



On the Trail of 5M4

(One last time!)
Kent Beissel
District Governor



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June, 2006

FANTASTIC JOURNEY

June 7, 2006. Just eleven months ago I sat down to write my first District Governor's contribution to the newsletter. Now, we are less than one month away from having completed the year as Lions Governor. As Judy and I have said many times this year, *"It has been a fantastic journey."* This journey is NOT about us, but it's about the hundreds of Lions we have met who are out in the trenches doing the hard work, and it's about the people who need the help and are getting it from Lions everyday. I would like to take this opportunity to review the highlights of the past year. There are many, but these two stand out as the big ones.

First was the trip to the International Convention in Hong Kong. The sights, the training, the extended travels in China and the opportunity to bond with our fellow District Governors from the Multiple District all provided unforgettable experiences. Secondly, are the club visits that we have made throughout the District. These visits provided us with numerous opportunities to really get to know individuals whom we would never have had the chance to meet. We were able to hear about and witness all of the fantastic projects that these energetic club members are undertaking to help less fortunate people in their communities and throughout the world. Each and every club has their own unique characteristics and it is that uniqueness that has made our visits so memorable. Thank you for making Judy and me feel so welcome into your Lions' lives and sharing with us the pride that all of you have in your club's accomplishments.

As you know from my club presentation, the theme for this year has been two-fold: the promotion of pro-active wellness, and to encourage clubs to utilize electronic communication. I did not expect everyone to jump on the bandwagon right away and not all clubs have. I have been encouraged, however, with the over all response to both of these issues. Many more club members are receiving the newsletter via e-mail or at the very least someone in their club is receiving it and making it available to fellow members. If you consider the average cost, per month, per member, at somewhere around \$.50 if sent via U.S.P.S. (That includes postage, paper, envelope, etc.) the savings to the District is about \$850 per month. Those

are funds that are better spent on other Lions' projects. On the issue of pro-active wellness we have, if nothing else, planted the seed to encourage clubs and individuals to participate in a wellness activity. Several clubs have arranged for diabetes, sight and hearing screening. What a way to send the message to your community that the Lions really care about their health. Some clubs have "discussed" planning some kind of a fitness activity to get people thinking about the exercise portion of "diet and exercise". I'm convinced that Lions can change people's lives by promoting these issues of pro-active wellness. I obviously have very strong feelings about Lions being pro-active toward wellness so just because I will have PDG in front of my Lion's title, don't think that you will never hear about pro-active wellness again. Lions change people's lives for the better! I feel that this is one of the best ways to do that.

During the last couple of months, District Governor elect Jim Demaree and I have been planning for a smooth transition. I know that DGE Jim will have his own projects, however electronic communication will still be a high priority of his.

I have one last request for each club to consider. On Saturday, June 24, the annual Governor's Golf Tournament will be held at the Sauk Centre Country Club. Each club should consider having a group of 2, 3 or 4 people to represent them in the tournament. It will be fun-filled time that can be enjoyed by golfers or non-golfers alike. Proceeds will go towards Lions projects. Check out the registration form at the back of the newsletter!!!

The journey that Judy and I embarked on last July left us, at times, wondering what we had gotten ourselves into. It was not very far into that journey that the wonder was replaced by excitement and anticipation at each turn in journey's trail. It is the Lions members of this District that have provided a smooth road for us to travel on. Along the way we have met some truly remarkable and dedicated Lions who live each day with the anticipation of being able to help others. These are Lions who know that they are doing things that... **help people change their lives for the better everyday!!! By doing so they have created their own ...FANTASTIC JOURNEY!**

DG Kent

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST

VDG JIM DEMAREE

Greetings from Alexandria! Yes, Marge & I have moved! I sent out a batch of e-mails to people in my computer address book but if you are not in there or I missed you, our new address is 1415 Lake Street #125, Alexandria, MN 56308. Our new land line phone number is 320-763-4546. Our cell phone number remains the same – 320-226-1752. Our e-mail will also remain the same – jmdemaree@maxminn.com.

It feels strange to be writing my last column as Vice District Governor. It seems that I just finished the first one and now a year has gone by. It has been a terrific year with lots of travel to club and zone meetings, the Forum, Council meetings and conventions. It has been a ball! DG Kent and his group of fellow DG's have been the best mentors that anyone could ask for. I hope that our group can do that well for VDGE Deb and her group.

I am still searching for one individual for a cabinet position. The Liberty Day Chair remains open for anyone who is interested. My feeling is that the ideal candidate would be a retired educator or someone with a political or military background. The person should be able to spend an occasional few hours to call on a local Lions club or school to promote the program. A patriotic frame of mind is a must! If you would want more info, please feel free to call Grace Molenaar at 320-978-6771. Grace has done a great job with this program for several years but needs to resign due to other commitments.

Looking ahead, the first cabinet meeting of the year will be held in Alexandria on **August 5, 2006**. Cabinet members – **please mark your calendars for that date!** Details on time and place will be mailed at a later time. Also, any info that anyone wants in the July newsletter, please get it to me as soon as possible. We will be leaving for Boston on June 22 and won't be back till July 5, so we will be pushed for time on the first issue.

