

Lion Tom Willy  
10314 Lee Boulevard  
Leawood, KS 66206



We Serve

# DECEMBER 2009

The Roar of the Leawood Lions

## *MERRY CHRISTMAS*

### **Club Calendar 2009-2010**

**November 27 – December 24 – Bell Ringing. See story below.**

**December 8 – Christmas Party @ 6 PM - Leawood City Hall. Our only meeting in December. See story below.**

**January 12 - Board of Directors Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.; Lions Membership Meeting @ 6 PM - Leawood City Hall.**

**January 15 - 17, 2010 -- Mid-Winter Rally – Salina**

**January 15 - 17, 2010 -- State Council Meeting – Salina**

**January 26 - Lions Membership Meeting @ 6 p.m. – Leawood City Hall.**

**January 30, 2010 – District Cabinet Meeting - TBA**

**March 26 – 27, 2010 – District Convention - Topeka**

**June 3 - 5, 2010 -- State Convention – Olathe**

## Meeting Program Information

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** – December 8<sup>th</sup>. The only Club meeting this month will be our Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. It will start at the usual time and be in the Oak Room. The meal charge is the usual \$11, but we will have a special holiday menu. The meal will cost the Club about \$15 per person, but the Club is underwriting the difference.

We will have very little business to conduct, but do anticipate entertainment, good cheer and considerable socializing. Our entertainment will include a string quartet and carolers. A visit from Santa is also expected.

An important part of our Christmas Party festivities each year is the collection we take up for the Salvation Army. As we all know, the need is great this year and the Salvation Army has seen its resources stretched thin. **Please bring a generous contribution for the Salvation Army.**

**01/12 Program** – The program for January 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Kansas Yellow Dot Program

## Club Announcements

**Food Items** -- Remember to bring food items for the food pantries to our meetings. See the Hunger Initiative Story below.

**Kansas Lions Sight Foundation** – Please read the report at the end of the newsletter about the activities of this very important part of Kansas Lionism.

**LinkedIn Page** - Lion Gary Flick has created a LinkedIn Groups page for the Leawood Lions Club at:

<http://www.linkedin.com/e/vgh/1828462/>

## Club News

**BELL RINGING** season is here again and as is traditional, our Bell Ringing started the day after Thanksgiving – November 27<sup>th</sup> and once again we will blaze the way for service clubs in helping the Salvation Army. As you know, this is one of our biggest service projects of the year. Each year Leawood Lions and their friends donate hundreds of hours to ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. Last year we collected over \$34,000 – quite an accomplishment for a Club our size (62 members). Big Lion Harry has challenged us to exceed last year's total. Lion Don Schultz is our Chairman so please call Lion Don at 913-381-3502 to schedule your dates and times.

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**The November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting** featured a report by Big Lion Harry Malnicof on Leawood Lions Club activities. He highlighted activities over the past two years as well as our long-term projects. A summary of his report is presented below. Our guests at the meeting included two members of the new Leo Club and Hannah Snyder who won our Peace Poster contest (for the second year).

Also, Lion Chris Wright announced a new Hunger Initiative food project involving Leawood Lions and Troop 10 Scouts collecting food items from homes in Leawood for the Salvation Army's 's food pantries. At the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, Lion Chris reported the project a success, collecting 1,000 food items for the food pantry.

**The November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting** featured a report by State Treasurer Dennis McKinney. He provided an update on recovery efforts in Greenburg, and also discussed programs for education including the KIDS matching grant program. He reminded us of the importance of regularly checking his office for possible unclaimed property at [www.kansascash.com](http://www.kansascash.com). He noted that \$200 million in unclaimed

property is being held by the Treasurer's office. Our visitors that night also included State Senator Chris Steinger, a member of the Turner Lions Club.



**Meeting Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the Month Meeting Times: 6:00 PM Social Hour, 6:45 PM Dinner Meeting**

### **2009-2010 Leawood Lions Officers**

President Harry Malnicof  
 Past President Leroy Kashka  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chris Wright  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bruce Deering  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Ken Habiger  
 Secretary Doris Nelmes  
 Treasurer Chuck Schutty  
 Tail Twister Jim Bays  
 Lion Tamer Alan Callaway  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Board: Dayton Koch, Ray Canent, Gene Tinberg  
 1<sup>st</sup> Year Board: Gary Flick, Troy Rettig, Jim Rochel  
 Membership Chair Jim Rochel

### **Other Information**

**MEMBERSHIP LOSS** -- We lost a friend this November with the death of **Lee Alt**, the wife of long time member **Lion Gene Alt**. Lee could add fun and energy to any gathering. We will miss her and our best wishes and prayers go out to her family.

