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July 2015

The Lions' Roar

**Overland Park Host Lions Club
Overland Park, KS
www.oplions.org**



International Convention Report . . . Bill Phillipi of Kansas Elected to International Board of Directors

A highlight of the 2015 Lions Clubs International Convention was the election of **PCC Bill Phillipi** (Marysville Lions Club) to a position on the International Board of Directors. A feature of his campaign was packets of Kansas sunflower seeds distributed to delegates from other states and countries..



A total of 35 Lions and Leos from Kansas attended. The Overland Park Host Lions Club was represented by **Mike and Margy Sundstrom** (voting delegates) and **Neal and Beverly Nichols**.

New **International President Dr. Kitsuhiko Yamada** of Japan was installed at the closing ceremony. His theme for this year is "Dignity, Harmony, Humanity." (See his logo and pin design in upper right-hand corner of this page.)

Robert Corlew of Tennessee moved up to First Vice President and will be International President during the 2016-17 year. He will serve during LCI's Centennial Year. The 2017 International Convention will be in Chicago, so it should be easy for many local Lions to attend. (VP Corlew is a familiar figure to many District 17-A Lions, as he was International Visitor at the District 17-O Convention in Overland Park in 2013 (the year OPHLC member **Beverly Nichols** was District Governor).

Naresh Aggarwal of New Delhi, India was elected as Second Vice President.

Timothy Shriver, son of Sargent and Eunice Kennedy Shriver and nephew of John, Robert, and Ted Kennedy, was keynote speaker. Shriver heads the world-wide Special Olympics organization.

New Officers: Don't forget Board meeting this Saturday after regular club meeting.

District Governor's official visit; Installation of officers this week

Saturday, July 11 will be a special day for our club as **District Governor Carleen Rajala** (Shawnee Lions Club) will make her official visit and install our 2015-16 officers. (Her last name is pronounced "RYE-lah.")

For our newer members, and as a reminder for all, Lions protocol calls for a standing ovation when the District Governor is introduced and then again at the close of her speech.

A District Governor's visit is a highlight, because we can learn about the International President's theme and how the Governor's plans and goals will fit into that.

Every member of the club should make a special effort to honor the District Governor by attending this meeting.

Program and Activity Schedule

- July 7** **6 AM, Flags down**
- July 11** **7:15 AM, regular meeting at Perkins**
Program: Installation of 2015-16 Officers
District Governor Carleen Rajala, presiding
Board of Directors to meet after regular meeting
- July 25** **7:15 AM, regular meeting at Perkins**
Program: Protecting against Identity Theft
Presenter: to be announced
- August 1** **7:30 AM, Board Meeting at Perkins**
(Come early enough to order breakfast before meeting)
- August 8** **7:15 AM, regular meeting at Perkins**
Program: Student Recognition Day
Scholarships awarded, State Band Students to be recognized
- August 21-23** **KS Lions State Council Meeting**
Best Western Hotel, McPherson, KS
- August 22** **7:15 AM, regular meeting at Perkins**
Program: Veterans' Honor Flights
Presenter: Lion Christine Nichols
- August 29** **District 17-A Cabinet Meeting**
Topeka. Exact time and location to be announced
- To be announced:** **1st Zone Meeting of the year**

July and August Birthdays

- July 19** **Ken Collyard**
- July 22** **Janette Reh**
- August 7** **Mae Claxton**
- August 12** **Louis Adams**
- August 21** **Dottie Bloome**
- August 25** **Heather Lanigan**

Reminder . . .**Flags to come down Tuesday, July 7**

If you're reading this on Monday, don't forget that tomorrow morning *beginning at 6 AM*, we will take down flags along Metcalf Avenue. There was a great turnout of Lions, Boy Scouts and MOAA members on July 3 to put them up. Let's try to have the same for taking them down!

An opportunity to serve—and to have fun . . .**Volunteers needed for MSU screening at State Fair in Hutchinson**

State Fair time is only a couple of months away. The Kansas Lions Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) will be there and your help is needed.



The dates are Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 20.

The MSU will be stationed on the fairgrounds (inside an air-conditioned building, if you're wondering). Lions are needed to help with sign-ins and others tasks, including operating some of the screening equipment.

It's easy work (training on any of the equipment takes only a few minutes) and you'll be helping a few thousand Kansans stay healthy.

To volunteer, or to get more information about what's expected, contact **Lion Ron Bretz** at 316 283 1921 or E-mail at wildfires@cox.net.

Parking passes and gate admission are provided to Lions who volunteer to work at the MSU.

If you plan to stay overnight, you'll find that hotel space in Hutchinson is limited. Most hotels are completely booked. There are, however, some good hotels/motels in McPherson that may have space available. McPherson is a pleasant 30-minute drive to Hutchinson over very good road (KS Hwy 61).

This year's theme is "Fried n' Joy." More information about the fair itself is posted on <https://kansasstatefair.com>.

The Overland Park Host Lions' Roar

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A Word from the President . . .**Big Lion's Message for July**

by Mike Orzechowski

Happy New Year!

July 1 was the beginning of the 2015 Overland Park Host Lions Club (OPHLC) year. At the stroke of midnight on June 30, most of us weren't popping champagne corks, watching a ball drop on Times Square, or singing Auld Lang Syne at a party somewhere. For as long as I have been in the OPHLC, one year seems to blend into the next. I am truly amazed at the true heart of our club that creates the kind of environment that stitches each year so beautifully to the next that they are almost continuous.



We have a lot to celebrate from the past year. The highlights are impressive and the memories a treasure. With new club officers this year we also have a lot to celebrate—because all the new faces in different positions bring new opportunities, ideas and energy to a very solid foundation of programs. The anticipation can be electrifying and exciting (to some of us, maybe even a little scary). We could pop a champagne cork at this next meeting to reflect on this past year, as we look forward to this new year, but the Lions I know don't need to toot their own horns to know the impact they have made to better our lives and the community.

The OPHLC is a powerful group. We Lions are not nomadic trying to solve the problems of the world, our country, or our community by ourselves. Lions live in Prides, with each member's contributions bettering the entire Pride. I am so very proud to be in our Pride, the Overland Park Host Lions Pride.

As we look to the past year and move to the future, we should take a moment to reflect on the impact our club makes and the lives we touch. We need to share that with our friends and neighbors to make our Pride stronger. Fundraising and membership campaigns are much easier when folks know the good things we do. Find someone that knows little about the OPHLC and take a moment to enlighten them. Find someone you know that could help the OPH Lions and invite them to be a part of our Pride.

It is a new year, and a new year brings new opportunities. Happy New Year, Overland Park Host Lions!

—Big Lion Mike