

OHIO LIONS District 13-C

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Volume 4

BULLETIN

October 2006



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INSPIRING LIONS

No one can deny that helping our communities, especially the children, is what Lions Clubs are all about. Involving local authorities and government to achieve something to benefit the kids of the community is what the Chesterland Lions John Romah, Dennis Farmer, and King Lion Joe Mazzurco accomplished. These three Lions involved their club, local law enforcement, and the Township Trustees to achieve the unthinkable. Build a "Safety Township" for the boys and girls of their community.



The "Safety Township" was made to mimic the buildings of downtown Chesterland Township. The City Hall, Police Station, Fire Department, Church, Gazebo, and other buildings were built in smaller scale to replicate the downtown township streetscape. Two of the buildings are completely made of brick, while others are made from wood with vinyl siding. With concrete roadways that emulate traffic lanes and traffic signs, it really gives kids the opportunity to understand the ways of the road. The local

police department officials have already put on three classes for the youngsters of the community that involve roadway safety. Vice District Governor Lion Maggie Dellmore was there representing District 13C at the official opening in July of 2006. She congratulated the Chesterland Club for their achievement.



Lions John Romah, Dennis Farmer, and King Lion Joe Mazzurco took the initial idea for "Safety Township" to the Township Trustees just three months before its completion. The Club members were asking for a small area of land on which the "Safety Township" concept could be located. The Trustees came through and provided them with the land they needed.

Lion John Romah coordinated the financing for "Safety Township" that included the sale of walkway bricks and pillar blocks with sponsor's names engraved on them. He purchased all the materials and made contact with acting Chief Mark Purchase of the Police Department asking for help. The acting Chief and

police department solicited for money to help with building the project and also to manage its upkeep. The police department also took on the additional responsibility of providing safety programs for the kids. It was a great joint effort between the Lions and Police Department.



Lion Dennis Farmer was in charge of the buildings for the sight. He cleared the area, worked with Lion Joe Fornaro of the Chesterland club to pave the small roads and constructed the small-scale buildings. Lion Dennis coordinated many people to help with the construction of the site.



King Lion Joe Mazzurco was in charge of landscaping the area. He planted trees, shrubs, and other items to make the little town look authentic. But it was his leadership and determination that convinced the Chesterland club to take on this project.

The three Lions have family responsibilities, yet made the time for this project. Lion John Romah and his wife Lucy have two sons. Lion Dennis Farmer and his wife Michelle have two children as well. Both these members have been involved in the Lions since

1998 and have sponsored three new members between the two of them. King Lion Joe Mazzurco has sponsored 6 new Lions members since his start with the Lions in 2001. King Lion Joe and his wife Julie have a son. Scott Drenski, Club Secretary, stated, “these three individuals have young families, yet they worked hard and very well together.”

The vision these three individuals had, to create a safe place for children to learn was extraordinary. PDG Lion Bob Stopek, Club Historian for the Chesterland Lions Club, stated, “these three individuals dedication of time to this project and coordinating it with acting Chief Mark Purchase went way beyond the call of duty.” The “Safety Township” is just one example of the wonderful things that Lions can do with the proper help, leadership, and funding. These three Lions knew they couldn’t do it alone and found a way for others

to be recognized. There is a stone at the “Safety Township” location that lists all those that put forth their precious time, effort and hard work to accomplish this project.

All of the Chesterland Club members’ names are present, but it is these three individuals that drove this project to perfection and completion that will be remembered the most. It is what makes Lions John Romah, Dennis Farmer, and King Lion Joe Mazzurco truly inspiring Lions.

(By Lion Mike Tyler)

NOTICE: See Important Membership Information Later in this Bulletin.

District Governor Ken’s Comments

1. USA/Canada Forum:

BRAVO to the Planning and Ohio Host committees, and the hundreds of Ohio Lions who volunteered their time and talents to make this event an outstanding success.

During the Forum I had the opportunity to talk to Lions from across our two countries, and to a person everyone was complimentary about the high quality of the Forum and how organized everything was. One District Governor from Minnesota said that he could “hardly walk through the building without tripping over one or our yellow-shirted volunteer.” That comment made my day.

The primary purpose of the Forum, of course, is education. This was accomplished for certain, with the major problem being deciding which of the 11 simultaneous seminars to visit, or whether one should mingle with the crowds at the Vendor area containing dozens of Lion activities from coast to coast. But having to make choices is always preferable to stranding around bored wondering why you came. Overall the quality of the speakers was excellent, with the exception of a few Lions who always seem to

forget that you don't have to sell your product to the choir.

