

# District 1A

## Lions Clubs International

### Mother District of Lionism

# Terry D'Souza, District Governor 2014-2015



October, 2014

### Greetings!



October and the 4<sup>th</sup> month of our Lionistic year for 2014-15 is here. Fall is also upon us. Cool, rainy temperatures, Oktoberfest where beer and pretzels abound, apple picking, harvest-fall festivals and of course at the end of the month Halloween. October for us Lions; also means Candy days on October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, "Candy days" is the biggest fundraiser of the Lions of Illinois Foundation. I hope every club has their candy and are all geared up to be out there collecting donations and raising funds for our Foundation. The funds that we raise help various much needed programs. I wish you and your club all success in this endeavor.

Lions, we have another reason why October is important. We have two months October & April designated as Membership Growth Months by Lions Clubs International. More members' means more hands for service. Just in case, you are wondering why October and April are selected, because these two months are growth promotional months which involve a presentation of awards. When a member brings in a new member in October, they will receive a silver pin. Should a member bring in a member both in October and in April, they will receive another gold pin. If your club adds new members in October and April your club will receive a Membership Growth banner patch. Awards or no awards please remember every month and every added member is important to the growth of our district. So far this year we started with 1727 members with 71 clubs in July, we added 44 members, dropped 43 members. Right now we have a +1in membership, 71 clubs bringing our total to 1728 members. We are 4<sup>th</sup> in membership in the State trailing District 1-D by just a few members. So Good Luck lions let's try to at least get to the 3<sup>rd</sup> place. After all we ARE the first district in the world. Below is a list of added members and their sponsors for the month of September.

CLUB	MEMBERS ADDED	MEMBERS NAME	SPONSOR'S NAME	# SPONSORED
BURBANK	2	Leon Eaton	John Coleman	2members
		Louis Viverito	John Coleman	
CALUMET CITY	1	Ashley Lake	Robert Lake	1member
CHICAGO AZTECA	1	Nancy Diaz	No Available	1member
CHICAGO HEIGHTS	1	Darrell Washington	Robert Duncan	1member
CHICAGO MONTCLARE- ELMWOOD PARK	1	Taylor French	Darlene Hrankaj	1member
CHICAGO WINDY CITY	1	David Smith	Kristopher Kempski	1member
RIVER GROVE	2	Michael Body	Ray Saylor	1member

		Leslie McMillan	David Guerin	1member
TOTAL NUMBER ADDED	9			
THIS MONTH				

**Editorial:**

Weather is chilling out in Chicago and trees are dropping their leaves. Outdoor activities thinning out and people find time to spend inside their homes. Birds are sheltering in warm places and already started flying nonstop. Mother Nature stopped growing to this cold weather; however, Lions Clubs International asking us to grow in membership, build clubs with strong members so that there will be enough hands to hold community activities. Care and share with needy people in our neighborhoods.



It's our Lions Clubs International President Joe Preston is asking us to have "Ask1" campaign to grow in membership. Currently we are 1728 members in District 1A. If all members in District 1A answer our International President's call and bring one member, we will grow to 3456 and will become #1 District in Multiple District 1! Wow! Our convention will be filled with at least 1,000+ members and it will be great fun to see that growth. Our convention chair PDG Steve Anton will be dancing in the rain if it rains during convention time.

For Lions, nothing is impossible. We can grow in huge numbers and serve our communities with love and compassion. We need few New Clubs in our district to see real growth in membership. Little birdie told me that some lions are working hard to make it happen. I challenge all Region Chairs in our district to bring one new club and increase our district's total number to 77 clubs at the end of this Lionistic year, i.e., that is prior to going to attend next international convention in Hawaii in 2015.

Our governor well deserve this growth in membership and in total clubs as she is working very hard by totally ignoring her health issues for the betterment of Lionism in the Mother District – 1A where lionism started in 1917. In two years we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Let us bring more hands together to

share joy and cheers. To show the world what we can do in Chicagoland.

