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Flags**

March 2011

The Lions' Roar

**Overland Park Host Lions Club
Overland Park, Kansas**

www.oplions.org



WE SERVE

FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY . . .

PASTA SUPPER, SILENT AUCTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9

Our fourth annual Pasta Supper and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, April 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Overland Park Christian Church. Set-up will begin at approximately 2 o'clock.

The greatest need at this time is for items for the silent auction. Among these can be gift certificates from restaurants and other businesses for meals, services, or merchandise; arts and crafts items; "white elephant" items (as long as they are in good shape and usable); items suitable for children (there's a separate table for these and the kids love to bid!). In short—ANYTHING that can help us make money for the Service Account.



Tickets for advance sales can be obtained from Lion Mae Claxton.

Your help will also be needed Saturday in setting up tables, setting out auction items, selling and/or taking tickets, preparing and/or serving food, and cleaning up afterward.

New Downtown KCK Lions Club to Celebrate Charter Night



After almost four years of recruiting effort, there is a new Lions Club in our district and it will hold its Charter Night festivities on Friday evening, March 25.

The Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Lions Club organized as a Club Branch of the Turner Lions Club in the fall of 2007. Membership slowly increased and last fall the "magic number" of 20 members required to become a full-fledged Lions Club was reached. The club meets at the Kansas State School for the Blind twice monthly on Thursdays.

Charter Night will be held at the Kansas State School for the Blind, 1100 State Avenue, KCK, beginning at 6:30. Tickets are \$20 each and reservations should be made by March 20. Contact PDG David Hentges at 913-342-8878 or at dhentges@kc.rr.com. Reservations by mail can be sent to him at 812 North Washington Blvd., KCK 66102.

PDG Hentges and his wife Lion Diane provided outstanding leadership in guiding the club to full-fledged status.

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute to be Held in Crete, NE; Scholarship Funds Available for Lions Who Want to Attend

The annual **Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute** will be held this year and next at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska during the week-end of July 22-24.

Cost for the institute is \$125 per person and includes all materials, lodging, and meals. The District 17-O Past District Governors Club will provide eight \$100 scholarships to applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis. In addition, the Multiple District 17 (Kansas state) PDG Club will provide two \$75 scholarships to Lions in District 17-O.

The Institute provides intensive, professional, valuable leadership-skills program for Lions who want to serve in leadership roles. In addition, the institute teaches skills that translate in success on the job; in community, church and club roles; and in overall personal development. *(Those who have served as District Governor or higher are not eligible to attend.)*

For an application form, contact Big Lion Neal Nichols. PID Ernie Young (e-mail: eyoungks@aol.com) will also provide forms.

Anniversary Dinner Set For May 15 at Hereford House; PID Ernie Young to Speak

The 54th anniversary of our club's chartering will be celebrated on Sunday evening, May 15 at the Hereford House, 17244 Midland Drive (near I-435) in Shawnee. This is the same location as last year's dinner.



Past International Director Ernie Young (Lansing Lions Club) will be guest speaker.

Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of a Melvin Jones Fellowship to a deserving club member.

Meals can be ordered from the menu; individual checks will be provided by the servers.

More details, including reservations deadline, will be provided in the April *Lions' Roar* and by e-mails if necessary

New Member Induction Day To Be Observed On April 9

International President Sid Scruggs has designated April 9, 2011 as World Wide New Member Induction Day.

Our club will observe that date by formally inducting at least three new members—Lions **Lynn and Teresa Wolfe** and Lion **Christine Nichols**. These have been members for quite some time but have not been inducted due to work, being out of town, or other scheduling conflicts.

April 9 will be a busy day for us. At our regular meeting we'll vote on new officers and in the afternoon we'll hold the annual Pasta Supper and Silent Auction. *(See top left of this page for details on that.)*

Blind Beatitudes (Author Unknown)

The President's Message for March

By Big Lion Neal Nichols



In late February, I had the privilege of attending a Faculty Development Institute sponsored by Lions Clubs International. It was held at Oak Brook, Illinois, in a hotel just a few blocks away from our International Headquarters.

I met some incredibly talented Lions from across the United States and Canada. One was **Dr. Mary Sedgwick**, an ob-gyn physician whose blindness was not unexpected but occurred much earlier than had been forecast.