This was by far the best Lions activity I ever attended. So next year when the USA/Canada goes to Grand Rapids, Mi, think about attending. It will be well worth your time.

2. Lions ALERT Program:

In the August Bulletin, I discussed President Ross' plans to put the Lions in the news on a regular basis by having us become first responders when disasters occur.

Shortly after that Bulletin appeared, Lions International announced the inception of the **Lions ALERT Program**. The objective of the Lions ALERT Program is to develop a plan of action in case of:

- **Level One** emergency (affecting a few people)
- **Level Two** emergency (affecting a community)
- **Level Three** emergency (affecting hundreds or thousands of people in a region)



This activity will be initiated by appointing a District ALERT chairperson who will assemble a team of volunteers, specialists and emergency professionals. **I am pleased to announce that PDG Jim Ferritto has agreed to serve as the District 13-C**

Chairperson for this effort.

As Lion Jim begins working on this extremely important task, PLEASE give serious thought to becoming part of the team!

The details of Lions ALERT will eventually appear in **THE LION** magazine, but if you would like to immediately review the ALERT handbook, please go to the following website:

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/alert_program.pdf

3. Family Dues Rate Rules:

The following is reproduced from the September **THE LION** magazine.

“The family dues rate applies to Lions in and/or joining the same club living in the same household related by birth, marriage or and other legal means, including such common family relations as parents, children, spouses, aunts/uncles, cousins, grandparents and in-laws of spouses.

The first family/head of household member, either being a current or newly inducted member, shall pay full annual dues (US\$39) and any applicable entrance fee. Up to four more subsequent qualifying family members over the age of majority in the same household shall pay one-half of the standard annual dues (US\$19.50) and no association entrance fees. For newly chartered clubs, the first family member shall pay the full charter fee (US\$30) and full annual dues. Subsequent qualifying members shall pay half the annual dues (US\$19.50) and no additional charter fees.

Families currently belonging to the same club and meeting

the other requirements are eligible for the family dues rate. To receive the family dues rate, club secretaries are responsible for completing the online Family Unit Certification prior to November 30, 2006, when updating and submitting their monthly membership reports.”

Please note that effective 10/8/2006 the Family Unit Certification form had not yet appeared on the web site. As soon as we become aware that the form is available, we will send an email to everyone on our e-list. Remember, you **MUST** submit this form by November 30 for your club to participate.

Bite ‘em
DG Ken Marshall

October Road Show:

- 24 Stow
- 25 Tallmadge
- 26 Euclid
- 28 N. Coast Murder Mystery

November:

- 3 St Vincent Reverse Raffle
- 4 Council of Governors
- 5 Fall Conference
- 6 Highland Heights
- 7 Bedford
- 8 Brook Park
- 9 Zone 6 – Medina
- 14 North Royalton
- 16 Cabinet Meeting
- 21 Zone 2 – Browning Center
- 30 Zone 4 – Pipers III

**Vice District Governor
Maggie's Comments**

Ah Ha, some people do read the Bulletin. I must apologize to Tallmadge, as I referred to their Club as “Twinsburg” in my article about the Pilot Dog

Patch. Again Tallmadge sorry, but keep up the good work in Lionism.

Willoughby Evening has celebrated 25 years of Lionism. They had a very enjoyable celebration and received a Proclamation from the City of Willoughby.

Keep your eyes peeled to the Bulletin for information regarding the District Convention. You will want to make sure you attend this year. Some new ideas and happenings are in the works.

Lion Maggie Dellmore
Vice District Governor

A Message from the President

Dear Club Officer,

Greetings! I'm writing to you this month about exciting public relations tools available from LCI and about our new disaster preparedness initiative - the Lions Alert Program. These are two vital tools you can use to increase your club's visibility in your community.

First, the best source for generating positive PR in your community is to be sure your club's projects and accomplishments are covered in the local newspaper. But to do this effectively, your club should be using professionally formatted press releases to make it easier for reporters to cover your story. LCI now has a range of press releases (found on the LCI website) that can help your club properly

promote its events, service projects, fundraisers, and most importantly it accomplishments in serving the community.

In addition to press releases, the LCI web site now also features the Lions News Network (LNN) where you can download a number of Lions Public Service Announcements, including the newest one featuring Former U.S. President -- and Lion -- Jimmy Carter promoting the accomplishments of SightFirst. I know you will be impressed and proud when you see these world-class PR and communication tools now available to your club.

