

TALES FROM THE LIONS DEN

June 2023 Monthly Bulletin Visit us on the web at www.pvlions.org Volume 131 Issue 59 P.O. Box 157, Camarillo, CA

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Club Notes

District Governor Rich Cervantes is finished with all his training and will be running hard to grow District 4A-3 with the support of his very capable cabinet. Pleasant Valley Lions is here to provide whatever Lion Rich needs to make his and the District's year successful.

On the next page of the bulletin you will find the invitation to our annual Installation Dinner. Please let Lion Victor know if you will attend and we encourage you all to attend because DG-elect Rich Cervantes has some great news from LCI for our club.



The month started with the District Convention where PV Lions received some recognition. In particular our own Lion Bill Schulze was one of two district lions to be named Lion of the Year; well deserved Bill.

We did two lion burger barbeques including one for the COSMOS track club where we served 492 very hungry "tracksters" and their parents and received a nice check for our efforts and another BBQ to support the Los Posas Elementary School's PTA; both PV and PTA made some cash!!

A few PV Lions attended the Area Student Speaker Contest and a student from District MD4-A2 Visalia won the contest. He had to be extremely good to beat our MD4-A3 representative and we wish him luck in San Diego this month. The expanded Boys & Girls club was dedicated and six PV Lions attended the ceremony. Subsequently the CEO of the B&G club, Roberto Martinez spoke at our regular meeting and was very complimentary of our long term support for the organization. Lion Bob Larson is working with Lion Renata Hundley from Oxnard Downtown to fence off a habitat in Oxnard for migrating Monarch butterflies. Lastly we completed our final eye screening event for the year for the CA Fire Center.

See you all at the Installation dinner on ... June 27

Camarillo-Somis Pleasant Valley Lions Club







Home-Run Service Scoring for our Community Installation of 2023-2024

Officers & Board

Date: Tuesday June 27, 2023

6:00 pm Social hour & Hors D'oeurvres 7:00 pm Dinner by Ottavios

Italian Salad

Fresh Sautéed Salmon, Chicken Parmesan, Farfalle Vegetarian Roasted Potatoes — Vino on Table

Spectacular Desert

7:45 pm Installation

Place: Freedom Center at Camarillo Airport

515 Eubanks St. Camarillo, CA.

Dress: Semi Formal, Lions Red Jacket (if you have one)

Cost: Members and Guests \$25



RSVP no later than June 13 to Victor Martinez
vlmartinez1@yahoo.com
Send Payments to PV Lions
P.O. Box 157, Camarillo, CA
Or:- Pay at the door if preapproved



5 May - Magic Yarn Project

PV Lions George, Rich, Victor and Ceeb participated in the Amber's Light Magic Yarn project on the first day of the district convention.

Lion Chris Graham at right is responsible for this district endorsed charity. She and Amber's Light should be very proud of the success of this terrific project supporting pediatric cancer.

DG Kalani Jose and first lady Desire' also participated in the event. I expect that DG Kalani yelled action before the photo of Rich and George was taken.











5-7 May 2023 MD4-A3 Convention 1/4

On the same day that King Charles 111 was crowned, our own Lion Rich Cervantes was "*crowned*" MD4-A3 District Governor. Long live the King (S)!

The convention started with the flag procession by the Boy Scouts, pledge of allegiance, prayer, introductory remarks by DG Kalani Jose, the procession of all club banners and politicking for DG and 1VDG. There are a number of other steps in the process including registration, voting and nomination speeches.

Lion Rich got nominating speeches from two past district governors, PDG Chuck Cassy and PDG Jeff Roundy.



The MD4-A3 District Governor for 2023-24 is Lion Rich Cervantes with First Lady Mary Jo.













Awards

Pleasant Valley Lions received a couple of club awards and several individual awards.

- **Short Tail.** Pres. Mike accepted the award for the club.
- Global Services Recognition. PV was one of seven clubs in the district to complete projects in all five LCI global causes (Hunger, Vision, Environment, Childhood Cancer and Diabetes). Pres. Mike Accepted.



Lions Bill S, Russ W. Rich C. and George G. each received awards for their efforts on behalf of the district.

MD4 Appreciation.

Lion Bill S. received a President Award from MD4 for his work on behalf of Lions. PID Howard Hudson told Bill and I that this was one of the highest awards given by Lions. We all know Bill's impact on our club and on the District: **WELL DESERVED**.

Lions of the year

Bill Schulze and Connie Rose

DG-elect Rich is shown accepting the District Lion of the Year award for Lion Bill Schulze. This was a banner year for Lion Bill.













5-7 May 2023 MD4-A3 Convention 3/4

The first thing you saw when you arrived at the Convention venue were two masked bandits ready to provide your badge and take your cash if you hadn't preregistered. Then, if you were a delegate you moved to the next table to get certified by those handsome red devils from Pleasant Valley Lions and to vote provided the poll was open.

Voting ended at 1300 on Saturday and Lion Russ, provided the results of the election and surprise,

surprise both Rich and Jason won easily. The only issue in question was the location of next year's district convention. The Marriot in Buellton was selected.

You're probably wondering about the photo of the seat next to Russ. Well, when the meeting started we were all told to "take a seat" and this is the one I took home (SIC).

I didn't get a group photo of all 15 PV Lions but PV attendees included Cervantes, Morgan, White, Taylor, Schulze, Bellman, Jan

and Mike Nunez, DeBardas, Martinez, Fraser, Graham, Brand, Larson and PDG Mike Brown - Great turnout for DG-elect Rich.

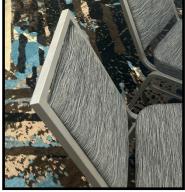
Channel Islands provided burgers on Friday night and a taco lunch on Saturday. They also provided a hospitality room Friday night. Lion Mike Nunez handled our hospitality room on Saturday and it was a good one. I got there just in time to see the Kentucky Derby and not one of the betters in the room picked the winner although Bellman won \$20 for the closest finisher.

Lion Victor had the honor of nominating 1VDG Jason Laird.

The photo at right below was pilfered from the 4-A3 Facebook page. As you can see the convention was well attended providing a good sendoff to the outgoing and welcome to the incoming officers and their cabinet.

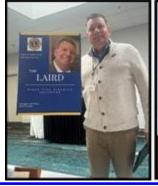
















5-7 May 2023 MD4-A3 Convention 4/4

The congratulatory note from Camarillo-Somis Pleasant Valley Lions included in the convention brochure is provided below, with a minor addition of Rich's pin.

The photo sequence at bottom requires no explanation.





PV Lions in the News



Members of the Camarillo Somis Pleasant Valley Lions Club woke up early April 28 and spent the morning surrounded by shovels and fertilizer. and no one complained.

In recognition of National Arbor Day, the nonprofit donated 10 trees to the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District and planted them at Charter Oak Park.

"The environment is very important to us and to the future of our human race," said Victor Martinez, the club's vice president. "The more trees, the better."

Leaders of the local Lions Club chapter were searching for a hands-on opportunity to benefit the environment—one of their five pillars of service—and asked the park district how they could help.

"Anything to do with the environment, we are involved," said Richard Cervantes, the club's incoming district governor. "That's why we're so excited about doing this."

The 10 Brisbane box trees, which cost the club nearly \$2,000, will replace some of the diseased eucalyptus trees that are falling down along a pathway behind the park. Mary Otten, general manager of the park district, said the club's generosity will benefit residents who enjoy the park.

"Some of these trees are 100 years old, so what we're trying to do is take out the ones that are failing and plant new ones so this can stay for the next 100 years," she said.

For park district crew leader Dusty Faber, the morning spent outdoors was personal. His late father was also passionate about celebrating Arbor Day.

