

LION



M.D. "A" Edition April/May/June 2026

www.lionsclubs.org

We Serve



HONG KONG 2026

108th Lions International Convention

JULY 3-7, 2026



Improving Vision.
Preventing Diabetes.
Protecting the
Environment.
Eliminating Hunger.
Supporting Children
with Cancer.

The Lions Clubs International Foundation tackles many crucial world issues.

We share your values. We're proud to have your back.

D
DARLINGINSURANCE
www.darlinginsurance.net


ecclesiastical
www.ecclesiastical.ca

Senior Editor: Lion Bob Pearson

Editor/Graphic Design: Barbara MacDonald

Publishing: Peek Imaging



THE
Lion



Welcome to the April/May/June Edition of the **LION**.
To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please utilize the services
of your District Reporter. For photos, try to ensure your camera and/or smartphone
is at the highest setting to provide quality images. The camera quality of most smart-
phones available today is excellent. A minimum of 300 DPI is desired. Images copied
from the internet and/or Facebook or other social media are usually unsuitable.

Contents

MD'A' Edition

April/May/June 2026

Batawa Lions	18
Blackheath-Binbrook Lions.....	20
Capreol Lions	18
Chippawa Lions	25
Copetown Lions	21,23
Cumberland	20
Delaware Lions/Lioness.....	25
Fisherville Lions.....	22,24
Greely Lions	12
Melbourne Lions	25
Merriton Lions	28
Minnow Lake Lions	25,27
Mountain Township and District Lions Club	11
Navan Lions	20,25
North Newmarket Lions	23
Orleans.....	20
Palmerston Lions.....	21,24
Port Colborne.....	20
Restoule Lions	22
Ripley Lions.....	20
Simcoe-Lynn Valley Lions.....	23
St. Davids and District Lions	28
St. Joseph Island	20
St. Thomas Lions	27
Thorold Lions.....	13
Walden Lions.....	23

President's Message	4
Convention Call	4
Executive Summary of Resolutions International Board of Directors Meeting.....	4
Official Notice Of Proposed Amendments.....	5
3VP Candidates Bio Summaries.....	6-9
Highlights of the Council of Governors' Meeting	9
Canadian Lions for LCIF	9
In Memory of Past International President Joseph L. Wroblewski	10
Learning From the Hive: Inspiring Youth to Protect Bees and Biodiversity	11
Lions Bring Renewed Vision to Malawi.....	12
New Computers for Students in Guatemala.....	13
13-Year-Old Student from China Named Grand Prize Winner of Lions International Peace Poster Contest....	14
Brazilian Student Adriene Mirelly da Silva Wins 2025-2026 Lions International Peace Essay Contest Grand Prize	15
Ontario Mind Matters - Lions virtual Club.....	16
MDA Convention 2026.....	17
Canadian Lion Summit 1.5.....	18
District A-2 Convention	19
District A 7-11 Convention	19
District A -9 Convention	21
District A-15 Convention	21
District A9 Convention.....	21
District A-2 Lions Making a Difference for Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice.....	22
Draw to Support Lions Camp Dorset New Medical Building	22
Can Crushing Lion Raising Thousands For Local Youth....	24
MDA Directory Information	24
District Reporters	26
Important Dates.....	26
District A-5 Reporter.....	27

The LION Magazine, official publication of Lions Clubs
International, is published by authority of the board of
directors in 20 languages - English, Spanish, Japanese,
French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean,
Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian,
Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian and Thai.

Management Committee Lion Magazine
Lion Marjorie Lewis • Lion Eric Dolansky PDG



Agreement Number is:
41805020*

GOVERNORS' COUNCIL 2025-2026

Council Chair		Bill Robinson (PDG Tracey) 297 Greenwood Drive Stratford ON N5A 7N7 c: 226-228-3022 lionbillrobinson@gmail.com
A1	Darlene Snyders 519-851-0401 lion-darlene17@rogers.com	
A2	Louise Agnew 905-741-3409 agnewlouise2@gmail.com	
A3	Bryan Adams 613-332-3301 613-202-1820 pzcbumadams@gmail.com	
A4	Jim Devenny 343-250-0158 343-540-9022 devennyjim@gmail.com	
A5	Robert Lachance 705-690-8922 bobclachance1954@hotmail.com	
A711	Abdullah Gamandie 647-343-6538 416-573-2949 abdullah2350@yahoo.ca	
A9	Zoellyn Onn 519-887-6336 416-831-7067 lionzoellynonn@gmail.com	
A12	Jim Bartley 705-435-8616 jimbartley2020@gmail.com	
A15	Linda Vinette 226-343-0261 226-962-1636 lvinette56@gmail.com	
A16	Martin Jones 905-628-6632 905-902-3210 mjjones621@outlook.com	
Secretary	Marjorie Lewis	
Treasurer	Eric Dolansky	

FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNORS 2025-2026

A1	Mark Heffernan – 519-615-1392
A2	Scott Hill – 289-440-4111
A3	David McKellar – 613-438-8793 613-438-8793
A4	Kim Sheldrick – 613-821-3033
A5	Jerome Lesny – 705-919-6053
A711	Verona Payne – 647-716-9226
A9	Frank Jacobi – 519.889.0478
A12	Jim Rice – 705-627-3638
A15	Richard Mallon –905-627-5985

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President A.P. Singh, India;
Immediate Past President Fabricio Oliveira, Brazil;
First Vice President Mark S. Lyon, USA;
Second Vice President Dr. Manoj Shah, Kenya;
Third Vice President Tony Benbow, Australia.
Contact the officers at Lions Clubs International, 300 W.
22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523-8842, USA.

Second Year International Directors

Raj Kumar Agarwal, India; Guy-Bernard Brami,
France; Dr. Karl Brewi, Austria; Debbie Cantrell, USA;
Chris Carlone, USA; Luis Augusto David Caro Chong,
Peru; Dato' Yeow Wah Chin, Malaysia; Lorena Hus,
Slovenia; Ea-Up Kim, Republic of Korea; S. Magesh,
India; Robert "Ski" Marcinkowski, USA; Pankaj Mehta,
India; Bert Nelson, USA; Ramesh C. Prajapati, India;
Princess Bridget Adetope Tychus, Nigeria; Graeme
Wilson, New Zealand; David Wineman, USA; Dong
Zhao, China.

First Year International Directors

Subhash Babu, India; Nadine Bushell, Trinidad; Soon-
Tak Choi, Republic of Korea; Liz Crooke, USA; Debbie
Dawson, Canada; Celina Guimarães, Brazil; Nazmul
Haque, Bangladesh; Kuo-Yung Hsu, China Taiwan;
Dr. Mark Mansell, USA; Drzen Melcic, Croatia;
Ryozo Nishina, Japan; Niels Schaecker, Romania;
Gary Steele, USA; Tomoyuki Tanabu, Japan; Hroar
Thorsen, Denmark; Melissa Washburn, USA; David W.
Wentworth, USA.



We Led and Served Together

Dear Lion,

Throughout this year, we have witnessed the powerful impact of Lions and Leos in communities around the world. Through your leadership and service, real needs have been met, lives have been changed and communities have been strengthened. Your commitment has been the driving force behind this success, turning compassion into action where it matters most.

As the Lion year comes to a close, that impact does not slow — it carries forward. MISSION 1.5 reminds us that there are still more people to reach and more opportunities to grow. By strengthening our membership, we expand what's possible through service and ensure our impact continues to grow well into the future.

That continued impact is worth recognizing. Take time to celebrate what you and your fellow Lions have accomplished

and the difference you've made. Recognition not only honors your impact but also inspires continued service. As you carry that momentum forward, plan for what's next by preparing future leaders and strengthening succession plans — ensuring your club and our mission continue to thrive.

Thank you for your leadership, your service and your commitment to making a difference.

Together we serve,

A.P. Singh
International President, Lions Clubs International

Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2026 International Convention. The 108th Lions International Convention will be held in-person July 3-7, 2026, with some events available on demand after convention. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president and 18 members of the International Board of Directors, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The 2026 convention will be held

in Hong Kong, China — a city alive with energy and possibility, where towering skyscrapers rise alongside ancient temples and every street hums with life. From vibrant markets and eclectic cuisine to breathtaking harbor views, Hong Kong offers a sensory experience at every turn. It's the ideal setting for Lions International's biggest event of the year. Over five uplifting days, you'll experience dynamic plenary sessions featuring world-class speakers and entertainment, a captivating international show and engaging seminars. You'll also explore a lively exhibit

hall, celebrate meaningful recognition moments and connect with Lions from around the world. Convention brings together fellowship, fun and learning on a global scale. Join us as we celebrate our impact and ignite our passion for the year ahead.

A.P. Singh
International President, Lions Clubs International



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING March 15-18, 2026 – Oak Brook, Illinois, USA



AUDIT COMMITTEE

No resolutions.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Amended the charter of the Advisory Committee to Review Vice President Candidates in the Board Policy Manual, Chapter 2., Paragraph A., to ensure all committee members are reimbursed under the association's General Reimbursement Policy.
2. Amended the district governor and vice district governor vacancy filling procedures in the Board Policy Manual, Chapter VII., Exhibit A. Standard District By-Laws, Article II, Section 5. and Section 6. to clearly specify the officers included in the policy and align both procedures to ensure

participants are members in good standing of clubs in good standing in the district.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the per diem allowance for the International President Convention Appointees for the 2027 International Convention in Washington, DC, USA as US\$140 per day for meals and US\$325 per day for lodging. Headquarters staff per diem shall be US\$140 per day for meals, and US\$0 per day for lodging.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Approved the undistricting of District 134 Ukraine. The clubs in Ukraine that desire to remain in the undistricted area shall be supported by a working group to be appointed by the Executive Committee. The District &

Club Administration Division in cooperation with the Legal Division communicate the decision of the International Board of Directors to the district leaders and club presidents and secretaries in the former District 134 of this decision.

2. Approved the proposed new Club Excellence Award criteria for 2026- 2027.
3. Amended Board Policy Chapter IX I. Redistricting, I.c. be updated to reflect the increase of the redistricting fee to US\$600.
4. Amended Article VII. Standard Club Constitution, Section 5 Tail Twister description be updated.

FINANCE & HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the third quarter forecast for the current fiscal year.

2. Amended the club billing payment deadline from 120 days to 90 days to place clubs in financial suspension. The timing of cancellation is not affected.
3. Amended Chapter XI. Finance, Paragraph B.3. to add the association's Controller as authorized signer for the organization.
4. Amended Chapter XXI, Paragraph C. and Chapter IX, Paragraph D.4. of the Board Policy Manual in order to proceed with the technology enhancement for the district governor expense reimbursement process.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the 2027 District Governors-Elect Seminar group leader team.
2. Approved an exception to Chapter XIV, D.3.a. of the Board Policy Manual requiring two full scheduled days of events for the FVDG/DGE Seminar at convention by allowing a third day for the 2027 DGE Seminar in Washington, D.C., USA.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

(JANUARY 2026 MEETING REPORT)

No resolutions.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

1. Amended awards criteria in Board Policy

Manual Chapter XIX.

