



# On the Trail of 5M4



Kent Beissel District Governor

Vol. I No. 3

October, 2005

October 1, 2005.... As of today exactly one-fourth of the Lions' year is already past. It seems like only a short time ago that we were in Hong Kong on July 1, the official start of the Lions year. With that in mind, a brief "quarterly report" and update is in order.

Since Lions President Mehta has a strong initiative for club and **membership** growth, it is only fitting that we start there. His program, "**PLUS ONE**" is well underway. My latest reports from Lions Clubs International show District 5M4 on the plus side of the membership ledger. Not by a whole lot, but we have gotten in more new members than the ones we have lost. That is a GREAT start! Thank you to those of you who have made that effort to bring in a new member. For those of you still thinking about it. **JUST DO IT!!!**

*FACT: 80% of people who are asked to join a new Lions club have never been approached before to join the Lions.* **PLUS ONE** is an easily attainable goal if we all do our part.

**LCIF** has been a busy place in the past nine months. Total amounts of relief for the December 2004 tsunami from Lions clubs and LCIF relief funds have gone over \$15 million--two million dollars from **LCIF** relief fund and \$13 million from individual club donations. The situation is quite different with the hurricanes here in the U.S. because the people who need the help are spread far and wide and this includes the Lions who may be requesting the help or some of those in need. Because of this unique situation not a whole lot of funds, in large amounts, have been requested yet. At this time \$200,000 from the LCIF reserve fund has been allocated along with several \$10,000 grants that are the result of individual Districts' requests. Remember that if your club wants to make a donation it should be sent to **LCIF chair Ron Branch**. When it is done that way he will have a total of donations here in the district. This will assist him in tracking the amounts that are contributed from 5M4. If the contributions are made in \$1000 increments they are eligible for a Melvin Jones award.

Has your club gotten their request in for the **Peace Poster** kit yet? You have time, but not much, since the students' work needs to be sent in by November 15. This is a great program to get the youth involved. What better way to promote and look to the future of Lions!

As you will see as you page through the newsletter there is a **Midwinter Convention** registration form included. Get that taken care of as soon as possible. There are some "Early Bird" dates that you

want to take advantage of.

Registrations in by December 15 will save quite a lot of money. The PDG's of the District will be making a visit to your clubs in the very near future to explain the details of the convention. There are lots of interesting seminars and speakers lined up at this time.

October is the start of **World Service Days**. What does your club have planned? Send the newsletter editor a report of your club's service project so it can be shared with the rest of the district.

I know the next quarter will go along equally as fast, or if it is possible, even faster. Judy and I are looking forward to our visits with the clubs in the district. We have had several at this time and have thoroughly enjoyed our time spent visiting with fellow Lions and hearing about all of the good things happening in our District. Keep up all of the good work that you are doing each day to help people make their lives better!

## On the 5M4 Trail With DG Kent

- Oct. 1 Start of World Service Days
- Oct. 10 Alexandria Evening Club visitation
- Oct. 12 Sauk Centre Club visitation
- Oct. 12-14 VDG training--Mahnomon
- Oct. 14-15 Council of Governor's meeting--Mahnomon
- Oct. 15 Diabetes Expo--Minneapolis Convention Center
- Oct. 17 Osakis Club visitation
- Oct. 19 Glenwood Club visitation
- Oct. 20 Alexandria Sunrise visitation
- Oct. 22 5M4 second Cabinet meeting--Lakeside Inn, Glenwood
- Oct. 29 Thanksgiving for Vision--Minneapolis
- Oct. 31 **Happy Halloween**
- Nov. 3 Kerkhoven/Pennock Clubs visitation
- Nov. 4-8 Deer hunt!
- Nov. 9 Wheaton Club visitation
- Nov. 10 Danube, Renville, Maynard, Sacred Heart Clubs visit
- Nov. 14 Litchfield Club visitation
- Nov. 15 Spicer Sunrise Club visitation
- Nov. 17 Raymond/Clara City Clubs visitation
- Nov. 21 Starbuck Club visitation
- Nov. 22 Franklin/Morton Clubs visitation
- Nov. 24 Happy Thanksgiving
- Jan. 27-29 Mid-Winter Convention  
Alexandria Holiday Inn



## NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST

VDG JIM DEMAREE

Among the other duties of the Vice District Governor, I also find myself chairperson of the MERLO team. These five Lions stand ready and able to help you in their area of expertise if you need or want their help. The following paragraphs will describe their jobs and you will know who to call with questions.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Richard Betlach. If you should decide to put on a membership drive and need some new ideas, Rich is the person to call. A large membership doesn't necessarily make a good club but if you are finding that you have more work than your present membership can handle, contact Rich to come to your club and present a program.

**EXTENTION** – Don Clauson. Does that neighboring community need a Lions Club? Or does your town need a second or third club that would meet at a different time? If so, contact Don for his help. He will go into that community and sign up members for that new club. Branch clubs are also a way to expand and Don can also help you with that.

