



# News & Views

## District 12-N, Tennessee (USA)



February 2007

<http://www.ETNLions.org>



### DG WENDY'S REMARKS

Fellow Lions,

I've just returned home from the 4th Annual Tennessee Lions Learning Retreat, which was a huge success! About 110 Lions were registered, with a great turnout of 12-N Lions, including EIGHT first-timers! I want to thank PDG Bette Purvis (Tellico Village) and PDG Patsy Milom (Cheatham County, District 12-I) for their leadership as co-chairs for event, as well as all the

Lions who served on the planning team—many from our own District 12-N!

A couple of housekeeping items:

- ◆ **Club Officers** should be elected in February or March to submit your PU-101 by March 31st. If you haven't already, it's time to appoint Nominating Committees.
- ◆ **Lion of the Year and Lion of the Decade** deadline for nominations is February 28. Submit your club honorees to Lion Brian Jenkins.
- ◆ Plan to attend the **Knoxville Area Day with the Lions on April 21**. There's additional information on page 2, and we're also planning a special **New Member Induction Ceremony** during the day's festivities since April 21 also corresponds to Lions Clubs International Worldwide Induction Day. More information to come.

Finally, I hope you will make plans to join me and Lions from throughout our District at the annual **District 12-N Convention from March 16-17, 2007** at the historic General Morgan Inn, in Greeneville, TN. We are planning a grand celebration that will include plenty of fellowship, service, learning, and a little business, too! I look forward to introducing our guest, Past International Director Ed McCormick and his wife, Linda, to our East Tennessee hospitality. Some highlights:

- ◆ Friday—Trading pin swap/sell, silent auction, and gift basket auction
- ◆ Saturday—Parade of Club Banners, workshops, reports from our White Cane agencies, recognition luncheon with many award presentations including a Necrology Service, business session and election of District Governor and Vice District Governor for 2007-2008
- ◆ Saturday evening—Closing banquet with special remarks from PID McCormick, followed by music/dancing

Each club is encouraged to bring their club banner and an item for the silent auction (baked goodies are very popular!) or gift basket auction. Also, each participant is being asked to **live our "We Serve" motto** by bringing non-perishable food, books and school supplies and/or a financial donation to benefit the Holston United Methodist Home for Children in Greeneville. A registration form is included later in the newsletter.

Thanks for all you do!

*Lion Wendy*  
District Governor (lion.wendy@att.net)

### URGENT: PARADE SHIRT DEADLINE

Orders for the International convention Parade shirts must be received by **Feb. 15th!** The cost is \$10 each (MD-12 will pay the other \$10!). Send your check (made payable to MD-12 Lions) and send with your size(s) to: PDG Bill Moore, 133 Columbine Road, Kingsport, TN 37660. For further information call (423) 765-1878 or e-mail [billmore@charternet.net](mailto:billmore@charternet.net). Shirts will be available at the State Convention.

### LCIF CONTRIBUTIONS

BY: VDG DEAN HARSHBARGER

Through November, records indicate that twelve District 12-N clubs have made contributions totaling \$3,396.94 to LCIF for the 2006-07 Lions' year. The total contribution from our District last year was \$21,738, so you can see we have a ways to go if we are to maintain past levels of giving. Those clubs who have not yet made a contribution are urged to do so.

Funds contributed to LCIF are used around the world for disaster relief and vision related projects. District 12-N has received back over \$400,000 in total grants to aid our endeavors. Monies contributed through the District treasurer can be added together to provide funds (\$1000 each) required to name a Melvin Jones Fellow. In 2005-06, six District MJFs were chosen, along with 19 others named through direct contributions by clubs or individuals. This is an excellent way to honor some worthy Lion in your club.



### CAMPAIGN SIGHTFIRST II (CSFII)

Campaign SightFirst, aimed at eradicating blindness throughout the world has been a tremendous success. It is estimated that this campaign restored vision or prevented blindness for 24 million people. We can be proud of our efforts in this great service project!

