



“Service Through Fellowship”



January 2013

District 37N

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District Governor Message



Dear Lions, Lioness and Leos,
1.3 million Lions in 46,000 clubs worldwide. We didn't start this way all those years ago in Chicago. We developed and have enduring relevance in the world because of our focus on service through our unifying fellowship. Often in my travels, I hear Lions struggle with the idea of service that extends beyond their own backyards. If Melvin Jones had this vision for Lions, we would not have ever left Chicago. Lions would have been a great organization in a large Midwestern city and that would be the end of our story.

Thankfully, he was a visionary and saw the potential for growth. When Lions work in a community, the ripples of service move on, inspiring, educating and motivating those we meet. We should never underestimate our impact. We currently serve in over 206 countries.

This month's newsletter inspires us to remember our mission "We Serve," may take us out of our communities to places that are very far away. We all cannot go to Mexico to help with a vision clinic, but we can help by collecting eyeglasses. If you have EVER collected a single pair of eyeglasses, you HAVE participated in an international Lions project. Together, we make a difference and together we are changing the world.

Clubs will always struggle to balance the role of time, donations, and service between our communities and other places in the world. But please remember, if your town, city or village is struck with a disaster, you know the Lions will be there. I respectfully ask that you make sure our organization has the resources to continue that promise in the world.

Yours in service,
DG Laura

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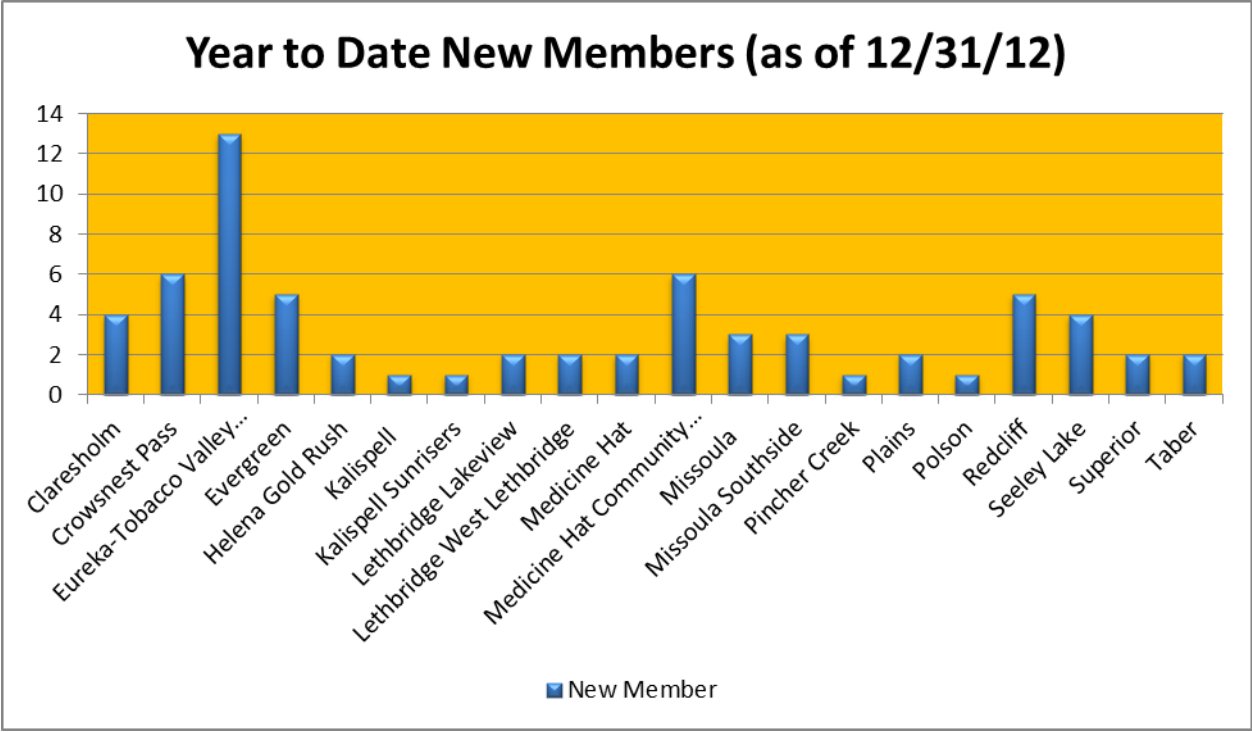


Triad Treatment Chair

The project to provide new renal chairs for the Calgary Health Trust came about when one of our members current president of Host Lethbridge Lions Margaret Humphrey lost a sister Lydia Peters to renal failure from a relatively rare disease that attacks the kidneys. Her sister had been on dialysis for over 4 years undergoing dialysis approximately 3 time a week for approximately 3-4 hours each time. Lion Marge brought it to our attention and then explained how people on dialysis have to sit for long periods hooked up to dialysis units and unable to move. It was very uncomfortable and patients suffered through it.

