



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

June 2009



LIONS LINES

Published by District A-1

Edited by
PZC Curtis Marwood
519-676-9595
curtis.marwood@gmail.com

District A-1 Governor
Don McKessock
519-332-5401
liondon@cogeco.ca

Immediate Past Governor
Mark Mahovlich
519-728-3659
brlionmm@aol.com

Vice District Governor
Ev Spiering
519-631-1625
espiering@sympatico.ca

District Secretary
Carolyn Oshell
519-733-3219
lioncarolyn@sympatico.ca

District Treasurer
Joyce Doucet
519-542-9759
joyce.doucet@sympatico.ca



SAWASDEE



"Sawasdee" is an appropriate title for my last message to you as your District Governor in this 2008 – 2009 Lions Year. It is a greeting that is used to say both "hello" and "goodbye" in the Thai language. But, as I have recounted to many of you this year, it means also that I respect and admire you and your place on this earth.

Editor Lion Curtis tells me that this newsletter is going to be a bit longer. That is good, for there is much I wish to say to my Lions family.

The beginning

I will start with some words from IP Al Brandel in a letter written to me a few days ago.

"I hope you understand by now that I believe that "membership" isn't just a matter of marketing and recruiting. It is about "being" and "doing" -- the very heart of what it means to be a Lion."

Well, I certainly do understand... it has always been my belief that it is not what you say or write that matters, but what you do. I would like to think that my behaviour this year has been largely focused on simply "being" a Lion.. and as such, to serve a guide for our great District A-1 Lions organization.

Change

Change is a wonderful adventure.. and necessary for us to become even an even better service organization. We have changed this year in many subtle ways... streamlining committees, cloning Region Chairs to the MERL team, streamlining paperwork and district meetings. We also changed the Golf tournament location and I know it is going to be a fantastic A-1 Convention at Leamington next year!

(Continued on page 2)

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

Send photos/stories of Lion "heroes" to
curtis.marwood@gmail.com

Please attach photos as separate JPG files.

Dates to Remember

District A1 Changeover—July 12, 1:00 pm

District A1 Cabinet Meeting—August 30

Inside...

IP Al Brandel..... 3
Effective Speaking report 3
District Events..... 4
Club Activities 5
A-1 Heroes 6-7
Convention 8

Lions Web Sites

Lions International
www.lionsclubs.org

A-1 Lions
<http://a1lions.tripod.com/>

MD 'A'
www.mdalions.org

Leader Dogs
www.leaderdog.org

Lions Foundation of Canada
www.dogguides.com

CNIB Lake Joseph
www.cnib.ca/lakejo

Governor’s message

(Continued from page 1)

Where we are

With all these changes and the hard work of the Lions family something must be going right. We are the only District in MDA whose base membership is growing! Two clubs have admitted their first female Lion this year and two more clubs have voted to recruit female Lions...and we have two new LEO clubs. These are the signs of a healthy and vibrant District and you should be justly proud to be a District A-1 Lion. I know I am bursting with pride to have had the opportunity to serve as your District Governor in this 2008 – 2009 Lions year.

There are still challenges for us to solve. We need more Lions Clubs. We need to get more campers to Lake Jo. Our accomplishments this year bode well for success in meeting these and all other challenges the future may hold for us.

Why I am so proud

How could I not respect and admire the Lions family of District A-1? You have made me so proud to be your District Governor! I have come to understand the incredible service that Lions all over Southwestern Ontario do for their communities. It is amazing! There are projects in District A-1 that boggle the mind! Children’s Hospital, Seniors homes, eye clinics, playgrounds, blood donor clinics.. Eyesight, Diabetes, highway cleanups, memory boxes.. it is seemingly endless. We are a million-dollar-a-year service industry.... all through volunteering! So keep the focus Lions.. you have earned the right to be proud!

On saying “Thank-you”

On several occasions this year, I have had Lions come up to me and say “thank-you”. When this happens, I always feel awkward. Of course, it makes you feel good and gives you encouragement that you are doing something right.. but at the same time, I can never figure out why someone who I should be thanking profusely for service to community is thanking me! It just always seems backwards to me!

