

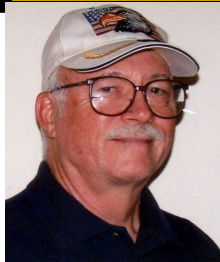


Rochester Lions Club

Home Club of Leader Dogs for the Blind
www.rochesterlionsclub.org

August, 2009
NEWSLETTER

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



President's Message...

Greetings to all my fellow Lions, Family and Friends:

Time sure flies by when you're having fun. I must be having fun. August is here already. Where did the time go? The summer is almost gone and it still feels like spring.

Please keep Lion Sharon Whitmire and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Lion Sharon lost her Mother Norma Bilewicz recently. Norma passed away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, JULY 19, 2009.

July 25th the Leader Dogs for the Blind held their annual "Puppy Days" for 500 puppy raisers. Our club supplied over 850 beverages for this event. I want to thank Past President David McKenzie for getting all the beverages and coolers for this event. And, I want to also thank the following Lions for their many efforts on behalf of our club every month throughout the year, 1st VP Lion Randy Whitmire for putting together our fine monthly newsletters and recruiting the vast majority of sponsors for our car show fund raisers as well as countless other projects, Secretary Lion Arnold Sell for the great job he does providing minutes to us for three meetings a month and other behind the scenes work he does and Treasurer Lion John Cadieux for keeping all our books straight throughout the year. The above mentioned Lions could not do all they do without the help of you...our Rochester Lions Club members who support them. In the next few months I will be thanking more Lions that make a difference in our Club.

On August 3rd we will be having our Rochester Lions Club Annual Picnic in the park. Lion David McKenzie is promising lots of food and fun for everyone. Bring your kids and grand kids. Mike Gendich will have the Lion's food truck at the picnic serving ice cream and other delightful treats for all the kids and the adults. Mike will have games for the kids and "reward" them. Mark this event on your calendar for this special time of good food, good times, and good fellowship.

Lion Dennis Scott requested that all Lions who have unsold raffle tickets to please return the tickets or the money for them. He can use all the unsold tickets to sell at the Dancing in the Streets and at the Rockin Rods car show August 9th. This has been a successful project for our club, thanks to Dennis Scott and his volunteers. The 2010 Camaro will be raffled off at the Rockin Rods car show August 9th. We will have a 2010 Camaro on display at Rockin Rods, provided by Bill Fox Chevrolet. Contact Dennis Scott at 248-651-4155 to work the Rockin Rods car show.

We will be holding our **Ken Lowes / Bob Sutton Memorial Golf Outing on Thursday, September 24th at Bald Mountain Golf Course**. Details are forthcoming. Contact David McKenzie or Celia Domalewski for playing golf or volunteering to work this event.

The Rochester Lions Club will be celebrating it's 65th Anniversary October 5th at the Rochester Community House. Stay tuned in for further information.

At our July 20th meeting we installed two new members, Eric Lewis and Neal Winnie. At our next meeting please welcome them warmly and get to know them.

Yours in Lionism,,

Eric Bothwell

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean that politics won't take an interest in you."

Pericles (430 B.C.)



August 2009 Meeting Theme



Upcoming District Events

July 31-Aug 1—Michigan Eye Bank
Lions Leadership Weekend
Ann Arbor, MI
For more info call:
(517) 887-6640 ext 13 or 15
Or email: lions@lionsofmi.com

Sep 17—Region II, Zone 2 Meeting
Royal Oak, Michigan
More Info to Come

Nov 13-15—Lions of Michigan
Leadership Institute
R.A. MacMullen Center
Higgins Lake, Michigan
Register at www.lionsofmi.com

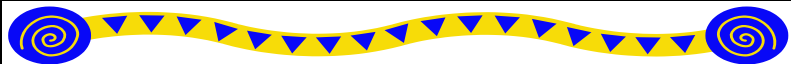
Looking Ahead. .



