



# The Lions' Roar

*March 2007 -- news for the Lions of MD5M*

## *50 Years Ago a Great Idea Was Born: Leos*

*by Jimmy M. Ross, President Lions Clubs International*

The International Association of Lions Clubs Youth is wasted on the young. I'm sure you've heard that saying. Well, I couldn't disagree more. Whoever first said that apparently didn't spend a lot of time around young people. They don't waste anything. They are full of energy, ideas and passion. Enter a room full of young people and you encounter a buzz saw of motion and purpose.

The great benefit of our Leo Clubs is that they harness the energy and ideals of young people and direct them toward service. As international president, it's very gratifying to travel the world and witness the achievements of our Leos. They visit with the elderly, clean up parks and highways and help build homes for the disabled. Their energy knows no bounds.

Leos are a wonderful addition to the Lions family. It is true that on the whole we need more young adults and middle-aged adults as Lions. But let's not forget what Leos bring to the equation. Thanks to the sponsorship of Lions, Leos are learning the value of service and helping improve their own communities.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Leo club. It's instructive to recall how the first Leo club was started. Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions, didn't issue a directive to involve young people in service. Nor did International Headquarters come up with the idea. A Lion in

Pennsylvania who was a baseball coach and mentor to young people asked his club to start a service club for high school boys. Lion Jim Graver believed the example set by Lions as well as their support could do wonders for youths.

Give Lion Jim credit for a "paradigm shift." He saw a need, a different way of doing things, and then he and his club rolled up their sleeves and made it happen. Maybe somewhere today a particularly active and effective Lion is just starting to respond to a need and perhaps 50 years from now Lions everywhere will be celebrating his or her insight and persistence in starting a new project or practice.

So let us celebrate the wonderful reality of Leo clubs. They provide youths with leadership skills and an outlet for community involvement. Let us also take our cue from the founding and growth of Leos. Good ideas have their own momentum. We Lions never want to tread water but need to ever move forward. That takes energy. But it also takes wisdom, something that we say comes with age. And that's a saying with which I agree

## *MD5M Convention News*

The Bird Island Lions Club invites you to the MD5M Convention May 18 – 20 in Willmar, Minnesota!

**YES YOU CAN REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION ONLINE**

Events include:

Friday PDG Reception, First Timers Orientation, Memorial Service  
Social with Little Big Band Entertainment

Saturday  
SightFirst II Rally Breakfast, Seminars, Noon

Luncheon, Business Meeting. Spouse Event and Banquet with Entertainment following

Sunday  
PDG Meeting and International Convention Meeting, Sunday Brunch  
And Much Much More

Leo Zone available  
Pin Traders  
Peace Poster Winners  
Educational Booths  
Motor Home Parking  
Bus transportation from participating Hotels

Come for a great Educational and social experience in Lions!

(You will need to make separate reservations for your room accommodations. There is a list on the website also)  
For more information, email PCC Brian Sheehan, MD5M Convention Committee Chair  
[bsheehan@rccbi.com](mailto:bsheehan@rccbi.com) .

***Register On-Line at  
WWW.LIONSMD5M.ORG***

### *Campaign SightFirst II News*

**Through SightFirst, Lions are changing the world. Lions' SightFirst program has saved or restored sight to 27 million people around the world and improved eyecare for more than 100 million people. Here are just a few of those people's stories:**

In Tapachula, Mexico, Estella Gonzales made her living as a seamstress sewing school uniforms each day, carefully following the seams with her sewing machine. Estella Gonzales did not make much money at her job, but what she earned clothed and fed her family.

However, unlike many of us, there was no access to an eye exam and more importantly no money for glasses. Through SightFirst, Lions were able to help Estella and her family. Her eyeglasses were provided by a SightFirst-funded eyeglass distribution center in her small village.

"I came to get an eye exam and eyeglasses from the Lions. I'm very thankful the Lions have given me these glasses," said Gonzales. "They will provide a better life for my family."

In Maryland, USA, Georgia Cawley's vision became so bad, that she was unable to read the bills, letters and other mail she received. The simple act of going to her mailbox everyday became a task she dreaded.

"It was terrible not being able to read the mail. Every day, I would go out to the mailbox and just hold this pile of papers and just had no idea what they said."

Because of Lions' vision, she received the low-vision assistance and technology to help her read and remain independent.

In Africa, Dukarui Otunno suffered from the blinding effects of trachoma. Repeated eye infections scarred the undersides of his eyelids, causing his eyelashes to turn in and scratch the delicate surface of his eyes. After years of this painful condition, his scarred eyes were gradually clouded.

Thanks to SightFirst, he received a sight-saving trichiasis surgery to reverse the effects of repeated and painful infections. Because of a SightFirst-funded trichiasis, he can see again, an experience he describes in such awe as "being reborn."

In India, Adabala Lakshmi Narasamha's world became foggy and blurred by cataract. Besides losing her independence, she could no longer see the young smiling face of her grandchild. Because of Lions and SightFirst, she received a cataract surgery that returned joy to her life. "I'm very happy to get back my eyesight, I can see clearly, like my early days. God bless the Lions for

the noble work they are doing.”

