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Fellow Lions, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your District Governor. Lion Katharyn and I have just returned from the International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand. Let me tell you, that is one long trip. We started the trip by driving to Corpus Christi. Now before you get too concerned about the governor you elected driving to Corpus to fly to Bangkok, let me explain.



For those who may not know, Katharyn and I have two boys (ages 6 and 9). There is no way that I was going to take the kids on a trip that the best I could figure would take thirty-six hours from the time we awoke until the time we would get to our destination. The boys enjoyed hanging out at the beach with their aunt and uncle, attending Sea Camp at the Texas Aquarium and watching arena football games.

Katharyn and I enjoyed visiting with fellow Lions from around the world. You really do meet people from dozens of countries. We experienced four days of district governor training and then four days of convention. In my Governor's-elect school there were three fellow Texans along with Lions from India, Canada, North and South Dakota, England, Sri Lanka, Greece and the instructor was from New Zealand. It was a great experience to become well acquainted with these fellow Lions from around the globe.

Another highlight for me was marching in the parade. I was in the last row of Texans in the parade which allowed me to fall back sometimes and take pictures with the spectators. I am in about one hundred photos with people from India and the Orient.

Now back to business. We are going to get the year kicked off with the first **District Cabinet Meeting** in Amarillo with registration at **8:30 AM on Saturday, July 26th**. We are going to have a fun time including a "split the pot" drawing with the tail twister, door prize drawings (please bring some door prizes), and other drawings. The meeting will be in the Amarillo Association of Realtors building, 5601 Enterprise Circle (see map on pg. 8). We will have coffee and donuts in the morning and lunch around noon. The cost is \$10.00. All Lions and guests are welcome. All club presidents and secretaries, committee chairpersons, Camp Directors, zone chairs and cabinet officers should attend if possible. We plan to end the meeting no later than 1:30 PM.

In an attempt to gauge interest in our monthly newsletter, I am starting a **contest**. The tenth and the one-hundredth person to either email me at **lionstevew@hotmail.com** or phone and leave me a message at **806.337.1289** will win a gift certificate to an Amarillo restaurant. The rules are 1) you must include the "key phrase" in your message, 2) you must be a Lion in District 2-T1 and 3) only one entry per Lion. This month's key phrase is "Brandel". The time I receive the email or phone call will determine the winners. Again it is the tenth and the one hundredth person that leaves the key phrase "Brandel" via email or phone call. I will publish the winners in next month's newsletter.

Remember, no one becomes a Lion unless they're invited. When's the last time you asked someone to join???

Yours in Lionism,
DG Steve Wiegand

Thoughts From the Vice District Governor

First let me say how excited I am to be able to serve the Lions of District 2-T1 as Vice District Governor. I am looking forward to serving with District Governor Steve as we try to fulfill the Lions motto "We Serve". I know it will be an exciting year.



Well it is hard to believe that the summer is half over. Most people see the summer as an opportunity to rest and maybe catch up on some work. For Lions it can be a very busy time. Whether it is cooking pancakes or taking children to the Texas Lions Camp there always seems to be something to keep Lions busy.

I had the privilege of attending the Texas Lions Camp VIP Weekend on June 20 – 21. The opportunity of being able to attend the Camp Awards Night is always worth any trip to Kerrville and our wonderful camp. If you have not ever been to the Texas Lions Camp I want to encourage you to do so. You will never forget it no matter how many times you go.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our First Cabinet meeting on July 26. Hopefully there will be representatives from each club. It will be a great opportunity to start the Lions year off with a bang.

Thanks again for the opportunity of being able to serve you as Vice District Governor.

VDG Bill Craddock

Helpful Websites and E-mail Addresses

Here are some great **websites** to help you plug into Lions Clubs information and events:



- www.lionsclubs.org Lions Clubs International website
www.lionscamp.com Texas Lions Camp website
www.texaslions.org Texas MD2 website
www.lionsdistrict2-T1.com District 2-T1 website

Here are **e-mail addresses** for some District 2-T1 contacts:

- lionstevew@hotmail.com District Governor Steve Wiegand
bcraddock@mail.wtamu.edu Vice District Governor Bill Craddock
wilson@wdarchitects.com District newsletter chair PDG Jim Wilson
lionrickcarol@yahoo.com Cabinet Treasurer PDG Rick Garrett
karen.stowers@sbcglobal.net Cabinet Secretary Karen Stowers

THANK YOU--THANK YOU to all the Lions that have been a part of my year as District Governor. Beginning with now DG Steve, all the PDG's, Club Presidents and Secretaries, Cabinet Officers and Lions across the district, it would have not be possible without you and your dedication to Lions. It has been a great experience for Cheryle and I and we thank you for being a big part of our year; obviously we couldn't have done it without you.



