

Dogs for the deaf

They also help those with autism, seizures and in wheelchairs

Story by Pippi Mayfield of the Detroit Lakes Tribune, photos Danica Maloney, DL Tribune

At 3 and 4 months of age, it's hard for these puppies not to wrestle around and act like, well, puppies. But these particular puppies have big responsibilities ahead of them.

Certified as a filed trainer for the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, Linda Livingston Wiedewitsch is helping train several puppies and their foster families.

"We are in training, too," said Jenny Berube of Pelican Rapids. She has been working with Vern, a 4-month-old yellow lab, since Dec. 28. "He came with a manual," she said of the things he needs to be taught and how to do that training.

Hearing and Service Dogs, not to be confused with Leader Dogs for the Blind, are dogs

being groomed to assist those in wheelchairs, who are hearing impaired, have autism or have seizures.

Wednesday evening, the group of five dogs, plus one Leader Dog in training, made a trip over to the Detroit Lakes Fire Department to get the pups "accustomed to firemen in full gear," Wiedewitsch said.

After being placed with a person in need, if there is a fire, "that person is going to be stressed already, and don't need dogs stressed too," she said.

Dogs were encouraged to sniff the firemen's suits lying on the floor of the fire hall. With the help of firemen Dave Baer and Jim Sinclair, the dogs were then able to interact with the men suited up and equipped with their breathing masks.

Wiedewitsch said this portion of the training is not just about getting the dogs accustomed to firefighters, but more so, "desensitizing" them to situations that could arise so they can concentrate on helping their owner.

While with the foster families, the puppies are exposed to sights sound and smell they need for training.

She said they have gone to the grocery store, Wal-mart, schools, hair salons, on airplanes, mass transit, anywhere a future owner may need to go in everyday life.

Once the puppies are taught the basic socializing skills, they are given aptitude tests to determine what they excel at and are then trained in more specific areas.



Ripley and Radar were introduced to Detroit Lakes firefighter Jim Sinclair to get used to firemen in full gear. The two golden retrievers are being trained for the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota program.



Notes to 5M9

2007-2008
5M9 District Governor
Annette Contos



Greetings Lions, Lioness and Leos,

WOW as you read this there are only 3 months left of "my year." Thanks for making "my year" so good. Keep your fingers crossed that we will have two winners in International President Mahendra's challenge to Change completion. I entered two items in the competition. One is for the Parkers Prairie Lions' work on the Parkers Prairie Event Center and the other Lion Bruce Billington and Project New Hope. One was entered under New Project and the other Lions club. Wouldn't it be neat if Peter as District Governor would have the opportunity to accept the awards on their behalf!

The Council of Governors met on March 15. I had the opportunity to ask for permission to share 5M9's Project New Hope with the other Districts and clubs in the Multiple. Permission was granted. At the same

time Project New Hope was having its first retreat for Viet Nam Veterans and from all reports it was well received. At this Council of Governor's meeting the District Governor Elect's elected the Council Chair for 2008-2009 from current District Governors. Elected is District Governor of 5M4, Deb Harms. She will be/ is a great leader. Yes, to those of you who have attended a Leadership Institute in Mahanomen, it is that Deb Harms.

Congratulations to Lion Brent Frazier, secretary of the Pelican Rapids Lions Club, he has the honor of being the first in the district to have submitted the club's PU101. Congratulations Lion Brent!

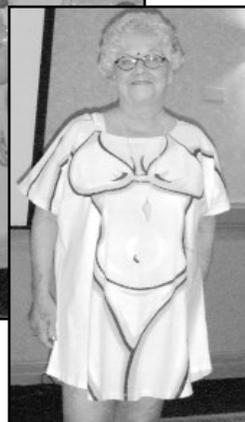
ALL clubs, even if you don't have gambling, will have to file an IRS post card tax form. It is filed on line. You should have received the information in the mail. If you haven't, contact me and I will send them to you.

HELP-the Pequot Lakes/Breezy Point Lions are asking for your help on Friday May 9---NOTICE DATE CHANGE-Governor Tim's fishing opener. They need help on Friday serving a picnic lunch at the park. You will need to be there at 3PM call Lion Bruce if you are able to help. Lion Bruce's telephone number is 612-308-

Column continued on page 9...



2007-08 District Governor's hosted a Friendship Dinner for the 2008-09 Governor Elects. Their skit was "If a Lion, I Not Be, A _____ I would Be." 5M9 Governor Annette would be a Life Guard.



fer to e-mail them.

