



On the Trail of 5M4



Kent Beissel District Governor

Vol. I No. 6

January, 2006

Do We Have the "Passion to Excel"?

District Governor Kent Beissel

Until a year or more ago, not many Lions had heard the spoken phrase "Passion to Excel". Lions members however, in their own individual ways, have lived this phrase in all they do to help people make their lives better. As I have said repeatedly, during club visits, "**Lions change people's lives**". Not only the lives of those whom we help, but also through the rewards we receive, in our own lives, by being the "helper" of those in need. It is this personal, life-changing experience that I would like to see **ALL** Lions consider at this time of year. If you enjoy that feeling that comes over you, when you are helping others, I would like each of you to consider what you are personally going to do to maintain or increase that rewarding feeling. This might be on the club or the District level. As many of you have heard me say, I had no idea that when I became a Sauk Centre Lion, 22 years ago, that I ever envisioned myself doing Lions work at this level. The amount of effort necessary increases a little, however the rewards, as a Lion, have been multiplied many, many times over. Yes, I am encouraging you to consider a step to another level of Lions' involvement. At this point in my year as Governor, I have met and become acquainted with enough of you to realize that there is a tremendous amount of untapped talent out there in the District. PLEASE.. consider, at whatever Lions level you are, to volunteer, or if asked, to accept an advanced position in Lions. You will be rewarded with "changed lives"; your own life and the lives of those people who we strive to make better every day!

As you read this we will be within a couple of weeks of the District 5M-4 Mid-winter Convention on January 27, 28 and 29. There is plenty of time and available space to still be able to register for the convention. For those of you who have attended conventions in the past you know that it will be a rewarding experience. It is a time when Lions come to realize that their efforts to help others improve their lives reaches beyond the boundaries of their own communities. For the "first timers" the convention will probably be one of your most rewarding Lions experiences. You will find out that being a Lion is more than pancake feeds, cleaning ditches or selling raffle tickets and come to the realization that those activities are just a means to being able to help needy people. There are plenty of activities such as seminars, speakers, hospitality rooms, business meeting and sharing time with other Lions, to peak the interest of every Lion in some way. I look forward to seeing and visiting with as many of you as possible, both "old timers" and "first timers" alike.

SEE YOU IN ALEXANDRIA!!!!

Don't delay in making reservations for the Mid-Winter Convention in Alexandria on January 27, 28 and 29th. There are many events going on in Alex that weekend, including an ice fishing tournament! Rooms at the Holiday Inn, the convention hotel, could be in short supply.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST

VDG JIM DEMAREE

I'm sitting here on a beautiful Minnesota December afternoon looking out at the setting sun lengthening the shadows on this white winter wonderland. I think back to the many winters when I couldn't wait for snow to go sledding or skiing. Now I wish it would stay like this till Christmas and then melt! Funny how age changes your perception.

We should also be keeping that in mind when we look to start new clubs or recruit new members. A lot of us who are looked at as leaders in the District or in Clubs are of an older generation. We look at things differently than someone in their teens or twenties. This is not bad; it is a good thing. When you ask a young mother to join your club and she says she can't attend meetings because of her children's activities, ask her if she could work on community projects or fund raisers instead of attending meetings. We need workers as well as meeting attendees. Also, in thinking of a new club, think of targeting a group of people who already work together or something of that type.

We need to seriously be looking at Int'l Pres. Mehta's Plus One program at this time. One increase in membership per club, one new club per district. Certainly an attainable goal for our district. Something that we shouldn't overlook is the possibility of starting another club in towns that already have one or more Lions Clubs.

Marge & I have had the opportunity to visit a couple of Zone Meetings in the last month and certainly enjoyed meeting some new faces and renewing some acquaintances. The VDG's and spouses met in Benson a couple weeks back and were fitted for our District Governor jackets. It was fun to meet over lunch and compare notes as to what is happening in our respective districts. They are a great group of people and we are really looking forward to working with them over the next eighteen months.

News is short this month – have a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year. We will look forward to seeing you at the Mid-Winter Convention.

CONGRATULATIONS...



New Hector Lions.....

L to R: Nathan Homan, Corey Klobunde, Darryl Ilgen, Judy Beissel, DG Kent Beissel and Brett Miller.



Montevideo Lions.....

Merrie Bertrand, far left, received the Melvin Jones Fellow award at the Montevideo Lions Club visit. She also sponsored two new members, Jerry and Dixie Tilden.



Kerkhoven Lions.....

Members inducted at a recent meeting are Julie Torkelson, Bonita Kluver, Kathy Kalstrom and Woody Nelson.

Thorfinnson for Int'l 2nd VP Campaign



PID Ross L. Thorfinnson Jr. and Lynda MD5M can make a difference!

