



The Lions Lines

Together We Serve

DISTRICT 25 G

WEBSITE: www.lions25g.org

February, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 8

District Governor:

Sam Fryback (Lion Marcia)
8236 E Sunrise Dr.
Syracuse, IN 46567
H (574) 457-2384
C (574) 528-0286
msf1964@gmail.com

Immediate Past District Governor:

CC David Eisen (Barbara)
1112 E. 3rd Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544
H (574) 255-5613
W (574) 259-5277; x300
Fax (574) 255-8489
d.eisen@mphl.org

Vice District Governor:

Bill Wallace (Lion Jane)
801 N. Michigan Street
Plymouth, IN 46563
H (574) 935-3439
wjwallace1@embarqmail.com

Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer:

PDG Ann Haffner
(PDG Charlie)
11268 N. State Road 13
Syracuse, IN 46567
H (574) 457-3054
ahaffner@kconline.com

Membership Chairperson:

PDG Art Birk (PDG Pat)
614 N. Plymouth St.
Culver, IN 46511-1016
H (574) 842-3690
Fax (574) 842-3670
iambirk@att.net

The International Organization of Lions Clubs

It is with deep regret I announce the demise of the Lions Club Organization. Since 1917 Lions have made a difference in the lives of those with needs. Helen Keller challenged the Lions in 1925 to become the "Knights of the Blind". Lions became known worldwide for volunteers uniting in their efforts to help those with vision problems. The Lions went worldwide preventing blindness and even being nominated for a Nobel Prize.

Many Eye Banks were organized and supplied Corneas to those that needed transplants. Research grants were granted to overcome sight related problems. Many other projects included Cancer Research, Hearing, Speech, Helping the Schools for the Blind and providing free of charge Leader Dogs. Thousands of local communities now are without support for their communities, children and schools.

A steady decline in membership for 30 years resulted in this service organization realizing it could no longer meet the challenges without new members.

We will miss the Lions and the good work they did. It is with regret that the Lions did not take the time to tend to their membership.

THIS IS CNN REPORTING!!

I would imagine this is as close to an obituary the Lions would ever get. If you think this is out of line stop and think. **MEMBERSHIP IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** if you will not accept your responsibility it will not get done and your club will die. George will not do it for you.

Call for help!!! BUT DO NOT CALL AFTER IT IS TOO LATE

Lion Art Birk
iambirk@att.net
574-842-3690

I felt PDG Art's article is so important that you will find the DG's Article on page 2.

DG Sam

STEP UP!

- **In Leadership** (plan now to serve in a top club office)
- **In Membership** (bring in at least one member this year)
- **In Fellowship** (shake a hand, make a friend, go on a visit)
- **In Stewardship** (you're an owner; help run the club wisely)

IT IS TIME TO STEP UP!

In 431 BC; the Peloponnesian War broke out. The primary combatants were the city-states of Athens & Sparta. The citizens of Athens were known for lying around, eating grapes, discussing philosophy and enjoying Greece's Golden Age; while the citizens of Sparta were trained in the brutal art of combat from infancy. Guess who won. The Spartans were prepared from infancy to fight for their city-state. And the Athenians were doing other things.

What's the point?

It is to prepare your Lions Club for the future! And that it is never too early to start. Lay the groundwork now! Your term of office may be over on July 1 but your Lions Club will still be there. I know I sound like a Boy Scout, but... *BE PREPARED!*

... **"HOW YA' DOIN'?"** **"DOIN' GOOD!"**

Because some are! Others, well, maybe not so good. The litmus test for our Lions Clubs is membership. Like it or not, if we increase our membership and add clubs; we are perceived as... **"DOIN' GOOD"**. Are you preparing your Club to add members? Then, are you adding members? Need help? Contact PDG Art Birk.

As of January 1, 2009; the District is down 15 Lions. But the loss may be overstated because some of us haven't filed our MMR's since JUNE, 2008! Cabinet Secretary PDG Ann talks to us every month about keeping our contacts with LCI current. It is important! Your MMR is one of the ways LCI knows us. Be proud of what you do. I know some of you have added members, I inducted them! Report your new Lions on your MMR. Need help? Call CST-PDG Ann, she will be most happy to help you get your Club's reports current.

I have discussed keeping your membership numbers current so that we all know where we stand. That means reporting the drops **AND** the adds. We seem to have missed the adds!

DG Sam

REPEATING...**I CAN NOT WAIT**...REPEATING

We are 7 / 12's through the Lions year and there are 23 District G Lions Clubs that have not contacted me about their "**Official Governor's Visit**". I will continue calling you to schedule it during February – March - April. If your Club needs the visit on a particular date, call me (574-457-2384) or e-mail me (msf1964@gmail.com). I will do my best to accommodate your wishes!