Generating press coverage of your club's accomplishments is also important for our own needs as members. When Lions see their accomplishments in the local paper, they are proud about the positive image such stories create. And it also validates a Lion's primary reason for being part of this great organization of ours - to serve and to make a difference in the lives of others.

Now, the gift of service Lions provide to their community, and around the world, is never more visible than when we respond to disasters, whether it's a local fire or something as catastrophic as a large-sale tsunami or hurricane.

This year, to further strengthen our ability to respond to disasters, the Lions Alert Program has been introduced. The program not only provides guidelines for how to develop a disaster response preparedness plan, but its companion web site

allows clubs and districts to request assistance from, or offer assistance to, other Lions who are nearby or halfway across the world. This Lion-helping-Lion network is part of our new Lions Serving Humanity online database. I'm extremely excited about this new initiative and encourage you to learn about it. http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/alert_program.shtml#

I'll be writing you again next month, and in the meantime, please share with me your success stories with PR and any suggestions you have regarding the Lions Alert Program. I would enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lion Jimmy Ross
2006-07 Lions International
President.

The Lions Hearing Aid Bank

The Lions Hearing Aid Bank came into existence in April 1983 after being included in the Parade of Checks. During the subsequent twenty-three years we have served over two hundred clients. We have helped purchase hearing dogs and enabled hard of hearing students attend traditional classrooms with the purchase of FM systems. These systems work like a short-range radio station and send signals through the air to the receiver in the child's hearing aid. This enables the child to hear the instructor no matter the situation just like a child with normal hearing.

This Lion's year we have provided hearing aids for 14

individuals. One dual hearing aids for a kindergartner so she will be able to cope with school. Also we have sent a high school graduate off to college with new bi-lateral aids. This is the girl's second set of aids that we have provided, the first set was when she was in grade school. This allowed her to complete public school successfully with a college degree in the future.

Working with the hard of hearing is a rewarding experience. The most moving thank you that we received was from a young student who wrote that she did not know that birds sang until she received hearing aids from the Hearing Aid Bank.

The Hearing Aid Bank has serviced people from Ashtabula to Wadsworth with the ability to hear and lead a successful and enjoyable life. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of the Lions in District 13-C through the Parade of Checks. We appreciate your support in the past and request it in the future.

The Lions Hearing Aid Bank has a Board of Directors, which is made up of Lions throughout the district. We would like to have at least one director from each Zone in 13-C. So far we have not been able to accomplish that goal. If you or any Lion from your zone would like to become a part of the Hearing Aid Bank, please let DG Ken Marshall or one of the Board Members know of your interest.

If your club would like to hear about the Hearing Aid Bank

program, please call one of the board members and we will arrange a date to meet with you and your club.

The Lions Hearing Aid Bank has scheduled meetings on the second Monday in even months starting with February. The meetings start at 5:30 P.M. and last about an hour and half. The meetings are held at President Jay Norin's office at the Health Pavilion West, Suite 303, 2640 West Market St, Fairlawn, Oh 44333 (Route 18 exit off of I-77). These are not dinner meetings, although we usually go to a restaurant to eat after the meetings

The hearing assistance applications are sent to P.O. Box 5253 Fairlawn, OH 44334, and are accepted or rejected at the board meetings.

From the members of the Hearing Aid Bank,

Thank You.

Jay Norin, President, Zone 5
Mike Lombardo, Sec., Zone 2
Wilson Greig, Treas., Zone 6
Ray Dellmore, Zone 2
PDG Bob Serpentini, Zone 4
Mark Norin, Zone 5
Jim Marshall, Zone 6

Campaign SightFirst II

Greetings from the Campaign SightFirst II office!

It has been an exciting week for CSFII. First, we reached US\$50 million raised, or one-third of our minimum goal of US\$150 million. As of October 5, we Lions actually have raised more than US\$51 million in our fight against blindness through the SightFirst program. Second, LCIF also announced that its SightFirst program recently funded its 7,000,000th cataract surgery, a major milestone for our organization's efforts.

We have much more work ahead as we strive to meet and exceed our minimum goal. As a Campaign SightFirst II coordinator and Lion leader, thank you for your excellent efforts that have helped Lions and CSFII reach this important milestone. I wish you success as we seek to also reach and surpass our individual club and area goals for CSFII.

