



On the Trail of 5M4



Vol. I Issue I

Kent Beissel District Governor

July-August, 2005

Hong Kong highlights

by District Governor Kent Beissel

July 1, 2005..... what a day, as we depart from Hong Kong following the Lions International Convention and knowing full well that today starts the awesome responsibility of governing the great Lions district of 5M4. We were able to experience the flavor of the orient while in Hong Kong. It is a remarkable city of 7.5 million people all in a very small area. Every building's direction is up. The average height of the hundreds of apartment buildings is 40+ stories.

We were there for a specific reason—to attend the District Governor Elect school. It was five days of intensive training to get all of the 750 DGE's of the world prepared to take on the task of governing each of their own districts. The governors of MD5M were grouped together with others from New Zealand, Pakistan, and New York. We bonded very quickly and, for some of us, ended up making life-long friends in the process.

We were able to meet incoming International President Ashok Mehta, from India. He is a very friendly and approachable person. After visiting with him prior to the "graduation banquet" he actually suggested a group photo with our class of MD5M governors. He ended up making a positive impression on all of the incoming governors.

President Mehta's major program this year is titled Mission 30 Plus One. To explain, it simply means that each of our clubs is being asked to obtain a net gain in membership of one member per club for the year. This membership goal certainly is attainable and 'do-able'. Each of us needs to take the responsibility and make the effort of contacting, and asking someone, male or female, to join us as Lions. This is not a lot to expect. JUST ASK! What do you have to lose?

The other major International program will be the renewal of the Sight First program. If you were involved in Lions 12-15 years ago you have heard of Sight First. This endeavor will be Sight First Phase II. The goal of Phase II will be to use medications and surgery to alleviate preventable blindness throughout the world. This year will be primarily used for organization and planning. The goals are large--\$200 million (US) toward prevention and an additional \$50 million (US) for research. Yes, that is a lot, but Lions have done it before and will do it again.

My wife, Judy, and I are anxious and excited about this coming year. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Soon, all of you will be hearing about my goals, through the Zone Chairpeople, for this next year. I will be stressing work on proactive wellness activities and, of course, membership increases. I feel confident that all of us together can again make our district 5M4 one that we can all be very proud of, by doing projects that help others, less fortunate, make their lives better

On the Trail with the District Governor

- Aug. 6 Madison 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Aug. 11-14 LCI and Leader Dog trip to Oakbrook and Detroit
- Aug. 16 Alexandria Golden Brothers 7:00 a.m.
- Aug. 21 Lions Day with the Twins
- Aug. 27 First 5M4 Cabinet meeting in Sauk Centre @ Gerard's 9:00 a.m.
- Sept. 8 Lowry Lions visitation 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 12 Madison Lions visitation 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 13 Miltona Lions visitation 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21-25 USA/Canada Leadership Forum, Peoria, Ill.
- Oct. 3 New London Lions visitation 6:00 pm
- Oct. 10 Alexandria Evening Lions visitation 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 14-15 Council of Governors meeting, Mahanomen
- Oct. 19 Glenwood Lions visitation 5:15 p.m.
- Oct. 26 Sauk Centre Lions visitation 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29 5M4 second Cabinet meeting, Glenwood

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST VDG JIM DEMAREE

I finally realized how deep I had gotten myself into this job when DG Kent sent me an email that said "I'm leaving for Hong Kong. You're in charge till I get back." My immediate reaction was "I'M NOT READY FOR THIS!" Then I realized that this is something that I have wanted to do for 20 years and I guess that I am ready.

On a sadder note, we lost a good Lion on June 29, Lion Daryl Vinderslev, Secretary of the Appleton Lions Club. Lion Daryl passed away suddenly at his home. One of his fellow Appleton Lions passed the comment that Daryl was the heart & soul of the club. He will be missed by us all.

In April, I had the privilege of attending the Multiple 5M Regional Leadership Institute which was held at Mahanomen. This is the same program that is presented in Oak Brook but they cram it into three days rather than a week. It was a wonderful experience and I would encourage any Lion who is thinking of moving up to apply when it comes back next time. It is geared to the club level so persons that are in line for the Presidency of their clubs should consider this.

The fun parts of this job are already starting as we are being invited to club functions and also Multiple 5M activities. I would like to stress that Marge & I would like to attend as many of your club fundraisers or social functions as we can. Just let us know by either email or snail mail and we will be there if possible. I would also be happy to come to your club to install new members or do an officer installation.

I also want to use a couple of lines here to thank our Canadian neighbors for the great Multiple Convention that they hosted in Brandon Manitoba. We took the 5M4 bus up and it was a long ride. Probably not near as long as it would have seemed had we been driving ourselves. They gave us good food, good entertainment and most important, good fellowship! That's what being a Lion is all about.