4914. We also need EXTRA's anyone with a yellow vest, cap, jacket, or any other Lion apparel please come so that every TV shot will have a Lion in the background. Lion Jim Bergstrom could use some retired nurses or med techs for the diabetes screening please call Lion Jim at 320-692-5148. Both Districts' e-mail addresses are in the District directory if you would prefer

**The 5M9
Power of 1**



This is a publication of, by and for the Lions, Lioness, & Leos of District 5M-9.

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Please submit stories, photos with Captions, ads and other material to the editor before the 15th of the month. Subscriptions are \$8 for one year.

Annette's travels

April

3 Zone 7 Callaway
 3 Pelican Rapids Lions visit
 8 Palisade Lions visit
 9 CFS II Fundraiser Fergus Falls YMCA community room, eat Belgian waffles \$6.50 sponsored by Elizabeth & FF Daybreakers
 15 Detroit Lakes Lions visit
 18 The Otter Supper Club in Ottertail fundraiser for two insulin pumps for twin boys
 20 Cabinet Meeting Leader
 21 Zone 1 Nisswa
 23 Zone 6 Perham
 23 Zone 3 Emily Outing 50 Lakes
 24 Zone 2 McGregor
 25 Project New Hope fundraiser, Underwood Lioness Steak Fry, Underwood
 27 College of Leadership, Wadena
 28 Baxter Lions visit
 29 Sebekka Lions visit

May

2-4 MD5M Convention, Mahnomen
 8 Hackensack Lions visit
 9 Governor's Fishing Opener Pequot Lakes
 Help is needed contact Bruce Billington
 12 Cormorant Lions visit
 14 Hill City Lions visit
 15 Pillager Lions visit

June

9 Parkers Pride visit

October

Date to be determined --
 PDG Annette's Award Day
 and Mini Forum

45th Annual

Parkers Prairie Lions Club
SMELT FRY
 Saturday, April 19 • 3-9 p.m.
 Sunday, April 20 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Smelt, French Fries, Coleslaw & French Dressing, Bread and Beverage
 New Prairie Event Center - Hwy. 235



Cultivating our Minds...
 Let our Service Grow

5M9 Vice District Governor
 Peter Van Erp

keep the wheels, soil and minds turning



My head is spinning as we just returned home from DGE training in Minneapolis. The first day we were down there we toured the Eye Bank, Hearing Foundation and the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota facilities. Every Lion in our Multiple should be very proud of what we are helping to make happen. All three facilities are among the finest in the country. Then we had two days of class room training for DGE and one day of watching and listening as to how the Multiple business is conducted. Oh, yes, we did have some fun also. We had a chance to reacquaint ourselves with the other DGE's and their spouses from the whole multiple district.

Now to the task ahead. PLEASE send in your PU 101's as soon as your elections are done. I need to get them to the MD5M Secretary by May first so I do need them before that. The ones who put the directory together can't do it all in the last two days so let's help them out and get them in soon. Don't forget to send the new slate of officers to International also. Thanks

Have you made any plans to attend the Multiple Convention in Mahnomen!!!! It's still not too late to get your registrations in to go May 2, 3, and 4th. This is a GREAT chance to learn more about Lionism, to meet and make new friends from all over Minnesota, Manitoba and North West Ontario Canada. Oh yes, and have some fun while learning.

Also a GREAT time to registered for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum which will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ,Canada from September 18th through the 20th 2008. The host committee is planning a great forum for all of us. Let's not let them down. Get registered now and plan your vacation to beautiful Canada.

The snow is melting and spring is just around the corner now. So let's start cultivating our minds and get our new services to grow.

Until next month.
 DGE Peter

Picture of DGE Peter at the Friendship Dinner.



COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP

Wadena High School

Sunday, April 27

Registration/social 1pm welcome 1:30pm

Welcome- PDG Dick Labraaten,
 DG Contos, DGE Van Erp, VGE Arvidson
Sessions-
Presidents-(2:00-4:00) PDG Adolph Kukowski
Vice Presidents, Directors and Treasurers-
 (2:00-2:55) PDG Carroll Kukowski
Secretaries-
 1. Computer filings for secretaries' training-
 (2:00-4:00) Jim Johansen
 2. I know the computer stuff but have questions
 about other stuff-(3:00-4:00) Ginny Paulson

Techniques for Taming and Twisting-
 (2:00-2:55) Ardean Brasgalla
LCI Web site and Club Web site construction
 (2:00-4:00) Erin Beck
Membership and retention Q & A-
 (3:00-4:00) Bruce Beck
5M9 Lions Projects- Q & A-
 (2:00-2:55) PDG Eldon Bergman

A big THANK YOU to the Underwood Lions for serving the refreshments for us today.

