

District 1-CN Newsletter



“Accept the Challenge to Change”

From the Governor's Desk

by Governor Ron Belcher



December 2007

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I want to again thank every Lion, Lioness, and Leo for all of your support in recruiting new members, especially new Lion members. As of the end of October, District 1-CN led all Districts in the State in new members with +27.

The State is down a total of -33 but that is considerably less than in past years. But now that I have said that, we all have our work cut out as we not only must continue to recruit new members but we must insure that we retain the members we have in our Clubs.

Traditionally it seems, we drop several members in December and June. Why are they dropped then? If they haven't paid their dues, has the sponsor or anyone found out why? Maybe they just hit a temporary financial bump in the road and couldn't come up with the dues. If they have been a good Lion, have you considered helping one of your own? If they aren't attending the meetings either, could it

be because they can't afford the meal? If they still help you at fund raisers and on projects, consider helping one of your own. This is an example of making a change where you don't enforce the Constitution on missed meetings. If circumstances of a member have changed to the point that they can't continue as a member, then you have no choice but to drop them from membership. But I ask you to determine the entire situation before you drop the Lion as they must have been a good Lion at one point or you wouldn't have brought them into Lionism. We still have a long way to go to get our District out of the "less than 35/1250 for two years" status. We plan to bring in a Branch Club in Dupo in December. We are exploring the possibility of a new Club in the Wabash Region and one in the Northwest Region. No one ever said it would be easy. Beginning in January, I plan on working

personally with the Extension chairperson in each of the two Regions to get us moving. Hopefully, the Central Region chairperson will have some time to pursue two Branch Clubs in that Region. **REMEMBER**, the Extension chairpersons can not do this alone. It is a concerted effort of many Lions. When an area is picked for a Club there is good reason but we will need the help of several Lions in that town or nearby to help make the necessary contacts. We will need sponsoring Clubs. Won't you all pitch in to help bring our District up to a recognized District once again? Last month, I thanked all of the Secretaries for getting their monthly membership reports submitted to LCI on time. I'm sorry to say we had some Secretaries that relapsed and didn't submit their reports on time.

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webpages.charter.net/district1-cn
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From Lions International E-Newsletter

by Mahendra Amarasuriya International President

Do you know what to expect when your club succeeds in recruiting more women and young people as members?

Experience shows that your club will gain:

- Energy
- Commitment
- Connections
- New ideas
- Enthusiasm and a spirit of fun, and
- Deep concern for the well-being of the community and a desire to make the world a better place for all.

Sound familiar? They should. These are attributes for which Lions Clubs International has been justly famous for more than 90 years. When we set a goal for increasing the [diversity of our clubs](#), we are simply looking for old virtues in new places. It is our way of holding fast to our fundamental ideals [while recognizing the ways in which society has changed](#) over the recent decades.

It is undeniable that women have empowered themselves and have become important participants in business, civic and cultural affairs. Their ever-growing numbers in Lions Clubs International has enriched our association and I am proud to say that women now make up 18.4 percent of our membership, up from 13.5 percent just four years ago.

Thanks largely to the technological revolution, the world no longer works on a "seniority system." New ideas are more likely to be judged on their merits than by the age or experience of those who suggest them. Any organization that dismisses the contributions and wisdom of bright young people does so at great peril. Fortunately, Lions' new student membership program provides your club with an unparalleled opportunity to include future leaders in your membership or to help form a student club at a nearby campus. Please see <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/stu1.pdf> for more details about this exciting program. Another important way for your club to capture the future is by doing everything possible to bring active Leos into full Lions Club membership. To learn more about making the transition from Leo to Lion, please see <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/stu6.pdf>.

I urge you to embrace today's reality by doing your best to meet your club's goals for recruiting new members. Remember, there are tried-and-true methods that will enable your club to successfully meet this challenge.

- Target groups of potential members not individuals.
- Give new members special assignments that are uniquely suited to their talents
- Make sure that new members' voices are heard within the club.
- Groom newcomers to assume leadership positions by giving them special responsibilities as assistants or "interns" to current leaders.

