



DISTRICT 7- L
District Governor
ART RITTER (Ronnie)
Bryant Lions Club
1213 Oak Acres
Bryant, AR 72019
(H) 501-847-8268
(C) 501-326-8003
E-mail: arritter@ieee.org



APRIL 2012

DG Ritter Message

Blessings of the season to you and yours. Isn't spring beautiful? Lion Ronnie and I are blessed to have a 'home-place' decorated with azaleas and dogwoods. Truly beautiful surroundings this month.

Mid-South is truly a Lions project. The board of directors is 'drawn' from active Lions of the four states involved. Personally, I am the Arkansas representative to the Case Services Committee. Because of that, I am aware of the need for more funding that is required to serve the growing waiting list of clients. About 200 needy patients have been treated so far this year. (Since July, the fiscal year) and another 200 are waiting to be treated. This is treatment costing **about \$1,000 each**. But at no cost to the patient, who is really poor. All the money must come from donations. Donations from US – the Lions and Lion clubs. That is DONATIONS, not dues. Zero of your dues money help Mid-South or any of the other worthy State and International projects. That translates to an urgent need for about \$200,000.

There are several ways you can help: 1) the board recently announced the Lions "Freedom from Blindness" day, July 4, 2012. All Lion clubs are requested to have a "White Cane" or similar fund-raiser on that day, for the sole purpose of raising funds for Mid-South. (See Letter included,)

2) Participate in the annual auction. This year it will be August 4, 2012.

A silent auction includes many tables loaded with gifts from Lions or friendly sponsors, which attendees bid on. You may contribute an item or get merchandise from a community minded business. Then you can attend and bid/buy from the plethora of merchandise. Then the live auction is held for the more interesting and more expensive items, like Vacations, furniture and such. Your

attendance is encouraged, as well as your bringing a non-Lion guest who is interested in bidding.

3) Be a Booster, they get credit for the one time gift. Even better, be a Champion. That is a Lion that has signed-up to have automatic, withdrawals from an account for direct deposit to Mid-South. (\$100 per year, or \$10 per month, or more)

Please refer to the web site:

www.midsouthlions.org

Keep referring your local patients, as emergency cases are considered and others added to the waiting list will be accommodated as funding is received. Please encourage your club to make a generous donation when they refer the patient for service. I find it interesting that my local neighbor needing cornea surgery is being sponsored by the Gravel Ridge Club of 7N, proving that your concern for a "neighbor" is not geographically bound.

Second Thoughts James Griffin

As Lions we would like for all of our projects to be successful. Most of the time when we think of a Lions project, we are thinking of one that is to raise money for some cause. The distribution of money raised is also a project, but it doesn't seem to be a problem to find some worthy cause to fund. So let's consider some things that make our fund raisers work.

1. **PURPOSE:** We always have a purpose in raising funds that purpose being to serve others, but if we do not communicate our purpose to the people we are asking to help us our success will be limited. Another thought is people tend to contribute where they see results. With this in mind we

Continued on Page 2 - Griffin

must keep a balance between state projects and local ones.

2. **PREPARATION and PLANNING:** This should go without having to say it. A project that has not been planned well is one that is destined to be a poor project. If your club is one with a board of directors, the planning should start with this group and then carry the board's plans to the club for approval. Make sure the entire club buys into a project before proceeding. Without this you may find just a few Lions working the project.

3. **PARTICIPATION:** Usually, the entire club will not be available to work on every project. Some are just too busy; live with it. Others will have conflicts that cannot be avoided. If you can be available before, during or after a project come to work. That's what Lionism is all about.

Using our Christmas Auction as an example, the planning of this project begins as early as August with the auction occurring the weekend after Thanksgiving week. The board works to set processes in place that will help members accomplish required tasks especially the solicitation of auction items in a professional manner. The use of funds is communicated to merchants and businesses through a written request form that will serve as their receipt for the donated item. The actual auction is a three night event not counting a day to set-up and one to clean-up. An event this large takes every member available and a few extra volunteers for which we are grateful. I hope this helps your club in organizing your next event.

CONWAY NOON GOLF

Here is an opportunity for you to get out and enjoy Conway and help another Lion's Club.

