

Lions Link



Lions Clubs International District 37L Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 7 January 2008

Bill Engram
 District Governor
 780 490 1372
billengram@shaw.ca

Roger Kozma
 Vice District Governor
 780 463-8762
rkozma@shaw.ca

Hank Hoekstra
 Bulletin Editor
 780 988 9318
hankh@telus.net

Newsletter Submission Deadline: February 22

Shiny New Lions

DG Bill (the short guy in the middle) is flanked by new Lions Lloyd MacArthur and Kayley MacMillan. Their sponsors are Lions James Rollison (L) and Mike MacMillan (R). The Blessed Event took place on January 14, 2008



Dear Fellow Lions

Lion Shirley and I hope your festive season was everything you hoped it would be and we wish you and your families a Wonderful Happy New Year!

Wow! We are over the six-month mark in our year. At the end of this Month we will have had the pleasure of visiting with 47 of our 68 Lions Clubs. Sometimes things change in our lives that we can't control. I am very pleased that the Red Earth Creek, the Wabasca/Desmarais and the High Prairie Lions Clubs were kind enough to allow me to re-schedule because of other commitments that I could not change. I look forward to my visits to the remaining 21 clubs.

A new year, a fresh start on new ideas. Let's look at who we are going to have running our clubs for us in the coming Lions year. This is the time you should be thinking about your 2008-2009 Lions Club executive. Remember, it is your Club and you have the responsibility and, in fact, the obligation to nominate and elect this group of Lions. Remember also that DGE Lion Roger Kozma will be needing the PU101's completed and a copy sent to him no later than April 15, 2008. These PU101's are ESSENTIAL not just to Lions International but also so that DGE Lion Roger can prepare a Directory of Clubs for our District. IPDG Darlene worked very diligently last year to re-instate the District directory. I am

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Beer & Beans

February 23
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Busby-Vimy Champagne Breakfast
 Saturday, February 2 2008, 9:30^{am}
 Vimy Hall (across from Vimy School)
 Tickets: \$15.00
 contact Bob: 780 914 8250
vimylions@shaw.ca



STARS Comes to Grande Prairie

On Dec.7, the helipad at the QEII Hospital was officially opened. The ceremony had been planned for 10:00 AM. The usual suspects had gathered and the helicopter arrived right on cue; except it was carrying a real live casualty from an auto accident rather than an empty stretcher. It was a fitting demonstration of this very necessary service, which has been supported by Lions Clubs & members throughout Alberta since its inception.

- PCC Lynne Coulter

proud to say I was able to continue with the help of Lions Al & Linda Lajoie, and now District Governor Elect Roger is already planning ahead for next year.

You will soon be receiving your billing from International for dues and from the District for District and Multiple District dues. Club Treasurers please pay all District, Multiple District and International invoices PROMPTLY. If

you pay all bills promptly you won't be bothered by your Zone Chair or myself having to contact you. It is crucial that your Club dues are paid up-to-date by all your members so that you will be able to vote as a Club in Good Standing at the MD37 Convention in Kananaskis on May 2-3, 2008.

By now you all should have received information on the Lions Foundation

of Canada light-bulb drive. Our district has two pallets of these bulbs stored in my garage. Each pallet contains 336 boxes of 3 2-packs. That's a lot of light bulbs. I would love to get the orders from the respective clubs and have them picked up. Please contact Lion Greg Holmes or myself for more information.

More information on these lightbulbs can be found on page 4 of last month's Link...

By the time you get this Link I will be on my way to Great Falls to attend our 3rd Council meeting as well as the MD Conference. I hope to see a lot of you there as it promises to be a great conference.

My thanks again to all the Club Secretaries who are so diligent in working towards the submissions of their Club's MMR's and MAR's in a timely fashion. As you know, this is such valuable information for your District Governor as well as Lions International. It will also help to keep your International billings straight.