Marge & I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years. If there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

Yours in Lionism - VDG Jim

Congratulations to Hancock Lions member Brad Oksendahl for having been a charter member of his club for 52 years!

Thor's Corner

MD5M has endorsed Lion Ross Thorfinnson, of Eden Prairie, MN, for the candidacy of 2nd Vice President of Lions Clubs International. The Thorfinnson for Int'l 2nd VP Campaign Committee is urging all Lions of MD5M to help support Lion Ross and his wife Linda in their endeavor to represent our great multiple at the highest office of Lions Clubs International.

Support is needed from all Lions of MD5M. This support can begin with a large attendance at the next two International Conventions. The committee would like to see 500 voting delegates in New Orleans July 10-14, 2006 and 1000 voting delegates in Chicago July 2-6, 2007. We believe that this is possible due to the close proximity of the convention cities. The Lions of MD5M need to show the world that we are serious about our intentions of presenting Lion Ross for the office of 2nd Vice President.

MID-WINTER CONVENTION NEWS

Mark your calendar for January 27-29, 2006 now! The convention will be in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn. Plans are well underway to make this another great event for Lions of 5M4.

International Director Roy Barnette and his wife Barbara will be our guests for the convention. They will be coming to us from Columbia, South Carolina. Even in January, I'm sure we will show them a "warm" Minnesota time.

A full slate of seminars is being planned along with some great lunch and brunch speakers. As we did last year, you will also be asked to have a theme for your hospitality room. Get your great Lions' imaginations going. There were some fantastic ideas used during last years' convention. There will be more information coming to you as the PDG's plan their annual visits to your clubs.

Thanks to the club secretaries who are using the District web site for reporting their monthly activity reports. Remember that by '07 all clubs need to use this method of reporting.

Join us for the USA/Canada Leadership Forum in Peoria, Illinois from September 22-24. Register online at: usacanadalionsforum.org

Lions Club

Communication Contact Person (CCP)

In order to insure inter-district communication is fast, efficient and cost effective, DG Kent Beissel would like each club to designate a CCP. This person would need to have personal, internet connection or access to it. Their sole job would be to receive district information and see to it that the information is distributed to the appropriate club members. The initial, primary use would be the distribution of the district newsletter.

Please fill out the following and return to DG Kent, ASAP.

CLUB NAME: _____

COMMUNICATION
CONTACT PERSON: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
E-mail: _____

*This information is for District 5M4 use only!!!

Return to: DG Kent Beissel
146 North 4th Street
Sauk Centre, Mn 56378
kjibeissel@mainstreetcom.com

Governor's Visit Request Form

Club Name: _____

Name and Location of meeting: _____

Date of meeting: First choice _____ Second choice: _____

Time meeting begins: _____ Social hour: _____ AM _____ PM _____

Will you have a meal? YES ___ NO _____

Will this be a joint meeting with another club? YES ___ NO _____

Name of other club _____

Will Lion's spouses be invited? YES ___ NO _____

Lion Requesting Visit: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like the Governor to.....

Install Officers? YES _____ NO _____

Install New Members? YES _____ NO _____

Special Awards Presented? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, to whom and what award? _____

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To insure choice of date, mail request form or email information as soon as possible, but no later than October 1, 2005 to:

DGE Kent Beissel
146 North 4th Street
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Email: kjibeissel@mainstreetcom.com Phone: (320) 352-3482

GAMBLING NEWS

Check on the Minnesota Gambling Control Board's web site www.gbc.state.mn.us for the latest changes for application for "Exempt and Excluded" activities.

GOVERNOR'S VISIT AND CCP FORMS

The forms to request Governor's visit and the CCP (Communication Contact Person) can be found on the 5M4 website www.5M4lions.org.

District Governor Kent Beissel
 146 N. 4th St.
 Sauk Centre, MN 56378
kjjbeissel@mainstreetcom.com

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER	CLUB
Dave Gorham	Darwin
Josh Johnson	Darwin
Donna Ventrella	New London
Nicholas Ventrella	New London
Pamela Erickson	Spicer Sunrise
Marlyn Jacobson	Spicer Sunrise
Marlys Jacobson	Spicer Sunrise
Gerald Sebey	Spicer Sunrise
Ronalda Sebey	Spicer Sunrise
Nathan Jordahl	Watson

Send your September newsletter articles, club announcements and information to editor, John Olson, at robertaolson@mainstreetcom.com or 960 Lilac Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378. Articles need to be received by August 20th. Thanks.