So I would to take this opportunity to thank the Lions family of District A-1 for all your support this year, not just to your District, but also to your communities.. you truly are my heroes!

From my heart..

Goodbye to this gathering of heroes.

As with all things, the world moves on... but what a blur! This past year has been quite a ride. I have my District A-1 Lions family to thank for a most wonderful experience. There were an incredible number of highlights this year, but one event stays in the forefront of my mind. In the midst of all the excitement of being a Officer of LCI and serving our great organization as a leader: - around the world and out west by plane, 140 trips, totaling 25,000km,by car: more than 5000 emails, 1000 phone calls, 900 envelopes in the mail.. in the midst of all this..... I had the opportunity to be a Lion....

... to give service to a stranger in need, to deliver a wheelchair (thanks to Belle River Lions) to a man I had never met... it is this role as a Lion that I gladly return to.. it is truly what Lionism is all about and what makes Lions so great.

So be proud Lions! .

“Reach Out” with your mind .. to what we are not, but must be .. in order to continue growing . We are heroes.. and the world is in need of more heroes.

Sawasdee

DG Lion Don

The ending

Hit the top button on the GPS , hon ..

... we’re going home!

.....and hon,

Thank-you,

I love you.

Don



Leadership



**Message from
International President Al Brandel**

Last month I asked you to think about the legacy we would leave for the Lion leaders who follow us.

I am happy to tell you that the legacy of many district governors will be the large number of new clubs chartered during their leadership year.

Likewise, many club presidents are leaving their clubs with a legacy of larger, stronger more diverse membership.

I cannot imagine a greater legacy! Congratulations to every Lion leader who helped make this possible.

This is the last of my series of messages to you on membership. I hope you understand by now that I believe that "membership" isn't just a matter of marketing and recruiting. It is about "being" and "doing" -- the very heart of what it means to be a Lion.

It has been my privilege this year to meet many of you and to see firsthand all that Lions can be and all they are capable of doing. While I have worked hard to fulfill my responsibilities as international president, I know that it is not leaders, but rather Lions at the club level who make miracles happen. Because of this, after I serve as chairperson of Lions Clubs International Foundation in 2009-10, Maureen and I will be enthusiastic about increasing our participation and returning as regular members of the Melville and West Hempstead (New York, USA) Lions Clubs.

I thank all of you, my fellow Lions, for being an example to a world in urgent need of effective, cooperative action and for doing miracles of service that are beyond the reach of any of us acting alone. I have always been proud to be a Lion but never as proud as I am right now.

Sincerely,
President Al

Build your Own Web Site

Lions Clubs International is gearing up to launch the e-Clubhouse. Designed with fill-in-the-blank fields for even the least of the Internet savvy, the e-Clubhouse will enable clubs to build their own branded club Web site, equipped with social networking tools and a password protected, members only area.

**DISTRICT A-1 EFFECTIVE SPEAKING
FINALS**

**HELD ST. THOMAS LEGION
29 MARCH 2009**

Senior English

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| First : | Cara Brandon | Petrolia Lions Club |
| Second : | Emily King | Lambeth Lions Club |
| Third : | Kelly Stevens | Petrolia Lions Club |

Intermediate English

- | | | |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|
| First | Mikaela Snooks | Petrolia Lions Club |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|

Junior English

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| First | Keeley Baker | Thorndale Lions Club |
| Second : | Marissa Mueller | Petrolia Lions Club |
| Third : | Gemma Olds | Thorndale Lions Club |
| Fourth : | Karlee Searle | Petrolia Lions Club |

Thank you St. Thomas Lions Club for supporting this fine District Program.

Ron Lindsay, Effective Speaking Chair

Accomplishments

This has been a year of great accomplishments. The Lion leaders of 2008-2009 will have left a proud legacy for the association and all who come after them. This year we have:

- Added more than 1015 new clubs to the Lions family
- Brought more than 42,000 new women members and 28,000 family members into our clubs
- Established the Lions Cub program for Family Lions Clubs
- Met an unprecedented economic crisis with compassion and imagination
- Focused on serving our members and making Lions Clubs a more welcoming environment for our members to fulfill their desire to serve

There are many more and Lion leaders have every reason to be proud of each one. Congratulations!

