



March/April 2005

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Lions Share

The official newsletter of the Lions of Illinois Foundation

YOU HAVE THE VOTE!

From the genesis of our Foundation, the issue of the best structure of our Board of Trustees has been considered. The Long Range Planning Committee for our Foundation unanimously voted to approve a proposal that would allow each District to have **TWO TRUSTEES** representing the great Lions in each of the Districts. Furthermore, the Governors would be freed from their overburdened schedules thus allowing them to better serve us Lions. We need our Governors to concentrate all of their talents upon reversing the disastrous membership trend downwards. This proposal would accomplish that and much, much more. The only issue before you is, "What is in the best interest of the Lions, our Foundation, and the people we serve?" It is a matter of common sense to recognize that two people elected by the Lions of Illinois and who only have one focus (our Foundation and its programs) should provide more information, promotion, and coverage of our Foundation. After presentation by the Long Range Planning Committee of its proposal to the Board of Trustees, upon majority vote, the proposal was remanded to the Policy Ad Hoc Committee for writing the precise language, which is now presented to the Lions of Illinois. After writing the specific Bylaw revision, the Policy Ad Hoc Committee presented its work product to the Bylaws and Policy Committee of the Foundation, which unanimously recommended its approval by the Board of Trustees. The Board then, with only one dissenting vote, voted the proposal forward to be decided by the Lions of Illinois.

Every Lion is encouraged to review the proposal and cover letter when it is presented to every Club. Make sure that the President of your club makes the documents available to your members. This is a grand opportunity for us, as Lions of Illinois, to move our Foundation's agenda forward dramatically. Out of the 1231 known Lions Foundations in North America, only 4-5 have the Governors burdened by Board membership. In the current proposal, the Long Range Planning Committee has provided that three members of the Council shall attend each Board meeting and that all information currently being sent to each Governor shall continue. Thus, the best of all possibilities—two Trustees managing our Foundation and representing it to the Lions of their respective Districts, Governors who are free to devote their precious time and critical talents to the issues of administration and increasing membership, as well as having the Governors rendering advice based upon the same information they are currently receiving.

Continued on page 4...



In My Opinion

By Lion Van C. Stone, LIF Executive Director

FACT OR MYTH?

It is interesting to hear from some Lions that their very own Foundation constantly seeks more and more money. Is that true or is it a myth? First, I must say to those who wish to advance such an argument, that it is important that they provide the listeners the facts that substantiate their assertion. In reality, **our** Foundation's budget is \$400,000 less than it was a decade ago. In fact, our budget has been flat over that same period of time. Our revenue variance has been *de minimus* over that same period. Our audit reports substantiate this view and reject any notion that our Foundation is a financial funnel. Yet, myths seemingly die hard. Let us look at actual numbers. In the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994, total revenue was \$2,012,298. The audit report for the year ending June 30, 2004, was \$1,359,258 total revenue. Now, unless new math changes the results, it would seem that our Foundation's revenue has been reduced by \$653,040. The facts don't seem to support those who continue to assert that our Foundation constantly wants more and more money. I wonder why those who espouse this position never use actual audited numbers to support their argument? For a decade, the Board of Trustees and the staff of our Foundation has performed "expense side miracles" in order to achieve the national acclaim and coveted performance it has experienced. Reducing administrative expenses and streamlining our operations has made this envied performance possible and given the Lions of Illinois the biggest bang for the buck.

Notwithstanding, the facts above, I would respectfully suggest that even if the purveyors of myths were correct and our Foundation was asking for more and more money, what would be wrong about that? Does not every other charity ask for more revenue? Does not every "for profit" company seek more revenue? Is not Lions Clubs International Foundation commencing a \$150,000,000 Sight First II Campaign? Why is it acceptable for them to seek additional revenue with which to operate while we are criticized in seeking the funds necessary to help more and more visually and hearing impaired children and adults who reside in Illinois, of all places? While it is clear that some Lions have agendas other than supporting our Foundation's efforts to help the people of Illinois, they should not make unsubstantiated assertions to negatively affect the Foundation which the Illinois Lions created. There is something dreadfully wrong about denigrating the efforts of many who wish only to help others and realize that with more revenue (given our administrative costs) more will be helped.

