



The Lions' Roar

January 2010 -- news for the Lions of MD5M

Special Message from the President on Lions Haiti Relief Efforts

Dear Lions of the World,

It is with great sadness that the world's attention is focused on the devastating earthquakes in Haiti that left 1.5 million homeless, up to 200,000 dead, and countless injured and traumatized. It will take years for the country to fully recover, but we know that Lions will be there every step of the way.

Just like Lions have done with the South Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the Sichuan earthquake in China and other calamities, Lions and LCIF will be there for the both the short- and long-term – providing immediate aid now but also working to rebuild communities, to restore hope and to support those affected for as long as it takes.

If there is one thing that makes Lions unique from other service agencies, it's that we commit for the long term and we work within the affected communities – through our local Lions – to rebuild for a better tomorrow. The Haitian Lions are our brothers and sisters, members of our international family, and we will never let them down.

As you are likely aware, Lions have already moved swiftly to provide immediate assistance despite the coordination challenges. Lions relief tents are being shipped from Sweden; Lions from Canada on a mission in Haiti during the quake gave first aid assistance during the first hours and days; and Lions in the Caribbean area are sending aid over land and by sea. Additionally, a coordinating committee of Lions in Haiti, Dominican Republic and nearby countries are actively planning for the next steps, and our foundation chairperson, Al Brandel, immediate past international president, will be traveling there to meet with them beginning tomorrow.

Naturally, the response by Lions to LCIF's Lions Hope for Haiti donation appeal has been tremendous. Within days, we have already mobilized more than US\$500,000. By the time you read this message, I am sure it will be even much, much more. But we'll need millions more if we are to help the country rebuild, to provide homes for the homeless, to rebuild schools for the children, to rehabilitate those left disabled, and to help heal so many shattered and broken hearts. So please donate what you can.

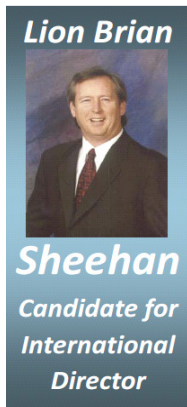
Lastly, I am extremely saddened to report that two of our Haitian Lions -- our family -- have perished and other Lions may have lost family members. On behalf of Lions the world over and members of our international board, we offer our sincere, heartfelt condolences and sympathies to our Lions family who have suffered such personal losses.

To our Lions family in Haiti, I commit to you that the Lions of the world will be there for you today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, the year after that – and again for as long as it takes.

There will be more updates from LCIF Chairperson Brandel in the days to come. Meanwhile read the [latest LCIF update](#) on Haiti, including information on how you can make a personal [online donation](#). I thank you all ahead of time for any further assistance you can provide.

Committee to Elect PCC Brian Sheehan
Candidate for International Director

Elect PCC Brian Sheehan for MD5M International Director



Seeking your endorsement as Candidate for International Director

Dear Fellow Lions, Lioness and Leo's;

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter asking for your support as I seek the endorsement to be the next candidate for International Director of Multiple District 5M.

I have been a member of the Bird Island Lions Club since 1991, served as District Governor of 5M4 in 2004-2005 and was elected as Council Chair of 5M

in 2005-2006. I believe that my extensive background in Lions, business and community service well prepares me to be an effective member for the International Board of Lions Clubs International.

Our motto has been “We Serve” and I have a strong desire and passion to serve you and our Multiple. I am a hard working and dedicated Lion of this great organization. I believe we should all be enthused to serve and to share that enthusiasm to show non-Lions and new lions what this organization is about. The strength and power of this organization is in our clubs and the great things we do and represent.

My life partner Lion Lori and our four children have grown with Lions and we are looking forward to serving you if given the opportunity.

PCC Brian E Sheehan

SAVE THE DATE!!

Don't Miss the MD5M Convention Soaring with Lionism in 2010

April 23-25—Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomen, MN

Lions, Lioness & Leos,

The Elizabeth Lions club of District 5M9 invites you to the 91st 5M Convention to be held April 23-25, 2010, at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahnomen, Minnesota.

We are planning a convention you'll want to attend. We will have excellent, thought-provoking speakers, seminars covering many topics, top-notch entertainment, and much more.

“Northern Minnesota's Premier Gaming & Convention Property” is how it has been billed. The hotel has 390 rooms, the convention center is 22,000 square feet, and also have restaurants, snack, bar, lounge, swimming pool, shopping and a large gaming area.

**Soaring with Lionism in 2010
2010 MD5M Convention**

Entertainment

The entertainment at the 2010 MD5M Convention will be outstanding and enjoyable.

Friday Night: for a short time we will have a very good vocal group called “Heaven Bound Trio” followed by DJ Pumpkin Bob with easy listening music.

Saturday Night: will be the Steve Hall/Shogun Red Band, coming to us from Nashville. (He has been voted Country Comedy Act of the year.) Steve and his buddy Shotgun Red (puppet) will keep you in stitches with their banter and good country music. It’s not a puppet show—it’s a great show with a puppet!!! They have appeared regularly with Ralph Emery on “Nashville Now.” Also hosted “Country Clips” on TNN for six years. Great entertainment you won’t want to miss!

We also have the names of some of the speakers. We have Larry Colbert, from Arizona (many of you have heard him speak in the past), Amy Ruehle, retired women’s basketball coach from NDSU, and a representative from Guide Dog Canada.

Remember to register early and get a chance at a drawing for a free hospitality book. Also, the new room rate (reserved before April 1, 2010) is \$64.95 (please confirm this when you register). After that the price goes back to their regular weekend rate.

“Come Soar With Us”

Helen Keller speech still inspires Lions



HELEN KELLER

1925 International Convention
Cedar Point, Ohio USA June 30, 1925

Dear Lions and Ladies:

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em. I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The

legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see"? That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you.

Have you asked someone to be a Lion today?

