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July 2009

The Lions' Roar

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



WE SERVE



From left: Lt. Col. Oliphant (Col. Schmitt' Iraqi Security Force Chief); Lt. Col. Sattar (8th Iraqi Army Regional Maintenance Center [RMC]); Chief Fankhauser (partnered with Lt. Col. Sattar); Col. Rob Schmitt; Col. Muthana (10th Iraqi Army RMC); Lt. Col Abdulmir (14th Iraqi Army RMC); and Major Bravo (partnered with Lt. Col. Abdulmir).

“Shoeboxes for Soldiers Follow-up A June Update Via E-Mail from Iraq

Lion Paul Roerman shares the e-mail below, sent by his college fraternity brother, Colonel Rob Schmitt. Col. Schmitt commands the brigade in Iraq to which we sent the “Shoeboxes for Soldiers” in March. The photo above was attached. The text of the e-mail follows.

It is June and we are getting closer to the end of our deployment. Weather is extremely hot, highs of 120+ almost daily. It pretty much makes the middle of the day tough to be outside getting anything accomplished. Some of our units have changed the work schedule to nights, especially in the motor pools which have no AC. The logistics mission is going well. We are still pushing approx 400-600 vehicles per night in convoys throughout southern Iraq. The British have turned over their operations in Basra to the US and that is going well. June 30th will be a big date as it is the day the US will have the bulk of US forces out of all cities in Iraq per the US/Iraqi Security Agreement.

One of the areas we have also been working is training of the Iraqi Army. Our Brigade has been working with 3 separate Regional Maintenance Centers (RMCs) to train their soldiers in vehicle maintenance and supply. Their soldiers are actually pretty good mechanics as they can certainly tear down and do a rebuild on an engine extremely well. What they lack are parts and a good distribution/requisition system to get the parts. This has been where we are working with them the most. We are training them to use computers and a server-based requisition system to order parts. Two of the three Iraqi units we are working with are now using the computer system very well. The third unit just was stood up near Basra and still needs to be fielded the computer system [sic]. They are learning, and improving every month since we have been here.

Ye Olde Editor roars a hearty Lions' Thank You to Lion Paul for providing this insight of what one unit is doing “over there.”

Your Help is Needed for Flags on Saturday, July 4

Lion Art Meganck says if you haven't already signed up to help out with Flag raising and lowering on Saturday, give him a call (913-648-076) right way to sign up. He and Lion Dottie Bloome have been a two-person calling committee, but if they didn't reach you, you reach out and touch them. (Wasn't that a phone company slogan a long, long time ago?)

Terry Meganck and Lion Ron Bloome say, “HEY! Watch that touching bit!”

Program Notes (Past and Future) . . .

June 6: A “Working meeting.” Downtown Overland Park Mardi Gras days, Overland Park Commons. We handed out over 600 balloons to children during the day. Ran out by 3 p.m.! Made several contacts with interested parents, too.

June 13: Board of Directors meeting in lieu of regular club meeting.

June 27: Installation of officers by District Governor-Elect Susan McDonald. Guests were Michele Taylor of Raymore, who works at the Embassy Suites on Metcalf Avenue, and Lion Bill McDonald, husband of District Governor-Elect Susan.

July 11: Speaker: Matt Brown, Edward Jones Company, Olathe. Topic: “Outlook & Opportunities,” an economic update, looking at the current recession and challenges the economy faces and how these can affect investors of different ages.

July 25 (tentative): Presentation of scholarship checks to Shawnee Mission high school students; each to speak for 2-3 minutes about future plans. Lion Rob Foster, director of Kansas Lions International Band to talk about overall band program; Tommy Strauser will speak briefly and present flute solos. Tommy is from DeSoto High School and was sponsored by OPHLC to the Kansas Lions State Band at Wichita in May.

August 8: To be announced.

August 22: Speaker: Logan Heley, student at Shawnee Mission East, reporting on his trip to Congressional Youth Leadership Council in Washington, D. C. in July. OPHLC contributed \$200 toward his expenses for the trip.

Anniversaries and Birthdays for July and Early August

Anniversaries: Ron and Dottie Bloome (July 15). Frank and Inez Piepenbring (August 1).

Birthdays: Billie Warden (July 2); Chris Pucci (July 6); Max Gordon (July 18); Ken Collyard (July 19); Janette Sanders Reh (July 22); Al Witwer (July 22); Chuck Binau (July 28); Larry Lavelly (July 30); Mae Claxton (August 7).

Board of Directors Note

The July meeting of the Board of Directors will be on the *third* Saturday (July 18), because the first Saturday is July 4, Independence Day, and a Flag Day for us. The Board meeting will be at Mimi's Café, Oak Park Mall. It will be back to regular schedule—first Saturdays—for the board on August 1 at Mimi's.



We Serve

The President's Message for July . . .

By Lion Bob Larson

Taking the helm of any organization is a monumental challenge . . .

