP Brian Sheehan, Award Winner CS Carol Bittner, and DG Sandy Zeigler.



Heritage Lions give much-needed items to Charis House

Submitted by Lion Rick Boys

This past month, the Heritage Lions Club has been collecting various items needed for the Charis House in Fort Wayne. The Charis House is a unit of the Rescue Mission that helps women and children facing a homeless crisis, providing a safe haven for women and children as they recover from trauma, addiction, and self-defeating choices they have made in the past. The program provides spiritual, emotional, physical, and educational needs for these women and children.

When the Lions contacted the Charis House, they expressed some specific needs of these women as they enter the facility, as they usually bring nothing of their own. These include leggings and T-shirts, which they can wear both to sleep in and wear during the day. They also needed towels, washcloths, and personal hygiene products.

The Lions were able to purchase 50 pairs of new leggings, 75 T-shirts, 24 towels, and 36 washcloths. They also purchased several bottles of shampoo, con-



MUCH-NEEDED— The committee for the Charis House project are shown from left: Lions Jan Hockemeyer, Gerry Franke, Pam Birch, Cindy Wolf, and Dan Will.

ditioners, lotions, deodorants, razors, and fingernail clippers. The Heritage Lions thank Thri-

vent for the Community Impact Card to kick-start the project and Arlen Horwood, DDS, who donated several oral hygiene products, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and dental floss. Charis House expressed their gratitude for these much-needed items.

NEW OFFICERS

At the Heritage Lions Club's final meeting of the season, Past District Governor Roger Cash performed the installation of new officers for the 2023-2024 term. The new officers are: President Jan Hockemeyer, First Vice President Jack Clear, Second Vice President Cindy Wolf, Treasurer Marvin Sorg, Secretary Rick Boys, Tailwister Tom Wolf, Lion Tamer Dan Will, and board of directors Allan Doctor, Gerry Franke, Ken Sorg, and Larry Smith.

Past District Governor Cash recognized Tom Wolf and Jack Clear for gaining two new members each during the year, and Jan Hockemeyer for gaining five new members. They each were awarded a pin. A chevron depicting these gains in membership was given to the Club for the Heritage Lions flag. PDG Roger Cash also awarded Lion Jack Clear with the Melvin Jones Award, the highest recognition a club member can receive, for his service to the Heritage Lions Club.

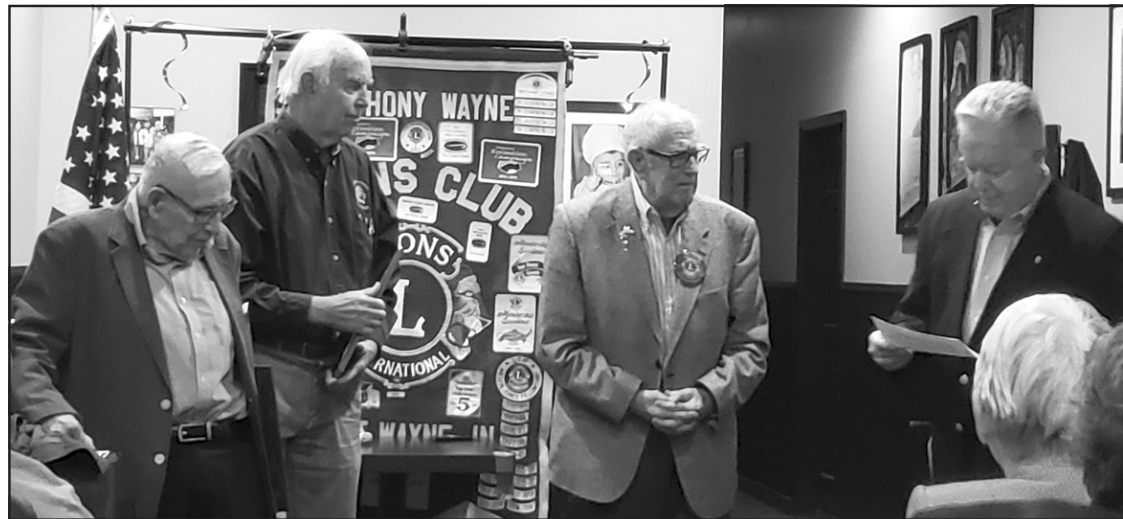
President Tom Wolf individually thanked each officer from this past year for all their hard work. He was proud to say the Heritage Lions had a very successful year and were able to distribute over \$14,000 in funds to many local causes and Lions projects. The meeting concluded with delicious fudge brownies and cookies brought in by Cindy Wolf and Jan Hockemeyer.