Conway Noon Lions 14th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, May 21, 2012

Centennial Valley Country Club

Conway, AR

18 Hole - 4 person scramble

Entry fee- \$360 includes cart, complimentary continental breakfast, lunch and awards ceremony

Hole Sponsor - \$200

Contact Marty Faggetti, Chair at
marty.faggetti.b0a4@statefarm.com

TECH TALK

Use of the Lions of Arkansas conference calling service, to date provided free by NATCO of Flippin, Arkansas, has effectively achieved some notable goals.

First, by making attendance easier and less costly from a time and travel perspective, participation in Council of Governors' meetings has increased dramatically. Prior to the implementation of conference calls, non-council member attendance to face-to-face meetings numbered a few at best. Since meetings have begun using the service, the average number of Lions dialing in has regularly exceeded 20.

Additionally, use of the service has allowed an increase in the number of Council meetings conducted from four face-to-face per year to at least one per month, thereby enabling much more to be accomplished over the course of the Lions year.

The service is available to all Lions throughout the state and might be used for club Board of Directors' meetings, as well as Zone Chair and District leadership meetings.

Filipino Girl Wins Lions International Peace Poster Contest

We're pleased to announce that the grand prize winner of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest is Trisha Co Reyes. The Manila Centennial Lions Club sponsored Trisha, a 13-year-old girl from the Philippines, in the contest.



As the grand prize winner, Trisha will receive US\$5,000 and attend an award ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations (LDUN) in New York City. [Learn](#)

[more about Trisha](#) and [order your kit](#) to participate in the 25th annual competition, "Imagine Peace." Your town might be the home of our next winner.

HSV Evening Lions Help Breakfast Lions Celebrate 35th Anniversary

It was a rousing anniversary party, March 21, celebrating Breakfast Lions 35 years in the Village, as well as their many good deeds for sight-impaired residents and area school children.

A serenade from the Village Strings Orchestra and a classy banner to remember the occasion



Some 14 Past Presidents plus 7-L District Governor Art Ritter attended celebration for Morning Lions. Current Presidents Sitting: Evening Lions President Bob DeLoach, Breakfast Lion President Ken Wilson. From left standing: Chuck Floy, John Adkins, Robert E. Lee, Bruce Davis, Ed Pearson, Linda Piette, Dave DeGraff, Bob DeVinney,, Emile Lauber, Al Becker, PID James O'Connor, DG Art Ritter. Dr. Bud Holt attended but was not in this photo.

Among the tributes:

- ❖ Morning Lions' fundraising has reached more than \$800,000 in 35 years. The funds have supported many sight-saving charities, as well as World Services for the Blind.
- ❖ For the past 11 years, Morning Lions have visited area schools in teams of four to screen 6,000 children for eye refraction issues requiring professional treatment.
- ❖ Some 210 Garland County students have been referred to eye specialists for sight-saving treatment. Without treatment, these students would have been left behind in school as well as in their social skills development.

Adkins noted Evening Lions was just a fledgling 5-years old when it sponsored the charter of Morning Lions to Lions International.

HSV's two Lions clubs collectively now have raised more than \$2,200,000 to support sight-impaired citizens and community charities, an average exceeding \$55,000 annually.

were part of this grand fete to our fellow Lions.

Evening Lion's past president John Adkins led the tribute, reciting Morning Lions numerous contributions to Village life.

Sate Convention



**Singer/Speaker Lion
Karen Taylor-Good**

The State Convention Committee announces professional singer/motivational speaker Karen Taylor-Good will be our featured program.

The governors were entertained and motivated by her at last July's convention in Seattle.

Another good reason to plan on attending: May 18-19, 2012 at Central Baptist College of Conway.

Forum attendees enjoyed Mexican food night before



Lions Clubs Supplemental Insurance Program

Lions Clubs International provides Lions clubs, districts and other authorized Lions organizations with \$1,000,000 of Liability Insurance that protects against losses from bodily injury and property damage arising out of most Lions activities. However, there are additional types of insurance coverage that clubs and other Lions organizations should consider to protect against other risks that may arise out of Lions activities. Recently, Lions Clubs International has arranged for a program of supplemental insurance coverage which may be purchased at discounted rates by clubs, districts and approved Lions foundations in the United States.

