



Lions of Allegheny County CAULDRON

Monthly Newsletter for the Lions of Allegheny County District 14-B, Pittsburgh, PA

www.14blions.org

SEPTEMBER 2008

District Governor's Message



During the weekend of August 15, Lion Elaine and I had the opportunity to travel to Rochester, Michigan, to visit Leader Dogs for the Blind. During the two days that we visited the Leader Dog facility, we were inspired and overwhelmed by the exceptional work that this organization is doing to provide mobility to visually impaired persons.

Founded by three Detroit area Lions Clubs members in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind has been supported through the generosity of Lions Clubs. The first guide dog school in the United States, Leader Dogs for the Blind has provided increased independence to more than 13,000 people who are blind or visually impaired for almost 70 years. All of the services are provided free of charge to those who attend the program for the twenty-six day period including all travel expenses, room and board, meals, training, and the Leader Dog are provided at no charge.

Located on a 14-acre campus in Rochester, the facilities include, a residence and training center, kennels, a veterinary hospital, offices, and garages for passenger vans, trucks, and maintenance vehicles. In downtown Rochester, a center is located which provides both students and dogs training using the streets of the Detroit suburban community. More than 100 dedicated employees work to ensure that all students with their dogs who leave the facility are prepared to return to their homes and communities with increased mobility and independence.

Leader dogs are available to any visually impaired individual, who is at least 16 years of age and physically and mentally capable to care for and use the dog in the manner intended. Students who come to Leader Dog receive a dog and complete a 26-day training program that includes country, city, and nighttime travel. Students learn how to incorporate a Leader Dog into their daily routine as well as how to care for the dog. Leader Dogs for the Blind is the only facility that provides training for multiple-handicapped individuals – those who may be both blind and deaf or those who are blind and physically disabled such as amputees. One veteran who was blind and had lost both arms was provided with a Leader Dog.

Any one who is visually impaired can apply to receive a Leader Dog. A local Lions Club can assist a person in completing the application



DG John Frombach, who is blindfolded, experiences what it is like to walk with a Leader Dog.

which will generally responded to within 30 to 60 days. Each applicant must submit a video to demonstrate independent travel skills. The video is used to assess an individual's orientation and mobility skills, their ability to work and maintain control of their Leader Dog, or appropriateness for the requested program. Videos must be 10 to 15 minutes in length and include the applicant traveling a familiar route independently. Applicants should cross at least two streets (one being a light controlled intersection) and make a variety of turns. A Lion can assist the person in completing the application and by taking the required video.

During our visit at Leader Dogs for the Blind, we were given a demonstration of new technology that can be used by blind persons for greater independence. The revolutionary training program teaches the person how to use a Trekker, a palm-sized device that combines advances in hand-held computers. Talking digital maps are used to pinpoint the user's exact location and announce streets, stores, intersections, and points of interest in 21 countries. Trekker is used in conjunction with a Leader Dog and/or cane. Each person who attends Leader Dog will receive a Trekker.

Continues Page 6 . . .

District Governor

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Coordinator

of District Activities
Alison Weber
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(412) 281-1375 (B)
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Taste of the Tango benefits Center for Hearing Deaf Services

Your \$25 donation includes first glass of Sangrai, complimentary light appetizers, live music with Puro Queso Jazz, and Door Prizes. Also enjoy Chinese Auction Items, 50/50 Raffle, \$5 Sangrias and \$3.50 Coronas... and so much more! Purchase your tickets by August 31 and enter to win a Basket of Cheer!

The affair runs on Thursday, September 18th from 6-9:00 PM at Amante Restaurant located in Fifth Avenue Place, 120 Fifth Avenue (Downtown). Come out and have a great evening and help one of District projects!

Contact Jennifer Knoche jknoche@hdscenter.org for tickets. Phone: (412) 281-1375

"Listen to the Rainbow" Presentation at Bloomfield Lawrenceville Lions

An invitation to all clubs in District 14-B to join with their club for a special program **LISTEN TO THE RAINBOW** presented by the Center for Hearing & Deaf Services on **Tuesday, October 7th** - 6 pm at Del's Restaurant (4428 Liberty Ave., Bloomfield - next to the Bloomfield Bridge). Spouses and significant others are also invited.

