



District 2A1 Newsletter

January 2012

Governor's Message: HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Lions in District 2-A1.

DG Lee Sigler
1st VDG Tom Blasé
2nd VDG Frank Berthold
IPDG Al Owen
Editor Sandra Sigler

As the new year begins, I have dedicated myself to doing more to become a better Lion. If yours is one of the clubs I have not yet visited you should expect contact from me soon to arrange a visit. I am anxious to meet as many Lions in our district as possible. The First VDG and Second VDG and I are looking for some forward thinking Lions who are willing to step up to the plate to become the Second Vice District Governor candidate for the Lion Year 2012—2013, Having been the first ever Second Vice District Governor from our district, I feel I can freely express how critical it is to get into the office from the beginning. The training begins in Houston at the Counsel of Governors meeting at the State Convention being held the third weekend in May, 2012. Please contact myself, or 1st VDG Tom Blase or 2nd VDG Frank Berthold if you have any questions. We are a team working for you.

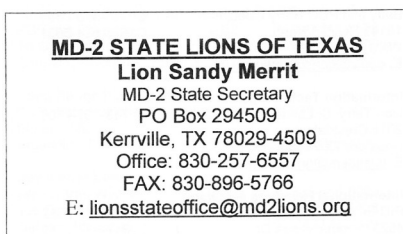
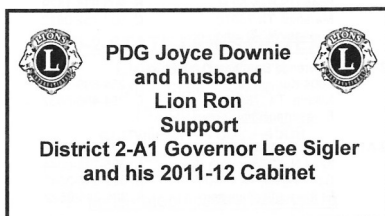
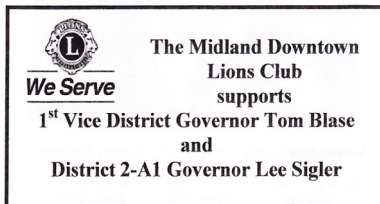
As a reminder to all Lions of District 2-A1, please make sure your club secretary has your current email address. Club secretaries should update their records and the records of Lions Clubs International, Without your current email address, you are missing out on a great deal of information from the District as well as LCI. Our District webmaster, Lion Ron Downie, has been working diligently to update his information but is still receiving numerous non-deliverable messages when sending out information. Keeping your information current is vital in this age of electronic media.

Election time is here! Forget the news and tv ads, it is time for your club to elect officers for the coming year. All club Presidents should have appointed nominating committees. The committee should be canvassing member for filling vacancies for the upcoming Lion year. This is an opportunity to have new leader step forward and take on new responsibilities in their club, or perhaps in the District. The elections procedures are on the LCI website. The sooner election results can be submitted, the easier it make the development of the District Directory. Your new slate of officers must be submitted to Lions International and to the district governor by April 15.

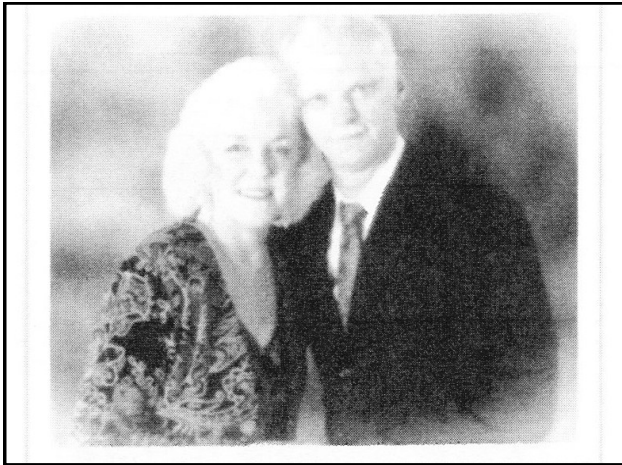
Due to scheduling, the District Convention is April 20th and 21st. The Convention is open to all Lions. Watch for registration form coming in February.

I look forward to seeing a great turnout at the Mid-Winter Conference in Sweetwater. See y'all there!!


