



The Lions Den

District 2-S3

"Vision of Dreams"



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DG Gary Cocanougher



HAPPY NEW YEAR LIONS OF DISTRICT 2S3

Lions, I hope you and your family enjoyed the Holidays the past couple of months, that is how long it seemed but now it is over. So many organizations put extra effort in assisting people this time of year and then wait until next year and do it again. I am so thankful the Lions Serve every single day of the year, what a privilege to be a part of this organization. The past few weeks I have heard of so many families being assisted by you and your clubs through donations of food, money and time. We are half way thru this Lions year and we have accomplished a great deal, our membership has never been in the negative, you have worked many hours and thousands of dollars have been donated to your communities. I ask now

that we have a strong finish by continuing to serve your communities, getting new members, and thinking outside of the box in ways to Serve. One of my goals to build the clubs that are below 20 members is still a high priority and some of your clubs will be contacted after the Mid Winter Meeting in McQueeney on January 28th. We will have a program on Membership Growth and where to find new members so they can enjoy the great things you are achieving.

I also want to invite all Lions that would like to attend the Leadership Forum on March 3rd and 4th, at the Hilton Hotel by the Austin Airport, to get more information from the MD2 website.

DG Gary

"Vision of Dreams"



Wimberley Market Days

The Wimberley Lions Market Days operates on the first Saturday of each month from March through December. In November, we broke an all-time record in both revenue and crowds. December was rainy and slow. We will not hold Market Days in January and February in order to perform our annual maintenance of the grounds and facilities..

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Mid-Winter Conference

District 2-S3

Date: January 28th, 2012

Place: McQueeney Lions Club

3211 FM 78

McQueeney, Tx 78123

From the desk of J. P. Kirksey

2012 – It's the beginning of a new calendar year and the second half of our Lions Year. Yes, we have an exciting six months left to fully achieve the goals set out by International President Tam and Governor Cocanougher. Time to make an assessment – Have you met your goals thus far? Are you on pace to have a successful year? Do you need to step up your efforts? Can you exceed your goals? There's still time if we just commit ourselves to our mission – We Serve!

Speaking of service – there are opportunities all around us. Example: For several years, Judy and I have participated in gathering and packing items for Operation Christmas Child through our church. This year we were invited to travel to an assembly center in Charlotte, NC. After some thought, we decided – **"We Can Do That"** – so off we went for three days of very rewarding, but physically strenuous, work. And yes, I proudly wore a Lions Logo shirt during each shift.



The center in Charlotte is the largest of seven centers in the US and has assembly line space for approximately 1,000 volunteers each day. During our three daily shifts, the center processed a total of 400,000 shoe boxes. Each shoe box was packed with toys, clothing, candy, personal hygiene items, and other things suitable for boys and girls ages 5 – 14. Each shoe box is screened for appropriate contents. The shoe box is then repackaged if necessary, sealed, and stuffed into a large shipping box (minimum 15 shoe boxes to each shipping box). The shipping boxes are inventoried and shipped out immediately for delivery to selected developing countries. The shoe boxes are distributed to eager local children who very seldom receive personal gifts and almost certainly would not receive anything else at Christmas time.

So – look around. Service opportunities are everywhere. We can make a difference if we just: Think, Plan, and Act.



1st VDG, J. P. Kirksey
2011-2012

Taylor Lion Passes

Taylor Lion Jerry D. Ash died Sunday afternoon, January 8, 2012, about 6 p.m. at Scott and White Hospital in Round Rock. He had been hospitalized for about a week with congestive heart failure, but he had been very sick for more than a year.

Visitation was Tuesday, Jan. 10, at TownWest Church in Taylor. Services were conducted at TownWest Church. Jerry was buried at Taylor City Cemetery.

Jerry was born January 2, 1939 in Desdemona, Texas. He graduated from Crane High School in 1958 and attended the University of Texas, where he met his wife, Joy. Jerry played on the Shorthorns football team during the 1958-1959 season. Jerry owned and operated the Western Auto Store in Taylor for 16 years, was a car salesman, and then obtained his real estate license.

Lion Jerry was the only Lion who ever served more than once as president of Taylor Lions Club. He transferred to Taylor from the North Austin Lions in 1970; he was elected President in 1976-77; he had to drop out due to work in 1990, but rejoined in 1996 and served his second term as president in 2004-05. He was awarded Lion of the Year in 2003, and last year the club voted to make him a Life Member. Before he became too sick last year, he had been attending meetings regularly.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 51 years, Joy Wolff Ash of Taylor; his children Dean Ash and wife Dina, of Flower Mound; David Ash and wife Teri of Taylor; and Carl Ash and wife Paige of Richmond, VA. He is also survived by six grandchildren, his sister-in-law Sue McGinnis of Fort Worth, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Our condolences go to Joy and the family.

Lion Greg Teggeman, Secretary

Texas Lions Leadership Conference Austin Airport Hilton Hotel

Saturday and Sunday, March 3 & 4, will be the Texas Lions Leadership Conference at the Hilton Austin Airport Hotel.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet Lions in leadership roles throughout Texas, the United States, and worldwide. If you are a current officer of a Lions Club or are considering volunteering to serve as an officer in the future, please reserve this weekend to learn more about LCI.



