



Rochester Lions Club

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

December, 2008
NEWSLETTER

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

President's Message...



Dear Fellow Lions,

'Tis the season to give thanks. All of us have blessings to give thanks for, some more obvious than others. For Lions, I consider the opportunity "to serve" as our greatest blessing.

Kudos go to Lions Sharon Whitmire, David Malaga, and Randy Whitmire for their transformation of 139 S. Main St in downtown Rochester into "Santa's Christmas Tree Village." The village has captured the spirit of the season. But there are many empty slots to be filled by Lions, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, grandkids, etc. etc. etc. We need everyone to step-up and help us out...in order to make this a resounding success...for our fund raising...but also for the entire community during this challenging holiday season.

Lions Sharon, David, Randy and a handful of others have made this project possible; it's up to us Lions to make it successful. We need people to sell tickets, sell beverages and cookies, and supervise the "Make a Flake" station for the kids. Everyone needs to step-up. I'm sure we all can spare a few hours to support this project. Go to the Rochester Lions website www.rochesterlionsclub.org to volunteer the hours that suit you best.

Lion Don Westphal and Lion Randy Whitmire have designed another winning float for the Christmas Parade on December 7th this year. Leader Dog School is participating with us by making Nutcracker costumes for a few of us to wear in the parade. It's always fun working on the float with my fellow Lions. The concept and execution coming together always seems like a minor miracle. But it tis the season.

Please be advised that we will be having a regular meeting at River Crest on December 1 with Ms. Jean Ann Miller from Oakland University as our Guest Speaker. Our Holiday Party will be held at the Rochester Community House on December 8th (no alcohol please). Please get your checks for reservations into Celia Domalewski ASAP. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year!

*Yours in Lionism,
David McKenzie*

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another."

Charles Dickens



December Meeting Theme



District Events

Dec 4—Dinner of Dreams
 70th Anniversary Dinner Celebrating
 Leader Dogs for the Blind
 6-9pm The San Marino Club
 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd.
 Parade of Checks
 Make Your Reservations Quickly!

Jan 19—District 11-A2 Cabinet Meeting
 Sponsored by Rochester Lions Club
 River Crest Banquet Center
 Livernois & Avon Rds.
 Social Hour—6:00 pm
 Dinner Served at 6:45pm
 Lions, Leos, Lionesses—\$12.00
 Cabinet Members—\$10.00
 Info & RSVP to Celia Domalewski
 1321 Potomac Dr, Rochester Hills 48306

Jan 21—Lions Visually Impaired Youth
 Camp Kick Off Dinner & Parade of
 Checks—Hosted by Shelby Lions Club
 St. Lawrence K of C Hall—Utica, MI
 444425 Utica Rd.
\$17.00 per person dinner and bar included
 Contact Bill Lang—586-255-7403

Looking Ahead. .



Dec 1—Regular Meeting 6:30pm
 Dinner Served Promptly at 7pm
 Guest Speaker: Jean Ann Miller—Oakland University
 Sharing OU News..and Also the Possibility of a NEW
 OU Student/Faculty Lions Club!!

Dec 7—Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade
 Main St.—Downtown Rochester
Rochester Lions Club Christmas Float
 Collaborative Effort with Leader Dogs for the Blind
 Applaud for Our Float...Like There's No Tomorrow!

Dec 8—RLC Christmas Party
 Festivities Start at 6:30 pm
 Dinner Served at 7 pm
 Rochester Community House
 Music & Entertainment Provided by
 "Sorgenbrecher"
 For Your Dancing & Listening Pleasure
 Members, Michigan Music Hall of Fame

Jan 19—District 11-A2 Cabinet Meeting
 Sponsored by Rochester Lions
 River Crest Banquet Center
 Social Hour 6:00 pm
 Dinner Served at 6:45pm
 RSVP and info contact Celia Domalewski

Christmas Party Reminder!!

Don't Miss a Wonderful Christmas Party by forgetting to reserve a spot— Contact Lion Celia Domalewski ASAP.. Or, better yet...send her your check for \$25.00 person..for one of the most succulent and delicious holiday menus our club has ever seen! Plus, the music will warm your hearts...and your feet (yes, for your dancing pleasure) the Sorgenbrecher—One of Michigan's Most Famous Bands!!

"It's a funny thing about life.; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it .