E-Postcard filing now available on IRS.gov for small tax-exempt organizations

The Internal Revenue Service announced the launch of a simple electronic filing system that small tax-exempt organizations may use to comply with a new law requiring them to file an annual return. In the past, small tax-exempt organizations generally were not required to file Forms 990 or 990-EZ, the annual information returns for tax-exempt organizations. But the Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires that tax-exempt organizations that normally have annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or less must file an electronic Form 990-N, "Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required to File Form 990- or 990-EZ," for tax years beginning in 2007.

The Form 990-N is required under the new law to be filed electronically. "Filing Form 990-N electronically will help make this process easier for tax-exempt organizations," said Richard Spires, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support. "Like our other e-file options, this process is fast and reduces the chance for making errors."

Filing the e-Postcard is free and easy. To file, small tax-exempt organizations will need only a few basic pieces of information: the organization's employer identification number, its tax year, legal name and mailing address, any other names used, an Internet address if one exists, the name and address of a principal officer and a statement confirming the organization's annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less.

"The information on the form, which will be available to the public, will help ensure that potential donors have the basic information they need about the organization," said Lois G. Lerner, the director of the IRS' Exempt Organizations Division.

The due date for filing Form 990-N is the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the tax year. This means, for example, that an organization whose most recent tax year ended on Dec. 31, 2007, must

file Form 990-N by May 15, 2008. The new law provides that organizations that do not file Form 990-N for three consecutive years will lose their tax-exempt status.

"Because this new filing requirement is a big change for small tax-exempt organizations, we have made a special effort to reach out and work with the tax-exempt community to let affected organizations know about it," Lerner said.

The IRS also has launched a disclosure site on IRS.gov where the public can view a particular organization's e-Postcard.

The IRS is encouraging everyone -- individual volunteers, tax practitioners and larger organizations -- to spread the word about the new e-Postcard reporting requirement. "People do a lot to help their communities by volunteering their time and money to local charities. We're asking them to also offer a helping hand by making sure that charities know about the law change," Lerner said.

Further information, including frequently asked questions and educational materials, are available on the charities and non-profits section of IRS.gov.

WELCOME NEW LIONS MEMBERS TO 5M9!

New Member	Club	Sponsor
Kevin Tomperi	Menahga	Betty Hotakainen
Cassy Clairmont	Guthrie Nary	Joan Rust
Sharon Voyda	Park Rapids	Lloyd Stigman
Judith Eckwall	Deerwood Lakes	Catherine McDougal

WELCOME NEW LIONESS MEMBERS TO 5M9!

New Member	Club	Sponsor
Alicia Johnson	Verndale Lioness	Kathy Johnson
Rachel Johnson	Verndale Lioness	Kathy Johnson
Stephanie Brownlow	Verndale Lioness	Kathy Johnson
Jen Veronen	Verndale Lioness	Kathy Johnson

Want to know what it is like to visit a foreign country without spending a lot of money?

Host a foreign exchange student this summer and find out what their country is all about from the privacy of your own home.
Don't delay, students are going fast.

Brought to you by 5M9 Youth Exchange Co-Chairs, Linda & Jay Norby 218-342-3243 or ljnorb@eot.com

Lions we will miss

Howard Knoblock	Hackensack Lions Club
Joe Doyle	Campbell Lions Club
Verdie Johnson	Menahga Gateway LC
William Parks	Perham Lakes Lion Club

Club secretaries, please review and send or email your deceased member's photo to: Lion Jim Johansen
8103 210th Street North, Hawley, MN 56549
jkjohansen@juno.com 218-483-1121

This will help make the Service of Remembrance even more meaningful with a picture of your past member.

Students visit Peace Poster winners display



New York Mills Cultural Center Peace Posters - Left to right: Lions Vice District Governor Elect Jim Arvidson, Jared Sowers, Stephie Dickinson, Derek Hanson, Quentin Uran, Kali Oeltjenbruns, Micaela Noga and 6th grade teacher Kim Parsons.

Sixth grade students at Parkers Prairie Elementary School were involved in an International Peace Poster Contest last fall. Although none of the posters made it to the international arena for judging, there were several entries that depicted "Celebrating Peace," this year's theme.

Several students won recognition locally for their artwork. Jim Arvidson, Past President of the Parkers Prairie Lions Club and Vice District Governor Elect of District 5M9, made arrangements for the local winners and runners-up to visit the Cultural Center in New York Mills where 18 of the winning posters from around the world were on display. The students were very impressed with the traveling exhibit which has been in New York Mills for the month of February.