HARDLY CHICKEN — Kendallville Lion Mike Pasquali encourages drivers-by to stop and buy BBQ chicken. Profits are used to fund community projects. Submitted by Lion Harold Sollenberger.



GIVING IMPORTANT INFO — Area Zone Chair Steve Kramer, left, and fellow Lion Dave Blackman help the Kendallville Lions hand out diabetes information and collect over \$600 for the American Diabetes Association. Submitted by Lion Harold Sollenberger.



50 YEARS AND GOING STRONG — Lions Dick Stoner, Dennis Noak, and John Whitmore received 50 Years of Service Charter Membership awards from PDG Don Cooper. The Anthony Wayne Lions Club celebrated its 50th anniversary May 2 with Lions from around the district and club members. Submitted by Lion Billy Jones.

(District B continued on page 7)



Roars from C



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Let's finish strong!

By GOV. BOB HRDY

As I wrap up my year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Lions of Indiana for their hospitality, friendship, and their service.

I also want to thank my fellow District Governors for a great year. We've had some ups and downs (mostly ups) and formed lifelong friendships. We hopefully kept the train on the tracks and moved forward in a positive manner. I want to give a special shout out to our Council Chairman for his guidance and leadership. I want to express my appreciation for the Team C Leadership group. Thanks for all the hard work you have put in this year, as well as the support you have given me, our District, our State, and our Organization.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Meet your NEW Council Chair, Bob Hrdy, District C Governor. He will begin his duties July 1 as the new Council Chair. DG Bob was elected by the sitting Governors to carry out his duties until June 30, 2024.

Congratulations to DG Bob, Lion Vicky and Leader Dog Finn.

Bob was introduced to the importance of service to others at an early age. Both his parents were in the Army — he jokes that he did his military service the first six years of his life, including two tours in Germany.

Even after his parents retired, they were involved in service organizations — Boy Scouts, International Order of Foresters, the Elks, etc. He was always volunteering as a coach or helper for his kids' sport teams and helped organize kids games for Vacation Bible School at his church.

Bob received his first Leader Dog, Alex, in 2008 due to his decreasing vision. He was so impressed with the Leader Dog program he wanted to find a way to give back. He met Lion Dave Ehlers at one of his son's baseball games where Dave was a vocal supporter of the team. Dave invited him to join the

FINDING FREEDOM — Brooke Coleman was the guest speaker Sunday, May 14, at the Key Member Brunch presented by Indiana Lions For Leader Dog.

Brooke was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa at the age of 7. She shared her journey into blindness and told us how her life of freedom opened up when she became partners with her Leader Dog Sampson.

If you would like a Leader Dog Trustee to share the story of Leader Dog with your Club, Zone or business please contact:

Gail Robbins, ILFLD Secretary
gail45robbins@gmail.com

I will see you are connected with a trustee in your area.

Shown from left are Leader Dog Sampson, Brooke Coleman, ILFLD Chair Pauline Ulrey and LD Satch after the Key Member Brunch at the 2023 State Convention in Bloomington.



NEW COUNCIL CHAIR — DG Bob Hrdy was chosen to serve as Council Chair for the 2023-2024 Lions Year.

Lafayette Lions in 2009.

Bob has been active in many different roles within the Lafayette Lions: President, Vice President, Tail Twister, Leader Dog Trustee, Zone Chair, 2nd VDG. He is always willing to help any way he can.

In addition to Lions Club, he is on the board of Lafayette youth baseball and volunteers at his local elementary school.

He has received several recognitions for his hard work on behalf of others: a Presidential Leadership medal in recognition of his efforts to raise money for the Leader Dog expansion, a W.P. Woods award, and a Bison award from a local financial investment company that recognizes citizens who invest in the community.



we did! Lion Vicky and I had a great time talking with IP Brian and Lion Lori Sheehan. IP Brian gave an inspiring presentation.

His energy level as always rivals the Energizer Bunny!
Thank you again and as always, Vision Thru Darkness.

MOVING UP

— Thanks to the Clinton Lions Club, Jackson Howard from South Vermillion High School will get some help with his college. Jackson is headed to Rose Hulman in pursuit of an engineering degree.

Pictured from left are Clinton Lion Dean Strohm, Jackson Howard, and Lion Doc Rutan.