Now for the last bit of news from this retiring DG--We have purchased the marble statue of the lions and plan to have it in place sometime later this year. The Camp Board must meet and determine where they want to locate it and then we will prepare a site for the statue. The clubs in the district stepped up and made it happen, it will be a lasting tribute to the Lions of 2-T1. I encourage anyone and everyone to see the Texas Lions Camp and the beautiful statue we will place there. At a future date, probably in Feb., we will have a formal presentation of the statue to the Camp. I hope we can get many 2-T1 Lions to come to Kerrville for the affair, especially if you have never been to the Camp. I believe Lions of our district will be proud of their gift to the Camp for years to come. Thanks to all who had a part in this endeavor.

Again, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your District Governor.

IPDG Bob Langhorne

Campaign SightFirst II Campaign Ends With Success



Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Lions around the world have exceeded their campaign challenge goal of US\$200 million for their flagship, global blindness-prevention program, SightFirst. Funds raised during Campaign SightFirst II (CSFII), a three-year worldwide campaign operated by the international charitable foundation, will save or restore the vision of more than 37 million people around the world.

Led by 7,000 CSFII Lion volunteers, Lions surpassed their initial US\$150 million goal in February, four months in advance of CSFII's conclusion. During the final month of the campaign alone, Lions raised more than US\$20 million to surpass the US\$200 million challenge goal.

At least US\$100 million of CSFII funds will be granted through LCIF's SightFirst program to contain and eliminate the leading causes of avoidable blindness, including cataract, the leading cause of preventable blindness worldwide. Another US\$50 million will be used to combat new and emerging threats to sight, including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration and low vision. The funds raised beyond the US\$150 million initial goal will make it possible for Lions to fund research and rehabilitation initiatives in developed countries. Lions' goal is to provide "Vision for All."

CSFII officially concluded during the 91st Annual Lions Clubs International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand on Thursday, June 26 when the final dollar amount raised was announced. More than 18,000 Lions clubs members, from around the world were present for this historic announcement for LCIF.

2008-2009 International President Al Brandel

New International President Al Brandel is down to earth, but his life has been cinematic. As a police officer, he rushed to help a child run over by a car. Years later, he played a part in responding to the September 11 attacks.

Turn the lens on his childhood, and a Frank Capra movie breaks out. Brandel spent his boyhood in a green-lawned neighborhood, with a hardworking World War II vet father, a mother always ready with dinner, and four siblings. And he was the slugger on a baseball team enshrined in the Little League Hall of Fame.



Membership Has its Rewards

Brandel's highlights as a Lion include the time he and his wife Maureen worked on a Lions-Habitat for Humanity home. A young girl who was to live in the house showed them her new room. "It was very emotional," he says. "It's not just writing a check that makes you a Lion. It's when you're painting the walls in a house you've just built. And you see the people – that it will be their house."

Brandel joined the West Hempstead Lions Club in 1975 while he was a police officer for Nassau County. A friend, Frank Anzalone, was a hemophiliac. Anzalone was a Lion, and the club put together a blood drive. "The first year Frank asked me to give blood at the drive, and I did," says Brandel. "The second year he asked me to work on the blood drive, and I did. The third year he asked me to work on the blood drive, and to become a Lion."

Brandel helped revive the club as its president in 1977. His goal was to launch a signature project – and the club agreed to provide a "jaws of life" rescue tool for the community. Lions members loaned the club \$5,400 to pay for it. Brandel figured it would take three or four years to raise funds to repay members. But it only took one year. "My most rewarding year as a Lion was when I was club president," he says. "You see the immediate effect of what you do."

Raised to Serve

Volunteering ran in Brandel's family. Despite working two jobs, his father "had time for the community," says Brandel. In college, a friend convinced Brandel to take a test for the police department. He did well on the test, and the job. He put in 35 years before retiring. And learned how to handle his emotions. "I understood I had to react in a certain way to be effective," he says.

The events of September 11, 2001 put his ability to handle tough situations to the test. Brandel took reports for many of the 400 missing Nassau County residents, and worked with Lions' leaders from New York and elsewhere to coordinate recovery support efforts. Later, he volunteered for a bereavement retreat. And trudged to doorsteps to notify families when victims' remains were found.

By then, Brandel was a detective with the police department's Juvenile Aid Bureau. He investigated missing children, child abuse, and juvenile crime. "I really understood I could make somebody's life a little better," he says.

Heroes of Service

As a Lion, Brandel has hand-delivered corneas for transplant, worked with UNICEF to ensure children in disaster areas could continue their education, and saw a Lions district in South Africa feed multitudes. "Lions don't understand the impact they have on the community," he says.

"The real modern-day heroes may never be on TV or have a book written about them," Brandel says. "But the things they do, like bringing a food basket, put a smile on somebody's face. Lions Clubs are making a big impact in people's lives. My role is to let everybody know the miracles happening around the world – and that they can make miracles happen in their backyard."

STUDENT MEMBER PROGRAM ~ A GREAT RECRUITMENT TOOL!

Who qualifies for the Student Member Program?

