



Rochester Lions Club

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

January, 2009
NEWSLETTER

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

President's Message...



This is the season of giving. I have witnessed much giving this season. As Lions, we should be proud that our Club was able to come to the aid of the Neighborhood House in their time of need to the tune of \$2,500 to help bridge their monetary short fall. Current economic conditions have put huge demands upon their resources. I'm very thankful that through our collective efforts we are able to do this.

While working at Santa's Christmas Tree Village I witnessed a supreme act of giving. A family of five came to the village for the festivities. They bought a few voting tickets and went on to vote for their favorite tree. They also visited Santa and went to "Make-a-Flake". After a while Lion Diane Leach came to me and handed me a check for \$25. She asked me to say a few words to this individual thanking him for his generosity...as he had just lost his job with Delphi. I did personally thank him and he further spoke of the wonderful family experience his family was having at the "Village" and the worthiness of the causes we support. His only regret was that he couldn't do more. This was an example of the supreme act of giving.

This is also a tribute to Lions Sharon, David and Randy. Sharon Whitmire told me her goal was to create a family friendly atmosphere to celebrate the season. Under her direction and the considerable efforts of David Malaga and Randy Whitmire this goal was surpassed. I must also give a huge thank you to all the Lions who gave of their time and talents to make Santa's Christmas Tree Village such an overwhelming success (see more inside this newsletter). Everyone involved can feel very proud of this event. I might add that the initial numbers are looking very good.

I'm thankful that through the collective efforts of the Rochester Lions Club we were able to forward to the Penrickton Institute for Blind Children a gift of \$250.00 to benefit the children at Christmas.

Kudos too...to Lions Bryan Wright, Celia Domalewski and Sherry McBroom for making our annual Holiday Dinner meeting such a success. The setting at the Community House was very comfortable and festive. The "Sorgenbrecher" band, provided by Lion Sharon Whitmire's brother Gene (the drummer) was a great hit with everyone. And all the food...really great too! What a wonderful holiday celebration (see photos inside).

Our second regular meeting of January, on the 19th, we will be hosting the District 11A-2 Cabinet Meeting. And the first regular meeting of February, on the 2nd, we will be hosting the Region I & II meeting. Sandwiched between will be the Fire & Ice warming tent sponsored by the Rochester Lions Club.

Finally I want to thank all of you for your gift of giving... your time and talents for those less fortunate.

God bless each of you.

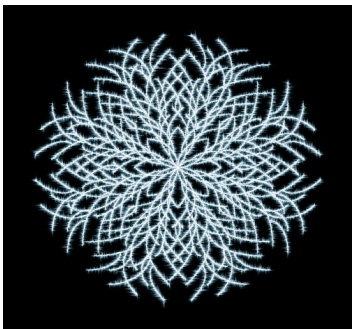
Yours in Lionism,
David McKenzie

"I don't want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality through not dying."

Woody Allen



January 2009 Meeting Theme



Looking Ahead. .



Jan 5—Regular Meeting 6:30pm
Dinner Served Promptly at 7:00pm
Guest Speaker: Kurt Rosink-KMR Automotive
Reconditioning
Bob Randall—Zone 1 Chairman—District 11-A2

Jan 12—Board Meeting
7:00 pm Leader Dogs for the Blind
Polk Room

Jan 19—Cabinet Meeting—Region II
Hosted by Rochester Lions Club
Rivercrest Banquet Center
Social Time at 6:00 pm
Dinner Served at 6:45pm
Celia Domalewski for Reservations

Jan 23/24—Rochester Fire & Ice Festival
Rochester Lions' Warming Tents –Volunteers Needed!

Feb 2—Region I & II Meeting
Hosted by Pontiac Lions & Rochester Lions
At Rivercrest Banquet Center
More Info to Follow

District Events

Jan 12—Selfridge North
Macomb Lions
Eucre Tournament
Guilianos Restaurant
33151 23 Mile Rd
Chesterfield, MI 48347
\$15.00 Buy in (incl Pizza/Pop)
Call Lion Tammi at 586-883-4643

Jan 19—District Cabinet Meeting
Hosted by Rochester Lions Club
Rivercrest Banquet Center
6:00pm Social Hour
Dinner at 6:45 pm
Lions, Leos, Lionesses \$12.00
Cabinet Officers \$10.00
Celia Domalewski for reservations at:
1321 Potomac, Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Feb 2—Combo Region I & II
Meeting
Hosted by Pontiac and Rochester
Lions Clubs at Rivercrest Banquet Center
More Information TBA

New Hearing Aid Partner

The Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project (Lions AHAP) has a new partner: HearUSA. With 170 offices in 10 states, HearUSA and LCIF have negotiated a reduced rate for the screening and fitting of the aid available through Lions AHAP. To learn more about this new partnership or Lions AHAP, visit www.lionsear.org. This is currently a pilot program available only in the U.S.