2. Amended International Protocol in Board Policy Manual Chapter XIX to include select Leo positions.
3. Amended housekeeping issue in Board Policy Manual Chapter XIX, related to naming for the International President's Award.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved a Leo Advisory Panelist to fill a vacancy in CA I.
2. Approved removal of a Leo Advisory Panelist in CA VI.
3. Approved the list of Coordinating Lions for 2026-2027.
4. Prohibited district 306-D1 (Sri Lanka) from receiving membership grants, as a result of submitting fabricated receipts. Additionally, requested the district governor write a letter of apology to the council of governors and the vice governors of 306-D1.
5. Approved MD 109 (Iceland) the ability to form five 10-member clubs through December 31, 2026.
6. Added the duties of Leo district chairpersons to the standard district by-laws in Chapter

VII., Exhibit A. Standard District By-Laws, Article III of the Board Policy Manual.

7. Added the duties of the multiple district Leo chairpersons to the standard multiple district by-laws in Chapter VII., Exhibit C. Standard Multiple District By-Laws, Article III of the Board Policy Manual.
8. Amended Chapter XXII., Paragraph A.19.d. of the Board Policy Manual to clarify the process by which Leo Advisory Panelist recommendations are made.
9. Amended Chapter XXI., Paragraph A.19.a. of the Board Policy Manual to clarify the process by which Leo Advisory Panel chairs and co-chairs are selected.
10. Amended Chapter IX., Paragraph B., Section 1.b. of the Board Policy Manual to remove outdated language related to Mission 1.5 summit reimbursement.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

No resolutions.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

No resolutions.c.

For more information on any of the above summaries, please refer to the LCI website at www.lionsclubs.org or contact the Legal division.



Official Notice of Proposed Amendments 2026 International Convention, Hong Kong, China

The following proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2026 International Convention.



ITEM 1: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA TO REQUIRE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS GRANTED VOTING RIGHTS BY A DISTRICT OR MULTIPLE DISTRICT TO BE MEMBERS OF A CLUB IN GOOD STANDING IN ORDER TO VOTE BY VIRTUE OF TITLE.

(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That the International By-Laws, Article IX, Section 3. CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA be amended by inserting "in good standing" as follows:

Each chartered club in good standing in the association and its district (single, sub- and multiple) shall be entitled in each annual convention of its district (single, sub- and multiple) to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each ten (10) members who

have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club, or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the international office of the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held, PROVIDED, however, that each such club shall be entitled to at least one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate; and FURTHER PROVIDED, that each district (single, sub- and multiple) may, by express provision in its respective constitution and by-laws, grant full delegate status to each past district governor who is a member of a club **in good standing** in such district independent of the club delegate quotas hereinabove specified. Each certified delegate present in person shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote of his/her choice for each office to be filled by, and one (1) vote of his/her choice on each question submitted to, the respective convention. The major fraction referred to in this Section shall be five (5)

or more members. Any club which is newly chartered, and any other chartered club which takes in new members prior to the convening of any such convention, shall have its delegate quota determined on the basis of members who have been enrolled in the club for at least one year and a day as shown on such record date in the records of the international office. Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention..

ITEM 2: A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE SEMI-ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DUES TO BE PHASED IN OVER FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2028-2029. A MODEST, PHASED IN DUES INCREASE WILL ALLOW THE ASSOCIATION TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE MEMBERSHIP BY MAINTAINING

EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND INVESTING IN NEW INITIATIVES IN THE FUTURE.

(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That effective July 1, 2028, Article XII, Section 2(a) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the phrase “twenty-five dollars (US\$25.00)” and substituting the phrase “twenty-six dollars (US\$26.00)”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective July 1, 2029, Article XII, Section 2(a) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the phrase “twenty-six dollars (US\$26.00)” and substituting the phrase “twenty-seven dollars (US\$27.00)”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective July 1, 2030, Article XII, Section 2(a) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the phrase “twenty-seven dollars (US\$27.00)” and substituting the phrase “twenty-eight dollars (US\$28.00)”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective July 1, 2031, Article XII, Section 2(a) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the phrase “twenty-eight dollars (US\$28.00)” and substituting the phrase “twenty-nine dollars (US\$29.00)”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective July 1, 2032, Article XII, Section 2(a) of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the phrase “twenty-nine dollars (US\$29.00)” and substituting the phrase “thirty dollars (US\$30.00)”.

ITEM 3: A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS BY ONE AND REDUCE THE

NUMBER OF BOARD APPOINTEES BY ONE. IT WOULD ALSO REDISTRIBUTE DIRECTOR POSITIONS BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS FROM THE UNITED STATES, ITS AFFILIATES, BERMUDA AND THE BAHAMAS BY ONE IN EVEN YEARS AND ONE IN ODD YEARS; ADDING ONE DIRECTOR IN EVEN YEARS FOR SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN; AND ADDING TWO DIRECTORS IN ODD YEARS FOR INDIA, SOUTH ASIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That the International Constitution, Article V. Officers and International Board of Directors, Section 3. COMPOSITION AND ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL BOARD BY CONSTITUTIONAL AREAS, be amended effective July 1, 2027, as follows:

The International Board of Directors shall be composed of the president, immediate past president, the first, second and third vice presidents and directors, which shall be elected as follows:

In each even-numbered year, eighteen (18) directors shall be elected, consisting of four (4) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas; two (2) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea; three (3) from clubs in Europe; three (3) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; four (4) from clubs in India, South Asia and the Middle East; one (1) from clubs in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia

and Islands of the South Pacific; and one (1) from clubs in Africa;

In each odd-numbered year, eighteen (18) directors shall be elected, consisting of five (5) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas; one (1) from clubs in Canada; one (1) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and the Islands of the Caribbean Sea; three (3) from clubs in Europe; four (4) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; and four (4) from clubs in India, South Asia and the Middle East.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the International By-Laws, Article IV, Section 5. APPOINTMENTS LIMITATION, be amended effective July 1, 2028, as follows:

In exercising any power of appointment granted in these by-laws or constitution with respect to membership on any committee, the president may include past international officers of the association among such appointees, but in no event shall the total of such past international officer committee member appointments exceed five (5) in number in any one fiscal year. However, this appointment limitation shall not apply to the immediate past international president nor to appointments made under these by-laws or constitution. All such appointments of past international officers shall be for terms of one (1) year only, but successor presidents may reappoint any past international officer, subject to such total number limitation, to serve on any committee. At least one (1) of such appointees shall be from clubs in constitutional areas different from that constitutional area in which the club of the international president is a member is located.

progressive lead donor and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

His spouse, Reena, is a lead donor and a Melvin Jones Fellow, and is currently serving as a district governor of District 3232 B2.

RUMALLA SUNIL KUMAR



Past International Director Kumar holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with honors from the Indian Institute of Management and Commerce and a bachelor’s degree in law from Osmania University. A businessman, his long-standing leadership in the travel and tourism industry, both nationally and globally, is well recognized. He is also involved with investments and consultancy.

Inspired by his father, Past International Director Kumar became a Leo in 1971 and has been an active member of Hyderabad North Lions Club since 1986. Throughout his Lions career, he has held prominent leadership roles including district governor and international director, as well as serving on the committees of Long-Range Planning and Leadership and Audit. He has also been involved in DGE Seminars, serving as school chair as well as a group leader at three DGE Seminars during the Las Vegas, Milan and Orlando conventions, respectively.

Past International Director Kumar was the constitutional area leader for the Global Leadership Team (GLT) and the Global Action Team (GAT) as well as chairman of the ISAME Forum Organizing Committee. A qualified international trainer and graduate of LCIP, Past International Director Kumar conducted many institutes for Lions International and a large number of programs for his multiple district and Lions of India. He was also the editor of the Lions India Magazine.

In addition to his work with Lions, Past International Director Kumar has served as both the national president and the world executive vice president of Jaycees International.

His many recognitions from Lions include Ambassador of Goodwill, Second Century Ambassador, 12 International President Awards

and the Life Member Award. He and his wife, past club president Kavitha, are Progressive Melvin Jones Fellows. They have two children and three grandchildren.

DANIEL ISENRICH



Daniel Isenrich of Munich, Germany, served as an international director from 2019 to 2022. He is the owner and managing director of the BrainClix and isiTrade companies. A Lion since 1993, Past International Director Isenrich is currently a member of the München-Heinrich der Löwe Lions Club. He has held multiple offices and served as a chairperson of the German Lions Reorganization team. In 2022, he was elected Financial Controller of the Europa Forum and is a member of the Lorn Range Planning Committee Europe. Since 2023 he is a Board Member of the German Lions Foundation and is the LCI appointed representative to the United Nations (UNHCR).

Past International Director Isenrich has received multiple International President’s Awards as well as an International President’s Leadership Award. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and an Ambassador of Good Will.

SOMSAKDI LOVISUTH



Past International Director Somsakdi “Lo-san” Lovisuth, of Bangkok, Thailand, served as an international director of Lions Clubs International from 2004 to 2006.

He served as district governor and later as

an international director from 2004 to 2006. During that time, he served as vice chairperson of the membership and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) committees, and as a Lions International representative on the SightFirst committee in the Indochina region.

From there, he served as GMT and GLT area leader for several years. He also served as chairperson for the District Governor-Elect Seminar at the international convention in Hawaii in 2015, and as the Lions Certified Instructor. He has been invited to serve as a faculty member at several international institutes.

He has also served as multiple district LCIF coordinator. Over more than 10 years, he has led over 200 service projects in Thailand, with more than US\$10 million in LCIF support. Past International Director Lovisuth has also held key positions with the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) including LCIF committee vice chairperson, SightFirst program representative and SightFirst area chairperson. He has been an LCIF area leader and MD 310 coordinator since 2006.

In recognition of his dedication to Lions, Past International Director Lovisuth has received many awards, including the 100% District Governor Award, the District Governor Excellence Award, Leadership Award, more than 15 Presidential Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award. Past International Director Lovisuth is also a humanitarian partner of LCIF, having donated more than US\$200,000 to the foundation.

He currently serves as the CEO of Trisak Automation Co., Ltd., a factory automation company based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Past International Director Lovisuth and his wife, Lady Somran, also a member of the Bangkok Cosmopolitan Lions Club and a Melvin Jones Fellow, have one son, two daughters and two grandsons.

JOYCE MIDDLETON



Joyce Middleton from Bridgewater, Massachusetts, USA served as an international director from 2016 to 2018. A computer engineer

3VP Candidates Bio Summaries

PRAVIN CHHAJED



Pravin Chhajed, of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, served as an international director of Lions Clubs International from 2001 to 2003.

A member of the Ahmedabad Karnavati Lions Club since 1984, Past International Director Chhajed has held various offices within the association, including club president, region chairman, district governor, council chairman and international director.