Thanks to the Parkers Prairie Lions Club, the students were able to see the final works in the quest for peace through art.

Hill City Lions hold fishing contest

By Terry Mejdrich, Aitkin Age

With rapidly falling temperatures, windchills reaching 30 below, and near white out conditions at times, I fully expected Duane Niesen to call back and tell me to stay home, and that the annual Hill City Lions fishing contest on Feb. 9 had been cancelled.

Figuring the phones must be down when he didn't call, I nonetheless dressed in three layers of insulated clothing and drove to town, still fully expecting to see a "Postponed for warmer weather" sign at the Hill Lake access. There was no sign, and at first looking out across the lake I could see no vehicles out on the ice either. A couple gallons of gas wasted, I thought, but just as I was about to turn around the blizzard like white out conditions on the lake momentarily cleared, and there, to my utter amazement, was a ring of vehicles circling a large congregation of hearty Minnesotans.

Perhaps 200 anglers and friends braved the Arctic-like weather to place fishing lines down through ice two feet deep in the hopes of winning the prize of the day.

Afterward, one dejected fisherman conceded, "A lot of suckers were caught today, but none had fins."



From left, third prize winner Steve Hallan; first prize winner Dale Landrus; and second prize winner, Joan Quass.

However, despite the brutal weather, everyone I talked to has a good time, which just shows it doesn't take much to make a Minnesotan happy.

Mel Holm, who own a carry-along satchel for holding fishing gear said, "When you get a bunch of people together like this, we always have fun."

It turned out to be a good day for the fish as well, since the grand catch for the day was, well, nothing. It is quite likely that the fish were all huddled together somewhere warm to keep warm. The lack of a catch presented something of a dilemma for the judges. How to you determine the biggest (or smallest) nothing? In the end, the the judges just threw the names into a hat and drew out the winners.

First prize of \$200 went to Dale Landrus, second prize of \$100 to Joan Quass, third prize of \$50 to Steve Hallan. Jim Moe won a portable fish house, Carol Stafford a wildlife print, and James Buchnel a fish locator. Other prizes were given away as well but it was at that point my fingers quit working, and I had to seek out the warming shack and some liquid refreshment.



James Buchnel won a fish locator



Carol Stafford took home a wildlife print

Underwood Lions awards presented



The Underwood Lions presented their awards February 21 with Governor Annette doing the honors.

Pictured right: Pete Eikeland, recipient of the Helen Keller Award. Pete has been a member since August 2000 and is active in many of the projects. He is a board member and is going to Mexico to help with the used glasses program.

Pictured below right: Mary Hanson is with Governor Annette, receiving the Lion of the Year award. Mary has been a member since March, 2005 and works many Lions fundraisers along with her husband, Gordon. She helps with the senior dining program in Underwood and the really big one, she took on the gambling manager job. Thank you, thank you, Mary.

Pictured below: Gordon Hanson is receiving the Melvin Jones Fellowship award from Governor Annette. He has been a member since March, 2002 and works almost all of the fund raiser projects. He hardly ever misses a meeting and is a board member. He delivers meals daily, sends out meeting notices and represents the club in many area parades. He's Gordon with a Go, Go, Go!



Don't miss the MD5M Convention

**May 2-4 • Shooting Star
Casino, Mahnomen**

Lions, Lioness & Leos:

The Dilworth, Ulen and Hitterdal Lions Clubs (DUH) of District 5M 11 invite you to the 89th Annual Multiple District 5M Convention to be held May 2- 4, 2008 at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahnomen, MN.

We are planning a convention you won't want to miss! We will have stimulating speakers, informative seminars, exciting entertainment and more - all under one roof!

The Shooting Star Casino & Event Center

has been billed as "Northern Minnesota's premier gaming & convention property." The Hotel and & event center boasts 390 hotel rooms, a 22,000 square foot convention center, restaurants, snack bar, lounge, swimming pool, shopping and gaming. A beautiful RV Park is located on site.

Rooms will be \$75 (US) per night - tax included. RV spots at the Shooting Star Campground will be \$25 (US) per night. The complete Hospitality Book Price will be \$109.00 that includes all meals and entertainment. All reservations must be made through the Dilworth-Ulen-Hitterdal Lions Clubs using an official registration form. For your conven-

ience, Visa & MasterCard will be accepted along with checks or cash.

You will be able to register on-line at www.Dilworthlionsclub.info

An updated list of registrants by Lions, District, will be available on the website as well.

