



Sponsors of The Metcalf Avenue of Flags

December 2010

# The Lions' Roar

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



WE SERVE



## BELL RINGING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Overland Park Host Lions will do our annual Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army **this Saturday, December 4 at Oak Park Mall** (after the Board meeting at Perkins). We will serve in two-hour shifts running from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Our stations are at the J. C. Penney's entrance facing Quivira Road and at the mall entrance near the new American Girl store (where the old Raintree Forest Café used to be). **Lion Mae Claxton** is coordinating this effort and she still needs more Lions to fill all the time slots. **Please call her at 913-492-8210 to volunteer.**

## December 18: 2:00 p.m. Club Social: The Nutcracker

Lions Lynn and Teresa Wolfe are making arrangements for discounted tickets (half price, which will range \$12.50-47.50) to see their daughter Laura perform in *The Nutcracker* at the Music Hall on Saturday, December 18 in the 2:00 matinee.

If you would like to attend this special holiday event, **please call Lynn at 334-324-8281 by December 12.** Laura will reserve seats as you call in, so the sooner the better. This will be an activity for the entire family!



## December 11: Annual Breakfast with Santa



Make plans now to bring the little ones to **Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, December 11, at Red Robin, in place of our regular meeting.

**Breakfast will be served starting at 8 o'clock, rather than 7.** Reservations are required so the restaurant will know how many meals to prepare. Breakfast price for adults is \$11 and for children 3 to 11 the price is \$5.50.

Here's how it works: Parents or grandparents should purchase a gift for each child they're bringing (don't spend more than \$20 per gift). Wrap the gift and put the child's name in fairly large letters on a label attached to the gift. Place the gift under the tree. Santa will pull gifts from under the tree and call the children forward to receive their presents.

Call **Mae Claxton** at 913-492-8210 by Wednesday, December 8 with the number of reservations you're making.

\* \* \* \* \*

## January Visitations

Visitations will be to the Overland Park Noon Lions Club on Thursday, January 6 and to the Linwood Lions Club (an evening meeting) on Thursday, January 20.

If you are interested in joining in, please contact **Lion Edson Parker** for details.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DECEMBER 25: NO MEETING

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



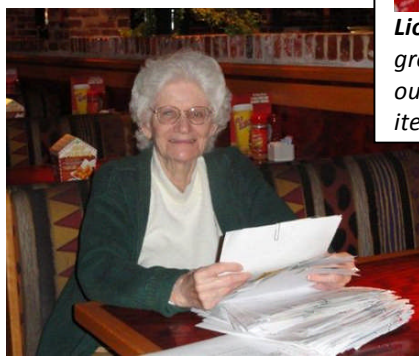
# SHOEBOXES FOR SOLDIERS: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



*Lion Mae Claxton ensured that boxes of supplies were organized by category and then delivered to Red Robin by Roger Claxton, ready to be packed into individual boxes.*



*Lion Janette Reh, volunteer Jason Black, Past President Bob Larson, (foreground, left to right), and volunteers Sandee Munson (who will speak at our January 8 meeting) and Jamie Porter (Janette Reh's niece) pick up items from categorized boxes which they will use to pack an individual box.*



*Mae Claxton's mother Leola Harkless hands out paperwork to include with individual boxes.*

*Photo credits go to Lion Carole Collyard and Lion Roger Claxton.*



*Lion Chuck Binau takes his packed box to the taping station while Lion Jack McLain writes a note to a soldier.*



*Once the boxes were carefully packed, boxes were checked and taped at the last station by Lions Dottie Bloome (left), Christine Nichols (middle) and Lion Mae Claxton (right).*



*Lions Roger Claxton and Grant Rogers (pictured) deliver 90 completed boxes to the post office.*



# Calendar of Activities

- December 4 ... Board Meeting, Perkins, 87th and Nieman**
- December 4.....Bell Ringing**
- December 11..... Breakfast with Santa**  
.....Red Robin, 8:00 a.m.
- December 18.....Social: The Nutcracker**
- December 25..... Christmas Day, no meeting**
- January 8.....Regular Meeting**  
Sande Munson, Employment Specialist, U.S. Probation Office
- January 15 ..... Board Meeting, Perkins, 87<sup>th</sup> and Nieman**  
..... 7:30a.m.
- January 22.....Regular Meeting**  
.....Red Robin, 7:30 a.m.
- February 5..... Board Meeting, Perkins, 87<sup>th</sup> and Nieman**  
..... 7:30 a.m.
- February 12.....Regular Meeting**  
.....Red Robin, 7:30 a.m.

