

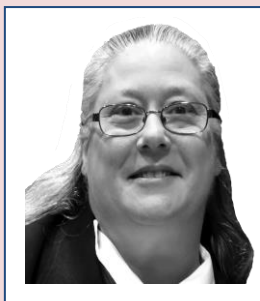
DISTRICT 4-L2

THE LIONS' ROAR



A Quarterly Publication of District 4-L2 - Issue 2 November 2017 – PDG Chris Ohrmund, Editor

A Message from District Governor Theresa "Tessy" Prumatico



District 4-L2 Lions,

As I write this article, I cannot express how happy and impressed I have been with 1st VDG John and 2nd VDG Gary, our GMT's, Region and Zone Chairs, and all our clubs as everyone has embraced my goals that I filled out before I became Governor, especially my membership goal! We have had two successful membership drives and I would like to personally thank Lakewood Lions and Bellflower Noon Lions for allowing us to set-up a membership booth! Please let us know if your city is having an event where we may/can set up a membership booth to assist your club and our district in obtaining new members. My membership goal this year is **NET GAIN 1**. I came up with this concept as one of my District Membership Goals and it was passed by MD-4. It is an obtainable goal for all of our clubs! Say you start with 25 members, and things happen throughout the year, and we all know they do. **NET GAIN 1** simply means you will end up with 26 members by year end. Hence our District will have gained 48 to 50 new members.

I would also like to touch on the International, MD-4 and District 4-L2 dues. These dues are important to each of our Clubs and our District. In order to enjoy the many benefits that International provides such as our magazine, printed materials for our clubs, free online training classes, visits from our International President and Directors, supplies and of course we cannot forget MD-4! Cass, our one paid employee for all of California, does a phenomenal job in making sure we have our supplies for Student Speaker Contest, information for our MD-4 Convention as well as all information our current and future District Governors need to be efficient in our Districts and that is just a touch of the iceberg! Dues for our District allow us to hold our Student Speaker Contest, the float in our backyard, new equipment/supplies for opening clubs, our summit training classes, reimbursement for Leadership Institute, the spot vision machines, and the list goes on and on. Without these funds, our District cannot provide for these great events. I am proud to be a LION in 4-L2, are you? OF COURSE!

Now on to Budgets. I had the pleasure, yes it was actually fun doing the budgets this year, on September 29th with my fellow committee members! We are excited to announce that if all Districts stay within our MD-4 budget (that means all Governors during VDG John Nelson's year), we will actually have money left to put in the reserve account, something that has not happened in many, many, many years! Thanks to all clubs who voted for the \$4.00 increase.

One last bit, as the holidays quickly approach, many club visitations have been planned; calendars will be available on our website, so please be sure to check. I enjoy going to many of your club events, however, please check the schedule to see if all of us would be available! Speaking of events please be sure to purchase your International Presidents Reception tickets early, as we sell out and another sell out event is, of course, the famous breakfast hosted by Pasadena Host Lions Club which this year will be held at the City of Hope. This means not only do you get a fabulous breakfast, a tour of the new Rose Float Barn in Irwindale, plus you get to see the City of Hope. What a great combination!

All that being said, I want to thank everyone for all your hard work, dedication, and making my year so far such a success!

**Lions Volunteer from the HEART
MORE HANDS * MORE HEARTS * MORE SERVICE**

A Message from 1st Vice District Governor John Nelson



Hello fellow Lions of 4-L2:

As summer has turned into fall, your district leadership is working hard, promoting and executing the goals District Governor Theresa planned for us this year. More hearts, more hands, more service”.

Fifteen (15) 4-L2 Lions attended the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum held in Portland, Oregon, this past September. I am proud to announce that we were well represented this year including the Lions University Graduation where graduates received their diploma from our International President Naresh Aggarwal. Next year’s Forum will be held in Columbus, Ohio. Early bird registration has begun, so please contact me if attending next year’s event.

District 4-L2 is the leader in MD-4 for training opportunities. Recent training held in October was, Club President, Club Secretary, and Club Treasurer. Training is the key to strong leadership in our District. A Lion thank you to our DG Tessy, VDG Gary, Lion Linda Birch and the “Best in the West” GLT Tom Kester.

Beginning this year, our District membership was slightly below 1,200. Our goal was to increase our membership to 1,250 Lions by June, 2018. I am more than excited to announce our October numbers have grown to 1,235 and counting. This is due to YOU working hard and bringing in new Lions, YOU make the difference. I commend and applaud your efforts and thanks to our hard working GMT’s Rico Sam and Andy Muniz for chairing two recent car shows in Lakewood and Bellflower, where we had a Lions membership booth. Special thanks to Bellflower Noon Lions and PDG Larry Wehage – you know what you did for our District.