W. Somerset Maugham



Happy Birthday to You!



The following Lions have a birthday in December:

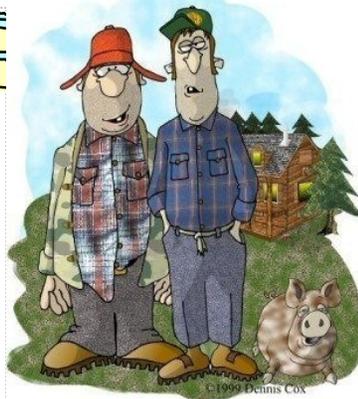
Eric Bothwell—Dec 1
George Demski—Dec 2
John Benczik—Dec 3
Peter Duz—Dec 11
Dennis Scott—Dec 28

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

**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?



YEP...That'll Do!

Sven and Olaf worked together in a Minnesota factory....and both were laid off. So...dey went to the Unemployment Office together.

Asked his occupation, Olaf said, 'Panty stitcher.

I sew da elastic onto da ladies cotton panties.'

The clerk looked up panty stitcher. Finding it classified as unskilled labor, she gave Olaf \$300 a week in unemployment compensation.

Sven, when asked his occupation replied, 'Diesel fitter.'

The clerk looked up diesel fitter...and it was classified as a skilled job. So, the clerk gave Sven \$600 a week in unemployment compensation.

When Olaf found this out, he was furious ! He stormed back into the office to find out why his friend and co-worker was collecting double his benefits.

The clerk explained, 'Panty stitchers are unskilled labor and diesel fitters are skilled labor.'

'Dat's skill?' yelled Olaf. 'I sew da elastic on da panties. Olaf puts dem over his head and says, 'Yah ----- DIESEL FITTER.'

Leader Dog Canister Collections—We Need Help!!

Lion Arnold Sell has collected a total of \$153.50 from the now SIX Leader Dog canisters located throughout the Rochester-Rochester Hills area for the period Oct 25 through Nov 17 2008.. We've lost canister locations over the past year. We need additional canisters! If you know merchants who would be willing to have our Leader Dog canisters in their businesses, please contact Lion Arnold Sell. Thank You.



1st Annual Rochester Christmas Tree Decorating Contest and Santa's Christmas Tree Village Opens Holiday Season..with Much Fanfare



Santa's Christmas Tree Village and the "1st Annual Rochester Christmas Tree Decorating Contest" is now in full swing.



The Rochester Fire Department delivered Santa (Lion Art Carlson) to the 139 S. Main St. location promptly at 3 pm on Friday, Nov 28...to the howls of kids and the applause of the many families and friends of the Rochester Lions Club who turned out for the event. Rochester's new Mayor, Jeffrey Cuthbertson along with Rochester Fire Dept Chief John Cieslik and other Rochester City dignitaries also attended the Inaugural Opening...and wished the holiday event and our Lions well.

Santa's Christmas Tree Village will be open Monday through Friday from 5 pm to 9 pm., weekends from Noon to 9 pm. Santa Claus will be meeting and greeting kids on weekends only. The kids' "Make-a-Flake" craft center has proven to be one of the popular attractions at Santa's Village. But the Hot Chocolate and Holiday cookies are running a close second. Also popular is "Tommy's Town," a wonderful display of Dept 56 items collected over a 35 year period and "loaned" to our Rochester Lions Club for this event.

Be sure and visit Santa's Village as well as visiting the various downtown Rochester merchants and their decorated original Christmas trees which are competing in the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest... You can purchase "Voting Tickets" at Santa's Village...which will permit you to vote on your favorite Christmas Tree entry... And, your voting ticket(s) will also qualify you for some fabulous door prizes which will be drawn on Dec 21. And, don't forget to view our wonderful "Silent Auction" items..also on display at Santa's Village. Contest winners (Best in Show, 2nd/3rd places), door prizes and silent auction winners will be announced on December 21 at 5 pm.

Enjoy just a few of the photos of this project on Page 6. More photos and info to follow in our January newsletter.

Ed.



Revolutionizing Dog Guide Training with Technology

ROCHESTER HILLS, MI, November 17, 2008 – Leader Dogs for the Blind is the first dog guide school in the United States to permanently integrate a talking GPS navigational tool into dog guide classes for people who are blind and visually impaired. HumanWare, makers of the GPS Trekker Breeze, has partnered with Leader Dogs for the Blind to launch this completely unprecedented, state-of-the-art approach to training in time for a class of 24 dog guide students in November 2008.