From Lions International President's June E-Letter

District Events

London Central Lions - Ivey Eye Institute Dinner and Auction May '09



A picture collage of the May 2nd Benefit Night

(See the web page for a larger view.)

London Central Lions Benefit Night for the Ivey Eye Institute.

This was our fifth annual benefit night, and in the past, monies raised went towards helping needy individuals or the Guide Dog Program.

As you may know, London Central Lions Club has made a five year commitment of \$50,000.00 to The Ivey Institute St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation, towards one examination suite.

The May 2nd benefit night was the first of a possible five such nights needed to raise the \$50,000.00, and it was a very successful venture.

The benefit night included a perch dinner and the bidding on twenty-one "live auction" items as well as one hundred and seventy-one "silent auction" items.

In the picture collage, just to the left of the Lions Logo, we have featured Ms. Ericka Ayala, Senior Development Officer for St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation (left), receiving a \$500.00 donation from a Sun Life Insurance representative (centre) and London Central Lions Club President Sandy Leadlay (right).



School of Instruction

Lion Mickey Puddicomb helped Lions experience the life of visually impaired people.

The school was well attended this year. In part because it was held in May before the new Lion year began. Good leadership and organization made it a successful day.



Leader Dogs 50/50 Draw

A very special thank you to the following Lions, Lioness, Leo Club & individual Lions that supported my Leader Dogs 50/50 draw. The draw was held on Saturday May 2nd at the Chatham Lions 60th Anniversary. Winner was Lion Myrtle Piggott & Leader Dogs, each winning \$1,340.00.

LIONESS CLUBS -- Arkona, Grand Bend, London Central, London East, Mount Brydges, Port Stanley, South Windsor, Springfield & Wheatley Lioness.

LEO CLUB -- PETROLIA

LIONS CLUBS -- Belle River, Essex & District, Kingsville, Leamington, Blenheim Centennial, Chatham Lions, Lighthouse Cove, Stoney Point, Tilbury, Amherstburg, Harrow-Colchester, Windsor Downtown, Dorchester, London Forest City (Byron)

Dutton & District, Highgate & District, Port Stanley, Rodney, St. Thomas, Granton, Lucan, Parkhill, Ilderton, Melbourne & District, Poplar Hills, Strathroy, Petrolia, Sarnia, Sarnia Township & Wyoming Lions.

Your support was deeply appreciated by District A-1 Leader Dog Chair Lion Mickey Puddicomb & Leader Dog Emerson.

Year End Club Reports for MD'A'

Lion Jack Fisher, MD"A" Treasurer reports that he is relying on International for information on the Clubs. He obtains the mailing addresses from the District directories and from the clubs when they pay their dues. He is building a list of club mailing address so that he does not have to change the address each year as the secretary or treasurer changes. For Clubs with no Club mailing address, he will obtain the Treasurer or Secretary address from International.

The number of members in each Club comes from the monthly list from International which is used for the dues billings at June 30. Therefore Clubs should make sure International has the correct information as at June 30.

The Year-End Membership Report that used to be requested is now out of date and not required.

Club Activities

LONDON NORTH LIONS **GOLF** CLUB

Help us Celebrate our Clubs 55th Anniversary with a fun day of golf .

Sunday September 20th, 2009

Where : River Valley Golf & Country Club
4725 Elginfield Road
rivervalleygolfandtube.com

Tee Off Time : 11:00 a.m.



Dinner Time : 5:00 p.m.

price is only \$100.00 for the day which includes:



18 holes of golf
Golf Cart
Dinner



(For dinner only the price is \$35.00)



Proceeds will aid our club in the purchase of a service dog to improve the quality of an individuals life.

For Information or to book a Tee Time contact Lion Eric Dolansky at lioneric@bell.net or Lion Earl Crisp 519-666-3072

Summer Activities

Have fun!