Lastly, I want to introduce you to the Fisher House Project. We have one located on the grounds of the VA Hospital in Long Beach. Many Lions have volunteered and will be cooking lunch and dinner once a month for the families of Veterans who are staying in the hospital. I want to thank the Belmont Shore Lions Club for donating the food, and Lion Cheryl Nelson for cooking the pulled pork. Other Lions who helped out: 2nd VDG Gary and Lion Teri Hall, Lions Georgette and Robert Leal, and Lion Gene Calidonna. Please contact me for future volunteering opportunities and join in our District Service Project of collecting paper pad/ink pens, and word search/puzzle books for them (bring items to November 4th District Meeting).

I am always available and can be reached at 562-804-9412 or jnjr@yahoo.com

It’s my honor to serve as your 1st Vice District Governor.

“Humble and Kind” We Serve

“What Is A Quality Lions Member”? by the late Dr. Jean Behar Past International President of LCI

Perhaps the best description of how we see ourselves as quality Lions and what we look for in prospective members is the one found in our Constitution. The Constitution requires persons invited for membership to be of “good moral character” and “good reputation in the community”. We also expect members to attend meetings, pay dues, participate in club activities and display conduct projecting a favorable image of the club.

I have therefore prepared a set of ten basic criteria to evaluate “Quality Members”.

These include:

Generosity
Team Player
Availability
Motivation

Positive Behavior
Morality
Youthfulness
Sense of Responsibility and Reliability

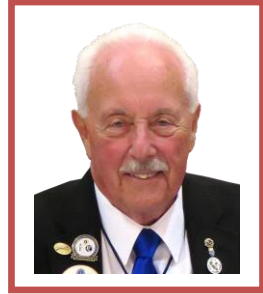
Friendliness
Talents



A Message from our 2nd Vice District Governor Gary Hall

My Fellow Lions of 4-L2:

Membership growth in our District and in our Clubs continues to be a strong focus by your Governor leaders. DG Theresa, 1st VDG John and myself have set our goals for membership during our years as part of your Governor team. To date we are on track to accomplish our objectives in this regard. New clubs are being formed and Charters are being issued to new clubs from the efforts of IPDG Manny Sanchez and these member counts are reflected in our current total membership which is now 1,230. We, as your Governor team, can't do it all by ourselves, so I ask all Lions of the district to work together to bring in new quality members to their respective clubs. Toward this goal, district membership drives have recently been held at the Lakewood Lions Booth at Mayfair Park Car Show on August 27th and the Bellflower Noon Lions Club sponsored car show that was held in Bellflower on September 30th. We are going to continue these drives at other Lions event where the public is invited.



Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization, is building a stronger framework for us to grow on with the introduction of the "Global Action Team". Under this team are the "Global Service Team", "The Global Leadership Team" and "The Global Membership Team". Lions Clubs International and Multiple District 4 have an outstanding list of leaders at the helms of all of these teams and they stand ready to support the 4-L2 members and officers in any way they can.

As DG Tessy makes her official visits to the district clubs, it is my pleasure to also attend these visitations in preparation for my duties beyond 2nd VDG. It is so great to meet and greet so many Lions members and Officer's that I may not have met otherwise. Also, it affords me the opportunity to display and vend the Lions Float Inc. promotional items that generate funds to help put the Lions Clubs International Float in the Tournament of Roses Parade that is televised around the world on New Year's Day. What wonderful ways to experience, "It's great to be a LION".

September 21st – 23rd was spent attending the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Portland, Oregon. What a fantastic event it was. From the seventy (70) plus training and informational sessions available and the top-notch presenters, to time spent chatting with new and old Lion friends and of course the dynamic speakers at lunch and dinner each day, including our International President Naresh Aggarwal, who gave a very motivating speech.

Remember

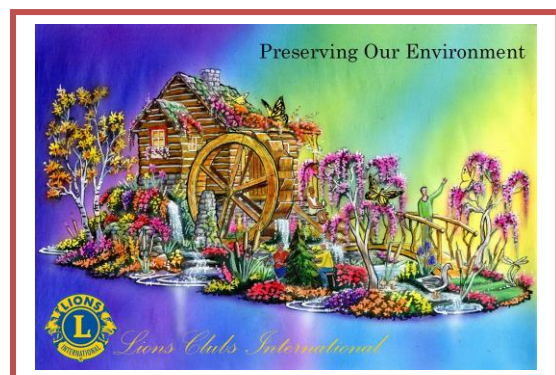
"WE SERVE BETTER TOGETHER"

My Best to all of you!