You never know what might happen when you put these "best practices" into effect. In the suburbs of Toronto, Canada, the newly formed, Ontario York Region Heritage Lions Club sponsored a video game tournament that involved parent-child teams from throughout the area. An event designed to bring families together was a natural project for the club which consists entirely of parents and their offspring. And it is not hard to imagine that the new club will add even more family groups because of the excitement generated by the tournament.

If we truly wish to live up to the motto, "We Serve," we must serve our communities as they really are today, not as we might imagine them to be. Including more women and young people in our clubs is the best possible way to gain this insight and open up previously unimagined avenues of service.

As always I thank you for all you do for the members of your club, your community and all the people of our world.

From the Governor's Desk continued

When you have your last meeting for the month, go home and take the five minutes it takes to prepare and send the report to LCI. If something else comes up before the end of the month, include it in the next month's report. The report doesn't have to be submitted on the last day of the month. But do file a report each month and before the last day of the month it is due. I mentioned to you that LCI grades me on getting the reports in and on time. That is why Cabinet Secretary Mo Ritzel, your Zone Chairperson, and I are constantly trying to help you get the reports in on time.

Remember that this is the final year of SightFirst II. If you haven't made a pledge yet, it is not too late. You don't have to send the money now and you will have three years to fulfill any pledge you make. As a District, our numbers are very low. Please don't be a zero contribution club. Only \$6 can prevent a child or adult from going blind. Surely your club, or you as an individual, can pledge some money to be paid over three years. Please contact PDG Don Dietz if you need any information or forms.

We will be having our second Cabinet meeting on Sunday, December 9, in Okawville at the Mineral Springs Hotel. The meeting will start at about 1:00 p.m. Come join us.

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1-CN Public Relations submitted by Lion Gary Laakko, District 1-CN Public Relations Chairman

Part of MD-1's Public Relations efforts this year includes having Districts announce their activities and spread Lionism through advertisements and spots in local newspapers, television and radio. Although that may work well for a district contained in a large metropolitan area such as Chicago, we of course are spread throughout southern Illinois and don't have a single commercial source readily available we can consider as the voice of District 1-CN. What we must do is follow that famous phrase that "all politics are local" and run with the idea that most Lions activities are local as far as publicity for the District is concerned. Most clubs do submit articles for the State Lions Magazine (you do, don't you?) but that is not nearly enough for that is sort of like kissing your sister. Lions know what Lions do. We have to ensure the activities we do for our local communities are brought to the attention of those we support. All clubs must make an effort to send pictures and articles to their local newspaper and invite local media outlets to their activities. When was the last time you had an article in your hometown paper? It won't happen unless you send it to them or ask them to attend your newsworthy functions. That does a couple of things for you. First, it lets those who donate to us see exactly what we are doing with their generous contributions. Don't keep that a secret! They have a right to know we are good stewards of their donations and seeing that will keep those donations coming. Second, it may convince someone they would like to be part of an organization that does so much for the community and you may gain new members. Each club should also consider submitting an end of year synopsis to their local newspaper outlining what the club has done for their community, as well as District and International Lions efforts. This is rather easy to do, since your monthly activity reports already have all the necessary details. It's just a matter of getting it together.

So, club presidents, secretaries, publicity chairpersons; let's make an effort to tell all of our secrets. Did your club replace the roof in a park pavilion? Tell everyone in town! Did you provide eye exams and glasses for a couple of kids who needed them last month? Put it in the paper! Does your town know you sent \$500 to help rebuild lives after the Tsunami disaster? They should!

You don't have to spend a lot of money to ensure word of your activities gets out. Most newspapers will gladly report on what your club is doing for free as part of their local happenings columns or simply send a letter to the editor telling what you have done. It only takes a little effort.

