



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS**  
**Pennsylvania District 14-B**  
**Allegheny County**

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**DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**  
**February 2009**

**STATUS OF DISTRICT 14-B WEBSITE AND ELECTRONIC VERSION OF *THE CAULDRON***

Since early January, we have experienced significant problems with the District 14-B Lions website. The website has been infected by numerous viruses and created problems for individuals who have attempted to access the website. PDG Jim Hartman, who manages the website, has spent countless hours trying to resolve the problems. He is continuing to so do. As a result, he has been unable to post *The Cauldron* and other District 14-B activities. As soon as all of the issues are resolved, club presidents and secretaries will receive an e-mail indicating that website is clear of all viruses and can be accessed.

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**

When I became District Governor, I selected as my theme, "Celebrate Our Service." I strongly believe that we need to promote what we as Lions do within our communities. Sometimes, I sense that Lionism may be the best kept secret in our communities. If you walked through the local shopping center or super market and asked who the Lions are, what kind of response would you get?

How many people in your community realize all that your club does to support projects that benefit young people? Do your community leaders know all the ways in which your members have supported the local food pantry, the public library, or recreation programs? Do you let people know how many pairs of used glasses that you have collected or how many individuals have received glasses through your club? Have you shared about Lions projects such as Beacon Lodge Camp, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Blind Bowlers, Diabetes Foundation, or research projects funded by PA Sight Conservation and Eye Research Foundation?

Many of you have heard me make the following comment: "If you don't blow your own horn, no one will blow it for you." There is nothing wrong with telling how the Lions Club helps people within your community. If you don't tell them, how do you expect the same people to support your fund-raising projects? Those who donate need to know how their donations are spent. If you tell what you do, you just might get a few people interested in becoming Lions.

With all the demands on everyone's time, individuals are cautious about making a commitment to join any organization. However, people are willing to participate when they know that what they do will benefit others. Only when we tell our story will we encourage others to join us.

As I visit the clubs throughout District 14-B, I am impressed with the level of commitment of Lions. Each of you is to be commended for all that you do and we need to celebrate that service. On Friday, April 17, we will "Celebrate our Service" at the annual District Spring Party at South Hills Country Club. We will have an outstanding dinner, recognize clubs for their service, and enjoy great entertainment all for a cost of \$25.00 per person. Invitations and reservation forms are included with this mailing. Reservations must be mailed to Lion Alison Weber, District Activities Chair, on or before Wednesday, April 8.

We will also recognize Lydia Fromlak, a student at Immaculate Conception School, who was one of 23 Merit Award Winners in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Lions Peace Poster Contest at the International level. Lydia's entry was submitted by the Bloomfield-Lawrenceville Lions Club.

In preparation for that event, I am requesting that all clubs compile a list of service projects, fund-raisers, and other events that you have completed during the past year and submit them to me on or before April 1, 2009. But we do not want just words, we also need pictures. As we have all heard, "a picture speaks a thousand words." I know that club members take pictures of their events and projects and we need those pictures. We want to put together a video presentation with pictures from all the clubs throughout the District 14-B. This presentation will subsequently be included on the District 14-B website.

You can e-mail your pictures and project information to me at [jwfrombach@comcast.net](mailto:jwfrombach@comcast.net).

If you have any questions, you can contact me by e-mail or call me at 412-882-3926 or 412-956-3940.

Let's all "Celebrate our Service."

Yours in Lionism,

DG John

### **FIRST AND SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNORS**

Beginning July 1, 2009, each Lions District will have a First Vice District and a Second Vice District Governor. The election for vice district governors for District 14-B will be held at the State Convention in Camp Hill. Lions from District 14-B who are interested in standing for election for either First District Governor or for Second Vice District Governor must submit a letter of endorsement from his or her club to DG John Frombach on or before April 1, 2009.

### **"CLOSE THE BACK DOOR NOW!!"**

PDG Jim Eldridge, Multiple District 14 Retention Chair, made this statement in his report at the State Council meeting in February. He challenged Pennsylvania Lions in all clubs to work to retain members. From July 2008 through January 2009, clubs in Pennsylvania inducted 1,005 new Lions; however, during the same time span, we lost 1,482 members. That is a net decline of 477 Lions. PDG Jim challenges us all to turn this around and RETAIN our members.