"It feels good that I'm following in his footsteps and doing the same thing he would have done," Faber said. "It feels great to be planting trees out here with the Lions Club."

Recognizing that National Arbor Day is only one day out of 365, the club is committed to planting trees long term. Members plan to plant another 10 trees at the park in September, with the goal of eventually re-placing all of the diseased trees. Martinez encourages others to join the cause.

"They can be more conscious about what they can do to help keep a green environment and promote tree planting," he said.

To learn more about the Camarillo Somis Pleasant Valley Lions Club, go to pvlions.org.

8 May - Regular Meeting 1/3

Our 1stVP Victor filled in for Pres. Mike who had a medical emergency. We wish him well and hope to see him soon.

Guest Speaker:

Lion Renata Hundley - Oxnard Downtown Lions

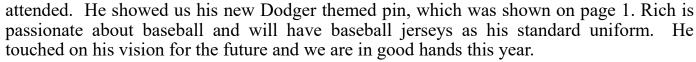
Renata received a \$1000 grant from the California Lions Foundation to fence the habitat for migrating Monarch butterflies in Oxnard but the cost of lumber and hardware exceeds that value so she is engaging other clubs for support. Lions Bob Larson and Bill S. visited the site with Renata earlier to put in a preliminary line. Bob L, Bill, Russ and Bob T. visited again with Renata and the

results are shown following the regular meeting notes. More needs to be done before a fence is installed.

Clearly Renata is passionate about protecting the Monarch butterfly and extremely knowledgeable about the importance of this beautiful creature to the environment. PV support will be discussed at the next board meeting.



DG-elect Rich provided a rundown of the district convention and thanked the 15 PV lions who



Rich encouraged all to attend the Area Student Speaker contest this Saturday at the Boys & Girls club with setup at noon. The winner at the district convention was sponsored by Amber's Light and he is terrific.

Rich accepted the District Lion of the Year award for Bill at the convention and is shown giving it to Bill at our meeting. Rich is proud of Bill and proud of the fact that this award highlights the amount of work done by PV Lions.

We have a new member prospect brought in by Pres. Mike. Unfortunately Mike couldn't welcome him personally but he seems very interested in joining. He is an avid ocean swimmer and State Farm employee; we hope to see him again.











8 May Regular Meeting 2/3

Lion Russ had lots to discuss about previous and upcoming barbeques and gave us dates for Farmers Market for the next two months.

- We received a nice thank you letter (attached) for the bbq we did for the Pleasant Valley Historical Society.
- COSMOS bbq is on schedule for 17 May and we expect about 500 paid members and family for the event.
- Camarillo Air Show. We don't have final numbers yet but likely will serve about 300 workers on August 18. In addition we have been asked to serve the general public on Aug 19-20. The group concurred with our participation Russ will follow up.





Dinner

It was a Cinco de Mayo dinner although it was Nueve de Mayo. It all started at the bar with free margaritas so we didn't make any money this night at the bar.

Lion Chet is highlighted for Cristiana just to prove that he really works hard at being a lion. Lion Bruce filled in for Kerry and went to the podium to thank

the crew of Chet, Mike, Bill C and Anthony.









8 May Regular Meeting 3/3

Tail Twisting (way to many to describe so here are a selected few)

Fortunately for the Bulletin no selfies allowed or he would have been the first twisted tail shown for his comment on the Monarch and honeymoon! Lions Gino, Joel and Chet (hiding in back) had birthdays. Victor proud of the club's activities; John happy to be back; Cindy happy to be a lion, Don proud to be the elder lion in the club; Mike N. paying for his hula dance shown by Bill; Dave T. inviting all to the grand opening of the new and improved Boys and Girls club; Jan giving an update on Lion Lloyd who is doing great. Dave S., Walt, Dan tossed in some happy bucks because they are great lions and for reasons that didn't make it past my hearing aids.





























Raffles

- 50/50 Walt Brand and Dave Tennessen
- Bean Pot Walt Brand tried and lost at the \$120 pot; it grows and grows!







8 May Fencing for Western Monarch Migrating Butterfly Habitat

Lion Bob Larson is working with Lion Renata Hundley from Oxnard Downtown to fence off a habitat in Oxnard for migrating Monarch butterflies. Bob L, Bill S, Russ and Bob T visited the site to mark the location of the fence posts but this has been deferred until we are able to clear the area from vegetation and downed eucalyptus segments. The area is quite overgrown. Tentatively we are proposing a slight rerouting of the existing boundary markers to simplify post and fence installation.

We actually saw a few butterflies on our trek through the planned preserve. If you look closely you can see one bottom right.









9 May Irregular Meeting at Lloyds

Eight folks met at Lion Lloyds for pizza and salad now that he is on the mend from hip surgery. Clearly he is better than before the surgery and it was nice to see that his dry wit has returned. DG-elect Rich probably can chalk this up to his first official visitation. It won't be long until Lloyd is back in the saddle and at our meetings.

The humor below all came from Lloyd.





CHILDHOOD INJURIES: FELL OFF MY BIKE FELL OUT OF A TREE TWISTED MY ANKLE

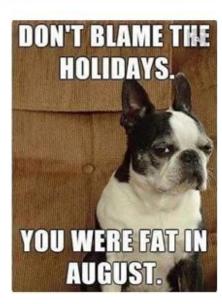
ADULT INJURIES: SLEPT WRONG SAT DOWN TOO LONG SNEEZED TOO HARD

I accidentally wore a red shirt to Target today and, long stor short, I'm covering for Debbie this weekend.



I GOT GAS TODAY
FOR \$1.39
UNFORTUNATELY IT
WAS AT TACO BELL.

My Saturday was going pretty well until I realized it was Sunday..



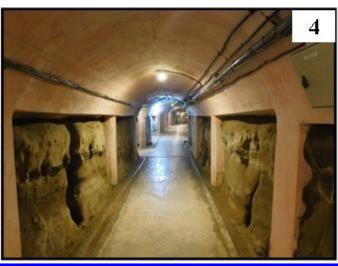
Lion Bob Larson at WW2 History Tour in Okinawa

Lion Bob Larson visited Okinawa for a WW2 history tour and provided some very interesting photos that are identified by number. Since Bob didn't send a selfie (yeah Bob) I used one from the Monarch Butterfly habitat.

- 1. Rock on Hacksaw Ridge Used by Desmond Doss. "PFC Doss was a conscientious objector who was awarded the Medal of Honor by Harry Truman for saving 75 soldiers, transpot on Hacksaw, Pidge
 - diers trapped on Hacksaw Ridge. Over the course of a week he treated the injured, dragged them to the edge of the ridge and lowered them to safety" (rock used to restrain the lowering rope).
- 2. Pinnacle Hill, Japanese observation post
- 3. Entrance to Adm. Ota's headquarters
- 4. Inside Adm. Ota's cave
- 5. Entrance to main hospital cave





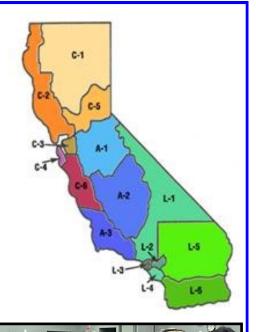




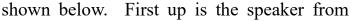


13 May - Area Student Speaker Contest

The area student speaker contest was held at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club just like last year. The areas represented included A2, A3, L1 and L2. The finals for MD4 will be held in San Diego next month. Three PV Lions shown below showed up at noon to set up the venue and they had help from the A-1 speaker and his family hauling in all the chairs. I managed to get photos of each speaker as they walked in to the venue but I couldn't stay for the talks so the photo taken after the talks came from our DG-elect Lion Rich. The speaker from 4-A2 (Visalia) is shown top left at right below. He changed into a bright purple suit for the contest so he would be noticed. The other three speakers are







Amber's Light with Mom and Dad trailing. The remaining two are shown with Lion Perry Lynn who is orchestrating this contest as he has done for many years.