*-PDG Austin D'Souza*

**FROM I VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR:**

The 2014-2015 leadership is moving forward. The leaves are turning and the temperature is moderating. In other words it is getting colder which means we are moving in to the fall months. The month of September has been a busy one for Sue and I. We attended the 2014 USA Canada Forum. The forum was held in Puerto Rico and we could not pass up this opportunity to attend for a couple of reasons. The first one is Puerto Rico was where Sue and I spent our Honeymoon. The second was I have family in Puerto Rico. The third is we could attend the forum and check it out since it was our first one. All that being said; we had an opportunity to return to Puerto Rico and refresh our memories of our honeymoon; visit our family that are living there and take care of some business related to Lions; a nice blend of business and pleasure and an experience that I will always treasure.



As I mentioned in the previous paragraph Sue and I were at the USA Canada Forum in Puerto Rico. This forum is a highly motivational presentation put together by Lions which is very well planned and coordinated. I found it to be one of the better motivational programs that I have attended. The venue in Puerto Rico was excellent. Puerto Rico is a tropical paradise and if you can handle the humidity it is outstanding place to have an event. The agenda of seminars presented offered Lions a choice of relevant topics that ranged from improving your skills, concepts for club improvement and growth and idea to expand our association. Besides being all business there was the Host Night celebration, tourist attractions in Old San Juan and other activities which made this forum an enlightening and fun experience.

One of the outstanding outcomes of this forum is the opportunity to "greet and meet" our international leaders. The forum is like a miniature convention. Instead being surrounded by large group of Lions you are in a smaller group which allows you access to our leaders. They are readily available. How available you ask? Here is one that involved my wife Sue. I was attending a seminar and my wife was wondering the convention center checking it out and she bump into none other than Lion Joe Preston our current International President. Lion Joe is a very busy person. But he took time out of his busy schedule to chat with my wife and to pose with her for a photo opportunity. Lion International President in my book is a gentleman and a great leader who understands the importance of every member in our association. To me that is the appeal and fascination of this event. The leaders of our association are readily available and every effort is made to have Lions interact and mingle with them. Next year's forum will be in Grand Rapids, MI. It is just a few hours' drive from Chicago. Mark it on your calendar (September 17-19, 2015) and make plans to attend. The link to the forum website is - <http://lionsforum.org/>

One final thought.

One of Lion Joe's and Lion Terry's goals for their leadership year "To Strengthen the pride" is to develop the Lions membership in our association and our district. I had the privilege of inducting two new members to the Argo Summit Lions while attending the Region 5 meeting on September 30th. The Argo Summit Lions have a rich history of service in that community and they have succeeded in meeting Lion Joe's and Lion Terry's goal for membership development for their club. Congratulations Argo Summit.

In Lionism

**-Lion Ralph Zarada 1st VDG**

## SCANNING HISTORY



On Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, PCC Georg Toft, IPDG Dave Hansen, PCST Judy Toft, under the guidance of Charles Fox volunteer from the

University of Chicago, had an opportunity to peer into the history and archives of the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind. As 2015 is the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lighthouse they have been gathering photographs, newspaper clippings and other types of documentation that will bring the past into the present as part of their 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.



Lion Georg was handed files that contain notes other documents concerning the relationship of District 1A Lions and

the Lighthouse. In past years, the Lions of District 1A have worked closely with the Lighthouse, applied for and received grants inuring to the benefit of the Light- house for the training of call center opera tors, a grant for the purchase of the van for the Strickfaden Store which was also started by an LCIF



grant, and a grant involving the Low Vision Clinic. Lion Georg spent a number of hours delving into the District 1A files that had been separated to become an official part of the Lighthouse history.

Lion Dave and Lion Judy took turns learning how to successfully use the Zoom-Ex large print magnifier that has the ability to scan. The



Magnifier looks like a small square light on a tripod. After placing the document on the table and setting it up on the computer, you can scan

one page at a time, set the machine to scan a multipage document, either by page, by even

page number and the odd page number or if you really get brave, set the unit to “auto scan” and it does the whole document. After the document is scanned it is also re-formatted so that a visually impaired person would be able to “read” the documents!