Here is a novel idea! Let's raise more money for our Foundation and not apologize for doing so! We will provide quality programs and services to even more people and I, for one, believe that is a good thing.

Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all - the apathy of human beings.

Helen Keller

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY 2005

10-17 JULY 2005

JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

TPC GOLF COURSE, SILVIS, IL

The new Birdies campaign has started and Lions of Illinois Foundation is one of the leading Charities taking part in the 12 Annual Birdies Program. We have a head bird for each of the 12 Districts and have collected over a \$1 a bird already. The new 2005 pledge form will not be available until Late March or early April, we are authorized to use last years forms and we have plenty of those to go around. Please contact your District Head Bird or Lion Mush Kojima for forms or information. We have a number of sub programs to assist in raising funds in this year's program: Pledge form, Drive down the Middle, and Four Level Partner Program.

All pledges that are paid before the deadline will qualify for down payment or total payment towards a Foundation Fellow or Leaf on the Tree of Service. Many Lion Clubs and Districts use the Birdies Program to donate to the Foundation Fellow Program to take advantage of the Bonus Bucks Program.

Here is how it works: Simply pledge one cent or more per birdie. After the tournament, you'll be mailed a notice of your pledge amount due. (This amount is the actual numbers birdies shot multiplied by the amount pledged)

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will be actually be made by Tour Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday. A grand prize will be given to the person who guesses the correct number. In case of ties, winner will be randomly selected.

Pledge forms must be received at the tournament off by July 10, 2005. Therefore, they must be turned in to the Head Bird before that date to assure your pledge is turned in before that date.

We will be working all the spring District Conventions so look for us.

Pledge forms will be available in April. If you need forms contact Mush Kojima or your District's Head Bird. Only official forms are accepted at the John Deere Classic.

LIF District Head Birds

- 1-A **Lion Harry Barber, PDG**
JBarber38@Comcast.net
- 1-B **Lion Chris Luttrell**
Limbeluga@uti.net
- 1-CN **Lion Ron Newsome, PDG**
RonSandyN@MSN.com
- 1-CS **Lion Bruce Summers, PDG**
BruceS_16@hotmail.com
- 1-D **Bob Niblo, PDG**
SCSC@aeroinc.net
- 1-E **Glenn Long, PDG**
EveTek9@AdvanceNet.net
- 1-F **Lion Footloose**
Foot@intervantage.com
- 1-G **Lion Earl Steiner, PDG**
CBALLBJS@Charter.net
Lion John Thien, PDG
pdg_johnthien@hotmail.com
- 1-H **Lion Mush Kojima, PDG, State Head Bird**
MushFrogLion@Yahoo.com
- 1-J **Lion Leo Smith, PDG**
LeoK56@CS.com
- 1-K **Lion Rick Tonozzi, PDG**
RickTonozzi@Yahoo.com
- 1-L **Lion Joyce K. Schroeder, PDG**
JKS999@juno.com



Win a trip to Hawaii or Las Vegas by selling Sight & Sound Sweepstakes tickets!

It's true, not only does your Club earn cash & raise funds to operate the vision & hearing programs of our Foundation, but your Club could win these trips. How? Get your members out and sell those tickets! The Hawaiian vacation, including the roundtrip airfare to Honolulu, Hawaii for two lucky people for seven nights accommodations, is awarded to the Club with the highest per capita sweepstakes sales. Be the #2 Club with the second highest per capita sweepstakes sales and win a roundtrip airfare for two for four nights in Las Vegas!

Prizes available to ticket buyers include: 1- \$5000 Prize; 5- \$1000 prizes; 10- \$500 prizes; & 10- \$250 prizes. Plus, as the seller, you could win cash, too! The person selling a winning ticket is eligible to win 10% of that cash prize if you fill out the back of the ticket in full. **Tickets sell for \$1 each or a book of twelve for \$10.**



YOU HAVE THE VOTE.....continued from page one....

Lions, you are our Foundation! Without you, there is nothing, and we who believe in our Foundation trust that you will recognize the merits of this proposal and will vote in favor of it. Please, we pray, do not squander this great opportunity to exercise your sovereign power to vote and dramatically and positively alter the course of your Foundation in its quest to truly be a beacon of hope for all who are visually and hearing impaired.

