



# District 12-N News & Views

**“Follow Your Dream”**



August 2013

District 12-N, Tennessee (USA)

<http://tnlions.org/>



## Let's Get Going

Lion Jayne Raparelli and I enjoyed 12 wonderful days in Hamburg, Germany while attending the Lions Clubs International Convention.

We were able to take a relaxing boat tour of Inner Alster Lake, Outer Alster Lake and several canals – all in the center of the city. We listened to Andrea Bocelli sing Amazing Grace and Ava Maria. We enjoyed a water fountain/light show set to music late one evening in a nearby park. We meet Lions from many countries. We liked the German breakfast strudels and dinner brats.

I was also able to attend District Governor School, participate in the Celebration Banquet, march in the International Parade, and be sworn in as District Governor by International President Barry Palmer from Australia.

**So, now it is time to get going!**

Club Presidents – You have all received a letter from me encouraging you to set club goals and to meet the four club challenges. Now is the time to establish your membership growth, charitable donations, leadership development and other club goals. Now is also the time to motivate your club members to meet the club challenges. I am really counting on you.

**Only when all of our clubs perform well can District 12-N achieve anything!**

Club Membership Chairs – The Lions Club Survival Manual: Twenty Basic Things Clubs Must Do To Be Healthy and Grow is now available. They were distributed at the District Organizational Meeting. If you don't have one, contact your Zone Chair. Please read this manual and ensure that your club is doing what is necessary to grow.

**Let's grow Lionism!**

Past District Governors – Our membership level was 980 at the start of this program year. We have already lost two clubs (Morgan County with 12 members and Lake City with 10 members) which have turned in their charters. Times are tough but I am still optimistic. Over 10,000 Americans are retiring every day and are wondering how they are

going to occupy their time and give meaning to their lives. Of course we have the answer – join Lions and serve your community. But we have to inform people about our association and have to ask them to join. Please be a role model for your club and recruit at least two new members this year.

**I know you can do this!**

Club Members – The international theme this year is “Follow Your Dream”. My dream is that we will be able to grow our membership, increase our charitable donations and develop our leaders in District 12-N this program year. Please do your part to make this dream a reality. **I need your help!**

**When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Let's get going.**

**District Governor Mike McDonough**

### District Governor's Club visit schedule:

- Rogersville--August 5
- Greeneville--August 8
- Johnson County--August 8
- Hamblen County--August 13
- Johnson City--Noon--August 15
- Knox County North--August 21
- Lenoir City--August 22
- Dandridge--August 26



### Welcome New Lions!

Welcome new Lions Charles W. "Sandy" and Karen T. Barry sponsored by Lion Donna Hoppestad to the Clinton Lions Club, District 12N, and Lions International

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## ***Wills recognized by Lions Club for 60 years of service***

By David Holloway

On June 13, 2013, the Johnson County Lions Club honored one of Mountain City's own with the highest award that they give to an individual. The award given was the Melvin Jones Award and is in recognition of donations of \$1,000 to Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lion Lewis Wills was the recipient of this award.

Wills joined the Lions Club on January 1, 1953 and is a charter member of the club. He has been President of the Johnson County Lions Club many times since the club was chartered on January 16, 1953. Wills was also awarded his 60-year pin. First Vice District Governor of District 12N, Ed Gibbons, presented these awards to Wills at the Johnson County Lions Club meeting place, Lois' Café, 542 W Main St., Mountain City, TN. Gibbons has been a member of the Johnson City Lions Club since 1973, for 40 years. Gibbons was elected First Vice District Governor of District 12N at Tennessee Lions Club State Convention in Murfreesboro, TN on May 4, 2013. The 12N District consists of 44 Lions Clubs from Mountain City to Knoxville.

The Foundation uses these donations for five special programs such as area of greatest need, disaster, sight related activities, at risk youth programs and humanitarian needs. Lions Club is the world's largest service club organization with 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members. Lions Clubs are known for their efforts to preserve sight and eradicate blindness, as well as their commitment to community service and helping youth. The Lions Club also buys glasses for those who can't afford to do so.

The Lions Club built the pool in Mountain City and they put out flags on national holidays. To learn more about the Lions Club, go to [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) for more info. The Johnson County Lions Club is currently looking for more members. They would welcome prospects to come to their meeting which is the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7pm at Lois's Café.

Wills was born in the afternoon at home between Mountain City and Damascus in 1925. "You didn't go to the hospital back then," said Wills.

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-editor



Johnson County Lion Lewis Wills with First Vice District Governor Ed Gibbons

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## **12-N Lions Support Oneida Health Fair**

Farragut Lions Marty and Wayne Stormer performed Diabetes Screenings while Tellico Village Lions John Diehm and Curt Isakson (not in picture) performed Vision Screenings at the Oneida Walgreens Health Fair on June 24. Rural counties within our district have populations with marginal healthcare. Lions can perform a vital service to their communities by assisting with screenings to alert folks who might otherwise have no indication that they need to seek professional medical assistance to maintain their health. Diabetes, for example, can be like a thief in the night, slowly stealing someone's eyesight or destroying vital organs without any symptoms until the irreversible damage is done. If your club would like to help prevent the #1 cause of adult blindness by performing diabetes screening, contact Diabetes Chair, Chuck Bailey at 865-458-3088. He can speak to your club about the screening process and if your club is interested in performing Diabetes Screenings, he will train interested club members and leave necessary equipment with you to get your club started.