London North Lions Club Golf Day

Just when everything is going up in price one item is going down. If you sign up for our Golf Day prior to August 22, 2009 you can save \$10.00 per player.

Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle, followed by a good bottle of beer.

Lion Eric Dolansky,
lioneric@bell.net

HARROW COLCHESTER SOUTH LIONS CLUB

8th ANNUAL LION RICK MUNROE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2009

OXLEY BEACH PAR 3 GOLF COURSE

597 COUNTY RD. 50 E., HARROW, ON. NOR 1G0

The \$50.00 entry fee includes 18 holes of par three golf, a steak BBQ, door prizes and a chance to win a (prize to be determined) sponsored by RICK'S PERFORMANCE, if you are the 1st golfer to get a hole in one on # 17.

The dinner will be held at SHOOTERS II, 306 Queen St., Harrow, dinner will be served from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. BBQ only ticket will be available for \$25.00.

Please purchase your tickets by August 22nd at Oxley Beach Golf Course or contact Lion Ray Adam or Lion Juliet Adam at raymond.adam@sympatico.ca or call 519-738-6069

A-1 Heroes

**Thorndale Lions Club
Life Member**

The Thorndale Lions Club is proud to award **Allan Payne** "Life Member of the Thorndale Lions" the Melvin Jones Award, Allan's dedication to the club and service in the community makes him an outstanding Lion.

Shown here accepting the award (left to right) PDG Joe Elliott, Club Treasurer Allan Payne and PDG Dale Taylor,

A Great Big "Congratulations"

Here's to Al, The Thorndale Lions



"Heroes Under Cover"

Lions are "Heroes", They come in all shapes and sizes, These are Heroes under cover.

Thorndale, April 2009



Ponderisms

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Thanks to Barb Tuxford

**Awards to A1 Lions
International President's
Commendation Awards**

Lion Darlene Priestley receiving an International President's Commendation Award (4th highest award in Lionism) from ID Harold Ott. The Award was presented at the MDA Convention in North Bay on June 6, 2009 to recognize Lion Darlene's outstanding work with the Youth Program in MDA.



DG Lion Don McKessock presented a President's Commendation Award, on behalf of International President Al Brandel, to **PDG Lion Bill Sasse**. The presentation took place on June 15th, 2009 at the Glencoe Lions Club. Congratulations Lion Bill!



PDG Lion Mark Mahovich received an Appreciation Award from Past International President Mahendra Ammasuryia at the District Cabinet Meeting in Wardsville.

The Last Award

There was one Governor's Appreciation Medal that I was not able to hand out at the District A-1 Convention. On June 18th I was finally able to present Lion Bishop Charles Payne with his Governor's Medal. (See Photo below).

The Medal presentation ceremony was private. However, it is important to me that I find a way to do this in front of all District A-1 Lions. Therefore I will share with you here, the words that I spoke to Lion Charles upon presenting his Medal to him:

*"Lion Charles,
Thank you for being. You have given me courage, faith and inspiration just by being who you are. What a great gift you have! Thank you for sharing it with me..."*

... you are my hero."

*District Governor
Lion Don McKessock*



A-1 Heroes

Helen Keller Fellowship

President Lion Mickey Puddicomb was presented with the Helen Keller Fellowship by the Chatham Lions Club at their 60th Anniversary on May 2



"My life has seriously changed since my cataract operation. Before, I never thought I would see the faces of my loved ones—especially of my grandchildren who I had never seen since they were born— or see the colors of the television, read the newspaper or do everything that is done in life."

Felicia Otero, Mexico

London Central Lions Induct Four New Members

Pictured below new members Tony Crncich, Carlos Echeverri, Inducting Officer Vice District Governor Evelyn Spiering, new members Barry Marles, Marion Thomas and Club President Sandy Leadley.



Fill the Bus for Outreach For Hunger

The Chatham Lions Club held their annual Fill the Bus event to collect food for Outreach for Hunger, Chatham on May 30th. The public was invited to bring donations to the bus and have a hamburger or hotdog. \$1300 was raised.



A-1 Youth Exchange 2009

July 4 - August 1.