Available at our District Meeting: **2018 Rose Float Products**

Pins, Shirts, Sweatshirts, Caps, Jackets
Patches and much more.

Questions, Contact our 2nd VDG Gary Hall



**Our District 4-L2 Family Is Saddened by the Loss of these Special People:
(Since our last District Bulletin)**

**Lion Bob Earl – Covina Breakfast Lions Club
Lion David Perschbacher – Whittier Host Lions Club
Mary Dave, wife of Lion Kirit Dave – Pasadena Host Lions Club**

Sincere sympathy to their families. They will be missed.

Contact Lion Cheryl at stephensmother@cs.com to have her send a card when a Lion needs some "Sunshine"..



Welcome to the Hacienda Heights Centennial Lions Club – Charter Night 9/8/17.



Welcome to the new Branch Club of the Belmont Shore Lions "Long Beach Rainbow Lions Club".



Our District's Centennial Project for the 2016-2017 Lions year was the re-wrapping of the van for the Blind Children's Center. Donating the van was made possible by a matching grant from LCIF during the 2008-2009 Lions' year. During that time, the donations were received by Clubs and Lions and the fund drive was spear headed by PDG Kenny Shu (LA Diamond) and Lion Steve Budzak (City of Industry).



DIABETES: DON'T SUGAR COAT IT Submitted by Lion Cheryl Nelson

While it has always been great to be a part of the world's largest service organization, it is going to get even better from here. Lions Club International has been known for its commitment to vision over the last 100 years by securing exams and glasses for those in need, as well as raising money to provide those in desperate need of eye-related surgeries.

And now, as we enter into the next 100 years, the Lions have a new focus, in addition to vision, which will include: **DIABETES AWARENESS - PEDIATRIC CANCER – HUNGER - ENVIRONMENT.**

At the US/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Portland, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Diabetes Symposium, as well as other diabetes-related sessions. The guest speakers and panelists provided a wealth of information that gave us a platform of where we are and where we are going. And it's not pretty. Diabetes remains the seventh leading cause of death. Currently, there are 30.3 million people who have Type 2 diabetes. That is 9.4% of the population, but 1.5 million new cases are diagnosed each year. Of the 30.3 million people with diabetes, only 23.1 million were diagnosed, while 7.2 million went undiagnosed. So it is time to educate ourselves, raise awareness and get involved in community programs.

Type 1 diabetes is when the pancreas does not produce insulin. This makes up 10% of the population with diabetes. If you have a family member with Type 1, it is 1 in 20 that you may have the same diagnosis. A simple blood test will diagnose it. There is an organization, www.trialnet.org that will test relatives free of charge.

There has been a very promising development in recent years called the artificial pancreas. It is a wearable device that measures glucose levels and delivers precise doses of insulin. This is great news for the diabetic as it relieves them of having to deal with the incessant stream of lancets, test strips and syringes. In addition, they are healthier because it keeps the disease on a tighter leash by testing more frequently and delivering more precise insulin doses. This new device is directed more toward Type 1 diabetics. It is currently being tested at diabetes camps where the children can be closely monitored with medical professionals on hand. The Lions are very involved with this promising development.

The remaining 90% are Type 2 diabetics, which mean that the pancreas is still making insulin but is resistant. The good news is that if you control your sugar, you can live a normal life but it is imperative that a diabetic control their sugar levels. Often called the silent killer, if sugar in the body is not controlled, over time it will create heart attack, possible stroke, kidney problems, blindness and/or lower limb amputation. Vision screenings are also very important. According to Dr. Gary Anderson, an expert optometrist on Diabetes, glasses are secondary. You can have an A1C of 6.1 and yet have blood everywhere in your eyes.

As alarming as these statistics are, there are programs and research in place that will help us with the concerns of this rising epidemic – if we act now!

THE NATIONAL DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM (www.cdc.gov/diabetesprevention/index.html) has been established to teach us ways to lower the risk of a diabetes diagnosis by stress management (which affects the autoimmune system greatly), food choices, weight management, increased physical activity and quitting smoking. That's one avenue.

For younger children, there are Diabetes Camps in 46 states throughout the US. According to Lion Terry Ackley, Executive Director at Diabetescamps.org, following is a list of benefits each child receives by attending these camps.

Empowerment – Education – Inspiration - Peer Support - Positive Role Models (for example, Chris Dudley, former NBA Basketball player who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when he was 16).

ADA Camps - In addition to week-long camps, there are other models that are equally effective: Retreats, Overnight Camps, Adventure Camps, Day Camps.

What can we do as Lions to help with the camps?