Past International Director Chhajed has held several other key positions including chairman of the DGE Seminar at the 2005 convention in Hong

Kong. He was chairman of the ISAME Forum in 2004, 2015 and 2025.

Additionally, Past International Director Chhajed served as project chairman of Lions Karnavati Eye Hospital, LML School, Lions Blood Bank, the Lion Dialysis Centre, the Rohit Mehta Medical Hub and the upcoming M M Singhi Lions General Hospital.

Past International Director Chhajed has received numerous awards including two Leadership Medals, 30 Presidential Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award. He is also a

and educator, Past International Director Middleton has worked designing, installing and maintaining computer networks as well as providing training in their use. She is currently working in the real estate management and development industry.

Past International Director Middleton has been a facilitator and presenter at several forums and international conventions, a DGE group leader, the CA1 chairperson for New Voices, the host committee chairperson for the Boston 2023 convention and committee chairperson of the Lions International Strategic Plan. She is a champion of youth development through the LEOS program and a keen proponent of the importance of family volunteerism.

A dedicated supporter of LCIF, she is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Legacy Society member and major donor for Campaign 100. She has been recognized with numerous Presidential Awards, as well as the Ambassador of Good Will Award.

In addition to her work with Lions, she is active in various community organizations including the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and is a supporter of the National Braille Press.

Past International Director Middleton’s husband Martin, a past district governor, is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Legacy Society member and major donor for Campaign 100. The couple has two adult children who are both highly active Lions and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellows.

SALIM MOUSSAN



Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon is a retired businessman and member of Beirut St. Gabriel Lions Club since 1988. An international director from 1997 to 1999, he has twice been a board appointee, twice a group leader and has chaired several leadership forums.

Known as a World Lion, he is fluent in three languages, has visited 99 countries and has attended 36 consecutive international conventions, 105 area forums and more than 50 regional conferences,

dozens of district conventions, anniversaries and LDUN, among other events. Recipient of many Lions International awards, he was decorated with Lebanon's National Medal of Merit.

ELLIS SURIYATI OMAR



Ellis Suriyati Omar, of Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, served as an international director from 2008 to 2010. She is vice chairman of ZKZ Property Sdn Bhd and has 15 years of experience in property investment and services.

A member of the Lions Club of Kuching Ixora since 2009, Past International Director Omar first joined Lions in 1979 as a member of the Lions Club of Kuching City. She has held a number of offices within the association, including charter president, district governor, council chairperson, multiple district extension chairperson, LCIF multiple district coordinator and LCIF area leader for Area 5F. She is also chairperson of Lions Nursing Home Kuching and founder of the Lions Journey of Service.

In recognition of her service, Past International Director Omar has received numerous awards, including the Ambassador of Good Will Award, International Leadership Medal, LCIF Chairperson Medals, an International President’s Medal and an Extension Award. She is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

Past International Director Omar and her husband, Zaidi K. Zainie, have three children and three grandchildren.

VIJAY KUMAR RAJU



Hailing from Visakhapatnam, India, Vijay Kumar Raju served as an international director of Lions Clubs International from 2016 to 2018 and as a trustee of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) from 2018 to 2024.

A distinguished entrepreneur and educator, he has held numerous leadership roles within the association, including club president, zone chairperson, district governor, multiple district council secretary and regional LCIF coordinator. He has also served on the Election and Resolutions Committees at several international conventions, contributing to the organization’s global governance.

Past International Director Raju's unwavering commitment to the mission of Lions has earned him widespread recognition. His accolades include the 100% District Governor Excellence Award, 15 New Club Extension Awards, four International Leadership Awards, 24 International President’s Awards, 14 International President’s Certificates of Appreciation and the prestigious Key of Nations Award for exceptional membership growth. He is also honored as a Humanitarian Partner and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, reflecting his deep dedication to service and philanthropy.

ROBERT RETTBY



Robert Rettby, of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, served as an international director of Lions Clubs International from 2013 to 2015 and as a board appointee from 2018 to 2019.

Past International Director Rettby holds a master’s degree in civil engineering and was the CEO and director of a group of family-owned construction companies. Although now retired from the company, he remains professionally active as a consultant in the fields of water treatment and industrial safety.

A member of the Neuchâtel Lions Club since 1992, he has held numerous offices within the association, including zone chairperson, region chairperson, district secretary, district governor and council chairperson. He has also served

as both chairperson and member of several national and international committees, including LCI representative to UNICEF, Europa Forum president,

Centennial Action Committee co-chairperson, GAT CA leader, Campaign 100 vice-chairperson, LCIF CA leader, DGE Seminar group leader, certified instructor, institute faculty member and Coordinating Lion.

In recognition of his service, he has received numerous awards, including 12 Presidential Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lion activities, Past Director Rettby has been active in several professional and community organizations, as well as civic and sports clubs.

Past International Director Rettby and his wife, Catherine, have two sons and four grandchildren.

JENNIFER WARE



Jennifer Ware, of Rapid River, Michigan, USA, served as an international director of Lions Clubs International from 2016 to 2018.

Now retired, she worked as a registered nurse, most recently in outpatient mental health for

27 years.

A Lion since 1993, Past International Director Ware is a member of the Bay de Noc Lions Club and has held a variety of offices through the years, including club president, district governor, council chairperson, international director, Lions Clubs International Foundation Campaign 100 Constitutional Area I co-chairperson and Lions Clubs International Foundation Constitutional Area I trustee.

She has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Ambassador of Good Will Award, multiple International President’s Medals and an LCI Leadership Medal. She is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and Lead Donor.

Past International Director Ware and her husband, Lion Jeffery, have one child and one grandchild.



Highlights of the Council of Governors’ Meeting

May 30, 2026

Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre, St. Catharines



VICE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON 2026-2027

Congratulations to District Governor Elect Scott Hill (A2), who was elected to be Vice Council Chairperson for the Lions Year 2026-2027. We look forward to your leadership.

ENVIRONMENT

There were so many amazing photos submitted. Congratulations to the winners!

“Our Natural Environment” Category: 2nd Place – District A2 – St. Davids and District Lions Club and 1st Place - District A4 – Helen Porteous – Metcalf Lions Club.

“Lions In Service” Category: 2nd Place – District A9 – Brussels Leo Club and 1st Place – District A2 – St. Davids and District Lions Club.

HUNGER

MDA CONVENTION HUNGER SERVICE AWARDS PROGRESS YEAR TO DATE (YTD Q4: APR-JUN 2026):

- 1. District Governor: YTD highest # hunger activities reported: A12 DG Jim BARTLEY (267)
- 2. District Hunger Chair: YTD highest % clubs reported hunger activities: A16 DHC Pat AITKEN (76%)
- 3. Lions Club: YTD # of SERVICE activities reported for hunger: A12 BARRIE SOUTH LC (69)
- 4. Lions Club: YTD most people SERVED reported for hunger: A2 Fonthill LC (27,570)
- 5. Lion Members: YTD most volunteer hours reported for hunger: A2 PORT DOVER LC (11,705)

Congratulations to all! Let’s keep reporting.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

A successful vote took place on Sunday, May 31, with the majority in favour of accepting the proposed amendments to the MDA Policy and Procedures Manual. A huge thank you to the Credentials Team for all their hard work!

MD “A” CONVENTION

Congratulations to the St. David and District Lions Club and the Convention Advisory Committee for putting on a super convention. It was wonderful to see everyone together, having fun, learning, and making new friendships. We hope to see you next year at the 2027 MD “A” Convention being hosted by the Lions Clubs of District A5 and taking place at the Radisson Hotel, Sudbury, June 4-6, 2027.

For information, questions or concerns relating to these highlights please contact MDA Secretary Marjorie Lewis at email: secretary@mdalions.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Canadian Lions are among the **highest per-capita** individual donors to **LCIF** in the world.

VISION

HUNGER

CHILDHOOD CANCER

HUMANITARIAN AID

DISASTER RELIEF

ENVIRONMENT

YOUTH

DIABETES

CANADIAN LIONS FOR LCIF

Serving Locally. Impacting Globally.

In Memory of Past International President Joseph L. Wroblewski



Joseph L. Wroblewski, 96, Past International President of Lions Clubs International, devoted husband, father, grandfather, funeral director, veteran, humanitarian and community leader, passed away peacefully at home on June 2, 2026, surrounded by his children.

For more than seven decades, Joseph dedicated his life to service – service to his family, his community, his profession and most notably to Lions Clubs International, whose mission of improving lives through humanitarian work became the guiding purpose of his life.

Born in Ashley, Pennsylvania, to Joseph L. Wroblewski and Irene Sobolewski Wroblewski, Joe was raised with the values of faith, hard work, compassion and integrity that would define his character throughout his life. A graduate of Ashley High School, he continued his education at Wilkes College and later earned a degree from Eckels College of Mortuary Science in 1952.

Joe honorably served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Upon returning home, he established his first funeral home in Ashley in 1954 and later expanded his work by acquiring the former John J. Baloga Funeral Home in Forty Fort. Together with his beloved wife, Normajean, he served generations of families with dignity, compassion and professionalism for more than six decades. During life's most difficult moments, Joe and Normajean became trusted sources of comfort, guidance, and reassurance for countless families throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

His entrepreneurial spirit led him to several successful ventures beyond funeral service. Though respected as a businessman, Joe believed that the true measure of a life was found in service to others.

A member of the Ashley Lions Club since 1954, Joe devoted more than 70 years to Lions Clubs International. Through decades of leadership and service, he rose through the organization's ranks, serving as district governor, international director, and ultimately as international president of Lions Clubs International during 1985-1986.

His leadership extended far beyond a single presidential term. Joe served as international convention chairperson, United Nations liaison for 28 years, chairman of the Coordinating Committee for China Affairs, and in numerous other capacities that helped shape the global direction of Lions Clubs International. His work carried him across continents, where he forged lifelong friendships, inspired service and advanced humanitarian causes that improved countless lives.

Throughout the world, Lions knew Joe not only as a leader but also as a trusted friend whose warmth, optimism and genuine interest in others left lasting impressions wherever he traveled. He embodied the Lions motto, "We Serve," and the principle of "Service Above Self." As international president, he adopted the theme "We Serve Better Together," a simple but powerful message that reflected both his vision for Lions and his philosophy of life. He believed that the greatest accomplishments were never achieved alone, but through people working side by side in common purpose. His commitment to combating blindness, alleviating hunger, supporting youth, strengthening communities and promoting international understanding left an enduring mark on the organization and on the people it serves.

In recognition of his extraordinary contributions, Joe received many of Lions Clubs International's highest honors, including the Ambassador of Goodwill Award, the most prestigious honor bestowed upon a Lion. He was also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and recipient of numerous international leadership and service awards.

Joe was equally devoted to his faith, his family and his community. He served on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre; was President of the Northeastern Heart Association; was a 55-year member of the American Legion, Andrew Lawrence Post 644, Swoyersville; and actively supported numerous civic, charitable and professional organizations throughout his lifetime.