At this time, I would also like to thank everyone that has accepted a spot on my cabinet. There are some very big jobs to do in our organization and I appreciate the commitment that you have made with your time and talents. I will do my best to try to be good leader so as to make your jobs rewarding.

I am accepting dates for club visits for next year. If you have a special time or meeting that you like to have the District Governor visit, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, I'm not fussy about the setting for my visits. If you would like me to make my visit during your family picnic or steak fry during July or August, please contact me. I want to make as many of my visits before winter sets in as possible. I have 13 clubs booked at this time so the schedule is starting to fill.

Have you thought about asking someone to join Lions today?

100 Years Young

John Peterson, a member of the Willmar Noon Lions, recently reached a milestone few people attain--the age of 100!

May 7th he celebrated his birthday at Bethel Church in Willmar with over 240 people in attendance. The mayor even declared May 7th, 'John Peterson Day'.

John has been an active member of the Willmar Noon Lions for more than 30 years, driving himself to the Willmar Area Senior Citizens Center for the meeting every Wednesday.

In 2004, he received the Helen Keller award.

Congratulations John, and may you enjoy many more years as a Lion making people's lives better every day!

5M Liquor Liability Insurance Program

By Burdell Wessels, PDG

Effective with the June 30, 2006, policy period, we will be changing Insurance Agents and Company.

The new agency will be The Hendrickson Agency Inc., 6400 Flying Cloud Drive, #160, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, phone number 952/903-2341 (Ronnie); fax 952/903-2395 or www.hendricksonagency.com.

The Insurance Company is Colony Insurance Company, AM Best Rating AVIII. Limit \$1,000,000 2,000,000 aggregate per Club Includes, Members, Lioness and Volunteers as additional insureds. Annual Premium \$741.50 This includes up to 5 additional Insureds per Club, such as City of -----, etc., above that there will be an additional charge.

We have three anniversary dates; June 30, October 31, and January 1st. This has been approved by the Council of Governors at the MD5M Convention in Rochester. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 952/934-1762.

Clubs that have renewals coming up, will receive a letter regard their renewal. Don't send your renewal to Corporate 4 Agency as they will no longer be an approved program after your expiration date.



Hall of Fame Award winner PDG John Nyquist from Danube received his plaque from District Governor Kent Beissel at the Officer's Training Seminar in Olivia May 20th. Congratulations, John. You have served District 5M4 well.



Accepting the Hall of Fame postumus award was the family of Tom Kane, a member of the Sauk Centre Lions Club. Pictured from left are District Governor Kent Beissel, John Kane, Ann Neubert, Claren Kane (sister), Paul Kane and Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Zimmerman.



A little ice breaker at the Officer's Training Seminar. Teams had to use specific materials to construct a chair on which one of the members could sit. Many laughs were had by all.

ATTENTION

(Potential Lions Leaders)

SENIOR LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The next Senior Lions Leadership Institute will be offered in Columbus, Ohio from September 17-21, 2006. This is right after the USA/Canada Forum which will be held from September 14-16. Lions in good standing that have completed a successful term as club president, but have not yet attained the position of vice district governor and Lions who are zone chairpersons are encouraged to apply to this institute.

If you are interested in the Leadership skills offered at this institute, you can access the application packet on the Lions web site at www.lionsclubs.org or contact DG Kent Beissel at 320/352-3482 or kjbeissel@mainstreetcom.com for a copy.

Completed forms must be returned to LCI by **August 11, 2006.**

SUPPORT THE BAND

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

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. To date, only a little more than \$20,327 has been raised. **Has your club made a donation to this cause?**

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

On the 5M4 Trail With DG Kent

June 24--District Golf Tournament Sauk Centre CC
June 29-July 4 International Convention-Boston

Thoughts About Membership and Retention

The following information was taken from the group discussion at the District Officer Training seminar in Olivia.

MEMBERSHIP

- *Get two new members at a time.
- *Contact your friends.
- *Invite 2 to join who know each other.
- *Speak to other organizations about Lions.
- *Blow our own horns--use the media in your town.
- *New member has to bring in a new member within a year.
- *Have membership night with a speaker.
- *Have more fun!
- *Create a brochure--who we are, what we do.
- *Recognition of a job well done--say thank-you.
- *Sponsor and mentor new member for a year.
- *Contact a prospective member more than once.

RETENTION

- *Include people at meetings. Call absent members.
- *Run efficient meetings.
- *Resolve conflict quickly.
- *Break up cliques.
- *Don't overload members, but keep them involved.
- *Greet members at the door.
- *Call or e-mail all members prior to the meeting.
- *Have a special new member installation.
- *Try to find a friend of a newly widowed person to join.
- *Remove negative voices from the membership.
- *The sponsor should pick up the new member.
- *Have a quarterly social event.

A huge 'Thank-you' goes out to Lion Lori Sheehan for the tremendous job she did in organizing the Training Seminar in Olivia, and to all the people who shared their experiences or knowledge with the group.

Why Campaign SightFirst II?