Well, surprise, surprise the speaker with the purple suit from 4-A2 Visalia won the Area speaker contest taking

home another \$6400 scholarship in addition to the \$4500 he won at the District Contest and to the money he won at club, zone and region contests.

Anyone who heard the Amber's speaker at the convention will be surprised at this winner because he was great but as we all learned "it's never over till it's over".

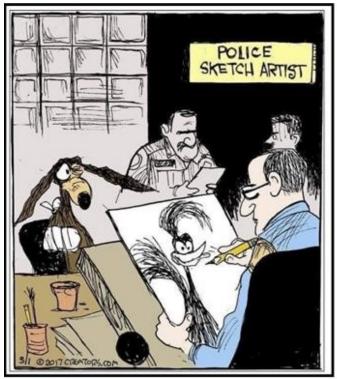


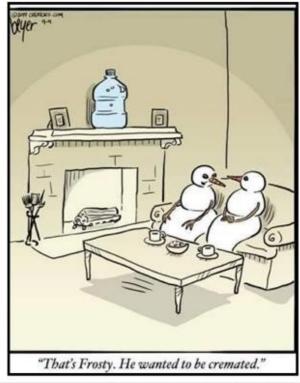


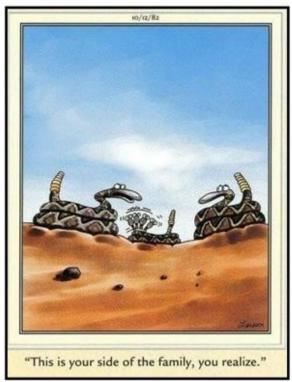




Lion Terry's Weird Science











16 May Board Meeting

First VP Victor stood in for Pres. Mike who is still recovering. We had a quorum sufficient to vote but there wasn't much on the table this month.

Global Causes

• **Diabetes:** The walk for diabetes is on for November 4 at Constitution Park and we will be doing Lion Burgers.





- **Vision:** Lion Russ confirmed that we have vision screening at the Camarillo Fire Center. Russ and Bob T. will do the screening. It was later confirmed that the screening will be at 1730 on May 30. Russ also mentioned that he is in contact with Oak Park about school screenings.
- **Hunger:** There is nothing going on at the moment but Lion John Fraser agreed to lead this effort for next year.
- Environment: Bob L. noted that there is an upcoming tree planting event in November for Recs and Parks.
- Childhood Cancer: Nothing to report.

Upcoming Events

• June 30 (4-9 pm), July 1 (12-4pm). Camarillo Recs & Parks SUMMERPALOOZA. We will be serving beer from a rented beer trailer. A few lions will take on line liquor class.

Donations

• Save Our Kids Music. Annual sponsorship for a PVSD Youth Arts Academy class-\$6000

Thank You's

- Pleasant Valley Historical Society: Donation of Lion Burger Sales
- Amber's Light Lions: Contribution to Magic Yarn Project via Easter Fest
- Ventura Downtown lions: Donation to Crab Fest
- Camarillo Safe and Sober

Thank You: Pleasant Valley Historical Society



MUSEUM & BOTANICAL GARDEN

720 Las Posas Road 805-482-3660 P.O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011 Email: kg.farrin@gtc.com www.pvhsonline.org

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Pleasant Valley Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Fed tax ID 77-0053272

Please keep this written acknowledgment of your donation for tax records. No goods or services of any value were, or will be transferred to you in connection with this donation.

May 2, 2023

Pleasant Valley Lions PO Box 157

Camarillo, CA 93011

Dear Lions,

PVHS thanks you for your extremely generous donation of "Lionburger" sales revenues to our society. Plus, thanks to all the men and women who worked that day.

Having the Lion burger operation visible to the community gave class, and helped promote our event, the *Living History Day*.

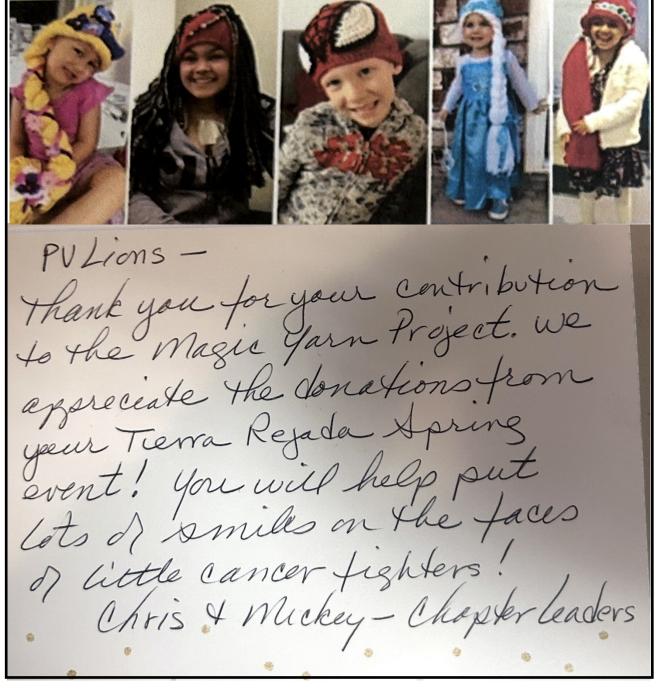
This was the first time that we have had LHD away from our museum garden location, so we were not sure how it would succeed. The exposure was there, even though crowds didn't come, those who did were very pleased.

Thanks again,

PVHS Living History Day Workers

Thank You: Magic Yarn Project





Thank You: Ventura Downtown Lions

VENTURA DOWNTOWN LIONS

PO Box 25180 Ventura, CA 93002

Camarillo – Somis - Pleasant Valley Lions George Graham

As President of the Ventura Downtown Lions Club, and on behalf of the Co-Chairs for 2023 Don Fromberg, Lisa Morris, and Ed Rogoff, I wanted to personally thank you and your Organization, Camarillo – Somis – Pleasant Valley, for your Sponsorship at our recent Crab Feast fundraiser.

Because of your generosity this year's event was the one of the most successful one's since we've started this specific fundraiser. Coming out of Covid, and being dormant for 3 years, our goal was to have 450 participants join us for this wonderful event, and in fact we were able to actually Sell Out the event with over 600 participants.

What this means for the Ventura Downtown Lions Club is the ability to give back to individuals and organizations that are in need throughout Ventura, and continue our support of the 5 Global Causes Lions International including specific programs around Sight and Hearing, Environment, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer, and Hunger, as well as the Club's 2 local causes of Veterans and Mental Health.

A partial list of the many projects and activities that we have supported over the years includes, free eye exams, scholarships for local students, annual Thanksgiving food baskets, Project Understanding, Habitat for Humanity, and Youth programs like the Boys and Girls Clubs.

This year alone we have already done some great work in areas like bringing back the fireworks at Ventura College, a foreign student exchange program, BBQ food give a ways for the Salvation Army and the Ventura Veterans Home, the building of approximately 700 back packs with much needed school supplies for students in need, Relay for Life, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and we built bikes for disadvantaged kids who never owned a bike just to name a few.

And there is more to come like programs like our annual All-Star Football game, Student Speaker Contest, and the Peace Poster contest.

And we couldn't have done any of this without you - so THANK YOU.