SHOWING CARE — Caring-Cases and hygiene kits were made up at the State Convention by Lions and Bosma Enterprise volunteers, to be delivered to high schools, churches, caring centers, and domestic abuse centers all over the State of Indiana by our District Governors. The Caring-Cases are partly sponsored by the Indiana Lions Foundation.

PDG Kathy Lozier, left, and Lion Gail Robbins are the Co-Chairs of Caring-Cases. Not shown is Jennifer Drapalik. Photo by PID Doug Lozier.



MIXED GROUP OF SCREENERS — Shown are some of the people involved in vision screening at Burnetts Creek, including Lions club members, nurses, and community volunteers.



NEW WAY TO PLAY — Zionsville Lions held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new playground piece. The \$100,000 project was provided by a Community Enrichment Grant from the town of Zionsville, a contribution from the Ripberger Family Foundation, and a donation from our Friends of the Park.

"One of the most gratifying ways we serve the community of Zionsville is through maintaining and updating Lions Park so community members of all ages can gather and enjoy the outdoors in a welcoming space year after year," said Lion Gene Thompson, ZLC Park Director. Shown are Zionsville Lions, Mayor of Zionsville and Town Grant Committee.

Free ice cream to the Hoosier Burn Camp

By PDG Pat Short, Lafayette Lions Club Secretary

The Lafayette Lions Club provided free soft serve ice cream from our Lions Ice Cream trailer to attendees at this year's Hoosier Burn Camp Visitors Day 25th Anniversary. This is held annually at the YWCA Camp Tecumseh east of Brookston.

Club members who participated

were Lion Carl Landskron (Chair), Lions Diane and Steve Haby (served ice cream) and Lions Kathy Rose and Pat Short who did face painting. Lions Charlie Short and Charles Roth provided trailer transportation to and from the event.

In addition, fire station appliances were provided by Zionsville, West Lafayette, and Seymour fire departments.

An estimated 2,000 attendees (families, alumni and children) were there at no cost to enjoy all kinds of fun, including a picnic lunch and lots of ice cream!

Hoosier Burn Camp programs help burn survivors from infancy through young adulthood build self-esteem and realize their

(Continued on page 5)

(District C continued on page 5)



Roars from D



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Passing the torch

By GOV. ERIC SCHUMAN

The few, the proud, the Lions are here!

Our Council will be passing

the torch, as it were, to our First Vice Governors or actually the Governors Elect. Personally, I've met many wonderful Lions and truly enjoyed traveling

around the District and state.

Membership is always important and it takes all of us working on it nonstop. I know we can do it and will come back in both membership and service. As Col. Jimmy Doolittle, commander of the Tokyo raid in WWII, said, "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

I've been called an "old timer Lion" and you know what? I am and I make no apologies for it. I have a degree in marketing and I know and understand the market changes and we must change with it.

Lionism has changed and evolved. Some of it is good, but we should also hang on to some of our traditions of keeping our club meetings FUN. Each club needs to have an active Tail Twister, a program at every meeting that lasts no more than 20 minutes, and we should have a meal at both meetings also. These are the things that encourage the attendance of our members and keeps the meetings fun and then they will return.

So for the second time in my 45 years as a Lion, I bid adieu as a District Governor, and thank you for allowing me to serve in that capacity.

And remember the words of our



CLEAN STREETS — On Saturday, April 15, the Noblesville Lions Club provided spring street cleaning in the city. The group met for breakfast at 8 a.m. and then the work began. Lion Ron Williamson is Chairman of this event.

Shown from left are Lions Walt Scheid, Tim Baker, Steve Morgan, Bill Meyer, Ron Williamson and Dave Marsh. Not pictured are Lions Mark Bachar, Jim Sparks, George Long and Steve Shaw.



RAMPING IT UP — Russiaville Lions are serving their community. They worked with Servants at Work (SAWS) Ministry to build a wheelchair entrance platform for a disabled veteran in Tipton. The construction team consisted of Greg Cunningham, Bob Hill (SAWS leader), Johnny Bowers, Mike Lantz and Frank Faulkner. Lions can accomplish more when partnering with other Lions Clubs and even other nonprofit organizations, such as SAWS.

Shown from left are Bob Hill, Frank Faulkner, Doug Cunningham, Johnny Bowers and Mike Lantz.

PLAQUE OF GRATITUDE — DGE Julia Kozicki presents DG Eric Schuman with his DG Plaque thanking him for a great year.



