

LIONS CLUB DISTRICT 12-S  
P.O. Box 81  
Hickman, TN 38567

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# District 12-S News & Views

*"In a World of Service"*



October 2013

District 12-S, Middle Tennessee (USA)

www.lions12s.org



*As District Governor, I am yielding my space for the October Newsletter to PID Bob Corlew, who is running for 2nd Vice President of LCI. We as Tennessee Lions are so proud of Bob and Dianne and will support them in this endeavor.*

Working to help others through Lions Clubs International and through my local Lions Club has made my life more fulfilling. I first had the opportunity to become a Lion in 1978. During the 30+ years that I

have been a Lion, I have watched and worked as Lions around the world and right year at home, have taken part in the many projects and endeavors to make the world a better place. Here in Tennessee, Lions worked to establish the Vanderbilt Tennessee Lions Eye Center in Nashville. Through Tennessee Lions Charities, our non-profit arm, we have continued our work in early detection of childhood eye problems with our eye screening programs, and treatment for children with vision issues. Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service, another non-profit arm, continues to provide treatment of catastrophic eye problems and injuries. We as Lions continue to work in the many other areas of service to our local communities.

The major tragedy of our Lions work here in Tennessee, and across America, is that there are becoming fewer of us! Lions membership, even here in Tennessee has declined now for four years in a row. Lions membership across America has similarly declined but for an even longer period of time. Only because Lions in other parts of the world are asking their friends and community leaders to be a part of this great organization, is the Association of Lions Clubs growing in membership worldwide. We all enjoy our work in Lions. Why shouldn't we all work hard to be certain that our other friends who are Lions are also working hard to serve their clubs and communities. Unfortunately, far too many Lions become disinterested and drop their membership. Busy, committed, dedicated Lions continue their service. I ask you to be a part of the solution here in Tennessee, and particularly here in District 12-S. I would suggest we should consider three important areas: 1) we must keep our members active and involved so that they continue to serve as Lions, 2) we must continue to ask our friends, family, and other community leaders to join us and become a part of this great effort because the work of service is so great that we need the new members' assistance to continue our projects and develop new projects to better serve our communities, and 3) we should continue to look at underserved areas, whether communities that do not have a Lions Club, or perhaps an area of specialty where Lions could make a contribution to lives of others, and establish new Lions Clubs.

Dianne and I want to express our sincerest appreciation to the Lions around the world, but particularly here in Tennessee and in District 12-S especially, for the support we have received in our bid to lead this great organization at the International level. Thanks to the hardwork of many, our campaign for Second Vice-President of our International Association is progressing well. I was the only certified candidate who attended the ANZI Forum in Indonesia, where Lions from Australia, New Zealand, and other smaller nations in the area gathered. The USA-Canada Forum was a great success! We look forward to travels to Istanbul to meet with Lions from Europe, and then to attending the ISAAME and OSEAL forums where we can meet with Lions in Asia and the Orient. After the new

year, we will travel to Columbia to meet with Lions in South America. We also have plans to meet with Lions in Africa. To date, some 29 states in the US have endorsed my candidacy. Some eight additional Multiple Districts have endorsed me in other countries! By contrast, only two multiple districts have endorsed other candidates! This is all tremendously positive news as we move toward the election in Toronto next summer. But it all comes with substantial costs. We are very thankful to the numbers of Tennessee Lions who have made financial contributions to my candidacy. We are further very thankful to Lions who have committed to work to help us raise the dollars necessary to run a first-class campaign. We appreciate the numbers of Lions who are committing to attend as voting delegates and campaign workers at the International Convention in Toronto. Together, we can gain recognition for our great State, as we carry on the tradition established by Lion Austin Jennings, Lion Ed Lindsey, and Lion Clifford Pierce, all of whom are from Tennessee, and who served as President of our great organization. Together, as Lions, we can make the world a better place to live!