Aug 3—Rochester Lions Annual PICNIC!
4pm to 8 pm
Kiwanis Pavilion—Rochester Mun Park
Family members invited

Aug 10—Board Meeting 7pm
Leader Dogs/Polk Residence

Aug 17—Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
Rivercrest Banquet Center
Dinner Served Promptly at 7:00pm
Guest Speaker: Robert Kakos,
Vice Commander Disabled American Veterans
& Lion Jim Bone, District VDG



HELP!! Sell Camaro Raffle Tickets!



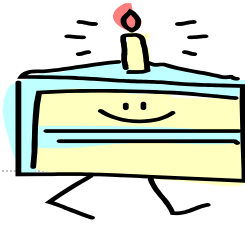
Camaro Raffle tickets are selling like “hot cakes! Thank goodness. We’ve passed 600 tickets sold so far. Thus, it’s proving to be a very successful campaign. Every ticket we sell now...is

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

NOTE: Many Rochester Lions still have UNSOLD tickets which we badly need to be sold. So, if you have the slightest doubt about selling them...then please return them to Dennis Scott immediately. Thanks so much.

Ed.

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Happy Birthday to You!

The following Lions have birthdays in August:

Robert Wilson—Aug 1
 Randy Whitmire—Aug 2
 Jerry Janabet—Aug 8
 Dean McMinn—Aug 11
 David Bates—Aug 13
 Howard Stepnitz—Aug 21
 Dan Williams—Aug 24
 Mike Gendich—Aug 27
 Celia Domalewski—Aug 30

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

Jim Leach Installed as District Zone Chairperson



Rochester Lions Club 2nd Vice President, Lion Jim Leach, was recently installed as a District 11-A2 Zone Chairperson.

Pontiac Lions Club Past President, Chuck Spadafore (shown right above) was also installed as a District Zone Chairperson at the recent District Installation Picnic. Rochester Lions Club President Eric Bothwell is seated between the new Zone Chairs above.

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?

Leader Dog Canister Collections

Lion Dan Williams collected a total of \$225.00 from the various canisters located around the area for July.

Thanks so much, Lion Dan

Rochester Lion Walt Kowalczyk

A Memorable S.O.B. (son of a blacksmith)

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 26, No. 4 (2004)

Walt Kowalczyk, "The Sprinting Blacksmith"

By: Jim Sargent

Michigan State University's Walter Joseph Kowalczyk, a 6'0" 200-pound halfback who could sprint with any running back in the Big Ten Conference, prepped at Westfield High in Westfield, Massachusetts. As a senior in 1954, Kowalczyk received the Harry Agganis Award as the best high school athlete in New England. The talented redhead hoped to attend Notre Dame.

Instead, Kowalczyk chose Michigan State University, thanks in large part to the influence of his high school football coach Bill Jenkins and an MSU grad who knew Spartan head coach Hugh "Duffy" Daugherty. A mentor for Walt, Jenkins helped convince his protégé that Big Ten powerhouse Michigan State offered the best chance to achieve his academic and athletic dreams.

Kowalczyk started at right halfback for the Spartans for three years. He received honorable mention All-Big Ten as a sophomore and junior, and he was named first team All-Big Ten as a senior in 1957, the year he earned consensus All-American honors. In three varsity seasons, Walt enjoyed an impressive career, rushing for 1,257 yards on 225 carries, scoring 16 touchdowns, and catching 10 passes for 187 yards and another score.

The Massachusetts native became the top draft choice of the Philadelphia Eagles, and he played four seasons in the National Football League. Due to circumstances including timing and team personnel, Kowalczyk did not make it as a starter in the NFL. Retiring from the gridiron after four games with the Oakland Raiders in 1961, he returned to Michigan and began teaching.

Born in Westfield on April 17, 1935, Walt grew up as the only son in a Polish family. The husky youth played every sport he could join. Once the quiet redhead got to Westfield High, Coach Jenkins took him under his wing. An intense competitor, Kowalczyk was determined to overcome his humble beginnings.

