



Rochester Lions Club

Home Club of Leader Dogs for the Blind
www.rochesterlionsclub.org

March, 2009
NEWSLETTER

Club Meets 6:30 pm-1st & 3rd Mondays of Each Month at the Rivercrest



President's Message...

Dear Fellow Lions,

I saw the sun shine today, but I didn't see any green grass. It may be premature to clean my golf clubs and/or polish my golf shoes. Bummer! I think these are the dog days of winter and I have cabin fever!

This may have been one of the harshest winters in many, many years, but it has not slowed down the Rochester Lions Club. We have continued to be busy.

Randy Whitmire, David Bates and I hosted a hospitality room at Oakland University with a goal of starting a new, autonomous Lions Club at O.U. The turnout was not what we hoped for, but those that attended were enthusiastic. Greg Grabowski, an O.U. graduate, was in attendance and offered the Leader Dog facility for the next recruiting date set for March 21st. We're hoping that with proper promotion we can be much more successful. More information will be available as this event draws near.

The photo screening of pre-schoolers at the Rochester Public Library was held on Saturday, February 14th. Larry Cole photographed the eyes of more than 40 children under the supervision of District 11A-2 coordinator Susan Eisenhardt. I'm proud that the Rochester Lions Club was well represented at this project. Thank you to all of you who assisted! I am looking forward to this project becoming an annual event.

On Sunday, February 23, Randy and Sharon Whitmire, Celia Domalewski and I assisted Jim Leach, Sr. at the District 11A-2 Euchre Tournament held at the Romeo Lions Club House. Dennis Scott brought a "ringer" by the name of Kate Hurst and participated in the spirited competition.

Upcoming events of note include the District 11A-2 annual convention March 27 through 29 at the Radisson Plaza in Kalamazoo.

Please keep in mind that White Cane Week is right around the corner. With the economic conditions being what they are, we will need as many Lions as possible to generate the funds needed for our charities. Be sure to block out a few hours to man a station to support this, our major annual fundraiser.

On March 6, 7 and 8, we will have a booth at Autorama in COBO Hall to sell raffle tickets for the 2010 Camaro. We will also be supporting a fundraising event for Leader Dog. Contact Dennis Scott to volunteer any time you can offer.

The car show committees have been busy planning for this year's shows practically since the events of last year were over. Lions Bothwell, Treppa, Claussen and their committee members are coming up with innovative ideas to encourage sponsorship and increased participation.

I am looking forward to next month's newsletter. Spring will have arrived and golf season will be upon us. Hooray!

Yours in Lionism,

David McKenzie

"If liberty and equality, as is thought by some are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost."

Aristotle



March 2009 Meeting Theme
March is "Buddy Month"



Looking Ahead. .



Mar 2—Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
Rivercrest Banquet Center
Dinner Served Promptly at 7pm
Guests: Lions All State Band

Mar 9—Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Leader Dogs/Polk Residence

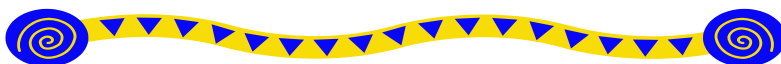
Mar 16—Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
Rivercrest Banquet Center
Dinner Served Promptly at 7 pm
Guest: Dore McGowan—Meadowbrook
Theater Guild

Upcoming District Events

District Events

Mar 14—Troy Community Lions Club
Charter Night Dinner
Petruzzello's Banquet & Conf Center
6950 Rochester Rd
Troy, MI 48083
Social 6-7pm
Dinner at 7 pm
\$25 per person—Raffle & Prizes
Reservations & Info Contact:
586-382-8894
Email: nikkisatt76@yahoo.com

May 9—Bear Lake Camp Golf Classic
Hosted by Devil's Ridge Golf Club
Registration 11:30 am
Shotgun Start at 1 pm
Dinner & Awards at 6 pm
\$100 per golfer
Reservations and Info
Contact: Rick Fleming 248-969-0100 ext 3
or Dennis Kotenko 586-786-0683



HELP!! Sell Camaro Raffle Tickets!



We need more help selling raffle tickets for the Camaro Car Raffle coming in August. Even though we've sold 200 tickets so far, we still have 500 tickets to

sell in order to achieve our fund-raising goal.

This is a fabulous car to win...for a relatively small price...for a wonderful cause. Please contact Lion Dennis Scott ASAP...to purchase your ticket(s)...or to obtain a series of 5 to sell. Rochester Lions...we REALLY need your help...won't you? Ed.

"Every man is guilty of all the good he didn't do"

Voltaire



Happy Birthday to
You!