LEADERS — Anderson Lion Katherine Holtzleiter and Carmel Lion Christine Woodward were surprised at the Indiana State Lions Convention when they each received the International Presidential Leadership Medals from International President Brian Sheehan.

Woodward is shown with PID Nick Xinopoulos, left, IP Brian Sheehan, and DG Eric Schuman.

Holtzleiter is shown with IP Brian Sheehan, left, and DG Eric Schuman.



More from District C — Free

(Continued from page 4)

highest potential as they overcome the pain and trauma associated with severe burn injury.

Worry-free environments are created where young burn survivors can just be one of the kids while they develop the personal strength to reach their highest potential.

Through the monetary generosity of donors and emotional generosity of volunteers, character-building experiences are provided at no cost to campers and their families.

Besides fire

departments from across the state, there were two helicopters - one army rescue and a IU life-line - about 100 motorcycles, and lots more.



FINAL MEETING — The final cabinet meeting for 25D's DG Eric Schuman was held Saturday, May 27, in Gaston. While there, DG Eric inducted new members into the Gaston Lions Club and received his DG Plaque thanking him for a great year.



GLEANERS — Noblesville and Carmel Lions continue to work together monthly to help pass out food to those in need with Gleaners at Six Points Church in Sheridan.

Shown are Carmel Lions Bob Yunker and Lane Sims; along with Noblesville Lions Jerry Baker, Duke Miller, Carol Miller, Jeff Kozicki, March Bachar, and Ron Williamson.



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Roars from E

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Thanks and God bless you all

By GOV. DON RUSS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Lions in District 25 E on the State Convention Committee for all their hard work and efforts in pulling off a successful Convention. A special thanks to our Co-chairs Mark Clark and Gary Ochs for their leadership and guidance. It was a most enjoyable Convention. Thanks once again for everyone's time and participation.

This will be my last article for the Hoosier Lion as District Governor of 25 E. There are so many people in MD25 I would like to thank for their help along my journey. I am sure I will forget someone. Let me just say, Thanks and God Bless you all.

To all the Lions in 25E, once again thank you for all your help and kindness to me this last year. Being able to visit the clubs and meet all of you was a

most enjoyable time for me and my wife Sue. We look forward to working with you in future Lion endeavors.

I close by thanking my wife Sue for her love and patience with me this past year. YOU ARE THE BEST.



INTERNATIONAL AWARD — PDG Lee Cuba receives an International Presidents Leadership Award. Lions International President Brian Sheehan, left, presents the medal to PDG Cuba at the State Convention in Bloomington Saturday, May 13, for his service as District Governor 2021-22. Looking on is outgoing DG Don Russ as PID Linda Tincher, in back, reads the citation. Photo by PDG Bill Willis.

Bedford Lions complete construction of 300th ramp

By Lion Jim Fisher,
Bedford Lions Club

Bedford Lions Club members started building wheelchair ramps in 1989, but they didn't realize how successful a project it would become. The ramp building project has not only been one of our most popular projects, it has been one of our most satisfying for members in the long history of the club.

They also didn't imagine the number of appreciative individuals they would assist and the impact the project would have on those people's lives.

In July of 1989 the Lions heard about a local woman who was confined to a wheelchair and had been able to get out of her home only once in six years. Building her a ramp would be a great World Service Day Project for the Lions to donate time and serve their community. The Lions decided to construct a wooden wheelchair ramp from her porch to the ground to improve her quality of life.

The first ramp, which was 18 feet long, was made from plywood sheets placed on wooden framing covered with carpeting and this type construction was continued until 2004, when the Lions started using 5/4 deck boards with no carpeting to cover the wooden framing and that construction continues today.

There are no professional carpenters among the Lions who work on the ramps, but you couldn't tell that by the great work turned out by this caring group. In most cases they are senior citizens taking pride in aiding other senior citizens.

Since that first ramp, members have now donated their time and effort in building 300 wheelchair ramps and 50 handrails of various lengths, donating more than 11,600 hours to people in need in the Bedford area. In the last 10 years the Lions ramp builders have averaged building 15 ramps per year.