Above all, Joe cherished his family. He shared nearly 70 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Normajean G. Kozicki Wroblewski, whose partnership, love and support were central to his life until her passing in 2023. Together, they built a life rooted in faith, family, service and devotion to others.

While thousands around the world knew him as a leader, mentor, humanitarian and friend, his grandchildren knew him simply as "Papa"

– a title he treasured above all others. Whether sharing stories, offering encouragement, celebrating milestones or simply enjoying time together, he took immense pride in his family and found great joy in watching each new generation grow. His wisdom, generosity, gentle spirit and unwavering love became gifts that his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will carry with them always.

In addition to his parents and wife, Joe was preceded in death by his sons-in-law, Leon Wendelowski and Bryan Demerly, and his daughter-in-law, Heide Lauck.

He is survived by his children: Lisa Wroblewski Howland and husband, Gary, Joseph B. Wroblewski and wife, Dr. Genevieve Wroblewski, Eric Aubrey Wroblewski, and Marla Wroblewski Demerly and Gregg Fagan.

He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren: Genevieve Wroblewski and husband, Daniel Sawyers, Christa Wroblewski and husband, Zachary Huckle-Bauer, Eric J. Wroblewski and wife, Minna Tran, Brett Krumins and wife, Alexandra, Erik Lorens; Bryanna Demerly Litz and husband, Justin, Matthew Demerly and wife, MaryKatherine, Joseph Demerly Bell and husband, James; Catherine Conroy and husband, Ben; and Tyler Lauck.

His legacy continues through his cherished great-grandchildren: Maddox and Callie Sawyers, Julian and Teddy Huckle-Bauer, K.J. and Will Demerly, Antonyio Bell, Luke, Cole, and Rex Conroy, and a beloved great-granddaughter, Baby Litz, expected later this year.

He is also survived by his sister, Eleanor Witkowski, as well as nieces, nephews, fellow Lions, colleagues and countless friends throughout the world.

Through his family, his profession, his faith and his lifelong dedication to humanitarian service, Joe leaves a legacy that spans generations and reaches far beyond the communities he called home.

Joe's life was marked by kindness, purpose, generosity and an abiding belief that each of us has a responsibility to help others. Though he will be deeply missed by those who loved him, his example will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Wherever people gather to help others, strengthen their communities and make the world a better place, Joe's legacy lives on. His family finds comfort in knowing that the words he chose to guide his life, and which will forever mark his resting place, continue to speak for him: **We Serve Better Together.**

Learning From the Hive: Inspiring Youth to Protect Bees and Biodiversity

by Shelby Washington

Bees may be small, but they play a huge role in our everyday lives. They help produce one-third of the food we eat and support 90% of wild flowering plants, making them essential to life as we know it.

Unfortunately, bees and other pollinators have been on the decline worldwide in recent decades. Habitat loss, changes in weather patterns and widespread pesticide use threaten the plants people rely on every day.

L'Abeille du Môle is an association in Marignier, France, that spreads awareness about bees and their importance to biodiversity. Through education and hands-on experiences, they help young people understand the vital role pollinators play in sustaining life on Earth.

Recognizing the importance of this association's efforts, the Lions of Faucigny turned to Lions Clubs International Foundation for support. The club applied for and received a US\$2,216 District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG). The funds were used to purchase an educational beehive, protective suits for children and teenagers, and communication materials to bring biodiversity education directly into schools.

According to Faucigny Lions Club President Bertrand Duby, their valley is changing quickly, with fruit meadows disappearing and pollinator habitats becoming increasingly restricted.

"Raising awareness among children helps them understand the need to replant the trees bees rely on for honey and creates a link with parents," Duby said. "A convinced child means at least three to four adults become aware of the issue, possibly leading to one tree planted."

When students put on overalls and gloves, they step out of the classroom and fully enter the beekeeping world.

"A child's first visit to the apiary is very memorable. Initially, some children seem stressed while others are excited," Duby said. "Opening a hive with a gentle colony helps them discover the bees. Within five minutes, they are smoking the hive, lifting frames, and even the most fearful are gaining confidence by catching clustered bees with their gloves."



Working with teenagers was equally challenging at first, but in a different way. The teens took more of a wait-and-see approach to discovering the beekeeping world. However, according to Duby, tasting honey and constructing the chimney hive made the experience more tangible, sparked motivation and created team spirit.

One of Duby's favorite moments was when the teenagers suited up and transferred a swarm into their hives in front of facilitators, Lions members and municipal officials. For many of the students, their highlight came later in the day.

"When the students took the honey frames and put them into the centrifuge, they saw firsthand the yellow gold honey flowing into the jars and that was a magical experience for the teenagers," Duby said.

At the end of the program, each student left with a pot of honey and a deeper understanding of biodiversity and the natural world.

Learn how your community can use an **LCIF District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG)** to help heal our planet at lionsclubs.org/DCG.



Mountain Township and District Lions Club

A big thank you to our community members and fellow Lions who answered the call on a beautiful morning for the roadside cleanup covering County Road #1 from South Mountain to Highway #43. Nice to see the community working together. Special mention to Lion **Frank Fata** and Committee.



Lions Bring Renewed Vision to Malawi

by Shelby Washington

The Zomba Lions Sight First Eye Hospital in Malawi is doing more than diagnosing and treating eye conditions — it’s transforming lives. Established in 2009 through Lions efforts, the eye hospital serves a population of more than 4 million people. In recent years, the facility has begun to show signs of deterioration. Damage from termites and severe weather, including the catastrophic Cyclone Freddy in 2023, put the roof at risk of collapse, threatening the hospital’s ability to provide critical services like cataract surgeries and glaucoma treatments. Lions in District 412-B took action to stop that from happening.

Through a US\$219,325 SightFirst Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), the Lions are leading a major renovation of the eye hospital. Updates include replacing the roof, improving plumbing and electrical systems, and installing new equipment to expand diagnostic and surgical capabilities.

The improvements are already making a difference. Since the project began in 2023, the hospital has delivered more than 20,000 outpatient consultations and performed over 2,300 cataract surgeries. Patients are also receiving increased care for glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, conditions that can lead to irreversible blindness if left untreated.

The local Lions’ impact on vision care extends beyond the walls of the eye hospital. They are conducting vision screenings and leading awareness



campaigns to make eye care more accessible to those who can’t afford to travel across the country to receive it elsewhere.

On Oct. 9, 2025, World Sight Day, the Lions partnered with local institutions to provide vision screenings and education to employees and community members. At the University of Malawi, they hosted a diabetes awareness event, helping participants understand the link between diabetes and vision loss. These outreach efforts can help detect conditions before they become more serious and connect people with the care they need.

The community is brought one step closer to a future where preventable blindness is no longer a barrier, with each repaired ward, new piece of equipment and outreach event.

LCIF’s commitment to the vision cause

For over 30 years, SightFirst empowered Lions, healthcare providers and partners worldwide to combat preventable blindness and assist those with vision impairments. Through this program, more than 544 million lives were impacted. As we celebrate those outcomes, we are committed to continuing this vital work through the new LCIF Vision Grant program, ensuring a brighter future for millions more.

Visit lionsclubs.org/vision-grant to learn how LCIF empowers Lions’ and Leos’ service in vision.

Greely Lions

Greely Lions Club presented a \$5,000.00 donation to the Osgoode Youth Association Executive Director, Carley Scharf, at a late 2025 dinner meeting. The funds will be used to support programs, such as after-school drop-ins, dances, book and friendship clubs, and to assist with the ongoing development of youth programming in Greely. Lions **Steve Slack**, **Richard Popp** and **David Frost** presented the cheque to Carley Scharf.

At the same meeting, the club also donated \$2000.00 to LCIF, accepting on behalf of LCIF is DG **Jim Divenny**.



New Computers for Students in Guatemala

by Shelby Washington

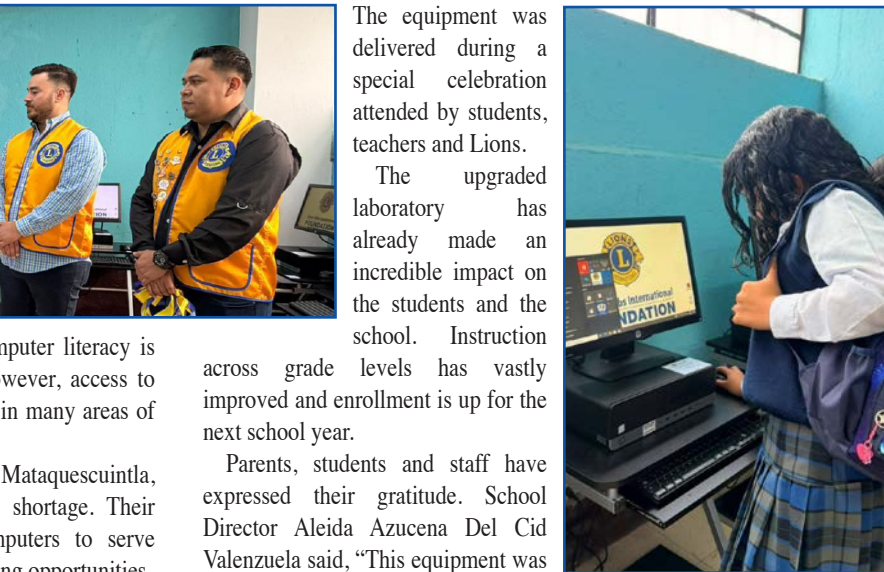


In today’s increasingly technology-centric society, computer literacy is essential for both personal and professional success. However, access to computers and digital learning tools is a major challenge in many areas of the world.

The Cooperative Basic Education Institute (IEBC) in Mataquesuintla, Jalapa, Guatemala was facing a significant technology shortage. Their computer laboratory had only seven secondhand computers to serve approximately 300 students, severely limiting digital learning opportunities.

Despite staff’s best efforts to maintain the computers, their hardware was deteriorating with continuous student use and the software became obsolete.

District D-3 Lions saw the need for new computers at IEBC and sprang into action. With a US\$4,869 District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), the Lions purchased and donated 17 new computers, along with 17 desks and chairs to create dedicated workstations for each one.



The equipment was delivered during a special celebration attended by students, teachers and Lions.

The upgraded laboratory has already made an incredible impact on the students and the school. Instruction across grade levels has vastly improved and enrollment is up for the next school year.

Parents, students and staff have expressed their gratitude. School Director Aleida Azucena Del Cid Valenzuela said, “This equipment was sorely needed to enhance the quality of the students’ education, and I am so grateful we were able to receive it. I will do everything I can to ensure that the staff and student body will take care of it.”

Learn how your community can use an LCIF **District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG)** to help increase access to valuable education at lionsclubs.org/DCG.



Thorold Lions



Family Day, this small club of 11 members, puts on a wonderful FREE Family Day Breakfast; the place was packed. Probably 140 served. There was a wonderful presentation of a \$6000 donation to LCIF. Lion Kate Hart, who works for ScotiaMcLeod, submitted an application through their Employee "Share the Wealth" program on behalf of the Thorold Lions Club and LCIF and it was successful!