Each of us in the Institute was required to prepare and deliver a 20-minute presentation using the techniques we had practiced over three full days of classwork.

Lion Mary's presentation was on how sighted persons can best assist those who are blind. I'm devoting the rest of my space this month to her words of wisdom, *because we can all benefit from what Mary taught the group in Oak Brook.* —Big Lion Neal

- Blessed are they who refrain from shouting when they speak to me.
- Blessed are they who talk directly to me and not to someone else.
- Blessed are they who say who they are when entering a room and say hello to me.
- Blessed are they who say goodbye to me when they leave so I am not left speaking to the air.
- Blessed are they who do not hesitate to say "SEE" when talking to me.
- Blessed are they who tap my shoulder gently when they approach from behind or from the side when speaking to me.
- Blessed are they who wait for me to extend my hand before shaking it.
- Blessed are they who place my hand on an object such as the back of a chair when telling me where it is, so I can seat myself.
- Blessed are they who do not leave me in a strange environment without orienting me to it.
- Blessed are they who offer me their arm so they can serve as my guide, instead of grabbing, pulling, or shoving me.
- Blessed are they who come up to me in a large crowd and offer to help me when I appear disoriented.
- Blessed are they who do not embarrass me in a group of people by openly referring to my blindness in word or action.
- Blessed are they who laugh with me when I tell a joke related to blindness.
- Blessed are they who read me the menu and its prices and allow me to order my own meal.
- Blessed are they who do not distract my guide dog from being my active eyes.
- Blessed are they who treat me like a human being, for I AM a human being.

Dates to Remember

March 12	Regular Meeting, 7:15 a.m. Red Robin Restaurant
March 26	Regular Meeting, 7:15 a.m. Red Robin Restaurant
Tentative program: Laurie Kessinger, KU Audio-Reader	
April 2	Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m. Perkins, 87th and Nieman
April 9 (morning)	Regular Meeting, 7:15 a.m. Red Robin Restaurant
Election of 2011-12 Officers Program: To be announced	
April 9 (evening)	Pasta Supper and Silent Auction, 5 – 8 p.m. Overland Park Christian Church, 75th and Conser

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays: [None]

Anniversaries:

March 14: Ken and Carole Collyard
March 15: Bryan and Heather Lanigan

District Governor's Contest Update for February

The hard work of a few of members enabled us to report 20,660 points for February. (Some of the points were from activities in late January that didn't get reported because of time constraints.) Our running total through February is now 66,810.

It's still a close contest! But we definitely are "in the hunt" for the prize. If more members participate in visitations and other service activities, we can still end the year first place.

Our "designing ladies"—Dottie Bloome, Mae Claxton, and Carole Collyard—along with Roger Claxton, put in an incredible amount of time and travel in planning and preparing decorations for the recent District Convention in Lawrence.

Seven members—those named above plus Ken Collyard, Beverly Nichols, and Janette Reh—attended the convention.

Lion Edson Parker has done a great job in scheduling visitations. Lions Jack McLain and Chris Pucci, along with Lion Beverly and me, have participated in most of the visits. Lions Lynn and Teresa Wolfe are out of town, but have earned us points by visiting clubs in both Alabama and Tennessee!

Lion Beverly has also spent an incredible amount of time and energy working on an LCIF grant proposal, which if accepted, will provide funding for a low-vision-screening project for Kansas. She estimates the total to be between \$150,000 and \$200,000, although that is not final.

Attendance at District Cabinet and Zone Meetings by several of our members has also helped increase our point total.

The key to more points is more participation by more members, especially on visitations and attendance at Cabinet and Zone meetings. Points are awarded for each individual Lion who attends, not just for the club itself.

You'll find that visitations are not only enjoyable but also very informative! See how other Lions Clubs celebrate food, fun, and fellowship!

See Page 3 for the schedule for March visitations.

Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Presents \$25,000 to KU Eye Center



On February several representatives of the **Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF)** presented a check for \$25,000 to **Dr. John E. Sutphin**, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the KU Medical Center. The money will be used to help purchase a very complicated piece of eye-screening equipment for the department.

