



THE A15 TIMES

Lion Charlene Dwyer, District Governor

Lion Gerry Haliburton, Editor

Published Monthly by and for the Lions of A15.

Issue 3, 2017-2018 Lions Year



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Lions, Lioness and LEOs:

Here we are heading into a very busy time of the year for families but also it is a time to celebrate and spend time with family and friends. It has truly been an uplifting past month for me on my travels as your District Governor. I have had the honour of inducting your new members, presenting the many years of Service Chevrons as well as Membership Awards from Lions Clubs International to your members. I look forward to also presenting the Charter Anniversary Certificates to our Clubs who are celebrating milestone anniversaries this year! The "Power Of We" is alive and well in our great District A15.

The month of November found our District being on the plus side of membership but there is still work to do in the area of retention of our existing membership. Our Global Action Team (GAT) has been reaching out to the Clubs who have asked for some assistance and guidance and that is what the team is here for, we are here for you and because of you, so please reach out to the GAT for assistance at any time. I can't tell you how proud I am of the dedication that I see from your Clubs to your communities as well as to Lions Clubs International initiatives. Many clubs have been creative in service to promote Diabetes Awareness in their communities. The Centennial Service Challenge continues to June 30, 2018 so please ensure that your Club Secretary is reporting your service activities on My LCI, if not we have a team who can help with that as well!

We were thrilled to announce the official Charter date for the new KW LEO Club sponsored and organized by the Lions Club of Kitchener - these young people bring their enthusiasm and vibrancy to help our Clubs in service. They are both the future and the here and now.

Please ensure that if you have more than one family member living in the same household in a Club that your Club Secretary has indicated the family membership as the additional members pay half of the LCI dues.

We encourage your clubs to grow in women's membership as well - our District currently sits at 25.29% women Lions. My goal for June, 2018 is 28%, and we are getting closer.

Thank you for all you do Lions, Lioness and LEOs.....you are truly making a difference in the lives of those who need us! Well done!

DISTRICT A15 REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017

My Members			Statistics Updated 11/30/2017 9:01 AM		
	This Month	This Year		This Month	This Year
Opening Balance	1,459	1,472	Clubs with Activities	22	43
Added Members	21	63	Clubs without Activities	37	16
Dropped Members	6	61			
Closing Balance	1,474	1,474	2017-2018 Summary		
Net Gain/Loss	15	2	Number of Lion Hours		28091
Worldwide	1,438,899				

Great job everyone! We are now on the "plus" side of membership heading into December. It is important to grow our membership as more eyes to see the need and more hands in service but it is also important that we encourage, retain our current membership ensuring they are engaged in our service activities and feel they are an important part of your Clubs's Lions family! We believe in each and every Lion, Lioness and LEO in this great District! Keep up the great work!

DG Char & Global Action Team Leader

The District A15 Global Action Team—Here to help your Club with whatever you may need!

Global Leadership Team —PCS Lion Dennis Lougheed glt@a15lions.org

Global Membership Team—PRC Lion Bill Robinson gmt@a15lions.org

Global Service Team—PDG Lion O.J. Wilura gst@a15lions.org

DISTRICT GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES A NEW LEO CLUB FOR OUR DISTRICT



We are thrilled to announce that the KW Leo Club was officially chartered on 11/28/2017. The club's ID number is 133284. Congratulations to the **Lions Club of Kitchener** for the organization and sponsorship! For more information on this new LEO Club please contact duru.uluk@gmail.com

Stay tuned for the date of their Charter Celebration and induction of these new LEO members to our District!

Congratulations and well done! Do you have the possibility for a LEO Club in your area? Why not check it out! The youth are our future but they are also the "here and now" and bring much enthusiasm to our service!

Yippee....Roar LEOs!!!!

LION MAGAZINE NOW IN COLOUR

A colour version of the latest issue(Sept/Oct)has been posted on the MD A website. and can be viewed at:

<http://mdalions.org/pages/Events/TheLionMag>

Thanks to the staff at Thompson Printing in Paris and Lion Ted Rypma, MDA webmaster for their assistance.

