

# Lions Link



## Lions Clubs International District 37L Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 6 December 2013

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### Newsletter

### Submission

Deadline: Jan 23



**Peace Poster Contest.** The District and Multiple District 37 winner is Eric Montpetit a grade 6 student at the Neil M. Ross Elementary School in St. Albert. PDG and project chair Claude Carignan is holding the 1st place winning entry, DG Joan Lubbers is holding the 2nd place winner's submission by Maggie Godziuk a grade 7 student from Vincent J. Maloney Catholic Jr. High School and VDG Bob is holding the 3rd place winner's entry by Brianda McArthur gr. 8 student from Richard S. Fowler Catholic Jr. High School. All 5 District winners can be found at [md37lions.org](http://md37lions.org) - [District Events and Activities](#) The winning Peace poster from District 37-L is being forwarded to Lions Clubs International for the next level of judging.

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**"Never regret.  
If it's good, it's wonderful.  
If it's bad, it's experience."**

~ Victoria Holt

### District Governor's Notes

It is hard to believe that my year is half over. It has been busy, sometimes firing and sometimes frustrating but above all it has been very gratifying to have been welcomed so warmly by the Lions of our District as we have done visits. It amazes me as to how many service projects are on the go. Lions from every club are serving our communities and making the world a better place. I want to thank and congratulate each and every club and Lion for the work they do. As the New Year approaches we need to look back and reflect on all the good things we have done, and strive to add just one more service project to our list. Maybe we will have to add a few more members to help us do

those new projects. More hands, less work and lots more fun.

Some of us make New Year's resolutions, this year as I think of mine I know it will be different than other years as I will include the humanitarian aspect of others more.

As the holidays are rapidly arriving we will all be busy with the last minute things we want to do. Above all take the time to remember what Christmas should mean and enjoy your time with your families, loved ones and friends. Lion Herman and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have a great holiday season and I look forward to working with you all again in the New Year.

- DG Joan

## Edmonton Northgate Lions Donate

On Tuesday, December 10, 2013, during the North Edmonton Seniors Association's (NESA) Christmas Concert, the Edmonton Northgate Lions presented NESA with a \$20,000.00 cheque for their Building Fund. NESA President, Hugh Newell, informed those in attendance of a bit of Northgate Lions Seniors Centre history: The Centre opened in 1978, and a Northgate Lions member mortgaged his home in order for this to happen; to date Northgate Lions has donated \$2.5 million to the Centre (along with \$2.5 million from the City of Edmonton, and \$2.5 million from the Centre's fundraising).

Hugh also stated that although Northgate Lions has a small membership (22 members), they continue to support the Centre through volunteering at the Centres' BBQs and any other



activities the Centre puts on. He also announced Northgate Lions also supports the Centre's "Seniors In Need" Program every year – this year with a donation of \$2000.00. After Hugh's speech, the Lions in attendance – President Lion Harry

Clark, Treasurer Lion Rod Zohner, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lion Tom Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lion Terry Hancock, Secretary Lion Sharon Johnston, and Lion Brian Sieban received a standing ovation from those in attendance.

- Sharon Johnston

## Edmonton Southgate Lions Delivers

The Club provided assistance to the Bissel Centre in Edmonton after they experienced a fire in their facility used to store relief items. On November 25th the members of Southgate brought used clothing and miscellaneous other items to their dinner meeting and loaded it all in a trailer and pickup truck, which was delivered to the Bissel Centre Temporary warehouse the next day.

In total there were 31 large bags of "goodies", mostly very useable clothing items, and an additional 75 new men's suits that had come from expired stock at Moore's clothing stores.

All of the Southgate Lions were happy to know that the less-fortunate people in our city will realize some assistance from this donation."

- John Cragg

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? One that's deep pan, crisp and event!