Shown in the presentation is PID Allen Snider, Lions Kate Hart, Brenda Dolha, and DG Louise Agnew

13-Year-Old Student from China Named Grand Prize Winner of Lions International Peace Poster Contest



(Oak Brook, Ill.) — Lions International is proud to announce that **13-year-old Yifan He of Dalian, China** has been named the Grand Prize Winner of the **Lions International Peace Poster Contest**. His winning poster was sponsored by the Dalian Gao Er Fu Lions Club, celebrating the power of art to inspire peace and unity around the world.

A student at Dalian Haibin Art School, He created a powerful illustration depicting children from different cultures raising hands to form a protective umbrella against war. Beneath the umbrella, children from around the world celebrate together among global landmarks, symbolizing unity through art, culture and shared hope. The artwork beautifully depicts this year’s Peace Poster theme of “Together as One” and reflects the idea that people everywhere must work together to create and protect peace.

“When I see children in war zones on the news, I wish I could become a huge umbrella to protect them from the shells and fear,” said the young artist. “I want this umbrella to reach every place affected by war and remind children that the whole world is standing together for peace.”

The Peace Poster Contest, sponsored annually by Lions International, encourages young people ages 11 to 13 to creatively express their vision of peace. Each year, more than 600,000 children from around the world participate through local Lions clubs.

“Yifan’s poster beautifully captures the spirit of unity and hope that the Peace Poster Contest celebrates,” said Lions Clubs International President A.P. Singh. “Through art, young people remind us that peace is something we must build together. Lions are proud to provide a platform where their voices and dreams for a more harmonious world can be seen and heard.”

As the 2025-2026 Grand Prize Winner, Yifan will receive:

- A US\$5,000 cash award
- An engraved award
- A trip to a special awards ceremony accompanied by two family members

The young artist is also sharing in the celebration with 23 merit winners from around the world. All merit winners receive a US\$500 cash prize for their winning artwork.

The 2025-2026 Lions International Peace Poster merit winners are:

- Kelly Du, 12 years old, Aurora Lions Club, Canada
- Peijia Liao, 11 years old, Sichuan Tongrenqiantai Lions Club, China
- Qiyu Wang, 13 years old, Shaanxi Datang Lions Club, China
- Siqi Mai, 13 years old, Guangdong Shanxin Lions Club, China
- Yatong Lv, 12 years old, Qingdao Hongxin Lions Club, China
- Ziqi Liu, 12 years old, Shenyang Hairuo Lions Club, China
- Haojing Zheng, 12 years old, Shenzhen Mingjiashanpin Lions Club, China
- Ruoyi Jin, 11 years old, Zhejiang Zhengli Lions Club, China
- Yu Si Tang, 13 years old, Taichung Chun Lung Lions Club, China Taiwan
- Shuyu Wu, 12 years old, New Taipei City Chung Shan Lions Club, China Taiwan
- Elpida Michailidou, 12 years old, Limassol Lions Club, Cyprus
- Mavis Tjia, 12 years old, Medan Polonia Lions Club, Indonesia
- Jack Mooney, 12 years old, Newcastle Lions Club, Ireland

- William Bruscolini, 11 years old, Sacrofano Formello Lions Club, Italy
- Rion Yabuta, 13 years old, Sapporo Kitanomori Lions Club, Japan
- Chaein Park, 12 years old, Seoul Hansung Lions Club, Korea
- Elija Gudonavičiute, 13 years old, Kedainiu Motery Lions Club, Lithuania
- Katherine Loaisiga Martinez, 12 years old, Rivas Casique Lions Club, Nicaragua
- Asi Selimović, 13 years old, Murska Sobata Lions Club, Slovenia
- Isabella Wu, 12 years old, Milpitas Executive Lions Club, California, USA
- Brinleigh Bauer, 13 years old, American Falls Lions Club, Idaho, USA
- Eliza Zafar Hanif, 13 years old, Sandy Spring Lions Club, Maryland, USA
- Haven Cook, 12 years old, Mililani Lions Club, New Mexico, USA

About the Lions International Peace Essay Contest

For more than three decades, the *Peace Poster Contest* has inspired millions of young people to reflect on the meaning of peace and share their perspectives with the world. Through programs like this, Lions clubs continue their mission of promoting understanding, compassion and service across cultures and communities.

About Lions International

Lions International represents Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lions take on some of the greatest challenges facing our communities and the world through the service of 1.4 million members in 50,000 clubs and the grant-funding support of our foundation. We improve health and well-being, strengthen communities and support those in need, locally and globally. At Lions International, we are serving a world in need.

Learn more at lionsclubs.org.



Brazilian Student Adriene Mirelly da Silva Wins 2025-2026 Lions International Peace Essay Contest Grand Prize

(Oak Brook, Ill.) — **Adriene Mirelly da Silva, a 13-year-old student from Palmares, Brazil**, has been named the grand prize winner of the 2025–2026 **Lions International Peace Essay Contest**, sponsored by the Palmares Lions Club.

The Lions International Peace Essay Contest encourages young people with visual impairments, ages 11–13, to share their perspectives on peace through writing. This year’s theme, “Together as One,” inspired thousands of students worldwide to reflect on unity, empathy and human connection.

Da Silva’s essay was selected as the international grand prize winner for its powerful message that peace begins with compassion and understanding. Living with low vision, she wrote about how her experience has shaped her belief that true unity comes from looking beyond appearances.

“The message I want to convey is that peace begins within each of us, when we learn to see people beyond appearances,” said da Silva, a seventh-grade student at Escola Municipal de Santa Luiza. “Even with my low vision, I learned that the most important thing is not what the eyes see, but what the heart feels.”

A.P. Singh, president of Lions Clubs International, congratulated da Silva on her achievement and praised the powerful message of her essay.

“Adriene’s words remind us that peace begins with empathy and understanding,” Singh said. “Through programs like the Peace Essay Contest, Lions empower young people around the world to reflect on how compassion and respect can transform the world around us and create a more peaceful future for all.”

Da Silva said she hopes her story inspires other young people with vision impairments to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams. In addition to writing, da Silva enjoys reading, traveling and singing in her church choir, and she aspires to become a pediatrician or veterinarian one day.

The Lions International Peace Essay Contest is open to students with visual impairments ages 11–13 and invites participants to explore the theme of peace through writing.

As the 2025–2026 grand prize winner, da Silva will receive:

- US\$5,000 cash award
- An engraved award
- A trip to a special awards ceremony accompanied by two family members

About the Lions International Peace Essay Contest

The Lions International Peace Essay Contest is an international youth writing competition for students with visual impairments ages 11–13. The program promotes peace, inclusion and global understanding by encouraging young people to express their ideas through creative writing.

Lions clubs worldwide sponsor the Peace Essay Contest locally, advancing winning entries through district, multiple district and international levels of judging.

About Lions International

Lions International represents Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lions take on some of the greatest challenges facing our communities and the world through the service of 1.4 million members in 50,000 clubs and the grant-funding support of our foundation. We improve health and well-being, strengthen communities and support those in need, locally and globally. At Lions International, we are serving a world in need.

Learn more at lionsclubs.org.

2025-2026 Lions International Peace Essay Grand Prize Winner Adriene Mirelly da Silva, Age 13 “Together We Are One: The Truth Beyond Appearances”

Most people learn about the world through light and color. They see borders, differences in skin tone, the lines that separate the "us" from the "other." I also see light, but it reaches me softly, without the sharpness that creates filters and categories. I was born with low vision, and that taught me that Peace does not begin with sight, but with the voluntary blindness of judgment.

The theme "Together We Are One" requires us to look inward. The world's disharmony, wars, exclusion, are not accidents. They are the result of a miscalculation of visuals. Society is taught to value what is large, tall, beautiful, or equal to what is in the mirror. And everything that does not fit this image is, very often, rejected, feared, or silenced. For me, people are revealed by something more intimate. They are the vibration of their step on the sidewalk, the change in breath before a question, the quality of the silence they share. The color of your skin is a blur, but the color of your soul revealed by how you treat the vulnerable or how you use your words is perfectly clear. My experience shows that the only thing that truly separates people is the distance between mind and heart.

In this universe, we are all made of the same cosmic material. The atom that makes up my hand is the same that forms the mountain and the same that resides in the heart of someone who lives on the other side of the planet. We are the — composition, but we dress ourselves in different packaging. When we cling to the packaging—the visible and superficial—we break the unity.

Being “Together We Are One” does not mean we have to agree on everything or erase our identities. On the contrary. True unity is an act of radical acceptance. It means I value your difference because it complements my imperfect view of the world. It means your joy is, in some way, my joy, and your pain is a crack in the foundation of my own security. If we could, for a moment, collectively close our eyes, we would not see who has more or less, who is strong or weak, who is from here or there. We would feel only the shared urgency to

live, to love, and to protect our only home. We would feel the invisible thread that does not need light to be perceived.

Peace is not a distant destination, but the revelation of our unity. It is the moment when humanity finally recognizes the truth beyond appearances: we are more than the sum of our visible parts. We are one Unique body, pulsating together in the dark, eager for light, but already connected by our deepest essence. And this is the truth I have learned to see, without the need of my eyes.





Mental Health • Wellness • Advocacy • Community Service

Connecting Multiple District A and the World



Join Us Online & Make a Difference!

Contact:

DG A2 Louise Agnew - agnewlouise2@gmail.com

Lion Sharmmila Rajkumar - lion@sharmmila.com



Hosted by St. Davids Lions

Heading the event were our two international guests, **Heidi** and **Phil Nathan**, both seasoned Lions from the UK. They gave separate presentations about their journey through Lionism and obviously made a huge contribution along the way.

The hospitality theme was the 80s; there were some great getups and music that everyone enjoyed.

The convention ended on Sunday morning with a moving Memorial Service led by PID **Art Woods**.

The next MDA convention is in Sudbury; it's been guaranteed that the snow will be all gone!

Lion Bob Pearson, Editor



PRE-CONVENTION STRESS



POST CONVENTION RELIEF



Batawa Lions

The Batawa Lions Club is proud to announce a \$1,000 donation to the Frankford Food Pantry, aimed at helping meet the rising demand for food support across the region. This donation reflects the Club's long-standing mission to support local families and ensure that essential services remain strong during challenging times.

With food bank usage increasing significantly over the past year, local organizations have been working tirelessly to keep up with the growing need. The Frankford Food Pantry, like many others across the province, has seen more families and individuals turning to its services as the cost of living continues to rise.

"Supporting our community is at the heart of everything we do," said **Ron Puccini**, President of the club. "As demand for food assistance continues to climb, we believe it's more important than ever to step up and help ensure that no one in our community goes without."