Lion Bob Pearson,
Editor

The Lion Magazine

PASSING OF A LION

We have been informed of the passing of Lion Jim Pinder who was a lifetime member of the Exeter Lions Club. On behalf of the Lions, Lioness and LEOs of District A15 we send along our deepest condolences to the Exeter Lions Club and to Lion Jim's family and friends. Lion Jim was truly a man who loved to serve his community having been a member of not only Lions but also the Exeter Curling Club, the Exeter Legion and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

PASSING OF A LION'S SPOUSE

It is with heavy heart that we learned of the passing of Lioness Joan Bilinsky's husband Tom. Joan has been the secretary for New Hamburg Lioness Club for many years. She sends those wonderful quarterly reports.

He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, he will truly be missed.

On behalf of the Lions, Lioness and LEOs of District A15, we extend our most heartfelt sympathies to Lioness Joan and the family.

Editorial

As I was preparing this issue, it became clear that much of the content would be related to events involving young people in our communities. It brought to mind something I experienced here in St. Marys.

After the Remembrance Day ceremony, I was pleased to see a gentleman helping his young grandson to place a poppy at the cenotaph. I am the son and grandson of veterans, and a former Canadian Army Reservist, so this was for me a very meaningful event. This gesture took only a minute, but it had a much more significant meaning.

As a Lion, I thought immediately of our very important commitment to youth. In addition to supporting LEOs, Peace Poster, Effective Speaking, Lions Quest, vision screening, and other official endeavours, we can do more.

Let's all work hard to relate to the youth in our communities, whenever and wherever we can. At DG Charlene says, they are our future. Let's not miss the chance to do great things.

NOMINATION FOR 2nd VICE GOVERNOR



The Thamesford Lions would like to announce their nomination of RC Lion George Corrin for the position of 2nd Vice District Governor for the 2018-2019 lions year. Lion George was president of the Drumbo Lions in the past and was ZC 37W for 2016-2017 and is RC 37 for 2017-2018. Lion George has shown considerable ambition and creativity in pursuing the goals of Lionism both at the club and district level over the past several years and we look forward to his election next year and supporting him through the chairs. The district will do well with Lion George.

HISTORY CORNER

GUELPH LIONS CLUB BLIND SEAL CAMPAIGN

The Guelph Lions Club conducted an annual Blind Seal Campaign, from its beginnings in 1944, until 2016, to raise monies for assistance to visually impaired people and sight related programs.

Annually the Club would mail out 5,000 to 10,000 letters soliciting donations to the Blind Seal Campaign. Needless to say, the preparation of stuffing envelopes, licking stamps, and sending receipts, was a laborious undertaking. The eyesight conservation trust fund into which the monies were placed, at that time was the only source of income which enabled the Guelph Lions to carry out their work for the blind.

The monies collected were spent in many varied ways; from coloured glasses for the blind and special glasses for the sight impaired, to support for the Eye Bank of Canada in Guelph, to sponsoring and driving people to vacation at Lake Joseph Camp for the Blind, and to CNIB and other meetings throughout the year, to specialized eye surgery equipment for hospitals.



1988 L-R, Campaign Manager Lion Rick Bishop, Lioness Sandra Campbell, and District Governor John Brash, stuffing envelopes.

In 1951, the Club made a donation of \$10,000 toward the building of Huronia Blind Hall in Kitchener, a recreation, rehabilitation and residence, which served as a regional center for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

In 1976, the Guelph Lions helped sponsor Liz, and her recipient Don Macerollo, the first ever Leader Dog for the Blind in Guelph. Lion Rick Bishop drove to the Leader Dog of America School in Rochester, Michigan to pick up Don and Liz, upon completion of their training; and presented the school with a cheque for \$1,000. At that time, laws in Guelph barred individuals from entering public places or using public transit unless their dogs were muzzled. Blind persons could however, in the company of a person with sight, could ride the GTC for free. Subsequent to Liz's arrival, the Guelph Transportation Commission removed the ban, in compliance with the Blind Persons Rights Act of 1976. Over the years the Guelph Lions have sponsored a number of Leader Dogs and Dog Guides for blind persons living in Guelph.