Lion Judy had an opportunity review some of the many files and binders at random and found a letter written by one of the women who had helped to start the Lighthouse in 1906. This is a three page hand written history of this organization detailing its start and what it grew into - a really amazing bit of history! She also found an article published by Ann Landers entitled “Rules for Blindness” which was a very thought provoking ten point listing on how you should treat someone who is visually impaired.

After what was accomplished today, Lions Georg, Dave and Judy will definitely be part of the cadre of “volunteers” needed to bring the written history of the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind into focus for the 110 Anniversary celebrations.

**-Lion Judy Toft**

District 1A Membership Coordinator & District 1A RAP Chair

## Calling all Interested Lions

Fellow Lions the 2014/2015 Long Range Committee will be meeting on Thursday, October 23rd at Connie’s Restaurant, 3271 S Harlem Ave, Berwyn IL at 6:30 PM.



The Long Range Planning committee has been tasked to look at many of the things we as a Lions District do and to seek ways to improve what is good and change what we feel needs changing. Our focus is 3 to 5 years in our future, but sooner if needs exist.

There is a permanent core to this committee, but all Lions are encouraged to attend and offer their ideas and suggestions.

Some of the issues looked into, in the past, by LRP: To create a District 501C3. Issues of retention and Membership for our Clubs Structure of our “Mid Year Forum”, LOU and Conventions. Our discussion will be lively and will have real meaning for our great District’s future. We will be ordering off a good menu and “going Dutch” Come on out and let your ideas be heard!!!

Planning on attending—please call me by Monday October 21st to reserve your spot. Call me at 708-453-4798 (H) or 708-421-4798 ©

Yours in Lionism

**-Dave Hansen, IPDG**

Committee Chairman

## FROM CABINET SECRETARY’S DESK:



As we wind down with the final days of summer, we look forward to activities that all the clubs in our District will be involved in. Many of you have already forwarded me flyers that you wished to be sent out to the Cabinet members, PDG’s, Presidents, Secretaries and such. I am always happy to send this information on for you.

In case you don’t know me or are unaware, I do work full time Monday through Friday, and unfortunately am unable to work on Lions things during that time. If you send me anything during the day, please do not feel like I am ignoring you. I will respond to your email or send the flyer or information you need, as soon as I am able to after work hours.

I have also provided a detailed list of corrections that have been brought to my attention or that I have found while reviewing the directory. It is quite lengthy and I apologize for the mistakes initially. When the information was provided, I did my best to get things right, but the amount of material and the number of changes that were made on a daily basis until the directory went to print was numerous. Again, I apologize for any inconvenience this has presented to anyone.

If you ever have any questions or need to get information to me, my email is [csblock1a@aol.com](mailto:csblock1a@aol.com), or you can call my cell phone at 219-616-7627 or my home phone at 219-865-8939. If you leave a message I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I look forward to a busy and beautiful FALL.

**-Lion Brenda Block, Cabinet Secretary 1-A**

### District 1-A Directory Corrections:

Please make the following corrections to your copy of the District 1-A directory.