Each winter, members maintain free, volunteer-run outdoor skating rinks. The club also hosts beloved annual

traditions like the Easter Egg Hunt, and leads the Adopt-a-Highway project. Their support for local creativity shines through Craft Fusion, a vibrant event that showcases artisans and brings neighbours together. Community spirit is at the core of everything they do, especially during festive gatherings like the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The club extends heartfelt thanks to its members, supporters, and the broader community whose generosity makes initiatives like this possible.



Capreol Lions

The Capreol Lions Club and the Capreol Oldtimers Hockey Association (Bulldogs) worked together to hold the Annual Hockey Tournament to raise funds for kids and their activities in the community. This year, \$1,724.00 was raised and donated to the 2915th Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. Accepting the cheque is Master Warrant Officer Duval from Lion President **Julie Smeltzer**.

Also pictured are the Bulldog's Dick Thompson and Lion **Rick Clouthier**.



District A2 held a very successful Convention with 342 registrants!

Our International Guest, ID **Bert Nelson** and wife Lion **Pamela** from Missouri, provided lots of humour and laughter!

Our Friday Evening Skits and 70's themed Disco Party did not disappoint! Great costumes.

District A2 Convention

Our Saturday was filled with a productive cabinet meeting and presentations from the Nominated candidates!

At lunch, our guest speaker, Natile Lowe, focused on Sustainability and how Service Clubs can be involved. The afternoon was our new Trivia event and our popular Cornhole Tournament.

Our evening Gala included an inspiring discussion with ID Bert Nelson as a superhero! Lots of celebrations and recognition of everyone's hard work!

Our Sunday Youth breakfast gave everyone the opportunity to hear from one of our A2 Effective Speaking Winners! We closed our Sunday with a lovely memorial service and of course the Election Results! Congratulations to DGE **Scott Hill**. All elected and appointed positions are filled and ready to continue the great work in A2!

Lion Louise, Together We Will, DG A2



Canadian Lion Summit 1.5

The Canadian Lions Summit 1.5, held at the beautiful Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel and Suites, over the June 5th weekend, brought together approximately 100 dedicated Lions from coast to coast, along with several Lions from the USA. We were also pleased to have Past International President **Dr. Patti Hill**, Past International Director **Allan Hunt**, and current Canadian International Director **Debbie Dawson**, who led the Plenary Sessions. The gathering provided a unique opportunity for leaders to connect, collaborate, and share ideas to strengthen Lions Clubs and enhance service to communities throughout our countries. The atmosphere throughout the weekend was one of enthusiasm, friendship, and a shared commitment to making a greater impact through service.

Participants included members of the Global Membership Team (GMT), Global Extension Team (GET), and District Governors-elect, all working together to explore innovative strategies for membership growth, retention, leadership development, and new club formation. The diversity of experiences and perspectives represented in the breakout sessions created meaningful discussions and valuable learning opportunities. Attendees shared successes, challenges, and best practices, fostering an environment of mutual support and inspiration.

One of the greatest strengths of the Summit was the spirit of collaboration. Lions engaged in thoughtful conversations about building stronger clubs, reaching new communities, and ensuring that the mission of Lions continues to thrive for future generations. The exchange of ideas demonstrated that while districts may face different circumstances, the commitment to service, fellowship, and leadership remains a common bond that unites Lions everywhere. The specialized "Duck Race" raised funds for LCIF as Lions cheered on their namesakes on the big screen.

Beyond the educational sessions and strategic planning, the Summit provided an opportunity to renew friendships and establish new connections. Conversations during meals, breaks, and evening gatherings often proved just as valuable as the formal sessions, reminding everyone of the power of the Lions network. Participants left Toronto energized, encouraged, and equipped with practical action steps to take back to their districts and multiple districts.

As the Summit concluded, there was a strong sense of optimism and momentum. The dedication demonstrated by the GMT, GET, District Governors-elect, and all attending Lions reaffirmed that the future of Lionism in Canada is bright. Through continued collaboration, innovative thinking, and a steadfast commitment to service, the leaders gathered at the summit are well-positioned to help Lions continue to change lives and strengthen communities across Canada and beyond.

Thanks to PDG Governor Lion Charles Liddle for putting together this summary.



District A 7-11 Convention

More than 400 Lions and Leos from District A7-11 came together at this year's convention from April 10th –12th; a weekend dedicated to leadership development, service, fellowship and the future of Lionism throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Region. Delegates participated in a variety of educational workshops, leadership elections, cultural activities, hospitality events, and networking opportunities.



Highlights included inspirational speeches from International Guest Past International President **Joe Preston** and Lion **Lyn**. There was a traditional Parade of Banners, Mass Induction, Hospitality Suites, Service Projects, Speed Learning, Leo Luncheon, Effective Speaking, Peace Poster/Essay, Celebration of Cultures, District Governor's Ball, Memorial Service, a Silent Auction and a First-Timers' Contest.

Training workshops included "Five Fantastic Tips for Successful Clubs" "Leadership People Say Yes To!", "How to Balance Lionism, Work & Personal Life?" "Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security Frauds & Scams", hands on training "Lions Portal – How Do I Do That?".

The workshops explored methods for improving member engagement and strengthening club retention and recruitment efforts. Also emphasized was service, leadership, and membership growth, reflecting the district's ongoing commitment to strengthening communities through volunteer service with four new clubs chartered and over 300 new members added to date.

The convention provided members opportunities to learn from experienced Lions leaders, exchange ideas, and discover new strategies for increasing community impact. Educational sessions focused on leadership development, member engagement, club growth, and innovative approaches to service. Attendees celebrated the accomplishments of clubs and individual Lions who have made significant contributions to their communities. Recognition ceremonies highlighted service initiatives supporting vision

care, hunger relief, youth programs, environmental projects, and community well-being. Lions also shared stories of impact, demonstrating how local volunteer efforts continue to make a difference throughout the district.

Beyond the formal sessions, fellowship remained a cornerstone of the convention experience. Hospitality suites, cultural exhibits, social events, and networking opportunities allowed members to reconnect with longtime friends and build new relationships across clubs and regions. The atmosphere reflected the Lions motto, "We Serve", while celebrating diversity and dedication of volunteers. Lions demonstrated the strength of volunteer leadership and the enduring impact of Lions working together to meet community needs and inspire positive change.

For Lions, the Convention was more than an annual meeting—it was a celebration of service, leadership, fellowship, and the collective power of volunteers as "WE SERVE".



St. Joseph Island



Where there is a need, there is a Lion. The Jocelyn Fire Department Hall #2 was in great need of a new Defibrillator, or an AED. St. Joseph Island Lions Club donated \$2,850.00 to help purchase a new AED. Thanks to the Lions, the fire department can now be prepared to save even more lives.

Ripley Awards

At the recent Lions of Multiple District A convention in St. Catharines, two Ripley and District Lions were honoured by the MDA Lions.

Lion **Charles Liddle** was presented with a



Presidents Appreciation Certificate and pin for his many hours spent working with the Lions of Multiple District A and the public.

Lion **Larry Irwin** proudly accepted his Helen Keller Fellowship award for his work with the Lions of Multiple District A.



Congratulations Lion Charles and Lion Larry!!

Making the presentation is Council Chair **Bill Robinson**, International Director **Debbie Dawson** and Past International Director **Phil Nathan**.

Blackheath-Binbrook Lions

Lions Camp Dorset provides Ontarians living with kidney disease with the chance to enjoy



a relaxing lakeside getaway while receiving dialysis on site. At our regular meeting on October 21, 2025, the Lions Club of Blackheath Binbrook proudly presented a \$5,000 CAD donation to support the Lions Camp Dorset important facility. Past President Lion **Douglas McDonald** presented the cheque to Lion **Suzanne Gunby**, President of Lions Camp Dorset on behalf of the camp.



Port Colborne, you knocked it out of the park. The PC Lion donut day blitz was a huge success with over 750 dozen sold. Lion's dozen being 14!



Ottawa, 3 June 2026 – For a second consecutive year, **Cumberland, Orleans** and **Navan** Lions Clubs worked together to organize the Orleans Walk for Dog Guides on May 31, 2026. The goal of the Dog Walk is to raise funds to help provide dog guides to Canadians with disabilities.

The Orleans Walk for Dog Guides was held at the Maple Hall in Cumberland and included Orleans native, Kevin Frost, who delivered an inspirational message to the roughly 25 participants about how dog guides have been a life saver for him since he was diagnosed with Usher's Syndrome.

The Lions reached out to many dog owners and dog lovers alike to encourage their participation. For example, Lions could be seen promoting the Dog Walk at the dog-friendly open-air market held in Navan a week earlier. All the proceeds raised from the Dog Walk will go to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG). This year, the group managed to raise more than \$7,500 with the support of several sponsors including: Pet Valu on Watters Road in Orleans. Other donations, including the one made by Kevin Frost through proceeds from his book, helped the committee surpass their goal. **Theresa St-Denis**, member of the Cumberland Lions Club, stated:

"Lions believe strongly in helping to support the LFCDG. We are proud to have been able to build on the work we achieved last year."



District A-9 Convention

The convention was held in Brussels, Ontario, on April 24-25, 2026. Hosted by the **Brussels Lions Club**, the event was a wonderful success, centered at the historic Four Winds Barn in Brussels.

The weekend kicked off on Friday with the official opening of registration and a golf tournament at the Maitland Links Golf Club, with a team from the **Palmerston Lions** taking home the trophy. The tournament was followed by a social hour, a BBQ meal and entertainment.

Saturday was packed with activity, beginning with opening remarks from District Governor **Zoey Onn**, a Cabinet Meeting and a moving Memorial Service honoring our late members. Our afternoon featured a fish fry lunch at the Brussels Legion, followed by a presentation from Freedom Syrup's Bob Rowe, highlighting the charitable organization's history, and how they provide support to our troops and first responders. Our convention



service activity, Quilts for Kids, was held after lunch, as well as a tour of the Cowbell Brewery in Blyth and a tour of the private collection and Show Room of local collector Don McNeil, followed by a brief Town Tour.

The convention culminated in the Governor's Banquet, featuring the engaging guest speaker **Tom Gordon**, Past Canadian International Director. We also celebrated our community's creativity through an Environmental Photo Contest and a highly successful Silent Auction.

District A-15 Convention

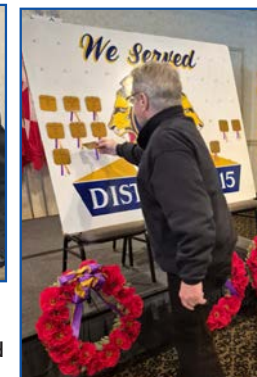
The District A-15 Convention was proudly held April 17-19 at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre, bringing together more than 260 Lions and guests for a memorable weekend of fellowship, learning, and service. The convention officially opened Friday evening with an energetic opening ceremony that set the tone for a fun-filled weekend, followed by lively hospitality rooms where members enjoyed reconnecting with fellow Lions from across the District. The excitement and camaraderie throughout the evening truly reflected the spirit of Lionism and the strong bonds of friendship within District A-15.