# Ukrainian New Years MALANKA JANUARY 18, 2014 THORSBY COMMUNITY HALL

TICKETS - \$40 each - Only 225 Tickets Available

**FULL UKRAINIAN BUFFET SUPPER**

**UKRAINIAN MUSIC BY: SPARKLING TONES**

**COCKTAILS - 6:30 pm Supper - 7:30 pm**

**Dance - 9:00 pm - 1:00 am**

**Midnight Lunch**

SPONSORED BY:

**THORSBY LIONS CLUB**

Phone: (780) 789-3734 for Tickets

Lion Member: Sam Kobeluck



**DG Joan Lubbers**, Lion Ron Wackenhut, Lion Lynda Wackenhut and Lion Joann Babineau {in the wheelchair} deliver gifts to seniors for **Tender Hearts**. This organization gives a gift to seniors in senior's centres in Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Parkland County and a few low income centres in Edmonton.

- **DG Joan Lubbers**

*(Editor's Note: Tender Hearts is DG Joan's Charity of Choice, which means that Clubs wishing to honour or thank the DG for her services, are encouraged to consider supporting this charity.)*

**"Who's the bane of Santa's life?  
The elf and safety officer."**

Lion Herman Lubbers, Lion Ron Wackenhut and myself (DG Joan) presenting gift certificates to the Kinsmen Christmas Hamper program in Stony Plain



## DG Joan's Visitation Schedule

### January,

- 14 - Hi-5 Lions
- 17 & 18 - District O convention
- 20 - Edmonton Millwoods Lions  
- Sherwood Park Lions - 2VDG Hank
- 21 - Alberta Beach Lions
- 22 - City of Champion Lions
- 25 - Council of Governors meeting
- 28 - Devon Lions

### February

- 3 - Edmonton Strathcona Lions 2VDG Hank
- 5 - White court Lions
- 8 - Cabinet meeting in Wabamun
- 11 - Busby Lions
- 25 - Spruce Grove Lions

### March

- 3 - Blue Ridge Lions
- 11 - St Albert Breakfast Lions
- 25 - Edmonton Korean Lions

As in the past if your club has a certain date they would like please contact me and I will do my best to accommodate you.

**97th Lions  
International Convention  
at the  
Centre of the Known Universe  
(Toronto)**

**July 4 - 8, 2014**

Information at: <http://lionsconvention2014.ca/>

## Vision Screening

Over the last few months, your editor, 2VDG Hank, has become aware of a signature service project that has tremendous potential for enhancing our ability to fulfil our service mandate while providing substantial visibility and recruiting opportunities.

In short, Lions in several Districts around North America, have adopted a program of vision screening for children as young as six months and into elementary school levels. Lions volunteers, with the aid of a portable screening device are able with remarkable accuracy to identify children with potential vision problems. This device is a refractive measurement tool that, among other things, identifies short and far-sightedness, strabismus (lazy eye), corneal irregularities, eye alignment, as well as crossed eyes and walleyes. These measurements are taken in less than a second. The results are shown on a screen as "pass" or "refer", and is complemented by a

printout that details those results for specific potential problems. These results are presented to parents or caregivers who are encouraged to follow up on "refer" results. Properly used, the device can attain up to 98% accuracy.

The first three grades (K, 1, 2) of an entire elementary school could be screened in a single day, with paper results given to the parents or guardians for followup the same day.

While this screening is not definitive, it effectively identifies almost all children who should be referred to an optometrist or ophthalmologist, who can confirm the results, and work with parents and guardians to effectively treat the conditions identified. There is no coordinated program of eye screening for children in Alberta, and if we can get support from eyecare professionals – particularly as we propose no treatment ourselves – only directing people to followup services – we can do a real service in improving the eye health of children.

What is required is acceptance by the eyecare professionals, and those responsible for the care of children in groups (playschools, school jurisdictions) with the ability to approve such a project and make it possible to access the children. I have been researching this matter for some time, and have asked others to also evaluate the equipment and the process to find an effective way to make such a program happen. The Lions of Montana are strong supporters of this screening service: the article on page 5 of the December (current) Lions Tales (If you don't get Lions Tales and would like to have a copy, let me know) indicates how committed Montana Lions are to this project. Montana Lions have acquired 26 of these units at US \$5800 per unit, and are

looking to get more. You can also check out: <http://montanalions.org/plusoptix.html>

In order to get some sense of what is happening in our District, I would appreciate hearing from you regarding what your Clubs are doing, what strategies you may have developed, or even what friends you might have in low places – such as optometrists, ophthalmologists, pediatricians, school administrators, Provincial politicians – anyone who might be able to advance this project. Any and all of your enquiries and comments are welcome.