However, the work is not yet completed. Experts predict that if nothing is done by the year 2020, the world's blind will double to about 80 million. To continue our successful program, Campaign SightFirst II with a goal of raising \$150,000,000 to continue the work of Campaign SightFirst is well underway.

District plans calls for a visit and presentation about CSFII to each club. If your club has not yet had the presentation, you should be contacted about a visit in the near future. So far, eight District 12-N clubs have pledged a total of \$12,950 for CSFII. This is a good start, and hopefully pledges will continue and grow.

You can help by making a personal pledge, soliciting contributions from corporate neighbors or others, and by supporting club actions for the campaign. One suggestion is for each Club to plan a special fundraiser with the proceeds to go to CSFII.

You are challenged to make this a personal and Club priority to support this basic Lions project. This is what Lions do. **We are the "Knights of the Blind."**

## MEMBERSHIP BY LION BUDDY GREENE

**District Goal: Positive Growth Through Retention of Members and Plus One**

**M**aking members feel needed and wanted  
**E**mphasis on community service projects  
**M**eetings that are fun and enjoyable  
**B**etter informed members  
**E**very member involvement in club activities and projects  
**R**ecognizing members for their contributions to club and district  
**S**pecial Year-Round membership growth program

### Membership Focus: New Years Resolutions

Invite those who will help you keep your "New Years Resolutions" (usually health-related) fitness trainers, nurses, ophthalmologists, and optometrists, dieticians, chiropractors, other care professionals. They may be waiting on someone to ask them to join Lions; you never know until you ask! **Remember the family plan and the reduction in International Club Dues for members living at the same address.**

---

## REMOTE AREA MEDICAL UPDATE

BY LIONESSE GLENDA CANNON

During the month of December, RAM participated in Knoxville Project Homeless Connect. Totals for this clinic: total patients registered (262); total services rendered (401); total value of care (\$24,590); total volunteers (211).

This clinic provided services as follows: General Medicine (229); Eye Test Only (15); Eye Test with Glasses (77); Dental (80). Dental services included: extractions (67); fillings (20); cleanings (31); and exams only (2).

Also during December, RAM held a 1-day clinic at Clairefield, TN. Visual & dental services were provided to 8 children & 19 adults.

A RAM clinic was held at Lonsdale in Knoxville on January 20-21; and RAM will return to New Orleans to provide further care for Katrina victims on February 26th.

---

## A DAY WITH THE LIONS

BY LION JIM MCFARLAND

The Knoxville Area Walk for Sight (formally "Walk of the Blind") will be held on April 21, 2007 on the campus of the Tennessee School for the Deaf. We will continue the themes from the 2006 walk, and are planning a full-day of events. This year the Bike ride will be before the Walk. After the walk, there will be a **Family Bike Safety Check and Ride**. For those not participating in the actual Walk or Bike Ride, we will have:

- ⇒ **Entertainment** from 10am until 2pm
- ⇒ A **Health Fair** from 9am until 2pm
- ⇒ A **Car Show** from 10am until 2pm
- ⇒ **Lunch** will be available on site
- ⇒ **Awards** will be presented around 2pm

Plan on coming and spending the day with the Lions! For additional information, contact Lion Jim McFarland at (865) 925-3334, or e-mail TnLionJim@aol.com

---

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

BY PDG BILL MOORE

Lion Jim McFarland has been recommended by the West Knox Club to be candidate for Vice-District Governor at the Spring Convention, March 16-18. To date, he is the only VDG candidate.