"A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it!"
Bob Hope



Happy Birthday to You!



The following Lions have a birthday in January:

Kate Hurst—Jan 1
Chris DeVilling—Jan 4
Ted Reynolds—Jan 7
Bob Reid—Jan 9
Art Carlson—Jan 17
Dave Smith—Jan 19
Steve Shelton—Jan 19
John Cadieux—Jan 24
Herb Morawe—Jan 27

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?

Lions Partner to Launch "Noor Dubai"

Oak Brook, Illinois, USA, September 3, 2008

- Lions Clubs International has partnered with government leaders in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates, to launch Noor Dubai, or Sight Dubai. Noor Dubai will treat and provide health services to one million people suffering from preventable blindness and visual impairment in developing countries on a local, regional and international scale.

The program was developed by His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid AL Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai as a month of service during Ramadan.

In addition to the UAE, Noor Dubai will reach out to people in a number of countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Mali, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine.

Leader Dog Canister Collections

Lion Dan Williams has graciously volunteered to assume responsibility for Leader Dog Canister collections beginning in January 2009. We're down to only 5 canisters around town. Canister collections in Nov/Dec totaled \$262.50 from the five active canisters. Many Thanks to Lion Arnold!



Santa's Christmas Tree Village... A New and Exciting Lions Club Project!

After months of detailed planning and coordination, the Rochester Lions Club kicked off the holiday season on November 28 with the delivery of Santa Claus, courtesy of the Rochester Fire Department, to our "Santa's Christmas Tree Village" located on the corner of Main St. and Second St. (139 S. Main) in downtown Rochester (see last month's newsletter).

Since opening day, the "Village" has attracted hundreds of visitors from the local area and beyond who came with their families...to meet Santa Claus, enjoy hot chocolate and holiday cookies...while also enjoying our "Make-a-Flake" craft center or the *resident* "Glitter Tattoo" artists....as well as the wonderful array of decorated Christmas trees (in the Village and throughout downtown Rochester) and displays.

Rochester's new mayor, Jeffrey Cuthbertson, also attended our Grand Opening...along with other City Council members. Effective print media coverage contributed to even greater visitor numbers. In addition to the many Rochester Lions who have volunteered their time (see below), many others in our community have also stepped up to volunteer. Students Giving Back (Adams HS/Suzanne Glinka & Debbie Bobio), Boy Scouts (Troop 101), Cub Scouts (Pack 124), National Honor Society (Adams HS) students, Grace Way Christian Fellowship (Pastor Nate Perkins), have helped to make Santa's Christmas Tree Village a memorable success. Event Co-Chair Lion Sharon Whitmire effectively organized and managed the various aspects of this complex project from design, layout, merchant canvassing...as well as scheduling volunteers necessary to insure adequate staffing both during the week and on the busy weekends. In addition, Lion Sharon also arranged a "loan" of her Uncle's Dept 56 displays and her brother, Chris, volunteered with professional grade photography...which has made our "Photos with Santa" venue extremely successful. Finally, Lion Sharon's father, Gene, also generously donated his time and effort in providing the professional looking Christmas Tree Map of downtown Rochester and several other signs for the Village.

The approximately 25 day event...culminated on Dec 21 with the announcement of the winners of the "1st Annual Rochester Lions Christmas Tree Decorating Contest." Best in Show went to: **The Crazy Greek Restaurant (upside down Christmas tree)** with 2nd Place awarded to **OPC's "Cat in the Hat" Christmas tree**, while 3rd place went to: **Angeli-que Boutique (feather boa tree)**. More than 40 fabulous door prizes donated by downtown merchants were also drawn and awarded in addition to the announcement of winners for valuable Silent Auction items generously donated by our local merchants. And, several of the decorated trees were also auctioned off to the highest bidder. We still haven't finished totaling income and expenses yet. WalMart donated \$1000 toward our efforts! But we are optimistic that this event was not only successful for Rochester and city merchants, but also profitable for our Club to the extent that we will be discussing how to make Santa's Christmas Tree Village and Christmas Tree Decorating Contest even more successful next year.

