



LIONS DISTRICT 35F

Volume 1, Issue 7

FEBRUARY 2009

Notes from District Governor Norm

Happy Valentines Day!! Hope everyone has a great day.



Now back to Lions stuff. After attending a Zone meeting in Region One Zone One last week (Picture in bulletin), I am proud to report that the Lions in that area are working hard, and doing great and promoting Lionism. They are in need of ideas for new projects for raising funds, so I am requesting that any Lions who have had successful projects get in touch with this Zone and share your ideas. If Lions in other areas need help in the same way, please let me know and we will try to compile a list of successful projects and make it available to everyone.

Very soon now, we will be getting the news from Lions International about our upcoming redistricting. As you know, I am sure that it will be good for this District in the coming years. It should be much easier to get good Lions for the jobs that need to be done. We need these jobs filled so we can help all those people that need our help so badly, and that need is growing every day. This economy will make our services even more necessary and now even the folks that used to help others are asking for help. We have a lot of work to

do. Talk to you friends and family members about joining us in this effort and becoming Lions.

The new Jefferson County Lions Club is growing and it is their goal to be chartered in March. This is a very active bunch and I think they will accomplish this. Let's get more clubs in our District and show the rest of Florida what we can do!!

Diabetes Screening is on the move. We had a training session in Monticello a couple of weeks ago and from that training, we have had one screening already. Norma Callahan is ready and willing to have training sessions up here as long as we have 8 attendees. She brings lunch and we had a good time. It is a one day deal now, and I think besides letting folks know they may be developing a problem, I believe it will be a good way to increase membership. Many clubs in the rest of the State have gotten new members through the screening process.

ALSO DON'T FORGET _ District 35F Convention - Panama City, Holiday Inn, April 2, 3, and 4th. Room reservations need to be made by March 5th. In addition, it would be nice to have a VDG & DG Candidate at the convention??!!

I guess I have said enough, keep up the good work, and I'll see you at the Council meeting March 6 & 7, or Convention April 3 & 4, or State Convention May 5 & 6th.

Yours in Lionism,

District Governor Norm

850-656-8615,

Or email nojretired@embarqmail.com

REMINDER

NO LIONS CLUB IN DISTRICT 35F ever says NO to a need because of the club's finance. SOMEWHERE in the District, the need will be met. Contacts are DG Norm, IPDG Nell Simmons, Lion Joe Price, or Lion Howard Young. Lions SERVE! Thank you DG Norm

DISTRICT CABINET MEETINGS

April 3, 4, & 5, 2008 – Convention Panama City Holiday Inn Select 2001 North MLK Blvd., Panama City FL 32405.

Reserve your room by March 5, 2009 at \$77.00 per night per room.

CALL (850) 769-0000 Fax 763-3828

Multiple District 35 Conferences

Spring Conference

March 5-8, 2009 Orlando

Multiple District Convention

April 30 – May 3, 2009 Tampa FL

International Conventions

July 6-10, 2009 Minneapolis, MN

June 28 –July2, 2010 Sydney, Australia

July 4-8, 2011 Seattle, WA

District 35 F Foundation Directors

Drive Director – Mary Ogletree

3 year Director – Nell Simmons

2 Year Director – Jessie Carpenter

1 Year Director – Whit Whittle

Dear Lions,

I hope 2009 will be your best ever as a Lion and may you continue to make our Miracles of Service happen.



For Lions, the first half of fiscal year 2008-09 was quite productive in terms of membership.

The worldwide membership of Lions Clubs International is 2,399 ahead. This is no guarantee that the year-end totals will be ahead of last year's but it is a strong indication that the momentum of growing membership has carried us into 2009. As always, much of this success is due to the hard work and dedication of our district governors. Congratulations!

Of course, a new year is also a time to look ahead and reevaluate our goals in light of past performance. I hope that all of you take a close look at the goals we set in Bangkok for establishing new clubs in your district. At the end of this Lions' year, I would like to be able to report that the good news about membership growth applies uniformly to all constitutional areas and all districts. The key to making this happen is establishing **new clubs**, but not necessarily traditional Lions Clubs.