One available coverage is [Directors & Officers Liability Insurance](#), which protects the officers of a Lions club or district for actions brought against them for actual or alleged negligent acts or omissions and for misleading statements. Directors and officers of a Lions club or district can be liable if they damage the organization by breaching their duties, violate organization by-laws, or fail to disclose conflicts of interest. Another example of such claims include an action brought by a contributor to the foundation of a club or district who was

unable to obtain a tax deduction as a result of the foundation failing to file or maintain its charitable tax exempt status. Information about this coverage, an application and indicated pricing can be found on the following link:

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/resources/insurance/supplemental/directors-officers-liability.php>

Another important coverage offered is Accident Insurance which enables you to protect your members and volunteers from the financial consequences of accidental injuries. The plan is designed to provide insurance protection for your members and volunteers injured during sponsored activities. This program provides high limits of coverage - up to \$100,000 for Accident Medical Expenses and up to \$25,000 in Accidental Death coverage - all at a very affordable cost. All the information you'll need, including how to obtain the coverage, can be found on the following link:

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/resources/insurance/supplemental/directors-officers-liability.php>

Additional liability limits are available through a Special Events Policy if your club or district needs more than the automatic \$1,000,000 limit provided by Lions Clubs International's general liability program mentioned above. Information about this coverage can be found via the following link:

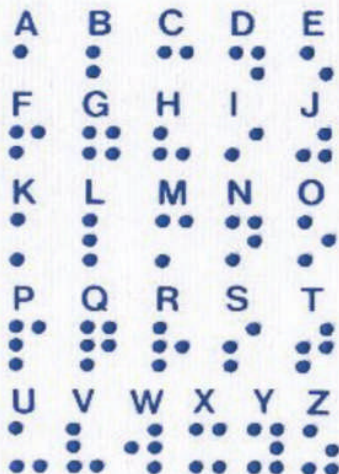
<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/resources/insurance/supplemental/index.php>

For all questions you can contact John Adams at john.adams@willis.com 847-517-3450 or Jeannene Miller at jeannene.miller@willis.com 847-517-3460.

Did you know?

Braille code is a writing system which enables blind and partially sighted people to read and write through touch. The Braille alphabet was invented by Louis Braille (1809-1852), a French teacher of the blind. It consists of patterns of raised dots arranged in cells of up to six dots in a 3 x 2 configuration. Each cell represents a Braille letter, numeral or punctuation mark

BRAILLE ALPHABET



Your District Governor & Newsletter Editor Need Help

This newsletter is a good way to let other clubs know what you are doing. What has your club done that should be passed on to other clubs? Maybe your club has done a project or fundraiser that did not work to your expectations, help other clubs by letting them know.

It is also important to let other clubs know what you have done very successfully.

Please email your information to DG Art Ritter, motorman44@yahoo.com or Jim Hamilton, jim.hamilton@hsvelions.org

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE EVENING LIONS MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION ACTION PLANS



This fall, La Center, Washington school superintendent Lion Mark Mansell will have plenty to talk about.

A member of the La Center Lions Club, Lion Mark is planning to ride his bicycle from Portland, Oregon across the country to Portland, Maine or approximately 3,500 miles. The 60-day journey begins Saturday, June 16 and concludes in Portland, Maine on Sunday, August 17. It will include a stop at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan the week of July 15. The purpose of his journey is to raise awareness and money for Leader Dogs for the Blind. "I enjoy challenges and I love to learn" Mansell said, "Given the chance to attempt something like this is a very special opportunity that is extremely exciting."

Lion Mark would like to raise \$35,000. With a 3,500 mile trip, anyone who provides a penny per mile sponsorship (or at least \$35 donation) will receive a Cycling for Leader Dogs sponsor pin. To meet our goal, we will need to secure 1,086 individual "one penny per mile" sponsors.

Lion Mark and his Team have created a blog www.CyclingForLeaderDogs.org so people can easily follow his journey and donate.

A few ways Lions can show their support:

- Become a Cycling for Leader Dogs Sponsor with a \$35 donation to Leader Dogs for the Blind.
- Bike along with Mark for a short while.
- Cheer him on as he passes through your community.
- [Email him at mansell.lacenter@gmail.com](mailto:mansell.lacenter@gmail.com) if you would like to host him overnight.
- Share this with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Leader Dogs for the Blind



1. The Hot Springs Village Evening Lions Club has come up with three new Action Plans aimed at increasing Membership and Retention. In addition we are pushing a Membership Challenge involving all club members for the last quarter of this Lions year (April through June 2012).