Yours in Lionism,

Dr. Tae-Sup Lee
Past International President
Chairperson, Campaign
SightFirst II

Please join with all the members of District 13-C in expressing our deepest sympathy to the family and friends on the passing of:

*Lion Vic Gulyassy-Cleveland
Southeast*

THE CONVENTION CORNER

The District 13-C Convention dates are April 20-22, 2007. The location will be the Quality Inn & Suites, 4742 Brecksville Road, Richfield, Ohio (this is the old Holiday Inn on Ohio Route 21, ½ mile south of the Ohio Turnpike exit).

The Preliminary Convention Schedule can be found near the back of this Bulletin.

ALERT!

It's time to find a DDG Candidate for 2007-08.

Region 2 (Zones 4-6) are first in line. If there are no candidates by November 1, either Region can offer a candidate.

SHOULD YOUR CLUB BECOME A 501(C)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION?

When a Lions club receives its charter from the International Association of Lions Clubs (LCI), it is granted 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status under the Group Exemption Number 0239. This exempt status **cannot** be "upgraded" to a charitable organization 501(c)(3) under the section 501a of the Internal Revenue Code.

If a club should find that it wants or needs to establish its club as a charitable 501(c)(3) entity, it must do so by creating a foundation within the existing 501(c)(4) club structure.

This consists of preparing an IRS Form SS-4 "Application for Employer Federal Identification" either online or by sending by mail to IRS. **No fee is required.**

The next step is the filing of an Ohio Secretary of State form 532 "Initial Articles of Incorporation" using a name such as ABC Lions Club *Foundation* Inc. Must include a payment for **\$125.00** along with the form and the status of the corporation must be renewed once every five years. for **\$25.00.**

The next step is the preparation of the 12 page Form 1023 "Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code." Must include a payment of **\$750.00** with the application.

It normally takes about 60 days to receive a "Determination Letter" or denial from the Internal Revenue Service.

Total filing fees are **\$875.00.** These are one-time fees, and if Exemption under 501(c)(3) is denied, the \$750.00 is returned to the requesting organization.

If charitable status is granted, all financial activity for the charitable entity must be kept separated from the 501(c)(4) entity activity. Each entity, the

501(c)(4) and the 501(c)(3), must maintain separate boards of directors or trustees, although members of one board may also sit on the other board.

The primary reason to incur the above expenses and subsequent separate record keeping requirements would be if the club has a donor who is willing to make a "sizeable" donation to the Lions club, but only if they are allowed to take the donation as a deduction on their tax return. Donating to the 501(c)(4) would not allow the donor to do so, but if the club established a charitable foundation and the donor makes the contribution to the foundation, then the donation becomes deductible to the donor. No monies from that charitable donation may be used for the 501(c)(4) activities.

It is important to keep in mind that any donation to a charitable entity must be used for 501(c)(3) purposes which include educational, scientific, medical, or religious purposes.

Those clubs, which find themselves with the need to establish a charitable entity, may contact the District 13-C Financial Advisor, Lion Neil Sheeley, for assistance and advice.

Neil Sheeley, CPA
Lions District 13-C Financial Advisor

Directory Corrections:

Euclid Lions meeting night is Thursday evening

PDG Jim Ferritto has a new email address:

ferrjmc@windstream.net

2005 MD-13 Ohio Lions Fall Conference

The annual MD-13 Ohio Lions Fall Conference will be held at the Midwest Hotel in Columbus, OH on Sunday, November 5, 2006. A registration form has been sent to the Club President & Secretary but can also be downloaded from the Ohio Lions Website. The deadline is October 23rd with a late filing fee of \$5.00 after the 23rd.

This is a great opportunity to spend the day with many Lions of Ohio to learn more of your Lions organization. Some sessions to be offered are:

- 1) Electronic Communication
- 2) Back to Basics (new club growth/club revival/ and MERL efforts)
- 3) Campaign Sight First II
- 4) Successful Service Projects

Your State Leadership Committee is planning this event to be both informative and well worth the drive to Columbus!

If you have any questions, please contact Lion Marty Dennis, State Leadership Chairman of District 13-C

Here's What's Happening in Our District.....

Broadview Heights: The Haunted House will operate Thursday through Sunday through October 31. For complete dates and times, see the PD Friday Magazine or the club web site: www.broadviewheightslions.org

Cleveland SE, North Royalton, Broadview Heights, Garfield Heights and Mayfield Heights Lions are selling \$1.00 raffle tickets for a \$500 Gas Card. Contact any member from these clubs to get your tickets. Drawing will be on December 20, 2006 at a joint Zone 3 & 4 meeting.