Cataract is responsible for nearly 50 percent of the world's blindness. Currently, 18 million people suffer from cataract. To date Lions have funded more than 7,000,000 cataract surgeries through the SightFirst program. The 7,000,000th cataract surgery occurred at a Lions' eye Hospital in Miraj, a town in the Sangli District in the Maharashtra State, on the west coast of India. The patient was Vasant Pandharinath Hawal, age 60, a local farmer by trade. He heard of the SightFirst cataract screening services when a publicity van for the hospital came to his town.

“Now I can read the newspaper again. My life is better because I see clearly again,” Hawal said. “Before the surgery, I was unable to do household work. I have Lions to thank for the restoration of my eyesight.”

## *Leader Dog trip update*

*By PDG Kay Elliott 5M5*

Lions: Just a note to tell the Multiple District that the bus trip to Leader Dog for the Blind and Lions International is full. We have 44 people who have signed up and we are in the midst of setting up the bus stops now. I wish to THANK all of the lions who helped get the message out about the trip. You did a great job. This is the third time that we tried to put together this trip, I think it was the charm. I want to say a special THANK YOU to DGE Allen Bailey for putting this in the multiple paper, and to all the Leader Dog chairs that worked to make a success of this. Another very special THANK YOU goes to Lion Bunny Tabatt of 5M8, Little Falls. She worked very hard on this and without her help this may not have happened. THANK YOU to all of you.

## *Increase eye glasses collections*

The Spicer Sunrise Lions of 5M4 offer these attractive, free-standing eye glasses

collection boxes for sale. Clubs in 5M4 report a dramatic increase in collections after placing the boxes in prominent sites in their communities.



Boxes pre-ordered by May 1st will be available for pick-up at the Multiple Convention in Willmar. Our box designer and artist will personalize your box with your club's name.

Proceeds of sale of these collection boxes benefit Sight First II and the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank.

For questions or to order email [jruter@hotmail.com](mailto:jruter@hotmail.com) (put "eye glasses collection box" in the subject line), call 320-796-2611, or send your \$75.00 check (per box) with your club's name to Lion Jean Ruter, 15090 57th ST NE, Spicer, MN 56288. Pre-payment is appreciated.

They plan to have boxes on display in their hospitality room at the MD5M convention.

## *New DGE's and VDGE's elected at district conventions*

A new slate of incoming District Governors and

Vice District Governors for 2007 - 2008 have been elected at their respective Midwinter conventions. Here is a list, in order by district, of those District Governor Elects and Vice District Governor elects:

5M1 - DGE Clair Mrotek; VDGE Ron Norton  
5M2 - DGE Mary Spille; VDGE Rick Wagener  
5M3 - DGE Virginia Spicer; VDGE Dan Snobl  
5M4 - DGE Deb Harms; VDGE Ken Harwick  
5M5 - DGE Roger Badenhop; VDGE Bernie Braegleman  
5M6 - DGE Dave Moen; VDGE Greg Langbehm  
5M7 - DGE Mary Ellen Storley; VDGE Jim Mulroy  
5M8 - DGE Allen Bailey; VDGE Judy Loken  
5M9 - DGE Annette Contos; VDGE Peter Van Erp  
5M10 - DGE Dick Briese; VDGE Gary Hutchison  
5M11 - DGE Ken Kolding; VDGE Craig Bohne  
5M13 - DGE John Fehr; VDGE Wayne Preston

Congratulations to all and best wishes for you in the coming year.

### *5M's Marching Band is selected for Chicago Convention* by PCC Keith Johnson

Winona Cotter is a small Catholic high school located in Winona, MN. The band, comprised of approximately 125 members (nearly 40% of the student body), is one of the cornerstones of the school.

If you or your club would like to support the band going to Chicago, please make your donations out to: Winona Cotter Marching Band and then send to MD5M Exec Sec. Bob Harms. 72530 CSAH 27 Dassel, MN 55325-2804.

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### *Newsletter Contest winner*

Congratulations to Lion Rita Hennen of the Cold Spring Home Pride Lions Club. Lion Rita correctly

identified the exclamation point used incorrectly on page 5 of the February newsletter. Lion Rita's name was randomly drawn from the correct guesses to win this month's prize.

For winning the February newsletter contest, Lion Rita receives a stuffed roaring lion. Congratulations and thank you for reading The Lions' Roar MD5M Newsletter.

To qualify for the random drawing of the correct guesses, you must email me back with the location of the exclamation point that is used incorrectly.

*Look for it in this issue and get your entry in today.*

Email your entry to: [atbailey@hcctel.net](mailto:atbailey@hcctel.net)

Publisher reserves the right to substitute prizes, if needed, for monthly contest.

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### *Important Dates to remember*

March 14 - 16, 2007 District Governor Elect Training - Roseville, Minnesota  
March 17, 2007 - Council of Governors meeting - Roseville, Minnesota  
April 12 - 15, 2007 MD5M Regional Leadership Institute - Mahanomen, Minnesota  
May 18 - 20, 2007 - MD5M Convention - Willmar, Minnesota  
July 2 - 6, 2007 - International Convention - Chicago, Illinois

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### *The Last Word*

*If your club, district or other Lions project has something going on you feel should be in the MD5M Newsletter, send all the info to [atbailey@hcctel.net](mailto:atbailey@hcctel.net) and I'll get it in the newsletter for Lions across the Multiple District to read about.*