## Board Meetings

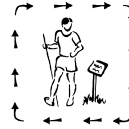
Please note that the Board meets at **Perkins' at 87th and Nieman Road (near I-35)**. Breakfast orders from the menu can be placed beginning at about 7 a.m. and the meetings will be called to order at 7:30.

Board meeting dates for the rest of the year are December 4, January 15, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 18, and July 2.

Club members are welcome to attend board meetings. Almost all club business is transacted by the Board of Directors, leaving regular club meetings free for food, fun, fellowship and programs.



**Big Lion Neal Nichols** recognizes **Lion Eleanor Craig** for her efforts with Accessible Arts at the November 27 meeting.



## Eleanor Craig of Accessible Arts Reaches the "End of the Trail"

**Lion Eleanor Craig**, who has directed the Accessible Arts Discovery Trails program at the Kansas State School for the Blind for the past thirteen years, has finally reached the end of the trail.

Eleanor was program speaker at our meeting on November 27. She said the loss of over \$50,000 in federal grant money, combined with the difficulty of raising money locally, was too much of a barrier to keeping the program going. About \$150,000 is needed to cover the cost of a three-week trek.

The Discovery Trails program began in 1998. Over the years, 90 teen-agers filled 140 van seats (some students went more than once). Ninety adults, including 48 teachers, 18 artists and 10 blindness professionals, assisted in the program.

Students and adults followed 11 westward trails, most notably the Oregon Trail, the California Trail and the Santa Fe Trail. On at least one journey, they followed the Lewis and Clark route homeward. The trips covered more than 28,000 miles. Travelers were on the road for the equivalent of 31 weeks (216 days).

Participating students have made presentations in 36 local-school classrooms and five community events.

Here are edited excerpts of Eleanor's remarks last Saturday.

*I want to thank the Host Lions for your companionship in our great adventure. You were among our earliest Lions partners. You were the group most eager to hear about our adventures and to welcome our requests for support.*

*In our first year, 1998, you helped us commission the creation of a large, three-dimensional map; over the years you provided scholarships for a dozen or more participants; more recently, you have invested in GPS technology for our pioneering teens.*

*Host Lions have donated time and effort on our behalf. It was **Lions Paul Roerman and Grant Rogers** who did research leading to our acquiring GPS units; many have aided and encouraged our fundraising efforts. **Lions Neal and Beverly Nichols** helped us raise funds from many Lions Clubs in eastern Kansas and to advertise our bid for Pepsi Refresh money. Dozens of you struggled through the Pepsi website to vote for us, day after day as we tried for a Pepsi grant.*

*You welcomed the Discovery Trails Program to the wider Lions fellowship. You were the ones who gave me the idea to contact Lions all along the trail when we needed safety spotters, weather warnings, local contacts for emergency housing in the event of dangerous storms, a quick meal as we passed through, or an evening social with local teens.*

Lion Eleanor included a DVD video presentation of scenes from the 2005 Discovery Trails Oregon Trail trip to give us an idea of the kinds of activities that occurred on these adventures.

Eleanor is a member of soon-to-be-chartered Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Lions Club. The club meets twice monthly at the Kansas State School for the Blind.



## New Member

Welcome to new member **Lion Gregg Collins**. He and his wife moved to Overland Park from Salina as a result of a job transfer with Kansas Gas Service Company. Gregg was an active member of the Salina Sunflower Lions Club. It is good to have you join us, Lion Gregg!