Cleveland Southeast Lions are preparing Thanksgiving Baskets in connection with the Broadway United Methodist Church. The club gave a donation in support of Jason Meadows who served with Lion Bob Gutfranski in Iraq. Jason was severely burned and has eye damage.

North Coast Lions is hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, **October 28, 2006**, \$25/person, costumes optional, door prizes, raffles, and silent auction.

3 Digit Lottery \$5/ticket win \$50 if your number matches any of the two daily drawings in **September** and \$100 Holiday Gift Card and a \$50 Gas Card for December drawing. For more details call Lion Wallie 440-944-3947 or email at wdburnet@aol.com

North Royalton Lions will host a Poor Man's Reverse Raffle on November 10th at Pipers III. Cost is \$20/person. Contact any club member for tickets.

Stow-Monroe Falls Lions are now selling the 2007 Entertainment Books -Akron for \$30, Canton for \$30, and Cleveland for \$25

Tallmadge Lions will hold their Annual Cider Sales on East Avenue on **October 28th**. Contact Lion Bill Hixon at williamhixon@sbcglobal.net for your 3 Digit Lottery ticket for the month of December

Check out our Web Site for more club information and upcoming events.

Advertise your events in our District bulletin and on our website. Lion Dan is always ready to get your events posted on the website. Please email your flyer to Lionsdistrict13C@aol.com and Lion Dan will get them posted on our website. Please email information for the bulletin to Bareftn813@aol.com or by snail mail to 9950 Abbey Road, North Royalton, OH 44133

OHIO LIONS DISTRICT 13-C
MEMBERSHIP GOALS FOR 2006-2007

Over the past several weeks, Lions Marty Dennis and Wallie Burnett have traveled to our district's zone meetings (a few more to be scheduled) to promote our district's membership goals for this year. As Zone Chairpersons, we ask that you share this information (email or hardcopy) with your related clubs to encourage their participation with these district membership goals.

DISTRICT 13-C's INITIAL MEMBERSHIP GOAL

- To encourage each club to assign a Membership Chairperson
- To create an email list of our district's Membership Chairpersons
- To write a monthly column for our district's bulletin entitled
"Membership Moments"

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE TO 13-C CLUBS

- **It's Back to Basics!**

A - Attitude – through a positive and energetic style of leadership

B - Be the best club you can be

C - Compassion – take care of your members and your club first

2006-2007 MEMBERSHIP GOAL & TECHNIQUES

(the MINIMUM is to break even. the GOOD is Net +1)

By:

Facilitating the Ohio Plan
Participating in our District's Membership Contest
Using the HCI Tool Box
Participating in the new Family Dues Initiative
Publishing your club's membership figures quarterly

THE FIRST STEP: ASK!
Don't assume someone is going to say "NO"!

Created by: Lion Wallie Burnett, District 13-C State Membership Chairperson, August 2006

13-C CONVENTION - PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

April 20-22, 2007 Quality Inn & Suites, Richfield, Ohio

THEME: "Music Makes the World Go Round"

Event	Location	Time	Remarks
<u>Friday, 4/20/07</u>			
Registration	Lobby	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	
Dinner and Entertainment	Ballroom C/D	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm,	Event to be announced
Governor's Hospitality	Brecksville Room	9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	
<u>Saturday, 4/21/07</u>			
1st Lady's Hospitality	Brecksville Room	7:30 am – 11:00 am	
Registration/Delegates	Lobby	8:00 am – 9:30 am	
Mini-Mart	North Corridor	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	
Business Session	Ballroom C/D	9:30 am -11:00 am	
Lunch	Ballroom C/D	12:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Dr. Larry Leguire, Scientific Advisor to the Ohio Lion Eye Research Foundation
Registration	Lobby	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	
Seminars & Leadership	Various	2:15 pm – 6:00 pm	to be announced
Hospitality Rooms	Various	6:30 pm – 12:00 pm	to be announced
Entertainment:	Heartland	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Majestic Sound
<u>Sunday, 4/22/07</u>			
Breakfast	Brecksville Room	7:30 am – 11:00 am	
Necrology	Heartland	9:00 am – 9:45 am	
Registration	Lobby	10:00 am – 11:00 am	
Grand Banquet	Ballroom C&D	11:00 am – 2:30 pm	