## 2007 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

(WWW.CHICAGO2007.COM)

By PDG Bill Moore, MD-12 Chairman

Phone: (423) 239-7848 E-Mail: billmoore@chartertn.net

**WHEN:** Monday, July 2—Friday, July 6, 2007

**TN HOTEL:** Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers  
301 E. North Water St., Chicago IL 60611  
Tel: (312) 464-1000 Web: www.sheraton.com

### Partial Agenda:

Mon., July 2nd—Registration  
Tues., July 3rd—Opening Session (10am)  
Wed., July 4th—Parade (9:30am) - Remember to order your shirt!  
Thurs., July 5th—2nd Session (10am)  
Fri., July 6th—Voting (7am); Final Session (9:30am)

### Joint Southeastern Breakfast and Caucus

PIP Jim Ervin is organizing the Joint Breakfast. Most of the States being invited will be residing at the Sheraton along with Tennessee. However, the breakfast is scheduled to be at the Hilton on Thurs., July 5, from 7-9am. The cost has not been finalized.

---

## LIONS STATE CONVENTION, MAY 18-20, 2007

BY: PCC JOE DAILEY

The Tennessee Lions State Convention will be in Gatlinburg at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort located on Airport Road (turn at Light #8). Phone: (865) 436-9201 or toll free (800) 435-9201. Room rates Thursday will be \$69.99 + tax; Friday & Saturday rates will increase to \$82.99 + tax. If you come early or stay after the convention to shop, you can get the lower rate, but you need to ask for it when you call for reservations.

There will be a Big Boy Golf Tournament, as well as a miniature golf tournament, on Friday. Registration forms are available on the District Web Page at <http://www.ETNLions.org>

Lions International First Vice-President Mahendra Amarasuriya of Colombo, Sri Lanka, will be our guest for the convention. Make plans now to attend.

---

## CHAPLAIN'S CHRONICLE

BY LION DON DENNEY

**Comment:** God's Word (the Bible) gives us comfort, provides direction, helps us see who we are and, more than that, how He is.

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:16, Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**Conclusion:** Lord, please enable us to be forgiving, loving, and kind toward others today.

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ **Feb. 8th—Region IV Zone II Meeting**, hosted by the Lenoir City Lions Club, 6:30 p.m. Dinner Bell on Hwy 321 in Lenoir City.
- ◆ **Feb. 10th & 11th—The Pigeon Forge Lions are partnering with RAM of TN** to bring the free medical health clinic to Sevier County. The clinic will be held at the Pigeon Forge High School.
- ◆ **Feb. 12th—Region III, Zone III Meeting**, hosted by the Knoxville Tri-County Lions Club, 6pm dinner/7pm meeting, at Bob's Mountaineer Rest., 10321 Chapman Highway, Seymour, TN.



## LEADER DOG CORNER

BY LION SUZIE FERGUSON

Happy New Year ! Your Leader Dog connection is alive and well.

Hutch returned to the school for formal training on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mickey and Leader Dog Emerson were present to help us through the ordeal. No new puppy will be riding in Hutch's place back to Tennessee, but we look forward to a return visit in a few months to collect a new arrival.

With mixed emotions, on September 24<sup>th</sup> we made a trip to Leader Dog to pick up Schatzie who could never find the right match. Schatzie is now working as a Search and Rescue K-9 with hopes to certify in the Spring. FLD Opie is now ten months old, and new FLD Frosty in the Knoxville area will hopefully be meeting many of you in the near future.

There are many issues facing the blind aside from mobility. Public perception of blindness is most often very negative. People generally avoid being around the blind because the disability itself makes them uncomfortable, or they don't realize that blind people are still intelligent, witty, productive and loving. The blind suffer from the same illnesses as the sighted, get their feelings hurt, enjoy the circus, and fall in love. They also fight constantly for common courtesies extended routinely to sighted individuals and for just a chance to demonstrate their capabilities. Did you know there was such a thing as Braille speed reading? I have learned a lot and grown tremendously in my respect and admiration for those who persevere with disabilities. I guess you may be wondering where I am going with this, huh? I report. You decide.

During Mickey's visit, while in a cosmetic store, (yes blind women do use make-up) the clerk refused to talk directly to Mickey. She kept speaking to Mickey through me, constantly referring to Mickey. On more than one occasion, the clerk was reminded that Mickey was not deaf, was a college graduate and was perfectly capable of speaking for herself. The general feeling was that since Mickey was blind she should accept anything, and it didn't matter. No purchase was made.