Students – The eligibility definition of “student” is as follows: A student is an individual enrolled in an educational institution and between the age of legal majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30.

Students who join existing clubs must be invited and approved by the club’s board of directors. Club secretaries complete the Student Member and Leo to Lion Certification Form to report qualifying members.

Student Member Program Components

Active Membership: Students remain Active Members, entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club confers or implies.

Student Member Dues Rate: Students receive a special dues concession, paying only half International Dues of US\$19.50 and are exempt of any entrance fees. It is further recommended that districts and multiple districts consider exempting or lowering their dues for student members as deemed appropriate.

Extended Billing Adjustment Period for Campus Lions Clubs: Campus clubs receive an extended billing adjustment period for the semi-annual billing in order to accommodate the typical school schedule. Campus clubs now have through April 15 for the January per capita billing and through October 15 for the July per capita billing to amend the club roster. Lions Clubs International will give credits to campus clubs for roster adjustments submitted within this time period without penalty.

Ready to Begin?

Check out the “Frequently Asked Questions” about the Student Member Program on page 5 for additional details.

Student Member Program ~ Frequently Asked Questions

The Student Member Program began July 1, 2007. This is a permanent program that was ratified as part of the Lions Clubs International Constitution.

Who qualifies for the Student Member Dues Rate? Students enrolled in an educational institution between the age of legal majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30. Student members are required to provide documentation verifying school enrollment and age.

Do current students in Campus Lions clubs qualify? Yes. Campus club students qualify for both the reduced dues rate and the extended billing adjustment period. However, students not involved in a Campus Lions club do not receive the extended billing adjustment period.

Does the reduced dues rate apply to traditional clubs? Yes. All students involved in traditional clubs are eligible to receive the Student Member Dues Rate.

Do students have to pay anything at the time of charter? Yes. In the case of a newly chartered campus club, or a club with a majority of student members, each charter member who qualifies for the Student Member Program is required to prepay one year international dues at the Student Member Rate (US\$19.50). Fees are submitted with the charter application.

Are students over the age of 30 still eligible to receive the \$10 entrance/charter fee? Yes. Students over the age of 30 invited to become a member of a college or university Lions club pay an entrance/charter fee of US\$10 upon completion of the Special Entrance/Charter Fee Form.

How does the program benefit traditional clubs? The Student Member Program gives every Lions club the opportunity to include and welcome these valuable young leaders. When students join Lions, they bring new energy, inspire fresh ideas for service and provide increased support for local and international projects. This program encourages clubs to expand membership, recruit young leaders and involve them in relevant projects.

How To Certify Student Members: Club secretaries certify students when using the Web Monthly Membership Report (WMMR) or by submitting the Student Member and Leo to Lion Certification Form along with the Monthly Membership Report (MMR). Once a student is certified, recertification is only necessary when there is a change of membership status. The certification of qualifying members corresponds with the semi-annual per capita billing cut-off dates of May 31 and November 30.

Filing by paper: Club secretaries submit the printable Student Member and Leo to Lion Certification Form with the Monthly Membership Report (MMR) in which the qualifying member is being reported. Download the form for complete instructions.

Filing on-line WMMR: Club secretaries select "Student Member" from the membership category on the WMMR and fill in the necessary fields to verify student information.

For more information, contact **District 2-T1 Membership Chair Lion Paula Davis** by email at paula@canyoncreeksoapcompany.com or by phone (806) 679-4342. In addition you can contact Lions Clubs International by email student@lionsclubs.org or phone the New Clubs and Marketing Department at (630) 571-5466, ext. 522.



15th Annual Texas Lions Camp

Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament

★ **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT TEXAS LIONS CAMP** ★

TLC is tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S.—Donations are tax deductible—see your tax professional for details.

July 31, 2008

8:00 AM & 1:00 PM shotgun starts

**Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course
Fredricksburg, Texas**



Marcelli Fuller, Camper 2007

Children Can...With TLC™

Interested in Playing a Round?

Player registration form available
at www.lionscamp.com

Sponsor One or More Holes

For a one time donation of \$100 per hole individuals, clubs, associations and corporations may sponsor a hole(s). All sponsors of the tournament will be recognized in publications on location and on the Texas Lions Camp website.

**Please make checks payable
to Texas Lions Camp.**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____ District _____

Club _____

**Mail to: PDG Rick Talbert
612 S. Texas
Weslaco, TX 78596**

Lions District 2-T1 Newsletter

Jim Wilson, Editor

29 Tiffany Ln

Canyon TX 79015

**Lions District 2-T1
Cabinet Meeting**

Saturday, July 26

8:30 AM—1:30 PM

Amarillo Association
of Realtors Building

5601 Enterprise Cir.
(Off Bell and I-40;
South of the Utility
Engineering building)

(marked with the
red "A" symbol
on the map)

All Lions are invited
to attend! Join us
for a great day of
information updates
and fellowship.