Saturday featured a meaningful luncheon presentation by guest speaker Bella Todd, who spoke about mental health and wellness in young women, encouraging awareness, understanding, and compassion within our communities. Interested Lions also enjoyed a memorable visit to W. Ross Macdonald School, gaining insight into the incredible programs and opportunities provided for students who are blind or visually impaired. The afternoon Club Speakers Corner gave clubs the opportunity to proudly showcase their service projects and successes from across the district.

During the Saturday evening banquet, dinner speaker PID **Tom Gordon** inspired attendees with his presentation on the categories of service that



Blatant show of editorial favoritism: The photo with Lions Bob Pearson, Colleen Martin, and Peter Oswald was awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their tireless work with their club and the district. All three deserving Lions are from the Copetown Club



Lions proudly support around the world, highlighting the tremendous impact Lions continue to make through humanitarian service. The evening concluded with an exciting Charity Casino in support of Lions Clubs International Foundation, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, and Lions Quest, making the convention both entertaining and impactful in supporting important Lions causes.

An interesting display was put together by DG Linda Vinette and PDG Denis Vinette, showing all the PDGs' photos and, in some cases, the district directories.

Sunday morning, PID **Art Woods** led a memorial service, honouring District A15 members who had passed away during the past Lions year.



Next year's convention is slated for the same location and, hopefully, with most, if not all, of the committee members intact.

Fisherville Lions

The Fisherville Lions Club donated \$14,145.00 to District A-2. At our recent Variety Show, the club pledged the funds from food sales would go towards the District A-2 LCIF grant application for the Norfolk Haldimand Hospice. The money that was donated during the Variety Show was matched by the Lions Club.



Past International Director Lion Allen Snider, LCIF Chair, Lion Daphne Bassindale, Variety Show Committee Chair, and PDG Lion Bob Townsend, who is looking after the grant

What a great day at the Restoule Winter Carnival! It may have started a little chilly, but the sun came out and so did community spirit. With many winter events, as well as some that were not so wintry, such as an egg race, many of the community's children and adults alike braved the weather and had a great time. A wonderful pancake breakfast, made better by real maple syrup donated by Lion Gord, warmed bellies and appetites.

There were also talented face painters, Sandra and Pam, who made many children smile with fun designs.

The Restoule Lions Club is proud to host events that bring the community together.

Restoule Lions



Walden Lions

The Walden Lions believe in supporting citizens in the Greater Sudbury community. Some of the most vulnerable include our homeless. The homeless are not just people on drugs, and with mental health issues. There are elderly people in wheelchairs or walkers and people on the Ontario Disability Support Program. Their income is not enough to afford a rental.

Walden Lions generously gave \$8,500.00

to the New Hope Outreach Center (formerly the Samaritan Center) in the Greater City of Sudbury. The centre provides multiple services, including the Blue Door Soup Kitchen, Elgin St. Mission, laundry and shower facilities, mental health and addiction programs, a drop-in centre, a hairdresser and foot care, and an emergency warming centre, to well over 250 persons per day. The meals served can exceed this, as many families and seniors who cannot afford food and rent are now using these services.



Thanks to the Walden Lions and other Lions clubs, those in need are being helped.

Copetown Lions

On May 9th, the Copetown Lions celebrated their 50th Anniversary. It was a great night with great music, a great meal, and great presentations. I guess you could say it was an all-round GREAT night. The meal was fantastic, thanks to our resident chef Lion **Joe Thorogood**. Our guest emcee for the evening was PDG **Bob Townsend** from District A2, **Simcoe-Lynn Valley Lions**. The band for the evening was "Monty & The Crew". They got the crowd up dancing with both their rock and soft rock music. They are available to be booked in the future, check their web site, they are a great band, and reasonable as well.

Lion Chief **Ken Biehler** welcomed the crowd and provided most of the technical creations for the evening.

Lions **Dave Biehler**, **Moe Crickmore** and **Bob Pearson** received Melvin Jones Fellowship for their dedication to Lionism over the years. Long time Lion, **Willie Arnold** received a Helen Keller Fellowship, Willie was unable to attend the event and Copetown's 1st VDG **Jerry Boschman** accepted on his behalf. Lion **Peter Oswald** received the coveted Art Woods Golden Tree award. The combined years of service for these five Lions is upwards of one hundred and eighty years. After the event, Lions Dave Biehler,

Jerry Boschman and Bob Pearson presented the fellowship to Willie and wife Betty at his residence.

Coincidentally there is a special significance to Lion Willie receiving the Helen Keller fellowship, his wife Betty is sight challenged and the presentation was made by Lion **Kristina Engle-Jackowitz**, who is blind as well, she is a member of the **North Newmarket Lions**. She founded and is president of the Canada Tru Vision Cyber club, Kristina is a long-time Lion with the North Newmarket Lions Club where she started their first Accessibility committee for District A-16 in 2017/2018. Based on this success, she was asked to start an Accessibility committee for Multiple District 'A'. She was accompanied by her father, Lion **Dave Engle**, and her faithful dog guide "Gilly". Kristina is married to Lion **Mark Jackowitz** who is blind as well and despite their handicaps, they live a good life and make strong contribution to Lionism.

The event was put together through the efforts of a committee, made up of Lions **Dave Biehler**, **Ken Biehler**, **Bob Pearson**, **Debbie Nelligan**,



Colleen Martin, Joe Thorogood, Jerry Boschman, Roger Oakes, Cathy McAughlan and Paul (Curly) Landon.

Great Job Lions!

TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING
Hope. Comfort. Compassion.

PROUD NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

LCIF MATCHING GRANT
APPROVED!

LCIF has approved a **MATCHING GRANT** UP TO **\$200,000** to support the **Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice**

This grant will help fund hospice beds, equipment, patient care enhancements and more—ensuring compassionate care close to home.

15 LIONS CLUBS ACROSS A2
RAISED OVER
\$240,000+
IN JUST 4 MONTHS!

THANK YOU TO EVERY DONOR, SUPPORTER AND LION WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice
Care, Comfort, Compassion

Because no one should face end-of-life alone.
Thank you, A2!

SERVING. GIVING. IMPACTING LIVES. **DISTRICT A-2 LIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

MAJESTIC ELEGANCE
PUNTA CANA

Zulu Travel.ca
Let Us Show You The Way

Air Fare & 7 Nights
All Inclusive! 2 Adults
Luxury jr. Suite-Jacuzzi-
pre or post 1 night hotel stay-
Toronto-Prize pack-Swag bag
Private Transfers-Punta Cana

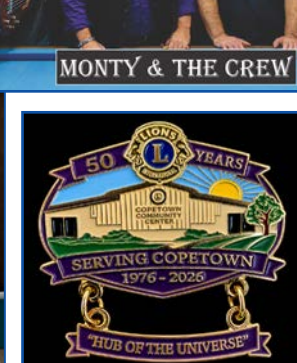
- Tickets \$100 EACH Only**
- 500 Tickets being sold**
- Prize package worth \$10,000**

E-TRANSFER TO:
GARYHEVES@GMAIL.COM
COMPLETE NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE #
REQUIRED

LIONS CAMP DORSET

DRAW
AUGUST 1ST
8 P.M.
PORT ROWAN
COMMUNITY CENTRE

All proceeds to
Lions Camp Dorset
New Medical Building



The International Association of Lions Clubs
CHARTER

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come:
GREETING

Know Ye that The International Association of Lions Clubs has granted, and by these presents does grant to the Members, whose names are hereunto affixed, and to all regularly elected members and their successors, the right to participate in the activities of the Club, and to the use of the name and title of **THE LIONS CLUB of Copetown**

Located at **Copetown, Ontario, Canada**, with all the rights and privileges given to members of the International Association of Lions Clubs, according to the rules and regulations of the Constitution and By-Laws of the International Association of Lions Clubs, and to the use of the name and title of **THE LIONS CLUB of Copetown**

On Witness Whereof The International Association of Lions Clubs has authorized its President and Secretary to affix their signatures, and caused the seal of the Association to be hereunto affixed this 23rd day of March, in the year of our Lord 1976

Charter Members

Frank Best	Donnell Davis	Herbert Ward	John Burdette	Norman Vennard
Charles Bickley	Bob Head	John Marshall	Don Patterson	Philip Vennard
Mike Bickley	Don Johnston	Edmund Marshall	Don Pope	Scott Vennard
Gregory Clayton	Bruce Jackson	Ken Ward	Frank Rogers	Don Vennard
Donna Cumming	Richard Pearson	Charles Marshall	Alan Jackson	Andrew Madson
Bill Doreau	Carl Jones	James Wright	Don Vennard	Bill Wright
Wayne DeLorville	Don DeLorville	Edmund Vennard	Don Vennard	Wayne DeLorville
James Bennett	Wayne DeLorville	Ken Ward	Wayne DeLorville	Wayne DeLorville

Can Crushing Lion Raising Thousands For Local Youth

Printed and edited with permission, Simcoe Reformer, reporter Jacob Robinson
Many people enjoy crushing beer cans; **Floyd Moerschfelder** has taken it to a different level.

Fisherville Lion Floyd Moerschfelder is well on his way to crushing 500,000 beer cans and raising \$50,000 for local sports programs in the process. Pictured alongside Moerschfelder are sisters Ady and Rylynn Davidson of the Haldimand Rivercats.



Not much of a drinker, just one day after his birthday, the longtime Fisherville Lions Club member was holding court at his family farm, speaking to reporters about raising close to \$50,000 for local sports by crushing and donating cans.

With the help of his fellow Lions, Haldimand’s “Can Crushing Champ” has squashed nearly half a million empties.

Moerschfelder soon came up with a goal of donating \$50,000 by early April. He currently sits less than \$ 7,000 away from achieving the mark.

“I’m obsessed by it,” said Moerschfelder, who crushes cans with a homemade device in a room attached to his son’s cattle barn. “I can’t wait to do it – I can’t wait to get over here and crush more beer cans. It’s a big thing right now.”

With word of his exploits spreading across the county, Moerschfelder has even enjoyed some divine intervention while leaving church this past Sunday. “I got in my truck and started for home. I looked in the rear-view mirror, and there were bags and stuff in the back,” he said. “There were 1500 beer cans in the back of the truck and a whole bunch of bottles. Our Lion chief, Bill (Roth), said: “Things will go a lot better God’s on our side.”

“One of the reasons this is so successful is how well he’s known, and our Lions Club is very well known in the area, too,” said **Walt Schaeffer**, a fellow club member. “The community has got to support this for it to happen, and the community is hugely behind this.” During the campaign, the club has donated \$500 to a host of local squads.