“By including a talking navigational device in training, Leader Dogs for the Blind is revolutionizing the art of dog guide training,” said Greg Grabowski, president and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind.

“One of the overriding themes we hear from our students is the anxiety and apprehension of travel in a new environment. For many, the first time using a dog guide combined with travel in a new city creates a situation that makes learning difficult and stressful. We believe we can really enhance the way we provide services by placing a GPS device in every student’s hand while in our training program,” continued Grabowski.

Leader Dogs for the Blind has partnered with HumanWare to determine the very best strategy for integrating the GPS technology into the dog guide curriculum. The students will be trained in the use of the device during their 24-day stay at Leader Dogs for the Blind. The Trekker Breeze is an audible device that will give step-by step directions for a programmed route and notify the user of upcoming streets and landmarks, among other functions.

“In August, I returned to Leader Dogs for the Blind to receive my third Leader Dog, ‘Theo’. I was given the Trekker Breeze to use during my training on how to work with Theo. I found that I was much less worried about getting lost and could pay more attention to what I was learning. I remember the last time I came to the school I spent a lot of my time trying to memorize roads and really focusing on how I will get to places. Using the Breeze in class made me a lot more relaxed and I really enjoyed my experience,” said Craig Hall, of Flint, Michigan.

After the students complete the 24-day training at Leader Dogs for the Blind, 14 of the American students will return home with the Trekker Breeze. These students have been selected to participate in an ongoing study to determine the long-term usability and assess the functionality of the GPS device in their home environment.

“We are pleased to partner with Leader Dogs for the Blind in this initiative that will bring GPS technology benefits to an even wider portion of the visually impaired population. Combining the renowned expertise of Leader Dogs for the Blind and the Trekker Breeze will significantly enhance the travelling experience of the students. This program is a new chapter of this success story,” said Gilles Pepin, CEO of HumanWare.

People from all over the world come to Leader Dogs for the Blind to enhance their ease of travel and independence. Leader Dogs have been placed, completely free of charge, in every state except Hawaii and more than 30 countries. The 24 students in the upcoming November class are from: Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Virginia, West Virginia, Nevada, Illinois, Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico.

Leader Dogs for the Blind is known throughout the world for its forward thinking and innovation in the dog guide field. In fact, Leader Dogs for the Blind is the only dog guide school in North America to hold a dedicated program to train dog guides for people who are deaf and blind. Leader Dogs for the Blind is also the only dog guide school to offer an entire continuum of learning for people who are blind and visually impaired, including: classes on learning to travel safely with a white cane, classes on how to use a GPS talking navigational tool, and classes on using a computer with a screen reader. For more information please go to: www.leaderdog.org Ed.



Santa's Christmas Tree Village





Dinner of Dreams

CELEBRATING OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY
Thur., Dec. 4th 6-9pm

The San Marino Club

1685 E. Big Beaver Rd. Troy, MI 48083
Cash bar at 6pm & Dinner at 6:30pm
Cost \$14.⁰⁰ in advance and \$16.⁰⁰ at the door

Combining the excitement of
"Big D Night" and "Kick Off"

Honorary Club Sponsor- Detroit Eastside Friendship Lions
The Parade of Checks, a Video Presentation, Guest Speakers, Puppy Raisers
Special Presentation of "The Distinguished Lion Award"
from Districts A & D

Growing the Dream LEADER DOG AND LIONS



Please fill out and return with check made payable to Leader Dogs for the Blind by **November 28th**
to "Growing the Dream Dinner", 1039 S. Rochester Road, Rochester, MI 48307

Club Name: _____ Number of Reservations _____

Name and Title of Officer Making the Reservation: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Make Your Reservations NOW! It's not everyday that we see a
"70th Anniversary" celebration...for Leader Dogs!



You...



...have a GREAT Day!!!

Life is short!

**Break the rules! Forgive quickly! Kiss Slowly!
Love Truly. Laugh uncontrollably...**

And never regret anything that made you smile.

The Rochester Lions Club Newsletter is published monthly as a service to our members and to those interested in Lionism—

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