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Metcalfe Avenue of Flags

June 2009

# The Lions' Roar

Overland Park Host Lions Club

Overland Park, Kansas

[www.oplions.org](http://www.oplions.org)



WE SERVE

The Spark Behind the "Metcalfe Avenue of Flags" is Honored on Armed Forces Day . . .

## Mayor Gerlach Designates May 16 as "Frank Piepenbring Day" in Overland Park



Big Lion Beverly Nichols presents a specially-designed plaque to PDG Frank Piepenbring at OPHLC's 52nd anniversary dinner, May 9. The plaque commemorated PDG Frank's sixty-one consecutive years as a member of Lions Clubs International. He joined the Enid (Oklahoma) Lions Club in 1948 and transferred to Overland Park in 1963. Family members look on.

### May 9 a Big Day for Awards and Recognition With Melvin Jones, Claude DeVorss Fellowships Awarded

Three new Melvin Jones Fellowships and a Claude DeVorss Fellowship were awarded at the May 9 meeting and the Anniversary Dinner that evening, besides the recognition given to **PDG Frank Piepenbring**.

**Lions Dottie Bloome, Carole Collyard and Dale Warden** were presented with pins and plaques recognizing them as *Melvin Jones Fellows*.

**Lion Roger Claxton** was presented with a pin and plaque recognizing him as a *Claude DeVorss Fellow*.

A Melvin Jones Fellowship is the highest award bestowed by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and honors the founder of the Association. Fellowships are awarded upon the contribution of \$1,000 to LCIF by a club or individual in honor of the designee.

Claude DeVorss was the second International President from Kansas (serving in 1964-65) and is seen by many as the "Grand Old Man" of Kansas Lionism. He passed away earlier this year.

Claude DeVorss Fellowships are awarded upon the contribution of \$1,000 to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation by a club or individual in honor of the designee.

Our Club has awarded a total of 36 Melvin Jones Fellows (including twelve deceased members and three who are no longer members).

We have awarded eleven Claude DeVorss Fellowships. **PDG H. James Goudelock** (deceased) was the first-ever Lion to receive the honor in Kansas.

Pictures of the honorees are found on other pages of this issue of the *Roar*.

### Overland Park Host Lions Present Special Plaque to PDG Frank for Sixty-One Years Lions Membership

A proclamation designating Saturday, May 16 (Armed Forces Day) as "Frank Piepenbring Day" in Overland Park was issued in early May by Mayor Carl Gerlach.

A copy of the proclamation is on Page 4 of this issue.

In addition, PDG Frank was honored at our club's 52nd anniversary dinner on May 9 with a plaque commemorating his sixty-one years as a Lion. The plaque's inscription expressed the club's appreciation for Frank's work. A small "shelf" was attached to the plaque and a Lion paperweight (one that we give to guest speakers at meetings) was placed on that.

PDG Frank said after the meeting, "I've never seen a plaque like this one. It must be something new!" Big Lion Beverly responded that it was not only new, but it was a "one-of-a-kind" plaque created especially for this occasion.

The planning for the proclamation and plaque presentation weren't known to PDG Frank until the night of the dinner. Frank's wife Inez was in on the secret and had invited family members to attend.

In the picture at left are Frank's wife Inez (partially hidden by the Big Lion) (left), and Frank's son Jim (right). Jim's wife Nancy and Frank's daughter Diane Anderson (center) were present. Jim and Nancy live in Prairie Village and Diane lives in Bentonville, Arkansas.

The dinner was held at the Lenexa Community Center, 13420 Oak Street.

### Program Notes (Past and Future) . . .

**May 9:** Dr. Anthony Liperuote from Fulk Chiropractic in Olathe spoke. He explained treatments for low-back and spinal pain, and showed a plastic model of the spinal column, vertebrae, and pelvis and hip bones.

**May 23:** Don Gallagher from Harvesters—the Community Food Bank spoke and presented a short video about hunger in the Greater Kansas City area and how the Harvesters organization is working to meet the need for food for low-income families and for school children.

**June 6:** Downtown Overland Park Mardi Gras days, Overland Park Commons. Two-hour shifts. This activity will substitute for a meeting.