In 1979-80, the Club's major project was the donation of \$27,000 in equipment to furnish St. Joseph's Hospital ophthalmic unit. In 1997 the Lions donated \$65,000 to purchase a phacoemulsification unit, for cataract eye surgery, for St. Joseph's Hospital; which had been performing as many as 700 operations a year.

In June 1996, the Club presented their final payment of \$15,000 to complete their \$60,000 pledge to the Lions Foundation of Canada School.

In 2016-17, as their Centennial Project, the Guelph Lions donated \$116,000 to purchase a new microscope for Guelph General Hospital, mainly used in cataract surgery.

The Guelph Lions annually host a Christmas Gala for the sight impaired registered with CNIB. The festive evening, originally held at the Italian-Canadian Club; today is held at the Holiday Inn, complete with turkey dinner, dance music by a live band, and a visit and gifts from Santa. For the same crowd, the Guelph Lions also host a summer outdoor picnic at Riverside Park, with a barbeque, live music entertainment, numerous door prizes and bingo.

From their beginning until today, the Guelph Lions continue to serve as Knights of the Blind.

ZONE ADVISORY MEETING (JOINT ZONE MEETING 9E & 51W)
Hosted by Cambridge Highlands Lions Club.
October 23, 2017



Many Lions gathered together on Oct. 23rd for this Joint Zone Meeting. Lions came from K-W Community Spirit, Guelph Royal City, Oktoberfest, Galt-Cambridge, Elmira, Thamesford, Zurich, Kitchener Lions, Mosborough Busy Busy, Milverton, Wellesley, St. Jacobs and Woolwich. Host club Cambridge Highlands welcomed everyone and turned the floor over to Zone & Region 51 Chair, Lion Duane Malcolm, did a great job organizing the evening for us.

Lions were instructed to a special seating arrangement at 6 per table to break up sitting with your own club members.

After dinner was over, Lion Duane spoke of the Global Action Team in planning for club success. Our International President Dr. Aggarwal's goal for this coming year is – **“To reach a new level of service to Lions and from Lions.”**

A helpful workshop followed to brainstorm ideas on how to have a successful Service Project in your club. CONSULT – EVALUATE- PLAN- EXECUTE. Is this a Service Project vs Fundraiser? Then get feedback to see if your club will do it again or how to improve on it.

Our own Lion Jan provided a fun Tailtwisting Game with proceeds going to LCIF at Lions Duane's request. A 50/50 draw ended the evening. Lion Phil Acock won \$60.50.



**GALT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE & VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
165th COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES - Oct. 20, 2017**

Every year, The Cambridge Highlands Lions Club presents a Certificate and \$250.00 to (5) Cambridge High Schools for the most improved student in the graduating year.

This year, Lion Marg is honoured to present this Award to GCI Student McKenzie Holmes.

It was a double honour to be there, as one of my Grandsons also graduated and so did Lion Christine's son. It was a great evening to celebrate family accomplishments along with our continued Lions' Service in the Cambridge Community.



*** CONFIDENCE IS THE COMPANION OF SUCCESS.**

*** PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE SURMOUNT EVERY DIFFICULTY.**

*** THE GREATER THING IS NOT SO MUCH WHERE WE STAND AS IN WHAT DIRECTION WE ARE MOVING.**

ST. MARYS SANTA CLAUS PARADE, NOVEMBER 4 2017



A15 PEACE POSTER WINNER

Congratulations to MacKensie Surian from Sir Adam Beck Public School in Baden, the 12 year old winner of the A15 Peace Poster Contest. MacKensie's quote for the poster is:

"Peace is a choice, you can be a voice or be an echo"

Second place went to Kaira Russell 12 years old, sponsored by the Milverton Lions club
Third place goes to Emily Carter 12 years old sponsored by the Milverton Lions Club.

Over 185 students participated in this year's contest.

