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December 2008

# The Lions' Roar

Overland Park Host Lions Club  
Overland Park, Kansas  
[www.oplions.org](http://www.oplions.org)



WE SERVE

## Board of Directors Asks Members to Consider New Meeting Place

Program Notes . . .

### Life Membership In Lions Clubs International Is Presented to Long-Time Lion Ben Starks



Lion Ben Starks was honored with a Life Membership in Lions Clubs International (LCI) at the regular club meeting on November 8. The Board of Directors submitted an application for this award to LCI in recognition of Lion Ben's nearly-50 years of service to the cause of Lionism and his work in the Overland

Park Host Lions Club.

Above, Big Lion Beverly Nichols presents the certificate of Life Membership to Ben. Accompanying the certificate were a letter of commendation from Al Brandel, International President, and a special silver-metallic Life Membership card.

Ben was elected club President for two terms, in 1972-73 and 1990-91. He has served on the Board of Directors numerous times and has been chairman or member of several committees.

Ben is a Melvin Jones Fellow.

### Boy Scout Leaders Attend November 8 Meeting, Receive "Thank You" Check from OP Host Lions

Scoutmaster Gary Hazeltine and Senior Patrol Leader Sean Pichon from Boy Scout Troop #425 were our guests at the November 8 meeting. They received a \$400 check as a token of appreciation for the help they provide on Flag Days throughout the year.

At right, Sean thanks the club for its donation and explains some of the ways in which the funds will be used by the troop.

Scouts, their adult leaders and some parents participate in the Metcalf Avenue of Flags program as time and schedules permit.



Sean Pichon, above

### Holiday Security Tips Featured On November 22

Ideas for home and shopping safety during the Christmas holiday shopping season, as well as at other times of the year, were the subject of the November 22 meeting. A PowerPoint® presentation based on materials provided by Lion John Raletz, secretary of the Leavenworth Lions Club, was shown, followed by discussion of other ideas from our members.

For a personal copy of the program, contact Beverly or Neal Nichols and an electronic version of the PowerPoint® materials will be sent to you by e-mail.

### First Board and Regular Meetings of New Year are "Trial Runs" January 10 Club Breakfast To Be Held At Bacchanalia Private Dining, 12450 Newton

Mark your calendars! Plan to attend the Board of Directors session on January 3 and the regular club gathering on January 10 at a potential new location for all future meetings.

The Board of Directors at its December 6 meeting approved a "trial run" at *Bacchanalia—Private Dining* at 12450 Newton (near 123rd Street and Metcalf, only a couple of miles south of the Wyndham Garden Hotel). Specific directions will be sent to all members before January 3. Bacchanalia is owned and operated by Eric Parrinello.

Major advantages of the change include a lower price for a hot buffet breakfast, plenty of free parking, exclusive use of the same room every week, and space for storing club paraphernalia. The room is large enough for special activities such as anniversary banquets (a cash bar is available for such occasions).

Mr. Parrinello serves excellent food. As Big Lion Beverly said in a report to the Board, "Eric's business is food, not running a hotel."

Breakfast will cost about \$8.75 (\$7.50 plus a 15% gratuity), compared with the \$11 we now pay. The Board of Directors will discuss final price and billing options after club members have had an opportunity to evaluate food quality and room arrangements.

At least four club members already have visited Bacchanalia and have expressed high regard for the location and layout.

### District 17-O Peace Poster Contest Winner!



Claire Thomas, 13, a student at Indian Woods Middle School in Overland Park, is the winner of the 2008-09 District 17-O Peace Poster Contest. Claire was sponsored by our club and her art teacher is Mrs. Linda Kelly.

Claire's artwork, above, will now go to the Kansas Lions State Contest. Winners at that level will be announced at the Mid-Winter Rally in Salina, January 17. The winning poster at the state level will be submitted to Lions International for judging; winners will be announced prior to the International Convention in July in Minneapolis. Prize-winning posters from around the world will be displayed in the convention hall.

Our club's contest was coordinated by Secretary Carole Collyard. PDG Bernard Lee and his wife Lion Viola Lee of the Scranton Lions Club are district chairpersons of this year's contest.

**Stark(s) Reality**

By Lion Ben Starks



Well, on a recent morning we got a taste of what's ahead. The temperature took a sharp drop after a beautiful Fall day with a cloudless sky and light breezes.

The golf course was crowded, the grass still an emerald green, reminiscent of spring. Camaraderie abounded among chance acquaintances, humor flowed and joy was

internalized.

So we approach the season of Thanksgiving.

What have we to be thankful for in this period of financial calamity? Stock prices diving, taxes coming due, foreclosures rampant, unemployment on the increase, and layoffs widespread or in the offing. Who and why and should we be thankful for in these dismal days of dire disasters?