Put a line in the budget in every club for diabetes camp, Be on the Volunteer Board & Committee, Seek Public Support, Collaborate with like organizations, Marketing/Promotion, Advocates/Speakers, Camper Recruitment, Camper Transportation, and Leadership.

World Diabetes Day is November 14 (13-19). Let's all do our part and help to change the direction of these diabetes statistics by hosting a meeting on the subject and helping to increase the awareness.

Welcome to our Lions Family (August 20th – September 20th)

Name	Sponsor	Club
Carla Mitchell	Robin Snow	Bellflower Family
Guadalupe San Lucas	Diamela Ortiz	CC E Boyle Heights
Jenny Chang	Charter Member	HH Centennial
Sandy Yeh	Charter Member	HH Centennial
Tsai Ling Hsieh	Charter Member	HH Centennial
Sally Goh	Alicia Chung-Clark	HH East Valley
Sharon Wong	Alicia Chung-Clark	HH East Valley
David Huawei Wang	Alicia Chung Clark	HH East Valley
Feng Chen	Richard Chong	Industry Professional
Sheng Sun	Richard Chong	Industry Professional
Joseph H. Lai	Richard Chong	Industry Professional
Qizhi Yu	Richard Chong	Industry Professional
Jay P. Hong	Phyllis Schmidt	Belmont Shore
Sarah Ann Nguyen	Phyllis Schmidt	Belmont Shore
William Pendleton, Jr.	Mary Jane Patton	East Long Beach
Yutong Cai	PDG Kenny Shu	Los Angeles Diamond
Shoujing Ge	Zhiguo Du	Los Angeles Diamond
Lilia Mariscal	Richard Lara	Maywood
Mary Mariscal	Richardo Lara	Maywood
Joellyn Weingourt	Robert Curtiss	Pasadena Host
Chien Jung Chen	Mei Tsai	S. Gabriel Taiwanese
Anderson Chien Chang Kuo	Frank Kuo	S. Gabriel Taiwanese
Roger Alonso	Gil Rodriguez	Whittier Host
John Short	PID Larry Dicus	Whittier Host
Louis Grimaldi	Dean Harako	Whittier Host
Andrea Bodnar	Reinstated	Whittier SOLA
Louis Lawrence	Reinstated	Whittier SOLA

Interested in Decorating our 2018 Lions Float??

District 4-L2 Date for Dry Decoration is December 9th, 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.

District 4-L2 Date for Floral Decoration is December 28th, 3:30p.m. – 11:00p.m.

Open Days (All Districts) December 30th, 8:00a.m. – 3:30p.m., or 3:30p.m. – Finish

Other dates also available.

Leo Days (All Districts) December 26th, 8:00a.m. – 2:30p.m. or 2:30p.m. – 9:00p.m.

The float decorating for the Lions Float is at Phoenix Decorating Company –

5400 Irwindale Avenue – Irwindale.

Any Lion or Leo wishing to be part of the crew and help decorate our float needs to contact either

Lion John Doogan jdoogan7@icloud.com or Lion Ken Bell bellk@acm.org

Lions District 4-L2 Financial Oversight Committee Report to District Governor Manny Sanchez – September 14, 2017

The Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) met on Thursday evening September 14, 2017 to review all the financial records from DG Manny Sanchez's Lion year. In attendance at the meeting was PDG Alberto Montes De Oca, PDG Manny Sanchez, DG Theresa Prumatico, 1VDG John Nelson, 2VDG Gary Hall and Lion Ron Copley. Manny and Ron were in attendance to answer any questions only. All of the records from all three District Accounts were reviewed in detail. A summary of each account is as follows:

Active Account (IPDG Manny Sanchez's Account)

For the year, the income was \$90,574.01 and the expense was \$91,910.19. The account started the year with \$11,905.91 and ended the year with \$10,569.73. The income and expenses were higher than the budget due to the District hosting the June 2017 District 4 COG meeting. At the end of the year the District made donations of \$9,000 to six District Projects. Taking into consideration the \$9,000 donations at the end of the year, the District was \$7,663.82 in the black.

Dormant Account (PDG Larry Wehage's Account)

The beginning balance was \$8,733.91 with income of \$2,183.00 and expenses of \$3,472.45. The ending balance was \$7,444.46.

Centennial Account

The beginning balance was \$3,886.05 with income of \$4,001.12 and expenses of \$5,798.75. The ending balance was \$2,088.82.

The committee reviewed all transactions versus bank statements. All checks written were supported by receipt/receipts. The records were found to be clear and accurate. The committee felt that DG Manny Sanchez and Treasurer Ron Copley did a good job of managing the finances of the District.