. . . but being the Big Lion of the Overland Park Host Lions club will be especially challenging.

To duplicate the outstanding endeavors of Lion Beverly Nichols is the reason why. She has, I feel, done a tremendous job with this organization.

However, with the help of all of us, we can succeed toward meeting or exceeding our goals for 2009-2010.

One of the most important is to improve the membership goals. We need to not only have more members, but younger members to carry out our ambitious projects for the coming year.

Last year we inaugurated a project to join the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and several prospective members have attended our meetings. I feel that this program should be continued and several more of our officers should attend at least one of the functions. Another project we might think about is a visitation program to some of the local downtown merchants and business owners.

And other idea is to request each member to bring at least one guest—a friend or neighbor—during the year, especially to a meeting in which we have an outstanding program or speaker.

So, with great expectations and a few prayers, I look forward to serving you to the best of my ability.

—*Big Lion Bob Larson*



Calendar of Activities

July

- July 4 Flags up at 6:00 a.m., down at 4 p.m. (*Independence Day*)
(*Board meeting postponed until July 18*)
- July 6-10 Lions Clubs International Convention, Minneapolis, MN
- July 11 Regular Club meeting
At the Wyndham Garden
(*Speaker: Matt Brown, see page 1*)
- July 18 Board of Directors Meeting
At Mimi's Café, Oak Park Mall
- July 25 Regular Club meeting
At the Wyndham Garden
(*Program is tentative, see page 1*)

August

- August 1 Board of Directors Meeting
At Mimi's Café, Oak Park Mall
- August 8 Regular Club Meeting
Program to be announced
- August 8 8:30 a.m. District Cabinet Meeting
Auburn, KS
- August 22 Regular Club Meeting
At the Wyndham Garden
Program Speaker: Logan Heley

The Overland Park Host Lions' Roar

An official newsletter published more-or-less monthly by the Overland Park Host Lions Club

Overland Park, Kansas

www.oplions.org

Sponsors of the "Metcalf Avenue of Flags"



July 2009. Issue No. 1, 2009-2010

Produced by "Ye Olde Editor" Neal K. Nichols, PDG

Contributors this month include Bob Larson, Ben Starks, Roger Claxton, and Paul Roerman.

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Stark(s) Reality

By Lion Ben Starks



Well, it's been a while since I put pen to paper. I've just been too busy to take the time to put pen to paper. Spent eight days in early June out of the country on a mission trip for the church to San Jose, Costa Rica. No, I don't speak Spanish, but was able to communicate.

I received my fill of robust coffee, fresh fruit, and lots of beans and rice!

Ten of us from the church worked several hours a day painting the sanctuary and classrooms. But we also had the opportunity to see much of the area. San Jose is in a valley, surrounded by mountains. The temperature is mild, cooler than Kansas was, and it rains nearly every afternoon. I slept under a blanket at night, and their days are shorter than ours. Among our travels was an afternoon at a beach on the Gulf, where we swam and played Frisbee in the surf.

We had a very enjoyable and educational tour of a working banana plantation and saw the port where they loaded the ships. We got to see a slum area of one-room shacks, with block walls and corrugated-metal or plastic flat roofs.

We traversed the rain forests often, and one evening we ventured atop a mountain to a fabulous nightclub "Ram Luna," where we feasted on a fantastic buffet, and were treated to a delightful floor show, featuring dancers and later a fireworks display, out on the patio, high above the city, spread out below ablaze with lights.

Quite an experience shopping at the market, searching for souvenirs to bring home, and then touring the Basilica, where the local worshippers walk on their knees up to the altar. All in all a wonderful, worthwhile experience, totally rewarding.

Since coming home, I've been busy making plans for future adventures. Coming up real soon is my World War II Bomb Group's Reunion. We'll fly into Paris for two days, go down to the beaches for two days, then make a five-hour barge trip across the Channel to England, back to my old air base at Polebrook. The balance of time will be in and around Peterborough and London.

Early in September, it's off to Mike Ryan's annual three-day golf outing in and around Louisville, Kentucky with friends from all over, many from Canada—this being the 13th year.

I'm contemplating a cruise in January to the eastern Caribbean, and a summer trip down to Branson and Bella Vista, as well as a safari to Laughlin and Vegas, and perhaps a fall trip to California. In between times, I'll probably continue my monotonous routine of dancing.

Other than that, it's the general boredom of an old retiree. Ho Hum!

—*by Lion Ben Starks*

The Lions' Roar Wins Third Place in State Lions Contest

The Overland Park Host Lions' Roar took third place in the Kansas State Lions newsletter contest. Judging was done at the State Convention in Wichita on May 30.

A cash prize of \$20, payable to the club, was received by Treasurer Lion Roger Claxton earlier this month.

The contest was held at two levels, one for clubs with 45 members or more and another for clubs with 44 members or less. The Overland Park Host Lions Club fell in the latter category.

