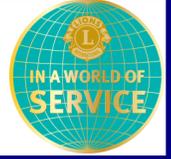




# District 12-N News & Views

*"In a World of Service"*



August 2012

District 12-N, Tennessee (USA)

<http://tnlions.org/>



## From the District Governor:

Hello Fellow Lions

Well my first month as district governor has come and gone. We have had our first cabinet meeting; I have visited a few clubs and have experienced the support of my fellow Lions. Thank you.

During my quiet time this morning I began thinking of the purpose of Lionism, which is to serve, why are we Lions, when did we become a Lion or better yet, when did we become a Lion? I became a Lion in October of 2006; I became a Lion in September 2011 when Fred and I went to Leader Dog School in Michigan. I know all the facts of being a Lion and why our organization exists and who started the Lions organization and who challenged Melvin Jones to become knights of the blind. However; what I did not know is how much we as Lion's do for our communities, for mankind, for humanity. Just like Karen Taylor Good says in one of her songs, "The purpose of life is to give it away". The purpose of our human life is to serve, and to show compassion, and our willingness to help others in their time of need.

The key is to find your purpose of being a Lion. WHEN did you become a Lion? I became a Lion because a friend asked me to join. I BECAME a Lion when I realized the how much we do for our friends, neighbors, communities and even in the world. I had the head knowledge, but having HEART knowledge is entirely different. So I began to think, how one individual can impact others in our district, zones and clubs. I have listed a few ideas below.

- Everyone grow by one new member. More hands make the load lighter to carry. We can help our neighbors and friends by asking them to become part of the world's largest service organization and serving with us in our communities to make it a better place to live.
- We can hand out books at our "KidSight Screenings". Illiteracy is a large problem in the United States and throughout the world. International President Wayne Madden has asked to help through The Reading Action Program (RAP)
- Change our way of thinking. The world is changing

and we need to change as well or we will not progress or proceed with our purpose of Lionism. We must evolve to keep pace and to make a difference in the lives of others

- Let's be better communicators. No one is a mind reader. If you have a problem let me know. I may be able to help.
- If you have an idea, let me know. As a team we can make your idea a reality.
- Call a neighboring club and ask if they need help with one of their projects.

These are just a few ideas and some may think they are not very good, but remember at least it is a beginning to something maybe even greater.

Thank you for listening to me and I pray that each one of you will think about "WHEN YOU BECAME A LION". Thank you for helping me to BECOME A LION!

- DG Diane Wilkerson

## Mobile Eye Lab (Vision Van) Update:

Work is continuing on the interior of the eye lab trailer. A partition wall is to be installed in the rear of the trailer to provide space to perform eye exams. The exterior of the trailer was repainted earlier this year along with the truck used for pulling it. Graphics for the Smoky Mountain Lions Charities have been applied as well. Upgrades to the electrical system have been ongoing, and are near completion.

Discounted parts and complimentary repairs to the three air-conditioning units were provided by Michael Puckett of RV Part Wholesalers, Inc., who has expressed a desire to join the West Knox Lions Club. Thanks and welcome, Mike! More updates to follow!

***If you are receiving a paper copy of the News & Views by mail, please register here:***

<http://tnlions.org/subscribe-to-news-views/>

Receiving the News & Views electronically will help keep our administrative costs (therefore, member dues!) low.

***Please send your News & Views submissions to:***  
[newsandviews12n@yahoo.com](mailto:newsandviews12n@yahoo.com)

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**From International President Wayne A. Madden:**

Dear Lion,

Formulas and equations play an important part in our lives. They are powerful tools - a road map to success -- that make many things possible and others, simply easier. According to Einstein, the simple formula,  $e=mc^2$  describes the workings of the entire universe. I may not be a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, but I also have a formula, one that I know works based on 27 years as a Lion:

**Dedication + Preparation + Teamwork = Excellence**

**Dedication** is each individual Lion's dedication to service which is abundant but needs nurturing and growth. We need to continue expanding our service to take on new challenges, such as through the new Reading Action Program (RAP).

**Preparation** is planning and the self-evaluation included in what I am calling "pit stops" like those in an automobile race.

