



On the Trail of 5M4



Kent Beissel District Governor

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Busy, Busy January

If you were at the Midwinter Convention, I don't need to tell you how well everything went. If you were not there, going into a lot of detail, would not do all of the activities justice. International Director Roy Barnette and wife Barbara were terrific guests and both made wonderful contributions to the success of the convention. The seminars on Saturday morning were very well attended. I heard nothing but positive remarks about ALL of the presentations. I want to congratulate District Governor Elect Jim Demaree on his election as DG for 2006-2007. He and Lion Marge are already making plans for their year, so if you are called on to play a part in their DG year please consider it strongly. A very special thank you and congratulations go out Lion Deb Harms for making her Sunday morning "surprise" announcement as candidate for Vice-District Governor as of July 2006. She and spouse Bob will do a wonderful job as they prepare for new roles in the District. All in all, the convention proved to be a very rewarding and exciting time for all of those who participated.

It doesn't seem possible that the Lions year is more than half over. With that being true, I need to remind you about club elections. It is **VERY** important that these elections are done in a timely manner. Whether the club's new officers take over in July or in the fall, the election results must be completed and the results recorded on the PU 101 forms and sent to the appropriate people by May 31, 2006. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** The Zone chairs will be reminding your clubs of this, also, at the spring meetings. This is necessary to insure that all clubs are in the communications loop with the District and Lions Clubs International. Information that appears in the District Directory has to be up-to-date.

A couple of other items that are on the horizon are the Sight First Phase II Campaign and the Multiple District 5M Convention. The Sight First Phase II Campaign is well along in the planning phase. Representatives from the Zones will be getting their training soon and then will start calling on individual clubs to get the information to them. It should prove to be an exciting and rewarding time for Lions when they will be helping people worldwide who are in need.

Mark your calendars for the **MD5M** Convention in Rochester, Minnesota on April 28, 29 and 30. The convention committee has a strong, exciting schedule of events. This will be another opportunity for all of us to get behind the campaign of PID Ross Thorfinnson for International 2nd Vice-President. Check out the MD5M website www.lionsmd5m.org for additional information and to register on line. There is a link to that site from our own District 5M4 website www.5m4lions.org

There are a couple of new membership developments that are the results of the International Director's meeting in India. Spouses of current members, who join the same club, will have their entrance fee of \$25 rebated. The same holds true for reinstated members coming back to a club. What an opportunity to get some new member or some former ones, into your club, at a bargain price!

All in all, it has been a very busy but also a very rewarding January. I hope that all of the District's Lions can get that same good feeling that comes from doing Lions work. **It's great knowing that we are doing things everyday to help people, less fortunate, make their lives better.**

DG Kent



NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST

VDG JIM DEMAREE

By the time this gets into print, we will have the 2006 Midwinter Convention behind us. I have really enjoyed sitting in on the planning sessions for this convention. It has brought back a lot of fond memories of Midwinter's past.

My earliest recollections of Midwinter's go back to the '60's. At that time they were called Midwinter Conferences as there was no business conducted nor were there elections. That was all done in connection with the MD5M Conventions which were held in June those years. Our Midwinter was always held at the Ambassador Hotel in the west metro area. We would go down Saturday morning, have a noon luncheon with a speaker, have a seminar or two in the afternoon and then break for some fun time. An evening banquet was held with a speaker much like we now do, followed by more fun time. Sunday mornings were free, a luncheon with a speaker was held around noon and we would head home in time to watch the Super Bowl.

From those humble beginnings, the Midwinter's have evolved into the conventions of today. Probably not as much free time but certainly much more educational with more structured activities. Marge & I have attended the Midwinter's at Districts 5M9, 5M5 and 5M7 so far this year. We attended 5M3 last year. The object of this is not only to have fun and see our friends in other districts but to pick up ideas that we might use to make our own convention even better than it already is.

Following our convention, I will be seriously working at putting together our District Cabinet for next year. Again let me stress that if you would like to serve on the cabinet, please contact me. Also, to present cabinet members, if you would like a different position on the cabinet, let me know. As I stated in this column a couple of issues back, if you are not asked to be on the cabinet next year or are asked to serve in a different capacity, this does not reflect on the job you have done in the past. It just means that changes are being made.

