



On the Trail of 5M4



Kent Beissel District Governor

Vol. I No. 8

March, 2006

Spring Preparation

Spring must be right around the corner. Judy made that comment to me just the other day as we were traveling to a club visit. We left Sauk Centre in daylight and traveled 90+ miles and arrived at our destination with some light still left in the west. Back in December we departed and arrived in the dark.

With the thoughts of spring in the air, lots of Lions issues need to be taken care of at this all-important time of the year. This is a time to look back at all that your club and you, personally, have accomplished this Lions' year. In order to insure another successful year, preparations need to be completed for that to happen--the first being club elections. Keep in mind that these club elections **MUST** be completed and the results reported before May 31. If this is not done in a timely manner, all mail or internet communication with club officers, either by the District or Lions International cannot happen. It would be similar to changing your own home address and not notifying anyone and then later wondering why you are not getting any mail. If your new club officers postpone taking over until sometime after July 1, that is okay, but the club elections must be done in the spring and reported on the PU 101 form.

With the completion of the elections, the next spring ritual is to make sure those officers are properly oriented for their jobs. The District's Leadership Chairperson, Lion Lori Sheehan, is planning Officer Training for May 20th. Zone chairs will have specific information to share with the clubs very shortly. It is extremely important to get this club officer training to insure that the officers, new or old, are kept up-to-date on how to carry out the functions of their jobs. (Yes, that means even those club secretaries that have done their job for 15 years. Old dogs can learn new tricks!)

Many times this year when a communication or billing problem arose within a club, the cause was that the club did not have timely elections and/or had untrained officers. The training and travel will take a few hours of time, but it will make the job that you were elected to do so much easier and rewarding.

By now most of you have either heard or read about President Mehta's growth program called **Plus One**. We are now into the second half of the Lions' year and I am very pleased that District 5M-4 is one of the few districts that have a **plus** membership growth for this year. That is a feather in the caps of many clubs. It takes a lot of effort to get good members, but more importantly is that it takes even more effort to **keep** those members. Remember to welcome those new members by giving them a role in the club activities, and orienting them to how the local club works and the Lions activities that go beyond your city's borders. In other words, show them what it means to be a Lion. As International Director Roy Barnette stated at our Midwinter Convention, "*Lions don't have problems getting new members. Lions have problems keeping them from walking out the back door*". We are all responsible for membership growth. Our only job then to keep membership growing is to **JUST ASK**. When you are asked by a prospective Lion, "What do Lions do?" Your answer should be, "*We change peoples lives for the better everyday*".

With the smell of spring in the air, we as Minnesotans know that means the start of new and renewed life in nature. It also means that Lions are preparing for a new Lions year. Just like in nature we need to do a good job of soil preparation to insure a good crop and so it is with Lions. Good spring preparation, club elections and club officer training will insure a successful Lions year!

DG Kent



NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST

VDG JIM DEMAREE

Our 2006 Mid-Winter Conventions are history! Our own convention was a rousing success with fine programs and great attendance. Congratulations go out to DG Kent, his better half, Judy, CC Brian Sheehan and PCC Keith Johnson for putting on a great show! And to everyone else who was in any way involved in the planning and execution of this fine event. Marge and I attended five other conventions this winter and while they were all good and a lot of fun, our convention can hold its head high and say that it is as good as any.

I want to personally thank Lion Merrie Bertrand and her husband Tim for chairing my hospitality room. Also to my family for helping decorate and work during the open hours. Other thank you's go to Lions Dave Jensen, Gregg Cunningham, Marty Athmann, Ryan Rustan and Lori Sheehan for their work in helping present the seminar on the Leadership Institute. And to everyone who attended the seminar "What's wrong/right with this Club" - without your participation, it wouldn't have worked.

I am presently in the process of putting together the District Cabinet for the 2006-2007 Lions year. At this time, I have about half of the positions filled and am either waiting for answers or still searching for the rest. To all of you female Lions out there, I would really like to increase the number of women on my Cabinet but don't know which of you may be interested. If you want to be on the cabinet, please give me a call.

We, as a district, need to all give Vice District Governor Elect Deb Harms a huge thank you for stepping forward and taking the VDG job for 2006-2007. In addition to being friends of Deb and husband Bob for many years, we absolutely could not ask for a better or more well qualified person to do the job. I look forward to serving with her as she moves through the chairs over the coming years.