Above, Dr. Sutphin accepts the check from **Vice District Governor Beverly Nichols**, KLSF liaison to KU Eye Center, as the others look on. From left, **Bert Gordon** (KLSF Treasurer); **PID Gene Vogel** (KLSF President); **PDG Terry Weldin** of District 17-S (KLSF Director); **Neal Nichols** (OPHLC); and **PDG Wes Moore** (Lenexa Lions Club). Behind Dr. Sutphin was **Lion Jim Rochel** (Leawood Lions Club).

Think Spring! . . .

We'll Plant Trees in April

Plans are moving along for our club to participate in President Sid Scruggs' focus-on-the-environment emphasis in April.

The Board of Directors voted last Saturday to contact both Cub Scout Pack 3254 leaders and the Shawnee Mission School District administration to see if it will be feasible to plant one or more trees at the new Apache Elementary School in Overland Park.

April's activity is the fourth in President Scruggs' year-long program, "A Beacon of Hope." The other three areas of emphasis were youth (August and September) sight (October and November) and hunger (December and January).

Overland Park Host Lions participated in all three projects.

More details on the April tree planting project will be in the next newsletter.



Treasurer's Reports: February 2011 General (Operating) Account

Income

Balance, February 1	\$ 3,815.03
Membership Dues	\$ 95.00
Tail Twister	34.00
Meals	110.00
Miscellaneous	10.00
Total Income	\$ 249.00

Expenses

Meals	260.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Total Expenses	310.00
Net Income	- 61.00
Balance, February 28	\$ 3,754.03

Service (Project or Charity) Account

Income

Balance, February 1	\$ 3687.84
Metcalfe Avenue of Flags \$	200.00
Miscellaneous	1,192.83 ¹
Total Income	\$ 1,392.83

Expenses

Pasta Dinner, Auction .. \$	46.73
Eye Exams and glasses	50.00
Service Dog Schools	1,500.00
KS Lions Band Found.	200.00
Miscellaneous	18.47
Total Expenses	\$ 1,815.20
Net Income	- 422.37
Balance, February 28	\$ 3265.47

¹ Includes \$1,185.00 from sale of 2013 Forum Pins.

March Visitations: Wyandotte, Eudora

Lion Edson Parker has arranged for two visitations in March.

The first will be to the **Wyandotte Lions Club** on Tuesday, March 15. This club meets at Presbyterian Manor, 7850 Freeman, Kansas City, KS. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

The second March visit will be to the **Eudora Lions Club** on Monday, March 21. Eudora Lions meet at City Hall, 7th and Main, at 7 p.m.

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

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by the

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Scenes from District Convention in Lawrence



*"A-HA! I've got it!" grins **Lion Ken Collyard** as he successfully completes a PowerPoint slide during the presentation by **VDG Beverly Nichols** on Saturday morning. Behind Ken is Past Council Chair (PCC) **Bobby Duval** of Sunflower Lions Club of Topeka who looks bewildered by the whole process.*



*"Smile," says **Lion Dottie Bloome** as she arranges table decorations, "it makes people wonder what you've been up to!"*



***International Director Richard Sawyer** of Arizona was featured speaker at the Saturday night banquet. **District Governor Michele Hufferd** (right) looks on.*

Loney Elected 2nd Vice District Governor; Beverly Nichols Advances to First VDG

Jerry Loney of the Sunflower Lions Club of Topeka was elected 2nd Vice District Governor at the recent District Convention in Lawrence. He will assume office at the close of the International Convention in Seattle on July 8.

First Vice District Governor **Clint Vawter** of the Scranton Lions Club will become District Governor for 2011-12 after the Seattle convention.

Our own **Beverly Nichols**, currently 2nd Vice District Governor, will advance to 1st VDG at that time also. She will become District Governor in 2012 after the International Convention in Busan, Korea.



***Ahna Valdez** (2nd from right) displays her Peace Poster Contest entry in Lawrence. Ahna's work took third place in the district contest after winning our club's local contest. With Ahna are her parents, **Ciriaco and Christina Valdez** and sister, **Sophia**.*



Young musicians from the Kansas State School for the Blind entertained at the piano to the delight of the audience.

[NOTE: All photos on this page are courtesy of Lion Carole Collyard.]