Don't forget our Plus 1 campaign where we want to see every club in our district show at least a net increase of 1 member. Ask that person who volunteers at your church, your school or your library to become a Lion. If they are already doing some volunteer work, you know that they are interested in helping others. When a prospective member asks "What do the Lions do?" the short answer is "We help People!" It's that simple.

WHAT A CONVENTION!



International Director Roy Barnette and his wife Lion Barbara from Columbia, SC, enjoying the Saturday evening banquet.



Packing food for 'Kids Against Hunger' <<<<<<<<

Leos got involved, too. >>>>>>>



Love those Hospitality Rooms!

Thorfinnson for Int'l 2nd VP Campaign

MD5M has the opportunity of a lifetime!

The time is now to support Ross Thorfinnson and represent our multiple in Boston! Our multiple has the opportunity to have an International President in the near future! The last president from our multiple served during 1921-22. Ross will be honored and proud to serve our organization as International President. For our part, we need to represent our multiple at the International Convention. If we could get "just one" member from each club, we'd make our goal of 500 voting delegates. There is still time to register. Ross and Lynda need our support!

Terrific Lion
 Humble Lion
 Outgoing Lion
 Reliable Lion
 Fantastic Lion
 Inspirational Lion
 Neighborly Lion
 Noble Lion
 Sensational Lion
 Optimistic Lion
 Nurturing Lion



These are a few words that describe our candidate, Ross Thorfinnson for Int'l 2nd VP.

Besides all the fun that you can have at the convention, there is the history of Boston that you and your family can partake of. The Lions website www.lionsclubs.org has information about the International Convention and connecting sites that are available for you to explore the city of Boston. You can register on line for the convention.

CONGRATULATIONS... Watson Lions Club

on
 50 YEARS
 of service!



Benson Lions Celebrate 40 Years

Benson Lions 40th anniversary party will be held on Saturday, Feb 18, with the social hour starting at 6:00 and dinner to be served at 7:00. **PID Ross Thorfinnson** will be the guest speaker. Ticket price is \$20.00 and includes baked chicken and roast beef. Your ticket also includes one chance per person for great prizes to be given away.

Contact Woody Dokken

210 20th Street S. Benson, MN 56215.

Phone 320-843-3619,

Cell 320-766-5408 or

E-mail woodydokke@charter.net.

Rochester... Here We Come!!!

It's time, now, to make plans now for the MD5M 2006 Convention to be held in Rochester, Minnesota Friday April 28 – Sunday April 30 2006, at the Mayo Civic Center.

Lions of Minnesota, Manitoba and NW Ontario welcome our international guest for the weekend, Past International President James Ervin. PIP James Ervin of Albany, Georgia, USA, served as president of The International Association of Lions Clubs following his election at the association's 82nd International Convention, held in San Diego, California, USA, June 28-July 2, 1999. What a great opportunity for us as Lions, Lioness and Leos, to meet, visit and hear PIP James Ervin's message during the banquet on Saturday night.

The MD5M Rochester convention committee chaired by PDG Dudley Parsons, have put together an exciting, fun and informative weekend for all Lions, Lioness and Leos who will be attending. For registration and lodging information, please log on to www.lionsmd5m.org and click on the 2006 MD5M Convention link on the left side of the page. There, you will find registration forms and lodging information.

On the 5M4 Trail With DG Kent

- Feb. 10-12 5M2 Convention @ Holiday Inn, Mankato
- Feb. 13 Fairfax/Buffalo Lake Clubs visit
- Feb. 15 Willmar Noon Club visit
- Feb. 17-19 5M3 Convention @ Holiday Inn, Fairmont
- Feb. 21 Watson Club visit
- Feb. 27 Milan Club visit
- Mar. 6 Cosmos Club visit
- Mar. 13 Ashby Club visit
- Mar. 14 Olivia Club visit
- Mar. 17, 18 Council of Governors meeting--Roseville
- Mar. 21 Forada Club visit
- Apr. 28-30 MD5M Convention--Rochester

What's Wrong (or Right) With Your Club?