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Many said to Joseph: 'Put the rubbish out love.' 'I can't,' he replied. 'It's Christmas – there's no room in the bin.'



### The device of choice is the Plusoptix portable vision screener.

It is hand held, has a happy face to focus the child's attention, and produces a warbling sound that causes subjects to look at the machine by reflex. The operator needs to point the device at the child from a distance of one meter for a second or less. Results are downloaded to a USB drive and are translated by the software into a file that generates a written report. Operator training takes a few minutes and requires no special skills.

## Dr. Patti Hill Fellowship

This fellowship is being established to honor Past International Director Dr. Patti Hill for her many years of Lions service. The funds are used for Eye Research at the Edmonton Royal Alexandra Hospital Regional Eye Centre, through the Lions of Alberta Foundation.

The fellowship is available at the cost of \$500.00. Application forms and payment payable to Lions of Alberta Foundation will be sent to Lion Kristine Kozoriz, who you can contact for more information, not to mention the application form. [kkozoriz@telus.net](mailto:kkozoriz@telus.net)



**Speaking of Vision Screening...** An optical mission, organized by MD36 (Oregon) travelled to Las Varas, Mexico (a village a couple of hours North of Puerto Vallarta) in late November to fit and distribute some 1800 pairs of recycled eyeglasses during a 5 day clinic. First Vice District Governor (37N) Pauline Cooper, and other Lions from MD37 and MD19 sacrificed themselves (a couple of days on the beach didn't hurt...) to help out the Oregon Lions. **Photo by Lion Sharon Hoekstra, who threatened your editor's life if he didn't credit her...**

## Maple Leaf Weekend

**Raffle Winners** as conducted by the Grande Prairie Lions Club on behalf of the Lions Foundation of Canada:

1st prize (Trip for 2 to Toronto, 2 tickets to a Maple Leaf game, 2 nights accommodation, and a visit to the Foundation Dog Guide facilities in Oakville): **Brittany Underwood**...no address on the ticket, but believed to be Grande Prairie

2nd prize (jewellery): **Winfield Lions Club**

3rd prize (jewellery): **Sheryl Rom-bough**, Forestburg, AB

Winners will be contacted directly by Foundation staff.

Thanks to everyone who participated, making this the largest Maple Leaf Weekend Raffle to date.

- **Grande Prairie Lions Club**

## The Grande Prairie Lions

would like to thank Northern Vision Centre and OPTIK 1000 for their recent donations of used eyeglasses.

- **PCC Lynne Coulter**

## District Calendar

### 2014

1	17-18	37O Convention	Canmore, AB	Kevin Gibbons <a href="mailto:lionkev@telus.net">lionkev@telus.net</a>
5	2-3	MD37 Convention	Calgary, AB	Multiple District 37 <a href="http://md37lions.org">md37lions.org</a>
7	4-8	International Convention	Toronto, ON	Lions International <a href="http://lionsclubs.org">lionsclubs.org</a>

### 2015

5	17-18	MD37 Convention	Bozeman, MT	
6	26-30	International Convention	Honolulu	Lions International <a href="http://lionsclubs.org">lionsclubs.org</a>

### 2016

6	24-26	International Convention	Fukoku, Japan	Lions International <a href="http://lionsclubs.org">lionsclubs.org</a>
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### 2017

6-30 - 7.4	International Convention	Chicago (100 years of Lionism)	Lions International <a href="http://lionsclubs.org">lionsclubs.org</a>
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**What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!**



**Our best wishes (bad puns not withstanding) for the Season, and for a happy, healthy, prosperous, and caring 2014!**