The following Lions have birthdays
in March:

- Diane Leach—Mar 8
 - Mike Roberts—Mar 12
 - Jim Leach—Mar 13
 - Keith Pasternacki—Mar 13
 - John Meisel—Mar 21
 - Charles Vanitvelt—Mar 23
 - Stu Clemens—Mar 24
 - Gene Ferrera—Mar 27
 - Jim Madson—Mar 31
- Wishing each of you...a
very Happy Birthday!

Kid Sight Eye Exams



On Saturday, Feb 14 several Lions gathered at the Rochester Public Library for the purpose of testing the vision of “pre-school” children ages 1-5 years. Forty-one (41) children along with parents showed up and took part in the eye exams.

Lion Art Carlson, was in charge of and supervised the event. “We had more than enough Lions who turned out to assist with the eye exams. This is a great cause...with an important purpose. I hope we helped some kids...and their parents to realize how important it is to be able to see correctly,” said Lion Carlson.

Our club will be conducting these sessions regularly. Ed.

Your club wants
YOU!



Events don't just “happen”, they take
some planning and a little work.
Won't you help make YOUR club a better one?

Leader Dog Canister Collections

Lion Dan Williams has graciously volunteered to assume responsibility for Leader Dog Canister collections. A total of \$230.00 was collected in Jan/Feb with more on the way. Thanks so much, Lion Dan



OU Lions Club... One Step Closer to a Reality

Several distinguished guests and potential student leaders gathered at a reception hosted by the Rochester Lions Club recently at Oakland University. The purpose of this reception was to begin to identify OU students who have expressed an interest in helping to form an entirely new and autonomous Lions club on the OU campus.

PDG Joe Wilson, Greg Grabowski, CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind; David McKenzie, President, Rochester Lions Club; David Bates, Melvin Jones, Rochester Lions Club; Randy Whitmire, 2nd Vice President, Rochester Lions Club (photographer not pictured); Gary Frick—Dog Handler & Trainer with Leader Dog in training “General;” Jean Ann Miller, Director, Center for Student Activities & Leadership Development at OU; and Jane Porter, Donor Relations Specialist at Leader Dogs for the Blind... were among those onhand to greet several students including Dan Elova, Student Body President, who stopped by to express an interest in helping to form the new campus Lions club.

A brief film but powerful film clip on the Leader Dogs was shown which then led to individual discussions and exchanges for the remainder of the reception. OU Catering provided some tasty snacks and beverages for this event. Subsequent discussions with Jean Ann Miller, Director of the Center for Student Activities and a long time volunteer at Bear Lake Camp for Blind Children, and Greg Grabowski, CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind (and an OU Alumni, revealed the need to schedule a tour of Leader Dogs for OU students and faculty. Consequently, we have scheduled Saturday, March 21, 2009 for a special tour of Leader Dogs ...designed to identify students seriously interested in supporting our efforts to form a new and autonomous OU campus Lions club.

We are very excited about all the possibilities an OU Lions club would bring to not only meet the needs of Oakland University but also the formidable alliance between our Rochester Lions and with Leader Dogs for the Blind to further our “WE SERVE” commitment together.

Ed.

Student Reception Forming—New Campus Lions Club

When: Monday, Feb 9
Noon—1 pm



Where: Gold Room A
Oakland Center

SUCCESS STORIES!!



- “Ground Floor” Leadership Opportunity!
- Become a “Founding” Chapter Member!
- Meet the Needs of OU Students!
- Understand the “True” Meaning of “We Serve!”
- Make a Difference...Have Fun Along the Way!

Complementary Snacks
and Beverages

Contact person: Jean Ann
Miller—248-370-4332
Center for Student Activities
& Leadership





Lion's District 11-A2 Euchre Tournament Lots of Fun...and a Few Winners!

Sponsored by both the Rochester Lions and Lake Orion Lions and held at the Romeo Lions clubhouse, the tournament brought out a host of players including Rochester Lions Jim Leach, Dennis Scott and Kate Hurrst, and a few really good players. Everyone had a great time especially winners Bob Hill/Armada Lions club and Tom Hill/Fraser Lions club. Ed.



Lions Aid Australian Wildfire Victims



LCIF is working with Lions in Victoria, southern Australia to assess the situation and determine appropriate courses of action. Australian authorities have confirmed 181 dead so far. But the number of fatalities is expected to climb above 200 as many remain missing.

LCIF has also established an "Australian Wildfire Disaster" relief fund for donors wishing to contribute directly to this disaster through www.lcif.org/donate and click on "Australian Wildfire Disaster." The public may also donate via phone through LCIF Donor Services at (630) 571-5466 ext 404.

The Australian Lions Foundation has donated \$25,000 in addition to the many Australian Lions clubs which have stepped up to assist via cash donations, clothing, and other relief supplies. Lions are receiving full cooperation from each Municipal Council as they move into the recovery phase.