As I visit your clubs I have talked about Can-Media's offer to re-do our Alberta History on DVD. We need 50 clubs to come on board with this project so that we may

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If any Lions have a 2008 USA/Canada Lions Leadership brochure please note that the top of Page 1 of the Registration Form **should** read as follows:

Opening Session -Thursday, September 18, 2008 @ 5:30 p.m. Closing Session - Saturday, September 20, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.

If yours has that information....great but if it does not, please make note of the correct dates.

If you have any questions please contact me.

PDG Donna Coulter

2008 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Planning Committee

Ldcgp@telusplanet.net

Phone/fax: 780-532-3027

make application to the Provincial Government for the funding needed to carry out this huge project. As with the first publication, the Lions Clubs names will be up front as the service club helping to make this possible. Let's make sure it is our Service Organization that gets the recognition for this great project. Also, as you are aware, there is absolutely no cost to your Club. I recently e-mailed all clubs again asking for a commitment and support on this. Thanks to all the Clubs that have agreed. You will be receiving your package from Can-Media. I still need lots more Clubs to make it work.

We need to hear from the Clubs out there. As I travel around I am hearing of all the wonderful projects you all have on the go. Let's tell the other clubs about them. Let's share our ideas. Let's get together as Lions and be "one for all and all for one". Just submit your articles for the District Newsletter to editor Lions Hank Hoekstra at hankh@telus.net before the 20th of each month. He will be more than pleased to decorate a nice little square, rectangle or some other neat shaped article for you!!!

My sincere thanks to all the Zone Chairs that are working so diligently within their Zones. Thank you for your Zone meetings, your support when I visit your Zone Clubs and for having taken on this task in being a part of the Cabinet.

Yours in Lionism

- DG Bill

New Process for Monthly Membership Reporting by Clubs Effective April 2008

Overview

Beginning in April 2008, there will be a change in the submission dates for clubs to report their monthly membership reports (MMRs). These reporting changes will apply both to clubs that report their membership transactions online (through the online WMMR system) and for clubs that submit paper MMRs to international headquarters. As explained below, the overall goals are to (1) enable LCI to produce more timely cumulative monthly membership reports, and (2) provide more consistency and accuracy between the LCI cumulative monthly member report and Club Billing Statements and District Financial Recap reports.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What exactly will be the changes to monthly membership reporting?

Currently, membership reporting is released by LCI on a one-month lag. For example, the May Cumulative Membership and Club Summary Report is released on June 29th and utilizes transactions (adds or drops) that are created through on the 28th of June. As such, the "May" report has transactions that were created from May 28th through June 28th 4:00 PM (local time in Oak Brook). Under the new membership reporting process, which will become effective in April 2008, reports will be released as of the most recent calendar month end. For example, the May report will have transactions that were created from May 1st – May 31st. The report will be generated 5 days after the last day of the month.

Q: Why were the changes necessary?

This will allow the association to report membership on a timely basis.

Q: Will the due dates change for monthly membership reporting?

Yes, for clubs that report online through the WMMR system, transactions must now be entered by the last day of the current month. And for clubs that file paper MMR reports, they must submit paper MMRs to LCI by the 20th of the current month. Transaction entered on the WMMR will be reported in the current month. For example, transactions entered on July 7th will be considered a "July" reporting. Mailed reports, must be received by the 20th of the month, to be included in that month's cumulative report. Reports, received after that date, will be recorded in the membership system with the current month; however will be included in the next month's cumulative report.

Should you have any questions on the new process and reporting dates, please contact Troy Jewell at 630 571-5466 extension 312 or troy.jewell@lionsclubs.org.

Edmonton Westmount 50th Charter Anniversary

Guest Speaker: PCC Larrie Taylor

(Better still, Lion Pam will be there...)