**June 13:** Board of Directors meeting in lieu of regular club meeting.

**June 27:** Installation of officers by District Governor-Elect Susan McDonald.

### Anniversaries and Birthdays for June and Early July

**Anniversaries:** Chuck and Twyla Binau (June 5); Chris and Cindy Claxton (June 14); John and Carol Watson (June 14); Max and Harriet Gordon (June 24); Bud and Tami Turntine (June 27).

**Birthdays:** Chris Claxton (June 2); Deanna Pucci (June 7); Mary McIntosh (June 19th); JoAnn McLain (June 22); Frank Piepenbring (June 24); Carol Collyard (June 29); Billie Warden (July 2).





The original "Lion Honey," **Ken Collyard**, pinned wife **Lion Secretary Carole** with her Melvin Jones Fellowship emblem and then proudly shares the moment as she displays the MFJ plaque at the May 9 meeting.

### Condensed Treasurer's Reports

(Through May 26 2009)

#### GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT (Administrative Funds)

##### Income:

Meals .....	\$ 44.00
Membership dues .....	50.00
Tail Twister .....	26.00
Anniversary Dinner .....	<u>119.07</u>
Total Income .....	\$ 239.07

##### Expenses:

Uncategorized expenses .....	\$ 55.00
Club supplies .....	287.69
Meals and meeting room .....	214.97
Anniversary dinner expense .....	<u>52.00</u>
Total Expenses .....	<u>609.66</u>
Income less expenses .....	<u>(\$ -370.59)</u>

#### SERVICE ACCOUNT (Projects and Charitable Funds)

##### Income:

Candy Day Income .....	\$ 720.11
Metcalf Avenue of Flags .....	142.00
Flag sales .....	10.00
Total Income .....	<u>\$ 872.11</u>

##### Expenses:

None

Income less expenses .....	<u>\$ 872.11</u>
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*We Told You That You'd Be Seeing This Note a Lot! . . .*

#### **USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Reminder**

With all the other things we've got going, don't forget to plan for the **USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum** to be held in Memphis, Tennessee September 24-26. Remember that Kansas Lions will be hosting the Forum right here in Overland Park in 2013. By attending this year, you'll see some of the things we need to do when it's OUR turn!



It wasn't all Proclamations and Melvin Jones Fellowships and Claude DeVorss Fellowships on May 9. Above, **Big Lion Beverly** presents a special L-shaped Lions paperweight award to **Lion Art Meganck** in appreciation for all the work he does with the "Metcalf Avenue of Flags."

Below, at the anniversary dinner, she present retiring **Tail Twister Ron Bloome** with his own pet lion, one with a "pull-out" tail that can actually be twisted!



### Board of Directors Notes

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Saturday, **June 13** at the Wyndham Garden. This is a change in the regular schedule made necessary by the Downtown Overland Park Mardi Gras Days activities on June 6. That day will be considered a regular club meeting day, even though no "meeting" will be held.

The **July** meeting of the Board of Directors will be on the **third** Saturday (July 18), because the first Saturday is July 4, Independence Day and a Flag Day for us. The Board meeting will be at Mimi's Café, Oak Park Mall.





## The President's Message for June . . .

**I**t's hard to believe, but . . .

This is my last message to you as President of our club. We accomplished many very worthwhile things in 2008-09. We did not meet our membership goal and that was a big disappointment. On the other hand, we have laid some solid groundwork for recouping our losses and should see some solid growth in coming months.



- We established a scholarship program and selected three graduating seniors to receive \$500 each. The actual award to these students will be made in mid-summer before the students leave for college.
- We completed our Campaign SightFirst II pledge. We were one of three clubs in our district to make a pledge to be a Model Club, that is, to give \$400 per member. Our total contribution was over \$16,000.
- We honored club members in a variety of ways. **Lion Ben Starks** was awarded a Lifetime Membership. **Lions Dale Warden, Dottie Bloome, and Carole Collyard** became Melvin Jones Fellows and **Lion Roger Claxton** was added to the list of Claude DeVorss Fellows. **PDG Frank Piepenbring** was honored for his 61 years in Lionism as well as his role in establishing the "Metcalf Avenue of Flags."
- The Shoeboxes for Soldiers project was extremely successful. This was our second year to undertake this project.
- The Club became a member of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. Through the Chamber we've made a number of good contacts that have already resulted in one new member as well as some good program possibilities.

It's always dangerous to start issuing thanks to specific people for fear of omitting someone, but there are some who do deserve special recognition.