Patrick D. Pothier

President, Ventura Downtown Lions Club Celebrating 100 Years of Service

Thank You: Camarillo Safe and Sober



Although not in the dictionary, it is reported that "Lexophile" describes a person who loves sentences such as:

"You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish," and, "To write with a broken pencil is point-less." An annual competition is held by the 'New York Times' to see who can create the best original lexophile. This year's submissions:

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting arrest.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

17 May - Boys & Girls Club Dedication

Six PV Lions attended the grand opening of the new and improved Boys & Girls club. I didn't get a photo of Pres. Mike but glad to see that he is out and about again. I got there late because I drove around for 20 minutes to find a parking space within a half a mile. A few of us even wore our lions shirts to the event.

It was an impressive ceremony with lots of good speakers. Lion Dave T. and wife got a short demo on one of the 3D printers. I added the photo of one of the tables at bottom center because we assembled them a few weeks ago.

Chief Eric Tennessen thanked us again for the helmets and said that they have distributed 75 of the 100 we gave them. He may come back for more before Christmas.

I received the photo of Rich and Mary Jo with Rams cheerleaders later so cropped the tables to fit it in.



















19 May - COSMOS BBQ 1/2

It was a great lion day at Camarillo Grove Park where we fed 492 members and family from the COSMOS track club lion burgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs with chips and water. We made over \$3500 for the afternoon's work so it was indeed a great lions day. It was our third time doing this event and they are always appreciative of our efforts.

Lion Russ was the organizer of the event and while it was very busy feeding almost 500 people in 1 1/2









hours it went very well.

The crew consisted of Lions White, Jochums, Flores, Forsythe, Nunez, Bellman, McNutt and Taylor for the early part of the event.

It all starts with shopping and setting up and this was done by Russ, Bruce and Bob T, although Bob T had to leave after the set up to watch a dance event with his granddaughter at Nordhoff H.S. I expect that I had the better of the deal this day.

Since I wasn't planning on staying after setup I didn't wear a red shirt so the table cloth had to do.









19 May - COSMOS BBQ 2/2

We used their charcoal grill for the burgers and our grill for hotdogs and fortunately the process worked very well because you can see the crowd. It is hard to serve 495 people in 1/1/2 hours but they got it done.

I almost broke my Victor rule of no selfies when I received one final photo/selfie from an unnamed lion but I didn't, and removed the face in the photo with the 4 speedsters. You're just going to have to guess whose arm is shown but a hint: it's the same lion who fell into a vat of chocolate..















20 May - Farmers Market

Four more hours for three Pleasant Valley Lions (White, Taylor, Debardas) at Farmers Market produced a nice haul of eye glasses and batteries and the promise of many more.

Although we are fully set up at 0800 the market doesn't start to get busy until 1000 so we three had a lot of time to solve the world's problems before folks started to donate glasses and batteries and to shop.







We had a visit from a very well behaved guide dog puppy from northern CA and then got visits from several Lions.

Lion John is always there because Charlie drags him to the market for some meet and greet and of course some scratching behind the ear — Charlie, not John.

Lion Cindy Linz is always at the market and today she bought lots of celery to juice. Lion Dan just returned from Tennessee where he parted with lots of cash for birthdays and graduations.













22 May - Regular Meeting - 1/3

Pres. Mike is back. Lion Cindy greeted him with some flowers and then Mike gave us a little info on his illness and said that he feels great; welcome back!!

As you can see it wasn't a large crowd but it was enthusiastic. Our guest speaker from the B&G club was a little late so we started out with Mike asking Lion Ken to the podium to tell us a little about him-







self. Ken and Shirley just returned from a great trip/cruise to Barcelona and other Med. Sites. They visited many museums, had a very pleasant/calm cruise, heard interesting talks, relaxed and just had a great time. It was fortunate that Shirley was at the meeting because she was able to amplify some of the trip details although I'm sure that Ken will be happy to provide more.





Ken gave a little history on how he wound up in Camarillo from Fargo, N.D. after dental school and 3 years in the Army. As we all know the weather at Fargo and Camarillo are quite similar particularly in the winter but he chose to move to Camarillo anyway. Fortunately he left his wood chipper behind! After a few years he formed Rosewood Dental with two partners and it has served our community well for many years. He sold the practice a few years ago but for those of us who use Rosewood Dental we see his smiling face on the wall every time we go there. We all know that Ken has given back to the community for many years and for offering his services around the world although you won't hear him tell you about his contributions. He is indeed the embodiment of the "Quit Man".

22 May- Regular Meeting — 2/3

Lion Russ was prodded to the podium before dinner to tell us a little about the COSMOS bbq and then proceeded to talk about four other items—busy time at the Lions

- COSMOS Bbq: 492 "tracksters" and family attended and we made a net profit of \$3500. It was a great Lion day at the park.
- Wings over Camarillo: We are committed to feeding the crew on 18 August and are negotiating with them for the next two days to serve the public. They want \$700 for the public option and this may be a deal breaker.



- Summerpaloza: We are on for 30 June and 1 July to be a beer vender at the event. So far 5 PV lions have ABC server certificates.
- Farmers Market: Three lions collected batteries and glasses. We are on again on the 3rd Saturday of June.
- PTA fundraiser: We have a lion burger bbq for 90 at Los Posas Elementary in 2 days

Lion Dave Tennessen agreed to be the youth protection advocate for the club.

Guest Speaker:

Robert Martinez CEO Boys and Girls Club

Roberto was appreciative of our club for its help, monetary donations and donations of BBQ's for auction at their annual gala. We also appreciate them for allowing us to use their facility for our board meetings. He discussed their expansion that has been in the works for many years but is now finally a reality. The



club serves hundreds of children in the community at a ridiculously rate of \$100 per year for the first child with progressively lower amounts for added kids. Roberto gave us some detail on the new equipment and facilities at the club and its importance to the kids in our community.

Lion Dave Tennessen has been involved with the Club for many years and gave a little history on how Roberto became CEO of the club. Dave was extremely complimentary of Roberto and his growth over the years from a hesitant to a terrific speaker and advocate for the club and its members.

Dinner

We had a nice change of pace meal from Lion Kerry's cooking crew. Lion Chet (who actually does a lot for the club Christiana) is preparing the pork loin that was cooked in our smoker. It was accompanied by cheesy potatoes au gratin, green beans and salad. Somehow Roberto Martinez got there just as

we served and wound up first in line. He was followed shortly by the Seidler's and coach Clemente.

The meeting was getting a little long so there was no tail twisting so Lion Joe had his fine box with nowhere to go — next time Joe.

I included Hillary below just cause us photographers rarely get in the photos.













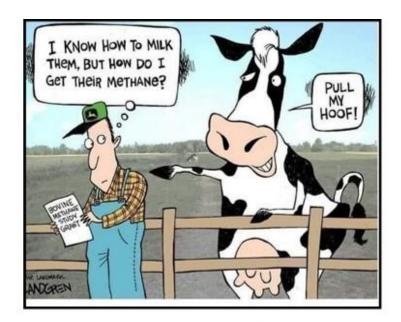
Raffles

The two smiling lions at right each won \$5 and put it back in th pot. The not-so-smiling lion Walt had the winning bean pot ticket (again) and became a LOSER for the 3rd time.