Our club thought this was a worthwhile project and so we invited other clubs to participate in providing new chairs since it would serve all of Southern Alberta. The reason is that Lethbridge, Crowsnest Pass and Fort Macleod Hospitals all have Renal Units and use these chairs and together they serve all of Southern Alberta. We decided to host a fund raising dinner along with Silent Auction and Celebrity Live Auction and with the help of our then district governor got the word out asking all our local clubs to assist and we would try to apply for matching funding or grants from other sources. Our first event raised close to \$30,000. We found out the chairs run about \$6000 each and so we held the event a second year as well, so that we could raise additional funds.

Unfortunately our attempts or request for grants or matching funding from several sources was rejected. However, with the combined donations and great assistance of our local Lions clubs, namely the Lethbridge West Lions, Lakeview Lions, Picture Butte Lions, Pincher Cowley Roaring Lions, Carmangay Lions, Taber Lions, Cardston Lions, and Claresholm Lions, and Lethbridge Host Lions we managed to raise some \$50,000 to purchase new renal chairs for the Calgary Hospital Trust. This will mean a new chair for Fort Macleod, and Crowsnest Pass Hospitals and the balance to Lethbridge Regional Hospital. In addition the Vauxhall Lions also got involved and donated one chair to the Lethbridge Regional Hospital in memory of one of their members who had passed away. This was a great project and will benefit local Southern Alberta Communities for many years. Here is a hearty pat on the back to all the local clubs who participated and a photo session will be held with members from all clubs who assisted once the chairs, which have been ordered, arrive and we can see them in use.

