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April, 2008

The Lions' Roar

Overland Park Host Lions Club
Overland Park, Kansas
www.oplions.org



WE SERVE

Pasta Supper, Silent Auction to be April 12

Mark your calendars: Our second annual pasta supper and silent auction will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Overland Park Christian Church, 75th and Lowell Streets. Set-up begins at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and your help is needed!

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 through 12. Desserts will be sold as "extras" for \$1.50 each. All profits from the supper and auction will go to Campaign SightFirst II.

This event is open to the public. All OP Host Lions are encouraged to sell as many tickets as possible (in addition to buying their own!).

Lions Dottie Bloome, Mae Claxton, Carole Collyard and Beverly Nichols have been hard at work making and freezing meatballs in preparation for the big event.

Items for the silent auction are "desperately needed," according to the planning committee. Please contact Lions Dottie, Mae, Carole, or Beverly to let them know what you can donate.



The Pasta Princesses prepare for an encore! Lions Beverly Nichols, Mae Claxton, and Dottie Bloome cook up a batch of meat balls and spaghetti sauce in preparation for the Second Annual Pasta Supper and Silent Auction. Lion Carole Collyard would have been in the picture, but rumor has it that she was scooping a couple of dropped meatballs off the floor!

51st Anniversary Banquet—Sunday, May 4

Overland Park Host Lions will celebrate their 51st anniversary on Sunday evening, May 4 at the Ritz-Charles Conference Center, just west of Antioch on 137th Street. The price of meals is \$30 per person and reservations are required. If you have not already made yours, please contact Lion Dottie Bloome (913-642-8287) ASAP!

A very interesting program is being planned, but details are not yet final.

Meeting and Program Schedule for April

- The **Board of Directors** will meet on Saturday morning, April 5 at Mimi's Café at Oak Park Mall. *The meeting begins at 7:00 a.m.* Officers and directors are expected to attend and all other members of the club are invited.
- The **next regular meeting** of the club will be on **Saturday, April 12** at the Wyndham Garden hotel. Matt Jones will be our speaker. He is a cancer survivor and has an inspirational message about his experiences.
- **Election of 2008-2009 club officers will also be held at the April 12 meeting.**
- On **Saturday, April 26**, Ms. Clarin Blessing-Olsen from the Johnson County Emergency Management Department will be our speaker.

Tail Twister's trivia: What was the fourth nation into which Lionism spread? Bonus: What was the year?

Officer Election on April 12 . . .

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Lion Grant Rogers, submits the following slate of Lions for 2008-2009 offices:

- President: Beverly Nichols
- First Vice President: Bob Larson
- Second Vice President: Pat Gray
- Third Vice President: Neal Nichols
- Immediate Past President: Mae Claxton
- Secretary: Carole Collyard
- Treasurer: Roger Claxton
- Lion Tamer:
- Tail Twister: Ron Bloome
- Membership Committee Chair: Ken Collyard
- Membership Comm. Vice Chair: Heather Lanigan
- Membership Comm. Member: Grant Rogers
- Directors, 2008-2011: Dottie Bloome, Ben Starks
- Continuing Directors, 2007-2010: Grant Rogers and Janette Sanders Reh
- Continuing Directors, 2006-2009: Edson Parker and Paul Roerman

No nominations may be made from the floor at the election meeting, except where no nominee for an office is named. Election of officers must be by ballot, in accordance with our By-Laws.

A Flag work day will be scheduled soon. Please be ready and willing to help paint curb stripes, clean out sleeves, and replace corks. The first Flag day is May 17, Armed Forces Day.



Lion Pat Gray tries his hand at stirring a pot of spaghetti sauce. Remembering that “too many cooks spoil the broth,” the “Pasta Princesses” left him alone for a few minutes. The meatball-and-spaghetti preparation took place at the home of Lions Roger and Mae Claxton on Thursday, March 20.

Coming Events . . .

April 12: Second annual Pasta Supper and Silent Auction, Overland Park Christian Church, 75th and Lowell. All proceeds to benefit Campaign SightFirst II.

April 18, 19: Candy Day at Wal-Mart, 119th and Metcalf. Lion Janette Reh will have sign-up sheets at the Board meeting on April 5 and at the regular meeting on April 12.

May 22, 23, 24: Garage sale at Lions Nichols' home. Proceeds to go to Campaign SightFirst II. Needed: large items (furniture, etc.), baby items, clothing, books (paperback, hardback) toys, general paraphernalia (car seats, etc.). Start bringing your things to the Nichols (6116 West 85th Terrace, Overland Park) during the week-end of May 17 and later.

May 29, 30, 31: Kansas Lions State Convention, Wichita (Airport Hilton Inn). Good food, fun, fellowship. Friday night entertainment with a Hawaiian theme. Kansas Lions Band performance on Saturday morning.

September 18, 19, 20: USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada. Plan a Fall vacation! At a USA/Canada Forum, you'll find what Lionism is all about! Great Fellowship! Some of the finest entertaining and motivational speakers in both countries! Leadership seminars! Plenty of special activities. See Lion Beverly Nichols for registration materials.



In Memoriam

Lion Donald Maxon (*Charter Member*)

Lion Charles Olsen

Stark(s) Reality . . .

by Lion Ben Starks

Most morning I start my day by taking a walk and so I get the opportunity to observe God's artistic handiwork. He wields His paint brush across the canvas of the eastern sky, creating an ever-changing masterpiece. He has an unlimited palette of color and uses such a subtly of shading and blending that it leaves one standing in awe at the imagery! And this is ours to enjoy, at no charge other than that of being receptive. What would we give to be the possessor of such a magnificent treasure, and yet it is ours to behold, if we but will.

Then at other times the Master Artist packs up this gear and leaves us with a drab canvas seemingly unused and untinted.

