



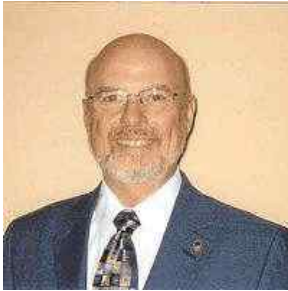
5M7 Team News

June 2009



News and Views from Governor Jim:

This is it. My last newsletter column as your District Governor. First of all I want to thank Lions Jim & Barb Kelley for being my editors this year. Thanks for a terrific job. Next, PDG Ken Steies and Lion Dan Kaiser for being District Treasurer and District Secretary this year. You guys are the best of the best and I could not have made it without your help. Next to all cabinet members, my thanks for your support and for a great job in getting the word out.



As I look back, the whole year is somewhat of a blur. It started in Thailand and ends in Minnesota. I probably attended more that 100 meetings over the year. We lost 3 clubs and gained 2 new clubs. We should have a positive in membership numbers. You all have done a great job of recruiting this year. Now we have to keep 'em. Remember, we have discontinued the "Catch & Release" program.

The welcome Tina and I received at the club visits was heartwarming and we had a great time traveling the District with DGE Clay and Lion Deb in the backseat., And speaking of that dynamic duo, I wish for them lots of fun, success, good health, and happiness. I am confident the District will be in good hands next year.,

Keep using the "Pride of the Pride" program and get your new members educated, exposed, involved, and inducted. It will help with your retention. Get your members to attend conventions and forums. They are the best places for members to get the spirit of Lionism in their hearts.

It has been a real honor to have been your District Governor this past year and I will be seeing you around the District. As always, I remain-,

**Yours sincerely in Lionism,
DG Jim Mulroy,**

"Do for, not to".

Article on Lion Jim Koenig's work bringing sight to Ecuador

BY DENISE MARTIN

Jim Koenig has a nice condo in Lindstrom where he can gaze on the quiet waters of North Lindstrom Lake from his balcony. He could easily be content just spending time with his fishing pole and visiting with neighbors. But for several days early this summer, he stepped out of his comfortable life, to serve the Lions Club International mission of bringing sight to underprivileged people. Koenig, a Chisago Lakes Lions member, recently returned from Ecuador where he spent time with the VOSH organization, bringing volunteer optometric services to humanity. Lions International has been collecting eyeglasses at Lions functions and at official drop-off sites for decades-- delivering eyewear to the needy to fulfill the service organization's mission.



This was Koenig's second trip to the southern hemisphere with the Lions. He belonged to Lions in the Twin Cities before moving to Lindstrom a couple years ago, and he dispensed eyewear in Venezuela through that club.

Koenig was thrilled the Chisago Lakes Lions assisted in expenses for this recent trip. He says the local group is great, he feels like he fit right in.

Distributing eyewear means more to Koenig than simply doing a good deed. He explains he has macular degeneration in one eye so he personally connects with anyone experiencing sight difficulties.

Koenig helped fit glasses on Ecuadorans 82-years-old to grade school children. "They were all very gracious, their faces just lit up," he added. While not much of a Spanish-speaker, he had no trouble translating the universal expressions of appreciation and gratitude.

Koenig traveled with several other Minnesota Lions members and two volunteer doctors, one from North Dakota and one from South Dakota. Additional medical backup at the Ecuadoran clinic included local University students of optometry, and six Canadian students of optometry also volunteered.

Koenig and his travel companions hauled 4,000 donated eyeglasses by airplane, departing Minneapolis-St. Paul airport May 13 and on to Miami and then Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Koenig said low level officials at the Ecuador airport had some issues with authorizing the 13 boxes of glasses; but after much detente they agreed to accept copies of passports, signed and sworn to by the travelers, that they would not "sell" the eyewear. Then they were allowed to continue their journey.

From the airport the group drove north and west to Portoviejo, where the eyeglass distribution clinic was located. Here Koenig observed throngs of people lined up at the main doors to receive the eyewear. His work team adjusted and presented 2,525 glasses.

"We worked four days, 12 hours a day," he said.

Wireframe glasses can be manipulated fairly easily to fit a recipient and plastic frames were lightly warmed in a frying pan to make them pliable. Eyewear is sorted and disinfected before even being boxed for distribution.

Koenig has also volunteered many hours at a site in Crystal at one of the Lions four warehouses where the prep work gets done. At storage sites the glasses are divided into bifocal and non-bifocal, and are cleaned and repaired, then bagged individually with the prescription identified. Some of the Ecuador mission companions he'd already met while volunteering in warehouse prep.

What truly impressed Koenig about the Ecuador experience was his host family. He stayed with Luis and Sonja, their two boys and one daughter. "They could not have been nicer," he added. "It was more than anyone could ask for."

The poverty he encounters while on these Lions missions is so pervasive, he says, there is no way any of the people he dispenses eyeglasses to could possibly afford to buy them. "They are selling bunches of bananas on the street to try to earn a little money," he adds. Bringing the gift of sight is such a basic but wonderful thing to be a part of, he feels as if he's the lucky one.