*PID Bob Corlew*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1, 2013	Zone D Meeting, McMinnville, TN
October 19, 2013	Fall Gathering - District 12-S, Red Boling Springs, TN
October 24, 2013	MTLSS Meeting, Murfreesboro Lions Club Building, Murfreesboro, TN
October 26, 2013	Southside Lions Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Gordonsville, TN
November 12, 2013	Manchester Lions Club 60th Anniversary Celebration, Manchester, TN

## QUOTES OF THE MONTH

*A smile is a sign of joy, a hug is a sign of love, and a friend like me,  
shoot that's just a sign of good taste.*

*– Author unknown*

*Celebrate what you've accomplished, but also  
raise the bar a little higher each time you succeed.*

*– Mia Hamm*

For any information about this newsletter or the District 12-S website,  
please contact Colby McKinney  
(615) 489-0572 or colbymckinney00@yahoo.com

## THE LIONS COMMUNICATION VAN

This Van is owned by each club in District 12S, and is designed so you can check the eyes of children, (over the age of 6) and adults. It has three eye screening machines and hearing can be checked on all children in the two booths located in the back.

Here what you have to do to use the Van:

- You must have a driver that is on the insurance policy ( this can happen by sending me a copy of your driving license's so I can get it on the policy)
- You have to call me at 615 893 5005 to check if it is available on the dates you want.
- When you pickup the Van you must start your trip ticket (this is located in the white note book lying on the floor) the name of the club, the driver and starting mileage.
- Be sure to check the Van over for damage on the outside and bump the tire to make sure all tires are up.
- Take it and have fun screening eyes and checking the hearing.
- Upon returning the vehicle to Murfreesboro, make sure you have filled it with fuel, clean on the inside and any damage or problems that has occurred please put on your filled out trip ticket and park the Van back where you found it.
- The trip ticket must report the number of gallons of fuel. The ending mileage and the number of miles driven.
- WE would like to know the number that have been checked on the eye machines and the number of people you have had hearing checked.
- Let's not let this van set without using. It is there for your use for schools, health fairs etc.

Schedule your event now.

Gene Staats Scheduler  
893-5005/631-7923

I would be very remiss if I did not begin this article by expressing what an honor it is to serve with District Governor Tom and 1st Vice-District Governor Carolyn, and to have the privilege of serving you, the Lions of District 12-S, as your 2nd Vice-District Governor.

I recently had three amazing experiences with Clubs in our District and wanted to share them with you. The first was the Charter Night for our newest Club, the Middle Tennessee State University Lions Club. How exciting to see these enthusiastic young adults who have committed to serving others and to see the packed room of current Lions of all ages and offices who were there to show their encouragement and support.

During August, I visited one of our District 12-S Clubs and was absolutely thrilled by their brain-storming session during the meeting. I sat and listened as Lion after Lion shared new ideas for how the Club could raise more funds for their projects, but more importantly how they could better serve their community and the cause of Lions International. That same Club has now added six new members.

The final event I want to share with you is a community wide event sponsored by a Lions Club in our District. The event not only raises funds for the Lions, but through the generosity of the Club offers other civic and church organizations in the area the chance to participate and raise money as well. Not only was the event great fun for everyone there, but you felt almost instantly how much this Lions Club was loved and respected for what they do and how vital they are to their community.

These are only three examples, and I did not name the last two Clubs, as I know there are others out there doing things just as exciting and just as important for their communities and in support of Lions International. My whole point to this – the Clubs I mentioned here and their members are examples of how we as Lions should face each day – excited to be a Lion and wanting to see what we can do next to honor our motto “We Serve”.

As I close, I would encourage every Lion to work very hard to try to make it to the International Convention in Toronto in 2014, where you will have the chance to again make Lion history by helping elect Immediate Past International Director Bob Corlew the next Second International Vice-President. It would be such an honor to Tennessee Lions, and to Lions worldwide, to have PID Bob and his lovely wife Lion Dianne be elected, and I definitely believe we can make it happen. International Convention Chair Lion JoAnn Birdwell is working tirelessly to make this trip affordable for those who want to go. I will always remember PID Bob as a Zone Chair touting “Zone Excitement”. Let’s go to Toronto and show the world some District 12-S “Tennessee Excitement”.