- The **Board of Directors** has served so faithfully. It was not uncommon to have a Board meeting with every single Board member present. These same Board members are at almost every meeting and support each activity. Thanks to all of you.
- **Lion Art Meganck** faithfully and with little fanfare oversees the flag program. He also headed up the Overland Park Fall Festival last September and arrives early at each meeting to lay out all our club paraphernalia. Thanks, **Lion Art**.
- **Lion Ben Starks** continues to put his pen to paper to write Stark(s) Reality for our Lions' Roar. Thanks, Lion Ben, for your eloquent words.
- **Lion Janette Reh** continues to organize Candy Days year in and year out. These days result in consistent income that we give to sight projects. Lion Janette, we appreciate what you do.
- **Lions Dottie, Mae, and Carole** headed up our pasta dinner and silent auction. They also organized a great garage sale and take care of any social event we have. We couldn't do it without you, ladies.
- **Lion Edson Parker** organized visitations to other clubs almost every month during the year and has once again overseen the selection of students for Lions' State Band. **Lion Edson** also sees to it that **PDG Frank** gets to Board meetings and club meetings. For all these efforts, we say "Thanks, **Edson**."
- **PDG Neal** has faithfully edited the Lions Roar each month during this Lions' year. Thanks, "Lion Honey."

**Lion Bob Larson** will be installed as your new president at the June 27 club meeting. I wish him the very best and offer him my wholehearted support for a successful year.

—*Big Lion Beverly*

## Stark(s) Reality



**O**n my way home from the library, I took a detour to South Lake. It's a local park where we took Laura fishing when she was a little girl and where I ice-skated with Alice's grandkids. It is a well-maintained beauty mark for the city of Overland Park. There is a stand of ancient cottonwood trees at the northwest corner that have a good four-foot diameter trunks.

I wonder what all they've seen and heard during their lifespan. They tower over everything. There's always a number of ducks and geese on the banks and on the water. There a number of flowering trees around, and they are spectacular. Lilacs abound and violets peek out at you at a great many locations.

A stroll around the lake gives you not only exercise, but a chance to commune with nature. It's a capsule-sized reminder of the magnificence of God's earthly creation. Who could not believe, when exposed to such grandeur?

As I walk, not only do I drink in all the current sights and sounds, they trigger reminiscences of past good and wonderful times with family and friends, many who are no longer around. I know you can't dwell on the past, and I don't, but sometimes a trip down memory lane is just what the doctor ordered.

I've been much involved with my community over a number of years. I've seen a great many changes. I remember when Metcalf Avenue was a brick street, the City Hall was a small office building and my church was a small auditorium with folding chairs. The heart of downtown Overland Park was 80th Street, and much of local politics was conducted at the local restaurant where Rubye waitressed. The Lions Club started their "Metcalf Avenue of Flags" about 46 years ago, back when Overland Park was mainly a bedroom community, where most of its citizenry worked out of town. Oh! How the times have changed, but we have survived, as we will this current setback. We just have to have faith.

—*by Lion Ben Starks*



*Billie Warden puts the Melvin Jones Fellowship pin on husband Lion Dale's lapel at the anniversary dinner, May 9.*

## Downtown Overland Park Mardi Gras Day on June 6; Workers Are Still Needed to Give Away Lions Balloons

We'll be participating in Mardi Gras days sponsored by the Downtown Overland Park Partnership on Saturday, June 6. Set-up will begin at 7 a.m. at the OP Commons (81st and Santa Fe). We will work two-hour shifts. If you haven't signed up, contact Lion Beverly right away.



## *Proclamation*

*Whereas*, the citizens of Overland Park and surrounding communities have long enjoyed the American Flags flown along Metcalf Avenue on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Veterans Day; and

*Whereas*, Frank Piepenbring initiated this tradition in 1963 with a fledgling start of 45 flags, and in 2009, 460 flags fly along Metcalf Avenue on patriotic occasions; and

*Whereas*, Frank's dedication to our country's flag was first shown during his service to the United States during World War II, when he served as a bombardier on B-29 aircraft in the Pacific; and

*Whereas*, Frank joined the Enid, Oklahoma, Lions Club in 1948 and transferred to the Overland Park Host Lions Club in 1963. This year marks his 61st as a member of Lions Clubs International. As a member he has held multiple offices, including club president and District Governor of Kansas Lions District 17-AE in northeast Kansas. Frank served for many years as a director of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation and attended numerous international conventions in the United States and abroad; and

*Whereas*, at the age of 92, Frank still attends all club meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors, often visits other clubs close to home or in locations such as Topeka and Ottawa, and actively recruits his neighbors and others to become Lions members. Frank is always recognized by "old-timers" at these meetings as Past District Governor Frank.