Walt plugged time into his studies, but he also worked hard to save money for college. For example, one summer he carried steel in a bicycle plant, and once he worked in a sawmill. Later, during the summers at Michigan State, he worked on construction in order to keep in shape.

But Walt lived for sports. By the time he graduated from Westfield, he had earned four letters in football and baseball, three in basketball, and two in track. Friendly and likeable, he enjoyed a great senior year. Named All-State at halfback for the second straight season, "Red" played center in basketball and earned his team's MVP award. Winning All-State honors for the second time as an outfielder in baseball, he averaged .304. Capping his schoolboy career, he won the state 100-yard dash title for the second straight year.

"At the insistence of my high school football coach, Bill Jenkins, I ran track," Kowalczyk said in a 2003 interview. "That's where I learned how to come out of my three-point stance gradually, not straight up."



"I weighed 190 as a senior, and my best time was 9.9 seconds in the 100. They didn't keep records, but the coach clocked me and said my average time for the 100 was between 10.0 and 10.1. They also put me into the 220 yard dash, and if memory serves, my best time was 21.5."

Kowalczyk recalled Westfield as a small town with a population of about 10,000 in the 1950s. His high school had a double-A ranking and played all the local schools in sports:

"As a freshmen, I didn't know much about football. But Bill Jenkins came in my sophomore year. Coach Jenkins saw something in me that other people didn't see, and that I didn't know.

"He became my mentor. I come from a broken alcoholic family. My father only went through the fifth grade, and my mother the third grade. Coach Jenkins guided me through high school. If it wasn't for him, in all honesty I have no idea where I'd be today. I call him every year around the holidays and thank him again. Coach straightened me up more than once!"

Kowalczyk won the Agganis Award in 1954, traveled to East Lansing, moved into a dormitory, and made State's freshman team, but frosh were not eligible for varsity sports.



New Rochester Lions— Eric Lewis and Neal Winnie

On July 20, 2009 at our regular Rochester Lions club meeting, Lions Eric Lewis and Neal Winnie were inducted into the Rochester Lions Club.



Lion Eric Lewis sharing his story with Rochester Lions.

And, new Lion Eric Lewis also shared interesting facts about his life with Rochester Lions at the July 6 regular meeting. Lion Walt Kowalczyk, also a relatively new Rochester Lion, has a feature article in month's Newsletter on page 4. What a nice surprise.

James Lee— Todd Minbiole Memorial Scholarship Winner



The Rochester Lions recently awarded its \$1,000 Todd Minbiole Memorial Scholarship to James Lee.

James is a graduate of Adams High School who was accompanied by his parents to accept this prestigious award. James will be studying engineering at Michigan State University in the fall.

Congratulations James! Well Done!



Surprise Donation Presented to Rochester Lions!

At our regular meeting on Monday, July 6, the Rochester Lions were privileged to have Diane Vitale with us. Diane's late husband, Ralph Vitale, passed away unexpectedly last year. Lion Ralph was one of our most prolific contributors and fund raisers. Diane recounted an interesting story of her travails since Lion Ralph's passing. But, thanks to the help of others in our local community she has survived and prospered...so much so, she believes due to Ralph "watching over her" and also her strong belief in the good we do as Rochester Lions.

Consequently, **Diane presented a check for \$3,000.00** on behalf of she and the late Lion Ralph Vitale. President Eric Bothwell accepted the check on behalf of the Rochester Lions Club and sincerely thanked Mrs Vitale.

"I never trust people's assertions, I always judge of them by their actions."

Ann Radcliffe—The Mysteries of Udolpho 1764



Lions...Volunteers Still Needed for Rockin Rods! We're expecting great weather and a great turnout. But we still need volunteers. Please contact Lion Celia Domalewski (248-765-6929) for specific jobs still open.

Rockin Rods n' Rochester



Rochester Michigan

August 9, 2009 • Downtown Rochester
Proceeds to Benefit the Leader Dogs for the Blind

