

DISTRICT 12-N NEWS AND VIEWS

Brandon Johnson, Editor

Teresa Clinton, Publisher

APRIL & MAY 2016



From the DG's

Desk

Spring is a great time of the year and what a great time to ask someone to join your Lions Club.

Wow we are having a great year inviting others to join our clubs and the

opportunity to serve as Lions have been doing for almost 100 years. Keep up the work you do, spring into action and serve.

MD 12 State Convention at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo was quite an event. Past International President Berry Palmer was the guest speaker and what a cool Lion he is. He let us know that the eyes of the world will be on Tennessee Lions in the upcoming year as our International President (Bob Corlew) will be from Tennessee. Along with some cool magic tricks, he spoke about retention and what being a Lions is about.

Awards were received at the convention and 12N Lions were on the receiving end. Congratulation to 12 N Lion of the Year PDG John Kelsey, Lion of the Decade Lion Ron Riehn, Melvin Jones Fellows Award was presented to PCC William (Mike) McDonough, 2ndVDGE Brandon Johnson was awarded the Virginia L. Lindsey Leadership Award and our DGE Paulette Bailey received the International President Leadership Medal.

Thank you, Lions, for all you do. It's Great to be a Lion!

-Fletcher



Paulette's Post

District Vision and Goals 2016-2017

DGE Paulette Bailey

Vision – Promote service through membership and partnering

Goals:

Improve net growth 2% over last year by June 2017

Charter 1 new club

Encourage clubs to hold community workshops/membership info meetings – Who are the lions?

Encourage Clubs to use "How are Your Ratings" and the Mentoring Program for new and existing members – Member satisfaction important for retention

Increased publication relations

Provide variety of Learning opportunities for interest as well as to develop future leaders

Hold a Fall Forum w/4-6 learning opportunities followed by 1 - 2 service projects – by October 2016

Conduct a Certified Guiding Lion program by July 2016

Expand club officer training to incorporate several geographic areas by May-June 2017

Provide community service opportunities through partnerships by June 2017

-Invite community members to participate in service projects

-Identify needs in community that cannot be met by one club alone and partner with another organization.

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John Longmire becomes Lions International Melvin Jones Fellow



The Lions Club of Inskip is proud to announce that member, John Longmire, has been recognized by Lions Clubs International Foundation as a Melvin Jones Fellow. The presentation was made at the April 11, 2016 meeting of Inskip Lions. Mr. Longmire, a retired TVA Architect, has been a Lion since 2004 and is a faithful and active member of the club. Everyone who knows John will agree that "John would do anything he could to help anybody he is aware of needing help." John's wife, Mary Lou, is also a member of Inskip Lions. The club was delighted that some of John's family could attend the presentation and dinner in his honor—daughter, Lou Ann Clabough and grandson, Philip Clabough; Son and daughter-in-law John and Patty Longmire and sister-in-law Suzanne Matheny. Granddaughter, Suzanna Clabough, is away at college and could not attend. On April 6, 1949, a group of 39 civic minded men from the Inskip community came together to form the Lions Club of Inskip. The club was sponsored by neighboring Fountain City Lions Club. From the very beginning, these men had the well being of the community at heart. In 1953, a major project of the Club was to build a building next to the school to house a library to be used by the school and the community. This building was later used as the Inskip branch of Lawson McGhee Library. This building was in continuous use until the branch was closed by the County. The building was then given to the Inskip Lions Club and is now rented in the community as a service and as a fundraiser for the Club. In 1958, the Club undertook the huge task of building a community swimming pool. The pool was officially opened on July 17, 1959 and was in operation until sold to the City of Knoxville in July of 1975. During these years the money realized from the operation of the Pool was used in the community mostly to help people with vision problems in paying for exams and glasses. Other needs were also met as presented. A member of the Inskip Lions Club would normally spend 20 or more hours each year working on community service projects and performing administrative duties for the Club. Since the club is an organization of volunteers, the level of effort and participation will vary widely due to the interests, work schedules and personal time demands of the members.

On May 11, 2016 at 1pm The Lions Club of Inskip recognized five fifth graders at Inskip Elementary School for their Leadership Skills and Academic Achievements. The community graciously supports this event and attendance is extraordinary for a small community.