DG Sam

Our Mid Winter attendance GOAL was 89 LIONS or 5% of us. We did not reach our goal that we set for ourselves. BUT we did achieve the attendance goal that the Mid Winter Committee set for us. **You**, the District received an **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** which was accepted by our Publicity Chair PDG JERI SEELY and Vice-District Governor BILL WALLACE and I. The weather was cold and snowy (understatement!) as promised. I've heard about the plans for Mid Winter in 2010 and it sounds like it will be bigger and better than ever. So-o-o-o; ATTEND MID WINTER in 2010. Put it on your calendar. Speaking of calendars:

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR 2008-2009 LIONS CALENDAR

- Mar 7; District G Convention @ Christos, Plymouth
- Apr 17– 19; State Convention @ Merrillville
- May 2; Cabinet Mtg. @ Syracuse (Quaker Haven)
- July 6 – 10; International Convention @ Minneapolis

VDG Bill Wallace Notes

This New Year started off with a blast of cold weather that should get our attention. We Lions have been going in this direction for some time with many Lions clubs freezing membership slowly and now sharply. Much of what happened has been our own fault because we settled into a period when we no longer started new projects. We're in a rut and the only Lions who are doing new and exciting projects are Leos.

We need to look at what is happening in our younger group. Get new ideas from them and solicit new ideas for projects the community needs; not ideas which are a rehash of projects which no longer appeal to our community. I know I have heard that television, computers, youth activities and all the rest have taken the place of Lions Clubs activities. But have you noticed that many of these activities involve families?

Has your club looked at inviting families to join? Has your club looked at collaborating with the Boy/Girl Scouts or the local Boys and Girls club or with the local Little League baseball or basketball or volleyball or football groups? Have we gotten too old to work with youth groups? How about talking to the other community clubs and working with them. Lets start working to get new ideas and put them into action rather than just asking people to join our local Lions Club and then letting the new participants sit on their hands.

Best Practices involve working with the local community to tell people what we're doing. PDG Jeri Seely and I have talked about getting the local newspapers or radio and television stations to publicize our activities. I read the local newspapers and watch the local television channels and haven't seen story in any of them recently. The last activity I noted was the Lakeville Club publicized their "Pictures with Santa". Does your club have a contact with the local media? Most media outlets encourage local stories because they stimulate interest in the community. Don't hide our light under a basket.

Thanks for attending the Mid Winter Convention. There was a lot of important information presented there for Lions.

VDG Bill

Elkhart Community Club sells closed circuit television units which enable people with limited sight to transmit images from newspapers, books, bills, and important papers on a Television magnified up to 32 times. They sell these units at a fraction of the cost for similar commercial suppliers. Contact Lion President Rosemary Miller for further information.

VDG Bill

The 20th of every month is magic! For your Club to get an article or an advertisement into the *LIONS LINES*; it must...repeat **MUST** be received on or before the 20th of the preceding month. Send your articles to:

DG Sam Fryback at msf1964@gmail.com

Please...make your stuff as clear & as simple as possible and I will TRY to copy it over to the *NEWS LETTER* exactly as you want it. Due dates:

- March issue due on or before February 20
- April issue due on or before March 20
- May issue due on or before April 20

If you want to see something included in **OUR NEWSLETTER**, please let me know as soon as possible.

The LaFontaine Lions Club wants you to know:

February 13 – Soup Supper – LaFontaine community Building 4-7 PM

April 11 – Easter Pancake & Sausage Breakfast – LaFontaine Community Building 7 – 11 AM

May 8 – Dan's Fish & Chicken Fry – LaFontaine Community Building 4-7PM

June 19 – 20-LaFontaine "Ashland Days" – LaFontaine Lions – Kettle Corn

'You don't get anywhere by standing on the sidelines waiting for somebody else to take action. Whether it's building a better car or building a better future'...Lee Iacocca

CST - PDG Ann Haffner wants you to know:

THANK YOU CLUB TREASURERS! District & State Dues Billings for January through June were mailed on January 2nd. **THANK YOU** all who sent me your dues so promptly. **GREAT JOB!** We may again be the first district to have all our state dues in to the State Comptroller. **CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES**, please check with your Club Treasurer to make sure your club's dues have been paid to LCI and to me.

CLUB SECRETARIES: Please note that mailed MMR's must now be RECEIVED at LCI by the 20th of the month for which they are being submitted. Online MMR's must be RECEIVED by the last day of the month. If received after the due date, your MMR will be recorded as the next month's MMR and your club will have no current report submitted.