Your club is a member of District 5M9 which is one of 12 sub-districts which makes-up Multiple District 5M. Come and take part, in what goes on at this next level of the Lion's organization. Come to the DUH convention, it will be fun and informative.

Sincerely,

Dilworth/Ulen/Hitterdal Lions

2008 MD5M Convention Committee

Slippery conditions

Underwood Lions sponsor winter ice racing



By Susan M.A. Larson, Fergus Falls Daily Journal

Every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. - as long as the ice holds - Bass Lake is the home of Underwood Lions ice racing. Think of it as stock car racing on a sheet of glass.

The races have been a tradition for about 22 years. On a half-mile ice oval located on Bass Lake on the northwest edge of Underwood, drivers vie to be number one. Along the way they get crunched and run into the snow that banks the track. But this is Minnesota, and that's just part of the fun.

Don Stewart, Clitherall, has been an ice racer for about five years.

"It's something to do on a Sunday," he said.

Stewart's technique is less than scientific.

"I just go around the track and hope to make it," he said. "The challenge is to keep on the track and not be last."

"It's cheaper (than regular stock car racing)," said Frank Vogel, Underwood Lions member, race committee member and racer. "The highest priced item are the tires. They have to be new and they have to be really, really good."

Tire hardness is inspected before each race and must meet specifications. Tire chains are not allowed on the ice.

Ron Gunderson, Underwood, enjoys traditional stock car and ice racing. He tries not to miss a Sunday on Bass Lake.

"This (ice) would be more fun to participate in," he said. "There's a lot more action."

Five classes of racing are available:

1. Big Kids class - men and women age 17 and over.

2. Junior class - 13 to 16 years old. Racers must be accompanied by an adult. Racers have



Above from the passenger's perspective, a front-seat view of ice racing on Bass Lake on the northwest edge of Underwood. Top, car no. 1 tries to catch up to car no. 26 during Sunday's race on Bass Lake. The Underwood Lions sponsor the races, free for the public, every Sunday at 12:30 p.m., on a half-mile ice track. There are five different classes from adults to women and children.

the option to run their own gas and break or have the accompanying adult run them.

3. Kids class - for kids 12 years of age and under (parents' discretion). Kids run the steering wheel while an adult runs the gas and break.

4. Three-person class is a team of three adults (age 16 and over). One team member steers, another team member runs the gas and break while the other team member rides in an opponent's car, ensuring the rules are being followed.

5. Powder puff - racing for adult women.

Racing season usually starts in January, Vogel said, "But this year the ice was slow in coming." Ice is checked constantly for thickness and stability. It has to be between 16 and 18 inches.

There is no admission to watch the races, "But we hope people will patronize the Lions concession stand," Vogel said.

For more information on the races, call Vogel, 218-826-6886; Jim Hecker, 218-864-8364; John Bohn, 218-736-4266; Mary Kubbitz, 218-495-3102; Tom Hecker, 218-864-8911; or Gary Ackley, 218-864-3033.

Campaign SightFirst II Rally at the MD5M Convention

There will be a Campaign SightFirst II Rally Saturday Morning, May 2nd 2008 at the Multiple Convention in Mahnomen, MN. We all know that an important part this Lions project is in the combat against preventable blindness. We need your attendance and help to make this rally

successful. This is the last year of this project, but there is still time for you and your club to take part and make a difference.

Thank You
DUH Convention 2008

Melvin Jones Fellowship

This is a Lions International Clubs Foundation Fellowship Award. It is awarded to individuals, either a Lions member or a non-member, for their service to the community. It is awarded when an individual, club or district donates \$1,000 or more to LCIF (Lions Clubs International Foundation). Distinctive Melvin Jones Fellowship Progressive lapel pins of from one to ten diamonds, sapphires or rubies are presented to recipients for each donation of \$1,000 beyond the initial fellowship.

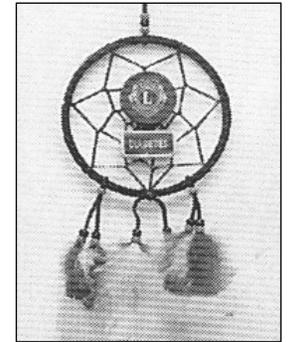


Helen Keller Sight Award

This award is from the Multiple District 5M. It is given to a deserving individual when a \$1,000 or more is given to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank. A progressive Helen Keller pin is also available. This award can also be given as a memorial to a deceased member.