Newsletters from the Manhattan Lions Club and the Ulysses Lions Club took first and second place, respectively, in the 44-or-less-members category.

Treasurer's Report, Service Account, 2008-2009

(July 1, 2008 through June 28, 2009)

Income

Band Camp	\$ 750.00
Candy Day	2,296.25
Flag Sales	95.00
Metcalf Avenue of Flags	9,703.00
Miscellaneous	183.00
Overland Park Fall Festival	5,430.13
Relief Donations Income	300.00
Shoeboxes for Soldiers	341.00
SightFirst II	
Cookbooks	149.00
Garage Sale	960.75
Pasta Dinner and Auction	1,001.85
Other	21.00
Total SightFirst II	2,132.60
Total Income	\$ 21,230.98

Expenses

2008 Garage Sale expense	\$ 105.00
Pasta Dinner	393.21
Bank Service Charges	23.25
Candy Day Expense	150.00
Flag Expense	372.23
Miscellaneous	45.00
Overland Park Fall Festival	1,981.21
Overland Park Mardi Gras Days	42.50
President's Discretionary Fund	122.50
Service Fund Disbursements	
A Call to Serve	500.00
Accessible Art	250.00
KS Lions Band Foundation.....	1,200.00
KS Lions Band Camp (misc.)	100.00
Boy Scout Troop #425	400.00
CARES (Service Dog School	500.00
KSDS (Service Dog School)	500.00
Children's CTR Visually Impaired.....	1,000.00
Congressional Youth Leadership	200.00
Eyeglass for Indigent Persons	1,338.00
Kansas Lions Foundation	50.00
KC Blind All-Stars Foundation	
KSSB Woodshop Project	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Total KC Blind All-Stars	2,050.00
KSSB Technology Library	1,000.00
Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF)	
Audio-Reader Satellite	1,000.00
KU Eye Clinic Equipment	3,000.00
Claude DeVorss Fellowship	1,000.00
Mobile Screening Unit	2,000.00
Total KLSF	7,000.00
KU Audio-Reader (general)	750.00
Leader Dogs for the Blind School	500.00
OPH Lions Club Endowment Fund	1,350.00
Oregon Trail/Summer Camp (KSSB)	1,000.00
Peace Poster Contest	68.00
Relief Program	500.00
Salvation Army	14.80
"Shoeboxes for Soldiers" Project	829.85
SightFirst II	3,000.00
Tanzania Eye Clinic	500.00
Total Service Fund Disbursements	24,600.65
Total Service Account Expenses	\$ 27,835.65
Total Income less Total Expenses	<u>(\$ 6,604.57)</u>

SPECIAL NOTE: Service Fund disbursements for 2008-09 appear greater than those for an average year. Approximately \$6,000 in line items budgeted for the 2007-08 service year was paid out after July 1 of this year.



Well, there they are, for better or for worse! You elected them! Members of the new Board of Directors were installed by **District Governor-Elect Susan McDonald** (below) on June 27. Above, back row (from left): **Bob Larson**, President; **Grant Rogers**, Director and Membership Committee vice-chair; **Ken Collyard**, Tail Twister; **Edson Parker**, Director; **Roger Claxton**, Treasurer; **Paul Roemer**, Second Vice President. Middle row (from left): **Heather Lanigan**, Membership Committee chair; **Dottie Bloome**, Director; **DG-E Susan McDonald**; **Neal Nichols**, First Vice President. Front: **Carole Collyard**, Secretary. Not pictured: **Art Meganck**, Lion Tamer. One position on the Membership Committee is vacant.

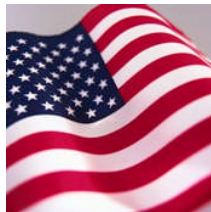
DG-E Susan also inducted our newest member, **Chris Pucci**, into Lions membership on June 27.



Editor's Note: It has been said that if you want to see someone's priorities and values, look at his checkbook. A look at the list of Service Account Disbursements in the Treasurer's Report in the left column of this page surely would lead anyone to conclude that Overland Park Host Lions have the right priorities, the right values. We work. We earn. Truly **WE SERVE!**

The Treasurer's Report for the 2008-09 General Account will be published in the August issue of the Roar. Space limitations prohibited its inclusion in the issue.

www.options.org
July 2009 Issue
6116 West 85th Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66207-1515
Neal K. Nichols, Editor
The Overland Park Host Lions' Roar



Think Metcalf Avenue of Flags!

2009 Schedule

Saturday	May 16	Armed Forces Day	<i>Successfully completed! Thanks!</i>
Monday	May 25	Memorial Day	<i>Successfully completed! Thanks!</i>
Sunday	June 14	Flag Day	<i>Successfully completed. Thanks!</i>

Saturday **July 4** **Independence Day**

Monday **September 7** **Labor Day**

Wednesday **November 11** **Veterans Day**

(Flags raised at 6 a.m., lowered at 4 p.m. on each of these dates)