



# Lions District 2A-1 Newsletter May 2011



**Governor Al Owen**—We have just completed the District Convention in San Angelo. A number of people told me that it was very good and they enjoyed the activity. IPDI Beverly Stebbins gave us a good presentation on international actions and encouraged us to ask more people to become Lions. It is always good to see our PIP Ebb Grindstaff and wife Jay at the convention. They add so much information and advice to our affairs. We

got a brief introduction to our Global Leadership Team (GLT) program and the Global Membership Team (GMT) program. They will take the place of our MERL Team next year. Lion Aubrey Linne is our district GLT and PDG Roy Landry is our GMT. Each club is encouraged to appoint a GLT/GMT representative to work with the district team.

On Friday night we were entertained by the Armadillo Republic Jazz Band, a Dixieland group, with three of the San Angelo Downtown Lions as members (Trudy Darling, Brandon Archer, and your District Governor). The meals were very good, provided by McGowan's Catering. During the festivities, the Governor handed out awards and "thank you" mementos to all cabinet members. The Governor reminded the members that the year was not over till July, so try to enlist more members. The key to more members is to "Just Ask." Nothing will happen if you don't ask. The response will be "yes," "no," or "maybe." If yes or maybe, you have something to work on. If no, think nothing of it and go on to another prospect.

The middle of April, I had to go to Ozona and pickup their charter and disburse their remaining funds after they voted to disband. That means we lost at least 20 members in that action. The loss of members is difficult to overcome, but the lack of a Lions presence in the town of Ozona is very saddening. As for Lions Clubs, the North Angelo and San Angelo Northwest clubs have voted to merge and change their name to "North by Northwest" Lions Club. That will bring two clubs together for strength and hopefully grow.

For our Youth Awards Luncheon we only had one of our two winners in attendance due to prior UIL commitments. Jared Capps from Eden was our Outstanding Youth winner, receiving \$1500.00. He was sponsored by the Concho County Lions Club. Jared could not attend the lunch, but his background paper was read. Cassidy Mayfield from Wall was our Diabetes Awareness Essay winner, receiving \$1500.00. She was sponsored by the San Angelo Downtown Lions Club. She read her essay during the ceremony and got a standing ovation. The two runners up in each category was awarded \$1000.00. Since we only had three contestants in each category, it didn't seem quite fair that the third place winners got nothing for their effort since the judges grades were so close. Therefore, shortly after the competition, I called a District Executive Officer meeting and expressed my thoughts to the group. There were several thoughts about not wanting to set a precedence and it should be more of an honorarium rather than an award. The final action unanimously agreed to, was to give each third place winner a \$100.00 gift. At the PDG meeting before the business session on Saturday of the convention, all PDGs supported the idea of a monetary gift and some expressed the belief that \$100 was too menial a gift. Two of the PDGs felt so strongly that they pledged and wrote checks bringing the total gift to each of the third place winners to \$300.00.

That brings up the subject of whether we should have a youth contest if only three Lions Clubs in the district will support it. There is just too much work and money involved to have only three contestants. IPID Beverly suggested contacting the school counselors now to put the idea and possible award money in motion. For sure, the time to start the Peace Poster Contest is now, because it must be completed in the next 6 months. Complete information for the Peace Poster Contest can be found on pg. 51 of the May edition of *The Lion* magazine.

The final business of the convention was to pass the gavel to DGE Lee Sigler. Lion Lee gave a brief outline of his upcoming year and the emphasis "I Believe." The first cabinet meeting will be held the later part of July in a place yet to be determined. The "Beacon of Hope" is still shining brightly for everyone to serve their communities and just ask a person to join in your service to make your community a better place to live. "We Serve"



**Thank You! - PDG Marshall Twombly** Speaking for Lion Willena Benson / Tail Twister and myself, the recent "silent" and "live" auctions that were held during the District Convention here in San Angelo, to benefit the district tail twister fund and the district Youth contests were very much a success... only because of the generosity of those attending... Lions not only donated an item or a few; but, they turned around and bought someone else's donated item, even at a higher cost...

I hope these auctions will not be necessary for next year and for years to come; however, if another auction is needed, I'm sure we have Lions who will come to the district's rescue. This was a unique year and it was needed and YOU did step forward. Today's youth are tomorrow's Lions and tomorrow's leaders... hopefully we can continue to work together to improve the contests to benefit more of our youth.

Lion Brigitte Rogers / San Angelo Concho Pearl Lions club was kind enough to bid high enough to ensure that Lion Clarence Geistmann's Lions vest and about 20lbs of his (pin collector) pins will be around for a long time...this being the 2<sup>nd</sup> time around...as you may recall, last year this same vest and pins that were donated by Lion Clarence was raffled off last year raising around \$500.00 to benefit the 2010 youth contests... the winning ticket was bought by a Lion in Mason... he kept the vest for a spell, enjoyed it, then chose to donate it back to the Lions for a 2<sup>nd</sup> go-around.