Dreamcatcher Award

This award is from the Minnesota Lions Diabetes. To qualify, a local club must have a fund raiser with 100% of the donations going to diabetes or a donation of \$1,000 which can be given over a period of 5 years. This award can be given to a club or an individual.



Hearing Research Fellowship

This award comes from Multiple 5M. A donation of \$1,000 or more to the Hearing Foundation of Minnesota is needed. there are four fellowship awards available: INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP - gifts made by an individual, Lions club, or Lions district, to honor someone as a Lions Hearing Research Fellow. MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP - gifts given in memory of a deceased Lion or non-member. CUMULATIVE FELLOWSHIP - gifts of \$100 or more made over several years (5-year maximum) with the award made on receipt of the full amount. PROGRESSIVE FELLOWSHIP - gifts to honor an individual more than once. With each new gift, a special gemstone is added to their fellowship pin.

MD 5M Youth Fellowship

A contribution of \$250 or \$500 to the youth Outreach fund will recognize an active, retired or deceased individual, member or non-member, with a crystal lion's head figurine. The size of the figurine coronates with the size of the donation.



Leader Dog Tribute

This is a wonderful way for clubs to acknowledge individual, groups or corporations for their outstanding support to Leader Dog. after a \$500 minimum donation, the recipient will receive a commemorative pin and a special plaque.

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

Awards a Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota Lions Plaque with a donation of \$500 or more. The plaque is inscribed with the club's name or with a club member's name at the club's discretion. Other recognition awards can be given also with donations of \$100 or more, you receive a patch (used for club banner or awarded to a member to wear on vest). \$250 or more, you receive a Lions pin (to be awarded at club's discretion).



What's in a convention for me?

By 5M1PDG Jack Krage, Chair of Convention Committee

As a Lion, we hear so much concerning the different conventions that we are asked to attend. You may be asking yourself; why are there so many conventions and how can I possibly take part in every one. In the next few paragraphs, I will explain the different conventions and their importance.

Lions Clubs International is divided into the following tiers:

Lions Clubs International Convention—(Midsummer)

Elections are held for the selection of the International President and the Vice Presidents, as well as, the International Directors. These elected officers, along with the Presidents cabinet oversee the operations of Lions Clubs International. In addition, the incoming District Governors receive their final training and in the final stage of the convention are sworn into their position, along with the elected international officers. At this convention, representatives from all over the world are in attendance. The occasion is very ostentatious and an excellent opportunity to see the overall scope of Lionism. One highlight of the convention is the International Parade, where the Lions from throughout the world march in their native attire through the streets of the convention city.

Multiple District Convention - (Spring)

Each multiple district consists of several districts, for instance, our district 5M1 has 12 districts. A multiple district convention brings together Lions from throughout the each of these individual districts. At this convention, candidates for International director are selected and decisions are made concerning the operations of the multiple district. These conventions are a great way to meet fellow Lions from all over our multiple district and share ideas and stories with each other.

District Convention - (January or February)

At this convention, elections are held for District Governor and Vice District Governor. Business relating to the operation of the district are discussed and voted on. Again, this is an excellent opportunity to broaden your knowledge of Lionism, and to meet and mingle with Lions from surrounding communities.

Each convention offers excellent displays and exhibits describing the many programs endorsed by the Lions. Classes are held in all facets of Lionism, such as: how to get new members and retain them, how to make meetings more fun and increase attendance at those meetings, how to deal with the changing needs of our society. Classes and speakers tell their stories of how Lions have made a difference in

their lives through: cochlear implants, Leader or Service Dogs, corneal transplants and the many other great services and programs of Lions.

The convention tier allows information to flow from the individual club to the district, multiple district and International and to flow from the highest level to the individual clubs. This is a fabulous organization and through attending these conventions you will be able to meet the leaders from throughout the world and feel the scope and magnitude of Lionism.

USA/CANADA FORUM – (Late Summer)

A forum is different from a convention in that there is no decision making business carried on here. The purpose of a forum is purely to educate and enrich your Lion experience. A forum offers world-class speakers and trainers, wonderful exhibits and lots of fun. This years Forum is in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

I encourage each and every Lion to make it a point to attend each of these conventions. I realize that this is a virtual impossibility to travel to every one in one year. Make plans to attend one convention each year. You can start by traveling with us to the Forum in Saskatoon, this year. Next year, the International Convention is in Minneapolis, MN. I guarantee you, if you attend those two Lions functions, you will be eagerly awaiting your next convention trip.

