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Metcalf Avenue of
Flags

February 2011

The Lions' Roar

Overland Park Host Lions Club
Overland Park, Kansas
www.oplions.org



WE SERVE

WHEN PEOPLE ASK, "WHAT DO LIONS DO?" SHARE STORIES LIKE THIS

WE HELPED VICTIMS OF A FIRE

by Roger Claxton

On December 3, 2010 a fire in Erie, Kansas totally destroyed the home of Ashley Minor, a student at Kansas State School for the Blind. The fire left Ashley, her three brothers and her mother with no bedding, cooking materials or personal effects. The **Salvation Army** relocated the family to a motel and then later to a manufactured home. They are yet awaiting a decision on the part of the insurance company.

Lion Mae Claxton reacted to the tragedy by purchasing box springs and mattresses for the children as well as some basic cooking supplies and bedding. Members of the **Louisburg Lions Club** provided some bedding and household items from donations that had been made for a garage sale to be held in Louisburg later. Members of the new **Downtown Kansas City KS Lions Club** also assisted with donations.

The materials were all packed into a rental trailer and taken to Erie by the Claxtons. A tearful mother gratefully accepted the load of gifts and the Claxtons received the warm feelings of the Christmas spirit from the entire family.

The **Overland Park Host Lions Club Board of Directors** approved allocating \$400.00 to reimburse the Claxtons for the box springs and mattresses as well as costs for the trailer and fuel.

How good it was to see the OPHLC move so quickly to help a family in need.

Editor's Note: As devastating as the fire was, it did not completely "steal" Christmas from the Minor family. Mrs. Minor had done most of her shopping early and hidden the children's gifts in a small camper trailer away from the house. Those were all spared.

OP Host Theme Basket Draws Top Bid at MWR

The "designing ladies" in the Overland Park Host Lions Club have done it again! The theme basket created by **Dottie Bloome, Mae Claxton, and Carole Collyard** sold for a bid of \$115 in the silent auction at Mid-Winter Rally in Junction City on January 29. This amount was the highest bid for any of the other baskets on display.



The basket had a Valentine's motif with a very definite adult twist.

Both a live auction and the silent one are conducted every year at the MWR and all proceeds go to benefit the Kansas Lions Band Foundation. Auction items are donated by Lions all across the state.

The silent and live auctions together raised approximately \$2,500 this year. The money helps reduce the cost that students (or Lions Clubs that sponsor students) pay to attend the Kansas Lions Band camp during the week of State Convention in June.

Roar Earns "Excellent" Rating in Newsletter Merit Rating Program

Editor Lion Cindy Fisher and the *Overland Park Host Lions' Roar* received a certificate of commendation and an "Excellent" rating in this year's newsletter merit-rating program sponsored by the Kansas Lions Public Relations Committee.

A professional journalist judged entries submitted from all across the state. A critique of the newsletter was sent to Lion Cindy. This will be used to make our newsletter even better in the future. Three issues—October, November and December 2010—were submitted by Cindy.

Getting to Know YOUR OPHLC Endowment Fund

Our club's Endowment Fund is a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization established in 1998. Gifts may be made to the Endowment Fund in honor of individuals, in celebration of events such as birthdays and anniversaries, or in memory of loved ones and friends.

Gifts and bequests are added to the corpus of the Endowment Fund and are never spent. Grants to worthy causes are made only from the earnings on the corpus.

To date, grants have been made to the following causes:

- Haiti earthquake relief effort
- Renovation of the Kansas State School for the Blind's Industrial Arts classroom and new equipment
- Greensburg, KS tornado relief effort
- Hurricane Katrina relief effort
- Indonesia Tsunami relief effort

Nearly all of the awards have been made in addition to contributions made to these causes by the our club, the Lions Clubs International Foundation, and other state and clubs' efforts.

All Trustees of the Endowment must be members of the OPHLC. They receive no compensation as Trustees.

Some investments are made in conservative market funds but the majority of the money is invested in government-guaranteed Certificates of Deposits to preserve the corpus.

The Endowment was set up to be an adjunct to, but not a part of, the OPHLC. It was the intent of the Endowment founders that the OPHLC retain its character as a "We Serve" organization regardless of the success of the Endowment Fund.

More on the Endowment is online at www.OPLIONS.org.

Lion Edson Parker is current president of Endowment Fund Board of Trustees.