CONVENTION VOTING: At our district convention on March 7th each club in good standing with LCI and the District shall be entitled to **1** delegate and **1** alternate for each **10** members, or major fraction thereof, who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club as shown by the records at LCI on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. This means the number of members on record at LCI on February 1, 2008 if you still have that many members in your club. It does not mean that a brand new member in good standing cannot vote. **Bring that new member with you** and have them register as a delegate and have a voice in the future of our district. In addition, each Past District Governor who is a member in good standing of a club in 25-G has one vote independent of their club's delegate quota. A club in good standing is one **which is current** with reports and financial obligations to LCI and the District. Please see that all your reports and financial obligations to the District and LCI are current. E-mail me the names of members who will serve as your delegates and alternates. **If I don't have that list on record I will certify the first ones to arrive.**

We will be electing District Officers and voting on amendments to our District 25-G Constitution and By-Laws. Exercise your voting privilege by seeing that your club has a full delegation present and voting on March 7th.

Please get your convention reservations & checks to me by the March 2nd Deadline. All reservations must be paid in advance. **THANK YOU for your continued cooperation.**

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES, PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR CLUB'S TREASURER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CST PDG Ann Haffner 574-457-3054 ahaffner@kconline.com

GUEST WRITER

Our famous ***GUEST WRITER*** is the President of the Elkhart Lions Club Duane Klein. His article is titled:
IS THE YEAR HALF OVER OR HALF REMAINING?

and was borrowed from the Elkhart Lions Newsletter.

2008 is in the history books. I told you all it would be a historical year and it was! We citizens elected the first African American to be President of the United States. We as a nation have allocated over \$700 billion dollars for various bailouts; we are now all shareholders of a very large insurance company; we are now shareholders of the three largest auto manufacturers and the beat goes on ... Yes, 2008 was a historical year!

This is sort of a mini State of the Club Address and I want you to answer the following questions of yourself:

- 1) What did "I" do to make the Elkhart Lion's Club successful so far this fiscal year?
- 2) How many events, fund raisers or committees have "I" attended or served on to make our Club successful so far this fiscal year?
- 3) Have "I" decided upon what legacy "I" will be remembered for as it related to our Club in this fiscal year?
- 4) Have "I" done anything to change the old "Status Quo" so far this fiscal year?
- 5) What message have "I" sent to our new members so far this fiscal year?

Answer those questions. Just because you were active at one time or another doesn't mean you can skate through. We ALL need to be pulling the cart in the same direction. Let us labor on our successes so far this fiscal year and make a strong finish by July 2009!

Happy New Year to All. Thank you for your time, efforts, and continued support on our part of "**WE SERVE**"

Let's shout it from the rooftops!

In last month's newsletter I asked the question, "What's the best kept secret in your town?" with the idea of getting some Lions clubs to recognize the fact that public relations can do a lot for them. This month we are urging all to tell everyone everything that's happening in their club.

Do you realize that one of the best ways to promote Lionism is to talk about it?

"Hi Jack, sorry I haven't been over to see you lately. The Lions club has been keeping me busy. We're selling brooms door to door and while it is taking quite a bit of our time we are meeting some nice people and spreading the word about Lionism at the same time. Did you buy a broom when the Lions came to your house? We are going to use the money to help the town with the new park project."

Talk to the people at the grocery store, at the local gas station at the barbershop, wherever you are. You would be surprised how little others know about the largest service organization in the world.

Use your local newspaper to help promote your club. Many will say daily newspapers will not help tell the Lions story. Not true.

While daily newspapers are no longer interested in regular club meetings and speakers, most will print articles on things Lions do to benefit the community.

We need to tell the people around us about our community projects so they will know whom the Lions are. If they know, they will support our fund-raising projects and more importantly they will want to join us and help us do what we do best — "We Serve!"

In case you were not at the January Cabinet Meeting, The Lakeville Lions Club had a Christmas project featured in not one, but two newspapers. This proves Lions can obtain publicity if they go about it with the right idea in mind.

The Pilot News of Plymouth printed an article with photo, "Lakeville Lions celebrate community 'givers' ". It was printed Christmas Eve and tells about the fact the community toy and food drive was up this year with help from area businesses, other service organizations and the elementary school. It quotes PDG Dave Court as saying, "All the toys, all the kids came from the community. The community's taking care of their own. The Lions Club is just the conduit; we're the facilitator."

Likewise, the South Bend Tribune ran an article, "Drive a roaring success — Lions collect food, toys for families in need." It tells the same story with highlights on the fact 65 families were helped. Court is quoted in this article as saying, "This has grown tremendously over the last six years. We are dumbfounded by the response, especially in view of the economy this year."

Families Important, Too!