Dinner price is \$15 per person. RSVP Lion Bob Conrad 412-363-8604 by October 1st.

McKeesport Lions Club **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Sunday, October 26, 2008

St. Martin's Parish Hall
803 Market St. - McKeesport
Benefits CSFII

\$5.00 Adults -- \$3.00 Children

All Clubs in the District are invited to attend!!!

The McKeesport Lions Club is currently selling the 2009 Enjoy Entertainment Book at a discounted price of \$25 each from \$27 (the new cost anywhere else). If you are interested in purchasing the Enjoy Book, contact Lion Michele Matuch at (412) 664-2590.

Pleasant Hills Lions **FARMER'S MARKET**

Every THURSDAY

4 - 7:00 p.m.

starting May 15, 2008
until October 16, 2008

Pleasant Hills Community
Presbyterian Church

Old Clairton Blvd., Pleasant Hills

Come out and enjoy the atmosphere of our Farmer's Market! Buy it FRESH from local growers.

Other vendors available

Monroeville Lions **FARMER'S MARKET**

Every Saturday—'til November 18th

9 am -

Gateway High School Parking Lot
Mossie Blvd.. - Monroeville

Come out and enjoy the atmosphere of our Farmer's Market! Buy it FRESH from local growers.

Glassport Lions Club **42nd ANNUAL RIGATONI NIGHT**

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

6:30 PM

Sons of Italy Hall, Glassport

Join with the Glassport Lions in celebrating their 42nd Annual Rigatoni Night. This is one of the FUN events of District 14-B for many years.

Clubs will be mailed information shortly. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Send in your reservations TODAY!

Fall Rally **Wednesday, October 29, 2008**

5:30 p.m. Fellowship

6:30 p.m. Buffet

Bradley House of Catering
Brownsville Road, Baldwin

\$25.00 per person

Registration Form in this issue

Monthly Membership/Activity Reports

Club Membership & Activity reports **MUST** be filed monthly to LCI and the District by the 1st OF EACH MONTH. Each Secretary will receive an Email MMR reporting form near the end of the month. This is a District Report ONLY. YOU MUST ALSO SUBMIT A REPORT TO LCI !!! District reports can be mailed to PDG Jim Hartman, 3520 Brinway Dr., West Mifflin, PA 15122 hartmanjw@comcast.net 412-600-0229