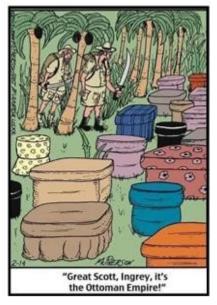


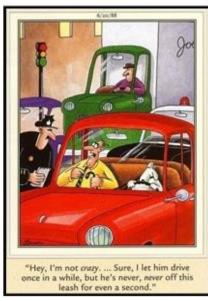


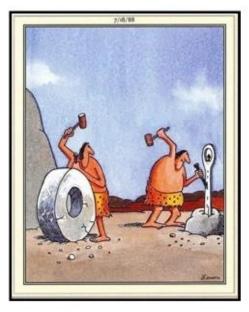
More Strange Humor from Lion Terry



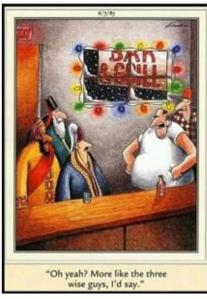














Lion Sheri's big adventure 12-1 1/2

May 24, 2023

Hi, Friends,

Well, we're at it again, motorcycling through Europe and this time we're going to check off the last country in Europe that's on our checklist, Greece. But getting there is turning out to be something of a big adventure in its own right and we're hoping we don't drown along the way.

And as a teaser for this travelogue, yes, it features full frontal nudity! https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q5_RISqkO6w6XVqn7YK-6uLHAVZ6NAKH/view?usp=share link

Note: I'm just going to provide a very short taste of this adventure. You can go to the link above to download the pdf if you want to vicariously take the trip with Sheri and Jeff. Only two pages and no nudity because I don't want to get the lion censors too excited. You will have to go to the website to see the whole thing (*I am referring to the pdf of course*).

Jeff & Sheri's Twelfth Big Adventure

In which they take the road less traveled - on half as many wheels



Jeff's pony, Isabo, a 2015 BMW R1200RT

The Big Plan

Jeff and I have had the opportunity to ride our motorcycles throughout most of Western Europe since 2015. We've hit every country on our checklist except Greece, and the Italian islands of Sardinia and Sicily which we haven't yet been to.

Reality vs Assumptions

May is normally warm (not hot) and beautiful. We arrived to a chilly and overcast morning at Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris on Tuesday, May 16, and it only went downhill from there. Well, let's say it didn't get any better for the next week. We took only a few pictures until our second day on Sicily - and that brings me to some mapping.





Lion Sheri's big adventure 12-1 2/2

Cefalù

Despite sounding kinda like it was named for a communicable disease, Cefalù is a wonderful town. Located



in a scenic spot on the north side of the island, it has a historic Old Town, and a much older fortification built on a giant rock (La Rocca) in the middle of the town. And we had two nights and a whole day off the bikes to explore.

La Rocca was our nemesis. We were advised that it was a nice hike, bring water and take lots of pictures. But La Rocca is 270 m



tall (885 ft), much of it very steep. We weren't the only ones that didn't make it to the very top where the remains of a castle from the 15th century can be explored. We made about 80% of the hike, a point about 100 ft. elevation above the wall (see below) and found ourselves on a very rough and rocky trail that made us reassess the value of snapping a slightly better picture from the very top. That's Jeff negotiating the "trail" in the picture on the left. I couldn't help but wonder what would happen if someone sprained an ankle or broke a leg. And looking at the picture, you know it's happened many times. We didn't see any skeletons, gravesites, or trailside memorials, so presumably there's a way to get the injured off La Rocca.





Lion Sheri's big adventure 12-1 3/3

This update hot off the press from Sheri: 3 months for bones to heal before it begins again!!

31 June Update

So, Friends, this is where it ends, about 3,200 km and 2 weeks into a 6-week trip. I'm writing from a hospital bed in Kastoria, Greece. First, I'll be okay, broken bones, and second, it's Jeff's fault. (Just kidding, sort of.) I always try to figure out ways to avoid personal responsibility and he is a handy scapegoat in this case. But that makes it his job to figure a way out of the mess and he's doing an excellent job. You can read all about it in the attached travelogue which will be the last from this interrupted trip. What we have to look forward to is coming back to this place in about 3 months and collecting our bikes which Jeff is at this very moment arranging to put in storage, and we'll pick up where we left off. Or something like that.

As always, the travelogue is in PDF format, and here's a link to it. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qs38dGvdNo9p6ZoWh3S41p4Dw8rPua1w/view? usp=drive link

30 May - Vision Screening - Camarillo Fire Center

Pleasant Valley Lions was contacted by the California Conservation Corps by the Career Transition Manager at the California Fire Center about vision screening for their students. Lions Russ White and Bob Taylor screened two dozen students after their classes were done for the day. Many of them already wore eye glasses but many of those need further examination. Lion Rich Cervantes will follow up on their testing and arrange for new eye glasses as needed.

The instructor to Russ's left asked us about Lions and then noted that they are always looking for ways to volunteer in the community. Let's keep them in mind for any of our future projects.



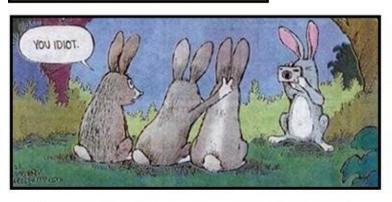


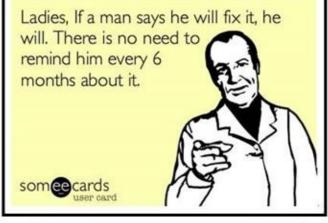
Lion Tom's page 34

An elderly man thinking his wife was losing her hearing went about 20' behind her and asked "Can you hear me sweetheart?' No reply. Moved to 10' and inquired again. No reply. 5' and not a word. A few inches behind ear, he asked "Can you hear me now honey"? His wife said "For the fourth time, yes."

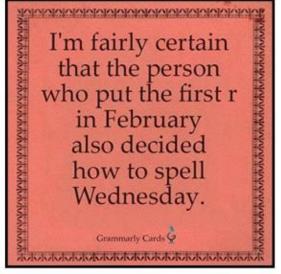










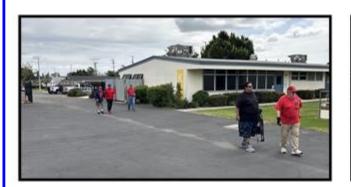




25 May - Pleasant Valley PTA BBQ

We cooked lion burgers for a PTA fund raiser at Los Posas Elementary School for 99 people. Seven PV Lions including Russ White, Bruce Jochums, Bob Larson, Victor Martinez, Joe Flores, Rich Cervantes and Bulletin did the deed. The bottom is a pictogram of the event. In order below, we showed up at 3pm under a cloudy sky, readied the grill, covered the tables, cut the tomatoes and separated the cheese, called our broker, waited for the crowd while Rich practiced his swing, started cooking lion and veggie burgers, prepared the serving table, assembled the burgers and served the hungry crowd. Much of the crowd started off with dessert at Mr. Softee before having dinner. We had 90 lion burgers and 12 veggie burgers and finished up with only 3 veggies remaining when we ran out of buns. Bruce is shown with the last of our product. The team, minus the photographer because no selfies allowed is shown celebrating another successful PV Lion event.

The good news is that the PTA at Los Posas Elementary made some cash, we made some friends and they were grateful for our help.

























Lions George and Chris Graham visit National Parks

Chris and I have been in the mood to see some of our National Parks. We've seen several previously but this time we headed to San Francisco where we joined a small group on a bus and headed to see more. We first went to the (John) Muir National Monument where we had a beautiful walk and were educated on all aspects of the California Redwoods. From there we went to Calaveras County outside Yosemite (instead of Sequoia National Park the roads of which were flooded) where we got a history lesson and one on gold mining. Then on to Yosemite National Park, a place we had not been to since childhood. The timing was great. The waterfalls, both well known ones and some unexpected, were gushing. The weather was mid-seventies so it was perfect for the amount of hiking we did.





MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION ON THE BRIDGE PLEASE

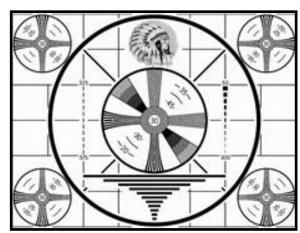
Captain's log...05/03/23...please check out the attached info about increased Lions fees and other fun stuff.