Dear Lions,

Right now there is a wild fire burning uncontrollably in the vicinity of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, that has engulfed thousands of acres, destroying nearly 2,000 homes and businesses. The entire city of Fort McMurray – population 80,000 – has been evacuated. It is the largest mass evacuation in the history of Canada. And still, the fire burns. There is currently no timeframe for when the fire will be extinguished, no estimate of how many more homes and businesses will be lost, and no time table given to those who have been displaced as to when they might return to begin reconstructing their lives. The Lions of Canada are formulating a plan with regard to how best to respond to this natural disaster. They are working with government officials and other agencies to assess what is needed. **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has approved a US\$100,000 major catastrophe grant** to allow Canadian Lions to provide much needed assistance. Your donations allow LCIF to respond when and where needed. This is the third major catastrophe in the past three weeks. We are providing assistance to our Canadian brothers and sisters even as assistance continues to flow into Japan and Ecuador in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes there. Our thoughts are with the victims of this latest disaster.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, *International President*

Joe Preston, *Chairperson, LCIF*



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

COOKBOOK RECIPES NEEDED

District 12N has been challenged with collecting 125 favorite recipes to be included in a state-wide cookbook. This cookbook will be sold to benefit the campaign funds of Tennessee's very own Bob Corlew who will be installed as the 99th Int'l President of Lions Clubs International this June in Fukuoka, Japan. Recipes should be typed with your name and contact info included. Please send the recipes to Lion Gerri Crutchfield at gerricrutchfield@gmail.com by mid-May.

In addition to your personal recipes, if you have any contacts at some famous places known to East TN such as Blackberry Farms, Dollywood, Bush Beans, etc. we would appreciate your contacting them and seeing if they would be willing to share any of their recipes or would like to submit an advertising article to be included with the cookbook. The idea is to feature recipes native to the East TN region in addition to our special family recipes. The hope is that this cookbook will go national or even international in support of our new Int'l. President Corlew.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 24-28—LCI Convention
Fukuoka, Japan

JULY 16th—12N Organizational Meeting
LVBI, Morristown, 9:00 AM—Noon

JULY 16th—Guiding Lion Training
LVBI, Morristown, 1:00 PM—3:00 PM



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The West Knox Lions Club is one of the primary sponsors of Club VIBES, an organization created by two of its blind members to mentor blind and visually impaired young people in the Knoxville area. As part of its services for parents, students, and teachers, VIBES offers a readable and informative blog on vision-related issues. Feedback from throughout the United States has been excellent. You are encouraged to visit the VIBES site at

<http://www.club-vibes.org/>

and click on the blog link or, better yet, subscribe to get the blogs delivered twice a month to your in-box. Some of the recent topics include a blind person's map of the world, what you should do when meeting someone who is blind, facing vision loss, the challenges of raising a blind child, and even renewing your driver's license as a blind person. Yes, that last one isn't a misprint, so check-out these sample blogs we've selected just for the Lions to enjoy.

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We need U.S. Lions to urge their Member of Congress to co-sponsor the Volunteer Organization Protection Act of 2015 (“VOPA”). U.S. Senate Bill 1684 and U.S. House Bill 2290.

Why Support the VOPA?

Nonprofit organizations are involved in a wide range of activities, many of which expose the organization, its officers and volunteers to potential liability. Although their intent is to serve the public interest, these organizations and their volunteers may inadvertently cause harm to others and are thus susceptible to typical tort claims.

Nonprofit organizations play a very important role in the American society and economy, but are now being drawn into lawsuits on a scale previously reserved for private businesses. This phenomenon can endanger the existence of Lions clubs even as public demand for their services grows. In this age of frivolous lawsuits, providing enhanced protection to local service organizations that simply want to help their fellow citizens is a common sense appeal.

Lions Clubs International is proud to have taken the lead on this important measure, but we cannot do it alone. The successful passage of this legislation and the fiscal health of Lions clubs and local nonprofit organizations depend on the strength of Lions across the U.S.!

Please send future News & Views submissions to: tndistrict12news@gmail.com