Onchocerciasis (River Blindness) is an infection caused by a parasite called *onchocerca volvulus* (worm), spread by the bite of a black fly. River Blindness is most intense in remote, rural villages, near rapidly flowing streams where these flies breed and pester workers in Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Yemen and 30 countries of Africa. These flies are more than just a nuisance. Their bites infect these regions' people with a parasitic worm whose offspring swarm through the body, causing intense itching, and skin discoloration. When an adult or child sustains a large number of infectious bites, blindness almost always occurs. Thankfully, an oral drug called Ivermectin (Mectizan R) protects people from the pain, disfigurement, and resulting blindness of these bites.

YOUR CLUB CAN HELP:

Through personal gifts and club campaigns, US\$5,000 can provide sight-saving immunization treatments for a village of 1,000 people.

Campaign Update

- More than US\$40 million raised to date
- 33 Lead Gifts of US\$100,000 or more
- Nearly 1,200 Clubs have volunteered to lead the way as Model Clubs
- Nearly 6,800 district and group coordinators have been recruited and trained

It is hard to believe Lions year 2005-2006 is coming to a close! Together, Lions have accomplished much. Just one year ago, Campaign SightFirst II had raised little more than US\$4 million of its US\$150 million goal. Today, through personal gifts and club campaigns, more than US\$40 million has been raised by Lions to fight preventable blindness around the globe. For your support of CSFII, I thank you. The next Lions year will be critical to the ultimate success of CSFII. I ask for your continued support.

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

Be sure to designate
"Campaign SightFirst II"
when sending in funds raised.

Many Thanks for a Wonderful Year

As this Lions' year draws to a close it is appropriate that I take time to thank the large number of individuals and Lions who made it such a great experience.

To start with I want to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the only non-Lion among the group. This is my wife Judy. This governorship has been a journey the two of us have traveled together. She has been there to help with all the tasks that have come along--the major task being the writing of this monthly newsletter. All of you who have had the opportunity to meet her, during club visits, know what an asset she has been. She has been much more than my "partner in service". More like the "glue" that held the whole operation together. **Thank you! WBOL**

Next comes Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Zimmerman. If Judy is the glue, then Dennis is the concrete. He has been my friend, mentor and sounding board for lots of decisions that had to be made. His organizational skills have made this District operate at a very high level of efficiency. **Thanks, PDG Dennis!**

To the Sauk Centre Lions Club members I offer a very special thank you. First, for your endorsement and secondly the continued help and support along the way. **I am happy and proud to be a part of this fine group of Lions.**

Thank you so much to those dedicated Lions who agreed to serve on the Cabinet. There are way too many to name them individually, however I can never thank them enough for all the time that they have given in helping with the operation of the District. Many of the jobs that the Cabinet members accept are not easy nor are they very high exposure. These individuals do their jobs and their only reward is knowing that they are helping less fortunate people make their lives better. Cabinet members are a perfect example of the people I'm talking about when I say, "It's not about us, it's about the people we help". **Thanks to each and everyone of you.**

Finally, to all of you Lions, Lioness and Leos of 5M4. This has been, at times, a daunting job, but all of the 1650 plus of you, have done your part to make that job easier in so many ways. We don't very often get rewarded for the work that we do. With all of your help and encouragement this year, I feel I have been rewarded 1,000 times over. **Hopefully, this public thank you will help you also feel rewarded for a job well done!**

Keep pedaling on the trail to success.

DG Kent



Top to bottom: Lions from Buffalo Lake and Fairfax clubs, Willmar Evening Lions and spouses, DGE Jim and Marge Demaree bagging food for 'Kids Against Hunger' and VDGE Deb and MD5M Executive Secretary Bob Harms at the 5M4 Sunday morning brunch.



5th Annual Lions 5M4
District Governor's Golf Tournament
Saturday, June 24, 2006
 Sauk Centre Country Club
 606 Country Club Road
 Sauk Centre, MN



SCHEDULE

9:00-11:00 am Practice area available
 11:00-11:45 am Registration and Check-in at the Clubhouse
12:00 NOON Shotgun Start
 5:00-6:00 pm Steak Dinner
 6:00 pm Program and Awards
 6:30 pm Texas Hold'em for those interested in playing

REGISTRATION FORM

Number of Golf Entrants _____ Number of Guest Meals _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Sauk Centre Lions Club**
 Send to: Bryan Olson
 11966 Bluegill Drive
 Sauk Centre, MN 56378

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- **4-person** scramble format (men and women Lions and guests). Minimum of 1 Lion per foursome.
- **\$50** per person entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, 1/2 cart, donation, prizes, and steak dinner.
- **Prizes** awarded to the top 4 teams.
- **Hole sponsorships** are available at \$100 per individual, club or business and are limited to 36 locations on the course. Sponsors can mail a tax deductible check to: **Lions 5M4 c/o Lion Bryan Olson**
- **Proceeds** support DG Kent's designated charities--Kids Against Hunger, Camp Needlepoint and Leader Dogs for the Blind.
- **Guest meals** available for \$15.
- **Registration** deadline is June 16, 2006.
- **Contact** Lion Bryan Olson at 320/352-2152 for more information

1. _____
 Name

Address

City State Zip Phone

2. _____
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