Lion Bob Davenport  
2nd Vice-District Governor, District 12-S

## **LIONS KIDSIGHT OUTREACH OFFICE**

The Lions KidSight Outreach Office, occasioned by the retirement of Sylvia and Kathy, has moved from the Vanderbilt campus to this headquarters. After

numerous discussions with Dr. Donahue and others at Vanderbilt conclusions were that this is a workable, efficient and economical way to maintain our program/Partnership as it continues to grow. Daily operating procedures will remain as usual. Administrative questions may be addressed to 505 Fesslers Lane, Nashville, TN 37210-2814. Telephone 615-690-8644 ext. 221. Vision Screenings will flow through this office to Vanderbilt Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; the cover sheet and consent form has been revised to reflect the address change. Official reading and evaluation determination remains with Dr. Donahue and his staff.

## **Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service 2013 Annual Game of Skill**

**\$5 Charity Donation ( or \$20 for 5 )**

Fellow Lion,

As I’m sure you’re aware, the need for the services provided to Middle Tennessee through Lions Sight Services (MTLSS) has been affected by 3 major factors:

- 1) Increased number of applications for services due to the high unemployment rate, loss of insurance, and decreased health care funding.
- 2) Increased cost of services. While the doctors, nurses, and anesthetists typically do these surgeries pro bono, the cost of medicines and supplies has increased at an alarming rate.
- 3) Donations to White Cane and MTLSS are down considerably! (this has been true 3 years running!)

All this creates a problem where the effect is the same... we are having to turn people away, or provide reduced services. An example of this has been the recent decision to provide cataract surgery on only 1 eye to help provide at least partial vision to more people.

Even typing those words above pains me... as I’m sure it does you. But can you imagine having to give that news to someone who is depending on us for help?

To try to combat this dilemma, MTLSS is doing the following:

- 1) Asking clubs to increase their donations to White Cane. Remember that the largest portion of MTLSS funding comes through White Cane.
- 2) Seeking to raise money from outside Lions in the various forms such as grant or corporate partnerships.
- 3) Lastly, fund-raisers by the MTLSS organization itself.

Please keep all 3 of these solutions in mind. #1 above requires no real thought, just action. If you or anyone in your club have ideas or contacts on #2 or #3, please contact anyone in the MTLSS organization of your Zone, Region, or District Lions representative, or give me a call or text message at (931) 434-1751.

PCC Shirley Stoats,  
Executive Director

## **IT IS AMAZING WHAT A DOG AND GOOD PEOPLE CAN DO!!!!!!!**

Dale, Melissa, and Denise,

I am not good at these type of emails but here goes. Before I applied at leader dog my life was in a dark hole that i thought i would never get out of. In my life before all of this i was the toughest of the tough (Navy Seal) 5 years 4 months and 10 days of war and a Senior design executive at Chrysler. In a short time my life changed from being on top to being a person of no hope.

At first i thought the dog would only help me to get on with a depressing life. How wrong i was! When i first met my trainer Denise i felt her bubbly personality and genuine care to not only work with my dog but to help me get out of this hole i was in. She defended me when i was wrong and upset. She helped me work with Ripley and at the same time showed me my life wasn’t going to be so bad.

Ripley is more than a leader dog, he is my buddy. On or off the leash or harness he is amazing. He has learned my routine and helps me stay on a good path. He got so irritated when i smoked he started making noises even when i was outside smoking. And now i do not smoke at all. He reminds me to take my medicines. It is amazing how involved he is in my life. Even when i am upset he comes to me and stares at me until i forget what i am upset about then he lays on my foot, as to keep me calm.

I thank God everyday for Ripley.