## President's Message for December

By Big Lion Neal Nichols



Thanksgiving has come and gone, but I hope we all have an "attitude of gratitude" that will linger on in the weeks and months to come.

There is so much for which to be thankful that it is hard to know where to begin the list. We have only to look around us—here in Johnson County as well as the surrounding metropolitan area and beyond—to realize how incredibly blessed most of us are. No matter which way Lions turn, they see others in need, sometimes

in desperate need. And we step up, devoting heart, soul, and strength to fill those needs.

Here are some of our accomplishments since this service year began in July.

We posted the Avenue of Flags three times. Some of you don't know but we were assisted each time by a local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and by Boy Scout Troop 425. This help has been invaluable.

In August we conducted a very successful effort to gather school supplies for children in some of the lowest socio-economic schools in Shawnee Mission. This was a District-wide project and we had help from other clubs in the area. A successful Candy Day was also carried out.

In September we once again ran a very successful concession stand at the Downtown Overland Park Fall Festival. The Kansas Lions Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) was here that day and as has been previously reported, we helped save the sight of at least one person and counseled several others to seek medical advice for conditions detected by MSU screening.

October saw us earn almost \$700 for our General Account through a garage sale at the Claxton's home. Several Lions contributed time and goods to make this successful.

Sometimes we don't think we're noticed for what we do in the city, but in October, the **City of Overland Park called us** to ask that we sponsor a popcorn booth at the "Trick or Treat Trail" on Halloween afternoon at the Matt Ross Community Center. We received donations of \$134, with expenditures of only about \$17. The visibility and good will generated by this event far exceed any cash profit we made.

Some of our members enjoyed Chiefs football at Arrowhead Stadium on October 24 and 31 as part of a District 17-O fundraising activity organized by District Governor Michele Hufferd.

November started off with some of us volunteering to sort food items for one evening at the Harvesters Food Bank in Kansas City.

The "Shoebboxes for Soldiers" project is fast becoming another signature project for our club. This year, with contributions from Lions, school children, church groups and other volunteers, we packed and shipped over 90 boxes to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and even Africa. This year, the Sun Newspapers called us *before* the event to get infor-

mation; a nice spread in the paper resulted not only in great publicity, but in soldiers' names being sent to our website from the general public.

We have had some very good programs at our regular meetings—they have been informative, inspiration, educational, and entertaining. If there is a downside to any of these positive notes, it is that our meeting attendance is rather flat. Let me encourage you one and all to attend regularly.

*NOW—let's enjoy the holiday season by ringing bells for the Salvation Army this Saturday, having Breakfast with Santa (and our kids and grandkids) the following week and enjoying the Nutcracker Suite on December 18!*

—Big Lion Neal

## Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

**December 5:** Bryan Lanigan

**December 6:** Roger Claxton

Harriet Claxton Gordon

**December 14:** Greg Trainor

**December 19:** Tami Turntine

**December 26:** Michele Taylor

**December 30:** Cindy Claxton



### Anniversaries:

**December 22:** Darrel and Phebe Stone

## New 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Lion Lynn Wolfe** was appointed 2nd Vice President of our club and will serve on the Board of Directors effective December 4. He replaces Paul Roerman who has resigned from the club. **Lion Chris Pucci** moved from 2nd Vice President to 1st and will become our Big Lion next July. Thank you, Chris and Lynn, for filling these important positions.

### 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](http://www.oplions.org)

Sponsors of the "Metcalfe Avenue of Flags"



2010-11 Issue 7, December 2010

Editor: Lion Cindy Fisher,

[cindy0112@everestkc.net](mailto:cindy0112@everestkc.net); 913.341.0447

Distributed by Big Lion Neal K. Nichols, PDG:

[pdgneal0708@aol.com](mailto:pdgneal0708@aol.com); 913.642.7520

### Contributors:

Lion Roger Claxton, Lion Mae Claxton, Lion Carole Collyard,  
Lion Grant Rogers, Lion Edson Parker, Lion Beverly Nichols,  
Past President Bob Larson, and Big Lion Neal Nichols.