



# District A-1 "LIONS LINES" Governor's Newsletter

March 2009



Hello Lions Family!

Winter is still here, but this week I did not have to shovel snow. So spring is right around the corner. Spring is a growing season.. and so it should be a growing season for Lions Clubs as well! Yes, you are right! This is my sly way of introducing the topic of membership growth into the newsletter!

Growing of Lions Clubs is really an all-season affair. We have been inducting new Lions throughout the year and I am pleased to report our membership in District A-1 is "growing". We now have 1197 Lions, 6 more Lions in District A-1 than we did at the beginning of the Lions year.

While that is good news, we still need to grow much more. We don't need to grow because we still do not have the 1250 Lions that would make as a full-fledged District. We don't need to grow because the District A-1 membership growth plan has a goal of 40 more Lions this year.. We need to grow because our world needs more heroes.. and Lions are heroes!

Think about it. Here in Ontario food banks serve 350,000 patrons. Unemployment is at 7% and rising. The population is aging and we can now foresee a twofold increase in vision loss among seniors due to AMD in the next 15 years. It does not appear to be as nice a world as it once was. That gives Lions an even greater opportunity to fulfill their mandate.. to serve. Our role has always been to make this world a better place by serving.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Inside...

- District Advisory Meetings..... 2
- IP Al Brandel's message ..... 2
- District Events.... 2-3
- A-1 Heroes ..... 4

## Lions Web Sites

- Lions International  
[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)
- A-1 Lions  
<http://a1lions.tripod.com/>
- MD 'A'  
[www.mdalions.org](http://www.mdalions.org)
- Leader Dogs  
[www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org)
- Lions Foundation of Canada  
[www.dogguides.com](http://www.dogguides.com)
- CNIB Lake Joseph  
[www.cnib.ca/lakejo](http://www.cnib.ca/lakejo)

## Dates to Remember

**MDA Effective Speaking Dates**  
District A1—Mar 29—St. Thomas

### **A Gathering of Heroes**

**34th Annual District A1 Convention**  
April 3-4-5, 2009 — Holiday Inn, Sarnia  
<http://www.a1lions.tripod.com/Happenings/A1Convention2009.pdf>

### **School of Instruction**

**May 9th**  
**Union Gas Ed Centre,**  
**20 Bloomfield Rd, Chatham**

## LIONS LINES

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Edited by  
**PZC Curtis Marwood**  
519-676-9595  
[curtis.marwood@gmail.com](mailto:curtis.marwood@gmail.com)

District A-1 Governor  
**Don McKessock**  
519-332-5401  
[london@cogeco.ca](mailto:london@cogeco.ca)

Immediate Past Governor  
**Mark Mahovich**  
519-728-3659  
[brionmm@aol.com](mailto:brionmm@aol.com)

Vice District Governor  
**Ev Spiering**  
519-631-1625  
[espiering@sympatico.ca](mailto:espiering@sympatico.ca)

District Secretary  
**Carolyn Oshell**  
519-733-3219  
[lioncarolyn@sympatico.ca](mailto:lioncarolyn@sympatico.ca)

District Treasurer  
**Joyce Doucet**  
519-542-9759  
[joyce.doucet@sympatico.ca](mailto:joyce.doucet@sympatico.ca)

District Events

(Continued from page 1)

So I encourage all Lions Clubs to make membership growth a resolve for their Club throughout the remainder of this Lions year and in the future. Whether your Club has already inducted new members this year or not, the world is changing in a way that it will be asking your Club for even more help. Never let your resolve to grow membership diminish in these demanding times. The world needs more helping hands to serve as heroes to our communities.

Now growing membership might be scary for some Clubs. There are competing service organizations and many diversions for the next generation of Lions. Why join a Lions Club? There are a many reasons not to join... but only one reason is needed to join Lions.. To Serve. So don't be shy... ask a friend, neighbour, work-mate, or acquaintance to become involved in a Lions project.. if they like what Lions are doing, they will join your Club.