Dates to Remember

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| February 12 | Regular Meeting, Red Robin Program: "Playgrounds of Peace" |
| February 14 | Visitation to Auburn Lions Club |
| February 21 | Zone Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Ryan's Family Steak House, Olathe |
| February 25, 26 | District Convention Holiday Inn Holidome, Lawrence |
| February 26 | Regular Meeting, Red Robin Program: To be announced |
| March 5 | Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m. Perkins, 87 th and Nieman |

2013 Forum Fund-Raising Pins . . . "Dorothy" Now Available



"Dorothy"—the first in a set of four pins promoting the 2013 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum—is now on sale. "Scarecrow" is tentatively scheduled to be available in time for the Kansas Lions State Convention in June. "Lion" and "Tin Man" will be out in January 2012 and January 2013, respectively.

Pins will sell for \$5 each. Sales were brisk at the Mid-Winter Rally. There are indications that the pins will be popular across the United States and in Canada.

Proceeds from the sale of these pins will help cover expenses incurred by the Forum Host Committee in carrying out its functions.

The Forum will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center in September 2013, but planning activities will begin in earnest in April of this year.

Nominating Committee Begins Work

Past President Mae Claxton is chairperson of this year's Nominating Committee. Also on the committee are 1st Vice President **Chris Pucci** and Tail Twister (and Past President) **Ken Collyard**.

The committee is responsible for presenting a slate of candidates for 2011-12 club offices. A preliminary report will be made in mid-March and the elections will be held at the regular club meeting of April 9.

District Governor's Contest Update

DG Governor Michele Hufferd's most recent newsletter shows us in 2nd place in our category with 46,150 points (this time behind the Lawrence Lions Club, with 52,060 points). Our running total through January, however, is 48,650, because 2,500 points were earned after the January deadline for submitting reports.

It's a close contest! But we definitely are "in the hunt" for the prize. If more members participate in visitations and other service activities, we might forge ahead to first place.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| February 4: | Neal Nichols |
| February 6: | Trish Rogers |
| February 8: | Bob Larson |
| February 11: | Roger Claxton |
| February 12: | Lawrence Reh |
| February 19: | Jack Watkins |
| February 28: | Jean Watkins |

Anniversaries: [None]



Zone Meeting on February 21 at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, Olathe

The next zone meeting will be on Monday evening, February 21 and will be hosted by the Olathe Lions Club.

The meeting will be held at Ryan's Steak House at 20050 West 153rd Street, Olathe (near 151st Street and K-7 Highway). If you plan to eat there, arrive at 6:30 to order your meal.

The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Carole Collyard of our club is Zone Chair this year. If you plan to attend the meeting, please call Carole at 913-238-0209 to let her know. Meal reservations are not necessary for this meeting.

Zone meetings are open to all Lions. They are a good way to find out about the activities and fundraisers of other clubs in the area. There is always an opportunity for visiting with and meeting Lions from outside our own club.

KLSF Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) Scheduled for Overland Park Again

The Kansas Mobile Screening Unit (once known as the "Sight Bus") will be in Overland Park at the Downtown OP Fall Arts & Crafts Festival on September 24. The MSU is becoming increasingly popular across the state and well over 60 dates are already booked for 2011. Health screenings include two vision tests, blood pressure, blood sugar (for diabetes) and hearing. All tests are free to the public. Where serious conditions are detected, the clients are referred to health-care professionals.

Program Notes

Saturday, February 12: "Playgrounds for Peace." Vice President Chris Pucci has arranged for this program. Grant Rogers will make a short presentation about the OPHLC Endowment Fund.

Saturday, February 26: An abbreviated program with participation by members attending. Several members and officers will be at the District Convention in Lawrence.

On January 22, **Lion Steve Everley** (Overland Park Noon Lions Club) presented a slide show on last summer's trip by KSSB students along the Oregon Trail.

Coming in March and April: Lion Lori Kessinger (Lawrence Noon Lions Club) presenting program on Kansas Audio-Reader. Election of officers will be in April.

President's Message for February

By Big Lion Neal Nichols



Overland Park Host Lions were well represented at the Mid-Winter Rally and State Council meeting in Junction City on January 28-30. Dottie Bloome, Carole Collyard, Mae Claxton, Beverly Nichols, Janette Reh and I attended. In a seminar about outstanding club projects, we reported on the Metcalf Avenue of Flags and Shoeboxes for Soldiers.

Then last week the same Lions followed up by attending the District Cabinet meeting in Shawnee.

My sincere thanks to **Lion Edson Parker** for a great job in setting up visitations to other clubs. These trips let us learn about others' activities and projects. I encourage you all to join in on at least one or two of these visits.