Each Lions Club must present each member the opportunity to review his/her own reasons for becoming a Lion and continuing to serve as a Lion. Each club must assess how it can stimulate members to identify new methods to re-energize their original commitment. We need younger members, BUT WE ALSO MUST RETAIN THEM BY GIVING THEM A CHALLENGE THAT FITS THEIR NEEDS TO SERVE.

We have the same issue in District 14-B. **We have added 38 new members; however, we have dropped 85 members for a net loss of 47 Lions since July 2008.** Each one of our clubs must assess why we are losing those individuals who joined Lionism for the purpose of serving others. We must close the back door!!

### **WHITE CANE DAY REPORT**

To date, 10 clubs (out of 42) in District 14-B have reported that they have conducted White Cane collections. Contributions have totaled \$9,094.71 with 288 hours volunteered by Lions. If your club has not yet reported your information, please contact Lion Jane McKnight, District 14-B White Cane Day Chair, at 412-833-3692. If

your club has not conducted a White Cane collection this year, please consider doing so this spring. There is still time to do so and support the many sight conservation programs that are sponsored by Lions.

### **PA LIONS SUPPORTS LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND**

Pennsylvania Lions have always been very generous in support of Leader Dogs for the Blind. From July 1 through December 31, 2008, Lions in Multiple District 14 have contributed \$37,557 which ranks third among all Lions districts. During the same period, 10 clubs in District 14-B have contributed \$4,465. In Pennsylvania, 2 individuals have been trained and received new dogs. Three individuals have received replacement dogs. We encourage all clubs in District 14-B to support Leader Dogs for the Blind.

For further information, you can contact Lion Jim Engel, Leader Dog Chair for District 14-B at 412-833-4267, or you can access the Leader Dog website at <http://www.leaderdog.org>.

### **PA LIONS BEACON LODGE CAMP**

The following is a summary of the report that PCC Brian McCarl, Beacon Lodge Liaison to State Council, presented to Lions at the State Council meeting on February:

- For approximately 18 years, the State of Pennsylvania has issued a non-preferred appropriation to Beacon Lodge. These payments have been as high as \$155,000. For the past four years, the amount stood at \$105,000. The Beacon Lodge Camp Board of Directors received a letter from Governor Rendell's office informing the Camp that the annual appropriation is being cut by \$6,300 to \$98,700, a reduction of six per cent. It is a sign of the times and reductions in the future can be expected. The Board of Directors will have to come up with an alternate source of income to cover this shortfall.
- The fundraising project to cover the costs associated with the installation of the new sewer line and water line below both the adult camp and children's village is continuing. At end of the 2008, a letter was sent to all Lions, Lionesses and Leos clubs in Multiple District 14 to request support for the project. To date, 186 Lions Clubs, 20 Lioness Clubs, 1 Leo Club, 6 districts, 2 regions, and 14 individual Lions have made donations or pledges. That means that only 25% of the clubs in Pennsylvania have responded. If every club that has not responded would provide a minimum contribution of \$100, that would put the Camp close to the goal needed to complete this project.
- PA Lions Appreciation Day at Beacon Lodge is scheduled for Sunday, July 19.

If your club has not yet made a pledge or donation to Beacon Lodge for the Water and Sewer Project, please consider doing so. Beacon Lodge Camp has provided camping programs for disabled individuals for 60 years. As Lions, we need to make a concentrated effort to support this valuable asset.

District 14-B is represented on the Beacon Lodge Camp Board of Directors by PDG Dennis McCarthy, who is Board President, and Lion Thomas Hurrell. If your club would like to hear more about Beacon Lodge, contact either PDG Dennis (412-751-8119) or Lion Tom (412-466-6358).

### **PENNSYLVANIA LIONS STATE BAND**

Each year, the Pennsylvania State Council of Lions Clubs sponsors the Pennsylvania Lions All State Band. It is conducted by Lion Robert Zellner, Professor Emeritus at Gettysburg College. The All State Band will perform at the PA Lions State Convention in May at Camp Hill and participate in a five-day tour culminating in performances at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Lions International Convention in July in Minneapolis.

This is a great opportunity for students in your community to participate with many PMEA District, Regional, and All-State musicians. The staff is comprised of outstanding music educators from Pennsylvania. Rehearsals are conducted from July 2 through July 4 at Gettysburg College. The tour leaves Gettysburg at the completion of the rehearsal schedule.

The cost is \$375 per student which includes all room, board, and transportation costs (except the costs to and from the participant's home to Gettysburg). The remainder of the costs is paid by the Pennsylvania Lions.