The Lions always donate all the labor in the construction of the



TEAMWORK — Shown in photo are local Lions from three Lawrence County Lions Clubs who helped build ramp No. 300 for the Bedford Lions Club. From left are Ken Brumbaugh (Bedford), Dan Chambers (Mitchell), Kevin Stailey (Fayetteville), Barry Strong (Bedford), Bob Ruble (Bedford), George Gabel (Bedford), Phil Mitchell (Bedford), and Jon Heichelbech (Bedford). Don Turpen (Bedford) and Charlie Drake (Bedford) also helped but were not in the photo.

ramps and the club will contribute a portion of expenses toward the required building materials from its ramp building fund, if the family is unable to afford them. Over the years the Lions ramp building fund has received assistance from various individuals, many local churches, organizations, and other grant sources in the community.

Lengths of the ramps have ranged from 8 feet to 86 feet with many platforms, direction changes, and sturdy handrails. Most ramps are finished in a day with an average of six to 10 Lions working four to six hours each to complete a ramp. One 86-foot ramp built in 2015 took two days and 164 man-hours to complete.

The Bedford Lions Club was honored in 2000 with a story and photo in an issue of "The Lion," the official magazine of Lions Clubs International, about their ramp building project. In addition the local club in 2002 received an award from their Lions Club District for the Lions District Most Outstanding Project and later that year was honored at the

Indiana Lions Club's State Convention with a Lions Club's State of Indiana Activities Award for the best Lions project in the state. The Bedford Lions Club were also asked to have an informational booth at the 2011 Indiana Lions Club's State Convention to guide other Lions Clubs in the state how to build wheelchair ramps in their communities.

Various dedicated Lions have served as the ramp project chairmen over the years and along with present chairman Ken Brumbaugh have all done a fantastic job of living the Lions motto "We Serve." Lion Brumbaugh summarized this project very well in saying, "We all really enjoy the camaraderie of working together for someone in need. This is a great way to serve our community through the Lions Club. We all have a warm feeling in our hearts when a ramp is finished and the person we built it for uses it for the first time. That person's smile makes all the hard work worth it and gives us the incentive to help the next person in need by building another ramp."

FIRST ONE — PDG Dr. Herb Stevens of the Paoli Meridian Lions Club receives the Indiana Lions Foundation Distinguished Lion Award during the Indiana State Lions Convention May 13 at Bloomington. At left is Lion Annette Stevens. Nine Lions from throughout the Hoosier State were nominated for the prestigious award. Lion Herb is the first Lion from southern Indiana District 25-E to win it. He organized seven new Clubs while serving as 25-E District Governor in 1987-88. Photo by PDG Bill Willis.



QUIZ TIME — Lion (Dr.) Joe Ellis, French Lick-West Baden Lions Club (25-E), gives a prediabetes questionnaire to a Jay C Store patron during the club's annual diabetes project day May 9. Three club members passed out copies of "Diabetes is a Serious Disease," which asks nine questions to determine if a person is prediabetic. More than a third of American adults have prediabetes but 80% don't know it. Photo by PDG Bill Willis.



TOO MANY CHILDREN — Indiana Lions Cancer Control Fund president Lion Bev Coombs of the Decatur Lions Club presents a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Jennifer Belsky, right, following her Riley Children's Foundation presentation on childhood cancer at the State Convention in Bloomington May 13. Dr. Belsky said her research project is aimed at reducing the 78% of children treated for cancer who subsequently develop neuropathy. The Cancer Control Fund approved a 2023 grant for \$25,000 for the Riley project to help reduce neuropathy in young cancer patients. Later in the evening, Lion Coombs received the International President's Leadership Medal. Photo by PDG Bill Willis.



"We Serve" takes place on many levels

By PDG Bill Willis

The Lions Clubs International motto is "We Serve," which to Lions means selfless service to others in need in our local communities. The French Lick-West Baden Lions Club, founded in 1950, has practiced that motto for over 70 years by giving for international, national, state and local humanitarian causes. But recently club members showed their dedication to a fellow Lion

when Club President Bill Willis had a severe allergic reaction to the pollen count, came down with bronchitis and could not mow his lawn. It was a mess! Club members Jim Springer, wife Royce, and Lion Willard Owen went to the Willis home and mowed and trimmed the lawn. Their unexpected application of "We Serve" brought a grateful tear of appreciation to the Willis home for the expression of genuine friendship! We Serve!



ESSAY PARTICIPANTS — The topic for the essay in the Fayetteville Community Lions Club Essay Contest is "What Serving Others Means To Me."

The winner received a plaque, and their name is added to a plaque displayed at the school. The winner and his family were invited to attend a club meeting and asked to read their essay to the club members.