Leader Dog Emerson has a sign on his harness indicating, "Do not pet me, I am working." People constantly ignore the sign and are shocked when Mickey tells them to quit touching her dog. "How do you know," said one lady. Mickey's reply, "Emerson told me." That is how sensitive our blind community is regarding their surroundings — sounds, temperatures, movements, voice inflections, even silence -- and especially the body language of their Leader Dog.

The situation which has concerned me the most involves our new Leader Dog handler Nathan and his LD Slidel. Nathan has been refused admittance to the church he has been attending for three years because, according to the minister, "A dog has no place in the house of God." Apparently, several Churches in the community have the same attitude. ADA will not intervene with churches.

Our goal as Lions is to serve, but we can also educate (not litigate). None of us are immune to blindness, or any other disability for that matter. Let's live our Lionism and not be afraid to speak up and speak out in support of common courtesy.

The 1st place Lions Club winner in the LLR basket contest was the Mt Pleasant Lions Club; 2nd place winners were Hermitage Lions Club & Houston County Lions Club. The Club basket that brought the most money at the auction was our newest Club, Campbell County-\$110. The Club bringing 2nd highest money at the auction was, Red Boiling Springs-\$105. A big **THANK YOU** from all of us.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT

To Lions District 12-N Charities, Inc.  
(Revised 03/05/05)

### ARTICLE V #5 Now Reads:

5. Regular meetings of the Trustees/Directors shall be held twice annually in July and December in connection with and on the date of the District 12-N cabinet meetings. The first meeting shall be held at the conclusion of the July cabinet meeting of District 12-N for the purpose of electing officers, naming committees and conducting such other business as may be required or come before the Trustees/Directors.

### Amend to read:

5. Regular meetings of the Trustees/Directors shall be held twice annually and may be held in conjunction with and on the date of the District 12-N cabinet meetings. The first meeting shall be held at the July cabinet meeting of District 12-N for the purpose of electing officers, naming committees and conducting such other business as may be required or come before the Trustees/Directors.

## CLUB DELEGATES NEEDED At 12-N Spring Convention

Each Lions Club in District 12-N is encouraged to identify (by sending a list to the 12-N Cabinet secretary) their delegates (one delegate and one alternate, for each 10 club members or major fraction thereof, excluding PDGs) who will be attending our Spring Convention in Greeneville, TN. on March 17-18, 2007.

Their vote will be needed on each of the following items:

1. Election of 2007-08 District Governor and Vice District Governor.
2. Endorsement of PDG William B. Watkins, Sr. as a Candidate for International Director.
3. Vote to amend the 12-N C&B if amended.
4. Vote to amend the Lions District 12-N Charities, Inc By-Laws if amended, and for its new Board of Directors (All lions present may vote on this item.)
5. Three different votes about the 12-N Activities/Civic Fund are required:
  - Vote to approve grants from excess 12-N Activity Funds for Lions year 2005-06.
  - Vote to approve additional funding from this Lions Years (2006-07) 12-N Activity Fund for 9 Projects approved at last years Spring Convention, **if excess funds are forecast to exist.**
  - Vote to adopt next years (2007-08) 12-N Activity Fund Budget for the 9 Projects we support. This vote is a commitment for each 12-N Lions Club to actively participate in the White Cane and Walk fund raising activities.

Your Lions Club active participation in this process is vital to the continuing success of District 12-N.

## THANK YOU!

LIONS NELLIE HARSHBARGER & ELAINE BERKHEISER

On behalf of the Lions Learning Retreat Committee, **THANK YOU** to all the Clubs who participated in the basket contest. **THANK YOU** to all who made our total money \$1,484 on this project (this also included the lovely ruby/diamond ring, thank you for the donation of the ring). What a great way to have fun while making it possible to make better leaders and pursue our motto, "WE SERVE."