**RETENTION** – Deb Harms. If your club has members dropping out faster than you can sign them up, it may be time to contact Deb. She will come to your club and present some ideas to prevent the flow out the back door. Deb also has held this job for a while and like the rest of the team has had training in her field. She presents a very good program which your whole club will enjoy.

**LEADERSHIP** – Lori Sheehan. Lori also has been trained to help any individual or club with leadership roles. She has put together a Power Point presentation that covers most if not all club office positions. Her program may be a little better suited to a Zone Meeting as it is aimed more toward presidents, secretaries, etc. I would encourage Zone Chairs to try to get her to your meeting.

**ORIENTATION** – Ed Holst. If you don't get caught up in PDG Ed's enthusiasm during his orientation program, there is frankly no hope. He has a 20 minute Power Point show that I feel is the best I have ever seen. Lion Lori Sheehan lent him some of her technical expertise in putting this together and it is fantastic! It doesn't matter if you have been a Lion for 20 years, I'll bet that you will learn something new in his presentation. Give Ed a call for a truly interesting program.

I have used up my space for this month. Next month I will relate a little bit about the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum that we recently attended in Peoria IL.

As PID Vern Seipkes always said "There's a lot to do out there, so let's get at it."

## Club Activities

**LIONS--helping people make their lives better every day.**

- Alex Golden Brothers--road clean-up
- Atwater--34 people spent 650 hours working the Threshing Show
- Benson--awarded "Year Around Growth" patch for 5 new members in June
- Brandon--one member attended workshop to learn the operation of Diabetes, Vision and Hearing machines
- Clara City--Donated \$100 for "Support the Troops" T-shirts
- Cosmos--\$400 scholarship donation
- Danube--participated in Diabetes screening
- Franklin--contributed \$500 to Katrina Relief fund
- Kingston--contributed \$1000 to Katrina Relief fund
- Litchfield--donated \$350 toward child with cochlear implant
- Lowry--donated \$100 to Katrina Relief fund
- Montevideo--5 members cleaned road ditches
- New London--contributed \$300 for trees at New London schools
- Osakis--donated \$150 to "Sew Much Comfort" clothing for Iraqi wounded
- Raymond--helped put on Harvest Festival
- Sauk Centre--sent two members to workshop to learn the operation of Diabetes, Vision & Hearing machines
- Starbuck--5 members worked for Habitat for Humanity
- Watson--provided a bus tour for Senior Citizens around Lac Qui Parle Lake
- Hector Lioness--donated \$50 to Hector Youth Center



VDG Jim and Marge Demaree at the USA/Canada Leadership Forum in Peoria

## Diabetes Training a Great Success

by PDG Woody Dokken

A training session for the new screening equipment was held on Thursday, September 22. A group of 25 volunteers attended this session which was held at the Village Inn in Glenwood.

All in attendance were given hands-on training on the new vision, hearing and A1c screening equipment. The instructors were Matt Williams of Medical Technologies--the supplier of the vision and hearing equipment, and Phil Hansen who is the head of all labs associated with ACMC in Willmar.

I was most pleased with the enthusiastic response to our new program. Everyone there was excited about the new venture and are eagerly awaiting the chance to work with clubs that intend to sponsor a screening in their community. In fact, the attendees from Madison took the equipment home with them and conducted a screening the following Sunday at their fly-in breakfast.

I am very thankful for all those who volunteered for this program and most delighted by the enthusiasm displayed by them at the training session. This new venture cannot help but be a success with such a grand start. I've dreamed about this new program for quite awhile and am so happy to see it get such a great start. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for this program will be given a chance to train again, hopefully at the Mid-Winter Convention.

Any club interested in conducting a screening should contact me and I will arrange to get the equipment and trainers to your event.

Thanks to all who attended and thanks to Matt and Phil for giving of their time to get us started on a sound basis. Thanks also to PDG Al Lalim for arranging the meeting at the Village Inn.

### Contact information:

PDG Woody Dokken  
210 20th St. S  
Benson, MN 56215  
320/843-3619  
woodydokke@charter.net



## The SightFirst Program

In the past 15 years, Lions have done more to prevent blindness and restore sight than in their previous 65 years as "knights of the blind". In a decade-and-a-half, Lions have prevented severe vision loss or restored sight to 24 million people--more than the combined population of New York and Tokyo.

## How is this possible?

SightFirst makes it possible. SightFirst's strategy of containing and eliminating the leading causes of blindness, creating sustainable eye-health systems, and training eye-care workers who will serve their communities for years to come, makes it extraordinarily effective and remarkably efficient. On average, US \$6 can save one person from a life of darkness. SightFirst has touched the lives of tens of millions around the globe. Through SightFirst, Lions are changing the world--and the world now looks to Lions as leaders in the international effort to combat preventable blindness.