Maybe, Lion Brigitte will encourage husband Lion Jim Brisbin to wear the vest possibly as armor to their next club meeting or to the next Cabinet meeting in July!


**Best Convention Ever , Lee Sigler, DGE District 2A-1** - This just might be the best District Convention I've ever attended, and I've been to several. The Lions of District 2A-1 have to be the greatest Lions in Texas! The Lions of San Angelo working together to host the convention is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when we work toward the same goal from different directions. The locale was great, the food delicious, the decorations beautiful, the friendship shared by everyone was beyond all expectations. My hat is off to the Lions of San Angelo. Many thanks to everyone who had a hand in another successful convention.

District Governor Al Owen made it clear that our work is far from being completed. Immediate Past International Director Lion Beverly Stebbins reinforced DG Al's challenge to all of us when she spoke at our convention about the decrease in our overall membership. Our membership is down for the year, but like the old expression goes, "We may be down, but we're not out!" There are still two long months to go that we need to spend doing our best to return the district membership to the plus column. Think positive, it will happen when we work together to make it happen.

I want to thank the many people who have made serving for a year as your first vice district governor a wonderful learning experience for my wife, Sandra, and me. I've been told by some of our PDGs that the learning is just beginning, and I know already they were not making it up. Special thanks go to Lion Frank Berthold for the way he stepped forward and decided he would serve as your acting second vice district governor pending the vote at the mid-winter conference. I'm sure that the Lions of District 2A-1 will show Lion Frank all the kindness and support that you are known for. He is a welcome member of your incoming team for the next Lion year.

I want to express my genuine appreciation to everyone for the confidence and support that you have given me to serve you as your district governor for the new Lion year beginning on July 1, 2011. The Lions International In Seattle is going to be a new experience for me and my wife. We will be leaving for Seattle on June 29 and returning to Early on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Our incoming International President's theme will be "I believe". And I agree with that theme. I believe one person can make a difference in people's lives.

Lions have a world of influence in people's lives every day of the year. Every person we share the Lions story with will someday carry that story on to another person. An act of kindness shown will not go unnoticed or unappreciated. And that person will remember that it was a Lion who made that difference in their life. That is the reward we all seek to gain, just a simple act that put a smile on the face of someone else is reward enough. That's what serving is all about.



**BROWN COUNTY  
LIONS CLUB**  
Supports  
District Governor  
**Al Owen**

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**April Showers Bring May Flowers - Tom Blase, 2A1 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG, TLERC Promotions Director**—There is nothing like the view of a Texas valley or hillside covered in Bluebonnets, Indian Paint Brush, or any of a number of other colorful wild-flowers that appear in May after those wonderful April showers; but just like everything else that we HAVE, we take it for granted until we don't have it.

Well, out here at the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (good old West Texas-Midland), we are certainly missing those May flowers, because we haven't had any April showers (nor March back to September showers for that matter). Even in the dry desert we take for granted the little bit of rain we know we will get in the early spring; which helps me draw an analogy to the plight of the visually impaired, that we as "Knights of the Blind" are trying to help at TLERC.

People take their sight for granted until things start getting blurry. Even with glasses, we take our sight for granted until we lose or break them, or until we can no longer see clearly out of them. The April showers for those in need are the recycled glasses they get at no cost from Lions recycling centers like ours. (By the end of this year we will have sent out another couple of hundred thousand pair of glasses to missions & Lions center in developing nations.) The April showers are the eye exams & new glasses we put on children. (This year we made over 800 new pair of glasses in our lab for about \$14-\$18/pair to the Lions Clubs that used our service.) The April showers are the thousands of man hours, Lions across the State put into collecting, sorting, and processing used glasses for those in need, and the April showers are the dollars TLERC gets from Lions Clubs for 100% (\$2/member) or Focus Club (\$3/member) donations, "Visionary Knights of the Blind", or honoring a special Lion with one of our 3 levels of fellowship. The May flower is the sight these showers bring to those, whom we help; those people, who can now see to do their school work, learn new skills, find a job or to do their current jobs.

We know this is the time of year when Clubs finish off their 100% (or greater) contributions or honor those special Lions in their Club with awards, such as TLERC's 3 fellowship awards. There are also, only 2 months left to become a CHARTER MEMBER to our "Visionary Knight of the Blind" monthly or annual giving program (June 30 deadline). You can find our enrollment forms on the State website.

For the sake of the visually impaired, please send some of those April showers to TLERC. Those showers may not bring any May flowers, but those you bless with the gift of sight won't care. They'll be happy to just clearly see a good old prickly pear. If you have any questions about our giving programs, please call me at 325-315-7060.