Bethel Park: 58 Lions AUGUST: Dropped 1 Lion
Bloomfield-Lawrenceville: 9 Lions AUGUST: 3 New Lions. Preparing to participate in Bloomfield Community Days.
Boston-Greenock-Mt. Vernon: 27 Lions. No reports since June '08
Braddock: 20 Lions. AUGUST:
Cheswick-Springdale: 31 Lions. AUGUST:
Coraopolis-Moon Township: 18 Lions. AUGUST:
Elizabeth: 14 Lions. Last report July 08
Forest Hills: 14 Lions. No reports since May '08
Gibsonia-Hampton-Richland: 14 Lions. No reports since March '08
Glassport: 30 Lions: AUGUST: Supplied glasses for borough resident. Club resumes with September meeting. Plans being made for White Cane Days and 42nd Annual Rigatoni Night on October 14th.
Homestead District: 44 Lions. JULY: 2 New Lions / 1 Dropped Lion. Donation to MS Society to support KL bike ride for MS research
Jefferson Hills: 25 Lions. No reports since February '08
McKeesport: 26 Lions. AUGUST: White Cane Days Aug. 23 & 30th. Made donation to city of McKeesport to partially pay for bullet-proof vest for police department. Preparing calendar for Club Events. Abbreviated schedule for August.
Monroeville: 25 Lions. Completed 10th Annual Golf Outing on Aug. 16th. Farmer's Market continues until November 18th.
Mount Lebanon: 30 Lions. NO reports since March '08
North Suburban: 11 Lions. No reports since February '08
Northern Allegheny: 22 Lions. AUGUST: Reinstated 1 Lion.
Oakmont: 41 Lions. No reports since August '07
Ohio Valley: 11 Lions. No reports since March '08
Pitcairn: 19 Lions. No report since June '08
Pittsburgh Host: 17 Lions. No report since June '08
Pgh. Beechview: 15 Lions No report since June '07
Pgh. Brentwood: 13 Lions. JULY: No meetings for summer months
Pgh. DeafBlind: 14 Lions. No report since June '08
Pgh. Grandview: 29 Lions. No report since June '08
Pgh. Hilltop: 19 Lions. No report since June '08
Pgh. North Side: 22 Lions. JULY: 1 New Lion
Pgh. Oakland: 16 Lions. JULY: Club inactive for summer months
Pgh. Shadyside Squirrel Hill: 14 Lions. JULY: Inactive for summer months
Pleasant Hills: 33 Lions. No reports since June '08
Robinson Lions: 18 Lions JULY: No reports since April '08
South Park: 19 Lions. AUGUST: No meetings for summer months
Sto-Ken-Rox: 19 Lions. JULY:
Tarentum Area: 25 Lions. AUGUST: Club has paid all Lions dues.
Upper Saint Clair: 29 Lions. No reports since June '08

West Mifflin: 67 Lions. AUGUST: Preparing for White Cane Days September 5-8. Gearing up for new Lions year.
White Oak: 38 Lions. AUGUST: Transferred 4 Lions from Versailles club. Eye exams and glasses for 2 area residents. Started selling ENOY books as fundraiser.
Whitehall Community: 46 Lions: AUGUST: Completed Steeler Raffle ticket fundraiser for 2 Steelers season tickets. Participated in Whitehall Community Day. Lost 1 member to Accidental death. Lion Mokwa will be missed by all club members. Collected 97 pairs of glasses for ReCycle for Sight program. Held Annual membership dinner on August 20th with 3 new prospective members as guests.
Wilmerding: 32 Lions. No reports since June '08

CLUB SECRETARY

The Club Secretary is probably the most important office in your Club. The success of your Club will be determined largely by the efficiency with which you perform the duties of your office.

You are responsible for timely reporting of the Monthly Membership Report (MMR) To International and the Monthly Membership and Activities Report to the District. These reports are nearly identical but the District level form became necessary when activities were dropped from the International form and the activities are reported to International on a monthly or annual form.

When making your report to the District it is very important to mention what your club is doing such as whether your dues are paid to LCI, State and District; PU 101 report filed to LCI and District. Also community affair projects, donations to any community groups or District projects. This is important so points may be awarded to your club. PLEASE PLEASE do not give the old one liner—"eyeglasses, brooms & bags" This does not tell us what your club is accomplishing!

PLEASE make your reports to LCI & District on monthly basis!

District Zone Chairs

REGION 1 ZONE A
 John T. Lynch (Marilyn)
 8850 Peebles Road
 Allison Park, PA 15101
 412-369-9121 (H)
 412-369-0836 (W)
 thelynchgroup@att.net

REGION 2 ZONE A CHAIR
 Geoffrey Temple
 156 Dutch Lane
 Pittsburgh, PA 15236-4327
 (412) 655-3321 (H)
 temple@att.net

REGION 2 ZONE B CHAIR
 Mary Jane Keller (PDG Rich)
 1811 Educational Dr.
 White Oak, PA 15131
 412-672-7696 (H)
 mjceller50@comcast.net

REGION 3 ZONE A CHAIR
 Andrew Zivinsky
 4503 Homestead-Duquesne Rd.
 Munhall, PA 15120
 412-464-0685 (H)
 Andythelion@verizon.net

REGION 4 ZONE A
 TBD

REGION 4 ZONE B
 TBD

REGION 3 ZONE B CHAIR
 TBD

LCI Club Suspension Policy

In July, 2006 the Board of Directors approved a new policy, effective July 1, 2007 that affects Clubs that have not paid their club balances on time. The new policy is as follows: **A Club which has an unpaid balance in excess of US\$20 per member or US\$1,000 per club, whichever is less, outstanding past 150 days** will be automatically suspended including the charter, rights, privileges, and obligation of the Lions Club for a period not to exceed 90 days. In the event, the Club does not reach a good standing within the Suspension period; their charter would be automatically canceled.