April 26, 2008

Northgate Lions Seniors` Centre

(7524 139 Avenue)

Cocktails: 6^{pm} Dinner 7:30^{pm}

Tickets and information:

Lion Michael Ryan

780 486 0001

mgryan@Shaw.ca



The Heart of a Lion



BY SEAN MOWAT

In Palawan City in the Philippines over 70% of the population is hearing impaired due to the side effects of taking the anti-malarial drug, quinine. Hearing impairment is a terrible debilitation for anyone, but in places like Palawan the situation is compounded by the lack of access to hearing specialists and affordable hearing aids. Due to Lions Club members like Dr. Michael Skuba, '45 BEd, '55 MEd, '65 PhD, who for almost two decades has volunteered his time supplying hearing aids and assessment equipment to countries that need them, there is hope that many of the adults and children in these countries will eventually be able to enjoy the ability to hear.

It all started for Dr. Skuba in 1989 when an audiologist from Chile came to Edmonton to see how the Alberta government was funding hearing assessments and specifically hearing aid subsidies. During the Chilean audiologist's visit he was advised by the Chief Audiologist at the Glenrose clinic to go see Dr. Skuba, who was the hearing and speech chairman of the Lions Club district 37B at the time. Dr. Skuba recalls, "As soon as I heard that the Chilean government was only providing this audiologist with enough funding to provide five or six patients a month hearing aids, and he needed over five times that amount, I knew the Lions Club would be eager to help."

In an effort to provide hearing aids to those who needed them, Michael made connections with audiology clinics in Edmonton to allow the Lions Club to place hearing aid collection boxes in their waiting rooms so patients could donate their used hearing aids. Dr. Skuba also contacted hearing aid manufacturers throughout Canada to see if they could provide older model hearing aids to the program.

"In the first year or so the boxes didn't collect very many hearing aids, if any, and we only received a couple dozen or so outmoded hearing aids from manufacturers," Skuba admits. "Things improved though, and in 1991 we received about 25 or 30 from a single clinic

in Edmonton, and by 1992 we shipped about 100 to the Philippines, who we were also helping at this point."

Dr. Skuba realized early on that in order for this program to truly be successful he needed to get more Lions Club Districts involved, so he advised the District Governor's Cabinet, which encompasses 65 clubs throughout Alberta, of the problem. "Of course they readily agreed to help and suggested the already well known Lions Club eyeglass boxes include hearing aids as well," says Skuba.

In 1997 Dr. Hugh Thom, a medical missionary from Palawan City, sent a letter to the District Governor of the Lions Club explaining the widespread hearing impairment problem in Palawan, and asked for his assistance. Dr. Skuba immediately began working to provide hearing aids for the people of Palawan, and was deeply

touched when he received a letter from Dr. Thom which included the pictures of the initial patients who had received hearing aids. Skuba recalls a story from one man, "I was told that his neighbours now complain that they don't know what's going on in his house because his family doesn't have to shout at him anymore."

Unfortunately, a parallel effect of early onset hearing impairment is delayed speech development. Skuba explains, "Children normally acquire the ability to speak at around the age of two, but because of their hearing impairment many Palawan children never attain the ability to speak so they can be readily understood." This created the need for extensive speech therapy for a large contingent of the children. "Unfortunately, conventional sign language is ineffective because it is English based and, since the national language is Tagalog, Palawan children aren't able to

use it to communicate with their family and neighbours."

Two speech therapists from England volunteered to go to Palawan to teach speech therapy to teachers, and in 2000 a school of speech therapy opened and was named in honour of Lions Club District 37B. A video of the school opening was sent to Michael which he used in presentations to other Lions Club districts in order to increase interest and involvement. Several other clubs and districts joined in, and in March 2003 another speech therapy school was named after an Alberta Lions Club District. "In total there are currently three speech ther-

"In total there are currently three speech therapy schools named in tribute to Alberta Lions Club districts."

apy schools named in tribute to Alberta Lions Club districts," says Skuba.

At the time of Michael Skuba's retirement in 2007 from the Lions Club, almost 1500 hearing aids had been distributed to patients in four differ-

ent countries (Philippines, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, and Belarus). Dr. Skuba's influence in Palawan is evident by the signs located all over the city advertising free hearing screening and evaluations which pay tribute to him and the Lions Club."