Shown are the 5th grade class of essay contest participants at Lawrence County Independent Schools in Fayetteville.



Roars from F



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Keep shining with service

By GOV. LINDA SCOTT

As we move closer to the new Lion's year beginning, I have so many thoughts. We have completed our State Convention. What a great time we had. Our International President was there! I got to visit and see so many friends. I did some shopping and visited

Free health and vision van for whoever needs it

By Lion Bradley Nolan

Several years ago the Seymour Noon Lions where gifted the health and vision van from District F. The agreement was that if we ever got to a point we no longer had a use for the van that we would offer it to another Lions club, district, or project.

We have gotten to that point. We would like to offer the van to someone who may have a use for it.

It is in decent mechanical shape. It does need a new A/C unit, and the paint on the outside is looking pretty rough. Anyone who would like more information can contact Lion Brad Nolan at (812)569-1886 (phone or text) or treas.seymournoon@inlions.org



RISING SUN — Rising Sun Lion Chris Wallace receives a membership chevron.

the displays for our many projects. I attended seminars where I learned so much!

It is good to be a lifelong learner. Many things open to you when you listen and learn about others. Sometimes we need to think outside the box to move forward. Change can be for the better. Try new things!

I want to congratulate all the DGEs and wish them a great year for their year as Governor.

Congratulations also to the First and Second Vice District Governors. Enjoy your time. Your time to be Governor will be here before you know it. Time flies when you are having fun and that is what happened to me. I had so much fun getting to meet so many Lions and see so many great things being accomplished in communities. I have a few clubs left to visit this month and I am looking forward to it. I can't believe

COOMBS MEDAL — President Sheehan, PID Nick Xinopoulos, and DG Linda present Lion Bev Coombs a Leadership Medal.



CROUCH MEDAL — President Sheehan, PID Nick Xinopoulos, and DG Linda present Lion Angie Crouch a Leadership Medal.



MADISON INSTALLATION — Installing officers in the Madison Lions Club.

how quickly this year went by!

I want to thank all the clubs for all you are doing and will continue to do in your community. Thank you for sharing with me all that you do. As I visited, I felt welcome and felt like I made new friends everywhere I went. Working together you can accomplish so much more. Join with another club to get some projects and fundraisers you want done. I met

so many friendly Lions, it would be easy to work with any of them. Some clubs are already doing this. That can bring some fun to your project!

I still think Lions bring the sunshine to their communities. You make things sparkle for those you help. I will tell you to keep shining with service! Remember, Together we Can and Together we Will! Make it a great day!



Work day is a success

By Mike Okuly

Fantastic work day at Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired!

We had workers from all over the state. We had Lions start early so they could golf in the afternoon, and we had some show up later in the day. We had well over 20 Lions help. We started out with coffee and donuts to get acquainted, followed with removing weeds, then putting bark chips on two playgrounds. We washed several windows, tables, and chairs. We cleaned up around the main entrance at the Tower building for graduation. The staff at the school, Jim Durst and Todd Malone, were great to work with. The whole staff gave up their Saturday to help us. I would like to thank all those Lions who gave their time to support this state project.

We started around 9 a.m. and broke for lunch around noon. We

had hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks while we told stories at lunch.

Back to work to finish up little things. We were done by 1 p.m. when we got to take a tour of the school before it merges with the school for the deaf on the ISBVI campus. Here are some pictures of the workday: Connie and Robbin cleaning tables / Lions getting after weeds / DG Linda Scott washing windows / Lions at work filling in wood chips as needed / Cheryl and school staff moving wood chips. We look forward to seeing you at Brian's trike race Sept. 9. Come race with us.



More from District B

(Continued from page 3)

Longtime eye care mission ophthalmologist speaks at Arcola Lions

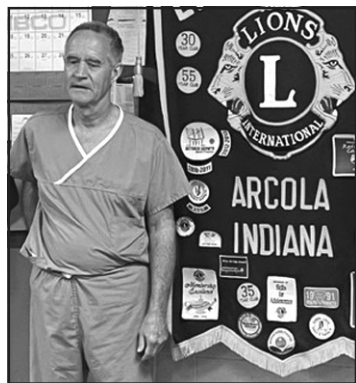
Submitted by Lion Rick Boys

Dr. Purdy began his long history of eye care mission trips by joining northeast Indiana's District 25B Lions mission trips to Central America.