Submitted by:

Alberto Montes De Oca

Chairman FOC Committee



**Create a Membership Display for
your club events. Show your PRIDE!
Materials are available from LCI.**

News from Our Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)
District Coordinator Lion Nancy McAfee

In August, Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas coast stretching from the Houston area into Louisiana. LCIF immediately awarded a US \$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to assist in reconstruction efforts. Within two weeks of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma struck Florida and other areas of the southeastern United States, and destroyed much of the islands in the western Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. At the same time, Mexico was hit by its strongest earthquake in 100 years. LCIF has made funds available for two more US \$100,000 grants to aid Lions assisting with Hurricane Irma and Mexico's earthquake. Most recently, LCIF awarded a US \$100,000 grant to support Puerto Rico hurricane relief and reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

Please consider making a donation TODAY! Donations will continue Lions' relief efforts around the world and no gift is too small. Donations can be sent directly to LCIF with proper forms or you can mail the check to LCIF District Coordinator Lion Nancy McAfee, stating where the donation should be used. If you need a form, please contact Lion Nancy and she will send you one.

Do not send the checks to District 4-L2. Your club or individual will not receive credit or acknowledgement for the donation.

If your club would like a presentation regarding LCIF or if any club members have questions, please call Lion Nancy at 562-810-1841.

Help Wanted: Club LCIF Coordinator position (Every Club should have one).

The Club LCIF Coordinator is an ambassador for Lions Clubs International Foundation in your club. This Lion will share LCIF stories, motivate fellow Lions to support LCIF, and enable LCIF to advance its humanitarian work both locally and globally.



**Deadline for information to be submitted for our next District Bulletin (January)
is December 15th. All Clubs are invited to submit information
on their events and service projects.**

Mark Your Calendars

October

October 21st - District 4-L2 Leadership Training at the Applied Technology School – 1200 West Mines Avenue – Montebello, from 8:00a.m. – Noon. Training for Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and Club Treasurers.

October 21st – Maywood Lions Club's La Muerte at 4901 Patata Street, Unit 108 – Cudahy. Time is 4:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. Cost is \$10.00 for five games. For more info call 323-943-1939.

November

November 4th – District 4-L2 Meeting at the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital – 12401 Washington Blvd. – Whittier. Sign in at 8:00a.m. and meeting begins at 9:00a.m. Breakfast is served until 9:30a.m. Cost is \$12.00 per person before October 30th. Meeting adjourns at 12:30p.m. Each Club is asked to donate a new \$20.00 raffle prize. Send in your check, made payable to District 4-L2, to Cabinet Secretary Mary Jane Patton – 3446 Marna Avenue – Long Beach, CA 90808.

Student Speakers Contest Training will be held after the meeting, beginning at 12:30p.m. Bring your contest packet.

November 4th – Daylight Savings Time Ends. “Fall Back”.

November 11th – Veterans’ Day Many Clubs will participate in their communities ceremonies.

November 13th – Fall Golf Classic for the Blind Children’s Center. The event will honor the Los Angeles Police Department. Location is the San Gabriel Country Club. For more information or to register www.blindchildrenscenter.org/fallclassic

November 15th – Deadline to send Club’s Peace Poster Winner(s) to our District Governor.

November 7th – Artesia Cerritos Lions Club hosts their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Contact our DG Theresa Prumatico if you are interested in attending.

November 23rd – Thanksgiving Day. Enjoy your day with family and friends. Give thanks for being able to serve as a Lion.

December

December 16th – Belmont Shore Lions Club Annual Christmas Party from 6:30p.m. – 9:30p.m. at Frantone’s Restaurant – 10808 Alondra Blvd. – Cerritos. Cost is \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two. White Elephant Raffle. Bring a new gift wrapped if you want to join in the FUN!. RSVP to Lion Nancy McAfee by December 10th. Call 562-810-1841 or cs4l2@msn.com

December 27th (Tentative) – Rancho Los Amigos – Tree of Life Ceremony. More info to follow.

December 29th – Reception for our International President. Only 350 tickets will be sold. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Contact our Cabinet Secretary Mary Jane Patton for information.

December 31st – New Year’s Eve Breakfast and Viewing of the Rose Floats. New venue – City of Hope. Organizers are the Pasadena Host Lions Club. More information soon.

January 1st – Happy New Year! Watch the Rose Parade as our Lions’ Float travels down Colorado Blvd.

From the desk of District 4-L2 Global Leadership Training Coordinator, Lion Tom Kester

Impossible to believe that the first quarter of my Lions leadership year has already passed.