This is the second year in a row that the New Hamburg Lioness have sponsored the winning poster. The New Hamburg Lioness Club Chair was Lioness Kathy Lantz.

Congratulations to MacKensie Kaira and Emily from all of us in A15 for their hard work.

Thanks to Lion/Lioness Janet Dawson Brock, District A15 Peace Poster Chair for all her hard work as well.

AND HERE IS THE POSTER



FERGUS LIONS RAISE FUNDS FOR HOSPITAL

This is our very own internationally renowned magician from Fergus, Ryan Joyce. Ryan performed two shows for us at the Fergus Grand Theatre and donated all of the proceeds back to our Club which is going towards our commitment to the New Groves Memorial Hospital. Over eleven thousand dollars was raised

Ryan receiving the Melvin Jones Award from 1st Vice President Lion Margaret Murray.



From Margaret Murray Fergus Lions Club

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO LION/LIONESS JANET DAWSON BROCK

Lion/Lioness Janet Dawson Brock was recently presented with a Life Time Achievement Award at the Oscar Party held at the Lioness Laugh and Learn Leadership Forum which was held in Owen Sound. The Lioness were celebrating 21 years of the Forum with a 152 Lioness in attendance.



NEW MEMBERS FOR SWEABURG CLUB



The Sweaburg and District Lions Club is happy to report that VDG Kevin Banfield inducted three new members into our club.

Pictured here, from left to right are Lion Dave Schell sponsoring Matt Husband, Lion chief Don Taylor, VDG Kevin, Lion Jim Pickard sponsoring

LFC LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AND A HELEN KELLER FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

At the October 4th meeting of the **Bayfield Lions Club**, with the assistance of ZC 37 West Lion Cecilia Fulker, 15 Lions were honoured with a Life Membership to Lions Foundation of Canada.

The recipients are: Lions Andy deVries, Ron Harris, John Hedley, Charle Kalbfleisch, Morris Kelly, Bud Langley, Craig Neely, Dave Overboe, Penny Overboe, Jack Pal, Eric Sidles, Frank Slater, Tony VanBakel, Don



Pictured above are: Lions Tony VanBakel, Penny Overboe, Andy deVries, Bud Langley, Don Vance, John Zrini, John Hedley



The Club was honoured to present a Helen Keller Fellowship to **Don McIlwain** for his years of generous support to the Lions Club and Community. Pictured above are Don McIlwain, Peggy McIlwain and President Lion Don Vance

NEWS FROM THE ST. GEORGE LIONS



Lion Chief Rodger Lyster with Lion Harry Witteveen. Lion Harry has been a member for 65 years. He served as Club President in 1960/61.



District Governor Char Dwyer presented Years of Service Chevrons to Lion Chief Rodger Lyster (20 years), Lions Rob Bannister (10 years), Boris Pancoe (15 years), Dave Ritchie (20 years) and John Daniels (45 years).

Thanks to those who helped at the Rockton Fair



MORE FROM ST. GEORGE



Lion Chief Rodger and Membership Chair Lion Cheryl presented Years of Service Chevrons to Lions John Ilett (40 years) and Deirdre Branchaud (10 years).

Lion Jim Gambacort will also receive a chevron for 20 years of service.

Lions Lyle Fair and Bob Knowles received Membership Keys recognizing their successful recruitment of new members.



Lion Cheryl presented a cheque to St. George German School. This donation was made with the proceeds from Meet the Teacher Night. The school is looking into reconstructing the primary playground area to make it more safer and more user friendly.

"FILL A TRUCK" CAMPAIGN FOR DIABETES

Below is the text of a letter sent to the St. Marys club. Rick Bell, District Diabetes Chair supports this campaign as a District event. Please contact diab@a15lions.org for further

St. Mary's Lions Club
P.O. Box 1151
St Mary's, ON N4X 1B7

Dear St. Mary's Lions Club,

Diabetes Canada is proud to partner with the Lions Clubs of Canada to work together to support diabetes education, management and research to End Diabetes. End Diabetes is our rallying cry to end the terrible health impacts of diabetes as well as its shame, blame, stigma and misinformation. It's also time to End Diabetes altogether with a cure.