The Long Range Planning Committee



Tootsie Pop Day

2004 marked the year of change to Tootsie Pop Day away from Caramel Day. But the event held to raise funds for local activities & to fund LIF programs is still a vital one. Monies raised from Tootsie Pop Day are needed to further our ability to serve the visually & hearing impaired. We hope each Club, both Lion & Lioness, will recognize this chance to gain public support of our efforts by being out there with pops in hand. Last year \$33,728 was netted by this fundraiser. Can you imagine the devastation this would cause to lose these funds? *The traditional days for Tootsie Pop Day are May 6 & 7.* Please make your plans now to have a successful day. Orders can be placed by contacting Joanne at the LIF office, her extension is 222. All necessary forms may also be downloaded from our website - www.lionsofillinois.org. GOOD LUCK!

PREPARE TO PARADE!

As sure as the swallows return to Capistrano, the Ides of March provoke my annual diatribe against traditional parades while lauding our Foundation's Parade of Pledges. The traditional parades of our feckless youth provided a true definition of cacophony (masquerading as marching bands), providing continued usage for tomorrow's addition to Elmer's glue (horses), and who could not remember the thrill of insurance claims riding in

or upon vehicles, which could provide the drivers with hernias and hemorrhoids.

Notwithstanding, we reveled in the wonderment of the sights as we sat in the heat of summer on comfortable curbs and rickety lawn chairs.

Ah, but now each spring, we Lions, have the opportunity to participate in a parade that can significantly change lives. Yes, when we make our pledges to support our programs and

services for the visually and hearing impaired, we change lives for the better. Now, that's a parade worth having!

So, plan now to stand before your brothers and sisters in Lionism and before whatever Deity you recognize, and make your club's and/or your own pledges to help others. It is great to be needed. It is greater when you fill that need! Come! Let's have a parade to benefit humanity!

Upcoming LIF Events...

Mark Your Calendar

March 5, 2005

Mobile Hearing Screening Bus on the Road
Call the LIF office for schedule

May 6 (7), 2005

Tootsie Pop Day

May 19-22, 2005

Board of Trustees Meeting/ State Convention
Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL

June 5, 2005

1st Annual Night Walk
Danada Equestrian Center, Wheaton, IL

July 22, 2005

Camp Lions Open House
East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL

July 22, 2005

Incoming Board of Trustees Refresher Course
The Chateau, Bloomington, IL

July 23-24, 2005

Board of Trustees Meeting
The Chateau, Bloomington, IL

July 29, 2005

Camp Lions Open House
Camp DuBois Center, DuBois, IL

August 5, 2005

Camp Lions Open House
Reynoldswood Camp, Dixon, IL

August 6, 2005

12th Annual Golf Classic
Railside Golf Course
Gibson City, IL

August 7, 2005

Coordinators Meeting
The Chateau, Bloomington, IL

October 14(15), 2005

Lions Candy Day

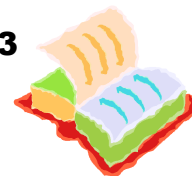


LIF Staff Directory

Main Line: 815-756-5633

TTY: 815-748-9088

Fax: 815-748-9087



Staff

Van C. Stone, Executive Director - Ext. 227

Mario J. Gumino, Accounts Manager - Ext. 224

Dianne Ortega, Receptionist - Ext. 221

Joanne M. Delby, Development Coordinator - Ext. 222

Sherry A. Radek, Assistant to the Exec. Dir. - Ext. 223

Alan D. Wilson, Camp Lions Registrar - Ext. 231

Susan F. Young, Programs Coordinator – Ext. 240

Nancy L. Lazzaro, Office Assistant – Ext. 250

Joe Krenkel, Hearing Bus Driver/Tech - Ext. 224

Joy Knollenberg, Diabetic Screening Tech. - Ext. 240

For immediate assistance

during business hours Dial "0"

The LIF Office is open 8:30am to 4:30pm,
Monday through Friday, except holidays

Welcome...