This year the Lions from around the world have the opportunity to vote for one candidate for 2nd International Vice President in Boston. There is a race between PID Dennis Tischnor and PID Al Brandel. By going to the convention, the Lions of MD5M, which is the fourth largest multiple in North America, can be involved in the democratic process of choosing our next leader. Our goal is to have 500 voting delegates at Boston, with which we could make an impact on the decision of who our next international leader would be! If "just one" member from each club went to the convention, we could easily achieve our goal.

By having 500 members at the convention in Boston, we would be able to show the Lions of the world that we want to be involved in the International picture. It has been close to 80 years since we have had an international president from MD5M. We have a chance again to have that prestige with Lion Ross Thorfinnson. Ross and his wife Lynda have started on their campaign trail to be elected as 2nd International VP.

Many of us Lions joined this organization because we wanted to help someone. Our money, time and energy go to our communities and our state or providence which is great. We also help people internationally through Lions projects such as LCIF. By going to conventions at the multiple or international level, we can hear and see about the good that we have achieved as Lions. It is time for the Lions of MD5M to reconnect with our International Family.

Ross Thorfinnson wants to help our international organization stay on course with its motto of "We Serve". He is asking for our support in the upcoming years for his campaign to be elected as 2nd International Vice President. We can help him by attending the conventions in Boston and Chicago. MD5M would be proud to have Ross Thorfinnson as the leader of our International Family of Lions.

Support the Band

PCC Keith Johnson

The Fergus Falls High School Marching Band will be representing Multiple District 5M when the march in Boston during this year's Lions International Convention June 30 to July 4, 2006.

The Band has a long a proud tradition of excellence. They perform in many area parades each summer and in national parades on occasion. The band was proud to earn a second place finish in the 1998 Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, DC. The FFHS marching band traditionally performs a patriotic theme, and the phrase they carry with them in all parades is Share the Pride! The community of Fergus Falls and Fergus Falls High School is proud to have the marching band represent the Lions of MD5M in this year's International Lions Convention Parade in Boston, MA.

The Council of Governors of MD5M have voted to give the marching band a \$5000 honorarium to perform for MD5M. This is a small portion of the cost for this band to travel and march in Boston. At a minimum it would be \$650 per student with a cost of about \$78,000. We are asking for donations from all Lions Clubs in MD5M to help defray expenses for these young people who will represent our multiple with a first class effort.

Please make your check out to MD5M with Fergus Falls Band in the memo section and send your donations to...

PCC Keith Johnson
626 Turnberry Lane
Litchfield, MN 55355-3200



DG Kent with CC Brian Sheehan and Mer Athmann at the Bird Island club visit.....Go Huskies!

On the 5M4 Trail With DG Kent

- Jan. 6-8 5M9 Convention @ Cragun's
- Jan. 6-8 5M6 Convention @ Holiday Inn East, St. Paul
- Jan. 9 Benson Club visitation
- Jan. 10 Willmar Evening Club visitation
- Jan. 11 Convention Comm. Mtg. Alex Holiday Inn-noon
- Jan. 17 Dawson Club visitation
- Jan. 19 Kingston Club visitation
- Jan. 20-22 5M7 Convention @ Airport Marriott
- Jan. 20-22 5M5 Convention @ Sheraton Bloomington
- Jan. 27-29 Mid-Winter Convention-Alexandria Holiday Inn
- Feb. 3-5 5M8 Convention @ Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
- Feb. 6 Grove City/Atwater Clubs visitation
- Feb. 7 Brandon Club visitation
- Feb. 10-12 5M2 Convention @ Holiday Inn, Mankato
- Feb. 13 Fairfax/Buffalo Lake Clubs visitation
- Feb. 15 Willmar Noon Club visitation
- Feb. 17-19 5M3 Convention @ Holiday Inn, Fairmont
- Feb. 21 Watson Club visitation
- Feb. 27 Milan Club visitation

We Want You



**to be a candidate for
Vice District Governor
2006-2007**

Contact: VDG Jim Demaree
320/269-7568
jmdemaree@maxminn.com

Don't forget to register for the Mid-Winter Convention~~January 27-29 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. Registration form is on page 6.

Rochester... Here We Come!!!

It's hard to believe that 7 months have passed since Lions, Lioness and Leos gathered at the Keystone Centre in Brandon, Manitoba.

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.

On Friday, there will be an open business meeting followed by the PDG's reception. At 8pm the Memorial Service will take place in the auditorium followed by entertainment at 9pm.

At 7am Saturday morning, there will be a breakfast buffet and 2nd Vice President campaign rally for PID Ross Thorfinnson. It's sure to be an exciting time for all Lions. Then, informative seminars begin at 8:30am about Campaign Sightfirst II, Lions Quest, Mission 30, Leadership/Development, Public Relations, Leo Clubs, Newsletters and Membership Retention round out the Saturday morning events.