As longtime supporters of children's health, we know how much the well-being and health of our children and our communities mean to you. I want to invite you to join us as a partner in the following campaign(s) - to join the movement to help Diabetes Canada be bigger and bolder than ever before!

As you may already know, Diabetes Canada runs 12 summer camps across Canada for children and youth aged 7-17 living with type 1 diabetes called, 'D-Camp'. D-Camp provides campers the opportunity to enjoy an authentic camp experience while having their medical needs monitored by a dedicated team of trained professionals. The cost to send one child to D-Camp for a week is **\$1,500**. Your support will not only ensure that a child's dream of going to camp becomes a reality but will also be an investment in our future community members and leaders.

We would like to present the Lions Clubs of Canada with the "Fill-A-Truck" campaign. Through this campaign every small household item or bag of gently used clothing donated, Diabetes Canada receives \$2 on behalf of your club. With the clubs support, filling a truck with over 1,000 items will see that approximately \$2,000 is donated to Diabetes Canada! For your consideration, I have included the 1, 2, 3 step process to run a successful Fill-A-Truck event.

I would love the opportunity to meet your club and present opportunities across Canada and in your community and how your support can help. You can reach me at [brittany.webb @ diabetes.ca](mailto:brittany.webb@diabetes.ca) or by calling 519-851-3813.

Brittany Webb
Coordinator, Community Engagement
Diabetes Canada

Thanks to the Exeter Lioness for the following article from the club newsletter,

The White Squirrel

The boy in danger, and the Dog Guide who helped him

Oliver was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder when he was almost two years old and our biggest challenge has always been his safety. Like many children, he does not understand the concept of danger. When we are out in public, Oliver will bolt whenever he sees something he likes or hears an unusual sound. Our son has always been a flight risk. We have had several scary incidents with Oliver running away and almost getting hit by a car and hurting himself jumping through our window screen and jumping off our second floor balcony.

We tried many different locks on our doors, bought an expensive special needs stroller and even moved homes to be on the ground floor. Oliver has had intensive therapy with behavior interventionists, occupational therapy, speech therapy and medication. Though these helped a lot, nothing could keep him calm and safe.

It got to a point where we could not go with Oliver to grocery stores, parks or restaurants or any place where he could run off. The few times we would try, we would hold him by his hands at all times and it would almost always lead to tantrums.

Applying to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for an Autism Assistance Dog was the best thing we could have done.

Now I can say miracles happen! We received Herc at no cost and it was all possible because of people like you.

The Lions Foundation relies on donations to provide these life-changing Dog Guides to Canadians with a physical or medical disability through its six internationally accredited programs - Canine Vision, Hearing Ear, Service, Seizure Response, Diabetic Alert and Autism Assistance. A Dog Guide is truly a priceless gift of independence. In reality, each one costs approximately \$25,000 and takes almost two years to raise, train and ultimately partner with its new handler. Even without

government funding, Dog Guides are provided at no cost. This includes all accommodation and travel expenses for recipients while in training at the Oakville school,

Each Dog Guide provides safety security and stability, and ultimately changes lives, just like Herc has done. But the Lions Foundation can't do it alone. Whether it is someone who is visually impaired and unable to safely cross the street, someone afraid to sleep without hearing the fire alarm, someone unable to be alone worrying about their blood sugar dropping or having a seizure, or someone who had a tragic accident and uses a wheelchair.

You can make a difference and your donation will go a long way to help others. That's why I'm asking you to join us with your donation and help the hundreds of people waiting to be matched with their new Dog Guide, and start their new lives together.

Please visit www.dogguides.ca/donate, mail in your gift or call 1.800.768.3030. It's amazing to know that more families like ours can be helped with a Dog Guide.

Herc completely changed our lives.

Welcoming this beautiful creature into our family has been better than anything we could have dreamt.