The next time you visit the LIF office say "Hello" to our newest staff member, Nancy Lazzaro. Nancy joined our team shortly before the end of 2004 as the Office Assistant. Currently she is busy with bulk mailings, printing brochures & pamphlets. Her duties also include handling the 1st Annual Night Walk (see article on page 7) to be held on June 5, 2005. Nancy is available at extension 250 for brochure orders, new member packets, and any printed materials you or your Club may require.



Lions of Illinois Foundation/Alberto Culver 1st Annual Night Walk

June 5, 2005
6:30-9:30pm

Danada Equestrian Center
3 South 501 Naperville Road
Wheaton, Illinois

The Foundation runs 14 programs that reach over 18,000 Illinois children & adults with vision and hearing impairments. There are, however, almost one million people in Illinois with vision or hearing loss.

Come walk with us to make a difference in the lives of nearly **1,000,000** men, women, & children in Illinois with vision & hearing impairments

This walk is an attempt to raise the funds for an ever increasing numbers of services needed to help these individuals live a better life, and to hopefully someday help stop preventable blindness.

How You Can Participate

Individual Walker - One person does make a difference!

Team Walking - Join forces with family, friends, or co-workers as a team. Show your combined support & have fun.

Family Teams - Five or more walkers representing one family.

Volunteer Teams - Ten or more walkers representing the same organization or club. What a great community service project!

Corporate Team - Ten or more walkers as one unit. Ask your employer to match your sponsor pledges- LIF is a 501 c3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Where to Get Pledge Forms: Pledge/Sponsor forms may be obtained from any Lion, Lioness, or Leo Club. Just have your friends, co-workers, family, etc. give you sponsoring amounts for your walk. Amounts are usually in flat amounts such as \$5, \$10, or more. We ask that adults come with a minimum of \$100 in pledges and youth try to raise a minimum of \$50. Please submit your pledge forms, including funds pledged, to the LIF by May 27, 2005.

Pledge Checks: Should be made out to the: *Lions of Illinois Foundation*. A sponsor's cancelled check is their receipt. Remember- the LIF is a 501 c3 charitable organization, so all contributions are tax deductible.

Registration: Walkers need to register through their local Lion Lioness, Leo Club, or by calling Nancy Lazzaro at the Lions of Illinois offices at 815-756-5633 ext. 250.

Night Walk forms now available on our website: lionsofillinoisfoundation.org

Entry Fees: All adults \$10, youth, High School age & younger, are free.

Gifts & Prizes: All walkers will receive the gift of a 2005 LIF/Alberto Culver Night Walk Light to help them along the 3 mile length course. Prizes are also presented for pledge amounts raised by individual walkers:

- \$500 pledges received = \$25 gift card
- \$1000 pledges received = \$50 gift card
- \$2500 pledges received = \$125 gift card
- \$5000 pledges received = \$250 gift card

Plaques will also be awarded to the First Place Teams in the Family, Volunteer, and Corporate Team categories.

Exhibit/Celebration Area: Come to the Exhibit area prior to and after the walk to learn more about the 14 programs that the LIF conduct to serve the visually & hearing impaired. This area will also have information on the generous sponsors of the *Night Walk*. At the conclusion of the walk, a celebration will be held in this same area. Please join us and commemorate your work by signing the Night Walk banner.

2005 Camp Lions Schedule

June 26-July 2 – Camp Reynoldswood, Dixon, IL

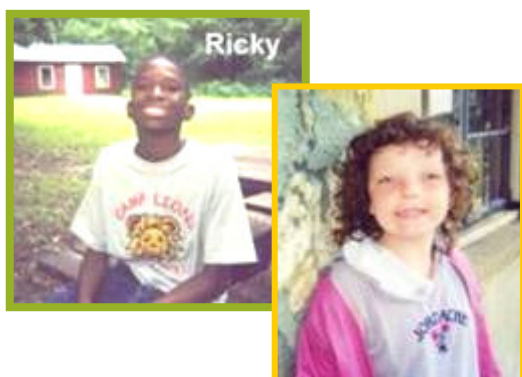
July 10-16 – East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL

July 17-23 – East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL

July 24-30 – Camp DuBois, Dubois, IL

July 31-August 6 – Camp Reynoldswood, Dixon, IL

REGISTRATION FORMS MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE: LIONSOFILLINOISFOUNDATION.ORG



To be eligible to attend Camp Lions a camper must be between the ages of 7 - 17 years old & have either a visual or hearing impairment as described:

HEARING IMPAIRMENT: auditory loss which adversely affects speech & language development and communication abilities, requiring the use of a hearing aid, or cochlear implant, sign language, finger spelling, or lip reading.