Pg. 10 E: [docrucoba@att.net](mailto:docrucoba@att.net)  
Pg. 12 ZC Sandy Nedza – add cell phone # 847-502-4497  
Pg. 14 ZC Myrna Cordero – delete home phone #, add cell 847-999-8913 and B: 773-481-1111  
Pg. 15 ZC Tom Elsey – E: [Thomas.Elsey@gmail.com](mailto:Thomas.Elsey@gmail.com)  
Pg. 16 ZC Tommy Crowhurst – Add – E: [tmccarp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmccarp@sbcglobal.net)  
Pg. 17 ZC Terri Yauger – E: should be [yaagootj@aim.com](mailto:yaagootj@aim.com)  
Pg. 23 African Lions President – Home # 773-550-5729  
Secretary – Cell # 773-977-9642  
Pg. 27 Brookfield LaGrange Park – Pres. Jason Vitell E: [jvitell@hotmail.com](mailto:jvitell@hotmail.com)  
Pg. 30 Chicago Heights – Secretary – correct email as above for Terri Yauger  
Pg. 30 Cicero President – E: [lucyjon1@gmail.com](mailto:lucyjon1@gmail.com)  
Pg. 34 Fil USA Secretary – H: 773-425-1747  
Pg. 35 Filipino American Pres. – H: 847-546-5777  
Pg. 35 Flossmoor Roshni Pres. – E: [kumar.sangeeta195@gmail.com](mailto:kumar.sangeeta195@gmail.com)  
Pg. 39 Indo-US Sec. – H: 847-553-8594  
Pg. 42 LIERI Treas. – E: [lawalker@uic.edu](mailto:lawalker@uic.edu)  
Pg. 43 Lyons President – B: 708-299-5031  
Pg. 44 Mayfair President – H: 773-736-4753  
Pg. 45 Mexica Treasurer – E: [pduda0614@yahoo.com](mailto:pduda0614@yahoo.com)

Pg. 46 Northwest President & Mem. Chmn. – H: 847-966-4238  
Pg. 46 Northwest Secretary – C: 847-502-4497  
Pg. 47 Oak Lawn Secretary – c: 708-278-6328  
Pg. 47 Oak Park River Forest – Secretary – H: 630-300-4024  
Pg. 48 Palos President – c: 708-448-0226  
Pg. 49 Philippine President – Lourdes G. Mon  
Pg. 49 Puerto Rico President – c: 773-440-8887  
Puerto Rico Secretary – c: 773-216-1016  
Pg. 53 Stickney Forest View President – Jeff White, 6711 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Stickney, IL H: 708-516-7353 E: [isellum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:isellum@sbcglobal.net)  
Stickney Forest View Treasurer – [moon323@comcast.net](mailto:moon323@comcast.net)  
Pg. 55 Thornton President – E: [dtondu@aol.com](mailto:dtondu@aol.com)  
Pg. 57 Willow Springs Treasurer – E: [rickjoinerii@aol.com](mailto:rickjoinerii@aol.com)  
Pg. 58 Worth – Treasurer – E: [jim\\_plahm@msn.com](mailto:jim_plahm@msn.com)  
Worth Membership Chairman – E: [epalenik@msn.com](mailto:epalenik@msn.com)  
Pg. 74 Dennis McMillan – E: [liondennismac@gmail.com](mailto:liondennismac@gmail.com)  
Pg. 83 Add Mario Gumino, PDG (Lion Karen) as Executive Administrator  
Pg. 87 Javaid Ahmed – change address to 827 Thomas Ave. Forest Park, IL 60130  
Pg. 88 Myrna Cordero – add c: 847-999-8913 & B: 773-481-1111  
Pg. 89 Thomas Elsey – change Email to [Thomas.Elsey@gmail.com](mailto:Thomas.Elsey@gmail.com)  
Pg. 93 Insert John Torphy info from pg. 15 between Phil Tom and Terri Yauger  
Insert Jason Vitell info from pg. 15 between Terri Yauger & Janice Wiggins  
Pg. 93 Ralph Zarada – E: [ralph.zarada.1a@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.zarada.1a@gmail.com)  
Pg. 93 Ben Zoleta – insert info from pg. 13  
Pg. 93 missing Suzanne Travers-Byster, Ishraq Uddin and Alfonso Threadgill

## DO YOU SEE WHAT I AM SEEING. DO YOU SEE WHAT AM LOOKING AT.

When I joined the Lions club in 2008, I was very excited knowing that I belong to such a great and international humanitarian organization. I am still very much proud to be a member of this great organization and so I proudly tell my friends and every important person I meet that I am a Lion, and tell who ever has a minute to listen, who we are and what we do. I am more proud that I belong to the very #1 club in the #1 district in the whole world - what a privilege.

