



Feb/Mar 2011

LIONS SHARE

The Official Newsletter of the Lions of Illinois Foundation

Working to put all
the pieces . . .



Together
for individuals with
visual and hearing needs
in Illinois

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For information and descriptions
of all LIF programs and services,
the latest news, & to download
LIF forms, visit our website:

www.lionsofillinoisfoundation.org



In My Opinion

by Van C. Stone, LIF Executive Director

CHOICES!

As lions we have the awesome opportunity to affect the lives of others.

When we were children, our parents taught us that life is full of twists and turns and the choices we make during our life sojourn will determine the direction we will travel. We are also instructed that all choices have consequences, intended and unintended. As we grew into adults, we found wisdom in those parental musings. We found that the older we got, the wiser our parents became. When we were children, we made children's choices having little consequences and involving few beyond ourselves. Now that we are adults, our choices are more important and impact many. Every decision we make affects others and as Lions, our decisions make a difference to the very people we serve.

As Lions, we have the awesome opportunity and responsibility to make decisions that affect the lives of others. When we make a decision (choice) to sit on the sidelines rather than participate in Candy Day, Tootsie Pop Day, Sight and Sound Sweepstakes or any of our Clubs fundraisers, we are in essence telling blind and deaf children that our comfort or our personal agendas have more importance. For example, if I choose to not invest at least one hour on Candy Day or Tootsie Pop Day; if I choose not to sell Sight and Sound Sweepstakes tickets, the price that is paid for that choice is borne by blind and/or deaf children and adults. Simply put, our choice-their price.

I believe that the Lions of Illinois are among the greatest people on earth and I humbly pray that, individually or collectively, they resolve to make choices that favor the children and adults. **The critical question is, "Can we set aside our self interests in favor of those we serve?"** *I believe that we can and we will!*

If I had a million dollars - I'd be rich!!

A line from a popular tune on the radio & one often wished.

But if you had a million dollars how would you use it ?

That would determine if you truly are rich.

Contact Us...

Main Line : 815-756-5633

TTY: 815-748-9088

Fax: 815-748-9087

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

Visit The LIF online at:

[Http://www.lionsofillinoisfoundation.org](http://www.lionsofillinoisfoundation.org)

For program & service descriptions, forms,
and the latest news!



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Sight & Sound Sweeps Makes Miracles Happen

The Sight and Sound Sweepstakes is the second largest fundraiser conducted by the LIF to support all of the thirteen programs and services mandated by you, our membership, in Illinois.

With the funds raised we provide screenings to prevent blindness and severe loss, we send kids & adults to camp, we provide hearing screenings for infants & adults, we make owning glasses and desperately needed hearing aids possible. We make life changes for people who struggle with impaired sight and the ability to hear everything around them.

Around the world we bring hope to those in poor countries that no one else can. In the jungles of the Philippines Lions have delivered plastic framed miracles to otherwise forgotten people. It doesn't stop there in 2010 the LIF provided used & donated eyewear to missions bound for Costa Rica, Swaziland, Mexico, Haiti, and further destinations.

Funds raised from Candy Day allow the LIF, and your own Club, to provide services for vision and or hearing related issues. These services are often the only available to the most defenseless among our society, the aged and children.

For every ticket sold the LIF can count on a future to continue to change lives. Ticket buyers are given the possibility of having a winning ticket and some welcome cash. Even sellers can earn cash rewards, so they win, too.

When asking someone for a \$1 for a ticket, think how far that money goes and know you are making a positive difference in a person's life.

**Selling S&S Sweeps
is so easy...**

Really, who can't use extra cash?

Well that is what we are offering & at odds better than any Lottery!

Carry a few books with you and ask friends, coworkers, neighbors, everybody you can. It is that simple!

Tell the person you approach donations for tickets are:
\$1 each or a book of Twelve for \$10.

And be sure to add-

**It only takes one ticket to win!
Multiple wins can be made,
but you have to buy the tickets.**

All funds raised support LIF programs and services to the visually & hearing impaired or to support humanitarian services by your local Club.

Good Luck and Good Sales!



LIF S & S SWEEPS Changes Create More Ways for Sellers to Win Cash Prizes

Effective with the 2011 Sweepstakes campaign, our Lions of Illinois Foundation (LIF) has announced the following change to the Sight and Sound Sweepstakes program.