Have you not seen or heard that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction? With every sunset, there is a new day a-borning!

Take a quick and quiet analysis. Where are you? Smack dab in the middle of the bastion of freedom! Why are you here? Just think of all the possibilities of places you could've been. What are you going to do about it—cower down in a funk and bemoan your fate? Or will you rise up like David, take up your sling and stone and go forth to face your Goliath with the full assurance that you are on God's side?

Freedom. What is it? Is it a license to do what we please, or a choice to be made? Is it a blessing or a curse? What are you going to do with it or about it?

As for me, I'm going to celebrate *LIFE!* It is a precious gift to be used usefully and benevolently, not stashed away for future indulgences or wasted in selfish endeavors. After four score and five, I've come to the realization that if I place my trust in "Him," things will work out. Thos is my freedom of choice: "To Serve"!

**Christmas Joys for Good Girls and Boys . . .**

**Don't Forget "Breakfast With Santa" This Saturday!**

Our annual "Breakfast With Santa" will be held Saturday, December 13 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to come along to this happy occasion with you. The price of breakfast for adults and children over age 10 is \$11. For children ages 3 through 10, breakfast is \$5.50 and children under 3 eat for free. (*Club members who pay meals quarterly or annually with their dues will not be charged for this breakfast.*)

If you bring gifts to be placed under the tree, please label them with the first and last names of the children they are for.

If you plan to attend but haven't signed up, please contact Mae Claxton by phone (913-492-8210) or e-mail ([maeclaxton@msn.com](mailto:maeclaxton@msn.com)) by Thursday afternoon, December 11.

**Board of Directors Notes**

**Meeting of December 6 (unofficial notes):** (1) Minutes of November 1 meeting accepted; Treasurer's reports for November accepted (see Page 3 of this newsletter for more details). (2) Our entry in District 17-O Peace Poster Contest won first place. (See related article on Page 1 of this newsletter.) (3) Resignation of Pat Gray from club accepted with regret; resignation of Ben Starks from Board of Directors accepted with regret. (4) Salvation Army Bell Ringing schedule for Saturday, December 20 reviewed, updated. (See next column for schedule). (5) Edson Parker reported on visitation to Leavenworth Lions, November 28. (6) Membership Committee met on November 24 to discuss new ideas for attracting more members. Heather Lanigan and Grant Rogers will work to set up "Face Book" page on Internet. (7) Possible new meeting site discussed. (See article on Page 1.) (8) Bob Larson will present a seminar on public relations at Overland Park Chamber of Commerce in March, 2009.

**Holiday Greetings . . .**

**A Message from the Big Lion**

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, but I still want to share some things for which I am thankful.



- Lion Edson Parker's work in setting up visitations to other clubs. I'm also grateful for our club members who have joined him, but I want to encourage more of you to take advantage of the opportunities being provided.
- The faithful service provided by Treasurer Roger Claxton and Secretary Carole Collyard at every club meeting as well as the Board meetings.
- The stewardship of the members of the Endowment Board as they look for ways to maximize the funds in the endowment.
- The faithfulness of so many Lions who attend almost every meeting and support all the club's activities.

That last item also raises a concern and presents a challenge. Our club needs more members—members who will help us fulfill the motto "We Serve." Who are the individuals within your circle of friends and acquaintances (neighbors, church, work, other organizations) who would be good Lions?

Your club's Membership Committee will be providing you with prospect cards that will give you an opportunity to nominate some of those folks for membership. The Membership Committee members will do then do the work of contacting those potential Lions and extending special invitations to come to a meeting or to help with a project. We know that being involved in a good project is often more appealing than attending a meeting.

Be prepared at the January meeting to provide the name and contact information of a potential Lion.

*--President Beverly*

**Reminder . . .**

**We Ring the Bells for the Salvation Army, December 20**

**At Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, 103rd and Metcalf**

10 a.m. – 12 noon	Darrel Stone
12:noon – 2 p.m.	Ron and Dottie Bloome
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Neal and Beverly Nichols
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Roger Claxton

**At Sam's Club, 95th Street and I-35**

10 a.m. – 12 noon	Lloyd Lavelly
12:noon – 2 p.m.	Paul Roerman
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Ben Starks
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Art Meganck and Family

**At Hy-Vee, 95th Street and Quivira**

10 a.m. – 12 noon	Edson Parker
12:noon – 2 p.m.	Ken and Carole Collyard
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Grant Rogers
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Bryan and Heather Lanigan

**Please note that there are six shifts with ONLY ONE LION scheduled to serve.** If you haven't signed up, consider helping at one of these times. Contact **Chairperson Mae Claxton** at 913.492.8210 to let her know you can help.

**The New Lions Clubs International Logo (Find subtle changes!)**





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