I am looking forward to the first district-wide officer training for current and potential Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and Club Treasurers, to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at the Applied Technology Center (ATC), 1200 West Mines Avenue, Montebello, CA from 8a.m. – 12:00p.m.

These three sessions will each last about an hour and will give a solid orientation as to duties, scope and the impact each of these key club leadership positions provide. In addition you may pre-submit your specific questions on each of these topics to ensure that you receive an answer tailored to your personal interest. Please send these questions to me, Lion Tom Kester at email: tkester@att.net I will then see that they are delivered to your trainer.

Our next training event at ATC, will be held on April 14, 2018, and will provide further training to club officers and will include a special Lions topic based on Leadership and Conflict Resolution. Our final training summit for the year will focus on training for current and potential Zone and Region Chair leadership positions.

Your District and LCI have done an outstanding job of creating impactful leadership training opportunities both online at Lions International University and through hands-on, face-to-face, seminar training sessions. If this sounds exciting to you, please reach out to your club's leadership to start on your leadership development path.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday, October 21st at the ATC in Montebello. **Time to register for the upcoming seminar is very short, so please contact our District Cabinet Secretary, Mary Jane Patton, to register for one of the current club leadership training classes.**

Hats Off To Our Clubs and Lions That Serve

Hacienda Heights Centennial Lions Club donated \$1,000 to Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) for disaster relief.

San Gabriel Taiwanese Lions Club recently contributed \$10,000 to LCIF also for disaster relief (hurricane states).

Lion Karl Burger (Bell Gardens) continues to give of his time and talents to Rancho Los Amigos Rehab. Hospital, making custom equipment to help the patients.

Belmont Shore Lions joined by Irwindale Lions cooked and served a lunch to Fisher House (Veterans) on October 7th. On November 18th, they will cook and serve dinner. Contact VDG John Nelson if you would like to assist.

Whittier Special Olympics Club (SOLA) held and assisted at sports tournaments for special athletes. In December, they will host a Holiday Party for the athletes and their families.

Many Clubs will prepare and give Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets to families in their communities.

**Thanks to all Lions and Clubs who live our motto each day . . . We Serve!
District 4-L2 is PROUD of YOU! And you truly are 'THE BEST IN THE WEST!'**

**News from our District Global Service Team Coordinator,
PDG Chris Ohrmund**

All Clubs in District 4-L2 Are Invited To Participate

District Service Projects:

For Fisher House (Veteran's Families)

**Collecting – Note Pads and Pens, and
Word Search/Puzzle Books**

Bring to our November 4th District Meeting

For Lions' Camp at Teresita Pines

**Donations for Purchasing a District 4-L2 Canoe
which will be used at the Camp.**

Each Canoe is \$1,000. Donations from our Clubs will be designated to name a Canoe "District 4-L2" (in our honor).

**Any amount is welcome. Make your checks payable to District 4-L2 and bring to our November 4th District Meeting or mail to our
Cabinet Treasurer
Gene Johnson
4335 Country Club Lane
Long Beach, CA 90807**

**Any questions, please contact PDG Chris.
ohrmu@aol.com or 909-598-0554-R or 909-646-0673-C
Our District is "The Best in the West",
so let's all join together and participate.**

Corrections/Changes for District Directory

Page 45

Uptown Long Beach Lions Club

Treasurer Dolores Devine

Email: maddevine2@juno.com

Page 56

Maywood Lions Club

President Ricardo Lara, Jr.

5109 East 60th Street Apt. A

Maywood, CA 90270

B: 323-767-9966

Email: r.i.lara@live.com

Page 60

Monterey Park Lions Club

President Larry Sullivan

Email: thesullivangroup@gmail.com

Treasurer Larry Odonno

Telephone: 323-697-3846

Page 62

Alhambra Lions Club

President Teresa Yip

Zip code: 91803

Page 66

Monterey Park Dynasty Lions Club

Secretary Richard Yeh

New Address: 206 N. Nicholson Ave.

Unit A

Monterey Park, CA 91755

Page 69

Industry Professional Lions Club

President Richard Chong

Zip code: 91007

Please let our Cab. Secy know if information has changed.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED AND THE PATH TOWARDS LOCOMOTION INTERNATIONAL GOALBALL TOURNAMENT FOR THE BLIND IN LOS ANGELES

Submitted by Lion Jose Jimenez

Any great advance through history starts with a necessity observed by a visionary, implemented by those who identify the plan and reinforce it by individuals who receive the benefit from product or service discovered and the **Organization for the Physically Impaired (OPI)** is not an exemption.