“This year, for one of my son’s teams, we didn’t have to pay for any tournaments;

SIMCOE REFORMER

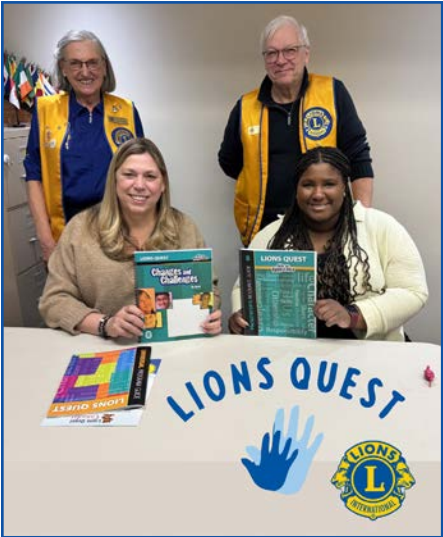
it was all covered,” said Cayuga hockey mom Alesha McLeod. “We all donate our cans now.”

To help Moerschfelder reach his goal, drop-off locations have been placed at the Fisherville Tavern, Kohler Rd. (near the 3rd Concession) and at the intersection of Selkirk Townline and 5th Concession, Walpole. The club is also providing regular updates on its Facebook page. Users can gain access by simply searching for “Fisherville Lions Club”.



Navan Lions

The club has assisted Navan Heritage Public School with starting Lions Quest for grades 7-8. Principal Sue Massaad and teacher Flory-Ann Baron are using the program to support their students’ social emotional learning. They are involving other teachers and grade levels.



Front Row: L to R: Sue Massaad, Principal of Heritage Public School in Navan. Back Row: L to R: Lion Susan Macarney, Vice-President and Lion John Geiger.

Minnow Lake Lions

The Minnow Lake Lions Club has always been a great supporter of the District Governor’s project over the years. This year, the club donated \$2,500.00 to NOFCC (Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer). NOFCC is a registered charitable organization based in Sudbury, Ontario and is committed to helping families across Northern Ontario who have a child diagnosed with cancer.



President Lion Bruce Kutchow is presenting the cheque to Lions District A5 2nd VDG Elly Charette

Delaware Lions/Lioness and Melbourne Lions

On May 23, 2026, the Delaware Lions/Lioness and Melbourne Lions hosted the first-ever “BEEP BASEBALL TRY IT EVENT”. The municipality of Middlesex Centre and Delaware Minor Baseball partnered with us to make it a reality. The Canadian Council of the Blind, Villager Publications, and the CNIB helped us to advertise the event.

We were lucky to have Arthur Pressick and Toronto Blind Jays, Joey and Sung, come to our area to demonstrate the fundamentals of Blind Baseball for our community. The Toronto Blind Jays are known for starting Canada’s first Blind Baseball team and making it to the National Beep Baseball World Series in the United States. We are so thankful for their support.

In case you did not know, Beep Baseball is an adapted sport. The balls beep and the bases buzz. There is no second base. It can be practiced on a baseball diamond, but it needs to be played on a large field for safety reasons.

Beep Baseball provides the opportunity for sighted and visually impaired people of all ages to play baseball together. The families that participated seem to really enjoy playing an active sport together. The pitcher, catcher, and spotters are all sighted. As there are different levels of vision loss, all other members play blindfolded. I heard one participant say, “It is fun and feels fantastic to run to the base blindfolded.” It is physical; it is not for everyone.

Beep Baseball can be played at both the Recreational and Elite Levels. The National Beep Baseball Association has existed in the U.S. since 1976. There are many teams in the United States, and it is very popular in France, Germany, Italy, England, and Taiwan.

If you are interested in finding out more about Beep Baseball, you can email Donna at: districtsight@gmail.com



Chippawa Lions

Camp Dorset Chair **Gary Eves** is presented with a cheque for \$7,142 by a team from Chippawa Lions. These were the proceeds from two Murder Mysteries held in 2025.

Missing from Chippawa Lions team are the mastermind behind the Murder Mysteries - Lion **Ken Rees** and Lion **Eva Jackson** the top cook at both events.



MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors’ Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting September 11/12, 2026
- Council Meeting October 20/21, 2026
- Council Meeting February 19/20, 2027
- Council Meeting Convention June 5, 2027

District Conventions

District Convention information will be in the next issue.

Palmerston Lions

During the February 2026 Minto Chamber of Commerce Annual AGM meeting. The Palmerston Lions Club was honoured to receive the Not-for-Profit Excellence Award from the Minto Chamber.

This award was presented to recognize the club’s contributions and dedication to the community of the Town of Minto by providing outstanding Community Service, Leadership, and positive impact to the community. Several members of the Palmerston Lions Club were present to accept this prestigious award.





Janice Fleming Broker
ABR®, SRES®, SRS, RCS-D™



janicesellskw@gmail.com | www.janicesellskw.com

Seeking Your
Next Purchase?

Is it Time to Sell?

Exploring
Rightsizing Options?

Helping Buyers and Sellers
Achieve Their Dreams Since 2007.

— Call Janice Today! —
Direct: 519-240-9095

Helping **You** is What I Do.



Kitchener Waterloo
Community Spirits Lions Club
Charter Member



ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

District Reporters

There is a reporter designated for each district, their function is to assist clubs and the magazine staff with submissions that include high resolution photos and a summary of the service activity. Please utilize their services. They can be contacted as shown:

A-1 Lion Michelle Mundy: michellemundy@live.com

A-2 Lion Bob Townsend: b.townsend@a2lions.org

A-3 Lion Frank Hewitt: thelionwhisperer2017@gmail.com

A-4 Lion Bill Vermilyea: b.vermilyea@outlook.com

A-5 Lion Rhonda McCallum: mccallumrhonda @ gmail.com

A-7/11 Lion Gary Dale: gary@lionsclub.ca

A-9 Lion Al Leach: adleach@hotmail.com

A-12 Lion JoAnn Warren: joewarren66@gmail.com

A-15 Lion Bob Pearson: bobpearson50@gmail.com

A-16 Lion Tim Cheung: tcheung@lionsa16.com

Editor Lion Bob Pearson
bobpearson50@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2026 St. Catharines June 5 - 7, 2027

International Conventions

108th	Hong Kong	July 3 - 7, 2026
109th	Washington, DC, USA	July 2 - 6, 2027
110th	Singapore	June 23 - 27, 2028
111th	Minneapolis, MN	June 29 - July 3, 2029
112th	San Antonio, TX	2030

USA - Canada Forums

Sept 3 - 5, 2026	Memphis, Tennessee
Sept 16 - 18, 2027	Huntsville, Alabama
Sept 21 - 23, 2028	Grand Rapids, Michigan

St. Thomas Lions

February 24, 2026 – The Main Objective of the “EYES RIGHT” foundation, is to provide funding to hospitals in Southwestern Ontario, to purchase diagnostic and surgical equipment for eye disorders and to promote cornea donations for transplant and research purposes.

Over 90% of these funds are provided by donations from the Lions family of District A1 through their various fundraising activities.

At the Eyes Right November 2025 board meeting. A proposal from the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) Foundation was accepted. This project was sponsored by the St. Thomas Lions Club.

The STEGH project involved the purchase of three state-of-the-art ophthalmic technologies: A Leica Surgical Microscope, Verion Imaging and Guidance Bundle, and an Innova Surgical LaserSTEGH. The foundation had mounted a community campaign early in 2025 to raise the \$260,000 required to purchase this equipment and had met with

great success. At the time the request was made to Eyes Right, they were only \$30,000 from reaching their goal. By the time all the paperwork was submitted to Eyes Right, the “i”s dotted and the t”s crossed and the due diligence completed, even more community donations had rolled in. The final amount of the “top up” donation from Eyes Right was \$8,200.

This is the 3rd project that Eyes Right has provided funding assistance for the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital for eye health care equipment.

Kudos to the St. Thomas Lions for thinking outside the box and moving this project forward.



Lion Donna McManus,, Delaware Lions Club - Lions District A1 Vision Chair

District A-5 Reporter

The LION magazine is getting a new District A5 reporter to replace our long-time dedicated reporter,

Lion **Brenda Lalonde**.

She was in place when your editor began working with the magazine,

some 10 years ago. Brenda submits as much information or more than any other district. Her stories always center on the main pillars of Lionism. I am told that she traveled many miles in the district to gather her information and get accompanying photos, at her own expense. Her dedication to the magazine is unparalleled.

Lion Brenda's replacement is **Minnow Lake Lions** member Lion **Rhonda McCallum**, former club president, her email address is: mccallumrhonda31@gmail.com. Rhonda is looking forward to the new position and realizes she has a big pair of shoes to fill.



THE LION MAGAZINE MULTIPLE DISTRICT “A”

Advertising Rates Revised September 2024

THE LION MAGAZINE
219-101 Governors Road,
Dundas, ON
L9H 6L7
289-238-8877

Full Page \$ 500.00
Half Page \$300.00

Send Advertising Copy To:
bobpearson50@gmail.com

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL M.D.”A”

Design work available.



Merriton Lions Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest, 2025-2026

By Geoff Crane, Chairperson, Peace Poster Contest, Lions Club Of Merritton

For over 30 years, Lions Clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special Art Contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. The theme of this year's contest is Together as One.

This year, the Lions Club of Merritton asked six schools in Merritton to participate, and the response was extraordinary. More than 85 students participated in this year's event. As the

club chairperson for this contest, I was very pleased with the results. I am grateful for the work put in by the students and the support that they received from the school principals, the school administrative assistants and their teachers. Below are the participating schools and their principals, as of December 2025, along with the selected student winners.

- Applewood Public School (Principal: Maria Verwey): Winner: Georgia Foster
- Burleigh Hill Public School (Principal: Jayann Young): Winner: Aymina Ayaz
- Connaught Public School (Principal: Derek Harley): Winner: Zainab Zimic
- Ferndale Public School (Principal: Sara De Divitiis): Winner: Axel Hernandez-Alonso
- St. Christopher Catholic School (Principal: Dwane Smolders): Winner: Natalia Sliwa
- St. Theresa Catholic School (Principal: Dan Trainor): Winner: Valeria Herrera-Ortiz



Calculating our Impact: As of May 26, 2026 District A2 has collected close to 30,000 Pairs of Shoes for Soles4Souls Canada in just over 16 months!!

We diverted 37,500 pounds from going to local landfills, reducing the environmental impact of these unwanted shoes and clothing by extending their lifespan. We keep your

donations in use for as long as possible which reduces their CO2 impact per wear.

Our donations can create \$271,500 of economic opportunity for families and communities around the world through our 4Opportunity and 4Relief programs. This means more money in their pockets to use towards necessities, education, and economic opportunities for their families.

Our Donation provided a full year of consistent, quality food, housing and education for 30 families in countries like Haiti and Honduras

Pictured are many **St. Davids and District Lions**

loading up a 40' trailer in September. Shoes from the district are stored at their hall in a CPAC container. It's now the end of April and it needs to be emptied AGAIN. We have blue barrels that have been distributed around District A-2 that constantly need to be emptied and there have been many shoe supply companies who have donated brand new shoes as well. Many families have benefited by either receiving the shoes or ones who have been able to start a small business to support their family.

Agreement Number is:
41805020*