## SightFirst Has...

- Prevented serious vision loss for 24 million
- Provided 65 million treatments for river blindness
- Awarded US \$175 million for 724 projects in 80 countries
- Restored sight to 4.6 million with cataracts
- Improved eye care services for hundreds of millions
- Built or expanded 258 eye hospitals and clinics
- Upgraded 300 eye centers with equipment
- Trained 68,000 ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses and other professional eye care workers
- Launched world's first initiative to combat childhood blindness in partnership with the World Health Organization. Thirty pediatric eye-care centers will be established.

## Thorfinnson for Int'l 2nd VP Campaign **"Just One" From Each Club**

If just one member from each club in multiple 5M attended the international convention, we would have over 600 voting delegates to support **Ross Thorfinnson** for International 2nd VP. The campaign committee's goal is to see at least **500** delegates at the 2006 international convention and **1,000** delegates at the 2007 convention in Chicago. Together these numbers seem overwhelming, but if we break it down by club, we can see that it is entirely possible to achieve our goal.

President Mehta's theme this year is "**Plus One**". The increase in membership would be dramatic if each member brought in just one new member and each district could add just one new club. In keeping with the theme of this year in Lionism of "**Plus One**" the committee would like to challenge each club to send just one member to the convention. The experience of marching with our fellow Lions during the parade and attending the plenary sessions is well worth the trip. The feeling of pride a person gains is tremendous as you realize that you are with so many other Lions from different countries that are working toward the same objective of helping the less fortunate people around the world.

The time to take advantage of the closeness of the international convention is now. The committee encourages you to plan on attending the conventions these two years. If that 'just one' member goes to the convention in 2006, then they will bring along a friend to Chicago in 2007.

Because of the damage done by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the 2006 International Convention has been relocated from New Orleans to **BOSTON**. Convention dates are June 30 to July 4. What a great time of the year to be in the birthplace of our nation's history! Join us in supporting Ross on his journey to the International Presidency of Lions Clubs International.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Kingston Lions Turkey Dinner**  
 Sunday, October 16th  
 Kingston Community Center  
 serving from 11:00-2:00  
 Adults \$7.00

**Your Club's upcoming events could be listed here! Send your information to the newsletter staff.**

Join us at the Mid-Winter Convention, January 27-29 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. You'll find a registration form on the last page of the newsletter.

## Join Us at the Mid-Winter Convention January 27-29

We are excited about the up-coming convention at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. Joining us that weekend will be International Director Roy Barnette and his wife, Barbara, from Columbia, South Carolina. A member of the Columbia Lions Club since 1973, Director Barnette has held many offices within the association, including club president, region chair, zone chair, vice-district governor, council chair and district governor. He has also served as president of the South Carolina Lions Eye Bank and president of the South Carolina Lions Charitable Services. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Lions Charitable Services Foundation.



In recognition of his service to the association he has received numerous awards, including the 100% Club President's Award, the club Lion of the Year Award, several President's Certificates of Appreciation, the 100% District Governor Award, the South Carolina Lion of the Year Award and the International President's Certificate of Appreciation. Director Barnette is a South Carolina Lions Hall of Fame inductee and South Carolina Lions Foundation patron. He is also a Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lion activities, Director Barnette is active in numerous professional and community organizations. He is an Eagle Scout, and was an assistant scoutmaster. He was previously president and a member of the Carolina Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association, little league baseball coach, youth league basketball coach, homeless shelter volunteer and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Development of the Historic Columbia Canal and Riverfront Park.

Director Barnette and his wife, Barbara, a member of the Columbia Northeast Lions Club, have four children and two grandchildren.



Whether you were a first time participant or one of the "Magnificent Seven", who have attended all 29 Forums, there was something for everyone. Obviously, following President Mehta's program, the theme of this forum was 'Passion to Excel'. During the 3 day event, there were a total of 65 seminars and/or speakers.

Our first encounter with the keynote speakers was usually at mealtime. Several of them followed their initial presentation with a seminar which followed the same theme but gave participants ideas on how to incorporate that theme into our everyday lives. Karyn Buxman's theme was "Wit Happens". Her talk was centered around the proper use of humor in presentations and everyday life. Her talk was lighthearted and full of quips we wished we'd had time to write down. One of her quotes does stand out, though. "A day isn't complete until you have laughed so hard the tears run down your legs!"

The USA/Canada Forum is a wonderful experience for any Lion, no matter what their status as a Lion might be.

Next year's forum will be held in Columbus, Ohio, from Sept. 14-16, 2006. The following year's sites are Grand Rapids, MI in 2007, Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 2008 and Memphis, Tennessee in 2009. Now is the time to make plans to attend.



Having a reunion. DG Kent, Past International Director Neesam Levi from Turkey and DG Lynn Farley of 5M5 at the Forum. Neesam was the trainer for the DGE's at the International Convention in Hong Kong.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Pork Medallion( ) Baked Chicken( )  
 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)

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### 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 ( if you don't select package)	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](http://www.5m4lions.org)