PRESENTATION OF A CHARTER ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATE



Above are members of the Brantford Lions Club being presented with their 90th Charter Anniversary Certificate by District Governor Charlene Dwyer on November 14, 2017.

From left to right and top to bottom are: John Howe, DG Charlene, Lion Chief Chris Kruter, Scott Dillabough, Moe Clark, and Gwen Renwick.

LYNDEN LEOs FOOD DRIVE

Hello Lion Gerry

Today is our annual Christmas food drive which gives me the opportunity to put a piece in the bulletin.

Every year our Leos hold a community food drive with the Lynden fire department. This year was another success with the food bank now stocked with enough supplies to meet local family needs over the winter. Three of the Leos who participated are pictured with firefighters as they unloaded the donations. From left to right Brooke Lowerse, Jenna Erkelans and Emily Mackie.



Another community service well done!

Judy Evans

Milverton Lions Club
2017 – 18 Lions International
PEACE POSTER CONTEST
“The Future of Peace”

The Milverton Lions, in partnership with Milverton Public School, recently held the annual peace poster contest for students aged 11, 12 or 13.

This year's theme was **“The Future of Peace”** and over 80 students participated in the contest. The rankings were as follows:

1 st Place – Emily

2 nd Place – Bradley

3 rd Place – Kaira

With the overwhelming success and number of entries at the school, the Milverton Lions sponsored all three entries to move onto the district A15 competition.



Milverton Lions Peace Poster Chair Joel,
with 3 rd place Kaira

The Milverton students placed very well at the district A15 competition, Kaira placing 2 nd and Emily coming in 3 rd

Congratulations to all three students for their hard work and sharing their vision of peace through art.

A special thank you to the volunteer judges who helped with our local contest!



Milverton Lions President Jody, with 1 st place Emily and 2 nd place Bradley

WE STILL NEED A CABINET TREASURER

DG Charlene advises that this position is still open. Disregard the cutoff date.

District A-15 is seeking applicants for the position of Cabinet Treasurer.

Interested parties are asked to submit a brief overview of experience and their expression of interest in the position to

District Governor Lion Charlene Dwyer (dg@a15lions.org) and Cabinet Secretary Rick Banks (cs@a15lions.org) no later

than November 1st, 2017.

Description

The Cabinet Treasurer is a member of the voting cabinet for District A-15 and is appointed by the District Governor. This

appointment shall normally be for, but not limited to, a period of 3 years subject to annual review and agreement by the

incoming District Governors. As a voting member of Cabinet, the Treasurer has a direct impact on the successful operations of District A-15 and also has input to establish policy and the future direction of the District

Accountabilities

The Cabinet Treasurer is responsible for a number of typical Treasurer Duties as outlined in District A-15 Governance

manuals. Much of the work of the Cabinet Treasurer is done in conjunction with the District Governor, Cabinet Secretary, as well as other Cabinet Officers & Committee Chairs. Duties may include but are not limited to:

- Preparing administration budgets
- Receiving monies and depositing into approved District bank account(s)
- Making payments on behalf of the District at the direction of Cabinet
- Maintaining separate Administrative and Activity Accounts as well as financial records – including the support for Committee Chairs for their respective committees
- Preparing Financial Reports for the District and required governmental entities and presenting the Financial reports at each Cabinet meeting
- Preparing final financial records and turning over accounts and funds to successor
- Act as a Resource for Club Treasurers and others in the District for matters relating to accounting, insurance, reporting etc. Present the Treasurer training material at the District Annual Leadership Seminar