The Officers and Members of the  
*Colorado City Lions Club*  
Support  
District 2-A1 Governor  
Al Owen

San Angelo Council  
of Lions  
supports  
District 2-A1 Governor  
Al Owen

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**Passing the Gavel, Not the Torch! Lion Tom Blase, 2ndVDG**

- Those of you, who missed the District Convention, missed a great time: from the melodies of the Armadillo Republic Jazz Band (an ensemble of which our District Governor, PDG AL is a part) and the antics of our "beloved" (not) Tail Twister, Lion Willena Benson; to the winning Diabetic Essay read to us by the author (Cassidy Mayfield-San Angelo Downtown Lions), the resume of our Outstanding Youth (Jared Capps-Concho County Lions), and the words of encouragement in Service from Texas' own Immediate Past International Director Beverly Stebbins.

While many important pieces of business were transacted, such as the election of our new District Governor (for 2011-2012), Lion Lee Sigler (Brown County Lions), and at our Necrology service we honored all of the wonderful Lions of District 2A1, whom we lost in the past year; probably the most important thing that occurred happened behind the scenes with many Lions in attendance unaware that it did. Several Lions have indicated they want to serve as Governor someday, but none felt like they could do it this year. So we went into our District Convention without a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-District Governor candidate, but by the time we left we had one.

Lion Frank Berthold, our District Chaplain, stepped up to the plate and agreed to take on the challenge. Until we have an official election in January at our next Mid-Winter Conference, Lion Frank will serve as our Acting 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-District Governor. Thanks Lion Frank, you will be a great District Governor for District 2A1.

We had a great Convention, and yes, District Governor Al passed the gavel on to District Governor Elect Lion Lee; but he did **NOT pass the torch!** Passing the torch would mean we were done for the year, and we are NOT done. As PID Beverly and District Governor Al both told us very pointedly, we still have two more months to serve and we have not reached all of our goals. We can't be "Beacons of Hope" if we pass the torch.

Last year Past District Governor Al (and First Lady Lion Billie) bailed us out by serving as Governor AGAIN. Please do not leave him holding the bag by not reaching our goals - particularly in membership. If every Club would set the simple goal of picking up 2 new members by June 30, we could get back into the plus in membership for the year. **No it is not time to pass the torch, it is time for all of us to pour the gas on it and make it brighter!**



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PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF LIONS CLUBS



Past District Governor

*David Hoopman*


offers Best Wishes

and a successful year to

**District 2-A1 Governor Al Owen**



Past District Governor  
*Joyce Downie*  
Concho Pearl Lions Club  
and  
*Lion Ron Downie*  
North Angelo Lions Club  
support our  
District Governor  
Al Owen



*We Serve*

**PCC John Hancock**  
San Angelo Downtown Lions  
*Supports*  
District Governor Al Owen

**"WE SERVE"**  
**Kingsland Lions Club**  
Kingsland, Texas






Julia Eckerty and some members of the Suburban Lions Club are shown in the picture with the Easter Bunny and Lady Liberty at last year's Bunny Breakfast.


**BUNNY BREAKFAST = Mark Singh**, The Midland Northside Lions Club's eighteenth annual Bunny Breakfast will be held on April 16. Members are busy selling tickets. In addition, we have five ticket selling locations—Abacus Computers, Dillard's, Liberty Tax Service, Midland Park Mall Guest Services booth, and Suzie Q's Pack & Mail. As usual, the Downtown Lions Club generously allowed us to sell tickets at their Pancake Jamboree. We have put up posters and flyers in several locations and signs at Midland Park Mall. In addition, our ads have been appearing in the Midland Reporter-Telegram, on CBS7 TV, and on four Cumulus Broadcasting radio stations. Thanks to Rainbow Press and these media channels for their support.



**IPDG Roy Landry and Lion Shirley  
Supports 2-A1  
District Governor  
Alvin Owen & Billie  
2010/2011**



*Midland Westside Lions Club*  
Congratulates and supports  
District Governor  
**Al Owen**




The Midland  
Downtown Lions Club  
and  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor  
**Tom Blase, Sr.**  
Support  
District Governor  
Al Owen

*San Angelo  
North Angelo Lions Club*

**enthusiastically supports**

**District 2-A1 Governor  
Al Owen  
for 2010-2011**



**We Serve**

**San Angelo Downtown  
Lions Club**  
supports our own  
District 2-A1 Governor  
Al Owen

Meets each Thursday at Noon  
Rio Concho Manor  
401 Rio Concho Drive



Lions enjoying the evening at the District Convention in San Angelo



**Lion Dwayne Welch**  
San Angelo Downtown Lions Club



Supports Lionism  
and  
District 2-A1 Governor  
Al Owen

*San Angelo*  
*West Side Lions Club*



Supports Lionism  
and  
District Governor  
Al Owen



District Governor Al Owen presents our Diabetes Awareness Essay winner, Cassidy Mayfield from Wall Texas, a check for \$1500.00 at the District Convention.



Lion Brandon Archer Club assisted by Shirley Landry, both from the San Angelo Downtown Lions Club, models an autographed Dallas Cowboy's helmet that was auctioned off at the District Convention as Tail Twister Lion Willenea Benson, from Brownwood County Lions Club, works the auction.