Is your club having difficulty attracting and/or retaining members? DGE Jim Demaree presented a seminar at the District Convention dealing with these questions. The following questions and the top three answers are what came out of that seminar.

What obstacles are preventing your club from increasing membership?

- 1) Lack of young members.
- 2) Failure to educate the public on what we do.
- 3) Apathy or complacency.

What resources should the District provide to clubs to promote successful recruiting?

- 1) Media needs to be aware of what is happening.
- 2) Provide literature--brochures, posters.
- 3) Leadership training.

What are some ideas that clubs are doing to attract new members?

- 1) Bring a guest day--club pays for guest's meal.
- 2) Invite the public to hear a guest speaker.
- 3) Club should have a specific membership plan.

What should there be 'more of' or 'less of' at club meetings to promote better attendance? (These answers are all of the 'more of' variety.)

- 1) Keep meetings on track.
- 2) Have interesting programs or speakers.
- 3) Have fun--laugh a lot.

Note from DGE Jim:

As the presenter of this seminar, I apologize for not getting through all the responses. The interaction within the group was fantastic and I thank each and every one of you that attended for your participation. It was fun for me and I hope it was informative for you. We will be doing something similar next year but in smaller class sizes and it will be better yet!



Congratulations to Lion Deb Harms of the Kingston Lions Club, who has accepted the challenge to be the Vice District Governor Elect of District 5M4. We are all proud of you, Deb, and know you'll do a great job as the District Governor in 2007-2008.





News From the International President

In evaluating the first half of this year and setting course adjustments for the balance of the year it is important to note the following: This year we are well on our way to achieving many of the goals set in Hong Kong.

- **200 countries and geographic areas:** The Board has approved three additional countries: Somalia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Maldives. The first club in Maldives will be chartered on February 13, 2006 and is sponsored by District 306-B2. This means that Lions Clubs are making a difference in 198 countries and geographic areas.
- **Plus One Growth of districts and clubs:** Compared to previous years, the number of new clubs formed in the first half of the fiscal year is up. Another sign that the organization is becoming stronger is member drops per club is decreasing and less clubs are on status quo.

With thanks and gratitude, yours truly,
Dr. Ashok Mehta
International President
Lions Clubs International



Campaign SightFirst II Progress Update

Thanks to your help and support, Campaign SightFirst II continues to progress well. Now and in the coming months, District Coordinator and Group Coordinators are being recruited and trained for service in this important effort. Already, more than 6,000 leaders have been recruited in Districts worldwide. We want to encourage Clubs in our District to conduct an extra fundraising event this year for the benefit of CSFII. These early dollars will add to the already \$11.9 Million raised on behalf of the 37 million afflicted with blindness throughout the world. Thank you for your support of CSFII this year. Much is being accomplished with your help.

New On-line Activity Reporting Clubs can now report service activities and accomplishments online by using the new [Lions Club Activity Report](#). Using the new electronic activity report, club secretaries or presidents can report their club's activities directly on the web site, either on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. The activity report, similar to the online WMMR form, will also keep a running tally of the club's reported activities for the entire year.

<https://www3.lionsclubs.org/EN/RegisterLogin/HomeLogin.aspx>

NEW! - Limited Entrance Fee Rebates

At the November 2005 Board Meeting the Lions Clubs International Board approved two entrance-fee-rebates for (1) spouses of current members and (2) former Lions. These entrance fee rebates are available from December 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The rebates are designed to help clubs with their membership drives. Clicking on the below links will access more information regarding the rebate program: *Former Lion Entrance Fee Rebates* and *Spouse Entrance Fee Rebates*

Former member:

Form submitted online

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/former_member_rebate.php3

Form submitted via mail or fax

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

Spouse:

Form submitted online

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/spouse_rebate.php3

Form submitted via mail or fax

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

Don't Hide Your Club's Accomplishments

Share your stories and pictures with the Lions of 5M4.

We are always looking for interesting stories and/or pictures of projects with which your club is involved.

E-mail your items to us at kjjbeissel@mainstreetcom.com