To improve the interest in the selling of LIF Sight and Sound Sweepstakes tickets, the two Club trips to Hawaii and Las Vegas have been eliminated. **Instead, Twenty-five (25) individual prizes for Lions/Lioness, will be awarded for high ticket sales.** The breakdown and rules governing the eligibility for the Individual Seller Prizes are provided in the following paragraph.

Eligibility for individual seller prizes:

- (1) Only individual Lions or Lioness are eligible, Clubs are not eligible.
- (2) A minimum of twenty-five (25) complete books of Sweepstakes tickets must be sold to qualify for an award.
- (3) All completed Sweepstakes ticket stubs, related money, and the completed 'Individual Seller form' must be packaged as a group and returned to the Foundation Office no later than May 1st of the campaign year.

PRIZES

**Are one each of the following:
\$500, \$350, \$250, and \$200;
along with twenty-one \$100 prizes.**

- The 'Individual Seller form' will be included with the Sweepstakes tickets sent from LIF and may be copied.
- If a tie results among any of the prizes, those individuals involved will split the associated prizes. If the \$100 winners exceed twenty-one (21) individuals, a drawing amongst those in the lowest group (number of complete Sweepstakes books sold) will be held. There will be no appeals to this drawing.

The 'Individual Seller form' will be included with the first batch of Sweepstakes tickets sent to the Club.

Mark Your Calendar...

LIF Upcoming Events

February 12-13, 2011

Board of Trustees Meeting
The Chateau, Bloomington, Illinois



February - May 2011

Diabetes Awareness
Campaign
Help make the public aware
how Diabetes can rob your
eyesight!

March 1, 2011

Camp Lions Application
Submission Deadline

May 6 (7), 2011

Tootsie Pop Day



May 13 -15, 2011

State Convention/
LIF Annual Breakfast Meeting
Sight & Sound Sweepstakes drawing
immediately after LIF meeting.

June 2011

Walk for Sight - TBA Soon
Camp Lions Sessions begin

July 2011

John Deere Classic, Moline, Illinois
"Birdies for Charity"

A single 1¢ from each member
could raise \$200,000 or more!



August 2011

18th Annual Golf Classic
Railside Golf Course
Gibson City, Illinois

Address Updates

Please, if you have a change of address don't forget to forward it so we can keep the *Lions Share* coming to you uninterrupted. Call Alan at 1-815-5633 ext 231 or e-mail ADWilson@tbc.net to keep updated.

WALK FOR SIGHT 2011

Spring may not seem to close considering the snow and cold outside, but it is closer than you think. Now is the time to start planning how to present the **Lions Walk for Sight** to your community non-profit groups as well as start gathering walkers within your Club.. The **Lions Walk for Sight** not only offers both Lions Clubs and local organizations the chance to jointly raise funds to continue the mission of Illinois Lions to aid the visually and hearing impaired, but organizations walking & collecting pledges receive funds for their own humanitarian efforts. Take action now to step out and make a difference in the lives of over one million fellow Illinois children and adults.

For full details on locations and times of the **Walks for Sight** in your area contact Van C. Stone or Lynn Raske at 1-815-756-5633, your District **Walk for Sight** Committee member, or LIF District Trustees. Forms and information will also be accessible to read and download on the LIF website as soon as final preparations are completed.



We Miss Seeing You

Notice anything missing on the pages of this issue? Yeah, pictures! Please send us photos of your LIF functions such as Candy Day, Tootsie Pop Day, Diabetes Awareness, District Jamborees, eyeglass collection campaigns, and a myriad of other events. We would be pleased to make every reader aware of your work for the LIF. Send photos to Alan Wilson, preferably by e-mail at ADWilson@tbc.net, or simply mail with a short description of the event, people pictured, and any other pertinent information.. *We will not guarantee it will appear, due to space, but please send them!*

Your Legacy To Illinois

Please remember your Lions of Illinois Endowment Fund when reviewing your will or making plans for a donation to a charitable organization in honor of a loved one, special event, or a milestone in your life. For assistance contact LIF Executive Director Lion Van C. Stone at 1-815-756-5633 extension 227 or reach him at VCS@tbc.net. Your LIF District Trustees can also help you prepare your legacy to the people of Illinois who are visually or hearing impaired.