Suspension is the temporary deferment of the charter, rights, privileges and obligations of a Lions club due to an unpaid balance.

Clubs on suspension shall not:

- (a) Conduct service activities
- (b) Conduct fund raising activities;
- (c) Participate in district and multiple district functions or seminars;
- (d) Participate in any voting procedures outside of the club
- (e) Endorse or nominate a candidate for district, multiple district and international office;
- (f) Submit Monthly Membership Report and report forms;
- (g) Sponsor a Lions club, or organize a Leo or a Lioness club.

Clubs on Suspension shall:

- (a) Hold meetings to discuss the future of the club and identify the steps needed to regain an active status.
- (b) Make payments to clear the existing outstanding balance, or request a payment plan.

This new policy has serious consequences for clubs that are in arrears in paying their club balances. This policy could affect Clubs that have as little as two per-capita billings or less unpaid at 150 days. Clubs placed on suspension may regain an active status by sending payments sufficient to pay the balance. A re-activation report will not be required to regain a good status, however, the officers should immediately review and update the membership roster after a Club is removed from Suspension.

This change in policy was necessary because many Clubs were accumulating large unhealthy balances over 90 days in excess of US1,000. Many of these clubs were unable to pay such large amounts and were eventually inactivated and canceled. Large balances in these amounts are difficult to revive, and caused many members to give up and leave their Clubs.

Dues are the primary source of income used to support the programs and services provided to our membership. Regular and prompt payment is expected to ensure continued support of this great operation.

Please feel free to contact us if you should you require additional information. We hope all clubs will review their statements regularly, and will send the necessary payments to ensure their good status is protected.

Membership Billing and Accounts Services

300 W. 22nd Street
 Oakbrook, IL 60523-8842
membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org
 630-571-5466 630-571-1687 FAX



The "Passing of the Banner" dinner was held on Tuesday, September 2nd. This ceremony highlighted the Home Club banner presentation from the Bethel Park Lions Club to the Whitehall Community Lions Club.



The Bethel Park Lions inducted 4 new Lions into their club at the Banner Night. District Governor John Frombach performed the initiation of the new Lions.



The affair was hosted by the BP Lions at their Lions Park and was well attended by Lions of Whitehall Community and Bethel Park.

21st ANNUAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST

“Peace Begins With Me”

The 21st Annual Peace Poster Contest is underway. If your club would like to sponsor a school to have an entry please contact chair Mary Jane Keller 412-672-7696 (H) mjkeller50@comcast.net as soon as possible. Entries must be received by our District for judging by November 1st and then they are sent to the Multiple District Judging before December 1st. There is so little time left to get your entries in.

And Now a Word from your Vice District Governor

Lions of District 14-B:

At the recent meeting of the District 14-B Long range Planning Committee there was a serious review of candidates for the office of the Vice District Governor for this current year. The search was fruitless! I have been giving serious thought to “throwing my hat” into the ring again and then with the urging of my home club (West Mifflin) I decided that I would not let my District and fellow Lions down and assume this leadership position once again. I gave my name as candidate and the PDGs present elected me to hold this office. At the Cabinet meeting on September 6th they presented me as their candidate and voting members present cast their votes affirming my position as Vice District Governor. I am really honored to handle the position, once more, of Vice District Governor for 2008-09 and then as District Governor next year.

As you remember, just two short years ago, our District showed a gain in membership for the Lions year. So far this year District Governor John Frombach is showing a PLUS 11 in membership. I feel that this “momentum” must continue through this year and in the upcoming years to bring our district back to the required 1,250 Lions.