For further information, you can contact:

Robert Zellner  
950 Fairview Avenue  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
Phone: 717-334-6316  
E-mail: [Rzgettysburg@aol.com](mailto:Rzgettysburg@aol.com)

**REMINDER TO CLUBS SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS:** Included in the PA Lions State Dues is an assessment of \$1.50 per club member for the State Band. Since this supports a program for young people, this portion of the state dues can be charged to the club's charity account.

### **THE PRIDE**

Frequently, members of Lions clubs ask how to get information in THE PRIDE, the PA Lions magazine/newsletter that is published quarterly and mailed to all Lions in Multiple District 14. Lion Jim Norton, Editor, provides the following guidelines for submitting articles and pictures for inclusion in the THE PRIDE:

- Send as much information as possible via e-mail – both article and photos. Send to [jnorton108@comcast.net](mailto:jnorton108@comcast.net).
- Indicate your District on all articles and photos.
- Consider limiting your photos to three or four people.
- Take close shots and identify everyone in the photo.
- Make your photos active. Try to get pictures with people in the event being reported.
- Include a means of contact – e-mail address and telephone number.
- If necessary, you can contact Lion Jim Norton by mail at P. O. Box 276, Parkesburg, PA 19365.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS SEMINAR**

Lion Elaine Frombach, District PR Chair, will conduct a public relations seminar on Saturday, March 21, at the Western Pennsylvania for Blind Children. Enclosed is a flier about this program. Clubs are encouraged to send one or more Lions to this seminar.

### **PA LIONS STATE CONVENTION**

The 2009 Pennsylvania Lions Convention will be hosted by District 14-T at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center in Camp Hill from Thursday, May 14 through Sunday, May 17. All clubs should have received information about the state convention. The deadline for registration is April 10, 2009. Information about the state convention can be accessed on the PA Lions website at [http://www.palions.org/state\\_conventions.htm](http://www.palions.org/state_conventions.htm).

### PIRATE BASEBALL GAME

District 14-B Lions will sponsor a Lions Day at PNC Park on **Sunday afternoon, June 14, 2009**. This is an opportunity for Lions and their guests to enjoy an afternoon baseball game and help the district to raise money for the Beacon Lodge Camp Sewer Line project. A portion of each ticket that is purchased will be donated by the Pirates to the Lions. Fliers will be sent to all clubs in April. The price for tickets will be as follows:

- \$20 Package: An Outfield Box Seat (includes a Pirates Cap)
- \$12 Ticket: A Left or Right Field Grandstand Seat

### DISTRICT SPRING PARTY

The District 14-B Spring Party will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at the South Hills Country Club. The theme for the evening will be "Celebrate Our Service." The social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 7:00 p.m. Enclosed are the flier about the party and the reservation forms. Reservation forms must be sent to Lion Alison Weber, District Activities Coordinator, on or before Wednesday April 8, 2009. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope to Lion Alison. **PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## FORMS TO BE COMPLETED BY CLUBS

Inventory of Equipment. Each year, Lions Clubs provide assistance to residents who live in their communities. Sometimes these requests are for assistive devices such as CCCTVs, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc. Many clubs have such equipment which may be stored in a garage or storage building. In order to best utilize the resources of clubs, clubs are being requested to submit an inventory of such assistive devices that may be available for loan to other clubs as the need may arise.

Collection Boxes. Clubs throughout District 14-B collect glasses to be donated to LCI for distribution to third-world countries. To provide information to residents in Allegheny County, all clubs are requested to complete the enclosed form – "Location of Collection Boxes." This information will be compiled and will be included on the district's website. It will also be provided to local newspapers.

Fundraisers. Lions throughout district work very hard to conduct fundraisers to support the many charities that their clubs support. These are many and varied. Some of the fundraisers, such as broom and garbage bag sales, are conducted on an on-going basis. To assist clubs in their fundraising efforts, we are requesting that each club compile a list of all fundraisers. This information will be placed on the district website and will be provided to local newspapers.

Enclosed are forms on which the above information can be provided. We appreciate your support in completing these forms and returning them in the enclosed envelope to District Governor John Frombach at 4373 East Lawnview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15227-2636. Thank you for your cooperation in this project.

**SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR SERVICE –**

**ASK SOME ONE TO JOIN LIONS TODAY!!**