**MENDING AND REPAIRING LIST** --- Keep these fellow Lions in your prayers!

**Lion Gene Alt**  
**Kay Fisher (Lion Gil Fisher's wife)**  
**Dale Greene (Lion Ed Greene's wife)**  
**Lion Bill Murfey**  
**Lion John Pitnick**  
**Marian Powell (Lion Bud Powell's wife)**  
**Lion Skip Skaptason**  
**Marie Britt (Lion Ken Britt's wife)**

Please remember our Lions who are ill by calling them or visiting.

Visit our Website: [www.leawoodlions.org](http://www.leawoodlions.org)

**Meeting Place: Oak Room, Leawood City Hall, 117<sup>th</sup> & Roe.**

### **THE LEAWOOD LIONS' HUNGER INITIATIVE**

#### **The Background**

National Organizations like The Salvation Army and Catholic Charities USA along with local pantries are reporting a substantial increase in requests for food assistance.

Food banks are opening their doors to increasing numbers of "the next layer of people" - "child-care workers, nurse's aides, real estate agents and secretaries" struggling with the financial crisis.

Pantries are facing special difficulty from greatly increased demand for their help and/or depletion of resources.

#### ***Our Response***

In response to the crisis affecting families and children, the Leawood Lions Club launched its **Hunger Initiative** to provide meaningful assistance to local area food pantries.

The Leawood Lions Benevolent Committee met with Harvesters and they listed 86 food

pantries serving the needy. In December 2008, the **Leawood Lions Foundation** distributed gifts of \$400 each to thirteen pantries in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. The Leawood Lions Club issued a challenge to other Lions Clubs and civic groups to provide donations to individual pantries.

**The Second Phase of the Leawood Lions Hunger Initiative**

The Leawood Lions Foundation has provided an additional \$2,600.00 to help those 13 food pantries during the spring 2009. Working on our Hunger Initiative has brought many of our members in close contact with Harvesters Food Bank. Our October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting featured a tour of the Harvesters Location.



The most recent expansion of our Hunger Initiative involved our pre-Thanksgiving food project involving Leawood Lions and Troop

10 Scouts collecting over 1,000 food items from homes in Leawood for the Salvation Army's 's food pantries.

***HUNGER INITIATIVE Individual Food Contributions***

**Each Leawood Lion is asked to bring to each meeting one food item for each member of their household.**

**LEAWOOD LIONS ACTIVITIES**

**I. SIGHT ACTIVITIES**

Collection of eye glasses – Lion Ken Britt has taken over for the legendary Lion Bill Murfey who had developed 60 drop-off locations and was responsible for our collecting as many as 10,000 pairs a month.

We provide funds to buy eyeglasses for needy individuals each year.

Financial support of many worthy agencies and programs including the Kansas School for the Blind, the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, and the Lions Clubs International Foundation Sight First II campaign. In the past two years our contributions in this area include:

- \$10,400 for Sight First II (LCIF).
- \$1,000 to the School for the Blind.
- \$2,500 to Johnson County Library Foundation for software to provide access for the sight impaired.
- \$500 to Kansas aid dog training school.
- \$4,000 to Kansas Lions Sight Foundation.
- \$1,000 American diabetes association
- \$1,000 Juvenile diabetes association

## II. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Salvation Army Bell Ringing. We have rung the bells for the Salvation Army for more than 40 years. Our cumulative total collected is in excess of \$560,000. We collected more than \$34,000 in each of 2007 & 2008.

Maintenance of Leawood Pioneer Cemetery for the past 18 years. Lion Dick Graham has headed up this project for most of its 18 years and has now arranged to turn it over to a committee headed by Lion Chris Wright.

We work with the City of Leawood and serve pancakes at the annual Labor Day run at City Park.

We provided the funds to build the Lions Shelter and for the Lions Memorial Fountain in Leawood City Park.

Our Hunger Initiative which was started last year and includes gifts of \$7,800 to Food pantries facing the greatest needs, and includes food items contributed every meeting by our members. In addition, this November we had a pre-Thanksgiving food round-up that resulted in over 1,000 food items being collected for the Salvation Army's Food Pantries.