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT: loss to be in the range between total blindness and 20/200 in both after correction.

Do you know a child that would benefit from the Camp Lions experience?

If you do, ask them if they are interested in having a week of fun & friendship at Camp Lions.

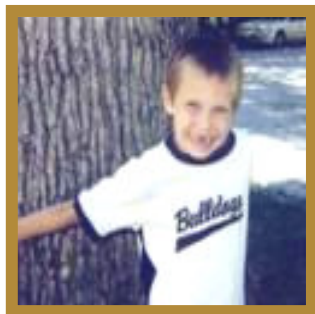
Contact: Alan Wilson, Camp Lions of Illinois, 2814 DeKalb Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178-3117

E- Mail: adwilson@tbc.net

Phone: 815-756-5633 V; 815-748-9088 TTY

ADOPT - A - CHILD 2005

Camp Lions is a unique program to enrich and empower visually & hearing impaired children through self-discovery, challenge, and new friendships.



At Camp Lions children quickly become friends as they share in the fun of swimming, boating, horseback riding, nature walks, archery, and many more camp activities. They learn that having a sight or hearing impairment need not limit them from any of summer's opportunities. At Camp Lions children are encouraged to develop their independent skills and to grow in ways that will help them throughout the rest of their lives.

In order to be sure that as many children as possible may have the opportunity to attend Camp Lions and benefit from these wonderful experiences, the Lions of Illinois Foundation is asking every Lion and Lioness Club in the state of Illinois to help by "adopting" at least one child to Camp Lions with a donation of \$525. This donation will help to defer some of the total costs associated with those attending. These costs include: lodging, food, recreational fees, and qualified staff to lead and inspire campers, just to name a few.

A picture & hand-made thank you created by your camper will be sent to your club along with our appreciation so that you can be familiar with the child you adopt to Camp Lions. (Be sure to specify the name(s) if you have a particular child in mind.)

Please adopt a child to attend Camp Lions this summer. Feel good that you have enriched the life of a child. Help us so we never need to turn away any deserving child from the wonderful experience that Camp Lions can offer them. Please make any and all contributions to the Lions of Illinois Foundation/Camp Lions of Illinois and send to: Lions of Illinois Foundation, *Adopt - A - Child*, 2814 DeKalb Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178

E-Mail: MGumino@tbc.net Phone: 815-756-5633 V * 815-748-9087 FAX * 815-748-9088 TTY

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ to adopt _____camper(s) to Camp Lions for Summer 2005.

Club Name _____ District _____

Return with check payable to LIF/Camp Lion

Camp Lions Wish List 2005

Each year we appeal to our members to grant wishes for camp supplies. It is a minor investment that reaps a lot of smiles! Please use the form below to submit with all granted wishes. Thanks for helping make the magic happen!

GENERAL SUPPLIES:

- * Bolts of felt- for banners
- * Rubbermaid storage containers- for transport of supplies & storage
- * Backpacks – for Counselor use at Camp
- * Blank Post cards/recipe cards
- * Styrofoam cups- for drinks
- * Plaster of Paris- nature casting
- * Four archery target beepers- helps guide visually impaired to target
- * Leather string for jewelry
- * Drink mixes-sugar free, please
- * Polaroid Film (type 600) – for single close-ups of campers
- * Batteries- AA, AAA, & C

- * Fishing gear- hooks, line, bobbers, small net, etc.
- * Cards- large print and/or brailled
- * Checkerboard set
- * Balloons
- * Construction paper – assorted colors
- * Pastel artist chalks – 30 sets
- * Sharpie permanent markers – assorted colors
- * Transparent tape

CRAFT SUPPLIES

Tacky glue, tempera paint, alphabet and number stamps, & paint brushes, beads, masking tape, scissors, rulers, string, aluminum foil, gift wrap, brown art paper or newsprint roll, glue sticks, popsicle sticks, small Dixie cups for paint, etc.