The idea of OPI began back in June, 1992, when a group of visually impaired Latin Americans dreamed to have alternative sports programs suitable for their disability. Since most of them had played soccer in their origin country, they decided to look for opportunities to find them around Los Angeles but no institution was offering them including adapted soccer balls. While they found Goalballs and most of the group members considered to take that option because a few of them experienced such sport in their country also.

Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for blind athletes, originally devised in 1946 by the Austrian Hans Lorenzen and German Sepp Reindle as a means of assisting the rehabilitation of visually impaired World War II veterans. International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), responsible for a range of sports for the blind and partially sighted, is the official governing body for the sport.

Goalball gradually evolved into a competitive game during the 1950s and 1960s, and was eventually nominated as a demonstration sport at the 1976 Summer Paralympics in Toronto. The sports' first world championship was held in Austria in 1978 and Goalball became part of the Paralympic program from the 1980 Summer Paralympics in Arnhem Onwards.

Participants compete in teams of three, and try to throw a ball that has bells embedded in it into the opponents' goal. Teams alternate throwing or rolling the ball from one end of the playing area to the other, and players remain in the area of their own goal in both defense and attack. Players must use the sound of the bell to judge the position and movement of the ball. Games consist of two 12-minute halves (formerly 10-minute halves). Eyeshades allow partially sighted players to compete on an equal footing with blind players. Eye patches may be worn under eyeshades to ensure complete coverage of the eye, and prevent any vision should the eyeshades become dislodged.

On June 20, 1992, a group consisting of Jose Jimenez, John Rodrigues, Victor Hernandez, and Leoncio Perez began their first practice session at a recreational center in East Los Angeles.

In the year 1995, after a journey from park to park in Los Angeles County, Juan Carlos Martinez, Ricardo Mero, Richard Montano, Mark Montano, Scott Blanks, Jose Padilla, Jose Magana, Leonel Aparicio, Oscar Robles, Naun Carmona, Jorge Barrera; as well as Elvia Jauregui, Teresa Martinez, Maria Ortiz, and Betty Medina were integrated in the group of active participants in local and national tournaments.

During the same year, a director of one of the community parks advised us to look for an institution to back us up in order to continue using the facilities or initiate our own and we decided to go for the second option.

After, we started to do research in order to find out how to get together the paperwork including the time and efforts to submit the application to start a nonprofit organization. The rest of the group believed Jose Jimenez when he made an observation that we have to dedicate time to other basic necessities such as social, educational, cultural, job placement, recreational activities, not just sports.

Later on, in one of the practices Jose met Dr. Mel Trousdale, a Doheny Eye Institute of Los Angeles scientist; who introduced him to Jill Mazel, president of the American Soccer Co. After she listened carefully to the proposal, she generously decided to support the project and on September, 1996, the new organization was born.

The following year, the Sports and Social Organization for the Physically Impaired submitted an amendment to eliminate "Sports and Social" and officially becoming the Organization for the Physically Impaired.

In 2000, the organization became a grass-roots *tax exempt 501 (c) (3)* community based organization.

Jose Jimenez arrived into the United States from Mexico on December 22, 1990, with the goal to see the possibility to receive an eye treatment in order to gain his sight back. Because he was afflicted with blindness by Congenital Glaucoma at twenty-two years old back in 1986. After a few visits to different eye clinics, he confirmed that his blindness was irreversible according with the results from other eye doctors in Guadalajara. He then decided to reside in the United States of America; starting the process to obtain his residency through his father Miguel Jimenez and later on his citizenship.

While time was passing by, he was taking DSL classes, taking courses specifically designed for visually impaired. He was also taking computer classes, going through classes in three County of Los Angeles Community Colleges, along with several workshops for nonprofit organizations, including playing Goalball with his teammates and organizing tournaments.

During that period of time, he became aware that some gaps were left out to address: affordable housing, bilingual education, job placement, cultural issues and recreational activities for the blind and disabled.

The first tournament organized by OPI was in September, 1999, at Belvedere Park in East Los Angeles with the participation of two women teams from Baja, California, one men team from Sonora, Mexico, and one local women team and two men teams. The tournament ran with very limited volunteers, specifically family members of the players and only **Central City East Boyle Heights Lions Club** sponsoring the event.

In September, 2000, we were not able to organize the tournament due to lack of facilities to host the event; and in September, 2001, we had to cancel the tournament because of the tragedy that occurred in New York with the Twin Towers. The City of Commerce allowed us to organize our second tournament in its gymnasium at Memorial Veterans Park in 2002; where Baja, California and Sonora, Mexico came to compete with L.A. teams again. Sarita Varela, Jesus Teutli and Jose Luis Garcia from C.C.E. Boyle Heights Lions Club worked wonders with the

limited food and financial donations from local business; in order to cover the meals needed, along with hotel accommodations and local transportation for our athlete guests.