District 25B's International Understanding project was started by Past District Governor Bill Truby of the Bluffton Lions Club. PDG Truby invited Dr. Purdy to join the district's mission trip in 1996, starting an amazing story. Past Council Chair Greg Jefferies of the Fort Wayne Central Lions Club continued PDG Truby's legacy for many years for the District. Dr. Purdy is continuing PDG Truby's and PCC Jefferies' legacy of SERVING those in need and being Helen Keller's

"Knights of the Blind."

Eric Purdy, M.D., a board-certified ophthalmologist living in Bluffton, gave a very interesting talk to the Arcola Lions Club on a Tuesday evening. "Dr. Purdy specializes in oculo-plastic surgery, eye muscle surgery, and diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. Oculoplastic surgery includes the surgical treatment of droopy eyelids, eyelid deformities and tumors, eyelid injuries, diseases



ERIC PURDY, M.D.

and tumors of the orbit (eye socket area), and tear duct problems." (Vision Care website)

Dr. Purdy showed a long list of countries he has visited in the past 27 years, mostly at his own expense, to perform corrective surgeries and to teach local surgeons. Resident

ophthalmologists, nurses, and other medical personnel accompany Dr. Purdy's team. Lions Clubs in these countries help with housing, eyeglasses exams and

fittings, transportation, etc. He often conducts over 200 surgeries in a 2-3 week time period. He has been to Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Kenya,

Cuba, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Cambodia. He visited several of these countries multiple times, and intends to return to many of them in the future.

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June: A month of bittersweet reflection

By GOV. BRIAN THOMAS

Ah, June, thank goodness you're here. A month where we finally get a break from Mother Nature after everything she threw at us in March and April. The flowers are blooming, the perennials are growing, the vines are expanding, and the weeds are encroaching.

To most people the month of June is merely the sixth month of the year. For Lions, especially District Governors, it signals the end of our year. Only 30 days until the title is turned over to the District Governor Elect, ceremoniously at the International Convention in Boston and administratively on July 1.

A time of bittersweet reflection. Time to analyze what went well and what fell short. District Governors hang up their colorful jackets and prepare to sew on a Past DG patch. Local Presidents prepare to hand over the reins or brace themselves for another year. Local members should ponder their involvement and worth to the club. Either way, keep up the good work or resolve to step up your game.

I look back over the year and add up the pluses and minuses

and differences of my second stint as Governor. Lion Susan and I visited 35 clubs through May and we have one more scheduled. I had to postpone several during the time my father passed; however, we were able to reschedule and visit three of the four postponements.

Thanks to all who welcomed us to their clubs and hometowns. Administration went well with a heartfelt thank you to 1st DG Ron, Treasurer Kim Polk, Secretary PDG Marty Juel and Editor PDG Paul Russell. The countless hours put in by this team and all the Zone chairpersons and committee chairs will never be forgotten. We held two Strides Walks for Diabetes Awareness and began the process of reestablishing Lions in Goshen. Membership was a mixed bag, as it always is. Through the last member report, we added 63 members, but lost 106, due in part to closing three clubs. Twenty-nine clubs grew or stayed the same, 17 clubs are at minus one or more. Definitely a trend to correct by June 30 or into next year.

My travels to other District functions, State meetings and, of course, the International Convention in Montreal were an integral

part of my year and will provide experiences and friends that will remain with me forever. Travel and participation in Lions functions are a facet of Lions that all members should take advantage of. At this year's State Convention, I was honored to emcee the All-State Banquet and be able to sit with International President Brian Sheehan and Lion Lori Sheehan -- certainly a highlight of my year.

I've written 24 articles for the District newsletter over the past three years. It was no easy task coming up with fresh topics, but I hope you got inspiration from something I have written. I look forward to transitioning away from State activities and get back to my local club in Elkhart and remain available for guidance and advice to all District clubs. Please support new District Governor Ron Guth and Lion Beth and their team in the effort to keep Lionism the best service club option in North/Central Indiana.

So, as my main childhood idol always said, "Happy trails to you, until we meet again."



RAMP BRINGS SAFETY AND JOY — Shown is a wheelchair ramp recently built by Lions Leroy Wise and Mike Lane for Kathleen Salvageot, the wife of a previous Lydick Lion, Henry Salvageot, who passed away several years ago.

She is thrilled to be able to safely leave and return to her home with much less struggle in her wheelchair.

Submitted by Lion Teckla Lane, Secretary, Lydick Lions.