Lago Vista Lifetime Achievement

Lion Dr. Kurt Tessnow of the Lago Vista Lions Club was presented the Lifetime Membership Award for his contributions to the Lone Star Lions Eye Bank. The award represents District 253, 255, and 2X3. Lion Kurt also is the Lone star Lions Eye Bank District 253 Region 1 Director.



Wimberley Lions Fund Insulin Pump



2nd VP John Lyon was contacted by the Danforth Jr High to see if we could fund an insulin pump that a student needed. John said that the request was outside our criteria but put the need out to the membership via e-mail. Within a few days, \$550 had been raised by Lions dropping off donations.

"Membership is the Key" New Members—December

Congratulations to the newest members of District 2-53 and their sponsors. If there is no sponsor listed, it was not submitted to LCI. *Lion Gary Cocanougher*

Austin Founder Lions Club

Angele C Moyseos	sponsored by	Chris Moyseos
George Piper Rogers	sponsored by	
Leslie Hyland Rogers	sponsored by	Terry LH Heller
Mimi W Rosenthal	sponsored by	Lillie Gilligan

Austin Lake Travis Lions Club

Cintia L Gates	sponsored by	Lawrence Swim
Colleen A Reeves	sponsored by	Beverly Verlinde

Austin North Austin Lions Club

Lisa K Talbot	sponsored by	Sheila Ross
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Garden Ridge Lions Club

Todd A Arvidson	sponsored by	Nigel Davies
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Gruene Lions Club

Kelley Clifford	sponsored by	Adam Grumbles
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Lago Vista Lions Club

Manuel DeLaRosa Jr.	sponsored by	Jimmy Oliver
John B Morelock	sponsored by	Jimmy Oliver

New Braunfels (Noon) Lions Club

Michael D Johnson	sponsored by	Len Heimer
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New Braunfels Evening Lions Club

Dan L Hilbert	sponsored by	Larry Kunkel
Harold B McCown Jr.	sponsored by	Robert Peterson

Schertz Cibolo Lions Club

Amy j Quesenberry	sponsored by	Darlene Evans
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Wimberley Lions Club

Carol A Frala	sponsored by	John Frala
John C Wilton Jr	sponsored by	Dave Slider



Zone IV-A Advisory Committee Meets

Zone chair Carol Peters held a Zone IV A advisory committee meeting in Kyle on November 16, 2011 from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. Attending from Kyle Lions Club were president Eric DeVries, secretary Laurie Luttrell, and treasurer Colleen Cardas. Attending from Buda Lions Club were president Nancy Handrick and PDG Charles Handrick. Attending from Lockhart Evening lions Club was vice president Kelli Verhalen. Attending from San Marcos Bluebonnet Lions Club were president Bonnie Flammang and secretary Carol Peters. The San Marcos Lions club was not represented. It was announced that the San Marcos Evening Lions Club's charter has been cancelled. All subjects on the agenda were discussed.

All clubs in the zone had conducted service activities since June. Some examples shared were Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, Lions Camp, eyeglass collecting and donating, Chamber of Commerce partnerships, senior citizen support, shoes for kids, Leos, scholarships, school supplies, and environmental cleanup. LCI Environmental Photo Contest district deadline was announced for November 20 and Buda Trail of Lights community service project will be December 14-21.

All clubs have an established membership development plan. LCI Basic Mentoring and Club Excellence award were discussed. District 2s3 LCIF chair Charles Handrick encouraged Melvin Jones awards and offered to speak to clubs. Club public relations programs were also discussed. District 2s3 and Bluebonnet Lions monthly newsletters were shared with much interest.

Several upcoming club fundraisers were announced and all clubs' members were invited to attend. Bluebonnet 5K on November 19, Buda Fest on December 3, Kyle Christmas White Elephant Auction at noon on December 8, Lockhart Market Days and fruit sale at Lions Center on December 10, Kyle Fajita Fest on March 31, and Buda Weiner Day Races on April 28-29.

The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2012 at 7 pm in Buda. 2s3 treasurer Maureen Kinald will speak to us about dues and family membership.

Carol Peters, Zone IV-A chair, Lions District 2S3

Bulverde Lions Support St Judes

The San Antonio Express News recently published an article highlighting the efforts of Mr. Jerry Steward and the Bulverde Lions Club to support the mission of the St Judes Childrens Ranch. The article highlights the important role that volunteer organizations like the Lions Club provide to support community needs. Lion Jerry Steward has been a tremendous ambassador for Lions Club International and we are thankful for his dedicated and selfless service to our community and meeting the needs of the less fortunate. A portion of the article, by **Miranda Koerner, Contributing Writer, San Antonio Express News**, is reprinted below:

Just because the Christmas lights and decorations have been put away doesn't mean that the spirit of giving should stop. Local non-profits say that no matter what the calendar says, help is always needed and appreciated.

At St. Jude's Ranch, the Bulverde non-profit children's ranch, struggles with providing a home environment for more than 30 children removed from abusive homes throughout the year. "We have pretty steady volunteers, but our donations definitely (drop off)," Tara Roussett, program director St. Jude's of Bulverde location said. "People forget we operate year round, 24/7.

"During the season of giving, everyone is good at giving donations. But when the holidays end, people go on with their lives and forget about us." And unlike adults, Rousset said, children don't always understand that there might not be funds for a birthday or Christmas present. "We're very thankful for what we get during Christmas, but during the year when we have birthdays, we have to look for the funding from other places," Rousset said.