Continued from page 2..... Governor Annette's column

The Multiple Convention will be May 2-4, 2008, in Mahanomen. We have two candidates for International Director from our geographical area; they are Robert Vokes from 5M10 and Debra Wasserman from 5M2. I have known these candidates for several years and feel both are well-qualified to share their skills and talents with the International world of Lions. Come to the Multiple, meet them, visit with them, ask those questions and then vote for YOUR choice.

All clubs should be holding elections in March, no later than April. Our College of Leadership for all newly elected leaders and club members will be Sunday, April 27 in Wadena at the High School-gathering 1 PM call to order 1:30 PM.

The task you have all been waiting for is fast approaching-complete your club's PU101. It is never too early to complete and submit the form. If you normally complete your Monthly Membership Report on line with Lions Clubs International they didn't send you a paper PU101. You can complete your PU101 on line- there are very good directions for completing it. If you don't file your MMR on line, Lions Clubs International should have mailed your club secretary a paper PU101. For the paper PU101s, the original is mailed to Lions Clubs International and the yellow copy comes to me-NOTE NEW ADDRESS 1630 N Park #2, Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Yes, it is the old address the PO wanted more money and I didn't want to pay them so I am back to my home address.

I am looking forward to seeing you at a coming zone meeting or at a visit. Please remember to submit a nomination for a Melvin Jones Fellowship from the District. The amount of money I have will determine the number of MJF the District can present. Remember or maybe I should say Announcement the Mini Forum in October will really be my Governor's and District Award Meeting awards earned during my term of office will be presented at this meeting.

See you soon!

DG Annette

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Underwood Lioness present awards

Lions 5M9 District Governor Annette Contos visited the Underwood Lioness Club February 21. An interesting message was given and several awards were presented. Pictured right, Connie Quaal was the recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.



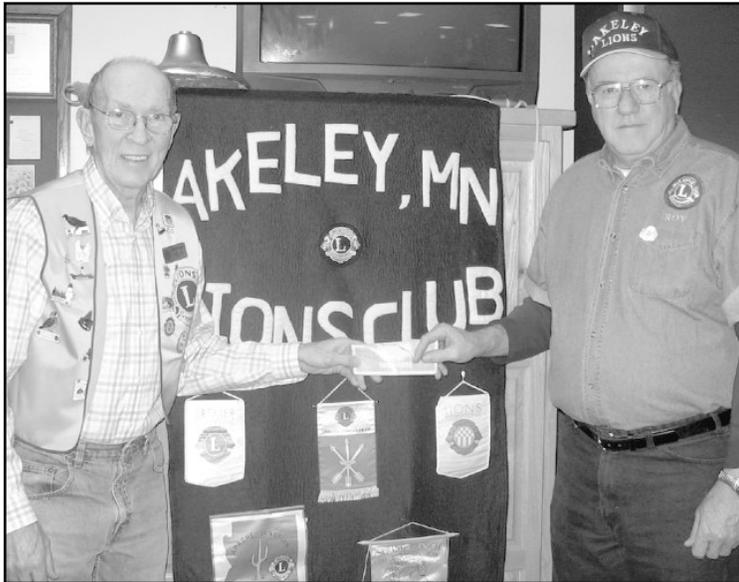
Lioness LaVonne Johnson received a Certification of Appreciation for her work on the Governor's Cabinet the past years.



Lioness Judy Vogel is presented with the Helen Keller Sight Award.



Akeley Lions help Food Shelf



Phil Busch, on behalf of Akeley Lions' Club members presented Roy Miller a \$300 donation to the Akeley Nevis Food Shelf. Roy is on the Board for the food shelf and is also a member of Akeley Lions' Club. March is Food Share Month in Minnesota. Lion Kathy Nagel said there is a box set up at First National Bank in Akeley for anyone wishing to donate items to the food shelf.

Parkers Prairie Lion Payne named Melvin Jones Fellow



Parkers Prairie Lions President Bob Harris, left, Gene Payne, and District Governor Annette Contos.

Gene Payne, Parkers Prairie Lions Club member, was named a Melvin Jones Club member, was named a Melvin Jones Fellow by the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), in recognition of his commitment to serving the world community, February 28th. District 5M9 Governor Annette Contos, Fergus Falls, presented the award to Gene at the regular February meeting at the Prairie Event Center.

Payne has been a long-time member of the Parkers Prairie Lions with many years of perfect attendance. He is a past president, vice president, and director, and twister for the club. He will be the new secretary of the Parkers Prairie Lions Club July 1, 2008.

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Continued from the front page

For instance, dogs to be placed with hearing impaired clients learn to distinguish certain sounds like doorbells, smoke alarms, a baby crying and a telephone ringing.