Dr. Skuba has two mementos that are very dear to him. One is an album full of pictures of hundreds of patients from Palawan, each holding signs saying, "Thank you Lions Club; You have given me hope; God bless you all"; and the second is a modest harp shaped trophy from the children of Palawan that says, "You are our hero."

In May 2007, Michael was inducted into the Lions Club Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to the club and the community.

Sean Mowat, '95 BEd, is the Faculty of Education's Development Officer.

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Lion Margaret Potvin

Environment Chair
Zone 2B Chair

is now at
8504 - 121 Avenue
Edmonton, T5B 0Z2
780 477 5527

**HUMOUR FOR LEXOPHILES
(lovers of words)
and PCC Lynne Coulter**

- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Plan on attending the St. Albert Lions Clubs

17th Annual Beer & Beans Bash

Saturday, February 23 2008

St. Albert Community Hall
17 Perron Street
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Lunch 10:00pm
Silent Auction
Dancing until 12:00pm

With the music of *Moonlight Breeze*

Tickets: \$15.00 per person

For tickets: please call

Lion Gerry Gorgichuk ~ 459-7751
Lion Dave Hiatt ~ 459-4144

- Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
- The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- The math professor went crazy with the blackboard. He did a number on it.
- The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.
- The dead batteries were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
- With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
- A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France, resulted in linoleum blownapart.
- A calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.

More at the bottom of page 6...

DG Bill's Meanderings

<u>January</u>			
29	Tuesday	Official visit	Edmonton Korean
<u>February</u>			
2	Saturday	Champagne Breakfast	Vimy & District Lions Club
4	Monday	Official Visit	Edmonton Strathcona Lions Club
5	Tuesday	Official visit	Edmonton Jasper Place
6	Wednesday	Official visit	Fairview Lions Club
7 - 11	Thursday - Monday	Lions Fac. Dev. Inst.	Calgary
13	Wednesday	FSNA Luncheon	Edmonton AB
13	Wednesday	Official visit	Edmonton Northgate
16	Saturday	Official Visit	Edmonton Filipino
19	Tuesday	Official visit	Edmonton Castledowns
21	Thursday	Edmn Host Lions Club	Regular meeting
25	Monday	Official visit	Edmonton Millwoods
26	Tuesday	Official visit	Edmonton Golden Gate
27	Wednesday	Official visit	Peace River
28	Thursday	Official visit	Wembley & District
<u>March</u>			
5	Wednesday	Official visit	Whitecourt
6	Thursday	Official visit ??????	Barrhead Lions Club
7, 8, 9	Friday - Sunday	Dist 37-O Conv	Kananaskis
10	Monday	Official visit	Beaumont & District Lions Club
11	Tuesday	Official visit	Alberta Beach & District
15	Saturday	3rd Cabinet meeting	Grande Prairie (also 5 club charter anniv)
17 or 18	Monday or Tuesday	work Casino	Lions Senior Rec Centre
19	Wednesday	Official visit	Wabasca- Desmarais & District Lions Club
20	Thursday	Official visit	Red Earth Creek Lions Club
26	Wednesday	Official visit	Wabamun & District Lions Club
<u>April</u>			
2	Wednesday	Official visit	Vimy & District
11	Friday	Casino	LOAF
14	Monday	Official visit	High Prairie
16	Wednesday	Official visit	Edmonton Riverside
22	Tuesday	Official visit	Busby & District
25	Friday	Invited guests	Westmount
26	Saturday	Official task	Leo's School
<u>April/May</u>			
30, 1	Wednesday..Thursday	4th Council meeting	Kananaskis
2, 3	Friday, Saturday	MD37 Convention	Kananaskis
<u>June</u>			
7	Saturday	Final Cabinet meeting	Edmonton Host

-
- If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
 - When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye
 - Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.