5M7 Awards Night



M&A REPORTING FOR MAY 2009

CLUB NAME	WHAT CLUB REPORTED
Albertville	No Report
Almelund	No Report
Andover	Donated 200 Pairs of Glasses
Annandale	Donated \$605.91 to the Annandale all night Graduation Party
Anoka	Donated \$500 to the Youth First program
Becker	Donated \$100 to the Deanna Seeley Benefit
Big Lake	Sponsored Spud Fest Candidate for 2009-2010
Blaine	Donated \$2500 to Camp Sunrise
Buffalo	Donated \$5000 for five Buffalo High School Scholarships
Buffalo Noon	No Report
Cambridge	Donated \$349.96 to Gibbons Eye Clinic-for Eye Exam & Glasses
Cedar East Bethel	Donated \$300 to the Native Americans Heritage group
Centerville	No Report
Chisago Lakes	Donated \$400 to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota
Circle Pines Lex	Donated Eye Glasses for middle school student
Clear Lake	Donated \$500 for the Crohns and Colitis benefit walk
Clearwater	No Report
Cokato	Donated \$750 to Dassel Cokato Band Booster
Columbia Heights	No Report
Columbus	No Report
Coon Rapids	Donated \$420 for special needs bowlers
Coon Rapids Cardinals	Donated \$200 to the Lyrics Arts Theatre
Coon Rapids North Star	Donated \$150 to the Wellness Van
Delano	No Report
Elk River	No Report
Forest Lake	Donated \$200 to the Veterans home in Silver Bay, sponsoring Local Forest Lake motorcycle ride
Fridley	Donated \$648 to the Wellness Van

Fridley Five Stars	Donated \$730 to LCIF
Grandy	No Report
Ham Lake	Donated \$250 to the Cystic Fibrosis foundation
Hanover	No Report
Hanover Crow River	Donated \$400.00 to Hanover food shelf
Howard Lake	No Report
Hugo	Donated \$6000 In College scholarships to
Isanti	Graduates (6) @ \$1000 per student
Lino Lakes	No Report
Livonia Township	Donated \$163 to Wild West Days Parade for candy
Maple Lake	No Report
Monticello	No Report
Montrose	Donated \$2000 to the Montrose Elementary School
North Branch	M&A on time
Nowthen	M&A on time
Oak Grove	No Report
Otsego	No Report
Ramsey	Donated \$500 to Rivers of Hope
Rockford	No Report
Rush City	No Report
Santiago	Donated \$1616.00 to Santiago Township
Spring Lake Park	Donated \$159.00 for Glasses for a student
St. Francis	No Report
St. Michael	No Report
Stacy	No Report
Taylors Falls	No Report
Waverly	Donated \$2500.00 for High School Scholarships
Wyoming	Donated two \$250.00 scholarships
Zimmerman	No Report

LIONESSE REPORT
June, 2009

	May Activities
Andover	--
Anoka	Annual waffle breakfast fundraiser
Big Lake	Bingo at nursing home
Buffalo	Girl Scouts, senior center, MN Nice
Cedar East Bethel	Clothes Closet, recycling
Clear Lake	Highway cleanup; blood drive
Clearwater	--
Columbus	Assisted Lions at pancake breakfast
Coon Rapids	May baskets; bingo
Lino Lakes	Bake sale; recycling
Montrose	Fundraiser cookout at Coburn's
North Branch	--
St. Francis	Handed out scholarships at SFHS
Spring Lake Park	Linder's Flowers fundraiser; garage sale

What have Lioness accomplished this year? Lots of fun, loads of work, and the chance to make a difference in the lives of others. Activities range all the way from quilt making as a fundraiser, to bake sales, to bingo, to nursing home visits, birthday clubs, girl scouts, scholarships, volunteering at Lions events to support the sponsoring Lions clubs, recycling, blood mobiles, clothing drives, waffle breakfasts, style shows, auctions, and the list goes on, Thank you for all you've done!

The Governor's Contest reflects the amount of work that has gone on in 5M7 this year. There were over a half million points awarded this year! Wow.

The Lioness overall membership dropped a total of seven during the year; three clubs, however, had a net increase of at least one member. A great goal for next year will be to increase your membership by at least one or two Lioness.

Unfortunately two of our clubs are folding as of the end of the year – Clearwater and Columbus. We will miss them, and hope that they find their way to another Lion or Lioness Club at some time in the future.

Thank you, Lioness, for all your hard, dedicated work. It has been a pleasure serving as your Lioness Liaisons to the Lions of 5M7. We look forward to working with you next year as Vice District Governor and partner in service!

VDGE Brian and Lion Joanne Toews
Lioness Liaison 2008-2009

Your Editors final humor for the year!



From your Editor:

I want to thank all the members of district 5M7 for helping me by sending information for the newsletter. I really could not have done it without you! Starting with next month's issue, we will be returning to the 5M7 Gram format. Lion Kathy Linder will be once again putting it together. As I'm sure you know, Lion Kathy did the 5M7 Gram for years. Speaking personally, I'm thrilled she agreed to take it back.

Thank you Lion Kathy!

5M7 Gram Editor:

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