Qualifications

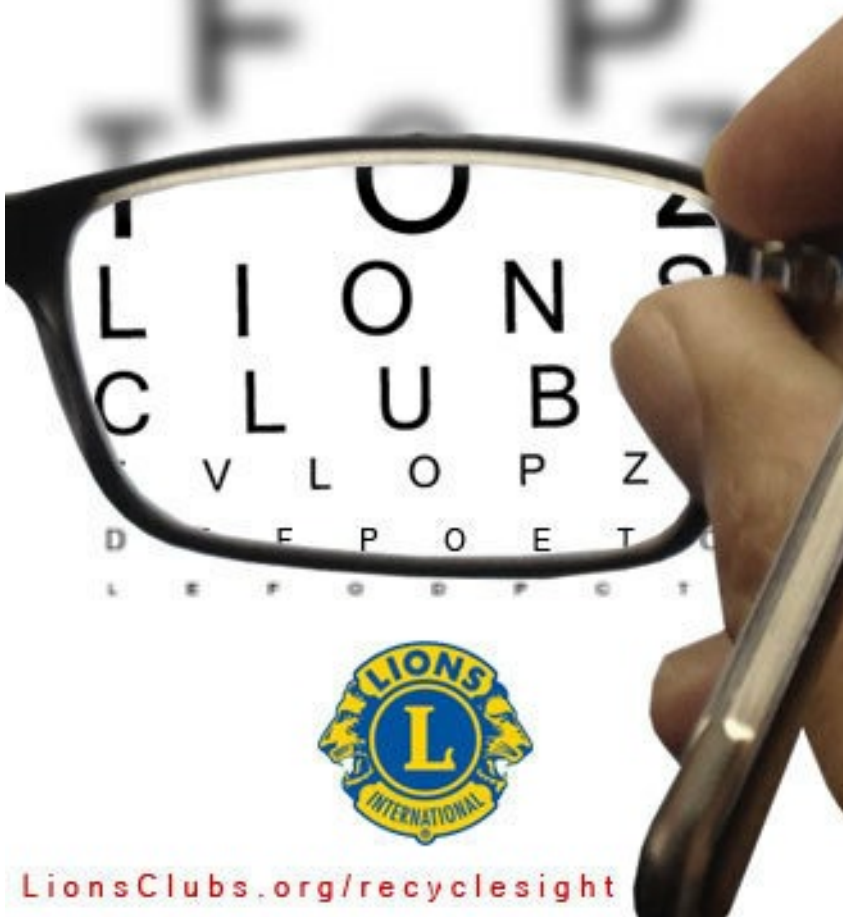
- Familiarity with standard accounting practices and the chosen District accounting software.
- Average facility with Microsoft Office or equivalent software applications (Word, Excel, Email)
- Knowledge of the District A15 Constitution, District A15 By-Laws, District A15 Policy Manual Facility with the District email system

Service is the reason that our global organization exists. We truly live up to our motto **We Serve!** In District A-15, we

continue to focus on strengthening our District & Clubs by ensuring that all members are engaged in meaningful service

USED EYEGLASSES NEEDED AT CONVENTION IN APRIL 2018

The 2018 District A15 Convention Committee is asking that Lions, Lioness and LEOs please take their used eyeglasses to the District A15 Convention April 13-15, 2018 for a service project on Saturday afternoon following the luncheon.



LionsClubs.org/recyclesight

FROM ELMIRA

Saturday, November 18th was the Appreciation Night for IPDG Wayne Litt. Wow! What an evening! We were treated to a cornucopia of culinary delights as well as a wide array of ... interesting entertainment. There were far too many people involved to list them all here, but a big thank you to everyone who came out to help with the night, and/or who were involved in the entertainment. A special thank you to **Lions Chris Blott, Todd Wilson, Rick Ladd, and Kevin Ladd.**