Special thanks also go to Co-Chair Lion David Malaga and John Benczik (erecting Santa's Polar Castle) and to Lions David McKenzie, Gail Kemler, Celia Domalewski (& grandson Julian), Bob Treppa, Dan Williams, Jim Williams, Dennis Scott, Lawrie Pinkham, Erik Schuett, Bill Claussen (extraordinary salesman award), Eric Bothwell (our man Friday), Larry Cole, Terry Marries, Jim Leach, Ted Reynolds, Herb Mann, Frank Cosenza, George Newton, Art Carlson, John Benczik, John Murphy, Arnold Sell, Keith Pasternacki, David Bates and Randy Whitmire—Lion wives: Gail Bothwell, Becky Marries, Kate Cole, Diana Sell, Mary Ann Newton and Donna Williams— And, a very special "Thank You" to our Santa's who really made this event the success that it was. Art Carlson, Herb Mann, George Newton, Frank Cosenza, Bob Connelly, Bill Claussen, Larry Cole, Jim Kemler, and George Demski. Children, families, parents, and visitors alike were so impressed with Santa's caring and patience. Words really cannot express the gratitude of all of our Lions and of the community as a whole. All of the above Lions and volunteers made this project successful! They volunteered through thick and thin...weekdays and weekends..good weather or bad. NOTHING was impossible! Your Rochester Lions Club "Got the Job Done" while again providing for the needs of others in these especially challenging times.

Ed.



Santa's Christmas Tree Village—2008





ROCHESTER LIONS CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY—AT THE ROCHESTER COMMUNITY



ROCHESTER HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Rochester Lions Float...Takes 2nd Place...AGAIN!!



Special thanks to: John Benczik, Lee Musson, Arnold Sell, Dan Williams, David McKenzie, Eric Berger, Erik Schuett, Mike Roberts, Larry Cole, Bob Treppa, Eric Bothwell, George Newton and of course, Don Westphal whose design genius came through again. Also a very special thanks to Ms. Karen Burmann who designed and fabricated our fabulous Nutcracker uniforms...and to Rachelle Kniffen and Leader Dogs for the Blind...for providing us a warm place to do our "magic." Ed.



Penrickton Institute for Blind Children..

Holiday Message of Thanks...

Dear Special Friends:

In this tight economic time, Penrickton Center for Blind Children has continued to thrive thanks to the support of the Rochester Lions Club and others who give from their hearts to support our children. Thanks to their kindness, we have been able to provide our unique programs with no reduction in staffing or services. This is a testament to your generosity and caring.

Penrickton Center for Blind Children is the only children's charity in the State of Michigan that serves blind children with at least one additional disability. For over 56 years, our program and services have constantly evolved to meet the needs of our children and families. In addition to providing continuity of services, we always strive to be more efficient. This past year we eliminated multiple stand alone freezers and have installed an energy efficient walk-in freezer. Regardless of what "hat our employees wear," we all make sure we are cost effective and ecologically aware.

This year we have also seen our share of tragedy. In January we lost one of our children, Desiree to a seizure. In March, we lost another one of our children, Mary, after her long battle with recurring brain cancer. The out-pouring of caring from our employees, volunteers and donors to both of these families was awe inspiring. In fact, we are part of the extended family for every child here at Penrickton Center.

I am also proud to announce that this year we were able to eliminate our mortgage. In September of 2000, we began an ambitious undertaking to expand and renovate our physical plant. We expanded from 12,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet to allow us to provide more services in a world class facility. This 2 million dollar project was entirely supported by private donations. However, we did have to take out a short term note to help with the financing of this project. Today, that note is completely paid off!

Now, with your continued support and involvement we will strengthen our program to serve children today as well as for another 56 years. Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for the continued support of the Rochester Lions Club.

Sincerely,

Kurt M. Sebaly, M.Ed.
Executive Director

[Penrickton Center does not receive any State, Federal, Insurance or United Way funding!](#)

All donations to Penrickton Center are tax deductible. Penrickton Center for Blind Children is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a private, non-profit — IRS 501 (c)[3] charity. Penrickton Center for Blind Children is licensed with the Michigan Department of Human Services as a Child Caring Facility **and** a Day Care Center. *If you would like to make a donation please [contact us](#) or follow this link [Donate On-Line](#) to Penrickton Center for Blind Children.*

Ed



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—

Publisher/Editor: Lion Randy Whitmire 248-930-6420



Richard Kucinski
President
6825 B North Rochester Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48306
P: 248.652.7849 | F: 248.652.7848
Toll Free: 1.888.737.8499
rkucinski@stixx.com
website: itstixx.com

**Printing and Custom Graphics on a
Unique Fabric Sticker Media**

Copies generously printed by STIXX
Printing and Custom Graphics on
Unique Fabric Sticker Media