DG Lee Sigler



Congratulations to our District 2-A1 Peace Poster Contest winner, Madeline Walker !! Madeline's poster took 2nd Place in State. Way to go Madeline and Midland North Side Lions Club for submitting her poster,



District 2-A1 Convention
Brownwood, Texas
April 20/21, 2012
ALL LIONS ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND!!



EVERETT J. "EBB" GRINDSTAFF

Box 369
Ballinger, TX 76821
B: 325-365-3515
R: 325-365-2400
Fax: 365-5263
Cell: 325-977-0145

PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LIONS CLUBS



We Serve


**The Brown County
Lions Club**
supports our own
District 2-A1 Governor
Lee Sigler
Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6 PM
The Small Business Incubator
104 E. Industrial Drive
Early, Texas

The Midland West Side
Lions Club
Congratulates
and Supports
**District 2-A1
Governor Lee Sigler**




West Side Lions and Boy Scout Troop 19
Together We Serve

The San Angelo Westside
Lions Club



We Serve

Congratulates and Supports
District Governor
Lee Sigler



Past Council Chairman
John Hancock
San Angelo Downtown Lions Club
supports
District 2-A1 Governor
Lee Sigler

The Long and the Short of It

Lions know how to cook. Lions know how to deliver food boxes or sell raffle tickets. Lions know how to put on a talent show, or paint someone's house, or build a park. Lions know how to organize a trip to Kernville to deliver children to camp and how to collect glasses (etc. etc. etc.). That's why we can always get a group of Lions together to make all of these wonderful service and fund raising projects happen.

However, although we are Knights of the Blind, most Lions know very little about vision and refractive optometry. That's one major reason why so few clubs or districts are willing to set up regular adult or child eye screenings in their Districts, or set up a sorting and reading (of used glasses) program, or go on a mission to help the Lions Clubs in developing nations set up eye programs. The long and the short of it is that most people don't get involved in something because they fear the unknown. In this case, the long and the short of it is they don't know the long and the short of it!

I'll explain that in just a minute.

Not knowing much about how the eye works and, therefore, not understanding refractive optics and the tools/machines used by professionals to determine the refractive status of the eye always caused me a little trepidation about helping someone find a used pair of glasses that was near to their actual need. That's why TLERC offers its monthly "Visual Screening Course" (Starts the Thursday before the 3rd Saturday each month in Midland at TLERC). You need to call ahead to get a reservation for the class, but once you and a few of your fellow Lions go through this, you can bring a wonderful service to the poor adults in your community or District.

The course takes you from the basic anatomy and physiology of the eye, to the clinical system used to set up an adult eye screening, to how to use all of the equipment in the screening "lane", to finding a pair that most nearly fits the person's need. The class ends on Saturday with a practical clinical exercise (i.e. the students help TLERC and the Midland area Lions Clubs with their monthly adult clinic on Saturday morning before they head back home). Once I understood how the eye works and what goes wrong that makes things "fuzzy", it was pretty easy for me to understand the refractive optics used in glasses. For example, a camera and the eye are very similar. The light through the lens has to focus on a specific spot or the picture is fuzzy. With the camera when objects are too fuzzy, we can mechanically adjust the focal length of the lens so it focuses on the film. We can't really do much to change the focal length in our eyes, especially as we get older. So if the light coming through our lens falls in front of the retina (called nearsightedness or myopia) or focuses behind the retina (called farsightedness or hyperopia) things are out of focus. This may happen because the eyeball is too long (nearsighted) or too short (farsighted). So by using different shapes and thicknesses of lenses, a pair of glasses redirects the light so that it focuses further back (correcting nearsightedness) or closer (correcting farsightedness).

This may be oversimplified and not 100% technically accurate, but it sure helps me understand what I am trying to do when pulling glasses, or getting a reading on a lensometer, focometer or autorefractor. If you come to TLERC's classes it will help you "to serve"....and that's the Long and the Short of it!