FEDEX/Kinkos Steps Up- Major Car Show Sponsor

FEDEX/Kinkos in downtown Rochester has stepped in to be a "major sponsor" for both of our car shows, Heritage Rod & Custom Car Show and the Festival of Cars, coming up on May 23/24 in conjunction with the Rochester Heritage Festival.

"We're glad we could help...especially in this tight economy knowing that Leader Dogs for the Blind must be supported in their efforts to serve those in need," said Don Casanovas, Center Manager of the FEDEX/Kinkos Rochester location. "We are delighted and pleased to welcome the kind and generous FEDEX/Kinkos support of our important Heritage Festival car shows," Lion Eric Bothwell, car show co-chair, added. Coincidentally, FEDEX/Kinkos also prints our complementary monthly newsletter copies. Please remember to patronize merchants like FEDEX Kinkos, which routinely supports us, for all of your print, copies and special project needs.

Ed.



The Heritage Festival is fast approaching... We are still looking for sponsors for both shows (Heritage Rod & Custom Car Show on Saturday and the Festival of Cars on Sunday) - If you own a business or know a business owner who may be interested in a very cost-effective method of advertising and publicizing their company to thousands of Festival visitors and car show participants, please have them contact Lions Eric Bothwell, Bob Treppa, Bill Claussen or Randy Whitmire. They'll be glad they did!

Festival of Cars

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Sunday,
May 24th 2009



Heritage Festival



Proceeds Benefit
Leader Dogs for the Blind

THE OAKLAND PRESS
www.TheOaklandPress.com

Rochester Municipal Park

3RD ANNUAL HERITAGE ROD & CUSTOM CAR FESTIVAL



May 23, 2009

THE OAKLAND PRESS
www.TheOaklandPress.com

Rochester Municipal Park

Proceeds Benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind

New Lions Inducted



Jai Gupta and Don Casanovas were recently inducted into the Rochester Lions Club. Lion Sharon Whitmire sponsored new Lion Don Casanovas and Lion Dale Burke sponsored new Lion Jai Gupta.

Lion Jai Gupta has a very interesting background...much too interesting to cover of it here. Jai (pronounced Jay) immigrated to the U.S. from India with his family in 1972. He is an industrial engineer by profession and was founder and CEO of Effective Mailers of Roseville, MI for more than 26 years. He and his wife, Shashi, reside in Rochester Hills. They have two grown sons (both engineers) and 3 grandchildren and an active social and family life. Lion Jai is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch and would like to start playing golf this year.

Lion Don Casanovas is the store manager of our local FEDEX/Kinkos in downtown Rochester. Don has provided so many "things" to our club...they're too numerous to mention here (but worth mentioning are the Lions club discounts and especially 19 cents a copy for 4-color 8 1/2 by 11 pages). Don is a proud US Navy veteran. He grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan. He and his wife, Cheri have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Lion Don also enjoys golf and playing cards in his spare time. Don's background is equally interesting and much too extensive to cover here.

I urge all of our members to get to know Lion Don and Lion Jai...and share as much Lion information and club history as you can with them. There's no feeling quite like that of being warmly and genuinely welcomed into an organization.

Ed.



CLUB MEETING NOTES



Lion David McKenzie greeting VDG Ron Holler at one of our regular meetings



President McKenzie giving our Club report at recent Region 1/2 meeting.



Rochester Lions presenting check to DG Connie Shelton for Bear Lake Camp



⇒ **Certificate of Appreciation presented to WalMart Corp representatives at Feb 16**



⇒ **Two new Lions were inducted into the Rochester Lions Club at our Feb 16 meeting. Don Casanovas and Jai (Jay) Gupta. See the separate article on them in this issue.**

**Sponsoring Guests at Regular Club Meetings...
A Great Way to Meet People!**

March is "Buddy Month." We are one of the larger clubs in the region supporting a variety of viable fundraising projects throughout the year. But now, we're not only a large club but also a great club too. Our club's officers and members have managed to do "Whatever It Takes" to staff and make each of our respective fundraising efforts very successful over the years. We have a proud legacy and tradition in our community. That legacy and reputation is due, primarily, to the quality and dedication of the Lions we ultimately invite to join our Club. We urge each of you to continue your efforts to extend invitations to "worthy" men and women in our community...to attend one of our regular meetings with you, their "buddy," which allows them to see what Lionism and our "WE SERVE" motto is all about. Together, we can do great things...and have fun along the way.

Lion David McKenzie, President



You...



...have a GREAT Day!!!

**Life is short!
Break the rules! Forgive quickly! Kiss Slowly!
Love Truly. Laugh uncontrollably...**

And never regret anything that made you smile.



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(248) 651-2679

The Rochester Lions Club Newsletter is published monthly as a service to our members and to those interested in Lionism—

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