"It becomes a strain. It's difficult when you're working with kids. We strive to give our kids a realistic view of life. Something that is simple in an ordinary household we have to multiply by 38 kids."

Some non-profits are geared towards just helping other non-profits. The Bulverde Lion's Club, for instance, is a prime supporter of St. Jude's Ranch, even donating Christmas gift cards for the children in lieu of exchanging personal gifts. "These kids have a tough background, either been abandoned or abused," Jerry Stewart, Bulverde Lion member said. "As Lions, our motto is 'we serve.' We're trying to keep these kids on the right track and give them a good start. None of those kids did anything to anyone to get in their situation."

Taylor Lions Club Chili Supper

Thursday, January 26th

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Taylor American Legion Hall

Eat In or get it To-Go without leaving your car

\$ 7 Tickets - Desserts Available!

For tickets, contact:

Gayle Collins at Edward Jones

352-5225

Deborah Parker at Citizens National Bank

352-7641

Or any Taylor Lions Club Member!

The Chili Supper is only 2 weeks away! Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 26th, at the Taylor American Legion Hall. Tickets are \$7 and Lion Deborah Parker at Citizens National Bank has PLENTY more tickets if you need them! Serving begins at 5:00 p.m., but Lions will be there all day long cooking!

Lion Doug says the bull is being administered his last rites, and will soon be FULLY COMMITTED to this project! Our chefs are fine-tuning their culinary skills, as we plan to bake cornbread at the hall this year!

We are checking on music for the event, and will send updates soon.

We'll also offer desserts for sale, so all our members need to put on their aprons and get out their cookbooks! We ask that each member bring at least 2 desserts.

See ya,' Lion Greg Teggeman, Secretary

Mid-Winter Conference

District 2-S3

Date: January 28th, 2012

Place: McQueeney Lions Club
3211 FM 78
McQueeney, Tx 78123



Time: 7:30 AM Registration with coffee, juice, and doughnuts
9:00 AM Call to Order

Registration fee of \$14.00 includes meeting expenses,
doughnuts, coffee, juice, and lunch.

I encourage all clubs to bring your banners.
I look forward to seeing everyone at our Mid-Winter Conference.

San Marcos Bluebonnet Lions Projects

Global Service Action Campaign: Today, there are more than one billion people who do not have enough to eat. One person out of six lives in a state of chronic hunger. Lions have an opportunity to show the strength of our worldwide network during a special service action campaign, "Relieving the Hunger."

Take Action: During December and January, we are joining Lions around the world to help relieve hunger. Carol Peters has organized a project to mobilize our members to make a difference in our community - by helping those who don't have enough to eat.

PROJECTS - FUNDRAISING, Carol Peters, Chair: Many thanks to Linda Alexander and her crew of elves: Faye, Gloria S, Melesa, Toni, Sherry, and Debby who helped with Pictures with Santa at Centerpoint Station on December 10th. "What fun we had watching the children with Santa and we were able to visit with parents and talk about the projects we will use the proceeds for locally." They made our Santa Pictures at Centerpoint fundraiser a total success. \$660 was raised for us to grant to local charities.

Spring into Reading", Saturday, March 24 -at Half Price Books: Save the date for our next FUNdraiser project, "Spring into Reading". We will be at Half Price Books to sell raffle tickets and mystery bags. Manager, Michael Wagner, has confirmed the date and will welcome Lions into his store on that Saturday to promote and raise funds for **Reach Out and Read**, our signature community service project to improve early childhood literacy in San Marcos. Learn more about it at www.reachoutandread.org. Lions Bonnie, Linda A, Carol, and Bertie have volunteered to work with Best Buy, Tuttle Lumber, and Tanger Outlet to join Half Price Books as potential sponsors of this event. Raffle tickets will be distributed to club members at our February 23 and March 6 meetings. If you would like to help, please plan to attend the next committee meeting on January 10 at 5:30 at the San Marcos Library.

The Long and the Short of It

Lions know how to cook. Lions know how to deliver food boxes or sell raffle tickets. Lions know how to put on a talent show, or paint someone's house, or build a park. Lions know how to organize a trip to Kerrville to deliver children to camp and how to collect glasses (etc. etc. etc.). That's why we can always get a group of Lions together to make all of these wonderful service and fund raising projects happen.

However, although we are Knights of the Blind, most Lions know very little about vision and refractive optometry. That's one major reason why so few clubs or districts are willing to set up regular adult or child eye screenings in their Districts, or set up a sorting and reading (of used glasses) program, or go on a mission to help the Lions Clubs in developing nations set up eye programs. The long and the short of it is that most people don't get involved in something because they fear the unknown. In this case, the long and the short of it is **they don't know the long and the short of it!**

I'll explain that in just a minute.

Not knowing much about how the eye works and, therefore, not understanding refractive optics and the tools/machines used by professionals to determine the refractive status of the eye always caused me a little trepidation about helping someone find a used pair of glasses that was near to their actual need. That's why TLERC offers its monthly "Visual Screening Course" (Starts the Thursday before the 3rd Saturday each month in Midland at TLERC). You need to call ahead to get a reservation for the class, but once you and a few of your fellow Lions go through this, you can bring a wonderful service to the poor adults in your community or District.