Tom Base, VDG 2A1
TLERC Promotions Director

Blue Is a Very Strange Color

"Green trees a round us, BLUE skies above, friends a lla round us", or "BLUE skies smilin' at me", or how about "my BLUE heaven"; and everyone raves a bout the baby's beautiful BLUE eyes. Certainly all the old Lions remember "old BLUE eyes" (Frank Sinatra for you young folks) with his great voice? Brides borrow something BLUE and BLUE is one of the three primary colors from which all the other colors in our beautiful world derive. BLUE certainly stands for something wonderful, happy, or beautiful. Some sources say the color BLUE in our flag stands for vigilance, perseverance, and justice. Yep, BLUE is such a positive color.... or not?

We can easily find exceptions like: "blue, blue my world is blue", "red roses for a blue lady", "blue navy blue" or "blue Christmas". Those who love music can remember literally dozens of songs, where blue is used to depict loneliness, sadness, or other negative emotions. Yep, blue is a very strange color.

Like many old Lions, I don't really like the change of colors in our logo from purple to blue, but maybe at least it calls to mind, what our real purpose is here as a Lion or a Lions Club in District 2A1. I think the color blue defines our job as Lions in the simplest of forms: **It is our job to "serve" our communities in such a way as to change the *blue* to BLUE!**

So now it's 2012 and a Happy New Year to you and all of the Lions in 2A1! It's a new beginning to a Lions year that is only half over. Is your Club on target to meet its service goals? Have you found that "SIGNATURE" project that tells your community "we serve" (not we sell)? Are you growing in membership? We simply cannot change negative *blue* in peoples' lives to the wonderful, beautiful happy BLUE by ourselves. If you are struggling with membership contact our District Global Membership Team Director, PDG Roy Landry (landryrs@eol.com). If you are struggling with developing a team of leaders in your Club to carry the service forward, contact our District Global Leadership Director, Lion Aubrey Linne (linne87@clca.r.net) for help; and don't forget all of the great District Committee Chairs available to come and give a program to inform your Club of what Lions are doing in 2A1.

If our Mid-Winter Conference in Sweetwater is not over by the time this is sent out, then please come out on Jan 13 & 14 (meetings, training, & breakout groups are on Jan 14). There is plenty for you to learn that will help you and your fellow Lions be better "servers" and amazingly get involved in our District, State, & Club service projects will help bring **more BLUE** into our own lives.

Those that know me know that I love Neil Diamond's work. One of his, "Forever in Blue jeans", is a comfortable, laid back sort of BLUE and while most of us could lay back and enjoy that kind of BLUE life, we are Lions. So in 2012, we can't sit back, in fact, it's off we go into the wild BLUE yonder! Are you coming with us?

Lion Tom Blase, 1st VDG

Well, it happened! Another year has bit the dust. 2011 is gone, but what a joy it is that the work remains. What wonderful opportunities lie ahead of us in 2012 and beyond. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful start to this new year. And, I hope the start was only the beginning of many blessings in your behalf.

Just a reminder to you, I also serve you as your District Chaplain for our Governor. If there is anything I can do for you as your Chaplain, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I live in San Angelo, therefore, it is a simple thing for me to visit friends or loved ones and Lions in a hospital here. Please, just let me know. I will be happy to stop by and visit them and have prayer with them. I am here to serve. If you have some difficulty you are facing in life, I would be happy to lift you up in my prayers to God. My email, phone numbers and address are all in the directory and on the web page. But please, if you email me, put something in the subject box which will catch my attention, or it may get deleted by mistake. I will not impose myself up on you more. I await your call if I am needed.

I look forward to serving you as a fellow Lion. Our brotherhood of Lions is well known all over the world. It is because of Lions like you that we are the strongest service organization around the globe. Lions "make things happen!" And, I mean good things. Lions have a special nature about them. They are not just people who like to have a good time. They are not just people who enjoy one another's fellowship. They are not even just people who are willing to work as a team to get things done. They are people who simply want to help others have what we take for granted in life. Yes, we have a good time in fun and fellowship with one another as we do. But it's all about the end of a work well accomplished, despite the obstacles we must face. It's about helping the child acting out in the classroom because, unknown to the teacher, the child cannot see what is on the board at the front of the room. And then after being fitted with glasses, that child's life changes and a hunger for learning develops because now he or she can see properly. It's about helping children early in life so that there is time for them to become everything they can become, without the hindrance of poor vision. Poor vision, left undetected in a child's life, can cause them to become so far behind that it seems nearly impossible for them to catch up. It's about knowing you may well have changed the direction and outcome of their lives. Oh, what blessings are ours and what great blessings lie ahead of us. And yes, we know it's about more than just the children. It's about all who need our help.