Please accept this donation to the Camp Lions wish list: Item(s):

Club/Donor Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return to: Camp Registrar, 2814 DeKalb Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178-3117

Thank You to all the Clubs & members who have fulfilled wishes on our Camp Lions Wish List. Every item donated will be used to make the season a success!

DONOR

ITEM(S)

Barrington Lions.....20 back packs, 25 gift boxes,40 crayon packs, 3 lg. & 3 sm. storage containers
 German Valley Lions.....50 poster boards
 Lion Joe & Markay Hendel.....Transparent & clear shipping tape
 Ann & Jessica Wilson.....Gauze bandages, bandage tape, 2 bandage scissors, & pair of tweezers
 Lake Zurich Lions.....First aid supplies for 20 Counselor first aid packs & refills for summer 2005
 Galesburg Noon Lions.....Four 72 quart storage containers

Treat Nights- Clubs come visit the camp & enjoy snacks with all the kids who love Camp Lions!

Hosting Treats is not hard- pack up enough goodies to share with the campers & staff- and come on over! Serving time is usually scheduled at 7:30pm. Clubs of any size are always welcome.

Of course you do need to make reservations by calling the Camp Registrar first.

Call Alan for dates and details on this fun activity at 815-756-5633 ext. 231.



What A Difference a Year Makes

A year ago our garage, the storage building, a 15 passenger van, and our hallways were filled with donated glasses. In true spirit Lions & Lioness members had done a fine job of getting the glasses to the LIF. So much so we were crunched for space!

What a difference a year makes. Our hallway now only has sorted glasses along a wall. The storage shed and the van are empty, & there is no longer a fear of being buried alive in the garage.

The difference has come about through the hard work of volunteers who heard our cry for help and answered with hours & hours of labor. Listed below are the Clubs and individual members who have kept the glasses moving on their route to needy visually impaired around the world.

Sun City Lions Club, Huntly, IL— four or five volunteers every other Wednesday since October!

Lion Howard Flluech, Spring Valley Lions – singly sorted and packed over 10,000 glasses!

Lions Mush & Carol Kojima, Rock Island Greater Lions— extraordinary!

The Youth Academy, Elgin- emptied a van of over 5,000 pairs!

Lion Rick Tonozzi, PDG – Came, saw, and helped conquer!

Peoria Heights Suburban Lions Club- Six hearty souls that arrived ready to work and finished everything thrown their way!

Now that the beast has been temporarily tamed, don't think we still cant use volunteers. We need them now, more than ever, with upcoming district conventions, the LIF Annual meeting, and the improved weather which always increases the flow.

Please consider making one of your Club projects a trip to the LIF office and help sort and prepare donated glasses & hearing aids. It is still vital to keep the supply line going to meet our pledge to help those in need. To make arrangements call Mario Gumino, Accounts Manager at 815-756-5633 ext. 224.

Swing Into A Classic

By Mario Gumino, LIF Accounts Manager

Please mark your calendars for the 12th Annual Lions Of Illinois Foundation Golf Classic. The event will take place on Saturday August 6, 2005 at the Railside Golf Course in Gibson City. Same format as last year with a 12:30pm shotgun start. More information will follow in the mail to all Clubs in the next few months.

See You In May-

The LIF Annual
Breakfast Meeting will
be held on May 22nd at
the Hilton Hotel in
Springfield, IL.

Celebrate the achievements of 2004 with your fellow Lions & Lioness as the LIF honors the Clubs & members who make it all happen. Be present to hear the annual address by President Robert Sudbury, greet the new officers for 2005, and march in the Parade of Pledges. Watch as the newest Foundation Fellows are recognized, and the top sales trophies are announced for Candy Day, Tootsie Pop Day, and Sight & Sound Sweepstakes.

To make your reservation, mark you want to attend the LIF Annual Breakfast Meeting on your 2005 Lions of Illinois State Convention Registration, include the cost of the meal, and submit it to the address provided on the form or call Lion Bob Block at 219-923-7627.