The course takes you from the basic anatomy and physiology of the eye, to the clinical system used to set up an adult eye screening, to how to use all of the equipment in the screening "lane", to finding a pair that most nearly fits the person's need. The class ends on Saturday with a practical clinical exercise (i.e. the students help TLERC and the Midland area Lions Clubs with their monthly adult clinic on Saturday morning before they head back home). Once I understood how the eye works and what goes wrong that makes things "fuzzy", it was pretty easy for me to understand the refractive optics used in glasses. For example, a camera and the eye are very similar. The light through the lens has to focus on a specific spot or the picture is fuzzy. With the camera when objects are too fuzzy, we can mechanically adjust the focal length of the lens so it focuses on the film. We can't really do much to change the focal length in our eyes, especially as we get older. So if the light coming through our lens falls in front of the retina (called nearsightedness or myopia) or focuses behind the retina (called farsightedness or hyperopia) things are out of focus. This may happen because the eyeball is too **long** (nearsighted) or too **short** (farsighted). So by using different shapes and thicknesses of lenses, a pair of glasses redirects the light so that it focuses further back (correcting nearsightedness) or closer (correcting farsightedness).

This may be oversimplified and not 100% technically accurate, but it sure helps me understand what I am trying to do when pulling glasses, or getting a reading on a lensometer, focometer or autorefractor. If you come to TLERC's classes it will help you "to serve".....and that's the Long and the Short of it!

Tom Blase, VDG 2A1
TLERC Promotions Director



NB Breakfast - Kids Christmas Past & Present

By Lion Don Schoch-Club Historian

Our Kids for Christmas project started about 1988, and was conceived by Lion Allen Seelhammer during Ray Schoch's presidency. At the time, the New Braunfels downtown businesses were having a tough time, and the Downtown Wal-Mart, etc. and then back for gift wrapping, etc. H.E.B. hosted our effort a year or so, then Wal-Mart made an offer we couldn't refuse, and became a heavy lifter in providing a \$1000 donation, their large room which we have been able to use for over ten (10) years as a gathering place and a light lunch, and they also furnished all the wrapping paper, etc. and assisted with some of their employees, and have provided a system with credit cards for accounting for the kids purchases. The Herald-Zeitung has provided outstanding publicity for the event every year, and this year was possibly their best! The New Braunfels High School R.O.T.C. students were inducted in the effort by Past-President Bill Moreno (deceased), and Dale Wade has enlisted the Lions Leos to help as well. And recently McDonald's has provided the lunch.

This project stands as one of Lions best. It serves the kids, their families, the businesses, and the community and enlivens the true Christmas Spirit. Thanks to Lion Allen Seelhammer's great idea twenty three (23) years ago, and thanks to Lion Larry Kunkel (New Braunfels Evening Lions) for his service as our Santa Claus for all those years until he finally got bumped this year by our very own Santa, Lion Jay Orcutt. I do think we should recognize Larry Kunkel for his long tenure as our volunteer Santa!

Association was looking for help in revitalizing the downtown area. Also, needy families were going to the local churches, etc. asking for food dona-

tions, clothing, etc. Some folks were taking advantage of this situation, so the Community Service Center was given the responsibility of collecting, organizing, and dispensing the donations in the community to known needy families. Susie Garcia was the manager of CSC, and knew which families truly needed help.

The idea was to have a project that would help in the needs of the downtown businesses, the churches, and the children of needy families during the Christmas season. So, on a Saturday early in December, 1988 the New Braunfels Breakfast Lions members had breakfast at 7:00a.m. at Krause's Restaurant where they held their regular meetings. In those days Krause's was the most popular meeting and eating place in town, and you usually had to wait in long lines to get a table! The location is at 148 Castell Avenue where the present Friesenhaus Restaurant is now located. Susie Garcia arrived with her selected children and they were served a breakfast, and then got to have a polaroid photo of themselves with Santa Claus (Lion Larry Kunkel). Then they were assigned a Lion escort who took them around to the participating downtown stores such as Henne Hardware, Winn's, Penney's, Paul Bruner's, Chollett's Men's Clothing, and other participating shops. As a courtesy, the businesses opened at 9:30 exclusively for the Lions and their kids before opening for normal business at 10:00.

The Lions assisted the kids in keeping their gift selections within budget. It was a great learning experience for the kids and a bonding of them with the Lions and the community businesses. It was amazing how the small children would decide who to give gifts, how much to spend for each gift, and to stay within their budget. They became very good at managing their money!!!

Afterward, they met at Krause's Restaurant where the Lions assisted the children in wrapping their gifts, and then topped the event off with a lunch of hot dogs, chips, and hot chocolate!

The next year we begin meeting in the basement of the old New Braunfels High School (which is now the New Braunfels Administration Building) after shopping to wrap the gifts, photos with Santa, and a light lunch. Then they were picked up by their parents.

Chase Bank joined into the spirit of Christmas early on by donating \$100 which was a lot of money then. Later some of the downtown businesses moved to new shopping centers, or closed., so the Lions had to provide transportation to the various stores like H.E.B., K-Mart, Thanks lion Don for that history of this project . And now to the present- 22 members of the club escorted some 20 kids on December 3, 2011 around Walmart shopping for their Christmas gifts for their family and one gift for themselves. Each kid was given a \$50 gift card to shop and bring their gifts back to wrap and each child was given a breakfast from McDonalds and a Chance to visit with Santa (Thanks Santa Lion Jay). We had local paper coverage of this Service project and received first page exposure in the paper.