## **Meet International President Barry Palmer**

Barry J. Palmer is part Outback, part Sydney and all Aussie. "I'm proud to be an Australian because of our culture," he says. "It's very relaxed, very laid back, easygoing and friendly."

Lions' 97th international president was born in the middle of World War II in Hornsby on the outskirts of Sydney. The bush was President Palmer's backyard. Wallabies hovered near his home. Young Palmer was one of three children. His dad, Jack, was an accountant. Sylvia, his mom, ran the home. Barry played three soccer matches each week. "I love the team spirit of it. I like the skill of it. It's fast. It's open," he says.

Intending to work in the wool industry, he attended an agricultural high school. He worked in the bush and in wool sheds. He relished the outdoors. "I think it's important to be in tune with nature—to just sit in the bush for a while and listen to what's going on and observing the animals, birds and lizards." But the wool industry slumped, so he found a job at a bank.

Funny thing about the bank business—you see how money can be made. "I was meeting all these customers running their own businesses and doing quite well. So I decided that if I worked as hard for myself as I did for the bank I'd probably make a lot of money," says President Palmer.

He started buying businesses, improving them and selling them. Then he went into real estate. President Palmer enjoyed furthering the dreams both of homebuyers and employees. "Assisting other people is something I've done for the last 30 years whether it's a client or staff member," he says.

Young Palmer met Anne when she was 15 and he was 19. Both quiet and reserved, they grew up and matured together as a couple. "Yeah, we hit it off. I couldn't put my finger on any one thing. It was just a progression of growing up and wanting to share my life with her," he says.

The Palmers have three children and eight grandchildren. He kicks the soccer ball around with the younger ones. "Anne was desperately keen to be a grandma. But if someone's calling me grandpa then I'm getting old. So they call me poppy," he says.

## **President's Message:**

It's the world of Lions that will occupy them for the next year. "Look at the projects and the variety of things we do around the world," President Palmer says. "What I've seen so far just blows me away as to what we can achieve."

### **Lofty Dreams Lead to Great Service**

Just beyond the modest home I grew up in Australia was the bush, where kangaroos, wallabies and kookaburras roamed amid gum and wattle trees. My father, Jack, was an accountant who took the same train to work and sat in the same seat day after day. I trained to be a wool classer, rotely producing wool. But I dreamt of doing something more influential. So I eventually went into real estate and built up my business.

As a Lion I also dreamt of making a big impact. So when a young Australian woman spoke to our club about an orphanage she worked at in India, my club dove right in. The parents of many of these children had been killed by rebels. We helped get them better housing, and from that point many thrived in school.

For years I had another dream I kept to myself. I saw the remarkable ability of Lions to change lives, and I wanted to fully devote myself to Lions. The dream came true a few years ago when I learned I was to be nominated for international president.

Lions, follow your dreams. They will not lead you astray. Nearly every great accomplishment began as a wildly ambitious dream whether it was landing a man on the moon, running a four-minute mile or webbing together the entire world through computers. Listen to your heart. Don't ever impede a great idea whose time has come. To me, dreams are not visions that arise in sleep but plans that don't let you sleep.

Identify your dream and work to achieve it. It's up to you to decide what your dream is. Plant the seed and let it grow. Find inspiration and guidance from other clubs and from Lions Clubs International. As I like to say, don't tell me to aim for the stars when there are footprints on the moon.

Anne and I look forward to you Following Your Dream in 2013-14. Good luck, Godspeed and congratulations—excellence is the inevitable result of pursuing dreams.

Barry J. Palmer

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### **District 12N Events Calendar**

See District Governor and LCI Webinar schedules also in this issue.

- Sept. 19-21 - USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum (Overland Park, KS)
- Nov. 16 – District 12-N Cabinet Meeting and Fall Information Forum, Best Western Morristown

**To access up-to-date District 12N events, and additional details for above events, go to:**

**<http://tnlions.org/calendar/>**

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### **USA/Canada Leadership Forum, Sept. 19-21**

Overland Park-Above and Beyond, By Design  
Follow the Yellow Brick road to the USA/Canada Forum Situated in the heart of Overland park, the seconds largest city in Kansas is the Overland Park Convention Center located at 6000 College Blvd. in Overland park, Kansas. With over 85,000 sq. ft. of space you will find over 60 original works of art and a spacious facility equipped with cutting edge Virtual Meeting technology. Come see why Overland Park is the perfect location for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. Come and be the light you wish to see in others. For registration and information go to <http://www.overlandparkforum.com> or [www.usacanadalionsforum.org](http://www.usacanadalionsforum.org)

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### **LCI Webinars Available**

Go to <http://tnlions.org/leadership/> for more information or to register

- Aug. 7 (8:00 p.m. EST) – *Club President: Leading and Managing*
- Aug. 13 (1:00 p.m. EST) – *Club President: Leading and Managing*
- Aug. 16 (8:00 p.m. EST) – *Club President: Leading and Managing*
- Sept. 6 (8:00 EST) – *Managing Service Projects*
- Sept. 11 (1:00 p.m. EST) – *Managing Service Projects*
- Nov. 6 (1:00 p.m. EST) – *Leadership Resources on the Web*
- Nov. 15 (8:00 p.m. EST) - *Leadership Resources on the Web*

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