2. The three action plans were the product of a very worthwhile Membership Exploratory Team that met in a brainstorming session to get ideas and methods for approaching potential new members. The three plans that were presented and approved by the board are as follows:

A. Lion Magazine Distribution - we are collecting members' used Lion magazines and putting a label on them. These are then passed out to local businesses to be placed in their waiting rooms or lobby areas where local residents can pick them up and find out about Lions while they wait for their scheduled appointments.

B. Ask Me About Lions Button - we have taken our old membership name badges and placed a label on them and it simply says, "Ask Me About Lions". These badges have been given to all our board members and past presidents and officers to wear at any local gathering or club activity they attend. It is a means of getting attention and starting a conversation about Lions and what we do.

C. Lions Night Out - this one is aimed at retention by getting our members to meet for a meal once per month at one of our local village restaurants. Our club has over 110 members and it is hard to get to know every one at our twice monthly meetings. To help foster friendships and make lasting bonds among our members, we felt a casual night out where we can get to know one another would be both Fun and interesting. Our first night out had 25 in attendance and we had a great meal with great Lions and we help support a local business.

Lion John Hamilton
Membership Chairman

Lions Club Membership Drive Statement

WHAT ARE LIONS AND LIONS CLUBS

I would like to tell you about what one of our distinguished members and an International Lions Director answered when asked the question, "What are Lions and Lions Clubs?"

The response was: We are not a political organization, yet among our members will be found leaders of all political parties and factions.

We are not a social club, yet we are directed to take an active interest in the social welfare of our communities.

We are not a youth organization, yet we participate in so many youth programs and projects around the world that it is hard to determine if the dog is wagging the tail or the tail is wagging the dog.

We are not a welfare organization, yet over the years, in good times and bad, countless thousands of less fortunate people around the world have been the recipients of the generosity of Lions.

We are not a sports or recreational agency, yet thousands of youth have been thrilled with Little League and other Lions sponsored youth recreational programs and many other activities built around the training of the minds and bodies of our youth, both boys and girls; both sighted and non-sighted.

We are not a religious body, yet the precepts we live by are familiar doctrines of the world's spiritual bodies.

We are not a health or medical organization, yet our clubs have performed miracles in this wide panorama of community and individual service.

We are not an educational foundation, yet thousands of students are in schools around the world today built by Lions.

We are not a United Nations, yet we are recognized by the same body as an instrument of peace.

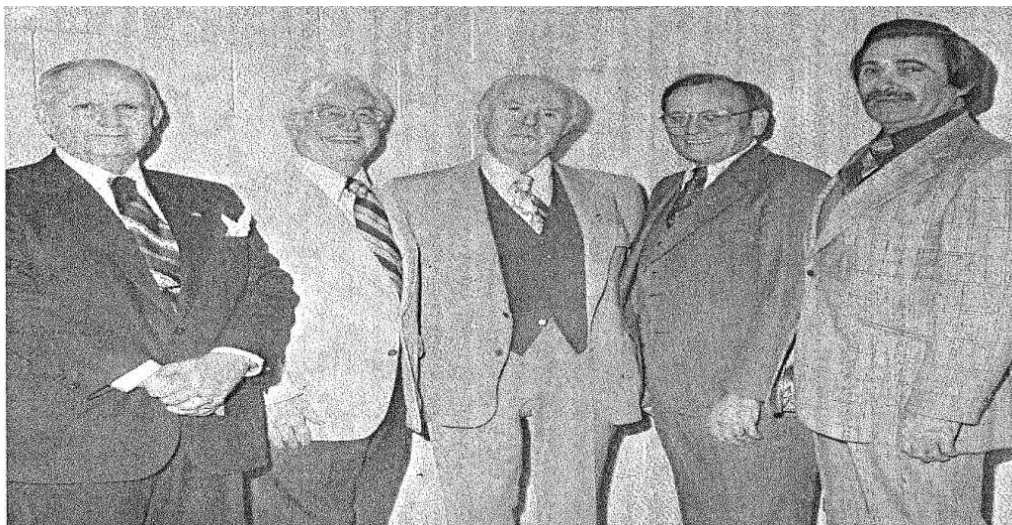
Lionism, born while the world was aflame with war, has grown strong under the nourishment of freedom and liberty.