While we are on the subject of Vice District Governor, I know that there are several Lions out there who are planning to run for office in the next few years. If it would be possible for you to set a goal as to when you want to run, please let DG Kent or me know your intentions. It would be to your advantage as well as ours as we could probably line up candidates for a few years in advance. In 5M13, they have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd VDG so they know for several years in advance who the Dist. Gov. will be. Also, knowing your intentions would give all of us the opportunity to assist you in preparing for the office.

Please keep in mind the Plus 1 program. Ask that person that you sit by on the church board, the city council or the township board to be a Lion. They already know about volunteering!



Mark your calendars now! The USA/Canada Leadership Forum will be held in Columbus, Ohio on **September 14 – 16, 2006**. Go experience Columbus and "Discover a New World of Leadership and Service".

If you have attended a USA/Canada Leadership Forum in the past, you already know about the wonderful seminars, fantastic speakers, and the opportunity to meet many new Lions friends. If you have not attended a Leadership Forum, please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to attend some of over 60 different seminars being offered. Some of the seminars to select from are membership recruitment, officer training, fund raising ideas, service activities, and many more.

Some wonderful featured speakers will also be there. These speakers are Tom Krause, Connie Podesta, Sam Glenn, and John Cassis. These speakers are entertaining, inspirational, and motivational.

The registration fee for a Lions member/nonmember is \$ 195.00 before June 30, 2006, and after June 30 it is \$ 210.00. The registration fee for a Leo is \$ 100.00 before June 30, and \$ 105.00 after June 30. All attendees must pay full registration fee to participate in any of the meals or seminars. Individual meal function tickets will not be available. Also, a \$ 100 hotel deposit is required.

The Forum store will offer Lions clothing, jewelry and accessories, all in one location.

The City of Columbus is a modern city offering performing and visual arts including touring Broadway performances, professional ballet, symphony, opera and many museums. Columbus has hockey, soccer, football, and the Jack Nicklaus museum. It also has more shopping space per capita than New York City!!

As Geri Drabek, Registrar for the USA/Canada Leadership Forum says, "The more Lions who attend, the better the service will be in all communities served by Lions clubs."

For additional information or registration forms, please contact Marcia Gilman, District USA/Canada Leadership Forum chairperson (member of Morris Lions Club) or your local club president.

Thorfinnson for Int'l 2nd VP Campaign

Rally for Ross in Rochester!!!



April 28-30, 2006 is the weekend for the 5M Multiple Convention in Rochester, MN. It is also the place where Lion Ross Thorfinnson's campaign for 2nd International VP will get a jump start with a rally. Music provided by a Dixie band and a silent auction will be part of the rally Saturday morning. The blue shirts, that will be our multiple uniform in upcoming conventions, will also be available for sale. The Lions of MD5M can come together and support Ross and Lynda and have a great time!

The campaign committee is asking for donated items for the silent auction. Clubs and/or individuals that would like to donate an item can contact PDG Julie Carlblom 507-365-8073, julie@epmsoft.com or Mary Ferleman 507-373-8702, tomar73@charter.net. We thank you in advance for you donations.

The multiple convention is a good place to meet Lions from Minnesota, Manitoba, and NW Ontario and learn what we can do in Lions through seminars, speakers, etc. There is still time to register. Your club president or district governor can give you the information/forms needed to register. Bring along a fellow Lion who has never been to a multiple convention. Come and meet Ross and Lynda Thorfinnson. Have fun!!

While you are registering for the multiple convention, please consider the International Convention in Boston at the end of June. 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.

MD5M Convention Tentative Schedule Rochester, MN

Friday, 4/28

7:00 a.m. DG Council Meeting McDonnell Suite
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration North Hall
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm Credentials North Hall
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. VDGE Training Legion Suite
3:00 p.m. Opening Business Meeting Exhibit I and II
5:30 p.m. PDG's Reception Exhibit III
8:00 p.m. Memorial Service Auditorium
9:00 p.m. Social and Entertainment Exhibit IV

Saturday 4/29

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Silent Auction Exhibit IV
7:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast and 2nd VP Campaign Rally, Exhibit IV
7:00 a.m. – noon Registration / Credentials North Hall
8:30 – 11:30 a. **Concurrent seminars**
12:00 – 1:45 Lunch Exhibit IV
2:00 -- 5:00 p.m. Business Meeting Exhibit I and II
6:00 p.m. Cash Bar Prior to Banquet North Hall
7:00 p.m. Banquet Past Int'l Pres. Jim Ervin, Exhibit IV
9:00 p.m.-- 10:00p.m. Entertainment Exhibit IV

Sunday 4/30

7:30 a.m. PDG Meeting McDonnell Suite
8:30 a.m. International Convention Information Meeting Legion Suite
9:30 a.m. Sunday Brunch Exhibit IV

Attention all Lions: There is an absolute Registration deadline of Saturday, April 22. If we receive your registration after that date, we MAY NOT be able to accommodate any meal requests. The registration form is on p. 5 of this newsletter.