Family-friendly clubs, Cyber_Lions Clubs, Branch and Campus Clubs will all attract the kind of members who will enrich our association with new ideas and new energy.

The association provides you with many resources to help you reach your membership goals. The most important of these are the **GMT and MERL** team. Please take full advantage of the expertise of these Lions leaders who have made membership growth their special mission.

District governors in North America should also take advantage of the scheduled extension workshops and the membership grants, which are available. Please e-mail **Membership Programs and New Clubs Marketing Department** for the workshop

schedules and grant applications. District governors in other parts of the world should contact the [Membership Programs & New Clubs Marketing Department](#) at international headquarters for more information about these programs. newclubs@lionsclubs.org.

While working with other Lion leaders is obviously important, please remember that all real change takes place within our clubs. Staying relevant and addressing the **pressing needs of our communities** is the best recruitment and retention strategy a club produced many new challenges in our communities but also provides Lions with many new opportunities. Difficult times often inspire community-minded individuals to do even more for their neighbors in need. Tight budgets also have many families looking for activities in which all can participate but which do not require a large financial investment. All of these factors make membership in a Lions Club an increasingly attractive opportunity. Please urge your clubs to take advantage of these opportunities by seeking out the most urgent needs of today and devising innovative ways to meet them.

You have my best wishes for a happy and successful new year of service.

Sincerely,

Al Brandel, International President

LCIF Sight First Statue Dedication

Oak Brook, Illinois, January 27, 2009—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will dedicate the “Gift of Sight” statue on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at Lions Clubs International headquarters, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook. The statue symbolizes Lions Clubs International Foundation’s (LCIF) ongoing collaborative efforts to combat preventable blindness and is a gift to Lions from The Carter Center.

The bronze statue depicts a child leading a man blinded by river blindness. For hundreds of years, a child leading a blind elder has been the fate of families stricken with river blindness, or

onchocerciasis, in Africa and Latin America. The dedication of the statue is part of a two-day symposium at Lions Clubs International headquarters where leading sight and health organizations from around the world will gather to discuss positive youth development and blindness prevention. A Lions club member, President Carter has long joined Lions in their fight to save and restore sight.

“Rosalyn and I have seen the devastating effects that blinding diseases have on individuals and their families. The Carter Center and Lions Clubs International Foundation, along with other vital partners, are working to preserve the vision of millions of people in Africa and the Americas,” said Carter Center Founder President Carter. “Thanks to these coordinated efforts, river blindness is nearly eliminated from the Western Hemisphere.” LCIF recently completed a three-year global fundraising campaign, raising \$203 million to continue and expand LCIF’s SightFirst program worldwide. Fifty million will fund projects to combat emerging threats to sight in the U.S. and other developed countries, such as conditions related to diabetes, low vision and glaucoma. More than \$100 million will support programs that control and eliminate the major causes of blindness, such as river blindness, cataract and trachoma. The remaining \$50+ million will fund support new research initiatives and rehabilitation. LCIF has a long history of collaborating with The Carter Center and Merck & Co, Inc. to fight river blindness. Through these joint efforts, experts predict river blindness will be eliminated in Latin America by the year 2012. “It is a great honor to have former President Jimmy Carter dedicate this symbolic statue,” said Lions Clubs International President, Albert Brandel. “This partnership program is preventing and eliminating blindness around the world, and Lions are proud to take a hands-on approach.” Currently river blindness is prevalent in Latin America and Africa and is transmitted by the bite of a black fly. The disease is often blinding but can be treated through medication. Merck has donated 600 million doses of this medicine through its MECTIZAN Donation Program to LCIF and other partners, and LCIF has awarded more than \$30 million to The Carter Center for river blindness and other eye disease control programs through the Lions-Carter Center