CLUB NEWS

AUSTIN LAKE TRAVIS LIONS CLUB

Christmas Party: Our annual Christmas Party was very small this year but it was still lots of fun! The Dirty Santa activity is always a laugh and we were not disappointed. It was great to share the Christmas spirit with our other Lions members and guests, and the food was delicious and plentiful!! Merry Christmas, everyone!!

BUDA LIONS CLUB

The Buda Lions Club provided refreshments for approximately 70 senior citizens who attended the opening of the City of Buda's "Trail of Lights." The Club also provided assistance to the seniors who rode the buses to the event and the Club also hauled the seniors around the event in golf carts. The cost to the Club was \$150.00 and the Club provided 20 man hours towards this event.

BULVERDE LIONS CLUB

The Bulverde Lions Club celebrated their annual Christmas Party at the Bulverde Community Center on the evening of December 8, 2011. During the party, discussion ensued about the success of donations for the St Judes Childrens Ranch which is headed up by Mr. Jerry Steward. Local businesses are contributing needed items to St Judes. Planning for the annual Wild Game Dinner on April 13, 2012 continues. The club's website has been updated with more current information about upcoming events. Membership in the club has grown by 4 new members. Over 50 people attended the event.



CANYON LAKE NOON LIONS CLUB



Lions Christmas Parade: The Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 10th in Sattler. County dignitaries rode in a Comal County Dump Truck. Leo the Lion was pulled in its Lion Cage behind a golf cart, since it is too heavy for the Leo club members to pull by hand. Eighteen Leo club members rode in the Leo Car with Leo Advisor Lion Norm Schaule, carry their Leo banner, and hand out candy canes to children along the parade route. Lion Bob Brooks was one of the judges for the 60 plus floats and entries. Lion Tom Meyer drove his 2002 Thunderbird with Mrs. Santa Claus aboard (Lion Maurice Simmons wife Amy). Santa Claus, our own Lion Sol Fuss rode in a 1957 Thunderbird. The Grand Marshall was our own Lion Jeff Quinn, and Lion President Alan Chalfont and his wife Betty also rode in the parade. We had a fly over of a B25 and four training planes to start the parade. It was a little chilly, but the raid held off.



Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party was held on Thursday, December 15th at the Canyon Lake Golf Club. Members and their spouses had a wonderful time drinking, eating, and then dancing to the songs of Brett Graham. The evening started off with President Alan Chalfont thanking Board Members, committee chairman, and the various committee groups for

CLUB NEWS *(Continued)*

their giving of their time and talents to our community and our Lions club.

North Pole Village: This is an annual community event brought to the community by the Community Resource and Recreation Center (CRRC). It was held on December 8-10, and 15-17, 2011. Ten Lion club members spent 150 hours helping set up and break down the North Pole village. The village included a North Pole Bank, a North Pole Petting Barn, Santa's Post Office, a Country Store, a North Pole Church, a Toyland, an Elves House, a Frosty's Ice Fishing Pond, a North Pole School House, a Library, a Bakery, a Gazebo, and Santa. Group parties were also scheduled in which group members and their children had a wonderful dinner and the use of the North Pole Village for the night.



Club Polo Shirts: The club approved the purchase of gold club polo shirts.

Guest Speaker: Our guest speaker was Lion Carl Conger's wife Linda Conger, from CL Reads. The CL Reads Project is a community read project introduced in the Seattle Library in 1998 by Nancy Pearl. It's a project in which everyone reads the same book and discusses it. The current book is *Wills War*, written Janice Woods Windle about her mother's early Sequin family and the anti-German sentiment in 1916.

Vision Screening Training: Lion Bill Kannawin reported that we screened 290 with 15 referrals at Rahe-Bulverde Elementary, and screened 142 with 11 referrals at Startzville Elementary.



Donations: 1. \$500 will be donated to the CRRC Food Pantry as our Christmas donation.

Community Recognition: We received a thank you letter from Mr. and Mrs. Gwynne and Pat Vaughan in which a check for \$40 to the Lions club was enclosed in memory of Lion Joel Collins for all the great work our Lions club does.

Wellness: 1. Lion Jack Sharp is doing better, and attended this meeting. 2. Lion Carol Wilder's funeral service was held at Pennington Funeral Home, in San Marcos. Viewing was from 1-4 pm on Friday, December 2, 2011, and the funeral service was held on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Thirty Lion club members wore their vests and attended the funeral. Carol will be missed.

Tail Twister and Raffle: Netted \$113 - no raffle and tail twister on 12 -15-11

DRIPPING SPRINGS LIONS CLUB

Christmas on Mercer: We participated in a one-day Christmas Festival; entertainment, food, shopping, 5K run, and visits with Santa.

ELGIN EVENING LIONS CLUB

The Elgin Evening Lions Club enjoyed the Christmas time.

GARDEN RIDGE LIONS CLUB

Lions Christmas Party: 120 people attended this year's Christmas party. Nine members of the New Braunfels Canyon High School Choir sang Christmas carols for our entertainment. Doty once again delivered with a fantastic meal and the Ladies all went home with poinsettias.