We have spoken to the top administrator for the Saticoy Brotherhood of Lawn Bowling Klingons (SBLBK) and this information is verified.



If you are indeed receiving this one...PLEASE RESPOND to me with a Yes, Affirmative, Roger-Roger, Si, or another form of (non-profane) response to let me know that you are receiving the emails from me.

Again, this is a TEST...this is only a TEST...but, it does require YOUR PARTICI-PATION.



This week's Thought-provoking Thought:

With many graduations in May, ex-Gov Arnold Terminator once said about leaving school and venturing out into the workforce:

"You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets."



This week's Thought-provoking Thought:

What is Bigfoot's favorite gym workout?? Sasquats



June 2023 Birthdays



Certificate Happy Birthday Month

Good for ONE drink at the bar

Carlson	Cody	6/1
Mansfield Jr	Arthur "Art"	6/11
Steinmetz	Greg	6/2
Stephenson	Kim	6/19



Horoscope: Gemini — Cancer

- Geminis use far-fetched analogies to describe philosophical concepts.
- Geminis drive funny cars. They often drive them into trees or buildings.
- Geminis are pushy and overbearing. They pick fights with small children and moon people at weddings. They like to use Libras as punching bags.
- Geminis rarely compete in the Olympics. When they do, it is usually pool or air hockey. You like to know what's going on in the lives of everyone in the galaxy. However, you tend not know what's going on in your own. If you are lucky, your friends will tell you.
- Cancerians only get dressed because they have to, and their fashion sense can only be described as "erratic."
- You are more likely than any other sign in the zodiac (except Pisces, who does not iron) to iron your clothes by sleeping with them sandwiched between the mattress and box-spring. Likewise, you can stretch one pair of underwear out for almost a month.
- Your home is like your very own Biodome; you can remain indoors for months at a time.

29 May - History of Memorial Day

The Civil War ended in the spring of 1865 when Robert E. Lee surrendered the last major Confederate army to Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Court House on April 9. Over 620,000 soldiers died in the four-year conflict. General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Union veterans) would eventually select May 30, 1868, as a day to pay tribute to the fallen: "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land..."

Logan apparently chose May 30 because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. States passed proclamations, and the Army and Navy adopted rules for proper observance at their facilities.

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance — about 5,000 people. Small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition still followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

By 1890, each Northern state had made Decoration Day an official holiday. But this was not the case in the South, where states continued to honor their dead on separate days until after the First World War.

The May 30 date held for decades. But, in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change took place in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Memorial Day on May 29 conjures images of hamburgers, hot dogs, swimming pools, and <u>summertime</u> for many Americans. But the last Monday in May serves, most importantly, as a time to honor those who died while fighting in the U.S. Armed Forces. It's a holiday steeped in somber American history and tradition. The day actually began as "Decoration Day," following the Civil War, when mourners placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. Yes, Memorial Day has also come to signify the "unofficial" start of summer, but let's remember the heroes who made it all possible.





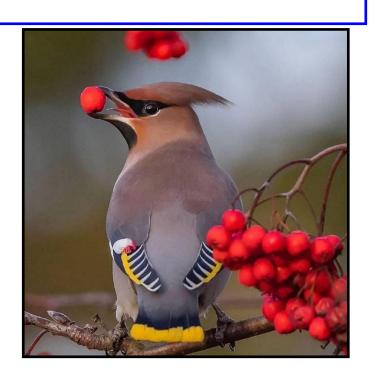


PV Lions Calendar

- Jun 13 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Jun 17 Farmers Market
- Jun 20 Board Meeting B&G Club
- Jun 27 PV Installation O-Club
- June 30-Jul 1 Summer Palooza
- Jul 11 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Jul 15 Farmers Market
- Jul 18 Board Meeting B&G Club
- Jul 25 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Aug 2-13 Fair Parking
- Aug 8 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Aug 15 Board Meeting B&G Club
- Aug 18 Wings over Camarillo BBQ
- Aug 22 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Sep 12 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Sep 19 Board Meeting B&G Club
- Sep 25 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Oct 10 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Oct 17 Board Meeting B&G Club
- Oct 24 Charter Night O-Club
- Nov 5 Diabetes Walk = Const. Park
- Nov 14 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Nov 21 Board Meeting B&G Club
- Nov 28 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Dec 8 Christmas Party Los Posas C.C.
- Dec 12 Regular Meeting O-Club
- Dec 19 Board Meeting B&G Club







30 June -1 July Summer Palooza



Warning from the District Governor about SCAM Emails

Go to the following website for more info:

https://mailchi.mp/f2ed068a8dfb/another-urgent-message-from-the-district-13707477?e=70a3ad7c6c



SCAM EMAILS ARE CONTINUING TO BE SENT IN MY NAME!

Please note that emails continue to be sent to Lions in District 4-A3 appearing to have been sent by me. HOWEVER, it is a SCAM - FRAUD - PHISHING FOR INFO. I'm sure some of you already realize this, but for those who do not, please DO NOT RESPOND TO THESE EMAILS IN ANY WAY. If you are not sure as to the authenticity of emails sent by me (the District Governor) or any other Lion - send that person a NEW, DIRECT email that YOU write asking him/her about the email you are questioning ... OR call or text the person.

These scam emails have been sent out over the past few years "from" several District Governors, and they are continuing!

TALES FROM THE LIONS DEN





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Together we can with International President, Brian Sheehan

Dear Lion,

Making a difference in your community takes time, creativity and a whole lot of hard work. But most importantly, it takes leadership. And for more than a century, Lions have been the leaders that communities all over the world have counted on to get the job done.

Our clubs are so much more than a home for community volunteers. They are a training ground for community leaders. So take advantage of the training available to you as a Lion. Find opportunities to put your leadership in action. And be sure to invite the people around you to serve so they can help lead the change in your community.

We are leading the way forward, every day we serve, every time we give.

Make a great day,

Brian Sheehan

International President

TALES FROM THE LIONS DEN



From LCIF Chairperson Douglas X. Alexander

Greetings, Lions and Leos!

As we approach the end of another Lion year next month, I am thrilled to announce that LCIF is well on its way to achieving this year's fundraising goal. This accomplishment is made possible by the generosity of Lions and Leos like you, who continue to recognize the need to support the foundation that helps lead our global service. While we are getting very close to our goal, we need your help to cross the finish line. Every donation brings us one step closer while enhancing Lions' service impact in communities worldwide. As Lions, we always achieve our goals, and I am confident we will succeed. I'm so confident, in fact, that I recently announced a stretch goal, and challenged Lions and Leos around the world to help LCIF not only meet this year's US\$50 million goal but exceed it by 10 percent and raise US\$55 million. I have no doubt that we can achieve this together. Thank you to everyone who has made a personal contribution to LCIF this year. Funds raised are already making a difference to those in need.



Meet Vision Champion Sayani Naskar

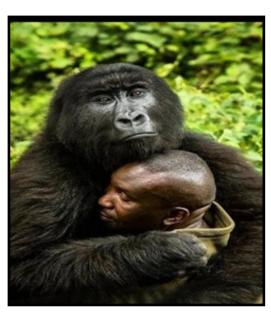
When Sayani Naskar was a fifth grader at her school in India, she struggled with her classes because of problems with her vision. Read this blog to see how Sayani, now in eleventh grade, is excelling in school and extra-curricular activities, thanks to Sight For Kids, a comprehensive eye health program co-founded by LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision.