Saturday afternoon activities after lunch in the Exhibit Hall include the business meeting from 2 – 5, cash bar prior to the banquet at 6pm. The banquet begins at 7pm, with entertainment to follow at 9pm.

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.

More information will be included in subsequent issues of this newsletter leading up to the Multiple Convention April 28 – 30, 2006.

Lions Club International President's Message

We all have our own heroes, individuals we admire and respect, individuals who have made an impact on our life, and individuals that made us look at the world differently. These individuals inspired us, redirected our lives, or made a comment that empowered us. And, many of them don't know that that moment ever happened. As a Lion, contributing to the community, making a difference, we may not always see the impact our assistance has on others. I am hearing the stories. Your **passion to excel** is changing the world.

In my travels through out the world, I have met many Lions and non-Lions. Both tell stories of how Lions have made a difference to their lives. Worldwide Lions have a passion to excel, grow, and change the world one community at a time. Use your passion to make a difference and to inspire others. Keep in mind, a quote often attributed to Mohandas Karamachand Gandhi, **"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."**

Finally, please allow me this opportunity to send you Seasons Greetings and to wish you, your families and your fellow Lions all the best for a very happy and prosperous New Year!

With thanks and gratitude.

Yours truly,
Dr. Ashok Mehta
International President
Lions Clubs International

Spouse Entrance Fee Rebate Program

At the International Board Meeting in Kolkata, India in November of 2005, the Spouse Entrance Fee Rebate Concession provision was instituted effective from December 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. This provision provides a rebate of the US\$25 entrance fee when spouses of members join the same existing Lions club. The rebate will be credited to the club account on the club statement after the new member is reported on the Monthly Membership Report. to ensure the proper use of this benefit the following requirements need to be met:

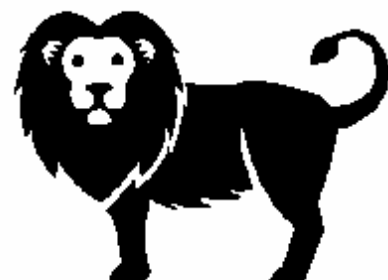
1. The club adding the new member must be in good standing.
2. The spouse must join the club in which the spouse member holds membership.
3. There is no limit or restriction on the number of spouses applying for the rebate.

To obtain the form you need to process the application go to the Lions Club website at the following address:

www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/resources_forms_mem.shtml

For questions regarding the processing of the form, you can contact the Club Records and Billing Department. E-mail: stats@lionsclubs.org or FAX: 630-571-1687

For questions regarding the eligibility requirements contact the Membership Operations Department. E-mail: memberops@lionsclubs.org Phone: 630-571-5466 ext. 340 or 356



28th DISTRICT 5M-4 MIDWINTER CONVENTION

January 27, 28, 29, 2006 Alexandria Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS!

Call Alexandria Holiday Inn 320 763-6577 Ask for Lions Convention Rate(\$74.95+tax)

IMPORTANT! Rooms must be reserved before Jan 1, 2006 or they will be released to the public!!

Reserve Hospitality Rooms through the Holiday Inn (320) 763-6577 *Don't forget to have a theme!!*

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Club _____ **Saturday Banquet Choice**
 Name _____ Club _____ Pork Medallion() Baked Chicken ()
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Number of children _____ Ages _____

Would you like to help bag food between 2:00 - 5:00 Friday for "Kids Against Hunger"? yes no
 All District Chorus Participants yes no (Saturday rehearsal)

EARLY BIRD CONVENTION PACKAGE *(INCLUDES ALL MEALS)* BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2005

_____ @ \$65.00 Regular Attendees _____ @ \$55.00 First time attendees

_____ @ \$20.00 children 12 & under

CONVENTION PACKAGE *(INCLUDES ALL MEALS)* AFTER DECEMBER 15, 2005

_____ @ \$75.00 Regular Attendees _____ @ \$65.00 First time attendees

_____ @ \$25.00 children 12 & under

Registration and payment of ALL Packages MUST be received by January 10, 2006

# of tickets	INDIVIDUAL MEAL TICKETS <i>(if you don't select package)</i>	Price	EXTENDED AMOUNT
_____	Friday: International Director's Reception (Everyone Welcome)	No Charge	_____
_____	Saturday Awards Breakfast	\$15.00	_____
_____	Saturday Lunch.....	\$20.00	_____
_____	Governor's Banquet Saturday Evening.....	\$30.00	_____
_____	Sunday Brunch	\$20.00	_____
Total Amount Enclosed			\$ _____

List any special dietary needs: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DISTRICT 5M-4 LIONS CONVENTION

SEND TO:

CONVENTION COMMITTEE, % BRIAN SHEEHAN
 78454 310th ST.
 OLIVIA, MN. 56277

PHONE: B-(320) 365-4027 x 111

C-(320) 212-7330

Email- bsheehan@rcabi.com

Additional information on our website at www.5m4lions.org