Dogs helping with those who have seizures learn to stimulate the person by licking them, bringing a bottle of pills, getting the phone or getting help in some other form.

For those confined to a wheelchair, dogs are trained to push the button to open automatic doors, place packages on counters and reach other items a confined person would not be able to reach.

Training the puppies takes anywhere from 13 to 14 months for the basics, and 2 to 5 months more for the more specific training.

Puppy raisers, or the foster families, are the trainers like Berube, working with the puppies on their beginning skills,

Berube said this is her first time training a service dog and not knowing what to expect, there's been more involvement than she thought.

"I always saw Linda (Wiedewitsch) in the courthouse with her dog. I was always interested," she said.

Wiedewitsch has been working with Leader Dogs for years, and she said training the service dogs is a natural fit for her, and something she's enjoying.

"It's an extension of what I've been doing."

She worked with a dog, Rudy, last summer that was then paired with Lake Park resident JoAnn Schermerhorn, who has epilepsy.

Berube said after she saw a flyer recruiting foster families, she decided to sign up.

For Margaret Grondahl of Staples, the decision to foster Maya, a 5-month-old yellow lab, was easier. She had already gone through training with her dog, Biscuit, who is trained as an occupational therapy dog, who Grondahl uses during her work as an occupational therapist.

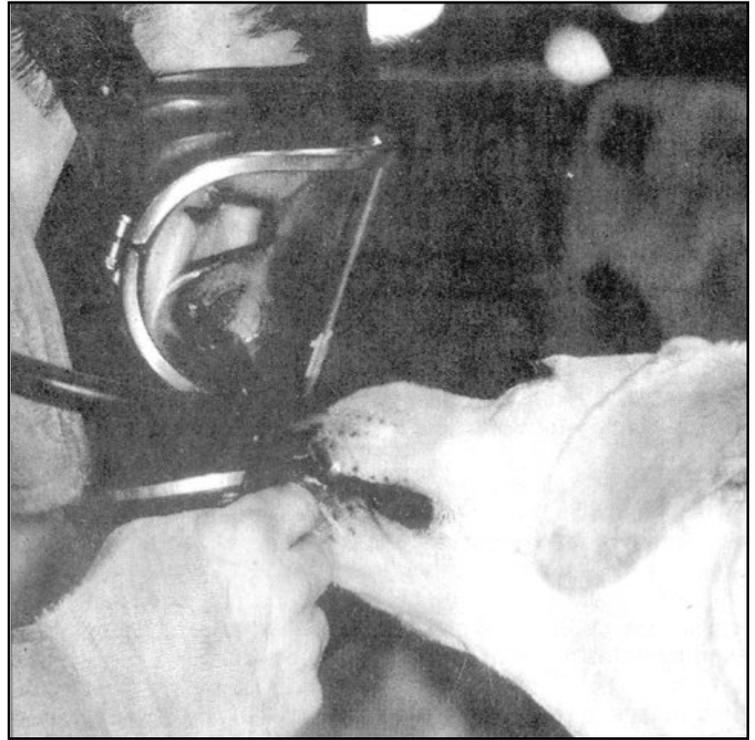
Grondahl received Maya the first weekend in November. It's usually not determined until later in the training process what service dogs will be used for, but Grondahl said she already knows Maya will be used as a breeding dog.

Knowing her good disposition and ability to learn, after the pup turns 2 years old, she will be bred to produce future service dogs.

Another puppy raiser who had an easier decision to train is Luanne Thorsvig, Detroit Lakes. Not that giving Ripley back at the end of training will be easy.

Thorsvig was working as a trainer at Lucky Dog Boarding and Training Center, and when Ripley came through the door, Thorsvig said she has to have the golden retriever. This is her first time training a service dog.

"I used to work for home health, and I like to give back (to the community) and thought this would be a good way," she said.



Using blueberry flavored treats, Assistant Fire Chief Dave Baer shows one of the puppies in training that his breathing mask isn't as scary as it sounds.

She started working with Ripley, 10 months, in September and says she "had no clue when I started" what the training would entail. But, "it's been fun."

Another newcomer to the puppy raising world is Janie Mullikin, Pelican Rapids. She has been working with 3-month-old yellow lab Guido for only a week.

She said she decided to become a foster family because "my cousin is blind and I was always intrigued by that," she said of the use of service dogs.

Although she didn't know exactly what to expect when it came time to start training, she said it's been better than she thought.

The hard part is when the training is over and she has to give Guido back.

"I try and focus on the fact that he's helping someone out."

Editor's Note: go to page 11 for the description of the Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota award program.