For all the Animal Lovers out There

















3 June - Guide Dogs of America Open House/Auction

From: Judy A. Reilly < JAReilly@guidedogsofamerica.org>

Date: Wed, Feb 8, 2023 at 11:00 AM Subject: Open House June 3, 2023

Dear GDA Puppy Sponsor,

I have always felt that our Puppy Sponsors fall into a different category of GDA donors.....You want a more intimate experience and your love for our program reaches beyond merely donating to a good cause. All of you have different motivations for your generosity but there is the common thread of wanting to be up close and personal with the work we do. I hope I'm not imposing by asking you to help us by sharing your love of our program with your family and friends.

We are pleased to announce that we will be having an <u>Open House this year on Saturday</u>, <u>June 3</u>. That also means that I am in Silent Auction mode and would greatly appreciate your support. If you would care to contribute to this event, we would welcome any and all donations.

Below are some suggestions...

If you or anyone you know has a <u>condo</u> or <u>vacation home</u> in a resort area we would love to have a donation of a long weekend or a weeklong stay. These things sell very, very well for us so please, ask around and see if any of your friends or family can donate something like that or may know people that would like to help us out.

Another thing that sells beautifully is anything related to **sports.** Please, if you have **season tickets** to any kind of sporting event (baseball, football, basketball, hockey) and would be willing to part with a couple of tickets we would greatly appreciate it. Again, if you don't personally have any season tickets but know of folks that do, please see if you can procure a donation.

Hollywood Bowl box seats! We love those!! If you have season theater tickets and would be willing to part with one performance we would be very grateful to receive those too. Again, perhaps you have friends or family that might have season passes to various events and they might be willing to part with a couple. It can't hurt to ask!

Gift cards do really well for us. So, if you want to make a donation and can't think of anything this would be terrific. If you received a gift card for Christmas or your birthday and don't think you are going to use it, we'd love to take it off your hands! These cards are always the first to go and invariably bring way over their face value.

<u>Cash!!!</u> – Cash always works for us too. I can purchase gift cards or sale items like Kindles or something along those lines. So, if you want to help but can't decide how, here's your chance!

If you need suggestions, here is our Amazon wish list that has some fun stuff: Amazon.com Anything you can do to help us would be greatly appreciated. Best wishes to you and thanks again for your consideration – and remember, if you are local, put June 3 on your calendar and join us for our Open House!

Judy Reilly Sponsorships/Tours/Speaker Program Direct Line: 818-833-6437 guidedogsofamerica.org

LCICon 2023 Boston

The Lions Clubs International Convention is happening July 7-11, 2023. Celebrate service with your fellow Lions and Leos in the city on the hill — historic Boston, Massachusetts!

Dear Club Service Chairperson,

In the upcoming months, many Lions and Leos will be gathering for district and multiple district conventions, as well as the **international convention** in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

As a service leader, you know any place where our members gather is a great place to serve others. Here are a few ideas for service projects that work well with meetings:

- Hold a food or clothing drive ask members to bring items for donation
- Make fleece blankets or wigs for children with cancer
- Assemble backpacks for school children or care packages for foster children
- Host a fun activity, like a race, game show or talent contest, and donate the funds raised

Another option is to bring your group to a local food pantry, homeless shelter or wildlife area to serve the community directly.

If you know anyone who is planning to attend the international convention, please encourage them to make their convention experience more meaningful by registering for a convention service project. It's a wonderful way to serve alongside Lions and Leos from around the world.

Thank you for your leadership in bringing more service to your local community, as well as the world we share. If you have any questions, contact us by email, **serviceactivities@lionsclubs.org**.

Yours in Service,

The Service Activities Division Team

Sep 21 – 23, 2023 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum



Lions and LEOs,
Although I have been a Lion since
1999, I am always amazed at the
creativity, dedication and
enthusiasm Lions bring when they
gather to plan a service,
leadership or membership
event. The Reno Forum is no
exception. The Planning
Committee met in Reno from
October 16-20, 2022.

Our first step was to get acquainted. Although Honorary Chair Vice President Dr. Patti Hill and I knew everyone on the

team, not all the Lions had previously met. Several had met via zoom, but not in person. Lions on this committee come from both the United States and Canada. Taking a few minutes to develop that level of trust to bring the Forum to life was important. The responsibilities of each committee were reviewed. Then the group did an interactive activity that stressed the communication needed among committees to organize a meaningful learning event.

On day two, the Host Committee, led by Lion PDG Linda Wagner-Griffen, joined the Planning Committee. More details were defined. The Host Committee is the "Boots on the Ground" for any Forum. They are already working on their tasks and organizing volunteers. To host a Forum requires 400 plus volunteers. Since no one wants to work the entire Forum, the more volunteers available, the more chance there is for everyone to have some Forum time and volunteer time. If you would like to volunteer contact Manpower Coordinator, PCC Don Gall at dongall95336@gmail.com.

On our third day of meetings, each committee further clarified needs and ideas. By the end of the day, a lion with a bit of vision or imagination could see that the Reno Forum promises to bring new ideas, innovation and opportunities for attendees. If you are not registered yet, now is the time to get that done! Go to www.lionsforum.org

We want to see you in Reno! Up and Away with Leadership



Proposed PV Lions Committees 2023-24

1st Vice President - Bruce Jochums		
Finance & Budget	Bill S., Rich C., Russ W., Victor M., Mike N., Mike M., John Fraser, Bruce Jochums	
Community Betterment	John Fraser	
Cook Lead 1st qtr.	Bruce Jochums	
Cook Lead 2nd qtr.	Chet Price	
Cook Lead 3rd qtr.	Mike Nunez	
Cook Lead 4th qtr.	Kerry Forsythe	
Bar 1st qtr.	Art Mansfield Jr. and Joe Flores	
Bar 2nd qtr.	Art Mansfield Jr. and Joe Flores	
Bar 3rd qtr.	Art Mansfield Jr. and Joe Flores	
Bar 4th qtr.	Art Mansfield Jr. and Joe Flores	
District Contests	Lloyd Christie and Russ White	
Photographer	Hillary Ling & Bob Taylor	
Christmas Float	Bruce Jochums, Mike Nunez, Kerry Forsythe	
Student Speaker Contest	Dick Bellman and Kim Stephenson	
Meeting Programs	Bruce Jochums	
Scholarships	Richard Baker	
Membership Chair	Mike Nunez	
Club Service Chair	Russ White	
Peace Poster	Dan Goldberg	
Sight & Hearing	Russ White, Bob Taylor	
Public Relations	John Fraser	
Club Bulletin	Bob Taylor	
S.W.O.T.	Victor Martinez	

2nd Vice President– Bob Larson		
Lion Burgers	Russ White & Jan Edmondson	
Visitations	Lloyd Christie	
BBQ Trailer & Equipment	Bruce Jochums & Mike Nunez	
Raffles	Russ White & Bob Taylor	
5K-1K Race	Mike Brown	
Children's Xmas Party	OPEN	
Special BBQ's	Bruce Jochums & Mike Nunez	

3rd Vice President- John Knittle		
Caps/Shirts/Jackets	OPEN	
Kids Shopping	George Graham	
Club Bulletin	Bob Taylor	
Harvest Festival	Bill Schulze	
Easter Festival	Bill Schulze	
Badges/Pins/Banners	Mike Nunez	
Sight &Hearing	Russ White	
Fair Parking	Bill Schulze	
Web site /IT	George Graham	
Public Relations	John Fraser	
Club Greeter	Mike Morgan	

Delta Flight 15 on 9/11 - DAY BRIGHTENER 1/3

While searching my files for a Lion's article I came across this article written over 20 years ago about human kindness that is worth sharing again. These Newfoundlanders all exhibited kindness to stranded Delta travelers that epitomizes what all Lions strive for and sometimes achieve.

You have all heard this before but — "Let Us Never Forget".