Before you “discard” a member that has not attended a meeting or has not paid their dues, your retention chair (if you do not have one your club president or secretary) should call that person and ask him, politely, to come back into the fold of your club and continue in Lionism.

Get those new Lions! There are lots of persons out there just waiting for you to ASK them to join your club. Did you ask someone to join and they said “No”?, well ask them again and again. Sometimes being “persistent” is all it takes to get them to join. Do you have Lions that “dropped out” a few years ago? Call them up and ask them to join back into your club. Lots of times that person was just not able to perform Lion duties.

Are you publicizing your club through the media? Local newspapers, cable TV announcements and a club website (that you heavily advertise through the printed media) are the KEY to your success. BLOW YOUR HORN about what your club is accomplishing with public relations. Don’t be the “best kept secret in your community.

I hope to see most of you at two of the most important upcoming meetings — the Glassport Lions Rigatoni Night on October 14th and the District Fall Rally on October 29th!

Jim Hartman, Vice District Governor

Governor’s Message continued . . .

Leader Dogs for the Blind has an annual operating budget of approximately 10 million dollars with nearly two million dollars coming from donations from Lions Clubs. The remaining eight million dollars comes from fundraising, endowments, and bequests. The donations from Lions during the past ten years have decreased



Mike Cox demonstrates how computer technology is used to assist blind students in becoming more mobile and productive. Mike, who is blind, is a retired engineer from Westinghouse.



One of the Leader Dog trainers discusses how dogs are trained prior to being assigned to a student.

over the past ten years. With increasing costs, Leader Dog must find new sources of funds to continue its program of assisting visually impaired persons. The need is for more Lions Clubs across the country to step up and contribute. Currently, it costs approximately \$39,000 to provide a Leader Dog to an individual in need.

If your club has not contributed to Leader Dogs for the Blind in the past, I challenge you to step up this year and contribute to this vital program of Lionism. This past year, 250 persons were provided with a Leader Dog. What can your club do to continue this service to those in our society who are visually impaired? We should work together to ensure that 100% of clubs in District 14-B contribute in 2008-09.

For additional information on Leader Dogs for the Blind, you can access their website at <http://www.leaderdog.org/>. You can also contact Lion James Engel, District 14-B Leader Dog Chair, to arrange for a program at one of your club meetings. We have copies a wonderful DVD that can be shown at a club meeting.

WHITE CANE DAY

Annually Pennsylvania Lions conduct White Cane Day fund raising projects during the month of October. This year, White Cane Days are scheduled from October 10 through October 12; however, your club may hold White Cane Day events at anytime.

The purpose of White Cane Day is to solicit and obtain funds from the public by voluntary contributions to be used expressly for the treatment and prevention of blindness. Such funds are, therefore, to be collected and contributed to projects and activities that are closely associated with the blind.

During the 2007-2008 year, 360 Lions in 12 clubs in District 14-B collected \$12,349.25 through White Cane Day fund raising. All clubs in the district are encouraged to participate in the White Cane program. The White Cane Day Chairperson in District 14-B is Lion Jane McKnight of the Bethel Park Lions. After conducting a White Cane Day project, please notify Lion Jane McKnight at 412-833-3692 or Email trainshoes@comcast.net for making your report.

WHITE CANE DAY FACTS

It's A Fact That....

- **Lionism's concern for sight** began in 1925, when at its eighth annual convention, Miss Helen Keller challenged the Lions of America to band together to SERVE the blind and needy with impaired vision. It stirred Lions to a new dedication.
- **The first White Cane**, which makes the blind more mobile, was the 1927 suggestion of Lion George Bonham, then President of the Peoria, Illinois, Lions Club. It was not only a symbol stating that the user was blind but also a tool of sight-by-feel for the blind and near blind.
- **The first Lions White Cane Days** was inspired by Warren Greene, who led the Montgomery Park, California Lions Club in an effort to involve their community in the fundraising project. To recognize the contributions made by the community, they gave out the White Cane Day tag. The following year, neighboring clubs asked to be provided with the little canes for their fundraising efforts. Thus, White Cane Days were born.

