



MD-2 LIONS

PRIDE OF LIONS

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90TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION A SUCCESS

The 90th annual International Convention of the International Association of Lions Clubs was held in Chicago, Illinois on July 2-6, 2007. International President Jimmy Ross presided over the Celebration of the many achievements of Lions Clubs International.

Upwards of 15,000 Lions from all over the world attended the convention. A visit by Helen Keller, the July 4th International Parade, speakers to motivate the Lions, celebrations of the 90th year of Lions, 50th year for Leos, and 20th year for women in Lions and the Peace Poster contest were some of the highlights of the Convention.

Lions enjoyed tours of the International Headquarters in Oak Brook, instructional seminars, the International program with Glen Campbell, and reports on the Campaign SightFirst II program. So far, \$110 million has been pledged by clubs around the world. The goal of \$200 million will soon be raised.

The new District Governors were in attendance several days before the convention, for training as governors. They were then sworn in at the last plenary session on July 6th. At this time, Mahendra Amarasuriya, of Sri Lanka, was also sworn in as the new President of Lions Clubs International



President Jimmy Ross addresses Lions with cake to celebrate the 90th International Convention in Chicago on July 4th.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 2-3 Second Council Meeting in Temple
- Sept. 6-8 USA/Canada Forum in Grand Rapids, MI
- Feb. 2-3 Third Council Meeting in Kerrville
- Mar. 8-9 Texas Leadership Forum in Austin
- May 15-17 State Convention in Amarillo



Celebrate being a Lion!!

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL HAS NEW PRESIDENT

Mehendra Amarasuriya of Colombo, Sri Lanka, was elected president of Lions Clubs International at the 90th International Convention in Chicago. President Amarasuriya is a businessman involved with several blue chip companies in his native country.

Lion Amarasuriya is a charter member of the Lions Club of Galle (pronounce Gaul). He is a past district governor, a past council chairman and

past international director.

President Amarasuriya lives with his wife, Lion Kushlani, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Outgoing President Jimmy Ross gave the oath of office to the new president. (see picture at right) The new president then gave the oath of office to the new incoming District Governors from around the world. The new president's theme for the year is "Challenge to Change."



CHALLENGE TO CHANGE—NEW THEME

Lions Clubs International's new President, Mehendra Amarasuriya, has adopted a theme of "Challenge to Change" for the 2007-08 Lions year.

To give you some idea of his program, the basics are listed here. To learn more in depth information on the program, consult the LCI website.

1. Challenge to Re-Brand Lions Clubs—to make it an organization that is dynamic and relevant to the 21st century.
2. Challenge to Grow by an additional 20,000 quality members.
3. Challenge to develop quality leaders for the 21st century.

**WE CAN,
WE MUST,
WE WILL,
ACT NOW!**

4. Challenge to extend 1250 new clubs with a mix of older & younger members of both sexes.
5. Challenge to enhance the LCIF fund by increasing the number of Melvin Jones Fellowships to 350,000.
6. Challenge to raise CSF II funding to achieve the stretch target of \$200 million.
7. Challenge to revive and develop the Leo movement to its maximum potential.
8. Challenge to expand the Lions Quest program to 50 countries.
9. Challenge to re-structure the public relations efforts globally for a new brand image of Lionism.

PRESIDENT AMARASURIYA VISITS TEXAS LIONS CAMP



TLERC NEEDS MORE GLASSES & HEARING AIDS

Campaign SightFirst II is making one of its outreaches the correction of refractive error of the less fortunate. TLERC is determined to help in this effort. Donated eyeglasses are the lifeblood of their operation. Here are a few ideas for collecting of eyeglasses. If you have questions, call TLERC at 432/683/3611 M-Sat from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1. Plan strategies for collecting. Collection sites and permanent drop offs are necessary.
2. Collection containers need to be colorful and eye catching. Labels with the Lions logo should be used and can be made on your computer. Two contacts' phone numbers should also be visible.
3. Whole frames, whole glasses and cases can be used for missions around the world. Used medical equipment, hearing aids, optical equipment, uncut lenses and readers are

also needed. Do a first sort before shipping to TLERC.

4. A steady routine of collection is best. Don't let the business owner get upset by having too many glasses and no one picking them up.
5. Various ways of shipping to TLERC are: trucking companies who ship "dead head", UPS, FedEx, etc., or Lions taking them in trailers.

TLERC has four trailers that pick up glasses from a central location, such as district or state meetings. TLERC cannot accept collect shipments. Contact TLERC for when the trailers will be in your district.

Help those in the world who need glasses by donating your old glasses, by helping to collect and sort them, and by seeing that they are sent to TLERC.

BANNER ENJOYS TIME WITH LARRY

Larry Colbert, speaker and author, who many of the Lions of Texas have met at various meetings, has a tale to tell about Banner, his "Wonder Dog." On Fri., July 13, 2007, Banner, a Leader Dog, was helping Larry to catch a flight to Las Vegas for a speaking engagement. Banner was injured getting out of a taxi, and eight Southwest Airlines employees jumped up to help slow the bleeding and get Banner to a vet. They also helped Larry get to

his engagement on time.

Banner is recuperating nicely, as you can see in the photo. Larry has also benefited with a new message focusing on this experience of extraordinary customer service, cooperation, and rapid response to unexpected circumstances.

News stations and the media have shown great interest in the story, and many of them have covered the story in their various media.



NEW COUNCIL READY FOR CHALLENGE TO CHANGE

New Council Chair Ray White wants to have an increase in membership in the state of Texas for 2007-08. With only two new clubs per district, the state could have 32 new clubs by the end of the year. Some districts have already started on this goal. CC Ray would also like to see a "change" in "all Lions working together, instead of pulling against each other" in order to "make Texas Lions shine."

CC Ray would also like to see as many Lions as possible come to the State Convention in Amarillo, for the "Time of Your Life." We will be in Palo Duro Canyon on Thursday evening, have a Chuckwagon Breakfast, and a taste of the real "Old West." Come and enjoy fellowship with other Lions as we "take care of Lions business." Check the Texas Lions website for reservations.

We all know about CC Ray's accident last spring. He feels that

"God spared his life and has something planned for him." With his focus on Lionism this year, he is ready for the challenge. He wishes to thank each and every one of you for your thoughts and your prayers during his recovery from the accident. He is more conscious of the needs of others, as we all are. With Lions, "there is a closeness and concern for each other" that you don't see in many other organizations.

"I VOTED" CONTEST WINNERS

FIRST \$500—PDG Brian Whitenack of 2-X2

SECOND \$300—DG John Hopkins of 2-X3

THIRD \$200—Lion Pam Crew of 2-S1

Congratulations and thanks for voting in Chicago.

MD-2 LIONS

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CONVENTION SPEAKERS



The inspiring words of Helen Keller were again heard by the 90th convention attendees. Bringing her back to life for the Lions of the world was Lion Mollie Milligan of Dallas, daughter of PDG Mike and Beverly Milligan of Dumas. She is a very accomplished actress and everyone enjoyed her wonderful performance.

The final plenary session was most interesting, as former President Jimmy Carter spoke to the Lions about what his foundation and LCIF are doing in the world to eradicate river blindness.



PDG Jimmy also presented LCI with a statue commemorating this work in Africa.

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Please send articles and pictures for future issues by email. Next printed issue will be March. Website issues will be in January and May.

We cannot print forms, so will announce that they are on the website. Please send all articles to me the month before an issue is to be published. Thanks for making this your Lions newsletter.