It is over 20 years since 9/11 and here is a wonderful story about that terrible day.

Jerry Brown Delta Flight 15... (true story)

Here is an amazing story from a flight attendant on Delta Flight 15, written following 9-11:

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, we were about 5 hoursout of Frankfurt, flying over the North Atlantic.

All of a sudden the curtains parted and I was told to go to the cockpit, immediately, to see the captain. As soon as I got there I noticed that the crew had that "All Business" look on their faces. The captain handed me a printed message. It was from Delta's main office in Atlanta and simply read, "All airways over the Continental United States are closed to commercial air traffic. Land ASAP at the nearest airport. Advise your destination."

No one said a word about what this could mean. We knew it was a serious situation and we needed to find terra firma quickly. The captain determined that the nearest airport was 400 miles behind us in Gander, Newfoundland.

He requested approval for a route change from the Canadian traffic controller and approval was granted immediately -- no questions asked.

We found out later, of course, why there was no hesitation in approving our request.

While the flight crew prepared the airplane for landing, another message arrived from Atlanta telling us about some terrorist activity in the New York area. A few minutes later word came in about the hijackings.

We decided to LIE to the passengers while we were still in the air. We told them the plane had a simple instrument problem and that we needed to land at the nearest airport in Gander, Newfoundland, to have it checked out.

We promised to give more information after landing in Gander. There was much grumbling among the passengers, but that's nothing new! Forty minutes later, we landed in Gander. Local time at Gander was 12:30 PM!...that's 11:00 AM EST.

There were already about 20 other airplanes on the ground from all over the world that had taken this detour on their way to the U.S.

After we parked on the ramp, the captain made the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, you must be wondering if all these airplanes around us have the same instrument problem as we have. The reality is that we are here for another reason." Then he went on to explain the little bit we knew about the situation in the U.S. There were loud gasps and stares of disbelief. The captain informed passengers that Ground Control in Gander told us to stay put.

The Canadian Government was in charge of our situation and no one was allowed to get off the aircraft. No one on the ground was allowed to come near any of the air crafts. Only airport police would come around periodically, look us over and go on to the next airplane.

In the next hour or so more planes landed and Gander ended up with 53 airplanes from all over the world, 27 of which were U.S. commercial jets.

Delta Flight 15 on 9/11 - DAY BRIGHTENER 2/3

Meanwhile, bits of news started to come in over the aircraft radio and for the first time we learned that airplanes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York and into the Pentagon in D.C. People were trying to use their cell phones, but were unable to connect due to a different cell system in Canada. Some did get through, but were only able to get to the Canadian operator who would tell them that the lines to the U.S. were either blocked or jammed.

Sometime in the evening the news filtered to us that the World Trade Center buildings had collapsed and that a fourth hijacking had resulted in a crash. By now the passengers were emotionally and physically exhausted, not to mention frightened, but everyone stayed amazingly calm. We had only to look out the window at the 52 other stranded aircraft to realize that we were not the only ones in this predicament.

We had been told earlier that they would be allowing people off the planes one plane at a time. At 6 P.M., Gander airport told us that our turn to deplane would be 11 am the next morning. Passengers were not happy, but they simply resigned themselves to this news without much noise and started to prepare themselves to spend the night on the airplane.

Gander had promised us medical attention, if needed, water, and lavatory servicing. And they were true to their word. Fortunately, we had no medical situations to worry about. We did have a young lady who was 33 weeks into her pregnancy. We took REALLY good care of her. The night passed without incident despite the uncomfortable sleeping arrangements.

About 10:30 on the morning of the 12th, a convoy of school buses showed up. We got off the plane and were taken to the terminal where we went through Immigration and Customs and then had to register with the Red Cross.

After that, we (the crew) were separated from the passengers and were taken in vans to a small hotel. We had no idea where our passengers were going. We learned from the Red Cross that the town of Gander has a population of 10,400 people and they had about 10,500 passengers to take care of from all the airplanes that were forced into Gander! We were told to just relax at the hotel and we would be contacted when the U.S. airports opened again, but not to expect that call for a while. We found out the total scope of the terror back home only after getting to our hotel and turning on the TV, 24 hours after it all started.

Meanwhile, we had lots of time on our hands and found that the people of Gander were extremely friendly. They started calling us the "plane people." We enjoyed their hospitality, explored the town of Gander and ended up having a pretty good time.

Two days later, we got that call and were taken back to the Gander airport. Back on the plane, we were reunited with the passengers and found out what they had been doing for the past two days. What we found out was incredible.

Gander and all the surrounding communities (within about a 75 Kilometer radius) had closed all high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and any other large gathering places. They converted all these facilities to mass lodging areas for all the stranded travelers. Some had cots set up, some had mats with sleeping bags and pillows set up.

ALL the high school students were required to volunteer their time to take care of the "guests." Our 218 passengers ended up in a town called Lewisporte, about 45 kilometers from Gander where they were put up in a high school. If any women wanted to be in a women-only facility, that was arranged. Families were kept together. All the elderly passengers were taken to private homes.

Remember that young pregnant lady? She was put up in a private home right across the street from a 24-hour Urgent Care facility. There was a dentist on call and both male and female nurses remained with the crowd for the duration.

Delta Flight 15 on 9/11 - DAY BRIGHTENER 3/3

Phone calls and e-mails to the U.S. and around the world were available to everyone once a day. During the day, passengers were offered "Excursion" trips. Some people went on boat cruises of the lakes and harbors. Some went for hikes in the local forests. Local bakeries stayed open to make fresh bread for the guests.

Food was prepared by all the residents and brought to the schools. People were driven to restaurants of their choice and offered wonderful meals. Everyone was given tokens for local laundry mats to wash their clothes, since luggage was still on the aircraft. In other words, every single need was met for those stranded travellers.

Passengers were crying while telling us these stories. Finally, when they were told that U.S. airports had reopened, they were delivered to the airport right on time and without a single passenger missing or late. The local Red Cross had all the information about the whereabouts of each and every passenger and knew which plane they needed to be on and when all the planes were leaving. They coordinated everything beautifully.

It was absolutely incredible.

When passengers came on board, it was like they had been on a cruise. Everyone knew each other by name. They were swapping stories of their stay, impressing each other with who had the better time. Our flight back to Atlanta looked like a chartered party flight. The crew just stayed out of their way. It was mind-boggling.

Passengers had totally bonded and were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses.

And then a very unusual thing happened.

One of our passengers approached me and asked if he could make an announcement over the PA system. We never, ever allow that. But this time was different. I said "of course" and handed him the mike. He picked up the PA and reminded everyone about what they had just gone through in the last few days. He reminded them of the hospitality they had received at the hands of total strangers. He continued by saying that he would like to do something in return for the good folks of Lewisporte.

"He said he was going to set up a Trust Fund under the name of DELTA 15 (our flight number). The purpose of the trust fund is to provide college scholarships for the high school students of Lewisporte. He asked for donations of any amount from his fellow travellers. When the paper with donations got back to us with the amounts, names, phone numbers and addresses, the total was for more than \$14,000!

"The gentleman, a MD from Virginia, promised to match the donations and to start the administrative work on the scholarship. He also said that he would forward this proposal to Delta Corporate and ask them to donate as well.

As I write this account, the trust fund is at more than \$1.5 million and has assisted 134 students in their college education.

"I just wanted to share this story because we need good stories right now. It gives me a little bit of hope to know that some people in a faraway place were kind to some strangers who literally dropped in on them.

It reminds me how much good there is in the world."

"In spite of all the rotten things we see going on in today's world this story confirms that there are still a lot of good people in the world and when things get bad, they will come forward.

This is one of those stories that need to be shared. Please do so...