Millions of Dollars have been raised by thousands of Lions Clubs in 40 states by holding White Cane Day since it started in 1951.

Eye Research Seminar

The 2008 Annual Eye Research Seminar of the Pennsylvania Lions Sight Conservation and Eye Research Foundation will be held on October 11, 2008 at the Eye and Ear Institute 203 Lothrop Street, Pittsburgh Pa. 15213 (Oakland). It will start with a continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and finish at approximately 12 noon with a lunch.

All Lions, Lioness and Leos are invited and encouraged to attend this informative seminar. You will learn about eye research projects, which will hopefully prevent blindness in the future. The presenters are researchers from the Eye and Ear Institute and several other research facilities in Pennsylvania.

Contact Lion Jack Schimmel, PDG for more information or to make a reservation to attend at 412-683-4828

PA LIONS SIGHT CONSERVATION AND EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

At the PA Lions State Council of Governors Meeting held in August, it was reported that \$98,128.39 was donated to the PA Lions Sight Conservation and Eye Research Foundation during the 2007-08 Lions year. Of that total, 14 clubs in District 14-B donated \$3,525. PDG Jack Schimmel is District 14-B chair for the Foundation.

The goal of the Foundation is to promote research to eliminate eye disease and to improve clinical techniques in this field. Through Lions support, the "seed money" is used to promote financial backing from large foundations such as the national Eye Institute.

The Foundation only supports proposals that originate in Pennsylvania research facilities including the University of Pittsburgh. Donated funds are essentially used for materials, supplies, and assistant technician help. The salary of the principal researchers must be supported by the institutions in which they are employed.

All of the donations are used to benefit eye or diabetes research. The six board members are volunteers and the medical advisory board members who review proposals also donate their time.

To learn more about the work of the Foundation, you should contact PDG Jack at 412-683-4828. He is available to present a program at one of your club meetings.

Glassport Lions

42nd ANNUAL RIGATONI NIGHT

Tuesday, October 14, 2007

6:45 PM

Sons of Italy Hall, 5th & Allegheny Ave., Glassport, PA

Cost \$10.00 per person - Cash Bar

Join with the Glassport Lions in celebrating their 41st Annual Rigatoni Night. This is one of the FUN events of District 14-B for many years. Over 180 Lions from the District attended the 2008 affair. It is advisable to get your reservations in ASAP! **Deadline is October 4th. BRING YOUR CLUB BANNER!**

Checks payable to GLASSPORT LIONS and mailed to:

Glassport Lions Club

P.O. Box 82, Glassport, PA 15045

Contact Info: KL Linda Aquilante 412-678-6615 (H) 412-469-5715 (W) Email laquilante@comcast.et

Please make _____ reservations @ \$10.00 each TOTAL _____

Lion: _____ Club: _____ Phone: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

DISTRICT 14-B FALL RALLY

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Social: 5:30 p.m. Buffet: 6:30 p.m.

Bradley House of Catering

5329 Brownsville Road - Baldwin Borough

Cost \$25 per person - Cash Bar

All Lions in the District are encouraged to attend. Enjoy a great evening with your fellow District Lions. Our special Guest speaker will be International Director Doug Sime from Massachusetts.

Bring your Club Banner! Send your reservations today!

Deadline is Monday, October 22, 2008.

Checks must be received by this date for your reservations — NO EXCEPTIONS!

There will be NO VERBAL RESERVATIONS!

Checks payable to Lions District 14-B and mailed to:

Alison Weber, District Activities Coordinator

501 Wabana Street Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1744

(412) 939-0305

Please make _____ reservations @ \$25.00 each TOTAL _____

Lion: _____ Club: _____ Phone: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

Note: Table seating allows 8 at each table. Please specify if your Club would like one table.