**Teamwork** involves making connections at the international level, the club level and interpersonal level, especially working in harmony with the Global Leadership Team and Global Membership Team.

Having a plan and a road map makes us more effective and efficient by taking the guesswork and trial-and-error out of our quest for excellence. The Club Excellence Award and the District Governor Team Excellence Award are also tools that can eliminate uncertainty and point your club or district in the right direction. Each have criteria that, if achieved, will lead you to success.

I hope that you use all the tools available to you to their fullest as we pursue excellence together as Lion leaders.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Madden, International President

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**Eye-glass Recycling Workday—November 10**

The District 12-N Spring trip to the Lions Eye-glass Recycling Center in Roanoke, VA is scheduled for Saturday, November 10. As in the past, Lions will meet at the Center (501 Elm Avenue) around 8:30 am., and we'll head back to East Tennessee around 3 p.m.

It's always a fun (and rewarding) time sorting, cleaning, reading, and packaging used eye-glasses for beneficial reuse! **JOIN US!**

If you would like more information (logistics, hotel recommendations, etc.) or have glasses that need hauled to the Center, please contact Lion Harry Ennis at [hrennis@charternet.net](mailto:hrennis@charternet.net) or (H) 423-239-7681.

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## Here's Why We Are Lions!

Thank you letter sent to the Johnson City Lions Club:

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

*Thank you for considering this request for exam services and glasses for our son, who needs them for reading, which is part of his LD (learning disability). A local social service's provides eye exams only for diabetic patients, but they can provide us with glasses if we have a current Rx for them. We need the exam for our son. My husband graduated cum laude from the local university in May. He is actively seeking employment, while he studies for his licensing exam in his profession. We are surviving on the last of the student loan and monies liquidated on his 401K. I'm in an endless loop with government assistance. TennCare says (last year) we had too much (due to the loans for exorbitant tuition fees and owning our modest home and old cars outright), and referred us to Cover Kids. Cover Kids said we didn't make enough! So here we are: in a holding pattern, dwindling resources while we wait my husband's employment. While our situation is temporary, thanks be to God, we are none the less still in need. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for reading and reviewing our application.*

Sincerely,  
Name withheld by request

I approve her son's application to get an exam and eyeglasses. I received the following letter 10 days later.

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

*Thank you so much for approving our son's eye exam AND glasses in just 2 days. We are overjoyed! Words fail to adequately convey what a relief it is to have your organization's assistance during this financially difficult transitional time for our family. Having never been in these kinds of situations prior to Pharmacy School, it has been very humbling and personally eye opening as to the realities of the hardships faced daily by the poor, the working poor, and the less common, temporarily poor student families, like ourselves. As I'm sure the Lord knew it would, it has heightened our compassion for the economically marginalized in our great nation and our desire to serve them upon eventual employment.*

*Once again, thank you for serving our family in this capacity. The Johnson City Lions Club has lifted one of many burdens off of our shoulders. We are grateful and thankful that because of you, our son will have the needed glasses to help him overcome his reading challenges and ease his learning disabilities. May the Lord continue to bless you and this much needed service organization,*

Gratefully, Joyfully and Thankfully,  
Name withheld

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**District 12-N Cabinet meeting pictures:**  
*District Governor Diane Chairing the Cabinet meeting...*



*Past International Director Bill Watkins catching grief from the Tail Twister...*



**LION Magazine is now online!**

A new and improved digital LION Magazine with videos and bonus stories is now online. The July/Aug. digital edition of the LION includes a video profiling new International President Wayne A. Madden of Indiana and a video on his theme. As before, the entire LION is online, and as in the past the digital LION includes e-mail links, Web site links and links to advertisers.

[www.lionmagazine.org](http://www.lionmagazine.org)

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**IN MEMORIAM:**

The Lake City Lions Club lost a faithful and long-time member Virgil "Buck" Wilson. Buck had served as club president on three different occasions and served on the Board of Directors for many years.