Does your family know what the Lions do? Elkhart Lions President Duane Klein tells in the December 2008 Lions Tales about looking over his Lions folder, "getting prepared for our regular Wednesday meeting when my son Noah asked me, 'What do the Lions do' That question hit me like a ton of bricks Here I have been pounding into you each month the importance of leaving a legacy; making a difference every day and to continue our mission of 'We Serve.' I was really bothered by the fact that I had not even shared that with my children. I tried over the next half hour to give Noah (who is 9 years old) a glimpse of all that we do. He was amazed and fascinated with the fact that we help prevent blindness throughout the world (especially river blindness and the effects it has on those infected) and also right here in Elkhart. After I finished talking to him he made a simple statement, 'Must be really hard getting in your club,' he said. 'Everyone probably wants to be a Lion.' . . . "

PDG Jeri Seely, District 25-G PR Chairperson

We had a huge **GLITCH** in publishing the January Newsletter. The Newsletter was taken to the 'mass mailer' on the morning of December 30, 2008. That afternoon; the 'mass mailer' took the Newsletter to the Kendallville Post Office. The next day it was sent to the Ft. Wayne Distribution Center for processing & distribution. We know it left the Kendallville Post Office and was headed to Ft. Wayne. And we know that most of the Newsletters were not received until last week. That's all we know. Who knows what happened to the Newsletter for awhile? The **DISASTER** was: the District had a Cabinet Meeting Reservation Form in the issue that CST Ann needed from all who were planning to attend.

The Chaplain Speaks

Several years ago a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call from a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back, it would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare, they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came he paused momentarily at the door and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?" "Yes" he replied. "Well I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you in church Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard – and remember – You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself Christian.

Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

I'm glad a friend forwarded this to me as a reminder. So I choose to forward it to you – my friend. God bless you; I hope you are having a wonderful day.

If you don't pass this on to anybody, nothing bad will happen, but if you do, you will have ministered to someone.

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not PROTECT you.

Stay FAITHFUL and be GRATEFUL!

Lion Chaplain *Jim Harper*

In the words of Henry Ford; "**ENTHUSIASM** is the yeast that makes your hopes shine to the stars. *Enthusiasm is the sparkle in your eyes, the swing in your gait.* **ENTHUSIASM** is the grip of your hand, the irresistible surge of will and energy to execute your ideas." **ENTHUSIASTS** are fighters. They have fortitude, they have staying qualities. **ENTHUSIASM** is at the bottom of all progress. With it, there is accomplishment. Without it, there are only alibis and with it, it makes every day.....a great day to be a Lion.

International President Al Brandel said in his CLUB OFFICER E-LETTER:

We Lions perform miracles every day. But what does it take to make a miracle? I believe it takes the three "H's" – head, heart and hands. Every time a new member joins one of our clubs we add one head with which to dream, one heart with which to care and two hands with which to serve.



GO back and re-read CST Ann's article, concentrating on the MMR due dates. She says: "Please note that mailed MMR's must now be **RECEIVED** at LCI by the 20th of the month for which they are being submitted. Online MMR's must be **RECEIVED** by the last day of the month. If received after the due date, your MMR will be recorded as the next month's MMR and your club will have no current report submitted". Did you know our District was positive in membership, EVERY MONTH, until December? Did you know that 1/3 of the District clubs were late in filing their MMR's? Did you

By now you have noticed significant changes in the District Newsletter. **1st**; My column is not on the front page. I really liked the Membership Column by PDG Art, so his is there. **2nd**; The Newsletter is shorter. This is being done to reduce costs. **3rd**; The Newsletter is being sent via E-mail to some of you that have been notified your future copies will come to you that way. If you are willing to help us reduce costs, let me know, **via E-mail**, that you want future Newsletters E-mailed to you. I've found that I have many incorrect E-mail addresses in the Directory. If you want your E-mail address corrected & published, I need an E-mail from you stating so (*i.e.*; your permission). During this past month, I have had no Directory corrections reported. *DG Sam*

If you do more of what you've always done, you will get more of what you've always got.

AND THAT AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH!

PLEASE PUT THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR AND TELL YOUR CLUB

February

8 DG & Lion Marcia Return
10 OV at Madison Township
16 OV at Silver Lake
19 OV at Clay Township

March

6 & 7 District Convention
11 OV at Fulton-Liberty
25 OV at Greene Township

April

17, 18, 19 State Convention

May

2 District G Cabinet Meeting
12 OV at Millersburg

These are confirmed dates. The DG has added dates on his calendar that have not been confirmed. If I missed something...let me know!

District Governor Sam Fryback
8236 E. Sunrise Drive
Syracuse, IN 46567

**PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
KENDALLVILLE, IN
PERMIT NO. 258**