I met with Dale and Melissa at partridge creek mall and i know why Ripley is the way he is. I have NEVER seen people care so much for their dogs, even knowing they will not keep them. At first i could not understand why anyone would do this. But now i understand, they do it to help people like me. Dale and Melissa deserve a special place in heaven for their work.

The reason for this letter is it has been 6 months that i have had Ripley and my life has changed and continues to get better everyday. I am almost completely back on my feet now. This is a miracle to me, I never thought a dog or seeing that people cared would help me get my life back. I start school soon to help people deal with their disabilities and i would never be at this point in my life without the help of Denise, Dale & Melissa. So i must thank the people that help me get my life back. I no longer pity myself, now i challenge myself to do better. All i can say with great serenity is THANK YOU ALL!!!!!!

Robert

## **TRAINING LEADER DOGS, CLIENTS IS TIME-INTENSIVE PROCESS**

This article was reported and written by John McKay.

When shoppers or diners stroll along the sidewalks in downtown Rochester, it’s not uncommon to encounter a Leader Dog at work, a testament to the rigorous training cycle the dogs undergo before they are paired with a visually impaired client. Debbie Komondy, a guide dog mobility instructor at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills who has trained more than 300 dogs over 25 years with the organization, said preparing dogs and clients can be a time-

intensive process. Popular Stories “I enjoy working with the dogs,” Komondy said. “Sometimes it can be a little frustrating, but for the most part it’s a lot of fun. It’s not as easy as it looks.” The training process is split between working with 6-8 dogs for 16 weeks, than working with clients for another 26 days. Leader Dogs for the Blind primarily uses Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds, which are bred in-house. “We find that’s much more successful than using dogs from shelters,” she said. She said the organization has explored using rescue dogs in the past, but with a low rate of success. Soundness and focus are keys to a dog’s success in the Leader Dog program, Komondy said. Puppies are taught at an early age to stand on a “wobble board,” which makes noise and causes uneven footing, so the dogs get accustomed to sudden environmental changes. “It’s important that they have soundness, that they’re not afraid of anything,” she said. “We don’t want to instill fear into them. Dogs that are fearful will refuse to do things quite often.”

Training the dogs, she says, requires plenty of positive reinforcement and the occasional food reward. Keeping a dog focused from other environmental distractions, such as other dogs or those wanting to pet the Leader Dog, is crucial for the client’s safety, she said. Finding a match with client, dog is critical: When dogs are paired with the clients, Komondy said, it is important to find a good match for each client.

“Every person is an individual, and the dogs are the same,” she said. “It’s a matter of matching the person and the dog with their pace and lifestyle, more or less. Some dogs would rather lay around and walk to the store; some would be happy walking back and forth to work, so we match the dog and person so that they are both on the same page when they are working together.”

Before clients use a dog, however, they participate in mobility and orientation training, which teaches clients to move about in the world, listen for traffic, learn to cross the street, walk in a straight line and be aware of traffic signals and stop signs. Once the clients begin working with the guide dog instructors, they participate in “Juno training,” where instructors pull a Leader Dog harness, much as a dog would, and teach clients the commands they will later use with the dog.

“That gives me an idea of how they learn and what I need to teach them,” Komondy said. Clients taught to care for dogs: When clients are paired with dogs and trained, Komondy said she teaches clients how to care for dogs at home.

“A lot of people have other dogs or cats and we teach them to introduce each other and to not get too rough when they play together,” she said. “One of the major things we make our clients aware of is the perfect weight of the dog, not by the number on the scale, but by feeling the dog and the way the harness fits.”

Clients also are taught to seek their own veterinarians (clients living near the Rochester Hills campus can receive free veterinary care onsite) and when to schedule vet visits.

For dogs that don’t make it through the program, whether because of medical or training issues, Komondy said they undergo what the organization calls a “career change.” They are offered back to the puppy-raiser, or to fill other service needs—such as arson dogs or police dogs—or are put up for adoption with strict adoption guidelines. 32 District Leader Dog Chair Lion Sheila Rousey s\_rousey@truvista.net