Schedule Your Club Elections Today!

Congratulations.....

Sue Martin, Emily Schmeling
and Ed Hacker--new members of
the Cosmos Lions Club.

Gail Bach--Helen Keller
Award winner from Cedar Mills
Lions Club.

On the 5M4 Trail With DG Kent

Mar. 13 Ashby Club visit
 Mar. 14 Olivia Club visit
 Mar. 17, 18 Council of Governors meeting--Roseville
 Mar. 21 Forada Club visit
 Mar. 27 Carlos Club visit
 Mar. 31 Cabinet Meeting, Willmar, Green Mill 7:00pm
 Apr. 3 Montevideo's 60th Anniversary
 Apr. 19 Appleton Club visit
 Apr. 28-30 MD5M Convention--Rochester
 May 20 Officer's Training School



From the International President

Tackling the unknown, stepping outside ones' comfort zone, small steps can take you far. These are all sayings that ask us to do something outside of our normal routine. We all know a Lion who fits one of these phrases. It is hard to image how we can change the world, but we all know Lions who do. We marvel at their commitment to giving back to the community. We appreciate the sacrifices that they make. Sometimes these Lions use their vacations to volunteer their time and energy to helping others. Sometimes it is their dedication to regularly visiting the elderly at the local retirement home, making lunches for the homeless, volunteering to teach, going on medical missions, and there are many more examples. These Lions don't ask for recognition, they prefer to just perform their service, to make a difference in their own way. I want to know more about their story. Please write to me with the story of a Lion who inspires you.

Plus One membership growth is the association's focus for this fiscal year. Many clubs have embraced this goal: membership adds to existing clubs are up compared to the last three years and drops are decreasing. Are the clubs in your district part of this trend? Please help the association to achieve its goal of providing more services to each of our communities by adding more hands to serve. As it is often said: Joining a health club isn't going to keep you healthy... just as talking about inviting one new member will make it happen... **you need to get out and do it.**

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



Club Activities

Brandon Lions Club
Third Annual BINGO Party
Sunday, March 19th 6:30 pm
Sunday, March 26th 6:30 pm
Brandon Auditorium
All proceeds benefit Brandon-Evansville
Lions Dollars for Scholars
scholarship fund

The Lions of
 Atwater, Cosmos and Grove City
 are sponsoring

The Main Street Opry Musical Review

on
 Saturday, April 8, 2006
 ACGC High School in Grove City
 Doors open at 6:00 P.M.
 Advance tickets \$12,
 At the door \$14

All proceeds benefit ACGC school
 programs

Lions Clubs Night with the
 Timberwolves

Friday, April 7, 2006

Timberwolves vs. Jazz
 Make it a family night out!!

\$10 from every ticket will go to
 Lions Eye Bank and Children's
 Hearing Projects

Second level sideline seats \$40
 Second level corner/end seats \$24
 contact: Travis Hamre 612.673.1689
 hamre@timberwolves.com



87th Multiple District 5M Convention
April 28, 29 and 30
Mayo Civic Center
Rochester, MN
Hosted by Rochester Lions



Registration Form
Please print

Club name _____

Name _____ Title (Circle One) Lion / Lioness / Leo / Spouse / Speaker / Guest

Spouse/Guest Name _____ Title (Circle One) Lion / Lioness / Leo / Spouse / Speaker / Guest

Address _____ City _____ State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Special Needs? _____ First Timer? Y/N _____

Complete Hospitality Book (Friday Social, Saturday Breakfast, Lunch and Banquet, Sunday Brunch)

Meal Plan Options
Registrations Must be Received by April 21, 2006

Registration Received AFTER March 1, 2006

Item	Number	Cost	Total
Hospitality Book		US\$75.00	
Friday Social		US\$10.00	
Saturday Breakfast		US\$15.00	
Saturday Luncheon		US\$15.00	
Saturday Banquet		US\$25.00	
Sunday Brunch		US\$15.00	
			Total Submitted

Make checks payable to MD5M 2006 Convention Fund

Mail registrations to: PDG Vern Dockter

3209 Knoll Lane NW
 Rochester, MN 55901

Telephone 507-281-5786

Email: vjdockter@charter.net

Cancellations accepted prior to April 10, 2006. (\$20.00 fee for cancellations)