Continuing in 2003, Mexico decided to send their main representative team to participate in our tournament; additionally the city of San Francisco also sent a representative team to compete for the first time against teams from L.A., Baja, California, and Sonora, Mexico. Also Dennis Wuorenma an international certified referee volunteered to come from Chicago to officiate the tournament.

In 2004, the states of Arizona, Nevada and Zacatecas, Mexico, incorporated their teams into the competition.

Next year in 2005, Jalisco was the only new team to make the Journey from Mexico to challenge the previous participating teams. The West San Gabriel Valley Boys and Girls Club came aboard to volunteer as Line Judges and Score Keepers for those Saturdays.

In 2006, the popularity of our tournament was growing into the stature that required two gyms; in order to conduct our event due to more teams being incorporated into the tournament. At this time, USA was represented by the state of Michigan as Mexico was represented by Puebla respectively. Memorial Veterans Park in the City of Commerce and Maywood Recreational Center in the City of Maywood collaborated effectively to make the event happen and we adapted the new tournament's name OPI LOCOMOTION INTERNATIONAL.

Expanding our event along with USA and Mexico in 2007, teams from Chicago and Nuevo Leon traveled from their own towns to join the tournament; to show the power and talent of their teams. Both teams were in pursuit of first place in the competition bracket.

After eight tournaments organized by OPI, in 2008 the level of competition grew into the dispute of first place between both USA and Mexico. USA teams received four championships and teams from Mexico tied with them, receiving four championship trophies as well.

2009 marked the year when the women's teams partook in the competition. Utah accepted our invitation bringing two women's teams, the enthusiastic Utah Explosive and fully charged Utah TNI; to show their strength of competition against Mexico, Sacramento, and L.A. women's teams. Utah also brought one men's team to challenge the rest of the participating men's teams.

In 2010, there was strong competition because all the participating teams previously played each other in our tournaments. Chihuahua, Mexico and Washington teams raised their hands to come in 2011 to have the opportunity to respectably represent their states for USA and Mexico.

Unfortunately, Dennis Wuorenma, our main official since 2002 was hospitalized two days prior to our 2012 tournament by a heart attack and he tragically passed away a week later. Without knowing the heartbreaking news, we had everything set up to conduct our customary annual Goalball tournament and Mathew Boyle accepted the offer to volunteer as a last minute official and taking the responsibility to officiate the event.

The 2013 tournament was dedicated as a Memorial of Dennis Wuorenma; honoring him for his eleven years of tremendous support, effort, experience and establishment to the successful history of our Goalball tournaments.

That same year, we attracted more teams from California, including the Fontana Cyclones and Sacramento Aftershocks; who accepted the challenge; due to one gym not being suitable enough to cover all the games needed to play according to the teams interested to participate.

The following year, Bell High School opened their doors to organize our OPI LOCOMOTION INTERNATIONAL 2014 Goalball Tournament; which granted us the access to two gyms. The tournament's level of competition crossed over the ocean to motivate two men's teams from Australia to come and demonstrate their progress in the sport. Additionally, New York also got together a team to fly over to Los Angeles, accepting the challenge.

2015t was the opportunity for two Australian women's teams to demonstrate their power at El Rancho High School; in Pico Rivera. Canada also crossed the Northern US border with a women's team and a men's team to be a part of the sport festivities. That year we almost reached nine women's and ten men's teams looking to take first place in their respective bracket.

Then Pioneer High School in Whittier happily opened its two gyms; to facilitate the 2016 Goalball tournament and a year later El Rancho High School generously gave us the opportunity to carry on our Seventeenth OPIO LOCOMOTION INTERNATIONAL 2017 edition where the Oregon women's team participated for the first time ever in our tournament.

Now OPI would like to acknowledge some of the District 4-L2 Lions Clubs for their eventual support throughout the years of existence of our sport events in order to offer opportunity, progress and independence for the visually impaired sector in our society.

Thank you to: **Bellflower Family, Bell Gardens, Commerce Evening, East Los Angeles, Maywood, Montebello, Pico Rivera, and Whittier Host Lions Clubs.**

Special mention to the Central City East Boyle Heights Lions Club for their continued support represented by Lion Sarita Varela who dedicated her knowledge, skills, financial and time each and every year to the success of the kitchen coordination since 2002.

OPI continues to grow and looks forward to a greater future, fulfilling its mission to empower its members through social, educational, recreational, cultural and athletic programs; and to integrate each individual into he society at large in the months and years to come.

OPI - ALWAYS MOVING BEYOND LIMITATIONS

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