## III. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Provide college scholarships recognizing civic involvement as well as academic accomplishment to Leawood Overland Park students. We typically grant 2 or 3 a year. Starting 2009-2010 we will be adding an additional scholarship in memory of Lion Earl Marian.

We sponsor Boy Scout Troop 10 and the 3 & 2 Baseball League Leawood Lions Team.

We are organizing a Leo Club and have supported activities at Blue Valley North High School, including Project Graduation.

## IV. LIONISM ACTIVITIES

We fund and award the annual Woody Edgington Award which recognizes the Lions who do the most to promote Lion membership in our district with a distinctive plaque and a \$500 grant to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation in their name.

Our annual Candy Days fundraising has raised tens of thousands of dollars for Kansas Lions Sight Foundation.

We provide continuing support to LCIF by underwriting Melvin Jones Fellowships to recognize outstanding contributions. Since 1983, 26 Leawood Lions have been awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship, LCIF's highest form of recognition to acknowledge an individual's dedication to humanitarian service.

Our biggest fundraiser is our annual Pancake Days. This year was our 55<sup>th</sup> annual event. Each year we feed 700 to 1,000 people and raise several thousand dollars to support our charitable projects.

## CHANGES FOR 2009/2010 DIRECTORY

**THESE CHANGES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 23, 2009**

**DONALD SCHULTZ** – EMAIL SHOULD BE [schultzdonald@att.net](mailto:schultzdonald@att.net)

**TROY RETTIG** - email should be [troyr@leawood.org](mailto:troyr@leawood.org)

Home phone – 913-745-4871

Work phone – 913-642-5555 x206

**CHRIS WRIGHT** – email should be [cbwright4@gmail.com](mailto:cbwright4@gmail.com)

Address should be 7026 W. 157<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66223.

December birthday; his first name should be Chris.

**JIM ROCHEL** – delete UBS email address.

**JIM MARSH** – email should be [jmstarwalker@gmail.com](mailto:jmstarwalker@gmail.com)

November Birthday should be Jim Marsh

**GENE ALT** – zip code should be 66207

**MELVIN JONES AWARD PAGE** – should be **TOM WILLY** and add **ED GREENE** -- OCT. 2009.

**DORIS NELMES** – address should be:  
7575 W. 106<sup>th</sup> Street, #463  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
Home Phone – 913-385-9780  
Cell Phone – 913-544-4548

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### FACTS ABOUT THE KANSAS LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION

The partnership between the Foundation and the KU Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology has flourished for decades (since 1965). Neither could have accomplished what happened without the other:

Vision and expert management  
Critical funding

Kansas Lions Sight Foundation support to KU Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology has helped make possible the following:

- (1) Education of hundreds of ophthalmologists for Kansas and beyond
- (2) Providing the best possible eye care for citizens of *Kansas*
- (3) Development of procedures to prevent and treat blindness
- (4) Development of the KU Eye Center basic research, teaching, and consultation areas to include state of the art equipment upgrades
- (5) Seed money for research projects
- (6) Aid for support between grants

(7) Continuing support for personnel in teaching and research areas

(8) Treatment of thousands of individuals at the KU Eye Center

(9) Filling the shortage of support personnel that cannot be provided by state and federal funds

The reasons for our support of KU Eye Center are articulated above and represent the best possible manner of applying funds to address the vision needs of all Kansas citizens and beyond. Having the ability for Lions to refer patients for treatment at KU Eye Center is simply a fringe benefit of our partnership and amounted to a cost of only \$32,000 last year for treatment of eighty (80) patients referred by *Kansas* Lions clubs. Kansas Lions still have the privilege of making patient referrals to KU Eye Center by contacting Debra Bromley on 913-588-6626.

Lions' support of the KU Medical Center's Department of Ophthalmology helps them to accomplish the following:

Teaching. Educate hundreds of well-trained ophthalmologists and medical doctors, some of whom are practicing in communities near you.

Research. Conduct extensive research that permits development of new procedures to treat eye diseases; thus, preserving and restoring sight for thousands.

Patient Care. Provide consultation and quality treatment for thousands of patients at the *Kansas* University Eye Center (Includes *Kansas* Lions referrals).