I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go.

Frank Berthold
Acting 2nd VDG



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523 • www.lcif.org

Provided by: PDG Joyce Downie, LCIF District Chairperson

I became a Lion because I wanted to serve.

I feel certain that you became a Lion for the very same reason. Our motto expresses this so beautifully: **we are Lions because "We Serve."** For more than 40 years, Lions Clubs International Foundation has made it possible for Lions to do just that – to serve our communities, and the world, on a spectacular scale.

Lions are celebrated the world over for accepting difficult challenges. Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness," and LCIF has helped Lions rise to this challenge, by preventing vision loss for more than 30 million men, women and children.

Did you know that LCIF has also enabled Lions to bring vitally important life skills to more than 12 million youth through our Lions Quest program; vision screenings and eyeglasses to more than 220,000 Special Olympics athletes; and desperately needed relief to countless families suffering unimaginable loss after natural disasters? In July, I visited Joplin, Missouri, and witnessed the heartbreaking destruction wrought by one of the deadliest tornadoes in history. I also saw the hope that LCIF was able to give to families that had lost everything. Time and again, the people of Joplin expressed how wonderful it was to know that they were not alone.

Every year, our Foundation makes it possible for Lions throughout the world to bring health, opportunity and hope to millions of people in need. Last year, one in four LCIF grants benefited communities right here in the United States! So, I have no doubt that you have experienced firsthand the tremendous service that Lions can deliver, with the help of LCIF. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our Foundation. **I never forget that the service LCIF enables Lions to deliver is only made possible through the generous donations of LCIF donors, like you.**

As a parent and grandparent, service that benefits children is especially important to me. It is for this reason that I am extremely proud of LCIF's partnership with the Measles Initiative. Last year, Lions worked with our Measles Initiative partners to vaccinate children against measles – **an easily prevented disease that still kills 450 children needlessly, every single day.**

*Will you please join
me in accepting the
Gates Challenge?
Each dollar that you
give could save the
life of one child!*



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

The results of Lions' collaboration with the Measles Initiative were simply astounding. More than 41 million children were immunized for life against this deadly disease! Please take a moment to imagine just what this means: 41 million children will be spared the potential vision loss, hearing loss, brain damage and death brought by measles, because of the service of Lions and LCIF.

This year, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is calling upon Lions to rise to a new challenge. The Gates Foundation has awarded Lions with a significant challenge grant of \$5 million – the single largest gift to LCIF in its history. One dollar of this grant will be used to match every two dollars raised by Lions to eliminate measles. Together, LCIF and the Gates Foundation hope to raise a total of \$15 million to help ensure that every child has the chance to live a healthy life.

Will you please join me in accepting the Gates Challenge? It costs less than one dollar to immunize a child against measles for a lifetime. Every dollar that you give could save the life of a child, and the Gates Foundation's matching grant ensures that your gift has greater impact than ever. Just think of the health and hope that you can bring to so many families this year, simply by making a gift to LCIF.

Before the close of this year, I would ask you to consider taking a very important step in your life as a Lion. Please consider magnifying the impact of your service as a Lion by making an installment toward a Melvin Jones or a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship. **Any gift that is made to meet the Gates Challenge to eliminate measles is MJF eligible.** It is possible to make recurring, automatic gifts to LCIF, so it has never been easier to become a Melvin Jones Fellow. There is simply no better way to support *your* Foundation.

Judy and I hope that your holidays are filled with peace and joy and that you enter the New Year filled with a renewed desire to serve those who are most in need. Thank you so much for your support of Lions Clubs International Foundation. By making a gift to LCIF, you become a **Beacon of Hope** to your club, to your community and to the world!

Serving today for a better tomorrow,

Sid L. Scruggs III
Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation, 2011-2012