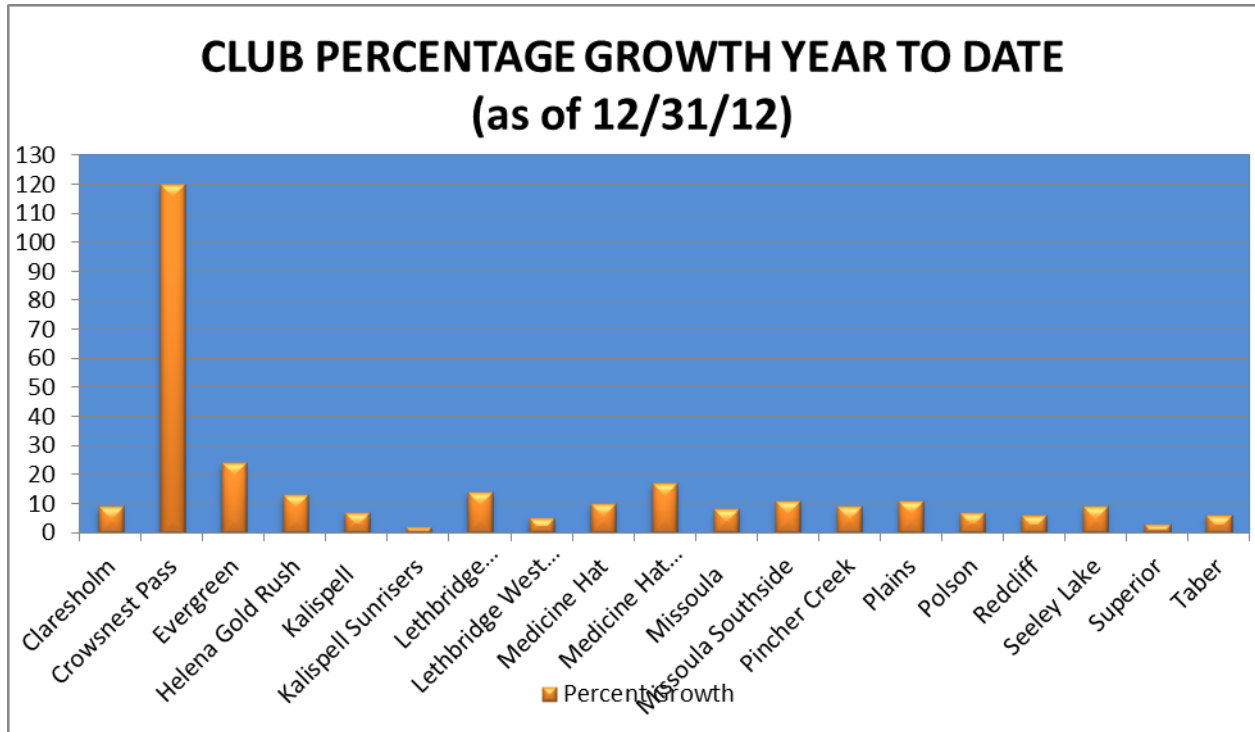


Hello fellow Lions I hope your Christmas went well and you are all in to a wonderful New Year.

This time of year brings about winter fun festivals and other activities and your club might be involved in. This is the time to call on your neighbor and ask the women of the house if she and her family would like to come out and see what the Lions Club does in her community. Give them a little job that allows them to feel they are helping out and having fun doing it. We as Lions love to volunteer and we have great fun doing it. Don't be afraid to ask. They can just say no and that is not so bad because then you and say well just come out and have fun. Then they can see your club in action! You never know when and where your next member will show up. Make them feel welcome. Women love to get out and if they can bring their families it is even better. Remember ask.

Have a great winter!

Lion Ellen
Chair of women and families in Lions for district 37N



Do You Know Your Foundation? Lions Clubs International Foundation

by Lion Kim Simpson, LCIF District Chair


LCIF is the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International (LCI) and supports the service work of Lions around the world. LCIF relies mainly on donations to help millions in need each year. Since the Foundation was established in 1968, it has awarded more than US\$729 million for 10,268 projects worldwide in the areas of restoring sight, supporting youth, providing disaster relief and addressing other humanitarian issues. With an average of US\$30 million in grants awarded each year, LCIF has become a global leader in humanitarian service. This is due in part to our successful partnerships.

In 2007 LCIF was named the #1 non-governmental organization (NGO) with which to partner.

Every dollar donated goes to LCIF goes to help someone in need; all administrative costs are paid through interest earned on investments. No Club dues go to LCIF.

LCIF grants support four areas of service:

- Preserving Sight

- 
- Serving Youth
 - Providing Disaster Relief
 - Supporting Humanitarian Efforts

LCIF makes a difference:

- Awarded 1,005 SightFirst grants in 102 countries for a total of more than US\$255 million
- Restored sight to 7.68 million people through cataract surgeries
- Prevented serious vision loss for 30 million
- Provided 148 million treatments for river blindness
- Provided vision screening for more than 250,000 Special Olympics athletes from 85 countries through Opening Eyes
- Built or expanded 315 eye hospitals/clinics/wards
- Trained 659,000 eye care specialists
- Conducted 14 million vision screenings for children through Sight for Kids
- Awarded more than 3,000 emergency grants totaling more than US\$25 million
- Raised more than US\$200 million for Campaign SightFirst II, making it the greatest fundraising effort in LCIF's history
- Engaged more than 12 million students in the youth development program Lions Quest

Recently, LCIF mobilized US\$240,000 for Superstorm Sandy disaster relief efforts in Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and North Carolina. These helped meet immediate needs such as food, clothing, water and medical supplies.

There are still many more people worldwide that need our help as Lions. **We can help.** Individuals, clubs, districts can donate to LCIF and receive recognition. Programs include Melvin Jones Fellowships, Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships, Contributing Member Recognition. Other areas of recognition include Humanitarian Partners, the Honor Roll, Memorial Donations, Club Plaques, Top Ten Certificates and Corporate Plaques.

Donations can be directed to the Area of Greatest Need, Disaster, Sight, Youth or Humanitarian Needs. In Canada, donations can be sent to the LCIF Canadian Bank Account.

I would encourage all members to support LCIF by purchasing a Contributing Membership pin for \$20 (I have these available) or a Melvin Jones Fellowship \$1,000.00

For more information please go to the website at: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/lci-foundation/index.php> or if I can help, please contact me at: ksimpson@telus.net

Watch for articles in the following months about the various initiatives of LCIF such as the Measles Program!

Club Presidents and Secretaries will be emailed the registration forms to send out to club members next week (end of January)!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013
DISTRICT 37N LEADERSHIP TRAINING
INVITING ALL LIONS WHO WANT TO GROW IN SKILLS TO HELP THEIR CLUBS AND COMMUNITIES.