*Now, therefore*, I, Carl Gerlach, Mayor of the City of Overland Park, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 16, 2009 as

### **FRANK PIEPENBRING DAY**

in Overland Park, and encourage all citizens to remember Frank as they enjoy the American Flags on Metcalf Avenue.



Done this 1st day of May, 2009.

Carl Gerlach, Mayor

Marian Cook, City Clerk





**Lion Ron Bloome** looks as nervous as a teen-ager pinning a corsage on his prom date as he "pins" wife **Lion Dottie** with her **Melvin Jones Fellowship** emblem. **Lion Dottie** was somewhat "choked up" with emotion when the award was made to her.

### Calendar of Activities

#### May

May 28-30 ..... Kansas Lions State Convention  
Airport Hilton Inn, Wichita  
International President Al Brandel and wife Dr. Maureen Murphy: special guests.

#### June

June 6 ..... Downtown Overland Park Mardi Gras day.  
Set up at 7:00-8:45 a.m., Shifts to run all day.  
At Overland Park Commons, 81st and Santa Fe.  
June 13 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
At the Wyndham Garden  
(No regular meeting. Members and guests welcome at Board meeting)  
June 14 (Sunday).... Flags up at 6:00 a.m., down at 4 p.m. (Flag Day)  
June 27 ..... Regular Club meeting  
At the Wyndham Garden  
Installation of Officers by District Governor Elect Susan McDonald

#### July

July 4 ..... Flags up at 6:00 a.m., down at 4 p.m. (Independence Day)  
(Board meeting postponed until July 18)  
July 11 ..... Regular Club meeting  
At the Wyndham Garden  
(Program to be announced)  
July 18 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
At Mimi's Café, Oak Park Mall  
July 25 ..... Regular Club meeting  
At the Wyndham Garden  
(Program to be announced)

### **The Overland Park Host Lions' Roar**

An official newsletter published more-or-less monthly by the

Overland Park Host Lions Club

Overland Park, Kansas

[www.oplions.org](http://www.oplions.org)

Sponsors of the "Metcalfe Avenue of Flags"



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Past President **Lion Mae** is all smiles as she places the **Claude DeVors** Fellowship pin on husband **Lion Treasurer Roger Claxton's** collar at the May 9 anniversary dinner.

### **Was May 25 Flag-Stealing Modus Operandi a First?**

Those of us who have been Host Lions for any length of time know that occasionally we'll find that our flags have been stolen along Metcalf Avenue. Generally, the thief lifts the pole and flag from the "sleeve" in the ground and makes off with the entire assembly.

On Memorial Day (May 25), however, **Lions Paul Roerman** and **Chris Pucci** came across what might well be a first in the long and proud history of our flag program.

On Monday afternoon, taking down flags on the northeast route, they found one bare pole—that's right, just the pole—at the Sonic Drive-In Restaurant near 81st Street. Someone had removed the flag and attaching hardware, but left the pole in place.

Can anyone remember that kind of flag stealing happening before along the Avenue of Flags?

**Lion Art Meganck**, flag program chairman, was philosophical about the whole episode. "With the price of lumber these days," he said, "replacing the flag probably will be less expensive than buying a new pole."



Dr. Anthony **Liperuote** of **Fulk Chiropractic Center** in Olathe was guest speaker on May 9. Here, he demonstrates bone structure and spinal curvature.

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*Neal K. Nichols, Editor*  
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## ***Think Metcalf Avenue of Flags!***

### ***2009 Schedule***

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 16</b>	<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	<b><i>Successfully completed! Thanks!</i></b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 25</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	<b><i>Successfully completed! Thanks!</i></b>
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>June 14</b>	<b>Flag Day</b>
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day</b>
<b>Monday</b>		<b>September 7</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>November 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>

*(Flags raised at 6 a.m., lowered at 4 p.m. on each of these dates)*