CLUB NEWS *(Continued)*

Operation Santa Claus: We delivered over 50 food baskets to needy families in our area. Over 200 children from these families received wrapped toys as well.

GEORGETOWN NOON LIONS CLUB

Raffle ticket sales continued this month with some visits made by members to other clubs. Our market days event needed to be cancelled due to high winds that have taken a toll on our pavilion, tumbler, and some staff. Our prizes this year are a week vacation to be chosen from several condos available, an Xbox with Kinect, and a DeWalt drill. First and second winners can choose. The condos are diverse in distance and level of luxury so there is one to suit almost every taste. The winner has one year from time of the drawing to take the vacation. The drawing will be done at our Xmas party.

We are looking forward to joining with the Georgetown Evening Lions on Dec. 14th for our annual joint Christmas Party. Social will begin at 6:30 PM at the library with dinner at 7:00 PM. The Red Poppy will be serving a wonderful traditional meal topped off by their famous Caramel Apple Pie. There will be entertainment during and after dinner. Attendees are asked to bring a food donation for the Caring Place. Members who did not sign up at the board meeting or who have not responded to an e/m invitation should do so before Dec. 6. The club will be paying for members and a guest.

Members were asked to complete the survey on aging being conducted by the Georgetown Aging Initiative group. It is available at the library and on line.

Our program in November was a talk by Geo. Library Director, Eric Lashley, who gave us an update on the soon to be launched mobile library. This bookmobile will offer most library services to folks as it travels around Georgetown and is handicap accessible.

Looking ahead, the State Convention in Houston, May 2012 is receiving early registration for a significant discount package. Members who are considering attending should look for this on the MD2 website listed below.

The board approved July 1 as our Sunday to do snacks for incoming campers at TLC. Work days were all taken as of a minute after midnight on Oct. 1, we were told. Members will receive e/m confirmation about the board meeting on Dec. 21, and the regular meeting on Dec. 28.

HUTTO LIONS CLUB

We served hot chocolate at the "Hutto Christmas Downtown" event. We promoted a flag display project.

LAGO VISTA LIONS CLUB

Our 2nd Vice President Talks: The Lago Vista Lions Club responded in a very important way this summer to our state's devastating summer heat. We know how hard it is for some senior citizens and families, who are facing high utility bills, to keep adequate air conditioning in their homes, and sadly, some cannot even afford to have any air conditioning for themselves.

In response to the need, our club purchased 25 box fans and delivered them to the Northwest Rural Community Services office in Jonestown, TX. This community service organization interviews persons in need and evaluates those needs, so we knew we could count on getting our fans to truly needy citizens.

We purchased our fans from our local Ace Hardware, whose manager gave us a price break on the fans and also helped us to deliver them. It was a very happy day when we arrived at the community center with a load of 25 box fans, and as we unloaded them, we were blessed to know that these fans would be given away free to people on a waiting list, and that each fan would bring some significant measure of help to a senior adult or a family in our community needing help with the stifling heat we experienced all summer.

It was truly a project that lived up to our proud Lions motto: "We serve."

A second significant project of the Lago Vista Lions Club was hosting the District 2-S3 Cabinet Meeting at the Travis Oaks Baptist Church in Lago Vista. Gathered in the fellowship hall of the church were almost 60 Lions, including more than a dozen Leo's members. The meeting was conducted by District Governor Gary Cocanougher, and featured info about the district's Lions Club business.

The attendees were treated to a breakfast of burritos and sausage biscuits, sweet rolls, coffee and juice, at the early morning hour of 7:30 a.m. as they came in from the registration process. At the lunch break of the meeting, there was a hot lasagna lunch provided, with tossed salad, rolls, ice cream sandwiches and cookies for dessert. Both of these meals were prepared by, served by, and cleaned-up after by several Lago Vista Lions Club volunteers.

The registration, the facility set-up & takedown, meals, and clean-up were all conducted by those same Club volunteers. It

CLUB NEWS *(Continued)*

was truly a joint effort of the Lago Vista Lions Club, and many compliments were forthcoming from all of the meeting participants. All agreed that the meeting had been productive and enjoyable. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Mid-Winter Conference in January.

LIBERTY HILL LIONS CLUB

December 4th is the Liberty Hill Community Christmas Parade. Our club will be entering a float in the parade, and we need all the help we can get. On Saturday, December 3rd, at 10:00 a.m., we will meet at the Lions building at the back of the park to decorate the wagon. Lion Darwin will then leave it in the building overnight. Any old decorations you might want to donate will be appreciated.

Then we need riders for the float on Sunday. Lineup is at 1:20 behind the LH Primary Elementary building. Wear your vest and we have Santa hats for you to wear. Darwin will have hay bales for us to sit on, but you might want a blanket between you and the hay. After the parade, we will tear the float down at the same building in the park.

In November, we had two very interesting programs at our regular meetings. On November 3rd, Lion Gary Jackson and Gary Spivey gave a wonderful program on the development of Lions Foundation Park with lots of pictures. On November 17th, Lion Larry Nicholson gave a program on his mission trip to Peru, with pictures of Lima and of Machu Pichu and Cuzco. Our next program will be an update on the toll road, and we will have our white elephant exchange on Dec 15th, along with induction of our new Lion members.

