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SPECIAL ISSUE

August 20, 2008

The Lions' Roar

Overland Park Host Lions Club

Overland Park, Kansas

www.oplions.org



WE SERVE

Don't Miss Saturday's Meeting . . .

Learn About OP Host Lions' Connection With the Recent Fighting in the Republic of Georgia!

My Fellow Lions,

In recent days, you've learned through various news media about the Russian invasion of the Republic of Georgia. Perhaps you saw in the *Kansas City Star* on Thursday, August 14 the front-page story about **Dr. Trish Blair** and a team of other American who were working at a camp for diabetic children in Georgia when the invasion occurred.

Dr. Blair is a member of the Columbia 20/20 Lions Club in Missouri (although the Lions connection was not mentioned in the paper). Her club helped organize and sponsored the **Tbilisi Georgian Lions Club**, the first (and to the best of my knowledge the only) Lions Club in Georgia. The Columbia 20/20 Lions, Tbilisi Lions, and A Call To Serve (ACTS) are primary sponsors of the camp for diabetic children.

This Saturday—August 23—you'll get to hear first-hand from an American who was in Georgia at the height of the fighting! **Cliff Franklin** of Lawrence, KS was helping conduct the camp when the invasion occurred. Mr. Franklin will share stories and pictures of this summer's experiences.

Our own club helped send one Georgian child to the camp this year. The Board of Directors approved a \$500 contribution in July.

Dr. Blair is a surgeon and has served on extensive medical missions in Russia and in Georgia. She founded the not-for-profit charitable organization ACTS that exists to provide medical and other aid in former Soviet republics. She is unable to attend our meeting because she is still in Georgia tending to wounded soldiers (Russian as well as Georgian) and civilians who were injured in the fighting.

PDG Neal and I met Trish Blair and **Lion Tamara Geganava**, immediate past president of the Tbilisi Georgian Lions, at breakfast one morning just after the close of the Lions Clubs International Convention in Bangkok in June. (*Imagine traveling about 8000 miles through 12 time zones to meet a Lion who lives only 126 miles away!*) The story of their involvement with the diabetic children's camp was so fascinating I wanted them—at least Trish Blair—to share it with our club. Dr. Blair had prior commitments—scheduled even before the invasion—but she arranged for Mr. Franklin to speak to us.

Please make every effort to attend Saturday's meeting. Our program promises to be outstanding—one you won't want to miss. I know two or three of you have young children and are concerned about child care. "Not to worry!" Bring the kids along—make Lionism a family affair. And for this meeting, little kids eat free!

Who among your friends might be prospective Lion members? Get out and invite them!

***Lion Beverly Nichols
President***

Received from Lion Linda McCormick, Kansas State Lions Secretary in Wichita, on Wednesday afternoon:

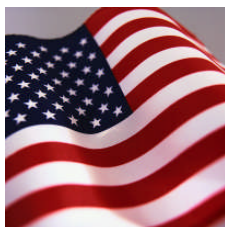
Update on Lion Rudy Pouch who served as K7 District Governor in 2004-05 and as Kansas Lions State Council chairperson in 2005-06. He was admitted to Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka last Thursday where 12 pounds of body fluid was removed just overnight. Fluid is now accumulating faster than they can keep it off. Doctors cannot increase medicine dosages further as it will damage the kidneys.

Rudy is still in the hospital. The Doctor is putting him under Hospice care at this time. It is possible he can go home in a couple of days. Please remember Rudy and JoAnn with thoughts, prayers and cards to their home: 23995 South California Road, Lyndon, KS 66451.

www.options.org

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The Overland Park Host Lions' Roar
Neal K. Nichols, Editor
6116 West 85th Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66207-1515



2008 "Metcalf Avenue of Flags": Remaining Schedule

September 1: Labor Day
September 11: Patriot Day
October 13: Columbus Day
November 11: Veterans Day
"Take Pride. We Do."



**USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum
September 18-20, 2008
Saskatoon Saskatchewan, Canada**

Plan a mid-fall vacation to beautiful Saskatchewan and take in the excitement of the USA/Canada Forum at the same time. For program details or registration information, contact Lions Neal or Beverly Nichols.