



# Rochester Lions Club

Home Club of Leader Dogs for the Blind  
[www.rochesterlionsclub.org](http://www.rochesterlionsclub.org)

May, 2009  
**NEWSLETTER**

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



## President's Message...

April Showers bring May flowers. Well, April has also brought some very enjoyable warmer temperatures. What happened to spring?

Generally, at the beginning of the Rochester Businessmen's golf League, one needs to wear long johns.... not this year. Some were wearing shorts. Hooray!

I remember 3 or 4 years ago, on the first Saturday of White Cane Week; we had 4 to 6" of snow. Those that did work reported very successful shifts. Lion Larry Cole was working Livernois at University and had one of the best shifts he could remember. People rewarded him handsomely for his efforts.

The Inter Service Club Dinner on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Great Oaks C.C. was received very well. When I announced the change in format eliminating the verbal presentations by each club to a written biography, there was scattered applause of approval. There has been some abuse of the 2 minute rule. Kudos to Lion Bill Hansen for this recommendation. Leader Dog, CEO, Lion Greg Grabowski and Lion Mike Cox (Leader Dog Trustee from Georgia and Leader Dog Graduate) gave both an informative and entertaining power point presentation about Leader Dog and recent innovations. Lion Mike Cox gave a very moving rendition of Helen Keller's challenge to be "knights of the blind" that became the mission of Lionism.

The crowd was very complimentary after the dinner and presentation which ended just after 9:00 p.m.

White Cane Week is upon us. After a minor dispute with the Rochester Hills Lions Club, scheduling and shifts returned to normal. Comments from the early shifts are not encouraging, meaning we must work harder till the conclusion to reach our goal.

The "car guys" are working hard to make the Heritage car shows successful. Their extra efforts are paying off. They have picked up, with the help of Lion Randy Whitmire, some new sponsors, doubled up other sponsors to pull off these events. The "car guys" deserve a big round of applause for their extraordinary efforts. Thank You!!

Let's keep working toward helping as many needy people as we can for there are many who are relying on us. Keep up the good work!

*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**



May 2009 Meeting Theme



Upcoming District Events

District Events

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May 9—Bear Lake Camp Golf Classic & Open House

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

May 16-17—Lions of Michigan Multiple District 11 Convention

Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing, MI

Call (517) 694-8123 for reservations

\$79.00 per night double occupancy

Join Lions from Around the State-Golf, Entertainment & Activities Too Numerous to Mention Here

Looking Ahead. .



May 4—Regular Meeting 6:30 pm

Rivercrest Banquet Center

Dinner Served Promptly at

Guests: Meredith Stevens—

President Designate—new OU Lions Club

May 11—Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Leader Dogs/Polk Residence

May 18—Regular Meeting 6:30 pm

Rivercrest Banquet Center

Dinner Served Promptly at 7 pm

Guest: “Doc” William Barr—Novi Lions Club & Michigan Eye Bank



HELP!! Sell Camaro Raffle Tickets!



We need more help selling raffle tickets for the Camaro Car Raffle coming in August. We’ve sold more than 300 tickets so far. We are at the “break even” point, so every ticket we sell from this

point...is pure “profit” that will go to Leader Dogs and the important organizations we support.

This is a fabulous car to win...for a relatively small price. 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...Please step up and help us be successful! Ed.



Happy Birthday to  
You!



The following Lions have birthdays  
in May:

Sharon Meisel—May 5

Al Lucas—May 12

Bill Claussen—May 14

Brian Wright—May 16

Mike Johnson—May 16

Sharon Whitmire—May 17

George Riley—May 20

Prescott Kemler—May 21

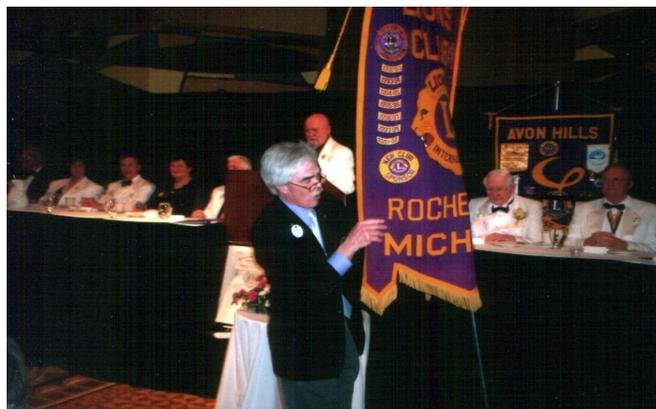
Wishing each of you...a  
very Happy Birthday!



**Rochester Lions  
Club Recognized as**

**Most Outstanding  
Club in District!!**

Our Rochester Lions Club was recognized in April as the “Most Outstanding Lions club” in District 11-A2 for 2009! The award was presented by District Governor Connie Shelton and Past International Director, Terry Graham from Newcastle, Ontario, Canada



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?



“WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BE-  
FORE US ARE TINY MATTERS COMPARED  
TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US.”

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

**Leader Dog Canister  
Collections**

Lion Dan Williams continues to expand our  
canister locations. A total of \$247.00 was  
collected in April. Thanks so much, Lion  
Dan



Rochester Lions Club President David McKenzie, left, with new OU Lions Club President designate Meredith Stevens.