FUTURE EVENTS FOR LIBERTY HILL LIONS: In November, we gave \$200 to the Thanksgiving meals served by Bob's Bar to the needy in Liberty Hill. We are working on getting a family or two to help with Christmas. Don't forget our White Elephant gift exchange at our Dec. 15th meeting. We are also looking ahead to our third annual Appreciation Dinner on January 15th. We will also be combining that with a Reunion of our club's charter members. Put it on your calendar. Details will be forthcoming. Mid-Winter Conference will be January 28th in McQueeney.

Adopting a Family for Christmas: The Liberty Hill Lions Club assisted a family of five, plus one on the way, to have a wonderful Christmas. The family has lived in our community for the past twelve years, and the father served our country in the Marines and the Army. He and his wife are currently unemployed and seeking work. They did not ask for assistance, but had requested of the Liberty Hill Ministerial Alliance

some help with utility bills. The club spent \$700 on gifts for each member of the family and needs for the expected baby. The mother tearfully said she had never known such kindness from strangers.

LULING LIONS CLUB

Cleaned up an area around buildings.

MANOR LIONS CLUB

Club Meeting: 12 December 2011: Lions Katy and Gil Burrell provided the meal for our annual Christmas Celebration. The Gala Event was attended by a majority of Lions and many spouses. Widows of many Lions and Community supporters were also in attendance. Lion Dave Nalle was recognized for his work with the Turkey Shoots and Digger took home the Turkey Shoot Award. Lion Leesa Krieg was recognized for her work as a CPA on our books. Final tallies were announced as \$5000 from Manorfest and \$2500 from Turkey Shoots. A great time was had by all.

Club Meeting: 26 December 2011: Meeting cancelled due to Christmas Holiday. Hope all had a great Christmas with family and friends.

Club Meeting: 9 January 2012: Lion John Giorgini will provide the meal.

Club Meeting: 23 January 2012: Lion Rory Calhoun will provide the meal.

Mark Your Calendars: Fish Fry 3 Feb 2012.

MILANO EVENING LIONS CLUB

No business meeting this month. Members donated food and toys again this year.

NEW BRAUNFELS (NOON) LIONS CLUB

Christmas Party and Dance: In spite of the inclement weather December 15th, the Christmas Party went off without a hitch. The food was excellent and beautifully presented as shown below. The revelers were enjoying visiting with each other and yes, there was dancing. All in all it was a great night.

CLUB NEWS *(Continued)*



The Nominating Committee will be working through January and February developing the slate of officers they will propose to the general membership in early March. The election will be in late March so a report can be made to LCI by April 15.

We have 23 positions to fill on the Board of Directors. While a number of them are virtually automatic, there is no policy that dictates that. If you have a desire to serve the club in any capacity see Len Heimer, Charles Stephens, Gregg Van de Loo, Dennis Heitkamp or Bill Kolodzie. For a list of the positions and explanations of the duties see the Policy and Procedures manual. A copy will be available at the Liontamer's table.



Welcome to our club Mike Johnson, shown above with President Gregg Van de Loo and sponsor Mike Pfeuffer. Mike is owner of Comal Mike's Handyman Service. Check him out on Facebook.

NEW BRAUNFELS BREAKFAST LIONS CLUB

Our New Home! By Lion Mike Smith

The verdict is in and the committee has recommended to the BOD that the club change meeting locations to the Faust Hotel in Downtown New Braunfels.

The Board of directors met on December 20, 2011 at the Faust Hotel in the Ballroom and finalized the move to the Faust for the foreseeable future. While the vote was not unanimous with at least a couple descending votes the motion to move passed.

The Fork & Spoon restaurant was also informed on that day that we will not be returning in January. We will meet January 10, 2012 in the Ballroom at the Faust Hotel at 7am. The club will meet as we have on the 2nd and Fourth Tuesday mornings at 7 am and the BOD will meet at the Faust on the 3rd Tuesday morning.

This move was necessary because our club had grown out of the back room at the Fork & Spoon. The Faust will offer our club the room it needs to continue to grow plus offer us a variety meal at breakfast to go along with our informative meetings. Parking at the Faust is Off Casteel Street in the Back of the Hotel.

The Address is:
240 S Seguin Ave
New Braunfels, Tx 78130

See You In January at the Faust!!



POINT VENTURE LIONS CLUB

We provided LVISD with teacher grants, and members shopped for 3 families for Christmas (Blue Santa).

ROUND ROCK NOON LIONS CLUB

December is always full of excitement, caring and celebrating. The Noon Lions and Dawn Busters gathered one

CLUB NEWS *(Continued)*

evening to munch pizza and re-bag six 30 gallon bags of popped popcorn into 1500 zip lock baggies for distribution at the opening evening of Round Rock's Christmas shopping season. I'll bet fragrance of buttered popcorn still lingers in Lion John Barlow's home. My car was packed overnight with popcorn and made me hungry for many days due to the aroma that was activated when the heater came on.

We were mobbed at our distribution hut as all bags vanished within 30 minutes. We were not out of business as we also partnered with the Round Rock HS Leos to make 800 bags of 'Reindeer Dust'. What fun the students and Lions had telling kiddos that the reindeer probably wouldn't find their home unless this magic sparkly dust was sprinkled on their lawns.