He served the town of Lake City as Mayor and City Council. He was born on February 18, 1929 and passed away on June 23, 2012. He is survived by his wife Barbara Stonecipher-Wilson, and was a devoted and dedicated member of the Lake City Lions Club

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**HOME AT LAST! - From the Kingston Lions Club**

In the spring of 1955, the Kingston Lions Club embarked on a project to provide a pavilion in the Kingston City Park. This was to be financed with funds from their annual boat races on July 4<sup>th</sup> on the course deemed one of the best by the National Outboard Association. The first preliminary drawing was made on April 24, 1955, by Martin Skinner, a Club member, with other drawings following during the next few weeks. The Lions Club served as the General Contractor on the project, with most of the labor being provided by Club members. The exact date of completion is not known, but probably was early 1956.

In order that future generations would know that the building was erected by the Kingston Lions Club, an engraved granite marker was created to be placed in the building. Unfortunately, this concluding step did not take place when the building was completed. It was 10-15 years later that a brick monument was constructed at the open end of the pavilion to hold the marker. Unfortunately, within days vandals pushed over the monument with a vehicle. The marker was recovered by the late Henry Wattenbarger, a Lions Club member, and taken to his garage for storage.

Fast forward to about 2010, when the City of Kingston decided that a larger and more useful pavilion was needed. When Wattenbarger learned of this plan, he hand carried the marker into the Community Center and put it in the custody of the Parks and Recreation Director, Rick Ross (a Lion). The agreement was that this marker would be erected at the new building. It took about two years to accomplish this, but at the end of June of 2012 staff members of the Parks and Recreation Department built a stone monument at the north end of the new pavilion that includes the marker. So, at last, the marker is in its rightful place. It is appropriate since the Kingston Lions contributed financially to the new building. May it continue to occupy a prominent spot in Kingston for all to see of the contribution of the Kingston Lions Club!



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**Roane State Community College facility named after Kingston Lion!**

The new "Learning Support Laboratory" on the main campus of Roane State Community College has been named in honor of Dr. Harold Underwood, a Lion in the Kingston Lions Club. Lion Underwood has been a member since July 1, 1971 and was on the original staff of RSCC, but is now retired. Congratulations to Lion Harold!

LIONS DISTRICT 12-N CHARITIES, INC.  
NEWS & VIEWS  
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### **DISTRICT 12N EVENTS CALENDAR**

Aug. 30—Walk for Sight Planning Meeting, 7 pm, Powell Presbyterian Church, All interested Lions invited!

Sept. 13-15 – USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Tampa, FL

Sept. 15 – West Knox Lions Pancake Breakfast, 8-10 am, Applebee's, at North Peters and Cedar Bluff Road, Tickets \$5, \$3 children under 12.

Oct. 6—District 12-N Cabinet Meeting, Powell

Nov. 1—Farragut Lions Club Wine Tasting

Nov. 10—Eyeglass Recycling Work Day, Roanoke, VA.

Nov. 15—Tennessee Lions Learning Retreat Early Registration Deadline

Dec. 8—District 12-N Cabinet Meeting, Powell

Jan. 11-13, 2013—Tennessee Lions Learning Retreat, Manchester

**To access up-to-date District 12N events, and additional details for above events, go to: <http://tnlions.org/calendar/>**

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### **From the editor:**

As we begin another Lion year, I want to again take this opportunity to encourage all the Lions in District 12-N to send in your club happenings for publication in the News and Views. Remember, this newsletter is our District's way to let other Lions clubs know what service projects your club is doing, upcoming events, and other activities in service to your community and the world. New projects that your club is inaugurating, event announcements, and especially honors and recognition of Lions are what we in District 12-N want to hear about.

Photos of club activities and short captions describing any photos are especially welcome, as well as any articles of interest to the District. Be sure to include your club name either in the article itself or in the email you send in order to give credit to where credit is due.

I wish to express my thanks to our contributors as this newsletter would be nothing without our clubs and their activities being published for the world to see. As I told our District Cabinet at our last meeting, the toughest job I have working on the *News and Views* is when I have very little information to print. This newsletter is published on our District web site and you never know who might read it, including people looking to join us in the mission of the Lions Club. I look forward to hearing more about what your clubs are doing in the upcoming Lion Year.

Lion Bobby, editor.

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