What you have just read informs you that our members come from a very diverse and cross-section of people. We must never forget and we must be ever mindful of that adversity, and appreciating each of our members for the service they freely give.

If you like what you just read and wish to find out more then send us a private message and someone will get back to you.

Richard Williams Hopkins posted in Lions Club International.

On March 10 our club participated with several other local clubs and the City of Hot Springs in a very successful "Plant a Tree" program. Lions Cash, Grim and Wootten represented our Hot Springs Lions Club



THEIR NAMES ARE ON BUILDINGS — Five men have buildings named for them at AEB and each took part in a trainee banquet observing the 32nd anniversary of the rehabilitation center. From left, Robert Sakon of England, Roy Kumpe, Edward G. Barry Sr. and Dr. J. M. Fowler, all of Little Rock, and Jess Odom of Maumelle New Town. The center's sixth building is named for Mrs. Grace Pinkinton who died in 1975. During the trainee banquet, each individual took a few minutes to describe how he got involved in the program and at what stage its development was when he became involved.

Lions, Mid-South Sight Help Fletcher Regain Sight

At the March 21 meeting of the Evening Lions Club, members gathered to honor and recognize their fellow Lions of the Breakfast Lions Club. The Breakfast Lions are celebrating their 35th anniversary as a club. Evening Lions president Bobby Deloach praised the club and current president Ken Wilson for their work and longevity.

After a fine dinner catered by The Home Plate with music by The Village Strings, everyone settled in to hear Brad Baker tell the story of Ashley



Ashley Fletcher with Lions Larry Ketcham, Jim Hamilton, Brad Baker

Fletchers, decline of her sight, and how Evening Lions members helped her get medical care.

Baker is the CEO of Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing

Service out of Memphis, Tenn. He is a University of Arkansas graduate, a three-time Melvin Jones Fellow award recipient, a nine year district cabinet member, a recipient of the Lions International Leadership Medal and much more.

Mid-South's mission is to positively enhance the lives of the indigent sight and hearing impaired by providing light, sound and hope through partnerships between Lions Clubs, medical professionals and facilities throughout the mid-south. The organization was founded in 1942.

Baker told the crowd of nearly 130 Lions and guests how valuable they are in the process of helping others. "You've helped thousands of people with their eyesight," Baker said of the Lions Clubs.

He then told the moving story of Ashley Fletcher who woke up one morning and noticed she had blurriness in one eye and small black spots in the other. She was working at the time as a massage therapist at Kutting Korner Salon and Spa in the Village.

Her sight was getting worse and she was referred to a Little Rock doctor who saw her three times. Fletcher told the *Voice* he told her she had macular degeneration and bleeding in her eyes,

and added there was nothing he could do. "He couldn't see past all the blood," said Fletcher of her condition.

In September 2011 her co-worker Jo Crutchfield got her connected with Evening Lions members Larry Ketcham and Jim Hamilton.

Hamilton then immediately contacted Baker in Memphis. Within a matter of a few days, Fletcher was accepted for an examination and underwent her first surgery. She could see immediate improvement following that surgery which slowed the bleeding in her eyes.

Successive surgeries stopped the flow of blood and her eyesight has gone from 80/20 to 20/25 in both eyes. She is scheduled for a followup visit in June and her prognosis looks good.

Of the experience Fletcher said, "I didn't know where I was going to get any help. My world was going dark and I didn't know what I was going to do."

The surgeries were performed by Dr. Ed Chaum at the Hamilton Eye Institute in Memphis which opened in 2008. "Dr. Chaum says everything looks great. I think I have better vision now than before this started," Fletcher said.

Of the help from the Lions she added, "I say thank you to the Lions. I had no clue how to get help. I owe my vision to them."

Baker said her case is one of many that he sees at Mid-South. "Mid-South helps those (in need) to regain their freedom. We're helping people every day," said Baker who noted that some doctors perform the surgery free of charge.

He told the gathering that Lions around the world spend 80 percent of every dollar on sight care.

Mid-South has 200 people on their waiting list and needs funding to get to them as quickly as possible. He is asking all Lions Clubs to hold a special fundraiser around July 4th to help in those efforts.

Fletcher was at the meeting with her fiancée Chris Baggett, a U.S. Marine recently home from Afghanistan. Both were warmly welcomed by club members and guests who shared Fletcher's excitement of regaining her precious eyesight.