Hailey Henrikson REPEATS!!!!

Our wonderful Helena youth, Hailey Henrikson, repeated this year as District 37N **AND** Multiple District 37 winner of the Peace Poster Contest. Hailey's entry has been sent to Lions Clubs International for the final international judging. Our best wishes to Hailey to be the International Peace Poster winner from the 6,000+ Lions of our Multiple District 37.



Good Lions, the 135 children in the Malaika Orphanage in Johannesburg, South Africa are still in need.

Thanks to the clubs who have stepped up to the challenge of donating \$200 from each club in District 37N. The monies will be combined and sent to the local South African Lions to make sure our gifts are used to support their \$30,000 building fund for a new orphanage in the safety of the country. Currently, the orphanage is squatting in an abandoned building with interrupted water and electric service. For safety, the staff walks with the children to school daily, then the staff walks back in a group to the safety of the orphanage building. At 3:00 pm the only meal of the day is served, a porridge with beans (when available) to increase the nutritional value. The view out the back windows of the building is appalling when contrasted to donated acreage where a garden is possible to help feed these children. Please have your club consider a donation to this effort. Donations can be sent to our 37N Cabinet Treasurer, Mike Collins, 143 River Place, Kalispell, MT 59901.



Donated acreage for the building site of the new Malaika Orphanage.



Director Osman and Secretary Mikki with the Kalispell Sunrider Lions in October 2012.

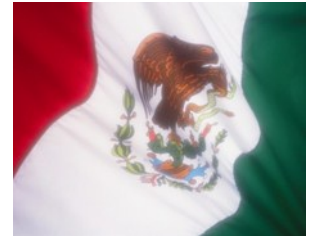


5 New Members!

Congratulations to the Coutts-Sweetgrass Lions Club for their 5 new members this January. Shown are (left to right) Lions Barry Beck, Wendy McAlpine, DG Laura Dickerson, and Jim Tharp, Not shown are Lions Chrissie Tharp and Tamie Nice.

Welcome to our new Lions and we wish you great fellowship and energy for the tremendous service of your international club!

Lions in Aguascalientes, Mexico



Lions Give the “Gift of Sight” to Over 1800 Patients in Aguascalientes, Mexico

By- PDG Sharon Elder

November 1-11, 2012

The 12th annual trip to set up a vision and health clinic by the Lions from MD36, (Oregon and N. California) and MD37N (Alberta, CN and Montana, USA) was, as usual, full of surprises. Our hosts the INAPAM, part of the Mexican federal government, met our every need with ground transportation, hotel accommodations, outstanding meals, scheduling of patients and a great “awards dinner” at the conclusion of our trip. In addition to the government’s assistance we were delighted to be working side by side with the Lions from the University of Aguascalientes; young, energetic and mostly English speaking students.

The surprise started when the Portland group arrived with only 4 of the 38 bins of eyeglasses and supplies. American Airlines had not transferred the remaining 34 bins onto the airplane. It took the Mexican government, phone calls to Dallas baggage, (connecting location) and intervention by an Oregon State Congressman, Kurt Schrader, to finally get all but one of the bins to us, three full days later. While it was a great set-back, as always, Lions came to the rescue. The university club had a small selection of eyeglasses left over from another clinic that they gladly donated to hold us over. While the eyeglass selection wasn’t what it should be, we asked patients to return a few days later, when the missing bins arrived, if we could not fit them with the donated glasses. This worked!

The net result of this clinic was that we were able to give vision exams to over 1800 people in the greatest need. In addition to vision care over 500 patients were tested for blood sugar and 945 for blood pressure. We were thankful for our Roseburg Lion and optometrist, Dr. Steve Tronnes and his equally helpful wife, Mary, who worked tirelessly throughout the 5 days. In addition, long time participant, Canadian Lion, Alan Bergen used his club’s Plus Optics hand held device to screen children and identify vision loss.

The clinics are always long hours and a labor of love as 29 Lions came from all over the US and Canada to help serve. They included the following Lions from Oregon and points beyond: Roseburg Lions Club, Dr. Steve Tronnes and Mary Tronnes, King City Lions, Mary Thibert and Rupert Fixott, Portland Oaks Bottom Lions, Ron and Fran Shaw, Jim and Diane Miller, Dick and Mary Hankins, Nancy Fredricks, Nancy’s sister and brother-in-law (soon to become Lions), Kathy and Bruce Wilson from Eugene, Estacada Lion, David