I have attended international conventions and district conventions in my district and elsewhere. Do you see what I am seeing? I have being away and missing in action for some time now. Not because I am disillusioned but rather that I have to work extra hard to provide for my family as this is my primary responsibility and obligation. But do you see what I am looking at? I see great Lions who in my few years as a Lion, are working tirelessly to keep the flag of the #1 district in the world flying. Regardless of their years in this planet, they don't seem to slow down even though they must slow down, or nature will force them to do just that. I see and read the passing of some of this great Lions. Some are still alive and does not seem to slow down. Lionism is in their blood and breath. They are the ones I see, envy, and want to emulate, God willing.

Are you seeing what I am seeing? I see great Lions like PDG Lion George Toft, lion Syed Wahaj Ahmed, PDG Lion Austin D'Souza, Lion Judy Toft, PDG Lion John Clayborn, Governor Lion Terry D'Souza and so many others. These Lions and many others for lack of time and space are the ones I am seeing and looking at. I am looking at them because time is of the essence. They urgently need help, real help, because every good thing must have an end. There comes a time in ones journey on earth like Methuselah to bid farewell to his loved ones. Are you looking at what I am seeing? I am looking at 2017. That great year in the history of Lionism. That year when district 1A, when Chicago, and

Illinois will host the world.

I look at the pictures consistently published by PDG Lion Austin D'Souza. Do you see what I am seeing?

There is beauty and grace when you have elders with wisdom (Senior Citizens) at your gatherings. They teach wisdom and knowledge. They guide the young to knowledge, wisdom, and leadership. They teach us the past so that we don't make the mistakes thereof.

But do you see what I am seeing?

At the meetings, there seems to be less and less presence of the middle age and the young ones. The young ones who the Baton or mantle of leadership must be handed over to. It is especially bad at international conventions, district conventions and local events. We seem to have showcased everything but the middle age, the young or youth. They are missing or none existence in most of our clubs. Yet these groups are the very ones who must carry on the flag, the Lion pride.

What is the problem?

When we gave birth to our club a few years ago, it was a great fit and a pride of the district. After a couple of years, the national economy took a hit and this affected almost all the members of this young and vibrant club. Everyone started to seek alternative means of livelihood. Re-alignment and relocation started to happen and the club was reduced to a mere number of die hard believers in the curse of Lionism. There was not much the club could do to assist these individuals. There seems not to be a program of internal assistance to assist active members who may fall victim to circumstances - members who give all to help others in time of need. Local clubs do not have deliberate programs or events to meet and share ideas and fun together. Neither do I know of any of such program by the international body. There is no bait on the hook to lure a particular species of fish to the line even

though the sinker is floating. Are you seeing what I am seeing?

What are the solutions?

Solutions are everywhere. But it takes a leader who realizes that there is a problem to seek for a solution. I believe that we need to realize that this is a problem before we can then start to look for a or the solution. In a gathering of elders and leaders, if the leads are consistently missing, how then can we have good and knowledgeable leaders for tomorrow? An ad hoc committee should be set up comprising of middle age and youth to formulate and advice the leadership of the way forward. We need to think and provide special bait for the hook if we must catch a fish. Clubs should be empowered to set up programs for the membership even as they setup programs for the needy. As the adage in Africa says, "persons who give birth to a child also need food for nourishment". I believe that there are so many individuals with ideas that can be helpful to the district. We cannot afford to present a mediocre show of membership to the world come July 2017.

Thanks to you all the senior citizens who are doing the works of the middle age and youths. You have and are truly showing us what it means to be a great and successful Lion. I hope we do not continue to wear you out, by shamelessly demanding of you the last strength you posses. I thank God to have our governor Lion Terry D'Souza back in good health. She is truly a great Lion with a great heart.

Thank you PDG Lion Austin D'Souza for all those pictures you keep sending out and I only hope that we truly pay attention to them and see beyond the papers.

Do you see what I am seeing? Do you see what I am looking at?

**-Lion Mandis Edokpa**

(This letter came from a Past President of Chicago African Lions Club.)