Yet! – A lonely dove sits on the peak of a house, facing east, appearing to be waiting for the next rendering. A solitary crow flaps his way across the drab heavens, cawing out in his loneliness, seeking comfort and camaraderie. A flock of starlings huddle in close community on a conflux of power lines, as a congregation awaiting instructions, then suddenly lifting off *en masse*, soaring upward and veering off in a new direction as a single unit, without any audible sound. How do they do that? Do they have an internal compass that gives them guidance?

So much of life is a mystery that keeps us ever wondering. But how much do we really see, feel, or comprehend? The door stands open. Are we afraid to enter? Or are we too wrapped up in our mundane affairs to be even aware of the broad spectrum that life has to offer?

But no! We are glued to the Boob Tube! We are passive witnesses to the idiocy that goes on in today's world. We see our Congress wasting time and energy on such a non-issue as use of steroids in baseball—when there are serious matters that affect us all, such as the failing economy and the mortgage disasters that cast a pall over many of our citizens' daily lives. It's time to get their priorities in order.

And then we have the Islamic world going ballistic, with rioting in the streets, threatening the deportation of all Danes, advocating death sentences—all over a Danish cartoon! A cartoon, already! How totally asinine!

Oh, for the opportunity to continue to walk and see the sunrise!

[See another Stark(s) Reality on Page 3]



Wear Your Pin With Pride!





OPHLC Endowment Fund president Lion Edson Parker looks over a couple of checks presented by Big Lion Mae Claxton on March 22. One check of \$300 for the Fund's administrative expenses came from the club's administrative account and another check for \$300 was given from the club's service account to the Fund's corpus. [NOTE: Photos are by Lions Roger Claxton, Mae Claxton, and Carole Collyard.]

T-Bones Baseball Club To Sponsor Special "Service Clubs Challenge" Benefiting Harvesters

"Take me out to the ballgame! Take me out with the crowd!"

Mark your calendars now for May 27 when the Kansas City T-Bones will play the Railcats. The team is organizing a food drive with a competitive twist!

The warm weather of Spring is just around the corner, and for many of us that brings vacations, time off with the kids, and enjoying America's pastime, with peanuts and Crackerjack in hand.

Unfortunately, with the cold weather behind us, the hungry are often forgotten. NOW is our chance to combine some service club fun and PRIDE with helping the less fortunate at a time when they need help the most.

Introducing . . . [drum roll, please] . . . the 2008 Service Club Challenge! The two operative words here are "Service" and "Challenge." **We can serve by collecting canned goods for the Harvesters** and we can **challenge** ourselves for bragging rights in this friendly competition.

Barrels for collecting canned goods will be at all entrances and labeled LIONS, Kiwanis, Optimist, Rotary, and Sertoma. During the game, Harvesters will weigh for the official tally. A traveling trophy will be presented to the organization bringing the most.

In other words, it is Club vs. Club vs. Club vs. Club vs. Club, all for a good cause.

It will be great fun for club members and FAMILIES.

A ticket to the game is only \$7.00. \$20 gets you a ticket to the game PLUS a pre-game tailgate meal (with choice of 3 entrees and 2 sides,) and 2 drink tickets.

Kansas City T-Bones vs. RailCats

Gates Open/Tailgate: 5:30 pm. Game time: 7:05 p.m.

Big Lion Mae Claxton will have sign-up sheets at both the Board meeting and the April 12 club meeting. A preliminary count and deposit to the T-Bones is requested by mid-April, with final numbers and full payment due by May 13. Don't delay if you plan to go.

Peggy Sampson of KU Audio Reader Presents Program at March 22 Meeting



Peggy Sampson is all smiles after Big Lion Mae Claxton presents her with our club's annual contribution to the KU Audio Reader program. Peggy, who has been a frequent visitor to our meetings, was featured speaker at our meeting of March 22. She brought us up to date on new and innovative programs at Audio Reader on the KU Campus in Lawrence. The KU Audio Reader program is the second largest radio-reading program in the world, she said, and could soon become No. 1.

More Stark(s) Reality

[Editor's Note: Lion Ben wrote several "Stark(s) Reality" this year, most of which did not see the light of day because so few *Lions' Roars* were published.]

By Lion Ben Starks

On my early morning trek this day, my view was hampered on both sides by building structures, but to the south the heavens display alternating streaks of a sulfurous yellow and a drab blue, while the sky overhead was leaden gray. Sounds were strangely muted. Even the normal traffic roar was subdued. An occasional robin quietly pursued its search for worms, and a pair of cardinals kept a silent vigil from a distant treetop. The mournful wail of a freight train added to the eerie quality of the morn.

The solitude generated an internal evaluation within me. Why am I here? What is expected of me? Of all the myriad chances, how and why was I so extremely lucky and fortunate to be born in this blessed land of liberty, to a mother who was the very epitome of Love? What are the odds, and what do these circumstances demand of me?

Well, I guess I can take the easy way out and do as the professed atheists and say, "Life just happens!"

After arriving home from my walk I glanced out at the open field that lies behind our house and noted a lone red fox returning to its lair from an early morning foraging for food. The field was also alive with flocks of both robins and starlings, seeking sustenance from good old mother earth. A squirrel was hanging upside down working his expertise at extracting seeds from my finch feeder. Overhead a vee of Canadian geese winged their way northward, signifying the changing season. In a giant cottonwood tree a pair of red-tailed hawks kept an eye on this pastoral scene. The morning pall had lifted an sunshine now bathed the area. How life adapts to its surroundings.

Just happens!! ??



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"Won't you help hasten the day when there will be no preventable blindness, no little child gone untaught, no blind man or woman unaided?"
—Helen Keller, 1925

Lions CAN hasten that day! Make your donation to Campaign Sightfirst II NOW!