LOTS OF PORK — The Madison Township Lions Club held its annual Spring Pork Chop Sale May 20 in Wyatt. They cut over 2,000 pounds of smoked pork loins into approximately 2,600 pork chops on May 18. Then on May 20 the chops were marinated and grilled over charcoal. Grilling started at 7 a.m. and was sold out by 1 p.m. The club appreciates the continued support by the community for this fundraising project. Eighteen Lion members and 14 community volunteers worked over 250 hours to complete this project. They thank all the workers for their support also. Funds raised by this sale are used to support our service projects, such as donating dictionaries to third grade students, awarding scholarships, helping those with hardships, donating to area charities, and supporting the State and International Lions causes. Submitted by Lion Al Beehler, Madison Township Lions Club.



MONEY FOR FUN — The Fulton Liberty Lions Club received a \$1,000 grant from the Fulton County REMC May 22. This grant was awarded to assist the local club on funding their Aug. 5 Fulton Fun Day Festival - their 22nd year. Community support is huge for our small club and is so appreciated. Submitted by Lion Linda Wade, Fulton Liberty Lions Club.



BUILDING BEDS — Laketon Lions Club members built two raised garden beds for the North Manchester Public Library for the kids to plant and raise flowers and vegetables. The materials were donated by Frantz Lumber of North Manchester.

Shown from left are Owen Snyder (grandson of Lion Carma Foster), Lion Carma Foster, Lion Raymond Sharp, Lion Denny Unger (behind), Lion Doug Shilling, Lion Betty Boardman, Lion Carol Shilling, Lion Becky Warmuth. Matt and Elizabeth Smith, owners of Frantz Lumber, are in the front center. Submitted by Lion Diane Binkerd, Laketon Lions Club.

HAVING FUN DURING PROJECT — Lion President Wendy Yuhasz from the Lydick Lions Club had fun working with other Lion members on the state service project.



Longtime eye care

(Continued from page 7)

He visited Sumatra soon after the 2004 tsunami killed 280,000 people. He also visited Haiti right after their devastating 2010 earthquake killed approximately 250,000 people. He cannot return to Haiti, however, as the country is now run by gangs. He also cannot return to Myanmar (Burma) since the government was overthrown by a military coup in 2021.

"The best kind of mission work involves creating connections that build with each visit. The goal is to develop long-term and mutually beneficial relationships that improve the existing situation in an underserved location and to facilitate these changes in a sustainable way," said the medical director of an eye institute.

Alcon, a global eye care corporation, has donated \$200,000 worth of supplies several times to support Dr. Purdy's overseas work. "Medical mission teams work side-by-side with local eye care professionals to provide hands-on training, while also helping to increase patient awareness about the need for proper eye care." (Alcon)

On his recent trip to Honduras, Dr. Purdy, Rolando Yuga of the Honduras Lions Club, and Jim Brockmann of Changing Footprints loaded a container at a Bluffton warehouse. Included in the shipment were eight donated surgical microscopes, five cataract phacoemulsification machines, an Alcon Accurus posterior vitrectomy unit,

an autoclave, a YAG laser, five OR patient carts, several storage cabinets, 40 boxes of Alcon eye surgery mission supplies for Dr. Purdy's February mission, donated orthopedic surgery instruments, four complete dental office suites, and much more.

The microscopes and surgical chairs were donated by hospitals updating their equipment. The dental equipment was donated by dentists who retired and dissolved their practices. There were 30,000 eyeglasses for the El Salvador Lions Club boxed and organized by the Wanatah Lions Club and the Arcola Lions Club. There were also 1,680 pairs of used shoes gathered by Jim Brockmann and his Changing Footprints group.

Dr. Purdy used his many slides to show before and after pictures of some of the thousands of eye patients he has helped. He described how he often encounters unusual deformations around the eye socket in both young children and adults, and he often must get creative to solve those problems, such as using a drill from his basement for a procedure. He told many funny stories. Once he found a vendor at an eye convention that sold generic prosthetic eyeballs for \$2 each (a "good" prosthetic eye can run \$3,000). He bought a whole bag of them in various sizes. Another time a boy was afraid to tell his mother what he had done to hurt his eye. Dr. Purdy removed several large pieces of wood from around

the boy's swollen eye. Only then would the boy tell his mother he had fallen on a stick.

Helen Keller said this at the Lions Club International convention in 1925: "The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this ... Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child 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?" Dr. Purdy has been living these words by his lifelong quest to improve the sight of the disadvantaged.