On February 5, your Board of Directors discussed the possibility of having a club retreat to look at issues and problems facing our club and to find solutions to them. Membership **recruitment** is a major concern of us all. But **retention** is a growing problem; our numbers are declining and so is attendance at regular meetings.

I fear we're falling victim to the 20/80 rule—twenty per cent of the members are doing 80% of the work. It's not quite to that point yet, and I hope we can reverse the recent trends.

More details on a possible retreat will be announced as plans develop. To see a typical agenda, click on the link below:

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/common/pdfs/cb1_retreat.pdf.

If you have any ideas on what we can do to make our meetings more appealing—whether they are about location, meals, programs or meeting days—please let me know—even anonymously if you prefer. YOUR thoughts are important!

—Big Lion Neal

Treasurer's Reports:

January 2011

General (Operating) Account

Income

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Balance, January 1 | \$ 4,321.61 |
| Membership Dues | \$ 440.00 |
| Tail Twister | 30.27 |
| Meals | 297.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 767.27 |

Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Dues to LCI | \$ 581.10 |
| Dues to State, District | 262.00 |
| Meals | 375.00 |
| Supplies | 46.95 |
| Postage, Delivery | 165.00 |
| Total Expenses | 1,273.85 |
| Net Income | - 506.58 |
| Balance, January 31 | \$ 3,815.03 |

Service (Project or Charity) Account

Income

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Balance, January 1 | \$ 5,290.75 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 12.29 |
| Total Income | \$ 12.29 |

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Pasta Dinner, Auction .. | \$ 15.20 |
| LCI Melvin Jones Fellow .. | 1000.00 |
| OPHLC Endowment | 600.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 1,615.20 |
| Net Income | - 1,602.91 |
| Balance, January 31 | \$ 3687.84 |

February Visitations: Sunflower, Auburn



Several members of our club plan to visit the Auburn Lions Club (near Topeka) on Monday, February 14 to share their Valentine's Day

celebration. So far, six OPHLC members have signed up. It's not too late to get in on the fun, but please contact **Lion Edson Parker** to let him know if you're going. The Auburn club needs to know how many meals to order.



Four OPHLC visited the Sunflower Lions Club of Topeka on February 8. Those were Edson, Jack McLain, and the Nichols.

We earn points in the District Governor's contest for visiting other clubs. A minimum of 100 points is awarded for each member who goes on a visit.

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

Sponsors of the "Metcalf Avenue of Flags"



2010-11 Issue 10, February 2011

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Tentative Flags Schedule . . .**9/11 Added to Program for 2011**

The Board of Directors voted to re-instate September 11 as a flag day for this year to recognize the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D. C.

This action came because of a suggestion of a staff member of Newcomer's Overland Park during a meeting with club president Neal Nichols in January.

There was some discussion about leaving the flags up from Labor Day through 9/11, but no decision was reached.

Other flag dates are May 21 (Armed Forces Day), May 30 (Memorial Day), June 14 (Flag Day), July 4 (Independence Day), September 5 (Labor Day), and November 11 (Veterans Day). The schedule can vary depending on whether flags remain up over long weekends.

Think Spring! . . .**Plant Some Trees in April**

With all the snow on the ground now—and perhaps more coming—thoughts of putting trees into the ground might be far from our minds. But April will be here soon and that's when we can help carry out one more of the International President's goals for the year—helping the environment by planting trees.

At last week's Cabinet meeting, District Governor Michele Hufferd urged every club in the district to plant at least one tree.

One specific rule for this project is that club members must do the planting. Outsiders cannot be paid to do it.

More details will be in the next two newsletters.

Scenes from 2011 Mid-Winter Rally

(All photos are courtesy of Carole Collyard)



Ron Wilson, a Kansas "Cowboy Poet", spoke at the noon luncheon on Saturday. He recited several poems he had written that reflected on the history and importance of the cowboy to the Kansas cattle industry in the 19th century.



Dottie Bloome visits with Bob Jernigan (Lawrence Noon Lions Club) during a break in the action at Junction City. Bob is District 17-O Peace Poster Contest Chairman.



Neal Nichols had 10 minutes to discuss the Overland Park Host Metcalf Avenue of Flags and Shoeboxes for Soldiers projects at a Saturday afternoon seminar showcasing outstanding club projects from around the state.



At far right, Mae Claxton whispers explanations to Harry Malnicof (Leawood Lions Club) while they watch a demonstration of a new device for vision screening of very young children. In background, Andy Hoedl (Lenexa Lions) works the Pin Traders table.