I want to acknowledge and give recognition to a great Lion from Springfield Noon Lion's Club. I attended the Springfield Noon Lion's Club and gave a presentation to the Club about Camp Lions and the fact that the Foundation Trustees voted to cut the Camp Lion's budget to meet the overall budget for the year. After the meeting a Lion came up and asked how much it cost to sponsor a Camper. I told him it cost \$ 525.00 to sponsor a Camper. What he did next makes me proud to know Lions like this. He personally wanted to sponsor a Camper to Camp Lions. I salute Lion Laimutis "Limy" Nargelensa, for his dedication to the ideals of Lionism in helping the visually and hearing impaired. SALUTE!

Submitted by Lion Jim Weiss, LIF Trustee 1-K

Work in Progress

That is what Lionism is, work in progress providing the means to prevent blindness and the equipment to lessen the degree of loss of both vision and hearing. Here are a few pictures of recent visitors who have delivered used eyeglasses or have stayed to help prepare them for shipment to third world countries and those we have pledged "To Serve".



The LaSalle County LEO's Club brought their advisors to help ready thousands of pairs of used glasses for Lions missions. Pictured clockwise are: Lions Del & Roberta McConnahay, LEO Advisor Lion Janet Billings, LEO Pres. Mick Armstrong, Lion Dave Billings, LEO Vice Pres. John Scheidecker, & Lion Lynn Shannon.



Sycamore Lions Club has organized four rotating teams to help with eyeglass preparation. Members of Team #4 gathered at the conference room table to lend their hands to sorting glasses. Pictured clockwise above are: Lions Char Stevens, Tom Moline, Tom Fewell, & Dale Stevens.



Three members of Chicago Bayanihan -Sampaguita Lions Club who stopped by the LIF Offices to deliver used eyeglasses and see the Tree of Service.



The Sun City Huntley Lions Club has worked sorting glasses every 2nd & 4th Wednesday since 2002. Between their four teams, these "stars" have boxed over 2,000,000 pairs of glasses for distribution. Pictured clockwise are: Lions Mary Werner, Gretchen Lane, Dee Menconi, and Sandra Beck.

A Night At Camp

Every night at Camp Lions is an opportunity to enjoy the magic and be inspired. You can see the light in a child's eye as his hands cut through the air talking to a new friend. You can feel the excitement, it is almost tangible.

Night time at Camp Lions is not just full of fireflies, and the traditional campfire, but the sounds of music for a dance. Campers and Counselors sway to the melody and vibration of oldies and top 40's.

Perhaps the night you visit is Talent Show Night with boys and girls in costumes for a skit or simply standing in front of the crowd for their best joke. If you get lucky, you watch the splashes and talk to campers who are temporarily pool side during a night swim. Camp Lions is always electric with friends and fun, it doesn't end at sunset.

Here are a few of the faces from 2010 that enjoyed those warm summer nights and even warmer memories.



TREAT NIGHT HOSTS

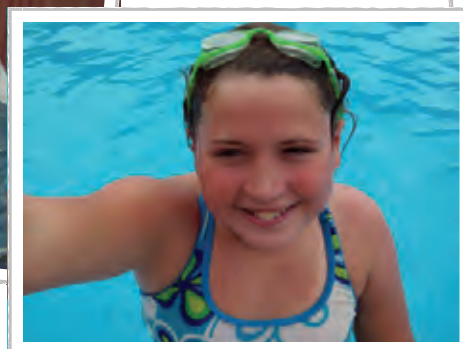
Clubs interested in bringing a light snack to Camp Lions for Blind & Deaf Youth or to Camp Helen Keller for Blind & Deaf Adults are encouraged to call Alan Wilson, Camp Lions Registrar at 815-756-5633 ext. 231 to check what nights are available and make arrangements.

NO other person can reserve you a date. This is a first come, first serve process, so call early!

Treats are requested to be light & low sugar, please. (Ideas are fruit, low fat ice cream, popcorn, no sugar brownies, etc.) Hosts are asked to serve at 7pm and be prepared to bring enough for campers and staff present.