1. Host families: July 4-15 & 15-25
2. Camp July 25 - Aug 1 Mt Brydges Lions Park
3. Closing ceremonies & International Day—July 31

Contact Jim Deslippe if you plan to attend the closing supper and ceremonies on July 31. (jdeslippe@rogers.com)

Petrolia Lions Reach Out

Fathers Day Breakfast

The Lions Club of Petrolia have been holding a breakfast each June since 1974.. First known as the 'Breakfast in the Park' because of it's location in Bridgeview Park. With the construction of the Petrolia Lions Hall it is held there and named 'The Father's Day Breakfast'. Numbers have dwindled since its conception from 1500 to this year 275.



Seniors Annual Picnic Serving Lambton County Seniors

On the third Wednesday of June each year the Lambton County Seniors enjoy a picnic held at the Petrolia Lions Hall. Some Lions who are now seniors themselves have been serving hot dogs, hamburgers, soda pop and ice cream to them all this time. They have draws, some times line dancers and they are entertained by a live band and they can dance to the music if they wish. This year 150 seniors enjoyed the day.



"It's not about keeping score. It's about making sure that every effort counts."

District Convention Highlights

**Governor’s
Appreciation Awards:**

Eugene Graham—for his leadership with the Healing Garden
CT Joyce Doucet—for Professional Secretary-Treasurer trainer
PZC Curtis Marwood—for website and Governor’s newsletter
RC Joan Cope—for Region Chair and Club Officer training
Justin Beaulieu—for leading a Leo Club
Emerson Puddicomb—for guiding and showing his commitment to service to others.



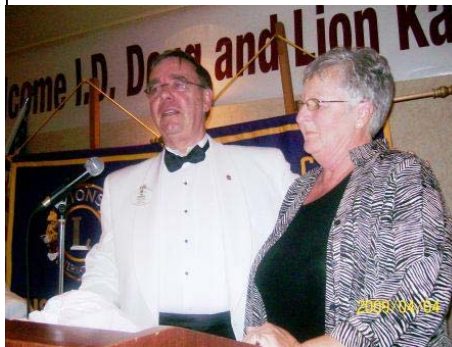
**International Director
Doug Lozier and his wife Kathy**

International President’s Certificate of Commendation was presented to **PCC Peter Geene**.

International President’s Medal, which is the 3rd highest award, was presented to **PDG Joe Elliott for leadership**.



Lion Bob Henry—Governor’s Award for long service as a Lion and many years as Secretary for the Blenheim Lions.



Melvin Jones Fellowship Award was presented to **PRC Carolyn Oshell** for her commitment to the Campaign Sight First II team.

2009-2010 Officers Elected

District Governor Elect
 Lion Evelyn Spiering
 Vice District Governor Elect
 Lion John Ross

2009

International Convention Online
 Watch the convention online.
<http://lionsclubs.org/EN/common/convention/index.php>

- Preview the Daily Schedule.
- Check during convention week for photo highlights and results.

More awards:

Bulletin contest—

- 40+ members, Strathroy Lions editor – Don Geddes.
- 39 and under members— Ann Stevens, Chatham Lions
- Overall winner/recipient of trophy—Ann Stevens, Chatham Lions
- Winner of the \$100 prize— Wheatley Lions.

Website Contest—

- Tilbury Lions (first year for website contest).

Rob Speiring Leadership Award— was presented to PDG Dale Taylor.

New member contest—

Tammy Wallinga, Belle River Lions



Lioness 2009-2010 Cabinet

Past President—Janet Payne,
 President— Paula Bax, London East,
 V/President—Martha Birch, Delaware,
 Secretary— Ruby Hunter, Springfield,
 Treasurer— Mariette Desjardin, Mount Brydges,

Convention Locations

2010—Pelee Days Inn, Leamington
 2011—Four Points Sheraton, London

Acknowledgements

I want to thank Ann Stevens for much of the information on this page which I obtained, with her permission, from her notes in the Chatham bulletin. We share the responsibility for any errors and add the disclaimer that, if any details are incorrect, we apologize. Please let me know if you find information that should be corrected.