Governor's Travels

December- January

- December 9: District 1-CN Cabinet Meeting, Mineral Springs Hotel, Okawville, IL
 December 11: Hoyleton Lions Club visit
 December 21-
 January 3: Boston, MA to visit my son and family. VDG Ellis will be in charge
 January 15: New Baden Lions visit
 January 24: Smithton Lions Club visit

Upcoming District Events and Activities

- December 9: District Cabinet Meeting, Mineral Springs Hotel, Okawville
 (12:00 a.m. dinner with cabinet meeting at 1:00 p.m. approximately
 Reservations required for the dinner)
 December 25: **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**
 January 1: **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE**
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From the Governor's Desk continued

Club Visits

There was a sample letter in the August news letter for each Club to send to me so I can set up your Club visit. There are still several Clubs who have not requested a visit date. Please try and schedule my visit as soon as you can. I would appreciate the remaining Clubs in Northwest and Central Region scheduling me in January and February because of weather conditions. But, I'll try and get to Wabash Region Clubs if that is when you want me. I want to visit all Clubs as soon as possible so I can concentrate on working with the Extension chairpersons to get new Branch and Family Clubs.

New Key Personnel on Cabinet

Membership-Northwest Region Marge Francois (Mike), 332 Sandalwood Dr., Waterloo, IL 62298-1658, (h) 618-939-2919, francois@accessus.net

Wabash Region-Zone 1 Elias Simpson, 501 West King St., Fairfield, IL 62837-1733, (h) 618-842-2035

Peace Poster Winner

We only had three entries in the Peace Poster Contest and judging was tough. However, in the end, Samantha Eschmann from Waterloo Junior High was the District 1-CN winner.

District Point Contest

In talking with Lion LeRoy Gruber, he advised me that several Clubs have not sent him any monthly reports. If you want to participate in the contest, he is the person that must receive the monthly report along with your Zone Chairman and your DG. His address is 114 Pierce Blvd., O'Fallon, IL 62269-2502 and his email is gruber@apci.net

Sight First II Donations as of Sep 07 submitted by PDG Don Dietz, Sight First II Chairman

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

SIGHT FIRST 11

This is a report on the funds raised for Sight First 11.

The total raised to date world wide is \$111,680,044.

There are 10 months left for the Lions to reach the goal of \$150,000,000 plus a challenged goal of another \$50,000,000.

The district goal for 1CN is \$139,084. To date \$22,813 has been raised.

MD-1 goal is \$2,291,466.

I have received two group coordinators to date. The other six coordinators have failed to respond. They all agreed willingly to accept the challenge. I thought I chose some of the best Lions in our district to be group coordinators, you be the judge.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY GROUP

	CASH AND PLEDGES	TOTAL RECEIVED
Caseyville	00	
Collinsville	00	
Collinsville Eve.	00	
O'Fallon/Fairview	\$3000	\$300
St. Jacob	00	
Troy	00	
Belleville	\$50	50
Belleville Midtown	00	
Cahokia	00	
Swansea	00	
Columbia	\$163	163
Millstadt	00	
Valmeyer	00	
Waterloo	\$6000	4000
Lebanon	\$3000	2000
Mascoutah	\$2000	1000
Mascoutah Lioness	\$150	150
Mascoutah Noon	\$750	750
Mew Baden	\$2000	2000
Smithton	\$1000	1000
Central City	00	
Hoyleton	00	

Sight First II Donations as of Sep 07 *continued*

Mt. Vernon	00	
Shattuc	00	
Breese	00	
Carlyle	00	
Nashville	\$500	\$500
Okawville	\$1000	\$1000
Summerfield	\$250	\$250
Carmi	\$200	\$200
Enfield	00	
Fairfield	00	
Grayville	00	
Mt.Carmel	00	
Alma	00	
Clay City	00	
Kinmundy	00	
Noble	00	
Olney	\$2750	\$2750
Salem	00	
Totals	\$22,813	\$16,113

Lions, remember that every \$6 raised provides the gift of sight.

Note: Surely all clubs would have someone in your club who is worthy of a Melvin Jones Fellow . Remember each club who donates \$1000 towards Sight First 11 can apply for a MJF at no additional cost to the club.

Thank you.

Yours in Lionism

PDG Don Dietz

Sight First 11 Chairman

Merry Christmas!

Olney Lions Club

Helping the visually & hearing impaired.

For Sale

White Squirrels

\$15.00 each



All proceeds to help local children & adults.

(Contact President Lynda Middle Calf @ 618-395-8696 or lmiddlecalf@yahoo.com.)

Illinois Lions District 1-CN Newsletter



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We Serve