And don't think that there aren't volunteers in your community. The needs in your community are greater than ever. As IP Al Brandel said "People need to be relevant. People need to make a difference in the world. As with many needs in our communities a Lions Club is the perfect vehicle to meet this universal need among our neighbors and friends."

DG Don McKessock

**Send photos/stories of Lion "heroes" to [curtis.marwood@gmail.com](mailto:curtis.marwood@gmail.com)**  
**Please attach photos as separate JPG files.**

**Zone Advisory Meetings**

ZONE 1	LOCATION	DATE
West	Amherstburg (new)	19 Mar-09
Central	Belle River	05-Mar-09
East	Lighthouse Cove	01-Apr-09
ZONE 2		
South	Lambeth	19-Mar-09
North	London North	16-Apr-09
East	Dorchester	24-Mar-09
ZONE 24		
South	Ilderton	24-Mar-09
North	Arkona	17-Mar-09
West	Wyoming	13-Apr-09



Dear Club Officer,

**Lions need to be relevant**

Usually when we say “We Serve” we mean we meet the needs of our communities and the world.

But have you ever considered that one of the greatest needs that exist in our communities is the need to serve? It's true. Especially in hard times generous, open-hearted people turn their empathy and good intentions into action and results.

I think it comes down to this: people need to be relevant. People need to make a difference in the world. As with many needs in our communities a Lions Club is the perfect vehicle to meet this universal need among our neighbors and friends. But your club can only meet this need if it is itself relevant to the community and to your membership... Does your club meet your member's needs to be involved in their community?

In my travels as international president I have seen some astounding examples of Lions creating innovative answers to the biggest, most urgent needs of their communities and the world. In fact, I would call them miracles, but they are miracles brought about by everyday people.

The miracle in Germany is that hundreds of children from around the world, many injured terribly by war and violence in their homelands, have a place to go and heal. They live at the Peace Village in Oberhausen while receiving medical treatment they could not possibly receive at home. Many, for the first time, are spending months in a peaceful, safe environment.

... the most powerful recruiting and retention tool your club can have is a strong program of effective and relevant service projects. Relevance leads to recognition. Recognition leads to respect. When your club is recognized and respected as a meaningful and satisfying way for individuals to channel their energies into community service, your invitations to new members will fall on fertile ground.

....we must strive to be relevant in all ways, including operations and communications... Lions Club International has established a presence on Facebook, the social networking Web site that serves more than 150 million people worldwide.

Sincerely, President Al,  
 The International Association of Lions Clubs

For more photos, resources and useful Lions links, go to **A-1 Web Site (<http://a1lions.tripod.com/>)**

District Events

**Chatham Lions 60th Anniversary**

Sat. May 2, 2009

Cocktails 6:00 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm

Active Lifestyle Centre,  
20 Merritt Ave., Chatham ON

Tickets: \$30.00 per person

Contact Lion Seppo by April 24th  
519-352-8732  
seppok@vianet.on.ca

**Tilbury Lions 75th Anniversary**

April 25, 2009

Cocktails @ 5:30,  
Dinner @ 6:30 (complimentary wine)  
Theme: Mystery Theatre

Knights of Columbus Hall  
20 Dupuis Street, Tilbury ON

Tickets: \$35 per person

To get tickets please email either  
president@tilburylions.com  
or secretary@tilburylions.com

**LCI Web Site Improvements**

LCI is making its web site easier to use and more informative. You will be able to find what you need much faster. It will be easier to find a resource, file a report or get the latest news.

Become a "fan" of the Lions Club page by visiting (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lions-Clubs-International/27922222491>). You will be able to view videos and photos, keep up with international events and read messages from other Lions around the world.

To be sure that you are at the official Lions Club International Facebook page, please copy the Web address from this newsletter and paste it into your browser, then bookmark the page.

**School of Instruction**

**May 9th**

**Union Gas Ed Centre,  
20 Bloomfield Rd, Chatham**  
(at the corner of Bloomfield Road  
and Riverview Drive)

The School is being held earlier this year to enable new officers and potential new officers to prepare for their new position.