## New OU Lions Club President Selected

After almost a year of our club's efforts to form a new campus Lions club on the campus of Oakland University, Ms. Meredith Stevens has been selected as the first President-designate and first founding member of this new OU campus Lions club. The club is not yet chartered...as it still needs a minimum of 20 initial members to make the club "legally" a club.

Rochester Lions have had several table spaces and hosted receptions over the past year to chat with and distribute Lions literature to students and faculty on the OU campus with the purpose of generating interest in Lionism and gauging that interest to determine if there is a need for an autonomous Lions club at Oakland University. The answer has been an unequivocal "YES!"

Many OU students and some faculty members have also expressed keen interest in helping our Rochester Lions to form and establish this new campus Lions club at Oakland University. We know there are needs on the Oakland University campus that can be met by the establishment of a new campus Lions club there. "I just knew that we were missing a golden opportunity to instill Lionism and the "WE SERVE" example on the OU campus," stated Lion Randy Whitmire, who has led Rochester Lions club efforts to establish the new OU Lions club beginning in late 2007. Lions Club President David McKenzie and Lion David Bates have also played key roles every step of the way...toward making the new campus Lions club a reality.

Ms. Stevens is a "pre-med" major undergraduate student at OU. She comes from a long line of family members who are or have been members of the Clawson Lions club. "I remember as a young girl, accompanying my father on more than a few White Cane campaigns to raise funds for the various Lions club projects. I just felt a compelling obligation to give back and do what I can to help make this new campus Lions club a reality at Oakland University," said Ms. Stevens. "We are delighted to have Ms. Stevens with us...literally spearheading our OU campus efforts to identify and bring together the remaining student leaders and initial founding members that will make this new campus Lions club effective," stated Rochester Lions club President David McKenzie.

Ms. Stevens is hoping to attend one of our May, 2009 regular club meetings to meet and chat with our fellow Rochester Lions. Please make every effort to introduce yourselves to Ms. Stevens when she attends...and warmly welcome her to our club. And, be sure to let her know how happy we all are that she has dedicated and committed herself to Lionism. Ed.



## Rochester Lions Club Annual Installation Dinner Make Your Reservation Now!!

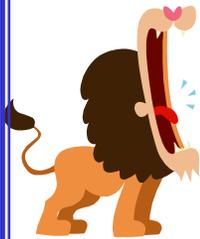
Monday, June 15, 2009



6:30p.m. Social time

7:15p.m. Dinner

8:15p.m. Program  
Installation of Officers  
Special Presentations



**Guest of Honor:**  
**District Governor**  
**Connie Shelton**

### Dinner

Caesar Salad  
Pasta w/Palomino Sauce  
Rolls and Butter

### *Choice of Entrée*

Prime Rib

Chicken Piccata

Eggplant Parmesan

with California Medley & Queen Anne Potatoes

### **Chocolate Fountain Dessert**

coffee, tea and soft drinks

*rsvp with dinner choices and number  
attending by June 8*

\$27.50 per person— payable to: Rochester Lions Club

INSTALLATION BANQUET invitations will be mailed out during the first week of May. Hope to see you all there (at River Crest) to celebrate a great year and the incoming Officers and Board of Trustees.

Mark your calendars.....save the date!

**“I never did give anybody hell. I just told the truth, and they thought it was hell.”**

Harry Truman



The Heritage Festival is fast approaching... The Rochester Lions organize and host two of the largest car shows in Michigan in conjunction with the Heritage Festival. Our two very distinct shows attract two unique groups of show cars. The Heritage Rod & Custom Car Show on Saturday displays street rods, "modifieds" and classic muscle show cars. The "Festival of Cars" on Sunday, celebrating it's 30th anniversary this year, highlights a fine collection of "Concurs de Elegance" original show cars the likes of which are only seen at the Meadowbrook show and at Barrett-Jackson Auto Auctions. Please, make plans to attend these exciting Lions events.

# Festival of Cars

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Sunday,  
May 24th 2009



Heritage Festival



Proceeds Benefit  
Leader Dogs for the Blind



Rochester Municipal Park

# 3RD ANNUAL HERITAGE ROD & CUSTOM CAR FESTIVAL



May 23, 2009



Rochester Municipal Park

Proceeds Benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind



## Leader Dogs CEO Addresses Lions

Lion Greg Grabowski, CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind, was our guest speaker at the Rochester Lions Club regular meeting on April 6. Lion Greg made a very effective presentation outlining the progress that Leader Dogs has made over the past year and what that has meant to those they serve.

He also shared more information regarding the many wonderful and highly effective programs now in use at Leader Dogs, including their very successful and highly touted "Trekker/Breeze" GPS program which has been improved again to make it even easier to use for the visually impaired or blind user.

Lion Greg also highlighted Leader Dogs continuing international relationships especially singling out improved programs with Spain and Chile. Lion Greg emphasized the fact that donations are down significantly across the board but that Lions donations have actually increased thanks to the increased efforts of not only our Rochester Lions club but also donations from all across Lions clubs domestically and internationally. That's wonderful testament to the fact that increased club efforts are vital to maintaining a highly effective and viable Leader Dogs for Blind. Lion Greg extended a sincere "thanks" to RLC from Leader Dogs. Ed.