We also voted to provide a family with 4 children gifts and food for Lion Tino Hernandez families "Just Because" Christmas project. Lions and community volunteers signed up to provide gifts and food for over 600+ families this year including 'Firestorm' victims from Bastrop, homeless teenagers, wounded warriors, and cancer victims.

We maintained our mentoring in elementary, middle and high schools, driving elderly to medical appointments and church functions. A fun, but chilly, Saturday was enjoyed registering and watching USAFT contestants compete in discus, javelin, hammer, etc throws. The oldest gentleman was 74 years young. Used eye glass collection netted 470 pairs. One lady existing on \$674.00 a month was provided an eye exam and glasses.

Our highlight was presenting the city with \$15,500.00 for our Regional 'Play For All Abilities Park'. It will be completed this month and is certain to be a destination for families of youth with varying challenges from autism to wheel chairs.

Chisholm Trail Middle School's 'Top Cat' awards was attended to present 1st and 2nd place Peace Poster Contestants with gift cards and medallions on their school's colored ribbons.

Lion Pres Kimberly Avery is chairing a "Dinner Theater" fund raiser scheduled for January 28th at Provident Crossing Resort Lifestyle Community at 1950 South A.W. Grimes Blvd in east Round Rock. Dinner is 5:30 and the show, put on by Stony Point High School's Theater classes, begins at 7 PM. Call her at 512-339-7957 or kaverymk@austin.rr.com for information or tickets.



New member, Lion Stefanie Martinez, employed by Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, presents sponsor, Lion Shirley Dillman with a \$500.00 check toward the Regional 'Play For All Abilities Park' located at the corner of A.W. Grimes and Hwy 79 in Round Rock. Other major donors were Hutto and Dawn Buster Lions Clubs for \$5,000.00 each.

SAN MARCOS BLUEBONNET LIONS CLUB

NOTES TO MEMBERS From President Bonnie: Happy New Year, ladies! We had a great Lions Club Christmas! A "Fun"raiser with Santa at Centerpoint Station as well as three community service projects--breakfast and lunch for Habitat for Humanity workers, bell-ringing at the Hobby Lobby for the Salvation Army, and, finally, a Food Drive for the Women's Center. We were certainly filled with the Christmas spirit! We will start our New Year with our noon luncheon at Saltgrass Steak House on January 3rd. The speaker will be Mario Torres, R.N. from Central Texas Medical Center. I hope to see all of you there.
Happy New Year, Bonnie

SAN MARCOS LIONS CLUB

From President Al Green: Fall is finally here! So are the cool weather and its holiday season; time to share with family and friends and to have good eats. The best of times for most of us. But let's not forget our motto "We Serve". Find some time to share with those that are less fortunate than us. We need to help with bell ringing (November 19th); Don made up a sign-up sheet for this event and is ready to help you determine when you can participate. Start thinking about helping the police and sheriff with Blue or Brown Santa. They really like giving toys to deserving children that may not get any without help. Karen, don't keep us up too late partying on December the 16th! We need to get those Christmas Meals out on December 17th.

CLUB NEWS (Continued)

I want to thank everyone that helped with the Book Sale preparation and the River Clean-up last month. We had a good turnout for both events.

Don't forget (especially if you are a service veteran) to help Jack out with the Veteran's Day Parade, November 12. I'm sure he needs help with decorations and with riders. Don't make him come to you and ask for help, instead, seek him out.

As you may recall, I will be in Tennessee helping to make sure my sister's daughter gets married (I'm the videographer). However, Ron Knott said he would cover for me on November 11 and John Schramm said he would return as President for a day on November 18. Don't give them too hard a time, I may need them again.

Linda and I will see you when we get back and wish you, your family, and friends a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

P.S. Pray for rain, we still need to fill the aquifer to assure we have enough water for us and the toobing next year.

SPRING BRANCH BULVERDE LIONS CLUB

Christmas Toy Drive: Donation boxes are placed in several locations around the area. All new, unwrapped toys are delivered to the local schools for distribution to needy children in the area.

TAYLOR LIONS CLUB

We approved the purchase of new eyeglasses for a legally blind single mother of 5.

Chile Supper: We have begun the process of administering the Last Rites to the bull! He will soon be FULLY COMMITTED to our Chili Supper. The Chili Supper will be Thursday, January 26 at the Taylor American Legion Hall. Tickets are \$7.

WIMBERLEY LIONS CLUB

Christmas Party: Entertained by the Wimberley High School Jazz Ensemble led by the WHS Band Director, Bing Bingham. Wimberley Lions celebrate Christmas having fun and giving. Over 200 toys were donated to the Gold Santa to be given to Children in need. Some gave checks to supplement the \$1,000 given earlier to the Gold Santa organization as part of our fall donation budget.



Melvin Jones Fellow Awarded: The Wimberley Lions Club presented the Melvin Jones Award to Lion Beverly Nesmith at their December 6, 2011 meeting. This award is named after the founder of Lions International and is the highest award presented to outstanding members for their service and dedication. Lion Nesmith, who has been a member since 2005, is a Past President of the Wimberley Lions Club, serves on numerous committees, is a member of the Market Day Management Team, is the manager of Concession #1, is in charge of the Market Day Ambassadors and has served on the Board for the past five years. Pictured from left are Lions Lee Gibson, Beverly Nesmith and Lane Hartsock—All MJFs.