Registration form and agenda may be downloaded and printed from the web site.

**MDA Effective Speaking  
District A-1 Speak-off**

Hosted by the St Thomas Lions Club  
on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2009  
St Thomas Legion Hall.

**Springfield Lions Club**



**50th Anniversary!**  
**Saturday April 25, 2009**

Featuring Award Winning Tribute Artist

**"ROY LEBLANC"**



Social Hour 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Dinner 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Show 8:30 - 10:00 PM



Tickets - \$25.00 Each  
(Advance Tickets Only)

Tickets Available By Calling  
**Ken Graves at 519-773-5465 OR**  
Email at: [kandbgraves@amtelecom.net](mailto:kandbgraves@amtelecom.net)

Springfield Lions Community Hall  
12105 Whittaker Rd  
Springfield, Ontario

**A-1 Youth Exchange 2009**

1. Youth arrive July 4 - leave August 1.
2. Host family terms: July 4-15 & 15-25.
3. Camp July 25 - August 1 in Mt Brydges
4. Closing ceremonies & International Day—July 31

Contact Jim Deslippe if you are interested in hosting youth this year ([jdeslippe@rogers.com](mailto:jdeslippe@rogers.com))



A-1 Heroes

**Tecumseh Lions  
"Dimes for Diabetes"**

The Tecumseh Lions Club presented a cheque for \$1200.00 to Zone Chair 1W Lion Marianne Robinson for "Dimes For Diabetes" during the 2nd zone advisory meeting held in Harrow-Colchester on Jan 22nd 2009,

In the picture from left to right are Lion Vito Marchese, Tecumseh Lions Club President Ali Sama, Zone Chair Lion Marianne Robinson and Lion George Somogyvary.



**Thorndale Lions  
Life Memberships**

In December of 2008 the Thorndale Lions Club was proud to present Life Membership Certificates to (left to right) Joe Elliott, Wayne Partridge, Bill McDonald & Al Payne. Thorndale Lions Club



**Eyes Right Presentation**

Lion (Dr.) Harry Wismer, Vice Chairman of District A-1 Lions Sight Conservation Foundation (Eyes Right) presented the final payment of \$11,344.18 (total cost \$31,344.18) for the new Yag laser for the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital to Dr. Lori Teeple, head of the Emergency department of the St. Thomas Elgin General specializing in rehabilitation and palliative care. The presentation was made at District A-1 Cabinet meeting held at the Strathroy Lions Hall.



**Chatham Lions Recycle**

The Chatham Lions Club is involved in a project which offers 3 benefits. First, by recycling pop cans, water bottles, plastic tubs and grocery bags, we reduce the amount of material that ends up in landfills. Second, we remove the tabs from the pop cans and give them to Lion Carl Newton who is the driving force behind a project to purchase a new wheelchair for a local resident. Lion Carl told us that we need to collect 3 45 gallon barrels of tabs to pay for the chair and we already have about 1 and 2/3 barrels saved.

Also, one of our members has agreed to crush the cans and store them until we have accumulated an economical quantity to sell to a local recycler. The proceeds will be deposited into our Administrative Account.

During a recent tour of Chatham Outreach for Hunger, our local food bank, we were told of their need for plastic water bottles to re pack liquids such as dish soap, shampoo, liquid laundry detergent etc. They also use plastic tubs for items such as flour, coffee, milk powder, etc and give grocery bags to their clients to carry their food items home.

**Ilderton and District Lions  
annual curling bonspiel**

The Ilderton and District Lions held their annual curling bonspiel on Saturday, January 31. It was a successful and enjoyable day with 15 Lions teams and 1 team from the Bryanston-Birr Optimists who have participated each year since the bonspiel began over 30 years ago.

The trophy winners were the Belmont entry under Sam Bennett.



**Leader Dog for the Blind  
Founders Award**

Lion Mickey Puddicomb, Leader Dog for the Blind A-1 Chair, was presented with a Leader Dog Founders Award by Governor Don at Chatham Lions Club at his official visit.