Strange Facts About Christmas

1. **December 25 was originally a pagan celebration.** Christmas supposedly marks the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25. But there is no mention of December 25 in the Bible and most historians actually believe he was born in the spring. December 25 was probably chosen because it coincided with the ancient pagan festival Saturnalia, which celebrated the agricultural god Saturn with partying, gambling, and gift-giving.
2. **Mistletoe kissing originated with fertility rites.** The hanging sprig is a very ancient symbol of virility and therefore anybody standing beneath it is signaling that he or she is sexually available.
3. **The Christmas tree** made its way to America in the 1830's but wasn't popular until 1846, after Germany's Prince Albert brought it to England when he married Queen Victoria. The two were sketched in front of a Christmas tree and the tradition instantly became popular.
4. **Santa Claus** comes from St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop living in (what is now) Turkey in the fourth century AD. St. Nicholas had inherited a great deal of wealth and was known for giving it away to help the needy. When sainted, he became the protector of children. After his death, the legend of St. Nicholas spread. St. Nick's name became Sint-Nicolaas in Dutch, or Sinter Klaas for short. Which is only a hop, skip, and jump to Santa Claus.
5. Though Santa Claus has worn blue and white and green in the past, his traditional red suit came from a 1930's ad by Coca Cola.
6. **Rudolph** was actually conceived by a department store, Montgomery Ward, as a marketing gimmick to get kids to buy holiday coloring books. Rudolph almost didn't have a red nose either: At the time, a red nose was a sign of chronic alcoholism and Montgomery Ward thought he would look like a drunkard.
7. **"Silent Night"** is the most recorded Christmas song in history, with over 733 different versions copyrighted since 1978. Meanwhile, "White Christmas" is the best-selling song of all time.
8. Boston church leaders tried to have the song "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" banned in the 1950's because they thought it "promoted physical intimacy" (which has obviously has nothing to do with a birth). Singer Jimmy Boyd had to fly to Boston and explain to them why it wasn't obscene.



LIONS CLUB OF FERGUS MARKED WORLD DIABETES DAY

Several e-mails have been sent recently from Lions Clubs International to ask Lions around the world to plan or conduct an event to mark World Diabetes Day or to hold a function to promote Diabetes awareness during the period of November 13 – 19 2017.

The Lions Club of Fergus, an ardent supporter of Diabetes Canada and the Camp Huronda diabetes camp, rose to the challenge and held two separate and distinct events to promote Diabetes Awareness.

On November 14th, World Diabetes Day, the Lions held the second annual bridge lighting ceremony to promote Diabetes Awareness. The Grand River pedestrian bridge and walkway railings in downtown Fergus were illuminated with 625 blue lights (the official colour for Diabetes) to provide a visual reminder that diabetes is a growing concern here in Canada. The lights will remain on until the end of November.

Secondly, on November 18th and under guidance from Diabetes Canada volunteers, three information kiosks were set up in various locations in Fergus and were staffed by members of the Fergus lions to provide information and handouts to the general public as well as receive donations towards diabetes research.

In all, both campaigns saw 23 Lions of the Club provide 43 hours of Service to promote Diabetes Awareness.



Bridge after the lighting ceremony
(photo by Lion Joe Brooks)



At Freshco Food Mart (Lions Scott Evans - left, Bob Zirk – centre, Lion Nick Mercuri – right)



Lions Rosa Small and Joe Brooks



At the New to You Shoppe (Lion Lee Thorne)

Material and photos courtesy Lion Brian Martin PRC.

COMING EVENTS

Editorial Note: This information is printed as published in the District Directory, except where I have been contacted and updated by the host club. If there are any changes needed, please advise me as soon as possible.

DG Club Visits

		Jan 17	Zone 9E
Jan 09	Fergus	Jan 23	Zone 37W
Jan 17	Kitchener Pioneer	Jan 23	Zone 51W
Jan 18	St. Jacobs	Jan 24	Zone 51E

VDG1 Club Visits

		Feb 08	Zone 9S
Dec 07	Innerkip & Dist	Branlyn Community Centre, Brantford. Harvey Wood 519 448 9998	
Jan 10	Hillsburg & Dist		
Jan 16	St. Marys		
Jan 24	Exeter		

Combined Zone Meetings

Feb 26 Zones 37S/37W Thamesford

VDG 2 Club Visits

Dec 13	Drumbo	Jan 30	St. Jacobs
Jan 17	Elmira		

Cabinet Meetings

Anniversaries

Jan 31 Galt Cambridge Lions 80th

ZC Club Visits

Dec 05	Cam. Highlands
Dec 4	Woodstock
Dec 06	Vanastra & Dist
Dec 14	Burford
Jan 09	Ariss & Maryhill

Zone Meetings

Jan 16 Zone 37S