Clubs are encouraged to bring new members or prospective members to let them see this special camp. It might just mean a new face at your meetings!



Please "Adopt" a Blind or Deaf Camper to Camp Lions of Illinois

For over half a century the Lions of Illinois has been proud to sponsor Camp Lions of Illinois for the Blind & Deaf. Camp Lions is a place of laughter and learning for both youth & adults who have visual and/or hearing impairments. It offers a safe environment for campers to be with their peers, learn new skills, take on new challenges, and make friendships to last a lifetime.

Eligible youth attending Camp Lions, age 7-17 years old, enjoy activities that are often not open to them in their communities simply because they have a hearing or vision loss. At Camp Lions we encourage them to expand their self-confidence by saying "try it" not "it is too hard for you". This positive attitude can be seen wherever the campers are. The level of achievement by campers is as high as they dare.

Adult campers, age 18 and older, attending the Helen Keller Adult Camp are also inspired to make new friends and take part in a wide variety of events. It may be a dance, a hike along the Rock River, team sports, or a game of cards. In reality it is much more; it is a chance to be with people who have the same abilities as you, a chance to not be the one person who is different, but part of the majority. For some of our adult campers it is the one week of the year when they are not residing in a nursing home or residential facility.

Camp Lions is a life experience to each camper. Some learn to maneuver across the camp with no guide, or limited help, which means greater freedom at home. Some meet another blind or deaf camper their own age and are inspired to realize they are not alone. For the most Camp Lions is a place to have fun, swimming, making a nature craft, and performing on stage for the Camp Talent Show, or learning to fish or canoe, and much more.

This year we ask that each club help sponsor one camper, or more if possible, to enjoy this enriching experience. The donation requested to adopt a camper, only \$525, is a small investment for the memories, friends, and self-confidence gained which can change a camper's life forever.

While this amount does not cover the full expense of the program (nearly \$900 per person), it does, when combined with other donations that help to provide the needed funds. We hope that Clubs do not restrict their donation to only children & adults in their immediate service area, but remember that the entire state of Illinois relies on our help.

In return for an "adoption" you or your Club will receive a thank you card from the camper(s) you have adopted. A picture of the camper will be included so you can see the joy on their face.

Please adopt a camper & give the gift of Camp Lions to a deserving Deaf or Blind child or adult.



-----  ----- Cut here and return form with check/money order to:

Camp Lions Adopt-A-Camper,
Lions of Illinois Foundation
2814 DeKalb Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60179.

Please make donation payable to: LIE Camp Lions Adopt-A- Camper

Please accept our donation of \$ _____ to adopt _____ camper(s).

If known, include the name of the specific Camper(s) you are adopting _____

Club/Donor Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address to send receipt of donation: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____





Lions of Illinois Foundation
 2816 DeKalb Avenue
 Sycamore, IL 60178-3117

NONPROFIT
 PRSRT. STD.
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SYCAMORE, IL
 PERMIT NO. 12

Return Service Requested

Our request to ask you to donate recyclables is self-serving.

Plain and simple.

It does create \$\$\$\$ for the LIF.

Which **we use to help others** with vision and hearing health.

And it does benefit our planet.



So, maybe, it really is a good thing!

Why not try it? Donate.

Bet it will feel good knowing your stuff isn't polluting our world.

Oh, Hey, that kid who just got a hearing aid, says thanks, too.



Thanks for thinking beyond yourself to the bigger picture.

Lions of Illinois Foundation Recycling Program Donation Card

We are grateful for your donation of used eyewear, hearing aids, and/or recyclable items. Please complete the information below that we may send you a thank you letter. The letter can be used for tax purposes as the LIF is a non-profit charitable organization.

Donor's Name or Club Name _____ Club District _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Donated items (approximate number):

Used Eyeglasses _____ # Used Hearing Aids _____

Ink Jet Cartridges _____ # Cell Phones _____

Lbs. of Keys _____ Lbs. of Pull Tabs (or aluminum cans) _____

Other items _____

Please enclose this card with your donation and send to:
 Lions of Illinois Foundation, 2814 DeKalb Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178
 Questions? Please call 815-756-5633 or e-mail adwilson@tbc.net.