## **ALL ABOARD FOR THE ALBANY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER**

The Mayfair Lions club was looking for a project all the members could participate in and contribute to in any way that was comfortable to them. Hence, we started a book collection project for donation to the Albany Park Community Center with the books for Pre K, Kindergarten – what a fun time looking for kids books again – it was amazing to see what is available to kids now to learn – to read – to communicate!

The members had been collecting books over the summer and Lion Georg, Harriet and I brought some 45 of them to the Center in a Winnie the Pooh Back Pack! **I think I felt like a kid again and was slowly realizing that it was still fun being a Lion and doing something in the community.**

Some of the most unusual books were actually gotten from a Cheerios Box – yep a book in a box and bilingual no less! I have to say I have eaten lot of cereal these past few months – books and breakfast – what a concept!

When we first came in the door we were immediately greeted by Casey – the 6 foot tall kid on the block who greeted the kids as they came in with a “high 5”. He freely admitted he was definitely still a “kid” at heart so he could spend his work days with all the kids and you could see as they came thundering in – each one wanted to say “hi Casey” to make sure he noticed them.

We were waiting for John who was going around to the local schools to “pick up” the kids to be sure they got to the Center safely – this is every day, 5 days a week until 6 p.m.

Georg was taking with one of guys who was carefully keeping an eye on all the kids to make sure they were going to their places, hanging up the coats and getting ready for whatever they were going to do that afternoon.

Ahsan, while keeping his dark eyes on the kids told us a bit of his history – perhaps in his late forties, he had been coming to the Center since he was a kid – an over 40 year history. Can you imagine being a part of something like the Center – a place to come to – to be off the streets – to be cared for – the Center was a refuge for him as a child and he played it forward as he is now as part of the staff! The John came in – with his group – the “munchkins” the kindergartners - quickly marched up to the second floor because they knew something special was going to happen. After a few minutes we walked up stairs and opened the door of the first room – about 24 heads turned around to see who had come in the room – it was so quiet you have dropped a pin! We were properly introduced as “Lions” and that we had brought something special for them – **the magic word “Books”!** As we spread the books out on the table – a couple of the kids came over and very carefully touched the covers to see what was there – The Angry Birds Book seemed to be a very popular one to touch! **I was feeling much better about being a Lion serving in the community!**

Then two young ladies came forward and presented us with a big green construction paper card that said ‘THANK YOU’ – READ TO SUCCEED – signed by all 45 kids – it is now hanging on my living room wall!

Yep – **its’ great to be a Lion!**

After talking with John and Dina before we left – the best part of the afternoon happened – we received a very special invitation to come to the Center on Thursday October 23rd , to do story time reading to the younger children we visited with the other day. The event is called" Lights on After School" - a nationwide event to call attention to the need for quality after school programs.

If we can attend the Mayfair Lions Club will be listed on the program as part the event! **Yes - It is still fun – it is still definitely great to be a Lion!**

**QUESTION: Is there a Community Center – A school – A Pre School in your area that could use your club’s help? This is a project that every club member could participate in!**

*-Lion Judy Toft*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **October 10 & 11 Candy Days**
2. **October 26 – Spectacle Sunday**
3. **November 6 – II Cabinet Meeting**
4. **November 8 – State Leadership Forum**
5. **December 7 – District 1A Christmas Party**
6. **December 16 – III MD1 Council Meeting**
7. **January - District 1A Mid Year Leadership Forum – Date To Be Decided**
8. **January 31<sup>st</sup> – IV MD1 Council Meeting**
9. **February 5 – IV Cabinet Meeting**
10. **February 21<sup>st</sup> – District 1A Bowling**

**DO NOT FORGET TO SCHEDULE YOUR CLUB’S GOVERNORS VISIT ASAP. INVITE YOUR REGION AND ZONE CHAIR FOR THE EVENT AND NOTIFY GOVERNOR IMMEDIATELY TO SCHEDULE IN HER CALENDAR.**